

B Buttery

Res. B^{de} C.F.A.

Witley Camp
Surrey

Nov 23/17

Dear Aunt Emma.

I was awfully pleased to get your letter, & it was not only a surprise but a real pleasure for me. By the way you write, you can't have heard from Bob yet telling you that we have met. However I dare say you will have heard all about it by this time. I certainly was glad to meet Bob as I have no real friends, ~~merely~~ merely good acquaintances and to see Bob was like finding an old friend. Nelson was over here on leave a few weeks ago. You know he has been in France for over a year now. He came down here to camp one afternoon to see me, so I took him up to see Bob & Murray. Murray happened to be out on a Gas course just then as luck would have it, so he didn't see Nelson. He's sure is looking fine, I guess that Transport Job he has must be doing him good, he still has that Job you know.

My friend George Ellingham expects to get his leave at any time now. You know he & I went out to France together, so if I hadn't

come back to Blighty, I would have been out there more than a year now.

I had another 6 day leave a couple of weeks ago. I wasn't entitled to it by any means, but I will tell you how I fooled the Army. They put me on Class for a brush up course, and as I knew the work well, I passed out in one week. Well when a man qualifies the first time he is entitled to a 6 day leave which is known as "Shore leave". Well there were a number of fellows who had just qualified the same time as I tried my test, so when they were put in for their leave, I slipped an application for leave in with theirs, & as my name was on the list as qualifying that week, the pass came through O.K. marked "Shore leave". I certainly was lucky there. Another funny thing about it was that, at the date I had my genuine Shore leave was from 9th to 15th Nov 1916, & my Boque Shore leave was on 9th to 15th " 1917 rather a coincidence wasn't it.

I received a letter from both Marjorie & Mother with yours to day. It is the first Canadian Mail I've had for some time, so you can be sure I was very pleased to get ~~it~~ some more at last. Mother says that Grandpa Nelson is ailing quite fast, & that they don't expect him to hold on much longer. Well I think it will be a blessing when he does go, as it must be very hard on the Poor Man, to have to linger

on, not being able to do a thing for himself, & when
he wants to go.

I have a permanent job here now which will
last me until I am 41 again. You know I have
been marked AY which means "too young for actual
service. Isn't that absurd. I've already been over, but
I can't go again because I'm too young. However I'm not
peckering, as I've a good job here, & it's none too healthy
over the ~~water~~^{water} just now.

Well Aunt I think I guess I will close
for now. Love to Uncle Chris. & Carrie. & Hoping
to hear from you again soon.

I am
Your Loving Nephew.
Herbert.