

James Brady's War Diary

by

J P Brady

Transcribed by Joseph Fauchon

Originally compiled by Dave Hutchinson Editorial comments provided by  
Darren R Préfontaine Actual diary entries grammar spelling and punctuation  
have not been corrected

June the <sup>th</sup> – : hrs battalion headquarters arrives at Reivers : Queens  
own rifle regiment of Canada report that they have taken Many and are  
advancing on Basly : B Company followed by C company within support B  
squadron <sup>th</sup> Canadian Army tank reserve were moved forward to Fontaine  
henary C Company instructions were to bypass the Fontaine henary and  
proceed to leave Fresne camilly : B squadron command reports that he  
has withdrawn his tanks after having had tanks knocked out by mm guns  
: D Company moves direct to Lefresne camilly followed by battalion  
headquarters A Company ordered to remain in Revers to garder post river and  
to guard bridges : B Company reports that they are in Fontaine henary  
: C Company reports that they have reached Lefresne camilly :  
battalion reports to bridge that intermediate objectives on line elm have been  
reached Battalion headquarters set up in Lefresne camilly square :  
battalion ordered to brigade to consolidate for the night on line elm :  
SQ B Company reports that they have been subjected to enemy arty fire  
and that Major F L Petters Commander B company and Lieutenant G D Dickin  
two IC B company were killed Up 'til this time approximately prisoners of  
war were taken over of these being captured in Cour sur mare : CO  
goes to make recy of position to be taken up for the night

Lefresne camilly <sup>th</sup> of June – : hrs battalion begins to move to new  
position in square : CO and IQ attend O group at headquarters  
Seven Canadian Infantry Brigade Day's operations were discussed and plans  
made to move forward to final objective on line oak CO's of units exchanged  
information on the D day activities It was evident to all that due to adverse  
flighting conditions that the air support had not been as great as expected  
Pillboxes and another replacements were still open for business when our troops  
touched down Battalion now in new position at : : Lieutenant  
Colonel F M Matheson holds battalion O group and orders for the advance to  
final objective on line oak are given : Companies move off with A and C  
companies on right and B and D Companies on left : battalion  
headquarters move is off : the Regina Rifle Regiment moved into  
Bretteville l'orgeulleuse which was clear with enemy and the civilians population  
gave the troops a very friendly reception The battalion took a defensive with A  
Company at and B Company at C Company at etc etc etc  
Battalion headquarters set up etc Battalion dug in and things remained quiet  
during the afternoon The Royal Winnipeg Riffles took up a position in our  
right at approximately : hrs thus the Regina Rifles were out in front with no  
protection On our left flank a position in which we refuse to vacate and to  
relieve eleven days later by the Queens Own Rifles

<sup>th</sup> June – Bretteville during the night the enemy pulled off a counter attack on B C and D Companies positions which was repulsed by our troops The battalion was determined to stay put on the final objective

The <sup>th</sup> June – Weather fine and clear : D Company reported that they were being mortared at : Enemy tanks were seen at Eight enemy tanks were seen at and reported to bridge headquarters at : enemy tanks were reported advancing along the road to our headquarters : hrs D Company reported enemy tanks and considerable strength yards to their front D Company moved to improve the battalion fortress C Company reported that they had repulsed an infantry attack but were being attacked by tanks and requested RA support This was granted attack was repulsed battalion still sits on the objective : battalion headquarters attacked by Panther tanks and infantry being at : hrs

Bretteville l'orgeulleuse <sup>th</sup> of June – : hrs battalion headquarters was shelled and machine gunned when the enemy put in a tank and infantry attack on the town One Panther tank pulled up outside battalion headquarters The tank was then knocked out by a piet meanwhile hot time was headed by all as enemy tanks were all about the town blasting away at the men and their slit trenches and destroying one of our anti tank guns The whole sky was lit up by blazing roofs and burning tanks as well as our own parachute flares At : hrs another tank was knocked out by a piet near our mortar positions At : hrs an enemy ACAC car ran up the main street of Bretteville and was knocked out by a piet fire in front of our battalion headquarters During this scrap we lost seven carriers including one loaded with ammunition and returned five Panther tanks were bagged in this vicinity of battalion headquarters At : Panther tanks left vicinity of battalion headquarters and revved short distance away We requested arty fire on them This was granted We were informed that tanks of port would be forth coming at first light At : hrs the enemy put in determined attacks on all Companies but were thrown back Although a very hectic night was spent by all a bright new page was written in the records of this battalion Everyone fought magnificently and although the pictures look black there was no sign of wavering anywhere In this attack Captain R G Shinnan lost his life

Bretteville June <sup>th</sup> – Weather cool and cloudy very little activity either ours or enemy Patrols are active in all Company fronts Typhoons dive bomber targets and our front towards CHEUX at : hrs mines being laid and the Company strength in their position Slight minor fire on D Company's position but no damage done

The <sup>th</sup> of June – Weather cloudy and cold Little activity except for patrols Patrols are very active but are not meeting up with enemy resistance Tanks came up in support of us Queens Own Rifles of Canada making an attack on our front supported by Sherman tanks but are beaten back by stiff opposition Seven armoured vehicles and tanks knocked out and four armoured vehicles captured during a short encounter with the enemy armour

: hrs June <sup>th</sup> – Our activity consisted mainly of patrols Enemies shelled the battalion headquarter area for a few minutes at approximately : hrs hitting a truck and vehicle parked and slightly wounding one man At : hrs battalion headquarters area was bombed for about minutes This fire came from a rocket tank mortar and it's thought to be gerry six barrel mortar This

was the first evidence of this type of weapon on our front no casualties At : hrs a hit on our ammunition dump in the vehicles parks set off a congregation in the area which lasted a good part of the night Miraculously no one was injured Five TPT vehicles were destroyed Flying Officer Griths<sup>th</sup> Squadron RAF reported into battalion headquarters at : hrs having been shot down by enemy flack in the area of C Company

<sup>th</sup> of June – They give their positions of the various battalions D Company is on their right the First Canadian Scottish Regiment on the left and the regiment Deshalier Into our rear the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa Weather fine all day with heavy clouds Banks in the morning The day started out very quietly after last night's fireworks Battalion headquarters moved to a new location about yards away from old position As it seemed apparent that the enemy had had us spotted shelling intermittently by the enemy during the afternoon In the early evening the church steeples next to our former headquarters was demolished Patrols were out during the night but got little new information In spite of having shelling and counter attacks battalion remained on an objective reached and D plus one

Bretteville l'orgeulleuse <sup>th</sup> of June – Weather cloudy and dull in the morning and early afternoon clearing in the evening with cloud disk sky A very quiet day with no reply to our arty fire on this front Our patrols were out trying to establish contact One patrol from C Company had a tangle with the enemy in the afternoon were caught in their crossfire Suffering two killed seven wounded and six missing Some of the casualties were caused by booby traps in abundant enemy slit trenches Which our troops used during the fight The unit prepared to move to Braymeur near Caen our present position being taken over by the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

**Editors' note: the diary goes back in time to the Italian Campaign in Previously Brady was discussing the Canadian Army's involvement in Normandy in July**

<sup>th</sup> July ' – This is from RG volume There were no enemy to hinder our future madder as it neared the coast of Sicily but flares and flack were visible as our heavy bombers pounded Pachino Serial stood by in their mass decks at : hrs <sup>th</sup> July and at approximately : hrs first flights were lowered to commence the rough seven mile trip to Sugar Green Beach The landing was made with B and D Companies in the assault complete surprise was affected A certain amount of mg fire on fixed lines was encountered and also some heavy wire Serial's made up from battalion headquarters A and C Companies followed the assaulting troops and came under heavy fire from coastal batteries which were silenced at : hrs by navy guns Due to the heavy swell some Serials became scattered and a certain amount of confusion resulted as timing was put out and some landed in wrong places However the battalion was soon able to recognize and pushed forward from the initial beachhead positions to occupy the ground planned at the first phase of the invasion At approximately : hrs the first phase was completed and the battalion consolidated with the Companies taking up positions Previously allotted in the planning Patrols were sent out and several minor clashes took place with few casualties Many Italian prisoners were taken without their offering any fight and these were soon cleared back to the beach where a POW cage had been established The natives were very friendly and appeared to be happy to have their country invaded by the allied forces At : hrs the

brigade group commenced to advance from the first phase position to occupy those of second phase. A Company acting as the advance guard to the battalion came under heavy fire just short of its objective. An attack was put in as a result in the surrender of the enemy and the capture of four Italian guns intact. During this advance the sky was a glow with flack and tracers. Enemy planes carried out an attack on our ships which were still unloading on the beaches. The second phase positions were occupied and after consolidation and digging in the troops were able to get something to eat and some rest. In these early stages success came easily and swiftly and all were warned against any relaxation of the small points that make for the success of the operation. Casualties in the battalion were very light but for enemy quite heavy in comparison. Lieutenant G S Lynch was at first believed to have been taken prisoner but although badly wounded managed to make his way back to his platoon headquarters after the enemy had left him for dead and was evacuated to the beach dressing station.

July the 1<sup>st</sup> '44 – At first light the battalion stood two in preparation for the much expected counter attack from the enemy which did not materialize. Many more Italian POW's were taken. At 10:00 hrs an attack by the Edmonton Regiment on Ispica encountered no enemy and they passed through taking up positions to the northwest of the town. The CO Lieutenant Colonel R A Lindsay attended the brigade O group at 12:00 hrs. When orders were given for PPCLI (**Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry**) to occupy positions to the north of the town. At 14:00 hrs the battalion moved off and passed through Ispica. As the enemy were on the run further orders were issued for the advance to continue and follow the retreating enemy to the high ground east of Modica. This advance was carried out under very hot and dusty conditions and the troops though tired from the previous activities carried on magnificently. At midnight we were still marching having met little opposition.

1<sup>st</sup> July '44 – After marching all night and completing the distance of 20 miles the battalion moved into positions on the heights overlooking Modica at 06:00 hrs. It was a real test for the troops who had not done a march of this distance for two months and had suffered a certain amount of softening up from the month's trip in the ship. The conditions were made more difficult by the many tanks and vehicles that leap frogged to the column. Regging a permeating dust from road. As soon as the battalion was in position the patrols were sent forward to investigate the approach to the town. These returned with some captured equipment and large numbers of prisoners of war. Later in the day another patrol from Support Company under Sergeant N L G McGowan entered the town and captured the division command and division headquarters of the 1<sup>st</sup> Napoli Division. In the afternoon C Company passed through Monica and established positions on the hill to the north of the town. During the evening and night the battalion headquarters A Company less seven platoon and parts of special of Support Company were moved partially by military transport to high ground overlooking Raguse from the east.

1<sup>st</sup> July – PPCLI were visited by General B L Montgomery. When Monty mentioned that he had met the Canadians before all remember the great exercise tiger in England and cries of tiger went up. The friendly free easy manner of the General appealed to all and they bid him farewell with three thunderous cheers. PPCLI continued forward with light resistance until 1<sup>st</sup> July '44. The C<sup>th</sup> were pinned down by mortars and artillery at a place called Valguarnera on 1<sup>st</sup> July. PPCLI were ordered to attack and occupy the high

ground in the vicinity of By : hrs all objectives were taken with the support of machine guns and tanks On the <sup>th</sup> they attacked again no enemy were encountered But on July <sup>st</sup> the battalions the division ran into the Germans Regina Rifles

<sup>th</sup> July ' – Weather very hot In the afternoon the first brigade which had been attacking Nissoria was forced to retire from the Leonforte area where PPCLI were situated The attack of the night before had been to gain high ground east of Nissoria but they had failed to carry the objective At : hrs orders came through that this battalion was to attack and capture this same high ground at : hrs The brigade plan was for two Companies at PPCLI to cease a line about yards east of the town and astride the main road Two companies of the PPCLI were to pass through and exploit about yards further east to line tiger parallel to line lion In support were to be three field regiments Division arty one medium regiment and the brigade self propelled group inch mortars Under command was one platoon and mgs brigade support group The artillery plan was for two minutes intense fire on the start line just west of Nissoria followed by a minute concentration followed in turn by yard lifts at minute intervals The C <sup>th</sup>'s were then to move through these lines at : hrs under a cinema barrage to a line grizzly approximately yards in advance with the PPCLI The barrage was later cancelled

<sup>th</sup> July ' – Everything started according to plan with C and D Companies taking their objectives after overcoming a certain amount of resistance The enemy however were completely demoralized by our terrific barrage Evidence of the potential opposition was found In light machine guns set up and abandoned by the enemy Through some unfortunate circumstances appointing Companies A and B missed their way in the dark and did not reach their objective until approximately : hrs the following morning Casualties during this action were light and included Major A T Paquetoc D Company who was wounded right elbow Major A E D Paquetoc struck off strength to x list <sup>th</sup> July '

<sup>th</sup> July ' – Weather very hot At first light battalion headquarters moved from where it was at into the town itself The mortar platoon established itself in the area of the cemetery near the AM map reference in battalion anti tank guns position themselves to cover the approaches from Agira The Companies dug in the battalion that remained in this position for the day Patrols found in silence many machine gun posts and several prisoners were taken

July <sup>th</sup> – At : hrs the battalion received orders to attack and capture Agira the next town on the route The C <sup>th</sup>'s had forced the enemy off the high ground to the west of Agira during the night in a very brilliant action A plan was brought drawn up to execute these orders and A and B Companies moved off and transported : hrs they debuted a certain point and proceeded by march route to the FUP On the way to this point the CO Lieutenant Colonel R A Lindsay came up with the news that the town was reported clear and that supporting fires had been called off The Companies were ordered to continue on to FUP A patrol from A Company was sent into the town to determine if there were any enemy about and after making their way about half way through the town contacted no enemy was decided to send in both Companies without supporting fire Quite an ovation was received from a local population

from the outskirts of the town. A Company were allotted the left half of the town to clear in B Company the right. A Company proceeded only about yards when opposition was met from a machine gun post. Our tanks were forced to retire and the post was silenced in short order and the advance was continued. More opposition was met and dealt with as they progressed and finally almost at the end of the town a cliff was reached which was swept by enemy machine gun firing. It was impossible to get ahead. Part of the C Company also came under the fire of the Edmonton Rifles which was on the left but they managed to work themselves out by ones and twos.

