

Jottings from a Record of Service
In the North West Europe Campaign
Julyth – Mayth

by
J P Brady

Transcribed by David Morin

M Gnr J P Brady
th Battery
th Medium Regiment
Royal Canadian Artillery

- June
July
- Arrived at Caterham in the Valley with a party of ten signallers transferred to the th Medium Regiment R C A from I C A R U Bordon. Included in our party were R Flett Selkirk Man and R B Barnes Buchanan Sask. The draft was welcomed on arrival by Lt Col J H R Ganon the O C. I was posted to B Troop th Battery with Barnes. Major R J Codere being Battery C C. Capt R Poulin TLB & Lieut G Geoffrion G P O and the very capable T S M Gaston Toutant. The Battery Signals were in charge of Sgt E Capenter Boston Mass. Included in the Troop Signals at this time were Bdr J O Dube Bdr Joly L/Bdr M Paquet Gnrs S V Femia T Godding J A Lemieux R Huot and S St Hilaire. The unit was quartered on White Leaf Road Caterham in the Valley. I remained at Caterham in the Valley till July when we proceeded to the concentration area at Tilbury. The day I joined the unit at Caterham was marked by the first VI's falling in southern England. Unit members will remember the monotonous (sic) regularity of these explosions when one fell on an average every twenty minutes. June th witnesses sever casualties (sic) when men were killed and wounded by a near hit on our telephone exchange. W W Riedel Cherhil Alta who had been on the Signal Draft from Bordon was badly wounded. The casualties would have been heavier but for the fortunate circumstance that the O C had ordered an early route march and only very necessary details had remained behind. I had proceeded on a hour pass to Croydon and had debussed at Croydon. But for the happy circumstance that I entered the Coronation Cafe which our regiment patronized and was enjoying a cup of English tea when the bomb landed I would have been in the telephone exchange as I was to replace Flett on duty. On July rd we left for Tilbury. Our convoy passes through London where we halted for an hour in Whitechapel owing to traffic congestion. We remained at Tilbury till late P N of July th when we reached the staging camp at Southend on Sea where we spent the night in the open.
- July
- Embarked on the S S Fort Brunswick and stood out in the Thames Estuary where we spend the night awaiting favorable conditions for the Channel Crossing.
- July
- Moved out of the Thames Estuary and ran the Dover Straits under the cover of darkness which shielded us from the fire of the German coastal batteries at Cap Griz Nez. At daylight we were off Courseulles sur Mer.
- July
- All day of this day we laid in the roadstead of Courseulles sur Mer and listened to the guns of H M S Rodney and H M S Hood engaging enemy tanks in the beach head. During the night we were bombed but suffered no damage or casualties (sic) aboard our craft.
- July
- We disembarked in the late P M and passed through St Croix sur Mer and bivouacked to the east of the vilage (sic). The th Manitoba Dragoons had also disembarked and were bibouacked nearby. A slight rain was falling at dusk. Our concentration point was near the juncture of the Colombiers Banville crossroads and

we bivouacked in a complete blackout. All afternoon we had listened to the steady thunder of Canadian pounders in action at Carpiquet. At dusk the intensity of the fire waned and we were informed that the Chaudieres had taken the airfield after a frontal attack against the enemy defences held by the Hitler Youth and the 12th SS Panzer Division. Enemy aircraft were over near midnight but were driven off without incident.

July & These two days were spent at the concentration point near Columbiers sur Seulles. This village was a key command point in the Nazi coastal defence system and taken by the Fort Garry House and tank borne infantry from the Chaudieres who overran a Nazi battery. Columbiers was also the scene of

July Landed at Courseulles sur Mer. We embarked at Southend on Sea July 1st spent the night in the Thames Estuary waiting to run the Dover Straits which (sic) we did during the dark hours of the night of July 1st. All day of July 2nd we laid in the roadstead off Courseulles and listened to the guns of H M S Rodney and H M S Hood engaging enemy tanks in the beach head. The night of July 2nd we were bombed but suffered no damage or casualties (sic) aboard our craft. We disembarked in the late P.M. and passed through St. Croix sur Mer and bivouacked to the east of the village (sic). The 1st Manitoba Dragoons had also disembarked and were bivouacked nearby. A slight rain was falling at dusk. Our concentration point was near the juncture of the Colombiers Banville crossroads and we bivouacked in a complete blackout. All afternoon we had listened to the steady thunder of Canadian pounders in action at Carpiquet. At dusk the intensity of the fire waned and we were informed that the Chaudieres had taken the airfield after a frontal attack against the enemy defences held by the Hitler Youth and the 12th SS Panzer Division. Enemy aircraft were over near midnight but were driven off without incident.

July & These two days were spent at the concentration point near Columbiers sur Seulles. This village was a key command point in the Nazi coastal defence system and taken by the Fort Garry House and tank borne infantry from the Chaudieres who overran a Nazi battery. Columbiers was also the scene of a savage rebellion by foreign slave workers led by an unknown Russian prisoner. They knocked out the German command post in Columbiers when the Canadian assault got under way and the resultant confusion disrupted the German communications. We finished de-waterproofing. In the evening of 3rd went with Huot to Banville to look over the captured Luftwaffe barracks which was badly pitted by anti tank shells. A heavy concentration of refugees from Caen and surrounding districts seen all the coastal villages.

- July After dark we moved up toward the front and took up a position in a wheat field between Rots and Rosel and prepared to deliver fire support to an early morning infantry attack
- July At Rots In Cation Our battery Commander (Major R J Codere Sherbrooke P Q) and Capt Chabot (Toronto) from Battery went on F O duty to La Maltriere They were accompanied by (Gnr J Gladu McLennan Alta) an A Troop Signaller Both Codere and Chabot were seriously wounded when an exploded in the street as they were leaving the house they used as an O P Gladu escaped being wounded Major M L Lahaie (Hingston Ont) has taken over command of the battery Sergt Fiset was wounded before dawn allegedly S I W but rumour remains unconfirmed In Late P M went east toward LeBourg with Huot and checked line A considerable number of prisoners were being brought into LeBourg The Toronto Scottish are in support
- July Bastille Day
At Rots: The Maissoneuves are attacking Air activity all over the front Nazi planes were shot down on our sector An R C A F fighter pilot crashed forward of our position The pilot was incinerated beyond recognition when the plane burned Toward evening two German infantrymen hiding in a nearby wheatfield (sic) came into our position and surrendered At LeBourg we seen a concourse of French villagers listening to a broadcast by General DeGaulle (sic) from London and singing La Marsellaise (sic)
- July In Position to north east of Rots During last night our lines were strafed by night bombers We had no slit trenches owing to the stony ground Our signal section occupied a low depression or pot hole and we sweated it out Sergt Fiset who was wounded two nights ago is now definitely reported S I W and court of enquiry (sic) expected Fifth Infantry brigade up against strong enemy positions
- July Unit continuously engaged in shelling targets beyond the Orne In P M went out on line patrol to the west of Carpiquet with Huot but was ordered back as road under enemy observation We established a relay station further to the rear Met (Johnny Ducharme Keg River Alta) and (Big Chief Settee Norway House Man) from the South Saskatchewan Their unit is out on rest I spent a with them and Walter Lariviere also from Keg River at Worthing during the last week of January Lariviere has been transferred to Les Fusiliers Mont Royal Came back through LeBourh (sic) German prisoners still coming in
- July At Rots Continuous action Great air activity over our sector A Lancaster crashed to the east of our section Most of the crew members perished with it An American Flying Fortress was luckier It came in low and afire The crew members bailed out near the German positions and fell in No Man's land We fired our first Yoke target Enemy positions were enveloped in a curtain of

fire A rescue party from the Maissoneuves reached them first and brought them into the Canadian lines

July

A beautiful summer day At 5 A M before daylight was called out with Huot to check line toward LeBourg The road was strafed by enemy night bombers with several close hits There has been a noticeable decrease in enemy fire IN afternoon I went to Rots village with Huot Rots was heavily shelled by Allied naval guns but the beautiful medieval stone church escaped serious damage Was struck by a bronze wall plaque on the church wall commemorating a local youth who as French infantry captain perished in the campaign against the Riffs in Morocco in 1941 We met and talked (sic) with some French civilians and were invited in for wine into an estaminet An old Frenchman with his wife and daughter and 4 other people came as he explained he had lost his father and two brothers at Verdun and his grandfather had been at Sedan in 1918 He bared his breast and (sic) showed a mass of wounds In tears he remarked "I was also at Verdun in 1918" but during the darkest hours of the occupation I never doubted liberation would come We must completely extirpate German militarism this time If not Les Boches will come again " One of our boys met a pretty girl with the unusual family name of Catherine (He later married her and took her to New Brunswick after (sic) the war) In late evening we prepared to move Just before forming into convoy the inevitable night bombers came and the nightly strafe began Gnr J R R Duval (North Montreal) our diminutive but tough A A gunner with Bren is believed to have done some effective work standing up and firing as the bombers came in At (sic) least one was seen moving toward the eastern horizon completely afire It was a very dark night and we moved quietly in the darkness to a new position at Cussy

July

Came into position at Cussy before dawn Cussy was an exceptionally strong enemy resistance point barring the road to Caen A maze of strong fortified trenches with connecting communication trenches road blocks and tank traps The terrain is marked by gutted enemy Panzers These strong points were assaulted by the Canadian Scottish and captured after a desperate struggle with its SS defenders Near an orchard I noted a mass grave of Canadian Scottish and Calgary Highlanders About 100 enemy prisoners came through to the rear having been taken by the 1st Canadian Division They included a genuine Jap but the bulk of them were Poles and Hungarians In most instances they fought as grimly as the Germans up to the last moment and then surrendered In P M our Baker crew was ordered back to LeBourg to pick up a wire at our old position We went up the road to La Maltriere but were so heavily mortared we abandoned the effort and found another road (sic) further west not under enemy observation A party from No 1 Engineer Co went towards the Orne at Dusk to prepare for an early pre dawn assault

July

At Cussy In action but the front is moving forward Caen has been cleared of the enemy In P M I visited the monastery of St Germain l'Herbe which was taken by the Regina Rifles Many SS

troops were buried in the church yard. Their (sic) graves were covered with fresh flowers unlike the Canadian (sic) graves which oddly testifies to the strong pro Nazi sentiment among the French coastal population. Apparently the Germans removed all elements among the population they suspected or thought capable of any sabotage or diversion against them in case of invasion. A tactic similar to the removal of our Japanese population from the Pacific coast area. The monastery had a huge Red Cross painted on the roof. An Italian Fiat ambulance was noted in the yard knocked out by a Typhoon rocket. Inside the building there was unmistakable evidence the Germans had used it as a tank repair shop as claimed by the French underground. After dark we assembled and moved toward Caen.

July Moved before dawn through Caen and took up a position at daylight in a valley at Vaucelles, a suburb of Caen. Our position was immediately to the south of Sinatra corner. Our battery kitchen was located to the west of the hospital (sic). A mass grave nearby contained the bodies of French girls shot by the SS in the nearby village of Cormelles. Nazi officers surrendered to the parish priest who concealed them in his cellar until able to deliver them to the Canadians. I had a long conversation with a French doctor who told of the techniques used by the German Resistance leaders. The pro Nazi element was quite strong in Caen before the landings due mainly to the Allied bombings. The King's Liverpool Regiment have occupied billets to our west. Slept in a cellar. Was bombed toward midnight. A heavy landed about yards from our billet. Terrific ack ack fire. No casualty (sic).

July At Vaucelles heavy (sic) fire directed against enemy tanks their attack broken up but we came under intense mortar fire as the enemy have excellent observation points all around the perimeter of high ground which surrounds Caen. The Regina Rifles came out of the lines today. I went over to visit the Beauregard boys from St. Paul and Howard Lett from Lac La Biche. Did not find Lett but met Joe Caplette from Willow Bunch, Sask. Wilfred Beauregard was killed at Bretteville and Charlie, his brother, was wounded a few days previously and evacuated. The French underground in Caen executed a French traitor today. A police official who selected and handed over French hostages to the Gestapo. They were shot as a reprisal for the attempted assassination of Pierre Laval by Paul Collet. The hostages were selected from Caen as it is the home town of Collet. The police official had eliminated what he called Communists. The French claimed he had also included everyone against whom he entertained a personal dislike. He attempted to flee after the landings but was forced into hiding. When he tried to leave his hiding place he was met by a burst of Sten gun fire.

July At Vaucelles. The enemy launched another heavy counter attack with tanks and were repelled. We went to this support line beyond Cormelles held by the North Nova Scotia Highlanders and tried to lay line but was turned back by a North Nova Officer as the road was under direct enemy fire. We essayed another route and got up

as far as Bras where our F O party had established an O P linked by radio with our R H Q. The village was reputedly cleared of the enemy. On hearing small arms fire in our rear we were detailed to go back and investigate. We found a Provost Sergeant and a defunct Hitler Youth. While proceeding (sic) through Bras on a motor bike (sic) He had seen what he thought a German slink from one building into another. His curiosity aroused he had gone to investigate. He had surprised the Hitler Youth and there was exchange of fire. He wounded the enemy in the leg with a Sten gun burst whereupon the German youth threw away his pistol and surrendered (sic). While walking toward him the prisoner suddenly rolled over seized a concealed pistol and fired almost point blank from a distance of about feet. The fire arm (sic) misfired due to defective mechanism or some other cause. Whereupon the Hitler Youth again threw away his second pistol pointed to his wounded leg and cried "Kamerad". However the Provost emptied an entire Sten gun magazine of rounds into the prisoner. As he curtly remarked to us "Well anyway that Hitler bastard ain't wounded anymore. A grim but deserved fate. We went back to G P at Vaucelles. Capt Poulin was wounded on F O Party.

July Out on line toward Verrieres. Was strafed by a Focke Wolfe while at our relay station. Bdr Paquet Arvida P Q was slightly wounded. I received a ricochet of spent shrapnel in the back as I lay on (sic) the ground but the wound was superficial and not serious. There was a heavy enemy night raid while we were firing a night barrage. Numerous d mps (sic) were hit. Three Canadians were later inexplicably found dead from small arms fire believed (sic) to have been killed by secret civilian snipers who are still in hiding. French Underground and our Intelligence are investigating. Baker I received a direct bomb hit. Bdr G E J Brault was killed. Groulx and Martel were buried but were rescued without serious damage.

July Another heavy attack by enemy. North Nova Scotia Highlanders were thrown out of Tilly La Campagne in early stage of the enemy thrust. A welter of rumours about Canadian were shot some with their hands tied somewhere near Bayeux. The Chaudieres are alleged to have hanged two French Women who lured them into a building. The older French woman and her year old daughter were cohabiting with two German soldiers and these two opened fire when the two Canadians were invited in for a drink of wine. One was killed instantly but the other with his commando knife killed both of the enemy. The French (sic) women were hanged to an electric light standard with signal cable. Seen (sic) for the first time wooden bullets used by the Nazis.

