

GODALMING

8. 30  
22 7<sup>17</sup>

Oct 20/17.

Mrs. John Wagner  
110 Dobbinton,  
Ontario,  
Canada.

BBINSON  
ONE  
ONTARIO

Hatley Camp, Surrey  
Oct 30/17

Dear People at Home;

As you see I am back from Scotland - I hope you have rec'd thy letter I wrote last Sunday while up there. Rec'd your letter of Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> & Sep' of 22<sup>nd</sup>. I hope you had a good time on your week's trip, it would just be like our furlough.

I sent some stuff from Scotland hope you receive it, I usually left the money to parcel it up and send it for me.

I think I will start & tell you what we did the rest of the week till Thursday night.

On Monday, in the forenoon we went down to see some houses, some black Belgians which are used for hearse teams etc. They have long mams and are certainly stock blacked. In the afternoon we climbed to the top of Scott's monument which is 160 ft high more or less, somewhere about that I think, and went to the zoo which is quite a small affair compared with the one in London. On the evening we went to a theatre.

On Tuesday Lewis, Ned McDonald

I went up to Stirling, it is about  
Three hours ride on the train.

It was well worth while going up  
just to see the castle. It is even  
better I think than Edinburgh castle  
because there is such a good view.  
We had an old guide show us thro' it  
and he told us all the interesting points.  
There is one point at the top of the wall,  
called Queen Victoria's lookout. There is  
supposed to be the best view in Scotland  
from that point and the sight of the  
Battle Bannockburn is in view from  
there and Wallace's monument looking  
both ways the river Forth can be seen  
to the horizon over a perfectly flat country  
and on both sides of this plain there  
are ranges of mountains. He showed  
us the fringe of hills where the Scotch  
cows & attendants came over at the  
battle of Bannockburn which gave the  
Eng. the idea the re-inforcements were  
coming & consequently they broke. The Forth  
is the most winding river I ever saw &  
I think it has the Snake creek beat a  
hundred ways. There is a bridge,  
which you will see on a post card (called  
The key to the north just below the castle.

He showed us also the point nearly as high as the wall where Monk put his guns when he besieged the castle, and there are some big stone balls about ten inches thru' which Ed. 1<sup>st</sup> used to throw up by means of elasticity force no cannon. There are many other interesting things also, the old dungeons, left gates and Mary Queen of Scots looked out when she was a prisoner. They did not allow her to look over the wall but made a hole in the wall & there is a stone bench where she sat. Bruce's monument is not at the top of the castle it is part way down, a lower level.

We came back from Stirling over the great tooth bridge.

On Wed. I awoke & went to Sheffield. He left at 9.15 & got there at 4 in the afternoon. I saw Melrose Abbey along the way, it is mentioned in history a few times. He had a quiet chat to a fellow who was coming to London for interview Fort Derby. He has a factory in Glasgow but didn't tell us the nature of his business. He has a son at Salopia at present.

Then we got to Sheffield Mr. & Mrs. Johnson were away, no body at home at all. We went back to the city & had supper, came up about 8 & Mrs. Johnson's sister was there, she had seen two

soldiers at the door but didn't get down before we were away. She thought it was the Canucks, so she used to them to come home so they were back by sun.

They gave us as good as time as they knew how and that was pretty good, they are certainly fine people, Mrs. Johnson is a very fine woman. She had a great bed that night, a switch hanging over the bed to turn off the light and everything right to the handle.

The day we came up there, the last six miles was this, the steel & coal distinct. It was just a mess of factories & steel coal shafts. A big wheel about every forty rods denoted the coal shafts. There is a smoke there to be sure, they only got about half the sunlight there they saw, but there is money in smoke the Englishmen say.

Thursday forenoon I paid \$5 in the afternoon we went with Mr. Johnson. He took us first to the his factory - It is a very interesting concern in itself. It is a wire factory & he employs 50 men. He draws the wire cold he gets it about as big as your little finger & ships it about the size of brown wire, & a great deal smaller. They simply soak the wire and put it thru' dies a little smaller than the wire and that makes the wire longer & thinner. Of course it has to go thru' quite a few dies.

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The day we were there he had four  
experts testing his big gas engine. The  
wire before it leaves the factory has to stand  
a test, so many tons pressure to the square  
in. 1811 — wire that size, stand 31 twists  
and 7 bends. He makes wire for aeroplanes  
(tins it), wire for submarine nets and  
wire for making cables for the mines, of  
course he just sends the wire in coils.  
It is all controlled by the Gov't, they  
fix the prices and get a percentage of the  
profit.

On the afternoon Mr. Johnson took us  
to the Stillman Cookes' steel plant where the  
wire he gets is made from bars of steel & where  
his fine wire is woven into cables about  
an inch thro' and larger, all sizes in act.

Was great watching the wire being made,  
a big chunk of steel red hot from the  
furnaces thrown out and in 30 seconds a  
coil of wire thrown up on the heap. They  
dunk the wire there red hot because I  
suppose it is big enough to stand the strain  
of going thro' the desired hot. The  
machines for making the cables are

6.

wonderful, I can give you little idea  
of what they are like if I did try to  
explain them. There are quite a no.  
of girls working there, blue overalls like  
the men, stockings and all kinds of jobs.

They gave us a souvenir, a soldiers  
knife. A dandy. I don't think they make  
them there, though they just keep them for  
souvenirs, a half penny each. She always  
must have a penny or some small sum  
for them.

We saw a bunch of German prisoners  
working near this plant. They were taking it  
easy when we saw them. I don't think  
they over heat themselves. I noticed these  
fellows off the street car & I knew what they  
were right away, they are just like the  
pictures. Two mansions to see some of them.  
There was one real bright looking young  
chap, the others were more German like.

Pop Johnson took us to the biggest  
hotel in Sheffield for dinner. It is a swell  
just like the mansions where the movie  
picture are taken. A four course dinner  
in a joint like that was something new  
for us but we got thro' it all right.

He left Shf. about 7:55 and got into London 9:15 and caught a train for camp 10:35 landing into camp about 11 o'clock.

Of course we got our two days extension, we got it Monday noon so that we had an exact week of pass.

I hated to come back here to shinking harness and forming four again. I see so many fellows from France on these trips it makes me at least wish they would ship us out of here if we know what is good for us. I guess we are better here but this work down gets on our nerves some times.

Altogether we had a good trip, saw a good deal and lived high. The trip was not so hard on the scale because we had free transportation, throw a slip of paper and away you go.

The people I met and saw good to the colonials and we have a good Batt<sup>n</sup> when it comes to extensions. In some of the other Batt<sup>n</sup> it is almost a crime to ask for an extension without a very very good reason.

Well I think this is most the news of the trip. I guess I will get another first summer to Ireland and then I think I will see if I can go to Paris no ha.

The have our Ball & newspaper going  
now, I am sending at paper or two,  
this last weeks & the week before if I  
can get it.

I am finishing this Sunday received  
your letter front down the country today.  
We have iron in our pots now  
and press our clothes, what do you  
know about that no excuse for a  
crease in the trousers now.

Still I think this is all now

Love to All

Russel

Oct 1912

J. A. & H. S. Gifford  
of Sheffield