

Transcription
Dan Pelletier
WWI & WWII Vet
Tape 1

Was all alone. There that morning about 4:00 in the morning. I heard that story I don't know how many times.

Dave: Maybe I'll just do the formal sort of stuff here before we get into the thick of telling the stories. I'm here with Dan Pelletier. He's a World War I and II veteran and I'm interviewing Dan for the Metis War Veterans book that the Gabriel Dumont Institute is producing. And also with us is Ivan Pelletier and Darcy Pelletier. Okay. Darcy you are Dan's granddaughter. Ivan Sun. The first one I don't think anyone is going to be able to answer and that is when were you born?

Darcy: We don't know.

Dave: Is that right?

Darcy: We know he was born in Wewaysicappa, Manitoba and the closest we can figure is probably about 1892, around 1892. Didn't have very good records in those days so we figure he was born around 1892.

Dave: 1892.

Darcy: He had a twin brother too, Alexander Pelletier. And his parents were Sarah Jane Blass and Abraham Pelletier. That was the father. His mother died in 1895 and then the boys were raised by an old lady in Waywaysicappa, Mrs. Longclause, and then his dad picked them up and he brought them and put them in Maryvelle fishing, a residential school down there. So they were, they stayed with Louis Gund and them for a while and then they went to school there, and then his grandparents from Muscowagun Lesstalk area came and got the boys and then they put them in the residential school in Muscowagun, so it was closer for them to visit. Moshum stayed in residential school until he ran away.

Dan: Yeah.

Darcy: You ran away from there.

Dan: Yeah. I had to run away, I didn't like it. But they didn't punish me or anything you know. As long as I got back that's all I wanted I guess. They weren't mad at me or anything.

Darcy: So then you just worked for farmers.

Dan: Yeah.

Darcy: Basically you did a lot of farm work.

Dan: Oh yes. I worked for a lot of farmers and wood farmers. Big farmers you know.

Darcy: Then before the first World War he told us he was working for a farmer near Belcaras.

Dan: Yeah.

Darcy: Tommy Rice?

Dan: Tommy Rice. Yeah. That's the one I worked for when I went and joined.

Darcy: We got a letter from his brother, his twin brother was already overseas.

Dan: Yeah, he was already overseas when my boss was reading a letter and that was a letter from my brother.

Darcy: Yeah.

Dan: And then he handed me the letter. So I quit my job right there, I told him I'm going to go and join him. That's what I did.

Darcy: Did you go sign up in Melville? Is that where you signed up for the first World War?

Dan: Yeah. In Melville, but they sent me right away to Regina for recruits. I had a lot of relatives there like Paul and William John. They're both brothers you know. They were each one the MM. The melleter of medal.

Dave: What do you do to get the MM, is that for bravery or?

Dan: For bravery or doing your duty right you know.

Dave: Right.

Dan: If you're a bad soldier or bad _____ they don't give you nothing. (laugh)

Dave: So when you, after you enlisted did you go train anywhere?

Dan: Yeah. After I enlisted I wasn't in Canada long. They sent me overseas right away. Right from Belcaras.

Darcy: That was what year you signed up? 1914?

Dan: Aha.

Darcy: About 1914 you signed up?

Dan: About there, yeah.

Darcy: For the first World War.

Dan: Yeah. Yes sir.

Dave: When you went overseas did you do any training before you went to fight?

Dan: Not much.

Dave: Is that right?

Dan: Gee, I wasn't long in the battle line, and I was told to go over and fight. Fight to kill.

Darcy: He was in the first CMR's. Canadian Mounted Rifles.

Dan: Yeah.

Darcy: 217

Dan: Yeah and then there was the first CMR as a Canadian, the first Canadian Mount Rifle there from Yorkton. And the 217, they were from Regina I think though. Some place around there.

Darcy: There was the same outfit.

Ivan: Is that the outfit you went over in the first World War?

Darcy: The Princess Patricia Infantry?

Ivan: No.

