**Preface: This memoir is not yet fully transcribed as efforts are still in progress for this memoir and the full transcript will appear once completed. For those wanting to assist in the efforts to transcribe the memoir, please contact: History@49thBattalionAssociation.ca**

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# Memoir of

# **433062 Private Hubert Orville Palmer**

# 49th Battalion (Edmonton Regiment) & 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade Headquarters

# Written by Hubert Orville Palmer, 1936

# 1915

March 7, S, 1915

Was to church three time today. 51st held a parade at norwood this morning. I went to McDougall this evening. O.H. - C.J.

Mon. March 8 - 15

I tried to enlist again but there is no room just yet.

Tue. March 9 - 15

I hung around the Barracks all morning but gained nothing by it. The Volunteer Class held their usual monthly meeting tonight. We had a great time at the social afterwards.

Wed. March 10 -

I’m working for George now. Am posted to 6 Platoon “B” Coy. I have my medical exam to pass yet (too many women around today to strip for it) I turned in my written consent to go over seas. I’m now a Fortyniner.

Thurs. March 11 -

Duke + I passed the med. exam in good style this morning. There was nothing for me to do today so I went home and rested.

Fri. March 12 -

I had some swearing in to do this morning that was witnessed by Capt. Hardisty, Lieut Taylor, Lieut Hardstone. My service is to be one year or as long as His Majesty King George requires my services. I drilled in the awkward squad this afternoon but got promoted by evening.

Sat. March 13 -

We had out weekly medical exam as usual this morning. I helped scrub the floor. I went over to Uncle Freds this afternoon. I was in Barracks at 9.30 this evening.

Sunday March 14 -

I was put on fatigue all morning until one o’clock noon, cleaning dishes and all that fancy work. Went to SS. this afternoon and then took friends out to the barracks. The evening I spent at home.

Mon. March 15 -

The snow is melting fast today and the parade ground is very wet in fact covered with water. We had batt. drill. We had some practice at signalling. I got a pass for 12 M.N. This is Eleanor’s Birthday. It has been trying to rain all evening. I went to League. Topic life of Kipling.

Tues. March 16 -

Reveille 6 AM. General routine of drill

Wed. March 17 -

St Patrick's Day. I celebrated by being inoculated. My arm is not very sore. I’m off parade for 48 hrs. Had some visitors to see me this afternoon. Got a pass 12 M.N.

Thurs. March 18 -

I’m a little tough this morning but not as bad as some of the rest. Was home this evening.

Fri March 19.

I’m on wash-house fatigue this morning. I slept in this time until noon as only a soldier can when he is not watched. I was on parade this afternoon although I didn’t feel like it. Stayed in this evening.

Sat March 20 -

I’m catching the fatigues these days alright. I was up at 5 A.M. cleaning latrines and swill barrels. till breakfast time. after breakfast we did a little more, then I went home for the afternoon and evening.

Sun. March 21 -

Went to church 3 times today. Everything is very quiet.

Mon. March 22 -

We had batt. drill this morning. I like it better than anything. We practiced for our part in the Spring Exhibition. There was a pretty good debate on at the League tonight revolved that Orientals be excluded from Canada. It was a draw.

Tues. March 23 -

General Routine

Wed. March 24 -

Our squad was given manual of arms this morning. We drill with our equipment, but, no pack this afternoon. Went to a concert in “C” Coy then came home for the first time in King’s Khaki. My I’m proud!!!

Thurs. March 25 -

We had field drill today. The family was out to see what kind of soldiers we are. It is rumoured that we are to move to Sewell shortly. Went to a concert at norwood. “The Ministers Bride.”

Fir. March 26 -

I got stuck again this morning. We couldn’t drill on account of out inoculation so we had a lecture of map ready. (army map) I went to bed quite early.

Sat. March 27-

I don’t feel as bad this time as I did the last time I was inoculated. I got a week end pass until 12 M.N. Sunday.

Sunday March 28 -

It is cloud today. This is the first time I attended four services in one day. Got into the barrack about 11 P.M.

Mon. March 29-

Regular Routine. Went to a concert at the League tonight

Tue. March 30-

There was the usual batt. drill this morning. This afternoon we went on a route march with equipment blanket + greatcoat. We had a very good time.

Wed. March 31 -

Field manoeuvre was the bill for today. I was on outpost duty. I have been told off for the batt. fire department starting tomorrow. I was home in the evening.

Thurs. April 1 -

It snowed last night so is wet and slushy this morning. I was put on the chemical wagon and we had our first fire drill this morning.

Fri. April 2. -

We had a fairly long route march today. I felt pretty tired. Father and mother came out to see us this afternoon. Duke and I went home with them and came back in at 9.30. We didn’t know that our passes had come through to stay until 12 M.N.

Sat. April 3.-

We had our usual Med. inspection. M.O. says my teeth will have to be fixed. I went to the dentist this afternoon and he made a start on fixing me up. Made a coll on H.W. and came in at 9.30.

Sunday, April 4.-

There was the usual military service this morning but it was held in the arena. I was at H.W. for supper tonight. Wandered into barracks at 9.30

Mon. April 5.-

Had a pass tonight. Went to League and went to bunk at 12 M.N.

Tues. April 6.-

Wash-house fatigue again, but we have to do our morning parade as well. It isn’t as good a job as it use to be. We had a route march down town this afternoon. It is very warm.

Wed. April 7. -

Batt. drill and march fast for the Colonel. Griesbach was mounted on his charges. It is not so warm today.

Thurs. April 8.-

Our field brigade was called out twice this morning for practice. I’m on room orderly today but I managed to get off this evening. Was over to Fowlers for supper. Got in at 12.

Fri. April 9.-

I slept in this morning because I was on duty after I got in last night. It snowed and rained this morning but it dried up in time for the batt. drill this afternoon.

Sat. April 10.-

Medical inspection as usual. We practiced for the horse show and dismissed at noon for rest of day. It is very war, I went visiting the evening until 9.30

Sun. April 11.-

It was quite cold all night. I was on ration fatigue so got out of having to help scrub the barrack room floor. I went to sleep in church this morning. Hilda and I went to McDougall tonight.

Mon April 12.-

It is very hot today. We had physical drill nearly all morning. Marched with packs this afternoon. There was moving pictures taken of the batt. This afternoon.

Tues. April 13.

We had a pretty full day. Batt. drill, physical culture practice, open order drill in the park and put on an exhibition of physical culture at the show this evening. There wasn’t a hitch all through

Wed. April 14.-

Our platoon had rifle practice instead of doubling this morning. The weather is fine. We had more pictures taken of the batt today. Hilda and I went to the Horse Show tonight.

Thurs. April 15.-

Bayonet fencing this morning. Skirmishing in the afternoon, made a charge on 7+8 pltn. We have another exhibition tonight to the show.

Fri April 16.-

We are having very hot days and cool nights. There are no roll calls except at 7 A.M. We can stay out as long as we like in the evenings. I was at home tonight. Mother’s class was there.

Sat. April 17.

I’m feeling tough this morning. The normal M.O.’s inspection. Some drill and I went to mystles tonight.

Sun. April 18.-

No church parade today. Went to norwood three times. The fine weather still continues.

Mon. April 19.-

Nearly all the drill we did today was in preparation for the show tonight. “A” coy captured the greased pig, but they lost it again after dark.

Tues. April 20-

We had a real call today and the fire by god made a great show, but the fire was out when we got there (Canteen) it is looking like snow. The Batt. practised the marck passed for L. G. Buulermas. Went for an auto ride all evening with McIntyre.

Wed. April 21-

2 inches of snow fell last night. I got a good job for a few days punching number into harness. The job is a little monotonous but is better than drilling. This is Dukes eighteenth Birthday. There was a party at home. There were twenty persons present. Duke + I were presented a paper of appreciation of our work in connecting with the church and league. We were also presented with a found pen each.

Thurs. April 22.-

I stamped a few straps and then got paid. We rehearse a little for tomorrows pictures.

Fri. April 23.-

Had some more moving pictures taken of us again today. We had skirmishing all afternoon. I went to be early tonight.

Sat. April 24.-

I stamped straps all morning. This afternoon there was medical and kit inspection. The ½ mile military race was won by the 51st Batt. Was to the instint. My week end pass was turned down.

Sun. April 25.-

Was to church 4 times today. I’m getting very pious. Was at home all day and in the evening I visited Hilda. I just got in in time to get my name of the absentees list at the orderly toom.

Mon. April 26. -

It snowed and rained all morning and part of the afternoon. I punched harness for a few minutes, did a little target practice and was done for the day. Duke went to hospital with a sore eye. Had a good time at league tonight.

Tues. April 27.-

The weather is the same as yesterday. Aunt Martha and Edna came over to see us today. I have to stay in tonight.

Wed. April 28.-

I’m on orderly duty today. Everything is upset the fellows ate making lunches for they won’t be home from the sham battle until tonight. I got out of it. I’m on watch from to 2 to 6 a.m.

Thurs. April 29.-

I finished the drops today. Had nothing to do most of the day. Went home for a couple of hours this evening.

Fri. April 30.-

There is a draft picked for to go to the P.P.C.L.I. I wish I was one of them. I got home on another fellows pass tonight. Made a speech to the M.S.S. Banquet.

Sat. May 1.-

Medical exam as usual, kit inspection. There was field sports this afternoon. The folks were out to the Barracks. “B” coy made out good. Went to bed early tonight.

Sun. May 2.-

I attended the military service. Dr. Johnson + wife were out to see Duke + I. We had an awful time to get a pass to Camrose but we got them late in the after noon.

Mon. May 3.-

Currie, Percy, Duke + I. Wokened every one in Camrose about 2 O’clock this morning. I don’t know what they thought we were doing. We went out to uncles Jim’s this afternoon and had a nice quiet visit.

Tues. May 4.-

Did some ploughing and limbing at uncle clarks today. There was a party at Uncle Jim’s so I attended that.

Wed. May 5.-

Uncle James took us over to see aunt annie this morning and we went from there to Camrose. There was quite a bunch we knew around town so we had a pretty good time. Had my picture taken during the afternoon, and left for Edmonton a little later.

Thurs. May 6.-

I don’t like to stating drilling again after my rest. There was a big route march today but I was fortunate enough to be put on target practice instead. My score was 21 out of a possible 25. It is remoured that we rave received movement orders for Eng.

Fri. May 7.-

We did a little practicing for the 49th last appearance before the public before we leave. I am in the physical drill. I attended a party tonight, then up by mother’s class. Had a very nice time.

Sat. May 8. -

We were to have had aout final medical exam, this morning, but it never came off so we did nothing at all. Went down town with mother in the afternoon. Visited my friend in the evening.

Sun. May 9.-

51st + 49th had service together for this may be our last opportunity. It has been hot most of the day there was a little rain this evening. In went to see Hilda tonight. Got in a 12.

Mon. May 10.-

It is awful hot today. We had our m. exam. And I got through O.K. We march to the golf links with our three bands going stong and had out colors presented to us from Daughters of the Empire. I’m too tired to go out tontight. Returned 7.30.

Tues. May 11.-

We went for a route march to Beverly. Practiced artillery formation. This evening the regular monthly meeting of the young mens and womdens classes. The social as usual came afterward, we had a fine time.

Wed May 12.-

We had a sham fight out near Belmount today it is quite cool.

Thurs. May 13.-

We have been paid, that explains the commotion this evening. The guard room is full.

Fir May 14.-

Bayonet fighting instead of the double this morning. The usual Batt, manoueveurs today.

Sat May 15.-

I was inoculated again this morning. Went home for the rest of the day.

Sun. May 16.-

Looks like rain. Was given a testament from the (norwood) church today. Went home with Hilda.

Mon, May 17.-

Had another route march and sham attack at Belmount. It is quite cool and windy. Got home at 5 o’clock. Hilda and I went to hear a lecture the glories of Heavens.

Tues May 18.-

I’m beginning to feel the effects of these army shoes, my feet are quire sore. We made another attack today B. Coy got prasied by the colonel on its efficenecey.

Wed. May 19.-

We marched over to the south side and had lunch. After dunner we marched into the Strathcona Exhibition grounds , filed arms and dismissed until 4. P.M. The 3rd CMRs. were giving an exhibition of riding and it was very good. The family was there and so was Hilda so I had lots of Company. Going home we were taken to an awful pace it is a wonder we didn’t all have to fall out.

Thur. May 20.-

I was on pioneer fatigue today there was the usual dirty job before breakfast, but afterward up until noon all I did was burry a dead dog and pick up some papers. The rest of the time I slept behind one of the buildings. Stuclil (?) and I went out visiting this evening.

Fri. May 21.-

Very Cool today.

Sat. May 22.-

Medical exam, and scrubbed floor of the barrack room. Monkeyed all afternoon and evening around home.

Sun, May 23.- The two Batts had service together again. There was quite a crowd of civics in attendance. Looks like rain. Came in at 12.

Mon. May 24.-

We had a little drill this morning. Went over to the South Side Park this afternoon. There was quite a few of the connection there the sky looks threatening. Saw hilda home.

Tues. May 25.-

Got to Barracks in plenty of time the weather is nasty, we couldn’t drill this afternoon. Mother, Hilda + I went to visit Gobbs tonight.

Wed. May 26.-

We did a little manual of arms inside for it was too wet to go out. Got a crown taken off my tooth today.

Thurs. May 27.-

There was nothing to do all day. I was home in the evening.

Fri May 28.

This is a nice day, but we had very little drill. All the folks were out to the barracks and we said good-bye.

Sat. May 29.-

Stevenson, Thornton, Duke + Myself.

We have had our stuff ready to move for two days now. We are emptying our pellyones(?) this morning. I got a bunch so I phoned the folks to come out. It poured rain about five o’clock and we went into the y building. We were all standing there when the fall in went. I had to carry some stuff over to the train and I met the folks there. The train pulled out in one hour after the fall-in went. We were on the first one.

Sun. May 30.-

Some time before day light we arrived at Wainwright. I was asleep when we stopped but the noise woke me. I jumped out of the top bunk to see what was the matter, but as soon as I saw all the ladies and gentlemen looking in the window I suddenly realized that my shirt was a very short one so I promptly got into my blankets again. The B.B.S. had their pipe and drum band out. We had 10 min. March at Watrous, Sask 9:30. We got out of the train at Melville, shook hands with all the pretty girls and left. Got out for air at Rivers Man. The people were very kind to us.

Mon. May 31.-

We were at ‘Peg 1 a.m. Uncle andrew and Aunt Jane + Marseil were there to see us. Currie has re-enlisted. 8 am. Now Ontario is very picturesque in parts. We had lunch on the grass at Graham. Got off the train again at Ft. Wm. We stayed here for quite a time. People were good to us.

Tues. June 1.-

We were stopped during the night, off the track at Sudbury. It is very warm today. We had a little march at Chopleave, but the town was very dead. At 5:30 am we broke a coupling when we were rounding a curve on a grade. Most of us lost our supplied for it got spilled. Had a double at Cartier, Ont, in evening.

Wed. June 2.-

It is very warm. Stopped at Madowaska for an hour. We got out of the train at Ottawa and formed up on Parliament Hill, where we were inspected by the Duke of Connaught and Colonel Sam Hughs. The gov. stood us a bottle of pop each and an old lady gave us newspaper between 6 of us. I’m on coach guard tonight there are some fine girls in Ottawa and they gave us a good send off.

Thurs. June 3.-

We got off the train a coteau junction. We had sports all morning. “B” Coy. made a swap of nearly everything. In the afternoon the whole Batt. went for a swim in Lake St. Francis.

Fri. June 4.-

I was too tired last night so never felt anything until I woke up in montreal this morning. We got off the train right onto the boat and had breakfast. (Metagama SS) after breakfast we all got on deck to see the others come on. There were 50 nurses, 50 doctors, Belgian, French + English reservists, Eaton MG. B. some 35th Bn. The tugs started to towe us out at 11 a.m. There were a lot of people there to see us off. We left about a dozen dogs among the crowd. As we were moving off the band played “O Canada,” and just before we were out of hearing distance of the warf the land struck up “The Girl I Left Behind Me” We were saluted by all kinds of boat factory whistles all the way down the St. Laurence. The scenery is lovely.

Sat. June 5.-

I was on guard all last night and it was good and cold. It would not have been so bad only I got wet when they turned the water on the decks. We got paid and issued with deck shoes. I slept nearly all afternoon. I saw my very first wale this evening in the gulf. It is very cold tonight. A few are getting sick.

Sun. June 6.-

Had a song service this morning. The fog is so thick today you can’t see a hundred yards. Very cold, some ice around. We don’t know where we’re going but we’re on our way.

Mon. June 7.-

We are striving South now. The fog is very low. Had some physical cultrice, life belt parade and a medical inspection. We passed an iceberg tonight and there was no mist for about 5 or 6 miles around it. Can feel the movement of the boat a little more tonight.

Tue. June 8.-

We are running due east now. We are still hemmed in with fog. Weather is warmer. We mounted our machine guns today. We passed through a school of porpoise tonight. Fog is lighter.

Wed. June 9.-

I was up early this morning. We passed a Spanish steamer and a full rigged ship. Had life boat drill and one boat got away and we had to turn around and get it. This is the first clear day we have had. Had a special supper this morning.

Thurs. June 10.-

I slept in and missed my breakfast. It is cold cloud and windy today. There was a little machine gun practice on the porpoise as we passed them met two lines today. A little scrap in the saloon. The sun showed just before it set.

Fri. June 11.--

Had life belt drill just about 1 this morning. We are in the Devils Bowl and the boat is having quite a little Deck sports are postponed not enough entries. Have reached submarine gone. Preparation are being made so we can rush into port.

Sat. June 12.-

No bugles are to be blown, no noises made. Wear life belt always. Quite a little fog again. Concert for Sailors home.

Sun. June 13.-

The destroyers lost us in the fog. Spy caught signalling with light early this morning up among the boats on the hurricane deck. We turned back for the open see again until our escort found us. Had service. Sighted Cornish coast at 5:30. Onboard in side of the break water a Plymouth some time occurring the night.

Mon. June. 14.-

Sailed up into the harbor this morning. It was a fine sight after not seeing land for two weeks. The tenders took us off the lines. At 11.30 we boarded the train. Sau but it is a slinky little affair. The country all through England is very pretty. We arrived at Shorncliffe in the evening and went into tents.

Turs. June 15.-

We changed round our tents this morning and made them face East. Had no drill today have been a fatigue all the time. Duke and another fellow and myself went for supper to the S.A. Barracks. I wrote a couple letters tonight.

Wed June 16-

It is very warm. Had manual of arms all day. Went to Cheritan and from there to Folkestone this evening. It seems quite dead around here. A Silver Queen passed over tonight. These are made of aluminum.

Thurs. June 17-

We had new rifles and bayonets issued to us today. We had a muster parade this afternoon. We are drilling hard every day now.

Fri. June 18.-

Reve. blew at 5:30. First parade 7.a.m,, 2nd parade 8.30. Wrote some letters and went to bed early. Don’t care for the country around here.

Sat. June 19.-

Mid exam + section drill in the morning. It is still very hot and living on a sandy plain don’t help matters any. Went to Folkestone and to the beach this afternoon. A lot of the men have been communicating with the spirits again.

Sun. June 20.-

Had service over with the 43rd Cameron Highlanders. Dr. gordon spoke. Duke and I went over to Hythe this afternoon and up the hill this evening. The 42. Blk Watch came in tonight.

Mon. June 21-

I’m mess orderly for our tent today. Guard routine of drill. Most of the men in any tent were drunk tonight.

Tues. June 22-

We drill about 10 hrs. these days. There was to have been an inspection this afternoon but it didn’t come off. I’m getting tossed a dark as a Sissy.

Thurs. June 24-

It is quite sultry today. Not feeling very well. Squad drill this morning. Bayonet fighting with dummies this afternoon.

Wed. June 23-

Bamied this morning and 5 tents blew down. No drill till 10 a.m. A good fight in the coy. lines at noon. (MacDonald vc. Colburn) Our coy went for a bath this afternoon and the rest went on a route march.

Fri. June 25-

Went on Sick pde. this morning. No duty so I rested all day. Received mighty welcome. Canadian mail today. The first I have got since I came over.

Sat. June 26-

We had some more rain. I’m still marched no duty. Wrote 5 letters today. The bunch soused again.

Sun. June 27.-

On fatigue again today on the kitchen. Quite at 4 P.M. and went for a walk on the hill. It is too warm to go far.

Mon June 28-

Doctor says N.D. Had a few words with the Sgt. Major over not going on a picket. Wrote a few letters. Nothing much steering in Camp.

Tues. June 29.-

Not much drill on account of rain. Route march with full kit this afternoon. I’m tired tonight.

Wed. June 30-

It is raining again today. We had physical drill and games most of the day, getting hardened up. We had a good sing song in our tent this evening. Great talent was exhibited.

Thurs. July 1-

This is Dominion day at home. There was no drill today. The new army issue boots were given to us today. I’m on the greater guard tonight. Mounted at 5 P.M.

Fri. July 2.

Nothing unusual happened during my nights sentry. My feet are a little sore from the new boots. I slept all all this morning. Our Batt,. did the honours this afternoon at a military funeral. We marched from Sandgate to Folkestone country, Corpse on a gun carriage. Soldier was Pte. Hall. Died of wounds.

Sat. July 3rd

After the drill this morning Duke and I went down to Hythe and had a row on the canal, later we took a bus to Folkestone. It is very hot today and there are a lot of people in swimming. Duke + I went partners on a camera to take pictures around this country.

Sun. July 4-

This is nothing of importance today only it is very hot.

Mon. July 5-

Up as usual at 5:30. Drilled all morning. There was a muster parade and a lecture this after noon. The lecture was entitled *at the front*. My muscles feel a little sore tonight.

Tues. July 6-

My team for tent orderly has come around again. There was the usual drill this morning. This afternoon we marched over to hythe to practice trench digging. Got two letters tonight.

Wed. July 7-

Quite warm again today. We went for a route march this afternoon and returned at 5:30. Barried this evening so I stayed in and wrote letters.

Thurs. July 8-

This has been about as strenuous as any day I have spent in the army. Hard day out practice this morning and this afternoon we were taken away to practice fore and rear guard action. It rained on us all the way home.

Fri. July 9-

We couldn’t do anything this morning on account of the rain. Passes came through this afternoon for Duke and I to go to Wadhurst. We just had time to get to the train in a taxi. Got off the train at Wadhurst and walk 6 miles to Cousley wood. Met a couple cousins on the road. Saw Spooness and stayed at Thomsetts for the night.

Sat. July 19-

We were up early this morning. Rose, Duke = I went to lamberhurst to see aunt alice. We stayed for a few minutes there and went on to Kates place for dinner. Saw the men spaying hops. Started back and went round by aunt alice's place and got to aunt Rose at 11.30 in the evening.

Sun. July 11.-

Uncle jim, uncle alf, Duke and I went over to Barthy Mill to see papa’s old home. Everything was about the same as pictures I have seen of the place. It has been pretty warm for walking today. Went to chappel. It is just the same as our church. We move over to aunt Lizzies tonight.

Mon. July 12.

We went over onto Fairsbrothers estate and watched the men washing hop for a while, then went to Wadhurst for the afternoon. It is a small place but very nice. Rose + I went to uncle jims tonight.

Tues. July 13.

I gathered some flowers this morning to press and send back to Canada. Rose, Duke and I went to aunt alice's place and stayed all night. Had a very nice time.

Wed. July 14.

Spent all the morning in Lamberhurst and got out to Cousley Wood at 2.30 this afternoon. Duke and I went to squire Fairbrothers for tea this evening. Uncle Jim called for us about 10 P.M.

Thurs. July 15.

I didn’t get up until 8 a.m. It has been pretty slow today. This is the last day of our holidays. Caught a train for Shorncliffe this morning. Everything looks much the same in camp. Reported to the doctor and was sent to hospital this afternoon with scabbies. I’m in ward 16 in Sir John Moore Barracks.

Fri. July 16-

Got up late this morning. Time is going slow with nothing to do. Saw a rehearsal of the march past to be review by the King tomorrow. It rained torrents tonight.

Sat. July 17

Colonel Sam Hughes and Premier Borden inspected the Canadians this morning. It rained most of the time and glad I wasn’t parading. The parade ground was like a lake. I’m moved to another ward tonight.

Sun. July 18-

I was to the hospital church. I did not care much for the service. I had hid my uniform under my mattress so this afternoon, I put them on and slipped over to the park to listen to the band. It was nice and warm. Got caught coming in but the sister got me out of trouble.

Mon. July 19-

Had my uniform taken away from me this morning so I guess I can’t get out any more in this garb. Got a gold watch for some money I loaned.

Tuesday July 20-

Was recommended for a discharge from hospital this morning. I'm going to be let out tomorrow. This afternoon 5 of us broke barracks and went for a ramble along the beach past Sandgate. Didn’t get caught this time. I forced the easiest guard house.

Wed. July 21-

I secured my discharge from here today. I didn’t go to the Bn this morning for I thought I might have to do some drill. I got a ride over to the camp this afternoon in an ambulance. It is quite a change to go back to the board floor bed again.

Thurs. July 22.-

I reported for duty this morning. We had to go back to our tents 5 times this morning on account of rain. We drilled for two hrs. This afternoon and then rested up for the march tonight. Started on the march at 8.30. No one was to talk or smoke (A.S.O) got back to camp just after midnight.

Fri. July 23-

Got up late. Stayed out till after M.N. and got in past North sentry.

Sat. July 24

Reveille didn’t blow this morning until 7. Am. (good thing for I’m sleepy) The only thing had this morning was a kit inspection. Currie and I went to Sandgate Castle and to the hospital. Met Capt. Frost. Got some good pictures. One of Sir John Moores monument and one of his old field pieces.

Sun July 25-

Had our service with the 42. Bruce spoke. I went to Saltwood Castle. It was built in 1100 from there went to Saltwood cathedral. I also went to Hythe Cathedral and the crypt. In the crypt there are 8,000 human bones that were picked up on different old English battle fields. It has been very hot but I had a good time.

Mon. July 26-

I got punished last night for coming in four hours late and resisting the police. Got ten days rock pile and fatigues. I carried the shot for two hrs and then was sent out to cut up some wood, but it was too far away so we couldn't find the place. My escort wasn’t any more anxious to walk than I was. Can’t go out this evening. I’m in the clink.

Tues. July 27-

I’m washing dishes in the officers mess. Did Shot drill for two hrs. I would like to go to town today but I have to work.

Wed. July 28-

There was an awful thunderstorm. 2 of the 4th C.M.Rs. got killed and four injured by lightning. Shot drill, fatigues.

Thurs. July 29.-

I did some fatigues but it was raining and hail so I didn’t do any drill. There was a mass band concert tonight that sounded very good from where I was.

Fri. July 30-

I got eight letters today and yesterday. I’m tired and a lot of work today. There were some new fellows put with me today. Makes it a lot more pleasant.

Sat. July 31-

Did my usual drill, then was supposed to clean up around the tents, but I knew the policeman that was looking after me, so we went over the bank behind the camp and had a sleep.

Sun. Aug. 1-

We did a few fatigues today and wrote some letters.

Mon Aug. 2.-

I did well today. I did my two S.D. Got a new mark III Rifle, marched 7 miles to the baths. In the grouping at 200 yds I put 5 shots into a 4 inch circle. Got home at 7 o’clock.

Tues. Aug. 3.-

Beside my work I had to go on the big inspection this afternoon. Sam Steel looked us over. It poured rain from 3 P.M. to 7.

Wed. Aug 4.

This is the last day of my sentence. I did my usual drill. Then went to the batts. This afternoon we got we got all ready for another review but the rain came and never stopped until dark. I was let out of the guard room at retreat. It is nice to get back with the old bunch again.

