

Transcription

Edward King

Tape 4

- Interviewed Jan. 29, 1993 -

Edward: Dark now already, getting really dark. We went through, now we run into the German tanks that had been knocked out, on the other side now up there. Where they were firing from, but they were well camouflaged, but still they had been hit. Maybe the bombers had come, or something had knocked them out. They were camouflaged, yet they were knocked out. And we walked through the bushes there, kind of a bush now, and then we crossed a bridge, a little bridge. There's bodies all the way along it, going up. Finally we went up and we stop, we were held up, it was dark, pitch dark now. A few planes came over, but you could see a little fire here and there as we look around in, that's where the tanks were burning, they were on fire, like. They were burning. Lots of oil in them, they burn for quite awhile. So we see that all around us. We were laying there trying to find out how to go any further, like you know. We have to find out. So they ask for volunteers to go and patrol ahead, instead of moving the whole. So there was an officer that, an officer that said get these men. And the corporal said, get, he came along and said who wants to go. This patrol, ahead. He was talking just like to me, he was looking at me. And I said, I guess I'll go. Then I got up, and I went up to this, I believe it was lieutenant, he was, at that time he was our lieutenant, Lieutenant Jim Bollock. We were talking there, planning this patrol, how we were going to do about it. He said it would be an information patrol, he says his officer, meaning Corporal Pressnor. Pressnor and myself. Three of us standing there. He said, I'll go ahead, this lieutenant said, and he says to Corporal Pressnor, he says when I start maybe I'm about 50 yards away, or whatever if you think you can see me, just so you can see me. Don't lose sight of me. And you'll do the same King, you let Pressnor go just as long as you can see him ahead of you. So he moved on, the lieutenant moved. He went so far and then that what you call him left, corporal, and then it was my turn to leave. I stood up and as I look around, we didn't have, we didn't change around really for patrol, we went as we were. We went ahead and there we run, he run into, there was a tank up ahead, and there was 3 of them tank Core men. I guess they had there tank knocked out. Probably the wounded were taken out. There was 3 of them left. Always takes more than 3 to operate a tank. So they were having tea, they were sitting by there tank there drinking tea. Then

they got from there, from there we got the message from there. We got the message where the rest of them tanks were. They said so far, I forget how far it was. They told us where it was. Like I stop, I didn't go right up. I was further back, cause I was told to be the getaway man if something happens to them, I would try to make my way back and report what happened. So that's what happened. He said it's okay, it's good. He said up to the tanks. We run up to them tanks, as long as we get there before daylight, we got a good chance without getting attacked or anything. So that's what we did, and then we went back to our, we went back to our company. And they said, move as fast as we can, to try and get there before daylight. So we started out, and we were just on the double and running, trying to get over there. We were moving along and sure enough we got to them tanks. Them tanks they were all bunched up. There might have been about 50 tanks in that area. That's where they form at night I guess, you know. Cause if they go park by themselves someplace, you know the infantry could do something to them. They can't see them, that's the reason they all park in one circled area. Protecting each other. So we got there, and they were glad, that's the reason they sent us up there. Of course to protect them from infantry. So we got there and they were quite happy, but still, there was a lot of shelling there, lying. There was 2 guys there, not too far from us that got killed right there. In there trench. Our corporal went up and investigate and he said he knew them 2 guys that were killed there. That was on the 15th of August, 1944. Finally we were there, and this fighting was getting, a lot of shelling come, little more. So he said, we're going to attack anyways. So I believe there was 2 companies. I was in D company, so we went to the right of that attack, on the right. I must have been with the B and D company must have went to the right. And C and A went to our left, attacking like that. And there they run into heavy, there it's funny how we never got hit. When we left there, I turned to leave the attack like, moving up, and there was shells lying all over. We didn't know which direction to go, but we kept in advance. They told us to keep advancing. In August in the real middle of the day, it was really hot. A really hot day, just soaking wet sweating. So we got pinned down, we didn't get very far. Got pinned right down, there was 2 much. Them companies over there just about wiped out. We get the message come back, some people come back. They say them 2 companies are just about wiped out. And while I was laying there just flat on the ground, pretty well all that afternoon we were pinned, we couldn't even stood up or anything. And shells were landing right close by yet. One shell came by and I had a shovel, the handle was sticking, and it cut the handle off my

