

Transcription
Edward King
- Tape 3 -

Edward: Captured they said, that lock house is captured. But we never heard too much anymore about it. Like when we were there, it wasn't held by anybody that we know, it was just there. But it's possible that they did, you know, because they were there, they landed back there at that time. Anyways, we were there holding this machine gun, that was our duty, holding the position there, watching the bridge. While we were there a lot of things happened. We were there about maybe a week just about in that position. And these carriers come up, I don't know which carriers, might have been the Regina Rifles, or the Winnipegs. Could have been artilleries too. Anyways they were coming up 3 or 4 of them one behind the other. Just going right up, and they turned right, they turned towards the bridge, crossing the bridge, they were starting towards the bridge. And I was wondering what's going on here. We were there sitting at the machine gun, and that's where the enemy was. And sure enough, they just barely got on the bridge, and they opened up with the machine gun. They got machine gunned. They had the dispatch rider beside them, the motorbike beside this carrier. They were moving in there. And of course they can turn right on the spot a carrier. Just swing right where it's sitting. They turn right on a spot. But there was men on them jeeps, them carriers, shells were just hitting, bullets were hitting on them. Anyways, that what do you call him, that dispatch rider got hit. He went down, I could see it, he was just a little ways, just like looking out this window. He was hit in the arm, pretty serious I guess. The blood, you could see the blood coming out and they turned there jeep there, they took cover there behind the jeep, behind there carrier. They treat him there, they put a _____ on him there, and they put him in a stretcher there. They had everything there I suppose. And away they went. That dispatch rider got hit there, and away they went. And after that they made there mark pretty good so nobody would try to cross the bridge after that. They were suppose to go straight through. Instead of going straight there, they made a right turn. Right turn they made. Anyways, that's what happened there. Every night, the bombers would come at 12:00 sharp. Germans, they'd come and bomb the area. We'd hear them up there, dropping bombs here and there. And one night, we had an observation post, OP they called it. O Pit sometimes. And it posted further ahead, as far as we can go. And it's hidden there. We said take turns of holding that post. And that's

where they put us. That night they bomb, and we were there, a few of us. At the observation post. Them bombs weren't that far away from where we were lining there. Some of them guys got really, just about broke down, some of our boys there. When you hear that whistling sound coming down you know, you'd think it was coming right on top of us. And yet when it dropped it would be a couple of hundred yards off, five hundred yards, whatever. But that sound, you could still hear that sound. So anyways, we were, that's what we were doing there in that lock house, and I seen the picture of that lock house and inside of it when the Regina Rifles held it. They showed a picture, that little picture where they're sitting. I was sitting, I use to sit there and eat my meal also in that same little table. Well maybe I'll ... (tape pause) Anyways, we were there till, in that area right there holding the bridge there till the 16th of July. Then we were, while we were there, there was a couple of ladies come up from the shattered building there. She was a teacher, I guess that was a school there. She was teaching there. And she said that the damage they did, they destroyed her school. She come to where our trench was, up to our corporal was and they were talking about the war, and what it does. If we were gaining anything, we were destroying sort of our own. When they bomb, they weren't happy about the bombing. Anyways, my corporal, it, he was talking to the corporals there, Corporal Pressnor and Corporal McIntyre, where there. And they left and after that we were told to go on night patrol. I don't know if I mentioned, I didn't mention. We were told me and my corporal, Corporal Wes and myself. It was dark, it was night. Just patrolling the city like you know. We just carried, he had a revolver, and I had a sten gun and grenades. I carried grenades. That's all we had and we were walking through the city in the dark. One street down the other, seeing what we could find I guess. See if there's any enemy in the area or something, whatever. Anyways, we walked towards that big cathedral up there, where there was, I don't know how many hundreds of people, civilians were sheltered in there. And we walked around there, dark. Met a few French people. And they said, there's a stairway going up the steeple out there, on the outside. It's kind of a stairway. So we climb up there. Wes was ahead. It seems to me that this French we were talking to, wanted to show us something. That's the reason we went up, what it looks like up there. We followed him anyways, I followed Wes. And pretty well at the top, they were at the top, but I was a few stairs behind them. But I could hear them talking. Cause that little platform wasn't too wide where they stop. Where they were observing. They look towards, when the firing, when the German open up for there artillery, we could see all it

