

For God, For King & For Country.



Y·M·C·A
WITH
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 _____ Bar _____ Regt *May 17 1918*
Stationed at *England*

My dear Essie:

What seems to be the matter with the mail, now? It's quite a while since I have heard from home. I try my best to get about three letters a week home, but sometimes I slip up. This week for instance. But I have an "alibi." You see I wrote to Uncle Ed, and Henry.

Yesterday, we had a squadron holiday. Oh my! Never got up till 8⁴⁵. I imagine it. Went without my breakfast, just to sleep. And when I did.

get up, I could not call down to mother, and tell her to have my breakfast ready. But what I did, was to wait until 10,³⁰ when the canteen opened, then bought some scones and coffee.

We had a dandy dinner, and plenty of it. You see many of the boys were out on pass, so it made quite a difference in the rations. At about 12⁴⁵, I started for a hike, with another fellow, and choose for our destination, a little village, six or seven miles away. We rambled on, and on, sometimes for as much as an hour, without meeting a person. At one time we passed right through a small village, and never even saw a soul. At just about three, forty five, we struck the out skirts of the

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town for which we set out, and it was much larger than we expected. You see neither of us had ever been there, before, but we knew the general direction, and ~~and~~ felt that if we did miss it, and walked far enough, we'd strike another town. We sat down on the banks of the canal for about twenty minutes, and then started back. We sat on the canal bank for several reasons, some of which are, we were tired, it was hot, we we broke, and couldn't get into a tea room, (I carelessly left my money in the tent), and then, it

was a nice comfortable spot, where we could see the water on one side, and the street on the other. Coming back to camp, we had the time of our lives. Thought we would save a little time and energy by cutting "cross lots". The fields, in this country are divided by hedges, instead of rail fences or stone walls. After crossing one field, we jumped a hedge and went over a knoll and found ourselves, suddenly in the middle of a herd of cattle. About thirty bulls, I should say. Some of which we very polite, stepping aside, to let us pass. One old fellow, though took a dislike to one, or maybe both of us, and started to follow us. Well at first we just laughed at him and told him to go home, but

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he wouldn't mind worth a cent. When he got too close, for comfort, "Whit," threw his coat at him, but that was just what he wanted. He put his head down, and let his hind legs fly. Now all this time, all the rest of the herd, was watching, very closely, and at the signal, two of the rear guard came up, on double time. Again "Whit" let it drive, but that coat had no more effect on these bulls, than water has on a duck's back. You see neither of us had been brought up on a farm, so we didn't know just

what to do. So we ran. And when we ran, the whole darsai bunch followed those three leaders. Talk about excitement, we were surely in hot water for a few minutes. Finally we gained the hedges, at the corner of the field, and "went over the top". Then we hiked, and hiked, and hiked, over all kinds of fields, till we came to a canal. Huk! We had to hike along the bank, now, until we came to a bridge. Well, after a while, we struck a road, and as it was going, in the right direction, we followed it, and after a while, saw a house. As neither of us had had a ~~drat~~ drink, since early morning we decided to "buy one". We asked the "man of the house" for a glass of water, and he asked us to

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come in and have ~~the~~ tea. Wow!
Would we? Well I guess. It was
after six then and we had n't
had a bite since noon. We had
some real tea, (quite different from
Army tea) and plenty of bread and
butter. Feeling much better, we
again set out for camp, and made
it at about 8¹⁵. Tired and
hungry, but happy. We cleaned up
a can of corned beef, which "Whit"
had, ever since we left "the boat."
Then we went into the canteen,
and bought duff and a can of
peaches, and some cocoa. Satisfied,
we went to bed, and maybe I
didn't sleep. I'm going to sleep

again tonight. But I wasn't very tired today. We were fairly quiet, all day, so I did some splicing. Now, the first "dud" (meaning bad) day we get, or maybe sooner, I shall have to put new controll wires into my machine, as the ones which are now in use, are pretty well worn.

I guess that's about all now, except that we are going to have a corking thunder shower, tonight. The clouds are rumbling, and lightning flashing, in great style.

Hoping that you all are well, and that May is contented, in her new position, and that dad has forgotten how to worry, I remain,

Lovingly,

Pick.

Richard W. Elligott.
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England.

Censored by:

1st. Lieut. A.S.R.