

Diary of Clarence Ross

Killed at Vimy Ridge, France - April 9, 1917

Sept 26, 1915

Enlisted in the 73rd Batt. R.H.C at Bleury St. Armory.

Sept 28

Left with second bunch for Valcartier Camp.

Oct 26

Arrived back at Montreal from Valcartier.

Mar 29, 1916

Left Montreal for overseas. Arrived in Halifax on the 31st.

April 1

Left for England in the boat Adriatic.

April 10

Arrived at Sandling by train to Liverpool.

May 6

Batt became a unit again and has moved to Bramshott.

May 27

Went on 6 day furlough to Edinburgh & had a dandy time.

July 1

King's inspection.

Aug 12

Left Bramshott for France.

Aug 13

Landed at Harve and stayed here for 3 days rest.

Aug 16

Landed at Poperinge¹ and marched about 3 miles east to no. 1 camp Scottish Lines.

Aug 17

Went out with scouts to Ypres to act as guide to C & B Co.'s. Went under our first artillery fire.

Aug 19

Casualties on road home by shell – killed 3 officers & 8 men. Wounded 20 men.

Aug 20

Saw Hugh Christie & Pierson McArthur. Buried the 9 men, A Co., went to Dickiebush².

¹ Poperinge, West Flanders, Belgium

Aug 21

Moving from Scottish lines to Billets on the farm. In a storm now.
Reported sick with Ptomaine poisoning & got light duty. The Co.'s ding heavy drilling.

Aug 22

No duty to-day either. Bathing parade.

Aug 23

Still sick but not bad. Paid to-day – 15 francs.

Aug 25

Left billets. No 4 sick had to remain at Hdqs to clean up lines. Left at 3 p.m. reached Dominion Lines Co.
Raining out.

Aug. 26

Changing again to Redinchelst. Nothing in the afternoon. Showery in a.m.

Aug. 27

Church parade in a.m. in Y.M.C.A. With the 67 brass band. Inspection at 11 a.m. of gas helmet, rifles & ammunition and iron rations. Bdge Band played in p.m.

Aug. 28

P. T. 8 to 9 AM then squad drill. Bathing parade.

Aug. 29

Loafing about then cleaning up. Rec'd new gas, and cover steel helmets. Licture for scants in a.m. Gas attacks & heavy bomb.

Aug. 30

Raining in a.m. Left for trenches near Kemmel at 12 a.m. Stayed in dugout that night.

Aug. 31

Went out on an observation post from 6 until 9 a.m. then had breakfast. On again from 1 to 3 p.m. pretty quiet. None too much to eat. Bombardment heavy in the night.

Sept 1

Hung around all day. Didn't go out on any post. Sent on working party from 12 till ?. Quiet night.

Sept 2

Very quiet in a.m. Wrote home. Rum jars were freely exchanged. Lots of dodging. Started to form scouting & sniping sections. On the ration fatigue at 9:30 p.m.

Sept 3

Went up on post 11 till 3. Had 1 shot at Fritz but missed. Left for Hdqs at 6 p.m. & went to sandbag Villa. Rec'd a letter from Lloyd. Tom & I slept in a hog pen. Cold night. Put on ration fatigue. Blunder made and we had to go to Turnerstown for nothing. A machine gun turned on us coming home 7 close shave. Got back at 12. The guys kept me awake a while later.

Sept 4

Woke at 8 a.m. and wrote Lloyd. Firing up a good bank for night in p.m. and getting cleaned up. Stuart reported with a blighty through the chest. On guard 12 till 2 a.m.

Sept 5

Was runner for Lt. McLean. Got lost coming home. Heavy bombardment on our left. Home at 1 a.m.

Sept 6

Slept in a.m. washed and cleaned up my muddy clothes in p.m. On guard 10:30 till 12 p.m.

Sept 7

Took runner up to Lt. McLean & saw the boys along the line. Frunette shot in heel. Rumours that British drove back Fritz 12 miles along 10 mile frontage at La Somme.

Sept 8

On runner for Lieut. McLean from 8 till 1 & from 4 till 6 p.m. Wrote Jean Urquhart. Rec'd letters. Wrote home also & asked for a parcel. 10 p.m false gas alarm. The noise of the artillery and rifles was fierce. Stayed sentry until 1 a.m. but wrote the whole time.

Sept 9

Got 3 cans of jam and 2 blankets from a 35th Infantry man last night. We're filling sandbags this a.m. to put on these dugouts as they'll be shrapnel proof. Went up to D Co.'s Hdqrs for report for Scout officer. Tom & I on patrol. Left for Hdqrs at 11 p.m. and got to B Co. Hdqrs about 12:30.

Sept 10

The patrol (4 of us) went out at 1:15 & had to come back at 2 a.m. The enemies were very flat. Rec'd a letter from C.G. & we're moving out to-night about a half mile south of Kemmel.

