



J. D. Barnsdale Esq.
Browtoft

Conington

Spalding

Lindholme

England



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

1390139 L.A.C. Bamsdale

no. 31 R.A.F. Depot

Moncton

New Brunswick

Canada.

10/3/42.

Letter no. 5.

My dear John,

This letter will reach you in time for March 7th. 1943 but don't think I forgot your birthday this year because I didn't, and I hope you had an enjoyable celebration. Let's hope that two years from now we will all be able to do justice to your 21st. in a fitting manner. I don't suppose you had many gifts, however you'll be getting a few more when I eventually return, which will not be very soon if I don't progress much quicker than at present. I have no news

2
whatever about a move, we're still
waiting to go way down into the
dear old southland where I'm
looking forward to meeting my
first coal-buck manny and one
of the very lovely Georgia "crackers".
Meanwhile we're all getting a little
fed up doing nothing, all day
long we have nothing to do
except a few miserable fatigues
which we rarely always manage to
avoid, but it's no use
grumbling.

The evenings are O.K. and
I still like Houston, Canada and
Canadians very much. We go to
a dance usually, the top tunes
over here just now are "Chattanooga
Choo Choo", "Bluesy Tune", "I don't
want to walk without you", and
"White Cliffs of Dove". Chattanooga,
by the way, is in Alabama.



3. ON ACTIVE SERVICE

there's a chance we may see the renowned Choo Choo shortly.

There are some good movies floating around here now but I suppose they will reach you before this does. In case they don't, go and see *Bob Hope* in "Louisiana Purchase", *Barbara Stanwyck* and *Henry Fonda* in "I Belong to You" (which is first class), and one I've mentioned before, "The Man who Came to Dinner".

The weather has broken up now and it's not nearly so cold, consequently skating is about over for the season. The big indoor game over here is bowling, a sort of skittle game which you've probably seen on the movies, and is good fun.

4
I came out of quarantine last week. One of the beds caught scarlet fever and the feet of us in adjoining beds were put in isolation for ten days. It sounds a bit grim and we took a very poor view of it at first, but we were joined by the fact that the two boys and actually had a fairly pleasant time, nothing to do but eat and sleep, and we occasionally "got out" for a few hours.

How are things at home?
I'm looking forward to your letters telling me how you all are and what you are doing. Have you heard any more about joining up?
I read in the local paper that petrol (or "gas") has been severely rationed again and effort is to be further curtailed. Tyres are rationed



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

over here now, but apart from that things are pretty much as in normal times. However the Canadian people are very appreciative of the difficulties and hardships you are all suffering, and are very generous in praise of Britain's part in the war, which is comforting to hear.

As the Min. of Labour still paying up regularly, and has anything been said about my income tax for last year? Strange as it may sound, I'm at present paying 4/6 (or the Canadian equivalent) each week for British income tax, and when I get to the States shall have 10% deducted. Lyrim, isn't it? The cost of living is a little higher

6.
over here, although some things are
cheap but shoes here. Sausages and
meats cost about as much as in
England, but haircuts for instance
as my dear, also clothing is
dearer than one would expect.
However stockings etc. are much
cheaper in the States so I'll
be getting some more of those
down there.

By the way, has anyone
been heard about my insurance
policy renewed last January?

Well I think that's about
all for to-day, so will close now
for a while. Give my love and
best wishes to father, mother and
everyone, not forgetting the "back room"
boys up town.

So cheerio for the time being, all
the very best, and good luck,

Yours,

Frank