

STARTED
THURS.

FIN.

1984-53'S.

A.C. HAMPREY.

84 DICKSON RD.

DEAR BILL AND CO:

I HOPE THIS WILL BE THE LAST LETTER I WRITE TO YOU FROM THIS ADDRESS. WE ARE NOW APPROACHING ZERO HOUR AND THE BOYS ARE STEELING THEIR NERVES READY TO TAKE THE FINAL TEST IN THE MORNING; ONLY MEN WITH IRON NERVES CAN GO AND TAKE THE FINAL TEST, KNOWING AS THEY DO THAT TO FAIL MEANS SPENDING ANOTHER MONTH HAVING THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES IN BLACKPOOL. WHY IN HELL EVERYBODY TRIES TO GO BY BEATS ME, AS STATION LIFE IS REPUTED TO MEAN MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE. STILL, IN THIS MORNING WE WILL GO DOWN - GO BY - GO MAD AND, WITH LUCK, GO HOME THE SQUAD IN FRONT OF US PASSED OUT LAST FRIDAY AND NEARLY PASSED OUT AGAIN TUESDAY WHEN THEY WERE POSTED WITHOUT LEAVE. ONE LUCKY FELLOW BROKE HIS WRIST AT P.I. MONDAY AND HAD HIS NAME TAKEN OF THE LIST, SO THE REST OF THE SQUAD WANT P.I. MORNING AND AFTERNOON TO SEE IF THEIR LUCK IS AS GOOD. WE DON'T LIKE TOO MUCH OF THIS NONSENSE AS THERE IS THE LIVELIHOOD OF THEM DRAWING ON US TO MAKE UP THE POSTING. IF I GET LEAVE - OR RATHER IF I GET MORE THAN 5 DAYS I SHALL BE ALONG TO SEE THE "COCKY KIDS" UNLESS

THEIR NERVE FAILS AND THEY JOIN THE PARACHUTE TROOPS TO
DODGE ME. THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I WISH TO DISCUSS WITH THEM,
AND I SHALL NOT STAND TO ATTENTION. WE HAVE BEEN CELEBRATING
IN ANTICIPATION ALL THIS WEEK AND WHEN WE FINALLY GET BY,
THE RAF, I AM AFRAID, WILL HAVE 28 GOOD AND PROPER DRINKS
ON THEIR HANDS FOR A NIGHT. WELL GENTLEMEN, SINCE STARTING
THIS LETTER I HAVE TAKEN AND GONE BY. I PASSED MY FINAL
MORSE TEST THIS MORNING AND NOW AM WAITING FOR POSTING
AND, I HOPE, LEAVE. THIS WILL PLEASE SOME OF YOU I KNOW, BUT
WHAT DO I CARE FOR THE OTHER 20 ODD. WE ALSO PASSED OUT ON
FOOT AND RIFLE DRILL AND SOMEHOW PICKED UP A GOOD NAME
FOR IT, THE BOYS, I MUST ADMIT, WERE DAZED AND DID NOT KNOW
WHAT THEY WERE DOING AND FAILED TO MAKE THEIR USUAL
MISTAKES. AS FROM TOMORROW I LEAVE THE FIGHTING 27TH AND
JOIN POOL SQUADRON, WHERE IF ANYTHING THE DRILL ETC IS
LOUSIER THAN IS REALLY CONCEIVABLE. JUST TO BREAK THINGS
EASY TO US THEY HAVE ALREADY SAID OUR 14 DAYS IS IN THE
BAG. WHEN I AM IN LONDON, WITH MY PAPERS, I SHALL BELIEVE
IT AS MY EXPERIENCE OF THE RAF STRETCHES BACK OVER
MANY A HARD WEEK. STRANGE AS IT MAY SOUND I HAVE HAD
ONE BIG H— OF A TIME IN THIS RACKET AND IF I CAN GO
ON WINNING THE WAR IN A LIKE MANNER, SUITS ME.

TELL WHOEVER IT IS, WHO'S TURN TO WRITE TO ME HAS COME,
NOT TO WRITE AFTER ABOUT TUESDAY AS THERE IS A BIG CHANCE
OF MY NOT RECEIVING THE LETTER. WHEN AND IF I GET
MY FINAL ORDERS I SHALL WRITE IMMEDIATELY AND LET
YOU KNOW WHAT I AM DOING. YOU MUST ~~BE~~ EXCUSE THE
BREVIETY OF THIS LETTER WITH ITS LACK OF INFORMATION BUT
I HAVE TO SHINE AND POLISH AND COLLECT TWO BIG TINS
OF RED PAINT AS THE BOYS ARE GOING PLACES TONIGHT.
MR. HUNT'S GOOD ADVICE WILL BE IGNORED FOR ONCE AND
I SHALL VISIT ONE OR MORE HAUNT OF SIN IN SEARCH OF
THREE CHEERS. REMEMBER ME TO ANYONE, WHY SHOULD
I WORRY, THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR HELP IN GETTING
ME ALONG - A LONG WAY FROM HOME, AND HOPE TO SEE
YOU SMILING FACES VERY SOON.

LOVE FROM

PETE .X.

P.S. TELL MCOLONEY I'LL GIVE HIM TWO ADDRESSES FOR
WHEN HE STARTS HIS CAREER. THATS PROVIDING THE CORPORALS
STILL AT FOLKESTONE.

P.