Sept 11

Went out on a work party in a.m. but some of us not needed. Lieut. Cockburn treated us to cakes and cocoa in Y.M.C.A. Shells fell at chateau where D Co. is quartered. Lord Brooks wounded in elbow, hand & side. McConnell killed & Corp. Austin blown into the barbed wire. Paid 15 Francs in p.m. Went down to chateau in p.m.

Sept 12

Exchanged our Ross rifles for Enfield & had a bath in a.m. Went over the Y.M.C.A.

Sept 13

Out on working party in rear of 38th trenches. ? Blight got shot with revolver in leg. Raining out. Went to Y.M.C.A. in the evening.

Sept 14

On same working party but took our packs too. In p.m. marched to Sand Bay Villa & relieved the 78th. Had a dandy drink of coffee but between the feast & the rats I slept very little. Made a new mattress by covering a door with straw.

Sept 15

Nothing to do in a.m. or p.m. but got a part of ? Washed & cleaned up & wrote letters. Warned for patrol at night but didn't have to go. More good drinks of coffee made.

Sept 16

Wrote home in a.m. Made a screen for O.P. & then picked some blackberries & stewed them for supper. Won a tin of jam & Bully Beef from artillery dugout. Made some dandy drinks of cocoa. Made raid on enemy at 2 a.m. Very heavy bombardment from 12 till near 2 a.m. We had to stand at Hdqrs & nearly froze.

Sept 17

Runner for Lt. Cockburn in a.m. & made a fireplace in our hut in p.m. Gas alert on in the night. I was on sentry duty from 11:30 p.m. till about 1 o'clock then we all slept. At 4:30 I was bitten in the forehead by a rat. It was a rude awakening & I bled quite a lot.

Sept 18

Raining out hard all the day. We laid in bed most of the time & slept & read magazines. Our roof is leaking right over my bed. We're having a snap of a time here. Warned for patrol at 8 p.m. Went up to the trenches but only ? was taken out. Andy & I returned. Rats bothered us up till about midnight.

Sept 19

Stayed in bed till 1:30 p.m. then had dinner & had to fetch in Tom's too, the height of laziness. Going to sew my trousers more. Went up as runner to S. E. at 9 p.m. back at 12.

Sept 20

Rec'd new gas helmet & new ?. Its raining most of the day. Had a dandy feed of blackberries then read a magazine.

Sept 21

Henderson nearly caught. A couple of Hun's shells landed on our left. Heard from home & Gladys off in Montreal. Letter dated Sept 7 said she was sending parcel. Got new issue of boots & handed in our surplus pack. Mad a dandy drink of cocoa.

Sept 22

Very little doing all day but writing letters. On patrol with White, Haden & Whitehead from 11:00 p.m. till 11:45. In by 1.

Sept 23

Slept in a.m. and got ready to go out in p.m. Left for Locre³ at dusk. Had a bath then went in ? for the night. Arrive about 9 p.m.

Sept 24

This is some Sunday. Reveille 5:30 and after a good breakfast started at 8 a.m. for Hazebrouck. Had a bully & biscuit for dinner & one hour to rest. Landed at 5:30 p.m. at billets on a farm east of Hazebrouck ½ mile. We're dead tired, one foot sore & also one shoulder. Mr. Armstrong falls into the manure mire. We supper till late. 40 miles.

Sept 25

A year ago today I signed up in the reg't. Only bread & a piece of cheese for breakfast. Marched up to town square about half past 8. Was off about 10 o'clock. Had lunch & 1 hrs. rest at 1 p.m. Ate only a piece of bread. Fell down twice when fall in blew. Doctor said it was just the heat & weakness. Got a slip from O.C. but I tried it again & stuck it. Marched 20 minutes then 10 m. rest. Reached out billets in "Acre"⁴ about 4 p.m. The whole batt in one house. Feet bothered & then officer treated to either beer, chocolate or biscuits. No supper till after seven. Only bread & tea. 15 miles.

Sept 26

Reveille at 8 p.m. & a dandy breakfast. Nothing much doing in a.m. Rumours of having to line up again. Some more laziness. Marched 7 miles to B on farm.

³ could be Loker

⁴ Could be Arques

Sept 27

Dandy wash up in a creek & rec'd 7 letters. Baby⁵ born at home Sept 9. Paid 15 F at noon. Gas helmet and squad drill in p.m. Wrote letters at night. Down to orderly room with message at 9 p.m.

Sept 28

Reveille 5 a.m. Battle order very misty. Doing field maneuvers about 2 miles west of Watten.

Sept 29

Lectures on map reading & extended order in a.m. Road reconnaissance in p.m. Snipershooting.

