

Transcription

Edward King

Tape 1

- Interviewed Jan. 27, 1993 -

Dave: Edward King, and Edward has agreed to an interview for the Metis War Veterans book and I'll just do some of the preliminary sort of formalities as far as the kind of information we get up front. When were you born Edward?

Edward: I was born November 18, 1925, at Cochin, SK.

Dave: Okay. When did you enlist?

Edward: I first enlisted in 1942. In Saskatoon. But, they must have known I was rejected I guess. Then I went back in '43, in April. I was accepted. I was stationed, I enlisted in North Battleford, there was six of us, Metis boys, you know. We were drinking and I was underage, but we were in a bar, in the beer parlour drinking. And there was quite a few, a lot of soldiers around in those days. So, some of them are sitting at our table, and somebody said that we should go and enlist eh. So about 6 of us walked to the recruiting office there, just a few buildings away, and we started filling out the forms for enlisting. I was with the boys, I was with three boys from Meadow Lake, there was six of us all together that was native there. There was Jimmy Ross and Emil Ross, and Joe Lavalley and myself. And these other two guys I didn't know who, I just met them there. Anyways, when we came to fill out the forms, there was, some of them couldn't write, so they were rejected right there, and this Jimmy Ross, was really, he looked really young, he was young. He was rejected there. They said you better, you got to prove your age. You're suppose to be 18 1/2. You know, you got to prove that you're, you suppose to be 18 1/2. 18 and 6 months to be accepted in them days. Anyways I end up with this Emil Ross and I were filling out the forms, and we're on our way for our medical. I went up for a medical to the next building there, where they were doing that. We went and in and there he didn't pass the medical. And then I was there by myself and I got my train ticket and my meal ticket there. And there I went in my room, they gave me a room, hotel, and there I was laying by myself in a room now what did I get myself into now. So I walked to the station the next morning, had breakfast and then the station there in Battleford. And then there was another guy that was, but I never did get to know the person, he must have went with another regiment or something, he was just

on a train with me, I never, we didn't talk that much on the way. I got into Saskatoon there, I was really green I should say to find my way around the city. Then when I got to Saskatoon, they said you report to Saskatoon at a certain time, you know. And then there I was around town, I didn't have no money around the city. I never had no money, and I was trying to kill this time, this certain time for me to walk to the Saskatoon Exhibition grounds where the station was. And I could have walked right from there, to the, they could have went and had dinner there and all that. And then I had to wait, I thought I didn't, shouldn't go earlier like. And then I spent a lot of things, a lot of things I got I didn't know. We got there, I had an uncle there, he was in the _____ store, his name was Jim Felcom. He worked on the _____ store there, who I didn't have a uniform yet. And they done some more, they didn't really do anything for me there, they just stayed there, for a couple of days. There was another guy, there was a Corporal from Meadow Lake there working at the office. He knew I was underage. (laugh) He said, he was teasing me. You're way to young he says. So anyway, but I guess the reason that I was tall, I was just as tall as I am now, only thing I was lighter, eh. I was quite a bit lighter, but my height was, my height made me pass, made me accepted. So from there I went to Regina. Same thing over there. Got to walk to the, I believe we got picked up there, somebody picked us up. There was more with me now, but I still didn't know these that well. The people, I didn't get talking that much with them. Anyways, we went to that barn, what do they call it, horsebarn, where we stayed. It was a great big, large, bunks all over. It was a large building. And then we went and lined up for meals, kitchen there. And I got my, finally I got going through these tests there. There now I had to be sworn in. And I went through all them, and then I had to get my medical there, again. Sworn in, and a test a QM, I think they call them.

Dave: Not IQ test?

Edward: IQ, I mean.

Dave: They gave you an IQ test?

Edward: Yeah, they gave us an IQ test there, a bunch of us eh. And they kept me there for awhile, while I had, in the meantime I was doing sort of basic training, and I was doing guard duty. I was on night shifts sometimes. There I met some guys from Meadow Lake, most of them are Metis the ones, all the ones I met. There was a few. I met Edwin Morin there from Meadow

Lake, and Louis Lambart. I was on guard with him, on guard duty. We carried them big rifles that they had back then, they never had these new rifles then. Big long bayonets. We were on night shift there walking to the, and we'd come and eat in the kitchen at midnight. And more boys start coming from Meadow Lake, there was a John Sanigrad, come in. And Stanley Landrey. Ray Delaronde. And there was a _____ Clarke. And Edgar Holt. Them boys are all from Meadow Lake, and there was an Albert Bishop. All them boys are from Meadow Lake, so we got to know quite a few. And when I enlisted there, there was a guy by the name of Isbester. He enlisted the same. His number is about one different then mine, regiment number.

