



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

1438901. L.A.C. GILL. K.

Nº 31. R.A.F. P.D.

Moncton.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

CANADA.

APRIL 22ND/42.

Dear Mum, Dad & all,

Hope you are all keeping as well as I am & enjoying the spring sunshine? The weather here is grand, plenty of sunshine, no rain, and not cold at nights at all.

Well I guess I'd better tell you where I am now. As I said in my last letter I went back to Moncton after being eliminated from Pilot Training because of dangerous & mechanical flying (standard phrases for excuse for elimination), and after staying there for nearly two weeks we

our flight, consequently we hang
together; made a tour of the
town to see if it had stayed a
any since our stay in January.
The town was just the same, except
for the saw, which wasn't (yet),
so we went back to camp & bed.
The next day, Good Friday we
wandered round the town after
dinner & were just coming back
from the Potlatchine River; we'd been
watching the pack ice drifting
down to the sea; when a
gentleman hailed us. Naturally we
turned round, & he offered to drive
us round in his car for a
while. About 4 p.m. he said "You
kids I know English folks like a
cup of tea about this time so let's

were sent up here to Trenton -
Ontario. The other day we went post
board of officers & I was ordered
to observe Trenton as you will
from the map is on the
eastern end of Lake Ontario, and
is also about 100 miles from Toronto.
I'll go back a little way now
and tell you a little about the
stay at Moncton.
We arrived there on the day
after Good Friday after a 3 day
journey from Florida. After being
given billets we were told to
report at 7 a.m. on the Saturday
morning giving us a whole day
off. (not bed at!) Well George & I,
by the way George is an old
Leucharian & the only one in our

go home & see what there is."

The gentleman took us home & we met his wife Mrs. Grant & her two children Eleanor & Mildred & two friends of the family. Well tea followed, the friends left & we talked quite a lot then had late dinner.

During our conversation Mr. Grant spoke quite a lot about his visit to Liverpool in 1920 & again in 1930. & George who comes from there picked up his ears a little. It transpired that Mr. Grant had stayed in the next street to where George lives at the house of George's dad's friend. George saw the daughter a little better than the father but they had quite a good chat. It just shows once again what a small world this is. We had a really wonderful time

CANADIAN

THE SPIRIT OF

Y.M.C.A.

NO BOYS

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there & Mr. Grant drove us back to camp & asked us to dinner on the following Monday. We knew that a Teachers Convention was to be held in Moncton that week but you can imagine our surprise when we found two charming young ladies awaiting us on the Monday evening.

The girls Hilda & Laura were from the backwoods (so to speak) & taught school to the children from the lumber-jack camps. Nevertheless they were well schooled & we had a fine evening discussing various subjects from customs & courtesies of different nations, through various sciences to music & art. After that we showed them how to play Whistly in return we were shown how to

usual station procedure & were
 given leave until 6:30 a.m. on the
 Monday morning. Now George being a
 handy guy to have around remembered quite
 he had a cousin in Toronto so we
 decided to go. He only now acted as
 his name but that didn't worry us.
 The fare to Toronto was \$3 return so
 we purchased tickets & boarded the
 train at 4:30 p.m. Now these trains they
 have here are trains & then come
 & 70 mph is not unusual. The goods
 trains are often over half a mile long
 & by so they hustle along till to
 get back to what I was saying,
 we arrived in Toronto at 6:45 p.m. &
 arrived with just a meal (Mr. Lawrence
 & is) we made our way to a place we
 both. Luckily there were only three
 Lawrences in it so we chose the better morning

play "Auction #8" one of the funniest
 card games I've ever seen. We left
 at 2:30 a.m. & got back into camp
 undisturbed. Well as you
 the rest of the week as
 & had a
 Friday afternoon for home & we
 returned to our new home Mr. Grant.
 It really did feel like home they
 made us so welcome & we were free
 to come & go as we pleased.
 Our posting came through on the
 Thursday morning & we said "Adieu"
 to the Grant & departed on our
 way to Trenton. We arrived here
 Friday afternoon & on the way
 stayed in Montreal for an hour
 & had a look round. By Saturday
 morning we were through with the

and low & behold we struck lucky
 once again. We were tall told to
 meet him at the station & in
 twenty minutes I was being introduced
 to George's cousin, an Englishman of
 perhaps thirty or so. He couldn't quite
 realise that George was the Nipper
 he'd been used to back in England
 twelve years ago but we convinced
 him that it was. We drove round
 Toronto & viewed the lake (Ontario
 I mean) and several interesting places then
 we went to a cafe & ate.