Thurs. Aug. 5-

There was another of those reviews today. It has been very hot. Got back to camp at 7 P.M.

Fri. Aug 6-

Never fell in until 11.30 this morning to go to the ranges. We practiced applications, sharp shooting + rappid. I made a very good average. Didn’t get home till late.

Sat. Aug 7-

There is to be no half holiday for us today. We went to the ranges again. I didn’t do so well today. I feeling pretty tired.

Sun. Aug. 8-

Duke, Gordon , Elliotte and I got passes to Canterbury. We hired cycles. Mine got broken before we started, but we got it fixed. It was a fine ride. We saw the cathedral. Where Becket was killed and everything of interest around there later in the afternoon we went to the park and around the city wall. Took quite a few pictures. Got back at 9.30.

Mon. Aug. 9—Went to the ranges again this morning. I feel the effects of my long ride yesterday. It has been cold and miserable. We marched the 7 miles without a hault even on the Hythe hill. Tonight.

Tues. Aug. 10—The ranges were taken by another Bde. We did a little drill today but had it fairly all day.

Wed. Aug. 11.We fired 35 rounds each. Came home at an awful pace. My rifle played the mischief with my shoulder.

Thurs. Aug. 12.This is the big day. We got paid. It has been terribly hot. We got issued with bathing suits that are about the size of a big leaf. Mine is bright red. The whole Bn. went for a swim in the Channel. This is the first time I have ever been in saltwater.

Fri. Aug. 13.-It is quite cloudy this morning. We had our first Bn. inspection since we left Edmonton. We were reviewed by Steel, and he handed out the usual line to us.

Sat. Aug. 14.Had a medical exam, then left for the range at 9 a.m. We got back at 4:30 p.m. It spoiled our half-holiday. I went up town after tea, but everything was dead as usual.

Sun. Aug. 15.There was the usual Sunday service. I went over to the Lord Roberts Club to write, where it is nice and quiet. Then I had lunch at the club and wrote letters all afternoon. It is too wet to go downtown tonight.

**Mon. Aug. 16.**We did a little squad drill this morning and dismissed early. We were inspected this afternoon and got drenched as usual. Went to bed early so my clothes will dry. Besides, there is nothing else to do.

**Tues. Aug. 17.**This morning we were taken away in groups and were shown some model trenches and had them explained to us. It rained too hard for us to have any drill this afternoon, and it was too wet for the cooks to get us anything to eat before 9 p.m.

**Wed. Aug. 18.**We all got up at 7:30. I drilled all day. I went to the "Y" and wrote quite a bunch of letters tonight.

**Thurs. Aug. 19.**The morning was spent in getting ready for our two days' maneuvers. We left the camp at 2 p.m. We hoist our rifles and put up our bivouacs on the side of a hill.

**Fri. Aug. 20.**I slept fine last night. Reveille was at 6 a.m., and the battle started at 10 a.m. We wire the Germans and put a few strenuous moves on our part. We gained the decision by 4 in the afternoon. We got back to camp by 6 p.m.

**Sat. Aug. 21.**Old Tom Hugh had to look us over again today. Was over to Sandpit this afternoon but was back by evening to get supper.

**Sun. Aug. 22.**Sunday service as usual. All religions except R.C.s were on our parade. I have started my share of the letters as well. We are sending back to Sherwood.

**Mon. Aug. 23.**We were up bright and early this morning. It is a fine day to start the maneuvers. We marched to beyond Ashford (15 miles) and camped for the night.

**Tues. Aug. 24.**Had a candy sleep last night. Reveille 4 a.m. The sham fight was kept up all day. We returned to our base of operations late in the afternoon. The country around here is very pretty.

**Wed. Aug. 25.**We were not awakened so early this morning. We left for camp at Shorncliffe about 9 a.m. We covered ten miles before noon. After lunch, we took 2 hrs rest. We did our last 7 miles in 59 minutes.

**Thurs. Aug. 26.**I'm on fatigue today. We dug some holes and put cribbing in them and came home. Did a little writing tonight.

**Fri. Aug. 27.**Was transferred to the W.J. Sec. this morning. Took a mess for the first time. Learned about half the code. There was a lecture this afternoon, and we crammed at 4 p.m. Went downtown tonight.

**Sat. Aug. 28.**There was a muster parade this morning. I went for a swim in the afternoon and had supper and got downtown.

**Sun. Aug. 29.**At service this morning, the ground is too wet to sit on, so we had to stand up. It rained in torrents this afternoon. So I stayed in and wrote letters until late tonight.

**Mon. Aug. 30.**We practiced tote races with flags. Took a few messages by visual and buzzer. Had a lecture. Went down to the cooks.

**Tues. Aug. 31.**I'm 20 yrs old today. This is my second birthday away from home. It is quite wintry today. Had a lecture on Sig. I went to Folkestone to celebrate tonight.

**Wed. Sept. 1.**It has rained very heavy all day, so I haven’t had anything to do. This is Mother’s Birthday. I’m on railway picket tonight. We fell in at three different times, then dismissed.

**Thurs. Sept. 2.**We were reviewed by King George V, Kitchener, Admiral Seymour, and quite a few more prominent men. I hope we get to France with the second Div. This is Kilda’s Birthday, and the weather has been fine.

**Fri. Sept. 3.**It is very hot today. We mounted guard on the Trent & Ex. Confinement camp this morning at Waimon until 9 p.m. tomorrow. Everything went along pretty well all morning, but on towards dusk, we had quite a time to keep the patients in.

**Sat. Sept. 4.**The last half of the night, it was miserable on account of the trouble. Believe me, I was wet and tired this morning when I got off. Our actual was relieved by another at 9:30 a.m. We went straight back to camp and finished the rest of the day in my blankets.

**Sun. Sept. 5.**I didn’t get up until late this morning but managed to get ready for church parade. This afternoon, Fred, Duke, and I went downtown to Lees to see the sights and listen to the band. I didn’t do any writing when I got home, for it was too dark.

**Mon. Sept. 6.**The weather is lovely today. We practiced visual as usual. I’m getting along well, especially in the semaphore. I managed to slip out of going for the route march tonight, so I wrote letters all evening.

**Tues. Sept. 7.**The wind heard Willie blow this morning and slowly had my birthday suit on as shirts or suits the fall in went. I wasn’t missed for the spirit sessions, so I stayed away until noon. It seems to me I can beat as many parades as an old soldier. I went to Sandgate this evening.

**Wed. Sept. 8.**We practiced grouping in both codes this morning (visual). We all marched to East Sandling this afternoon to get the breeches of our rifles oiled and cleaned.

**Thurs. Sept. 9**It is very hot today. General Routine.

**Fri. Sept. 10**Chilly and windy today. I missed Mr. Efrom this morning. Went on a route march today.

**Sat. Sept. 11**Got in off the march at 1:30 this morning. I wrote on a signalling exam this morning. The four of us went in for a swim this afternoon! Spent the evening writing.

**Sun. Sept. 12**After service this morning Carrie & Fred and I went for a little trip up too, had a pretty nice time.

**Mon. Sept. 13**Went to the ranges towards Dover this morning. They are fine ranges. I was marked first half, did my shooting but helped and did fairly well. Got home 6:30.

**Tues. Sept. 14**I was marker all day at the butts. It is a pretty good job. We started home early tonight and was in at 5. Stayed in tonight.

**Wed. Sept. 15**Started for the range as usual this morning but discovered on reaching there that we couldn’t use them so we finished the day with a route march. I feel pretty tired tonight.

**Thurs. Sept. 16**Went on squad drill this morning for a change but there is too much work to do, so I’m on the sigs again this afternoon. Went to Folkston tonight.

**Fri. Sept. 17**A great event today. Got paid big. All afternoon and wriggled out of a route march tonight. I went down town instead. My new boots will fit this march in.

**Sat. Sept. 18**Usual syllabus in the morning. Went for a swim near Sandgate. Wrote letters all evening.

**Sun. Sept. 19**Gordon Guild & Duke and myself left at the hour for Dover. We first looked around the docks and took a couple pictures. Then from there we went away up to the Dover Courthouse. Went all through both the buildings and underground galleries and dungeons. (There are 22 streets). The stronghold is garrisoned. Later in the afternoon, we started to wander around the town a little and we came across a tobacconist shop that was running so Gordon and I got some pictures put on our arms. We had a fine day and got home in good time.

**Mon. Sept. 20**Very hot. General Routine. Didn’t have Camp.

**Tues. Sept. 21**Practice Sig this morning. This afternoon we all went to West Hanger for our new Mark III rifles. Our new web equipment was issued to us today.

**Wed. Sept. 22**There was no parade of any kind this morning. The sig. section has broken up until we reach France so I’m back with the Co. again. There was a route march this afternoon.

**Thurs. Sept. 23, 24, 25, 26, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30**8 solid days of heavy route marching with full equipment. Have been too tired to go out all week.

**Fri. October 1**Fell and hurt my arm today. Went on manoeuvres this morning. The coy was in the attacking party. The sham battle ground is hard. The weather is fine for marching.

**Sat. Oct. 2**There was a kit inspection this morning. Then we all packed up ready to move any time. I wrote letters all afternoon. I’m not feeling any too good and my arm is pretty sore.

**Sun. Oct. 3**There was the usual church parade this morning. I had the rest of the day to myself as I didn’t feel like going out.

**Mon. Oct. 4**I reported to the M.O. this morning. I broke a little piece of bone in my elbow. I nearly was sent to the 9th but I asked to be given a chance. I’m off all duties.

**Tues. Oct. 5**Have had nothing to do for two days. The time is going very slowly.

**Wed. Oct. 6**I told the M.O. this morning that I will go on parade tomorrow.

**Thur. Oct. 7**Went on parade this morning. I don’t know what I would have done if we had of had rifle drill. My arm is too stiff for that yet. If I can stick it out it will be better than being left behind with the mob. Had a little march then the O.C. of the Bn. inspected us for the first time.

**Sat. Oct. 9**We turned in all of our blankets this morning and got ready for a review. The review was held on our own parade grounds after dinner. 120 rounds of ammunition was issued out to each man and we marched down to the boat at Folkstone harbor. The boat was the Golden Eagle. We arrived at Boulogne some time between 9 & 10 P.M. It was raining and cold and we had to march about 3 miles of cobble stone road. When we were shown to our camp it didn’t take long to get to sleep.

**Sun. Oct. 10**We were waken by an awful cackle & clatter this morning. When we got up to see what was going on we saw women of every dimension (but they were all French) cleaning over the fence peddling fruit. They were fighting and quarreling among themselves. It was like a circus. We fell in twice today. I suppose it was to see that none of us left camp. At 8 P.M. had a roll call and the riot act ready. I went to bed early.

**Mon. Oct 11**The marched from the camp to a station called Pont de Briques where we were loaded onto box cars. 44 per car. Believe me it was a tight fit and we were badly cramped up by the time we got off at Cestre. We waited here a long time and it was pitch dark before our guides come to show us to our billets. It was supposed to be about 10 kilometers to our billets but the guide got lost and must have made us walk about 20. The billet is a barn with lots of hay in the mow.

**Tues. Oct. 12**We were all wakened fairly early. There was an inspection, then drill up until noon. The afternoon was a holiday. Saw a German plane being fired at by our anti-aircraft guns. The farm we are on is near a big hill called Mont de Cats.

**Wed. Oct. 13**We were up at 6:30. There was physical drill before breakfast. My kit is mixed up all through the box this morning. We had a little route march (light marching order) to B.H.Q. and back.

Thurs. Oct. 14.

This morning we went marched to B.H.Q. and were inspected by General Alderson. This afternoon moon I found a half barrel and got water from the pump for a bath. This is the first time I have had a whole orchard for a bath room.

Fri. Oct 15.

We got ready to move this morning. The coys all met at H.Q. and formed column of route. At about noon we passed through Bailleul. We arrived at Ploegstraat and were put into a camp called Bulford. We are quite close to the firing line now. I was put on guard tonight, I wish I was going to sleep instead.

Sat. Oct 16.

The guard wasn’t dismissed until 5.30 this evening. It was too long after the long march we had yesterday. Went for a little walk to the village this evening but there was nothing there.

Sun. Oct. 17.

We were issued with new gas helmets this morning (P.H.) I feel a little better after my rest last night. I was detailed to go and help bring some water this afternoon, from a place called Neuve-Eglise. There isn’t much left of the village. Was on a work party tonight near Messines digging a support trench. 3 casualties.

Mon. Oct. 18.

We got in from the work party at 5.30 this morning. Had nothing to do all day until 5 P.M. we started up for the line. These trenches didn’t seem to be as bad as I expected them to be. I had to go on ration party as soon as I got my pack off and after that I was out on a party putting up wire entanglements. Had 2 hrs. Sleep tonight.

Tues. Oct 19.

The germans put over a few shells in our sector this morning. One man wounded. We stood to again at 5 P.M. when we stood down I cooked my supper. Some life!

Wed. Oct 20

We stood to at 5 a.m. everything is fairly quiet today. I believe I’m lousy. We got out to camp tonight. I went out on the advance party so was at the camp early.

Thurs. Oct. 21.

I slept in this morning. There has been nothing to do all day and there is no where to go. We went on a work party up beyond Hyde Park corner across the support line. It started to rain pretty heavy before the work was completed so we started home but got lost on the way so didn’t get in until late.

Fri. Oct. 22.

We fell in two or three times during the day for one thing and another. I got my stuff all ready to go up the line. They asked for volunteers for First-aid work so I have a new job for this trip. Tom Hodson and I have 4 platoons to look after. We got into the line O.K. tonight. I’m in a booby with an 8th Bn. SB.

Sat. Oct 23.

I was rooted out early this morning to fix up a fellow that got a bullet in his head. (Jack Rafter) Has been quiet all day. Went to the R.A.P. to make my report tonight.

Sun. Oct 24.

There was nothing to do today except cook my meals. Got relieved tonight. (Last pioneer trip) It is raining quite hard.

Mod. Oct 25.

The rain is still coming. Made a stove out of my biscuit tins for our hut.

Tues. Oct 26.

Our shed was a little warmer with the stove last night. This is a nice bright day so the archies are kept quite busy. We cleaned up a little around out huts today and in the evening we went on a work party to the back of Hennesses Chateau. We had two casualties.

Wed. Oct. 27.

We worked practically all last night so I didn’t roll out till noon today. It is getting cold again.

Thurs. Oct 28.

I wrote several letters and went to sleep right after supper.

Fri. Oct. 29.

It hasn’t stopped raining yet. Fell in at 2 P.M. and was told off for a work party. The weather was too bad to do much so we started back at 12:30.

Sat. Oct. 30

Had a Rifle inspection this morning. Work party as usual tonight. Returned at 1.30.

Sun. Oct. 31.

Got up late. Went to the armouries with Currie. The church parade was cancelled this morning and so was the work party tonight. Went to sleep early.

Mon. Nov 1.

About all we did during the day was clean up around the camp. Tonight we started out on a work party but were turned back for we couldn’t dig in this rain.

Tue. Nov. 2.

We marched to Kemmel. The rain was coming down in torrents. 6 Pltn. had to put up tents but it was a little better than moving into cow stables and pig pins. I crawled into my blanket and dried my clothes best I could.

Wed. Nov 3.

I didn’t quite succeed in drying my clothes last night. This is an awful juicy country. Was put on guard tonight. The rain is quitting.

Thurs. Nov 4.

It was miserable on sentry during the night. The sun come out for 20 minutes today. We were dismissed at 5. P.M. and I went to sleep.

Fri. Nov. 5.

Was up at 3 a.m. on a fatigue in front of Kemmel and to north of the V.C. road. It was drizzling as usual.

Sat. Nov. 6.

I have been put on the day party so we left this morning at 6. We work(ed) on a trench behind the 5th Bde. Got back at 4 P.M.

Sun. Nov 7.

It was quite frosty this morning but has turned out not to be too bad. Went out on a work party as usual this morning. We were building support boobies today it was a lot nicer work. There was a few shells thrown at us and the snipers were a little troublesome. Kemmel looks kind of badly shot up tonight.

Mon. Nov. 8.

No rain today but cloudy. I’m staying in camp today. The M.O.gave the S.B. a lecture on First Aid. I’m feeling fine have received 9 letters so far this week. Never left camp and went to bed early.

Tue. Nov. 9.

I stayed in my blankets too long and had to go on the fatigue party without my breakfast. We had it a little rougher than usual today, and didn’t get very much work done. Kemmel got a pretty good shelling tonight. It is windy and raining tonight.

Wed. Nov. 10.

The sun shone for a few minutes again this morning. It began to rain before dinner then turned to sleet. We got our work finished a little earlier today so when I came home I have my face and hands an extra good wash and had a shave too.

Thurs. Nov. 11.

I was late for breakfast again this morning but I got it even if the cook did have a lot to say. On work party we had a few casualties in the bn. Got commended on the way we have carried on since arriving in France.

Fri. Nov. 12.

Another miserable day. Waded through water with stuff all day today and to make matters worse we got shelled. We’ll have to get even with “a” Coy for this. I wore a blanket tonight while I scraped the mud off my clothes and got them dried by the Mademoiselle in this farm house.

Sat. Nov. 13.

It is as wet as usual this morning. Our party got up to the trenches today but was turned back for there is to be a strafe today. We got shelled coming out. Our artillery got three German guns today. Went to bed to dry out.

Sun. Nov 14.

It is quite frosty this morning. We went on the work party as usual. The party crossed an open piece of a field and we were observed by some high German position and as we could expect we were fired at. The party slip and vanished in about two minutes. It was long distance for machine-gun fire it was pretty warm for us. There was four of us got into an old furrow by some chickery and had to stay there for over half an hour and then we had to creep to the trench following the low ground. The work was finished at noon so we went home. It is not quite so wet tonight.

Mon. Nov 15.

There was a quarter of an inch of ice this morning on the peddlers. On our way up to the 5 Bde. supports we were shelled a little but it was nothing compared with what we got coming out. There was quite a number of casualties both killed + wounded. This is the first day for a month that my feet have been dry. I’m not feeling very good.

Tues. Nov 16.

I wasn’t feeling fit to do anything this morning so I reported sick. I was laid off duty for the day. My socks needed darning so I fixed them up and wrote some letters that constituted a days work. There is a lot of shelling from both sides tonight.

Wed Nov. 17.

No duty again today. I stayed in my blankets the biggest part of the time.

Thurs. Nov. 18.

I was detailed to help get some lumber for making bivies this morning but we were seen I guess for it wasn’t very long before shrapnel was flying all around the old ruins where we were so we cleared out. The work was finished at 3. P.M. and we came home.

Fri. Nov. 19.

There is quite a few of the fellows sick these days. We are still having pretty good frosts these mornings. Tom Hodson and I nearly froze waiting around with our aid bags. I only saw four shrapnel bursts today that were very near us.

Sat. Nov 20.

It was quite chilly waiting around. It was comparatively quiet all day

Sun. Nov 21.

Two men got hurt today but neither of them serious. One man took the poole. (D Lughton) I’m pretty tired tonight although I didn’t do very much work.

Mon. Nov 22.

Finished pilling up the floor and taking that lumber we had to leave the other day. The men come home these days on their our as long as they travel in pairs. On my way home I went into a home in Kemmel and had some eggs and chips.

Tue. Nov. 23.

We were making a breast work this morning but the wind started to lift the fog and we had to go where we couldn’t be seen. Got home pretty early.

Wed. Nov. 24.

The work party for today was cancelled (for today) so Bert Taylor had us out on a rifle inspection. We stood to all day. Im the evening we were warned that we might go out and so we did. It was raining and our capes were more bother than use. We were taking miners equipment up to H2.+K2. (front line)

Thurs. Nov. 25.

All of us fellows that work on the night party built a wall for our tent today. It is two feet higher now and seems more roomy. (175 bqs). I slept and darned socks in turns this afternoon. We built a parapet on a trench tonight.

Fri. Nov. 26.

We made some improvements around our tent this morning and slept all afternoon there was only three trips made during the evening from the dump up so we are in good and early.

Sat. Nov. 27.

Nothing to do today but to darn one pair of socks and sleep. Tonight I was up to K.2. + H.2. twice before m.m. (midnight) and twice after. Got home at 3 a.m.

Sun. Nov. 28.

We have a stove in our tent made from a milk can and a length of pipe made of Bully beef tins. We went out and hunted wood and split it this morning, it was almost too wet to burn. Duke and I walked over to Locre this afternoon had a look at Fred and got a white goat skin coat from the Q.M. Tonight out party waited for the Canadian Engineers transport to bring some stuff up but it never came so we went back to camp about m.m. (midnight).

Mon. Nov. 29.

It is raining and blowing and our tent pole broke. The canvas had contracted so much that something had to give. The rain is still coming down pretty steady. I was on a party to K1. I fell into a shell hole behind one of the posts and I think it must have been used for a slop hole. I had to wade through another shell hole to get cleaned up.

Tue. Nov. 30.

I did a lot of sleeping today for I feel a little tried. Work tonight as usual.

Wed. Dec. 1.

Had a rifle inspection in our tents this morning. One rifle did the trick. I went to Locre for dinner with Joe Holroyd and from there up to the monastery where we each got some food that was mad by some little Belgian refugees. It rained hard tonight and everything seemed to go wrong so it was later than usual when we got home.

Thurs. Dec. 2.

Got my first bath since the third day I was in France, we also got a change of clothes. The cuties haven’t started to bother me very much yet. Tonight work party was about the hardest I have been on. Did 2 trips to K.1.

Fri. Dec. 3.

The day party didn’t go out this morning so we won’t have to go out tonight. We got some onions today so we fried them over our new stove so we had a little side dish today.

Sat. Dec. 4.

I’m on day party again I don’t like it near as well as night party all we did was widen a trench a little and each person as they finished their share left for camp. I was home just after eleven. A.m. Wen to bed early.

Sun. Dec. 5

Well this dosen’t seem at all like Sunday. I went out on a mine part(y) to K.2. + H.2. although the job was no sinch we made good time and got home before the rest.

Mon. Dec 6.

Had a rough time in the small hrs. Of the morning. Got my foot hurt. I’m not feeling good today. I took my shift tonight but couldn’t last out.

Tues. Dec. 7.

I reported to the M.O. this morning with my sore foot and got the M.D. There was nothing to do around camp so I took a good rest. This is an awful night for the part. It is raining and black as usual.

Wed. Dec. 8.

I was marked L. D. today. There was a big debate on John 14. tonight in our tent.

Thurs. Dec. 9.

I’m for duty this morning so Micky soaked me with a quarter guard first thing. I was on sentry along an old road and there wasn’t a bit of cover any where so I got a drenching both at night and all day.

Fri. Dec. 10

It looks as though we are in for another flood, water is lying everywhere. The guard was relieved at 4.P.M. and then we got our pay (15-francs.)

Sat. Dec. 11.

Went to Locre to spend some of my francs on Xmas presents. Couldn’t get much for it, but got what I could. Had eggs and steak at a farm house. We started out on the usual, but were turned back. It has been so black at night for about 2 weeks that you couldn’t see a man a yd. Ahead.

Sun. Dec. 12.

Our new coy. canteen opened today. It is both wet + dry. I went out at 3 P.M. with a party to fix up an M.G. implacement and finished at 8 P.M. There are a lot of the fellows around as though they have been patronizing the canteen pretty well.

Mon. Dec. 13.

It is clear and very cold. My clothes were too wet to come out in the cold so I stayed in my blankets until after dinner. There was two small parties tonight one on the breast work + one putting up entanglement. I was on the later. The other party got shelled out so came home early. Got some mail from home today.

Tue. Dec. 14.

There was a little frost last night. I was on a work party all morning + part of the afternoon. Major Hardisty wondered out to have a look at what we had done. I had supper in Kemmel and came home. Did some writing tonight.

Wed. Dec. 15.

Did nothing all day but sit in the tent. We were sent on on a work part putting up wire entanglements. There was one man killed. Got in at 12 M.N.

Thur. Dec. 16.

We had to go out again this morning to finish up some bivies. It took us till 2.30. There was no party tonight so we got a rest.

Fri. Dec. 17.

We had a set job this morning. I was in camp for dinner. Tonight every thing was wild, most of the men were drunk. One fellow went crazy and beat up the Q.M.

Sat. Dec 18.

There has been no rain for about three or four days now. That is some thing new. We sandbag a M.G. emplacement today. Got some Canadian mail tonight.

Sun. Dec. 19.

There was no work today. The gas was pretty thick around our camp between 4.30 this morning and noon. The germans attacked at st eloy but were driven back. (International trench). We had helmet drill today. The shelling is heavy tonight Ypres direction.

Mon. Dec. 20.

We broke up camp this morning and started back to rest billets. The packs were heavy and the march hard. The band only played about twice or three times during the march. The first time was when were passed through Westouter and once between that and Berthen. My pltn. Is a loft about half way between Mont de Cats monastery and Berthen. It is not too bad I haven’t had a chance to look round much yet.

Tue. Dec. 21.

I had a dandy comfortable sleep last night. The hay and straw makes a softer place to lay than I have had for a long. This is a miserable day and wet. We are all C.B. There was a big Canadian mail today and I got my share. By the time I had read all the letters over two or three times it was night. We may move any time.

Wed. Dec. 22.

Reveille at 7 a.m. this morning. After breakfast we all got out and cleaned up the yard. There were some inspections this morning namely, rifle, canteen, gas helmets, there was a little route march after dinner. After supper I went to the village.

Thur. Dec. 23.

There will be no parades today but the general is coming around to see us in our billets, Duke and I cleared out before he came through. Did a lot of writing in the evening.

Fri. Dec. 24

We went on a route march this morning. There has been more sunshine today (than) there has been for over two months. It rained a little tonight. There was four of us volunteered to go and fetch a couple pigs that had been bought by some of our canteen funds. We thought we would have live ones to handle and have some sport, but they were killed so we had to carry them. It was an awful job but I got a new suit out of it anyway.

Sat. Dec. 25.

This is Christmas day and the weather is lovely. We were all given Xmas boxes sent by the people at home Jock Smith put up a pretty good dinner today. There was pudding all kinds of vegetables, pork and apple sauce + candles to finish with. Major Hardisty give a very nice little speech this morning. I have had a pretty good day.

Sun. Dec 26.

I went on guard in place of another fellow that was drunk today. The shifts during the latter part of last night were pretty bad, but it has been nice today. I got quire a few letters today so I did quite a bit of writing tonight.

Mon. Dec. 27.

I started on a signalling course this morning. It is surprising how much a person forgets when they haven’t been at it for a while. The Bn. went to Bailuel today to a concert, but I couldn’t get away on account of the course.

Tue. Dec. 28.

Went to H.Q. as usual. We are being pushed pretty hard for we are supposed to finish in 2 weeks. Nothing exciting has happened today. Wrote letters and played games all evening.

Wed. Dec. 29.

This has been another dandy day. Went to H.Q. as usual. I got a box from home today.

Thur Dec. 30

When I got up this morning it looked as though we were going to have a bad day. B. Coy won a game of foot-ball from the c.a.m.c. score was 5-1. The usual celebration was in full swing tonight.

Fri. Dec. 31.

They made an extra long day at the sig. Class. I came home in the pouring rain. So ends 1915.

# 1916

Sat. Jan. 1 1916

This (is) an awful miserable day for to start a new year with. It has been too wet to go out all day. The usual again tonight.

Sun. Jan. 2.

There was to have been a service this morning but weather conditions wouldn’t permit so it was cancelled. I finished answering my mail today. Feeling kind of tough today have a bad cold.

Mon. Jan. 3.

I reported to the M.O. with a cold and a boil. Got M.D. There a route march for every one that wasn’t lucky enough to have a boil and no duty. Duke + I went to Berthen tonight.

