

Witley Camp, Surrey
Oct. 7/17.

Dear People at Home: Canadian mail arrived today and yours of Sep. 2nd Mabel's enclosed. I will be anxiously awaiting my birthday cake, it will likely be here tomorrow. It will soon be time to buy Xmas presents.

We expect Saul Putnam & Donald McNeill up tomorrow to visit us, Saul will likely be away to France before us at least we are all counting on spending the winter here now. I heard today Mr. Davis is wounded and young Sedges from D.S. Roy Hanna is wounded too. The boys have been getting it hard lately. Two of those Gowanlocks over there in Sarguin were killed.

We have been house cleaning these last few days here and have hardly had a place to sit down. We have bought paint and varnish and we have made this hut a beauty. The best in the Battⁿ I think. We are going to fix things up a bit more and the rest of the Co^{'y} are doing this ours and the Sala hut. I see what is possible in these huts. The next big push on the clean up will be for Thomas.

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I guess we will have no more long marches or bivouac'ing so we have to spend the time somehow. If it rains a little we lay in that half day and we have a lecture of some kind every forenoon to fill an hour and an odd time & a little route march. We have 8 to 11.30 in the forenoon and 2 to 4 in the afternoon. There is never very much doing in the afternoon but we usually get at least two hours good exercise in the forenoon of bayonet fighting, physical drill & squad drill. We are learning nothing you might say, it is just exercise. The second class shots are going to the ranges Monday to shoot the course again, and if we stay here we will all likely have another turn at Mytchett. I will likely have a turn at Mytchett in M.F. too.

I have started to school again. The G.M.C.A. has worked out an Ed. scheme and are teaching all kinds of H.S. work. I am going to take French, Latin & Eng. for senior matriculation. If we do not get anything out of it, it will be good for so time and we will certainly be none the worse for it. I believe there are about 250 over there.

Harvey Prond intend starting. I think there
are a dozen 160^A fellows go. Our French teacher
is a Major in the 150th (French Battⁿ) & he is
certainly good. I think he must have been a
teacher in Minn. There are plenty of good teachers
in the Div. so that I think the work ought
to progress good. It is especially good for
fellows that want to get Mat. or 1st Sec. certificate.
Lara has hard luck on the fire business.
some time the whole thing will go if they dont get
a decent fire brigade.

We have two suits of clothes now and when
we go out on an inspection now we are some
snappy looking Battⁿ.

Wilt. Licken expects to go back to Can. for
an instructor, so we have a new second in
command in our Co'y. Mr. Cameron. formerly
of the signal section.

Havent got my pass yet. It ought to come
soon now. There are two fellows in the
hut gone this week.

I think this is all the news this week.
Hope you are all well as this leaves us.
Love to all
Russell