

Transcription  
Edward King  
Tape 5  
- Interviewed Jan. 29, 1993 -

Dave: So he thought he had been taken prisoner?

Edward: Yeah, he thought he was a prisoner. Finally we had to head back again to where we had come from, and we had to give the password to them guys, the 7th Recci. And they ask us to go into there building there. So we went in there and they gave us some drinks, then they looked after this Sergeant Major Ross that was laying on the floor there. We sat down beside him and they brought these drinks. And he only had one drink and he said, he kept passing the rest to us, and they kept bringing him more drinks. Finally when that truck pulled up, another truck, and then we got on and head back to our own place where we came from. (tape stop)

Edward: Ross. He's still living in Winnipeg yet.

Dave: Is he? So the one who had his foot wounded?

Edward: Yeah, I met him a few times. Still living. So we went, there's a few things. While we were there, that place we had went to church. Not church, but service I guess they call it. The church wasn't there one time. They said, we just happened to be in the dark. There was just me and Corporal Pressnor that was Roman Catholic in that section. The rest were different I guess. And they called for RC's. They want to receive, \_\_\_\_\_ is going to be a certain place. Some went from each section, whoever there were RC's. Somewheres in France anyways. We could here the artillery firing, and we were out in the open field there and we went. We kneeled down there and \_\_\_\_\_ and he gave us communion. Prayed there a little and that was it. And then another time we walked again, they call again. There wasn't that many of us, maybe 10-15 of us who walked to this little church that was there. That was on the outskirts of Kalay. We walked in there and the door of the front entrance wasn't bad. But further back through the church that was damaged. We were kneeling down there praying when I looked up, some of the roof was missing there. Hardly no roof on that church. That was one church I had went to there, that was damaged bad. Anyways, while we were there, it was time to attack for Kalay. So we went to get ready again, all grenades and ammuniton, check. Ammunition the whole bit again. So we

start moving out, went along the railroad track and there we met some. We went through some cheese factories I guess. I remember that, they went and looked and found some old cheese in there. We taste some of it and kept going like that. Then we went and walked along this track and some Germans came up and surrendered. They had these pamphlets that was dropped by these planes I guess to surrender or however it said in there. So he come up to me that one guy and one of them German's comes up and hands me one of those pamphlets, but it was German. I couldn't read it. He showed me and I was trying to see what it was, but it was in German. So I didn't know what it meant. Corporal Pressnor said that's the pamphlets they dropped. So they said it's for them to come out and surrender. That's what it was about, the message was. I didn't know. So we kept going, and this is our objective finally the Corporal said. We were pretty lucky that day, that first day. But there was casualties on the other company there, they had heavy casualties. We were just lucky I guess. We were there and this is where we can dig in here he says. And looking around there was a building there. He said you might as well check that out before you start digging there. I walked over there and when I got to the door I could hear some voices inside. So I just kind of push-kicked the door open. That's how we were trained to do. Kick the door open and kind of jump to the side and then have your gun in there, pointing in there. This one guy that was facing me, there was 6 I believe in there, 6 or 7 sitting around at the table. One of them are just facing me. They stood up right away and put his hands up. And the rest followed what he was doing. They didn't move right away. They didn't try to fight. They come out. I told the Corporal from there. I hollered back, I got some prisoners in here. Good he says. They're all yours he says, take them back to headquarters. So away I went. I was going to go across there one place and he said "min", you know, one of them Germans. "Min", he was pointing. So I motioned to wherever, so we went around. When we got up there I turned them over to a Sergeant that was there, the prisoners. On the way to there, we met this there one of our men coming back. He must have took prisoners back too or he was on his way back. He said, did you search them prisoners. I said no, I took there weapons I said, stuff like that I said. Well he said, we might as well. They'll be stripped over there, them guys will take everything away from there. So he said I'll search them. Naturally when they knew what we wanted they just threw there money into the helmet. He left this helmet, pretty soon there was a pile of bills, mostly bills. Out of these seven prisoners. We divided the money. There must have been some watches, but I never bothered with watches. In fact he