shovel. Stronger chrapanel. And this one guys was laying beside me there, Labocan was laying in front of me there, he was a Metis, this Labocan. And he was laying there and he says, how is your cig, can you give me a smoke. And I reach for my cigarette, they were just soaking wet, from sweat. And I don't know if he could light them or not, but I gave him some anyways. And while we were laying there, one guy came walking by there, and he stop right beside where I was laying. And he had, somebody offered him a cigarette, and then I gave him a light. He was bleeding, he was blood in the front of, in front of his shirt. Had taken the \_\_\_\_\_ off and it was just his shirt. And you could see the blood on the back, on his back and on his front. So I don't know, I didn't even ask him how bad he was hurt. I ask him do you need any help? Oh, he said, I'll make it back. He was walking back, wounded. But I never got his, I never knew who he was. He was Canadian alright. From there we were told that when it got dark we have to pull back. So we waited until it got dark and then they said get back the best way you can. So we went back from there. Then we went into the woods there to dig in our trench for the night. There was bombing not too far away all night. Didn't have a very good sleep. Maybe 2-3 hours of laying down, resting. Then we got moving early in the morning again, into the same area where we came from, pretty well, only where them other companies were. There was probably about 25-30 laying out there. There I recognize some of my friends there. That man from B.C., from Calgary, that Joe. Joe Passette, the Indian lad there. He was laying there, I recognize him plain. His helmet had fall off. He had real black hair. Stretched out like that. He was one of them and right ahead of him there was that Sergeant, Prock, Sergeant Prock. He was just a little ways ahead. He was laying there also, I recognize him. The rest I didn't have a very good. Then when I start looking around, some more of the corporals said keep to your front, keep moving and look to your front. They didn't want us, you probably could find somebody that you might, you know, be hard on you. Recognize somebody maybe, some of them had relatives there, brothers.

Dave: So they didn't want you to look at anybody who had been killed?

Edward: He said keep moving to your front, look to your front. So we kept moving, and I guess as we went along there, it seems like there was just a little trail from there. It wasn't a very wide trail where we were going. It was like a path. Unless it was just narrow. Anyways, we weren't sure where we were at for awhile. When you're lost you could be captured. You could walk

into. But I suppose we spent a little too much time looking around. First the corporal started, he recognize some guys. Our corporal he was one of the regimental men, and he knew a lot of men in there. So he was, of course he was looking at some and naming the guys that were laying there. But after awhile he might have got orders from the sergeant or lieutenant, cause they said to your front and keep moving. And anyways we got, finally we got over there to the rest of our company, the platoon. We were there, and we just got there and some of them said what took you guys so long? Don't you know there's a war on? They waited for us there. And they said we'll give you the latest. They say there's 40 tanks out here, ahead of us. Get prepared to meet them. So they come out with them piot guns. We're all lined up there, they line up these piot guns, we're going to hold these tanks. I don't know what kind of a chance we would have had. Anyways, many guys they brought them out there. They were going to knock them out. This was on the 16th now, 16th of August. This was the next day. So we were there. And we could here them tanks moving. So they said, I guess when the noise we heard them moving, they were pulling out. The noise was getting less, and somebody said they're gone. I guess they had scouts up ahead, and they send or know what's going on up ahead, and they said they are pulling. That was a relief sort of. But anyways after that, we got real heavy shelling. We were digging in them bushes there, guys were cutting them trees down around us. Big limbs coming down. We were pretty rough there for awhile. Finally the evening come. Planes came over to bomb us now. They bomb some of them. We went up first, they were going to go up, out in the open. We were going to go and put our trenches there. And finally they decided, they sent us back to them bushes again. And they put the carriers out there, they were parked over there. And that's where they, some of them bombs were dropped. We were suppose to exchange places with the carriers there. They had casualties there, some of them killed I guess. Anyways we hit into a, there was a basement there I guess. The building was gone and just the basement was there, open basement. These planes come down. They came to bomb us. As I look down there I was praying and the planes were coming, you could just about see them in the skyline. And we heard the whistling of the bomb come down. That long whistling. When the bomb opened, the trap opened to let the bomb out, you see that light. And then you heard the whistle. You'd think it was just about on top. And there it was maybe 100 yards to our side there. That's where they were landing. Anyways, that happened, that was probably now towards morning of the 17th of August, morning of 17th of August, that's what happened there. Oh yeah, we had an observation post I had