Sept 30

Shooting at the ranges for the scouts. Weather dull & cold. Range finding & instruction in machine-gun in p.m. Out strattling? with Hartley at night. He's in reserve M. G. nos? Rec'd another letter from Ola.

Oct 1

Church parade at 9 a.m. then Wilson & I were put on as guard behind the shooting ranges until 1 p.m. Parade in battle order at 2:30 and we went west to the practice common. Supper at 5 p.m. White & I detailed to guide A Coy. We'd great fun trying to follow Major Carsley about. Lost our course of directions slightly. Rally at 11 p.m. & back at 12. Had a god warm drink of tea then retired. Rumours of Haden? promoted to L/C also.

Oct 2

Compass reading for a while in a.m. then read a book. On range picket from 12 till 3 p.m. then pay (15 francs) and bomb throwing. Down with Tom & Si for coffee & biscuits. Parcel from Gladys.

Oct 3

Raining in a.m. Had more coffee & gave peasants bully beef. Tickled to get them & gave me a couple of souvenirs. Dinner at 10:30 and we moved off at 12. Col. Spoke to us before we left re our trip to La Somme. Entrained at 6 at Angue. Some of us struck luck as we had 3rd class coaches.

Oct 4

Landed at Candas at daybreak and from here we marched to Beauval 4 ½ miles to billets at 11 a.m. Raining nearly all a.m. It's a nice little town. Nothing doing in p.m. so I slept on chicken wire beds – four high.

Oct 5

Left Beauval about 9 a.m. & marched 5 miles south east to Bonneville. Arrived at 11 a.m. & dumped into pretty crumby billets. Lecture on machine gun in p.m. 1 blanket each at night.

Oct 6

Cold bully beef & tea for breakfast. White Messenger, Glass & I on Brigade scouts & observers. Studying maps in a.m. & made ups?. Reconnaissance report by aid of trench map in p.m. Lots of fun in the evening. Blanket issue. Broke the crystal on my watch.

Oct 7

Left billets at 8:30 & marched to rest camp. 12 miles at Toutencourt. Very fatigued & lots of mud. Rifle insp. In p.m. Bathing parade at 7:30 p.m. but Tom, Wes & I scipped off it. We didn't get new clothes. Raining out all night.

Oct 8

On the march again with rubber sheets over packs as it rained heavily. "About Turned" about ten times in a town. Stopped in billets at Warloy⁶ about 5 miles father on. Up stairs with no stairs to get up. Billets soaking wet. Nothing doing in p.m. Went out for a stroll & listened to 67th Divisional Band.

⁵ (Jim) Alexander James McIntyre Ross born Sept 9, 1916.

⁶ Warloy Baillon

Oct 9

Passing the time in a.m. by rifle inspection & drill & gas helmet drill. Loafing about. Heard from home yesterday. Did some map locating in p.m. At night we celebrated Thanksgiving by going up and had an old reunion at 13 platoon billet the we bought some corn, biscuits & chocolate at the Y.M.C.A. & had a glorious feed.

Oct 10

Big peace conference rumoured to-morrow & everybody happy. P.T. & extended order in attack in a.m. No dinner till near two o'clock. Fell in at 3 p.m. for map reading then Major S. marched the Batt. Over to roadside to cheer our sister reg't. The 42nd as they came out of the trenches. Up to Y.M.C.A. for a feed at night.

Oct 11

Went out to meet the 13th Batt. in the a.m. Saw the 14th & 16th also. B.T. & bomb throwing in the p.m.

Oct 12

Left for Albert about 7 p.m. about 8 mile distant. Billeted out in an open field massed with troops about ½ (mile) out of Albert. Slept under out 2 rubber sheets & we were dandy. Saw a tank.

Oct 13

Weather fair. We can see the famous church of Albert & the leaning tower. It is a brazen image of the Virgin Mary with the saviour in her arms. It is bent at the base of the statue and leans over the road. The church is pretty well battered. Saw Fred Fyo. Loafing about most of the day. Tom is on working party all night. We slept as usual since we came here, under 2 rubber sheets as a tent.

Oct 14

On working party up the line. No dinner till 4 p.m. Web hit in finger with shrapnel. Tom & I both in at night.

Oct 15

Church parade in the a.m. Showery most of the morning & previous night. Rec'd a letter from Christine McIntyre. Went on working party at about four o'clock and was not back till 2 a.m. We were digging a six foot deep trench to put a cable in. Very heavy bombardment. Nobody hurt.

Oct 16

Slept most of a.m. Got my dinner at the Y.M.C.A. – corn & biscuits & cocoa. Harry Joss wounded in the face on working party. Fritz's airplanes came over. One hit by our anti-aircraft guns & falls but the machine was under the driver's control. Went down to Albert at night.

