

# On the Way to France

## A Former Hannaford Boy Tells of His Experiences Since Enlisting

Bramshott Camp, Hants, England

July 5th, 1917.

Hannaford Enterprise,

Hannaford, N. Dak.

Dear Editor:

On receiving a copy of the Enterprise sent out to me from home, I noticed in it a letter from Charles Brown and I think maybe it would interest some of my old schoolmates around Hannaford to know some of my experiences since I joined the army. It is just five months ago today since I signed on. I had just finished a course in Regina College and enlisted with the 217th O. S. Battalion which was recruiting in that city.

I had two leaves home while I was in Regina of about sixteen days in all. On April 1st we left Regina and were six days on the train before we reached the coast. We were supposed to go right to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and take the boat, but on account of some cases of mumps breaking out among us we were sent to St. John, New Brunswick, and we were there for seven weeks. During that time nearly every man in the Battalion had the mumps. I was in the hospital for eight days with them. During the remainder of my stay there I sure had a jolly good time. The people all treated us so fine. They would have a concert or social in some part of the city for us every other night.

On May 27th we left St. John and went to Halifax and went aboard there. On Saturday night June 2nd, we started our journey across the ocean. We had a very fine trip coming across; the weather was fine all the way and I wasn't the least bit seasick except being a little dizzy the first day out. We were taken off the boat at Liverpool and went aboard a train. They have very queer trains over here. They are small and the coaches are all divided into sections holding about ten persons each. We had a ten-hour ride and two miles of a march before we reached our camp. As soon as we arrived here we were put under quarantine for two weeks. After that we were moved to another camp and transferred to another Battalion. We are in the 19th Reserve Battalion now. We were just in this camp one day when we got a pass for a six days' leave. We had a special train and the whole Battalion went to London; there we had our passes stamped and then we could go where we liked. I stayed in London for most all of my leave and visited all of the most interesting places. Among them was the tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Parliament Buildings, St. Paul's Cathedral and many other places.

We came back to camp on July 1st, and on the 2nd there was a grand celebration here, it being Dominion Day.

We are drilled very hard here and in about five weeks more should be ready to go to France, but I don't think we will be able to get away by that time.

HENRY ROBINSON