again. And they were taking turns to go and stay out there in observation and give a. There was me and Crawford that were told to get ready to move up and exchange, relieve them. And we were just getting ready to move and they said, they call it off. Everything was quiet or something. They said there would be trucks after awhile. There would be trucks to take us ahead. We were moving up ahead, so they knew that the Jerry's had gone away. Had pulled out I guess. So we got on them trucks and away we moved on again now. Going when they left that area all of them, it was kind of sad, to see so many dead people. And as we move along to where the convoy, where the Jerry's were. Killed as they try and escape. With the convoy, even with the red cross on them, the horse, they were using horses to pull some of them that's all they had for transportation was horses. And older vehicles, they weren't that good. They're along the road there, they're all the way for miles. And they couldn't go through, they had a bulldozer making road so we could travel from there.

Dave: Where they hit by bombs from planes?

Edward: Yeah \_\_\_\_\_, machine gun from the plane and bomb. They had, they just \_\_\_\_\_ them. This was in August. You can imagine, it don't take very long to smell. That was in the air all over it seems like. Seems like I could smell that death, human death. It was awful. Anyways we kept going like that. We got to our objective. I believe we got to our objective. There was one time as we were moving this convoy, there was quite a few trucks. The whole regiment was on trucks now, transporting. And all of a sudden we got artillery shells, right at these trucks, right at us. So we just bail out of them trucks and hit the ground. On each side, and I guess the shell had hit the driver. There was only one man killed. He was the driver. The service Core, he wasn't even an infantry man. Just a driver. Service Core man. He wasn't exactly dead yet, you know. Then we went to a little place there. It was kind of an orchard there where we stop. They laid out that man, he wasn't dead yet. He was laying out there maybe 50 feet from me laying there. He was sitting kind of in the shade, in the shade of these trees. And them guys they walk out, they send out 10-15 men. It was just an artillery gun, German artillery there that fired at us. And they went and captured that guy, the sniper. They walk right by there and go and take care of that guy. They went up there and in no time they brought the prisoners, they didn't fight back, because of the artillery. They're not really infantry, they're just. So they brought them back, and that guy is laying there, I guess they knew his head. I went and look

and his forehead was just a mess. I went and look while he was laying there. And they waited, finally he died. They said, he's gone, he's dead. So that's what happened there. So we crawled back on the trucks again, we moved again. We were moving now, they were retreating fairly fast. We're moving, they're having that, rear-end action, or whatever they call it. They leave these guys in the back to try and slow us down. Kind of suicide people to do that. So we kept going. A lot of things along the way happened, a lot of accidents. One guy shot. Carrying rifles, shot one of the men.

Dave: Accidentally?

Edward: Accidentally. Just gun was, maybe just bouncing and went off and hit another guy. But I don't know if he died, just, he was just. And that time as we move along, that guy I mention there from B.C., that corporal, Alex. He was shot, that's the one that was shot there. The machine gun, he had bullets. They said he had quite a few bullets in his stomach. He was just rolling there I guess. Them guys told me there that next day. He was just rolling in the grass they say, and that grass was just blood after. It happened during night I guess. They look for where it happened, and they said the grass was just bloody, he was just rolling around in pain I guess, and just died. That's why he's list there as died of wound, that's what they call it, died of wound. He didn't die instantly. Then we kept going like that and we went into this here area where now we're holding a bridge. They said they want to blow the bridge first. Well, the plane came over that night again. And they had laid, the plane came over and he drop them flares just like street lights, they drop them so far apart. We all just drop where we were. Not a move. Just lay right there. Laying in daylight there, like with the lights. Flares coming down real slowly. They could see us real plain I thought. Now, what they usually do, they drop the flares, and if they see there target, they make one circle and they come with there bombing and machine guns. First they drop there bombs. And the second time they open up with the machine gun and spray that area. That's what they usually do. And I was surprised when the lights come down, the flares went out, nothing happened, and the plane, waiting for the plane to come back. Nothing happened, maybe they didn't see us. We just drop we never move. Just where we were, maybe that's what saved us. The whole battalion thought, a lot of men in there.