Darcy: No.

Ivan: This is all he is talking about for the first few months.

Darcy: Oh yeah. That was the (mumbling).

Ivan: Went over to England to help.

Darcy: Yeah, they landed in England.

Ivan: (mumbling)...it took so long that they invited them to...

Darcy: France.

Ivan: France.

Darcy: And then he said when they went to France they started fighting.

Dan: Yeah. Me and this Parisian from LaBrette. Him and I were together all the time. To brother this William John Parisian.

Darcy: There was Vincent Cline too in your...

Dan: Yeah. They were both overseas with me.

Darcy: And then Charlie Pelletier.

Dan: Yeah.

Dave: Was that Vincent Cline?

Darcy: Yeah, and an Angus Daniels. Tell us about Vimmy Ridge, Moshum. The battle of Vimmy Ridge. Vimmy Ridge.

Dan: It was kind of rough.

Darcy: Yeah.

Dan: (laugh)

Darcy: That was a big battle eh.

Dan: Yeah. I was with Charlie Pelletier, they were with me you know and Vincent Cline. Vincent Cline came from Velgares. Quite a few Pelletiers in the army.

Dave: Oh, that's right.

Dan: They were all the same. They didn't know what danger was. They'd never shoot at it. 2 from DMM was 4 Pelletier 1 DMM and brother Harry. I don't know about Harry, I don't think he won anything. But they're brothers yeah. Vincent and Harry. I know the parents, I know that.

Darcy: Do you remember that there was a guy you were in the army with from Jesus, from up North, he was here last year we met him. What the heck was his name?

Ivan: Stanley Durocher.

Darcy: Stanley Durocher.

Ivan: That's in the second World War.

Darcy: Oh that was in the second World War eh.

Dan: Yeah, Stanley Durocher, yeah.

Darcy: That was from the second World War.

Ivan: He was in the platoon in the second World War.

Darcy: Yeah.

Ivan: I remember those days.

Darcy: Where was it you guys got gased with mustard, was that at Vimmy Ridge, the first World War?

Dan: Yeah. Moshum was green, we didn't know how the gas was you know.

Darcy: Aha.

Dan: But boy I tell you it hit you hard afterward. Once in contact, boy it's hard. Some went crazy over that. What a _____ of course, they strike you while you never expect it.

Darcy: Yeah.

Dan: Yeah, everywhere. Pretty tough, that gas business. Come anytime. Come dawn to night it's dark, feel it, it's around you know, you feel it right away. Those Germans you know they were, they had everything bad. That's what got me the most was that gas. You never know when you hit gas. Once you know how, you know when you smell it, you know. That darn thing took effect like that you know. Some couldn't talk. Boy that gas business is the worse thing there is. I've never seen anything like it.

Ivan: How many were you in your machine in your unit?

Dan: I was a leader in one of them, a Corporal you know. I had about 8 people, 8-9 different shoulders you know. One gets killed you replace them right away.

Ivan: That's the ones that are with the gun all the time.

Dan: Yeah. When they were in army camp, all those fellows in the army camp had different outfits. Some went to the Islanders. I tell you that gas business is bad. Killed a lot of people.

Dave: I guess it burned the lungs right out of some of them there.

Dan: Yeah.

Darcy: His whole back was burnt. The skin was burnt right off his back.

Dan: Like a pimple wart.

Darcy: Yeah.

Dave: Really.

Darcy: Yeah, he had those for years. I remember when. He still has them.

Ivan: He still has them.

Dan: Yes sir, that was a dirty battle.

Darcy: How did you guys take Vimmy Ridge?

Dan: Hey?

Darcy: What was your plan of attack when you took Vimmy Ridge. The battle of Vimmy Ridge.

Dan: Oh well we. The infantry took that. The infantry that played you know. Prayed for the guys going to the front. No wonder it had a military band.

Darcy: So when did you attack Vimmy Ridge. What was the attack like?

Dan: It was night.

Darcy: Aha.

