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19088

Cadet Street R.T.

2 N.Z.E.F.

Middle East O.C.T.U.

21 Nov., 43.

Received
19th Jan. 1944

Dear Mum & Dad,

I was
-delighted to receive a good
deal of mail from both you
& Edna during the week.
Your letters were 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th,
Sep. & 3rd, & 10th, Oct. & Edna's
of the same dates. Something
must have happened to your
mail, written in June & July
as Edna has not yet received
any. I wrote both you & Edna
a long letter covering my
Palestine holiday & of course
wrote to you both but feared
one each week. You should
have by now received the
papers I send you from
Palestine. Since we returned
from Tunisia I have sent



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Edna at least half a dozen parcels containing silk stockings & dress materials among other things, or as yet they have not been received. I do hope they haven't gone astray. I note also that my sketches of Takrouna & Zaghounan have not turned up. Oh well, there is still hope of your receiving them, I expect.

Since my last letter written a week ago, life has proceeded much the same day by day - a succession of parades & lectures & changing of brass & equipment. I sleep like a log as one feels a bit weary at the close of day after having been up since 5 A.M. With all the rushing about, I haven't lost an ounce of weight - in fact I seem to have put on a little. We have plenty to



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eat, + even between periods of training in camp have time for a bun or doughnut + mug of tea — + when we are out on a manoeuvre always seem to pass through an orange or mandarin grove. We wear overalls while on manoeuvres + very good they are when making holes way through a field of thistles. No 3. is not the only country that grows weeds, thistles included. These grow to a height of from 4 to 5 ft. here.

In my letter written after I had returned from my leave in Palestine, I mentioned having visited a Stud Farm + having seen some good specimens of horses + cattle. The farm is quite near here + we have passed through it several times. The weather has been quite good during the week. We are now



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wearing battle dress & although
the days are still warm, the
nights are cooler.

With Eric's mail came
a recent photograph of her
& Pamela & I think it
is splendid. Pamela has cer-
tainly grown: she looks like a
three year old child. Eric
appears the same as when I
saw her last in 1941. I'm
wondering if she & you will
notice any difference when
you see me again. I have
a few more grey hairs than
I had when I left home!
My hair is now back to
normal after being cut off
while I was in hospital
in June & there is not
much chance of my going
bald.

I must now comment of
on several things mentioned
in your letters. First let



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me clear up the discussion regarding the photo of Moom Wadage - my flake in Nov. past near Bardia. I thought I had told you before that I am on the right (looking at the photo) + Moom who is an inch or perhaps two inches taller than I is on the left. I agree that we look somewhat alike, + the load of Xmas parcels we are carrying hides most of us. But I am definitely on the right.

I am pleased to know that at last Harry + Mrs. Hefferan were able to pay you a visit + I expect Harry did talk. As Dad says in his letter, Harry is inclined to talk too much + while in the army it frequently got him into numerous arguments. Still, I got on well with him. I seem to get on



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well with practically all types of men. It is a pity Harry & his wife were unable to pay Edna a visit. She would have liked to have seen them.

Regarding the elections in N.Z. & the defeat by a small margin & at the last moment of Freddy Wiggins - it does make me think doesn't it? For myself I should have thought Fred would have got in: I was hoping he would. From what observations I made over here when soldiers cast their votes, it can be said that in many instances the men know very little about the men they were voting for - or nothing at all. In many cases it was the first vote many of them had cast - that is, the younger chaps. Candidly speaking



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we took little interest in the elections as a whole. Although they vitally affect us all, we seem so far removed from activities at home. In the N.Z. E.F. Times, the various parties stated their policies. Some chaps read them: a lot didn't.

By now Grandma will have had her 93rd birthday. What an age! Poor old Gran, I can imagine her pottering about the place. I have a feeling she will have "passed on" before I get home, but even if that is so, I cannot help thinking what a wonderful amount of stamina she must have to keep going so long. Aunt Bess too is a marvel. I do hope Grandma passes quietly in her sleep. I know Mitter doesn't think much of a person who is



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content to die in bed, but
for old people, it is the ideal
way.

Edna often makes me
smile, poor darling. Both
she & her mother think I
will arrive home unexpectedly
around Xmas time & in
preparation for this event,
Edna has changed her bedroom
to a loge room called the
"dorm" which has a sym-
poch opening off it. She thinks
the room we used to have
wherever I was at Park Lane
will be too small with all
my gear & Pamela too!
I'm wondering if she is
expecting me to bring back
the Sphinx from Egypt!

Still, it is good to know she
is looking forward to that
happy day when at last



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I shall be home once more.

I noticed the new postage stamps on one of your letters. They are very attractive & unique. I immediately thought of the triangular Cape of Good Hope specimen I had seen in his album. I gave the stamps to one of the English cadets in my hut - Reid-Croft, a married man with a young boy from London. He is a very good chap & we have many talks about our respective countries.

Well, my dears, time is flying & I must write to Edna & pre-pare those lectures for tomorrow. So I will close, hoping these lines find you all well. I am 100%.

Love from your son,
Rewart



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P.S. Am enclosing a photo of
the English canteen in whose
barrack-room I sleep.
Unfortunately the photo was
taken a day before I
arrived. Together we
form a Platoon.

The Scottish chap - Frank
McCormack is in the 2nd.
row 5th. from left. My
friend "Nobby" Reid-Craft is
in front row, 4th. from left.

Hewari.