

For God, For King & For Country



Y·M·C·A

H.M.FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

PATRON:
Y.M.C.A. NATIONAL COUNCIL.
H.M. THE KING.

PATRON:
MILITARY CAMP DEPT.
H.R.H. DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

Reply to Company Bat. Regt.

Stationed at *Pirbright Camp*

Nov. 19th 1916

Dear People at Home; Well I have changed my place of abode again. I think I wrote from Dr. Walker's last Sunday and now it is Saturday night again.

I certainly enjoyed my pass, short as it was. I consider myself lucky to have had the opportunity of going to a private home in Glasgow.

On Monday the two girls went with us to Loch Lomond. Margaret applied for leave that day and got it, so she could come. It is about an hour's ride from Glasgow and we reached there just before dinner. We had dinner and then got a row-boat and went up the lake a piece. It is certainly picturesque. It was my first time to see the tops of the mountains hid by clouds.

I left them on the night express for London 10.20, the three girls and another gentleman, whose name I don't just remember came down with me to the station.

They gave me a bunch of magazines and wanted
to give me a lunch but I didn't need any.

It was a special train for soldiers and sailors and
they were mostly sailors and a wild bunch they were.
The train was nearly flooded with booze.

I happened lucky however. I got into a department
with a good bunch of Scots. Two were going to Portsmouth
to begin service with the Royal Garrison Artillery (home service).
They were in civie clothes and were what I would call a
pair of fed up Englishmen. I guess they had to join up
and they were fresh on the job. They were oldish chaps
officemen, and the train was too hot to suit me but it
just suited them. They never slept at all either but I'll
bet if they drill a day or two like what we have been
lately they would sleep across a chair. The best thing
about them was they had a swell lunch which they
shared.

Arrived London about 8.15 next morning and
spent the day there. I only visited the Zoo in the
line of big places but got an idea of the city. Tuesday
night I landed back in Bramshott, got orders to
come to Pirbright next day, report here 3 P.M.

There were twelve from the 60th came here, and a few from
other B's accordingly, about 350 I should judge in all.

Well we have met the Eng. officers and that in good
style. It is a roar and a groan from morning till
night. Its polish your eye-balls, clean out your
ears, as you were, get them heated up, get your hands back,

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smarter smarter smarter, come on you lazy old corporal, put his name in the book, and wake up Rivelle ^{has} gone 6 hours ago etc etc.

It has been cold since we came here and we cannot wear gloves. We are out on the parade ground before daylight and our hands are not blue but black. It snowed today for the first, it has not rained for over a week now.

I guess it is a real good course however, I thorough as the pass word, and another thing a great many of the fellows are sergeants, all have stripes, so that is a pleasure to drill because everybody is right up on the bit.

It qualifies a fellow for an instructor if he makes good so has like as not some of our days with the 16th are over. We have better huts here than at Bramshott we have a lovely fine place to sit around in the evenings (long). We are going to move to still better quarters however on Monday, Bordon is the name of the place we are going to, up near Bramshott about 5 miles from it so I can go over to visit the other boys.

Full Corp. King & For. Com.

We are up here 5.30, parade 6.45 to 7.30 before breakfast. We take physical training & bayonet fighting then. It is usually just about day light when we get to the square, & we tear around there on shirt sleeves. It gives a fellow a good appetite for breakfast.

We are fed fairly good and have a lecture after supper 5.30 to 6.30, then we have a nice long evening but I was too tired to enjoy them till tonight. ^{in barracks} We have a dandy good bunch in our hut. Jack Clazier from P.C. is with me and another from 1st co. The other fellows are 1st co from Hamilton mostly. There are three teachers of us here together. Valley Cottrell from P.C. is also on the bunch here.

We are getting three days pass next week when we get to Gordon, Tues to Thurs. I don't know whether I will go up to London or not. I am going to Bramshott to the Bn. just to see if there is any mail first anyhow. I have not rec'd any since I came here. I had a letter from Holmes Crawford last week. I have just got the one letter from home yet.

There is one thing here I like, everything has to be kept as clean as a pin. We had to scrub everything, tables, bunks & floor this morning instead of first parade. The windows are kept clean and have to be kept up nearly all day so there is no smoke like off the old stoves.

We have a couple of Eng. lads in our room also and they are as nice fellows as you meet in the army.

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5

They put some of our fellows in the shade. There is a bunch of over 3 thousand prisoners building a Railway just a short distance from here. I havent seen them, some of the fellows saw them however. They watch them with blood hounds, too tired to escape but they soon caught them. They can not get off the island very handly if they do get away.

When you are writing I guess you better address it to Bramshott, my old address and I can get them from there, I can wheel over any time.

I am sending a couple of post cards I got at the Wm. Col. tonight & scenes around here.

Well I guess Divill close for this time, it will soon be lights out. For goodness sake don't forget a box at Dmas. This letter will do Uncle Roberts also, it is the same thing every letter.

Love to All Russel.

131
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Purbrick -
Nov 1916

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