



Transcript

Daniel Roppel Diary

Pages December 1918 to 1919

A2014.052.001

This is a transcription of the **final pages** of the Diary of Daniel Roppel, 1916-1919, A2014.052.001.

Digital images of all pages of this diary are available to view online at collections.brucemuseum.ca.

Entries dated from 2016 to December 21, 2018 appear to have been rewritten by Daniel Roppel into a separate book (A2014.052.002), with some additions and omissions. A transcription of that entire diary may be viewed online at collections.brucemuseum.ca.

Dec. 8/18

I take a trip to [?] with ____ we go up a railroad track about two kms until we come to the main road, here we get a lorry which takes us as far as [Magy?] from here we get another one which takes us the balance of the way in all the trip is about 30km one way, we return before five o'clock.

Dec. 14/18

Left Tilly at 8:00 and go as far as Louvain, go through some very nice country. We leave Louvain Station and march through the main street to an old barrack where some Belgians are billeted, we are also billeted here. In the evening, we attend a theatre.

Dec. 15/18

We remain in Louvain all day.

Dec. 16/18

Leave Louvain at 9:00 and proceed on to Luge, where we arrive at 4:00 we wait here until 8:00 we are then taken up to an empty house near the canal where we put up for the night.

Dec. 17/18

We leave the house and go to the station where we got off the night before but are told here we must proceed onto the other station. We get on the train at 12:00 noon. We pass through Verviers and come to Aachen the first German town, we proceed on to [Deven?] where we arrive at 4:30 we get off here and draw rations, get on the train again and got to Bonn, we arrive here at 9:30pm. We are billeted in a hospital for the night, we also draw rations here.

Dec. 18/18

We hang around Bonn until about 1 pm and then get on the tram cars and go to Godesburg. We are billeted here in private houses. I am in a place with Parker there are only three in the house, an old couple and a maid. people are called Oppenhoff.

Dec. 19/18

We get paid in the morning, get 60 marks. In the afternoon go to Bonn with Clay and Blake. We attend a show.

Dec. 20/18

We attend parade at 9:30 have rifle inspection after this Clay and myself get a tram and go to Bonn, here we get another tram which takes us to Cologne we remain in Cologne until 4:00 pm we also cross the Rhine twice. Return to Bonn and have a supper in the Continental Hotel after which we return to Godesburg.

Dec. 21/18

Parade as day previously, underclothing is also issued between 1 & 2 o'clock.

Dec. 23/18

Clay and myself got to Cologne again have dinner in a Hotel not far from the cathedral. We visit the cathedral. We leave Bonn at 11:29 by train get to the station at Cologne at 12:15. We return at four o'clock at an electric railway. Have supper at the Continental Hotel return to Godesburg at 7:30.

Dec. 24/18

We are warned at 7:30 to move at 8:45. We pack up and go to the parade ground but the company had moved so Parker and myself take a tram to Bonn, we pass the company on the way. We get off at the station and wait around until 10:00 we then march down the track to the freight station, and are here loaded in box cars. The trains pull out at 12:00 we go through Escursion (place where rations are stolen), Durem, Aachen, Harbenstal. We cross the Frontier at 12:05 pm.

Dec 25./18

We pass through Luge, Hamur, Charbury, [?], [?], Dewar.

Dec 26/18

Through Arnas, [?], Etaples, and get as far as Camilas. Here we are side tracked and are taken back to Aubrin St. [?] here we get off and march about 4K to camp, have supper here.

Dec. 27/18

Rain all day, no parades.

Dec. 28/18

I go down to Hisdin which is about five K up the track. I get some German money at the French Bank. I get 6 [?] for a mark.

Dec 31/18

Rain nearly all day, it clears off in the evening at midnight the Band plays Auld Lang Syne, Oh Canada, there is quite a bit of noise by the ring of guns and rifles and [?]. A large amount of flares are also fired.

Jan. 4/19

I get new boots and pants at the stores.

Jan. 9/19

We leave Aubrin. St [?] in box cars and go as far as new Siding (Etaples), here we get off and march up to a camp past the Labour pool, land here at about 8:30pm.

Jan. 10/19

We get clean clothes and a steam bath in the afternoon we draw equipment, in the evening I go to the cinema.

Jan. 11/19

We draw the remainder of our kit have a check roll call and march down to the Station about 11 pm and load up for Havre.

Jan. 12/19

We travel all day via Abbeville, Rouin and arrive at Havre at 6:30pm. We are marched down to the camp and billeted in huts, are issued with meal tickets.

Jan. 13/19

We have a medical inspection in the forenoon and fall in full march up order at 1:30 pm and march down to the docks and load up on the Charles which pulls out at 6 pm.

