



Bordon La., p.
Dec. 26. '16.

Dear People at Home;

Xmas all over for another year.
I would have written sooner but thought
I would wait till after Xmas and could give
you a little idea of how we spent the day over
here.

I am back at the N. C O. school again as I
don't take the mumps again. I am starting in
another company so I guess I will be here till
nearly the end of February. They wrote from
the school wondering why I wasn't coming back
so they thought I better come back and go on.

I had a pass from Saturday noon till
tonight (Tuesday), just came back before
supper.

Well we had a very good Xmas considering
where we were. Major Moat offered a prize for
the best decorated hut in the Battⁿ. so everybody
set to work to fix up. They brought in holly,
bought tissue paper decorations and bells,
blackened the stoves, scrubbed floors etc. and
say they turned those huts as big magin
into a very beautiful and habitable place.

The Brass Band took the prize, they
certainly had a swell hat.
Officers from other B's were looking at
them and they sent P.C.O's men up to have
a look at what we had done. It was
the talk of the camp.

We had a very good dinner but it
didn't taste like ^{the} good Xmas goose gravy
& dressing you make at home.

The Menus were printed as you will see.
Isent the bunch so you can distribute
them around as per names.

The N. CO's waited on the tables so I got
my turkey back on the cook house, principally
of bones. We had 50 turkeys altogether.

The dinner programme lasted all afternoon.
It was after dark when we got out. There
were speeches by Major Moffat, Col. Ward etc.
Major Moffat & Major Mc Nally had their wives
there the only two women present.

Neil & I went to the show after it was over.
They have a large moving picture show
in connection with the camp called the
"Cinema". They were planning to have a
picture taken of the six days from around
but there byt we couldn't somehow manage
it. Took one snap yesterday and was
going to take a few more today but the



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sun refused to shine. I had another
fellow's camera.

I guess the turkey brought out the mumps.
This morning two fellows in the hut we were
in had the mumps and a fellow in two more
of B. Co. huts. Jim for one, Irvin Nelson &
Bill Byers also. The fellows don't mind it
a bit, they are having a snap. I guess I
could have stayed with them but I gave them
the slip this afternoon. There is only one
hut in B. Co. not quarantined now and it
takes all them busy carrying grub to the rest.

Russel M. L. was up for Xmas from the
ranges. He came up in a big truck drawn
by a steam engine. 17 miles. Louis Grant is
getting a transfer from the M.G. section into B.
Co. That is where he should have started.

I received the Ladies Aid box O.K.
There was a box of cookies pretty badly crushed
but otherwise good. I'll give you a tip
never to send a paste board box if a tin
one is available. I have seen some paste
board boxes pretty badly smashed up.

If you ever take a notion to send me

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another box I'll tell you what would go about as good as anything if it would not be too hard to send and that is jam(jelly) or apple butter. Something to eat extra at meals. We can get lots of candy gum etc. over here.

We are not fed as good here as at the Bⁿ. but what we get is good and sometimes we double up for a can of salmon or pork & beans. I brought over the remainder of my boxes so I will be all right for awhile.

This school is not as rough as it was. It is about normal now. There were some red banded officers come around and they cut out the early morning parade and a few other foolish things they were doing.

A funny thing happened here also. The old Regimental Sergeant Major the gronchiest old beggar of the bunch and the head push of the school let John Barley Corn get the best of him one night and he came over to the huts and began routing the men out for parade at 1.30 in the morning. He was calling for Co-markers etc. so some of the officers we made aware of it and came on the scene. He gave them some lip & the result was he was put under arrest for two or three weeks, court martialed, reduced to the rank of Corporal and shipped.



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Boose was his downfall.

Major Moffat has fixed up part of the mess room for a recreation room. He fixed it up with a fire place, put about fifty easy chairs in, hung pictures on the wall and put in writing tables. It is certainly a swell place, I think the Officers rather envy it.

Levine Grant was up to visit Headley Johnston's people. He reports a good time. I think they must have used him royally.

Well I guess I will close for this time. I will write soon again. I will be expecting all the Xmas news from home pretty soon.

Address my letters to Bramhall as usual.
With love to all Russel.

P.S. Dorothee this hurriedly so excuse
scribbling

Dec¹⁹ 16

Bordon