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Mrs. John Wagner,
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Ontario
Canada



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CENSOR.



Witley Camp, Surrey
May 24/18

Dear Folk at Home;

Rec'd your letter last week in
logical order. I also got Mrs. Hobbs' box,
it come just one day. I didn't like dinner
so it was opportunity received.

I was supposed to hear that Dell was to be
fied up, she is getting on a hurry, she must have
forgot that there was a war on.

The boys are having a half holiday this
afternoon going to play foot ball etc. I have to go
to the M.G. School.

Saturday & yesterday forenoon we spent scrubbing
and cleaning in anticipation of a visit by the G.O.C.
(Gen. Officer Commanding). This had got a going over
such as our old house never got. Then
he didn't come on account of so many drafts
goings. Major Moffat was mad (angry I guess)
at the all over preparation so he said we would have
a half holiday to day. Big
fire has been ~~being~~ doing these last few



I
days in camp. There are drafts going from the other 11 Batt^{ns} in the Div and ours was not touched. It's a miracle but as far as we know Major Moffat has done the trick. The 2nd & 128 Batt^{ns} are burst all to pieces, lose their identity altogether, the other Batt^{ns} just sending 300 hundred men no N.C.O.'n officers. There is a draft of good men from the camp I heard.

Col. Memphis gone, transferred to the Regimental Motion Depot and Moffat has charge. He is just a little too many for these staff men here and he told them if they were going to break this Battⁿ he was going to know the reason why, if he had to go to the Canadian Government. This General Hughes here was a Lieutenant in the U.S. when Moffat was Inspector General and now that Hughes is Gen. it doesn't say he is a superior to Moffat and so Moffat just lets them know they can't do as they like with him & his. They wanted him to put Moffat out of the Battⁿ & the old



Col. said that he would go before Moffat & so he did.

Moffat said the other day that he was going to France himself, if he couldn't go with this Batt^t he would go under the Stars & Stripes. There is Brigadier waiting for him in the American army.

The drafts are going away some day this week; they have their badges all off and old Canada on and are just having a good time for the few days they will be here. It was a rough sea in the 20th 21st 22nd 23rd the night they found they were going, some to 5th, 21st or 26th the It was a hard blow on them.

I sent my watch home a week or so ago so expect it will be there by's before this. Jim's watch also, you can forward it. Mine was only dirty but it is too good for this job. I bought a 10 st. one the other day if it doesn't work I'll send home for that one if you get it cleaned up and it runs all right.

I lost a good 15 st. pen there - a hole in my tunic pocket a couple weeks ago and had

To buy another 10 sh. one, so my money is running a little low again.

I suppose you hear of some many telegrams going over for money, a great old bunch are going on fast wednesday & Friday, about 40th, of the B.

I might have had a pass too if I hadn't been taking this Lewis Gun course. But I may get a chance a week or so later. You might send me over another five dollars any time.

Get Pound had a letter from Gil today, he has been hit a couple times with shrapnel, he will likely be sent home yet. The boys here are getting fed up on this business especially those fellows who are left in the other Battalions some of their bed mates going to France.

I heard there were three or four officers in the 202nd reverted to the ranks just to go, it may not be so.

I am sending a few views of St. Helier, I hope you get them. Do you ^{get} these newspapers I sometimes send?

There were some pictures of the American nurses who arrived in London. Its encouraging to hear of the Americans coming, I don't care how soon they come across.

The white washed the main scotting of our hut today, it made me mind of whitewashing the hen house.

Olive Christie had a letter from Jack Geddes the other day, he is in a hospital in France now. He was 5 miles over the lines, good & in the air when a piece of a shell hit him on the side of the head. The buckle on his helmet he said saved him from a more dangerous wound. He said his eye was swelled shut but it was just his eye brow that was bruised. He said that he thought it was good enough for Eng. & that he would likely be up to see us before long.

How is Calvin making it go? He has more land than ever this year hasn't he? Is Ernie Stark going to drill for water again? He has hard luck to be sure. How is Dick & the boy making it go? I suppose they still don't believe in war. I believe Jim & Ab. are just about as well where they are anyhow. Do you know a poor man in this business and at the front is not only ~~his~~ just a minor value in himself but they are a hindrance & danger to the other fellows.

We have been having a few good rains here lately and it has beat the grass along and the leaves out. It is just like Canada in May now, just ~~large~~ when the cattle are out, of course they have been out a long time here and there are a few nice herd around too.

I nearly forgot about Isabel's birthday, best
greetings to her now even here ... is just
I gone when this arrives.

We are having a holiday on the 24th,
there is a sports day at Godalming. I don't
know whether we all have to go or not.

Tell I think you're close for this time.
Excuse my scribble this time, I am getting
worse & state.

Love to all

Russel