

(On Active Service)

Dec. 1918



~~Mrs. Calvin Welsh,
Dobson,
Ontario,
Canada~~

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4
We always had subsistence anyhow
& now it is nearly over. I would
judge that as soon as we reach
our destination we will have plenty
of canteen supplies and Y.M.C.A.
It is nearly dark, so I must
close & post this right away. I will
write again as soon as we
reach our destination.

Gen. Currie came along the day
before yesterday, got out of his car,
spoke to some of the men & finally
I believe congratulated the Colonel on the
shape of the men. It is supposed to
to have given him permission to carry
our packs by transport as yesterday we
had no packs and it was lucky too
because it was the fourth day
continuous march & he did 17 miles,
I'm afraid quite a few ~~would~~ have
dropped out had we to carry the
packs. Love to all Russell

Germany
Dec 8th

Dear Folks at Home;

At last we have reached this
land which they used to sing about
marching to Rhine etc. I realize I have
marched to Germany all night after
walking clear across Belgium.

We are at a little country place
about twenty five miles inside the
border, are resting today and expect
to go to the Rhine in three days continuous
march beginning tomorrow.

The people are very civil, in fact
I don't see much difference yet from
Belgium, we use them better than
their own soldiers. I think it is
rather unexpected the respectful way in
which the Canadians use them. They
are rather to be pitied, just emerging
from this spell of militarism.

3
see these guys doffing their hat
to our Officers. They are getting a
little of the dope batch which they
gave to the people of France & Belgium
only not so thick I guess. They don't
forget to do it either, it is just what
they had to do to their own Officers.

I believe it will do this country a
world of good to have this army
occupation in their midst, they
will understand better how they were
bullied by their militarism & that
we are different altogether as respects
an army.

When the Germans were going
thru' Belgium to the border they slaughtered
a lot of beefs. we seen the remains
every day of the slaughtered cattle, they
had good fresh beef those times.
We have had only our rations as
we came along so have no over
abundance I can assure you.

2
We have an old fellow from Kitchener
by the name of Manno who lived
among the Germans all his life there
and can talk the language fluently.
He has the woman here frying some
potatoes for supper for us, they will
sell us anything they have and in
many cases give us stuff. The
first billet we had, the night before
last, the old German had a good
fire ready for us and also plenty of
hot coffee & milk. The people here are
real typical continental farmers.

The district we have come thru' as far
appears rather poor, all hills & hollows
with quite a little evergreen bush.
The farmers nearly all work oxen,
horses were all conscripted for the
army, and in general they appear
to be very poor.

It is amusing to go along &