Dave: How many men were there then by that time?

Edward: In the...

Dave: Did they just sort of, as soon as men died, did they bring in reinforcements. Did they try to do that?

Edward: Yeah, whatever they can pick up. But we're on the strength most of the time. Most of the time we're under strength. It was hard to keep up the manpower, for infantry. Most of them were trained for something else, driving. So a lot of infantry went, casualties, the others ones they just stay. So we got a lot of men on trained then. On account of that, they show them there where. They didn't have the training for infantry. And we held that bridge there for awhile. This was probably on the 18th and 19th of August now. We held that bridge. We blow the bridge, and then we held it on each side. We dug our trenches. Some Jerry's come out, there was a couple of those trucks knocked out, them German trucks. They were loaded with motorbikes, brand new motorbikes. They had been hit, but the motorbikes were good, a lot of them were good in there yet. There was a full load of them. And one truck was loaded with money. I don't know, somebody was trying to escape with money from somewhere. He was carrying a bunch of money, like a bag full. So I took a few coins, I didn't take any. But a lot of guys did, I imagine. And we held that bridge, and the civilians were coming out of there, coming through our lines. And we had, there was about 4 feet of water. And most of them were women, women that were crossing there. We back right across that. Back them across, piggyback. They come up there with there bike. Some of us would give them a piggyback, and the other one would cross there bike for them, and they keep moving. That was one thing we were doing there. And one day the Germans there, a patrol tried to come through there. Well, they opened machine gun on them. Well they wounded a couple of guys, and the rest surrendered, and we let them through. Anyways, that's what we were doing there at that place. That's when they surrounded, that was that gap. The Germans were surrounded at that time. They were pinned inside the middle. The Americans were on this side and the British and us all around them. And they were still trying to break out of there. And the one time they come through at night. And they come walking in there, and we held our fire. And they come right by there, and somebody hollered HALT. Well, we thought, we knew they wouldn't do much fighting, so they just said HALT. Right away they drop, you could here the guns dropping on the ground. And they said comrade, they see there hand on the skyline.

Dave: Is that right. Not a bullet was fired, they just surrendered?

Edward: Them ones, yeah. Them other ones, the first ones would have probably surrendered too, but we had to fire to let them, make them surrender. Sometimes some were trigger happy and they'd just fired. I don't know, that's the way they do it I suppose. Anyways, we stayed, while we were there, it rained. It rained that time, we had a heavy rain. And there was cattle amongst there, dead cattle that's been killed there for 2-4 days, and they're starting to blow up. Maggots out of them. And that one cow was laying just above us, me and this other guy. I believe I was in the trench with Brown that time. We were sitting down there in the trench. Oh yeah, one time I was going to, we didn't figure it was that bad. We thought it was safe to shave, take a shave. I was going to start to shave, and machine gun come and sprayed like that. That was it, I moved, I stayed in my slit trench. Never shaved and never washed. And the rain comes and that cow was laying there not too far away. He was all maggoted, and the rain washed them maggots into our trench, this water dripped, was running into our trench, maggots in there. And we're sitting in there and that water, that was a rough day. Finally we were there a couple of days, 2-3 days that time, and finally they went and got them motorbikes, and they went driving around there back and forth some of them guys. I was doing that. We were taking turns. But they stopped us. They said get off that main road. You can drive out in the field, but not on the road, not on traffic. So we were there, and oh yeah, there was some dugouts there and we had some logs

Dave: Luggers.