Oct 17

H. Joss wounded. PT & BF for a while in a.m. then over on a hill till noon. Tom & I overslept breakfast. Nothing doing in p.m. so I'm writing letters. Started on working party at night about 6 p.m. & didn't get over the trench till 10 p.m. Very heavy shell fire on us and we were continually falling into muddy shell holes over corpses. Nobody hurt. We deepened on trench & dug another. Raining heavily. More shell fire & corpses. Left about 2 & got in about 4:30 a.m. Greatcoat, rifle, etc. in an awful shape. Nearly an eight mile march. Soup after to warm us up. Most of them were awfully tired.

Oct 18

Slept till noon then we had Roll Call. Cleaned up rifle & equipment & tried to dry my greatcoat at night round the fire. Still wet. Heavy bombardment. Made a trip to Y. for food but couldn't get any. Eating Bully Beef in bed – best we can get.

Oct 19

Raining early in the a.m. and up till about three p.m. Awful muddy & all our clothes are wet, even our bed. Stayed in bed all day. Went on bath parade about five miles distant at 6:30 p.m. I skipped the bath & we got back & had supper & rum about eleven o'clock. When I woke in a.m. my shoes had about a pint of water in them.

Oct 20

Froze all last night & hardly slept. Water & mud everywhere & it froze quite hard last night for the first time. Cold & sunny all day. PT by the R.S.M. then we got new shirts, underwear & body belt. Were busy drying our clothes in p.m. Had a dandy feed of shredded wheat & cream to-night. Got 4 letters from A. Gill, Olga, home and Jimmie. Spent the whole eve in reading them. Tom got 4 too. Very heavy bombardment on.

Oct 21

PT till 10:30 then we cleaned up for inspection by C.O. at 4:30 p.m. Regina trench took at noon by G.G. & 102nd Batt's. A lot of prisoners taken. Got a letter from Chas. & got ammunition boxes for to fix our tent up with.

Oct 22

Cold again last night in bed. Church parade at eleven o'clock & a military cross was awarded Lieut. Roberts by our Brigadier. Wrote letters in p.m. & went down to dump. Serg't Cartilge hurt in a.m. by a motor ambulance. Got 8 ammunition boxes for our bivouac at night.

Oct 23

Did PT & rifle inspection and did B.F in a.m. Another inspection in battle order by Major Sparling in p.m. then we dug our bivouac down about 1½ ft & finished it. 1 blanket stolen on us also.

Oct 24

Rained all last night but our tent stood it pretty well. A few shells fell this morning near but all across the road. Got our trousers in p.m. & the rest of the time we stayed in our tent.

Oct 25

Muddy & colder. PT in a.m. Raining in p.m. & handed our kilts in. Old reunion at night (Hartley, Tom & I) to salmon & biscuits. Letter from Manson. Ola lovely(?) old talks(?) & aunt Maggie.

Oct 26

Weather clear. Dress Battle order to be ready to move up any time after 9 a.m. Missenger, White & I ordered to go to Bdge Hdqrs as Bdge observers at 12 a.m. Left Hdqrs about 2:30 for chalk cliffs. Arr. at 6 p.m. Supper then slept on wet rubber sheet with only greatcoat over us in dug-outs.

Oct 27

Missinger & I along with 2 54th observers went up to Martinpuich O.P. & stayed there all day. Rainy & cloudy so we couldn't do very much work. Didn't sleep hardly any at night with the lice.

Oct 28

On O.P. again. Fairly good weather. Pretty heavy shell fire. Only bully beef & biscuits for dinner. Like the work fine. Took off my both shirts & had a good louse -up. It was the first time I looked for them & found 27. Some drove!

Oct 29

To dull for observation so we didn't go up to O.P. but made our dug out a foot deeper & fixed the fire-place some. Raining. Major Brown reported shell shock, Major Carsley reported wounded, Lt. P. Armstrong reported killed. Sang songs at night till late.

Oct 30

Up on O.P. again and made a slight shelter for it. Things fairly quite. Raining & dull out. Swiped 3 cans of beans on our road up, so we had a good meal of beans, cheese, biscuits & jam. Rained in p.m. & we got soaked going back & had to all on the side of dugout as there was a puddle of water in the other. Sang songs at night.

Oct 31

Fair weather. On O.P. again. Heavy shelling near us. Sixteen platoon badly smashed up when going in the night before. Went over to get our usual second supper at our own kitchens & stayed to see Web & Hartley. Tom is up the line.

Nov 1

On O.P. Had a good louse-up this morning. Weather dull but a little warmer. An aeroplane fight & one of our scout planes smashed. Driver wounded.

Nov 2

Rather dull but went up on O.P. in p.m. Battery officer using our O.P. too. Another airfight. I go over to see Hartley & the fellows every night. Our old base coy(?) is again attached to us. Saw George Robinson. Heard that McCrum & Beaudette were wounded.

