

David Dumont Interview

I enlisted with the Regina Rifles originally and I stayed there. I enlisted cause everybody else was you know a lot of boys and they were all going, so I thought I may as well go too, that's all. It wasn't for glory, oh no way, like the boys were saying how the hell did they put that, "I'd sooner be a coward than be a dead hero." From Dundurn we went to Debert, Nova Scotia. From there we went over to England in 41', September, on the Empress of Russia. We had a Chinese crew and "waky, waky" every morning and I got so sick, sea sick that I had one meal all the way across, 7 days sucked on oranges and that's about it. From England we landed in Grannix, Scotland, we went to Aldershot, Ramley's Barracks and that's about it. We kept on training and everything but it was black out you know you couldn't see your hand in front of your eyes you know cause we weren't allowed no light no nothing at night.

D - DAY

We didn't know until it was, of course a few days before we were fenced in. We had American guards all around our area to close us in and everybody was not allowed out or anything if you had an accident. I remember one fellow broke his thumb boxing you know he couldn't go even go to hospital without guards and all that until we boarded the boat and went to France. I got sick there again, sea sick holy smokes everybody had issued what the army called puke vomit bag or something you know my god you had a little bag you had to puke in there and throw it overboard. Oh it was rough in the channel.

We landed, oh I'd say roughly about 8:00 o'clock in the morning. The Americans were first because of a certain way the tide came in, you know, sea tide. Oh the water was so deep. When I hit the water it was too deep for me you see and I had to struggle and we all had may wes and I wasn't far though that I started walking and my god we had these damn buddies, why they ever made us wear them I don't know. My pants were all filled with water and all that. You know you couldn't run with them. Even I had to pull the pants out of my buddies you know, to let the water out. Oh, I thought that was funny and yet you didn't have time to laugh about it. There was a lot of machine gun

fire you know. We were just lucky I never lost a man out of our platoon you know. I was with my sergeant, I think we even had an officer. We lost so many officers. George Gardiner was our sergeant. I don't think we lost a man, but two, three days after we lost quite a few you

know counter attack after we were inland. Went right through and I think we went three, four miles the first day, maybe more. We went right in. We could have went further but our back wasn't covered, what they call in the army our rear wasn't covered so we got pulled back once.

We stayed put for awhile, oh for quite awhile, cause we didn't go ahead till well we went a little bit you know we had to defend ourselves and all that until the I forget July or August, I think we went in Falaise ... you know the Americans come this way and we went that way and we got a few thousand prisoners. Apparently we had a lot of aircraft and I don't remember seeing any you know only once I seen them shoot down a German aircraft. But I seen lots of aircraft later on you know, when they bombed ahead of us.

We went pretty well right across France on trucks, tanks and everything that you could get a ride on up to, oh hell I couldn't say went too fast right across France anyways. We didn't have to do much travel we went to Rulon and we fought around there - the beaches of Great Granads Falaise and all that. In Falaise we had to wade in groups. We go across that way you know for about a mile but it wasn't deep but may be 3 or 4 feet I had to go in there we kept on going cause they had flooded the whole thing. We had Frenchmen as guides you know, they knew where about the road was and all that. To go into Calais, oh we had a struggle here and there. What is next Belgium? I had a little Frenchman that stayed with us you know, gave him a rifle and all that but I had to let him go on the account of he wasn't allowed in Belgium. At the border we had to let him go - he was pretty good at welding you know and all that.

I didn't stay in Holland too long cause I broke my arm in France but I kept going anyway for 8 days. That, I will never forget. Finally they found out I had a broken arm so I had to go to the hospital back to England and that was is it. I didn't want to go home to go back you know. Of course the first aid

people and all that they don't know if you have a broken arm or not. I went back to England around October I believe in '44. I went to the hospital. I was in the hospital for about 3 months then I went to the Depot and I had a good job there receiving and sending - receiving reinforcements from Canada and sending them to France.

AFTER THE WAR

I got back September the 1st 1945, I think I got back here and I got discharged. I come home to Duck Lake. I got my month leave and then I went for my discharge and that was it. They kicked me out and they didn't say thank you, shake hands or anything. In 1947 I worked on the railroad.

LOOKING BACK

I am glad I went through with it. I wouldn't recommend anybody to do it although I have a son in the airforce. It's a shame you know. George Gardiner, my sergeant, he went back to Europe once but they treat you like kids you know, "hurry up, hurry up" and "lets go" and all this you know, you're not in shape now a days like your too old. If I went and I had the money I'd go on my own but not on a tour or anything. I'd like to visit the beaches you know and all that.