

NO. 6 CAMP.
SLING.
SALISBURY PLAINS.
4. 2. 17.

MY DEAR MOTHER & FATHER,

SMALL WORLD THIS. LITTLE DID I THINK, WHEN YOU GAVE ME AUNTIES ADDRESS, THAT I WOULD EVER MAKE USE OF IT, & THUS SPEND SUCH A PLEASANT & PARTICULARLY INTERESTING STAY OF 4 DAYS AMONG UNCLAS AUNTS & COUSINS IN ENGLAND, BUT SUCH IS THE CASE, & THE PAST FEW DAYS WILL EVER REMAIN AS SOME OF THE MOST PLEASANT OF MY LIFE.

AND NOW TO BUSINESS I WAS DUE TO GO ON LEAVE LAST TUESDAY MORNING 30- 1- 17. SO ADVISED AUNT TILLIE (MATILDA) ACCORDINGLY BY WIRE, BUT OWING TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE 19 REINFS. ON MONDAY NIGHT, I DID NOT GET AWAY. I THEN ADVISED AUNTIE BY WIRE AGAIN THAT I COULD NOT GET AWAY. HOWEVER THEY BUSTLED US AWAY ON TUESDAY, AND I MADE STRAIGHT FOR BUDE, THUS ARRIVING THERE UNEXPECTEDLY AT 5 P.M. ON TUESDAY EVENING.

BUDE IS RATHER AWKWARD TO REACH FROM HERE HAVING TO CHANGE TRAINS NO LESS THAN 4 TIMES, AT SALISBURY, DEVIL, EXETER & OAKHAMPTON, SO I SPENT ALL THE FIRST DAY REACHING MY DESTINATION, NEVERTHELESS I ENJOYED THE TRAIN JOURNEY, HAVING A LOOK AT THE COUNTRY MOST OF WHICH IS COVERED IN SNOW. IT WAS SNOWING SLIGHTLY WHEN I LEFT, BUT THE WEATHER AT BUDE WAS PERFECT, & NOT NEARLY AS COLD AS IN THIS PART. THIS IS THE COLDEST WINTER EXPERIENCED HERE FOR VERY MANY YEARS, THE CANAL AT BUDE BEING FROZEN 6 INS. IN PLACES, WHICH IS EXTREMELY UNCOMMON FOR THEM. SKATING ON THE ICE WAS THEREFORE IN FULL SWING, I HAD NO SKATES BUT WENT SLIDING ON THE ICE, WHICH IS VERY GOOD FUN THOUGH I GUESS I'LL HAVE A TRY AT SKATING BEFORE LONG. THERE WERE 2 CANADIANS THERE, & IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE WHAT THEY COULD DO ON SKATES.

WELL I RECEIVED A VERY WARM WELCOME & WAS LITERALLY BOMBARDED WITH RELATIONS, WHO WERE ALL EVIDENTLY FORE- WARNED OF MY PRESCENCE IN ENGLAND.

THEY WERE ALL KINDNESS PERSONIFIED, & TILL MIDNIGHT I WAS LISTENING TO FAMILY NEWS, & THE ORIGIN & WHEREABOUTS OF THE JOHNS FAMILY, UNTIL IN THE END I WAS AS WISE AS WHEN I STARTED.

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EVERY FEW MINUTES I HAD TO INTERRUPT PROCEEDINGS WITH SUCH A QUESTION AS THIS; "AND WHO IS THAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT" & THE EVER READY ANSWER " WHY THATS YOUR UNCLE MY DEAR. "

RIGHT FIRE AHEAD.

AFTER MANY HOURS OF THIS, MY BRAIN WAS STILL RATHER CONFUSED AS TO WHO'S WHO ETC,, SO I WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF MAKING A LIST OF UNCLES AUNTS & COUSINS FOR READY REFERENCE. I ENCLOSE THIS LIST FOR YOUR PERUSAL, & I TRUST THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW IT.