Edward: Yeah, we were firing them, target shooting with them over there. That's one thing we did. And then it was time to move again, so we moved. Probably by now it was the 25th of August. We're moving up. And there we run into some convoy coming up. We didn't know who they were, coming towards us. Long line of trucks and vehicles and they were going the same way we were going too. We were about the 2nd or first truck leading in that. In the open truck this time, we didn't have the covers on. We were just open in the back there, with the machine gun on top there. And now is this the enemy or what. So we got off and we took our position on the side of the truck, and somehow they found out there was Americans coming by. On patrol, they were patrolling out there on there way back. \_\_\_\_\_ made circle and had to come back. And boy they come down there, we found out them are Americans they said. And

there was a bunch of them in trucks like we were. But they were going, they went by, and we were glad and they were just a hollering. And we done the same thing too, we were just waving our helmets too and just a hollering, and they went right on. And we sat. I was glad they were Americans instead of Germans, so we kept on going like that. That's one place we run into Americans. Yes, and we, finally we went through a place called Eff, and Ilbuff. We go there and there was cliffs there, high cliffs there. We went up there and they said. First when we got to that city there, we just, the people they just, we couldn't move. The people there were just too thick. They were just surrounded with jeeps and everything. (end of side 1)

Edward: Just as packed there, sitting just on top of us some of them. Next thing we were just a kissing, a hugging and kissing was going on there. Talk about flowers they threw at us there. Everything was a hollering. And this officer said try to keep moving. We got to keep moving. So we went on and this Brown was sitting there, he was sitting kind of low. I still remember. He was sitting kind of low and the women are kind of missing him. He was sitting too low and us guys are sitting higher up. He was sitting down here like. Down flat down he was sitting. He said this girl was hugging these other guys on top and he wasn't getting much attention. They just didn't see him, not that they didn't want. And all of a sudden he said, what about me, and they notice him. And then they wre kissing that Brown there too. And he was really, you know from, he said. Holy cow, just like I pissed my pants. Just like. I spilt my coffee. And that, anyways we kept moving. We finally got through that town there. And then we went up to a hill, went up \_\_\_\_\_ to see what's up ahead. I believe it was only about maybe a platoon that went up there. Would have to be a platoon I guess. There we run into shelling, we got shelled. I wasn't very far in the ground when the shelling came. I was just starting to dig my trench. And there what do you call him got wounded, MacNeil, MacNeil was wounded. He was in \_\_\_\_\_. He was wounded there and they took him out. The Corporal Head was there too, and Hill. All them guys, that was number 9. Number 9 section. That was MacIntyre's section I guess it was. And from there we went down, it was getting dark, it got dark then, so we pulled the night in there, we spent the night in there. In an old building, we never had, we didn't dig no trench, we just stayed in an old building. And the next morning this corporal says to me, Corporal Pressnor says, let's go for a drink somewheres, let's go look for a drink. So we were walking down the street and it was just like this, this town kind of reminds of a Western town you see in the movies

sometimes. This Pressnor had his invasion boots on and his invasion helmet, walking with a sten gun down there. And I was following him. He hadn't shaved for a couple of weeks probably. His beard is getting long. And a lot of dust on him, covered with dust. I was the same way, I don't know who looked worse, I couldn't see myself, but I could see him. So we walked into this place where they were drinking. So we walked up to the counter and he asked for drinks. We didn't know what they call drinks, but we knew we wanted a drink anyways. So the glasses weren't that big, so it must have been a fairly strong drink. They fill it up fairly full, two glasses. I don't know what they give him, but he was looking after them, paying them anyways. We just stood there and he tip his up, he was use to drinking I guess. He just tip his glass up. And I taste mine. It was very powerful stuff. It took me a little while. So on the second drink, we decided to go and sit down. Second or third drink, that stuff was really hitting me. I wasn't use to drinking that much. I use to go out and have beer once before. Not that heavy. So pretty soon we were sitting there, I was starting to look, everything seems to be pretty good. Look like everything was okay. Looked like the war was a good thing to have. And we were just starting to talk, talking pretty good there. Not feeling no pain or nothing, no worries I guess too, all gone. For awhile and there all of a sudden another corporal comes in and he says we're moving out. Get ready to move. So we got up and moved out. So we kept going again. This is probably around the 28th now, 27th or 28th of August. And there we got on the tanks, we rode on the tanks for a ways. We were getting close to the attacking there now, for the attack. We caught up to the Germans again. So we got into the tanks, and the tanks were, they were ordered to fire the tank. Fire the targets. We bail out of tanks and we laid. And the tank man there says, who was in charge of the tank probably, he says nobody stays, nobody in the back of the tank, everybody to the side. Nobody to get behind the tank, cause when they fire I guess recall. It throws back. So we laid, I laid to the side there. Probably about 4, no maybe 10 feet away to the side. When they did fire the blast it was off. And I could tell it must have shot back about 3 or 4 feet. It went back that far. And after a few shots, I don't know how many shots they say okay we charge. We're charging now. We're running now, charging. But again, them white flags were up, they surrender. Most of them surrendered, but there was casualties just before that. There was a lieutenant shot, Sharl, Lieutenant Sharl was killed. Quite a few more, but they were in a different platoon. But this is my 18th platoon I was in. They were in 17th platoon them other, the ones where the casualties were. And we got to