July 27<sup>th</sup> '44 – Continued about this time D Company was making its way through the centre of the town up to the summit of the hill. One by one the snipers were cleared out and at 10:00 hrs the Company made their way up to A Company on the left. They reached their final positions at 11:00 hrs. A Company's casualties were Lieutenant R Carey and 10 OR's wounded. They captured 10 enemy and killed about 10. B Company met the same type of opposition and dealt with it very effectively making use of smoke grenades and snipers in good OP's. About 12:00 hrs A Company made their way to the left of B Company and consolidated on top of the hill. In the darkness D Company made their way through B Company also consolidating on the hill. A Company and Battalion headquarters occupied the main square of town. The foot of the hill and to the rear of A and B Companies the night passed and eventually except for one salvo mortar bombs which in the area of battalion headquarters but inflicted no casualties. Our total losses were indicated above and enemy losses amounted to 10 killed, 10 wounded and prisoners besides large quantities of equipment and ammunition. The PPCLI continued to occupy Agira through to the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. PPCLI held up the junction of the Salso and Simeto rivers. Here the enemy were harassed by battalion position with mortar and artillery fire all day. Seven casualties were suffered, one killed and six wounded.

At approximately 15:00 hrs 28<sup>th</sup> August '44 the C<sup>th</sup> Highlanders of Canada passed through our battalion position supported by a regiment of tanks. Less one squadron take high command ground over Perriaqo. This feature commanded the entire valley. A and B Companies moved off at 16:00 hrs to FUP and area. Two Companies were left to support the Edmontons who were attacking Mount Revisotto. Mules came up to the battalion and feeling laden with water and rations in preparation for the reorganization of the battalion.

29<sup>th</sup> August '44 – Lieutenant J D Horn killed in action. Lieutenant G M Cuthbertson SOS to x list. Lieutenant A R H Birch SOS to x list.

30<sup>th</sup> August '44 – In the evening two enemy six barrel mortars commenced mortaring a valley to the west of Mount Seggio. C Company spotted the flashes from the west of Mount Seggio. These mortars took a barring spotted the locations on the map and sent information to the Lieutenant Douar. Brigade was informed and within 10 minutes of the attack it was effectively engaged by the medium regiments of both the 1<sup>st</sup> and our divisions as well as the field regiments of the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division. They were able to get on. Corrections were made by our PO and sent along the channels of communication to the guns of the arty. The mortar ceased firing after being well plastered.

**The Diary picks in [redacted] during the Canadian Army's break out of the Falaise Pocket during the summer of [redacted]**

August 1<sup>th</sup> – Operation totalized coming up Brigade O group at 10 : 00 hrs CO to attend We were on one hours notice as from 11 : 00 hrs 1<sup>th</sup> of August to move by transport to Bretteville le rebet

August 2<sup>th</sup> – Air blitz open 10 : 00 to 11 : 00 hrs night of the 2<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>th</sup> of August Start operation totalize This air attack said to consist of one thousand land caster bombers heavy artillery barrage follows bombing and second Canadian Division The 1<sup>st</sup> Division attack was ended 11 : 00 hrs 2<sup>th</sup> of August The Regina's move out on August the 3<sup>th</sup> : in trucks and Bren gun carriers They move up into Caen across the river Orne about 10 : 00 hrs and reach concentration area in Sevaucelles at about 11 : 00 hrs The troops consolidate in dig in The night of August the 3<sup>th</sup> some of our own bombing was short landing on Polish armour division causing casualties and damage also in advanced TAC Headquarters Third Canadian Division at Cormales killing ten and wounding approximately twenty including GOC Major General Keller

As of August the 3<sup>th</sup> the whole Second Canadian Division was concentrated on a very small area southeast of Vaucelles The writer said it is an amazing sight with very thick concentration of vehicles and men in a small area Whole of the 1<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade with supporting arms concentrated in square

### **The Diary goes back to the Italian Campaign of**

By 1<sup>th</sup> September '44 they were on a high plateau where it was very cold It was called Delianuova Italy Bridges had been blown out between mountain passes All along the route to the mountains the enemy had destroyed the bridges which was really holding up the advance The civilians all along the river more than friendly and as many spoke English Troops were treated with hello boys we are sure glad to see you The Tedshi which I presume is a word for the German and the Italians Nazis were spoken of as sons of bitches and various other flowering but unflattering descriptions of our enemy was uttered All of which served as welcome distraction from the wearisome march The towns Verapodio Terranaova and Radicen were all passed and by 10 : 00 hrs the battalion was in position This is the third longest march we have done since landing and all troops deserve the greatest credit for the stamina and spirit they have displayed

September 2<sup>th</sup> – All day long the battalion headquarters was flooded with people who claimed to be American citizens Wanting to know if they could get back to the USA If they could get a job etc As civilian population are short of some sort of food They all appeared under the impression that following the army came food ships for the Italians The Germans had spread propaganda to this effect and the civvies are now in for a rude shock One man approached the adjutant Captain R S Graham with this; pray my son he was taken prisoner in a to broke now you know my son he come back tomorrow maybe The adjutant's reply was an exclamation of three words and a well known army vinacular i e go f\_\_\_ yourself

The 3<sup>th</sup> September '44 – The brigade group paraded today at 10 : 00 hrs in the field opposite second Brigade headquarters for an address on the divisional command Major General G G Simmons With the whole brigade group gathered about him the General spoke to the troops on the general war situation in Italy The American 1<sup>st</sup> Army and British 1<sup>st</sup> core landing in the vicinity of Naples The core landing at Teranto and the present infantry action of our division

Now that the Italian army had collapsed the expressed to desires for <sup>st</sup> Canadian Division to look in and act like a conquering army and impressed on us How in the end we would benefit by our actions toward Italians civilians and soldiers Our attitude was not to be friendly for he said the Italians have the unfortunate characteristic of always wanting to be on the winning side He closed with an expression of confidence in all his troops

<sup>th</sup> September – Major D W McLean rejoined the battalion today from the second brigade headquarters where he was relinquishing his appointment as staff captain

<sup>th</sup> September – Three and four platoons harassed Montabelli from : hrs – : hrs Five platoon harassed roads area Greeks attacked at : hrs forced by enemy tanks to withdraw from right objectives they reported many enemy dead in area of Montabelli which was harassed The following shoots were done during the day in support of the Greeks : – : hrs three platoon harassed areas of House : – : hrs four platoon harassed Casamontabelli : – : hrs three platoon harassed area Sanlarenzo and : – : hrs three platoon to harass from Monticelli to Sanlarenzo this shoot was lead on by the Greeks but stopped immediately as we were shooting up there own troops the Greeks plus one company of New Zealand infantry were going to retake right objectives if at Monticelli tonight we can do only a D F tasks till new barrels come in ammunition extended rounds Three Canadian infantry brigade and RA are making progress against very heavy position

<sup>th</sup> September – Greeks are along river line the Marano Three platoon four platoon and five platoon at fairly quiet day for us The <sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade are successful in their objective and the enemy are gradually withdrawing in the Greek front A great deal of destruction and enemy dead in areas shelling over O Company front not particularly heavy Five platoon fire men is dead task during the night

September <sup>th</sup> – Big draft of reinforcements came in

<sup>th</sup> September – Four platoons shelled this afternoon Platoon : weight two carriers were hit repairs can be made by ourselves The Greeks are still slowly working their way up the airfield Mustangs dive bomb two tanks turn in placement in northeast corner of the airfield excellent direct opts from four platoon OP and relayed back to div line one knocked out for sure

<sup>th</sup> September – Five platoon did ten minute shoots in aid of three Canadian Infantry brigade attack in our flank Four platoon moved to area of hospital and fired on targets downing and danards in the outskirts of Rimini belts expended Little change in the rest of the Company Four allied aircraft crashed in our lines today One spit missing five platoon headquarters

<sup>th</sup> of September – Heavy fighting Tonight <sup>st</sup> Canadian Division is pushing on from high ground to try to get the bridge hit in area Greeks pushing on towards Reminie Three platoon harassed a large area

**Brady saved the following newspaper clipping and added it to his diary:**

September <sup>th</sup> ( )



South Saskatchewan Regiment was one of the first infantry units to be mobilized in Saskatchewan and its jurisdiction is extended throughout practically the whole southern portion of the province. Since words were given for mobilizations some weeks ago the regiment has been accepting volunteers and medical boards have been located for periods at various centres. While as yet the regiment is not yet up to full strength conscription recruiting is continuing in officers and offices are located at Weyburn and Regina. To Estevan community and district belongs credit for a rally to call that is unmatched by any other centre from which the South Saskatchewan Regiment is drawing its strength. This week the Mercury has been informed that Estevan is now entering its quota although a considerable number of men are still needed and being looked for.

Colonel Right has intimated that he is extremely proud of the manner in which men from his own community Estevan have come forward and volunteered for service. Which exemplified in other centres will find all units up to full strength in a short time. As a means of slight tribute and recognition of their splendid attitude into offering their services the Mercury considers it an honour this week to be able to list the names of those members of the South Saskatchewan Regiment. At the same time it must be borne in mind that many more have offered themselves for service in other branches. While still others are temporarily delayed from taking in active part due to slight physical defects but none of the less equally patriotic and express the same sense of Canadianism and the true qualities of a British citizen. Following is a list:

Estevan: Lieutenant Colonel J E Right; Major E R Osler; Major T Kjer; Captain J R Mathews; Captain E W White; Lieutenant A C Bannatyne; Lieutenant R J Wilkonson; NCO's C S M T H Briggs; Sergeant F Mather; Corporal H Glew; Corporal D E Pervious; Corporal F R Edmondson; Corporal W A Foster; Corporal D Boyd; Lance Corporal A R Martin; Lance Corporal J T Winn; Lance Corporal P C Pedland

Other ranks: Privates H A Archer; J D Arnald; R E Baker; R O Busch; I Butler; K A Brailsford; B B Blomberg; G W Clark; A E Cocksford; J E Dean; M Djuba; R Davies; E J D English; E R Hill; S R Handson; T W Knowles; R L LaRocque; R J LaRocque; H J Lagberg; H LaCoste; W J Merhead; W O Moonie; E L McNeil; N B Murray; A O'Handley; C R Rodgers; C A Skogberg; C C Simons; Synos; D R Snieder; J W Sheratt; W H Sava; R G Toilon; K L Turner; N W Thomson; A Winn; H Winn; J G Wagner; J J Wagner; S Warren Beanfate; Corporal J Heinz; Privates W A Enmark; J Kotlarski; G C Lawrence; S Martyniuk; J McDonald; J A McDonald; L B M McDonald; M Marckoski; F N Nieviadomy; M R Paterson; F D Reese; Russ Tulka; J Sumitro; J Watchmen; Constable Captain T M Austin; Lieutenant J L Hart; Lieutenant R L Steven; Second Lieutenant J R Pedlar; Corporal W G Cunningham; E E Dalzial; R L Dalzial; J A Dalzial; W I Davidson; M D Rudledge; Lieutenant N A Adams; Private E R Emerason; Shand Private C W Cowan; Private F T Mather

Other towns: Csmea Dunkerley; Carlyle; Corporal C E Smith; Halbrite; Corporal L V Shell – Benson; Corporal B H Smith – Halbrite; Private E W Callfas – Outram; Private D K Smith – Halbrite; Private W L Right – Outram

**This excerpt is from the Falaise Campaign of :**

September <sup>th</sup> – The regiment is now at Hauteville. They have had fairly reasonable going with casualties from time to time from artillery and mortars

: hrs some reinforcements have arrived in the last hrs and many old faces and evacuated casualties man since D day are included in this group Glad to be back in the regiment and we are like wise glad to have them Our strength previous to receiving them was approximately So now we are nearing normal fighting strength again : hrs a recognisance party was sent to the town of Escalles They found that it was not occupied and no enemy was observed They were unable to therefore take prisoners of war

### **The narrative reverts back to the Italian Campaign of :**

As of September <sup>st</sup> Pat's (Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry) were still advancing Italy' they were near Potenza and were not facing any resistance

By the <sup>nd</sup> of September things had slowed down a bit The third Greek Mountain Brigade and the First Canadian Division were put into reserve at : hrs Enemy still shelling bridges in northern part of Romaini Major Mitchell and Captain LaHay forced to bail out of jeep while sight seeing on division battlefield On a busman's holiday

September <sup>nd</sup> – On the route up to the crossroads the CO met Lieutenant T E Jones returning in a captured vehicle He had been slightly wounded in the leg and told how the patrol had come under fire from three sides and at the same time a German flyer head bailed out from his crashing machine having been hit by our AA in the vicinity of Potenza This flyer was captured by the patrol under Lieutenant Munroe After coming under fire and noticing seven enemy armour cars on his left Lieutenant Jones had ordered to avoid being cut off Order to be withdrawn to Castelle picking up the other patrol in route He stated that including himself they had suffered four wounded

### **This excerpt is from the Falaise Campaign of :**

September <sup>rd</sup> the Reginas attended a movie called "This Happy Breed" and as usual it was well attended Shelling continues but most of the enemy rounds now fall behind us and to our right and in the new artillery areas That's Canadian Artillery One compensation of the shelling however is now our quick retaliation of five or six rounds in reply to every German round going over and we hopped that this silence is some of the enemy guns Reginas prepare for an attack on Calais On the <sup>rd</sup> of September they received news that Boulogne with prisoners of war and they were only reasonable casualties in the <sup>th</sup> and <sup>th</sup> brigades

<sup>th</sup> September – In reserve paraded : hrs The Company spent the entire day cleaning billets in Company area Company commanders' conference at : hrs Platoon commanders' conference at : hrs Training and leaves discussed

### **This excerpt is from the Italian Campaign of :**

<sup>th</sup> September – : hrs D and C Companies are fighting hard for objectives in calling on tanks Flayles and crocodiles Assistance of these enables them to carry on through to objectives D and C Companies also involved All objectives were captured <sup>th</sup> of September the Reginas take prisoners during the day Mostly Ersatz with a sprinkling of marines Casualties ten killed wounded and missing

<sup>th</sup> September – Training as per syllabus

September <sup>th</sup> – Prisoners continued to come in 'til afternoon in all

By <sup>th</sup> September they were still advancing with under light resistance. By October <sup>th</sup> near Vinchiatro the Pats came under heavy shelling. In the vicinity of Sinette the Pats had some hard action. Their patrols were pinned down out front by enemy mortar but they were helped by bombing and strafing from allied planes. At : hrs the time of the attack on <sup>rd</sup> of October ' the arty laid down smoke and high explosives came down as planned. They stormed across the river lead by Captain N M Cousens and secured their point without encountering any enemy opposition. They got across the river and there were still no enemy encountered.