Dave: I remember, I read the name somewhere.

Edward: I think it was Russel, not Russel, but I forget his first name, but anyways, his last name was Isbester. He enlist when we, he had the top bunk, I had the bottom bunk, when he got into the barracks. And anyway from there, I didn't even get, we had our enlistment leave. Again I didn't even make it home, I just went out a few days, I never got home. Cause I was wondering what I did now if I was with my parents. I only had my mother. What would they think about me going in uniform, going home in uniform. So I just went as far as North Battleford. Met a few guys there and went back to Regina again. I didn't even go home. And finally we got the bunch of us, there was one other guy I forgot to mention that was there, that was Charlie Arnold. He was with that bunch there from Meadow Lake, also. These guys except Clark and Holt were all Metis. These are the only two not Metis there, Holt and Clark. And either there names are called, our names were up, we had a bulletin board there, where the people are going to be drafted. There I met these, while I was there, guys I met not from Meadow Lake, like, but guys I got into the same regiment with. There was a Hill and Henry and Head. All them guys were there then and I met them there in Regina, where we enlist at the same time. All them aged guys. That's some I remember. Cause I got to know them after up there in France. Head got killed, and them other two were wounded. Anyway we got drafted to on the 17th, 16th of June, that's how long I stayed in Regina there. From April till June. All this time, and we had to be on parade. We were doing quite a bit parade drill. We went in the, to the Governor General died, or something like that. We had to have a big parade, or a big inspection, I forget. Anyways, we had the whole camp out there. Parade square was just about full. And this was a hot June. June gets pretty hot. With battle dress on, and some of them boys were keeling

over, passing out, falling down, carrying them out. Anyways, it didn't bother me I thought that, that was, I thought I was doing okay. Guys were hanging you know. Anyways, finally we got drafted out. We got on a train, I think there was about 20 of us, 25 or 20, out of that camp, in NorthBay , ON. First there was some post, they have posters out there. I think they had about 200 men there, reinforcements in the group before they started sending them out eh. Maybe 2 - 300 men. They recruit and then they decide what to do with them. They'd like to have so many the same category I suppose. See, one at a time wouldn't probably doesn't work. So they had to wait about, from April down to June, before they could find enough in my category, so there was 2 of us from Meadow Lake that happened to be there that we went to a basic and education training center in NorthBay, ON. That's the reason I didn't go overseas that soon, because I had to take that education training, my education wasn't right up yet. We went on this train, there was cattle on the road, on the track. 18 head of cattle they said. And the train hit them and just slaughtered them, and got held up. We were standing in the hallway there, me and that Delaronde when they hit. And that train just slammed the brakes I guess, we just bounced around in there. (laugh) Then we kept going. That was my first time out. We got through Ontario there, Winnipeg, and finally we got in the morning. In the morning, we travelled all that night and day, all that day and night. And then we got to NorthBay, ON. That's where we got into that camp. I think it was number 22. I got it written someplace. Where I was. There we start our training there. There was some troops coming in from different areas eh. We had to kind of wait until they set in again, more. We got put in our section there. I have all the names of that ones I had my basic training with. And all of, all of the, all the guys I had basic training with. Anyways, from there we took our basic training like that picture I got there. That's a picture of some of them. Basic training we had, it was really hot and we worked in shorts, and sun helmets most of the time. That's how we went. And then from there we kept on, kept right on training, the basic. We went, right away we went to half a day in the morning, it was dinnertime, it was education, that class was that. In the afternoon, it was army like. I find it very easy going there for me. After living the life I had, it was sort of a picnic for me, compared to the life I had to survive. I had done some trapping and we had to camp out way up north, and this living out in the opening. And these timber wolves around us howling, and stuff like that. And we use to move at night sometimes too. So it didn't bother me that much and I thought firing these rifles, big rifles someday, already I was