THE NAMES APPEAR (AS FAR AS I CAN JUDGE) ACCORDING TO AGE AND I WILL NOW TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW OF THEM INDIVIDUALLY

OF THE CANADIAN RELATIONS, EVERYTHING IS NOT KNOWN, AS IT IS HARD TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITHSO MANY OF THEM, FOR I BELIEVE THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM THERE, AUNT TILLIE WAS OVER THERE SOME 25 YEARS AGO & KNOWS A GOOD BIT OF THEM, BUT A LOT OF THINGS HAVE HAPPENED SINCE THEN, THEREFORE IT WILL BE SUFFICIENT JUST NOW TO KNOW THAT UNCLE JIM HAS DONE VERY WELL & OFFERED TO PAY THE PASSAGE OUT TO CANADA OF ANY OF HIS NEPHEWS IN BUDE, THIS ACCOUNTING FOR THE PRESENCE OF ONE OF UNCLE DANIEL'S & ONE OF AUNT EMMA'S SONS OUT THERE. THEY ALSO HAVE DONE WELL I'M TOLD, SO ON THE WHOLE OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS SEEM TO BE DOING TIP-TOP.

AUNT TILLIE IS KEEPING WELL JUST NOW & IS REALLY VERY ACTIVE FOR HER AGE 74 I THINK IT IS. SHE HAS A COSY LITTLE COTTAGE OF 4 ROOMS 2 UPSTAIRS. IT IS A DOUBLE COTTAGE, THE OTHER PART BEING OCCUPIED BY HER COUSIN, A MISS MARY WALTER, WHILE 2 DOORS FURTHER DOWN IS AUNT EMMA (MRS. MOORE.)

I STAYED WITH AUNT TILLIE THE WHOLE TIME, THOUGH MOST OF MY TIME WAS OCCUPIED IN VISITING RELATIONS. I TALKED TO AUNT TILLIE FOR HOUR AFTER HOUR, NEVER GETTING TO BED TILL MIDNIGHT, & I THINK I CAN SAY I GOT A FAIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE JOHN'S HISTORY.

SHE WAS VERY EXCITED, & ONCE FAIRLY STARTED THE TROUBLE WAS TO PUT THE BRAKE ON.

SHE COULDN'T DO ENOUGH FOR ME; EGGA & BACON & FRIED-BREAD EVERY MORNING, HOT WATER BOTTLE, WHICH HAD THE BED WARM BY THE TIME I GOT INTO IT, AND WE ENDED UP WITH AN ARGUMENT ON THE LAST MORNING AS TO WHO SHOULD CLEAN MY BOOTS & I BLUSH WHEN I ADMIT THAT I WAS EASILY SEATEN, & HAD TO SIT ON A CHAIR WHILE AN AUNT 74 YEARS OLD CLEANED MY BOOTS. FOR SHAME; BUT IT WAS EITHER THAT OR A FIGHT. SHE ACCOMPANIED ME HERE & THERE, FIRST TO ONE, THEN THE OTHER, AND IT WAS

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HARD TO SAY WHO WAS THE BETTER PLEASED OF US.

NEXT DAY I VISITED & HAD DINNER WITH MY TWO COUSINS, MRS. FRANK ASH (AMY MOORE) & MRS. ROBERTS (ELIZABETH MOORE) TWO DAUGHTERS OF AUNT EMMA, AND A VERY JOLLY PAIR THEY ARE.

FRANK ASH HAS A BAKERS & CONFECTIONERS SHOP & IS DOING WELL. MRS. ROBERTS (LIZZIE) IS STAYING WITH THEM WHILE HER HUSBAND IS IN FRANCE. FRANK IS ALSO ASSISTED IN THE BAKE HOUSE BY A DAUGHTER OF JACK JOHNS OF H.M.S. NEW ZEALAND, ABOUT 15 OR 16 I SUPPOSE.