Jan. 14/19

We arrive at Southampton at 2 am but do not get off the boat until 9 am from the boat we are marched down to one of the large ware houses, where we get lunch and a cup of tea from the N.A.C.B. free of charge. At 10:30 am we get on the train which takes us direct to Milford Station, here we get off and march to camp a distance of about 3 miles. At [?] we are split up A to L in one camp and N to Z in the other.

Jan. 17/19

My leave comes through and I go to Kenmel Park via London, I stopped over at [?] for the night.

Jan. 18/19

I have Crews and proceed to Rhyle via Chester. I get off at Kenmil Park and go to the camp and enquire for Gordon, but after several unsuccessful attempts I gave it up and went back in the afternoon, landed at Easton Station at about 11:30 pm and put up for the night at the Y.M.C.A near Waterloo Station.

Jan. 25/19

My leave is up and I return to Milford by the 10:36 pm. I came to camp and turn in my pass.

Jan. 28/19

Charlie, Albert and myself go to Guildford by taxi and return by tram nearly pinched for not having a pass.

Jan. 30/19

I parade to the orderly room and inquire about my M.B.

Feb. 1/19

I get my board in the forenoon, am complete for Dispatch Lines.

Feb. 3/19

I am moved over to the dispatch lines, in the evening I go down to Godalming with Charlie and Clay.

Feb. 4/19

We parade at 8:30 am to the Q.M. stores and draw any deficiency of kit.

Feb. 6/19

I sign my L.P.C. in the forenoon, I miss the afternoon parade.

Feb. 11/19

I leave Witley Camp at 8:30 am the band plays us down to the station we get on the train which pulls out about 10 am, we go via Woking, Birmingham, Creuve, Chester, to Abergile, we arrive here at 9 pm and have to march about six miles to camp (Kinmel Park camp).

Feb. 13/19

We move from our first camp over to camp 13 which was formerly occupied by the [?].

Feb. 16/19

We move again to the sailing company.

Feb. 21/19

I go on to escort duty to a place called Mole as [?] about from St Asaph station to fetch back two prisoners. I get back to camp 9:30 pm.

4/3/19

I sign my gratuity paper in the afternoon.

4/3/19

A riot breaks out at all over the camp, all canteens are raided and goods taken away. [Plans?] are smashed, Y.M.C.A.s are almost levelled to the ground, officers and Sgts mess is smashed.

5/3/19

The riot lasts all day, there is no parades still continues to smash up places, the cavalry turn out and try to stop the riot, the officers, Sgts [?] [?] and several men they turn back while the rioters continue. In all the casualties were 29 killed and around fifty injured seriously.

6/3/19

We parade at 8:30 am and General Turner gives us a speech and tells us about the next sailings. The reason for the riot was on account of men being in the camp too

long and taking conscripts home ahead of volunteers, not fairly paid, poor food, no passes.

9/3/19

I parade up to the O.C. about seeing why I was not being placed on draft.

14/3/19

My name is called out on draft. 31 and I have medical inspection and get ready to leave the following morning.

15/3/19

I get up at 5:30 am have breakfast, turn in blankets and fall in at 6:30 am. We march down to the Abergele Station a distance of about three miles, here we are given our boat tickets and are put on board the train. We arrive at Liverpool docks about 10 o'clock, are given a cup of coffee by the A.R.C. and are then marched down to the boat. We get on the boat, I get a hammock and have to sleep in the mess room. The boat pulls out at 6:30 pm. I am put on first watch this first night.

17/3/19

We get paid one pound and get a ticket for \$5.00.

18/3/19

I report sick, am told I've got the mumps and am put to bed in a part of the ship which is supposed to be isolated.

24/3/19

We arrive at Halifax at about 7:30. I am warned to get ready to leave the boat which has anchored out on the bay for the night. I am taken off in a tug boat and taken to a little island called (Lolleers) here there is a civilian hospital that is fitted up for isolation. I remain here until April 3/19.

April 4/19

I leave the island and am taken by the tug to Halifax harbor, I get off here and am taken to Wellington Barracks by ambulance, are informed here that we have come to the wrong place, so are taken to Pier 2, here we remain for the night.

April 5/19

We get paid and at 2 pm get our kit ready. The Northland pulls into the dock and the troops get off. I fall in with the Toronto party and am put on the train. We pull out of Halifax at 6:30 pm go via Truro, Charlottetown.

April 6/19

We come to Montreal at 10am go through Belleville, Kingston, and pull into Toronto at 10:15 pm.

April 7/19

At the Exhibition grounds the band plays us up to the transportation building, here the fellows meet their friends. After 20 mins we fall in again and are marched down to the demobilization building. I find out here that my papers have not turned up. So I have to stay at the Horticultural building for the night.

April 8/19

I met Albert Parker in the forenoon and he takes me up to his home, I get dinner here and return to barracks, I make enquiries and find out that my papers have not arrived I make application for leave and get seven days. I go on through to Palmerston to Port Elgin.

April 14/19

[?] to Toronto. Martha meets me at the Station.