July Heavy enemy air raid last night. Baker gun was hit but no casualties (sic) among the gun crew. Our command post was strafed and (Gnr P Roshick Fort Rouge Man) was hit in the legs from M G fire. A detail of H L I 's went through our position to round up enemy reported to be hid in a sewer to S W of

Colombiers They assisted the French Resistance to surround but they would not surrender to the French and were all killed They proved to be S S men In the evening I went with Huot and Gnr R Pelletier (sic) Cabano P Q along the Orne to gather cherries Pelletier climbed a cherry tree but we decamped hurriedly when a bullet whistled (sic) through the trees

July

Our echelon groups have moved back across the river in Caen In P M went with Huot across the Churchill Bridge into Caen and had tea in an English Naafi (sic) While sitting in the street a heavy enemy shell landed in a brewery across the street A heavy calibre A Frenchman claimed to have worked building the emplacement during April and says it is situated in a forest near Mezidon Had my first taste of Calvadod (sic) We helped a French woman remove rubble and debris from her estaminet (Le Cafe Normandie) and she treated us to this celebrated drink She was frankly anti British This sentiment appears strong in Caen because of the terrific pre invasion bombings Twenty seven thousand inhabitants are reported to be buried in the ruins a statement well supported by the all pervading stench of death and decay The mistress of the establishment considered our troops barbarous and lacking the arts of civilized living She reported the Germans were comparatively well behaved until their retreat began German discipline was rigid and inflexible She cited as an eye witness an incident which had occurred (sic) on this same street In a German officer who summarily executed with his own hand a German soldier who had attempted to rape a French girl in public He had him placed under arrest and calmly emptied a pistol into him In perfect French he told a German N C O "Take this Carrion away" and apologized profusely to the proprietress (sic) of the establishment assuring her there would be no repetition of this behavior by any man under the garrison command This was during the period when the Nazis were making a studied effort to win over the French population politically and ideologically to support the war The German temper has vastly changed since that time The Caldados proved potent and the good dame was sadly lamenting that none of her beateous (sic) and Chic barmaids as she alleged were on hand to cheer us on our way The rumour of Canadians being shot by the S S persists Latest report alleges that men from the Chaudieres were shot near Authie Others say it happened to the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Noted the first appearance of R A F Typhoons on our sector and they certainly raise hell with German communication lines

July

We were shelled last night The R H L I (Royal Hamilton Light Infantry) attacked this morning We supported with a fire plan Later reports state the outfit took a terrific beating German armour is deadly in defence A year old Hitler Youth walked over to our O P and surrendered He said the war was lost for the Nazis He appeared glad to be out of it and laughed as if it was big joke on Hitler

- July Tried to lay line beyond Cormelles but had to turn back. Cormelles cross roads was shelled heavily and we could not get beyond that point. Infantrymen in the support positions (sic) warned us. We went up till we seen a dead German along the road. We were suddenly mortared and turned back hurriedly. An apparently landed on a mine and exploded it but we were already beyond the point of danger.
- July In the gun position at Vaucelles. German armour is fighting desperately to hold the Caen hinge and mounting attacks in all sectors. In P.M. went up to gun position (sic) and served ammo. We fired a degree switch indicating the extent to which the enemy hold the advantage on the outside of the perimeter. Canadian infantry (sic) taking a hell of a beating.
- July On duty in the gun position at Vaucelles. Continuous firing. 1st Canadian Armoured Division coming up taking over from the Imperials who have been beset all round by constant enemy armoured attacks.
- Aug At Vaucelles. Canadian infantry attacked in a heavy fog and we supported them with a heavy (sic) continuous fire. The Algonquins in action and cut up badly. Several (sic) V.I.'s were seen going in the direction of enemy held territory. An incomprehensible occurrence (sic).
- Aug At Vaucelles. Shelled last night in our gun position. Lacoste was wounded. The shelling lasted all night. Heard Joe David Montreal from Battery was killed the night of July by a shell which landed outside his billet. He was crossing the room to a safer place and was killed instantly (sic). We took our Signal Course together at Bordon. His girl friend lives at Arrowwood Alta. Will write her a letter. I know her family quite well.
- Aug At Vaucelles. A beautiful day like harvest time in Western Canada. Taking it easy. Went to Caen for a long walk. Got back in time to hole up with Huot and Polier and be shelled.
- Aug At Vaucelles. On command post (sic) duty with Gnr. D.E. Brekke, Erickson, Man & Gnr. McLean, Lieut. G. Langlois, Quebec P.Q. "The Microbe" on duty. Started before midnight. Went out of our dugout before midnight to waken Lieyt (sic) Geoffrion sleeping in slit trench. An landed (sic) almost at our feet but buy (sic) was a dud. No casualties (sic) but our director stand was blown to bits. A very dark night.
- Aug Went back to a cellar in Cane (sic) and slept till noon. Rested up the remainder of day. In evening went and seen a movie "Stage Door Canteen" within enemy artillery range. but is (sic) was quiet evening along the front.
- Aug Did one hitch at C.P. but lull continues as artillery fire has slackened on both sides.

Aug At Vaucelles On duty all last night An ominous lull has settled on the front Heavy movement of armour to the front Big preparations under way At P M our F O party retired from the bomb line and (??) British and Canadian Bombers laid down a hail of bombs on the German positions At P M our barrage opened Although kilometres from thee (sic) bomb line I could feel a heavy ground roll or swell from the concatenation of bomb explosions and I momentarily expected my trench to collapse At P M our barrage of masses guns begins

Aug At midnight I stand in our Command Post and listen to the thunderous roar of our barrage I look at Jeff's face visible in the narrow shaded circle of light on the artillery plotting table and I think of that other August th Ludendorff's Black day and wonder if history is repeating itself Well er break through? – Shaortly (sic) after midnight the barrages is halted and we go on call to support infantry At we fire a Yoke target on a previously registered target which we identify as the stone quarry near Verrieres Tire a Sitrep comes through from R C P informed us we had knocked out German mortars and their crews who had retreated to the quarry were pinned down the st Highland Division infantry with accurate and deadly fire When the Scottish troops advanced they found a scene of deadly carnage Not a single German was found alive An area kilometres wide and kilometres in depth had been selected for the breakthrough Into this zone moved the th Canadian Armoured Division and the First Polish Armoured Division with the nd Canadian Infantry Division supporting The st Highland Divsion (sic) attacked Tilly La Campagne In this pre selected zone of attack fell the full fury of the air bombing Ordnanace (sic) later reported an expenditure of ammunition as followsL (sic) – pdr
Mediums Heavies Long Toms This excludes anti aircraft and armoured units This accumulated fire fell on that narrow frontage for is full depth Its effectuveness (sic) is gauged by Intelligence report that out attack was launched while a relief was under way The the German Infantry Division which had been on garrison duty in Norway since had just arrived in France and were relieving the th S S Panzer Division The full fury of the attack fell on them men survived of the Division All German Divisions numbered below are consiederd (sic) first class formation The th Division was an all German unit contained no non Germans and had not fought elsewhere having been on Garrison duty in Noreay (sic) since and had not seen service on the Russian front The enemy have begun to retire Returned to Caen and rested for a few hours In P M we received order to Prepare to Move and unit assembled in convoy About P M I observed U S Fortresses approaching from north east in line with the smelter chimneys of Colombelles The leading formations passed overhead to the aouthwest (sic) Then the front waves suddenly loosed an avalanche of heavy block busters and anti personne (sic) fragmentation bombs In a moment a huge orange colored flame blossomed upward and the village of Cormelles erupted skyward Blinding smoke and fumes enveloped us Cries of the wounded could be heard amid the terrific

concussion of the bursting bombs. When the smoke cleared away and the bombers passed the first person I seen was Sgt E Carpenter Boston Mass my immediate superior almost cut in tow by a bomb fragment. Casualties (sic) and damage (sic) were heavy. Our entire F O party were caught in the bombing and every man wounded. We suffered men killed wounded whilst guns and vehicles were destroyed. A vile (sic) day. The unit moved before dark to Hubert Folie and continued in action despite depletion of personnel and equipment. I remained overnight in Caen to await arrival of B Echelon.

Aug Joined B Echelon and established a new loading point to the west of Vaucelles in an orchard. The unit moved to LaBruyere and were heavily engaged with the enemy. At P M our group turned out and cordoned (sic) off a large hospital building and searched it for an alleged German spy. We did not find him.

Aug Our battery in action at LaBruyere. Worked at B Echelon on ammunition detail under Sgt Bedard (Eastview Ont).

Aug Unit in action at LaBruyere. Still on ammunition detail. Sleeping in an orchard. Out of enemy range except for aircraft. Almost as good as a rest. However keep slit trench handy.

Aug Worked on ammunition detail in A M. In P M rejoined unit at La Bruyere. Enemy attacks regaining their vigour. Our unit accounted for Panzers today.

Aug At LaBruyere. German counter shelling heavier. Number of enemy artillery dus (sic) noticeable.

Aug Moved to a position north of Cauvicourt (Rouvres). About P M a large force of R A F and R C A F heavy bombers staged a daylight raid. Our position was deluged with bombs. Our unit escaped with the loss of man killed and wounded. Sgt Pelletier an old veteran of the blitz had joined our unit yesterday and was killed his first day in action. An English armoured division had a tank harbour to the south of our position. They lost over a hundred armoured vehicles. The Poles suffered grievous losses. Headquarters: 1st Canadian Infantry Division was also hit and the Divisional Commander Maj Gen R F L Keller was wounded. After the bombing we pushed on to Cauvicourt. The enemy had swiftly retired and we entered the village. However the Chaudieres and Queen's Own Rifles arrived before dark and two young Nazis were flushed out of hiding. Before dark we turned out to search for a sniper. A Chaudiere brought him in. On night duty with Lieut Geoffrion alone as situation was T O R. At P M enemy bombers passed north following the Rouvres valley. It was an exceptionally dark night. For an inexplicable reason I found myself apprehensive and nervous. At A M the bombers returned after a sweep toward the channel. I stood up to ensure the black outs were in order and noted that parachute flares lit up the entire valley. The whistle of falling bombs could be heard the

building rocked and I heard the tile roof og (sic) the kitchen collapse I hugged the floor Later we discovered a huge crater outside the building The foot thick wall of the old Norman medieval building had resisted the blast Our Ack C P D Lieut Scheur called on phone and was greatly relieved to hear we were safe From their point of view it appeared our Command Post had sustained a direct hit Polish Light A A put up a terrific barrage without results We had no casualties (sic) but one of our boys took shelter in a narrow tunnel/In the darkness he noticed another occupant He offered him a cigarette which was accepted Upon striking a match he discovered a German as badly scared as himself The German surrendered He was in the same orchard as the Polish Ack Ack and had hidden himself as the Poles have the unpleasant habit of killing their prisoners occasionally (sic) Our unit suffered no casualties (sic) but some of Queen's Own were hit

Aug We moved to Maizieres and were in action Our airmen bombed (sic) the th Field by mistake The front is fluid as we seek to block the German army and close the gap toward Falaise We have been issued large yellow silk squares of cloth to identify our vehicles and ground troops to our aircraft but the enemy have started to use the same Type and color In the evening there was an exceptionally heavy air attack by the enemy while I was in the C P with Bdr Joly The th Medium R A reported paratroopers The Polish Ack Ack downed a German plane The crew bailed out and were surrounded by the Poles One of them tried to shoot a Pole The Poles retaliated by killing both of them

Aug In action at Maizieres The Falaise Gap is now reported to be miles wide and the Nazi escape corridor is under constant fire Our Typhoons are active all over the front Even our F O party was attacked by them rd Div Reconnaissance (th Duke of York's Hussars) are out ahead trying to hook up with the Americans who are coming up from Argenteuil in the south

Aug On command post duty last night German aircraft were heard overhead all night presumably endeavoring to evacuate important military personnel as they did not do any night strafing Quiet toward daylight Had a long talk with Lieut Geoffrion Of all subjects about Russia and the post war world; Jeff is a Montreal lawyer of an old French Canadian family and married an English girl After daylight we pushed on Our route is marked by the burnt out wrecks of Polish tanks In early P M we halted south of Bernieres d'Ailly and fired a few rounds then it was T O R Went for a swim in a small nearby river but did not overlook the precaution of digging and covering adequately a man dugout with feet of logs and dirt Shortly after supper the enemy shelling began despite the previous T O R Incredibly (sic) six of us wedged ourselves into my shelter The shelling waxed violent for a time and then shifted to the village to the north Desrosiers the Chaplain's batman was killed He walked out of a house and the first shell to land in the vullage (sic) killed him (sic) instantly German bombers made a feeble effort after dark but were driven off by American night fighters Spent a restless night sleeping

Aug

under a bush by fits and starts/Polish infantry patrols were active all night. Their least movement seemed to awaken in me the submerged aboriginal instinct of wariness when amidst danger. The front is fluid with snipers active. German armour moving to the eastern escape route. We went into a position north east of Le Marais La Campagne. We set up our command post in an old irrigation ditch. The 1st Anti Tank Regiment were in action facing to the west and engaged in dealing with a pocket of Germans surrounded in a valley. Here I met Don Halverson from the 1st Anti Tank. Don is from Fork Lake Alta and we took advanced training together at Brandon Man. We engaged the main Germany body who were counter attacking from the east to relieve the pocket. Owing to the constricted area our vehicle park was established in a wood in front of (sic) our guns. We attempted to dig in but found the ground stony. Whilst digging a salvo (sic) of shells fell in front of us and another fell behind us. I promptly decamped with Barnes and Huot and took shelter (sic) in the irrigation ditch on our right. The enemy guns went into Fire for Effect immediately and shelled the wood. Our T L B vehicle and Baker Gun Truck were knocked out by enemy shells. Not all our detail had left the wood. After shelling ceased we returned to the wood and seen Joly and Lemieux who had remained in the wood. They had managed to dig " slit trenches and had not been hit. Malloy (Buckingham P Q) had sheltered (sic) behind his truck but concussion from a nearby shell had shell shocked him badly. He had to be removed to the R A P treated for shock and evacuated. Whilst sheltering in the ditch we heard the downward rush and vibration of a Typhoon rocket which passed almost overhead at a downward angle and exploded (sic) in a convoy of New Brunswick Rangers who were passing through a sunken road to our south but were hidden from our sight by the dense foliage of the tall trees. We heard the ensuing commotion and rushed out to find the leading gun carrier blown off the road and resting upside down on the road bank. Three men were killed and five wounded. A humorous incident occurred (sic) in the village of LeMarais La Campagne where our kitchen was established. Six Germans wandered into the village hopelessly lost in the pocket and seeking escape. Our cooks were preparing to serve supper and suddenly found themselves surrounded by armed Germans. However the enemy surrendered when they discovered that escape was impossible. One prisoner claimed Germany would win the war within six months by the use of new secret weapons and that the fall of Paris and even the loss of Normandy (sic) would not make any difference.

Aug

Enemy bombers came over during the night. A French civilian and his family took refuge in an adjoining ditch and during (sic) the darkness (sic) we noticed a light in his shelter. We promptly warned him that any use of light visible to the enemy would result in immediate extinguishment by gun fire with consequent risk to his family and other occupants. No more lights were visible. R A F Typhoons were active all over the pocket today. Good old TAC. White flags are seen bobbing up in places and German prisoners (sic) were taken out of the pocket today. Our

position (sic) was heavily shelled as we left it in the evening and made a night occupation of a position at Louvieres sur Auge. Night raiders were over during the dark hours but did little damage.

Aug
Went back to Bacheleon for a new issue of badly needed boots. The enemy launched a heavy armoured counter attack which was broken by concentrated artillery and aviation. Capt Pierre Sevigny and Liut (sic) Gui Caron on FOO party at Chambois called down fire on their own position as German tanks supported by infantry attempted to pass them. Our unit shelled Trun, the narrow (sic) exit gap left to the Nazis. We knocked out enemy vehicles. Six thousand prisoners were taken. A German general surrendered after shooting officers who wanted a last ditch stand. Four million (sic) pamphlets were dropped on the enemy rear areas showing the American breakout from the Cherbourg beach head and captured Nazi generals in Moscow. We had a premature on B. The gun barrel burst and parts were located a half mile distant. No fatal casualties (sic) but Lenteigne was wounded having one finger blown off. Coming out of our Command Post at P.M. with Hebert and Osborne an exploded almost overhead. Osborne A.J. (Laporte Sask) was hit by a huge fragment in the left abdomen. We rendered first aid and an ambulance jeep took him to the airfield in the rear where he was immediately flown to England in an American DC but he was dead on arrival. He was married at Caterham on May 13th. German bombers were over during the night but seemed ineffective (sic). American Black Widow night fighters are active and succeed in keeping the enemy tactics down to hit and run raids which in overall effect are ineffective.

Aug
The Nazis counter attacked again against Polish infantry. Our unit destroyed German Tigers. Heavy rain set in and I went to the village of Louvieres en Auge. Columns of German prisoners (sic) were being escorted to the rear escorted (sic) by the Canadian Scottish. The severely wounded were transported in trucks. Met Constant Paul (Fort Vermilion Alta) in the street and had a short talk with him. He is with the Canadian Scottish. An incident occurred (sic) which is a somber (sic) reflection on the German mentality. A Nazi S.S. sergeant known to a local French woman while he had been on garrison duty in Louvieres was marching among the prisoners. The French woman cried out to him "At last at last the day has come." Smiling with the utmost composure but nevertheless conveying an air of cynical contempt he replied "We'll be back some day."

Aug
The German effort is growing weaker. We moved back to Norrey en Auge for a rest and to re-equip. Thousands of German prisoners are coming in. Seven truck loads of disarmed German prisoners came all the way from the forward area unescorted looking for the POW cages. We stopped in an orchard all dog tired and I slept under a hedge for the next hours.