**This excerpt is from the Falaise Campaign of :**

September <sup>th</sup> – : hrs brigade had advised us that there was a report that the enemy in Calais were wanting to surrender. However we were to carry on with our bombing and shelling plan to commence immediately afternoon unless all troops in Calais come out marching immediately bearing white flags. East Side of Calais from : to : hrs was bombed by typhoons. This is preparatory to the attack by the Queen's Own Rifles and the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa. They were also to be supported by an elaborate shelling program. : hrs reports from Queen's Own Rifles and Cameron Highlanders of Ontario stated that the enemy are surrendering in masses and our Companies are warned to be on the lookout for any groups coming in to surrender to them. Then the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa report the commander of Calais has come out to them in unconditional surrender and we are ordered to attack at once. They pushed on into Calais and received large numbers of prisoners of war. In all prisoners of war were taken by us including nine officers. One officer insists Germany would still win the war. He can dream anyway.

The casualty list from <sup>th</sup> June ' to <sup>th</sup> September ' is as follows: killed officers ; NCO's ; men for a total of wounded officers ; NCO's ; men for a total of missing officers ; NCO's ; men for a total of total casualties officers ; NCO's ; men for a total of  
Approximate number of prisoners of war taken Approximate enemy killed and wounded

**This information was from PAC – RJ RJ Box**

**Correspondence resumes in Northern France Fall :**

October <sup>th</sup> – : hrs CO reports brigade with picture of our activities in general situation and returns details with some plans for the coming night. Royal Winnipeg Rifles are to move up through the Canadian Scottish Regiment in attempt to work their way north west to contact our Companies. Canadian Infantry Brigade is to carry one to assault as an original plan. : hrs <sup>th</sup> October D Company report heavy counter attacks coming in on their front. Arty lays down df tasks and our mortar fired df task and attack wavers for about minutes with strangers of approximately one Company coming in at all times. Continue arty and mortar shots and D Company report that both very effective. At : hrs C Company are counter attacked and arty and mortars

are immediately bring down tasks which are also reported very effective and an attack is held well under control. Our battalion headquarters area is having repeated shelling at varying intervals from one or two medium guns. Attempts to locate their positions are unsuccessful and it would appear to be some good distance away possibly out of our present arty range.

October 1<sup>st</sup> - : we have had a very noisy night in battalion headquarter area with shells rocking buildings but no casualties being reported as yet. Still unable to locate source of fire. Night is bright moon light and cold dawn breaks with some mist hanging. Sky is clear and day is very warm. What appears to be counter attacked flares up on C Company front communications have been very bad all night due to shelling but arty and mortars fires brought down. Also the tanks that have been out of contact for some time fire by observation across channel. Counter attack turns out to be enemy fighting patrol of about 100 men. After it was withdrawn wounded enemies brought in. He states enemy on that front approximately 100 in strength including one captain and four lies. He says they are badly split up and they have not had food for three days. Tanks are waiting for enough light to knock out enemy pillboxes. On D Company front which is right along channel bank reinforcements are badly needed and a few finally arrive. In all four officers came in last night and are off posted. Ammunitions are sent in regularly and quantities of hot tea to each Company at suppertime were greatly appreciated. At noon October the 1<sup>st</sup> the half hour troops was held on D Company front for each side in order to collect dead and wounded. In late evening enemy shelling of battalion headquarters begins again in earnest. Some shells appear to be of medium arty size.

October the 2<sup>nd</sup> - : night has been clear and cold. Enemy shelling continues intermittently during the night with a particularly heavy shelling for about 15 minutes beginning at 23:00 hrs. Lots of dirt flying with several casualties and several vehicles knocked out or damaged. At 01:00 hrs one company of Royal Winnipeg Rifles have contacted our C Company and take up position on our right. Balance of Winnipegs would be moved up to 02:00 hrs a stiff counter attack and D Company was handled by arty tasks. At 03:00 hrs 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade put in their assault during the night and latest reports state that they are progressing favourably with moderate opposition. It is hoped that they will draw some of the enemy reinforcements who appear from PW reports to be coming to our front in the vicinity of Slues. During the afternoon the Royal Winnipeg Rifles attempted to advance their Companies but were unable to do so and plan has finally to be shelved. We ourselves have all planned to move our position to the west somewhat in order to clear up the pill box which is being battered D Company. To be under two phases. At 18:00 hrs arty will give ten minute crump to HR at 19:00 hrs. Flame throwers to assist A Company and assault in pillbox.

3<sup>rd</sup> of October - : the evening goes quietly with the usual shelling conspicuous by its absence. Sit rap on 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade reveals they have landed successfully and are making steady progress against firm opposition.

October 4<sup>th</sup> - Regina still stymied their digging in while the Algonquin regiment advance to the east sector. This may ease the situation in their front somewhat. At 08:00 hrs October the 4<sup>th</sup> stiff enemy counter attack coming in. Artillery and mortars are laid on and fire steadily without let up. By 14:00 hrs they report the

front is quiet again Wounded prisoner of war taken after attack States strength of attack was about men and believes all of them were either killed or wounded He says that quite a few are waiting to give up now

October the <sup>th</sup> - : D Company reported enemy forming up again Arty and mortar fire brought to Bayron then which resulted in two POW's being taken There were confirmed reports that enemy are getting pretty tired and some are now thinking of surrendering We can nominate three officers and ten officers for hr leave at Dauville So some boys are going to get a bit of much needed rest

: October <sup>th</sup> - Weather night has been clear and cool with no moon It has been pitch dark There has been no counter attack on our front this morning This is probably as a result of the Canadian Scottish Regiment having moved one company C Company or to our left flank to straddle main road Shelling of our location is practically ceased Battalion headquarters got quiet sleep for first night and several days By establishing listening post slightly forward on our thin red line along the channel We planned to let more men rest Cans of hot tea have been going out to them three times a day At :  
: and : hrs

By December the Pat's were getting prepared for another big operation At : hrs the battalion moved off by march route to construction area in square where battalion was to remain for several days Once again the C <sup>th</sup>s took the lead Two companies of C <sup>th</sup>s went forward to the east of Lomlamone south of code name Chanson with object of patrolling to the river The object was to cross the Lamone River patrols were set out and found out that the bridges that had been blown up by the enemy were still passable for infantry personnel

### Italian Campaign - :

<sup>th</sup> December ' - In the area south of Veito an attack was launched Considerable German fire was heard down the river where the C <sup>th</sup> Highlanders of Canada were crossing August <sup>th</sup> - Weather very hot Day spent reconitouring

<sup>th</sup> December ' - Weather clear and warm In the morning with heavy showers in the afternoon visibility fair Just after the kick off hour leading Company ran into German machine gun fire Forward progress became slow from here on as one company after another became pinned down by enemy fire and had to work around to a flank Lieutenant J G Clarke was wounded through the throat by machine gun fire on the approaches to town The town Droalty was defended by the use of perimeter defence The battalion pierced his defence and poured through the gap into the centre of the town A Company took up positions as did B and C Companies and they held firm base position The battalion headquarters moved to a spot to the south of the town and the central position part and proceeded to dig in the wireless sets The enemy mortars and guns were more accurate than at any previous time During the morning they scored two direct hits on the battalion headquarters and trenches and made them look like a plowed field Luckily all personnel had moved to a little house about yards away to escape the rain and in doing so they escaped being blown sky wards As the Companies moved into the town towards their position they mopped up near us machine gun posts and put lead to a number of

snipers. During the first phase the battalion was surrounded on three sides by enemy machine gun posts and snipers. Lieutenant G A Garbut found that as fast as he cleared out one machine gun post another sprung up a little further ahead. Like mushrooms he mopped up three machine gun posts and decided he was getting to far away so he rejoined the Company. This mopping up procedure used a lot of ammunition which we could ill afford.

Half an hour after getting into position this by the way is December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1944. Half an hour after getting into position the enemy counter attacked from the right front of A Company and the direction of Vjubatti. The enemy were definitely determined to re take the town as they brought food and blankets. They also man handled an anti tank gun up the hill towards town. It was during this attack that Lieutenant R Carry military cross and five of his men were taken prisoner after they had run out of ammunition which rendered them and enabled them to prevent the enemy from over running them. At this phase of the battle his platoon was forward subpart of A Company. A Brennan tank from the 1<sup>st</sup> British Brigade who were to join us were held up by mud and mines. Things began to get critical in the mean time as ammunition was running short and the Germans were working in closer. There was a story told of a Bren gunner in A Company who in an effort to conserve his ammunition refused to fire at groups of less than 100. Word came through that the tanks were drawing closer and that they required a guy to bring them into position. Lieutenant W Riddel took on the task and dashed off in the direction of the approaching tanks. On the way there he jumped off a ledge and landed on a German hiding there. On hearing a groan he sprung around and at the same time drawing his pistol he was very surprised to see a second German coming out of the bush with his hands up. After turning the prisoners over to his orderly to be turned in he continued on his way. Contacted the tanks and directed them into position and in the meantime things had reached a very critical stage with A Company bearing the brunt. Major W D N Watson handled his company well being as cool as the proverbial cucumber when he was in the thick of the enemy fire. The infantry and tank co operation when they arrived was superb. Infantrymen stood beside the tanks and directed the fire while tank commanders lean out of their tanks to receive directions. As the CO Lieutenant Colonel C Ware put it the bullets were flying so thick it didn't make any difference whether one was lying down, standing up or running. After the tanks went into action the remnants of the counter attack were broken. A green flare went up and the enemy withdrew at approximately 15:00 hrs. The Companies took this breathing spell to consolidate their positions and the tanks placed themselves so as to deal with any possible counter attacks with tanks. During the noon hour a mule train arrived from rear battalion headquarters and all companies replenished their depleted supply of ammunition. At 16:00 hrs B Company reported a counter attack coming in with tanks from the direction of Vcaldari. Estimated strength about 100. The onslaught of the German attack was fierce. The tanks that supported them through armoured piercing shot into the town. As they approached causing a traffic dint. Lieutenant L McCullogh and his platoon of B Company were forced to fall back when the enemy tanks got among his houses. Our tanks rolled into position and engaged the enemy tanks, destroying five of them for the loss of two of our own. All during the attack the town was heavily shelled and mortared but the casualties on a whole were light considering the casualties inflicted on the enemy. This counter attack was beaten off after approximately two hours of fighting. At this point 100 prisoners had been taken along with the other boggies such as anti tank gun used in the first attack, three motorcycles, 100 mm mortars left in the valley below the town and numerous

machine guns The two IC Major R P Clark and Lieutenant D Soley Loyal Edmonton Regiment arrived at battalion headquarters : hrs with proposed plans for the Loyal Edmontons to pass through us These plans were cancelled at : hrs much to our disappointment The brigade commander Brigadier B M Hoffmeisterdso had made plans that in the event of a withdrawal we were to cross to the other side of the Morro River This was the first we heard or even thought of it This day Lieutenant J G Clark struck off strength to x list Lieutenant R Carry military cross struck off strength missing

<sup>th</sup> of December ' – Pats moved up They found tattered remnants of the Royal Canadian Regiment and they contacted sniper patrols from the Hastings in Prince Edward Regiment The area was shelled and mortared all night

<sup>th</sup> December – Weather clear and cold visibility good Lieutenant D E Jones took scouts and snipers took a recy party of NCO's across the river to St Leonardo at : hrs to recy battalion positions They crossed the river ok and so did the battalion In the town of St Leonardo a shell hit a tank Knocking out most of the commanding officers Major D Brian was on the outside then Major Watson with the CO on inside One of the shells seemed to strike the tank Major D Brian was killed Major Watson wounded in the foot and the CO luckily escaped without a scratch

<sup>th</sup> December – Half dozen prisoners were taken They were for the <sup>th</sup> Panzer Ganders Division By <sup>th</sup> December Major Hunt was killed and the companies were taken over by H E Robertson On the night of <sup>th</sup> December the enemy did not counter attack but infiltrated to a great depth The infiltrating Germans had come in between two companies and evaded a Canadian Patrol

<sup>th</sup> of December – News was received at : hrs that both the <sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade to the north and the <sup>th</sup> were firmly across Lamone

<sup>th</sup> of January – D Company fighting patrol met no opposition what so ever Cleared the numerous buildings around C Gara and returned without incident

January <sup>th</sup> ' – Weather overcast and warm Near the early hours of the morning heavy concentration with inch at mortar fire Later enemy positions followed by heavy artillery machine gun barrage supporting the attacking regiments The enemy responded with harassing firing and casualties were suffered by D Company who lost men killed and wounded Battalion stood fast as the <sup>th</sup> CIB attack went in We had a ringside view of odd squadrons of Kitty Hawk Dive Bombers plastering the forward enemy positions with toll road (they are types of bombs) In spite of this support the infantry attack was unsuccessful and the CBH (Cape Breton Highlanders) bogged down in the gully on the left flank of C Company When they stopped they had three companies in line one behind the other and a plan where the PPCLI was to make a right flank diversion had to be abandon Our total casualties for today were killed wounded Major R P Clark struck off strength this day and Lieutenant J L McCullick to x list

<sup>th</sup> January ' – Weather warm and bright visibility good A patrol from B Company under Lieutenant A C Carter this evening past around to the right of and made their way to the vicinity of the railway They took with them piet guns mortars and night machine guns and proceeded to make military noises by shooting up the area The patrols came under mortar fire but returned without

casualties One German was killed but no ID was possible During the night and early hours of the morning the men in the slit trenches suffered considerably from the heavy frost that set in with the coming of darkness A razing fire from enemy guns throughout the day

<sup>st</sup> January ' – Weather warm and clear visibility good Our scouts observed a movement on the Tollorad road near our culvert today There appeared to be two wounded men wearing battle dress trying to attract our attention One crawled a short way up the road and seemed to be flashing a mirror Although a German trap was suspected Private McKay W L of the scouts and snipers asked permission to take a stretch of party down and try and bring out the wounded men should they be our own Under cover of darkness lead by Private McKay a party of eight men from the scouts and snipers Privates Anderson J Kotchoriakr Mathewson G Zarster J Meajhar B and Rees H C were all through shell fire and brought back Private McIntyre of the Cape Breton Highlanders and made identification of four other highlanders The last of whom died this afternoon McIntyre was conscious talking and in good spirits inspite of the fact that he had been four days exposure with virtually no food or drink His leg was badly crushed When he was taken to the wrap he was asked for by medical officer Captain W McGill if he would like a cup of tea he replied "yes but no milk or sugar please" Scouting continued by the Pats

<sup>th</sup> of January ' – Weather fair visibility fair Fairly constant shelling from enemy guns throughout the day men from battalion were allowed to go into Ortona for a bath and to see the picture showing at the Red Shield Club The men left a line by a selection so many going at a time throughout the day so that the line would not be weakened This evening the scouts and snipers carried out another recy patrol along the coast road in the direction of Savannah gully They heard Germans coughing and moving about and made notes of the houses that they occupied The results of all our parentally minor patrols is that our artillery was provided with targets Slowly and laboriously we are building up picture of enemy dispositions and movements against the time when the weather breaks and full scale attack can be launched