I NEXT WENT TO UNCLE DANIEL'S WHERE I FOUND HIM & TWO DAUGHTERS (SINGLE). HE IS NOT TOO ACTIVE THIS COLD WEATHER RHEUMATISM IN THE SHOULDERS BEING THE TROUBLE, BUT HE GETS ABOUT ALRIGHT & IS WELL LOOKED AFTER BY THE TWO GIRLS, THE YOUNGEST OF WHOM (EVELYN) IS ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED. HE LIVES ONLY ABOUT $\frac{1}{2}$ HRS. WALK FROM THE OTHERS; HAS A PONY & CART & A SMALL ALLOTMENT A FEW MINUTES AWAY FROM THE HOUSE. HE IS VERY MUCH LIKE YOU, BOTH IN LOOKS & VOICE, AND LIKE THE REST OF THEM WAS FULL OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING YOU. I TOOK A PHOTO OF HIM, & HE WAS DELIGHTED, I WILL FORWARD IT LATER AS I HAVEN'T HAD IT FINISHED YET. WHILE HERE AUNT SOPHIA CAME HUSTLING IN HAVING GONE TO SEE ME AT AUNT TILLIES & FOLLOWED ME ON. MRS. THORN IS HER NAME & SHE HAS TWO SONS MARRIED AND LIVING VERY HANDY. ONE IS A PAINTER AND DECORATOR, THE OTHER A JEWELLER, AND EXTREMELY NICE PEOPLE THEY ARE, WHILE BOTH THEIR WIVES ARE CHARMING PEOPLE, AND I FOUND IT HARD TO GET AWAY TO LEAVE THEM. SPENCER THE JEWELLER HAS A GOOD BUSINESS AND ALSO THREE PRETTY KIDDIES. THE ELDEST A GIRL OF $\frac{1}{4}$ OR $\frac{1}{5}$. I LEFT MY WATCH TO BE FIXED AND HE CLEANED IT, FIXED IT UP PUT A METAL CASE ON IT AND CHARGED ME 1/-. I ARGUED, BUT OF NO AVAIL, SO I GAVE HIM A RATHER PRETTY N.Z. POSTCARD WITH A FERN LEAF. HE WAS READY AGAIN HOWEVER AND GAVE ME A PIECE OF CORNISH STONE WITH A LITTLE COMPASS IN IT FOR HANGING ON A WATCH CHAIN.

CHARLIE, THE DECORATOR HAS A NICE PLACE AND 2 CHILDREN I THINK, WHOM I DID NOT SEE AS THEY WERE IN BED. HE HAS BEEN A SERGEANT INSTRUCTOR FOR 2 YRS. OR MORE, BUT BEING UNFIT FOR ACTIVE SERVICE, HE HAS NOW OBTAINED HIS DISCHARGE AND IS AT HIS OLD JOB ONCE MORE. HE AND THE WIFE ARE BOTH VERY NICE. HE GAVE ME HIS OLD CORNWALL BADGE. I DON'T THINK I NEED SAY ANYTHING MORE IN THEIR FAVOUR, BUT YOU CAN BELIEVE ME THEY ARE OF THE BEST AND I NEVER FELT MORE LIKE BEING AT HOME SINCE LEAVING THE DEAR OLD SHORES OF N.Z.

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AUNT SOPHIA LOST HER HUSBAND SOME YEARS AGO AND IS NOW LIVING WITH HER SON, SPENCER. SHE IS LIKE THE REST, VERY JOLLY IN SPITE OF HER AGE AND HAS PROMISED TO KNIT ANYTHING THAT I MAY REQUIRE. SHE AND SPENCER AND THE TWO KIDDIES SAW ME OFF WHEN I LEFT. I DIDN'T TELL YOU THAT UNCLE DANIEL LOST HIS WIFE ABOUT A DECADE AGO. JACK, WHO CAME TO N.Z. SOME TIME AGO, IS THE OLDEST OF THE FAMILY AND IS STILL ON THE H.M.S.N.Z., HAVING SERVED IN THREE NAVAL BATTLES, FOR WHICH HE HAS A MEDAL, AND A NICE MEDAL IT IS TOO. HIS WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN LIVE ONLY A STONE'S THROW FROM UNCLE DANIELS, SHE IS ALSO A NICE LADY, BUT IS ADDICTED TO DRINK AT TIMES I UNDERSTAND, WHICH IS VERY MUCH TO BE REGRETTED. JACK'S ELDEST CHILD I THINK I TOLD YOU, ASSISTS FRANK ASH IN THE BAKE HOUSE. ANOTHER DAUGHTER OF UNCLE DANIEL'S, THERESA BY NAME IS NOW MRS. KERRIDGE WITH 5 CHILDREN. HE IS IN CHARGE OF ELECTRICAL WORKS AND HAS A NICE HOUSE, BOTH ARE OF A GOOD SORT. I DIDN'T SEE VERY MUCH OF THEM AS TIME WAS EXCEEDINGLY SHORT. UNCLE DANIEL'S 2 SONS ARE SERVING. STANLEY WHO WENT TO CANADA ACCEPTING UNCLE JIM'S OFFER OF A FREE VOYAGE OUT, JOINED UP WITH THE CANADIANS, WHILE CUTHBERT'S REGIMENT WAS SENT TO INDIA WHERE HE STILL REMAINS, OF THE REST OF HIS FAMILY I OBTAINED NO INFORMATION. SO MUCH FOR THE RELATIONS AT BUDE, WHILE OF THOSE AT EXETER I WILL DEAL LATER.

