

Interview of Harold Ross

December 4, 1992

I enlisted in 1943, I think it was around the end of April or the first part of May, in Regina. The rest of my relations were going. My cousins, they went and shortly after I followed they up. There were quite a few Ross' that went at that time. We were all from the north. Ed Ross, Norman Ross, Emil Ross. Norman Ross was World War I. Also my dad tried, but he was pretty well crippled up so he was rejected. He had broken his legs, so they rejected him.

We trained in Dundurn. Then for advanced training, I went to Calgary and from there I went down East. Then we were gone from there. We were shifted around quite a bit. We weren't exactly with a regiment. They put us once with the Johns and then with artillery and then I ended up with PPCLI. Then went overseas on the Queen Mary. That took about 7 or 8 days. At first I was sea sick. After that, it was all right. It wasn't too bad. We had an escort. They were ahead of us. We didn't have to zigzag or watch too much.

At Aldershot we had our basic training over again and school of battle training. We were straight infantry. I didn't go in artillery. I wasn't fussy about going in there. Then they shipped us to France and Holland. That would have been in 1944. It was already at the end of the war then. Then I went with the Pats. At the time the Pats were in Italy. They were the first division. We met them in France and I was put with the regiment then.

I was in France with the Pats for a while. There were a few spots (battles) there. I don't want to bring that up. Then I came back in the spring of 1946. Then I was discharged August 26, 1946. Then, I worked around here and there and I went back in 1951. I joined up in Vancouver. The guy I recruited with, Smoky Smith. They were going to ship me down to Sea Fort Highlanders, Germany. I told them that I didn't want to go there. They asked me where I wanted to go. I told them I wanted to go with the Pats. They told me that the first battalion was gone already. The second was gone already too. They shipped me to Calgary, to be shipped with the second battalion. I stayed there a little longer and came back with the third battalion of the Pats.

KOREA

Going up there it took us 29 days. We got on in Seattle then went around the north way and came back again. We got off the boat in Chanda. I think the conditions were a little worse than in Europe. We were right in the front for one year solid. We were never in the building. After I came back, in 1953 - we were on the boat for 31 days on the General Freidmond. Coming back to Canada. It took us 31 days coming back. The boats are quite a bit smaller than the Queen Mary. These boats are just like skoals, no comparison at all. They were rough. A lot of guys were getting sick on it. We were with the Americans too. We were with them. At the time, when I was over there they decided that it was time to take a NCO course. I took a junior NCO with the 25th Barricade in Korea. I got my hooks after and ended up as a Corporal.

I was a parachuter, a jumper. When I was over there and was in front of Old Smoky, and I got sick there. I had malaria. I was pulled back to Beaeshalon for a while. I didn't like it there. I told them to take me back to my company. So, I went back into the front again. B eschalon is a place where they have stores and a hospital. Not a big hospital, just a few beds for when the guys get sick. They take them to Seoul from there.

After I did come back, after my airborne, I was still at Rivers. I went back to Rivers and ended up in the Rivers Hospital. Took kind of sick there. I had a problem with my chest. I kept on going with the guys, as a refresher course. There was something wrong. I was in pretty good shape, I was a good athlete. I went for a check up and they put me in the hospital at Rivers. I was there for a few days and they took me to Deer Lodge Hospital in Winnipeg. I had pleurisy in my lungs. From there they shipped me back to Fort San where I spent nearly over a year. I was discharged in the sanatorium. That was my history of my training.

AFTER THE ARMY

When I got out, I started working around. Before, I was a Legion Member. I joined the Legion in 1946 when I came back. I have been with them ever since. I got 46 years as a Legion Member. I was President of TBS in 1956. I got out of the San already. In 1961 to 1963, I was President of Branch 35 in Fort Qu'Appelle and been a strong member ever since. Now, over the last ten years, I am the President of TBS (Tuberculosis Veterans) again. The majority of our members are from Fort Qu'Appelle and Regina. They are starting to dissolve and I think in a few years that the TBS will be dissolve. We do a lot of work in the Legion down here. We have a membership of 350.

I volunteered for the Air Cadets, 586 Squadron. I spent about 12 years with them. I was a CO of our squadron. I was presented with a 12 year medal. In 1973, I got a Citizen of the Year Award in Fort Qu'Appelle for the work that I had done for the community. I was presented with this medal from the Governor of Canada.

I coached minor and senior ball for the Legion for about 14 years. Coached ball, hockey. They call me the "old legion" around the rink. I have been there from 1965 to now, still involved. I have been President of minor hockey for 4 years. I have been President of minor hockey and President of senior hockey. I am still involved with the senior hockey. I am a Sergeant Major at the Legion. I am the oldest Sergeant Major, Sergeant with Arms. There could be one guy in Yorkton that could be ahead of me. I figure after I finish with as President of Fort Qu'Appelle, then went on as Sergeant of Arms, and been there ever since. I take part in a lot of ceremonies, November 11. I take part in a lot of funerals. They call us with our color card. We go out of town for funerals. We have a pretty good set up.