Nov 3

Not feeling that well. A touch of diahorrea so Arthur White took my post. Big airplane fight in p.m. Leaving to-night for Albert. The 11th Bde is relieving us. Got a ride down on amun. wagon. Good lunch & dandy billets with warm fire.

Nov 4

Got new issue of boots and to-day got new trousers. Gave Tom my other ones. Went up to old camp but no one there but sick & the horse lines. Left for Bouzincourt at 2:20 p.m. & got there about 4:30. Had to find our own billets. Got 2 letters from home. Parcel mailed on Oct 17. Same Tom. We're sleeping in a barn. Got salt in our tea & have fun having 2 suppers for our work. Another sing-song in bed as usual.

Nov 5

Payed about noon after looking for paymaster all a.m. Got my pack all mud. Wrote letters in p.m. & a lot at night. Wrote home, Lillian, Ola and Allie & I think I'll write Lloyd yet. No bath yet nor change of shirts.

Nov 6

Nothing much doing in a.m. Put on fatigue n p.m. putting out tape & flags for attack work. Rainy. Rec'd my parcels from home. About ten o'clock a great shock came over our billet followed by another German Zeppelin raid & they set French ammunition dump on fire. Rumours that it was taken down next a.m. More shocks next morning. An awful red reflection & we could see the explosion at times.

Nov 7

Cold last night & raining nearly all day. Bath in p.m. & clean change of clothes. No lice to-night thank fortune. Writing to J. McA & home.

Nov 8

Quiet again. Slept most of p.m. Spent night in coffee room then came in & told stories. Slept in Wheat mow.

Nov 9

Clear morning - writing ?. A big aeroplane staff on. Enemy planes came right over head and Shrapnel falling about. Batt is out practicing attack. Down to coffee house with Hartley. A rude concert there & lots of fun. More cacao & a sing-song before bed.

Nov 10

Up to see Jim & ordered 6 Xmas cards from V.B. Dirling at St. Frances. Battalion going up to reserve camp this p.m. A big push is coming off. We didn't go out to-night. Big gambling next door.

Nov 11

Regina trench taken by 10th Bde at 11 p.m. last night. We left for line at 10 a.m. Awfully hard march. My puttees came undone & I fell out to fix them & stayed out. Put my pack on the transport. Our officer is sore at us

& I hear we're for office. Weather gets very foggy in p.m. Cards at night round a good fire in dug-out. Cocoa too. Our Batt. is in the line now.

Nov 12

On O.P. all day. Artillery pretty noisy at times.. 3 artillery officers with us and a Lt from the 1st Battery. Saw some German money. Cards, cocoa & ? at night. Guns rather noisy. Saw a horse stuck in a shell hole – a pitiful sight. Mailed ? letter. Got one cigarette.

Nov 13

On O.P. Very misty. Saw 4 Imperial balloon fellows just behind the tanks that were killed last night. 2 of the 78th are going to stay on our post at night to hold it from artillery. Recalled from post at 1:30 p.m. and left for Albert about dusk. Our Bdge coming out. Relieved by the 10th. Got a ride back on ammunition limber? & got 3 letters from Jean, W.C.C. and Stanley Foulds from Tom.

Our billets taken but got new ones near. 9 in a small room. Report that Imperials went over on our flanks & advanced 2 miles on 3 mile front. ? prisoners.

Nov 14

Orders to move out cancelled. Major Tryon seriously injured. Shelling Albert at 11:30 & set motor repair shop on fire. Wrote Stan, W.C.C. and Jean. My eyes are a little sore. Up to see some of the fire. Damage was 6 ? and 2 passenger ? Went to bed early but didn't sleep till near 3 a.m. A Fritz aeroplane at 1 & 5 dropped bombs and used his machine gun.

Nov 15

Up to see Tom in a.m. at R 8 dumps. Bdge moved to Bouzincourt in p.m. Are in No. 2 billet Rats galore. Up to see Tom & Hartley at night. Heavy bombarding. Rather cold at night.

Nov 16

Paid in a.m. & felt pretty sick with light head. 38th & 78th gone up the line in p.m. Rumours of us going but still here. Heard we're pulling out of here for up north. Got our new web equipment. Up and shared Tom's & Arts's parcels. Hartley came down with me to write home. Clear fair weather.

Nov 17

Colder & had our first ice. Still in same place. Went to Senlis for a walk in p.m. with barker. Stayed in at night & sang & had cocoa. The Batt. in long working parties during the day.

