

20.8.43

7665492. Cpl ~~W~~
11 Pl: B Coy
etc.

19.8.43

Dear Claire,

I very much trust that you will excuse this paper but supplies are indeed short - N.A.A.F.I. has had none for this last nine weeks. I thank you for your very interesting letter & for the good wishes contained therein. On the same day I received letters from quite a few people - including Len Wellard & Colin Mac. If all the good wishes I received had anything to do with it I sure walked that W.O.S.B. However, I must honestly say, without undue pessimism, that I think it is quite definitely thumbs down. I cannot honestly say however, that I am particularly worried or moreover, that I have any desire to have another go.

I am very hopeful of getting

leave of some sort next week
& by then I shall know the
official verdict. As I have
just told mother - I fully
expect it to be 14 days. & really
the more I get of this 'ere
joint (on guard again today
- no sleep!) the more glad shall
I be to get out of it and
14 days & a druff won't worry
me at all - as far as I am
concerned.

Last Sunday week I went
to a place called Rufford Abbey
(near Mansfield) for a week's
stunt with General Sherman
Cantos. I think it was about
the best week I've had in
the army. We had no night
stunts, no guards or pickets
& were finished at about
3.30 - & nearly every day.

A nice little village nearby,
plenty of people, two good pubs,
West of England Champ at
piano accordion (really good - pol

of mine) and life was more
like it used to be. Of course,
as you can imagine only
N.C.O's went out together!!!
Which reminds me of my
remark to Pat in a letter
today. I have quite a feeling
that before I come home on
leave I shall not be wearing
these two stripes which at present
sit on my arm. If you know
what I mean things seem to
be building up all around me.
After Rufford I left almost
immediately for Derby & I
must say that up to time
of entry into the actual
W.O.S.B. I had quite a
decent time. Plenty to do &
a lot of time in which to do
it. Bed reserved at Y.M.C.A. -
no time restrictions & a
really fine bed. On Sunday
I arose at about 8.30 &
at the W.O.S.B. reveille was
at 7 o'clock. Thus for about 10

days I can honestly say that I did get some decent sleep.

I have, therefore, no excuse to offer for any failing at W.O.S.B. I can say, though, that I think I should have done a deal better than I did & really do not feel satisfied. One bad thing was the grub. All very di-da march you, officer's mess & all that, but I felt hungry all the time I was there.

That, plus the feeling of tension which quite definitely grows made me very glad to get away from the place.

On return to the Spa, things were normal & in a surprisingly short space of time I found myself with a new platoon, on picket & then worked for guard. It is necessary only to look space for a moment or so & you are claimed by all sorts of

people for all manner of things.
Also on Tuesday we had a
short but effective raid & the
Spa has been knocked about
quite a bit. Another couple of
bombs & there would be no
more Woodhall Spa! Incidentally
one of our lads found a German
parachute (para. flare that
is) & consequently has quite
a vast quantity of silk to
send home to his wife. I only
wish I had found it.

I see Weedy looks like
becoming a sailor at last - I
will write him either today
or during the week end. I
hope to see you next week. Till
then all the best

Yours sincerely

As war

~~As war~~

Letter to Tony now enclosed. Will
you kindly oblige - I'll buy
you a pint next week!

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