



Wiley Camp Surrey
March 26/17

Dear People at Home
We are still here although we
thought we were gone.

I got my week end pass for London and
went up Saturday afternoon Sunday afternoon
I heard that at a general mobilization was
called for so about 5 o'clock I went up to
the Maple Leaf Club and sure enough there
was a telegram for the 160th fellows to return
at once. We didn't get at all excited and
waited till 8.30 and got in about 11.30 to
Camp.

Saturday night or rather evening a
message came to be ready to move in
30 minutes. Well I wasn't here, and I am
glad the way it turned out that I wasn't,
but the fellows tell me the excitement ran
high. They said every body was just
grabbing a kit and packing it whether
it belonged to him or not if they



saw a fellow taking anything that belonged
to them & claimed it all well, but once it
was packed it was there to stay. Then they
went out on the parade ground and sat
there till about 11 o'clock before they were
dismissed.

Well that spell went off and since then
they have been preparing to move, we have our
helmets, gas masks, ration bags, identification
tags and a few other France necessities.

It wasn't bothering me very much but
they thought they were away without me.
Lennie and several others had just got bread and
so they licked them up in a few minutes and
our butter all went over to the quarantined
hut, and was all eat but a lb. when we
went to get it back. The butter doesn't taste
right, has a rather strong taste, probably it
is because we are so accustomed to margarine.

We have our packs all ready so that
we can pull in 20 minutes quite easy,



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The water wagons are full, ammunition has come in all we want is the word now

I don't know the reason, but I heard and I think probably it is right that they expect the Germans to land or probably it's not to follow up the drive.

I got the box and it came in dandy shape. I don't think it makes much diff about the second covering because if it gets rough usage six covering wouldn't save it. The cake is just great, moist & rich and the apple butter is dandy too. When I came in last night I made out a midnight lunch on the box and those twisters I found this morning were just strong enough.

I also got the letter with the P this morning, and the letter with the snaps last Thursday.

I had a good time in London, went up to see so fit all the places of interest.

I went to the Madame Tussauds Saturday afternoon when we got up there about 3 o'clock.



(Bill Moore from Allenford was with me). That is they were works, all great men of England are there in wax just as natural as life. You just feel like speaking to them. The Chamber of horrors is there also where all great Eng. criminals are in wax.

Sunday morning we went down to Buckingham Palace and around by Admiralty Arch where the Royal Horse Guards are. Did not see any of the Gayalty.

Then I spent about an hr. in the Victoria & Albert Museum, a huge building with everything you could mention in it. You could spend a couple of days there. At 3 o'clock I went to St. Paul's Cathedral. It is a magnificent structure but as far as the service went all I could make out was when they chanted "Amen" and that was pretty often.

Those were the main places I saw, of course there were many other places too numerous to mention. Picadilly, Leicester Square & Strand

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are quite common.

The under ground railways is the slickest way to travel I ever saw. It is too expensive to describe here but if you want to go a few miles in a few minutes you can go for a very low fence. There is very little waiting they come about every two minutes and travel fast.

I wrote a letter to Tom Peacock on behalf of the boys, and it was a hard business to do. Just heard today that the babies are dead too; that is sadder still.

Got Los' letter last week after about a month's travelling, his 100th team seems to be pulling up pretty good.

I joined the scouts last week. The scouts & snipers are taking lectures now by a new Officer we have here, preparatory to taking a course, the best course in the British army they say by the man who lived in 'No man's land' for 5 months. The Sergeant Major thought I should go with what knowledge I have of drawing and making maps. I am sending home the returns of Bordon, doesn't amount to much but it is a souvenir any how.

March 20/17

Jim is back from Bordon, all men have returned from Canada.

It can only taken what we can carry in our pack & haversack so there has been a great process of elimination going on, discarding what we cannot take. We leave our kit bags and get them at the conclusion of the war I guess. My kit bag is full. my little sweater, fine shoes and one other p., fl. dress pants, fl. socks and a few other details. I have 3 p. socks in my pack, only supposed to take two, but we may stay here and carry on as usual we're not away yet.

Still I hope this letter gets there because this is still a bit I need some kind of another.

Love to all

Russell