Tue 4 Wed. 5.

On course—

Thur. Jan. 6.

Went to Bailleul today for a bath and afterwood to a picture show that is being run for the troops. After the show Duke and I got some supper and stayed around town until dark and then started for home. It was a long walk but we got there before midnight.

Fri. Jan. 7.-Sat.8.

On Course.---

Sun. Jan. 9.

We got all packed up this morning and started for billets between Kemmel and Dranoutre, we marched via Bailleul. When we arrived at our destination we had to put up tents. I got soaked with a guard and believe me I’m good and tried to start with.

Mon. Jan. 10.

The camping ground seems to be a regular breeding place for rats. There was a few drops of rain today but it has been very nice. I went to a y.m.c.a. concert in Dranoutre this evening and it was very good.

Tue. Jan. 11.

Went to H.Q. this morning to have a little practice on the buzzer. I invested my last 7 france today on, Im gessof. The coy went on a route march this afternoon.

Wed. Jan. 12.

I spent all morning preparing to go up the line. There couldn’t find any one to go on first aid work so I took it on again. We got into the line about half an hour after dark. Tom and I had quite a time finding a place to put my stuff there were so few Boobies.

Thurs. Jan. 13.

We were shelled a bit with some quite have stuff and shrapnel this morning. It was fairly quiet this afternoon and evening. I rolled in so I could get some sleep while I have a chance.

Fri. Jan. 14

I bandaged up a fellow this morning that had the top of his scull lifted out with a bullet. He lived for a little while after I got him out of the line. We were shelled pretty heavy this afternoon. No one was hurt in our Coy, but half of out bivies were caved in. Nice and quiet this evening.

Sat. Jan. 15

Everything has been pretty quiet all day. All I have done was attend to some bruised finger and fix up sore feet, and issue different pills where I thought they were needed. Our artillery did a little tonight.

Sun. Jan. 16.

We had a pretty lively time this afternoon. The were two leaving guns playing up and down our line at intervals of about 3 minutes. I got a little cut on the face and several other fellows got small hurts, but none serious. We were relieved by the R.C.R.’s.

Mon. Jan. 17.

I help straighten up around our new billets this morning. It is a very good place. (Wood Farm). I was S.B. on a work party up the line till 11 tonight. Papa’s Birthday.

Tue. Jan 18.

This is a nice clear day. Our billets were shelled today and we had to make for the shell trenches. I was S.B. on the party posting up wire. One man was killed and one wounded.

Wed. Jan. 19.

We went and got a bath at Dranoutre. I feel a lot better for it. We had to go into the shell trenches again today. Went out with another party tonight but every thing was quiet.

Thurs. Jan. 20.

It is raining a little. Our Bn. relieved the R.C.R.’s tonight. Everything is quiet.

Fri. Jan. 21.

Made my report to the M.O. today. There has been a lot of heavy shell fire on our right but we are alright so far.

Sat. Jan. 22.

It has been very quiet all day. Reported to the dressing station and made my report. Some casualties in another coy. Hart’s Birthday.

Sun. Jan. 23.

It was very foggy this morning a person couldn’t see more than about 10 yds. Cleared about 10 a.m. Pretty noisy this evening.

Mon. Jan. 24.

I took Duke and another fellow out to the R.A.P. Duke was sent to hospital. We were relieved and went back to near Dranoutre.

Tue. Jan. 25.

Had a pretty good sleep last night and got paid this morning, so I feel pretty good. Went to town this afternoon and got a few things I needed. We are in a barn.

Wed, Jan. 26.-27-28-

Have had nothing to do for 3 days not even parades.

Sat. Jan 29.

We moved today. The march was fast and pretty long. My new boots aren’t doing my feet any good. We came by Dranoutre, Locre and Westoutre. We are 2 K. from Berthe. M.E. I never was in a dirtier or more crowded billet before.

Sun. Jan. 30.

It was pretty frosty last night although I never felt the cold any. Have started a new moustache and it is doing well. I believed it is colder today than it was last night. There was a fairly good dinner for us today. I got 2 letters and a parcel tonight.

Mon. Jan. 31.

I moved up into a loft tonight. It is better than where I was and it is fine and warm. There has been a big bombardment over Eypres direction. As a first aid man I don’t have to do any parades. Have been writing off and on all day.

Tues. Feb. 1.

It is pretty cold this morning. I didn’t get up until late. All I did was clean up and go back to bed again. This afternoon I watched a game of foot-ball between 49 and R.C.Rs. We won 8-0. Went for a walk to Mont de Cats and just got back in time for supper.

Wed. Feb. 2.

This is the day we are holding our Bn. sports. Denton, Skinner + I won the four legged race. I was on the boat race, our pltn. didn’t win but was an awful close second. I have qualified for two events in the Bde sports. Quite tired tonight. Wrote some more letters.

Thurs. Feb. 3.

I was out practicing for the Sat. Sports but I’m pretty stiff. There was a foot-ball game between the 49+42. We won 2-1. It was a very close game although. There is a new draft of 56th men.

Fri. Feb. 4.

It is very windy and raining a little this morning. We fell in 8.15 AM. full packs for a route march. There was only three halts and we landed back in camp at 2.30P.M. nearly done in.

Sat. Feb. 5.

The Bde. sports were held this afternoon. Duke, Skinner + I took second place in the four legged race and 6 platoon got 4th in the boat race. Out Battalion got over, two thirds of the prizes. I’m tired and sore tonight. Wrote some more letters.

Sun. Feb. 6.

Today I attended the first service that I have had a chance to for a long time. It is cold and raining a little.

Mon. Feb. 7.

It is wet and windy today. All there was to do was clean up a little around the billet, help load so stuff ready to move tomorrow. Went to bed quire early tonight.

Tue. Feb. 8.

Reveille 4.30 this morning. We were on parade ready to move at 8. A.M. It was a hard march and my shoulders got pretty sore. We arrived at Kemmel huts at 11. A.m. I went for a walk to see the old billet. There is quite a bit of shelling going on. We are comfortable here.

Wed. Feb. 9

Were given a lecture this morning on plans of attack. There has been a lot of aerial activity today. It is my turn to go with the party tonight. We were fixing some trench matts. It has been pretty quiet all evening.

Thur. Feb. 10.

It has been fairly cold all day. I got a bath and change of clothes. The draw for leave was pulled off today. I got 74 + Duke got 110. We were paid this afternoon and a little later we got shelled out of camp for a while, no one got hurt. There was a short notice for a work party tonight, but Tom(?) is going with them tonight. I went to the “Y” but was turned back again.

Fri. Feb. 11.

There has been nothing much to do. I reported to the M.O. and got some more stuff in my bag. We are in support now. 7+8 Platoons are stationed in a barn just behind S.P. 11. Can’t move out during day light. All the first aid men got a lecture on poisoned gas.

Sat. Feb. 12.

It has been raining most of the day. Couldn’t do anything but ly in the barn until evening. There has been a little shelling off and on during the day in Kemmel.

Sun. Feb. 13.

One day seems to be about the same as another out here. Every thing seems about as usual. I report to the r.a.p. then came back and wrote some letters. I haven’t received any mail since last monday.

Mon. Feb. 14

There is quite a bit of shelling going all along the line. I had a call up the line but there was nothing to do by the time I got there. I got three letters and some papers.

Tues. Feb. 15.

I got up for break as usual and reported to the R.a.P. we are to be relieved tonight so I got pack up ready this afternoon. We arrived at Locre huts at about 10 P.M.

Wed. Feb. 16.

It rained a lot this morning. I went up to Locre and got a card for Elleanor’s Birthday next month. There was a big wind storm and a lot of the trees along the roads were uprooted. An artillery man was killed near our camp by a falling tree. I stayed in side most of the day and wrote letters.

Thurs. Feb. 17.

It is a little nicer day although we did get a little rain. Went to visit in Locre. There is a big bombardment on in the salient. The Buffs and Northumberland Fusiliers were badly cut up. I was on a work party laying cabb at La Clyte and Dickybush until midnight. I feel pretty tired.

Fri. Feb. 18.

Rained most of the day. I intended to go to a picture show at the y. tonight but it didn’t come off. I got two letters today.

Sat. Feb. 19.

I got my stuff already this morning for going up the line (Bull-ring) my pack was carried for my on the transport for I had a big stretcher and a little one. Tom + I went out to the end of the comm. Trench for our stuff at ration time. I am in a fairly good booby.

Sun. Feb 20.

The wind has changed and is in the Huns favor. Every thing was fairly quiet until this evening when a few sausages and rum jars were thrown over on our left flank. We are standing to for gas tonight. I’m second on sentry for gas in our little home tonight. It feels about cold enough for snow tonight.

Mon. Feb. 21

The wind hasn’t changed. Vision is good today. There are a lot of planes up. One german was brought down. A few shells have been dropped in our lines but no one was hurt. Gas is still being expected.

Tues. Feb. 22.

The wind is in our favour now. There has been quite a little snow today. Every thing was fine until about time I was getting my supper. The germans opened up with trench mortars and light field guns. There was 1 casualty in the coy and 3 in the Bn. altogether.

Wed. Feb 23.

It is snowing quite hard today. This is the last day of the trip. The wind is coming from the wrong way again. Quite a little m.g. Fire tonight. We were relieved by the Pats and wandered out to the Kemmel shelters.

Thurs. Feb. 24.

We got paid this morning and I was certainly in need of it. It is still cold. I got a parcel from home with a couple books in it. I was out on a work party believe me it was cold + wet.

Fri. Feb 25

More snow today and colder than ever. I went over to the Y to read and write this afternoon. On work party as usual tonight. We got in fairly early tonight.

Sat. Feb. 26.

The weather is a little milder today and the snow is almost all gone. I have been reading a book most of the fore noon. On work party again tonight. The job was a little cleaner and we were in early 11.30. Gas alarm.

Sun. Feb. 27.

Went to Locre for a bath this morning. This evening we were laying a pipe from Kemmel to the support trenches for to bring up water.

Mon. Feb. 28.

We are going up the line again tonight. It has been raining all day but it stopped about time we started up for the relief after dark. I’m stationed with 7 pltn. in reserve.

Tues. Feb. 29.

There have been quite a few shells dropped around near our piece of trench. I made one trip to S.P. 11 and went out for the rations.

Wed. March. 1

This is a lovely day. The British have been putting over quite a little stuff today and this evening. I was out on a little party this afternoon fixing trench mats.

Thurs. March. 2.

There is still a lot of firing. The international trench has changed hands again. Our Bn has been lucky so far this trip, there has been no casualties. We did a little more work on the side this afternoon. I’m pretty tired tonight. Every thing is quiet. I can only hear an odd rifle shot or the fiz of a star shell as it comes down towards our line.

Fri. March 3.

It is very miserable and wet today. I was down and reported to the R.A.P. once. Was out on work party today this afternoon as usual. There was 12 casualties among us coming out of the line tonight. The road was shelled just at the Kemmel shelters and caught our party.

Sat. March 4.

We are in a camp at Locre. It is too cold and miserable to come out today. I read and slept all the day and evening.

Sun. Mar. 5.

I was pretty cold last night. After break-fast I walk around Locre to get my circulation running again and to make my report to the R.A.P. Went to the bath and got an extra one. Duke + I are doubling up tonight to see if we can’t keep a little warmer. Got paid today.

Mon. Mar. 6

The weather is very unscattered. I stayed around town quite a little today. Snowed some today. Duke + I went to a Y. concert at Dranoutre tonight. I met Beaton over there.

Tue. Mar. 7.

It is snowing and still quite cold. We were expecting to go in the line tonight but it was cancelled. I went for a long walk this evening and wrote some letters. Went to bed early.

Wed. Mar. 8.

This is ash Wed. I wouldn’t have thought of it only some one told me. We started at 11 a.m. on the march back to our rest billets near Berthen. The barn we were put in is pretty dirty and you can throw a cat through the walls any where I’m sleeping with. Pete Allison. Pea soup was issued instead of rum tonight.

Thurs. Mar. 9.

It is exactly 5 months today since we arrived in Boulogne. We went out on a route march for a while it was quite cool and find for marching. I haven’t received any mail so far this week.

Fri. March. 10

There is another route march this morning but I didn’t go on it. I made my report as usual to the M.O. I got a message this afternoon that I was wanted for to help inoculate the Bde. staff. I went to bed early tonight.

Sat. March 11.

One year ago I started to work for George. I cooked my own dinner today because I had to leave early to get to the H.Q. by 12 noon. We went to Mont de Cats from there and inoculated 54 men. One fellow fainted twice and in the end took his dose lying on the floor. Got home 6 P.m.

Sun. March 12.

It has been raining all day. Old Pete came in stewed to the eyes.

Mon. March 13.

I was warned to get over to H.Q. and to go to Bde. and finish inoculating the staff but it was postponed, so there was nothing for me to do but go to bed early.

Tue. March. 14

The M.O. started inoculating the Bn. today. I had to give him a lift with the sick parade and then mark pay book, sterilizing needles and fix up bad arms. There was a new draft came in today. The Bn. went to Bailluel to hear a concert. I couldn’t go.

Wed. March 15.

This is Elleanor’s Birthday. I was with the M.O. most of the day. Went to see Currie this evening.

Thurs. March 16.

Got to the R.A.P. This inoculating is a monotonous job. This is a beautiful spring day. I wish I was outside. This is the 15 day since there was any Canadian mail.

Fri. March 17.

This is the 17th of Ireland. We finished inncolating the Bn. at noon. I got my shot right after dinner. Our foot-ball team defeated the Pats. We are the Bde. Champions now. I can feel my arm getting stiff.

Sat. March 18.

I feel too sick to do anything this morning. I walk to H.Q. for my pay this morning but before I got back I wished I had stayed at home. It has certainly got me this time. I rolled in nd never budged the rest of the day.

Sun. March 19.

I went over to Report at H.Q. I met Fred on my way back and talked for about an hout. I went out and bought my dinner today for a charge. I got some mail today.

Mon. March. 20

We started at 10 a.m. on our march for Ypres and arrived Poperinghe shortly after dinner. This is a fairly large place and I think it is a good a town as I have been in. I am billeted in a brick and tyle works. It is dry and stops the wind. Duke + I had supper out this evening.

Tue. March. 21

After breakfast Duke + I explored the town a little more, and we invested some francs in one thing and another. Got on the train at 6 P.M. and started for Ypres. The train ran very silently, but we got shelled any way. We were guided by an imperial that got lost with between the train and trenches and we wandered around until 2 A.M. This is the Ypres Salient. It is an awful noisier place. From the look of the flares, a person would think he was surrounded.

Wed. March. 22.

It is raining one minute and snowing the next and there is no shelter of any kind. The Royal Fusiliers left this line in an awful mess. I’m first aid man for what is called the loop. There hasn’t been very many shells today but enough to make it uncomfortable. I had to find the dressing station and it was some job. It is in Sanctuary woods. I took one man out there tonight at 12.

Thurs. March 23.

It is a little clearer this morning I didn’t get a wink of sleep last night. There has nothing happened this morning and about all there is to do is try and keep warm. I had two trips to the R.A.P. this afternoon.

Fri. March. 24.

My partner got hit this morning when we were trying to get a fellow out. I had a little sleep this morning the first I had since we came in. There has been quite a little shell fire all morning and afternoon. I wish I was somewhere else instead of here.

Sat. March 25. A general welcome to the Canadians.

The weather is clearing up a little today. The Germans seem to be a little restless this morning. This afternoon the sun came out and the Huns opened up a bombardment. Trees and dirt and shrapnel was flying all directions for a couple hours. I had to go and help out with C and D Coys. For the were getting it pretty bad and some of there S.B. we knocked out. We were relieved tonight by the P.Ps. They got part of our men in there rations. Our Batt. went into support. B Coy was in the Railway dugouts.

Sun. March 26.

We went out on a day work party fixing up the trench along Zillebeke Lake this after noon. I was fixing up sore feet and looking after some sick to see that they go away to the hosp. Alright. Fritz put a lot of shells in among our boobies but no one was hurt. It is quiet tonight.

Mon. March. 27.

There was a show on our right and the International Trench became ours again. It is very wet and miserable today so we had to stick close to what cover we could find. I was on a work party. There were several fellows hurt tonight when we were crossing from Maple Copse to Sanctuary wood. I’m soaking wet.

Tues. March 28.

I was up quite early this morning but couldn’t leave our boobies. The only thing I did was cook my meals for I had no candles to read by. The Bn. that relieved us didn’t get in until 11:30. This is an awful night, the sleet cut our faces as we marched out. Our new camp is on the Outredom road near the Y. I was good + tired.

Wed. March 29.

It was 5:45 when we got into the camp this morning. We had breakfast at 11:30. I took a little walk around to see the country. Paid 2 ½ to see a picture show tonight. Went to bed early.

Thurs. March 30.

We all went for a greatly needed bath to Poperinghe this morning. It was a long march but I feel better and not so itchy-eoo. The band came back to us to-day. They have been playing with a concert party at Bailleul for quite a while. The weather is a lot better today. I stayed in a wrote a bunch of letters tonight.

Friday, March 31.

This is a lovely day. Uncle Fred, Duke + I wandered around a little to see everything. This afternoon I fixed up several bombers that were wounded when a detonator burst.

Sat. April 1.

I never got fooled once. The M.O. did some inoculating today so I was on the job too. We were through early so I listened to the band for a couple of hrs. There was a band concert in the Y.M. tonight and it was a dandy. I got in just before roll call.

Sun. April 2.

The M.O. was going to do a little more inoculating this morning but there was a church parade and a pay parade right after wards so his was called off. Fred, Duke + I went out for dinner and then for a walk. When we got back the band was playing so we listened to that until supper time. I had enough writing to keep me busy all evening.

Mon. April 3.

We were all on parade for the G.O.C. but he didn’t come. We stood about 2 hrs. In the boiling sun. Several fellows fainted. A bomb burst in the incinerator and wounded a chum of mine badly (Rumsby). The Coldstream Guards band came and playing in our camp this afternoon. It is certainly a dandy band. I got five Can. letters today. I went to the Y concert tonight.

Tues. April 4.

At last I have got off the stretcher job and I’m glad for it is none too pleasant. I got my rifle and ammunition so I’m ready to go up the line tonight. We went from Vlamerntinghe by train to the asylum of Ypres and walked from there to the Half Way House at China Wall. These are close supports. There we two casualties coming in. I was all settle in a weather proof bivy along with 11 others at 10:30 P.M.

Wed. April 5.

There is nothing to do in the day light here, so I slept till noon. I was put on guard this evening. This is the first guard I have done for a few months. During my turns off sentry I wrote some letters. There a few shells put over this evening, but there were by the strong point. The machine-gun fire from Hill 60 plays right on our back here.

Thurs. April 6.

There are 12 of us in this bivy so we haven’t very much room to spread ourselves when every one is in. I’m on gas guard tonight. I did my first 2 ½ hrs on and then I was sent on ration party to the dump at the end of China Wall. I didn’t get back until long after midnight.

Fri. April 7.

I’m still on guard. I feel a bit sleepy for I never got a wink last night. Word came to H.Q. some way that we had lost these lines of trench, so we were extended along behind China Wall to make a stand, but the rumor was all bunco and we took up our old position, again. Our Coy relieve A. Coy tonight. I’m on a post on the right flank of the Coy. This is an isolated post on the lip of a big crater by the Menin Road. I’m no. 1. Bayonet man.

Sat. April 8.

Every man in our post stood to all night for there was only 6 of us to hold this point. Believe me I’m tired this morning. We had some job to cook anything for dinner for we could raise a smoke a make a noise. We were issued with some anti-frost bit last night for our feet, but I stuck my handkerchief into the tin for a wick and burnt our anti frost but. We warmed some water and made some strong tea and cooked as long as the first big grease lasted. We have been shelled quite a little but no one has been hurt on this post. It is very wet. Went back to support again.

Sun. April 9.

I slept pretty late this morning for I’m pretty tired. Two days in about as much as a man can stand in one of those posts when it is so wet and cold and you can’t ly down at all out there. It has been nice this morning but there is a storm in right this afternoon. There was a big draft of new men came in today. We stood to for gas all night and did a work party as well.

Mon. April 10.

There has been nothing to do all day so I slept most of the time. Of got a bunch of Can. mail today. We went back up to the posts again I’m on the same one. It is pretty wet and cold tonight.

Tues. April 11.

It is raining hard this morning I lost my rubber sheet but I got half of another fellows. We had a shelter for two men during the day time, we took turns going in, but the wind blew the top off it and some of us lost our turns, because the piece of ten went over the parapet. Jack. M. and I both got some skin knocked off our faces by a bullet striking between us as we were on sentry together.

Wed, April 12.

It is still cold and raining the water is coming up higher in our post. My feet feel as though they have shrivelled up. Both the germans and us threw a lot of bombs this afternnon and then the artillery started. It stirred up an awful smell around our crater. We got relieved tonight and marched back via Kruisstraat to F Camp.

Thursday April 13.

These billets aren’t far from the ones we were in last on the Outderdom road. During this trip in we had quite a few casualties. 61 I think. I did a little writing this afternoon and went to the show this evening. The pictures were very good. I got some mail and a box from home tonight.

Fri. April 14.

We were shelled out of our billets about four a.m. There was a general scramble for the fields each man with his boots in one hand and his pants in the other. Some rest camp. I was out on a work party tonight to Ypres. We went and came in buses. It was an easy night.

Sat. April 15.

I slept until late this morning. There was an inspection of light equipment. The band played for a little while this afternoon, then Fred and Duke and I went for a walk. Got another parcel from home. Went to the show again tonight passes are stopped.

Sun. April 16.

Before day light this morning a Hun plane bombed out camp and we had to stroke for the fields again. There was an inspection before dinner. The band played a little while this afternoon. I had my supper early for I’m booked for a work party. We were shelled on the way up and I certainly felt uncomfortable up on the top of one of those busses, Came in M.M. (Midnight)

Mon. April 17.

I didn’t roll out till late, but I wrote a couple letters before dinner. We had our usual short inspection this afternoon. Went to see the pictures again tonight. Got shelled out of camp again this eveing, but it is nice and quiet now. It has started to rain a little.

Tues. April 18.

It is still raining. Our parade took the form of an inspection + a lecture of discipline. I stayed in the hut until work party time this evening. This is an awful wet miserable night to have to go out.

Wed. April 19.

We were left unmolested last night and early this morning so I had a dandy sleep. After dinner I listened to the band for a while and then went over to the show. The pictures were fine tonight.

Thurs. April 20.

It is raining as usual. I was told a few things about not taking enough care about my dress for this parade. The cook house at an artillery camp by us took fire so were all rushed over and formed into a bucket brigade. After that was over parade was dismissed. We were shelled pretty hard while on work party, some casualties. This is the first time I ever saw a rainbow in the sky at Midnight. We walked most of the way from the buses can’t come up if the shelling is going on.

Fri. April 21.

This is good friday. This camp is getting a little too warm for us so we moved to A Camp. This is in the same area but the march was fast. I like this much better than the other place. It has started to rain again. I went to the Y for a little while tonight.

Sat. April 22.

It is raining again this morning we were paid but by night I was broke as flat as a pancake. The work party that I was to go on tonight was called off on account of the weather.

Sun. April 23.

This is Easter Sunday. It has turned out to be a lovely day. I was on church parade but was too far away that I couldn’t hear very well. Fred, Duke + I went out and had eggs and chips for dinner. Took a walk this afternoon and wrote letters in the evening.

Mon. April 24.

Easter Monday. There was the usual syllabus this morning. Our football team won a game from the Irish guards this afternoon. The score was 5-0. It was a nice clean game and played fast. We gave them a supper afterwards. It is raining again tonight but I had to go on work party any way. Everything went well tonight.

Tues. April 25.

I beat the first parade this morning but was caught for the second. We had the afternoon to ourselves but went out on work tonight. It was certainly a rough time tonight. We were digging a narrow trench to the right of china wall in front of Sanctuary Wood. The area was racked all night with machine gun fire. Every few minutes you would hear some one yell as they dropped. It was a Bde. party. The casualties must have numbered about 50 or more during the evening. I was good and glad to get out of there when the work was finished. The trip back was uneventful.

Wed. April 26.

It has turned out to be another dandy day. We had gas drill this afternoon. Our ball team played the Scotch Guards this afternoon and it was a great game. During the last five minutes of the last half, the ball was dribbled up near our goal and one of our fellows slipped when he went to stop a pass and kick the ball into our own goal. That broke the tie in their favour 2-1. I went to a concert at the “y” this evening and enjoyed myself.

Thurs. April 27.

We drilled very hard all morning. The Serg. plated the off. Foot ball this afternoon. The Officers won. I was on a work party again tonight, my feet were so sore I though I would never be able to walk home.

Fri. April 28.

The last three days certainly have been warm and this one is no improvement. We stood on parade waiting for Douglas Haige to come and inspect us and when he did come he only took a glance at us a said, “fine body of men” and walked or rather rode on. One of our planes came down in the camp and got tangled up with some field wires. I was over to the y tonight and I met a fellow that told me Willie Wright was buried at Bethune.

Sat. April 29.

They were shelling pretty close to our camp the last couple of days. There is a couple of large guns here that the Huns are trying to put out of action. I went to the M.O. and got some stuff for my feet today. We start at 4.30 to go up the line. It was too light to go far so we stayed in a wood near the Belgian Chateau until it was dark enough. First thing when we got in I was put on the gas guard at HQ. I do 3 on and 6 off. It is better than sentry and work parties.

Sun. April 30

Nothing happened during the night and it is pretty quiet today. I haven’t had any mail for a while now. Just before dark there was a few shells thrown over. My bivy. Is just about wrecked. There was three of us in it at the time but we got out O.K.

Mon. May 1

The Hun aeroplanes have been pretty active all day. I think every gun on their side of the line have registered on us this afternoon. At 5 P.M. the shell fire increased and at 7:30 the barrage was thrown on our line. It was something terrific. The barrage last ½ of an hr. And then the raiders delivered their attack but it fizzled out. There was enough of us there to stop them. The artillery seemed to let up in an instant and then our four mg. and the rifles started to crack, there is some contrast between the two sounds. We captured the officer in charge and the Cpl. of the raiding part, but of them were badly wounded. (The Cpl. died) in the mean time our artillery (what there was of it) kept on pipping away to retaliate but it only served to have some more shells come back on us. At 10 P.M. Old Sanctuary Wood was quiet as a grave yard. The only work parties tonight is burring parties. I was hoping I would get some mail tonight but none came.

Tues. May 2.

Everything is a lot quieter today, although there still is quite a few shells coming over. I hope our remaining for days will be peaceful. The postman brought me a big bunch of both Canadian and English mail. I feel a lot better now.

Wed. May 3.

It has been raining a little this morning but the sun is our now. The booby next mine got blown to slivers today I went on sentry tonight. B. Took over C this evening. The Bay I’m in don’t look to bad.

Thurs. May 4.

There has been hardly a shell been fired in our sector today I’m on duty at a juncture of a communication trench and the fire trench. I did some fatigues this afternoon relaying some duck walk. Rifle fire has been pretty heavy all night. I got a few letters tonight.

Fri. May 5.

There hasn’t been very much doing all day and we only have had a few casualties today. I’m on sentry as usual. There has been a gas alert on since early morning. The wiring party was sent out + I was on it as usual, we got in by 12.30.

Sat. May 6.

Duke + I got two parcels today. I wrote a few letters betweens shifts this morning. Heiny has been fairly quiet, I think he is getting ready for something. According to the sign the Huns put day before yesterday we (The Canaidans) will have to be out of here by tonight or get blown out. It has been raining a little tonight.

Sun. May 7

There was a bit of a bombardment this morning, but we threw back pretty much nearly as much as we got and we kept on after the quiet. I’m feeling fine these days. We were relieved and we went into reserve at Zilibeck Bund. There are some pretty good places to stay here.