Aug Our rest cancelled and we moved out to support the drive toward the Seine Remnants of Von Kluge's army are fleeing rapidly eastward The Second Canadian Infantry Division advanced kilometres meeting with only one last ditch Nazi Machine gunner Lisieux is in British hands The roads toward Livarot are littered with abandoned enemy equipment the deadly work of your Typhoons even panzers hidden in the woods were hunted down and destroyed Outside Livarot which was taken by the British we pass a Hitler Jugend in a green camououflage (sic) sniping jacket blasted with artiller (sic) fire a gruesome reminder of war hanging with a death like grin in a tree A Canadian infantry officer was heard remarking about the wholesale murder of retreating Germans by Polish troops War is an uncivilized buisness (sic) Paris has been declared an open city by the Germans and the French Resistance is reported to be fighting in the streets Our advance is rapid through villages little damaged by war Our armour keeps to the main routes while the French clear out the by passed villages and disarm the enemy We bivouacked in an orchard near Bellou (concentration area) to reform and camououflage our vehicles At Bellou yesterday Canadian Intelligence arrested a young French girl who had been helping Nazi stragglers to escape by furnishing them with civilian clothes arms and ammuniton

Aug Spent the day at Bellou in bivouac Small Piper Cub from Sqdn R A F takes off from our small orchard Shortness of runaway unvbelieveable (sic) The enemy are pulling back toward the Seine A formation of heavy R A F bombers were seen toward Lisieux carrying out a daylight raid Despite the retreat there seems to be plenty of enemy ack ack fire Paris is said to have fallen yesterday and General Leclerc has entered the city

Aug Still resting at Bellou Went to Livarot with Sgt Moreau Lemieux and Huot and had a bath Seen enemy wreckage evrywhere (sic) Stupendous destruction German prisoners were awaiting transport to the rear in Livarot The riversides were literally black with them Thousands covering acres of ground Huot our irrepressible with remarked to a German prisoner they would win teh war in (sic) Prophetic maybe as the Nazi promptlu (sic) agrees "Ja Ja " We seen the trial of S S men held in the town square by the F F I military tribunal They were charged with crimes against humanity Seven were acquitted and returned to the POW cages The remaining eight were convicted of looting murder and rape and sentenced to be executed by a firing squad They were immediatly taken a cemetary (sic) near Livarot and shot A huge concourse of French civilians witnessed the execution The French officer in command made an anti Fascist speech One of the most gripping impressions was to hear hundreds of French voices raised in that most stirring and loftiest of all national anthems "La Maresellaise " (sic) Casey and I went and seen the demise of these S S illers they were exterminated by Sten gun fire I was emotionally calm at the sight as if noxious vermin being destroyed Later with Lemieux we visited a French Family chatted in a latticed arbour in a beautiful flower garden treated to wine

and later to Calvados. We were introduced to their charming daughter Christiane (Lemieux later married her and brought her back to St. Jerome de Terrebonne in Quebec.) In the evening we went back to Bellou and seen a movie ("San Demetrio" in a huge rambling barn. The nights are not noticeably cooler.

Aug. Out forces continue to advance toward the Seine and (sic) a new pocket is being formed. but there is a rumour that a considerable body of infantry the enemy got across the river. The Nazi difficulties are mounting. The Roumanians are reported to be actively fighting the Germans. The English are reported in (sic) action with the Germans near Boulogne. Hundreds of our bombers passed over last night bound for Germany. An impressive show. I went and visited the South Alberta's who are nearby but no one I knew from Alberta. The latest official intelligence report indicates that the main body of Von Kluge's armour did not cross the Seine. A huge useless concentration stalled for lack (sic) of fuel. Good news if true.

Aug. A beautiful Sunday. A peaceful scene with French peasants going to Mass. The war seems remote. We visit in the village of Notre (sic) Dame de Courson. Here I see the most beautiful girl in my varied and useless life. What a beautiful creature. An your old peasant (sic) girl. a Venus of the Bocage. I talked with a French woman. The S S whipped her senseless before the (sic) left for no comprehensible reason except a spirit of pure sadism. and then ran away with horses taken from the Mayor. There are still thousands of German stragglers hiding in our rear some disguised as a Canadian Provost and with a perfect Canadian accent directing Canadian traffic into the German lines. Two English (sic) soldiers took into custody a suspicious French civilian and handed them to the Canadian Provost team on duty south of our bivouac at the Cross roads. Their English C O checked with nearby Canadian Intelligence but no evidence was adduced to substantiate their report. Our Intelligence Lieutenant later asked the Provost concerned of the whereabouts of the alleged prisoner. They claimed loss of memory and the identity of the French "Collaborator" was (sic) lost in the shuffle. An Austrian prisoner was brought in. His broken English and earnest efforts to convince everyone he was not Nazi or S S -had everyone in laughter. He fully expected to be shot. He almost collapsed when told he would be sent to the P O W cages. although he was in civilian clothes. Capt. Sevigny came back from liaison (sic) with the Poles and told us how the Poles separated their prisoners (sic) into three categories. Non Germans. The Wehrmacht. The S S troops. In dealing with the third category the Poles adopted what they called "proper measures". The Russians are said to be pouring through the Galato Gap toward the Danube. Air attack has been stepped up with constant air attack on Germany. One enemy column. miles in length east of Rouen. was dive bombed for hours.

A new pocket. x miles in area has been pinched off along the upper Seine and is being reduced.

- Aug At Bellou Resting in bivouac The Calgary Highlanders are engaged in a fight for the Seine Crossing Move expected tomorrow
- Aug At Bellou Roused up by heavy rain at A M Ground soaked Unable to lie down Projected movement cancelled Poor shelter Very uncomfortable
- Aug At Bellou Heavy weather continues Rumour heard that Churchill disputing with Stalin because Moscow requested the R A F stop supplies to the Warsaw Poles who are (sic) using them against the Soviets A Canadian soldier is in custody of the Provost for shooting up a French home in Bellou and wounding a comrade We left Bellou today and travelled kilometers (sic) to Tourville La Campagne/ The British are in Amiens We went into position but did not fire The Germans bombed our area during the night
- Sept We crossed the Seine River at Elbeuf and went into position at Renneville No firing (sic) activity Thousands of prisoners are still being taken They are a motley group including many of a distinctly Oriental type Scuttlebutt credits the Americans with having captured almost a thousand Japs since D day who were serving with the German Army
- Sept Left Renneville in P M we passed through Blangy and Bettencourt Hundreds of Prisoners were brought in by the French Maquis who were clearing the Haute Foret d'Eure a region infested with buzz bomb launching sites An amusing (sic) incident was to see two burly Nazis marched along the road by a small French boy with an evident air of cowed acceptance of their fate We are approaching the region of the old British battlefields of World War I and the population seem more spontaneous in their welcome than in Normandy (sic) The Maquis are relentlessly hunting down collaborators They shot a local French woman who had betrayed two French families who had aided Allied fliers to escape Toward evening we pushed on to a night bivouac at Le Translay A torrential rain fell all night and I crouched motionless for hours in a slit trench A minimum of movement keeps clothes drier
- Sept Very stiff and tired at daylight We went into position at Behen about (sic) miles from Abbeville We are said to be only hours behind the main (sic) body of the enemy The 1st Canadian Division has pinched off Dieppe The Poles are in Abbeville and the 1st Infantry and 1st Armoured Divisions are ahead trying to close a larger pocket beyond the Somme The Americans are in Southern Belgium We inspected a V bomb site in the nearby forest Construction was started in November The R A F started attacking it at the end of February The local French claim it was bombed times The R A F done a good job (sic) on it too
- Sept From Behen we passed through Abbeville on the Somme hundreds of enemy prisoners were being held here in buildings The Germans are retreating rapidly Captured Poles claim that prior to the

invasion Nazi officers assured their men that a huge Luftwaffe of fighters and bombers was being retained in Germany to meet the expected attack (sic) Now German soldiers are dumfounded at Allied air might The Nazis boasted (sic) that the Allied invaders would not last as long as the Canadian attackers (sic) at Dieppe a matter of nine hours We made (sic) a night bivouac at Haut Mesnil Here the retreating SS men executed French police and civilians including a woman school teacher suspected of being leaders of the local underground (sic) We viewed their bodies behind the church We arrived behind the Polish Armour and hardly an hour had elapsed since (sic) their execution Near our R H Q a little beyond Fontaine l'Etallon an R A F bomber crew had been captured by these same SS men They were hung from trees by their thumbs and shot in their heads The German garrisons are said to be besieged in Calais and Dunkirk The British entered Brussels two days ago Enthusiasm waxes strong in all the French villages and we are greeted with flowers and kisses Qu'elle joie de vivre?

Sept We travelled to Ecques Our advance troops are miles from the Dutch border The area through which we have advanced is thick with buzz bomb sites The big turnout continues in all the villages along our route Fifty thousand of the enemy are in a pocket between Boulogne and Dunkirk We took up a position in an old V launching site near Ecques We make a night bivouac

Sept The British are in Holland The Americans are probing the Siegfried Line Eisenhower has made an appeal to foreign workers in the Reich to prepare (sic) for action We proceed toward Belgium Passed through Hazebrouck This communication center was bombed many times by the R A F Their bombing was very inaccurate according to the local inhabitants that the last was visibly a good one beyond question Passed through the high ground at Caestre which gives an excellent view of the surrounding country side We are only miles from the main enemy body Many of them decamped before daylight with all the horse transport they could seize Local inhabitants claim the enemy transport situation is very bad We received a tumultuous welcome in the French villages before we reached (sic) the Belgian border hugs and kisses and bands with burning effigies of Hitler in the town square of Loker as we went over the border (sic) at Reningelst Polish armour had thrust through the town Our vehicle entered a roadside estaminet We called for beer and the proprietress (sic) burst into tears when she heard the English language She spoke English learnt in the same pub as little girl from the British troops of World War I Thousands (sic) of Tommies Aussies (sic) and Canucks took their last drink in the Reningelst pub shouldered their packs marched up the Menin Road into the terrible cauldron of destruction that was the Ypres Salient and on into history Our good dame cried on my shoulder but was soon comforted Our convivial spirits soon induced her to sing a comic song she had learnt as a wee lass about

"a certain swanky major who stole the drivers' rum

But when the sheels (sic) came over
You Should see the bastard run "

The populace thought we were Poles but their welcome was redoubled when they discovered (sic) we were French Canadians there was no doubt of their affection and their genuine joy to see Canadians standing once more on the old battlefield of Flanders German Field Operational H Q had only moved yesterday to somewhere beyond Ypres We set up a firing psition (sic) but it was R O R A heavy rain was falling at dusk

Sept

Resumed the advance Passed through Dickebusch and into Ypres which the enemy actually defended with three guns Seen the famous Cloth Hall and passed through the Menin Gate with its inscribed names of British dead who have no known grave We halted our convoy momentarily in Ypres and I done traffic control while my boys quaffed a beer in the nearby estaminet Engaged in a pleasant conversational contre temps with two attactive (sic) Belgian ladies on subjects both divine and profane Their Intellectual attitudes were a forecful (sic) example of the truism that only French culture has effectively pointed the way to the art of truly civilized living We went past St Julien where the Canadians stemmed the German tide in the first gas attacks of April As we entered Zonnebeke I was amazed to watch a sturdy middle aged Belfian (sic) peasant run out of his house brandish his fist and shout in perfect English "Give it to those Goddam (sic) Nazi Bastards " Dead Germans were strwen (sic) along the roads which testified to the stiff resistance the Nazis had put up as the Poles struck toward Roulers In all the newly liberated towns the Belgian patriots were busily rounding up the pro Nazis In Ypres I seen rifle fire as they rooted them out and two girls were taken away through the mob with their hands tied They were accused of betraying Belgains (sic) to the Gestapo Two or three hundred were already in detention and hundreds more were saidt (sic) to be on the proscribed list Many of the local population can still talk English remenbered (sic) from teh last war In X In Zonnebeke the repentant burgomaster was standing in the street with a halter around his neck and passionately avowing his loyalty and patriotism to Belgium Two Belgian S S volunteers who had served in Russia were being practically volunteers who had served in Russia were being practically torn to pieces by the mob At noon we passed through Passchendaele village and halted to the east of the British World War I cemetery Here I seen the grave of Alex Decoteau whom I knew as a very small boy He was on of Canada's promising athletes of his generation He was a member of the Edmonton City Police and was killed at Passchendaele November while serving with the th BN C E F In the P M in a nearby orchard we watched the Poles disarm and search German prisoners A Polish sergeant calmly gut shot a Gestapo officer whom he recognized disguised in a Wehrmact uniform It madx (sic) no impression on me Spent the night here in bivouac

Sept Many prisoners came in during the night Many had left Passchendaele on foot as fast as they could run Others had lain down along the road and awaited capture A number of prisoners were taken who had been on their way to a rest camp at Ypres totally unaware it had already been captured The Poles were very antagonistic to the Russians found among the prisoners (sic) Most Poles I have met particularly the officer class are typical Fascists of the Pilsudski school and are fundamentally vicious in their political philosophy as any Nazi We moved to Pithem and setup a fighting (sic) position but it was T O R again Here we seen Belgian Gestapo officials being marched through the streets with their hands up a group of badly frightened men In our billet I chatted with a woman who had lived in Chicago for years The evening was marked by a local tumult as the Belgian underground (sic) were busily rounding up local pro Nazis on their proscribed list

(PAGE OF ORIGINAL MISSING)

brought in A modern robber baron in the heel clicking monocle wearing tradition of the Prussian Junkers school His aplomb was amazing He calmly admitted the war was lost but that Germany would win World War III We went into action in the evening and did some effective shooting The S S Panzers which had retreated northward from Ghent were shelled and typhoned We are within artillery range of the Dutch border Ghent is reputed to have been a strong Rexist center before the war I could not but think of Browning's "How They Brought the Good News" as we went through Ghent In Ghent I talked to a man who homesteaded at Swan River Manitoba in

Sept At Destelbergen Firing periodically into an S S pocket north west of Ghent It was here an S S man was set upon by a mob and lynched A professorial looking Belgain deprecated the event as contrary to international law Our exasperated Sergt Major Toutant dryly remarked that our guns had taught the S S more about the facts of international law than all the abstract theorizing of the pseudo intellectuals Our guns had killed thousands without arousing any revulsion in Belgium and unquestionably lynching in the ultimate sense had as salutary effect as mechanical destruction

Sept Roused up suddenly at A M Assembled in the darkness and moved out in convoy Rumour is we are bound for France We passed through Tielt At Roulers a woman came up to our halted convoy gave me a cup of coffee and said she had lived for years in the New England States We pushed on past Poelcappelle St Julien Langemarck Willtje with their military cemeteries Our route led through Ypres to St Omer and across northern France to Belle Houleforte a village near Boulogne The enemy defend Boulogne with a concentration of 's and we went into immediate action on counter battery work on our arrival at P M Almost a crash action

- Sept At Belle Houleforte The German garrison is completely cut off in Boulogne Canadians preparing to mount an attack with artillery support of guns Motorized infantry moved up during the night We heard an interesting (sic) radio account of the first American troops entering a German village with white flags flying from every building A French girl walked up to our gun position and brought a large basket of delicious plums Most of our roughnecks observed she was luscious plum in herself (sic) We went back to the village In an estaminet we drank with an observant and sensible minded Frenchman (sic) He claimed the German soldiers in the Boulogne garrison were against the war and wanted to surrender but the die hard (sic) Nazi officers had shot all dissidents and had elected to make a last ditch stand Another French family were furiously defending themselves against allegations (sic) of collaboration and insisting they were patriotic (sic) French citizens although they had a brother who was in the Nazi army and a cousin who had perished in Russia where he had gone as a volunteer in the Catholic Legion Of course they were against Hitler but had kept a Russian (sic) man and woman as slave labor on their farm What a commentary (sic) on these so called anti Nazis
- Sept At Belle Houleforte Engaged in counter battery work Excavated a dugout in a tramway Very comfortable Went back to B Echelon with Lemieux for radio parts Typhoons active on targets outside the garrison perimeter The Americans have made (sic) a deep penetration of the (sic) Siegfried Line and occupied Aachen
- Sept At Belle Houleforte A Canadian attack underway The R H L I in leading position Heavy bombers from across the Channel took part in the action Enemy ack ack seems weaker An Allied airman bailed out from a damaged plane and came down near our position Back in the village our Provost (sic) arrested a German in Canadian uniform He spoke with an American accent A French civilian recognized him and informed the Provost
- Sept Still in action at Belle Houleforte Enemy (sic) is putting up a terrific resistance but half of our objectives have been taken Had a letter from Norris advising that his son Pte R J F Norris North Nova Scotia Highlanders had been killed in action July 13th Wrote to the Chaplain of the North Nova Scotia enquiring (sic) concerning the circumstances of his death
- Sept At Belle Houleforte R B Cairns Campbellton N B one of our original signal section has been transferred to gun duty The enemy defences are rapidly crumbling and they hold but one fort in Boulogne Large numbers of German marines were brought in today as prisoners Most of the Canadian infantry have already pulled out and gone to attack Calais Our gunfire can be plainly heard in Folkstone
- Sept At Belle Houleforte Mopping up continues The die hard (sic) Nazi garrison of men made (sic) a last stand in a bunker A Canadian officer under a white flag parlayed with them and gave

them a 15 minutes ultimatum to surrender. It was rejected and we laid down a stonk supported by Typhoons and a few heavy bombers. Fourteen men staggered out and finally surrendered. They had been told that a huge relief army was only 10 miles away. At night I went to a forward observation post with J L A Bremner Domremy Sask to listen for a suspected wireless transmitter.

Sept At Belle Houleforte Still in action; German resistance growing feeble. Went back to the estaminet in the village in P.M. The local population do not seem friendly. There is a visible air of dissembling and simulated good will. This attitude seems characteristic of all the coastal population. It was true in Normandy. A French woman cursed us in the estaminet. The proprietor who realized we understood French promptly (sic) ejected her. He said she had a son in the Luftwaffe. A former French air force flier who had voluntarily joined the Germans.

Sept At Belle Houleforte Went back to the estaminet in the R.M. Found the atmosphere depressing. Nazi propoganda has been effective in disseminating many strong anti Soviet rumours. Two thousand men the final remnants of the German garrisons in the Boulogne sector finally surrendered today. In the P.M. we moved to Lendrethun du Nord where we occupied the stone quarries. Bunked in with Kritzer and Williams. We were in action in the evening supporting an attack on Cap Gris Nez.