up over there. We could hear them shells coming and then landing. And then the same thing over here in our front over here. The artillery was firing. See them fire when they fire, and see them landing out there. It was quite high up. So we got down from there and walked back, to where we came from. Reported back, it was daylight coming back. Walking through all that concrete, broken concrete, getting through that was hard going. We got back and then we were entitled to have that rest. That's where that lock house was. And we went and had a rest in there, sleep. And one day there was a Colonel like that had to take over. Seems to me there might have been a Colonel take over for a few days. Maybe our Colonel had to rest, I don't know what it was. He had to call them. 50% of the men he called up on parade up there where he was. And there were shells landing. I wasn't too happy about that, to go and parade when, I didn't think it was necessary. Stand up there at attention and stuff like that you know. Anyways I didn't care too much, it was in the heat, hot. It wasn't what I liked. So we came back. That's one of the things we did while we were there. We went back again. The Americans came along then. Some reporters. And they took pictures, but I've never seen them, anywheres them. Probably made there in the states. We put, we got in behind the machine gun and fired a few rounds, because they were taking these pictures. It wasn't really battle, but we were firing them, to make it look. Took turns behind the machine gun, take pictures. He gave us a few chocolate bars and cigarettes, and they left. They come there with a little jeep. So I never heard who they were. But I seen one, I seen, finally I seen a picture of them now. They must have come there every once and awhile the American reporters. I seen one of the devil's blast we had there. There's a picture of an American reporter there interviewing a guy. A man from the Winnipeg Rifles. And this guy's head is all bandaged and he's interviewing. I believe that reporter's name was Lynch. That American reporter was Captain Lynch, it says there, reporting this here, Regina Rifles. His name is in that list there, he comes in a little bit later, that guy there. He was interviewing. Anyways, that's the things that I remember that happened there at that time. And finally they said we're going to go and have a bath, go to _____ on the 16th of July. We left kind of late, and the trucks pulled up and we crawled in the trucks. The whole works left, the whole company at least, probably company for sure had left. We went back there, I don't know how far back, travelling kind of in the dark. We went through the shower, they called a bath. It's just a shower. We walk through there. Take all of our clothes off and line up. Walking through this shower that comes through, and we kind of

walk through it more or less. Didn't spend much time cause too many men. As we go out, we'd take our shorts and towels, shorts and T-shirts. Put our uniform back on again and go right around, moving right along. And then it was getting dark already now. Well now I thought, we all thought we'd have to dig our trench for the night and sleep someplace. We went to an area there, just about ready to dig our trenches. Oh they said, there's trenches already dug over there. Just move along them bushes over there and find yourself a trench for the night. We were in behind so we thought. We didn't need that much anyways, but still safer to be in the trench. All of a sudden I was resting there, I was laying in slit trench, I found one slit trench by myself. More room there, I was stretching, enough to stretch in there. I was laying there with my rifle, that's something you never let go of, the rifle, even when you're falling a sleep. You got to have it in your hand, cause you never know how you're going to wake up. If you wake up with something, you have to use it all of a sudden. You got it in your hand. So I was sleeping there with my rifle. I was laying on my back and the rifle across my chest. And all of a sudden I guess we were dug in, we were right beside these long range artillery, the biggest artillery they have, the long range, about 20 miles they fire. And they all opened up all at once. Well, that ground is just dropping on top of me and I just jumped out of there. Surprise that I'd even do that. Just when I was falling asleep, they opened up with that machine, with them big heavy artillery. I believe they were 105's, I believe they call them. They got long range artillery. And there it kept on firing through the night. I thought I was going to have a good rest, sleep. No way. And when they fire that's pretty loud. Kept on and finally daylight come and there was a place to go and eat there. Went and had a little bit of breakfast and back to the front again. And then when we got there, I guess probably the Germans had pulled out. We walked right across that bridge. We were the first ones to cross. 7th section, 18th platoon, B company. It's right in that history book there. I just had to guess before, but now it's written on that. So I was probably about, there was a few guys ahead of me. Walking single file across that bridge. But you know it felt funny walking across that bridge, after all that firing coming out of there. I thought any minute now we're going to get mowed down, but it was fairly quiet. Hardly no firing. There was some, but not that much. We went across there and as we move along towards the outskirts of the city, the battle was fully on, more as we went on. There was prisoners coming back, running back on the double, and guys behind him, probably a Regina Rifle man. It's hard to tell sometimes, cause it doesn't show that much