Mon. May 8.

It is a nice day, just a light showers now and again. This afternoon I went on a work party fixing a com. Trench along the lake. I wrote a couple letters and run out of paper and won’t be able to get ant for eight days at least unless the sky-pilot manages to get some for us.

Tues. May 9.

A raining a little again. There was a party of us went out to work and got in a noon. I was on ration party tonight, got in at midnight. There was a couple of letters for me tonight. This is my 7th month in the country.

Wed. May 10.

This has been a lovely day. We are in Maple Copse now. I as on a work party this morning. I was sitting out side crumbing my shirt this afternoon when a bunch of shells landed in the wood where my Coy was. I dropped my shirt and ducked for some kind of cover, and when I came back some one had stolen my shirt.

Thurs. May 11.

I got a parcel from home this morning and also a letter. There is quite a little going on both sides today. I was on work party as usual today. I feel pretty tired tonight so after writing a letter I rolled in early.

Fri. May 12.

It is quite cool today, just right for working. The woods was shelled again this morning but no damage was done. I was on ration party this evening.

Sat. May 13.

Our party was turned back this morning so I have had the day to myself. Just finished a book entitled the Man of Mark. Was on rations but they were a little late and I wasn’t in until after M.M.

Sun. May 14.

We only worked a couple hrs. today. There hasn’t been anything to do. I got a couple letters. After I read them I loused up and went to sleep.

Mon. May 15

Our party was shelled this morning so we had to leave the work to be done after dark. We were relieved at 12:30 and walked to camp.

Tues. May 16.

I got in to camp at 3.45 this morning and We are all pretty tired. There is another work party. It is a wonder they won’t let up on this once in a while. We were set to dig some trenches out along the Menen (Menin) Road between Hooge and the culvert, but the engineers were a mean bunch and we didn’t get along with them. We left for home at 3.30 and I don’t think any man did over ½ an hrs work all night.

Wed. May 17.

I went for a bath to Poperinghe this morning. It was a long hot march but I feel a whole lot better. I was warned to be ready to go on an M.G. course tomorrow. Went to a show tonight and didn’t get in until late.

Thurs. May 18.

I had to go to the transport line for my course. We started at 9. It is very interesting. I have had quite a bit of experience but I’m learning the mechanism of it now. Went over to camp to see Duke and we both went to the show.

Fri. May 19.

It is very warm today. I getting along fine. Can take the Lewis down and put it up now within a reasonable time. There was some shelling down today right by our camp. They were trying for the crew of an observation balloon but made it pretty lively for us. I went to the show then went for a walk before I turned in.

Sat. May 20

On account of this being Sat. we only had a short lecture this morning and we were dismissed I went over to the batt to see Duke and stayed over there all afternoon and evening.

Sun. May 21.

We had some range practice with the Lewis this morning I went to a base-ball game this afternoon and to the “y” service tonight.

Mon. May 22.

We had an examination on the Lewis this moning, but it was quite easy and most of us got through. I went back to my Coy. this afternoon. This is the night we go in to the line again. Got in and made an early relief.

Tues. May 23.

I’m not feeling up to the mark this morning so I went and got some pills. This is the sector known as the appendix, they are not so bad as I expect them to be. I’, on sentry shift no.3. There was a few bombs thrown last night.

Wed, May 24.

This is the Queen’s birthday. I wish I was in the same place now as I was a year ago. We have been having a pretty easy time. Our artillery is certainly keeping up at steady and so are the T.M.’s. The funny part of it is that the germans aren’t coming back with anything. I was on ration party tonight.

Thurs May 25.

There was a lot of rifle fire last night but no one in our Coy was hurt. Some of our shells are falling short today. One burst on a tree by my bay and another blew up the parapet of the one next. I got some mail from home this evening.

Fri. May 26.

We gave fritz a good straffing this morning and last night we caught on of his wiring parties out. I did a little reading during the quieter intervals today. I wonder was ever made for this kind of a life. I got the remainder of my Can. mail.

Sat. May 27.

Everything was fairly quiet until this morning. Both side are throwing a lot of shells. Our Coy was relieved tonight and we went to close support in Zouave Wood. At midnight we were called out for a work but were turned back.

Sun. May 28.

I went on guard at 4 a.m. and stayed on all day. There has been very little shelling all day. I was taken off guard at P.M. and went to Work party to push up a lot of A frames and some brock from Zillibeke.

Mon. May 29.

I got in early this morning and turned in for a little sleep and I slept nearly all day. I got up in the afternoon and read and wrote some letters until work party time. When we went out we could find the place where the work was to be done so we came in.

Tues. May 30.

It is raining and muddy and I went through and Heinie is shelling but otherwise it is a nice day. I haven’t had any mail for a few days. Our work party tonight lasted from 9 to 12 P.M.

Wed. May 31

There was a bunch of shells thrown right in among our bivies, but no one was hurt. Every thing was quiet the rest of the day. We had several men hit when we were being relieved and 2 plts of B Coy were left in the Belgium Chateau. I slept on a tyle floor with only a rubber sheet.

Thurs. June 1

I nearly froze last night in that rubber sheet. I was up at 4. A.M. and washed and shaved then walked down to an old Belgian’s place and got some eggs and chips. I went in for a bath into a creek for a swim but we had to get away for there was a little soup iron flying around. We did some fine ducking around the trees while we pulled on our clothes.

Fri. June 2.

There is an awful lot of shelling going on. It seems as though there is something going on up the line. We are standing to this morning. We were called for to reinforce by noon. The 2 Plts that are here were the first to leave for the scene of action. The guns are making an awful noise and ammunition columns are going every direction full speed. We marched in broad day light through Kruisstraat and through Ypres to the ramparts. There wasn’t many hurt. The Germans are through Sanctuary Wood, in Maple Copse and some of the advance patrols got up as far as Zilebeck. We had to stay in the ramparts until it was dark. At about 8 P.M. we started forward in Indian file. We got along fine until we got past hell fire corner and one end of China wall, but the flow from a burning dump at Dormy House showed us up and then we did get a rough time. The order was passed along the line to discard all surplus clothing and equipment and prepare to attack, just about that time the thousand flares went up and the barrage started in earnest. We must have had lost at least 75 men in the next 5 minutes while we try to take some kind of cover along the Warrington line, which was our frontline by this time.

Sat. June 3.

About 1. am. We were told that we attack when the 7th green flare goes up at dawn, but they never went up until quarter to nine. There was no artillery preparation and the Huns were ready for us. It was awful the way our men were bowled over. We only reached the german line in the closest point. I laid in no man’s land for about 2 hrs. until things quieted down a little then I scraped a place to get into a drain and I crawled through it to our own line. When I arrived in I discovered that I was with some other coy. at midnight I was put on a bombing post along with 3 other fellows. The post was push up along Gourock Road. I heard tonight that Duke has gone out.

Sun. June 4.

Before day light this morning we captured a Hun from a patrol near our post. There has been five barrages thrown on us since the last twenty-four hrs. There isn’t very many of us left now. Some of our own big shells have been landing short. Our post looks like a cyclone has struck it. The post was a little close to the germans to shell it from their side. The relief was started about 12 M.N.

Mon. June 5

On just before Day light the relief had been completed so Hassie[[1]](#footnote-0) and I were detached to get the prisoner out. We got started alright but the blanket we had him in gave out. After holding a little counsel we decided to try and turn him over to the 60th Bn. The Col. of the Bn gave us a receipt for the hun so we started out. By this time it was getting quite light. Down old Lover’s Lane we found Capt. Pinder but he was too big for us to handle, but a little further along Lt. Arthurs was lying so we undertook to get him out. We travelled the best we could as far as Maple Copse and took a rest in behind some stumps there to get our wind. By the time we got on our way again it was light, but we managed to get to the top or nearly to the top of a rise between the line of Zilebeck before we were observed. We soon knew that we had been discovered for it was made so lively for us until we got to the village and along the lake that we weren’t certain that we were going to get out at all. After getting Arthurs to the Dressing Station and turning in our receipt to Bde. we made our way across to Ypres. When we got to the Lile Gate we met a sentry who told us that our Bn. had gone on to A. Camp. It was hard for us to decide wether we would go on to camp or rest among the ruins, but at last we came to the conclusion it was much safer at the camp. Before we started out I found my name on the missing list and marked it out. When we got down as far as the Cloth Hall we found a lorry that had been detrained after daylight and was making ready for the trip back, the driver told us to come along he was going to make a bolt for Vlamertinghe. Believe me it was as fast as ever I rode over cobbled road. Hassie and I got out here and we were taken to clearing station and fixed up with a little something to eat then we walked on to A Camp. I found Duke + Currie O.K. so I went to sleep on a pile of kilts. I never woke up until afternoon in time for the muster parade. I fell all in yet. All that is left of the Bn. wouldn’t make a good Coy. The Bn. has been mentioned in D. Haigs dispatched. We were in the hottest battle on the Western Front up until this time. I went to a picture show tonight.

Tues. June 6.

We have been standing to all day expecting at any minute to go up the line, but the order was changed this evening. It has rained a little today but it is not bad. I received some mail tonight from Can.

Wed. June 7.

Reveille was at 5.30 this morning but we did not move as it was intended. We are to go back to the rear and to be reorganize and have a rest. It is certainly needed too. The Bn. moved at 3 P.M. I was left behind with some stuff that was to come on lorries. The rough usage I got during the battle is showing up on me now so I wasn’t fit for the march. I didn’t arrive at the new billets until 12 P.M.

Thurs. June 8.

The billets are about a K. from Weinzeele and it is a very pretty country around here. The M.O. layed me off duty this morning. Duke + I went up to the village for a walk this afternoon but I’m broke so could do anything. It is a very nice little town.

Fri. June 9.

I was sent to hospital this morning to the 9th field. The orderly is a fellow by the name of Hamilton. A very nice fellow. There are 2CMRs in the tent with me. It is eight months today since I came to France. The M.O. has put me on light diet.

Sat. June 10.

I was put on full diet again this morning. I walked around out side and don’t feel so good tonight. I tried to write today but I could think of anything to write.

Sun. June 11

I had a bad night. The orderly said I was fighting germans all night. My temperature is up again so back to light diet for me again. There was a service in the hospital this afternoon and tonight. Hamilton got up a sing song. I guess he did most of the sing for we didn’t feel like taking an active part.

Mon. June 12.

I’m to be transferred to the D.R.S some time today. I’m going to put in a good time here while I have the opportunity. The ambulance came for me shortly after dinner. It was a long ride over a rough road when I arrived at the D.R.S. I got a bath and a good supper and put in a good bed.

Tues. June 13.

I was up at 6 a.m. this morning and had breakfast at 7.15. It make a long day for us. I wrote some letters and started a back, “The Old Dominions”, it is very good so far. The Battalion has gone up the line in the same place. (Sanctuary Wood) There is a new draft just come to the Bn. of the 66. (400)

Wed. June 14

This is my day for writing again, but I didn’t do a scratch, didn’t feel like it I guess. There was a few more wounded came in today but were taken away again. I walked out a little this afternoon, and I feel much better. I didn’t go to bed quite so early this evening.

Thurs. June 15.

I’m to be sent back to the unit tomorrow. I’m not sick now but I feel pretty weak. The rest of the day dragged pretty slow although I had lots to read.

Fri. June 16.

I was up a 6 am. had breakfast at 6.30 and was also on my way to the batt. by nine. As soon as I got to the Bn I went and got paid. This afternoon Duke and I went over to see Earle and George. They are both looking fine. I’m not feeling so well this evening so I went to bed early.

Sat. June 17.

I couldn’t walk as far as the cook house this morning so the M.O. had an ambulance come and take me back to hospital. I was at the 9 a.m.c. for supper then was taken on to the D.R.S. I met Major Harris and had quite a talk with him. While I’m here I’ll be used well that is one thing I’m certain of while Harris is M.O.

Sun. June 18.

I’m feeling a little better this morning but not good enough to go out yet. It has turned a little cooler this afternoon. I wrote some letters but I still have quite a number to answer. Today I was on fatigue washing dishes. Finished another book.

Mon. June 19

I feel a lot better today but am still weak. On fatigue again today. The Battalion has gone up the line again I hope it isn’t Ypres again for I’ve seen about as much as I want to see around there.

Tues. June 20

This is another gay day. The M.O.’s sending a lot of the patients away from this hospital to others. I don’t know what is going to be done with me. It is a good rest I need more than anything.

Wed. June 21.

I stayed out on the grass most of the day, it has been so nice and warm. The M.O. is feeding me on some kind of a tome that seems to be doing some good for I feel better now than I have for a couple months. The battalion will be have a rough night tonight.

Thurs. June 22.

I wrote a lot of letters last night and this morning. My mail hasn’t been coming to me from the Bn. so I have received any for a while. The heavy guns don’t seem to be quieting down very much especially today and this evening. I’m still being filled up with medicine + pills.

Fri. June 23.

I have a wash and shave before breakfast this morning. The 10th A.M.C. held their sports out by the wards today. There was all kinds of races, drawing, horse back wrestling and various other events that go towards making a good sports day. There has been a lot of rain since morning.

Sat. June 24.

When the M.O. took a look at me he said that I will need to stay in a little longer to strengthen up a little. I was on dish washing fatigue noon. I missed my chocolate issue this evening by going out for a little while. The war seems to be a little more in our favor today, by the news.

Sun. June 25.

There was a service held in one of the dining halls this morning and it was pretty good. It has rained all most all afternoon. Some one stole a valuable pocket book from one of the orderlies today so this evening this ward was put under open arrest until every one was searched and questioned. The last man they look at was the one that had taken it.

Mon. June 26.

Well I’m leaving for my unit in the morning. I had nothing to do all day until this evening when I had to go and help put wounded on the train. It rained all tonight.

Tues. June 27.

I had an early breakfast this morning and was move by horse ambulance to the 9th a.m.c. and from there by motor to our trans. Lines. There are quite a few fellows here that have come back from hospital and are waiting for the Bn. to come out of the line. I had quite a time getting blanks and a place to sleep tonight. It was quite late when I rolled in tonight.

Wed. June 28.

I had to report this morning to the engineer M.O. this morning that I had returned from hospital to the Bn. He is sort of an ugly kind of a man. I tried to get some pay but the pay-master is away so I was out of luck till I struck a fellow with lots of france and I borrowed four from him and when to the show this evening. I got my hands on a couple more blankets for tonight so I’m O.K. now.

Thurs. June 29.I haven’t done anything around the camp yet, so I’m having a fairly good time. I got 15 francs from the P.M. this morning. McHugh(?) was in the show who should wander in but Eddie Coleman. He is certainly looking well. Quite a bunch of the casualties have started to come back to the Bn.

Fri. June 30.I got up at 8 a.m., for it was no use getting up any earlier, and then loafed around till late in the afternoon, when I was sent out to take over billets and sort out kits.

Sat. July 1.The buses with the Bn arrived at 2:30 a.m. They had a pretty good turn in the line although it was a little rough at times. I went over to see Earle & Geo this afternoon. The band gave us a little music just before supper. I went out with the intention of buying my supper tonight, but the people were too long getting around so I came out.

Sun. July 2.The Bn. went for a bath to Poperinghe. Earle & Geo. came over and we all had a good time this afternoon. This is a pretty lively day, for we were paid 30 francs. This is the most I have had for a long time.

Mon. July 3.There was a little drill this morning, and some of the new draft got inoculated. We had the afternoon to ourselves, so I went over to the Pats to see the boys.

Tues. July 4.I was on fatigue this morning but didn’t do much, so were were put on this afternoon and it rained and we couldn’t do anything.

Wed. July 5.  
I was on fatigue as usual this morning for part of the time. Our Bn. sports were held this morning but I didn’t think very much of them. I think our show on Bde. will amount to much. This afternoon I wrote letters. It was quite a surprise to me this evening to meet Dad Stevens. He looks like a man of 25. Later, Duke and I went to the show.

Thurs. July 6.  
I was on the usual fatigue party this morning, but we were finished in a few minutes, and we all went over to see the Bde. sports. The sports were fair, we never made very much out of it. One of the 42nd officers got hurt by his horse falling on him during the jumping. I put in a pass for Poperinghe tonight. I hope it comes through O.K., for it may be the only time the six of us will be together.

Fri. July 7.  
We were all up early this morning, for the six of us are going in town. There was a little trouble getting passes for all, but we managed to get away by noon. The first thing we did when we got in town was to get our pictures taken. There wasn’t much money among us, but we did see life. After supper, we went to the show and then home. It was quite late when we got in.

Sat. July 8.  
I’m on H.Q. fatigue again. This is getting monotonous. This afternoon we went for a bath to Pop. It is warmer today than it has been for some time. Tonight, Duke and I were out till midnight and got away with it.

Sun. July 9.  
There was a service this morning, and I enjoyed it very much. This afternoon, I watched a game of football. We lost 1–0. It has been pretty dull around here most of the day.

Mon. July 10.  
Did a few minutes fatigues this morning, then took my kit over to the transport, where it will be stored until we come out of the line again. There was nothing to do from then on until supper time but listen to the band. We fell in in the evening, marched as far as Zelebeck Band, where we stayed for the night. It makes it so much early for the line relief, for we are so close there.

Tues. July 11.  
I never got up until late this morning so when I cooked my breakfast, I made it do for dinner too. It has been exceptionally quiet here today. The war must be coming to an end. About an hour after supper, I got ready to move up the line. There wasn’t very much trouble getting in here, although it is a miserable corner. The line is in better shape than I expected it to be in, for the amount of knocking around it has been getting. I’m on a bombing post, E. S.P.

Wed. July 12.  
About 1 o’clock this morning, Tom & I watched a German wiring party at work, but couldn’t do anything on account of one of our patrols being out. I did sentry in the trench during daylight. I dug a hole during my spare time in the side of the trench to take my naps in. Manage to write a couple of letters home.

Thurs. July 13.  
There has been a few rifle grenades thrown at us today, but otherwise it has been pretty quiet. I am still doing sentry in the trench during daylight. I was on a raid tonight. The moon was out full and it was quite light, but we got away with the raid O.K. although we did have to change our plans. THe same time as we started out the Germans started out coming in our direction intent on raid our post but it turned to be a pitch battle. We killed four and wounded some.

Fri. July 14.There was a dead German S.M. put in my bunk or hole last night. I thought it was some of the new fellows that came in for I couldn’t see in the dark, and I crawled in beside him and shared up my half a blanket. I felt like kicking someone this morning when I got up and found who I had shared my funkhole with. There has been quite a few heavy shells thrown around today. They are coming from Hill 60 way. I was sent on a water fatigue and didn’t get in until after midnight.

**Sat. July 15.**It has been a little livelier than usual this morning. There were several casualties. The afternoon and evening has been fine. We were relieved by the P.Ps.. I went to sleep just as soon as I got in at Z. Bund. I believe the P.Ps. had quite a number of casualties after we got out.

**Sun. July 16.**I did with two meals today for it was so late when I got up this morning. There was a work party evening and we dug a strip of trench. We got off with a pretty easy nights work. Was in at 1 A.M.

**Mon. July 17.**I didn’t get up early this morning either. There has been a few shells dropped around the bund today but only one man got hurt. The work party tonight was for the front line but I missed it because I was put on rations.

**Tues. July 18.**This is a lovely morning. I packed up my kit early, ready for moving, and then wrote some letters. I loafed around until time for fall in, and then I discovered that I had to stay behind with a party and do some work, and they went to the billets in Ypres. This is the old Belgian cavalry barracks.

**Wed. July 19.**I got put on officer’s mess fatigue. It isn’t a fancy job, but it is a whole lot better than going on work party tonight. I started some letters today, but it got dark before I got them finished, so I went to bed early.

**Thurs. July 20.**As soon as breakfast was over, I finished the letters I started yesterday. This is a lovely day. There has been no rain for a while, and it feels like a good country. This afternoon I was sent out to scout a good route to take out the coy on.

**Fri. July 21.**It is the usual routine today. Eat, drink, sleep, and bum around until time to go on work party. We had a very easy job tonight, and it was very quiet everywhere.

**Sat. July 22.**I carried some billets back to the engineers and took a little walk this morning. Earle and Geo. came over to see Duke and I this afternoon, and we had a very pleasant time together. I got on to the coy runners this afternoon and now I don’t have to go on any more work parties.

**Sun. July 23.**The sun hasn’t come out yet this morning. There was a service held in the cavalry barracks square. We were all scattered along the wall of a building with wild vines so that we couldn’t be seen by enemy airmen. It was rumored that we were to move, but there was a work party for the fellows instead. I went to bed early.

**Mon. July 24.**I had a very early breakfast, for I have to lead a platoon to the train tonight. I have to pick a route so we will come out just north of the asylum. The trip was a little late tonight, but the train took us in in good time, and as soon as we arrived at A. Camp, I went right to sleep.

**Tues. July 25.**Breakfast was at 9 a.m., and then we got ready to move to the rest billets. The battalion started out at 11 a.m. for a billet near Goderswold. I felt pretty fresh after we got in, so Duke and I went over for Fred, and then we went to see the town and have another look at Mont de Cats.

**Wed. July 26.**I put in for a pass for tonight. There was a short parade this morning. Then we were paid before dinner. We fell in again after dinner till 4 p.m. I got my pass alright, so I went to Mont de Cats. Things were pretty dead around there, so I didn’t enjoy myself as much as I expected to. It was pretty late when I got in.

**Thurs. July 27.**There was a 2-mile double at 6:45 this morning. After breakfast, we had P.T. and squad drill until

**Fri. July 28.**We did P.T. instead of the double this morning. Believe me, it is lots easier. The syllabus for this morning was bomb throwing & bayonet practice. This afternoon, we took a bath in some barrels we got for the purpose. I went to bed quite early.

**Sat. July 29.**The usual parade was canceled on account of the Bde. route march. It was a good thing the march was finished at noon, or we would have died with the heat. We were off all afternoon. I saw Earl & Geo. Duke and I went partway home with them this evening.

**Sun. July 30.**I slept in until there was only 10 minutes for me to get ready for parade. We marched down to the Bde. H.Q., where some medals for the Ypres battle were awarded. It was over, and we were back by noon. All I did this afternoon was write and sleep. Duke & I went over to the "Y" this evening.

**Mon. July 31.**I skipped the morning parade and got away with it. After breakfast, all we did till noon was P.T. & bomb throwing. There was the usual route march this afternoon. Duke & I went out for a walk this evening.

**Tues. Aug. 1.**It is too hot to do much this day, so we are getting it pretty easy. There seems to be nothing going on to stir things up. I went to bed pretty early tonight to be ready for the move in the morning.

**Wed. Aug. 2.**Our orders for moving this morning were changed, so I went over and stayed at the transport all morning. This afternoon I helped do some cleaning up until supper time. We got our stuff together, and the battalion moved off at 6 p.m. Although it was an awful pace, we came out. I’m feeling pretty good. We’re at Autreham Camp, Éric.

**Thurs. Aug. 3.**I slept pretty late this morning. I met a big bunch of fellows around here that I know. Most of them are in the second Div. The band came over and gave us a few tunes till supper time. At dusk, we fell in and marched up as far as the Zellebeke Band.

**Fri. Aug. 4.**This is the second anniversary of the beginning of the war. It is pretty quiet this morning and very warm. I rest most of the afternoon. At dark, we started up the line for Mount Sorrel. I went on duty at 12 M.N.

**Sat. Aug. 5.**I came off duty at 3 this morning. There hasn’t been very much to do. Both sides have been strafing pretty good. There hasn’t been much damage done to us yet. I had my sleep in a sap where it was a little safer, although it was crowded. Tonight, I had a nice trip out to H.Q. It took us about 20 minutes to get over Observatory Ridge. There were so many flares.

**Sun. Aug. 6.**It is fine and quiet this morning. There isn’t a sound. Our rations were good last night, and I got a parcel from home, so we’re well away. I had a little rest today between rests.

**Mon. Aug. 7.**I got a little sleep last night in the mine head. Another fellow and I made a trip to B.H.Q. just before daylight. I found things to be a little short-tempered this morning. I wrote a couple of letters, just enough to say I am well. There was a lot of trench mortars thrown on our right flank this evening.

**Tues. Aug. 8.**Made one trip to H.Q. at 1 a.m. and just before daylight. I made another by myself. I found I didn’t like it at all. We have had a lot of running today, and believe me, a person nearly cooks in these trenches. The sun is so hot. Fritz lined shells along the length of a R.E.'s dugout a yd. behind our trench today but didn’t get anyone.

**Wed. Aug. 9.**It is ten long months today since I reached this country. Everything was fairly quiet until we started something, and Hunie came back with twice as much. I got a few rain letters tonight.

**Thurs. Aug. 10.**I was on duty most of last night. This is the last day of this trip, and I’m glad. There has been quite a little shell fire today. This evening we threw a few bombs into the German posts and fired a few rifle grenades before we were relieved. It must have scared the whole German line, for they all opened rapid fire for about 10 minutes. We were relieved by the 43rd Cameron Highlanders.

**Fri. Aug. 11**We arrived at F Camp at 3 a.m. I went to bed and couldn’t get up until 12 noon. We were all issued with L. Enfield rifles today. There hasn’t been any sign of the mules or our transport turning up. I met some more Edmonton boys from other units tonight.

**Sat. Aug. 12**I did second shift on duty. Everything is as usual with the exception that we stood to in camp all day. I went to the show in the evening. I had seen part of it, but had to fill in time.

**Sun. Aug. 13**I couldn’t attend service this morning because I was on duty. One of the Williamson boys from the 27th came over to see us

**Mon. Aug. 14**Duke & I went with him over to the Sec. Lieut. Kennedy of the 31st, who is in an entrenching Bn. There was a service at the "Q" so I went and it was fine.

We are still standing to. There has been very little to do but sit around. The artillery sounds lively up the line. The Canadians mail came in tonight and I got a fair bunch.

**Tues. Aug. 15**I spent most of my time when off duty getting my stuff ready to go up the line. We left the camp at dusk and went up to Halfway House. All the big gunners manage to get a booby to sleep in, and we are quite comfortable. I went on a run to B.H.Q. tonight.

Here is the transcription of the handwritten text in the image:

**Wed. Aug. 16.**I was out most of today with a couple of officers looking over the forward line. There is no Hooge craters now, we are held just up to the Menin Road. I was on the ration party tonight out to the end of China Wall.

**Thurs. Aug. 17**My shift on duty came yesterday. I slept this morning but there was nothing to do. At about noon, Mr. Stole and I went out to look for an O.P. behind the appendage on the rise. We had to do a lot of crawling and at that we were shelled with light stuff. It took five hours for the trip. I was back to B.H.Q. at the brick kiln twice tonight. It’s raining a little now.

**Fri. Aug. 18**There has been very little to do today. We take over the front line tonight from C Coy. I was sent up on the advance party, and although it was still daylight, we got in without being observed. The Coy came in about 10:30 P.M.

**Sat. Aug. 19.**Duke and I were sent to H.Q. this morning under cover of a fog, but we only got back as far as China Wall and Half Way House when the fog lifted, so we stayed there until evening. Our where-abouts was not found to either Bn or Coy. officers for several hours, so there was considerable anxiety for a while, for they knew they had no business sending us out in daylight unless the message was urgent.

**Sun. Aug. 20.**Duke and I took in the situation report again this morning. We came back in again even if it was daylight and ran the gauntlet. We have had a good trip so far in here. The Somersets are taking over from us tomorrow night. I got soaking wet this afternoon.