our objective. Went through the trenches and everything. We went up there to the other side and dug our trenches there. So a corporal there, he and went and talk. I don't know how the word come about, but we got invited to go for a drink. There was a building there. We're invited to go for a drink cause they got permission from our lieutenant to go for a drink. And then away they were soon another section. Just our section was invited. So we went, we went to that building. We walked in there. They opened the door, we met the man at the door. I was talking French to him. He said he was a Spaniard. Living in France. And again, we walked in, and as we walked in there, pretty well most of us were together yet. There was Corporal Pressnor, Corporal White, Corporal Wes, Eurbeke, Crawford, Brown, and myself. We walked in there, with our rifles, you know we never let that go no matter where. Steel helmet and we're sitting around like this at the table there. So he brings the bottle, the bottle on the table with glasses and this Eurbeke, the one from B.C. there, Harry Eurbeke, he says, when he got up, he said may I pour the drinks for you. Sure corporal says, go ahead. Glasses similar to that. And he poured the drinks, very good drinks. We still held on to our rifles with one hand there, sitting there. While he stood up he was standing, here's a toast that we all have a reunion back in Canada, when we all get back. That was his toast. Then we clicked our glasses and we drank that there. And the funniest thing that happened, he was the first one to get killed, that Eurbeke. Eurbeke and Crawford, then Brown and Pressnor, Wes, so out of that. Oh yeah, Selmon I forgot to mention. Selmon was there too. Probably about 10 of us. Selmon and I and White survived.

Dave: Out of the 10.

Edward: Yeah, out of the 10. And we kept, after we had our drinks, we went back to our barracks, and finally we kept moving like that pretty well the same way, until we got close to Kalay. Then Brown, Eurbeke got transferred to a different company, a different section. He ended up in the number 9 section. One time they moved us. He was in 9 section. And we were still riding trucks, whatever we could ride. And sometimes tanks, sometimes trucks, sometimes carriers. Most of the time on them carriers. We were going along, finally they stop. It was a nice sunny day. Well, they said, we'll break for lunch. Everybody bail out. There it was nice green glass, a sunny day again. This was on the 6th of September, 1944 now. They said the enemy are just ahead of us. You can expect anything to happen now. Got up to the enemy again. So we had, we were told

that before so it wouldn't be anything unusual. Anyways, we were laying there, we were going to have a lunch, we break for lunch they said. And from there we're going to go on foot. We were laying there, I was just about, I was opening my pack, to unpack it. I pull out this bowl of beef can and my \_\_\_\_\_ and there this Eurbeke comes up to me. He says can I share your meal with your bowl of beef. He said next time I'll open mine, take turns. Oh sure, I said. It was kind of hard to clean one of them cans. Pretty hard to clean it all up. About half would be just right. So it worked out pretty good. So we opened the can and we were eating there, drinking this water in our tanks again. And we went down and he was always one of these persons that likes to joke, kind of a happy going person. It was very quiet. We laid down there after we ate a little bit. Stretched out. I was laying there, I used my helmet as a pillow. Stretched out and laid my head on a pillow and just laid there. He was doing the same thing. Never said a word. All of a sudden they hollered, get ready to move. Got up, picked up our rifles started going. We were moving along on each side of the highway. 7th section was leading to the right of the highway. And number 9 section was, no number 8 section was next but they're on the left of the highway. And we kept our distance. Tried 5 feet distance 5 steps apart. And number 9 was behind us pretty well. We were in that way, going. As we went through an underpass a little ways and then we made kind of a turn a little ways, kind of a curve. And then that's when the motor shells landed right amongst them. 9th section. Just about completely wiped them out. There was 3 killed there, and the rest of them were wounded. Eurebeke died of wound. He was shot. \_\_\_\_\_ chrapanel got him through here, through the jaw. Went right through. Cut his tongue I suppose. Couldn't stop the bleeding I was told. The tongue bled. That's how he was. The other guy, Ryde his name was that one. He never had a scratch, but a concussion got him. And the other guy, I forget the other guy. Anyways, that's the way it was. Oh yeah, it was Finley. John Finley the other one, and then Dawson. Them are the ones from Halifax, N.S. That's where they were from. They were also wounded. And from there we took cover. We went and, all that stuff hit us from the pavement like, when the pavement hit. All that pavement flew up and landed all over us there. That didn't hurt that bad, but it was there. So we took cover and pretty soon we start moving again, start moving. Anyways, that's what happened there, as we moved along. I guess we were ordered to move up still to keep going when one platoon completely wiped out, but still we're going. Pretty shaky. Shells landing all around us. And we laid down over there, we hit the ground in the ditch we were laying, and the chrapanel again were flying