doing that. And over there when we got there they started us off with these 22's right. These little 22's, and just very careful, this is how you put the shell in and this is how you hold this rifle. And gee, this is getting kind of boring for me. And some of these guys, this is something new, and they're really interested, because that's something they've never seen or never did, a lot of them. And me, I was just kind of bored gee whiz, now we're going to do this by number or what. Anyways, some of these guys I was with here. These are the guys I got drafted with after we complete our basic training. And these were, it was called I guess #15. That's where we were to go. A15, Shallow, MB. That's the place. And I guess the Lieutenant that was in charge of us was J.D. McClean and Sergeant Nexxus. Anyways this here guy, the first one on the list here is Antoine. He was an Indian, and this Arnold, Charlie Arnold from Meadow Lake, his name comes up next here, he was a Metis.

Dave: Okay.

Edward: This other guy next was Bartha, Bartha. And this is another Indian again, Bear, Roderick Bear. And Delaronde, R.N., another Metis. And Halliday, I don't know what he was. He was a rough guy. And Pickett, and Gildon, he had just about the same regimental number as Delaronde, Yeltin. And Hildebrant. These are all Saskatchewan guys that I mentioned. After Hildebrant, it's me, Ed King, and Clim, I tried to find Clim in Winnipeg. His phone number, he was on the phone for awhile, he probably past away. In older books, like phone books his name was there and later he was not there. And then came Lambertons, there was 2 brothers of Lambertons. Then, this other one is Gordon. Gordon is the one I got real friendly with, he was a real. They were different them two boys there. One was kind of wild and one was kind of gentle and he was married. And then Lowe, Lowe is suppose to be around and apparently his regimental number is only 3 or 4 different then mine. So he enlisted the same time. Lambertons new this here Lowe real good. Lowe is his name. Knew him real well. And he said he's probably around Moose Jaw. The reason I asked for this list here, I wanted to find out who had the picture we taken before we left Camp Shallow. Like, really in order, the people in the back are standing. And then the others ones. No the back ones are standing on the bench, then the ones on the ground and then the ones sitting there. It was only the picture I remember us taking. And I seen that picture, some of them had bought the picture. Like when after it was, in them days I didn't even bother, because I didn't know how important the picture was at

that time. What would I do with a picture I thought. I never thought of things like today, that was years ago. So that picture is around someplace. And we had dressed up for that picture and especially and stand a certain way. I wouldn't mind a copy. That's the reason I sent for this list. And Hamilton sure enough, he found he had an old, like the one I showed you there, he had a little one and he said that's the only one he had. And then there's a McCleoud. McCleoud is in that picture. McCleoud I don't know what nationality he would be. He could have been a Metis. But some of them you can't tell unless you really talk with them. And Ed Pitch, Pole, Rogers, Scribby, and there's the guy that Strainer, and this Wereschuk, he's the guy that come and showed me that picture when we were in the _____. When we were on the train playing cards. And he had one picture, and it was nice, it showed up real good. Well, we're young, we're all in our teens, and that he might be still alive, he was a very young guy too. There's some of them north of Winnipeg that go by that name.

Dave: What was that name again?

Edward: Wereschuk, initial N. And regimental number is H10 149. That's his regimental number. There's Wessle. This Wessle is still alive. His number is close to mine too. L105951. See my number is 105940. His initials, Wessle is. I enlisted with Wessle. I didn't think he was going to be accepted. He was one of those smaller, small persons, small guy, but he made it through. And this other guy, the last one is Westowski. Probably was Ukrainian, I don't know. This is the draft that were accepted to go to Camp Shallow, MB. These other ones they were drafted to other units, there was more.

Dave: Did you have any choice whether you wanted to go into infantry or artillery, or?

Edward: By the time we were there, that was mostly what was the opening, infantry.

Dave: Oh really.

Edward: See the ones that first enlist in '43 already are all filled in eh, and there's no battle, there was no, well there was a little, there wasn't that real battle yet. So there was other guys. These other guys were posted in other places. There was a boxer there, he use to box. And I found out there in this different, they were drafted. There was two guys there that were from London, ON. They were from there. But it shows

where they went there in these pages there. I got this from Ottawa, they sent me.

Dave: Oh really.

