

August 31/16

Lt Col R. W. Beach

800022

135th Battalion

A. H. H. H. H. H.

Whitley

Surrey England.

My dear Mother, Father & Carrie

After all this explanatory address. I guess I had better start in where I left off. I was sorry I did not have time to write you all from the train. But I had been writing to Annabelle all along and I was just my notes I sent her and I hope you got all particulars from her. I had intended to copy them off in a letter home but thought I had better mail them & send the note home as they gave us about fifteen minutes warning that we could not send any more mail from Canada. I cannot realize that I have travelled nearly 4000 miles since I left home on my last leave. I am feeling fine and we certainly had a great trip across the Atlantic. If you did not get my notes from Annabelle I wish you would get them as you will find them interesting as I did when I was taking them. I left off at Bathurst N.B. and had better continue now as it will be a Book instead of a letter.

On August 20th we arrived in Bathurst at 3:15 which is 308 miles from

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Halifax. This was after we had passed through the Metapedia valley, which is as I stated in my notes beyond description as far as beautiful scenery is concerned. It is a valley running through the mountains, The River runs along the track for 120 miles, we crossed the River 5 times and the foliage on the mountains in most places are so thick that you would think it was all one solid green mass. The average elevation of the Road Bed here is 700 ft above the sea level and is supposed to be the roughest road Bed on the I. G. R. We crossed one Bridge at Lac Baumann. The water was so clear that we could see shoals & shoals of Salmon in the River. I guess this is how they derived their name. In Bathurst the main Industries as far as I could learn, were paper mills, Lumber mills and a College a very noticeable fact to all our fellows, was the different reception we in New Brunswick from Quebec. in N. B. everybody was out to wish us. God's speed, and in Quebec no one seemed to care with the exception of the French children who come out more for curiosity.

We passed Gloucester at 3³⁰ and Newcastle at 6²⁵ which is as you know the largest wireless station in Canada after which we passed two wide Rivers about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile apart. They were beautiful Rivers. But the closeness is why I mention

it here. at 6⁵⁰ we passed the Barnabee River and here we saw the most beautiful sunset. you could imagine although it could not be compared with some we saw on the Ocean. The Clouds. The Sun & water seem to melt and it is Beautiful

The next place was Moncton, we stopped here an hour, and had a little march to stretch our legs. It is a shame how our Band showed theirs up. The people here were the best ever. There were girls at the Station with Magazines, Cigarettes & fruit. I got a Bag of fruit from a swell looking girl what do you think of that now. I had a good Bed that night. The Rusty Hinge quartet sang for the Gods and the gone us Bunko. which is away ahead of mine trying to sleep in the Smoking Compartment of a day coach. On the 21st we had Customs inspection and Arrived at Rosteringham at 7²⁰ Am. We arrived in Halifax at 8 Am and had Breakfast. We saw a couple of Grinners in the distance which are the first I have ever seen. Tramp train were on each side of us. fellows from Edmonton Calgary and all the others who left Borden with us. It was very tiresome waiting on the train until time for Embarkation, we came aboard at 5²⁰ ^{PM} I suppose you have already seen by the papers which Boat we sailed on and who were with us. There were 127th 129th 135th 137th 138 #10 Western Hospital. A Draft from Onto London

and some Supernumery Lieutenants for
 Supper we had fish, Bread & Butter & Tea
 and believe me it was good.

My & we slept in Hammocks on Deck
 and slept good although I kept on thinking
 that the Cement floor was not the
 softest place in the world to light But
 no accidents happened and we found
 Hammocks pretty good Beds at that
 we had Breakfast at 5³⁰ Partridge Omelette
 Bread & Butter & coffee. The meals on the
 Boat are fine only they taste different
 It was a nice clear day we left Dock
 at 7³⁰ and anchored about 1/2 mile in the
 Harbor, On the Boat we came on.
 it takes about 7000 Tons of Coal for
 The Trip. They carry a reserve of
 4000 Tons Her previous trip from
 England to Canada was made in
 4 days and 4 hours. Her length is 890 ft.
 Her Tonnage 46,359 Tons. She has 4
 funnels. she is fixed up for a Troop
 ship now. But must be a floating
 palace when she is fixed up. The
 Officers are travelling 1st the Sergeants
 & and all others 3rd. and they treat
 us all fine To night we had
 Shepherd pie and if I could have
 gotten more than my allowance
 would have been better satisfied. If
 anything my appetite is increasing
 and you know what it was when
 I was Home. Since supper there

