



Transcript

Daniel Roppel Diary, 1915-1918

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Inside front cover:

#308698

Dan Roppel, #3 Can. I.W. Coy, #1 Platoon, #2 Section.

Nov. 17/15

Enlisted at Prince Albert Sask. In the 65th Battalion and stayed with them up to the 20 of Dec. at this time Prince Albert is turned into recruiting area "C" I then put in for a transfer to the 96 Highlanders, this is turned down. I put in for another transfer to the Artillery.

Jan. 31/16

My transfer to the artillery comes through; to a party about fifty are taken on the strength of the 44th. Battery, stationed at Winnipeg. We were two days on the trip to Winnipeg. We went via Saskatoon to Brandon. On landing at Winnipeg we are taken up to McDermid Ave. Here we are billeted in old building, which belonged to the Underwood typewriter Co. We get our meals at the 10 Battalion who are stationed in Scotts fruit building

Feb. 19/16

We draw some kit preparatory to proceeding to Eng. We also have frill in the Public School grounds, and lectures in an old church. The lectures are given by Lieut. Richardson. On the 17 we are inspected by Sam Hughes' brother at the exhibition grounds.

Feb. 23/16

Had a very quiet trip and monotonous up to the 22 inst. we then pass through Cobalt & on the 23 pull into North Bay. We get [out] of here and march through the town, the civilian band being in attendance. The train starts again at 3 P.M. and we have no more stops of any account until striking [sic] Montreal.

Feb. 24/16

Have an uneventful trip until coming to Moncton, N.B. Here we get off again and have the band in attendance.

Feb. 28/16

We arrive at St. John N.S. and are put on board the "Missanabia" which pulls out on 29th.

March 13/16

We arrive at Plymouth and are put on board the train which pulls out at 1:30 A.M. We land at Liphook, Hants at 6:30 P.M. and are marched to Bramshoff Camp a distance of about three miles.

April 5/16

I get six days leave which I spend in London.

April 23/16

We are moved from Bramshott Camp to Witley Camp, a distance of seven or eight miles on the main line to London.

June 27/16

We go for manoeuvres [sic] to Hankley Common, a distance of about six miles, rehearse for the Kings inspection.

July 1/16

We have the King's inspection, the whole third division artillery and D.A.C. are present, also several brigades of the fourth division infantry.

July 14/16

We leave Witley Camp at 6:30 A.M. and proceed to Godalming, here we load up the horses guns and limbers. Train pulls out about 9 A.M. Unload all the horses and limbers, water the horses and take them aboard the boat and while the dock

hands load up the limbers. We have got to unload a train of mail and carry it to the docks The boat pulls out of Southampton at sunset.

July 15/16

Land is in sight at seven o'clock, we pull in the dock at 8 A.M. and commence unloading. As soon as everything is unloaded we hook in and go to the rest camp, a distance of three miles. Here we are issued with gas masks & H.P. helmets.

July 16/16

Have revulle [sic] at 5 A.M. and immediately after breakfast, proceed down to the train, here we again load up everything. The train does not pull out until 7:30 P.M.

July 17/16

We travel all night passing through Rouin and Abbeville and arrive at Goderswalds, Belgium at 1:30 P.M. We unload and hook in and proceed to Winezele, a distance of seven kilometers. Here we are billeted in an old farm stable.

July 25/16

We leave the lines and travel up to Bousboum which is about five miles from Ypres and two miles from Poperhinghe.

July 28/16

A party of about twenty men go up to the gun pits, passing through Ypres town, through the gate and over the moat which is known as the Menin road. We are allowed only two men every 200 yds. I pass over the railway track at the corner known as Shrapnel Corner on Suicide Ave. It was here that I heard the first enemy shell which was an overhead shrapnel. After going a short distance farther down the road, we came to a narrow guage[sic?] track which we followed for about half a mile. It ran for about half a mile, it ran right past the Battery position, which had formerly been occupied by some of those Battery.

July 31/16

I have got to go up to the front line trenches to carry messages from our J.P. to Battalion Hdqrs. I am on this job for 48 hours . Then return to Bty.

August 6/16

Three of our men are wounded by a shrapnel shell. Percy Luck. Sie Creighton, and a Sgt.

August 8/16

Capt. Agnew signaling Capt. takes fever and is taken to Hospital.

Sept 12/16

Moved from horse lines at Busbaum to Steinworde for a rest.

Sept 20/16

We go into action again. Our horse lines are at a place called Westoutre. We go into action at Kimmel Hill, which is noted for the charge of the 16th. Can Scottish. This proves to be a very quiet position, the nearest shells landing in Dickebusch lake a distance of half a mile.

Oct 2/16

Battery pulls out of action and gets ready for the trip to the Somme.

Oct 3/16

We start for the Somme, passing through Bailleul, Missimes, the other side of which we camped for the night.

Oct 4/16

Start again passing through Merville, Lillers, and Burboise-sur-Com. We camp here for the night.

Oct 5/16

Camped in an open field with rain all night. Sgt. Seaton meets with an accident, by his rifle, which he was carrying on his saddle going off. The bullet going through his foot.