Dan: There was a lot of people that time. And these Canadians they are not scared of anything. They'd rule here and rule there laughing. Funny how some people are.

Dave: Aha.

Dan: They know that they go into danger. They don't know whether they're going to be killed or not, get wounded maybe or hard on that thought they were safe when killed.

Dave: The bombs must have been terrible?

Dan: Hey?

Dave: The bombs must have been terrible?

Dan: Yeah. They were bad especially in camp. They landed in camp eh. You had to spread out right away. That's what my outfit done did, marked off the camp and they went and camped out there by themselves. The platoon he end low too, platooned there at. They didn't stay all in one bunch.

Dave: Right.

Dan: In one outfit, in one bunch. Separate them you know. I really don't know lots of men. You know that business of gas was bad. You smell it once boy, you feel it. One of them guys, I don't know I guess suffered too much or I don't know or got scared and his hair went white. The hair would be dark you know, and then it would be white eh.

Dave: These are the soldiers who had been fighting and all the bombs were going off around them and terrifying them I bet.

Dan: Not only in towns or anything, but they were going after battalions too in the open. Not really did the Canadians record how brave they were, they weren't scared of anything.

Dave: Yeah, I visited Vimmy Ridge about three or four years ago. I couldn't believe the size of the bomb craters. Incredible. Just incredible.

Dan: Oh, you bet. I tell you boy, they make big holes those things. When they explode they sink. Dangerous. Some of them fired just the way they were busting the air eh. You got a lot of guys like that, like Canadians that was in the Thrime outfit. They go after them. You got to hand it to these Canadians, they were brave. Just like nothing.

Dave: So you were you in the infantry in World War I?

Dan: Yeah I was in the infantry.

Darcy: A machine gunner.

Dave: A machine gunner?

Dan: Yeah, a machine gunner. We had the ___ gun then.

Dave: Yeah that war wasn't suppose to last for four years. It was suppose to be about 6 months from what I read.

Dan: Yeah, but it lasted. They figured it would only last about 6 months. They never new what the Canadians would do. They had a build up and everything, and all those English speaking people, even the French and the Belgians. Those that were in Canada, you know, at Regina. A lot of them guys were, I think a few of them were shot from not joining right away. There own people. Them French were very strict people. Funny how they didn't do that to us. (laugh) We'd fight back at them. (laugh)

Dave: Yeah right.

Dan: You know these Canadians they never stopped for anything. Right along the front line there, they were laughing and joking they didn't care. I've never seen people like that. Shells are busting all over the place. No, no use running either, you get shot anyways.

Dave: Yeah.

Ivan: They use to ____ there before they go over the hill.

Darcy: Yeah, they use to give you a ration.

Ivan: For all that want.

Darcy: Use to give you a shot of something, remember, rum or something. Before you'd go out wouldn't they give you a shot of rum or something?

Dan: Oh yes, before you go out, yeah. Before you go to the front like, they go to battle, you'd get a shot of that rum _____. Being doctored to at the same time is not the real pure ah.

Dave: Right.

Ivan: That's where all the laughing stuff came in.

Dan: Funny, I use to think getting shot at and I never got hit. Just like nothing. Yet, you'd see your partner going down here and there. Getting hit eh.

Dave: So you were never wounded aside from being in the gas attacks?

Dan: Yeah.

Dave: You were never shot or hit by charapnel?

Dan: No.

Dave: No? Wow. That's incredible.

Darcy: Yeah.

Ivan: He got, he had that flu when the war was all over, what do you call it again?

Dave: The influenza epidemic?

Dan: Oh yeah. I go into the front eh. Boy there was these Germans coming to machine gun our bunch like different battalions. And those that were booked for the fight they all got them out first and sent them to the front fast, so them Germans stopped fighting, eh. Stopped killing our boys. Then

the Canadians had there turn to kill. I tell you there were some brave guys. I don't know, I use to, I didn't feel scared or anything. Me and my chums there were acting silly all the time. (laugh) We thought this fighting business a lot of fun. (laugh) Never got scared. Some of them guys were as scared as hell you know. Some would run away, but they got shot just the same. Those that ran got shot. You either fight or get shot, that's all.