Nov 18

Nothing doing in the a.m. Cleaned myself 7 rifle & made tea. Had our first snow last night but raining again. Got a rush call to leave in p.m. Left about 3 p.m. & arr at a new billet in flats near the R.E. dump very late. No supper and blankets & eatables gone to wrong place. My greatcoat is in the roaming blankets. We're with the Bdge. Sig. The 38th went over this a.m. successful. Heard 1000 prisoners taken. Our batt and the 72nd is here too. Still raining & mud galore. Jim McDonnell lost and came back here.

Nov 19

Pretty cold last night as our blankets with my coat in them went astray. No supper last night & no meal till 2 p.m. to-day. Did not go up on O.P. Big Bill in charge of C Coy. & 38th & Archy McLellan killed. 72nd & 73rd sent up the line to-night. I helped hartley. He's pretty tired. Tom up too. Wrote home. Got some blankets.

Nov 20

Did little fatigues in a.m. up to Ado. Bdge Hdqrs with officer's rations. Got breakfast about 3 p.m. Bought beans & chocolate biscuits at Y.M.

Nov 21

Did all kinds of little fatigues in a.m. On as runner in p.m. Went down to Albert with Spike with 6 messages then at 5 p.m. went up to advanced Hdqrs with old runner. Back by 7:30. Slight shelling & lots of mud and two

wounded artillery out. Si Williams reported killed. Saw Bundette & Hughes again. Serg't Cartillegue nearly well. Shell dropped quite close at Hdqrs. Had a couple of good drinks of soup & tea.

Nov 22

Stayed in all a.m. Spike & I on another message to Albert in p.m. Had a dandy feed.

Nov 23

Morning beautiful and a little frosty. Some rumour of battn. Coming out to-night. Bill, Henry & I made a trip for fire wood in a.m. & p.m. Our fellows coming out to-night.

Nov 24

Down to see Tom in a.m. & trip up to Adv. Hdqrs. Showery out. Hartley's got trench feet. Up to see him at night. Rec'd letters from home & Connie & answered them both.

Nov 25

Gee but the lice did bite last night. Its rainy and very nasty out. Henry & up? went up to the Copse dump in a.m. & had to take 200 tommies cookies (10 bags full) back to Hdqrs. Gee it was some load. Got all wet. Went over to help Hartley off at noon. Part of our Battn. Going up the line at noon. Went out for wood in p.m. Writing home for Hartley. The 72nd is coming out to-night. A lot of the Bdge is sick near 350 men.

Nov 26

Cloudy but not much rain to-day. Barker & I had to go up to Copse dump for 90 refills of cookies. 153 Brigade of the 51st Div. Of Imperials came in to-night. I guess we go out to-morrow. Oxo before bed. Guns noisy.

Nov 27

Sold a Fritz cap for 3 Francs. Up to Copse dump. Left at 3 for Albert. Went up to Red Cross station & got some sulphur ointment for scavies. Slept in cold billet.

Nov 28

Left at 11 a.m. and about 3 p.m. reached Varennez. Pretty heavy marching. Sleeping with Jack Fraser to-night in huts. Got a lot of oxo cubes from Jim & made oxo at night. Hartley did come out this time. I hardly expected it as he's got trench feet. Web is feeling pretty tough tax. Hartley in O.R. saw him on 29.

Nov 29

Still in Varennez. Slept till 11:30 a.m. The 73rd came in to-day in buses. The observers are back to their ? Tom is over sleeping with me as its better than under bivouacs. Saw Hartley. Got a letter from Ola.

Nov 30

Marched to Aplier⁷. Left at 12 noon and didn't get in till dark at 5 p.m. Awfully tired. Went about 10 miles. Camp in canvas covered huts. Got our supper from 72nd kitchen. Had 4 blankets & slept like a rock. Mud all around.

Dec 1

Left about 9:30 and marched to Barly west through Doulons. Got in about 8 p.m. tired & hungry. Went about 9 miles. Good billets in a barn. 4 blankets again. Hartley up to see us.

Dec 2

Marched about 5 miles to-day. Dandy roads & marching. Billett none too good. I'm getting a cold I think. Down to see Hartley. No pay yet. We're dead broke. Marched to Vacquerie-le Boucq.

⁷ Probably Amplier.

Dec 3

Revelle at 6 and marched off at 8 a.m. till 3 o'clock. 21 kilos, 13 1/8 miles to Balleul-aux-Corailles. No stop for dinner at all. Pretty tired. We're marching ?? Billets in dirty barn & roosters, ducks * pigs and lice all kept us awake. This is the longest march we had yet. To-morrow we have to start early & go 16 kilos, 10 miles.

Dec 4

Marched 10 miles to-day to Ruitz and got there about 2 p.m. We're here for a while I guess. We're just about dead marching. One time we went 1 hour & 20 min. without a rest & up a hill at that. We're 5 miles from Bethune 25 kilos from Arras. Got a letter from home & also a parcel from Mrs. Brooks (Red Cross) Mille Roches. Gee it was a dandy. Hartley up to see me. To-morrow is his birthday.

