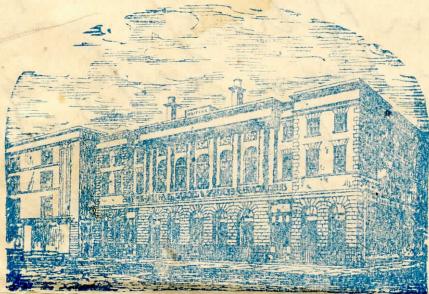


Phone: Belfast, 2933

THE BELFAST

Sailors' & Soldiers' Service Club



WARING STREET,

Belfast, Feb. 4 1919

Dear Folk at Home;

Well my leave is half gone tonight.

This is certainly a very poor place to spend a leave in the present condition. I told you in the other letter about the strike here and all electricity & gas being shut off, and so it is yet.

There was a big parade this forenoon of strikers, they had five or six bands (strong on the pipe bands here) and each union had a banner, it just looked like a 4th of July celebration.

There is a strike on the railroads in France now too since we came over no troops have been able to go back, they have all been getting extensions to their passes. To avoid too great

a congestion of troops in London they have been keeping all the soldiers on leave where they are. Some of the fellows went to go back from here and the authorities (military) at the station wouldn't let them, gave them an extension to their leave & sent them back.

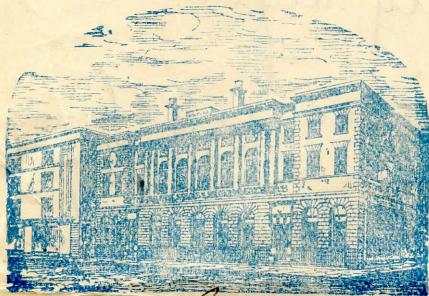
I have not heard today whether that has been changed or not, we are going to try to go to Eng. tomorrow anyhow. Jessie & I are going to pay Mr. Johnson a visit in Sheffield on our way back.

I thought I would go to some good shows while on leave but there are not ~~not~~ here and in London they are all booked ahead for days so I am out of luck on that proposition, unless in Sheffield

We were up at Londonderry for a couple of days went off

THE BELFAST

Sailors' & Soldiers' Service Club



WARING STREET,

Belfast,

191

on Saturday and came back Monday, yesterday.— While up there we saw tho' a German submarine, one which they handed over. Of course we also saw the famous old walls of Derry which withstood the rebellion so long. The submarine was most interesting tho', such a conglomeration of pipes, levers and wheels in such a small space I never saw before. I shouldn't like to sail in one of them at all. Our sailors have manned it now and these fellows were staying in the club with us so they gave us quite a detailed explanation of things as we went over it. I don't believe I told you

that I had ⁴ fly before I
left Germany.

I never enjoyed anything
much more than that fly.
Cap^t Walker took me up, we
flew over the Rhine and over
Bonn, I guess we were in
the air between twenty minutes
and half an hour. The country
appeared beautiful from above,
the prettiest landscape scene I
ever saw. The Germans till
their soil in small patches
and from above all these
patches stand out distinct,
it just looked like a great
big crazy quilt. The sensation
was different altogether from
what I thought it would be,
it gives one the feeling of standing
still in the air and a tremendous
strong wind blowing, of course
it was a short plane and
did not travel more than
about 80 mile an hour.

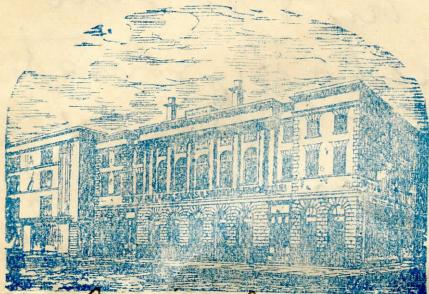
This afternoon we went

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WARING STREET,



5 / Belfast,

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Through a large spinning
mill here York Street Spinning Factory.
It was most interesting,
we saw all the stages from
the flax to the table clothes. I
saw the table cloth such as
you use when the visitors come
right in the making. I often
wondered how it was done,
the patterns ~~all~~ and that put
in so today I saw still
don't really know. It is a
very large concern, employs
about 5000 people, the majority
are women. There are old
grey haired women working
there right down to what
one would call school girls.

There is the largest tobacco
factory in the world in Belfast

6

we are going to try & go thro'
it tomorrow forenoon & must
see all we can go before we go.

Am living pretty good these
times but no better than in the
canteen. Up at London today tho'.
I think that the best bread &
butter I have had since left
home. It was a treat. all you
wanted set before you too.

Well I think this is all
the news for this time.

Since I have been on leave
and seen quite a number of
the fellows back in civvies
clothes I have been getting
almost impatient for my
turn to come.

Love to all

Russell

b1/tgj