

P.S.J.
GODALMING

8. 15

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Mrs. John Wagner,
B.P.O., Dobbinton,
Ontario,
Canada.

EDMONTON
ALBERTA
CANADA
JULY 15 1917

Witley Camp, Surrey
Sep¹¹ 29/17.

Dear People at Home:

Well I was just saying that it was a year ago tonight I went home from last leave and tomorrow puts me on the voting list. That was the night I eat the chicken and slept in grandmas bed. Well it seems a long time when I look back on it; a good deal has transpired since.

I rec'd your letter of Sep¹¹, 1st last week when we were out on our trip. Well I suppose you got some startling reports of the rum trade from one and another of the preachers and they can't picture it too bad but there is little use of them telling you all about it, if some of them were over here they might do more good. There is a pub (that is what they call them) nearly every two mile along the roads here and everybody seems to frequent it. It is disgusting the waste and misery of all.

Well we had a good route march. We made the 100 mile in the 8 days and came in in fine shape last night. Wrote a card last night from Fleet probably you got it.

D.

We had prime weather. It never rained at all while we were out. It was remarkable. We were each supposed to have one blanket but Joe Morley & I had five between us so we suff had a comfortable bed. We put up our bivouac each night with the two rubber sheets and slept just as comfortable as in the tents. in fact it was a softer bed.

We made 31 miles the first two days (we sat. they were the hardest). Then Sunday we just went six miles and were off in the afternoon. We were on Lord Meldreth's estate. We had Monday off there too. That when when I was at Fleet and we were down to Aldershot too. We marched & this nearly all the towns we could and kept the main road all the time, we certainly had a good look around. Then Wed. night we were at Midhurst on Cowdray Park (we were there once before). The next day we only marched in the forenoon and went to Petworth and stayed on Lord Lomond's estate. We were free to go where we wished that night so we usually went downtown and hunted up a restaurant and had a look around the joint. This estate of Lord Lomond's was the best

we hit. It has been in the family since
the time of William the Conqueror and he is the
fourth largest landowner in England. There
is over twenty mile of brick wall around the
estate. There were hundreds of deer there
bigger droves than I ever saw I think, and he
has two hundred hounds, some dandies. He
went out for a fox hunt the morning we were
leaving and the hounds were yelping there long
before Reveille.

Some French ~~Indians~~ have certainly something
to say have it they, they let the Canadians roast
in their field.

The 16th stood the trip fire, not one man
dropped out, a few had to be relieved of their
packs and others note the officers losses for
spells but none were ever sent to the
ambulance. I came thro' it without a blister
or a sore place but a few had mighty
big blisters and all sorts of feet troubles.

The last day it bothered me less than any,
getting used to it I guess. I could just start
the trip over again and do it a good deal easier
than before. The second ^{from} noon we marded 11
miles, that was the hardest we had, some pretty
doggy looking boys pulled in that night.

There is an awful assortment of people left in these towns now and of course they all turned out to see us. About all the hospitality they showed was an odd basket or bag of apples and then you were lucky if you were find the right place. There was one guy came out with a basket of apples and he was right beside a brick wall. Still the bunch made one raid and found that guy against the wall and emptied the basket before he knew what was going on. He had little trouble getting rid of his basket.

The general ~~Hughes~~ is related to some big landowners out here three miles, an M.P. and this fellow built a silo. It is the first silo to be filled with corn in Eng. and one of four silos in Eng. The general sent to headquarters for six men to fill this silo so I come they went to the farmer ~~Bald~~^r. Ed. Martin, but Hyndman & James Clark went from Laramie and three more from Chesley Plat. & Irvin Eason (Sug'l) in charge. They worked three days, came back last night. They had quite an experience I think, expected to go back to finish Monday. They had a cutting box engine a fairly up to date rig and had never seen one worked.

The miserable part of it was they didn't give them any more than enough to eat and they slept in the hay snow. The tenant don't like this big guy at all they call the ranch "Little Russia". I think it would have been a little as he could have done to have used them real well when they were doing it gratis.

Two & half hours high snow, he got two boxes & I got one when we came in so that was all I took. He were well fed on the march, in fact it is fully fair all the time now.

He passed Lord Tennyson's home on yesterday. It is on quite a hill and overlooks a big stretch of country & I guess that is where he got all his inspirations.

Barney Fenton has just come back off pags from Ireland tonight. He had a good fast of six days. I think surely I will get a fast before long now. Harry Summer is gone now, just three days that seems about the limit of time I don't know how Fenton got so long.

Well I guess I will close for this time hope you will excuse all mistakes & elapses for I am not going to re-read this.

Yours affly
Russel P.S. Am sending a
yester