

ALTER
N. Wilson

No 4764 A Co. Hut 1.
3/5 Scarforth Huts.
South Camp,
Ripon, 20th April 1916

My Dear Farmer,

You will notice we have shifted to new Huts. We were fitting all day Sunday. We were all thoroughly fed up before we got finished. The new Huts are about a mile from the old ones.

I am in with a different lot of fellows altogether now. It felt like starting all over again. Forsyth is in Hut 5.

It has been raining every day since we came to our new huts. It started on Sunday in the middle of our fitting. We had rather an easy day on Monday. Of course we were supposed to be tidying up our Huts, both outside and inside. They always find something for us to do. By the way my last Hut 36 - got 2nd prize - 7/- for outside decorations. What a mess we shall have when it is divided up among 25.

Well Farmer, I have got to the of Page one

hereof and I have it thanked you for your letter. Thanks muchly. I read three times, it was so interesting. Come again. I have endeavoured in a humble way to thank Mr. Miller, for the cigarettes and the socks, both of which were very acceptable.

We are practically isolated here now. Diphtheria has broken out in the camps, and I hear there is Spotted Fever among the Gordon. The town of Ripon and all YMCA Institutes are out of bounds until further orders, but I think this is more a precaution than a necessity.

There is a talk of our being shifted back to Scotland, some say in fortnight, others in three weeks, but all agree we are going soon.

There is a Military Tournament on Monday, unless it is cancelled owing to the fever.

Our training goes on steadily and quickly. There is very little variety - one day work being repeated the next in different order.

Most of our time just now is taken with Musketry and Miniature Range. We go to the big Range to fire our course on Monday. I

understand this take from 10 to 12 days.
After that we fall in with the Training Company
we have a Route March every Wednesday. From
10 to 12 miles has been our limit so far, but the
Training Company get much longer ones, but I
find I have quite enough of it after doing 12
with a pack and rifle. However I suppose we
get used to it in time.

I see John Henry & Peter Ross occasionally.
They seem to be getting along all right. I was
speaking to Henry today. He was complaining
of a bad arm after vaccination. He did not look
at all well. Some of the fellows are very bad
after vaccination, and the Doctor does not give
them half a chance. He tells them to steer
away to H - out of this. Everyone is complaining
about him, and I hear the Medical Board have
been getting on to him.

I was talking to Murdoch McPherson last
night. Perhaps you have seen him. He has been
home, but had to report here. He tells me they
are preparing for a big move in France, that
the Australians are there now, and that all men
on leave have been recalled.

You must be very lonely in the Royal

Bugle, now that everybody is called up. I
hear that Gordon Peartley had to report at Colpoe
on Tuesday. I wonder if he has gone to the Irish
Guards. If the Guards are made up of the same
class of men as we have here from him, he
will soon be glad to get out of them. I think
it is rather hard on Gordon all the same, but this
war has made us all so selfish, as don't mind
who goes so long as we don't have to go ourselves.
I think this sums up the position of the married
men pretty well. As you say, Lord Derby seems to
have them by the horns. I'm afraid I don't feel
sorry for some of them at any rate.

I was not aware that Sandy Olson had
been called up. Have you heard where he has
gone to. I don't think he has come here.

Did Forsyth tell you that the Rev.
Andrew Sutherland is here. I was talking
to him for about five minutes at our old Huts
Forsyth & I were going to call on him but the
change of Huts has upset our plans.

Well Farmer, I hope you will be able
to read this scrawl. It is very difficult
writing here. You get bumped every half dozen
words.

Kind regards to all your folk

Sincerely
Waltie