Oct 6/16

Last day of the trek. We camp outside of Alberh, in an open field. It is the town that the statue of the Virgin Mary is leaning from the tower of a large church. It is leaning horizontally. It rained nearly every day of the march.

Oct 7/16

We work around horse lines and get some wood for cook.

Oct 9/16

A party of us are detailed to get some stakes out of the barbed wire entanglement at Alberh. At 4:30 I am warned to get packed up ready to go with the guns to the position. We go through Alberh and up the Bafaume road for nearly six miles. Then we have got to go across shell torn country. There are twelve teams for each gun. Arrive at position at 12:30 A.M. and relieve a R.F.A. Battery.

Oct 10/16

Things are fairly quiet all day, but a lively bombardment arrives up in the evening, and lasts all night.

Oct 11/16

During the day some shells come fairly close.

Oct 12/16

Firing moderate in forenoon. In the afternoon we have gun fire and the Infantry take a small village.

Oct 13/16

We have several horses wounded while bringing up ammunition.

Oct 14/16

I take a message down to the horse lines to the captain and return to Poziers Ridge at 7:30 PM.

Oct 15/16

I am mess orderlie for the day, and after getting breakfast return to gun fit & we commence to dig some trenches from pit to pit while digging I come across some small brass objects resembling a lead funnel. While examining it, it exploded blowing away part of the thumb, first and second fingers of the left hand. A field dressing is put on and I am taken to the Bgde doctor who dresses it again. From here I am taken via horse ambulance to a dressing station on the Bafaume road. Here my hand is dressed again. From here I am taken by an ambulance to C.C.S. no. 9. Here My hand is again dressed.

Oct 16/16

I remain around C.C.s. all day, have my hand dressed several times.

Oct 17/16

In the evening a large party of us are put aboard a hospital train. We travel all night.

Oct 18/16

We are still on the train and in the evening pull into Etretat station. Here we get off and are marched to hospital. First of all we have supper then a bath and blue clothes are issued us.

Oct 19/16

In the afternoon we attend a concert in which Harry Lauder takes part.

Oct 20/16

In the morning we are taken in ambulances driven by ladies to La Havre, a distance of fifteen miles. On landing at Havre we are taken on board the Asturias. We pull out at sunset and arrive at Southampton Harbour at about 1:30 AM.

Oct 21/16

The boat pulls up to the dock and we get off and are put on board a train. We travel all day up to 8:30 PM. Our destination being a town called Northfield not far from Birmingham. Here we are taken to a large asylum which has been converted into a hospital. On arriving we are given a good bath and clean clothes after which we get a good hot supper.

Nov 5/16

I go down to Northfield from there I get a bus as far as Birmingham where we are admitted free of charge to theatres and picture show.

Dec 12/16

I am moved from 5A ward to 7A or the concert hall as it was called. A Canadian Sister is in charge here on the day shift. Her name is Belle McInnes.

Dec 25/16

We had a good Xmas day. In the morning each Canadian was presented with a sock full of cigarettes, tobacco, chocolate, etc. Had a exceptionally good dinner and supper.

Feb 23/17

I am taken to the detention ward as there were orders from Hdqrs to put me under close arrest as there were some inquiries being made as to how I got wounded.

Feb 27/17

I am released and taken back to the ward I had left (7A).

Feb 28/17

I have got to move to Sister Burns' ward (5A) for an operation.

Mar 2/17

I have the operation. Part of my second finger being amputated and the bone in the first one is scraped.

Mar 7/17

I move back to 7A ward.

Mar 23/17

I leave Bhamg Hospital and proceed to Bearwood Can. Conv. Hosp. Wokingham, Berkshire.

May 1/17

I draw kit and am taken to Epsom Conv. Hospital. Here I am put in A division nearby the cinema.

May 25/17

Am taken from hospital under escort to Shorncliffe Kent. Am taken to Ross Barracks here and put into the guard room, some more enquiries as to how I was wounded.

May 28/17

I am taken in front of several doctors for medical reclassification.

June 2/17

I fall in at 7:30 AM full marching order with a Sgt. and two men for an escort. We march down to Folkstone docks here. We are marched aboard a boat. We have Folkstone about three o'clock and arrive at Boulegne at 4:30 PM. We get off here and are marched up to the camp a distance of four miles up a very steep hill. Here I am placed in the Guard room for the night.

June 6/17

Leave camp at 9 AM and march until 12:30 PM. We then have dinner at a village called Chartelle. We march again all afternoon until 6:30 then arrive at Etaples. It

was very hot all day. In the evening there was a thunder storm and a lot of rain. I had been placed in the C.G.B.D. guard room.

June 10

I leave Etaples under escort and go to New Siding Station, catch the train there. We travel until 3 PM. By this time we have arrived at the C.C.R.C. at Calonne-Recourt. We stay here for the night with the escort.

June 11/17

Left Calonne at 10 AM and marched for about three miles then caught a lorry which took us as far as Bethune. We have dinner at a YMCA and then catch another lorry which took us to Barlin a distance of about 10 miles. We get off here and march to Brckencourt, are billeted here for the night.

June 12/17

Left Brackencourt at 9 AM and march to Villers-au-bois. Here we catch another lorry as far as St. Eloi. From here we again march to a place called Fort George. Here I am turned over to the 40th Battery, am only there about an hour and am then taken to the 31 Battery. Here I meet the boys of the right section of the old 44 Battery.