Dec 5

Slept in this morning. Went up to Bruay⁸ for baths & new clothes. Got a parcel from home and also one from Gladys O'hara dated Nov 7. We went down to the Stewarts and celebrated Hartley's birthday there. I guess we'll be paid to-morrow. We couldn't finish the parcels to-night. Parcels coming to me Aunt Maggie Nov. 11, Aunt Lizzie Nov. 11, from Red Cross Millie Roches (rec'd), from home box No. 2. There's still two on the road. 4 Last box from home Nov. 19. W. H. S. is sending one. Crissie Patterson also. Miss O'Hara's rec'd to-day. Christine McIntyre.

Dec 6

Shaved in a.m. & cleaned up. Got paid 65 francs. Went up with Tom, Art, Bob, Web & Lyall to Bruay & had a feed & got my watch fixed. We had piles of fun. Rec'd and wrote Ola & home.

Dec 7

Caught old hell to-day for skipping over to Bruay yesterday. Rifle inspection & ammunition inspection in both a.m. & p.m. Got the papers from Annie & also maple leaves. Helped Tom devour his 2 parcels.

Dec 8

Cleaning up in a.m. Inspection & p. 7 in p.m. Tom & I went up to Bruay & got presents for Xmas.
A centre piece 12 francs for Lou
A neck scarf for Bob
A tie pin for Father
A knife for Manson
A letter opener for Constance
A handkerchief for Ola.
Wrote Aunt ?

Dec 9

Shinning up as usual in a.m. and had rifle insp. & P.T. then arm drill till eleven. Sent the parcel home and also the handkerchief to Ola. Wrote home also. Nothing doing in p.m. on account of rain. Last night Bruay I had my first haircut & shave by a lady barber. Rec'd Cornwall papers from C.A. Gill. After I read them I gave them to Hartley.

Dec 10

Church parade in a.m. Rec'd a parcel from Christina McI. Tom rec'd 2 from home. Went up to Bruay & had our pictures taken. Couldn't get to show so came home early.

Dec 11

Batt. drill in a.m. Raining in p.m. Went to Bruay alone & got Rob McA. watch & my pictures. Rec'd parcels from Aunt Maggie & one from Lily Bryson. Tom rec'd one from the Red Cross Soc. of Milles Roches. Raining out. We are having a regular concert here to-night ? Billy, Tom & Kindell.

⁸ Likely Bruay-la-Buissière

Dec 12

We were to be inspected by the G.O.C. but it rained & it was cancelled. Rec'd III parcel of cookies from home. Wrote home, Miss Bryson, Myrtle & Stanley & Aunt Maggie.

Dec 13

P.T. in a.m. but nothing in p.m. Stayed in hut went to concert at Y at night.

Dec 14

Inspected by Corp. Commander at noon, back at 2 p.m. Rec'd parcel of socks from Miss Currie, 118 Union Ave. & a letter from Mrs. Warner & Ola. Wrote both at night and sent other pictures to Mrs. Warner.

Dec 15

P.T. in a.m. Rec'd parcels from Connie, Margaret Bryson and Crissie Patterson. Wrote them at night.

Dec 16

Went down to tailors to change tunics but I couldn't get one to fit. George Wood came in at noon. Glad to see him. Gas helmet inspection & drill in p.m. Rec'd letters from Ola, Jennie, Lloyd & Stanley.

Dec 17

Slept in Sergrts. Bed in other billet last night and was cold. George went back I a.m. Cleaning up ammunition & equipment. Church parade at 11 o'clock. After church Hartley & I went up to Bruay. Got back at 2 p.m. & wrote Ola. Sing-song around brazier at night & a peach of a ? hunt. Didn't sleep well.

Dec 18

Inspection by Gen. McBrien in a.m. Got the old sandbag of things I handed in at Kemmel. Have 6 pairs of mitts now. Got a new tunic at last and sewed on Canadian buttons & colours after supper. A year gone on.

Dec 19

Pretty hard P.T. in a.m. & gas helmet drill. Went down for a bath just at noon down at Barlin. Paid 14 francs after more gas helmet drill in p.m. Billy Read in a ? Expect to go up the line on the 22nd.

Dec 20

P.T. and gas helmet drill in a.m. Stayed in billet in p.m. & we were supposed to do map reading. Wrote 3 letters at night. Hartley can hardly talk with a cold. Rec'd a parcel from Miss Martin, Charlie & also one from a Mrs Alex Brodie, Hawaii Islands. Weather is much colder & frosty.