**Mon. Aug. 21.**It certainly poured last night and we are all drenched. Our artillery took a few farewell salvos and got Hunie mad, so it was the infantry that suffered. Everything got blown and caves on our front, and there were quite a few casualties. They sent out platoon guides for the relief instead of sending runners that know the country, so the consequences were that they had to send out us runners late to find the guides and bring in the relief. It was very late when everything was completed, but we can’t mind that when this is a farewell trip at Ypres for a while at least. The 1st Somerset was the reg. that relieved us.

**Tues. Aug. 22.**The runners didn’t get out in time to get to the train, so we had to walk to camp. We got in at 6 a.m. My feet are sore from walks so far in my water-soaked boots. I slept until noon. After dinner I brought the C.A.T. power over from the train. Earle & Geo. came over, so the 6 of us had a good time together. This is A Camp.

**Wed. Aug. 23.**I would liked to have gone out and celebrated the last day in the salient, but I did some cipher duty. I rolled it about 8 P.M. so to be ready for the hike tomorrow.

**Thurs. Aug. 24.**I was up good and early and got my stuff ready. We moved off at 9 a.m. It was a fairly long march to the Steenvoorde area. I felt pretty tired when we arrived but was alright in an hour. I had to run a few messages tonight.

**Fri. Aug. 25.**We were kept fairly busy today. I made three trips to B.H.Q. and it’s nearly a day’s work. There was a little Canadian mail today. I got a birthday parcel and a letter from Rhoda. We all got paid today, but I didn’t feel like going out to spend any tonight.

**Sat. Aug. 26.**I was up at 5:45 and washed and shaved before cookhouse went. This is the first time I have cleaned my buttons since I came to France. We went on some open order drill this morning. Duke and I went over to Winnezeele tonight to see some friends.

**Sun. Aug. 27.**I wasn’t up so early this morning. It is raining a little—a kind of miserable day. There was several runs to be made, so I could get away to church parade. Duke and I went to the village of Steenvoorde for the evening, but we came home early.

**Mon. Aug. 28.**I traded my shift with Joe Holroyd today so I won’t be on until night. I went up on the parade when the rest of the runners were on.

**Tues. Aug. 29.**I went on duty first thing this morning. We went out on the parade. I was marking artillery positions this afternoon, and a little later, I had a class for semaphore instruction. The runners will need the semaphore when we get to the Somme. I had the last shift tonight.

**Wed. Aug. 30.**I was up at 5:30 and shave before breakfast. There was some Canadian mail today.

**Thurs. Aug. 31.**Today is my 21st birthday. I drilled most of the day as runner in open order drill. Joe Holroyd invited Duke & I out for supper at Steenvoorde. We had a great time in town. Got in at really early.

**Fri. Sept. 1.**This is Mother’s birthday. It has been a lovely day. I had to go out—skirmishing this afternoon. I made one trip to H.Q. before supper. Gordon Guild, Duke & I had supper together.

**Sat. Sept. 2.**This is Rhoda’s birthday. I’m on parade as usual today. There was a sham fight and N.C.O.’s took charge. A General gave us a lecture on fighting at the Somme. There was to have been a night tonight, but it rained too hard.

**Sun. Sept. 3.**The service this morning was a Bde. affair. I couldn’t attend on account of being on duty. There is very little to do today. It rained a little this afternoon and so it was too wet to go anywhere. One of the fellows wanted off this evening, so I took his place for a couple of hours.

**Mon. Sept. 4.**I skipped parade this morning and got in wrong over it. There was runs to every Bn. in the Bde. I had to go to the B.G.C. H.Q. at Cassel. I was pretty tired when I got back. We were paid this afternoon, then got ready to go on night manoeuvres. It rained too hard for us to go out.

**Tues. Sept. 5.**It is still raining this morning. The whole Bn. was out on manoeuvres until noon. After dinner, I was on duty. The band played to us tonight.

**Wed. Sept. 6.**There was a route march this morning, and about half the coy fell out. I was over to Steenvoorde to try and get a bath, but there was nothing doing. We had a little practice in semaphore this afternoon. Duke and I went out to see Fred and visit at A Coy.

Thurs. Sept. 7.

There was no early parade this morning all there was after breakfast was a muster parade. I arranged to day to get an automatic 44 and I hope it comes pretty soon. We were all ready tonight after dinner we fell in and marched to the station at Escabec. We all sweat quite a bit walking down there so it was pretty cold standing around.

Friday Sept. 8.

At about 12.30 this morning we were all cramped into box cars. 44 in each after day light we stopped at all the larger places along the line. We went through by Boulogne and Le Havre. Being cramped up like this minds me of my first days in this country. We detrained at Conteville and march a couple K. over to agenville where we were put in billets. We are in the Somme district now. I went to bed quite early.

Sat. Sept. 9.

I was up at 5 am. Had breakfast at 6 a.m. and fell in at 7 a.m. We passed throu a couple large towns and several smaller ones. The first part of the march was fairly good, but they stretched out near the last. We are in a little place near Pernois. I’m pretty tired tonight.

Sun. Sept. 10.

I was up before the Captain along with several others for dirty ammunition, but I was the only one that got away with it. We had a few selections read to us from a german officers diary. There was no other parades today. It was eleven months yesterday since I came out here.

Mon. Sept. 11.

Show a big 4.15 this morning. The march is a little shorter today. My shoulders were sore to start out with. We halted 10 minutes out of every hour. The country is nice, but it is too hilly for comfortable marching. A fellow in my coy committed suicide this morning. (Heinz) We halted and had lunch just out side of aubempore[[2]](#footnote-1) a place where we got billets. It is a very good little town. Duke went to hosp.tonight. Got twelve letters tonight.

Tues. Sept. 12.

We slept in late this morning for it rained quite a little during the night. I was sleeping under a cart so when the old farmer moved it to day I had to move to another place. We move off at 8.15 am. It was very short march to a wood near Vancourt.[[3]](#footnote-2) This is a lovely place for a camp. I slept in an old shack tonight. A lot of the fellows carved their names and reg on the trees here. I found Dad Stevens name among them.

Wed. Sept. 13. Tower Hill

We started quite early this morning. The first hour was mostly down hill until we got down into long valley that leads right up to albert. It rained the last part of the trip. The bn. was lead out into the open to find a place to stay for the night, but I manage to get into an old gun pit.

Thurs. Sept. 14

The cook wagons came up and we had breakfast at 7 am. Then fell in for a muster parade. At 2.30 I went up the line with a couple of officers to look it over. It is a lot better than I thought it would be. There was several barrages thrown while we were up there. It is quire a sight when your not right in it. We got in before dark.

Fri. Sept. 15. Courcelette

I got quite a few Canadian letters today. All we had to do was sew on our our new colors in the centre of our back and pack our kits. Our new colors are green + black. About 3 P.M. We fell in and the Colonel said a few words to us about what we were expected to do tonight. It was quite a hike to Sausage valley where we had something to ear and some more rations were issued out for 48 hrs. From here we travelled up to a hill in Indian file and laid there until the 42nd and P.Ps kicked off. As soon as they had their objective we attacked and travelled until about nine o’clock. We had just crossed Mockay Farm and were going up a hill at the far side when we ran against the Germans strongly intrenched and plenty of machine guns. This is where we dug in. We lost a lot of men before we had trench but after that we didn’t lose any for we were too close for them to shell us. I took the first message to Bn H.Q. and was kept there for a runner that night. I went part way out with McLeod he was wound then went to the RCRs to try and get some stretcher bears to help us out.

Sat. Sept. 16

I found the R.C.R.’s about 1 a.m. then I could find our own H.Q. for it had been blown up and what was left had moved in the edge of Courcelette. It was impossible for me to get to the coy today while its light. I tried several times but could make it. This attack of ours has been a complete success. I got leaved with a German bomb last night and I’m not feeling right today. We have sinched up a lot of grounds today and tonight.

Sun. Sept. 17

We were suppose to be relieved last night by something of the 9 Bde. but they never showed up. There has been no rations or water come up since we took up this position so it is high time we were getting. Some of the coys got out last night. Some 58 + 52 scouts discovered out coy was so I guess we get out this evening. The relief started early tonight and I made a bea line for camp and was about first in.

Mon. Sept 18 (Tower Hill)

Most of the Coy wasn’t in until this morning. I got a letter from Duke. It is raining quite hard now and every one is wet through. Never went from under cover of my gun pit today.

Tues. Sept. 19

We were to have moved into Albert this morning but the order was cancelled and we stayed here for dinner. We fell in again after dinner and we into billets in albert near the station. There was a lot of running to do tonight before we were settled.

Wed. Sept 20

There is a little shelling in town but it is mostly around the church and station so we are not bothered a great deal. There was another order to move. I was sent ahead with Capt. Taylor, it was only another part of the town we went to. I got a good place for the runners in an old store. We generally try to get along with the cooks when we are out so fare better.

Thurs. Sept. 21

Our new place is fine and cosy. I met quite a bunch of fellows of other units that I knew and it was nice to see them. Some of them had just come over so they had quite a little news. There has been a little shelling quite handy to our billet but no damage was done that I have heard of. I hear Duke is alright in the Hosp. There was a big mail today and I got my share as usual.

Fri. Sept. 22.

We were expecting to move today but we didn’t. There was a little shelling again today. Duke arrived back and I was certainly glad to see him. Our place with the cooks is a good place especially fore a little extra rations. I got a little more mail.

Sat. Sept. 23.

Reveille 3.45 AM. because we are moving. I got my breakfast and my days ration so I went on duty until we moved off. The march today was just right, but my boots aren’t comfortable. When we arrived at Warloy there was a concert arranged for us by the P.P.’s party that was out there so we spent a nice evening.

Sun. Sept 24

We moved this morning. I was up at 4.30. The nails in my boots started to cause too much trouble so I had to fall out for the first time. I sat down on the road side, pulled the nails out and caught up again. At 10.30 this morning we arrived at Val de Maison. This is a nice quiet little place to take a rest in. I was to a service tonight.

Mon. Sept. 25.

We are booked for another march so we were stirring at 4.30. The march today was very short. We were inspected along the road by the brigadier. When we arrived just before dinner at Montrolet[[4]](#footnote-3) there was nice clean billets and dinner nearly ready. Duke and I went over to canonapples[[5]](#footnote-4) for a walk this afternoon. This evening the Plunkett brothers put on a concert in the “y” and it was a good one.

Tues. Sept 26

We are going to spent today resting before our return journey to the line. All I did today was 2 hours duty. It has been almost too warm today for to do very much. This evening our band played at the “y” and Plunkett Bros. sang so we had a dandy entertainment.

Wed. Sept. 27.

Reveille 4.30 + breakfast at 5. They are carrying our kits for us today for we have a fifteen mile hike ahead of us, light marching order drill be about enough to carry. It started to rain just as we were having our half hor rest and getting lunch. If it had not have been for that it would have been a good march. We all bivouacked in a wood near Contay.

Thurs. Sept. 28.

We have to carry our packs today. It is raining and it is hard walking. Our billets are in some ruined houses in albert. I’m feeling pretty good after the march. The new from the line is very good today.

Fri. Sept. 29

It is lucky I’m on the runners or I would be doing work parties with the rest of them. Every thing is very quiet these days and a person hardly knows what to do with himself.

Sat. Sept. 30

It is raining and quite cold today. The runners section were given a lecture and shown maps of the line we are going in next, so that we will get an idea of the lay of the land. I rested and read the remainder of the day.

Oct. 1. Sunday

I missed the service again this morning but it couldn’t be helped. The weather has turned out to be lovely. The Bn. stood to all afternoon and evening with kits packed but we didn’t move.

Mon. Oct. 2

We have the usual wet weather for moving. I’m not feeling very well this morning so when we got to Tower Hill I reported sick and was told to stay with the transport just before the Coy. moved. Jack Mallett took sick and I went to get an ambulance. It took me about three hours on horse back to get one. I’m all in tonight.

Tues. Oct. 3.

I slept last night with the bombing section that was left out and I feel a little better this morning. I went to the M.O. at Dressing Station and was given two days no duty. The Canadian mail came in and I got a few letters.

Wed. Oct. 4.

It felt so nice and warm in my blanket this morning that I didn’t go our until late but I managed to get a little breakfast. The transport moved over onto Tower Hill today but we came back into albert and secure bullers for it was raining too hard for the Bn to stay there when the came out. The boys came out from hohenzollern line tonight.

Thurs. Oct. 5.

There was very few casualties during the trip the Bn. has just had, but the mud made it bad. I think we are going to be sent to Rest billets for a while. The section has been kept fairly busy today. Our sleeping quarters is with the cooks in an old cellar. We have been doing well these days for we have almost all received a parcel this trip.

Fri. Oct. 6.

I’m feeling a little tough this morning, just a little rundown I guess. It has rained a little today. I think the rainy season has set in. Duke got an automatic 45 this morning and he feels pretty proud of it.

Sat. Oct 7.

We are going up the line tonight, and I hear it is over the top for us in the morning. At noon I was told off for communication with an advance bombing section forward of the juncture of Regina Trench and the road to Pis[[6]](#footnote-5) (if we ever get there) We fell in just an hour or so before dark and started out. At Dark we were beyond K dump and about 11 P.M. we managed to get into the jumping off trench. There were a lot of casualties get in and some since we got in. Gordon Guild was in charge of the bombing section so I took him out and showed him where I had guided the bomb carrying party. There was a lot of shells flying when we were on top but the closest was one that struck between us and ricocheted but never went off.

Sun. Oct 8

We got out on top at four twenty and waited for the zero hr. 4.23 the barrage opened and kept up for 7 minutes then we went ahead. When we got to the wire it wasn’t cut and a strong point had not been touched by the artillery. Those of us who were left crawled into Canora[[7]](#footnote-6) com. Trench and established a post for Heinie was between us and C. Coy. Our men are hanging dead on the wire and lying all over. It is the germ. Marines that are ahead of us. I got the disposition message out all right and guided Major Palmer to the support lines, from there I got another message to get up forward. On my way up I found Duke lying wounded in a trench but I could stop so we just shook hands and I went on. Our men up the line are nearly all used up and we have used all of the P.P. bombers as well as our own. I got permission to try and get Duke, out so I got back as fast as I could for our men are to retire. I had an awful job to get him to move but at last we got started and had only got out of the trench when our line retired and the Germans opened up. It was mighty good for us we got as far as we did. When we got out near the R.A.P. we met Uncle Fred coming in. I got a chip in the leg going back up the line. The 42 R.H.C. relieved us tonight also relieved the R.C.R.’s we are both used up. Tonight we stayed in the Sugar Trench.

Mon. Oct 9.

It was fairly quiet where we were during the night, but it was made kind of uncomfortable for us this morning. I went to B.H.Q. with Capt. Toole and helped him find his brother who was killed. This evening we started to move back. Our cook kitchens met us and we were fed on the road then the band played us into albert. There are about 65 of us that were in the line that came out alright.

Tues. Oct. 10

There is quite a difference between our roll call this morning and the one we had three days ago. I met Joe Jackson this morning and he is looking well. The order to move came about noon so shortly after dinner we started and carried our kits to Warloy.

Wed. Oct. 11

We are moving as we expected. The weather is quite cool but very nice. Today I had dinner at a French farm house. There was a parcel for me but no letters in the mail today. I feel pretty tired tonight so I went to bunk early.

Thurs. Oct. 12.

We started out this morning for Betrace Court. The march was fun up until near the end when they quickened the pace and a lot were forced to fall out. The billets on an average are not good. Ours are fair for we secured a good loft.

Fri. Oct. 13.

It has rained during the night + it is quite cold this morning. We have been getting lots of fruit along the road, mostly apples. I heard today that we are leave the Somme area for good. (Good Luck!!) I got a (letter) from Duke today and he hopes to be in Blighty soon.

Sat. Oct 14

I have no complaint against this town, the people are good and all that but I’m broke so I stay in a lot, except when I’m raiding orchards. The Band was over and gave us a tune. They seem to be going all to pieces since Daly left. I finished another book today and wrote some letters.

Sun. Oct. 15

I got up fairly early for to go on church parade but it was cancelled on account of the rain. Tonight I went to a service and then stayed for the picture show afterwards.

Mon. Oct. 16.

Today has turned out to be ideal for marching. The road seemed to be mostly up hill so was fairly heavy marching. The place we ended at was called Bennuile (to confirm/illegible). It is a very pretty place. As soon as I located the part of the barn I was to sleep in, I went to the closest orchard and was promptly chased out of it. I went to sleep early tonight.

Tues. Oct. 17

I nearly froze stiff last night for it was very cold in here. There was a mustar parade that I had to go on but as soon as that was over I beat it before drill started. I went and visited the church here. It is a very old one but very pretty. There was nothing to do during my shift so when Currie came over we went out together.

Wed. Oct. 18.

Some way or other I managed to get up before I had to so got some tea before breakfast was on. I got orders from the Capt. that I was to return all runners except two that were to stay with me. That will mean four hr shifts for us. I managed to bag a bunch of apples for the trip tomorrow. Currie was over again tonight.

Thurs. Oct. 19

We didn’t move today after all. I did my tour of duty as usual then went to the orchards. I wont be sorry to leave this old barn for it takes all day to thaw out after spending a night here.

Fri. Oct. 20.

We fell in early for there is a long march ahead of us. I thought I would have to fall out before we made out destination. We marched 28 K. Our billets are in a very fashionable chateau at Wavans

Sat. Oct 21.

I think today's march is the longest or seemed longer than we have ever done. I was dead tired so went to sleep early. In the room where I slept there was 2 horse 3 cows 4 runners and a bull. It was some combination, but we were warm any way. I never woken once during the night.

Sun. Oct. 22  
The whole unit is getting foot-sore. We had another long march today to Camblineul. The billets here are warm but very cramped.

Mon. Oct. 23  
We move early this morning up to a wood at Mont St. Eloy[[8]](#footnote-7) where we took cover until dark. The pay master gave us some money at noon, but most of us were broke by time to move off at 4 PM. We moved straight into the line. B. Coy is in Pylones trench in support for tonight. The dugouts are very comfortable. We are right in front of Neuville St. Vaast and at the foot of Vimy Ridge.

Tues. Oct. 24

It was quite comfortable last night. This morning we moved up to the front line and relieved the 2/17 Londons. The trenches are nice and dry but they are not fixed for the wet season. I secured a good deep dugout for the runner's section so we are well fixed. Tonight there was a fair amount of running to be done, and we had to reconnoiter our position. I got some mail from home and also a parcel. Duke hasn't written lately.

Wed. Oct. 25  
I had some messages to run before daylight this morning. It seems very quiet here after being at Ypres and the Somme. About the only thing you hear is our cold rifles in the dark. Everything will change though as soon as we get any artillery up. As it is now, we only have about 3 or 4 batteries behind our Div.

Thurs. Oct. 26  
This line reminds me of Plug Street quite a bit. The cooks have come up and are cooking in the close support line. They seem to be a little skittish about being up so close to the big smoke. There has been a lot of runs today.

Fri. Oct. 27  
Our bombers hailed Heinie with a bunch of rifle grenades this morning. Just after that I was out on a run and the Germans started to shoot darts and Minniewerfers. There was one landed pretty close but it buried too deep to fly around much but I got an awful jolt from the concussion. The last three nights we have had some rain and parts of the trenches are beginning to slide in.

Sat. Oct. 28  
This will be our last day in the front line for this trip. If it keeps as nice as this in here, it will be a fine home for the winter. I'm feeling pretty good now. There is no mail today.

Sun. Oct. 29  
Sunday is around again. I wish there would be a let-up of some kind or other once a week. Just a while before dinner, we move into Bde Res. near Empire redoubt in Pylones. From (there) I can get a fine view of the back area. The cathedral of Mont St. Eloy stands out as plain as anything. It is just a ruin but some of the old towers are standing well. It is just the way it was when the Germans were here in 1870 for that was when it was destroyed. It hasn’t been shelled during this war.

Mon. Oct. 30  
The rats certainly raised the mischief last night. I couldn’t get very much sleep. There is a place to bathe in these supports. Believe me there is getting to be some class to us. It is only some barrels cut in two that we got from an old brewery, but they hold water anyway. The bath is behind a wall in the ruins of Neuville St. Vaast. I have had a lot of guiding to do this afternoon and evening.

Tues. Oct. 31  
When we woke this morning we found that the tunnel to our place of abode had caved in and there was scarcely enough room left to crawl out. After we cooked our breakfast we started to dig the place out, but I had to leave and show the Capt. over the Bde front. It was a long trip so we didn’t come home until late in the afternoon. I didn’t do anything more all evening, the rest could do the messages.

Wed. Nov. 1  
Part of the dugout caved in and nearly buried us this morning. This is worse than the other cave-in we had. If it don’t stop raining pretty soon we won’t be able to live in a dugout at all. I was out on another run and it was a little shorter than the one yesterday. I got back in time to help get our home fixed up again. I got some mail tonight.

Thurs. Nov. 2  
The dugout was still standing when I woke this morning. That’s a relief. There has been very little to do the last couple of days. I got a letter from Duke tonight but his address wasn’t in it.

Fri. Nov. 3  
We are going up the line again. The relief won’t take place during daylight for it is getting too rough for anything like that up there now. I went up on the advance party about 4 PM. The line is fairly quiet just now.

Sat. Nov. 4  
It is raining as usual and the trenches are like a quagmire. There is quite a little running to do. The hardest run I had was warning “A” Coy and the MG’s of our patrols. I did that twice tonight.

Sun. Nov. 5  
This is the quietest day I have had for some time. I got a letter from Duke and he is doing fine. There has been a little strafing going on from both sides.

Mon. Nov. 6  
The trenches are in such shape now that the runs are less frequent. Mr. Toole slipped into a trench and landed on a bayonet today. I am feeling pretty good these days.

Tues. Nov. 7  
This has been a fairly tame trip. About the only excitement we had was when our wiring party got bombed, but none of us got hurt. I got Duke’s address at Liverpool.

Wed. Nov. 8  
This is our last day in the line, we are going out for a rest tonight. When the relief started, I outlined the different runners for the posts and later I took the officers out to Mont St. Eloy.

Thurs. Nov. 9  
The huts here are not too bad. We haven’t done anything but rest all day. We got paid 20 fr. and most of the fellows are pickled. I went to a good concert tonight.

Fri. Nov. 10  
There is a change in the weather today and it really looks fine. I bought a new holster for my gun today (5 fr.). I attended the Y concert tonight and it was fine.

Sat. Nov. 11  
I got a stripe this morning as the runners. The Colonel sent for me today. I thought he had some word or other from home today and put me on a staff job some where. He seems to be interested in Duke and I some way. I got some more mail tonight.

Sun. Nov. 12  
I lost my stripe again this morning. There were a few runs to be done this morning so I didn’t go on church parade. Before supper I wrote some letters and after supper I went to a service in the y. No mail tonight.

Mon. Nov. 13  
We are preparing to go up the line again tonight. This five days rest dosen’t seem to be very long after doing fifteen in the line. One of my runners went on pass today and the other reported sick, so I’m left by myself. There hasn’t been very much to do at H.Q. so far. We started for the line at dark and got in about 10 P.M. The mud isn’t quite so bad as it was.

Tues. Nov. 14  
I had a fairly good sleep last night for I only had to go out about twice. There were some casualties this morning. One of the officers and I went over the line. It is only real bad in places

Wed. Nov. 15  
I’m feeling pretty good these days. There is very little to do.

Thurs. Nov. 16  
I haven’t been out today.

Fri. Nov. 17  
There was a gas alarm this morning. After warning the whole line it was discovered that it was just a practice. I got a parcel from home tonight.

Sat. Nov. 18  
We are going to transport line tonight. I was sent to regulate traffic when the relief was on but I didn’t stay that long for a minnie cave the parapet in on me and I got squashed a little at the same time our dugout got hit, so there wasn’t much damage done. I managed to walk out to the support line in Neuville St. Vaast tonight. I don’t feel very good and I’m black blue down both sides.

Sun. Nov. 19  
My temperature is 103 this morning. I’m in a fairly comfortable place in one of the cellars. The officers have been using me fine these days especiialy Lt. Martin. The M.O. was going to try and get me out tonight but he found out that he couldn’t manage it.

Mon. Nov. 20  
I was warm enough last night but I couldn’t sleep well. I’m going hosp. tomorrow.

Tues. Nov. 21  
The M.O. sent an orderly down to look after me and carry my kit. We went to the Advanced Dressing Station first and from there I went by motor ambulance to D.R.S.

Wed. Nov. 22  
I’m feeling better after good night’s rest in a bed and plenty of blankets. I took my castor oil without making a face this morning. This is a pretty good place and I think a few days rest here will fix me up alright.

Thurs. Nov. 23  
I’m to be moved to the C.R.B. I have heard so much about the place that I would like to see it to form my own opinion. I left D.R.S. at about 2:30 in an ambulance and I arrived at my new place in time for supper. It isn’t so bad here after all.

Fri. Nov. 24  
This place is warmer than the hosp. was so I got up fairly early. There was a lot of the cons. put on fatigue today but I escaped everything. I read a book most of the day.

Sat. Nov. 25  
Right after breakfast there was a parade to the M.O. but I wasn’t fit to leave here. The weather is quite cold today.

Sun. Nov. 26  
I surely froze up at church service this morning.

Mon. Nov. 27  
We were paid 20 frs. today, then I was put on cookhouse so didn’t get a chance to spend any in.

Tues. Nov. 28  
I asked the M.O. to send me to my unit today and he said alright. I suppose on account of my leaving today they shove me on earpunts fatigue for a little while, An other fellow and I had to escort a 42nd to his unit on our way back.

Wed. Nov. 29  
When I arrived at the unit the first man I met was a fellow going on pass in my place on account of me not being there. They will send me on the next bunch though I guess. Our paymaster game so 50 francs today and I haven’t spent a centime yet, I can’t get any change. There cold weather still continues.

Thurs. Nov. 30.  
I got a few Xmas presents today. They are not very much, but they are all I could get at Mont St. Eloy or Ecoivres. I did all the running there was today, and that was very little. I got a big bunch of mail today from Canada and a letter from Duke.

**Friday, Dec. 1.**The weather is still quite cold.

**Sat. Dec. 2.**The sky looks a little rainy and doesn’t promise a very nice trip in this time.

**Sun. Dec. 3.**I was on duty as usual and missed service. I was to have been left out to get ready to go on leave, but Capt. Taylor said I had to go in anyway. We arrived in the line in good time this evening, and everything is fairly quiet just now. It looks as though Fritz is beginning to use his darts and minnies a little more.

**Mon. Dec. 4.**The message to stand by to go on pass came through this morning. I did a little running this morning, but this afternoon I told the other runners they had to do all the running, for I wasn’t going to run any chances until my pass is in. I did one short run right after dinner and had as close a shave as I’ve had for a while. A minnie came in the road of our wagon just as I got out, and it made an awful mess of things. Just before 4 p.m. I left for B.H.Q. and believe me, I made good time down Ross Street and Chaussee. I had already slept out at the transport in Ecurres this evening.

**Tues. Dec. 5.**I slept with the cooks last night, and I feel fine this morning. I have a big day before me. The first thing I did after breakfast was to get new serges and underclothes. I couldn’t get a bath, so I guess I will do without. I got paid just before dinner, and after dinner, I sewed on my patches and put on my badges. At 4:30 we started for Ebligny in a car and got there in good time. After walking around the station for a while, we were told that the train was late, so we started a conversation to amuse the Imperials that were there!

**Wed. Dec. 6.**1 a.m., and we’re here yet. The train managed to crawl in about 2 a.m., and we got squeezed into a sort of a position in the cars. This train runs slower than a horse race and is not near as exciting. When we arrived in Boulogne at noon, we were just in time to see the last Channel boat going out of sight, so we were sent over to a rest camp for the night. We will leave tomorrow. They certainly hand out good rations in this place. They must be trying to get on the good side of the troops. I was issued my with N.H.S., 3-board and two blankets, and I went to bed early.