Sept At Lendrethun de Nord Rendxred (sic) heavy and continuous fire all day.

Sept At Lendrethun de Nord In continuous action. A steady downpour of rain. Despite poor visibility a heavy daylight raid took place on Calais. German fighters were seen for the first time in many days and enemy ack ack fire was heavier than usual. Many of our planes were downed.

Sept At Lendrethun du Nord Murky weather. We fired a heavy barrage before noon. Canadian infantry have seized the outer defences of Cap Gris Nez.

Sept At Lendrethun du Nord Kept up a furious and concentrated fire all day. Bombers came in from across the Channel in wave after wave and saturated Cap Gris Nez with carpet bombing.

Sept At Lendrethun du Nord The attack on Cap Gris Nez continues with heavy artillery fire and another bombingattack (sic). Our rear area was shelled by heavy enemy guns. A salvo fell in our position but only one exploded. The others were duds. However we shifted our gun positions to a new location.

Sept Moved to Ardres to support an action against Calais. Went to the mobile bath in the town of Ardres. The unit was again (sic) in action in the evening.

- Sept At Ardres Unit inactive Observing a hour armistice to evacuate civilians from Calais The German garrison refuses surrender
- Sept At Ardres Continued in action Many civilian refugees passed through our lines in A M Firing ceased at noon as Germans began to surrender A Nazi officer was captured in disguise among the French civilians in Ardres A party went into Ardres and were entertained by a Chinese silk merchant He had a pretty French wife and (sic) two most angelic small children He could not speak English but conversed marvelous French I was stunned to hear A J Brace Toronto (sic) Ont speak fluent Chinese with him Julian later told me his father had been a Methodist bishop in China and he had spoken Chinese before he learned English Calais is Kaput Although there is no organized surrender the enemy is giving up everywhere The garrison was reputed to have contained S S formations and Nazi officer corps elite who were rated by Intelligence as the best German troops in France and were remarkable for their kept women and unusual number of German service women and female camp followers
- Oct Heavy drenching rain has set in Rumour persists we are going back to Belgium We moved (sic) out in A M travelled through Nordausques a pastoral village amid an enchanting th Century setting We passed through Wattym Isqudrusq Ost Kappele and to Dixmude where we halted for a ration issue We pushed on through the flat Flanders plain and bivouacked near the village of Essen In the evening I went to an estaminet with Huot and met a Belgian who has a sister living in Reno Nevada By a strange coincidence my oldest sister also lives there We are in a concentration area The boys were glad to hear we are to be attached permanently to II Canadian Corps instead of the st Polish Armoured Division as originally planned
- Oct In Essen Rested in bivouac Raining steadily A few of our boys with a penchant for looting cannot stand the inactivity and are up and about In the evening we went to a civilian cinema and seen an old American film Pure Hollywood escapism Our boys are short on cigarettes and comforts Went to an English NAAFW and was practically thrown out Who will soothe our exacerbated (sic) Allied feelings? Finally went to a pub with Huot and whom with a Belgian couple who introduced us to some congenial friends A pleasant evening was passed
- Oct In Essen Continued rest in bivouac as rain ceaselessly falls Wrote Malcolm and Race about my views on Vansittart Mail came in from Canada
- Oct Moved out An S S Division and a Panzer Division are reported to be in a pocket to the North Our convoy reached Maldegem behind the Leopold Canal and we went into immediate action We dug in our guns and the enemy retaliated with mortar and fire Big engagement is looming

- Oct In position at Maldegem Battery in continuous action However in P M in P M I went back to Emclaa for a badly needed bath I met Don Halverson he is now a sergenat (sic) in the th Anti Tank Regiment We fired a heavy barrage to Third Infantry Division jump off The hostile fire continues unabated The Heaviest O (sic) have seen since Normandy
- Oct At Maldegem Went to Dank to take the qualifying pre trade signals test The examiner an R C C S sergeant asked how long I had been doing signal duty I replied months in the field Whereupon he perfunctorily offered me a cigarette and signed my trades qualification With this minimum red tape I was back with the unit in the early P M
- Oct At Maldegem Continous (sic) fire against German counter attacks The Regina Rifles have a small beach head across the Leopold yesterday Nazi reinforcements have arrived from Flushing and they are trying desperately to liquidate the Reginas
- Oct At Maldegem The enter area is enveloped in the continuous roar of artiller (sic) fire The Reginas are making a desperate stand in their beach head The weather is cool and misty Aircraft support impossible Poor visibility
- Oct At Maldegem Went and laid table to our Forward Observation post with the Reginas The Johns launched an attack supported by the Royal Montreal Regiment The action has now reached the crucial stage In the late P M in went to Maldegem I had a long talk with a Flemish miner's wife She was very bitter against the Allied Military government set up which she found was no change for the laboring classes The new Allied burgomaster was a former pro Nazi who under Allied protection had promptly organized and controlled a private black market organxatiom (sic) wit the glaring connivance of the new government
- Oct At Maldegem Bad weather continues Went to H Q nd AGRA on a Guard of Honour to meet Col J L Walston (???) Canadian Minister of National Defence Our party undxr (sic) R S M Trottier stood for hours in a pelting rain but the Minister failed to appear Our O C Colonel Gagnon after importunities and later threats finally secured a ration of rum from the AGRA big wigs and then loaded us into trucks for the long return journey French Canadian officers are unbeatable in their regard for their men
- Oct At Meldegem Action continues Wet weather hampers our transport The polders (sic) are water logged The enemy opened most of the dykes Over Canadians are buried in a temporary cemetery near our gun position Among them Johnny Daigneault St Paul a boyhood playmate and Sergt Harvey Dreaver Leask Sask an almost legendary character in the Regina Rifles These men fell in the Leopold Canal action
- Oct At Maldegem Raining Unit in action Stiff fighting along the Leopold Canal Met Leo Dubois whose family were our neighbors

in St Paul Alta He is with the 10th Field Ambulance He reported that many Canadians drowned helplessly in the flooded polders (sic) before they could be reached

- Oct At Maldegem In the same position engaging the enemy Capt J H Moss returned to the unit today
- Oct At Meldegem In position (sic) Still maintaining fire but the German defences have given away and prisoners are beginning to come in Among them are Paratroopers Marines and men of the 1st German Division a rather non descript lot containing men (sic) suffering from stomach complaints and receiving a special diet and known as the "Ulcer Brigade"
- Oct At Meldegem Just as the front was considered static the enemy started shelling with heavy guns We received an entire salvo in our gun position but now a single one exploded Raining again
- Oct At Meldegem Still firing Met Dubois again Heard from him that Gagnon Gibeault and Brosseau from (sic) St Paul had been killed in action In late P M went up to Maldegem and a portrait taken for the home folks
- Oct At Meldegem Desultory fire The Rain continues Met J P Brady from the 10th Field a Sydney N S boy whom I was with at C A R U in Bordon England
- Oct At Maldegem Heavy rain Unit in action Went in the evening to Maldegem and seen a movie "Wild Bill Hickok Rides" Pure tripe but relieves the ennui
- Oct At Maldegem Desultory fire mostly harassing Went to another show in the evening The Canadians are narrowing down the Breskens pocket
- Oct Heavy rain continues without intermission We moved out from Maldegem A queer and striking experience was the number of defective enemy artillery duds which fell in this position (sic) at Maldegem About 100 failed (sic) to explode We took up a position at Zoetendaele
- Oct At Zoetendaele Raining Huot and I secured a room in a shattered farm house Only waterproof quarters hereabouts We are supporting 1st Lowland Division An English sergeant ordered us out to make room for his officer We proved uglier and tougher The officer restored order He appeared a very decent chap and demurred at the suggestion of his N C O that we be forcibly evicted We invited him in He was Lieut Dempsey of an L A A unit and spoke marvelous (sic) French English patrols are active along the canal and we engaged German armour We knocked out a Tiger and 2 vehicles prisoners were taken most of the crews perished as they are insane Nazi fanatics From one of the prisoners we learned of the Arnheim jump Our unit was entirely

unaware of it although we knew the Americans had jumped at Grave and Nijmegen

- Oct At Zoetendaele Heavy Rain Intermittent fire
- Oct We moved to an exposed position on the canal near IZendike Here we entered Holland for the first time This position (sic) is toward the Breakens Pocket and we engaged in heavy firing all day
- Oct At IZendike In the same position In action We had a premature on Abel Three men were killed Ducharme Simard and Caron A fragment of the gun barrel came through the wall of the farm building we were using as a Command Post and showered the staff with broken tiles Had a letter from Canada advising that Walter Lariviere was missing August 14th in Normandy He was with Les Fusiliers Mont Royal
- Oct At IZendike Action continues Heavy fighting at Romentin prisoners from the 1st German Division were captured The 1st German infantry Division is also opposing us The damnable rain continues
- Oct At IZendike In action A massive bombing on Walcheren Island is under way with hundreds of R A F & R C A F craft overhead in the morning hours
- Oct At IZendike In action Continued rain Foul flying weather (sic) The Breakens pocket is near liquidation Hundreds of prisoners came in today Intelligence reports that only 1000 marines are left among the defnedxrs (sic) Went to a movie shown (sic) in a barn "Demi Paradise " Putrescent Hollywood art
- Oct At IZendike In action Hundreds of prisoners (sic) continue to come out of the pocket Today we fired at an enemy gun emplacement (sic) located between a POW cage and a German field hospital conspicuous with its Red Cross The target had been cased by the Dutch underground Our Piper Cub arty observer flew and ranged with one gun on the target F for E knocked out without hitting the hospital (sic) Some of Third Div prisoners from the Chaudieres and the Glengarries were in the POW compound awaiting transport to ferry them back to Flushing In the confusion caused by the shells they succeeded in escaping
- Oct In the A M we moved to Nieuvevliet passing through Groede which the Germans had declared an open city We went through Schoonkijke the most ruined center I have seen since Caen Almost destroyed by bombs and sheels (sic) The same applies to Watervliet a heap of rubble We went into action and supported the Glengarry Highlanders who attacked across the canal and captured Knocke The Highland Light Infantry were in Reserve (sic) At 11 A M 1000 prisoners had been taken The Breakens pocket and coastal area is now completely cleared

- Oct Moved up to Groede in A M to give supporting fire to the 2nd Canadian Division attacking Walcheren. Terrific mud everywhere. Enemy shelling stepped up. All night harassing fire against the enemy.
- Nov At Groede. Canadians advancing along Walcheren Island. 1st and Royal Marine Commandoes make an amphibious landing and storm Flushing. Our FOO party under Capt. Moss controlling fire for all units after operation began. Snider was detached to Commando. Could hear English voices under the sea wall at Kappele singing "The Red Flag" and "Land of Hope and Glory" before the assault began. An awe inspiring experience. An evidence of the anti Fascist spirit of these English lads and an unforgettable memory of the courage of the little men of England.
- Nov At Groede. Battery firing desultorily at any available target. The enemy have pulled back toward Middelburg. In PM went to the coast opposite Flusing (sic) with Kendrick and examined the German coastal defences. A maze of gun emplacements, concrete bunkers, communication trenches and subterranean dumps and barracks. We located a German Q M dump with hundreds of cases of unexpended German rifle ammo. Spent th (sic) afternoon shooting Mausers. A Dutch brick farm house was our target. I fired hundreds of rounds at the brick chimney and demolished it down to the level of the ridge pole. A curious Dutch farmer will wonder at the strange phenomenon (sic). Went back in the evening tired but relaxed after the excursion.
- Nov In the same position at Groedde (sic). Battery engaged in harassing fire with half crews. Canadains (sic) making good progress on Walcheren. Kendrick was evacuated today. The M O reported he was infected with T B.
- Nov At Groede. Periodic H F taks (sic). In P M went to the dunes target shooting Mausers with St. Hilaire, MacLean and Parham.
- Nov At Groede. Shortly after midnight we fired a barrage to support the attack on Middelburg (sic). Went back to R C P as a runner to bring up the Meteor which the D R had failed to deliver. Crossing a field in the darkness I was badly startled by the sudden crashing explosion I could not fathom. Later I learnt multiple Canadian rockets had come into action. The first time I had heard them. Letellier, our Abel went AWOL. Stole a Jeep, found liquor somewhere and is now in the custody of the Provost. Heavy rain began to fall before daylight and fell all day.
- Nov Middleburg has fallen and the Walcheren operation is wound up. Unit moved out in A M after firing a few rounds at German islands still resisting and (sic) moved back to a concentration area in Belgium. I was left with the rear party with Barnes and Gane and we spent the night in Groede.
- Nov Moved from Groede through Eecloo and Ghent with the rear party to a concentration point at St. Marten in Belgium. We expect to

push toward Rotterdam and deal with the numerous parties behind the main advance. The lack of reinforcements is acute and base groups are being thoroughly combed. Infantry replacements (sic) are particularly required and Corps is averse to any major offensive until a new build up is assured. The boys are saying uncomplimentary things about McKenzie (sic) King and his useless Zombie army in Canada who serve neither a (sic) military or industrial purpose.

Nov Resting at St. Marten. Went to the mobile bath at Hamme then to St. Nicolas with Brekke and MacLean where we took in an ENSA show. Enjoyed the robust army humour especially one about the R.A.P. warden who stumbled over two sandbags in the blackout only to discover his error when one sandbag said the other "Now dxar (sic) you know I do love you and you will take me back to Canada won't you?"

Nov Moved toward the Nijmegen Salient via Ghent. Passed through the outskirts of Mechlin and Amtwerp. Rained all day. We went through Turnhout to Tilburg and made a cold miserable night bivouac at Nesteltode in Holland. We are to relieve the British who have been hard pressed by German counter attacks.

Nov Reached the Nijmegen Salient; Left Nestelrode after a good dinner. Morale is high as the prospect of entering (sic) Germany looms. We are now a seasoned fighting unit and there is a closeness of feeling and identity among the boys I have not seen the July days. We are to support the 1st American AirBorne Division. We met them as they came out of the line after being cut off in a pocket for 48 hours under intense enemy fire. Their German opponents (sic) are evidently troops of a high character. We crossed (sic) the famed Nijmegen bridge and supported an American action. The enemy shelled (sic) our position. The enemy fighters were active. The first numbers I have seen in a large group since Normandy. We are in a position at Loenerren on the island near Nijmegen.

Nov At Loenerren. Battery active against enemy targets mainly H.F. tanks. We are in an old British position. The 1st Canadian Armoured Division are on our left across the Mass. The Lake Superiors are in action near Rotterdam. The boys are talking about the Ralston MacNaughton embroglio (sic). There is a strong sentiment for Old Mac and everyone is disgusted with political chicanery over the Zombie issue. Mackenzie King behaves like an expert walker on eggs. Some rifle companies (sic) cannot get a single reinforcement and wounded men are being recalled. Received a parcel from Kathleen.