Dave: You'd get shot by your own commander, or?

Dan: Yeah, your own men like. Course, we had our own sergeants and corporals. Yeah, we had the, the Lose gun was the gun that we used. The good one. Machine gun.

Dave: Do a lot of damage, did it?

Dan: A lot of damage and a lot of casualties to. If you're good at that machine gun, like the Lose gun, you don't miss you know. You just shoot at something you know, you hit the ground, and the darn dirt like flies up in the air, eh. Just like it was big. That Lose gun was bad. It was a good rifle. Only take about a couple of seconds to load up. Yeah. Then we use to go to targets often, you know. We don't miss anybody. (laugh)

Dave: So were you there when the Canadians took Vimmy Ridge?

Dan: Yeah. Yeah, I was there.

Ivan: (mumbling)

Darcy: Yeah, he was at Passiondale, in Prez. He served in all those countries, Holand, Belgium, France.

Dave: In all the major battles?

Darcy: Yeah, in all the major battles.

Dave: Wow.

Dan: Yeah, I was pretty lucky. I never was hit.

Dave: We lost over 600,000 people.

Dan: Yeah.

Dave: In World War I. And I don't think there were more than 3 or 4 million people in the country at that time.

Darcy: What did you say about the trenches? (mumbling)

Ivan: They were telling us once, oh I heard this about 4 or 5 times...I'd get word of getting transferred to another town, and then we had to begin march at night...go at night, not daytime. This time they got to a certain place (mumbling) 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning and we had to dig in. It was night and it was kind of busy, so they found a spot in one of the trenches, and then we dug about 2 feet down...laid out nice, and then we used white sheets and made a little tent like over us...to lay on with our packs. Then we woke up in the morning and feel like it stopped raining. But he woke up dreaming that he was swimming in a nice warm pool. Then when he woke up he was still laying in the water. And then they were trying to get out of there, because during the day it was hot. They'd get up from there, bullets zipping by you know, so they had to stay there all day till dark again before they could get out. Then they cooled off and then they just had to leave out there uniforms and put them back on around 3 or 4 in the morning. And dig another hole for the night again. I heard that story quite a few times.

Darcy: I remember them telling that story to me when he was small in the trenches and he was with his partner and his partner had a bar or something in his pocket, chocolate bar. Sweet Marie I think, or something, some kind of chocolate bar. This bullet come and grazed his chest and it lodged right in that chocolate bar. He had the line across his chest, and the chocolate bar stopped it.

Dave: Saved by a chocolate bar.

Dan: Funny how things like that you know occurred a lot of times. Here and there and all over. Tell you boy, some guys, some of us guys there would use our partners and keep a going.

Darcy: Did you ever run into your twin brother overseas?

Dan: Hey?

Darcy: Did you ever run into your brother overseas Sandy?

Dan: Yeah.

Darcy: Yeah.

Dan: Yeah, let's see I just forget where I first met him. It was in England.

Ivan: What outfit was he with that...?

Dan: He was with (end of side 1 of tape)

Darcy: 107 ...

Dan: They were from Brandon.

Darcy: Oh yeah.

Dan: There were quite a few Pelletiers over there. There was Charlie and his brother, William John and Charlie, brothers. There was me and my twin brother, Sandy. He's around yet. Sandy my brother is around yet. You see him and Joe LaFontaine were together. They joined together. They use to chum together you know, they went to the army and they went together. And I was with this here brother of his there, the one that was, he was a Parisian. This one that was with me was a Parisian too. He was a Modess Parisian. The other fellow was William John. Another guy that was a Pelletier was Charlie, he was from Catapaway.

Darcy: He was his cousin.

Dan: Kind of a stupid bugger that one. He never was scared. He didn't know how to be scared that fellow. He had a lot of close calls.

