

On boat between Dover and Brussels

Dear Friends:

Well as usual I can't remember what I have already written so will either omit or repeat something.

The rain has not dampened spirits or enthusiasm. The only problem is that we have no chance to dry clothes so we don't wash them.

Well the Jamboree ended in a high, inspirational note. The last night we threw a dinner - ham, sweet potatoes, pineapple, etc. for the three English Troops that put us up in the beginning and have been our close friends ever since. Following the meal the Troops formed and with some of the adults from the Indaba, who had entertained us, we formed columns of fours but completely mixed, the English and Americans marching with their friends and off we went to the Arena as one group of friends. We interlocked arms and on the twelfth step of the march did a forward, back, side, together step, making the whole thing look somewhat like a dance. It was fun and really portrayed the friendship theme.

At the Arena there was a procession of flags of all nations followed by Mrs. Baden-Powell. She did a grand job - speaking first in English and then French, she used the theme "The end is only the beginning" to leave a real high point in the Jamboree.

Following this everyone again linked arms, completely mixed and marched out in groups of 12, 18, or 20. They sang and marched all over the grounds singing and joining new groups for over an hour. It was quite a time.

As we were all packed we went back and, by pre-arrangement, again slept with the English Troops. Fortunately it did not rain although it stayed overcast and threatening.

We sold all of our material to the boys both by priority and finally by auction and then divided the money by 29 and returned it to them. As most of them wanted some French money we changed it to Francs and paid them in Francs. It was funny to watch them try to figure how much they got back; (it was something around \$12) but in Francs ran quite high.

Prior to the last day some of the fellows toured a group of castles and some of us went to Strotford on Avon. Of all Troops I believe we saw as much or more of England than the others.

The day before yesterday we arrived in London and the fellows all did something different but most of them saw the main points and many current shows.

One of the things they quickly discovered was that an American cent is the same size and weight as the English sixpence and it works in all slot machines. As the sixpence is used like a dime they really cleaned up. The best deal they found was a subway ticket and three pence change for 1 American cent. It is good that we left when we did or England would be back in debt and sending more emissaries over for a loan!

We are all in good health although many still have a cough that just won't leave us until we hit warmer weather. Our Troop are really a good bunch and do the right things and have fun doing them. I'm glad that we worked hard in the beginning.

Best regards to all,

Bernard C. Hains

the boys loved the informality and came back much impressed with British hospitality. Steve Hanna and I were entertained by the Scoutmaster and his son. The people owned a 34 Austin with a rumble seat and as they took us back to the station Steve sat on the back of the seat waving to people along the road. It caused quite a stir!

At the station it looked as though we were leaving for war, all of the friends and hosts were down there and they were close to tears as we pulled away.

The next day two of the fellows and one of the girls came down to see us and again told us how much they enjoyed our visit. It seems that this was the most excitement they had had in a long time. I asked to see the kitchen and you would not believe they could get a meal - one small cupboard, a sink and drain and a small stove were about all they had. No refrigerators or washing machines, dryers, freezers or dish washers to be found, even in the best homes and of course no central heating of any kind.

Wednesday we had invitations to see a Rugby match. Again a great welcome. They met the gang (I stayed behind to watch camp) with a Kilty Band and paraded them through the town. They gave them snacks to eat during the game, etc. and tea following.

Today we are preparing bean hole beans for a party tonight. We have been treated royally every night by other leaders and are trying to return the favor. Dave Chamberlain started a fire in the pit early this morning and the beans were put in as soon as the stones that lined the pit sizzled. Bill Slocum and I dug the pit and lined it yesterday. Dave is opening the pit now (at 2:00) to check the progress. Of course there is a large crowd gathered to see what it looks like. We have had literally thousands of visitors and they all want our autographs. This is a craze here, regardless what you write they are satisfied because they never look at it once they got it. The main idea is to disturb or interrupt you not to meet you or talk to you or to find out where you are from.

Yesterday several of the English fellows came over and we put them to work signing books. Just got a report on the beans - they are coming along fine.

By the way, Tuesday night it rained cats, dogs, and little fishes. The ground just couldn't soak it up and some of the camps were swamped. Small lakes formed in every hollow and we were visited about 20 times by the English groups to see if we were all right. I guess they thought we would be frightened but actually we had been expecting rain and took it as a matter of fact. The papers tried to make a great deal of it. The English papers have so little of interest that they have to make everything as spectacular as they can. We actually had no damage. The tents flooded but the fellows were in bed and just moved to higher spots and waited it out. The only ones that really had trouble in our Troop were the ones that kept running around and so got wet. We of course got our feet soaked going from tent to tent but we were among the luckiest of all the camps being almost ideally situated on high ground in a grassy area.

Aside from a few coughs we are all doing quite well considering the travel, changes and conditions.

Saturday we are planning to go to Dudley. The Mayor has issued a special invitation to our Troop. We will be sent a bus and tour a castle (now turned into a zoo) and have tea at the Mayor's residence. Our major problem is trying to meet all the social engagements. We also had some tickets for a Shakespearean play but they arrived after we had committed ourselves to the Mayor.

Best regards,

Bernard C. Hains