Edward: They got a letter here too about it. That's how I got the, I got a lot of surprise here when I looked at these. I was just guessing, I had the rest. There was another guy here. Kinart. He use to be above my bed. Kinart. He's one of them that were close friends. I don't know if he's alive or not. Oh yeah, there's an Indian, another Indian here, Wenigwans. He's from that in ON, he's kind of on an island up there in a lake. This guy is a pure Indian eh. His name is Wenigwans. He was a pure Indian. And then there was a Lintweight. He was the same place with this Art Kinart, they went back to there same, to that Pattawawa, ON, they went back too. There was a little French guy, Planque his name was. He went to Winnipeg. And there was a Fisher. He was a Metis probably, but he didn't speak the language. He was a dark person. Not real dark, but.

Dave: Was he from Saskatchewan?

Edward: No, he was from the East. He use to go, on the holidays he use to go to the States. And then from there when we got to NorthBay, On, Camp Shallow, we went and advanced training there. There again we had to go through, we had done all kinds of map reading. Oh this is the real thing now that we're getting into. From there now, if you pass that you're ready for battle. So you were into a Bibawak they call that, way out in the bush. Make trenches and go through this obstacle course. They fire over us, we crawl, and machine guns firing. There's casualties, they have some casualties, some guys get wounded. Some bullet ricocheted would get them. And then we did that. And when I came back I got, I had to go through my training twice, just about all of it again. I was late coming back one time, I missed my draft.

Dave: Oh really.

Edward: I got checked there. So I missed them other boys. They were a couple of weeks ahead of me. They probably went on the ship of Andrey. The ship they went across, all the ones I had my basic with there. I was left alone. Delaronde and them, they're a couple of weeks ahead of me. And I went on the Isle de France, that's the ship I crossed. And from there, we went to Debert, Nova Scotia from there this draft. And this is where I met some of them guys now, this another bunch now I'm with.

Different guys then the ones that went a little ways ahead. I met a guy from Calgary, AB, another Indian, most of them Indians I remember. He was a different tribe like, he didn't talk Cree, he was Sarcee Indian. We'd meet and talk, but he didn't talk Cree. And there was another guy Daniels, William Daniels come along. He got killed. The two boys got killed there. That Caset his name, Joe Caset, he was in the casualty list. And William Daniels. This William Daniels was an orphan kid, an Indian kid from the Sturgeon Lake reserve, north of P.A. there. And he was raised in the Duck Lake. And three of them had escaped from there, they took the freight and went to enlist. They were only about 14, 15, 16. And him and Baldhead and him another, three of them escaped from there and took the train and went to enlist in Estaydon. They had an old number, an older number like, it was earlier. And he was telling me that he got rejected. He was in for awhile. He was with the engineers he said. And he got rejected and then he went back. Civilian for awhile. And then he went and enlisted again and that's when I met him there, he was on the second time across. Here was a happy going person. He was always joking. And we, and he talked Cree and we got fairly close, we were both talking Cree. I speak Cree languages so it came in pretty handy. French or in fact I got to end up with a French outfit on account of my _____, it says French in there. I forgot to mention when I enlisted they wouldn't accept Metis as a name.

Dave: Nationality?

Edward: Nationality. Or a half-breed eh. And they were really upset when I said I was a Metis. There's no such a thing they tell me. I was sort of disappointed right there, not to be recognized. And when it said treaty, I couldn't say I was an Indian, because you got to have a number to be an Indian you know, to be a treaty Indian, in them days. Anyways, what's your, what mix are you? What part European, what nationality of European? Well French I said. So, they put French there, not even anything else, just French. But everytime somebody (end of side 1)

Edward: Well, I don't write in French, I just speak. And they start filling out forms. I couldn't figure out them forms. So they, I told them to transfer me back to my English regiment.

Dave: So you were with French Canadians?

Edward: Yeah.

Dave: Is that right.

Edward: From Quebec. I got along with some of them fairly good. They're not bad like they say they are. Some are nice. And I met one young fellow there. He was about my age, a real young French, not a word of English. Couldn't have spoke one word. I use to, that's when I was wounded. I was in England. Kind of jumping my stories around.

Dave: Oh that's fine. No problems.