which regiment it is. Anyways, they're running back with there hands behind there head, high in the air. Sometimes there would be 10-15 prisoners with one guy bringing them back. Well, they're glad to get out of there too, so they're probably wanting to run out of there themselves. So, we moved up. We kept on moving. We went to a higher ground out there, on the other side of Kon. We went into a kind of a hill, high ground, and we looked to our right up there, there was a bunch of soldiers lined up, up there. And they were moving up like and attacking. You could see from that hill where they were moving, attacking some places there. I didn't know who they were, but my corporal says that, that should be the Regina Rifles attacking over there. And you could see some of them dropping or throwing themselves down as they went. You could see them before dark, they made that attack. Then we went and moved up again on our own like, I don't know if it was on our own, but we went ahead anyways. Mostly that one section, I can remember. There was some dugouts up there, we probably went and investigate them. A lot of times I don't know why we moved, you know, everytime we'd move ahead. We look around in there, and there was nothing in them dugouts. It was a dugout, but nothing there. Anyways, I think we're too far ahead, the corporal said. He finally recognized that. Probably a map or something, I don't know how he found out. So we got out of there, we got to get out of there as quick as possible, before we were spotted. We come out of there, and we just about halfways out of there, that place where we just come from was just plastered with artillery and motor shells, we just come out of there on time. They must have spotted us, but we left right away. That time, we could have had casualties there. We just pulled out in time. So we stayed there for awhile, and we pulled back again to the edge of the city, further back. About that time, the 2nd, the regiment come in. That was on the 18th and 19th. They come in about they 20th of July into action. They were there for awhile before they went into serious attack. 19th or 20th. Oh yeah, one time we were walking back into the city of Kon, maybe that same day. We're walking back all ragged, dirty. We were there already over 55 days, they said we were there. And we were a rough looking bunch. Dirty, and a lot of them worse than others. For me myself, doing so much crawling, my knees were bare, worn right out, and even my elbows and my _____, from crawling on my elbows, going down on my elbows and laying in a trench, wet, straight clay. And when you do come out of there, there's a pile of dirt there. So you're right in it. It's pretty hard to keep clean. Even though after we went and had a bath, stuff like that. But we just put on our same uniform, they didn't give us new. So we went and we were moving along

there, they couldn't tell who they were the regiment they met. The first division, the second division coming then into the city. And naturally they're all clean, they just come from England. Glasses, everything just shining. Walking down and coming along. Just coming out, kind of scared looking, looking each way as they were moving. As we move ahead there, we never knew when we would be attacked or something. And then they're just walking as if they're on parade, swinging there. And they said, finally they stopped. One guy stopped me, SX Scottish we met, 2nd division SX Scottish. I think they're from Toronto, I'm not sure. One guy asked me, oh yeah, we had to stop every place we went, they say stop, stop right there. You got to stay so far ahead from the man ahead of you. And five steps, never any closer than five steps, but they can make it further. So we just kind of take a, and he said, what outfit are you, what are, what outfit is this he says to me. I said Royal Winnipeg Rifles. Oh, he just stood there. Winnipeg Rifles, eh, he says. I've heard of them he said. You've been here for awhile. He stood there and talked. Well, I had to stop myself. But him he was suppose to be moving. I often wonder who that person was. A young guy, fellow. So we moved again, we moved on. And then we were back there for a while, back along the edge of this Kon, city of Kon. And then we went and, we went into. Oh yeah, there was some firing there again, somehow, shelling again. So we all laid down there for cover, and I throwed myself down with some people, civilians were there too with us. There was a lady and a man there, and when they drop to the ground, they were on each side of me. The lady was on my left, they were French. Talking French. That guy pull out a bottle, that Frenchman, and gave me a drink. Strong drink, whatever it was that you call it. I drank it anyways, I could tell it was strong. I remember the corporal, me and the corporal, he use to like drinking too. But he said not too much. Not too much at much, well, I was dry beside. I thought he might drink too much. So we were there talking French with them. He said, I said to them, how do you think of the bombing? Oh she said, she kind of change the subject. Well I said, what did you do when the bombing was. Oh she said, I don't pray anymore. It doesn't help. Oh, I said. Well how did you's make out, you and your husband with the bombing. Oh she said, he's not my husband. He's just my partner. That's how she said it. So we went, we stayed there. We pulled back a little bit more. Not too far in there, and we said we'll stay, we won't stay here. There was some trenches there, I stayed in the trench, slit trench, and pretty well everyone I guess. And this around the 20th, 21st of July. So, some civilian called us _____ where we're at, and this one young girl comes there. I just remember her last name, because