NOW BUDE AS YOU KNOW IS ABOUT 15 MILES FROM WEST PUTFORD AND THE HOUSE WHERE YOU WERE BORN, SO I THOUGHT THAT A RUN OUT THERE WOULD DO NO ONE ANY HARM, I GOT A CAR AND AUNT EMMA COUSIN FRANK ASH AND LIBZIE (MRS. ROBERTS) AND SELF MADE THE JOURNEY, PASSING THROUGH THE VILLAGES OF STRATTON AND KILKBAMPTON. WE ARRIVED AT THE OLD HOMESTEAD ABOUT 3 P.M. HAD A LOOK AROUND THE OLD SHEDS ETC. SAW THE LITTLE STONE WALL YOU BUILT AT THE END OF THE LANE NEAR THE SHEDS, WHILE AUNT EMMA WAS LIKE A CAT ON HOT BRICKS AND LITERALLY POURED INFORMATION IN MY EAR. SOME REMAINS, BUT SOME (A LOT I FANCY) FOUND A PASSAGE OUT THE OTHER EAR. NEVER BEFORE HAS MY MEMORY BEEN SO TAXED. THE OLD SHEDS STILL REMAIN, WHILE THE HOUSE HAS BEEN UP SLIGHTLY. OUR NEXT PLACE OF CALL WAS THE OLD CHAPEL, WITH THE DATE 1620 (300 YRS OLD) ON THE DOOR, WHICH UNFORTUNATELY WAS LOCKED, I WENT THROUGH THE CHURCH YARD AND SAW THE TOMBSTONES OF YOUR FATHER & MOTHER ALSO GRANNIES ETC. I MADE A NOTE OF DATE ETC. WHICH I WILL GIBE YOU, AS THEY WILL NO DOUBT PROVE INTERESTING.

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HERE.. THEY ARE;-		
FATHER	RICHARD JOHNS.	BORN 1805. DIED 15 DEC. 1867. 62 YRS
MOTHER.	ELIZABETH JOHNS.	BORN 1809. DIED 5 MAY. 1896. 87 YRS.
G. FATHER.	RICHARD WALTER.	BORN 1781. DIED 5 FEB. 1865. 84 YRS.
G. MOTHER.	ELIZABETH WALTER.	BORN 1782. DIED 14 MAY. 1856. 74 YRS.
GT. G.FATHER	JOHN WALTER.	BORN 1755. DIED 24 JUNE 1835. 80 YRS.
GT. G.MOTHER	MARY WALTER.	BORN 1747. DIED 22 JAN. 1822. 75 YRS.

THE LAST PERSON NAMED I AM TOLD WAS THE DAUGHTER OF RICHARD OXENHAM, OF SUTCOMBE WHOSE NAME WILL BE FAMILIAR TO ALL READERS OF THAT WELL KNOWN WORK OF CHARLES KINGSLEY'S WESTWARD HO.

THE OLD HOJSE OPPOSITE THE CHURCH WAS LOCKED UP AND WE DID NOT GET INSIDE, I THINK IT IS THE HOUSE WHERE RICHARD WALTER USED TO LIVE. FROM THERE WE CALLED UPON A 2 ND COUSIN OF MINE MRS. AVERY, FORMERLY M.E. WALTER. THEY LIVE JUST BY THE CHURCH AND HAVE A COSY BLACE. THEY KEEP A SERVANT AND SEEM VERY COMFORTABLE INDEED. THEIR ONLY SON IS IN INDIA AT THE PRESENT TIME. HAVING HAD A CUP OF TEA, WE SET OUT FOR HOME RETURNING VIA BRADWORTHY AND REACHED HOME AGAIN ABOUT 6-30 P.M. AFTER AN EXCEEDINGLY PLEASANT AFTERNOON. ALL WERE AGREED ON THIS POINT. WE WENT ABOUT 32 MILES, WERE AWAY OVER 4 HRS. AND WERE ONLY CHARGED £1. FOR 4 OF US SO NO "COMPLAINTS- CARRY ON."