Harold (George cousin) is married, and later
 on when we had done a little
 more driving round we went home.

Here we were introduced to Mrs. Lawrence
 (Ted by nickname) & her mother a Mrs.
 Cameron. By this time it was getting
 late so we retired to bed.



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The following morning we had breakfast & then went to church. At the church we might have been two persons of nobility the way we received & everybody wanted to speak to us & shake our hands. Luckily we managed to get away at last & went back for dinner. The sun had come out grand by this time & after dinner we went for a long drive round Toronto. It really is a lovely city & the suburbs are grand with large open gardens & no hedges or fences. The whole place seemed like a huge park with rows of grand houses placed here & there among the lawns & gardens. There was

grand places ¹¹ to live in, with polished floors, of lockers, writing tables, an electric plug for each bed, your radio etc, plenty of showers, a drying room & a baggage room. The messes are grand halls & the food is excellent. We also have an Airman's Lounge with large dining tables, chairs, tapestries, game pieces, & soft carpet. Attached to the lounge we have two Billiard rooms with six tables, then six table tennis sets, darts, & a bowling alley, checkers, draughts, chess & Subhan-yah.

I forget the writing room in which I am now. In the large YMCA building we have Wet & Dry bathtubs, another Lounge, Reading & Writing rooms, a library, Barber's Shop, large swimming pool, showers, dressing rooms & a large gymnasium.

Then in the Sports Hangar we have a large dance hall, a boxing ring, another gymnasium, tennis courts, badminton courts,

we saw at all anywhere & the grass was a new green & the trees starting to put on their spring clothes of brilliant greens. I wish you could have been with us it seemed like something you read about that had suddenly come true.

The time for departure soon came round & we had to leave & catch the 11:15 pm train back to camp. We have been granted a show pass this weekend & are hoping to go to Niagara Falls with English cousin on the Saturday.

I think I'll tell you about this camp now, it's the finest camp in Canada & I doubt if we have one in England to touch it. Everything possible is done for the airman's comfort and well being. The barracks are

& a well-equipped Sports Store. On the Sports Field we have a running track, baseball diamond, cricket pitch, football & rugby pitches, & horseshoe courts. We also have a landing stage & launches on the lakeside & as far as I know they organise fishing matches for the fishermen. Naturally as is necessary for all stations, we have two very large drill-squares & they are made good use of too. Before I forget we also have two large cinemas, with three shows every week, twice nightly for 10 cents each show. There are also excellent facilities for laundry, dry-cleaning & pressing on the camp. If anybody should wish to go out of camp for an evening, we have a Hostess House in the camp & the two venerable ladies distribute invitations from the various homes in the town for airmen to go for supper or to a show etc.

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I don't think I can say any more about the camp, except that the N.C.O's & the officers here are the best lot of fellows we've ever had to contend with. Trenton in our opinion is the Top & we're glad to be here.

Well I think I'll run over your last letter of the 9th of March, which I received a little over a week ago.

Up to press I've had three letters from home, two from Vera & a cable; one from Auntie Glad, Auntie Rene, & Grandma which I have still to answer as yet (I mean the last three are to answer).

As you say dad the journey from snow to sunshine was grand & coming back was a little nicer. We left Florida in the beginning of the hot season (it reached 100°) & travelled north up the

it would seem small. You know how
so far we've journeyed over 7,500 miles
by train, 3,000 by boat, & over a 1000 by
by car; the train journey taking over
170 hours all told, so how's that?

Remember you used to say therefore
letter said one can would travel,
well it seems it's me, what do you
say?