Nov At Loenerren. In action. Counter battery work in the forward area and intermittent shelling of Nijmegen by German heavies. We withdrew back across the river due to flood danger. U.S. Airborne officers jeep mounted alerted us that the enemy had blown the dams 10 kilometers above us. The water rose rapidly. We packed (sic) up and hurriedly evacuated. Went into a new

- position at Winssen Our Command Post being set up in a comfortable Dutch farm house
- Nov At Winssen A heavy rain fell all day Very depressing in continuous action
- Nov At Winseen Fire decreases in daytime but continual artillery duels rage at night along the front The Germans apparently manoeuvring for a new tactical move purpose
- Nov At Winssen Artillery duel has raged now for two days Noticeable increase in the German fire
- Nov At Winssen On duty all night Conitnued (sic) artillery action on both sides The atmosphere is charged with an apprehensive (sic) air portent of a coming offensive
- Nov At Winssen (sic) All Six Allied Armies have gone over to the offensive Weather very bad Poor visibility for aircraft We supported the 1st Welsh Division At noon we fought a rapid fire action mainly Mike targets and knocked out an enemy O P neutralized all enemy M G positions and also put 's out of action by our counret (sic) battery fire 1st Div H Q complimented us A pall of black smokehangs (sic) over the enemy area from burning wrecking and destroyed dumps
- Nov At Winssen in action Enemy reinforcements are pouting in from Arnhem and their heavy artillery fire had been resumed Hostile fire slackened before dawn and we fired in support of an American infantry attack on our right flank almost a 180 degree switch
- Nov At Winssen In action Slight film of snow fell last night Civil disturbances in Belgium cause comment probably considerably distorted by repetition (sic) All Allied armies except the Canadians are pushing on all fronts The Canadians hold the apex of the Nijmegen Salient and are awaiting developments Seen my first German jets today Queen Battery was strafed Little damage No casualties
- Nov At Winseen In action German jets were active with extensive ground strafing all over the front
- Nov At Winssen Continued action Eenemy (sic) fire slackening again
- Nov At Winssen Continual fire against enemy targets Heard I was going to Brussels on a 1 hour pass with Paquet
- Nov Left the unit at Winssen and went on pass to Brussels Stopped at the Maple Leaf Club Unit pulled out after our departure and moved to a position at Weurt
- Nov At Brussels Went down to Waterloo and seen the cyclorama and British War Memorial Had an interesting conversation with on (sic) collaborators She enquired what I thought of the shaven

head technique toward women collaborators I though it sadistic many cases As she stated the case to me I found myself in agreement "The poor little factory girls who obeyed their biological urges and slept with Germans were mobbed forced to kneel in the streets and their heads forcibly shaven Meanwhile the real collaboratresses (sic) like the former mistresses of the hig (sic) placed Gestapo and S S elite officers had suffered no such indignities They had promptly moved into the Hotel de Grande Bretagne with British and American officers The important pto Nazis (sic) were escaping punishment wolesale (sic) As the Pierlot government protected them Rancor against King Leoppold (sic) was widespread for his connection with the Nazis and his alkiance with his mistress Madamoislle (sic) de Baels whose family were notoriously (sic) pro Nazi and whose brother had fled to Portugal when ordered to report for military duty by the Belgian Government in exile in England He had gone to Portugal and there carried on a contraband trade with the full knowledge of the Nazis Leopold had spent a quiet years in seclusion at Laeken with is inamorata (sic) while thousands of young Belgians had been deprived of the r (sic) women folk and carried off to slavery in Germany The Belgians felt he was an unworthy successor of King Albert who had never madx (sic) peace with the Kaiser's Germans and held on and fought when he had only a few acres of Belgian territory beyond the Yser during World War I I visited the cathedral of St Gudule a magnificent example of medieval church architecture and viewed that famous First Citizen of Brussels "Le Mannequin Pis" I ran into Yanks including an Arizona WAAC acted as their interpreter and finished a an interesting day with a minor acrouse (sic) at the hotel of "Le Chevel Blanc Arabienne"

Nov Last day of my leave in Brussels Huge crowds in the streets demonstrate against the Pierlot government led by the Resistance (sic) movement Popular feeling is roused by the fact that most of the notroious (sic) pro Nazis are going unpunished English soldiers guarding the streets seemed very uncomfortable Later I read scare headlines in the papers indicating wide disorder An utter fabrication as all the meetings I observed were orderly and quiet The news was no doubt intended for foreign readers Made a last night of it Whiled away the fleeting hours with an entrancing black eyed Algerian houri the Sons of the Prophet certainly have a sensible view of the religious reward due the believing and deserving warrior Alas back tomorrow to the mud and slaughter again

Nov Arrived back with the unit which is in action at Weurt The local population are a suspicious lot It seems the English who were here before us warned them that the Canadians and Yanks were not much better than the S?S (sic) Enemy jets were over strafing again A bomb dropped almost on top of our Command Post Terrific concussion All sound and fury No casualties A huge screen now blacks out the Nijmegen bridge area

Nov Still at Weurt in action Enemy jets active They are trying to knock out the Nijmegen Bridge We have set up dummy artillery positions here and there

Nov Moved to Brakkenstein (sic) a suburb of Nijmegen The anti Americans and Canadian propoganda spread by the English has had some effect (sic) among the Dutch Enroute in convoy at a halt a wild eyed Dutchman came out of the crowd ran along Lieyut (sic) Matte's gun carrier and viley insulted him at every turn in very good English Matte retained the utmost composure and smiled angelically He finished his tirade with the fervent hope the Nazis would kill everyone of us I jumped off my vehicle seized his throat held him off the ground and asked what he thought would happen if I was an S S man He paled and struggled feebly A group of Oranje (sic) men rushed up seized him and took him away as the crows silently watched A slight snowfall blankets the ground We moved into a position near a monastery in Brakkenstein I slept in a stable and we dined in the refectory with the good friars

Nov The weather is cold and snow fell today With Huot I found a billet with a nearby Dutch family We had difficulty in securing admission They were badly frightened as the Germans had told them the Canadains (sic) were barbarians mostly Red Indians who were uncivilized and murdered and sclaped (sic) on the least provocation We took pains to be circumspect in every detail and soon got along famously especially (sic) with year old Marga a flaxen haired blue eyed little doll Her mother is German and she was borne in Cologne the night of the first mass air raid on the city in a real little darling The Chaudieres are billeted next to us The 3rd Division is now at full strength again many of their have moved into static positions We are only 10 miles from the German frontier we fire sporadically mainly H F tasks Jets were over gain trying for the Nijmegen bridge They laid a stick of bombs on our position Baker had a hit between their gun and dugout but miraculously no one was hurt The first bomb fell in front of and did not detonate I ducked down in a hole Later as I stood up it exploded It had a delayed action fuse A small bomb splinter struck me in the left hand Sgt Major Toutant rushed me by Jeep to the R A P The M O Capt Brosseau and Medical Sgt Therien removed it and sewed 12 stitches in it No anesthetic (sic) so mustered up my Indian stoicism and was complimented by the M O I told (sic) him we had jackfish in our northern lakes who were so big they bit your hand right off He laughed and I went back on duty

Nov At Brakkenstein The Ground is snow covered H F tasks The front is stabilized locally for the winter months according to latest report reduced activity mainly infantry patrols General Spry reviewed the Canadian Scottish on our troop grounds The surrounding woods are pock marked with shell craters and slit trench It was here the 1st US Airbrone (sic) came down in September South of Brakkenstein is their Divisional cemetary (sic) where 1000 men of their lie buried No better outfir (sic) ever

marched in any army than these boys. We Canadians were treated royally by them. They have a good natured comradeship (sic) toward us unlike the reserved dourness of the Imperials. Brakkenstein is to be our static position. Our battery kitchen is located in a walled in tennis court. The bedlam of (sic) small children begging food at meal time is unnerving. Some of them are so hungry they actually howl like little wolf whelps while others whine weakly from hunger. We give away our issues. We could not them anyway but Barnes and I save delicacies for our little Marga. We went to a Sinatra show. Crooner Sinatra had a corner named for him at Caen which was one of the hottest spots in the war in July. The Germans shelled it heavily as the blizzard of Sintara (sic) humour which is the current rage. Like the one about the ram who committed (sic) suicide when he heard Sinatra sing "There will never be (sic) another you."

(PAGE OF ORIGINAL MISSING)

is flooded. Large scale movement of enemy equipment, guns, etc reported by Intelligence going on for a build up behind the Arnhem area.

Dec At Brakkenstein Barnes went to Brussels on leave this morning. Nijmegen bridge was heavily attacked this morning by enemy aircraft.

Dec At Brakkenstein. Rumours persist that S.S. troops have to deal with disorders among foreign workers and German civilians in Germany. Mass executions. Went to a Nijmegen cinema with Joly Paquet, St. Hilaire and MacLean in the evening. The enemy is still dropping heavy shells in the city.

Dec At Brakkenstein. Barnes came back from leave. Had a long letter from Capt. Cox, Chaplain of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders. He informed me Russell was killed in action July 17th during the assault on Tilly La Campagne. Death was instantaneous from a mortar shell. He was buried along the road to Bourgebouse north from Tilly. A good lad. I am writing to Malcolm.

Dec At Brakkenstein. In billets with the Rossen family. They favor a Nazi victory because of their anti Red feelings. It is safe to assume the majority of Dutch people are pro Nazi in their sentiment as befits a first class colonial power. My observations lead me to place the Nazi sympathizers in the countries I have seen as: France, Belgium, and Holland. An ineradicable (sic) conclusion after my experiences. Barnes told us of English infantry company marched into Brussels square where a few (sic) demonstrators were gathered. An English soldier sneered "It is just as well that we show these people what they are up against." The British are up to the same game in Greece. With the Nazi jackboot not yet off their necks they are bending effort to save the status quo. The British imperialists are as much of a danger to world peace as the Prussian militarists. As one French Canadian remarked in our billet "We are not surprised after all we French

Canadians know the English We had to shoot holes in the British flag to gain the liberty that is allowed to us "

Dec At Brakkenstein At the Rossens We talked today with a Hollander who escaped from Hungary travelled across Germany to Cologne and crossed the frontier at Venlo He says German discipline is failing In the interior there were few checkups German civilians are talking openly against the war They have no idea of our mechanized strength The only disciplined order is near the fighting zones In the evening went up tp (sic) a show in the Winter Gardens at Nijmegen

Dec At Brakkenstein Heavy frost last night Ground frozen very hard but those damnable Brussels sprouts still keep growing Huot came back from a in Brussels We hear that Clements has been mentioned in despatches Seen Leo Dubois again I was really surprisxd (sic) to hear Barnes tell me how he had been sentenced to six months for his part in the Regina trek Almost unbelievable when one knows him as a modest unassuming type

Dec At Brakkenstein H F 's and routine duties The Glengarry Highalneders (sic) have moved into billets near us Barnes and I recounted some of our experiences in Frnace (sic) for our hosts Antonia the daughter of the house a modest bachelor girl was very inquisitive about the impression we were devilish fellows indeed If she still possesses her maidenly virtue she will walk warily now Barnes know (sic) how to embellish a tale with obtuse finesse Went to an ENSA show The corny English humor was depressing an evening totally lost

Dec There was abig (sic) dog fight over Nijmegen today Three unidentified planes were seen going down in our sector There has been heavy enemy ait (sic) activity all over the northern front today enemy aircraft were claimed to have been downed A rumour has come through that Panzer divisions and supporting troops have broken through in Luxembourg on a quiet section of the front held by the French forces

Dec At Brakkenstein Intelligence confirms that the enemy have broken through Luxembourg on a mile front and made a penetration of miles They Jets in action on our front and in Russia The Biggest enemy air offensive of the war Russian and Allied planes are acknowledged to have been destroyed by the enemy Security silence has been clamped down along the entire Allied front We listened to Radio Arnhem (sic) (Axis Sally) tell us the Canadians at Nijmegen planned on eating their Christmas turkey in ease and comfort but the Nazi High Command hereby promised them a special Christmas party their idea of a war of nerves Went to the baths and forgot about it momentarily

Dec At Barkkenstein (sic) Spent the afternoon with the minks at the monastery of St Ciroure They claim the local population is pro Nazi Went back billets in the evening and read Ludwig Renn

- Dec At Brakkenstein Sproadic (sic) enemy shelling has been stepped up An enemy raid over Nijmegen (sic) today (sic) killed Canadians However we went up to the Winter Gardens for a show in the evening
- Dec A general stand to Everyone alerted Our Regiment paraded and all officers passed among the ranks in order to facilitate their identification American troops are battling hard in the Bulge Before the Germans (sic) attacked (sic) in the Ardennes they were preceded by Germans disguised as American officers spreading false orders and causing confusion The First German Paratroop Army is concentrated at Arnhem and is prepared for action The Germans are near Liege on the Meuse Intelligence expects a mass enemy jump along the Mass to roll up the Allied left flank and seize Antwerp This creates the danger of Allied divisions being pocketed Orders were given by our O C All Canadians are to stand fast at Nijmegen and there must be no retreat from the salient and any circumstance Any Canadian officer giving an order to retire is to be immediately shot by his own men No chances are to be taken Dutch civilians have been warned to remain out of sight If the enemy drop begins all civilians are to be shot on sight We stood guard all night
- Dec The Paratroop danger has receded There was a small drop south of Nijmegen German paratroopers surprised a small group of English officers in their quarters and killed a few but were later wiped out by English infantry In the evening we went to the Canada Club with Barnes Stood guard from midnight on Quite cold
- Dec At Brakkenstein In billets Went up to R H Q with Moscovitch and seen Lieut Caron He and Capt Sevigny have been awarded the Polska Militari Virtuti First Class (the Polish (sic) V C) by the Polish Government in Exile for their good work at Chambois on August 17th when they saved the Poles from annihilation We found it amusing for Caron to receive a decoration from the Polish Fascist government as he is prominent in L P P circles in Montreal
- Dec At Brakkenstein Enemy (sic) threat (sic) in an early morning attack east of Nijmegen but it was smothered by artillery and rocket fire The two Macs MacLean and McLeod went to Brussels on a 24 hour pass
- Dec At Brakkenstein Went to Christmas dinner at the Windsor Gardens in Nijmegen with Barnes followed by a bang up supper which our battery provided for the monks as a mark of appreciation of their hospitality Later we went to a show at the Winter Gardens They day was notable for its lack of liquid cheer
- Dec At Brakkenstein Went back to our wagon lines and looted a book on English literature Everyone is optimistic that von Runstedt's drive is halted However German troops are still on the Meuse It looks like they are trying for the Channel ports

Dec At Brakkenstein On guard (sic) all last night Enemy reconnaissance (sic) were active during the night flooded (sic) by bombers by daylight Some got through the heavy flack and bombs fell in our area No casualties Touchette whom I was with at L CARU in Bordon came over and visited us in our billets He is with the 1st Field Regiment

Dec At Brakkenstein In billets A friend of the Rossen's visited and (sic) told us he had been a voluntary worker in a Cologne factory in He lost two houses through bombing He recalled the first great air raid of The British came over at P M June and sixty thousand civilians perished including French workers who were blockbusted in a huge (sic) cellar called ma (sic) shelter The best shelters were for Germans only The foreigners took the Jerry built ones if and when available The Americans followed the British in a daylight raid He never came out of his shelter till P M days Goebbels came down in person to boost morale and promise dire vengeance

Dec We have received movement orders Our unit is withdrawn from static duty We are to move toward the Tilburg front The Germans are reported to have broken through the Poles and the 1st Canadian Armoured Division has gone in to restore the front Our M vehicle got separated from the main convoy We failed to find our rendezvous point We halted at midnight

(PAGE OF ORIGINAL MISSING)

patrol He had neglected to post sentries They were recaptured when the Poles discovered the Germans trying to recross the Maas

Jan At Kaatsheuvel Heavy artillery fire along the front last night Intelligence reports the First German Paratroop Army are again massing in the Arnhem area Leaves are now official The first leave party was selected today for Engalnd (sic)

Jan At Kaatsheuvel Our rear party went back to Nijmegen Heavy snowfall Enemy concentration broken up for the time being Dimished (sic) fire plans and more relaxation (sic) from duty Awaiting developments when weather clears Heard from Malcolm

Jan At Kaatsheuvel Went to Tilburg and seen a movie Werfel's "Song of Bernadette" Jennifer Jones terrific in the leading role Boudreau of Battery who was supposedly AWOL was found murdered in Brussels The Allied military ring in Brussels A Canadian officer and men are being held alleged to be implicated in a black market ring The Poles have been pulled out of the operational theatre In many quarters they are considered unreliable especially since the Russian recognition of the Dublin government

Jan At Kaatsheuvel Quiet No activity The South Alberta's pulled in today and are between us the Maas

- Jan At Kaatsheuvel A biting cold day The Poles have gone to Breda No mail again today Everyone disgusted
- Jan At Kaatsheuvel Activity at a minimum A few H F 's only Vicious weather with squalls blowing in from the sea
- Jan At Kaatsheuvel Moderate activity but (sic) the bad weather continues Enemy (sic) more active with buzzz (sic) bombs than usual
- Jan At Kaatsheuvel Very cold Enemy artillery suddenly flared into (sic) violent activity before dark There was a general stand to Enemy paratroopers came down almost on our R H Q There was a short and fierce fire fight by 1st Div Infantry Few got away most of them were captured Stood guard the rest of the night
- Jan At Kaatsheuvel Enemy night shelling again noticeable for appearance (sic) of heavy (sic) calibre shells many (sic) of which are duds We are sleeping in the local police chief's house He told us how the Germans transported mines in Red Cross ambulances right through Kaatsheuvel In October the Dutch underground got the German plans of movement and orders into Allied hands The R A F bombed and completely destroyed the column The Germans never tried it again At Heusden the S S herded Dutch civilians into the cellar of the church locked them in and killed them with grenades In spite of this anti Red feeling is strong among the Dutch A favorite German trick is to masquerade as a religious Today two Germans came through (sic) the 1st Division lines disguised as nuns They were walking down the street in Kaatsheuvel when they were recognized and seized by the Dutch police We went up to Tilburg in the evening and seen a show That asinine Bing Crosby in "Going My Way"
- Jan At Kaatsheuvel The South Alberta's detected civilians casing our gun positions They took after them but they made good their escape The S A R 's lost them in some buildings The 1st Medium Regt R A (Imperials) is taking over from us They arrived today Warsaw is in Russian hands
- Jan Heavy rain fell all day We moved back through Tilburg bound for the Nijmegen front We stopped in convoy 10 kilometres west of Tilburg for supper which I ate in a small roadside chancel Very wet and miserable At dark we pulled back into our old static (sic) position at Brakkenstein near the hospitable monastery of St Ciroure The Rossen family welcomed us back and I slept in a real feather bed We have risen in their esteem since that dark foreboding night nearly two months ago when we first knocked on their door Little Marga was in a transport of delight climbed on our knees and talked like a chatterbox We did not fire a single round
- Jan Our stay at Brakkenstien was short lived We moved today to Berignen close to our old position at Ewijk where we were in December German activity has again flared up in this part of the

salient We fire constantly at enemy targets Heavy rain Bad roads

Jan At Berigen In action Counter battery Snow flurried and very cold Received a wrist watch from home Intelligence reports German towns have fallen to Russian forces in their advance into East Prussia