<sup>th</sup> January ' – Weather bright and warm A few mm air bursts over the battalion area this morning

<sup>th</sup> January ' – Lieutenant D Hatch plus an officer under instruction took a fighting patrol of out in an attempt to penetrate Georgia gully At the interest of the gully there were loud reports as if booby traps were being set off but there were no signs of trip wires It is thought that these may have been electrically detonated booby traps The enemy set up a great number of eliminating flares and the patrol failed to reach it's objective

<sup>th</sup> January ' – Weather warm and bright visibility good Lieutenant R D Brown Clayton recently arrived at the unit from <sup>st</sup> Canadian Div where he acted as liaison officer took an ambush patrol out this evening to the area of the blown bridge The patrol ran into trip wires with tin cans attached The noise made brought down mortar fire; the patrol could hear enemy movements across the stream but could not locate the enemy

January <sup>th</sup> ' – Weather clear and bright visibility good There was spasmodic shelling throughout the day by enemy guns In the early evening the



RAP received a direct hit One man was killed and the others received slight wounds

By <sup>st</sup> of February ' – The officers are CB where Major A E Langston Captain R W Potts Lieutenant A C Carter Captain A S Smith Captain L G Elhetton Major C M McDougall Major R B Hobson Major J Leach Captain A M Campbell Captain W L McGill Captain J A McLeod and Captain M J D Carson The push for a prisoner

<sup>rd</sup> February ' – Weather clear and warm Lieutenant Andy Mills took out a patrol this evening through Alabama gully and up the Tollo road The road was held in strength and the advance elements of our patrol had a nasty few minutes when they were caught in the culvert below the road to which the "tedeschi" pitched as endless quantity of stick grenades The patrol got out with two casualties but no prisoners

February the <sup>th</sup> ' – Weather overcast visibility fair Division demanded a prisoner so Sergeant Dick of D Company with three other NCOs set out tonight Along the coast road to a point about yards behind the enemy's forward defence lines For a long time they watched the beach house and saw a sentry go into it From sounds they judged there were to be about men inside Tedeschi had laid bamboo canes criss crossed in front of the house These were impossible to cross without making a noise This coupled with the fact that there was a bottleneck of narrow beach to be trivers for nearly yards back Detoured the forest CNOCs from making a snatch

<sup>th</sup> February ' – Weather clear and cool visibility good This afternoon saw the opening of arrest centre in the Momastery Inn in Ortona The CO Lieutenant Colonel C B Ware Captain Sammy Potts Captain Green and Major C McDougall represented the regiment The arrest centre is to be used for the men from the line who are given a hr pass While they are at the Momastery Inn they have a chance to get cleaned up rested and generally relieved men from the battalion going every hrs We had been troubled recently by enemy patrol dogs that come into our lines They are very weary and extremely difficult to shoot Stay division dreamed up a solution they shipped to us a jug nose mongrel bitch now in heat with the idea that she would seduce the enemy dog near duty and bring them all in where we could get a crack at them

<sup>th</sup> February ' – Captain Willy Mulhern arrived back from leave at Berry and kept battalion headquarters spell bound with tales of a Russian woman trooper who roamed the streets with a colt automatic hanging from her side and who carried a handbag made of German soldier scalps cunningly woven Lieutenant L McCoullch this evening did an excellent job on a fighting patrol at bingo two area His Bren gunner was stunned from the blast of a stick grenade and Lieutenant L McCoullch found himself covering the withdrawal with the Bren gun Tommy gun and a pocket full of grenades Two tedeschi appeared on a bank above him making for a gun pit in McCoullch put them both out of action with a single burst

<sup>th</sup> February ' – The Pats were facing German paratroopers and beating them They report the paratroopers are sticking close to their holes these days and all of the offensive patrol are being done from our side of the line

<sup>th</sup> February ' – Weather sunshine visibility good Mona arrived today A black and white spotted white nosed bitch attacked cleos to which she is to be put As to use her as bait for the bevy of German patrol dogs that sit for hours watching our Ops from the valley and who give the alarm when our patrols go out It appears that division made two strategical blunders in selecting Mona as a front line siren One she is not in heat and two our exports from a study of her teeth claims she is less than three months old and consequently is not interested in sex No at her tender age posses any sex appeal

<sup>th</sup> February – Weather sunshine visibility good Quite a bit of enemy movement today One Tedeschi even showed himself riding down the coast road on a bicycle He was almost ashamed to waste several rounds of on them but the British Mediums are spoiling for targets

<sup>th</sup> February ' – Weather rain and snow visibility poor This evening Lieutenant Andy Mills took a few scouts and a fighting patrol to an occupied post that we had been observing for several nights When the patrol arrives pulling for a fight they found the post evacuated Private W L McKay a most famous scout was very annoyed at not getting a chance to fire his new Tommy gun in anger He was up for staging a one man assault at the nearest German Company position

<sup>th</sup> February ' – Weather rain and snow The shroud of mystery over shadows the enemy occupied area across the gully Are they thinning out or merely lying doggo? Is the drenching rain waterlogged trenches forcing them back to less harassed positions? Today we heard from Demolitions in Francavilla Evacuation or preparation for defence? Scouts and snipers climbed to U and heard sounds of activity Scout McKay who now officially bares three stripes but seems low to put them on smelled out more S mines near the tunnel

<sup>rd</sup> of February ' – The Pats were again at the front near Seaquara Enemy aircraft dropped anti personnel bombs and it killed The enemy was raked with enemy machine gun fire As a result of this the inch mortar is in support of one man killed Our own casualties for the day were two killed one by an explosive bullet

**The narrative jumps to :**

By <sup>th</sup> of February the regiment was near San Benedetto Training as per syllabus As of <sup>th</sup> of March ' the Pats are preparing to leave Italy Weather good bright sunny and warm A C and D Companies said quarter company and part of support company moved out today leaving at Harrod's only battalion headquarters medium machine gun scouts and snipers and M the former sail tomorrow morning

Leghorn Italy <sup>th</sup> of March ' – Weather dull light clouds remainder of the battalion moved off at about : hrs arriving at Leghorn at : hrs The crafts used all through the battalion move RLST men sleep in whatever bunches available under vehicles and in the open deck We were very thankful for the warm dry weather

The Princesses Patricias arrived at St in the vicinity of St Rambert <sup>th</sup> of March ' – Weather bright and warm They had a most pleasant trip about miles

up through the Rhone valley up to St Rambert arriving at : hrs Everyone is delighted with the first impressions of this new part of Europe It is a real treat to be in civilized country once again To see clean happy people The genuine friendliness of the inhabitants is very evident One dispatch rider was killed on a motor cycle accident today

### **The narrative shifts back to the Italian Campaign :**

May the <sup>nd</sup> ' – Mr Wallace Rayborn of the Montreal Standard and Mr Ben Malkin of Siften papers visited regiments today collecting stories of the Patricia's recent activities

<sup>th</sup> of May – The Pat's are at the vicinity of Guardiaregia and their addressed group marching etc

<sup>th</sup> of May ' – Weather cloudy with a bitter east wind visibility fair The Pats played a game of ball against the C <sup>th</sup> Highlanders and it was a close game until the last inning when the Pats scored three runs The score being to

<sup>th</sup> of May ' – An o group was held and the general attack plan for Cassino to the sea was spelled out The attack was to mount : hrs May the <sup>th</sup> This attack included the <sup>th</sup> Army the <sup>th</sup> Army a French Expeditionary Force of three divisions and <sup>nd</sup> US Core <sup>th</sup> US Division and <sup>th</sup> US Division About tanks will be deployed over the whole front and they are to be used "daringly" guns of all calibers spearhead the attack The primary objective is to breach a gustav line and capture Cassino in the high ground westward and follow up by cutting highway behind Cassino thus providing a main access for the advance of the armoured elements The second phase will be the breaching of the formidable Hitler line to allow the armed formations to drive forward along the open tank going cross country towards Rome This plan is tied in with the linking of the Anzzo bridgehead For security reasons the troops turned out and formed at this time of the existence of the new US Core and the bridge head who's task was to initiate the break through cutting highway and highway

<sup>th</sup> of May – All troops were advised on the plans to assault Cassino

<sup>th</sup> May ' – The battalion moves out towards Cassino Got away to a good start and had many Nebelwerfers very lovely country Route taken was Solopica Tellise Amourci and Riviana

<sup>th</sup> of May ' – O group held and the pats are given their orders As a grand finally to the day of activities they experienced quite a brisk air raid at about : hrs Planes were over for minutes and bombs were dropped There were only two slight casualties in the battalion While the Pats were moving up towards Cassino on <sup>th</sup> of May ' they heard the Rocom news that Monastery Hill had been captured at : hrs that highway number had been cut in three places

<sup>th</sup> May – Lieutenant B D McQuillian arrived at battalion headquarters and gave orders for the intention of an attack on the Adolph Hitler line in the area of Pontecorvo During the afternoon A and B Companies sent several packets of mortars and some arty fire in their area The Nebelwerfers also dusted our forward positions now and then were three casualties three killed and five

wounded The plan of attack is outlined this morning was cancelled in the evening The CO Lieutenant Colonel C B Ware DSO at the time was making a recy of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment area through which we were to pass was at this time in the Carlton and York Headquarters when he received the news

<sup>th</sup> of May ' – At approximately : hrs the enemy laid down a fairly heavy concentration of small calibre shells and mortar bombs C and B Companies bore the front of this and we suffered seven casualties four of them fatal Moaning many the Nebelwerfer was heard from now and then throughout the day The CO and second IO made a recy of the West Nova Scotia Regiment area our next and impending move During the afternoon we saw several squadrons of Kitty Hawks attack Ponticorvo Plans kept changing minute by minute According to the ebb n flow of the battle at the front The PPCLI in the end were to be replacement for the C <sup>th</sup>s The Royal Edmonton Regiment were to go through with them to exploit what ground they could towards Monty Corvo These plans too were later cancelled

<sup>nd</sup> May ' – Weather clear warm bright visibility good During the morning the attempt of enemy fire increased <sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade attacked at : hrs in Ponticorvo sector The attack was attained some success at first but evidently was stopped by quite stiff opposition Forward elements did penetrate the line in front of Ponticorvo The town had been previously entered by French patrols At : hrs Major McGee sent orders through the change of north of Nova Scotia Regiment would commence at : hrs In route we came under considerable shellfire Two ammunition trucks were hit and set on fire Exploding ammunition caused two casualties The PPLCI on the right and the C <sup>th</sup> Highlanders on the left got the task of hitting the Hitler line The Barrage commenced minutes before : hrs <sup>rd</sup> May ' the steady pounding of guns the roar of tanks moving forward and the merring up made a terrific din and set the pace for a somewhat hectic day Major Watson Commander of A Company pushed off with a cheerful remark See you on the objective Lieutenant Colonel R C Colman MC Command Royal Edmonton Regiment was also seen wearing a soft hat placidly smoking a pipe

**The following information is from record group volume**

**Northern France :**

This is margin volume South Saskatchewan Regiment – July the <sup>th</sup> They're just now going into action Battalion moved out of Caen at : hrs Crossed river on assault bridge and stopped along side road Had breakfast battalion then prepared to move to the F U P area At approximately : hrs A and D Companies were forward across the road with B and C Companies in reserve behind the road Each hour which was to be at : hrs was postponed until : hrs Which enabled the troops to prepare dinner in FUP where they were dug in Major T R Mathews held a brief O group where they went over the plans for the attack giving details of arty barrage and air cover The Camerons of Canada were to be on the right flank Their task being to take St Andre sur orne South Saskatchewan Regiment on left flank to take high ground the Fuslair de mount royal in reserve in the village of IFS The South Saskatchewan Regiment crossed the start line at : hrs Moved up into formation with A Company on left D Company right B Company follow up and C Company in reserve D Company objective was number A Company

objective was another number and B Company another number. Battalion moved forward and in very good order and did the first thousand yards at great fast time. No opposition encountered until they reached the wireless station. But they were soon overcome. They then proceeded to another number where heavy opposition was met by the two forward companies. The enemies were overcome and the South Saskatchewan Regiment took their first prisoner of war. They then proceeded to road and track junction at another number where at this time D Company hit heavy opposition on the right and lost approximately one platoon and two officers. A Company on the left also ran into heavy opposition and continued to mop them up. B Company was ordered to push through D Company and cease D Company objective. B Company came forward and helped to mop up D Company position. Then proceeded towards D Company's objective. B Company first encountered enemy at [redacted]. The enemy then started to lay down heavy mortar and arty fire accurately fired into our positions. B Company pushed through arty and mortar fire and took their first prisoner of war that number [redacted]. Five POWs were taken there. B Company continued forward and encountered their second group of enemy at [redacted]. There they took approximately [redacted] prisoners of war and they moved up forward as far as [redacted]. While a battalion was mopping up the enemy in high ground four tanks were spotted at approximately [redacted] coming in on the counter attack. One was identified as Mark [redacted] others were identified but were not Mark [redacted]. The tanks attacked D Company with Bren machine gun fire and the pits were ordered to the ground and B Company started to withdraw to D Company area where the anti tank guns were being set up and the tank screen set up and it would also keep company reserves sole position. When B Company reached the right flank of D Company with only half the Company left they found the anti tank guns either shot up or being shot up so they started to dig in. At approximately this time Major G R Mathews, Commander of South Saskatchewan Regiment, Lieutenant D S Pedlow, Battalion IO, who were up with the companies received an almost direct hit and were believed to be dead. The tanks came right up to the crest of the hill and started to lay down heavy machine gun fire causing heavy casualties. At the same time the German Infantry came in on the right flank from the high ground and started to lay down mg and mortar fire on the troops. By this time the anti tank guns were out of action and firing on A Company front was very heavy. Major J S Edmonson, Commander B Company contacted the arty carrier and passed a message to brigade headquarters asking for support against the tanks. But was unable to contact anyone. The remainder of B Company then withdrew through the grain field through C Company area. Major J S Edmonson then reported the position of the line of the forward troops to brigade command post at IFS. The Essex Scottish who were in reserve then came forward and started to dig in at area [redacted]. The remainder of the South Saskatchewan Regiment then withdrew through the Essex Scottish with the exception of some of the boys who would not leave but stayed there with Bren guns and piets. The South Saskatchewan Regiment withdrew to FUP where they were established into companies and dug in for the night. The battalion was reorganized under Major J S Edmonson by [redacted] : [redacted] hrs ver few people had arrived back

[redacted]<sup>th</sup> of July ' [redacted] and also the casualties of the attack on Racquancourt at Clairlizon in France