THUS YOU SEE HOW MY SHORT STAY WAS SPENT AND YOU CAN GUESS THAT I DID NOT HAVE MUCH TIME TO MYSELF. NO MATTER WHAT TIME IT WAS AUNT TILLIE ALWAYS HAD SOMETHING TO TELL ME, OR SOME PHOTO'S OR LETTERS TO READ. THEY WERE ALL VERY INTERESTED IN THEIR RELATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND AND I SUPPLIED THEM WITH FULL DETAILS.

BUDE IS A FAIR SIZE AND WOULD BE RATHER A PRETTY PLACE IN THE SUMMER, IN FACT ACCOMMODATION IS ALWAYS TAXED TO THE FULLEST IN SUMMER AND AUNT TILLIE ALWAYS HAS HER 2 ROOMS LET GETTING GOOD MONEY FOR THEM. SHE IS ABOUT 100 YDS. FROM THE BREAKWATER AND THE CANAL IS ABOUT 20 YDS. FROM THE FRONT DOOR. THE STATION IS ONLY 10 MINS. AWAY.

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THE COTTAGES ARE ALL OLD ENGLISH STYLE, STONE WITH IVY HERE AND THERE, I THINK I AM RIGHT WHEN I SAY THAT I HAVEN'T SEEN A WOODEN COTTAGE SINCE LANDING HERE.

WELL I LEFT BUDE ON SAT. MORNING AT 9-30 A.M. SO THAT I COULD SPEND THE AFTERNOON AT EXETER, WHICH IS ON THE WAY TO THE PLAINS AND IS ALSO THE ABODE OF UNCLE WALTER JOHNS AND HIS ELDEST SON RICHARD JOHNS, WHO KEEPS "THE SHIPS INN." ABOUT 5 MINS. FROM STATION. ARRIVING AT EXETER AT MIDDAY I WENT STRAIGHT TO DICK'S PLACE WHERE I FOUND HIM, HIS WIFE AND ONE CHILD ALSO HIS WIFE'S SISTER MISS. MANN. DICK HAS BEEN IN THE HOTEL FOR 10 YRS. NOW AND HAS DONE GOOD BUSINESS. HE SEEMS A BUSINESS LIKE SORT OF CHAP AND IS WELL KNOWN IN EXETER, HIS WIFE IS A NICE LADY, WHILE THE KIDDIE (GIRL) ABOUT 10 YRS. OLD IS RATHER DELICATE. I HAD DINNER WITH THEM AFTER WHICH DICK DROVE ME TO HIS FATHER'S PLACE AT HEAVITREE, A SUBURB OF EXETER. I FOUND YOUR BROTHER IN BED WITH BRONCHITIS BUT OTHERWISE ALRIGHT. HE HAS BEEN PENSIONED OFF FROM THE POLICE FORCE WITH WHICH HE SERVED FOR 27 YRS. HIS WIFE DIED ABOUT 20 YRS. AGO. HE HAD 10 CHILDREN OF WHOM DICK IS THE ONLY ONE I HAVE SEEN. I ONLY SPENT ABOUT $\frac{1}{2}$ HR. WITH UNCLE WHEN DICK WOULD HAVE ME PROCEED ON A DRIVE WHICH WAS EXTREMELY PLEASANT. HE TOOK ME ABOUT 6 MILES THE OTHER SIDE OF EXETER TOWARDS EXMOUTH TO A PLACE CALLED TOPSHAM, NEAR WHICH HE EXPECTS TO SHIFT SHORTLY, HAVING LET THE INN AT EXETER AND TAKEN OVER ONE AT DAWLISH, 4 MILES BEYOND TOPSHAM. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE HAD USED THE TURN-OUT WHICH HE HAD JUST BOUGHT. THE LITTLE PONY AND RUBBER TYRED TRAP COST HIM £26. I HAD TEA WITH THEM, CAUGHT THE 6-5 P.M. TRAIN FOR SALISBURY WHERE I HAD A 2 HRS. WAIT FOR THE CAMP TRAIN WHICH LAND ME HOME (HOME DID I CALL IT) (HUMBLE APOLOGIES) SHORTLY AFTER MID-NIGHT. DICK IS EXACTLY THE SAME BUILD AS YOU, BUT REMINDS ME OF WILLIE HAYR IN HIS WAYS. HE IS VERY JOVIAL AND PROMISED ME ALL SORTS OF TRIPS NEXT TIME. AH. NEXT TIME; IT SOUNDS WELL, BUT IF THERE IS A NEXT TIME. I SHOULD LIKE AS MANY MONTHS AS I HAVE HAD DAYS TO FULFILL PROMISES ETC.