Edward: I was in England there, in Aldershot. And we use to go on out, go uptown to the pub and meet the girls there. And he met, there was girls there sitting next table to us. Finally we got, I don't know if we moved or they moved, but anyways we got together. Two girls, you know. Four of us altogether. I can't remember his name, I never bothered taking it down. Anyways, we were together a long time. Which I was, he had me along, he depended on me. I translate, an interpreter for him. Here these girls, she couldn't talk French, and I was translating. I was there busy doing that for them. What did he say, what did she say, or what did he say. Finally, they're getting serious. Then finally they're getting serious. They invited us to there place now you know. People are nice I thought over there, they're really nice people. They treat us real good. Invite us to there place, which they didn't have very much food either to share. They were hard up. They couldn't go in the cafe and order a meal. There was no such a thing. They'd just get little cookies that you could get, and a couple of tea. That's about it. I never did have a meal out there in the cafe. They had fish and chips once in awhile. But otherwise other than that there was nothing. Anyways, we went to these houses to visit them. They had a little to drink, not that much eh, just a few, a little bit of Miron Didur they call that stuff there. They drank some of that. And then now she had to take the train, she was wanting to get on the train there. They were saying goodbye you know, and then they were hugging there and talking, and I had to be there standing there. (laugh)

Dave: So much for intimacy.

Edward: Yeah. That's what she said. And this other girl is getting bored, you know, the one I'm with just standing there listening. She said are you going to put up with them all the time. He was my friend, I had to. She wanted a little attention too I suppose. I'm spending all my time with them. Anyways, I don't know what happened, all of a sudden we got

separated, he must have been drafted someplace else. I went on leave from there. I went to Manchester. I went through London, and it's funny, they use to tell me this underground town, city in London. I thought they were just pulling my leg, they'd tell me all kinds of things, stories I thought. I didn't believe there was an underground city you know. Anyway, I took the train to go to Manchester, you got to go through London. Change trains at London to go through to Manchester. So, I went, I got as far as London, a lot of people, crowded, but I don't know a soul. They might as well be out in the bush someplace. They could ask directions I guess, help that way. Anyways I got there, they told me when I got information there. I said I'm going to Manchester you know. You have to change trains at London. You go to the underground city and take a train there and go about 4 or 5 miles down. And then take another train to Manchester. I didn't quite believe it. How could that be, underground. So I got there, got off the train and walked information there again, big sign there, so I walked to the information booth. I ask this Canadian information, the Canadian soldiers were there. I said I'm going to Manchester. Where are you going they said? They showed my ticket, I had to show my ticket now. My pass and everything. I said I'm going to Manchester. They said take that escalator, or elevator, go down to the underground city. So there was an underground city alright. I couldn't quite believe it yet. And I got on this escalator and I went down, and sure enough, there's a train underground there. And the kids were there, there's these double bunks you know, steel double bunks. Little kids 2-3 years playing there and the train was just whistling by back and forth there, and they're just playing right there, and there's not more than about 10 or 8 feet space there like you know. Where they could stay. And they're sleeping there. There blankets are there. That's where they lived.

Dave: Oh right. That's where they were kept during the wartimes.

Edward: Yeah. Bombed out eh. No place to go. Orphans some of them, most of them I guess. And there we were just travelling there, whistling by and all of them all the way around like that. Same thing when we finally stopped and got out, and there when they get out, it 's just like a mad rush. When a train stops and it opens, the people are standing there, just rush right in there and that thing closes. And the guy that didn't make it stands there and waits for the next one. There's no time for waiting like here a bus stops and lets the people on. A minute or two different doesn't matter, but there that thing

closes automatically and that thing closes. And getting off the same way, you got to get out. If you're not out on time, you're going again. You really had to move. The people pushed me, the ones behind me, and ahead they just push right in. Anyways, I got up there and I got to Manchester. Got on a train and finally got to Manchester. And I stayed in the Sally Anne, they call them places there, for, I stayed there. Boy, that's where I drank, I done a lot of drinking then. Met a lot of people. Americans, British, Canadian there, all mix. And the fog, you couldn't see nothing at all, just a heavy fog. And the money went pretty fast, them pound. Especially when you don't know the money that good. The money that I was broke in no time. And had to go to work there. I work in a bakery and then I worked in a bar. One thing about, there's a recruiting office everyday, they hire, there's a hiring, it was no problem to get hired.