June 13/17

I leave the horse lines and go over Vimy Ridge to the Bty position at Petch Vimy. From the Battery I am taken to Brigade Hdqrs. where I have a summary of evidence taken for the FGC? I remain at the Bty position for the night.

June 14/17

I stay around the gun positions all day. In the afternoon I scan some papers concerning the FGC? I remain all night.

June 15/17

I leave the guns early in the morning and we go over Vimy Ridge past Goodman's tunnel to the horse lines. Here I am put in a tent which is supposed to be the guard room.

June 16/17

Parker and me go to the YMCA and then over to the 32 Battery where I met the boys of the left section of the old 44 Bty.

June 22/17

My trial comes off at the 3rd DAC Hdqrs. It lasts all forenoon and part of the afternoon. I am eventually dismissed and we return to the lines.

June 23/17

I make application for a medical board.

July 9/17

A German aeroplane comes over very low and attacks one of our observation balloons but fails to bring it down. The machine returned undamaged.

July 17/17

Bombardier Pascoe & me go to the A.D.M.S. we go on horseback. The ADMS is stationed at Chateau de la Hai a distance of about 8 miles. On our way back we pass through Fremin Capelle Aiq Mont St. Eloi and villers au Bois.

July 19/17

I leave the horse lines in the evening and go up to the gun positions which are past Petch Vimy. We go through Neuville St. Vaast. On our way up Sgt Dunkley accompanied me.

July 20/17

I leave the Battery and go to Bgde Hdqrs. From here I am taken to Spandor house, a relay station for runners and also a telephone exchange. It is on La Foyle farm. My duties here are to carry orders from the House to Bgde. Hdqrs. situated on the Arras Lens road near Petit Vimy.

July 22/17

The 116th Battalion make a raid between Avion & Lens. They capture 60 prisoners.

July 24/17

Ninth Brigade Hdqrs move out.

July 26/17

I leave La Foyle farm in the morning and go as far as Arras-Bethune road. Here we jump a lorry which takes us through Carency to Hersin Coupigny. We get off here and walk to Noeux La Mines where the 3rd D.A.C. [Divisional Ammunition Column?] are billeted. Here we separate and return to our respective units. I go as far as Magingarbe and stay in a hut with some 16th Can. Scottish.

July 27/17

I leave Magingarbe and come to my unit who are stationed at a place called Les Brebis. In the afternoon I go for pay.

Aug 3/17

Enemy shells the 33 Bty horse lines, kills one man, wounds another. Also kills 17 horses & wounds several others.

Aug 8/17

The Battery leaves Les Brebis and move to Noeux La Mines a distance of five miles farther back. Here our horse lines are close to a railway station, where there was once a large mine shaft. The part of the town we are in is called Bracquemont. A severe thunder storm comes on shortly after we pull in.

Aug 15/17

It's a Sunday. A party of us are paraded to the baths near the town square and church.

Aug 22/17

A German aeorplane comes over at night and drops bombs a short distance to the left of our horse lines.

Aug 23/17

I pack up and leave the lines with the Major's batman, Holman. We go through the villages of Bracquemont, Mazingarbc, Les Brebis, Bully Grenay and Myrock and finally come to the gun pits.

Aug 24/17

I stay around the Bty all forenoon on the afternoon I take my kit over to Brigade Hdqrs. Here I am given a runners' duties which consisted of taking orders to and from Battery to Brigade. I am put on gas [friequel?] the same night.

Aug 25/17

Is a fine clear day & Fritz shells the ration road between Btys and Bgde heavily. At night he shells Loos with his new kind of gas shells.

Aug 26/17

Enemy shells roads heavily and has two direct hits on one of the guns of the Bty RFA. It starts to rain early in the evening.

Aug 27/17

Very wet all day not much shelling on either side.

Aug 28/17

Weather fine, am on duty in the telephone pit.

Aug 29/17

Very squally all night and it is my turn for night dispatch. I make a trip at night with the RFA runner. On our way up to the 45 Bty we are blown into a trench by shells. We get up and go about 100 yds farther when another shell lands not 15 ft from us, but luckily it was a dud.

Aug 30/17

Very quiet a little rain in the afternoon.

Aug 31/17

Heavy shelling in Myrock all day, weather is fine.

Sept 1/17

Exceptionally quiet all day and night.

Sept 2/17

Enemy shells our Bty all day, one gun is unrecognisable[sic] and another is badly damaged. In the R.E.A. he gets a direct hit on a dugout, one had a leg broken, and five others suffer from shock and gas.

Sept 3/17

A clear day and enemy registers on several roads.

Sept 4/17

A splendid day for observation, and in the afternoon the enemy register on all roads and foot paths. At 12 o'clock he opens up with a heavy barrage of gas shells, we are forced to wear gas masks for nearly sixteen hours.

Sept 5/17

Bryan and myself make a trip around the Batteries early in the morning. After which we pack up and go through Myrock, Bully [Grenay], Les Bribes, Muzingarbe, Hersin, Sains-en Gohelle, Bouvegney, Peter Servins, Gouy Servins, Grand Servins, Estree Couchee, Mingoal, Bethonsart, Frivillers, by the time we arrive at the last town it is very late, so we put up for the night in a French barn.

