

Canadian Soldier's
Letters

GODALMING

Sept 10 1917



Mrs. John Stagner,
No. 1 Dobbinton,
Ontario,
Canada.

DOB

SP24

Witton Camp. Surrey
Sept 9/17

Dear People at Home.

This is Sunday forenoon just after church parade. The Eng. church minister of the Brigade preached this morning. He had service in the mess hall it was drizzling rain so I come we couldnt have it open air style.

I have another boil this is the 5th one around my left elbow. It was pretty sore for a couple of days but I had it lanced yesterday so it is much easier and I will be able to hop to it again tomorrow.

I received your letter of Aug. 12th and the 18th enclosed. I also got the cable. Prospects are good for a pass pretty soon so I was afraid that you wouldn't send me much by mail & I might not have enough to live & I thought we better cable. That is for Leire so Grant will settle with you for the \$15 & half due of cabling. It was cheaper for both parts for to send together. I don't think I should need more than my pay now till after Christmas.

The box also came in good shape
only that the berry pie was spoilt.
I had set it out and one of the fellows
says "are you going to throw that away"
says Yes. Still its from Canada, anyhow
and he munched down a hunk of it.

We were out in three days bivouac
from Wed. morning till Friday night.
We had a rough and ready time of
it. We marched out at about seven
or eight mile on Wed. and camped
for the night. We moved just before
dark & before we could get our bivouacs
up it began to rain & got dark. We
managed to stick up a bivouac anyhow
and it did us for the night although
we were a bit wet to get in. I woke
up at 1.30 and went to the field kitchen
to dry my pants a little. I didn't
feel like sleeping. I got up at 2.30
and moved off at 3.30, did it all
in the dark, it had stopped raining.
Its some job packing up & break footing
& all in the dark. We met the enemy
then about daylight and we were
all bivouac.

The second night it rained too
but we were turned in before it started.

3

The third day we scrapped all forenoon and came home for the evening.
It is hard work & rough work but still every body enjoys it. It was one brigade against another so it was real, we had the men to capture when we had the numbers.

When the escarmouche gets up we double around with those jacks on and forget they are there at all.

At times it gets pretty rough and they get mad. We were off against the ~~Ves~~ St both days and they are not a bad bunch but this ~~is~~ ^{is} not a bad bunch. Tranchmen are brutes. They disc bayonets and shoot in the fellows faces, several were hurt from different parts.

You would really think that Sirry & Hants had been meant for a military camp because it is full and a good deal of commons where we can do above like on and the roads are running in every direction. Any body that can follow a map in this country can follow it in France or where ever he goes. There is no lay on in this country at all and there is a path or by way no matter where you want to go. There are sunken roads here like what they have in France.

There is hedge or rather a leap of earth to enclose the road about five feet high, all covered with shrubbery of one kind and another. Those roads are good to travel along when you don't want to be seen but they would never do in Canada. It would take all summer for the snow to melt out of them.

We are going out again tomorrow morning for three days of similar work and then that kind of work will likely be over for this fall, it is getting late now for sleeping out.

I suppose I told you Col. Shurland was back. He can certainly sing it like the boys. He had a bunch out one forenoon tearing around and he came to a hedge with a creek on the other side. Still he says 'We have to get thro' this' and he jumped square into the creek and that just followed him. One of his turtles was down over his boat and he went fairly running off him when I saw him in the morning. He is an old fellow and when he will bore thru' everything the fellows will follow him anywhere he has a mind to go.

I haven't rec'd the letter written since the Garden party & picnic. You got a letter written since that. I think this is all for this time Love to all Russel