You know dad I was saying to
the boys I wondered who would
be digging up the garden this year,
as we usually had an illness around

February & March. When your letter came
& yours all been ill. Well I can
only hope you're all well again
now. Poor mum, I bet she had a
fit with you all at home to help
her.

Hope the suffer kept up with
the good work, he'll have to be a
wicked operator else he say - I for apple himself
must be!

coast. We ran into snow & ice in
north Virginia & strange as it seems
we ran out of it again just across
the border and it seemed to get a
little warmer as we went further North.
When we reached Houston it was quite
warm & I was glad I'd packed my
greatcoat. However the good weather didn't
last long, we had a terrific snow
storm three days later & we had
over a foot of snow over night with a
strong wind which made deep drifts.

The sun prevailed, & in the end
the snow was cleared again by the
time we left. I haven't written a
letter to Len yet, but when I do
I fancy it will nearly be a repetition
of your letters. He seems to be having
a little travelling to do himself these
days but when you think of what
had have to do if he was with me

I suppose by now Gladys will be well & truly initiated to the land. At least Ron will have somebody to help him dig his garden. shen!!!

Glad to hear you've heard from Pip, I hope she can get over for a bit this month. Remember me to her & tell her I'm having a grand time.

No dad we don't have "Pie-cake" over here, worse luck, we do have flapjacks & waffles though they're quite nice with Maple Syrup or Sugar.

You know dad when I do get home I think we'd best have a ^{can} family gathering affair then I see all the relations together & try & answer their questions. I've managed to collect a few photographs together & I've put them in an album so maybe they'll help a little. Still it's good to know people outside our family do take an interest in us dad. You know every



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where we go, people ask if we have any photos of the folks at home, & they all say your grand, I'm so proud of you all.

Tell Leslie to remember me to the boys in the S. G. They have a similar sort of organization in Canada now too.

Sorry to hear the lad had a bus smash, but glad he's ok. again now.

Tell him to give my regards to Gladys when he writes; but not to say anything about digging his garden.

The book's car sure was a beauty dad, that's one thing the Tanks have on us. The car we used to use in Florida was an 85hp. 1941 model Oldsmobile & we managed 100 m.p.h. on one occasion & frequently drove at 80 & 90 m.p.h. I remember on one occasion we were doing round about 90 m.p.h.

We travelled up ¹⁷ the West coast of Florida
& passed through Bradenton, then on to
Tampa, across the Davis highway to
St. Petersburg. From there we crossed over
by ferry to Key West & back to
Bradenton. There we met some ladies
at the Y.M.C.A. & they asked us if they
could write to you as we gave them
our home address. I haven't written to
them myself as I forgot to ask for
their address but I hope they've written you.
From Bradenton we went back to Sarasota,
then on to Punta Gorda & finally back
to camp. We covered about 500 miles
that day & boys were we tired.

I'm trying to remember everything we
saw, but I suppose I'll get a
little muddled at times, we saw so
much variation.

I don't think I have any
more news just now for you

¹⁸
and we had to slow down for a
corner. Well as you know when you're
been going very fast, you can't judge
speed properly when you slow down,
& we took the corner at 60 mph
in a lousy broadside skid. After
that we watched the speedometer at
corners & did alright.

As I said in my last letter
we had three days leave from
Arcadia when we were eliminated
and some of us hired the car
and went off. We stayed in
Sarasota for two days, swimming, &
sunbathing on the Gulf of Mexico. We
were invited to stay at the Vista Regis
Hotel & had a great time there.

On the third day we got up at
8 P.M. & met the rest of the boys
at 10:00 am & set out in the car.

mum, hope you arn't bored reading
this lot, excuse spelling & scribble, I
have to write pretty fast else I get
in front of myself if you get what
I mean, my hand won't go as fast
as my brain wants it to.

Give my love to Grandma & Granddad,
Aunt & Uncle & remember me to everybody
Look after yourselves & God Bless You
Lots of Love.

Your Loving Son

Ken. xxxxxxxxx

David xxxxxxxxx

P.S. I got Mrs. Priestley's brother address
a little too late to go down to Miami
but I'll try & find time to write to him
Love, Ken xxx