Sept 6/17

We leave early in the morning, and go to Magnicourt where the Bgde Hdqrs are stationed here we have got to take messages to the 33 & 45 Batteries.

Sept 7/17

Weather fine and I have to take a trip daily to the different Btys.

Sept 17/17

I pack up and leave Magnicourt from Bgde. [Traverse?] lines at two oclock[sic] by the mail lorry which takes me as far as Houdain, he [sic] I get another as far as Chateau-de-la-Haye. I get of [sic] at the corner where the road branches of[sic] to St. Eloi from here I walk with my kit, through St. Eloi past Berthoneal farm to the La Jargette road, report to the 3 C.D.A. Hdqrs after reporting I am sent over to Aux Ritz R.E. Dump, for the purpose of loading railway trucks. I am am[sic] unable to do this work and enquiries are made. in the meantime I am given a place to stay for the night.

Sept 18/17

A Lieut in the C.E. informs me that I am not needed, and am to return to my unit immediately. I take my kit over to the 3rd D.P.C. and get the mail truck going through to Magnicourt. I arrive here at 130 P.M. after having dinner I went over to the sports. A squadron of the 8th Hodsons Horse (Hindus) give us as exhibition of horsemanship, and truck riding. One of the Battalion Bands were in attendance.

Sept 22/17

We leave Magnicourt at 8.30 A.M. and move up the line to within a couple of miles of St. Eloi on the way we pass through Frevillers, Bethonsart, Mingoval, Villers Chatel, Cambliu-Noeul, and Camblain-Abbe.

Sept 27/17

A German plane comes over in the afternoon, and sets fire to one of our balloons on fire, on on[sic] his way back brings down one of our scout planes, it gets to his lines safely. In the evening at bout eight oclock a plane comes over very low and sets fire to another of our balloons. It is though[sic] to be the same one that came over in the morning, however this time on his way back she is brought down by one of our machines which had fun flying around some clouds. The pilot was shot through the shoulder & head.

Sept 28/17

One of the men from the Battery comes to relieve me and I return to the Bty which was then lying close to the La Targette, St. Eloi road.

Sept 29/17

I am placed under arrest for refusing to carry a message, on grounds that I was physically unfit to go up in the forward area, and that I could not put a gas mask on fast enough.

Sept 30/17

I[sic] the afternoon Gordon and I leave the horse lines and go up to the Battery lying in front of Petit Vimy. Here I am paraded in front of Major Ryerson, who remands me for the O.C. I am taken up to Lieut Col. Ralston commanding 10th Bgde, but he can do nothing as I do not belong to his unit. I go back to the position where I remain for the night.

Oct 1/17

I am again taken in front of O.C. 10th Bgde. But he finds out that I am not in his Bgde. So I have to be taken to 9th Hdqrs., we return to horse lines. In the evening at 6.30 P.M. Sig. Stevens, Capt. Thompson, S.M. Stittles and myself go to 9th Hdqrs. here I am taken in front of Major Massie who tries to give me 28 first field and leave cancelled for six months, I refuse his punishment, and am given a F.G.C.M. [Field General Court Martial?]

Oct 7/17

Is nice weather for a while in the morning, in the afternoon, it rains & doesn't stop until the following morning.

Oct 9/17

We move from our lines to Estrue Couchee here we have huts and stables.

Oct 10/17

It rains all day and in the afternoon I go over to Bgde. where Major McKinnon takes the summary of evidence for my trial.

Oct 11/17

The weather is fairly fine and Bty. gets paid.

Oct 12/17

It rains all day, we get issued with heavy underclothing in the forenoon.

Oct 13/17

We pull out of Estree Conchise, and go to Vedue Les Bethune via Hersin, Coupigny, Noeux-La Mine. It rains nearly all day.

Oct 14/17

We have reveille at 4.30 A.M. and are of[sic] again at 8. A.M., we pass over the Basee canal, Rebecqu St. Vinant, and come to Stienbeekie, here we stay for the night.

Oct 15/17

We leave early in the morning a[sic] go through Hagebrouck to Gorders raldt we stay her for the night.

Oct 16/17

The[sic] pulls out at 9 AM. And we march through the town and over the border into Belgium to a place called Watou, there is a little rain in the evening.

Oct 17/17

The Battery leaves the lines at Watou at 10AM we come to Poperhinghe up to a place called Flamertinghe. Our horse lines are only a short distance from this ruined town.

Oct 21/17

A German aeroplane drops bombs near our gun park which is about 100 yards from our bivouac. The same morning the Bty goes into action, they relieve an Australian Battery, the front line is over eight miles from the horse lines. We get paid in the forenoon.

Oct 22/17

Myself, witnesses and escort leave horse lines and proceed to 3 C.D.O.C. for my C.M., the trial however is put of[sic] until the following day. Some more bombs are dropped in the evening near our lines and the rail head.

Oct 23/17

We go to 3rd C.D.A.C. Hdqrs. I have my trial and am found not guilty after which I am ~~dismiss~~ dismissed. It rains most of the forenoon. After coming back I am put on night prequel, as all the drivers had make a trip up to the guns with ammunition.