July [redacted]<sup>th</sup> - From [redacted] : [redacted] hrs to [redacted] : [redacted] hrs walking wounded in elements of all companies reporting to FUP. At [redacted] : [redacted] hrs Lieutenant Henderson of C Company reported back and said that fighting was still going on in front of the Essex

Scottish and through out chaps were fighting in front of and with the Essex Scottish

<sup>st</sup> of July ' – by : hrs a few more men had arrived back to the FUP and the battalion remained into the area cleaning their weapons Throughout the attack it was raining very heavy and continued to do so throughout the day which made things very bad As there were no aircraft that could get off the ground to support the troops In the attack the regiment lost officers and OR killed wounded or missing The company commands for the attack were A Company Major R S Wells who was missing B Company Major J S Edmonson present C Company Captain C J Doyle missing D Company Major L L Dikon present Personnel were given their rum issue at breakfast which was very appreciated Heavy arty and mortar shelling of the position continued during the morning with some casualties Orders from the battalion to retire to reorganize were issued and Major J S Edmonson Lieutenant N H Hadley went forward to recy a position A Echelon troops arrived at given number where Major N A Adams had a lot of positions for the battalion and the position was prepared for the troops The Company arrived between : hrs and : hrs where they were allotted positions and fed

July <sup>nd</sup> – reinforcements arrived for the dead and wounded A mobile bath unit provided showers for the troops during the afternoon During the day Major General C Foulkes CBEGOC Second Canadian Infantry Division visited the battalion

<sup>rd</sup> July – vehicles and equipment to replace that loss in action arrived during the day and the companies were busy reorganizing During the afternoon this of <sup>rd</sup> July ' a warning order was issued to be prepared to move up by : hrs to take up a position behind the Fusilier's Mount Royal Troops left at : hrs Vehicles travelling by a car had arrived in IFS at : hrs where the companies took up positions in their areas Battalion headquarters was set up in the area of village IFS All troops at community commence to dig in as the area was subject to artillery and mortar fire By battalion headquarters was digging in an HE shell believed to be from an mm gun landed in the scout platoon area killing two men and wounding another two During the day company commanders made a recy of the grounds forward of the village of IFS To which they moved their companies Enemy shelling was very much in evidence during the day with some casualties caused among the troops The positions were all dug in well and each slit trench was to have roof on it The position the battalion took up was a defensive position to supply a firm base for the attack on Troteval farm by the Fusiliers de Mount Royal The attack took place at : hrs and proved successful it was found later on by an attack by tanks and the Fourth Canadian Infantry Brigade in the village of Verrieres In the attack on Troteval Farm the Fusiliers de Mount Royal took a few prisoners and one of them stated that they had been warned that bombing raid was to be carried out on our lines starting at : hrs The battalion then got to their slit trenches and stayed there while the raid was on

July <sup>th</sup> ' – the attack on Verrieres by Fourth Brigade was carried out in the early hours of the morning and was successful During the morning a warning order was issued to be prepared to move and that the South Saskatchewan Regiment were to move into position occupied by the regiment Demais est July <sup>th</sup> ' Major N A Adams left and J S Edmonson took over command of the South Saskatchewan Regiment Throughout the Germans shelled and mortared

our position causing casualties among them. One of them being Corporal Winn H and Private Scott of the Pioneer Platoon. During the afternoon Major J S Edmonson held an O group and outlined future plans. The South Saskatchewan Regiment would put in an attack on Fonteny le marion as the Calgary Highlanders had taken May sur orne.

July 1<sup>st</sup> - : hrs the Edmonton Regiment C<sup>th</sup> put in an attack on Leonfort under a terrific artillery concentration. The PPCLI was in reserve and was able to watch. There was heavy rain all night long and wireless communications were poor. There were only rather confused reports of stragglers drifting back from the town.

July 2<sup>nd</sup> at : hrs C Company of the PPCLI moved off and by : hrs reached the rear battalion headquarters of the Edmonton Rifles. At : the company endeavoured to form up and move into the town providing infantry protection for four Sherman tanks and four six pounders of the anti tank battery. The area was heavily mortared by machine gun and the attack through the town was postponed. The attack went in at : hrs with one platoon and Company headquarters with C Company mounted on the quads and guns of the<sup>th</sup> anti tank battery. By : hrs they contacted the battalion headquarters of the Edmonton Rifles consisting of about all ranks. In the centre of the town they were entirely out of contact with the rest of the battalion. C Company continued to push through the town and against stiff opposition finally attacked and occupied the area around the railway station. In the meantime A Company was brought forward and Sherman tanks and halted it to the southern entrance of the town while the officer commanding Major J R G Sutherland went forward to Lias with the officer commander of C Company Captain R C Coleman. B Company passed through A Company and contact with C Company by : hrs. By : hrs the wreckage of any enemy tank which had been blocking the main road through the town was finally cleared away and our tanks were able to move forward deleting tank when it came abreast of C Company was knocked out by a dual purpose gun which had strafed B Company during the morning. The three inch mortars A Company were using employed in rendering this gun ineffective they got the gun in other words with three in mortars. At : hrs A Company made a spirited attack on high feature to the left. In this action Lieutenant R Carry Commander of the<sup>th</sup> Platoon and one of his men Private Riley W distinguished themselves by their bravery and resourcefulness in clearing out three enemy machine gun posts and were later awarded the military cross and military medal respectively. By : hrs despite heavy casualties including Major J R G Sutherland wounded A Company had gained their objective in the face of sniping and mortaring never relaxed their grip. <sup>th</sup> Platoon had come up against strong opposition that was finally overcome and it was here that Private Cousins S J so distinguished himself that he was recommended for the Victoria Cross. By this time D Company had moved into town and taken up a position in rear of the three leading companies and battalion headquarters was established in the centre of the town. The RAP made use of Leonforte Hospital where casualties poured in. Not only from our own but also other units. During the afternoon Corporal R Middleton of the RAP earned the military medal for his coolness under fire and men wounded. The battle was by now practically over. At last light the battalion anti tank guns were moved forward to guard the north entrance of the town and the companies consolidated on their positions for the night. D Company had the task of clearing the town of snipers. There was sporadic firing and patrolling during the night but we had strong local patrols out and nothing developed of

the serious nature Major J R G Sutherland struck off strength to x list This is all of <sup>nd</sup> July ' Lieutenant A R H Birch struck off strength to x list This means they were all wounded Lieutenant R D Brown Clayton took off strength from <sup>th</sup> Battalion The battle of Leonforte an account of the exploits for which Private Cousins S J was recommended for the B C was told of his platoon officer

### **The narrative reverts back to the Italian Campaign :**

<sup>rd</sup> July – Leonforte Sicily – Weather very hot At first light B Company was pushed forward to the left of A Company and battalion headquarters took up a position in rear of A company Leonforte was hours at a cost of killed and wounded The battalion made no further move today but consolidated in their positions and the men were given the opportunities to rest and clean up after their hard grind A check on casualties in and around the area was made and the dead were buried Little excitement was caused now and then as we were shelled by an enemy gun somewhere in the hills northwest of here Attempts to pinpoint it were unsuccessful

### **The narrative moves to the Normandy Campaign :**

<sup>th</sup> of July second part of the Reginas on tape

<sup>th</sup> of July ' – Operation Charnwood casualties suffered in ASS area where four killed and two wounded B Company moved up to the FUP at approximately : hrs from assembly area Our Company was shelled all the way down to the FUP In coming near Authi approximately yards away two machine guns opened up on us from the front and from the left flanks The company was in an open field and the leading section with two IC guards across a gap two buildings near the village They continued to fire and the rest of the company and one of the two IC arrived at the start line with one section The section suffered two casualties on the way down Remainder of the company with Major E G Syme Company Commander arrived about minutes later Considerable sniping with several mgs were still at large in Authi At his time it was minutes before company was formed up ready to move to objectives and plus forward with PPCLI following up All reached objectives under mortar fire about minutes later and consolidated there The mortar fire was very heavy and the casualties suffered were more numerous We mopped up around objective Machine guns and mortar operations and two tanks were fired on us from Abby and the company took protection in strong point area Total casualties during the day were all ranks including Major Syme Exhaustion and Lieutenant Brundage wounded Lieutenant McNinch was wounded but still carried on C and D Companies passed through as well consolidating and we gave them covering fire C Company moved off from assembly area to start line approximately : hrs As we were moving towards Authi we ran into heavy mortar fire and suffered several casualties on this side of Authi We arrived there about : hrs We waited there for B Company to move forward and formed up on the start line After minutes in Authi we moved along axis of advance towards first objective which B Company was clearing and consolidating on We passed through B Company and ran into very heavy mortar fire and fire from two tanks D Company was also pinned down One night machine gun was in pillbox at corner of Anchant Abby and one light machine gun sniper was on top of the Abby Here <sup>th</sup> and <sup>th</sup> Platoons went right flanking with <sup>th</sup> Platoon giving cover fire and moving up slowly At this stage heavy casualties were suffered in all platoons Captain W L C White



Lieutenant W C White and Lieutenant A E Smith killed and Major C S Tablton Wilson C S M Adams Sergeant A C wounded Plus a large number of other ranks The company then withdrew to B Company's position on orders from Major Tub before he was wounded Remainder of company still in action mounted to about men all ranks About of these crawled back to Authi on their own The remainder staying in B Company's position At Authi the men reported to Major A S Gregory and were used as SB's to return to B Company during the night and the next morning moved with OC B Company Reinforcements arrived at the Abby were men plus officers Lieutenant Foul and Lieutenant Colwell in this remaining platoon was attached to B Company for all purposes Total casualties suffered for the day was approximately all ranks

<sup>th</sup> of July continued D Company left assembly area about : hrs were under shell fire all the way down Arriving at Authi about : hrs Casualties suffered on the way down were one killed one wounded and one jeep knocked out Company formed on start line and received orders to move off about : hrs We proceeded along axis of advance to first objective and suffered one more casualty from machine gun fire on the way to the first objective Company moved forward in axis passing through B Company and moved forward with fire and movements Two within yards of the Abby we were then pinned down with heavy machine gun fire from two tanks at the corner of Abby Dug in pillboxes and machine gun on top of the Abby <sup>th</sup> Platoon went left flanking but was forced to withdraw under heavy machine gun fire We then moved <sup>th</sup> and <sup>th</sup> Platoons in an assault on the Abby under cover of two inch mortar and smoke about : hrs and gained our objective We then consolidated and dug in on the east side of buildings Village at this time was not cleared <sup>th</sup> Platoon moved up with balance of company and consolidated in general area of Abby buildings Several medium machine guns continued to fire on us During the night about yards south of company area along Abby wall At first light we cleared all buildings in Abby area and moved whole company forward and inclusive of Abby buildings Casualties suffered four killed and wounded from time of leaving assembly area to the time of gaining objective Prisoners of war taken three

<sup>th</sup> July – Regina Rifles mount the first ceremonial guard in the city of Caen At Place Street St Martin guard is strong consisting of five officers five sergeants and Ors Canadian flag unfrilled place St Martin near the monument

<sup>th</sup> of July – St Julien Caen Four of our snipers go to the first Canadian Scottish Regiment down on the river Orne for sniping As of <sup>th</sup> of June they are trying to cross the river Orne Lieutenant Burgeron's patrol returns at : hrs with information that railway bridges are destroyed and occupied by enemy who seemed entrenched in the opposite bank The patrol did not cross the river Corporal McCaig's patroller reported that the house in question is occupied by the enemy The patrol was discovered by the enemy and had to withdraw without taking any prisoners or cleaning out the house Royal Winnipeg Rifle patrol takes two prisoners in the opposite side of the river and also reported that the south part of Caen of the river was held by two companies of the SS troops CO received orders to move the remainder of the battalion back to rest area

<sup>th</sup> July – Rocket firing typhoon fighters appeared in front of the Reginas who have taken a beating in the meantime and they are a welcome sight

: hrs <sup>th</sup> July two more casualties as a result of enemy shelling at : hrs Enemy aircraft bombed and strafe the Reginas at : hrs One guy was buried up to his neck by a bomb but they dug him out All the way through the rest of the month the Reginas suffered heavy shelling from mm enemy guns

### Dealing with the Black Watch:

July <sup>th</sup> – Weather clear and warm The terrific rumble of bombs falling on Caen was heard at sunrise this morning As the RAF with more than bombers opened up the new offensive After them appeared another bombers dropping fragmentation bombs The battalion moved by march route to Caen at : hrs and concentrated on the southern side of the town By this time Third Division had crossed the river Orne above Vaucelles and were clearing towards it between noon and : hrs there were four O groups The battalion being mortared during three of them During the afternoon Lieutenant Jock Neil was reported missing and Sergeant Nelson wounded by enemy Semi automatic fire from the east bank while making a recy of the area selected for the crossing The final plan B Company with men from Support Company plus one SECC carrier platoon would carry the boats across the river in crossing daylight Two PL's plus the dismounted carrier section at and one platoon D Company taking a position along the ditch in line of trees bordering the river would be fire company This was the only cover in the race track area and D Company would cross on a Kapok bridge directed in place by A Company Due to the possibility of the Third Division troops being in the area the artillery concentration which we asked for was rejected D Company would be in the position by H H hr was : hrs when the battalion broke from their cover at The platoon setting out from their crossing points by the most direct routes Total distance it was one of the platoons making for their crossing point on the right flank had gone of the yards total distance It was seen that D Company had been delayed it had just reached the western end of the racetrack B Company kept on and when the lead boat was approximately yards from the river the enemy opened fire with machine guns and mortar from the high ground along the east bank The men kept on until casualties made it impossible for those not hit to support the boats Those who were still able made for the ditch and were joined by D Company and the enemy was engaged by fire <sup>th</sup> continued the platoon making the crossing on the left flank met with no opposition B Company suffered casualties including Lieutenant Austin who died of wounds and Major Stevenson wounded The only boat not held by enemy fire was the lead boat in which Corporal Watson and a few men gallantly managed to cross the river Although Corporal Watson and others were killed in so doing During this action the battalion medical orderlies did magnificent work under fire Notable among them was Corporal Steele of B Company who tended the wounded under heavy fire with complete disregard for danger At last light enemy planes bombed the racetrack and upon darkness falling the battalion crossed on the Kapok Bridge and occupied the town without resistance The night was spent in patrol in neutralizing enemy snipers and digging in

<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Weather clear and fine Major Stevenson was evacuated to ADS at : hrs As the regiment Demaisuneuve passed through our positions to attack Fleury sur orne which they reached and held without much difficulty in

turn the Calgary Highlanders passed through them to point. The battalion moved up on the axis's and took IFS where they consolidated and during the night held firmly and beat off several counter attacks thrown against the position.