has been a continual stream of Row Boats and Launches around the Ship. It certainly must be a great sight from a distance as they see us. It has been a nice day although at times misty. Military Police are around deck and no lights are allowed on Deck after dark. The Police put me in mind of London they are very strict and believe me that is the only way.

August 23rd Slept good last night, got up early. We were all fishing for a jelly fish and managed to catch one in a pail. I do not think much of them and I wish I had. Had my breakfast before I had seen it. It rained last night and has been pretty misty all morning we paraded on A Deck at 8³⁰ and were inspected by the Duke of Connaught. It was pretty tiresome as we did not finish until 1³⁰ and we were standing most of the time. There was nothing else doing except Looking for the remainder of the day.

Aug 24 Slept good Raining & misty But cleared near noon. we started at 1³⁰ and dropped the Riolt at 2³⁰ outside the Bar. Passed a Bunch of Steamers on the way out were escorted about 10 miles out.

Aug 25th It is misty and Cool this morning. The sea is very calm. We passed a Bunch of fishing Boats and saw my first whale spout. It was quite a long way off But we could see it quite plainly.

I was pretty nearly sick to-day. Murray is feeling fine. We have been running pretty slow to-day on account of fog. When I wrote up my diary to-day we were just about 1850 miles from London and still going East.

Saturday Aug 26th. Didn't sleep very well last night it was either raining or misty therefore we did not make very good time. Saw another whale and a bunch of porpoises down in the Bow of the Boat. and saw one porpoise very plainly. I could see its whole body in the water. It looked about 15 feet long. Body like a whale and looked to weigh well over 600 pounds. We are wearing life preservers and they are pretty awkward to-day I spilled my soup all over myself. I was sitting down at my preserver hit the edge of my soup plate and away she went in my lap. We passed a couple of steamers to-day. The sea is a little choppy to-day but comparatively smooth to what I had expected. We only run 409 miles yesterday on account of the fog.

Sunday Aug 27. Slept good last night it is a cool clear morning. The sea is a little choppy. at 10 am we had church Parade. Capt Graham preached and his whole sermon was on taking the Lord's name in vain and if you could hear the fellows

telling you could understand why
 he preached like that. It makes us
 sick sometimes to hear the fellows
 not that they mean anything by it.
 But just Habit. Sunday we had
 Chicken & Plum pudding for dinner
 But sorry to relate my piece came
 over in the Ark and could not even
 get the Chicken floor. We had fire
 drill this afternoon and made a record
 every man was out in 3/4 minute

Monday Aug 25

Slept good last night nice
 clear choppy weather lasting all
 day and went to Bed early.

Tuesday Aug 29

Slept good got up early. can see
 the Coast of Ireland in the distance
 Murray and I were on a fatigue
 Party packing lunches the Sandwiches
 were about 4" thick. But they tasted
 great when the time came.

Wednesday Aug 30. Slept good got
 up at 3:30 Am. We are anchored in
 the Mouth of the Mersey River.
 The Brighton Tower is on the
 Right also New Brighton which is a
 suburb of Liverpool England is a
 Beautiful place it puts in mind of
 a fairy Boat. The cities are all laid
 out it seems in plans Houses all
 the same and streets very regular

The farms are Beautiful Either Hodges
or. Brick walls around the fields
and the grass is a Beautiful Green
shade. we arrived here last night
and got to Bed about 2:15 pretty
tired

Wheel my dears my hand is
about paralyzed. we are Both
feeling great & hope you are all
the same. I hope you got our table
all right. Don't worry about us
dears we are all right and I hope
I will soon get some of your letters
again soon

Your loving Son

Bob.

Murran