Oct 28/17

I go with Brogdon to Reningheist & Poperhenge for canteen supplies.

Oct 30/17

I am given a permanent job in the canteen & have to make daily trips to Ouderdoom, & Reninghers.

Nov 21/17

The Battery pulls out of Flamertinghe at 5.45 A.M. and go through Ouderdoom, Reningherst, Bailleul to a town about five miles the other side of Bailleul, the place we left had caused 21 casualties including one officer.

Nov 22/17

We leave the lines and march through Merville to St. Venant here we camp for the night. It rains a little in the afternoon.

Nov 23/17

We leave the lines at 10 A.M. and march via Lillers to a small town called Ames, and put up here. A fine day.

Nov 24/17

We fix up horse lines and clean vehicles, it rains later on in the day.

Nov 26/17

I am sent by Capt. Gibson to Brigade as a runner.

Nov 29/17

The Brigade is inspected by General Lipsett & Mitchell.

Nov 30/17

I report sick, and get a certificate from the doctor to say that I am not fit, so I return to Brigade.

Dec 2/17

We have our gas masks tested and I get a new one. In the evening I am relieved and report back to the Battery.

Dec 3/17

I report sick in the morning, and get my hand dressed. I also ask for a M.B. in the afternoon I go in front of the A.D.M.S., and am told I will be sent to the base in nine or ten days.

Dec 4/17

There is another Bgde inspection by General Morrison.

Dec 9/17

I pack up and go by transport to Lillers station leave here at 6.30 P.M. passing through Hazebrouck, to Etaphs. There we report to the C.G.B.D. and are paraded to Doctor's who give me a board on the 17. inst.

Dec 17/17

I get my board and get category B1 which means Labour Battalion or railway companies.

Dec 18/17

I am moved up to the Labour Pool.

Dec 22/17

We are paraded for Pay and draw 25 Francs.

Dec 25/17

Xmas Day it is warm & bright all day, our breakfast is the same as usual, for dinner we had roast turkey, boiled ham, potatoes, dressings, gravy, cabbage, carrots, cigarette & tobacco, plum pudding & brandy sauce.

Jan 5/18

I go on a draft with fifty others from the Pool. We leave Etaples at 9 A.M. on box cars, go as far as Calonne Ricoust. Here we are billeted in French houses.

Jan 6/18

We leave the billets and parade in the square, but have to wait until 12:30 PM for two motor buses on which we are loaded. Our destination is Fort George, about two miles from St. Eloi. Here we get off and are marched to camp, where we are split up amongst the different companies.

Jan 7/18

We have a medical inspection.

Jan 8/18

We work on the plank road between St. Eloi & Arras Lens road.

Jan 21/18

We leave camp and march down to Zwig Dump. Here we join No 3 Company. C.L.B. remain here for the night.

Jan 22/18

The party leaves Zwig in the forenoon and go to dugouts on this Arras Lens road. At night we go out on a working party about a mile the other side of Vimy station.

Jan 28/18

We quit the road work and work on the narrow guage railway. We go to Fossel each night and fill trucks with slag, which we have got to unload again at Vimy road.

Feb 24/18

We go to Neuville St Road for a bath and change of clothes.

Feb 28/18

I get my riding boots from No. 1 Evy. C.L.B. where I had them repaired.

March 15/18

I am warned to get ready to go on leave. I go to Neuville St. Vaust baths and get a clean change of clothes, after which we have to return to the Ridge and work. A large bunch of aeroplanes come over and bomb during the night.

March 16/18

La Cross and myself sleep at Livvy dump, have an inspection at 8:30 AM then go down to Batt. Hdqrs. Here we have another inspection, are paid and given our passes and leave camp at 1:30 AM. and proceed to St. Eloi station. We pick up a lorry. The train pulls out at 2:45 P. We change at Arras pass, through [A?] and change at Amiens again. We pull into the Gare du Nord at 10:30 PM are conducted by CMP to a bus which takes us direct to Pepiniere Barracks. Here we have our passes stamped & are given a good supper at the YMCA after which we are taken to Hotel Marlboro near the Madeline.

March 17/18

I leave the Hotel at 10:30 AM after having booked my room again. The price was 5 F a night. I go to Pepiniere Barracks for pay. After being paid I go to the YMCA and meet Wm Brower who had gone a day ahead of me. I go with him to his Hotel (Hotel Vivonne). We attend a show in the evening and I return to Marlboro for the night.

March 18/18

I go with Wm down to Eiffel Tower & the Grand Rue.

March 22/18

I get on an electric train and go to Versailles, a distance of about nine miles, visit Napoleon's home. On my way back I go to Museum Invalidus in the evening & go to the Alhambra Theatre.

March 23/18

The Big Berthas open up for & the first time the aeroplane alarm is sounded.

March 31/18

I leave the Grand Hotel and go to the Gare du Nord for the train which does not pull out until 3:35. It starts to rain shortly after coming to the outskirts of Paris.

April 1/18

The train passes through Amiens at about 10 o'clock. Fritz was shelling and bombing the town heavily. The flashes and roar of the guns could be plainly heard. We arrive at the Etaples about 2:30 AM and rest at the YMCA for the night. At 9:30 we report over to the CGBD and are allotted to tents.