**Thurs. Dec. 7.**We had an egg with our breakfast. We must be winning the war. On account of missing the boat yesterday, we had one more day stamped on our pass. About two o’clock we marched down to the wharf and, after getting a kind of an inspection for lice and receiving Royalties, we were put on the boat. There was a little rain, but the trip was good. We had two crates as an escort to Folkestone. From Folkestone, we made fine time to London and arrived at Euston this evening at 8:30. Chum got rolled tonight in the Velodrome.

**Fri. Dec. 8**I had a great sleep last night and feel fit for anything. I feel a lot better after a good bath and clean up. I left Boulogne today. The train was very fast so I couldn’t take very long. I had a very uncomfortable time for a little while during the trip, but an old man must have read my mind for he told me what to do. I believe me it was a relief. I arrived in at 9:40 P.M. and put up at the “Fifth George on Lime St.”

**Sat. Dec. 9**I had a great time trying to find Duke this morning. There are no less than three Upper North Streets in Liverpool. Just before noon I found the right place and was shown into Duke’s room. He is looking a little thin but seems to be in good spirits. Duke and I went out to see the town after dinner. The dock yards is very interesting to go through. We had supper at a nice restaurant and then went to a show. Duke was late getting in but I don’t think anything was said to him. The London wasn’t quite as well as expected it to be. I went to a miner hall tonight.

**Sun. Dec. 10**I never got up until late this morning for I never got to bed until about 1 A.M. Duke and I visited Miss Louthian this morning then went down the Mersey to Miss Brighton for to see things. It was cool today so I went back to the hospital. I said so-long to Duke and pulled out on the 11:30 P.M. train.

**Mon. Dec. 11**I arrived in London at 6 this morning and went to the Maple Leaf Club. I feel a little off this morning so I will wait today and go to a show.

**Tues. Dec. 12**I went and got some stuff from a Doctor this morning and stayed close to the club all day. I went to bed at 5:30 for I want to feel better tomorrow.

**Wed. Dec. 13**I’m feeling a lot better this morning so after breakfast I started out for the London Zoo. It’s quite interesting to go through. Our Egypt is looking real sandy. In the afternoon I went to Madam Toussauds Wax Works. It was certainly marvelous. I went to the show tonight.

**Thurs. Dec. 14**We had to have lights on a 10 a.m. because there was such a heavy fog. I bought some presents today. It is also cold today so I stayed around the Y.M.C.A.

**Fri. Dec. 15**This morning I went down to the Pay Office to see if I could draw some cash. After waiting until 2 P.M. I just geared back my book marked N.S.F. It is a good thing for me that my pass is nearly over. I got my picture forged today. I only spoiled one plate.

**Sat. Dec. 16**I intended to go to Abboncliff today but I changed my mind and stayed in London. I saw several small museums today. It was too foggy to look at much outside. I attended the show at the Empire Theatre.

**Sun. Dec. 17**I was up at 5 a.m. so I would be in time for my train this morning. After getting something to eat after 9 A.M. I just got to Victoria in time for the train. We were all held up in Folkstone until afternoon. We arrived at Boulogne in the evening.

**Mon. Dec. 18**We stayed in a rest camp last night. Reveille was at 6 a.m. I bought my breakfast this morning because there was too long a line to get breakfast at the cook shack. We didn’t get our train until noon. This trip was long and tiresome. I arrived at Abbeque 12:30 a.m.

**Tues. Dec. 19:**I expected the B.M. would come out of the line last night but they didn’t so I’ll just stay around the transport until tonight. It seems tough to come back here again after being your own boss for two weeks. I got quite a little mail and parcels when I got back. It looks as though I’ll spend all my spare time during the 5 days rest answering letters.

**Wed. Dec. 20:**The boys came out last night so I’m back on the job again. There has been a few changes in the coy. I suppose I miss since Sept. (Mont St. Eloy).

**Thurs. Dec. 21:**I’m not sure whether we are out for 5 or 6 days this time. There was a big Can. mail today and I got a few more letters and parcels than usual. They were welcome believe me. I did some writing today.

**Fri. Dec. 22:**There is an extra delay running to us just now for some reason or other. Duke hasn’t written since I saw him. I attended a Y concert but it wasn’t very much good.

**Sat. Dec. 23:**The Brigadier inspected us this morning as usual. It was cold and wet. On account of us going into the line for Xmas our dinner is being held tonight. It was a good one. The officers threw themselves pretty well. After it was over, I went to a concert that was held in the Y hut.

**Sun. Dec. 24:**There was a lot of sick men this morning. I guess some cranked too much and the scroungers weren’t used to eating so much good stuff. We started for the line at dark and moved the relief in very good time. It is quiet just now.

**Mon. Dec. 25:**The order is that no shots are to be fired from midnight last night until midnight tonight. We tried our best to get some turkeys into our trench this morning but weren't good apple pickers. On our left and I hear exchanging greetings with the Germans, but one of our fellows accidentally shot a German and caused a little trouble. Everything was very quiet until the Germans opened up on the 4th Brigade and made things awful lively for a while. We stood to for about two hours. The rest of the night it was quiet.

**Tues. Dec. 26:**I feel almost homesick today in spite of the fact I have been away so long. I haven’t written a letter since I came or haven’t shaved and I don’t intend to until I get out to supports.

**Wed. Dec. 27:**The photos I had taken in the old country came today and they have turned out pretty good I think. Today all of our troops were withdrawn from the crater line and an officer and I took up a position up there to observe a shoot. The stokes did excellently well taking it. They gave me an awful scare once when I was stuck in the mud and couldn’t move. We are working from way up in front and are today rather too short handed.

**Thurs. Dec. 28:**The weather still continues very wet. I had a little bit of a cold but otherwise I feel fine. It was a little easier today on the runners. Our B.M. blew a mine tonight and it was a beauty. It is called the Edmonton Crater.

**Fri. Dec. 29:**Everything is quiet as a graveyard today. Hiemi has even forgotten us. Give us our usual rain rations. All you can hear is the patter of rain and water trickling down the trenches. Our long rubber boots are hardly any good now for the slush in a good many places is up to the average man’s hips. The relief was completed in very good time. I went out on the advance party with Taylor and I got a dandy place to stay in the cellars in Marvelles St. Vaast.

Sat. Dec. 30

There seems to be more running than usual out here. I have been promised another man for my section but he hasn’t come yet. The water started to run into our dugout this morning so we had to dig ditches about day-light. This let the water take another course. I had two very long runs tonight.

Sun. Dec. 31

This is the last day of 1916, and the war is still thundering on. I wonder when it will be over. I wrote several letters today but still have an awful bunch to answer. Tonight all of us fellows in this cellar put our money together and sent out to Y so we won’t starve tomorrow. I wouldn’t be surprised to see something start at midnight tonight. Signed H.O. Palmer, Neuville St. Vaast (Going Post Sgt.)

# 1917

Monday, January 1st

I made a bad start for the new year by not getting out of my blankets until 10 a.m. There has been very little to do all day, so we were left pretty well to ourselves. We fared well on the stuff we secured from the Y, so it made the day seem a little different from the rest. After cleaning the cellar out, it seems quite homelike. I wrote a bunch of letters this afternoon so that is a step in the right direction. There are four of us here: English, Pinker, Bottom and myself.

Tues. Jan. 2

I was up early this morning by way of a change. Everything has been very quiet all night. We got a few more odds and ends from the Y today so our banquet still continues. It is going to be tough when we are broke and have to rely on rations again. There hasn’t been a run all day and I have had a lot of time to myself. The mail bag has five letters for me tonight.

Wed. Jan. 3

The rain is coming down as usual. The B.M. is moving up the line again tonight so there has been a little more to do. The C.O. and several of us before the relief was commenced and believe me I had some load. Jim Riley had gone out for a couple days so I took his kit up as well as my own for he ought to be here tonight. Fritz seems to be a little peeved over something today and has kind of blown things end ways. The C.O. went out on a tour of inspection tonight about 11 o’clock and I went with him. The trenches are in very bad shape and mostly the pumps are out of commission.

Thurs. Jan. 4

I was given a couple new runners today but in spite of that we each had all the work we could handle. Nothing very unusual has happened during the day.

Fri. Jan. 5

I was sitting nice and soft. Got the word that the Germans intended to pull a stunt of some kind tonight so we stood to for about five hours in the slit crater line. My position was on the corner of the crater line under communication trench with the S.G.S. rockets. I had to leave them for a minute and when I came back a heavy snary had landed and blown my pockets to bits. We would have been in a nice fix if something had happened. Black Night Bill was in charge of the posts and was very excited. (Mooney is a new officer.)

**Sat. Jan. 6.**It hasn't stopped raining yet and the trenches are like narrow marshes. From this out when I don't mention the weather, read rain! Another box arrived for me today. This season is the first time all my parcels arrived during my tours in the line. I wish they would all come in times like this.

**Sun. Jan. 7.**There were only about six hours rain today. Slumber is just the same as another day and I didn't turn in. I was in it in spite of the time I have to write this way. There were letters from Duke today and he seems to be some better. Fritz is a little hostile again today.

**Mon. Jan. 8.**The cover of our dugout was blown in again today. If it isn't one trouble it's another. The RCR's came in tonight and this was the slowest and most unsatisfactory relief we have had here. Haven't seen many men on this part. My feet are all swollen with the cold and wet tonight but I managed to work out to Mount St. Eloy alright.

**Tues. Jan. 9.**It's exactly 18 months today since I got to France and I wonder how much longer we will have to put up with it. I have had so many parcels lately that I am living like a king. The RCR's party put on a classy concert in the Y tonight.

**Wed. Jan. 10.**I'm not on duty today so I wandered around and amused myself the best I could. Uncle (cousin) Fred told me that Harris Hoover had been over, but I was away but will be back tonight. I had arranged to go to the show tonight but they were so late that we couldn't go. Frank Hawter is married now. Everyone writes; he thinks he is better off.

**Thurs. Jan. 11.**I feel pretty sick this morning. The M.O. looked me over and gave me a slip and 7 white pills and marked me off from duty. I never strived from the hut today.

**Fri. Jan. 12:**I don’t feel very much better today but it is no use reporting. I wish I was at home today more than ever. There was a little mail today. The orderly room shut down at 8:30 P.M.

**Sat. Jan. 13:**We are confined to barracks today because we go up the line again tonight. I’m feeling a little better today. The roads and trenches are in awful shape now.

**Sun. Jan. 14:**There wasn’t a great deal to do today and everything is fairly quiet. It’s a lot closer today. We intended to put some gas over on the Germans tonight but the wind changed. I was out a lot tonight.

**Mon. Jan. 15:**I was sent to the dressing station this morning to get my foot fixed up. I have been here nearly all day with my foot in bandages. In the evening I came back up the line and I’m to stay in until I feel fit enough to carry on. I got some more mail tonight so I did a little writing tonight. I have been here nearly all day with my feet in bandages. In the evening, I came back up the line and am to stay in until I feel fit enough to carry on. I got some more mail tonight so I did a little writing tonight.

**Tue. Jan. 16:**

It is snowing this morning and is quite cold. I think it fine myself. This is the first time I have been on my feet since yesterday. I went on a couple of runs and stayed in all evening and wrote some letters.

**Wed. Jan. 17**:

This is just like a nice winter's weather at home. Everything is white and you can walk on top of the slush. There has hardly been a shot fired today. Papa's Birthday.

**Thurs. Jan. 18**:

We are to be relieved tonight and I certainly had too. There were a few minnies thrown over today, but not very much damage was done. The relief was 100% better tonight. There were about half a dozen letters waiting for me at the supports. It is snowing a little.

**Fri. Jan. 19**:

It isn't raining or snowing so we took the opportunity to get our dugout dried a little, and it is a lot more comfortable now. I met the colonel in the trench today, and he said it was nearly time I was getting a rest and he left word with the Coy Commander that I wasn't to go in the line this time. I have no idea what they intend to do with me.

**Sat. Jan. 20**:

I couldn't sleep very much last night on account of the rats. The weather is still very cold. The hardest work we have is to keep warm. I have to handle all the Coy mail just now as well as my own job because the mail clerk is away. We had to wait for about two hrs. at the ration dump tonight and we nearly froze up. When the train came in and we were all loaded and started back some one gave the gas alarm. If you ever saw mix-up there was own over there. The mules got excited and broke loose; men were getting tangled up in ration bags and valises, and it was no fun with a gas helmet on. When we got to our bivies, we found it was a false alarm as the rush was all over.

**Sunday, January 21**There was a lot of running to our battery on account of having to go with the officers who had to look after the reserve parties. Our company was supplying the officers of the day, so I was over the whole of the Brigade front with one of the supply officers. Wherever it was, it was some walk. Didn’t get in until after midnight.

**Monday, January 22**I couldn’t get to bed until nearly three o’clock this morning because I had to ready about a dozen letters before I turned in. All I did today was make a trip to R.P. Everything is very quiet.

**Tuesday, January 23**I’m to go on the Rouse guard tomorrow. I started over there at about 2 P.M. and was on sentry from 4 to 6 at a corner in La Targette. I had quite a job to get a rifle and equipment, for I have been carrying a revolver all along.

**Wednesday, January 24**B.O.R. is put out at Ritze corner at the big cave. It is a very nice place.  
The day is lively today and has thrown a lot of shells around here. I was off duty at the time, so went down the cave for a little while. We certainly get good rations here.

**Thursday, January 25**Our dugout got hit with a whizz-bang this afternoon, but it didn’t hurt anyone. It just took the roof off the place. I haven’t received any mail lately.

**Friday, January 26**It is still very cold. The snow hasn’t melted any. There has been nothing out of the ordinary happen today. I was speaking to the Col. today. There was some mail for me tonight.

**Saturday, January 27**Today is the Kaiser’s Birthday. Our artillery gave him a good salute at daybreak. The weather is a little milder this afternoon. I like this new job pretty well. I haven’t been able to get my pack yet, and I’m certainly in need of another blanket. The sergt said that our battalion mule was lost and wrecked. There were eight prisoners taken but very few stragglers. I’m hoping to get a letter tonight.

**Sunday, January 28**There were very few casualties on the raid itself, but there were quite a lot from the retaliation. The weather is still very cold, and there is more snow. I got one bunch of papers but no letters.

**Monday, January 29**I got a pass to go to Mount St. Eloy for my kit. While I was out there, I got paid 20 p. The boys out there seems to be in very good humour these days. After I brought everything, I marched and then started back to Ritz corner. I just had 10 minutes to spare before I was for duty.

**Tuesday, January 30**The weather still continues cold, especially at nights. I took a blanket up with me and placed rations at night. I have started to polish up my equipment now. Snow has begun today.

**Wednesday, January 31**This is a dandy day, but it isn’t quite warm enough to thaw. I had a bath today, and I think I’m pretty near free of vermin now. We got shelled a little today.

**Thursday, February 1**There is a little more snow and very cold. There is one thing about it: instead of walking through the slush, you walk over it. No mail again today.

**Friday, February 2**The company went up the line tonight. It is still very cold. My hours on shift have changed because a guy went sick. That means less rest for me than the others. There was a little shelling around here today, but there was no damage done.

**Saturday, February 3**This is the nicest day we have had for some time. Snow is thawing all over. It has been very quiet all day, and I hope it stays that way until we get out on rest. I got some mail from Tom and one letter from Luke.

**Sunday, February 4**After coming off duty this morning, I went to a service. There was five of us and General MacDonnell. Things have been moving all along the line. One of our planes was brought down in flames this morning.

**Monday, February 5**This is a very clear day, but it is cold. I nearly froze on sentry these days. There were two of our planes came down today and one German. I have a bad cold now; I can hardly speak.

**Tuesday, February 6**My cold doesn’t seem to be getting any better. Nothing exciting is coming off these days. I guess the U.S.A. will be in the war pretty soon, at least I hope so.

**Wednesday, February 7**The weather is beginning to moderate a little. I think I could almost stand a little rain now. Our rest ought to come pretty soon. We haven’t rested since July.

**Thursday, February 8**It is getting cold again. I wish it would let up. I’ll get rid of this cold. I had intended going to services today, but the paymaster never came around yesterday, and I’m broke. We get paid this afternoon, so I’ll go tomorrow.

**Friday, February 9**It’s just sixteen months, and it seems like that many years since I came over to this God-forsaken country. I wonder how much longer we are going to have to stay. There doesn’t seem to be very much to break the monotony around here. I went to Evires today and got a barrel and some money from Luke.

**Saturday, February 10**This is the mildest day we have had for over two weeks, but we could stand it milder yet. I feel today as though something is going to happen. The Germans made an attack upon the left but didn’t manage to get anything. There is no mail again.

**Sunday, February 11**The weather is getting better, and there is a bit of a thaw started. I guess my friends have forgotten me, for I’m not getting very much mail now. Things have been lively along my sector today.

**Monday, February 12**The Death Head Hussars were in front of us now, and the 42nd raided them this morning but only got two prisoners and one died. They were both Prussians. The Huns put up a fair fight, but the 42nd got out with only a few casualties. The weather is still very cold. I got a few letters tonight.

**Tuesday, February 13**We are getting ready to move out on rest tomorrow. First stage will be to go out to Evires tonight. A fellow missed his shift, so that throws me onto another, and I don’t like it nearly as well as the other one. There was a lot of snow thawed away today.

**Wednesday, February 14**We started out at 9 a.m. for a place called Divion. It was a long march, but we had plenty of rests along the way. My feet were fairly good and sore when we arrived, but we were put into nice billets with electric lights in them. This town isn’t very large, but Bruay is only a short way from here.

**Thursday, February 15**The H.Q. is in the Château, but there is no guard on here. Today I blew most of my francs on a big dinner. The people here use us very well and seem very nice. I feel as though I could stay here for the duration.

**Friday, February 16**This is another fine day. There has been no word of guard yet. I am soon. I intended to go and see the boys at the lodge today, but I couldn’t get away. I did a turn on a ration party tonight. That is the first work I have had for three days.

**Saturday, February 17**I spent most of this morning cleaning up my equipment, and it looks a lot better for the work. We started the guard again. There are seven of us, so that means two hours on and twelve off. That is pretty soft, I think. There was a little shower today. I’m just about broke, so I’m staying in these nights.

**Sunday, February 18**There was a service this morning. I missed my breakfast and was almost late for parade. After the service, there was communion, but on account of not being confirmed in the Anglican Church, I couldn’t attend. There is still a little rain falling. I was over to Bruay for a walk today to see the boys.

**Monday, February 19**The weather is getting punk again. I went over with a couple of fellows to Houdain to get a billet, but we got stung. The paymaster cashed out 25 francs today.

**Tuesday, February 20**I wanted to go over and see the B.M. today, but I couldn’t get away. It is still raining quite hard.

**Wednesday, February 21**I went on duty this morning, and when I came off, I was told that I was to report to my unit in the afternoon. I walked over to Bruay and went in with a letter. Everyone nearly is new to me.

**Thursday, February 22**I feel as though I’m locked up back in the coy. My platoon went on a bath parade this afternoon, and we gave a concert in the Grande Theatre. It was fine.

**Friday, February 23**We drilled in the rain this morning. There was a football match this afternoon, and we had to parade. Our team won from the P.B.S., 2-0. The boxing finals came off tonight, and it was good. Our bn. won the heavy weight.

**Saturday, February 24**The weather has changed for the better a little bit this morning. The parade this morning was given it pretty easy. The Y.M.C.A. gave a concert which was fine.  
There hasn’t been much mail today lately, and I don’t know what is wrong.

**Sunday, February 25**The fall-in went for church parade as we thought—but it was for an “inspection.” They made us parade to the ball game this afternoon, but our team lost.

**Monday, February 26**Our usual parades were held this morning. I would like to know when we are going to get paid. Being broke seems to be the condition of most soldiers while we are in town. There has been nothing to do this evening but write a letter and crawl into my blankets.

**Tuesday, February 27**We are practicing hard for the big advance that is to come off this spring. It is going to be an awful big affair. I’m on fire picket tonight, so had to stay in. Got some mail tonight.

**Wednesday, February 28**We were practicing firing rifle grenades from the top of a steep slope. This afternoon, it was open-order drill and bomb throwing. The weather is pretty good just now.

**Thursday, March 1**Drill as usual this morning. It is getting a little monotonous. I wish I was on my way home. There hasn’t been any mail for me lately.

**Friday, March 2**We only had a few minutes drill today and then were paid. I was put in charge of the advance guard on my way to marked ground. Tonight, I attended a very good K. of C. concert.

**Saturday, March 3**I went with the M.G.’s to practice shooting at Divion. We were firing from the hill with the Lewis. I was on early, so I had a lot of time to myself. My watch that was being repaired in England came today. It cost me 15 fr. I went to a concert.

**Sunday, March 4**I was to service this morning in the Theatre Grande. There was a good show on this afternoon in the same billet, which I enjoyed very much. I received some mail today, so instead of going out tonight, I did some writing.

**Monday, March 5**It was snowing too hard to go out on parade this morning, so we were given two lectures in our billets. One was on the Lewis automatic and the other was on map reading. There was the usual practice on the course this afternoon, and this evening I tried to get into the show, but it was too crowded, and I came home to write.

**Tuesday, March 6**The weather is still very cold and miserable. We had the usual practice this afternoon on the course.

**Wednesday, March 7**Our parade was cut short by the snow this morning. We are having it comparatively easy these days. I went to the show again tonight.

**Thursday, March 8**All we had was a little physical jerk and a lecture for it. It is still bad weather this morning. There was an hour’s drill this afternoon. We fully expected we would have some time to practice for the sports, but we couldn’t get it.

**Friday, March 9**We drilled until 11 a.m. and dismissed until 12:30 when we fell in to go out to a hill where His Royal Highness was to inspect us. We stood 3 solid hrs. in the driving snow for him.

**Saturday, March 10**I was detailed on a party to dig trenches on the course this morning. I didn’t hurt myself much working, but I got quite a bit done. I stayed in all afternoon and evening.

**Sunday, March 11**I was to church and pay parade before dinner. The show was scanty this afternoon. There was a little can mail in today, but none for me. (I have been in the army 2 yrs. today.)

**Monday, March 12**We had our usual practice until noon. I felt tired today, some bad. There was a lecture this afternoon until 3 p.m., and then

Thurs May 31 + Fri. June 1st.

Have been over tapes all the time. Weather is very warm.

Sat. June 2

It is just one year ago today since we went up into the Ypres do. I’l have seen nothing like it sense and hope I never will. There was a parade this morning and the afternoon was our own.

Sun. June 3.

I attended church parade this morning and we heard a very good sermon. There has been nothing to do but read and write this afternoon. I made application for a transfer to the Bn Runners today and I hope it comes through.

Mon. June 4

I was on parade with the platoon today and it makes quite a difference. I only had my revolver. I received some Canadian mail and another letter from Duke. I wish I was where he is now.

Tues. June 5

We were out and practiced for a night attack tonight and we had a great time.

Wed June 6

There was very little drill this morning for I understand we have a long march ahead of us tomorrow.

Thurs. June 7

We marched in our short sleeves today to some dug outs at Quarry lines and I was sent back to act as runner to the ass’t adjt (assistant adjutant) at the transport. It is certainly a cushy job. There was six letters for me tonight.

Friday June 8.

Well I got onto the Bn Runners and I commenced work this morning. I have only seen a few messages (mostly to Bde) It is certainly a good job but it gets monotonous.

Sat. June 9

Today was practically the same as yesterday as far as routine goes. I wrote a few letters and started to read a book called the making of a Marchioness. It fills time that is about all I can say for it. A big raid was pulled tonight.

Sunday June 10th

There was a church service this morning but I was on duty and couldn’t go. I heard Geo. Willson is missing, but don’t know wether it is so or not. There was certainly a lot of casualties in the raid. There was a difference of a minute between the light and heavy artillery groups so the heavies caught up and sandwiched us with the light barrage. It is certainly hot today.

Mon. June 11th

Heard Geo Willson only got a scratch in the muck, I’m glad of that. It has rained nearly all morning but it is quite nice this afternoon. I met an old school chum John Marshall, he is with the CMRs. Our blankets were collected for the summer.

Tues. June 12th

There was scarcely anything to do this time and I lobbed around all day in the heat. I got some mail tonight.

Wed. June 13.

Usual routine.

Thurs. June 14.

This is a dandy day and not too cool. Our Div. Sport were today and the 7th Bde. made a good showing. I got a parcel from home tonight and it was in good condition.

Fri. June 15.

The weather is still hot. There is nothing to report.

Sat. June 16.

Usual routine and hot weather.

Sun. June 17.

I have been a little busier all day. I couldn’t attend church service on account of that. I got a parcel of papers from home today.

Mon. June 18.

This is the sluckiest day I have had on this job. Most of the day I diverted to bed and writing. Tonight I went to bed early for I rise at 6 am tomorrow.

Tues June 19.

There was a big rain storm this morning so it is nice and clear for our morning parade. It rained again tonight.

Wed. June 20th

No parade this morning. Davie ruled. I had nothing to do today at all. I got another parcel from home tonight.

Thurs. June 21st.

We are certainly getting a good share of the rain now. My transfer to BHQ came through in orders today. Everything goes on as usual.

Fri June 22

I have only carried one message today. It has been rain one minute and sun the next all day.

Sat. June 23

Routine.

Sun. June 24

There was the usual service but I couldn’t attend.

Mon June 25.-26

Plenty of rain and no work in the general routine.

Wed. June 27

We packed up ready to move today but the order was cancelled and we unpacked.

Thurs. June 28.

I helped pack some of the orderly room stuff today and did a little running on the side. I got orders to go in the advance party to Houdain and I got my pass tonight.

Fri. June 29.

I was up quite early and managed to get my pack on a lory and I set out on foot for Houdain. I walk as far as Acque, roads a horse to Grande Servins, caught a lory for another little place and walk to Barlin where i caught another lort to Bruay and from there another to Divion Hill. I walked from there to the new billets I slept out tonight.

Sat. June 30

I was sent word to return at once to the unit as the order to move had been cancelled. It rained all day and travelling was rotten. Altogether I walked 22k and I was pretty tired when I got in.

Saturday Oct 20 / Sunday Oct 21 - Routine

Monday October 22.

This is our last day in town and I’m on duty. I was kept fairly busy most of the day. This evening I went and blew most of the rest of my money on a feast.

Tuesday, Oct. 23.

We are moving up the line today. The imperial, + anzacs have tried to take Paschendaele so I guess we are in for a turn. We entrained at Castre (the same station we got off the first stop on our way for our pioneer trip to the firing line Oct 1915). The ride was not a long one for we only went to Ypres. The train didn’t go any farther up than the asylum so we walked in small parties through Ypres and on to St Jean just a short way north of the town. There is lots of changes around this sector to what it was when I was here last in the town (Ypres). There is only one small tower standing. The place is almost beyond recognition except for the parts of the moat and some of the roads. Kruistraate is obliterated and up towards Tor Top-Hill 60 + Sanctuary Wood and Hooge is torn up worse than ever. China wall is gone and so is maple copse and most of the bund up at the head Zillebeke Lake. This sector brings back some very vivid memories of earlier in the war. This St. Jean area is just on the North end or just forward of the north sector of the Hooge line. There is no shelter here except bivies that don’t keep the rain out, let alone anything else. Bill English and another fellow and myself have made a sort of shelter for the night.

Wednesday, Oct 24

Well we didn’t get very much rest last night we were bombed and shelled intermittently all night and just before daylight they let loose a little extra in the shape of 2 ½” and 6” High velocity shells both percussion and shrapnel. A dud went through our bivy and gave us quite a start. A bunch of New Zealanders had just came out of the line and had bivouacked right next to us just in time to catch this bombardment. A member of them were killed. We got off pretty light. About 10 a.m. a bunch of German gothas came over and bombed us and an ammunition dump. All the casualties were in “C” Coy, 18 altogether I think.