around us. And one chrapanel came and flew and hit this guy ahead of me right on the heel. I guess the speed had run out, it just stopped there in the heel part. Kind of burning like, there's smoke in there. Just ahead of me, 2 feet ahead of me. He jumped up and he said I'm hit, I'm hit. Help. The corporal come up and they were looking at him. And they said the chrapanel just hit your heel there. Just the thick part of the heel there. Of course we didn't feel it, but it must have hurt him. And he said, oh he was just about breaking down. And he said, I would feel better if I was in a building, inside a building. Well, the corporal said, there's no safe buildings. A shell would hit a building just as easy as out in the open. So anyways he didn't go. And there was casualties. We went a little further and we dug our trenches there. Just on the edge of the bush like. They didn't like to dig, it wasn't very good to dig in the bush. You can't see very good in there, when you're in the bush. And then when the shell does come it's going to throw that stuff around more. I think when it comes in the bush it hits a tree and the chrapanel spreads further out, explodes above like an air burst, I think that's what happens. So we just dug in on the edge there. But there was casualties coming back. Like the jeep, carried casualties. But I never found what company, or what. And from there we moved to some old dug out. We stayed there for awhile. And we were there, and these dugouts, there was 2 openings in these dugouts on each end. Fairly big dugouts. People just live in there. There was some bunks in there, double bunks. We were there for a day or so I believe. And I use to carry a little prayer book, my own. I was sitting there reading this prayer book. And Corporal Bazoroski was there, he was seeing me. What are you reading he says to me? I just hand him the book to see for himself. He read a little bit of it. Oh he says, that's what you're reading. That's what I'm reading. He was there. And then from there we moved again, they got us to move at night. They were moving around back and forth. We went to attack them great big guns that were firing across the English Channel that was flying in England. Landing in England.

Dave: The U2 rockets?

Edward: No, it wasn't a rocket. Just great big ones, the biggest ones that was made.

Dave: Oh that's right, cause the U2 rockets were fired from Germany, weren't they?

Edward: Yeah, these weren't rockets. These were big artillery guns.

Dave: They must have been huge?

Edward: Oh, they were awful big. They had a track underground, they were sitting underground. And the train would come out, that train would come out into the opening. And they'd fire and the recall would gradually roll under the ground, roll back. See they couldn't, every four hours, that's all they could fire. They get too hot. Every four hours they'd fire, but when they do. And sometimes some of them I guess they had turned them towards the land. They were fighting across the channel. And them are the ones we were suppose to capture, we're going to capture. And we had casualties there. We helped them tanks there dig in, digging in, we were helping them. That night, it was at night. We walk up there 5-6 miles, maybe more, I don't know how far, we just kept walking. Seems like a long ways at night. Pitch dark. When we got there we still had to help these guys dig in there artillery guns, in the ground. Oh it was rough on us. And we dug our trench after that, our own slit trench. And there was a mixup there somehow, some of our men got killed. And they buried them there. And I went, there was an observation place from there, a building. We went up there and look through them. It was made for to look towards the sea, the ocean. Just a little opening like that. We were there and we went and look at that. And finally they said, let's, they moved us right close, moved up ahead. We walked through the water, we went down into a ravine, but there was water in there. So they wouldn't see us going up, we went right down. That's where we were travelling. And then we went into the city there. We went to look through the city, and the stores and everything was empty. Nothing in the stores. Everything was empty. So we went to a great big bomb, where a bombshell had landed I guess. We crawl in there, the whole 18th platoon I think. Officers and sergeants were there. And we, oh yeah we could see a Jerry running from where we were there. He just come up I guess to see what we were doing. And then we seen him taking off, but nobody took a shot at him. And then another guy come up towards us, trying to draw fire, I don't know what he was doing. Anyways the officer says, you see that guy up there, there was 5-6 of us with our rifles and machine guns. Take a shot at him. We fired and shot our guns and rifles and machine guns. Well, we got the return fire immediately right after. They were just, of course after we duck right down. We could see the bullets hitting right above us there. So now they were going to try and negotiate with them I guess, them, the enemy there. The Regina