it probably was the same as mine. Her name was LeRoy, the name, my name when they first came from France in 17something, when they left France, they called it LeRoy, they had Le in front of Roy like, like LeRoy.

Dave: Yeah, oh okay.

Edward: That's why it stick with me, cause her last name was the same as my real, when it came from France. So we were talking there. They sent her to, they tried to talk to the boys. A few boys. They couldn't make out, English, and they don't understand a word of English and they didn't understand French, so they didn't know what. So she asked anybody speak French. And they point to my slit trench over there. So she come up to me. She said (French). She was glad, she kind of hugged me. I was sitting in my trench like this. So she sat down there beside me and started talking. She was in a pity, her dress was all wrinkled and tore. And her legs were scratched up. And her shoes were worn right out. She didn't have no socks on. And she only had one of those little cotton dresses like, didn't dress warm neither. She was sitting there, her hair not even, you know, washed probably. Anyways she was sitting there and we were talking, in French. That she could make out my French anyways. And hers was perfect. We started talking and I said to them boys. What did she say. Well, I said, she'd cook for us I said. We have a cook. Oh, good, you know. She didn't even say that, but I just said that. And we were there talking and she said, she told me. I asked her where's her mother and dad, parents. She said I don't have any anymore. While I went for water, a pail of water outside the house, a shell landed in there house, and killed her relatives and friends. And the people she was staying there were old people, and she said I'm staying with them there, they are my relatives. So we were there talking and kind of broke down when she mentioned that, kind of cried. Tears come down her, so I put my arms around her, on her shoulder like, and talked to her. Finally she started talking again. Wipe her tears and she started talking. She said, she had been in Paris. I said where have you been. She said she was in Paris in school at one time. She was 16 years old, she was just a young girl. So she was there with them _____ she's staying upstairs. There was a building, there was a house there and upstairs there's some old people living there. That's where she was. But most of the time she'd come down and visit us around there. We were there for maybe a couple of days, 2 or 3 days maybe. Anyways, while we were there, we were staying down in the basement there, the basement in her house. We got better sleeping down there, more

comfortable than a slit trench. Not very much room in them. So we were making our beds there, she was downstairs there too. It happened that we were kind of sitting there in the dark, sitting around there, and bombing came. Bombers came. She just jumped up and screamed and hollered. Jump on top of me. I was standing there. At first she couldn't find me, she was talking French to me. I had told her my name, and I had told her where I was, because she didn't know which way to meet. She jumped and screamed, and she thought I would save her life, or something, the way she, you know. And screaming and bombing coming down. That whistling bomb. There was trucks there lined up, hit them trucks. Just not too far away from us there. That's where them bombs landed. And the corporal says, that screaming and hollering. It was bad enough that we're being bombed, but when somebody else is screaming and crying it gets worse. He said you better take her up to them old people. She's crying too much down here. So I took her upstairs after that. Come downstairs, and pretty soon it was morning, I hardly sleep. Daylight comes. There was a British, probably artillery officer, British with us there. He just happened to be there, he wasn't with us, just camped there I guess. Anyways, he said, there was some shells land. Oh he said, that's a long ways away. Don't worry about them he says. And he was standing outside there, and heating water. We use to heat our own water. We have kind of a burning thing like a candle, wax thing. We lit that and we set our _____ on there. He was heating up his water like that to shave, he was shaving there. Standing outside, shaving. Dressed pretty neat for a front line man, of course in artillery you don't have to be exactly like us, beside an officer. He was there and a few shells were landing. Oh he said, there a long ways away. Don't worry about them. So he went, and then we (end of side 1)