Thurs. Oct 25.

It was fairly quiet except for an occasional bombing raid which kept us always on our toes.

Fri. Oct 26

We are still at St. Jean. A little quieter today.

Sat. Oct 27

This is my day on duty there was a lot of running to Bde + Div away back at Ypres and Coy Runs.

Sunday, Oct 28

We are going up the line tonight so we are all getting ready. The Gothas did some bombing today. Just about noon I was over to a little ‘YMCA.” in a pill-box when the bombers came over. I flopped on the cobbled road right amongst a bunch of ammunition mules. Large bombs struck of each side of the road and over in the camp. There was no one hurt just there but further a long a number of men and mules were sent west. I went up early on a party with Colonel Palmer and some other H.Q. staff. There are no roads that can be followed. The duck walks that were layed have been blown out so we had to wade in the mud. Loaded mules got stuck and were left in the mud. The farther we went the worse the mud and water was, especially when we crossed abraham Heights.

After a lot of wading and floundering we found a road. It was cobble stone but the mud + water was from 4 to 6 “ above it so it was not a case of what you could see, it was what you could feel. The shell fire was pretty heavy around here, but due to the soft mud the shrapnel went quite straight up and didn’t spread, so that much was better than usual conditions.

This road was the gravenstraafe Road that run up to Paschendaele town. a number of short rushes along this and we arrived at a pill box that had been built and occupied by the Huns once. It was called Water-Loo House and was right in the centre of one of the lowest spots in Belgium I thinking. The ground around and forward as far as a ridge a head call Bellevue, was one series of shellholes and each one had as much water as it would hold.

This pill-box has water on the floor and it stinks, but it’s better than no shelter.

There was no runs because it was nearly day-light by the time we relieved the 116th Bn. They had made it pretty rough for the relief by pulling a raid and causing heavy artillery activity.

We had a number of casualties.

Monday, Oct. 29.

I had a run at two different time to report centre for the correct time and with a message for Brigade. We were in view going across the open and there was no place to take cover, the only thing to do was run for it and that was what we did. It was exciting but we got there alright.

Tonight Brown and I was detailed for a run up the advance Hd.Q. The message was given to me and was to reach there not later than 10.45 P.M.

The night was black and it was raining a little. We kept off the road as much as possible all the way up because it was being shelled bad. We had been shown on the map where the report spot was and the next thing to do was to find it in the dark.

The place was in a pill-box in no man’s land so as to be in the right place when the advance is made. After a lot of wading and plodding through mud and water we got into the front line. Then we went on and found where the tape that was laid for a marker for zero line. I was on this line that the pill-box was supposed to be. We went along this line for quite a time but couldn’t locate the place. It was getting pretty near the time when the message should be in, when the germans opened up with a heavy barrage. Just at that time of m(illegible) a little rise in the ground so we both made a bee line for it thinking possibly it was the place, and it was a dug-in pilll-box.

We both jumped and edged along a little gallery in the back. It was dark in there and I was in front. I noticed one dark object move and then another one move so I said “Is this H.Q.” The forms got up and I heard something that was not English so it downed on Brown and I at once that we got into a German post. We turned and skipped back over the paradouse and into a shell hole. I got my revolved ready and Brown lost his head and sat in the bottom of the slushy hole and made a big sigh and said “ an it be time” and didn’t attempt to do anything else. We waited there a couple of minutes to be sure no one was following us and lit out again. As luck would have it, we found the H.Q. in a few minutes. We reported our find and delivered the message. A party went out, guided by Brown and I, and caught the germans.

It was pretty good going back all but about the last couple hundred yards. The H.E.’s and gas shells were coming pretty fast but we got in O.K.

Tues. Oct 30

The zero hours was 7 am. The Barrage was heavy on both sides but owing to the mud and slush the timed shrapnel did the most damage. Machine gun fire was intense.

Right ahead on our objective there was a camouflaged trench with a machine gun nest that cost us a lot of damage and loss. One man in the 49th got the V.C. for the destroying of the machine gun nest. The name of the V.C. was K he killed the whole German gun crew with the butt of his rifle. Another V.C. was one by a man in the Princess Patricias for capturing a pill box.

Our Bde did not gain it’s objective although some progress was made.

Tonight Frank Wells and I were detailed to take up some reinforcements to the line and out posts. Believe me it took some juggling to get them all up there in the pitch dark and the mud and water to saying nothing of the gas and artillery fire we delivered the men O.K. and then started back for Waterloo House.

Wed. Oct 31

There has been heavy artillery fire all day but we have hung on to what we got yesterday. Our roll call is pretty short not and so is the R.C.R.s.

Our relief came in tonight and we feel pretty happy over. While we were waiting Billy Mair got hit with a small piece of shrapnel. Frank Wells and I took the relieve message and report to Bde. and on this way over the germans started to gas the area with shells. Chlorine, mustard and clear gas mainly. We had to travell pretty fast in order to get our breath, we had to remove our respirators a \_(fuas,,? illegible)\_\_ time for enough air don’t come through when you are breathing heavy.

After we had given in any message and report we made our way back toward Ypres to where we were to come in. We was last to get in so there was no shelter of any kind left, out lungs felt to sore to sleep, much any way, we had a few blisters from the gas and a little hair burned off.

Thurs. Nov 1.

I’m not feeling very well this morning and I can’t speak above a whisper, but there was plenty of gas cases worse than me. We are to move this morning but the order seems to be awful slow in coming. I looked up currie and he is alright. George Hoover was badly hit in the stomach. There are some pretty heavy shells dropping around here. At near noon, we were started west in groups of about a frozen so that casualties would be lighter if a shell light in the bunch. The collecting place was in a field just out of Ypres near the village of St. Jean or what is left of it. After a long wait we were put (in) a narrow gauge railway and taken to a camp called Rose Camp a little back of Vlamertinge. I slept fairly well this night.

Fri. Nov 2.

There was no shelling near the camp (Rose Camp) last night but the high velocity shells coming this way made a lot of noise. I was up early this morning for we are to move again, we caught the train right close to camp and were taken to o’shell. from there we marched to a place called Wattou.

Sat. Nov. 3.

The was a lot of company running and a couple of runs to Bde. it hasn’t rained today but it is very dull and a lot of heavy clouds. We are in tents here, but quite comfortable except we are so lousy.

Sun. November 4

There was very little to do today so I stayed in camp. I tried to get a new pair of pants today but I couldn’t.

Mon. November 5.

There was a parade called for this morning but it was dismissed an account of the rain. Tonight I went for a walk into Wattou but there was nothing but estamenets doing big business so I came back and crawled into my blankets.

Tues. November 6.

Uncle Fred Richard and I went for a walk around the country, but there was very little to see.

Wed. November 7.

I’m stilling feeling the gas I got quite a little. A parade was called, but we are getting off pretty easy. This evening I went over to the Princess Pats to cook around.

Thurs November 8

I’m on duty, but there has been very little to do. The weather is pretty chilly now so I crawled into my blankets pretty early.

Friday November 9

I have a whole day to my self so I have had a royal clean up. This afternoon I went to Watou and bought some pork chops and had a real supper.

Sat November 10.

I’m on as the RSM’s runner. I have a good place to sleep and good grub and I sometime help the cook.

Sunday November 11.

This is Sunday, but one day is the same as an other, as far as routine is concerned.

Mon. November 12.

We are standing too ready to move up the line any minute. I think would as soon go the other direction, Ypres never has impressed me as a place to go for your health these days of war.

Tues. November 13

We moved by motor lorries up to Ypres today then we marched through the town on to a camp near St Jean. The city of Ypres don’t look anything like it did the first time I saw it, there is scarcely a thing standing and the roads run in different places. The whole district is the same mud hole though, that it always was. I feel pretty nervous here, in fact every one does. We were shelled something fierce here this evening.

Wed. November 14

We were shelled the whole night and believe me I didn’t sleep an awful lot. Today it hasn’t been quite so heavy and there wasn’t a bomb dropped during day light. I slept some today.

Thurs. November 15.

This morning shortly after 4 a.m. We received orders that the bn. Was to be out of this camp for 7 a.m. If you ever saw a happy crowd it was the 49th Bn. and we never lost a minute getting ready to go either. I was detailed to wait and come with the lorries so I didn’t get away till near noon. The shelling and bombing of the camp last night was so intense that I didn’t sleep so I’m good and tired. We stayed just back of Ypres tonight. A shell plough our tent and didn’t hurt anyone.

Friday November 16.

We left Ypres this afternoon in lorries and buses for Haverskerque. It was a long ride and some of the road was bad. When we arrived I had a time to find a billet but at length discovered a hay mow. It is fine and quiet here and I had a fine sleep.

Sat. November 17.

We moved again this morning to another town calleds Amittes. I was among the first to arrived. This is a very quiet dirty little town, but it is a delight to live here after what we have been through lately.

Sunday November 18

About all I did today outside of write letters was draw my pay and it is a big one this time.

Monday November 19.

It has been quiet today. I head Frank Fawler is in France now with one of the field ambulances. I got some new clothes today.

Tues. November 20.

I was up pretty early day to get ready for another move. This time it is to St. Hillaire. Our billet is fine but the town isn’t very much.

Wed. November 21.

I fooled myself by getting up an hour too early. There hasn’t been much to do so I wrote a number of letters then went to the ‘y’ for a walk tonight.

Thurs. November 22.

I was around to the RSMs billet at 7 am. this morning. With my big pay still in my pocket I went down town to get some stuff to send home.

Friday November 23,

I got some Canadian mail today and I did some more shopping.

Sat, November 24.

I haven’t felt well all day so never went out even for my walk, was in my blankets at 7 P.M.

Sun. November 25

I still feel tough so I didn’t go on the church parade this morning.

Mon. November 26.

Usual routine.

Thurs. November 27

I’m helping the cook today and it’s a good job.

Wed November 28

I’m looking after the B.Q.M.S. and I make a little extra this way. There was a show tonight that was some better than nothing so I went.

Thurs. November 29.

This has turned out to be a very nice day. I got all my xmas mail sent away today so that’s a job down. The women at this billet are certainly a tough bunch, the man of the house is away,

Friday, November 30

I am about rid of my gas effects + cold so I feel better. I bought some more Xmas cards today and sent them away.

Sat, December 1

I got a letter from George Hoover and he is doing fine. I have been pretty busy today so I went to bed early.

Sunday December 2.

Breakfast was late this morning so I got up accordingly. My spare time has been taken up lately reading and write so haven't been going out very much.

December 3-4-5-6

There has been nothing to do and I have gone to a concert twice.

Friday December 7.

It has been dark and threatening all day, I have been busy all day for this is the night the sergt are giving a party to the Sergt. Maj. who is leaving for Canada. It came off fine and not too noisy.

Sat. December 8

Nothing happened today. I’m feeling pretty good now.

Sunday, December 9

I got up late today, everything is pretty (illegible, possibly “saw”)

Monday, December 10- T 11

(Illegible, two words)

Wednesday, December 12

I was up quite early and got a fire built to get warm. There is hardly anything to write about these days.

Thursday December 13 to Sat 15.

Sunday December 16.

There was a church parade this morning. I have been out all day. Robertson of the Princess Patrica’s Canadian Light Infantry was over to see me today. Our move for tomorrow has been cancelled.

December 17-18-19.

Routine

Thursday December 20

We got all packed to move again. Order cancelled.

Friday December 21

Well we did move today. Left St. Hilaire at noon. It was a long cold ride in lorries and when we arrived there wasn’t a decent place in the whole (illegible, possibly Remis of armentilles) for a man to post up.

Saturday December 22

I’m sleeping in an old basement. It isn’t clean but I wasn’t cold. This is my day on duty and there was an awful lot of runs.

Sunday, December 23.

I wasn’t up very early this morning. There is nothing to do or nothing to see. Tonight we were loaded onto a narrow gage railroad and taken up to Lieven where were met by guides at Crow Dump. We relieved the 15 Bn. (The 48 Black Watch of Montreal)

Monday December 24

The front here seems to be pretty quiet. The Hd Qrtrs is under an old brick pill and kiln. I went up to A Coy trench for water today. There was four men killed last night about 15 minutes after they were posted by a minie wafer. I was out and took three officers over the line tonight.

Tuesday December 25.

This is Christmas. I slept in for I didn’t have anything today todo. It is cold out but nice. I was out on several runs tonight. Our meal wasn’t very Chistmasie for we had mostly hard tack and bully.

Wednesday, December 26

I only slept about an hour last night on account of the (illegible but maybe: guy bucks). I was out for 3 hours with an officer all over the Bn line this afternoon. The snow is still on the ground and the weather is cold.

Thursday December 27.

It is another fine clear day. The banch arthers has been very active all day. I have been on a number of long runs today so am pretty tired tonight.

Friday December 28.

I didn’t waken until 9 this morning and nearly missed my breakfast. We runners cook together. I got a parcel from norwood methodist church last night and it was fine. I’m feeling better than I have for a couple of days. TOnight I was supposed to go out on an grand rounds with the Colonel but it didn’t come off.

Saturday December 29

Well we’re to be relieved tonight which is something to look forward to I think if we wern;t let out of the line pretty regularly the nerve strain would soon put a man off his head. It has been a little wet today and the trenches are muddy and slippery. This morning early I was out on grand rounds with Colonel Palmer for a couple of hours. This afternoon the hun did a little bombing with trench mortars. I’m on the advance party tonight and after going out the the town of Lieven with some stuff finding our billerts I returned to the brick kilns. Up the line and got my back to take out.

Sunday Dec. 30

Well last night I had a good sleep in a big bed. This is some class for a soldier, even if the beds were dirty and lousy they were soft. The whole town of Lieven is in ruins but there are some good cellars under the debris. THe one we are in has a lot of cement filled on top by the Germans before this town was taken from them during the battle of Vimy this spring. I had no particular duty today but I made some runs over to Crow Dump. The weather is still quite cool during the day and night but not bad.

Monday Dec 31.

There is very little to do today but look back over the year that is just about gone out. To think of the scraps I have had and the chums that have been cut down, Only a Peace and a long time of it will partially mend the suffering and hardship men had to face to protect civilization from the tyranny of the Hun and his military machine. There are a lot of things to be thinkful for, but I’m getting tired and hope next year will have a better outlook for the happiness of the men and women of all nations. Signed H.O. Palmer, Avion Front at the brick kiln. Lieven.

# 1918

Thursday January 1st 1918

We are commencing on a new page in history but a lot of things are being carried over from the old one. This morning the same as it has been for every morning for nearly four years the canon still roar and men are constantly on the look our to take the life an enemy, but no one knows the possibilities held in this year 1918. There may be a peace at least military or we may not live to see it. It is still cold and a little more snow fell. I went on ration party tonight, but had to wait around for an hour + a half before the light railway outfit got up with them. Heiny opened up on Crow Dump and scattered us a couple time during the wait but no one was hurt. TOnight the Germans put on a little strafe to celebrate new years I guess.

Wed, Jan. 2

I didn’t get up till late this morning so I had to cook by myself. It is a little miserable today, there has been both snow and rain. The Germans tried a few stunts today and early this morning, but was beat in all of them. It is quiet tonight. I got some Canadian mail.

Thurs. Jan. 3

THis is my day for duty. I wasn’t up very early but I was in time for breakfast. The runners took turns in being cooks for our section. We were all issued with a clean bunch of underwear. THere was no dirt in them but there thousands of mitts in the seams. I sobbed mine up well with chlorine and then put some chlorine in some water and took a sponge bath. I was out on a run to Bde. Hd. Quarters and there was a few shells fell in the road where I was. I naturally spent my efforts towards finding cover and in doing so I slipped and fell down a flight of concert steps at Bde and hit my head. When I returned to the Bn. I went to the M.O. and got fixed up. It wat out some on the back and caused quite a head ache.

Fri. Jan 4

We are to go up again on the avion front tonight. I made two advance tips y to the brick kilns this afternoon then after dark we all moved. The relief was good and not a hitch any where. We relieved the 9th Bde. I haven’t felt very good today for my head and neck is pretty sore.

Saturday Jan. 5.

The trenches are still pretty dirty and there is quite a little snow on the ground. I was on a run out to Crow Dump this afternoon and then I rested up for grand rounds tonight. At 8.30 this evening, Colonel Palmer + Major Chattell called for the runner for grand rounds. The Col. said to lead off to the right of the regiment first and then we would work over to the left. We visited every firing trench and out post on our front until we got down to a big sort of a valley on the extreme left of our Bn. front. ANother runner and I had crossed at the head of that valley before so when the Col. asked me if we could cross there I said that I had been across once and that it was much quicker than going away round by Cotton Trench, so he said lead on. I had some difficulty in finding a good place to go down the cut bank on the side of the canyon but found a place just in time. We had only just slid down when the German artillery opened on the side of the canyon where we had been. Evidently we had been seen for we must have stood out in relief to their view from the Green Cresio, one of the German observation posts, for the night was moon lit and the snow made a good back ground to see dark objects. We moved along the bottoms of the valley as fast as we could over the rough shell pitted (illegible, possibly: orchard) and we ran right into a lot of newly put out barbed wire. I was asked if I recognized the place and I said yes, but that wire had been put out since I had been there and also to watch out for one of our machine gun posts that was at a point not far behind the wire. The officers said that is alright as long as we are infront of our own wire. We crawled through the wire one at a time, the COl. first, then Major Chattell and then myself. When we got into the machine gun post about 20 yards behind the wire, the N.C.O. in charge of the post told us that it was only good luck that saved us for the gunners were ready to fire but on account of there only being three us they though if we were Germans they could capture us. The Col. took his bawling out for not keeping to the trench, in good part, and we wen on down the line. The Battalion on our left was the 43 Cameronians from Winnipeg. We went along their line for a piece up into City St Piere then back towards our own front again. On the way back we called in at a 43 Bn. company H.Q. in Minnie House to see the officers. Minnie House is a place where, when the Germans held this ground, they use to store the shells for their big minnie waffer mortar which we call minnies. This trip took us 5hrs. + 15 minutes.

Sunday, Jan 6.

I slept until 10 this morning and one of the fellows had something to eat ready when I woke. There has been nothing to do all day.

Monday, Jan 7.

I was out on a run to Bde. at Lieven this morning. The rest of the day I had nothing to do but ly around. Tonight I guided the Bde. gas corporal up to the right half of the Bn. to look at some curtain for to keep gas out of dugouts and fix some of the gas alarms. There was a lot of mail tonight including a parcel for me.

Tuesday, Jan 8.

Everything seems to be pretty quiets today and tonight I was to have gone out on rounds with Major Weaver, but instead I went to Bde. H.Q. and to the ration dump at Crow Dump just out of Lieven.

Wednesday, Jan 9.

All I had to do was to go out to the ration dump tonight.

Thursday, Jan 10

This, for being our last day of this trip, it has been pretty easy, I took the relief report to Bde and from there I met in with some more runners and we walked out to the camp at Souchez in preference to waiting for the train at Crow Dump, besides I don’t like standing around any kind of a dump where it is liable shelled at any minute. We were in camp about an hour ahead of the Regiment.

Friday Jan 11.

Our billets here are shantes with tiers of bunks. The runners are all in one small one. I’m tired so I stayed in bed all morning and never left the camp in the afternoon.

Saturday Jan 12

This is sure a dismal camp for there isn’t a village within miles and to make matters worse it is damp and cold. Between making runs I keep myself busy by salvaging wood from the ruins of old building by the camp. There is plenty of water for we are on the banks of the Souchez river. The river is about 10 feet wide. I had a bath today so I feel some better.

Sunday, Jan. 13.

I layed around most of the day then this evening I went on pass over to Fossé #10 at Bullie Grenade.

Monday, Jan. 14

This is the day I reserved for our big combined Christmas and New Year’s dinner. A big marker was put up for the occasion. I was on a detail to go and get wood to have fires in the tent and we had quite a time. Most of it we got from what was left of the ruins of the village of Souchez. The menu was good for the army and the pudding’s and so forth was so much out of the ordinary that we loaded our stomach to a point of discomfort. The officers had their big do in the evening and they sure had a wild time. Most of them were a little the worse for liquor and told everyone their takes of woes.

Tuesday, Jan. 15

The weather has changed and it is raining this morning. I’m on duty in the Orderly Room. The storm kept increasing and tonight there is a regular gale blowing and it is dark as pitch. I had quite a little running to do besides guiding some new drafts to their company billets.

Wednesday, Jan. 16.

I never left camp this morning but got my stuff all ready to go up the line again tonight. We are to be on the same front as last time (Avion just North of Lens). Several of us runners started out ahead of the Battalion and made good time in spite of the rain and bad weather. We went from Souchez via Lieven and Crow Dump the Brick Kilms in the support line. Tonight Major Weaver went on rounds to see everything was alright after the relief and I was to go too. The night was dark as could be and the trenches had so much muck in them that we had to travel overland lal the way. After each company had been visited and on our way back we both almost slipped down a crater that had been blown in the road right behind the front line. Both of us would had gone to the bottom of it if a gun flash had not shown us where we were just then. The Major and I were both plastered with mud when we got back H’d Q’rs.

Thursday, Jan. 17

This is Papa’s birthday and I wonder what he is doing. I wasn’t up very early for there was nothing to do and no reason for getting out until I felt like it. I have a new pair of pants out at the transport lines but I didn’t bring them in because they would get too dirty this trip so I have my old ones on and they gave out entirely at the seat last night. Today I fixed in a piece of sand bag to cover my nakedness until I get out of the line again. The trenches are still half full of slush in a lot of places. I was out on a run to Brigade this afternoon and when I came in I brought a can of water. THe weather tonight is fine and the sky clear.

Friday, Jan. 18.

There has been nothing today but read and cook our meals. Our sector of the front has been quiet all day until dusk and a couple German batteries opened up. There was nothing of any importance hit. I don’t expect any run tonight and I sincerely hope this is none.

(The piece of Sand Bag in the seat of my trousers cause a few boils which makes standing more comfortable than sitting.)

Saturday, Jan. 19.

The weather is still improving and the trenches are being drained and are drying up nicely. There was nothing to do until dark and I went on a Brigade run and carried in a couple cans of water on my way back. Another runner and myself took a message over to the two of our left companies about midnight. We made exceptionally good time by going over the top instead of following the trenches.

Sunday, Jan 20.

It rained a little early this morning but not enough to make anything worse. Today is the day we move back for rest. I had no runs to make to day so several of us started at 7:30 P.M. for the first stage of our march. The road was shelled a little as we went through Lieven but we arrived at Aix-Noulette in good time. The runners billets are over an estaminet and it is a good place.

Monday, Jan. 21.

A few of us were late getting up so were late for dinner. We would have been out of luck if it hadn’t been the cook was in good humour and have us a hand out. Tonight the Quarter Master sent my pants up to me and when I got them they were 38” around the waist so I had to send them back. I was sorry too for the sandbag in my seat of my old ones is scalding me something fierce. I’m going to bed early for we will be on the move again tomorrow.

Tuesday, June. 22.

(This is Harts Birthday)

I was up fairly early this morning because we are to move to Hersin Coupigny where we are to stay for a short time. There wasn’t room in the first lorry train for all of us so some of us were left to see the last lorries through with some stuff that was to go. We had to wait all day at an estaminet at Aix Noulette and then it was just limbers that arrived at 6 P.M. and we had to walk to Hersin. The Town Major of Aix Noulette came in while we were waiting and I had quite a talk with him, which whiled away the time some. It looks as though we are going to have a little rain soon, but it held off until we got to Hersin Coupigny. I had one run to make after I arrived and then I hunted a bed. The billets here are almost a quarter of a mile from the centre of this mining town and situated in a woods. The buildings are ones built by the French and are large and cold. The beds were bunks three tiers high of chicken wire stretched over strings. The beds are comfortable enough if the chicken wire didn’t let so much cold up from underneath.

Wednesday, Jan 23

Today our section found room in another huts which I think is much better. The paymasters doled out 25 francs a piece today and now we can change off from army rations for a couple of meals. Tonight one of the two fellows on duty wanted to go some place and he asked me if I would relieve him for the evening and I did. There was very much to do so we got off quite early.

Thurs. Jan. 24.

I’m on duty today station at a sub H.Q. at the mess. There has been nothing out of the ordinary today and I came off duty at 9:30 P.M.

Friday, Jan. 25

I wasn’t up until noon today, the first time I have stayed in bed so long for a long time. This after noon I took a walk down through Hersin. The town was shelled pretty heavy around the station this evening, some civilians were hurt.

Saturday, Jan. 26.

A bunch of us cleaned up our hut this morning and this afternoon. I went to town and bought a few odds and ends.

Sun. Jan. 27

I washed and shaved up before breakfast and then went on duty. There is a service I would have liked to attend but I can’t go. I have only had two runs all day. There is a heavy fog tonight.

Monday, Jan 28.

Today I thought I would fill in the time by cleaning my harness up a little and put a glitter on my buttons and baines buckles. I could go out of camp the rest of the day for my dress belt was still wet from being washed. About the only place to go is the estaminet and I don;t care about sitting around there.

Tuesday, Jan 29

I finished the polishing and cleaning that I started yesterday, then went over to the gas school to have my helmet tested. My helmet was o.k. There are a couple nurses and a doctor stationed at this gas school to take care of any accidents through defective helmets. The Princess Patricas concert party have a concert tonight and it was pretty good.

Wednesday, Jan 30

I was on duty today but nothing of importance occurred.

Thursday, Jan 31.

There is quite a little frost day about all I did was write some letter and play a few games of checkers at the “Y”.

Friday, Feb. 1.

This isn’t my day for duty but some of the fellows are away without leave so some one has to do the work so that they won’t be missed. There was very little to do though until evening.

Saturday, Feb. 2.

We were inspected today by General MacDonell Brigadier General this morning and I nearly froze standing around. Then we were called out for another inspection this afternoon but the communications section was dismissed we were glad for it was so cold to stand out there.

Sunday. Feb. 3.

About all I did today was to go down to the “Y” recreation hut to do some writing but it was so crowded that I didn’t stay. The cold weather seems to be driving every one inside.

Monday, Feb. 4.

This is my day on duty and I was on at the mess for the phones have been taken out and a means of communication has to be kept up. Towards evening I was stationed at the orderly room and there was lots to do there. I was late getting off duty and I had no sooner got into bed then I was called out on a run to Brigade.

Tuesday, Feb. 5.

The Brigadier was around and inspected us in our huts this morning and he seemed to think everything was O.K. for he didn’t say anything. There was an inter company football game played this afternoon so I went over to see it. It sure was a poor game on the part of Head Quarters. The 9th field ambulance concert party put on a play tonight entitled the “Private Secretary” and it was a dandy, one of the best I’ve seen them play. I’m not sure whether I’m on duty tomorrow or not.

Wednesday, Feb. 6.

I’m on duty alright but there is nothing to do. I sit around and wrote a few letters. Col. Palmer called a regimental inspection this morning but the communication section was not out for they don’t carry rifles. There was another football game between “B” Coy. and H.Q. H.Q. was last as usual. I crawled in my blankets at 7:30 because I thought it was too cold to sit up and look wise.

Thursday, Feb. 7.

I put in an extra day on duty today because I want to go on pass tomorrow. It sure is a miserable day. Cold rain and high winds do add to anyone comfort when they have be out in it. The paymaster opened his heart and money bag today and have us each 20 francs. I didn’t get to bed until 12 o’clock tonight.

Friday, Feb. 8.