Rifles right beside us there. So they got on a jeep. They load up a prisoner, one of the German prisoners to go back with him there, an interpreter, I don't know, but taking him back anyways. And a driver and an officer, and a white flag driving up there. They went up and there was no way they were going to surrender, never to the Canadians they said. They didn't want to, they didn't like Canadians. So I pull out, okay, have it your way. Pull the 7th brigade out of there. Then we went back, closer to Kalay up there in the area and that's the time we went on that patrol. I think we have that down, that night patrol I mentioned.

Dave: No you didn't. You just told it to me, but we haven't taped it.

Edward: That's what we did then, while we were there. We were there a few more days again. They say this was on the 19th of September now that we were there. At that patrol I went. What happened, that one day we were called, the sergeant said, the corporal went up to headquarters and come back and said I got news for you. There's 3 of us going around this fighting patrol. Information fighting patrol. We're going to attack and make them, try to draw fire. See how strong they are, where they are. Wherever they are at. That is what we're suppose to do. So you guys have the day. You can rest, collect your running shoes and your \_\_\_\_\_ they call them things, and grenades, and weapon. We won't be wearing no \_\_\_\_\_. So we got ready for that day, but you couldn't rest. You're thinking about this patrol you're going that. You're laying there and went and had a meal you know, supper. And come back again. And they told us that we're going to be moving 12:00 sharp. That's the time we'd be moving. So probably around 11:30 or so we walked up to the headquarters. We were standing around, tail down in the basement. There was a light down there, and I don't know what kind of a light it was but it was lit. Anyways, there was a map on top of the table there and we're standing around, and there was a Major Dave Campbell was there and he said, he had his little stick and he pointed to where we were and where we were going to be attacking. It sounds like we're going to be making a circle, not coming really back the same area. He says when you're captured, just give your name and number, no more. And if you're separated from the group, you will find your way back and report to this company, report back here. And he gave us the password. He also gave us the password, and he said is there any questions. Nobody had questions. So we got on the jeep that was there and started moving. Me and this Selmon we were riding in the back, bumper. There was a bar there above

and we stand on the bumper, and our sten gun in each hand, the other hand like. And we were moving along, and we went up to the 7th Recci there, where they were holding the line. They let us through and we tell them we're going on patrol. And then we got to kept going until we run into a mine. We run over this mine and it blow up, blow the jeep up. And the guys in the front got worse of it there. And us guys, I went down. It deafed me, that blast, and all of a sudden the light just blind me. There I was. I landed. The last time I felt the jeep going up in the air, and I landed. I was lucky the jeep didn't land on me coming down. And when I hit the ground, my knuckles and hands were all skinned from hitting the pavement with sten gun in my hand. And it was awfully dangerous with all these guns loaded, carrying loaded guns and either one of them could have gone off, it was possible, any one of our guns. Anyways we tried to find, I didn't know where. I was awake alright, but I didn't know where in the hell, what do to, which way to go or nothing. Trying to run and I'd fall down. There we seen somebody on top, we were in the inbank like. That's where somebody was running. The Major said, get a hold of that man. Get a hold of him. So we caught this guy that was running up there. Ross, part of his foot was blown off, which we didn't know at the time. And we caught. Sergeant Major Ross, and we got a hold of him from each side of his arm. And he was talking German to us. He was trying to talk German. (end of tape)