

"On Active Service"

July 1st 1918



Exrs. John Wagner,
Rt. No. 1. Tobinton,
Ontario
Canada



France

July 1/18.

Dear Folk at Home;

I am just completing my celebration of the 1st and it has been so wonderful I must tell you about it.

We simply had a very early rise and a long trip back for our rest. I guess we have come out for a few weeks if nothing unusual occurs. We were up at 3.30 this morning, entrained about five A.M., had about a 20 kilometre ride on the train and then about 9 Kilos march, landing in about noon, ready for a good snooze this afternoon.

We had a fine trip thro' the country this morning, the grain is about all shot out now. The wheat & rye beginning to color so everything looks pretty jake. The crop is all good, very even crops some real wheat in places I must say. They do not cut much hay here but they ~~are~~ ^{are} at what little they do now, They have old reapers where

not cutting by hand and I only saw one
rake outside the hand rake. The women do
as much work as the men as far as I
can ^{see} here, one sees their white bonnets
appearing here and there.

You must not imagine the country here like
in Canada because the people do not live
right on their little farm, they all live in
villages three or four mile apart in some places
and work the land between, they have few
fences, usually the cattle are tethered so the
country looks like a piece of prairie in places.

We are billeted in a barn here and on
the third story of bunks, a thatch roof above
us, it looks very good however probably it will
turn the rain all right. I suppose we will be
duller now while on rest, they usually hop
right to it, squared drill etc. The most of the
work is in the forenoon and then play ball
or sports of some kind in the afternoon.

I have ~~been~~ not had a letter since I wrote
last but I heard Charlie Henry had got into
trouble. I hope they put him cracking

stones for the duration as a conscientious
objector. It is guys like him that should be
coming instead of lads nineteen.

I think that siphidethia is working good. I have
had little trouble this week, probably due to a
clean shirt at the last bath. I will know
better after a time.

There is very little news this time seemingly.
I will likely get a few letters before long
so will write soon again.

Love to all

Russel Wagner

P.S. In case anything
happened last letter I
will put in the dates of
the boxes received. Apr. 29th May 13.

& the L. Aid box packed by Mrs. Gordon,
you can acknowledge it to the Society.