Dave: Oh really.

Edward: There's a return. The guys on leave, there's a lineup there and you go right through. There's a bus probably 100 men there already by the time. And these guys new the ropes that I was with. They said if you're broke, get in the lineup there and get a job. So I went along with them. I went there and they gave me a ticket. You report over there at a certain time. You start working there. And I went working in the brewery. We were making the beer. And we'd fill our grey coat and walk. And then they'd give us instead of coffee, we had a big pail there.

Dave: A pint of so, whatever it's called, or was it bigger?

Edward: It was just an ordinary container like. It was just something they used there. And we were there shovelling the coal into the furnace, that was our job. And there it was kind of private, nobody seen us. That's the reason we had a big, we were drinking that beer all day long, shovelling that coal. And then where they cap them, they moved us around, and were they mix the stuff, they use barley or stuff like that. We had to haul that by bags, put it in, and fill it up. And quitting time come, everything stands still. We just walking, nothing moves, no vehicles, nothing. Somedays, you couldn't see your hand that far away. Yes, heavy fog, I never seen a fog like that. And we'd start back, to where we were staying. Yeah, I met a paratrooper, a Canadian paratrooper, an Indian, and I never got his name. I met 2 Indians, 3 Indians there. But I never got there. He was a real wild guy, I don't know if he made it back

or not. He was a paratrooper, jumping out of planes. He was with them. And he lost his barret, he was bareheaded and he got, then _____stopped us. Howcome you're, you are not wearing that properly dressed. They picked us up and questioned us, checked my pass. Just cause he didn't have his barret. And one time we go in the pub, he was a real troublemaker, that guy I was with. He got into a fight with the Americans. Then they threw them out. Not the Americans, but the ones that runs the bar. (laugh) I had to get out too. Then I went to a dance hall there. They had American music, you know them Americans the way they play.

Dave: Swing music, maybe?

Edward: It was kind of saxophone.

Dave: Yeah, swing.

Edward: Swing maybe. That's the kind they were blowing. They were dancing around there. When we first went to, when we first got to England, we landed at Ranock. Not far from Glasglow. And we got there through a heavy fog again, and we couldn't see, we had to sit there till that fog lifted. Then, I looked around first when I went up on deck, I couldn't see nothing with the fog. Got to wait they said. So I was sitting there. Next time I come up, it was just nice and clear, and there we were, it was kind of a canal. All on the inside there was buildings around the city like on each side of these banks like. And then they'd put down a big net that they'd use a ladder. Big net like that. You know this net they hang it down into the side of the ship. And we crawled down there, there's smaller boats down there. And we crawled into there, about 30 of us at a time. They head out up there. We go buy groups like, I was with the Saskatchewan Group, the Western they say, Saskatchewan, Alberta. So on at each. When we got off they were saying there was people up there where we were getting off, girls and this big crowd of people to watch us get off. Oh they said, this is Saskatchewan now coming. Oh now we'll see the cowboys and Indians they said. (laugh) Now we'll see the cowboys and Indians, the Western regiment is coming in they said. And when we got on the train, different there too, small little train. And they get on different from here, just from the side like, it just opens in the middle there like.

Dave: Right.

Edward: You probably seen them. And we were waiting there and away we went. And some of them boys were I was with, they were throwing this Canadian coin out to the people, to the crowd. And some of them kids I guess got hurt grabbing that money, so we were told not to do that after awhile there, after on the way down. They found out somehow. So we travelled through that night. There we could see what the bombing had done, the damage. We got over there and we got into this huts. They unloaded us into the truck from the train, onto trucks. And we got to them huts like they were made just like a barrel of tall tin, that's all iron. Just like a barrel a gas barrel cut in half. That's the kind of place we stayed in, camouflaged real good. You can't tell what it is from the air. That's where we stayed for awhile. While I was there I met one of my cousins there, Leo Olette. I didn't know, I never met him before. We were just there in the lineup, and he kind of figured lining up for a meal. He come up and start talking to me as the lineup was moving a little bit, and he's talking. Finally he says where are you from. Oh Saskatchewan. Oh, he says, I'm from Saskatchewan too, he said. Oh, then we got interesting, wondering what part you know. I said what part. He said North Battleford. Well, I said, I'm from Meadow Lake. Well he says I got relatives in Meadow Lake he says to me. And there he was my cousin. And we found out that were related, then we kind of contacted each other quite a bit then after that. But he was there already a whole year, so he new more about the place then I did. But then we started going to town, there was four of us that use to travel together, us native boys. Cause they recommend that we don't go alone. Be with a few, protect each other. Cause a lot of times other Americans or British, sometimes they can get in a scrap, I don't know why, but sometimes they would. In the bars.

