

Kimmel Park

Dear Dad,

I received your letter about an hour ago and am glad to hear that you are all right at home. I have been excused duty up to yesterday, not that I was bad but I went down the doctors the day after I came back and he told me to have my arm dressed and muddled me up with another chap and gave me excused duty instead of light duty. I didn't feel a bit bad but kept it up and stayed in bed until I felt like getting up and lived like a lord until I got sick of it and went on parade. I had a letter from Freeman to day and he says its like summer out there and they are all under canvas by some village. I am going myself to-morrow I think, anyhow we have been examined by the doctor and have had a new blanket each and have had to send our coats to the taylor to have pickets for our gass helmets sewn in them. They have

also given us new under clothing and  
 have got our identification discs and jack-knives  
 and all the rest of our stuff in the office (I have  
 just been in having a look at them now). Our  
 quartermaster told us that we are going to join  
 the others at the base so I will be bonded  
 if I get amongst them again. I got six days  
 stop pay for overstaying my leave and was  
 taken before the colonel between to military  
 policemen with my hat off and all the rest  
 of it like as if I had murdered some one and  
 have been teased by our sergeant majors ever  
 since as they had to give evidence against me.  
 They let Stanley off, he didn't even have a trial,  
 I expect they were thinking I was getting out  
 of the <sup>last</sup> draft and as Stanley was <sup>not</sup> picked for it  
 he got off. He is coming out with this one though  
 as his arm is better. I nearly burst out  
 laughing in the doctor's shop, I rolled my sleeve  
 up thinking to show him my arm all sore and  
 swollen but all that was on it was four  
 scabs and not a bit of swelling or inflammation

I never saw anything mend so quick in all my life. Well I cant write any more now as I have got to get ready for to morrow so dont answer this until I write again. Give my love to all at home and remember me to everyone else I know so good night now.

Your loving Son  
Tom

Dont expect to hear from me for a week as it was a week before I recieved Freeman's and he wrote as soon as he got there.