EXETER I MIGHT STATE IS TOGETHER WITH PLYMOUTH THE BIGGEST PLACE I HAVE YET BEEN IN THOUGH IT ISN'T ANYTHING VERY STARTLING IN SIZE. I COULD FIND MY WAY ABOUT THERE ALRIGHT WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE.

IT IS RATHER FUNNY THING THAT WHEN ON MY WAY TO BUDE FIRST, I HAD A WAIT OF $\frac{1}{2}$ HR. OR SO AT EXETER SO I TOOK A WALK DOWN THE STREET AND BACK I LEARN NOW THAT WHEN I TURNED BACK I WAS NOT MORE THAN A CHAIN AWAY FROM DICK'S INN. HOW WAS I TO KNOW I HAD A COUSIN THERE ANYWAY.

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YES, HERE I AM ONCE MORE IN CAMP AFTER HAVING HAD A SPREE OF 4 DAYS OF WHICH I SHALL ALWAYS HAVE THE HAPPIEST REMEMBRANCES. WERE I WITH YOU I COULD TELL YOU A LOT MORE BUT THAT MUST BE LEFT FOR SOME FUTURE DATE.

I HAD INTENDED SPENDING 2 DAYS ONLY IN BUDE AND THEN GOING ON TO LONDON, BUT I SOON CHANGED MY MIND. FOR EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT ME THIS, THAT 2 DAYS IN BUDE WITH FRIENDS IS INFINITELY BETTER THAN A WEEK IN LONDON WITHOUT A FRIEND OF ANY SORT. BUT I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE THAT I SEE A LITTLE OF LONDON BEFORE I RETURN TO N.Z. ONCE ONE HAS SEEN THE PLACES OF INTEREST IN LONDON, THEN THE BEST THING TO DO FROM WHAT I CAN GATHER IS GET OUT OF IT. THEY (THE PUBLIC GENERALLY) SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF TIME FOR WE NEW ZEALANDERS AND AT TIMES ONE FEELS LIKE A SPOILT CHILD. ONE GENTLEMAN, WHOM I WAS CHATTING TO IN THE TRAIN WENT SO FAR AS TO TELL ME, WHAT A NICE LOT THE N.Z.ERS SEEMED AND BEFORE HE LEFT ME, GAVE ME HIS CARD AND MADE ME PROMISE TO VISIT HIM WHEN NEXT IN BUDE. HE LIVES NOT FAR FROM THERE AND PROMISED TO DRIVE ME ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE IN HIS MOTOR FOR WHICH I THANKED HIM KINDLY. (I DON'T KNOW IF HE HAS ANY DAUGHTERS HE WANTS TO GET RID OF, I NEVER THOUGHT OF ASKING HIM.

ANOTHER CHAP ACCOSTED ME IN SEARCH OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE HARDWARE TRADE AND WHETHER IT WAS ADVISABLE TO GO OUT TO N.Z. OR NOT. I TOLD HIM IT WASN'T A BAD SORT OF PLACE PROVIDED HE DIDN'T FALL IN A BOILING POOL OR GET BLOWN UP BY AN EARTHQUAKE, I DON'T THINK N.Z. WILL EVER SEE HIM.

I HAVE LEARNT MORE THAN ONCE THAT N.Z. IS PART OF AUSTRALIA, BUT I DO HOPE THAT TEAWAMUTU, PUKEKOHE AND 47 GRANGE RD. ARE STILL IN THE SAME PLACE.