April 2/18

I come across Wm Brower again. We get paid & go to Paris Plage.

April 8/18

I leave Etaples on the 4:30 PM train & come as far as Calonne Ricourt. We get off here and are marched to billets.

April 9/18

We fall in at 8 AM but are dismissed later on.

April 10/18

We remain at our billets all day.

April 11/18

We leave by the 12:20 train, go back to St. Pol, change there & go on to St. Eloi. I get off here and go to Hdqrs. Coy & up to #3 Coy at Livvy Dump.

April 21/18

We go for a bath at Nereville St. Vaast.

April 29/18

Is my rest day, am taken to the baths.

May 5/18

All Canadians leave Lens area.

May 7/18

Rains heavy nearly all forenoon while we are digging trenches near La Foyle farm.

May 8/18

We continue to dig trenches at the farm. I go to the movies in the evening.

May 9/18

We parade down to #3 Coy. Here we are given rifles and squad drill in the forenoon. At noon we are warned to get ready to move. We leave our packs with the transport and wait around until 4 PM get supper and start off for Hdqrs. Coy. They ask for men for the MGS. Wm Brower & myself volunteer. The outfit marches off at 8:30 via the Arras Bethune road passing through to Souchez town & valley until we came to a trail leading to the right. Here we carry the MG [Machine Gun?] accessories up to a reserve trench about half a mile in rear of Calonne. There has been much heavy fighting in this district. There are several large mines that have been completely smashed by shell fire.

May 10/18

We move the MG into a valley nearer Calonne more to the right.

May 11/18

We move again up about 300 yds & make dugouts for ourselves.

May 12/18

In the forenoon we move again to a position in a chalk crater on a ridge overlooking the town of Calonne valley. We are on the outer flank of the battalion. We make dugouts for ourselves & mount the machine gun.

May 13/18

Rains nearly all day. Wm Brower & myself complete our dugouts.

May 14/18

In the forenoon the OC took us down to the range where we had some firing with the MG. In the evening we go to Calonne for water.

May 15/18

Six of us go for a bath, a distance of four miles. We go through a village called Aix-Noulette. In the evening we are paid 25 Francs.

May 16/18

Our aeroplanes are active all day & our bombers busy all night. I am mess orderly for the day.

May 17/18

We finish reserve MG position and dry out CT. It is warm all day. In the evening I go down to Aix-Noulette and meet Hagelwood E. I get back about 10 PM.

May 18/18

Very warm all day, a lively bombardment at night lasting until the morning.

May 20/18

We fire about four pans at a German aeroplane. Also have some target practice. In the evening Brower & myself go to Aix-Noulette, get some eggs and other canteen junk.

May 21/18

Very warm all day, a heavy bombardment on our left.

May 22/18

Warm, we make some souvenirs.

May 23/18

High wind all day, cool at night. We go to the Baths in the afternoon.

May 24/18

Rain all day. We get orders to move from Calonne supports to Aix-Noulette. We arrive here at 5:30 PM, are billeted in a brewery.

May 25/18

We go to work on a trench between Bully-Grinay & town good weather all day.

May 26/18

Very dull all day. Work same as day previously, get our packs & boots at night.

May 27/18

Nice weather. The MGS is on rest, have a clothing parade in the forenoon. We go for a walk to Sains, Gohille and Petch Sains. Fritz shells the town while we are there with HV shells. At night he shells the town with HV near our billets.

May 28/18

Fine weather. We work at Bully Grenay heavy shelling all day on a Battery on our left.

May 29/18

Pay night, get 25 Francs. We work at Fosse & near Magingarbe & La Brebes.

May 30/18

Work on the same job.

May 31/18

Same as day previously.

June 1/18

Fine all day, get issued with bayonets at night.

June 2/18

MGS rests. We have two hours drill in the forenoon.

June 3/18

We resume our work at La Brebes.

June 4/18

Same job.

June 5/18

We have a stand to at 5 AM. All clear at 9:30 AM. We return to our billets & have a rum issue. In the afternoon the MGS has got to go to Company Hdqrs & get the MG and ammunition, nice weather all day.

Jun 6/18

Fine weather. Shelling at one of our dumps nearby is blown up over 200 Stokes trench. Mortar shells go up as well as a lot of field gun ammunition. The entrance to our dugout is blown in by the force of the explosion and we have to wait until it is cleared from the outside by some of the boys. Brower, Wyatt, Clay, Bert & myself were in it at the time.

June 7/18

Nice weather. We work at Cherh Dump loading and unloading light railway cars.

June 8/18

Nice all day, same job as day previously. Capt. Williams returns from M.G. course at Camiers.

Jun 10/18

We go to work at 10 AM, go via lorries to in front of Bully Grenay, stop at a dressing station situated in an old fosse. We go on a wide [gauge] railway which was in a very deep cut. It was the main line between Lens and Bethune. At one time it had been a double track but one was taken up by the Germans in their retreat, so we worked to turn it into a road for timber & guns & ammunition. I meet some of the 32 Battery boys at their gun pits.

June 11/18

The same kind of work at the same place. Nice all day. Come back by lorries via Petrel Sains.

June 12/18

We work on gun pits in front of Bully Grenay.