Edward: On the 22nd of July, we're still in that same position there. This here Pressnor, he went out for a little stroll around there, and came back with a hindleg of a yearling heifer, you know cow. With him, beef with him. Packing on his shoulder. Must have helped somebody butcher or something. We come there, and we're cooking this steak now. Then we could have made use of our cook, but everybody done there own cooking. So anyways, I remember that part when he come into that, hindleg. It wasn't a big animal, probably a yearling. Cut up steak and we had steak there. And that day, there was one Frenchman there, his house was damaged. And I went and talked to him in French. He was fixing his house, this building. I said what are you going to make, use this for. They're still bombing, still the war is on. It could still get hit. Oh he

said, this is my, like the ____ parlour like they use, selling. That's what it is he said. I suppose the minute he sets it up, he's doing alright. I talk with him for awhile. That's when that bus bomb landed in Kon that day, on the 22nd. Bus bomb they send over. Kind of shook, couldn't have been too far from us, because it was pretty loud. And there we had a service, the _____ came down and we had a service there. Sat around on the floor of an old building there. It didn't help us very much for the sermon. He said, now you guys fill this room, back in England, you had to be, they didn't come on there own. He was trying to say that now we're framed. He said, now you're sitting out there like little badgers, digging holes. He wasn't very nice to talk like that for a preacher especially. And he says pretty soon you's will be all dead. Gees, I didn't think, I wasn't the only one that was hurt. And went our way back, coming out of that building, still walking out with these other, there was a Canadian Scottish in there and the Regina Rifles, all that brigade. Then they said, that minister must be working for Hitler. Trying to keep our morale down like that. I don't know who he was, but anyways that's what he said. That's the way it happened. So, I don't know what was the reason to try to say them things you know.

Dave: Is this a minister from that village or from that area?

Edward: No, it's our _____.

Dave: Really. With the army?

Edward: With the army. I don't know what regiment or nothing. But that's what happened there. But anyways from there we had to move up to hold another position. I think we took over from another regiment. We went up right further close. There was a lot of them things there firing. I think that's why there were so many parked by the tanks and stuff. And we got a lot of shelling there. Really close. And they dropped them foster bombs that burned. Casualties there. It was rough going. And we were there from the 25th we went to hold that position. We had casualties, we went and them, some of them boys are just about ready to break down. Hard on them there, shells are landing close all the time. Sitting there. At night there they'd drop some bombs there and they could see that burning from the foster bomb. They don't go out right away. Burning out there. And I guess it's pretty wicked when you get hit with them foster chrapanel. It's all burning. So finally on the 29th I believe, the 29th and 30th I guess, he said we're moving, we're pulling back at 12:00. They told us that probably around

