



3rd
Scotland 1916

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Canada.

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25 Drumoyne Drive
South Dowan
Glasgow
Sunday Nov. 18th

Dear People Well you never know where
to catch me now. I am up with Jim, Neil &
Bruce Walker at Dr. W^m. Walker's.

We came up here yesterday morning and I am
staying till this day. The others have till Saturday
whether they stay here all the time or not.

My leave started Wed. night but I did not go
till Friday with the other boys. I have to begin
a two month course Tues & Wed. morning & so have to
be back for it.

We left Friday night from Liphook & reached
London about 8.30. We got separated getting onto
the train, Neil & Jim stayed together but the other
two of us came by ourselves. We went to London on
different trains & so could not find each other there
yesterday as well look for a needle in a haystack.

I had a Edinburgh ticket by mistake so went
on the Edinburgh train 11.15'. I had a swift trip to
Edin. on flir only makes about four stops & goes
about 60-70 mile an hour. I had the company of
two fellows from the front and three other fellows
coming up. I got a pretty good idea of the Somme
battle front from them.

I reached Edin. about 8.30 took a 2 shilling ticket for
Glasgow and was there by 10.15'. I had the add.

and found the place in a short time. I was there first & so felt rather timid at going to a place where the people didn't know me but they knew I was coming and I was made welcome as the stay is long.

In a short time Bruce came along and then the other fellows.

Mr Walker & family have certainly showed hospitality since we came. We have felt right at home and have been used the very best, the best seems to be none too good for us.

Yesterday after one of the girls & her chum took us around the city. We have a great chance to see the city from the street cars here, they are double deckers and you can sit right outside and take in the city. Today we took another trip away up to Paisley & around.

The people up here in Scotland are the Canadians right. They have free Bubbles for us when we are travelling plenty. I had an and lunch and today an old fellow even wanted to pay our way on the street car. I was paying for the trip and the other five of the bunch went on ahead and I stopped to pay, this fellow says, "how many I gone in" but I said never mind I have the dol.

Tomorrow we are to take a trip up to Loch Lomond and see some hills & heather. Some of the girls will go with us I guess.

There are three grown up girls. The oldest girl

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works in a munition factory. She is a real nice girl. She is not making but inspecting the shells. She has worked herself up I guess.

We had a grand sleep last night didn't go down town at all, went to bed early and never woke till nine A.M. We had breakfast about eleven, went out for three or four hours and had dinner about 4.30. We had a couple of chickens, a rare treat we said we would call it our Xmas dinner. and so tonight we are devoting to writing a few letters.

Well I can't give you much idea of what I have seen, I have seen a good deal and it nearly seems impossible to condense it either.

It cost us 33 sh^t to come up here but we thought this might be our only chance to get up this far and we could see London on week ends. Nearly all the fellows went to London. Any fellow coming to Scotland gets 8 days to London & so that it pays to come up here.

A fellow cannot go back before his pass is out or he has to pay for his board at camp, they only draw rations for so many. I expect some of the fellows will be out of money in a few days and have to come back, it goes pretty fast when you have no place to go.

It hasn't cost us anything since we came up here but we will have to recompense to a certain degree somehow.

Glasgow is a great place for ship building & repairing but we cannot get into the docks to see very much

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There are a great many ammunition factories also. Miss Walker is getting a pass to take us thru' the factory she is in. They are making French shells for the French.

We saw the great University yesterday and a great many statues of Burke, Peel and all the great men. They are erected in front of the University.

I like the look of these Scotch cities better than the English. They are nearly all large buildings built of stone. There are blocks four story high about the size around of Eatons store used for dwelling houses. You would think you were looking at some great establishment at a distance but on close view it is simply a dwelling house. This is the country where the good ~~big~~ Clydesdale horses come from. You see some good hairy ones around here.

The picture of the B.ⁿ taken the day we left London arrived in camp Wed. It is pretty good, especially of the officers and front lines. It was back at the back so it is not very plain of me. If they sell them up thru' Bruce as they will do I course be sure and secure one, they cost about \$10.

As a result of the damp weather many of the fellows have colds. I have a little in my head but I am pretty well over it. The Dr. wanted to give us all a dose to fix us up. Sometimes in the heat in the evening something will happen and everybody will ~~but~~ laugh for a few minutes, then follows a spasm of coughing, everybody coughs for awhile after it.

I got your letter written on the 23rd - the day I understand you said we had landed, before we were half way across, I guess it had a purpose too.

Mother said she wished I had some apple butter over here, well I guess she doesn't wish it half as much as I do. However we are better fed now than when we come over. It is back to the old thing now.

If a meal doesn't suit us we can buy salmon, jam or a tin of beans or corn syrup. They are all sold at reasonable rates right in our mess hall. They have a quite a large dry canteen there.

There was one of our I. Co. men killed from Liverpool Friday evening after we left camp. He was run over by a transport. A person has to be continually on the alert down there for there is a great stream of traffic and they expect you to clear the way. His name was Howe, we have not heard any particular but the fellows said he didn't loose so I guess he wasn't drunk.

A young fellow I come up on with on the train was a sergeant who had been in the trenches fifteen months. He is a trained soldier. The other fellow was an American, a sapper who has been over there a year and a half. They certainly told me a few things. I talked to the sapper from twelve o'clock till about 2. 30 and then we went to sleep. I slept right on the floor in the passage. Then in the morning I had a long chat with the sergeant. He had a badge for distinguished bravery. He went with a corporal and captured a battery.

The Gungans were all gone but three who were operating the gun, ~~and~~ he & the other fellow captured them and made them take the mortar right across with them to the Br. lines. The Major then recommended him for the badge. They told us things we never hear about and which I could not write about here for some of these letters are censored. They say we have the best of it now in everything but sniping, but they don't think it is near over.

The young fellow has a picture taken from one of the
Gungans. It is much he took. He had some German
bullets so gave me one.

Mr. Walker is a very interesting man. He & Mrs. George look a good deal alike. He has been in India 14 years and thru a great many of the Southern countries. He has a regular Museum of his collection of novelties. If he had time he would show us thru the city & the Burni country but his practice keeps him busy these war times.

The women over here are certainly buckling in. They run street cars and are conductors in the train also they run t^ht trucks around the stations. They seem quite confident and look quite at home.

Well I guess I will close for this time. The other boys have finished their letters. I will be expecting a bunch of mail by the time I get back to camp. I am glad I told you to write to Army P. O. It is a safe way at any time, the safest my fact.

Love to all. Russell.

P.S. I think I will be able to talk the Scotch when I get back. It is amusing to listen to it all the time.

Letter from Walker

1916