Jan At Berigen In action The enemy hold an old castle Strongly defended Two Welsh infantry battalions are brought up to attack Some of our officers are in a sweat Some of our shells fell short Three Welshmen were killed The higher ups are enquiring looking for answers Lieut Pontbriand on the spot Took a walk at dusk with Breekke The Red tidal wave rolls on The Red Army is within miles of Posen and Breslau

Jan At Berigen First sub zero weather since I left Canada Vile weather indeed A dog fight over Nijmegen left vapor trails all over the sky A beautiful sight McLeod left today He has been transferred to the 2nd Survey Regiment Zhukov is 100 miles from Germany and Rokossovsky is 150 miles from the enemy frontier

Jan We moved back to our static position in Brakkenstein A welcome move Went out on a night workmparty (sic) unloading storing and camouflaging shells near a prepared position close to the Reichswald An even which confirms the report of a coming Allied offensive Very cold

Jan At Brakkenstein Went up on a night digging party to our proppective (sic) prepared position Spent all night digging Very cold and wet Adogs's (sic) life

Jan At Brakkenstein Heavy snow again Safely back in billets at Rossens' Barnes arrived back from Irave (sic) in England

Jan At Brakkenstein Went to the Ptomaine Poison Joint known officially as the Blue Diamond Not even an ersatz hamburger was to be found Lieut Turner joined our Command Post Staff as Troop Leader today The Russians enter Brandenburg 100 miles from Berlin Snowing at dusk

Jan Snowing Front inactive A few H F 's only Snug in billets

Jan At Brakkenstein Snow still falling Everyone holed up in the best way possible

Jan At Brakkenstein Still snowing Radio reports heavy storms raging all over northern Europe Minimum activity by the unit Russians are now 100 miles past Posen Memel has been captured by the Red Army

Jan At Brakkenstein Snow continues Eenemy (sic) shelling suddenly more active Radio and press reports indicate German morale declining Thr (sic) Mayor of Breslau has been shot as an anti Nazi

- Jan Left Brakkenstein and moved to Kappel near the Reichswald in our previously (sic) prepared positions Growing signs everywhere of the coming offensive
- Feb At Kappel near (sic) the German border We are shelling Cleves The weather has turned warm and is thawing The main Russian body is now miles from Berlin
- Feb At Kappel Periodic firing against the outer defences of the Siegfried line
- Feb At Kappel Thwaing (sic) weather Unit in action maintaining (sic) a medium tempo of fire on German positions The Russians are on the Oder As our battery wit remarked "Something stinks in Berlin the Russians can tell by the Oder "
- Feb At Kappel Still thawing Unit maintains a moderate fire plan Enemy put up heavy counter fire this morning Armour is beginning to move up Headquarters th Canadian Armoured Division have moved in beside us
- Feb At Kappel Unit continues in action More armour oving (sic) up Went to the Blue Diamond in the evening Fared better this time
- Feb At Kappel Unit active Armour still coming up Elements of XXX British Corps identified Back to the Blue Diamond in the evening that gastronomical horror house
- Feb At Kappel In action The tension grows Units massing into jumping off positions Unit briefing First Canadian Army and XXX British Corps to break through the Reichswald pivot and crack the Siegfried Line in the Cleves direction which the main objective Operation links up a joint effort by the th U S Army who will attack on the Rhine and seize bridge heads Before dark we began a preliminary bombardment As darkness fell Cleves was hit by a force of Lancaster bombers
- Feb At Kappel The advance into the Reichswald begins A heavy barrage begins at A M and German strong points previously registered are smothered in a tornado of fire Gunfire rolls incessantly Canadian and British infantry begin to advance down the Berg en Dal road In the first greying dawn I see the tense flushed faces of the Worcesters as they go through Kappel to assault the Reichswald –already corpses are being brought back lashed to the tops of ambulance jeeps At A M we fire a supporting barrage for the rd Canadian Division IN the first hours our troops have stormed and taken Cleves and the Siegfried Line is penetrated on a wide front At A M we fire another barrage as the nd Canadian Division goes in with the Maissonneuves leading the assault The outer Nazi defences have crumbles in a terrible (sic) inferno of fire and destruction The Maissonneuves advance almost unopposed with only one casualty and take prisoners The Canadians masses guns for the breakthrough Our unit kept up a sustained fire for / hours It

is the heaviest artillery fire I have seen since Caen in Normandy. The thunderous vibration rolls for hours. Eighty five miles away in distant Brussels windows rattle and a distinct ground swell can be heard as the tempo of our bombardment grows in fury. Civilians pause in the streets listen (sic) and say "The Canadians are attacking the Siegfried (sic) Line." Later long lines of prisoners come in. Some reel drunkenly others stare vacantly some shamble along in tears while others laugh hysterically. A German WAAC follows a column of German prisoners screaming "Mein Liber Hans" until a Canadian Provost forcibly holds her on the ground while she kicks and claws helplessly. German prisoners who are articulate say they were overwhelmed by an annihilating fire in the first hours of the offensive and could not make a defensive stand in their front line.

Feb At Kappel We continue in action. Out (sic) troops are now fighting inside the Siegfried defences. Intelligence reports that two entire enemy regiments were wiped out by our barrage. They were caught while a relief was underway. Another prisoners were taken today. Near panic reported as the Russian near Berlin.

Feb At Kappel In action. Gains continue. The Reichwald has been completely overrun. Cleves was captured by the 3rd Wessex Division. Enemy raiders were over last night. No damage. We moved into new billets on the invitation of Dutchman Count Peiman and his wife. They speak fluent English. The Count a man of venerable age told (sic) of some of his experiences in Germany after the war of 1914-18 and how the cult of war and the obsession for world domination fostered by the militarist caste (sic). The Countess recalled a visit to Lubeck in 1938 where already ordinary Germans were deifying Hitler and shouting "We march to the East and the West the whole world is ours." The Count explained (sic) the mass exterminations by the Nazis as a component part of the Nazi program part of a carefully designed policy to wage biological warfare to reduce and vitiate the strength of their opponents. In Holland certain feminine types specified as physically superior Nordics received (sic) special treatment and remuneration for bearing children to the SS and Nazi elite. The Count summed up the Germans in their relations to other peoples "The Slavs are feared; for the English they have a genuine hatred because (sic) the "verdamnt (sic)" English kept them from a place in the sun; the French are considered degenerate; the Americans are neither (sic) feared nor hated just despised because you can buy the average American with liquor and woman and lead him anywhere." The Russians are the only people (sic) whom really (sic) understand (sic) how to deal with the Germans.

Feb At Kappel In action. The 11th Redde Regt has passed through the inner the Siegfried defences. They found hundreds of Dead Nazis in the areas beyond. Still enjoying the Count's hospitality. Had a bath in real hot water and in a real bath tub.

Feb At Kappel Periodic targets. The Canadians have cleared all the roads leading to Emmerich. The 3rd Wessex Division is pushing

beyond Cleves. The last islands of resistance in the Reichswald have been mopped up.

Feb At Kappel. Routine fire plans. The advance continues. The enemy did not evacuate all civilians from Cleves and many remained behind. The Russians are now _____ miles behind the Oder. German civilians are fleeing to the west but many have no recourse but to remain behind.

Feb At Kappel. Almost continuous harassing fire against enemy targets across the Rhine.

Feb At Kappel. Our front is static. activity (sic) has tapered off. Went all the way back to the Blue Diamond for a hamburger. A _____ mile smoke screen covers the Wal and Lek from above Nijmegen to the south. Near Kranenburg we were surprised to see long range German shells land in a nearby field.

Feb At Kappel. In action. Increased fire by our unit. Canadian infantry are engaged in a heavy action and heavy daylight bombers were busy giving low level and close support to infantry. A beautiful day. The first real sunshine for weeks.

Feb At last we move into (sic) Germany although (sic) in early November we were but _____ / _____ miles from the frontier. Passed through Gennep and Zanne Heuvel Ridge. scene of desperate fighting by English infantry and took up a position in Materborn a suburb of Cleves. Hundreds of civilian refugees are waling the roads. The Rhineland is a beautiful country. obe (sic) can well understand the nostalgia evoked in a Rhinelanders when memory recalls his homeland. What a terrific blast of war has passed this way. the utter desolation of these pulverized German towns.

Feb At Materborn. In action. We hearvthe (sic) continual roar of Allied guns. Went to look at the main Siefgried defence line in Cleves. The absolute destruction beggars description. The bombing of Cleves was far worse than anything seen in Normandy. I seen the Swan Castle of Brunnhilda celebrated in Wagner's Siegfried epic. In a shattered German residential section I picked up a perfect paleontoligical (sic) specimen of a fossilized fern. The same house contained a ladies boudoir with a complete file of the Ladies Home Journal for the year.

Feb At Materborn. In action. Scottish Infantry of the _____ st Highland Division capture Goch. At _____ hours we knocked out two enemy tanks. Enemy infantry and armour are moving up.

Feb At Materborn. Heavily engaged. Enemy launched a full scale counter attack on the _____ nd Canadian Division. The Essex Scottish were overrun on the Moyland Road between Goch and Calcar. Only the O C and _____ men are left. These included the L O B. The Royal Regiment was committed in their place. We supported with A B against German infantry forming up for the attack. _____ enemy

tanks were knocked out. The line was finally restored by the 10th C I B and 100 German prisoners taken.

Feb At Materborn. In action. A huge air armada passed over last night bound for Germany wave after wave that continued for over two hours. We fired a fire plan in support of 1st Cdn Div.

Feb At Materborn. In action. Another huge Allied air raid last night which (sic) took two hours to pass. The enemy are counter attacking between Goch and Clacar (sic) again. Our FOO party got up to a cellar occupied by the Bn H Q of the Essex Scottish what is left of them. Contrary to report the Essex Scottish did not retreat but were overwhelmed in the first rush of the German attack. Went down in a cellar with St Hildaire and 100 set wireless (sic) silence effective till 10 hours to await Capt Poulin our FOO officer who was expected at daylight. It was adark (sic) night. Before dawn the enemy advanced into the village abd (sic) quietly established themselves in a house across the street. Our boys discovered them first fired a PIAT bomb through the window of the house where the enemy were located followed it up with grenades. 100 prisoners were taken. The German attack began soon after daylight. The infantry got 100 tanks with PIATS and our unit accounted for two in one of the freak shots of the war. While coming out of the woods apparently an H E went straight down the open hatch of the leading tank. There was atremendous (sic) explosion and the tank blew up. The one advancing nearly parallel to it stopped caught fire and never moved after that. Two enemy tank men were seenscurrying (sic) away in the long growth. The enemy counter attack petered out after that as the German infantry were seen pulling back out of the woods where they had formed up tp (sic) jump off. Enemy planes are active strafing and bombing over the front especially Focke Wulf 109's.

Feb At materborn. Unit on a moderate fire plan. and (sic) H F 's. Went to Cleves and looked over the prison where Polish slave girls were imprisoned (sic). I will (sic) always remember the punishment cells. These nazis richly deserve every punishment they may get. Armed Germans of this type must never be allowed to terrorize Europw (sic) again. I met Don Halverson in Cleves. Their unit the 10th Anti Tank is in reserve. The route from the frontier to the Rhineland is marked by the burnt out and crippled armour of the 10th Canadian aArmour (sic) Division. Enemy anti tank guns took a heavy toll. Don told me Ernie Minion with whom I took the Signals Course at Bordon was killed in action on D day with the 10th Field Regiment.

Feb Moved out at daylight to Lousiendorf. The 10th Field Regiment occupied a position to ourrear (sic). Our gun psotion (sic) was located with the support Company of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. We are under enemy observation from Calcar. I was uneasy so dug a 10 x 10 foot dugout in the soft earth reinforced by logs and covered with 100 feet of bricks iron and nmearth (sic). At noon our mobile kitchen came up to point south the Louisendorf crossroads. was (sic) sitting along ahedge (sic) eating dinner when enemy 109's

suddenly started dropping. Hid in a slit trench till the shelling stopped. Started back for our C P with Polier and Snider. Was in the middle of a field when we were fired upon by multiple mortars. No cover. Laid down in a tank track. After a lull we got up and started to run. Another salvo landed almost immediately. Nearly a direct hit. The blast nearly blew the battle blouse off my back. Suffered shock and difficult breathing. Laid down in the deep tank tracks and never moved till dark. From there we could see the enemy shells and mortars landing in Louisendorf village all the afternoon. We suffered a direct hit on one gun crew. A mortar shell came through the window of the building next to our command post dugout and killed men of the Rpyal (sic) Winnipeg's. Our troop gun carrier was hit but the crew men Femia and Parham escaped. In my absence my dugout held men and withstood two direct mortar hits. Capt. Sevigny was hit by a mortar shell near Louisendorf Church and lost a leg. The two batmen accompanying him in his jeep were both wounded. In all our unit lost men killed and men wounded. A sneak raider came over after dark and bombed us. He had no luck and scurried away ahead of the ack ack fire.

Feb At Louisendorf Rain began falling during the night and fell steadily all day. Enemy shelling reduced but heavy small arms fire along the front. The mortar crews from the Royal Winnipeg's are with us. Like old days with the Poles at Falaise. Hundreds of Germans are seeking safety behind our lines. I seen a demented old lady straggling along the road wringing her hands. A tragedy of war—or the war brought home to those who waged it like cannibal monsters on the rest of Europe. I harder my heart. Sentimental pity is a weakness if a war is to be won. We must never let the Germans organize sympathy again and use it to destroy us. In the darkness we hear the clanking tread of tanks. Night sounds that presage further battles.

Feb At Louisendorf In action. Calcar was heavily bombed last night before the infantry attack went in. A continual Canadian barrage rolled all night. The sky lit with searchlights. Our position was raked by enemy fire. Gnr. Alain (Quebec City PQ) was wounded. SITREP; The Canadians have advanced on a mile front for a depth of miles. Goch which was lost by the Canadians was by passed (sic) bybour (sic) troops and taken by the 1st Wessex Division. Groups of German prisoners coming all day and into the night.

Feb At Louisendorf We fired an all night barrage. The Candian (sic) attack continues. Intelligence reports Allied infantry and Armoured Divisions are pushing to the Rhine. We were visited by a Russian general. A handsome figure with a critical eye who conversed in excellent French. Prisoners keep coming in.