Dave: Did he survive the war?

Dan: Yeah. Two of them, his brother too you know. See there was Charlie and then the other one was William John.

Dave: What made you decide to go and fight in the first World War?

Dan: Just for excitement. (laugh)

Dave: Well you found it alright. (laugh)

Dan: Yeah. See, my brother was ahead of me. Then one evening the boss was reading a letter at supper time around harvest. Say he says, this is from your brother. I said where is he? He

said he's over in England. Okay I said, I quit my job right now, I said. That's what I did.

Darcy: And you said you met that farmer Tommy Rice overseas. Did he join up too?

Dan: I didn't see him there.

Darcy: Oh.

Dan: Yeah, I left him too. He was from Belcaras. Tommy Rice, farmer. He was a very particular boy, the way they handled horses. A lot of them guys wouldn't handle horses right. Like, he'd hit horses. Then they'd hitch them all up together. I use to drag them, eight, on long stretches of land, through the double _____, some heavy stuff. Driving eight horses, four by four. You had to get up and harness them up. Go for breakfast and right after breakfast you'd come out and hitch up and go to the field. (laugh)

Dave: It's a little bit different now.

Dan: Different now yeah.

Darcy: You come from the fields to the front lines.

Dave: Yeah, right. Did they use horses very much in World War I?

Dan: Hey.

Dave: Did they use horses in World War I?

Dan: Oh yes, they had a calvary.

Dave: Oh really.

Dan: Yeah.

Ivan: The artillery they'd use horses.

Dave: To pull there guns? The big guns?

Ivan: 25 pounders, they'd have to use 2.

Dan: Yeah, they had to have horses to carry there guns, eh. These 25 pounders were wicked. They were on wheels too. Military rifles.

Dave: Poor horses must have got bogged down in the mud from time to time I would think, eh?

Dan: Sometimes, yeah. But they always managed to get out somehow.

Dave: Is that right?

Dan: Always had lots of help you know. Four horses wouldn't pull anything, they would put four more on. Like four by four eh.

Dave: Right.

Dan: Just tandem the lead like. They had to have 3 outfits, they had 3 outfits to one bunch. Pretty hard on one guy just to harness all of them horses. They had to have help. Yeah, them days, farmers were very particular about there horses you know. And men, how they handled horses, eh. That's why they like those guys that could handle horses good you know. Not abuse them you know. Some guys use to get fired, some of them got fired just by jerking the horses mouth, you know, with the bit. For using the horses rough, got fired right away. The farmers didn't want them kind of men. Had to have good things.

Dave: So how long...oh sorry, go ahead.

Dan: Tandem. Use tandem like, three outfits or two outfits. All depends on what they're going to do eh. Yeah, farmers were very good with the horses. Some guys were rough and get fired right away. Sometimes the farmer would give them a lick right on top. Some of them farmers boy I tell you they were tough guys. (laugh)

Darcy: Do you remember when Uncle Paul brought in those 17 prisoners?

Dan: Prisoners. Yeah, all alone. He was a small guy. I happened to be there you know. I happen to go there for some, to get a message from this outfit I was going to see, and here Paul decided to come in with a bunch of horses, and behind his bunch of horses was a little fellow, here I saw my cousin, Paul. He was the one bringing that bunch of horses.

Darcy: Horses or soldiers? I thought he was bringing in prisoners of war.

Dan: Yeah.

Darcy: Were they on horseback?

Dan: Hey?

Darcy: The soldiers. I thought he marched them in.

Dan: Yeah.

Darcy: He got a medal for that eh?

Dan: Yeah.

Ivan: Isn't he the one that brought in them 18 or 17 German precious carts in the first world war?

Dan: Yeah.

Darcy: Yeah, 17 German precious carts.

Dan: He got the MM for that too.

Ivan: What was he in the army in, a sniper in some rifle outfit, or what?

Dan: He was a sergeant like, you know. He held the rank of sergeant.