11:00 or 11:30. We're pulling back, get ready to move back. So 1 company pulled out and they got shelled. They _____ all that commotion there. Hollering for stretchers, ambulance going up. They hear all that. Finally it was our turn to go now. I thought maybe the same thing will happen with us. Anyways we start going, and they said, they told us move as fast as you can on your own. You have to be out of here before dark. If you get caught in the daytime, you're going to get shelled. Get out on your own. Go as fast as you want to go. Nothing happened though. There was no shelling, but we were moved, we were running, then walk fast and run again. Getting out of there. And we went through the artillery, the artillery were there. And they were there with some big buckets of tea. There dipping that tea and just handing it out to us. Just swallow that down and keep going. It helped. They helped us that way. And as we were running, daylight was coming, and then we thought, there was two guys I recognized ahead of me. It was that McIntyre, Corporal McIntyre was ahead. And further up there was that Head. Lance Corporal Head. They were going to come. Behind me there was a Eurbeke, and Crawford and Brown were just behind me there, coming. We went quite a ways, I don't know how far, then we turned into a field and we went and laid down. There was a bunch of kitbags. That was our destination. That's where we were suppose to be. They said that's where we come too. So we're sitting, we just, there's a pile of kitbags quite high. It's like a stack there. Some of them had been killed, some of there kitbags are still there though. I just threw myself down, not only me, but the other guys too. Along side them kitbags as the sun comes out. I just went out like a light. Slept there. One guy comes along, probably a _____, I don't know who he was. Around dinnertime I guess. He said, who are these guys? What are these guys doing? He was trying to get us to get out. I don't know what he wanted. But somebody hollered them boys just come out of the front lines. Don't bother them. I didn't even open my eye, I just heard that. I heard somebody hollering, and somebody got him out of there. He just left us alone. We were just laying there they way we were. Just rifles in our hands, just laid right out, played right out. Once we started to sleep it was nice, how many nights we didn't sleep, right? So about 4 or 5:00 in the evening, starts shading out. We could have this area here, they said, you guys can stay. Just out in the field there. So we stayed there, moving around a little slowly. Trying to wash up a little bit, and go line up for a meal. So gradually we stayed there for a few days. But even while there they gave us some training, night training. They shot them motors towards us. With flares. Oh yeah, we went swimming in the ocean. Twice I went swimming in

the ocean. The first time I forgot to mention that. The first time before I went to the front lines there, we had went into the beach, into the ocean to swim. Them waves are real high. But it was kind of oily, the water was probably all them oil exploding. And then we went to a picture show, a show like. A stage show. Some girls dancing there in the underground. I think it was Fort Fontaine, I think they call that place. Anyways, we walked over there once. Girls dancing. It was an underground thing, tunnel. And then one day when we were training there, we went out to practice shooting these pitot _____. Shooting tanks, practice. There were some German tanks there that had been knocked out. We were just practicing on them, just shooting at them. All taking turns there behind the _____. I had fire there lots of times. I was pretty well trained. I had one whole year of fully trained. So I know all the weapons. But some of them didn't know, they come from the artillery some of them. From service Core, whatever they could get, they brought in there. Some of them needed that. They fire them things. Anyways, this Corporal says you'll be next after me. Corporal McIntyre. He said you'll shoot after me. Get beside me here. We shoot and then we roll over here and the other guy rolls in place. It was my turn coming up, so he fired this _____, he fired that, and that chrpanel comes whizzing by I could hear it. I was laying right close to him. And that _____ chrpanel comes and hits him right in the forehead. A small chunk though, but blood. It cut him about that. Sort of like that. And there he's right down there, blood on his forehead. And that was the end of our target shooting there. They called it off, I didn't get a chance to use it.

Dave: So what happened, did it ricochet?

Edward: It ricochet off that.

Dave: Came back and hit him.

Edward: Came straight back. You know that noise. You could hear it. Just barely hit though. It run out of speed. Otherwise it should have kill him. Just enough to cut him and hurt him. There he was up there, they patch him up. He was laying outside there. I remember him laying there quiet. Anyways, he must have got better. He still has that scar, I seen him here. That was the guy that lost his leg later on, that McIntyre. _____ it was time again to move to the front. It was the 6th of August now. Back on the truck through Kon. _____ . Back on the outskirts out there. Now they had this other division there taking over. 2nd division they had a