Feb At Louisendorf In action. Our attack developing in the direction of Xanten. The Royal Regiment (sic) and Essex Scottish passed through our lines going up to the attack. Intelligence reports German desperation mounts as the 1st U S Army advances. We meet German men and a girl today with their servile looks and

downcast eyes I never thought any decent human being capable of such grovelling and bootlicking How true of the militarist mind (sic) German They are either at your throats or grovelling at your feet We moved into a well appointed farmhouse and are living on the fat of the land turkey beef steak and all the trimmings all (sic) tastily prepared by (sic) our Abel Bill Dale former cook at the Ambassador Hotel Vancouver We had a real gourmet's feast My esthetic (sic) feelings were rather dampened when I discovered one of our ruffians had chopped up the beautiful period furniture to roast the turkeys however (sic) notwithstanding (sic) I did enjoy (sic) Parham's rendition of "Sleepy Lagoon" on the piano

Mar At Louisendorf In action The 1st British Armoured Division are attacking on our left The 2nd Canadian Division area attacking on our left The 2nd Canadian Division moved in to attack the Hochwald The enemy are putting up a terrific resistance in the Balberger Wald and have regained about three quarters of the forest Our artillery does not cause so many enemy casualties as they well dug in The Algonquins though captured an entire German regiment The 1st U S Army are 100 miles from Cologne and pushing toward Dusseldorf The 1st Canadian Armoured Division are moving up (sic) tonight We were accidentally strafed this evening by Spitfires – Laberge was wounded

Mar At Louisendorf In action AGRA H Q was bombed last night Our armour is being shelled by heavy calibre guns across the Rhine Weese has been captured The Americans are at Venlo on the Dutch German frontier A German infantry officer (sic) while waiting to be escorted to a POW cage conversed with our officer He discussed Tables of Organization German officers know (sic) that a Canadian infantry division has the equivalent of 3 German infantry regiments No German counter attack is launched against a Canadian formation unless there is an absolute superiority in infantry Canadian infantry (sic) is highly rated in German Intelligence reports

Mar At Louisendorf In action U S Troops are 100 miles from our forward position The 1st U S Cavalry Division and 1st Infantry Division are trying to hook up with the 1st British Armoured Division Weese has been mopped up 2nd AGRA H Q was bombed again last night

Mar At Udem Made a night move to a new (sic) position near Udem to support 2nd Cdn Div in the Hochwald Unfavorable terrain Terrible mud the (sic) ground we traversed is marked by stranded armour Every foot of the Hochwald is mined especially with shoe mines a particularly nasty type of anti personnel mine which rarely kills outright but usually causes genital wounds when trod upon Literally thousands are scattered all over The Fusiliers Mont Royal relieved the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry The F M R 's pushed into the Hochwald and lost 100 men killed U S Troops are said to have a bridgehead across the Rhine at Remagen

The 10th U S Infantry Division contacted our 1st Canadian Infantry Division today

Mar At Udem In action Stiff enemy resistance They have a good screen of defensive anti tank guns Every farm house is a minor fortress (sic) The Calgary Highlanders are on the east edge of the Hochwald and the 1st Wessex Division are coming down on their right toward Xanten The terrain is now a sea of mud Seen the first Zombies who came up as reinforcements to the Essex Scottish Civilians are everywhere now Docile and passive in their behavior No evidence of a single Werewolf However in a courtyard this morning we seen (sic) a crowd of refugees A German speaking intelligence and Provost men were processing them The female civilians of all ages were gathered on one side and the males civilians on the other In a separate group were a group of German military prisoners The Canadian officer said somethinh (sic) unintelligible to me A huge hulking German paratrooper went beserk and lunged at him Two Provost seized the prisoner and had their heads knocked together for their pains One finally pistol whipped him the second handcuffed him I heard the officer say "Take him over the hill boys" They forcibly loaded him into a jeep and departed in the direction of the POW cages They came back in about ten minutes without him Nazi resistance is visibly crumbling No one shows any real fight except the die hard Nazis The average Wehrmacht soldier surrenders in droves meek abject and friendly unlike the arrogant strutting supermen we took in Normandy who would sneer and spit in your face What a commentary on the German mentality How true is the characterization of the German character as given by that Anglo Irishman the Marquis of Donegal "The Germans are a race of ferocious sheep ever ready and willing to follow any leader or Fuehrer who will show them a gap in the hedge of international law and lead them to good raiding in their neighbors (sic) pasture " Intelligence report The 10th U S Army took Krefeld lost it and retook it Three thousand Allied prisoners were freed in Krefeld

Mar At Udem Activity has slackened Heavy rain The enemy is pulling back beyond the Rhine

Mar We moved to Pallenkath between the Hochwald and the Balberger Wald We were shelled while in convoy An enemy observation post in Xanten Wood had us under observation We abandoned our vehicles and took shelter in a basement with a party of Maissonneuves Our area was shelled all day Major Codere visited our C P today He is the O C of the Battery replacing Major Lahaie who has gone to England I have not seen him since last July when he was wounded the first day the unit was in action

Mar At Pallemkath Unit active We were shelled again today other wise (sic) no unusual activity A brigade from the 10th U S Army has made four crossings of the Rhine nearvour (sic) sector The 1st U S Army is in Cologne Patton's Thirs (sic) Army is acroose (sic) the Rhine near Coblenz and has a bridgehead 10 miles deep on a mile front Our FOO party had a brush with paratroopers One

came up to our gun carrier and surrendered. It was a ruse. He suddenly threw a grenade. Femia the crew man shot him. The remaining number who were in ambush attempted to escape. Some infantrymen came up and the entire enemy group were wiped out.

Mar At Pallenkath Bitter weather Violent winds Col Ganon and Lieut Geoffrion visited our Command Post. Jeff returned recently from England. He was our original G P O in Normandy. Civilains (sic) are everywhere and are a problem.

Mar At Pallenkath Diminished activity. It is rumoured a crossing of the Rhine is soon to be underway in our sector. Went to Calcar for a bath.

Mar At Pallenkath Unit active. The Xanten pocket has been liquidated. Heavy bombing of German positions across the Rhine continue. Messerschmidts came over strafing. They proved to be an ill starred group. Two of them were downed by ack ack fire. Polier was a casulaty (sic). I went out to eat and when I returned to the bath we were using as a billet he had a (sic) already been evacuated. Today I met a German family on their way to church. They really made a desperate effort at fratenization. Mein Heer (sic) talked to me in French, the stout Frau in German and the dumpy daughter in English. They all talked at ince (sic) with the net result i (sic) did not understand a single word spoken. So they continued on their way to chruch (sic) and probably prayed for "Goot (sic) to Strafe England."

Mar At Pallenkath Quieter. The front seems to have rolled on. Enemy jets out on reconnaissance (sic). A heavy bombing raid on Ger any (sic) last night. Aircraft passed overhead for or hours.

Mar We have been pulled out of the Rhine Front. Moved back to the Maas River in Holland. We travelled (sic) via Udem, Kranenburg, Nijmegen, s Hertogenbosch (sic) and made a night bivouac at Vugt.

Mar At Vugt. Went and seen the huge German concentration camp where Dutch people were put to death by the Nazis. The incinerators were still standing undemolished as a silent testimonial to Nazi bestiality. I will remember this in the years ahead when someone tells me it was a figment of imagination conceived by Allied propaganda. We came back to our old sector on the Maas. Battery are in their old position at Kaatsheuvel. R H Q and A Troop are at Cromvoirt. We took over a position at Nieuwkuijk from the th Medium Regiment (Imperials). Waather (sic) has turned warmer. Spring like atmosphere. Engaging many targets.

Mar At Nieuwkuijk -Unit engaging enemy targets. A fine day. Spring is approaching. Last night we heard the old familiar sound of buzz bombs. The enemy are still directing them against Antwerp. Went for a bath.

Mar Weather cloudy Buzz bombs still going over We left Niewkuijk in P M back for the Nijmegen (sic) area in (sic) P M The Nijmegen is still blacked out by the gigantic smoke screen There are heavy concentrations in the Nijmegen (sic) area A build up is under way for the Rhine Crossing We went into a concentration area at Berg en Dal

Mar At Berg en Dal Resting Went to a movie in the Winter Gardens Betty Grable Oh those gams Our boys had a brawl with the Irish Guards Palidwor and Babineau have gone to rejoin the paratroops also Capt Gagnon

(HANDWRITTEN)

MAR Our Arty Air Observer an (sic) blonde fair haired English lad who was with us since the Normandy beach head was killed today A Fock Wolfe strafed him with cannon fire and he plummeted down dead (?) in front us He was popular with all the boys and his passing is regretted by everyone These Air Arty boys are sitting ducks to a fast fighter plane

Mar Unit at Berg en Dal – Resting a (sic) lovely Sunday O C gave me permission to go back to Brakkenstein and visit our Dutch friends usual (sic) security warnings etc The Rossen's had a heart warming welcome for me Played with little Marga and forgot the war Later I walked down the Berg en Dal Road with Anna and Nola Nola is a typical stout Dutch girl She had a boy friend in the 1st Airborne Div a certain Joe Gagnon from Massachusetts There is no visible evidence that they did more than hold hands Nola expects it will be a boy and (sic) keeps awaiting the return of her Dear Joe I went back to Rossens and slept between white sheets A lone Jerry came over during the night dropped flares and one bomb which fell near the monastery No damage except to blow someone's turnip into the next county The Rossen family told me the Camadians (sic) are to cross the Rhine within a week Wonderful security When anyone asks a question bearing on any military subject a standard reply is "Ask the Dutch" They usually know much and more than our own intelligence

Mar Back at Berg en Dal in time for breakfast Went back after dinner to Nijmegen to see a show "The Bandoliers" Very good especially the Indian motifs which are thoroughly Canadian Met Lovell whom I have not seen since I left Bordon

Mar At Berg en Dal Went to the Canada Club in Nijmegen Wrote letters and read Met Marvin Cardinal from Lac La Biche Alta

Mar At Berg en Dal Night raiders were over last night There is a steady forward movement of armour and hundreds of our aircraft are in the skies The pre offensive tenseness grows Old Blood and Guts Patton is blasting hell out of the enemy on the 1st U S Army front

- Mar Left Berg en Dal and made a night occupation of a position at Kellen We are back in Germany We are to support the long expected Rhine Crossing
- Mar At Kellen An almost continuous action XXX British Corps has move up to jump off in the lead for tomrrow's (sic) Rhine Crossing 1st Canadian Infantry Division made a diversionary attack today supported by a terrific all day bombardment Two guns of our troop were detached to fire H F 's in the area beyond Calcar to deceive the enemy
- Mar At Kellen During the night artillery fire increased all along the front We were shelled by German heavy batteries After daylight we assembled on the lawn of our Command Post building The unit was briefed and warned against an anticipated enemy airborne counterattack Intelligence reports General Kellelring is in command of the German defences He arrived from Italy and is an ableand (sic) resourceful leader Our unit must be prepared for the worst particularly as Kesselring enjoys a bad reputation for treatment of POW's He is considered a ruthless killer by Intelligence There is rumour he executed hundreds of Italian civilians near Rome An hour barrage preceded the attack on Ries At 10 P M thousands of Allied airborne troops began jumping beyond the Rhine At dark SITREP reported we had beach head 10 kilometers (sic) deep on a 10 kilometres front
- Mar At Kellen Enemy bombers were over during the night strafing recklessly Their artillery never relaxed during the night but their defences are crumbling rapidly Their mortar fire is the heaviest and most sustained I have seen since Normandy SITREP reports the 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers have linked up with the 1st British and 1st U S Airborne Divisions The 1st British Commandoes hold Wesel The 1st U S Division are holding along the Saven Canal and the 1st U S Division are pushing toward Dinslaken Enemy formations identified in our area include 1st Inf Div 1st Hitler Youth Panzer Div and the 1st Paratroop Division centered on Aalten The 1st Panzwer Div in and around Bochelt 1st Paratroop Div south of Bochelt and the 1st Inf Div at Wesel Churchill is at Montgomery's Field H Q Kesselring has taken over supreme field command from Runstedt Our G P O Capt Martin (Joliette P Q) who was in Italy with the 1st Medium says he is a master of the technique of slow retreat utterly ruthless and a fighter of last ditch calibre
- Mar At Kellen Unit activity slackened to moderate fire Went back to Calcar for a bath in P M Patton is moving toward Frankfort
- Mar At Kellen Eenemy (sic) raided during the dark hours A JU was brought down by ack ack fire near us Enemy artillery shifted from the forward area and there was intense enemy air hurst (sic) ranging all last night probing behind our smoke screen The Canadians are now leaving German civilians in the forward areas as their numbers are so huge there is no ready alternative I met

- Donald Cardinal He is from Lac La Biche AltPatton (sic) is in Frankfort
- Mar At Kellen Unit active Weather is changing to cloudy and overcast The Canadian Scottish attack Emmerich Patton is already beyond Frankfort One spearhead is miles from Nuremburg and another is moving toward Fulda There is much speculation as to whether he will link up with Konev in Czecho Slovakia or attempt an enveloping movement of the Ruhr
- Mar At Kellen Our unit fired an all night barrage directed beyond Emmerich
- Mar At Kellen Unit continues the barrage alternating with infantry calls British troops are miles from Munster
- Mar At Kellen Inactive Enemy are out of range Our extreme range is yards Montgomery is well into the North German Plain
- Apr We cross the Rhine at last by Blackfriars Bridge We see many enemy civilians now We went through Bienen Not a single building remains standing I saw a stout German frau weeping while her portly German husband sat on the concrete steps of his demolished house All that remained of their home They stared stonily at the ground and never looked up as we past I wonder if they thought of Warsaw Rotterdam and Coventry We went through Millingen to Anhalt We finally took up a firing position before dark We were disappointed to find we were not in Germany but back in Holland in a village we identified as Ulft The enemy were out of range
- Apr We moved toward Zutphen site of the old battlefield where Sir Phillip Sydney gained immortality We were held up as the enemy demolished bridges over the canal We halted ar (sic) Vorden and tookmup (sic) a position and awaited the infantry The South Saskatchewan's moved up at dusk We engaged enemy targets after dark Arnhem has been taken by the First Canadian Corps
- Apr At Vorden The enemybis (sic) shelling and counter attacking with tanks Enemy prisoners now adopt a very friendly attitude and a new line They are holding off the Russians and letting us into Germany to save us from Bolshevism This makes some impression on the Dutch A Rotterdam worker who labored as a German war worker volunteer told us in perfect French "Les Ruses sont les elevés de les Allemandes" indicating the extent to which Nazi propaganda has poisoned the minds of European workingmen German arrogance is now a thing of the past
- Apr Moved to Valkenhorst which enables us to range and fire beyond the Twente Canal Heavy rain in progress The Americans area near Osnabruck
- Apr At Valkenhorst Continued heavy rain Our infantry continue to push beyond the Twente Canal

- Apr At Valkenhorst Firedcpreliminary (sic) barrage and later call support The F M F &s (sic) and South Saskatchewan's jumped off at A M to capture Zutphen An S S Panzer was apparently stalled at a crossroads under our direct observation boxed in without hope of escape They refused surrender Our battery knocked them out I took an S S party book from a dead crew member The perverted Nazi racial philosophy was grimly revealed in its pages The document duly recorded all the bearer's ancestors back to the year attested to his Nordic purity and freedom from any Judaistic (sic) taint (Later I gave this startling bokklet (sic) to my Jewish friend Ma (sic) Max Weinlos in Edmonton) The th Canadian Armoured Division have pushed through to the North coast of Holland
- Apr We moved to Verwolde near Laren The Royal Candian (sic) Dragoons bivouacked near us and I was agreeably surprised to meet Stanley Daniels of St Paul Alta He served throughout the Italian campaign The Americans are south of Hanover Vienna is invested by the Red Army/ (sic)
- Apr At Verwolde Enemy paratroops dropped to our north last night but were cut off and rounded up We engaged in a counter battery task A Spitfire pilot reporeted (sic) we knocked out three enemy medium guns almost with our first salvo after we went into Fire for Effect
- Apr At Verwolwe (sic) In action during (sic) the day Night dark and exceptionally quiet The Poles areb (sic) in Cleves on their way to our front Our unit is to be attached again to the st Polish Armored (sic) Division Huot told us excruciatingly comic story of the chaplain in his old regiment the th Light Ack Ack
- Apr Moved through Markelo Goor and Almelo to a concentration point in woods near Baldemaar in Germany Occasional groups of enemy prisoners coming in Todays (sic) group included Asiatics in German uniform
- Apr At Baldemaar in (sic) concentration area The British are miles south of Hamburg Hanover has been captured The Russians have taken three quarters of Vienna
- Apr We moved out of Baldemaar and back into Holland We made a night bivouac at Zuid Sleen Dutch Rsiatnce (sic) men were clearing out the collaborators A Dutch Nazi (or allegedly so) ran out of the back door of a house while it was being searched A volley of rifle fire pitched him face down in a turnip field An attractive Dutch girl was hauled out of the same house and passed through a shouting milling mob An improvised jail housed about twenty of these trollops Canadians and Dutch Oranje men mounted guard to restrain the vengeful crowds My days leave came through tonight Off for Engalnd (sic) tomorrow First leave in months

- Apr Left Zuid Sleen and was jeeped down to Nijmegen by Sergt Major Archambault J A Best Windsor Ont and W F Burrell Rochester Alta accompanied me on the leave train to Calais We travelled with a party from the P P C L I
- Apr Spent hours all last night on the uncomfortable wooden benches of the leave train No sleep Spent the afternoon walking the streets of Calais and looking at the sights Had a welcome nihght's (sic) sleep in the local transit camp
- Apr We left Calais at P M On the S S Biarritz Arrived in King's Cross Station in late evening Swith (sic) Best and Burrell secured quarters in the Gordon Club near Waterloo Station
- Apr Left London and went to visit the Wilfred Race family at Middles to I brough (sic) Yorkshire Wilf an old family friens (sic) emigrated to Canada before World War I and returned to England in He served in the C E F in World War I I received a grand welcome I was a small boy when he left Canada years ago I enjoyed three grand days here Browsed in the bookshops and lazed around No memorable incidents although I was nearly overrun when I passed a factory at closing time P M and was nearly mobbed when the factory suddenly disgorged a spate of factory girls Escaped without any serious consequences I could not help but observe on the basis of the evenings experience that these English girls can really compensate for the deficiencies we "Colonials" find in their men
- Apr Came back to London on the night train via Darlington and Reading
- Apr A day in London Down to Whitechapel Called on my Irish charmer Molly O'Reilly at Aldgate Wonderful day Retracing the footsteps of Samuel Pepys
- Apr To Maidstone to visit the Brookfields Mon was visibly glad to see me A great family Mancy (sic) my first Enflish (sic) friend came down from Crawley and showed me the town We walked along the Medway How beautiful the Kentish countryside in cerry (sic) blossom time Nancy's fiance a Bradford boy is a captain in the Sherwood Rangers with the Desert Rats came down and I met him later A capital fellow and very un English in manner John the only boy in the family and Oxford don fell on the Ebro in Spain in while (sic) serving with the British volunteers in the International Brigade Their home is rendezvous for German and Czech refugees who meet there frequently T A Jackson and Pat Sloan are frequent visitors but I did not meet them I will not easily forget that lovely English garden and the rambling late Tudor period house built in For one whose people Irish and French an (sic) brought up in the anti British imperialist tradition this island of living will long remain in my memory
- Apr Back to London in the evening Nancy came with me to Victoria Station to wish me Godspeed and left for Crawley Nancy is a

graduate in political economy and psychology of London University and held a teaching (sic) post for two years at the London School of Economics. She went back to Crawley where she holds a post in a large war plant as consultant dealing with problems of the female factory personnel