Ivan: Wasn't he a sniper?

Darcy: Yeah a sniper.

Dan: Those who were cross-rifled were snipers.

Ivan: He was out there alone between no man's land at all times.

Dan: Yeah.

Ivan: That's what I've heard.

Darcy: Yeah, in between the lines.

Dan: Oh, he was a little fellow, Paul Pelletier. He was a brother of this Jew Harry.

Darcy: Yeah.

Dan: Yeah, he had a very...William John Parisian and Modess Parisian. I had two of them in my section.

Darcy: Do you remember the battle of Ypreves, when you guys took Ypreves?

Dan: Yeah. Oh them fellows didn't care where they were going. They were just as happy. Joking and laughing all the time. It didn't matter if they were heading for the front. No, it was nice to see people like that.

Darcy: What was it like in the trenches, Moshum?

Dan: Hey?

Darcy: What was it like in the trenches, the front lines, the trenches?

Dan: Oh, it was very muddy and you know. When it rained steady you know. Boy it was muddy in the trenches, better to be out in the open on the hard ground. But that way it was no good. I never seen so many people get wounded like that. Wounded or killed.

Darcy: In the trenches?

Dan: Yeah. You know those Germans were dirty. The first thing they think of is poison gas. Shells they use you know. But they paid for it. They didn't won the war. (laugh) Funny how a fellow can be raised like that. He's not a bit scared or nothing. Always joking or something, and yet fighting in the front eh.

Dave: Now you're facing death all the time.

Dan: Hey?

Dave: You're facing death all the time.

Dan: Yeah.

Ivan: What year did you join the army in the second World War?

Dan: Hey?

Ivan: What year did you join in the second World War?

Dan: 1914.

Ivan and Darcy: The second.

Dan: Oh. Gee, I just forget now. I know it was summertime. First I went to military camp eh, and finally the sergeant came along there and he paraded our bunch you know. And he started calling names out, those that knew right away. They finally called me out. I had to go. (laugh) They called my name. Gee, I was glad, you know. I didn't know I was going for a great excitement. But I went. I'd a had to have went or got shot.

Dave: Do you remember what training camp you went to in World War II?

Dan: Yeah, what do you call that. Camp...I just forget the name of that.

Dave: There's Aldershot, that was in England.

Dan: Aldershot, that was in Nova Scotia.

Dave: I think that was overseas, in, I think Aldershot was in England. But there was a camp in Nova Scotia though too.

Dan: Yeah, they had a camp there.

Ivan: Yeah, I think that's where, when he first joined, he joined here. I remember that, I was small, 1929 I think it was. And they kept him in Regina for 4 or 5 months. After that they shipped him, after that.

Dave: What regiment were you with in World War II?

Dan: 217.

Ivan and Darcy: No, that's the first World War.

Ivan: I remember you got to be a sergeant in the 1627 Saskatchewan Horse.

Dan: Yeah, oh yes that's right too. Saskatchewan Horse. That was a calvary outfit.

Ivan: An infantry outfit, but it was called the 1627 Saskatchewan Horse. I know I seen you getting transferred from, oh I don't know, but I seen a picture, when you were marching ahead of your unit. You were sergeant or something like that.

Dave: Really.

Ivan: But I know that afterward when I got older, when I was 15, I came home and...and he was in the ___ all that time. I don't know, in charge of 2 different outfits. He always ran different outfits, but he'd always go overseas and they'd keep him back. He read and taught German too. (mumbling) And then he was too old to go over with his outfits, so they transferred him and he tried to go over and they transferred him to the Veteran Guard Security (mumbling). According to his medals he's been there from 1939 - 1945. And the first World War was 1914 - 1918.

Dan: There were two of them brothers Pelletier, Harry and what do you call.

Ivan: You've been talking about them already.

Dan: Oh yeah.

Darcy: You got them already Moshum.

Dan: You use to call them Paul S. because he was small eh. (laugh) Brother Joe Harry. Some other guys to from Catapaway. My cousin Charlie, he was from there. Charlie Pelletier.