lot of casualties already. Wiped out different times. Fighting. Americans had moved up quite a bit. Way up. Now we're moving towards Kalay. Kalay's Gap they call that. That's where, we're getting ready for that, to get that back. So we went on the outskirts there, we were sitting probably around 8 or 9. We were there a couple of days on the outskirts of Kon. Waiting for the orders to go further. We were there, and we were sitting there and they found out there was a beer, a beer, where they were making beer. These great big drums. Just like you see these oil tankers. And a tap there. And it was underground, all underground. And there's a tap there. And that's where that beer was coming from. So we're all drinking there. I guess we had them jerry cans where we carried the water, and they went and filled them up, a few of them, I guess they were taking turns. And they were drinking out of that, bringing that beer. We were all sitting around in a circle there, and planes were coming over, and nobody moved even to go for cover. That beer kept us talking there. Drinking that, and we didn't even get scared or nothing. And finally daylight comes, and we're sitting there smoking and drinking. And finally somebody said, it's your turn to go for that beer. So I take them two jerry cans, walk up there, there was a line up there to that damn place to get that beer already. You just turn that tap on to fill up. And leave. Didn't have to have money or nothing. I was there standing in the lineup and then Pruvos pulled up. Them Pruvos, the military police. Great big guys. They said, show me your pay book. Not only me, the whole lineup. Shut that off, took all these pay books. Took all our names down. So, I was on that list now. Charged now, was going to be charged for that I suppose. And pretty soon we moved. We got on trucks. Whatever we could carrier, whatever is moving. Sometimes I'd be on a truck, sometimes I'd be on a carrier. Jump on whatever comes along. Moving up to the big front, and dust. Heat and dust, that white dust too. Can hardly see anything. Everything moving. Tanks and different divisions. And talk about Jerry's all over. As we went. Some of them even run right over, had been run over. You can't even see them, probably even at night that would happen. Just flatten them right out. A few things that I can put a date to what happen. About the bombing, I don't believe I mentioned too much of that. It was one time a week. It was around the 20th that time we got bombed there, around the 20th of July that was. A plane, a Jerry plane came and bomb through the night, middle of the night like, was shot down, this plane was shot down. And he came down in the parachute. This Jerry pilot. And they captured him. For awhile we got ready to go and see, he was coming down. And then some other platoon, or somebody else went ahead of us, so

we didn't go. Anyways, we got the word that when they captured him, he was an 18 year old pilot that was captured. That's what we heard, that's the one that came down. And another time we were going in, this is probably around the 25th or 26th of July. Again this was the first time that happened during the day, that I can remember that much. 6 Jerry planes came over to our area, just like in the plain daylight, just like it was, I don't know what there plan was. They knew they didn't have much chance coming over in the daytime, they use to come at night, midnight. This time they come over 6 of them at in the daytime. I thought they were ours because coming in the daytime. When they came over, right away one of them was shot down. It just was a nice clear sunny day. We're standing in our trench there looking at them coming over and getting shot down just like what you'd see in a movie. And that one just smoke going down, and then you notice the pilot bailing out, just going down into the air. The minute that one plane was shot down, the others just head back as fast as they could. That's what happened there at that bombing. I believe where I start off there, oh yeah another thing I forgot to mention, there. When we were in that lock house there when we first got there this would be around the 10th of July, this is going back a little bit, I forgot to mention where I met my cousin there again one time. I was there in the slit trench, and his company went by there, he was a _____ Louie Ollette from North Battleford. He was a _____ for an officer. And the officer new our officer also, I guess. And they stop and they were talking, the officers were talking. And so he came up to my trench there. He was feeling pretty high. He had been drinking something I suppose. He pull out his drink there, bottle, and gave me this drink. He was laying there and, he laid down. I was in the slit trench partways. Part of me was sticking out, and I stayed in my slit trench. And he came and sat down, and then he laid down on the side there. And there was a grave right above my trench there with flowers on it, you know how they put them in bouquets, laying on this grave. He was laying down back this way, he was kind of laying back and he notice the flowers on there. Oh he said, what's these flowers here for. Oh I said, that's a grave. It's probably a German buried there, a German grave. Oh, I guess he won't mind if I lay here. He was drinking, he was in a happy mood like. This, probably on account of drinking, he don't notice the dangers then. That's what I forgot to mention that when we first got into Kon there, this would be around the 11th or 12th of July that happened. And then from there, going back to where we were drinking that beer there, and then we got the order to move. We start like I said there, going through the dust and all this stuff laying along the way. Towards the