July 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Weather clear and fine. The snipers were active all day and buildings and fields around our position and during the day ten were brought in in a very shaking condition. Enemy mortars and shelling caused some casualties during the day prompting us to seek the security of our slit trenches. Moaning manies that were quite plentiful on our front and that of the Calgary Highlanders. The medical section under Captain O H Kle and picking up and caring for the wounded. The Sixth Canadian Infantry Brigade attacked through us with artillery support at 10:00 hrs. The attack went off as planned and objectives were taken and enemy counter attack forced the South Saskatchewan Regiment to withdraw with many casualties. Our battalion remained firm and was placed under the command of Sixth Brigade to counter attack.

July 8<sup>th</sup> Monday – Weather very heavy rain. Shelling and mortar against our positions continued during the night. Sixth Brigade had taken quite a knocking but no ground was lost. In the late afternoon we were told that we would have to attack hill 100 to relieve the Essex Scottish who were having a bad time. At 18:00 hrs the battalion under cover of a creeping barrage attacked successfully and consolidated while the Cameron's of Canada attacked St Andre sur Orne. During the night we were attacked by planes but we suffered no casualties. Major Fraser commanding D Company was wounded by a shell fragment while digging a slit trench and died a few hours later.

July 9<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Black Watch. Weather still raining. Mortaring and shelling continued on a heavy scale and casualties are mounting. The RAP continues to shine and evacuating casualties under all sorts of conditions. In the morning the battalion beat off a jury counter attack. The CO handled the situation very well. Lieutenant McGill was wounded in the back by shrapnel.

July 10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Weather cloudy. Around 10:00 hrs mines were laid on the road on the left of our position. At 14:00 hrs a German fighting patrol approximately 20 strong infantry through the forward companies attacked the command post. A short sharp fighting ensued lasting 15 minutes. Our casualties were one killed, one wounded while Frits lost 10 killed and 10 wounded. While 10 prisoners were taken. During the day mortaring and shelling continued on a heavy scale with a CO taking all possible counter measures. At night standing patrol was sent out to prevent the Germans from repeating last night's performance. Captain Traversy was wounded today by shrapnel. Support Company headquarters was wiped out by direct hits.

July 11<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Weather clear and warm. At 10:00 hrs the mines previously laid down were lifted. Shells and mortars continued to land around us. In the afternoon the CO called an O group to make the preparation for operation spring which is to take place tomorrow. The plan Camerons of Canada to clear St Andre sur Orne. Calgary Highlanders to take St Martin Defontinay and our battalion to take May sur Orne. That was the battle of hill 100.

We are now going to talk about the battle of May sur Orne. The weather clear and warm. This morning at 10:00 hrs Lieutenant Colonel S S T Cantlie every bit of fighting man was fatally wounded by machine gun fire went out on a recy

with the IO Lieutenant Duffield Who was also wounded Lieutenant Colonel Cantlie died from his wounds at : hrs and was buried near the caves at Fleury sur Orne At : hrs the Calgary Highlanders started their attack Between the outside grim battle insued the Calgary Highlanders did manage to get A Company into May sur Orne but were unable to consolidate there The battalion under the command of Major Griffin acting OC formed up on the attack but the companies were able to get no further than the ridge overlooking the town when they ran into a heavy concentration of fire and of the forward companies practically all are missing FECH was badly shelled and mortared on the outskirts of St Andre sur Orne where Sergeant James was killed when mortar landed on his slit trench Captain Stewart was wounded as were many others An attack on the May sur Orne by the regiment Demaiseneuve was planned for : hrs to relieve the pressure on the battalion But half way to the town they too ran into very heavy machine gun fire and were unable to reach their objectives The battalion was now cut off with very little chance of recovery

Fleury sur Orne France <sup>th</sup> of July ' – Weather fair and windy During the night the remainder of the Black Watch were pulled back to regroup re equip and be brought back up to strength A very few of those missing had managed to make their way back to the battalion and of these enlargements the majority had been wounded Major F M Mitchelle took over command of the battalion with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and Lieutenant Law was promoted to the rank of Captain and the capacity of adjutant replacing Captain Stewart wounded yesterday Lieutenant McKenzie is the new IO These appointments are the typical changes which have had to be made through the entire battalion

<sup>th</sup> of July Sunday – Weather dull but warm Reinforcements are starting to pour in and the day is spent in getting into some semblance of order Once more the OC addressed us today saying that in all its history never has the honour of the Hakle been higher than it is today No more news of the missing boys

July <sup>th</sup> – Weather fair and warm The battalion is fast in getting up to strength once more and training with the companies has been started

<sup>st</sup> – Weather fair and warm As the eventful month draws to a close we find the battalion reorganizing and re equipping and close we find the battalion reorganizing and re equipping and everyone catching up on rest and sleep The latter being distributed more frequently by the mosquitoes in our slit trenches then by the sound of the guns in our position

<sup>th</sup> July ' – During the breakfast meal the position of battalion headquarters received a slight pasting from Captain J M Stewart's slit trench (**in American and popular parlance a "fox hole"**) Bringing the roof of his slit trench on top of him There were casualties but the officer in consisting of the battalion headquarters trucks over a whole two and half feet deep and eight square feet was badly shot up The front left tire of the I section vehicle was blown out For the second time in two days

<sup>th</sup> July – recy patrol under command Lieutenant J K Johnston returned during the early hours of the morning without seeing any enemy The shelling of our positions continued through out the day with some casualties One member of the scout platoon was killed and one wounded at : hrs One mm shell

landed in the area. Burial parties went out after darkness to bury our own and some of the enemy dead.

1<sup>th</sup> July '44 – Scouts were sent out while it was still dark to lay out all day and observe the enemy. The battalion O is a man from before dawn to after dark. Each day by one section and one scout platoon personnel. Reported that enemy tanks and men digging in area of St. Martin De Fontina. All enemy movements reported back and they received attention from arty. Casualties from shelling our own positions today were two killed and several wounded. Mine laying parties and patrols went out after dark.

July 2<sup>th</sup> '44 – Patrols returned with no prisoners of war. The mine laying party were not able to complete the field as planned.

August 5<sup>th</sup> '44 – Regina Rifle Regiment is out at rest at a place called Colomby Sur Thaon. Weather warm with bright sunshine and clear skies. Captain G C Willard CDC is attached to us for several days to attend the battalions much needed dental work. Schedule for trips to the beach starts today with B Company part of the battalion headquarters and NCO school being organized to go. Troops are taken by transport to Courseulles where they may inspect defence and beach all morning. Recalling the day of the landings and different encounters made there. After dinner transportation will take troops to Berniers where they may swim all afternoon. After supper transportation will bring troops back to camp. By 8:00 hrs showing today at the Legion playhouse several performances of the Lady Takes the Chance. Junior NCO's school is organized and syllabus of training is set up to start tomorrow.

August 6<sup>th</sup> '44 – School re enter Command of Major L K Gass and runs for three days etc. Reinforcements received today. Officer Lieutenant G Black posted to C Company and re enforcement's Lieutenant J Money. D Company posted to headquarters. Third Canadian Infantry Division.

August 7<sup>th</sup> '44 – Brigade parade of Regina Rifles, the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and the Canadian Scottish Regiment held today at brigade headquarters area at 10:00 hrs. Dress and berets with belts no weapons. Salute is taken by Major General R C Keller GOC Third Canadian Infantry Division. He complemented us on our achievements up till now and advises us to prepare for the next round of battles.

August 8<sup>th</sup> '44 – J A M Cook Leader Post Winnipeg Free Press correspondent arrived to spend some time with us and write the story of the regiment from D Day till now for the people at home. No beach trip today due to brigade parade this morning.

August 9<sup>th</sup> '44 – Weather continues fine and warm with cool quiet peaceful nights and everyone is getting good sleep at night here.

August 10<sup>th</sup> '44 – Weather continues bright and warm. Sergeants' mess opens today with dining room and operation. Officers' mess is open liquor of course is nil. Re enforcements arrived today. Lieutenant Mathews R J posted to B Company; Lieutenant MacDuggall W J posted to A Company.

August 11<sup>th</sup> '44 – Battalions called out and another brigade parade at brigade ground at 10:00 hrs today. Inspected by GOC Second Canadian Corps Lieutenant General Guy Simmons. Lieutenant Colonel Matheson called to headquarters.

Three Canadian Division at : hrs for conference Lieutenant General Simmons complemented the Seventh Brigade and Third Division for fine work in assault

<sup>th</sup> of August – two companies of the Edmonton Rifles attacked and occupied Mount Revisotto by : hrs They were supported by regiment of arty a battery of anti tank guns which effectively engaged enemy strong points and houses PPCLI moved forward on the axis of the main road to trail to the high ground The road was heavily shelled and C and D Companies advanced along the axis Two casualties were suffered in the shelling Lieutenant J D A Horn was killed and Lance Corporal Morrison wounded when a shell landed in their midst

<sup>th</sup> of August ' – The carrier platoon patrol under Lieutenant Lambert returned The reported heavy fire from enemy war were enable to advance decoming fighting patrol under Lieutenant Brown consisting of Ors from decoming members of the scout platoon returned at : hrs They reported that they proceeded to a place where a fire party was left to establish a firm base They then proceeded to another place where they observed five Germans taking in the patrol attack Killing all the enemy that the patrol had returned carrying Lieutenant Brown and Ors who were slightly wounded

<sup>th</sup> of August – Company shelled intermittently all night Forced light casualties and one machine gun knocked out

<sup>th</sup> of August ' – : hrs battalion O Group was called and plans for the second day core were laid on the Second Canadian Core Intention is to break through defence crest Tilly Racquancourt Fontanay le Maron and push the brush through the high ground beyond the <sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade Intentions to take Rocquancourt Fontanay le Maron and May sur Orne The method to be used was that the Fusilier Mount Royal would take May sur Orne the Camerons of Canada to take Fontanay le Maron and the South Saskatchewan Regiment would take Rocquancourt A pack be processed by minutes of heavy bombing and Fontanay le Maron and May sur Orne followed by an arty berrage on Rocquancourt h hr to be the time of the bombing the South Saskatchewan Regiment would proceed between Hermer and consolidate in Rocquancourt The advance would be in a long tail formation with D Company on the left A Company on the right with B and C Companies following the Hindy Company would consolidate north have and B and C Companies would push through and consolidate south half At : hrs the battalion with do a short distance until after the bombing took place the bombers come over at : hrs and the troops crossed the SL which was very ers at : hrs and the Johns Fs launch started to move up to very ers at : hrs on the move to very ers efechalaune came under very heavy artillery and mortar shelling causing some casualties among the personnel vehicles members of the Scout Platoon took shelter in a place where battalion headquarters had been set up were buried with a shell hit the corner of the house after approximately hrs they were dug out and evacuated to the hospital with minor injuries the attacking troops had moved into Rocquancourt meaning some resistance which was quickly overcome The casualties for the attack amounted approximately there were approximately POWs taken not counting wounded or killed All Companies were in position by : hours efechalaune and BHQ left vere ers at : hrs but due to the roads being blocked by tanks knocked out by Ru fire they didn't arrive until : hrs then headquarters was set up near there

during the attack with Lieutenant Colonel FA Clift received a small piece of shrapnel in his back but the sitnop put him out of action. During the morning the troops mopped up their areas and the Germans gave us considerable tension with his mortars and arty. During the morning word also came through that the troops and Ripe were held up and for the South Saskatchewan Regiment to understand to a system. Battalion O group was held at : hrs where plans were laid on to take out the enemy hampering the movement of the Camerons of Canada the method was a two company attack with the carrier platoon and two troops of tanks pouring them. The force left at : hrs and the attack went very well and troops met no resistance and took POWs. The patrol plan was laid on for the night which consisted of the one contact patrol and the <sup>th</sup> Camerons and one fighting patrol.

August <sup>th</sup> ' major J S Edmonson went back to look over the battlefields to identify casualties identified were Major G R Mathews Major R S Wells Captain C J Doyle Captain J L Gates Lieutenant D S Pedleau and Lieutenant C D Grasen were all killed.

<sup>th</sup> of August ' during the day the padres and the Captain set out a burial party for the burying of those killed.

<sup>th</sup> August ' battalion headquarters was set up and the battalion O group was held over to : hrs where the order for the move forward were given. Marching troops left at : hrs and heavy fighting gained the high ground. Return headquarters set up at Clairlizion. The Germans counter attacked at : hrs but they were beaten off and the position maintained. During the afternoon Iliad area bombardment on enemy positions took place from : hrs to : hrs. Some of the bombers fell short and battalion suffered some casualties but the enemy took a very serious hammering. At : hrs the enemy tried another counter attack but they again were driven off with heavy casualties.

<sup>th</sup> of August ' at a place called Villerscanivent left at : hrs but were held up by mines on the road which were soon cleared by the pioneer platoon and the rocking engineers echelon arrived at : hrs. Battalion headquarters were set up with A Company as such and such location and so on. At : hrs Fourth Canadian Infantry Brigade passed through with their armour and approximately POWs were taken.

<sup>th</sup> August ' : hrs another battalion O group was held where plans were laid out for the attack on Falaise. The South Saskatchewan Regiment is to move into an assembly area along with the Camerons of Canada and Fusillades de Mount Royal. The Fourth Canadian Infantry Brigade are to take the high ground on the west of Falaise. The South Saskatchewan Regiment are then to advance on Falaise with the Camerons of Canada taking the west part of the city. The marching troops resumed their advance at : hrs they met no opposition on the road to Falaise but upon entering the city they came under heavy machine gun and mortar fire and fire from snipers. These posts were quickly wiped out and by : hrs the battalion reached the river where they found one bridge in good condition covered by a dug in tank and road blocks. This obstacle over cover. By : hrs all companies went across the river the Camerons of Canada the right cross river. At : hrs battalion ends resumed its task of clearing the town which was full of snipers and machine gun posts but by the time darkness came the town was cleared up with the exception of two

snipers who continued to fire at the men when they showed themselves. The battalion then took up a defensive position on the south side of the town with A Company at a location etc.

<sup>th</sup> of August Captain Edmonson's jeep ran over a mine. They were all shaken up but nobody was hurt.

<sup>th</sup> of August they came under a heavy artillery fire and a Corporal Sutton of a single platoon was seriously wounded at : hrs August ' <sup>th</sup> Falaise was a target for German bombers who dropped quite a number of bombs causing no casualties in the battalion but the wall of A Company's headquarters was blown in on them.