gave me the money. My big pocket there just bulged up from money, and they just pack it in there. I carried it around for awhile, but I kept passing it around to my friends. Then I got to headquarters with them for the prisoners. Like I said before there. Just when I was leaving the Colonel called me back. Not himself, but he had this \_\_\_\_\_ . Colonel wants to see you he says. And I thought, what did I do this time. Was I going to be on charge again. I walk in there and he asks my name and number. Regimental number and name, and he marked it down. Well he said, good luck he says, and shook hands with me. Carry on. Salute and make about turn, and get back to my, went back to my company, platoon where I was. From there we got moving again. We got moving. This was probably around the 26th of September. We kept going. We must have camped along the ways somewheres. By the 27th we were still moving ahead. He got to a place and he said the new orders came now to capture this fort, there was a fort there. Fort Newly. We want to capture it, the orders are now to capture this fort. So that's what we're going to do. Before we got to the fort, there was a little village there again, and that village was all defence. A barbed wire right around, they build a barbed wire fence around this village. To get in there, we had to cut our way in. I didn't know what this was all about really. But there was a wire cutter there that was passing around with the carrier. Nobody wanted to carry that wire cutter. Passing back and forth. And I thought, that's not a big deal to carry a wire cutter. I said I'll carry it. You want to carry it and I said sure. I was carrying that wire cutter and there all of a sudden they hollered for that wire cutter to go up there. I was about in the middle of the group. Had to run way up there on the double with the wire cutter. On the double with the wire cutter they said. I run. The word was passed down, they didn't holler. Wire cutter needed ahead on the double. So it finally got to me. When it got to me I took off with that. And there they were trying to cut there way in there. To get into that barbed wire. When we got in there, as soon as they get in the hit sideways just so they don't bunch up. Finally the machine gun opened up there. Anyways the machine gun didn't last that long. Everybody kind of took cover all over, get down. Pretty soon our bren gun opened up towards there. They kind of figured out where the firing was coming out and they opened up with there's then. That's when the fighting was pretty well over. So, there must have been about 200 prisoners come out of there, just marching out by the whole, on parade. They just marched, like they were prepared to come out anyways. And we went in a little further in there, we got our objective he said, this is our objective, the corporal said. We can probably stay here for

awhile he told us, might as well get settled. So we found a spot, a building had been blown right out. Just a bunch of stuff on, just what do you call it, the basement wasn't. So we crawled in there to the basement. We're laying on the ground, the floor there, the cement. And somebody lit them little candles. Hardly anything to see, just. And now that you put your equipment away, the corporal said, you might as well go for something to drink. Tipped them, the boys put in a few dollars. He said go and get, you talk French. Go and buy them something to drink, whatever you can find. He told me to try that building over there, across the street. I'm pretty sure they'll have something there. So I walked in there, they let me in. I told them, I made them understand that I come for a drink, to buy. I had money in my hand. Made the motion that I had money. Then he said Oui Oui, on me. I have some he says. And he went downstairs, down in the basement I suppose to get this stuff and I was sitting there, the lady offered me a chair at the table there. She said, would you like to have \_\_\_\_\_, the hot milk. I said (speaking French). She brought it and set it in the front there. And spoon. Not use to sitting on the table and chair. Mostly we're just eating outside and on the ground in the trench, whatever. Now I was sitting by the table, sitting on a chair. Something like in a civilized way. While I was sitting there I could hear the battle though, still shells going. And they had a light there so I could see. He comes up with these 6 bottles of whatever it was. It could have been wine. I think it was stronger than wine. I just started. I was eating my milk there, and there was another knock on the door there and they opened. Another soldier comes in. A Metis also. He comes in there. I didn't know him, that was the first time I met him. He said his name was Fiddler. Where are you from he says to me. I'm from Saskatchewan. Me too he says, I'm from Saskatchewan. From what part. Meadow Lake. Oh he said I'm not far from you, I'm from Prince Albert. Fiddler he told me. We met there. He spoke French to them. Then I left. Just then the Corporal comes in. My corporal there. Get ready to move, I don't know if we'll need that stuff now. Take it back anyways, take it to the boys. We got over there and them boys, none of them boys, I think only 2 of us had used that stuff, the rest left it. I just took a few drinks of it and put the rest, some of it in my water bottle and kept going. We're going to attack at pitch dark. I put my hand first, starting out I was running into this guy ahead of me. Bouncing there, and bounce back. The helmet, I run the helmet sometimes above in the face. And this other guy behind me would run into me to. Finally we just put our hand on top of the other the guy ahead of us. Somewheres and move around like that. But after we got into the