Dave: With Indian and Metis guys, or just with other soldiers?

Edward: No, just Canadians.

Dave: Sort of like a national rivalry.

Edward: Yeah, just bragging about over, they're calling the other guy down and they call each other down and finally they get drinking and they scrap. It's not that serious I guess. We were really respected over there as Indian, half-breeds. I was really surprised, because we'd go in any place here, not all of us could go in the bars. I was lucky, I never was. Well, do I look like Indian, and yet, I never was really turned down, really. I went in. They could tell I was young, I was even

underage. Well, I never was a troublemaker for one thing, I was fairly quiet. That's probably why too, cause a lot of them guys that's how they were put out too, loud. Anyway we went there and we start, I was surprised the way we were treated so much different there especially by the women. We were sort of embarrassed, we didn't have that much money. So we were walking down the street, four of us, two by two. A little town there. At the Midland I believe we were at then. We were in the Midland they call that place, a Scotland. We were walking through there. Talk about a lot of women for one thing, cause a lot of soldiers are all stationed someplace, they're not out. And right away, the first bunch of girls stopped us right there. Where are you boys going, they called us Canada. Where is Canada going you know? Cause they see Canada on our shoulder. Oh we said, we're not sure, we're just looking around. Can we treat you's to a drink they said? Well gees, that's right down in our, you know _____, and here they weren't even allowed to go, the women weren't allowed in the bar. Quite a difference. So we went in the bar with them. And they bought you know them big mugs you know. And we were standing there and we were talking to these girls, just like the way we're, not serious, but they wanted to treat us, they wanted to treat us good. Talking to us and asking us where we were from and things like that. Then they introduced us to the people they knew there. The older people, mostly they were old people. And they were so happy to meet us and even to talk to us. But first I couldn't understand them very good, cause they talk a little different. I didn't know if I should say yes or no. Anyways, that happened and then they wanted to walk us home. It's the opposite way now. Because you know they had all the time they said, and yes we got a certain time to meet. And they'd walk us to the barracks and they'd come back to there place. I thought that was a lot different then where we come from. And then we went back again the next night. Now they said, there's a picture. It was on a Saturday I guess. Saturday we usually get it at noon, noon we usually go uptown. Sometimes, not all the time. But this time Saturday, we went uptown. They asked us to go to the picture house. Would you like the same women again. They're kind of waiting for us I guess. They must have told them what time we'd be there. So they said would you like to go to the picture house. We didn't know what a picture house was you know. Over there we call it picture show. Picture house. Well, no money again. No problem. They never said no problem, they never used that word yet. They said we're paying your way in. It wasn't that much I guess, but anyways they paid us and we went in four of us again, four women. And I ended up with a real little blonde girl one time. And she was 16, but