<sup>th</sup> August : hrs the rations arrived in also weight the blankets had also come with it. At : hrs the enemy aircraft dropped flares which slopped the countryside and they also dropped some bombs but not in our immediate area. It was just two years ago today that the battalion took part in the Dieppe parade. Among those who wounded on that day were CQMS Long HE who brought up battalion headquarters and headquarter rations at : hrs. On the return trip the party was in under Captain H P Williams were caught in the air raid and CQMS Long was wounded by shrapnel and evacuated to hospital. Lance Corporal Beacourt G C who was also at Dieppe received a small piece of shrapnel in his big toe which split the bone and he was also evacuated.

August <sup>th</sup> at approximately : hrs marching troops left to do advance contact to high ground and railway bridges. Then C Company moved in first without any opposition. Then they proceeded across the railroad and then approximately half the company got across the first bridge then came under fire from a sniper and machine guns on the left leg came. Headquarters was set up. Captain V Schubert then sent one section right flag to deal with the sniper. This section came under fire from a sniper and was unable to advance over the railway and withdrew to come to headquarters. Captain V Schubert then took a platoon and section of scouts to do a left flanking attack. This platoon under Captain V Schubert lost communication with company headquarters and was sought and they were ambushed. So after they left the remainder of C Company under Lieutenant J B Jesson came under heavy small arms fire and they were pinned down to their immediate areas. C Company then got the word to withdraw which they did following low ground and the withdrawal came under enemy mortar fire which wiped out one section and part of company headquarters including J P Jesson. Lieutenant R C Cree the remaining officer was also killed by mortar fire. S C M Smith J A then took command of C Company and with D Company they withdrew and later reorganized and took up a defence of position. C Company with men remaining were put as a platoon into A Company. Dinner was brought to them from Effec at : hrs. Troops rested during the afternoon and Major F B Courtney and Captain N H Hadley attended to brigade over poor plans were made for the South Saskatchewan Regiment to try for the same objective under artillery barrage. The arty barrage started at : hrs and lasted to : hrs. A battalion was late in starting and did not get the full help of the barrage but proceeded as planned. The order of mortar march was A D B H and C Company. The battalion moved forward along the axis of advance which included the road. A Company under Captain H B Williams moved forward along a clearing past the monastery. D Company moved along the road followed by B H queuing C Company. As the leading troops of D Company under Major D W Thomas came



to the crossroads they were met with considerable semi automatic and mortar fire. Then A Company took up position by a monastery and D Company got busy clearing out the machine guns and was on the road near the monastery knocking the companies set out of action and wounding the operator Lance Corporal Dall Zell R L. The carrier then moved back to a quarry where they received another set from H Q while the set was being installed in the carrier D Company cleaned out the machine guns and sniper posts. At : the advance continued with the E and C Companies leading followed by D Company Battalion headquarters in B Company. The CO's carrier for all of D Company with Major Courtney and the driver Private Curtis R in the front and Lieutenant D F Faregreave are on the set. Private McLean T R an set in a carrier when a carrier reached the place you'd hit a German team mine which blew the carrier over tearing a hole in the floor where Major F B Courtney was standing. He was believed to be killed instantly and blown up and over the carrier and down the bank on the right side of the road. Captain N Hadley battalion IO was walking beside the carrier beside Major F B Courtney and on the same side of the carrier which struck the mine. He was instantly killed and blown through the bush on the left of the road. Lieutenant D F Faregreave Private Curtis and Private McLean were blown out of the carrier onto the road. They were evacuated to a hospital with Lieutenant D F Faregreave suffering from Phosphorous in his hair and slight shock. Private Curtis shock and Private McLean T R shock and cuts in the face. Major E W Thomas took command of the South Saskatchewan Regiment and the advance continued.

<sup>th</sup> August ' during the night the battalion was under constant machine gun mortar and rifle hand grenade fire and at : hrs D Company fought vigorously but were unsuccessful. B Company then did a fight flanking and got into position at : hrs. At : hrs the three companies were pinned to the ground by heavy semi automatic and mortar fire. At first light the Germans put in a counter attack and although the battalion fought hard using all weapons including a hand grenade when the enemy got close enough they were forced to withdraw to an area crossroads where they took up a defensive position and reorganized. A Company took up positions near the command post tanks and support of battalion took up positions at the crossroads. The Camerons of Canada took up defensive position along the road. In the Camerons of Canada command post was also set up in the quarry. Plans were made to have the Fusiliers Mount Royal and the Camerons of Canada pushed through. The South Saskatchewan Regiment continued along the axis of advance brigadier F A Clift then visited the forward company positions with Major E W Thomas' brigade the commander of the Fusiliers Mount Royal and Sergeant Fisher S C. When the fusiliers Mount Royal looked the ground over which he was to go through and in his attack he returned to his battalion. The brigade command then gave orders for D Company to move a section forward at higher ground. The brigadier then visited B Company position as they left the position and moved down to the road he was hit in the leg by a rifle bullet breaking his leg above the ankle. One of the tanks then backed up and gave protection while Major E W Thomas went for a jeep and a stretcher and Brigadier Clift had his leg bandaged by the tank troops squadron commander Sergeant Fisher S. E Clift was evacuated by the field ambulance. The section of D Company which was approximately half of D Company strength of men moved up to take an out post position. The men never got that far as they came under heavy semi automatic fire and the Germans then threw in a counter attack on D Company front which drove this section back into it's original position where with the help of B Company and tanks they beat off the counter attack. Word then came

through that the planned attack by the Fusiliers Mount Royal and Camerons of Canada was postponed. At : hrs a fighting strength of a battalion was approximately Ors with Major E W Thomas as commanding officer. Captain H B Williams in charge of A Company. Lieutenant M A Sharp in charge of B Company. C S M Smith in charge of C Company. Lieutenant F Lee in charge of D Company and Sergeant Fisher S E acting as an IO. Word was then sent to the Fesallent sent duck carrier platoon and reinforcements. The carrier platoon of men arrived at : hrs and were dispatched to the companies. At this time the enemy started to mortar our positions heavily in snipers were a constant threat and the carrier platoon had some trouble to get to the companies where they were allotted to. At : hrs two officers and Ors arrived as reinforcements. They were detailed to their companies but on their way there they were met with heavy mortar fire and sniper fire. One of the officers who arrived was Lieutenant J A M McDonald. On the way from command post to his company he was hit by a sniper and died instantly. That was Lieutenant J A M McDonald. Lieutenant J K Johnston who was the other officer made it all right. : hrs Major H P Williams and C S M Smith left for Efecialan to arrange for food and to get sitrep from brigade headquarters. At : hrs Major E W Thomas and Sergeant Fisher S E left to attend a brigade O group during this time the Germans put in a counter attack in C Company area and they withdrew from behind the crossroads and in the meantime the remaining companies were under heavy mortar firing and machine gun snipers causing a considerable number of casualties at the same time as the tanks pulled out back of the quarry and through some unknown origin. Word was passed around to withdraw and the companies pulled back along the road behind the quarry. Word was received that the brigade headquarters and Major E W Thomas came back from O group. The remaining men were reorganized into two groups and the arrangements were to take up positions on high ground. Around the monastery was supporting fire from tank troops and an arty barrage. A platoon of medium machineguns was also going in with them. At : hrs the attack went in with slight resistance which was soon overcome. The two groups took up the defensive position and dug in. From : hrs on there was very slight shelling. Supper was brought up to command post and carried out to the positions at the monastery. Major H B Williams returned to Fecalaun to get a nights sleep in order to take over command on <sup>th</sup> of August so that Major E W Thomas could rest.

<sup>st</sup> of August ' the brigade moved up to occupy Rouen. There was a siege de Mount Royal followed by Felcallan headquarters. Second Canadian Infantry Brigade command group. South Saskatchewan Regiment. Camerons of Canada followed by Faca of South Saskatchewan Regiment. Major E W Thomas. Lieutenant D F Faregreave and Sergeant Fish went on a recy for the battalion position. Major Thomas then visited the town mayor who told him of some German barracks at after it was decided to move the battalion there as there was simple accommodation for the South Saskatchewan Regiment including vehicles. The barracks were cleaned out swept by the FFI and the battalion moved in. At : hrs at the gate the FFI flew to Gardifalawich. Some of these vehicles had passed through. The troops were then fed and cleaned up. They were all confined to barracks. At : hrs the marching under Major E W Thomas left for new area. They crossed the river. The marching troops moved via along the same road where guys were to meet them. Upon arrival there they found the guides had not come so they moved to their positions arriving at : hrs. As the bridge was not yet fixed from previous bombing. Effec could not get there before midnight. During the day Lieutenant

D F Fargreave of RCCS who was thrown out of the carrier when it was blown up on the 1<sup>th</sup> of August returned to the unit. Total casualties for July and August all rank was 100. CO had left the parade and the two IC took over. The regiment returned to the square after the march pass was completed. The officers were dismissed in the RSM and in turn the companies took over. To the CSM's they in turn marched the companies back to their respective company areas. The rehearsal was over. At approximately 10:00 hrs the CO ordered the general salute as the brigade Commander Lieutenant Colonel N P Bogert DSO arrived to inspect the parade. After a short exchange of reading the brigade commander commenced his inspection. He only inspected the front rank of each company and it was soon over.

1<sup>th</sup> of August '44 – The Reginas are near Estres la Compagne. They are within 100 to 200 yards of the enemy and they are under shelling by 81 mm and 120 mm. They received orders to stay close to the slit trenches during the daylight hours. There are 10 casualties with eight killed in the 24 hour period. They sent a patrol out but it didn't get anywhere. One ran into machine gun fire, one ran into heavy artillery fire.

August 2<sup>th</sup> – Night of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> sees much activity with two or three of our patrols out and a least one German patrol out in the front. Each patrol ran into grief especially the German patrol which was beaten off by the Canadian Scots leaving several dead and wounded behind. The usual morning shelling occurs and several casualties are caused including Captain F Dixon of Royal Canadian Army Medical Core killed. Captain Griffith sent down to replace him.

August 3<sup>th</sup> – The Reginas passed through a small village called Manduville. It is found to be the usual small village civilian occupied, not shelled, civilians are overjoyed to see us. Battalion headquarters set up in Orchers in the centre of the village.

August 4<sup>th</sup> – The Reginas are moving ahead. The move goes very well but it is slowed up and stopped at different points mainly due to created roads, heavy traffic and destroyed enemy vehicles on the roads. This condition is acuted as we approach Vimouthires and an amazing spectacle is witnessed as 100's and 100's of knocked out, burnt up enemy vehicles and equipment are pushed off to the side of the road by bulldozers to clear the road for the advance. The allied air forces reported to have knocked out 100 vehicles in this road in one day last week. The flame German column is nearly caught with their pants down and this scene of chaos and destruction makes everyone really appreciate the fine work our air force is doing.

5<sup>th</sup> of August – At 10:00 hrs the Canadian Scots report heavy mortar shelling ahead of them and contact is made with the enemy.

August 6<sup>th</sup> – Battalion headquarters set up in a large, once lovely, residence but used by the Germans in their occupation of Elbeuf as belts, in consequence looted and treaded roughly. City seems to be clear of enemy although the odd rifle shot still rings out.

August 7<sup>th</sup> '44 – O group is called at 10:00 and tentative orders for crossing were saying by the Seventh Brigade were given. The First Canadian Scottish Regiment were to cross with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles following up. Royal

Canadian Engineers to get down boarding as soon as possible tonight in darkness  
: hrs

August <sup>th</sup> – CO returns to battalion headquarters and O group is called to give tentative orders for crossing operation of the same Lieutenant Burgero with two FFI guides (that's French Freedom Fighters) with small boat goes on recy patrol across the river to get us information on the banks on the opposite side road evil cross Also enemy is in St Auvin village directly across from us

August <sup>th</sup> ' – : hrs Lieutenant Burgero reached east banks of the St Okain reports rifle machine gun fire not at them in the village of St Auvin Also tanks heard this noise proved to be French Freedom Fighters with German weapons A little later they learned that the village is not occupied and the Reginas can cross without opposition

August <sup>th</sup> – Twenty eight ragged bedragged bedraggled stragglers from Hitler's "master race" are taken prisoner

### **The narrative reverts back to the Italian Campaign :**

The Princess Pats were at Militillo by <sup>nd</sup> August – Weather was very hot and they weren't having it too tough They had a league baseball game They had a game between themselves and the Saskatoon Light Infantry During the game General A G L McNaughton COK paid a short visit to the battalion The game was stopped for a few minutes while the General spoke at his troops as they were gathered by He extended his congratulations to the remainder of the Canadian Army still in England In the army and people of Canada to the men for the fine way in which they had carried out their tasks and their campaign He further stated that the division had more than fulfilled his expectations

By <sup>st</sup> August the Pats were still at Militillo in Sicily and were not engaged in action

### **Saskatoon Light Infantry**

<sup>st</sup> September ' – September <sup>th</sup> ' – From MG Anyway commencing <sup>th</sup> September – Harassing fire shoots teed up to help the Greeks Enemy shelling activity in holding company area five platoons heavily mortared one carrier and seven fires but soon extinguished

September the <sup>rd</sup> – Tibermont Six men abreast were formed up at the starting point and while we are waiting the command to move off the civilians by the hundreds on bicycles trucks and on foot fled past us into the city to view this parade which marks our formal entry into Dieppe after it's liberation Only a few of the older inhabitants see us move off waving to us from their windows and doorsteps as we passed Soon however the scattered pedestrian became little groups and before you'd reach the centre of the town the sidewalks were thronged and each window and occasionally rooftop held its group of wildly demonstrating civilians As we neared the saluting base the cheers increased and the edges of the root were a black mass of people We rounded a corner and a pipe band by the saluting base broke into the strains of Highland Laddie We marched past the salute being taken by Lieutenant General H D G Crerar GOC in C Forced Canadian Army At this moment we were both solemn and proud and surely we may be forgiven if we strutted just a little On past the

saluting base we had an opportunity to view for ourselves some of the German strong points and these certainly were permeably constructed. The city itself is not badly damaged although the Germans who are believed to have pulled out on the night of the 5<sup>th</sup> August carried out considerable demolitions and put all the public utilities out of commission. Trucks returned us to the battalion area in time for us to have a hot bath. At a mobile bath which had been set up a short distance away before supper and we returned our to meal much refreshed and feeling quite spruced up in our clean clothing. Mail is catching up with us and it is avidly read by the fortunate recipients. The K of C ran a movie tonight in an old barn and inspite of the many holes in the roof of the barn it was fairly enjoyable.