Apr All day in London. Spent mostly in Foyle's the largest book store in the World. Spent the evening in Tottenham Court Road. Met Cohen and Maurice Puchard from Toronto. Took the leave train in late evening and spent the night at the Royal Paviliob (sic) Hotel in Folkstone

Apr Crosses the Channel on the S S Canterbury. Took the all night train with Best and Burrell back to Nijmegen

Apr Spent all day in the Nijmegen transit camp awaiting transport. B S M Archambault arrived in the evening with transport

Apr Left Nijmegen in the late A M. Rejoined the unit at Grete. We are supporting the Poles along the Kusten Canal. Was gald (sic) to see the boys. Almost like returning to the bosom of your own family. After our departure on leave the unit moved to Voordinge in Holland and into a concentration area. This was on April 10th. From April 10th to 15th they were at Beck Loosen in Germany followed by action at Lehe the next day. The unit was heavily engaged during the attack on Papenburg April 16th and 17th. Our troop command post suffered several hits and there were casualties in our troop. Fortuenately (sic) I was on leave. The unit was at Fulmhausen from April 18th to 20th and the following day they moved to Grete where I rejoined them

Apr In action at Grete. Enemy resistance is weakening all along our front

Apr Moved to Westerhauderfehn. A small camp here held French prisoners who were evacuated to the interior four days ago. I went through a hut in Stalag XC a frightful pest hole which held 100 men. Among the abandoned litter I found a package of letters evidently belonging to an Algerian soldier one Marcel Clut. One was a letter from his army godmother in Paris. a snapshot of his comely wife and small daughter and a collection of verses to his wife which I read and found tragically poignant amid the desolation

Apr We moved into a new position at Batxen a short distance from yesterday's position

Apr The English 11th AGRA have moved up near us and are engaging the enemy with a heavy barrage in support of the Poles. We hear Himmler has made an offer through Bernadotte to end the war

May Great news. The Red Flag is flying over the Reichstag in Berlin. Enemy resistance is collapsing everywhere. The 11th Medium ahead of us were shelled by naval guns and lost 100 killed and 200 wounded. At 10 P M we heard over German radio that Reichsfuehrer

Hitler was no more having died a glorious death in the struggle against Bolshevism. Later a special SITREP from R H Q advises that Doenitz has taken over supreme command of Germany

- May Big news today. The Gwrmen (sic) have surrendered in Italy
- May We moved to Detern. A clearer picture of events is now emerging. Goebbels and Hitler committed suicide. Hamburg has been declared an open city.
- May In position at Detern. It was here a haughty German lady speaking perfect English took us to task for the alleged theft of a bicycle. She peremptotily (sic) demanded satisfaction or else—German arrogance is with difficulty concealed by some of these civilains (sic). The Lady did not request. She demanded and seemed quite oblivious of the circumstance of the military defeat. A true example of the Herrenvolk. We moved the Westerstede in the evening in a drizzling rain. While in convoy about 10 P.M. our rear link set informed us that the Germans in North West Europe had entered into negotiations for capitualtion (sic) of all armed forces.
- May In bivouac at Westerstede. Everyone realizes the end is near.
- May We leave Westerstede and push on toward Wilhelmshaven. We move into the town of Marx and are unopposed. Here we open the prisons and Belgians are freed.
- May At Marx. Germany is in collapse. Hundreds of civilian refugees and German soldiers on the loose. Here we roust out a German farm family from their house and take it over as our billets. We gave them 15 minutes to vacate which they did with the utmost alacrity. The interior of the farm house presented a scene of kulak splendor. These people really had it good. With Bethke Gaylord Minn who speaks fluent German we hold converse with a Russian tankist captured at Bialystok in 1941 and an Ukrainian peasant girl who were employed as slave labor on the farm. We permit them to use the bedroom of their former master which gratifies our ironic spirit of revenge.
- May At least the wondrous day. Victory in Europe. Our crew howver (sic) are silent and thoughtful. Anti climax. There is no feeling of exultation nothing but a quiet satisfaction tha (sic) the job has been done and we can see Canada again. We assemble in convoy before noon and await for "Prepare to Move". Shortly before our departure our new found Russian friend beckons silently and we follow him to the cellar which we had meticulously ransacked yesterday evening. Here he indicates to us the secret liquor stock of his former master. What a find. Our troop have a glorious binge. For a while I retire and remain inert under a hedge. Evening approaches as I return to the convoy. Movement orders having been postponed. Orientation is a difficult problem but I manage to load our G.P.O. into the jeep when the order "Mount" come down the line. We pass through Mennen to a concentration

area at Hemsén and bivouac in a farm house. Our troop kitchen burner exploded and burnt the building the ground. I could not help but feel pity for this poor peasant family.

May At Hemsén. We assemble and parade before our O C Col Gagnom (sic) and march to a memorial service in the little rural church nearby to (sic) commemorate those of our regiment who fell in the campaign. The Colonel begins to read the names of our fallen. Tears are in his eyes. He falters and hands the paper to the Adjutant who calmly folds the paper and puts it in his pocket and quietly says "It not necessary. They were comrades. We remember."

May We move out of Germany and to billets in Markelo, Holland. Every town we pass through has a holiday appearance. Five years ago today the Nazis invaded the Low Countries.

May At Markelo. Latest reports say we are to be held in Holland for a month before going on occupation service in Germany. Rumour has it we will go to Oldenburg.

May Crerar announces repatriation plan.

May The Dutch Oranje (sic) are active. Five thousand Dutch S S are in cages at Utrecht. In Markelo we see a little Dutch girl almost a child with clipped hair and pregnant, what an aftermath of war, wholesale misery, we witness the sadistic emotions of revenge and it sickens the (sic) human spirit. I welcome (sic) a long letter from Norris to keep from baneful thinking.

May Re attestation circulars for Pacific service distributed. Not many volunteers for Japan. Everyone wants to go home.

May There is a rumour we are moving to The Hague. Huot, Groulx (sic), Lenteigne and Femia have volunteered for the Pacific theatre. Now doing periodic telephone exchange duty, sports and unending hours of volley ball.

May Went to dental clinic. Had two teeth filled.

May The move to The Hague has been cancelled. New replacements. Zombies are rumoured to be arriving soon to replace us.

May Continued rain. Very depressing. New reinforcements arrived. Among them Girard who left us when he was wounded at Boulogne.

May More reinforcements. Lieut. Sharp, a new officer, joined our troop today.

May Met N W G Wahtmore, Harriston, Ont. I was with him in CARU at Bordon in England. Was shocked to hear the R J Cook, Peace River, Alta, who was with us at Bordon on Signals Course and was with R H Q, had been killed at Louisendorf in February. He is bound for Canada.

- May Went to AGRA Head Quarters for a farewell parade for the 10th Medium (Imperials) who were attached to AGRA. They are returning to England. Heavy downpour throughout the day.
- June Had a visit from Barnes who is with the 10th Medium at Goor. Lemieux has gone to Rotterdam.
- June Went to Amsterdam via Hilversum on all night pass. Seen Bob Hope in the "The Princess and the Pirate". I enjoyed the scene where as a pirate fighting desperately (sic) on the foredeck of the galleon his sword snaps off at the hilt. Bob regards it with an incredulously idiotic look and mutters "No wonder Made in Japan." The 17th century background motivated a hearty belly laugh. That boy can sure roll them in the aisles.
- June Went to The Hague on a cultural tour arriving there at 8 P.M. Our instructor (sic) and officer in Charge, Lieut. Pope on arrival divided the rations fairly, dismissed us and left us to our own cultural devices. Wandered around with Beauchesne, Albertville, Sask and looked over the Peace Palace. Later we meandered into the Hoofstraat, a cultural setting of no mean importance in the gay life of the city. The Paymaster having denied us the financial means necessary for cultural promotion (sic) we failed to make night club history. But for the generosity of the West Nova Scotias we would have slept outside on the ground. These lads gave Beauchesne and I sleeping quarters.
- June We left The Hague by trucks returning to Markelo via Utrecht, Amersfoort, Aneldoorn and Deventer.
- June Anniversary of D Day. Noticeable for its complete inactivity. No parades. Every man had 24 hour pass. Our old man, the Colonel, is a very (sic) practicable man.
- June Went to Almelo. C.C.S. Captain Musgrove consultant (sic) discovered I was afflicted with an outlandish condition which the M.O. camouflaged under the imposing and terrifying description of "prostatic fugax" whatever that is.
- June Went to Church Parade in Markelo Church (Anglican Services).
- June Back (sic) on exchange duty. Huot left for Canada. Bill Dale came back from Nijmegen.
- June Lemieux arrived back on leave from Brussels.
- June Granted 14 days leave to Nordwijk, a coast resort near The Hague. Here I met Vandersteen and Larsen whom I have not seen. D Day. Both survived (sic) the war without mishap. Went up to The Hague but could not secure a bed in any service hostel. Finally, in the purlieu of the Hoofstraat and (sic) elderly Dutch woman directed me to a building. She knocked and an aged but still attractive female opened the door. After an explanation of my plight in my

atrocious Dutch she guided me to a stifling garret room not much larger than a piano box. It contained a ramshackle cot which I accepted gratefully in order to escape the rain. We descended and the landlady (sic) kindly offered me a cup of ersatz coffee. I rummaged in my "black market" kit bag and nobly offered her a tin of Chase and Sanborn's coffee. For two hours my elderly guide whose feminine charms when assessed in the glare of full lighting proved disappointing (sic) and even revolting and my hostess struggled desperately with my linguistic inability with the Dutch language. Finally my hostess with grimace and pantomime conveyed to me she had lived in Vienna and had spent years in Paris. Whereupon I asked her if she spoke French. She replied "Certainement je suis Francaise" and fell upon me with a graceful and truly Gallic embrace. My garret quarters were promptly disregarded the best room in the house prepared my dilapidated guide of the evening shooed rapidly away and a charming young Dutch girl magically appeared well versed in every detail to attend to every amenity of hospitality. My hostess despite her odd years still retained the chic and verve which makes American men so susceptible to the charms (sic) of those foreign women. Like the French say "Qu'elle numero" but a heart of gold lay behind that matter of fact exterior. The hospitality of Madame Jersina will be long remembered.

- June Walked back to Nordwijk in the early P.M. Sat on the terrace of the hotel and drank beer with Sergt. Dumas. The beach area was closed off. German prisoners undr (sic) Dutch guards were busy demining the beaches. Occasionally loud explosions were heard. Three German were blown up today. The Dutch have a technique which ensures complete removal and demolition. Some work details deliberately (sic) left mines "undiscovered". The Dutch guards have work parties link arms and trample every inch of the ground. The incidence of accidental explosions has diminished almost to the absolute minimum. I was chagrined to hear my name called by Lieut. Ostiguy. I have been recalled to the unit for transfer to occupation service in Germany. Went back with the Lieutenant in his jeep and slept in Battery officers kitchen.
- June At Markelo S.O.S. to the / th Field Regiment R.C.A. On our way to Occupation Forces today. Our group included H.J. MacIsaac St. Ninian's Antigonish NS. P.J. Mullan Hudson's Heights P.Q. A.J. Brace and V.J. Ralston of Toronto and myself. We made a night bivouac near a small unidentified village. Have left the th Medium Regiment after year and days service with the unit.
- June At Lunteren I have joined the / th Battery. Was interviewed by the O.C. Major Waugh a Southern Alberta cattleman gifted with an excellent range of profanity. I also met Johnny Macleod Alta Billings of Ottawa whom I took the wireless course at Blackdown. I heard that Tiny Davis my old International Brigader whom I last seen in Brandon in November had finally seen action. That was one boy whom the higher ups really gave the complete run around and buck passing treatment with all the frills.

- June Ran into Lend Gauthier from Judah near Peace River He has been posted to H Troop the mobile unit in the regiment also seen J A Robillard Mont Nebo Sask He is in Battery We were together (sic) in Blackdown Later he was with the Canadian Grenadier Guards Mel Doig from Toronto is also in Batty
- June W T Hodson Ocean Falls B C who was in A Troop in our old regiment (sic) arrived today
- July O C 's parade at Koudeberg Col Telford from the th Field is now in command A blanco man
- July Concert by R C E Band Espana Museet's Light Cavalry Overture March of the Bullfighters In a Persian Garden
- July Went to Apeldoorn in the evening Met Charlie Daniels from St Paul Alta
- July Left Lunteren for Germany Night bivouac at Assen Passed through Gorenigen en route
- July Arrived at Zetel in Germany Made a night bivouac We are kilometers from Wilhelmshaven
- July Moved into billets yesterday Saukas from th Medium has joined us A psychology of defeat pervades the local civilians anti Nazi Germans were shot in this town for oppositional activity to the Hitler regime However the average German is still numb from the physical shock of defeat and cannot credit or accept the incontrovertible fact that they have suffered a genuine defeat No evidence of Werewolves The Essex Scottish occupied this area previous to our arrival One of their men was found with is (sic) throat cut Intelligence discounted it as the work of Wrewoles (sic) and ascribed it to a personal vendetta still unsolved However whatever they think the population is submissive and apparently anxious to please
- July I was unanimously elected by "H" troop as their representative on the Regimental Committee
- July Lieut P E Ostiguy Montreal PQ from the th Medium is with us He was one of our original officers in Normandy
- July Some British troops are quartered on German farms as a so called anti Russian measure Displaced persons with hostile attitudes to German (sic) have in some instances taken personal revenge against German farmers who were severe task masters The tread of Allied feet on German cobble stones is often a reassurance to many German (sic) who have reason to fear retribution The German peasant believed as much in the might of the German armies as Hitler Von Papen or Kesselring Their support made these war criminals possible The brutality of German generals was not worse than that of the Unteroffiziers the works foreman or the masters of slave labor on the German farms

- July Went out out (sic) to Horsten with ny (sic) driver "Pop" Daniels Summerland B C and Cpl Johnson of Battery kitchen to but (sic) vegetables from German farmers one family allegedly anti Nazi claim to have lived in Nebraska up till
- July Tabloid Sports No Team from H Troop (our formation) placed third with points Sowinski piled up points myself
- July U K elections A Tory defeat reflecting the leftward trend in Britain The Left trend is particularly strong among the lower ranks of the armed forces Labor Tories Commonwealth Party Communists
- July A big show of force Our armoured troop surrounds and search houses Intelligence directive No es / lanation (sic) Population scrupulously docile and submissive
- July Took T O E T's again
- Aug Troop Mess Meeting Our Troop O C Capt P W Oland Rothesay N B was present as Cpl Johnson appeared to interview the troop and explain charges I had made against him as troop representative on the Regimental Committee As presiding genius in the battery kitchen a subtle diversion of supplies has been effected principally our troop supplies The corporal who served years in the U S Army knows all the angles Our boys were in a belligerent mood Johnson that artful dodger succeeded in soothing their suspicions Meanwhile his Dutch wife in Amsterdam disposes of the weekly shipment and piles up the guilders
- Aug Hut Orderly today Wyonch reports unofficially that all point men and under are slated formoccupation (sic) duty
- Aug Japan surrenders Daniels left today for Canada Good Old Pop He was through World War I with the Royal Irish Rifles and could well have fought in the Boer War No one ever knew his real age Lieut Crabtree arrived today
- Aug Went to a show with Vern Wegner Pend O'Reille Alta a cowboy and a good one too With Boc Parker a hard rock miner from Noranda they are our cooks and culinary experts of no mean order
- Aug Posted to the th Field Regiment in Holland Cancelled my plan to visit a German family near Horsten A relative of theirs Antonia Muller living in St Paul Alta is an old friend She emigrated to Canada in and I secured her first job in Canada Most of post World War I immigrants from Germany in the St Paul district came from Oldenburg and I met a number of German families whose relatives I know quite well in Canada What a coincidence of time and fate
- Aug Proceeded to Oldenburg to the th Division Reinforcement Camp at Rijssen then to the th Field Regiment at Neede

Aug Mt Neede Posted to 10th Battery a Calgary unit The unit is made up of Alberta men and will return to Calgary as a unit Seen Lieut R R Jeffels he was at I CARU and teaches at Alberta University Met Vandersteen again

Aug to Leave to Nordwijk and the Hague Went to visit my friend and benefactress Mademoiselle Jorstina Met Sergt J O Dube Pascalis Station Abitibi P Q who was my old Signal Sergeant in the 10th Medium Had an enjoyable time Met the doorman of the Canadian Legion Hostel in The Hague He farmed near Dauphin Manitoba before he returned to Holland

Aug Walked back to Nordwijk during the night Laid in a tulip field and rested for an hour under the stars What beautiful peace and serenity Towards dawn I slept a few hours in a barn at Rijnsberg A buxom Dutch girl brought me a glass of milk and wished me God Speed as the sun rose glistening on the dew above the waving tulip fields Back in Neede at night