opening further out, just like a little light more there. That's where that attack was. We went in, finally we got through there, the ditch was full of water. The side of the highway like. Open a dam I guess to let the water in. Just the road was sticking out like highway or pavement. We went across some mines there mines hitting. We hand planks across the road and mines under them, pillar mines. They were the mines for tanks more or less. Infantry was pretty hard to set it off. So we kept going and there the flares come up again. Machine gun when the flares open up. That's where they killed 4 or 5 of our boys there. There was Corporal Bazoroski there, the one that was reading my little prayer book. He was killed right there, it was after midnight. McKay, they were killed there them boys there. Fairly close together there. So we found we finally found our way back from there, we pulled back to where our dugout. Trying to go back on our own, the best way we can. It was best to head back. We got back there and I went down into the basement there. And somebody had lit that little candle. I went there and I put my feet up against the wall to let the water out of my boots. Clean out, there was water there. When I was running there, you could hear that water in there. I was soaking wet. Let my boots out to drain. Well as from there, oh yeah when I was there laying like that the corporal come back. He said he had some close calls with bullets, went through his small pack. Some bullets, and one went between his pack and \_\_\_\_\_ . He showed us there how his pack was shot up, just was on his back. We, he said where's that strong drink you got anymore left of that strong drink he tells me? I just about give him the whole works. He was drinking some of that and he was telling us what happened. He helped that one Major out of there he says, but I don't think he's going to make it. Major, I believe it was Christianson. Anyways he helped him out he says, but I don't think he's going to make it. He had went up to help the wounded again, to bring out the wounded, Corporal Pressnor on his own like. A lot of things he did, that Corporal. I don't think he ever was recognized for that, the things he did. Different times like that, wherever help was needed, he would be out there to help. That was about, that was one of the battles. We were back there now in our kitchen. We finally pulled in that night. Finally comes daylight. They said we couldn't get, we had to eat our ration there again, bowl of beef and stuff like that. They said the kitchen truck was damaged. Got hit and we couldn't get our groceries. I don't know if they got reorganized or something. They came and got the kitchen set up finally and they said, go and eat all. Good, steak they were cooking steak. Cooked real good. Then we lined up there too to get my steak and stuff. Steak and potatoes. We

didn't get that very often. It was very special. I'm going to have a good meal. I'll be darned, as they were putting stuff in my \_\_\_\_\_, steak and a few potatoes I believe, there was stuff going in, they said we're ready to move in 5 minutes. We're attacking in 5 minutes. Oh gees I thought. You know it's hard to eat when you could be dead in 10 minutes or so. You're hungry is not even there. But I had even a hard time to swallow the tea, but there was no way I could eat that steak. Them boys, I offered them boys that were sitting beside me if anybody wanted more steak. Nobody wanted that steak. I had to get ready. Washed my \_\_\_\_\_ and away we went. Grabbed our equipment, put everything on and on the way again. Daylight now. Attack was going about 6:00. We start moving into the attack. And there as we move along, our platoon where our section was the same place where them guys had been shot. They were laying there as we went by them. They were laying on our right side, so we went on the left of the road. We didn't stay in the middle of the highway. We walked just on top of the ditch. Up in there, we're walking along there. I don't know what made us cross over, probably our corporal told us to get over to the right side of the road. We just got over on the other side over there and down like. We went to cross and then drop down to the ground, a shell landed right where we were on the other side. When we look back, that big hole there and all that stuff there, and finally we got inside to that building. There was nobody in the building. We kicked the door in and open, and we walked in and didn't see anybody. All of a sudden from the basement door there, was dark couldn't see, but could see his hand come out with his revolver in his hand. \_\_\_\_\_ I guess. But he had it backwards. Towards him. He held it by the handle. Oh it was kind of surprising to that guy. He was standing beside there and seen that. He was expecting it I guess an arm to be sticking out. And they start coming out, there was about 10 of them in there, 10-15. It seemed like there was no end to them coming out of the basement. And we start \_\_\_\_\_ all that. And them some other boys took them. That's where we thought we had our objective, but they had too many casualties ahead. So they call us for reinforcements. To reinforce them. We weren't very many left neither, cause we had some taking prisoners back. So there was probably 4 of us left to move up as reinforces. On our way up there, shells were still dropping and one of them drop fairly close. Knocked us down, and I don't know who all go down, it was dark then already, getting dark. I managed to get over to the trenches there. I was hit in my left arm, and left elbow and my leg. Didn't feel that much pain then. We jump in a slit trench up there. The corporal says how bad are you hit, that's when I

thought I was hit. I must be hit I thought. So I felt my arm here, but it was all wet. But I couldn't tell, it was in the water and sweating. Then I put it to my lips to taste, and I could taste blood. I guess I'm hit in my elbow and leg I said. So he said, you better try and get back he said, to get first aid. He said there's a building there where they're treating. Right beside there, there's a building where they're patching up the wounded. The wounded were there. They were patching, my leg was numb. My arm was getting numb, my fingers and my leg was getting stiff. Anyways a jeep comes along and loaded us up and got on the jeep, pitch dark. I was wondering how in the world is this jeep going to find his way back pitch dark. I noticed there was white flag. I believe I asked him how he stayed on the road, how he stayed on the road when he couldn't see. See them white lines on each side he says, as long as we're inside them 2 white tapes, we're okay. My corporal came up to the first aid station up there, another station where they stop to check the casualties. He got off and said this would probably never good enough, not enough to get out. He said when I do get in it will be for good he told me. This was the last I seen my corporal there, he was killed a week after or so. (end of tape)