10<sup>th</sup> December '44 – At the front again at 08:00 hrs word received that Lyle Edmonton Regiment was snug on the objective and had bagged 100 prisoners of war. The C<sup>th</sup>s on the left were moving forward to objective at 10:00 against infantry and tank opposition. Orders received at 12:00 hrs to move to a new concentration area and at 14:00 hrs the marching troops were moving and were snug by 16:00 hrs with A Company at numbers here. Enemy shelling and mortaring was quite heavy. One Sherman tank received a direct hit and blew up. At 18:00 hrs the company CO Lieutenant Colonel R P Clark called an O group and issued his orders. B Company was to lead the attack. Lieutenant W E Harrington led a recy patrol and found objective was held by infantry in a panther tank. The tank was knocked out by Lieutenant Harrington with a peit. Two enemy killed and five of the crew brought back as prisoners. The company launched its attack at 19:00 hrs and captured the objective at 21:00 hrs with a further bag of 100 POWs and five killed.

By December 11<sup>th</sup> things had cooled off again. And had a quite day until 14:00 hrs they were relieved by RCD' Royal Canadian ?

December 12<sup>th</sup> – Weather clear and cold visibility good. Christmas day how different from Christmas yesteryears. Still the Christmas spirit was present and the scouts and sniper platoon presented the CO with two gifts. One a lovely blanket and secondly a German P<sup>ist</sup> pistol he'd always desired. When it was brought in it had the usual Christmas wrapping flowery paper etc. Where they obtained it from no one knows. The company had a fairly quiet Christmas. The strain of the fighting had been relieved from our front and issue for the day contained. Roast turkey and port two bottles of beer per man. Supplemented by the usual vinous. The CO made the rounds visiting companies when he could. Battalion headquarters was thronged all day long as officers came in to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. At night patrol carried on as usual.

13<sup>th</sup> December '44 – Weather cold slightly overcast. Christmas day got away to a good start. The morning was spent in an exchange of calls amongst friends and the company's dinner was served in traditional army style by the officers and sergeants. The menu was a full one and the cooks deserved a great measure of praise for the meal that was turned out. The Colonel CO Lieutenant R B Clark and the Brigade Commander Lieutenant Colonel M P Borgert DSO visited all the companies and wished all the men a very happy Christmas. Christmas day menu consisted of the following: turkey chicken pork mashed potatoes cream of cauliflower brown gravy steamed plum pudding and sauce oranges apples tea and coffee. Along with this there were four bottles of beer per man plus a parcel from the salvation army containing matches lifesaver candy nuts and chocolate bars. Each man received a gift of cigarettes from the

Honourable Colonel The Honourary Colonel That is who we recall is the Lady Patricia Each company had made their own witch's brew of punch containing many and varied alcoholic beverages During the afternoon the LOB officers NCOs and men arrived from X area to help in the celebrations Included were Captain MacPhail Lieutenants Armstrong Stuts Spir Lewis Barium and McKinnen and Tucker The band also arrived and played in all company areas Many friends of the regiment called during the day Christmas Day was a success

<sup>th</sup> December – Lieutenant McCalla who'd been all along was sent on course and was relieved by Lieutenant J V Spurr

December <sup>st</sup> ' – Weather cold clear Visibility good Voluntary church services Everything quiet

End of the War May

<sup>th</sup> of May ' – Weather clearing cool At : hrs we were prepared for any action for what we might take but all remained quiet throughout the entire day At about : hrs a news flash was picked up by a SIG at : hrs the morning of May <sup>th</sup> hostilities in northwest Germany Denmark and Holland would cease It was not until : hrs that we had official notice from brigade to this effect All companies were warned and the news was very quietly received by the troops who with no display remains at their post and carried out their normal front line duties

May <sup>th</sup> – Weather cloudy cool with breeze At : hrs today hostility ceased Guards placed on roads to prevent traffic going beyond our FDLs Conference was held by our officers During the evening many of the battalion officers came to BHQ Battalion Headquarters mess where a small party was held

<sup>th</sup> of May – At : hrs an O group was held at brigade and an outline of our future activities given We are to take over certain areas of Holland clear the Germans out and on completion of this task a division will be taken out for reorganization At : hrs Colonel CO Lieutenant R P Clark DSO gave the company commanders the above information

Bloemendaal Haund <sup>th</sup> of May ' – At : hrs the CO and Lieutenant J V Spurr and Sergeant Interpreter with dispatch riders from each company left his advance party to review the area into which we would go At : hrs the Battalion passed through the brigade SP and it gives a reference and followed the route through to Bloemendaal The reception by the civilians was overwhelming The vehicles were completely covered with flowers Thousands of people lined the streets screaming welcomes throwing flowers confetti and streamers waving flags and orange pennants and boarding vehicles Never have so many happy people been seen at one time Everyone was in a holiday mood and little could be done in the way of work although everyone was very helpful in getting those to the troops and giving directions The Burgomaster received a CO officially at the town hall and a visit also had to be paid to the NMS headquarters Contact was made with the division commander of the German forces here regiment and para division headquarters once was done work could be started and the wheels were soon turning to move the

Germans back to Germany The Pats remained in Bloemendaal through to the end of July

### Into the Low Countries :

<sup>th</sup> of March ' vicinity Macon France All in all we led a carefree sort of life these days Today we think of our Colonel and Chief and the Lady Patricia Ramsy who's birthday it is On arrival in each new area volleyball and softball games were quickly gotten underway In the evenings there was generally a show

<sup>th</sup> of March ' – weather warm and bright <sup>th</sup> of March will long be remembered in the hearts of many of the regiment as the day when officers and Ors went on leave to

Friday April <sup>th</sup> – clear and warm Snipers created some casualties for us but we took several POWs A Company the battalion headquarters were east and Sniping and mortar fire counted for a few of our casualties but we took several POWs at this stage An interesting point about the building occupying the battalion headquarters was adjust the day before It was occupied by a branch of the German Gestapo Here also was a solid brick building which was used as a prison Some of the troops discovered a brick firing bay on each brick wall was a smattering of blood and flesh The earth base of the wall was extremely soft and one of the men was curious enough to start digging In a few minutes time the battered body of a middle aged man appeared This was only part of it dismal and gruesome sight for after a few hours ten similar bodies lay on the surface The bodies were identified the following day by a member of the Dutch underground He told us that the German Gestapo had held these people as prisoners for they were suspected to be members of the Dutch underground We were also informed that when the Gestapo heard we were coming they murdered their prisoners and evacuated camp At : hrs the CO held an O group and it was decided that D Company was to secure a bridge hidden on the other side of the channel The bridge that was discovered to be blown up but with the help of the battalion pioneers a foot hold was erected and under heavy fire D Company had a few casualties but took several prisoners At : hrs B Company passed through D Company and consolidated

Among those going was the CO Lieutenant Colonel R P Clark DS He was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel J Stone DSOMC of the brigade and Major Allen Magee They took a plane to England The officers leave list was made up as follows: Majors Croft and Fairfield Captains Newlands Campbell and Champers M C Lieutenants Spurr Shirky and Munroe With these officers were WO Sergeants and rank and file The leave was designed to give each man clear days in Britain Captain A M McLeod First Canadian Division Auxiliary Supervisor paid the unit a short visit which included lunch at the BHQ officers' mess

By <sup>th</sup> of April the Pats were in action in Holland They went into action crossing a channel met some resistance Took a few prisoners of war and a mm gun D Company matched the opposition There was a French tank supporting them Despite machine gun fire they proceeded quickly and all took their objectives

By : hrs they were engaged in clearing the village of snipers This was a rather slow process The position was not firm until : hrs TAC Headquarters then moved across the river and set up in a dug out near a code named Winnipeg

<sup>th</sup> April ' – Heavy fighting B Company and D Company succeeded in separating most of the enemy attack infantry from the tanks and took prisoners The tanks proceeded with the remaining infantry and attacked on A Company's front where two of them were destroyed by peit bombs Later a third was knocked out by D Company and in addition an SP gun that had been causing considerable annoyance to forward companies made the grave error of wandering close to B Company's front A well placed peit bomb destroyed it By : hrs this determined counter attack had been beaten back with great cost to the enemy A Company were now in firm at Watrous B Company had Champlain C Company at Byron and D Company Winchester Heavy fighting continued clearing the enemy out of the woods The attack went like clockwork

Second part of April <sup>th</sup> – The weather is clear and warm Received word at : hrs that we would take over from the Regina Rifles Regiment at : hrs The take over was completed at : hrs and battalion headquarters was established at At : hrs the battalion moved up to a SL at in preparation for an assault on Deventer At : hrs the CO held an O group which included the company commands and C Company were to be the two leading companies into the town A and C Companies that is would be the two leading companies into the town The Germans were waiting for no sooner had the troops reached the open ground into the city when all hell seemed to break loose Our troops were met everything the jury had Our tanks retaliated the crocodile swept the area with flames and the mortars and arty blanketed the approach of the town The rugged riflemen over ran the Hun with every step and were halted by enormous anti tank ditch which surrounded the city Precious minutes were lost at waiting for a bulldozer to fill in the ditch but the troops dashed on Finally the first buildings were reached and the tough half of the battle was won Fresh and eager B and D Companies now entered Defray Once again the tanks and flame throwers were at their side Opposition was still made An obstacle for many but all this was overcome in a very few hours Consolidation was completed at : hrs with A Company

By Friday the <sup>th</sup> there was very heavy fighting The weather was clear and warm The Winnipegs had lost contact with the Canadian Scottish Civilian reports put the enemy strength between the and in front of them Dutch civilians were reporting where abouts of Germans to the Canadians and the Germans pulled back

Friday April <sup>th</sup> – Canadians were near a town called Groningen

Tuesday <sup>th</sup> of April – Lieutenant Colonel L R Folden gave three awards in the afternoon One to Lieutenant H A Dyson which was the Croix De Guerre with silver star and to K Sergeant Ridout L A the Croix De Guerre with bronze star The Croix De Guerre with Bronze Star was awarded to H Company Sergeant Major Walsh

April <sup>th</sup> Thursday – The Winnipegs moved out of Holland into Germany crossing the Dutch border at : hrs near a town called Nieweschans Three



more soldiers received the military cross They were B Rifleman Milson M F He received a military medal Captain H H Badger and Captain G G Aldous and Lieutenant A B MacDonald all received military crosses

Saturday <sup>th</sup> of April – The Winnipegs moved into the city of Driever

Companies were checked for casualties and it was found that there were four which under the circumstances was slight this May <sup>nd</sup> The second time that the battalion had moved at night and also the second time that the Germans had dropped flares and bombs at the same place and time that we moved which one may stop and wonder if the Germans knew about our moves But then Lieutenant Colonel F A Cliff made a note that the companies were to be warned on security readidon phones and wireless sets coming to our war and to keep a sharp look out with on guard and the remainder arresting

### The narrative reverts back to the Italian Campaign –

December <sup>th</sup> ' – The CO made it known that we had to have more tanks After nearly hours of fighting and standing two of the troops were starting to look tired and strain and excitement has keyed them to pitch higher than has ever been reached in any previous battle during the Italian campaign At approximately : hrs a road recy reported that the road from Realto to a number point was third class The road and bridges were third class but they were clear of mines and the surrounding country was open on both sides Considerable shelling and mortaring was experienced by all troops in and around the town during the day A patrol under Lieutenant D B Jones returned at : hrs to report that it could not reach Caldary because of enemy formations in front of the town He also reported the track vehicles were heard in the vicinity of Caldary Instructions received about : hrs at the <sup>th</sup> Royal West Kents of the <sup>th</sup> Indian Division would relieve us commencing at : hrs Then the West Kents arrived and relieved the Pats Shortly after the Royal West Kents relieved us they were counter attacked by a determined force of the enemy This attack failed as the enemy withdrew not to rest but to pepper roelty and the south side of the Morro River with guns and mortar fire This day Captain R F S Robertson stuck of strength X list wounded Lieutenant A G G Richards struck of strength wounded

As of <sup>st</sup> of January ' – I am no quoting from RG The officers were Lieutenant Colonel C B Ware Commanding Officer Major R P Clark to IC Captain R S Graham Adjutant Lieutenant A M Campbell IO Major A Langston Officer Commanding Support Company Major J R G Sutherland Officer Commanding A Company Major McDougall Officer Commanding B Company Major R B Hobson Officer Commanding C Company Major J E Leach Officer Commanding D Company Captain N Featherstone TO Captain W L McGill MO Captain J A McLeowd PM and Captain M J D Carson Caplain

January <sup>nd</sup> – All companies preparing for the defensive Ortona Italy Two enemy aircraft dropped bombs and machine gun the street of the town casualties were light Apparently the bombs landed near medium gun positions The German planes were driven off by our anti aircraft defences The cleaning of the streets of Ortona began in earnest today with bulldozers from the third field company RC (**Royal Canadian Engineers**) tearing down buildings and clearing rubble from the streets The Pats stayed in Ortona through to <sup>th</sup> with very little happening occasional shelling

<sup>rd</sup> of January – Back into the scrap again. The Pats were busy attacking the Naviglio Channel. Companies moved up following in closely behind a barrage. Hugging it all the way meant little opposition from S A fire. The enemy were mainly in their houses and they had little difficulty in rounding up prisoners. All objectives were taken.

<sup>th</sup> January ' – Weather clear and cold. B Company were having a spot of trouble on during the early hours of the morning were counter attacked twice by SP guns and infantry. The SP were engaged by peits both attacks were successfully driven off but only after we had suffered several casualties. Lieutenant W A Groomes being killed by S A fire and Lieutenant G D M Nickolson being wounded. Meanwhile the Pioneer Company was clearing mines so that they could get tanks through for support. Resistance is getting lighter on the road to Rome.

Monday January the <sup>th</sup> – Weather cloudy and warm. At : hrs a mm gun fired on the Carrier Platoon at MR and arty engaged it with a mike shoot. Later on at : hrs the Carrier Platoon reported movement in front of their position and they called for machine gun target to be fired. The remainder of the morning was quiet until : hrs when A Company reported a selvo of rounds landing in platoon. The location of this gun could not be fixed. At : hrs details of exercise plum were given to the VIQ. This was supposed to be a company attack on the village of Woiler by the NSR. The attack to be proceeded by heavy artillery concentration. Our role was to simulate an attack on our front by opening fire with all Brens inches and inch mortars. At H and so divert the enemies attention until the attack went in on Woiler. H hour was : hrs and by : hrs we had the first SITRAP. The objective had been reached and NS troops were approaching a second objective. Three POWs had been taken. Our positions had come under considerable fire while the attack was going on and we had endured five casualties in the Carrier Platoon. The remainder of day and night was much quieter than usual.

<sup>rd</sup> January ' – Mobile baths were arranged for the men and a picture show was shown by the auxiliary services supervisor.

January <sup>th</sup> – During the night C Company and B Company move across forward positions but after C Company have got over B Company comes under heavy fire from Railway and finally have to return to their old position as it is beginning to get light. Our great difficulty has been communication. Line laid through water to A Company has kept going out so finally we established a line from battalion headquarters to signal office in Frathun.