June 13/18

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The same job. Nice all day.

June 14/18

A little rain in the forenoon. We work for a RTA Battery.

June 16/18

I work with the 24 Battery digging a trench in rear of the gun pits & up to them so they were all connected by trenches without getting up on top at all.

June 17/18

I am warned to get ready to go on an MG course. Three of us go to Bath Hdqrs. Here we get paid. We put our packs & junk in the wagon, also ride in it to St Eloi station via Bovigny and Villers au Bois. Our train pulls out at 3:45 PM. We go through Aubigny & St. Pol to Etaples. Here we change and go to Campiers. We are met by an MGS Srgt. who takes us down to the MGSD. There we are allotted to our different tents & get our supplies.

June 18/18

We do nothing all day. Grugan & me go down to Gubruil, a small village on the wash about two miles from camp.

June 19/18

We start on the course, have firing in the afternoon. We go to Camiers in the evening.

June 22/18

Grugan goes to the hospital with the flu.

June 26/18

The course is finished in the forenoon.

June 27/18

We got paid, & go down to the beach again in the evening.

June 28/18

Do nothing all day, we parade at 8 P.M. and are marched to the dining hall where we sleep.

June 29/18

Reveille at 2.30 A.M. breakfast at 2.45 A.M. fall in at 3.30 & move of[sic] at 4;00 A.M. we march to Etaples a distance of about four miles, we pass some of the hospitals that had been bombed, and flattened out.

The train pulls out of New Siding Station at 7 A.M. we get of[sic] at St. Eloi. We have got to wait there until 6.30 P.M. for waggons[sic] ~~for~~ to take us back to camp, we get back at about 11.30 P.M.

June 30/18

Do nothing all day draw my rifle and bayonet in the afternoon.

July 1/18

Dominion Day, we go to the Corps sports which are being held at a place called Tincques near Aubigney. We go with lorries 35 to a lorry. It is over twenty miles from camp.

July 2/18

Brower, Wyatt, & Clay, ~~go to Myrock~~ get innoculated[sic]. I go up to Myrock digging gun pits.

July 3/18

Same work in Myrock. Here all day.

July 4/18

Same job. Clay goes sick.

July 5/18

We go to Myrock again Clay & Jack Wyatt go to hospital.

July 6/18

Billie Brower goes sick and goes to hospital. I work at the same place at the same job.

July 7/18

Capt. Williams goes to Hdqrs Hospital and I go up to Hdqrs for a drill course.

July 12/18

I come back to Aix-Noulette where we are billeted in a Brewery.

July 13/18

We move from Aix- Noulette to Morieul a distance of about eight miles we march up, our packs are taken up by transport.

Wm. Brower comes back from hospital in the early afternoon. He goes to the new camp by truck.

July 14/18

We dig trenches around the camp.

July 16/18

We work on trenches near Berthonoul Farm.

July 18/18

We work on trenches near Arras.

Aug 14/18

We march to Aque and entrain there. We go to St. Pal, and are brought up on the Amiens line to a station the other side of Amiens a place called Boves. We sleep out in the open for the night.

Aug 15/18

We march as far as Marcel-Cave, and are taken in lorries the rest of the way a distance of nearly four miles, we camp there near a bush.

Aug 17/18

We work with the C.R.T. building tracks and sidings from Marcel-Cave to Miramont.

Aug 25/18

We move again this time it is to ~~Miramont~~ Miricourt Ribonont. I go by lorry the rest have got to march. We work with the C.R.T.'s

Aug 28/18

Move to Aveloy Woods, work with the same people. We go by lorries.

Sept 3/18

Wm. Brower leaves with a bunch of men that were [marked?] active. They march to Albert, Bell goes back to his Battalion the 50th.

Sept 6/18

We get on the train at Aveloy Woods and travel all night.

Sept 7/18

We get of[sic] at a place called Agnes-Douzons, here we go to rest camp & have breakfast. After which we get on lorries and go to Cherisy via Arras & Neville Vitasse. We unload here and march to Crocsilles Fontaine, these towns are absolutely flat.

Sept 9/18

We work on the roads.

Sept 17/18

Two fellows are wounded by a fellow striking a bomb which was partly buried but exploded. Clay & me fire at some aeroplanes during the night.

Sept 27/18

The company moves to a place called Cagnicourt.

Sept 29/18

We work on the roads between Cagnicourt and Buissy, a party of men also work at Quiant-Marques.

Oct 3/18

We work at Marquion at the station, there is heavy shelling at the crossroads on our right.

Oct 17/18

We move to Dury about five miles from Cagnicourt on the main Cambriar Arras Rd. [Seinae] work here.

Oct 20/18

We work at a place called Lecluse, this town has been flooded by the retreating Huns.

Oct 27/18

We move by lorries to a place called Abscon, all the civilians are still there, we were given a splendid reception. The people were robbed of nearly all the food stuffs that they had. I am billeted in a private house #20 We even get real beds to sleep on with white sheets.

Oct 29/18

We work at a little village called Aniche about two miles from Abscon. At night we unload a train of ammunition and rest the following day.