I STARTED THIS LETTER YESTERDAY (SUNDAY) WHEN IT WAS SNOWING ALL DAY WITHOUT A BREAK. IT WAS VERY HEAVY FALL AND 6INS. OF SNOW WAS REPORTED IN SOME PLACES. WE HAD ABOUT 5 INS. THE BIGGEST FALL I HAVE YET EXPERIENCED. EVERYTHING IS COVERED WITH SNOW AND SOME OF THE TREES LOOKED VERY PRETTY INDEED. SNOWBALLING WAS PREVALENT AMONG THE BOYS. IT HAS BEEN FINE TODAY BUT VERY COLD AS THE SNOW IS STILL INCHES THICK ON THE GROUND, WHEN IT THAWS WE CAN EXPECT SOME MUD I SUPPOSE.

AS IT IS NOT VERY WARM WRITING IN THE HUT AND BEING RATHER LENGTHY TO WRITE AGAIN, I WILL ASK YOU TO PASS THIS LETTER ON TO THOSE AT PUKEKOHE AND ALSO TO ADA.

IF EACH ONE WILL KINDLY THINK OF THE OTHERS, AND POST IT ON WITHOUT DELAY, I WILL BE VERY THANKFUL. I HAVE A FAIR AMOUNT OF WRITING TO DO, AT THE SAME TIME I DO NOT WANT ANYONE OF YOU TO THINK YOU ARE FORGOTTEN. FAR FROM IT BELIEVE ME.

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IF YOU WANT IT RETURNED TO YOU JUST BRAND IT ACCORDINGLY
I AM SENDING A DOZ. VIEWS OF BUDE ETC. ALSO A PHOTO AUNT TILLIE
GAVE ME (SEE BACK OF IT)

I HAVE FINISHED MY N.C.O. COURSE NOW AND AM PLEASED TO
SAY HAVE HAD MY RANK OF CORPORAL CONFIRMED. HITHERTO MY RANK
HAS BEEN TEMPORARY AND COULD BE TAKEN FROM ME AT ANY TIME, BUT
NOW I CAN ONLY LOSE MY STRIPES AS A RESULT OF A COURT MARTIAL.
QUITE A NUMBER OF OUR N.C.O.'S LOST THEIR STRIPES AND ARE NOW
IN THE RANKS, AMONG THEM BEING A COUPLE OF SERGEANT MAJOR'S
AND QUARTERMASTERS SO I AM NATURALLY PLEASED. THE NEXT THING
I WANT IS TO GET TO FRANCE AS ONE NATURALLY GROWS TIRED OF
PLAYING SOLDIERS FOR 9 OR 10 MONTHS.

ONE DRAFT OF 700 OF OUR REINFORCEMENTS PROCEEDED TO
FRANCE LAST WEEK, WHILE A FURTHER DRAFT LEAVES HER ON SUNDAY
NEXT THE 11TH FEB. THOUGH I HAVE HEARD NOTHING I RATHER
FANCY I SHALL BE ONE OF THEM, AS THEY WILL WANT US ALL IN THE
NEAR FUTURE I GUESS, AND AT PRESENT WE ARE JUST FILLING IN
TIME. AFTER LEAVING HERE WE DO NOT GO DIRECT TO THE FIRING
LINE BUT HAVE A COUPLE OF WEEKS MORE TRAINING AT A FRENCH
CAMP CALLED ETAPLES.

SAVE FOR A SLIGHT COLD WHICH IS QUITE AN OLD FRIEND OF
MINE NOW, I AM GOOD AND WELL AND CANNOT COMPLAIN AT ALL IN
SPITE OF THE EXCEPTIONAL WINTER NOW BEING EXPERIENCED IN THIS
COUNTRY.

AND NOW HAVING MADE A CREDITABLE EFFORT I THINK, I WILL
CLOSE BY SENDING MY BEST LOVE TO ALL MY DEAR READERS AND I
SINCERELY TRUST THAT THIS LETTER WILL FIND IT'S WAY INTO ALL
HANDS WITHOUT MUCH DELAY.

TRUSTING THAT YOU ARE ALL WELL I WILL SAY CHEEROH.

FROM

YOUR LOVING SON,

CLIVE.