Kalay Gap we're going now. Through them towns. Mostly we'd move at night, and we didn't, I couldn't very well tell where we were at, because it was all mostly at night. Till we got further up. Once place I remember we stop where the 2nd division had there station, where the casualty station, like a great big tent. And they were bringing in there casualties there, there was sort of a lineup with jeeps waiting to unload there casualties into that tent. And some of them they were left, unloaded to the side, they had already died. They were wrapped in a blanket, laid to the side of the tent. And some of them were brought, and they kind of give an operation in there to try and save some of them. And they were also, laying them out. And some are reloaded to different vans like you know. Loaded on there, and taking them further back. And to the hospital, or whatever. And that's what they were doing when we got there. And we just stopped there for a break. And when we stop we started to drink, we pulled out our whatever we have to eat. We were having that. And the shower came along while we were there. Kind of a heavy shower, kind of covered ourselves with whatever we had. That's one place, one time I noticed that Daniel my friend there again. He was also a batman for an officer. And he and his officers were trying to cover up out of the rain. While they were both laughing. I don't know what _____, but still people manage to smile in a situation like that, it was quite something. I was very worried myself, and they were laughing. Ready to tough a battle, and dead people laying over there not too far away, and still they manage to keep that up. Anyways, we moved here and there, and this would be around the 12th and 13th of August. This was now in August. And finally we got, we were moving like I said at night. It was heavy fighting there. All divisions were in action now. The whole Canadian army was in action. And we went to, we went on going, and one place there, one of our companies got hit, and one that was ahead they got, I don't know what really happened, but anyways, there was casualties there. I don't know what company that was. I recognize some of the boys, but I couldn't remember there names. One of them was coming out that building without the helmet or nothing, just running. And the other guy was chasing him, trying to slow him down, talk to him, quiet him down I should say. I don't know what really happened to that person. That's what happened there, and then we went up, we went to, we found trenches there, where we got. There was trenches there already. Then it came kind of daylight, then we put, that's where we got the real heavy artillery shelling, while we were there. And the Polish armoured was there beside us, and they were trying, they had some tracks knocked out of there tanks, and they were working on them. As they were, the

heaviest bombed them and great big artillery shells were landing around us. This was on the 14th of August, 1944. And the shells were getting, the shells were landing so close and so heavy, our trenches were caving in. The ground was starting to fall in. That's how bad the shelling was there. That's really the worse I ever seen. And then finally they said, that's the day we got bombed from our own plane. Our own airplane came up on the 14th of August, and they made a mistake and they bomb our own men. Further back. We were a little bit too far ahead. The infantry. The artillery and the service Core I guess they had casualties. That's what happened there. We were trying to lay out these players, signs to let them know that we're allies like. And the smoke, we lay out the yellow smoke. Yellow smoke was the signal to let them know we're allies, Canadian or British or whatever. I guess that was there signal of there target, that colour that day. That's how mixed up, they used that colour, the yellow colour for there target. And when they put out that smoke, they thought that was there target. That's how big of a mistake that was. They probably killed 100 or some men further back, but none in our area. And finally they got. One of those little small planes came out, they call them scouts or whatever. Small plane come up and direct them or signal them somehow. And they pulled out, they pulled right out of there. It was wrong. And then we marched through, we went through where a tank battle had been. There was probably about 50 of them tanks knocked out of the fort division. And the tanks and the casualties there, most of them had burned up. Some of them had fall out of there tank I guess. They were laying there, just a burned body. Some went a little further out, but they couldn't make it I guess. So we went through them tanks, and there I seen my cousin, after we met in Battleford, they described Willy Calkin. He was in the 4th division as a driver for a Colonel. He was a driver. And he said to me, what happened to him. He said he was in one of those armoured cars. In those armoured cars they'd get in from underneath, that's how they get in there. They're quite high, and so they just crawl in from underneath. That's one way of getting into them. And I seen that on my way in. They already had there, that all happened probably the day before, or that day, that battle had been there. And he describe it to me how it happened. He said, he was shot to his hands. His hand and his arm, that's how he got hit. I said how did that happen. He said I was in there and he drop his sten gun down at the bottom of that. And I reach down he says trying to pick up his sten gun, and that's when they were shooting, and they shot my hand he said, when I was trying to reach that sten gun. And when I walk by there, I

seen exactly that what he was talking about. I seen that sten
gun laying underneath there. (end of tape)