Nov 8/18

We work at a place called Eseuraein

Nov 15/18

Clay goes on leave to Blightly, and Morgan comes into his place in the billet. In the morning we turn in our shoots to a R.E. Dump. At 9 o'clock we fall in and have foot drill the rest of the day.

Nov 16/18

We have physical exercise in the forenoon, and foot drill in the afternoon.

Nov 11/18

The Armistice is signed, we attend the moving picture show ran by the R.F.C.

Nov 17/18

Same as day previous, it is very cold in the forenoon, we go for a route march as far as Samain.

Nov 18-19-20/18

We do the same as on the 11 Nov./18

Nov 20/18

We move of[sic] in full marching order, pass through Denain and are billeted in a large mansion or Chateau that has been broken up by the retreating Germans. The name of the village is Rauchiere

Nov 21/18

We march of[sic] at 10.00 A.M. through Valenceinnes, to a distance of about two miles the other side of the town. [I] put up in a small village, and sleep in abandoned houses some of which have been broken up by the Germans.

Nov 22/18

We leave in full marching order & march to a village called Onnaing, here we are billeted in a[sic] old pottery factory which has been blown up by the Huns. There are no civilians here. We get paid in the evening get 90 [francs]. Xmas pay

Nov 23/18

We march of[sic] at 9 A.M. in Battle order (no packs) march via Boussair (Belgium) a large town with cars and lots of civilians, to a place called Hornu two k past Boussair. We are billeted here in private houses I am billeted in a house with Parker near the crossroads to St. Thislain & Mons

Nov 24/18

Is sunday[sic] we rest here all day. In the evening I go to the canteens at St. Thislain and get some stuff for the people we are staying with also attend a

picture show at 6 P.M. Parker and myself had a ride on the cars to Boussair and back again, would take no fares from soldiers.

Nov 25/18

We pull out B.M.O. at 8 o'clock, march through Mons a larger town to a place called St. Samphorien. We were supposed to be billeted in private houses, but the [Belgs] had not moved out so we had to put up in a fertilizer factory, which is not in running order.

Nov 26/18

We march of[sic] at 8.15 A.M. to a town called Binche. It is a large town. I am billeted by myself in a house not far from the Grand Rue #36. The people own a butcher shop there is only a[sic] old woman and her two young daughters in the house. It is a real good place and the people are very kind.

Nov 27/18

We leave Binche at 8 o'clock and go in lorries via Namur and Charleir to a place called Tilly. It is about 35 miles from Binche. We are billeted in private houses with civilians. We are all billeted not far from the railway station.

Nov 28/18

The section falls in a 9 A.M. and are told of in there reliefs for guard duty. Six of us on for 12 hours 7 of[sic] for 24 hours.

Nov 30/18

Parker and myself are on the same shift but a different beat. The weather is fairly good.

Dec 8/18

I take a trip to Namur with Bokker we go up the railway track about two miles until we come to the main road. We get a lorry which only takes us as far as Mazy here we get another one and go the balance of the way. It was 60 k for the round trip. We return by 5 o'clock.

Dec 14/18

We leave Tilly in the forenoon and go as far as Louvain also pass through some very pretty country. We get off at Louvain Gare and have a guide there to meet us we march up the main drag, and go to an old barrack where some Belgians[sic] soldiers are billeted. We are billeted with them. Parker & myself attend a theatre in the evening.

Dec 15/18

We stay at ~~Lowa~~ Louvain all day.

Dec 16/18

Leave Louvain at 9 A.M. and proceed up to the station, we get aboard the train and arrive at Luge at 4 P.M. Have to walk around until 8 P.M. and are then to an empty house on the main street and near the canal we remain there for the night.

Dec 17/18

We leave the house early and go to the station. [Port] ~~have~~ are informed here that we must go to the other station. So get on street cars which take us all the way. The name of this station is Gare des Guillemins, get aboard the train at 12 noon. We pass through Verviers and cross the frontier between Belgium & Germany into our first German town its name is Aachen. From here we go on trains that are run by Germans we have a nice trip and make good time, our first stop is a good sized town called Duren we arrive here at 4.30 P.M. We draw rations here, some of the Grman[sic] people almost go crazy when they see us get our rations of bread white bread. On this night it happened to be half a loaf. We get on the train again and go to Bonn a great university & music town. We arrive here at 9.30 P.M. Are billeted in a German hospital or at least what was one at one time. We also draw some more rations here.

Dec 18/18

We hang round Bonn until about 1 P.M. and then get on a tram and go as far as Godesburg. We are billeted in private houses with German people. Bert Parker and I get the same house. It is #32 Auguste Strasse. The name of the people is Oppenhoff. The old man was at one time president of some factory but had retired of late years.

Dec 19/18

We get paid in the morning get 60 marks. I go to Bonn with Clay & Black. We attend a kino show.

Dec 20/18

Have a parade at 9 A.M. rifle inspection etc. After parade Clay & myself get to Bonn by the street car. At Bonn we go to the station and get on the train for Cologne we stay around Cologne until 4 P.M. I cross the river Rhine here. We return to Bonn by the street car it took about 45 minutes. Have supper in the Continental Hotel after which we return to Godesburg.

Dec 21/18

Parade as day previous, under clothing is issued in the afternoon. I go to Bonn towards evening.

Dec 23/18