



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

L13128 Pte Allan A.A.,
'D' Coy. S.S.R. C.A.S.F.,
Canadian National,
Exhibition,
Toronto Ontario.
Oct 20th 1940

Dear Ruth:

Just a few lines to let you know that I have been moved to ^{the} east and that our address is Toronto. How long we will be staying here none of us have the faintest idea, some of the boys who are married are taking chances on us being here all winter and are sending for their wives. It is only natural that they would like to have their wives near them as long as we are in Canada.

We entrained at Shilo Tuesday afternoon and arrived in Toronto Thursday afternoon. The trip down here was very enjoyable, we were on two large trains spaced two hours apart. The railway looked after the meals so we dined good and are complaining about going back on army grub. During the trip down they took us off the train several places for route marches or physical training. We were on the platform at Winnipeg for about half an hour but were under heavy guard, they allowed any civilians who

had relations in the S.S.R. to come through the guard but none of us were allowed off the platform. The Toronto newspapers seem to think we are a wild outfit, thus evening the Toronto Star said it was the toughest outfit to hit the city since the "Black Watch" were stationed here during the World War. It went on to say that we were "fully trained and ready to get into action".

Our barracks are in the Canadian National Exhibition grounds on the shore of Lake Ontario. Our sleeping quarters are in the "Horse Palace", ^{or horse yard} it is a very large building there are three other outfits in the building as well as the S.S.R. The S.S.R. canteen and mess hall is a large restaurant building the Martingues. It is a decided change from Shilo, all our drilling and marching is done on pavement and orders are much stricter as we always have an audience.

A large percentage of the boys ^{like my self} have never been in Toronto so have a hard time finding our way about



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the city. We are allowed 'up town' after parade hours (four thirty or five o'clock) but have to be in by ten o'clock unless on pass. Two late passes a week are allowed that is until six am and two week-ends a month so we should be able to see a lot of the city while stationed here. The people seem very friendly towards us even if we are nearly all westerners.

There are a lot of troops and also airmen stationed in these grounds so there will likely be lots of fights and scraps before long. This morning our whole battalion were asked to a church on King street. The whole outfit paraded there and back led by the band. It was quite a change to go to a church for 'church parade' at Shito we had to stand most of the church service or else sit on sand.

It's more than likely we will have very tiresome drill and stiff marching now that we are in the city but the most of us are toughened up and can

take hours of it.

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The war situation seems to be growing worse it looks like Japan is ready to back Germany to the limit if she doesn't get her denbards in the east. There are still those who say that the United States is of more service to us out of the war but I am glad that I am not an American and that I belong to a country that is at least trying to prevent the world from being ruled by a lunatic.

Some of the boys want me to go to a concert at the "Y" so I'll stop for this time be sure and write soon.

Hope you are having a good time and enjoy teaching at your school.

Kind regards and best of luck

Ever yours

Andy.