Ivan: We know more about the guy, what he done there. All I know he was a good instructor, language instructor, because he wrote and talked German at the same time. He got promoted. (mumbling)

Darcy: He spoke French too.

Ivan: I remember one time he come home on leave, he was gathering out some of his outfits. Cause a lot of these guys had more than one outfit. I remember he was running around town dragging all these guys out of the barns, loading them up on the bus and bringing them back to camp.

Darcy: Yeah, cause he got leave when Aunt Leona has pneumonia. And then he came home there for a while, remember, when she was in the hospital, he came home for a while.

Ivan: Oh he was digging all over there. Vancouver, Victoria, up there. I think that's where they shipped him back. Discharge from.

Darcy: He was blind too after the mustard gas, remember, cause they had to do that surgery on his eyes.

Ivan: That was in the first World War.

Darcy: That was in the first World War. He ended up in Vancouver there. In the hospital there.

Ivan: That was the second World War.

Darcy: That was the second World War. The first World War he was in Belgium in the hospital for a while.

Ivan: He had that flu too. Gas burns.

Darcy: And gas burns.

Ivan: After his gas burns were over, they'd put him back in the line and after he ended up in Germany ...overhead in the first World War. That's where he got that flu I guess. And then he came to just like in England. I'm just going according to the ____.

Darcy: Yeah.

Dave: Right.

Ivan: (mumbling)

Dan: There was me and this Modess Parisian.

Darcy and Ivan: (laughing)

Ivan: We went through that already. It's written down already.

Darcy: He's got that written down there. You remember when the war ended, the first World War?

Dan: I don't remember that, hardly.

Darcy: No, you don't remember that eh.

Ivan: He use to talk about it.

Darcy: Yeah, he use to talk about it.

Ivan: (mumbling) Forgotten lots. There are a lot of stories.

Darcy: I'll never forget the Headless Horseman.

Dave: The Headless Horseman?

Darcy: Yeah. That was Sandy though, his twin brother.

Ivan: That one was with engineers, fixing roads, and they would relate that. Battalions coming in at night and they use to run to one place and stop.

Darcy: It was a night.

Ivan: Yeah. Horse carts coming in, and they'd all go by and the horses would stop and they'd leave the riders, he'd have no head on him. No head on him.

Darcy: I remember that story. I was just small when he was...

Dave: (laughs)

Ivan: He told us one, one time when they'd sleep in the shallow hole. He was so tired, that he'd knelt over and he felt straw on his arm and he felt something cold, it was a face. He looked around and there were 3 or 4 dead Germans in that shallow hole. They tried to crawl out of there and they couldn't get out of there, so they were stuck there. In the morning, when daylight came, there were maggots in the _____. They couldn't get out. They were still there in that place until dark. I remember when he'd talk about that.

Dave: I was talking with Edward King today, he's a World War II vet. He was telling me that one time they went into a trench, it was night. He sat down to eat, and it was so wet and muddy in there, the only dry thing he found to sit on was a body of a German, and one of his fellow soldiers came over and sat down beside him and they were eating together and this guy asked him, by the way, what are we sitting on? And when he told him, the guy was sick, eh, physically ill, but, yeah, what a strange world it must be, eh, to be in the middle of a place like a war where the rules are all changed and life and death, not respected.

Dan: You feel like in the olden days, you know where there was no law eh. They shot one another. Sergeant or other officials after, they'd fight back. You know them guys, they were brave you know. Yet, they thought that was funny, shooting one another.

Ivan: I don't think so.

Dan: (laugh)

Ivan: The stories I use to hear about them...

Dan: Some of them were scared alright, but stayed scared. When they got scared, they stayed that way.

Dave: Some of them were 15 years old, 16 years old.

Dan: Yeah, young.

Dave: Yeah.

Dan: Bound to get scared. And yet the Germans were using gas on them guys. A guy must feel helpless when he can't fight back.