I got my pass alright to go to see Frank Fowler at Fresnicourt but I didn’t start out until noon because I had to do a little polishing up. I borrowed a bicycle for the trip. It was pretty hard work going over for the road was bad and a lot of hills to climb. Frank was there alright and looks in pretty good health. I have a nice couple of hours with him then started back. There were the advantages of both wind and down grade coming back so I coasted most of the way, but I gave just covered with mud before I got to my billet. The first thing to do when I got back was clean the bicycle and then hang up my clothes to dry so I could brush out the mud in the morning and then got in my bunk and wrote some letters.

Saturday, Feb. 9.

Well I have to pay for my joy ride yesterday by cleaning my clothes, they sure are in a mess. A letter came from the base today say that Gordon Guild’s body had been found and that his people had been notified of all particulars. A padre found his body just in the trench I thought it was at the Somme. The Rambles Concert party put on a show tonight and it was good.

Sunday, Feb. 10.

There is very little to write about today. I was to Hersin and bought some candles. This evening I got into my blankets early and read a book until nearly midnight.

Monday, Feb. 11.

I’m on duty again today but this has been one of the easiest days I have had although there were two or three late tuns.

Tuesday, Feb. 12

I read all day today and read two books. “Craven Fortune” by M. White and another book “The Conspirators” I went to see the 3rd Divisional concert party “The Dumbbells” give a play tonight and it was great.

Wednesday, Feb. 13.

The rain don’t seem to let up these days at all. We are short handed in the runners section just now so I’m on duty every second day. There was much to do so I was off today only tonight.

Thursday, Feb. 14.

It is sure getting monotonous staying in this camp, there is scarcely anything to do and no where to go, just look at the rain and then go out and get wet for a change.

Friday, Feb 15.

I was on duty again today but I only had two runs of any consequence.

Sat, Feb. 16.

I have nothing to do and no where to go and am stony brike. I got a pair of boots from the Quarter Master and they hurt my feet some but may be alright after I have worn them a while.

Sunday, Feb. 17.

The weather has changed at last. It is nice and frosty, just like a fall day at home. I’m on duty today. There was to have been a church parade this morning but the Boche was shelling Hersin Coupigny and the parade was cancelled. Barlin was shelled too.

Monday, Feb. 18

I started to make an identification disc today out of a French bullet. It was pretty near finished by evening, then I started to get ready for a sham fight tomorrow, but later I found I wouldn’t be on it for I’m for duty tomorrow.

Tuesday, Feb. 19.

I sure glad I don’t have to go on the march and sham fight today and I won’t have much to do here. The bn. Stayed out until 3 P.M. and after that we were kept busy until midnight.

Wednesday Feb. 20.

Another inspection came off this morning. I fully expected to be bawled out for my equipment not being a clean as it might have been but I didn’t. The ground was frozen this morning and at noon it started to rain and thawed everything out. The advance party of the 50th Bn. arrived here today to take over the camp but we won’t be leaving until the morning.

Thursday, Feb. 21.

I was up early today for I had to get my kit ready for the march before I go on duty. Three wasnt very much to do before we moved off and our kits are being carried for us so the march is going to be light. We started out from Coupigny at 10 a.m. and we stopped on the road just out side of Aix Noulette for tea and grub. The march was good and we arrived in Hill camp at the quarry line before dusk. Our camp is just on the ground where our old front line was in front of Neuville St. Vaast and La Targette before we took Vimy Ridge. My first duty was to find report centre for Bde HQ was not that far advanced. I was off duty early.

Friday, Feb. 22.

It rained some today about I have done today was get a little wood for the fire in our hut and go over to the transport lines to get a few things for myself and see Fred Richards (uncle) tonight there was a picture show at the “y” it was nothing extra but past a little time.

Saturday Feb 23.

I tried to get some new clothes today but before I went to the C.Q.M.S. I traded some of my clothes with another fellow that had some worn more than mine and succeeded in getting new ones for them. I had a bath too and change of underwear so I feel pretty nifty. I have money for I was paid.

Tuesday, March 12.

It is exactly three years ago today since I took the final oath and signed the last paper which put me at the command of King george V of England and what stands for modern civilization. It is a shame that at this late date that men can’t use other weapons than force of arms to settle disputes, but it has been forced on us and we either have to fight or be trampled on by the tyranny that the Tuetannie races would throw over us and what we believe to be a Christian civilization as we see it, and what we believe to be the foundation of a universal civilization which will do away with conflict by arms between nations. It is to be hoped that those of us who are fortunate enough to come through this war may see the day when savagery and mechanized war will be only a thing of past history.

I was up at 4.a.m. and had my breakfast at 4:30. At 6 o’clock we got on the train at Boulogne and started for the battle zone. It was quite cold when we started but as the day wore on it got awful hot and stuffy in the cars for we were packed in so tightly as they could do it to some handing extra cars. Those of us who had to go right to the end of the otel(illegible) were sure thankful when we pulled in by Mont. St. Eloy (Eloi) for we had ridden all day so cramped up. Our transport is situated back of Souchez and I made a bee line for there about five miles away.

Wednesday, March 13.

I didn’t get up very early this morning for I didn’t feel like it, but I managed to get some breakfast any way. After I washed and shaved I went to the rear orderly room to see what the orders were and I was told to report up the line sometime before stand too this evening. There was plenty of time so I went and played a little ball and had dinner before starting to the line. There were for of us coming back off leave and we started out together. We crossed Vimy Ridge at the bluffs and got into the communication trench at the other side just at Brigade Head Quarters and follow along the wrench to Prains Duggouts which is our Support Head Quarters on the Battalion H.Q. at the ruins of the old brewery at La Culotte. The brewery is situated in a kind of a low spot so there is no trench right close to it because you can walk around close to the place without being seen by the Germans. This is Avion front near Lens. All the mail there was waiting for me when I got back from leave was a card and a letter. This is good place in one of the wine rooms with lots of bricks and broken iron on top of it. It looks like a jews junk pile from the outside but it would take a big shell which would have to be a direct hit to bust it in.

Thursday, March 14

My turn for duty won’t come till the afternoon or evening so I didn’t get up until about 10 a.m. It sure is a nice day outside but the trouble with us here, we are like badgers it isn’t very safe to go out in day light and mouby (illegible) around for more pleasure night is our time. A while after dinner I was sent on a run to all companies with another fellow. He was supposed to know these trenches but got tangled up and lost his directions so I had to find the way around for myself. Every thing was pretty quiet everywhere but on our right company front, there were some shells and trench mortars being thrown around there. After supper I was put on what we called the runners post. It was always manned by the runners at night. It is an implacement built for our section to make a stand with bombs and machine and to watch and listen for gows(illegible). I was on duty at the post for two hours then I had to be ready for a run any time during the night. Well I got eight letters in the mail tonight, the most I have got at once for some time. I have to do something in my spare time tonight so I answered some of them.

Friday, March 15

I slept until quite late this morning for I was up all night. This is my oldest sisters birthday (Eleanor) and I wonder how she is celebrating it. I didn’t have any daylight runs today so I answered a few more letters. Tonight I was on guard rounds with Major Weaver who was acting as second in command. We visited every outpost around the line and it just took us five hours flat.

Sunday, March 17.

This is the 17th of Ireland. I was up early and did two hours on gas sentry. This is a fine day and our airmen are pretty busy scouting and came quite a little excitement for the watchers in the trenches. I had one run to the C.E.’s that gave me a chance to stretch my legs well then when I cam back I did two hours gas sentry. During the time I was on sentry there was a few salvos of gas shells drop around the brewery so I gave the alarm and dropped all the gas curtains of the dugouts. The wind kept the gas moving back of us so there wasn’t as much annoyance caused by it as there was from the cope fries filling the dugouts with fumes when the curtains were down. I got two letters tonight. One from Gladys Guild and one from Rose Thompsett.

Monday, March 18.

I was up early and took a disposition report to Bde. It was just a nice walk before breakfast. I got my break-fast and laid down for a rest and at 11:20 I was warned to do 6 days gas sentry on Bde. H.Q. and to get my pack ready and leave. It sure has been warm all day and I was good and warm walking around to Bde. My place to sleep is a deep, damp dugout and I don’t like it at all. I did my first sentry go from 6 to 8 P.M. Two hours on and eight off. There was a few shells thrown our way but nothing to give alarm for.

Tuesday, March 19.

It has been raining ever since 6 o’clock this morning and the trenches are in a bad state. I had an shift on sentry today and got soaking wet. I don’t go on again until 12 notight.

Wednesday, March 20.

I had a good tour on duty last night and also my shift before dinner it is getting to be hot again. I went over to the Battalion during my hours off and got one letter. This is a pretty slow job for there is absolutely nothing to do except for two hours on sentry go every so often and time hangs heavy.

Thursday, March 21.

The night has been very quiet almost too quiet for that is usually the fore runner of something out of the ordinary on a battle front. I went on duty at 6 A.M. after I came off duty I slipped over to the regiment to see if I had any mail but there was none. I think to receive mail is one of the biggest things in the life of a soldier in the trenches it gives him something to think about and the people waiting at home are not the only ones afious about the others welfare. It has been very hot and I think I lost a pound in perspiration going over to the Battalion. We are being paid in the trenches today because we can spend some in the y.m.c.a. that is situated in the support line or send money out to the transport and have them get what we want. I didn’t draw any for I have a few francs left so I’ll let my back pay accumulate a little. I did two hours duty this afternoon.

Friday, March 22.

I was on duty from 2 to 4 this morning and there seems to be a lot of activity on both sides of us. When I came off duty I heard that the big german offensive that we have expected has started to the south of us. They made some head way during the early hours of the morning but not so very much damage has been down. I was over to the Bn. again to see how every thing was going and incidentally ask about mail. I got the photos I had taken of myself the last day I was in London and they were good. They are post card size then I had three small for to put in a locket for to send home and to Hilda and one to put in the back of my watch for an extra identification if anything should happen me. I went on duty for two hours at noon and then slipped over to the Bn. for a little while even if it is in the support line.

Saturday, March 23.

I understand that the Germans have made quite an advance but haven’t got back to beyond the old line where they were before we routed them in 1916 during the battle of the Somme except in a few places towards Amiens. Nothing has started towards the north of us yet and only the right flank of the Canadians at Oppy has been struck but without any success. I did two shifts on duty today and visited the Bn. again. THey are still in the supports at Prains dug outs but I expect to be back with them in time to go up to the front.

Sunday, March 24.

The Hun seems peeved this morning at 4:45 for I had to crawl out and stand too. The bombardment lasted 45 minutes, but the most intense part of it was 32 minutes it was more on the 1st division front than it ours. There was an attack made but was repulsed. This is our last day on Bde. and I left for my unit just after dinner at Prains Dugouts. I was detailed to go on the all (illegible) party up to the line to take over. Heiny seem quiets and our releif made right after dark came off with out a hitch. I got a letter from Jesse James an old chum of mine who has been drafted into the 43 Cameronian Highlanders in the same division I am in, the 3rd Division. I’m going to try and see just chance I have.

Monday, March 25.

Two years ago today was the first time our battalion had experienced a real inferno in Belgium, Flanders. We had seen action before that but that was the time that it dawned on us the superiority the Germans in amount of equipment of war. What men we had were good men but we didn’t have near enough and very little artillery to support us. Every man seemed to resign himself to what might come and so stood put and bluffed the Dutchmen and got away with it too. It was a battle, nerve vs. artillery then, but now it is difficult for we have as much as he has.

I had one run to Bde. today and the weather has sure been ideal.

Tuesday, March 26.

A stand too was called this morning early for the wind was just right for the Germans to put over gas, but none came. I was on three runs during the day, then tonight I was out over the line and out posts with Major Weaver. It was midnight when we came in so I made some tea and then laid down.

Wednesday, March 27.

Last night our airmen were pretty busy for I could see ammunition dumps going up and fires here and there away to the back of the German line. I have not any anything to do today. The weather is cooler and just about right. At midnight tonight the battalion on our left put on a raid so I went out to see it.

Thursday, March 28

There has been a lot of activity to our right this morning. The Dutchman are trying to make good their last big kick. I had a poor night last night when I tried to sleep for I think I have caught a few more lice or a fresh back have hatched. We have been standing too all morning. Miller and I had a run up to the C.E.’s this afternoon and we had a kind of narrow shave on the way back. THe trench we had to come in was being shelled and trench mortars of the minenwerfer variety were traversing that particular line. The gods of war with us for we never run into anything. The stand too was called off at 10 P.M. then we handed in the rations. The management of the maple leaf club in London must have got a hold of that guy with my razor for I got a letter stating that he broke my razor but would send me money for it or another razor. The trenches are getting gluey again for it rained all afternoon and tonight.

Good Friday, March 29.

About the only difference between today and any other day, as far as I have noticed, is the name. The sun is shining and getting everything dried up nicely again and the wind is high but blowing toward the germans which is a favour to us. Heiny is a little tough today and is throwing an extra ration or two of explosions at us. I haven’t been out all day for have the emergency runs for tonight. Since dark everything has quietened down except for an occasional rifle crack or a small bomb exploding.

Saturday, March 30.

I only had a message or two to carry between the signal office and the orderly room last night, but just as I started to get breakfast this morning I was sent to Bde. so lost out on the grub till I got back near noon. I snatched a couple hours of sleep this afternoon because it will be well after midnight likely before I have another chance. There are two runs and scouts have to remain till the relief is complete tonight for guides and to carry the relief message to Bde, and I was unfortunate enough to be one of the four. When the relief was made and everything taken over we started for Piano Dugouts where the support is but it was bad travelling on account of the condition of the trenches due to the rain that was falling and the pitchy blackness of the night. We got in about midnight soaked to the skin and I was so tired I laid down and went to sleep for I had no sleep last night on account of being on duty. My clothes dried out nicely on my back.

Easter Sunday, March 31.

I was up early and feeling fine this morning after having a shave and a good wash I was called to go out with Colonel Palmer to the Bn. on the right. We went to Brigade Head Quarters first and then over to the right of our battalion to visit 42nd Battalion Black Watch Highlanders our twin regiment who were in support there. Their condition over there is about the same as ours, happy though muddy and waterlogged. We took the same route back as we took going and called at Bde again it was well on in the afternoon when we got home and after I got some dinner I wrote a few letters. The sky sure looked funny tonight, just as brightly colored as emily Turner painted a picture and to add to that there was a rainbus(last part illegible). It might have been any day as far as appearances go.

Monday, April 1.

April fools day is here again and starting out a new month. I’m on duty for the day so was up early. The Germans have been lively this morning but they have been getting a little more thrown back at them then they throw at us. A German airman succeeded in puncturing four of our Kite balloons one after the other this morning but I hear he was brought down a little farther down behind our lines. It has been warm today but tonight has turned quite cool. Canadian mail came in today with the rations and I got four letters.

Tuesday, April 2.

It was 10 o’clock when I got my breakfast this morning because I didn’t get off duty until midnight last night. At noon today I relieved a fellow while he got his dinner then read and write letters most of the afternoon. I thought I had caught up with my correspondence today but a few more straggling letters from Canada came in tonight. It is sure nice to get letters every day.

Wednesday, April 3.

I’m getting lazy in the supports for I can’t seem to roll out of my blankets till all hours unless I’m called for duty. By the time I had cleaned up and had some breakfast it was almost noon. We have run out of candles so we have got a little coalail from the officers batman and now all I have to do is make a lamp out of a jam tin with a piece of sandbag for a wick. My lamp works pretty good. A couple of nights ago I gave my ankle a little twist and it is still bothering some. The line has been quieter today than it has been at any time for a week. I relieved a man to so he could go for his supper and he didn’t come back so I guess I’m on until morning. Two more letters came tonight. One from Home and one from Hilda.

Thursday, April 4

In the early hours this morning I wrote a letter while I was waiting around on duty and then tried to have a sleep sitting up but I got so cramped it took me about an hour to get uncramped. At 9:30 I was relieved and I went to bed, but could sleep very well. After dinner I went with an officer to Bde then guided some new drafts to their companies.

Friday. April 5.

I’m to take a party out to bring in water this morning. These new draft men for theu were what the party was mostly composed of, were about the greenest outfit I ever had anything to do with. I expected we would be blown up half a dozen times before we got back. They either didn’t value their lives or didn’t know enough to keep out of sight of the Duchesian for they were always stretching their neck to see if they could see a Hun and it lucky he didn’t see them or possibly let them get away with it. It was funny to see them trying to carry two cans of water down the trench. There are a few things about those carrying parties that they will soon learn and one of them is that to travel in a trench you need at least one hand free, so devise a plan to sling everything on your shoulders then you can ease your hands as well as you got to get along for trench matts are not always certain footing. There is one thing that I found out before we all got back that most of these fellows didn’t have to learn, and that was the art of very expressive cursing, most of them had a very elaborate vocabulary and they used it as a kind of a relief for pullings towards the guy that started the war making it necessary to carry cans of water through battered trenches. It was noon when I got back so I cook some dinner for four of us. Our rations were fine last night so we dined on steak and onions today. I relieved the man on duty for to get his dinner then got my stuff all ready to move up to the front again at dark. The support line is a little quieter but out home under the ruins of the brewery at La Coulotte is much more comfortable. The relief was executed like clock works and now we are settled in the line. Curled up in my blanket about midnight.

Tuesday, May 7.

At 3:30 this morning we were all up and making ready for a march to our next billets. In two hours we were ready to move off. We did 25 kilometres by 1:30. The name of the town we are billeted in is Fauquenham. The closest town to this is Le Air which is only across the street from Fauquenham. During the march today it rained a lot so I haven’t a dry stitch on me. A barn and no heat of any kind don’t make during cloths any easy job. I couldn’t hang them out side for it was still raining so I did the next best thing, roll up in my blanket and dry my cloths on me while I had a snooze. The guns up the line are all rumbling pretty steady, I suppose the lads uo the line are having there troubles.

Wednesday, May 8.

I’m on duty today but there has been nothing to do. Every one is settling down as though they figure on staying here a long. I know we have earned a good long rest, but where we get it or not is another thing, such is life in the army.

Thursday, May 9.

It has turned out very hot today. I was up early and had a good clean up intending to walk around a little and get a better idea of what was around this place. My plans were not to be carried out, for I was detailed to go along with MacIsaac and four scouts on a reconnoitring party along the La Basse canal. This particular section of the line was on our left when we were in on Vimy Ridge, and in the gap left by the Portuguese when the Germans started their drive around the 22nd of March, this spring. The Portuguese dropped everything and run when the attack started leaving our flank unprotected. The object in sending us up there is to locate as near as possible the German out-post line and to plan good route for guiding troops into good positions on short notice. It was late in the afternoon when we had found out all we wanted to know and drawn our maps for reference. During our scouting around we located the positions of three enemy posts. They are having it pretty easy, for they are just holding on and have very little to worry them at this point just now. On our way home we came through Lillers and Acodac (Ecquedecques). There are only a few civilians in either town for both have been quite badly battered by shell fire. The Portuguese area is policed by their troops. The Canadians do not get along well with them and there was trouble there just this afternoon. We had some trouble getting through and had a brush with the Portuguese but nothing very serious happened, except Jim Earle, one of our scouts lost his revolver in the melee. The way the trouble came up was that Portuguese tried to make us go out around the town and not through it. The town is out of bounds to visiting troops, but we were on duty and could take the most direct route. I think, partly because we were tired, and partly because these Portuguese, by their cowardice, had caused us so much extra to do both today and in the line, we were in no mood to be argued with especially by them; so when they tried to force us to go some other way than through the town, we refused and it ended by us chasing the police around the town square of Acodac. There was several shots fired but as far as I know, no one was hit. It only took a little while till patrols were on the streets so we broke up in pairs and got out of town the best we could and returned to our billets at Fauquenham. There was a y.m.c.a. concert tonight that I attended and then went right to bed.

Friday, May 10

I was intending to go over to the 43rd Cameron Highlanders from Winnipeg to see an old friend of mine, Jesse James, but could go for I couldn’t borrow a bicycle, anywhere and it is too far to walk. This morning I wrote a couple letters then went over to the gas outpost to get a new helmet. The one I have has a shrapnel hole in it and is no use. Major Hardstone was over to visit the 49th today and I had quite a long talk with him. Wish any of the fellows had his dinner I went on orderly room till he came back. Our band just arrived so I showed them their billets to was to be. We have had to stand to in the evenings for several days now, but I think it is a precaution and not that there is anything actually going on. I heard tonight that a staff officer of the Portuguese was over this afternoon to lay a charge against numbers of our Battalion for raising a riot in Acodac, but as the officer could not fix the charge against any one in particular, Col. Palmer refused to accept the charge until, as he told the Portuguese, there was some one definitely charged. I think the Col. knew well enough the ones that were the culprits, and he sure did a good turn for us, for it would have meant a court martial had we been taken up.

Saturday, May 11.

I was over to the range today to practice a few shots with my gun. It has been kind of damp and sultry today. After dinner some of us went over to the baths at Le Air and had a clean up. I sure needed it for I am a lost as a pit coon. This evening I played bull for a while.

Sunday, May 12.

This is mothers’ day so I wrote some letters between run for I’m on duty today. I had to go over for some plugs at a place 5 kilometres away and they were so big, had to tie them to my wheel and push it all the way back. We are having a sort of field day today. Both our football and baseball teams won from the railway troops. I didn’t get finished duty until midnight.

Monday, May 13.

The is a big field practice on today to keep us in shape in case the war continues I guess. I didn’t have to go out so I did relieving a meal times for those on duty.

Tuesday, May 14.

Field operations again today and I couldn’t get out of it. We was the attacking party and we won our objective against the 52 Battalion. Movements were made under cover of smoke screens, where ever it was possible. We came back to billets about 3 in the afternoon. The Dumbells put on a concert at the “y” tonight so I went over. There was no room inside so I stood out side of an open window. It wasn’t as good as sitting down, but I heard and saw as much as anyone else.

Wednesday, May 15.

I’m on duty again today, but it hasn’t been very hard. There was one long run to a village called Boracgusc. On my way home I tried to find a short eat with the wheel and I got into more difficulties than if I had taken the road. Today all the runners section got their pictures taken in a group at a place in Le Air. It will male a good souvenir.

Thursday, May 16.

I’m on a holiday today so I stayed in my blanket until noon. I made an extra special clean up of my self and my clothes today and I think I have most of the trench marks off now. There was a good game of baseball between the Princess Pats and the 49th today and the score was 7 to 5 in our favour. Tonight a bunch of us borrow a bat and indoor ball from the y.m.c.a. And had a good game. The guns up the line to the south and north are loud tonight. I hope it don’t mean any sudden move for us.

Friday, May 17.

The last day or two has been given up mainly to sports. Our battalion and Brigade Headquarters played baseball today and the score was 8 to 7 in our favour. I think we have about as good a team as there is in the Canadians.We had a little boxing tournament in the stable we call home, but theu were not decision fights, just sports and to limber up a little. There was another concert at the “y” hut but it was too crowded to get near it.

Sunday, May 19.

I slept most of the day for it is too warm to go out very much, I missed my dinner as well. There was several more Canadian letters for me today. It is sure nice to hear from every one and know everything is O.K. Uncle Fred got home safely and was discharged from the army april 22. I wrote several letters tonight and went to sleep again.

Monday, May 20.

Well we had some field manouveurs again today, and there was some real excitement. One Princess Pat. was wounded, one 43rd fellow was killed. As a grand final the 42nd charged the position of the 115th and the “do” ended in a free for all fist fight. It was quire a fight and look like real war. Some Imperial concert party put on a show but it wasn’t very good.

Tuesday, May 21.

I was on duty today, but I had a tremble from my wheel and sprained my ankle. My food was too painful so I got off early today and layed down. It is payday in the camp so quite a few of the fellows are pretty noisy tonight.

Wed. May 22.

I went to the medical Sergt. And got some embrication for my ankle, it is still pretty sore but a lot better. There was little excitement early this morning. A chinese labour unit mutined and our Brigade had to go out and round them up. The chinamen killed their English Sergt. And an officer. We succeeded in getting them rounded up on top of a hill, then set machine guns around the base and told them we would shoot when the first man moved if they didn’t decide to obey orders. They sat there til about noon and then sent word that they were willing to conform to army rules and behave themselves. They had an idea that they were being discriminated again that they did not get Corned Beef (Bully-Beef) in their rations the same as line service troops. Their ration was better than ours though if they had only known it, a working unit gets more than a line unit. There was to have been a game of ball between some artillery and our team but the artillery didn’t show up. We are going to have some sports in a few days and let the French civics in some of the competitions so we tried out a few young fellows in boxing and one showed up pretty well.

Thursday May 23.

The weather today is a relief from the heat we have had the last while. My twisted ankle is still giving me trouble so I reported to the medical officer and was relieved of duty again today. All the machine gun men are standing too in case the Chinese labor battalion break loose on the campage again. The football gamethat was to have been played off with our team and the artillery didn’t come off as was planned. The boys are trying to promote some sports among the civilians and today a number of young fellows were tried out with the gloves. There was one young bout that seem to be real astute in boxing. The weather is growing still cooler tonight it is quite chilly. I rolled in early for I want to give my ankle all the chance I can.

Friday, May 24.

By way of a change (and this being Victoria Day) it was planned to have brigade manoeuvres. The planning was alright, but just about the time arrived at the battle area the rain just came down in sheets so the whole show was cancelled and we marched home to dry out and be as comfortable as possible.

Saturday, May 25

My foot feels pretty well again but I’m not overworking it any. This afternoon there was intercompany sports and later a game of baseball between our regimental team and a team from the 7th brigade trench mortars. The sports were good although and to give it a real finish the baseball game ended in our favour. I don’t usually believe the best team won because the T.M.B. pitcher got too excited when our routers bawled and hawled, had he kept his head we would have lost. The y.m.c.a. showed the picture tonight “Under Two Flags”. It sure was great.

Sunday, May 26.

This morning there was little or nothing to do so I went over to the “y” and borrowed a medicine ball to toss around for a while for exercise. The brigade sports were held at H. Hillaire this afternoon. I didn’t enter in anything this year. Our regiment was the biggest winners and the little Frenchman we trained out pointed all the others that were put up by other Battalions in boxing.

Monday, May 27

The manoeuvres that was planned for the 24th was carried out today. It was the usual stuff, move a little way and sit down, then do it again. There was only a few runs today and most of them were made after the boys came back to camp.

Tuesday, May 28

Our ball team got a set back today by the Royal Canadian Regiment. That was about all of account today. The german airmen did a little more bombing around here tonight but didn’t land any in the town.

Wednesday, may 29.

It is just 3 years ago this evening since I left Edmonton to come overseas. Since that time I have been through everything with the regiment, but nothing really serious has happened to me yet. I sincerely hope it will be over for better or worse this fall. We were given a little try-out on the rifle ranges today and my average was fair. During a little nap I took this afternoon, I had a dream that I had gone home, I seemed to have met everyone and then gone over to the southside and we had a general get together of the clan. When I’m not on duty there seems so little to do and no where to go that time hangs heavy on my hands.

Thursday, May 30

I’m on duty today but it has been very slow. This afternoon there was nothing to do but sit around and welter in the hut and the evening is very much better.

Friday, May 31.

The only thing outside the heat today, that could be considered of moment is that fact that the Divisional signallers beat our team in a game of baseball.

Saturday, June 1

The weather still continues hot and I don’t believe I would have ambition to do very much that took energy if the occasion did arise. I pitched a couple games of horse-shoes and then watched a game of base-ball between our team and the 31st Battery of artillery, we shot a lucky break and won.

The 43rd Cameronian Highlanders of Winnipeg were billeted not far from here so Jesse Pearson and I went over to see Jesse James an old friend of ours, but when we enquired we were told that he had been killed at Jig-Saw Wood in the advance, August 28th, I felt sorry about that.

1. Likely Hassé [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Rubempré [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. Vadencourt [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. Montrelet [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. Canaples [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. Pys [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. Kenora [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. Mont St. Eloi [↑](#footnote-ref-7)