she would still go in the bar. Working already. They had there jobs they said. And we went to that show and after a while of course they didn't treat us, get drunk. They'd buy a drink or two, that's it. And they went back and bought, they didn't drink fast, just modest like drinking coffee. And so we went to, now there was a dance. Now I was more embarrassed, going to a dance now with them. They're paying our way again. We went in there dance and pretty well like ours, not that much difference. But some dances they make, they dance, they hold the other person ahead of them on there waste, and so many steps this way and right. I don't know what they call it. A big line, all lined up. They danced that for awhile. Yeah, I remember that part. I remember that one lady she was married to an airforce guy. She said she was married for one week and he was shipped to Africa. And she was alone. And she said I could get a divorce she said. She was getting kind of serious I guess. But I was only 18 years old, I wasn't even thinking about getting married. Anyway, I went out with her for awhile. We use to go to the park, things like that. I use to want to visit her folks, and they'd be all full of questions about Canada. Where I was from, up north. They wanted to know what it was like and all that. They weren't rich people, but they lived pretty good, war I guess you know, that got them. Anyways, finally we were drafted. Well he said, we knew we were going to the front lines, that's what we were there for to go to the front. And she said when you come back, you'll come and see me, she said. I said if I come back. She said, you never say if she tells me, she told me. Just think positive, you'll come back. Never say if in your life, always remember that. She told me that never to say if. That's kind of, I don't know what it meant, but never to say that. It's not a very good, I never did get an answer what she meant by that. She didn't want me to say if I come back. But when I was in the hospital, I never thought of, there was other things on my mind. Meet other people. Never did get to see her again. Just as well I guess, she was already married. From there we got shipped to, got drafted to Aldershot. Went to the, got moved from there, we went through that forest. Robin Hood forest. We went through there. We went into them old buildings, and we stayed there. They had them high fence, probably about 20 feet high, solid concrete you know. And you go into that just into the yard, into the main entry there, built like. And you go in there in that, I guess I don't know how old them buildings would be. There was no electricity in them, there was just a building, solid I guess that's how they lived there one time, I don't know how many hundred years ago. We stayed there, and that was the first time I met a Negro there, a Canadian Negro. He was in the

Canadian army. I met him there. That's the first time I met one there. He just happened to be in the same platoon. But I didn't see him again. I didn't see, they were kind of separated. I was with strangers again. We were just coming and going, they'd ship us all different places. Anyways from there they were going to put me in the Calgary Highlanders. They gave me one of them, what do you call those things pan_____?

Dave: _____.

Edward: _____, that's the name. Gave me one of those already. First thing I know, they ship me back to Regina Rifles. Then I went to Regina Rifles as reinforcements, cause the regiment was already going over, the main regiment. And again I went, then we went to Aldershot. Crookum Crossroads they call that place in Aldershot. That's where we stayed in bell tents you know. Around there. And then right from that time on, from that move, that's when the D-day, the troops went in. We were confined to barracks then, we weren't allowed to leave at all, that day they landed, we had to stay right with. And if we did move, we weren't allowed, if we wanted to leave or nothing. Although we were just reinforcements, but still we had to be right there. So we were in the confined barracks, and we were in the tents, they lined up the tents were just in rows like that. But you don't get to know who's way out there, just the close. The ones in the tents or the next ones you get to meet. Although there's a lot of soldiers. We were there with the Regina Rifles now and I never got, right there I didn't know anybody. We were sitting in the tents, and I don't know what the heck they were doing, cleaning guns, cleaning rifles or something. A rifle went off, went into the other tent and shot, hit the guy in the stomach, while we were there. I just remember his last name. He use to like playing dice that guy. And his dad was real, it was funny, his dad was real rich I guess. In fact he was a millionaire the guys that new him. You'd think he'd be higher up or someplace else, airforce or something. He wouldn't be with the infantry like. He use to like them dice. Everyday they'd be playing dice. He's the one that got shot. Norton his name was.

Dave: Did he survive, or did he?

Edward: I never did, he didn't even end up to the regiment, so I couldn't trace him, cause he'd a been there. But he didn't get that far, just in England there. His name was Norton. He was a lot of fun. He was an Italian guy there too. That was the reinforcement for 7th brigade, Western. So we had the Canadian Scottish with us for reinforcement. Regina's and

Winnipeg's, 7th brigade. But there were different little groups. But when they come to gamble, they walk into the craft game, and get to meet him there. He was an Italian there, real curly headed, he was blonde. A long curly headed guy. I never seen that many. Like that, most of them are dark haired. Another guy I remembered, and we stayed there for awhile. And not too much happened there. Oh yeah, there was these guys that got blown there that Griffith, that one of them guys that Griffith, I got to meet him after when I went to a reunion after. Fred Griffith is in Prince Albert. He came back to that holding unit after his ship, his boat hit the mine going in. He didn't make it to the shore. 200 yards they hit a mine and they blowed up, and they lost quite a few. That's where that Flowender, and that Isbister. That's where they got killed. Two of them boats, smaller boats.

Dave: Was this when they were off the coast of France?

Edward: Yeah, landing on Normandy. Two of them boats got, they carry about 30 some men in each. LSD they call them. Infantry something. Anyway they blow up, but he just, he didn't get wounded. Just what he was in was blown up, and they picked him up over there, the navy picked (end of tape)