Dec 21

P.T. and gas helmet drill in a.m. Didn't do much of anything in p.m. Rec'd 2 more parcels from Charlie & the Xmas parcel from home. Charlie's cake pretty badly broken, Went down to Hartley's & had a feed of him at night. Then went to a concert at Y. So full I can't sleep. We leave here to-morrow. Wrote home at noon.

Dec 22

Left Ruitz at 9 a.m. & marched all a.m. in rain to billets in barn or loft of brewery. Went down to Y.M. concert at night by the 67th Band. Twas jake.

Dec 23

Raining out yet and this is the 3rd day of it. Gas helmet inspection in a.m. and went through gas and also got new respirators in p.m. Heard from home to-day. Went down to the Y.M. concert again to-night.

Dec 24

Left at 10 a.m. to go up the line. Had dinner in field then field kitchens went back. Saw observation balloon taken out & hoisted. We went up Cabaret St. and up to Reserve trench about 3 miles of trenches. Detailed on ration party. Got a letter from Helena. Tom & I sleep in same bed – heads opposite. Some Xmas eve.

Dec 25 – Christmas Day

Got up about 8 & Tom at 9. Kindell drew our rations & cooked them, bacon, bread & tea. I went around to learn the trenches with Sgt. In a.m. Wore our long rubber boots. For dinner we had shredded wheat & milk and our usual supper at 5:30 p.m. Nothing to do in p.m. so I slept. Wrote home & Annie to-night. Tom on patrol. At 9:30 Fritz started a fierce bombardment. It's the worst I've seen yet. He's kept it up for over an hour now. Some noise. Got a letter from home. Have to sleep 2 in a single bed. This bombardment is some Christmas tax for us. Worse than the Somme.

Dec 26

Up at 6:30 and went up to Sap "B2" with Art Rice as observer. Bishop "A" Coy killed & Green last night. Bishop was shot through the head just about 20 minutes after we got up. Changed to bombers post. Rum jars going about 2 p.m. Relieved at 7:30 p.m. and we were glad to get back in. It's a cold 12 hour duty. Saw quite a number of Fritz waving at us in a.m.

Dec 27

On O.P. again with Rice. Pretty quiet day. Mac McD is back again from hospital & Web has gone on course in signalling. Tom is on patrol again to-night. No candles.

Dec 28

On S.P. Very cold & frosty. I heard we're going out to-morrow. We stuffed Fritz pretty hard in p.m. with rum jars & 18 pounders. Very little retaliation. Parcel from Mrs. Readman, 192 Belgrave Ave., & a letter from Ola. Wrote O.B.

Dec 29

Raining out at times. On O.P. as usual. Fritz active in p.m. & blew in Coburg trench. Tom on patrol to-night. Got a parcel from Mrs. Warner. A dandy. Acknowledged Mrs. Readman's kindness.

Dec 30

Raining early in a.m. On S.P. as usual Relieved at noon by 78th. Got back to billets about 4 p.m. in Villers⁹. An awful communications trench to come through. It was all water & mud. I got soaked. Sleeping with D Co. in big barn. Frame beds with netting across them 3 rows high. This is the biggest billet we slept in yet.

Dec 31

Slept in pretty well. Had breakfast in bed. Cleaned up and got parcel paid. Four more parcels this a.m. from home, Pearl, Ola & Aunt Lizzie. Went down for bath at night but no water left for us. Sergt drunk. Wrote Lloyd, Chas, Helena & Ola. Staying awake to see the old year out and the new year in. Quite a few lights still lit about the billet.

Jan 1st 1917

New Year's Day. Rose about eleven. Shredded wheat & milk for breakfast. Turkey, sausages, cold pork, plum pudding, bread & tea for dinner. Also cigarettes & any amount of sweets. Went to football match for a while & to band concert at Y.M. at night. Heard from Ola & Kate Auburn. Wrote Pearl, Ola, home & Lloyd.

Jan 2

Slept in as usual in a.m. Got cleaned up & did nothing. Got Charlies boots and also gloves & handkerchiefs. Wrote Chas, Pearl, Aunt Lizzie & Kate Auburn. Went down to see Mac A & D. Went into ? & C & B came out.

Jan 3

Rifle inspection & P.T. in a.m. and took new boots to cobbler at petit ? to get them pegged. 20 of us & same number of sig. & bombers on working party at 4 p.m. We layed a cable & dug a trench behind Carency. Back about 11:30.

⁹ Probably Villers-au-Bois

Jan 4

Up at 10:30 but no parade so washed up. Warned for another working party to-night but we went to Camblain L'Abbe instead & had a bath. Went up for my boots to-night & got back about eight o'clock. Lovely moonlight night. We expect to go up the line to-morrow.

Jan 5

Reveille at 6 a.m. and at 8:45 we started for the line again. Delayed till noon by Fritz very heavy strafing on the back of ridge & track. One dugout badly on the lean. Quite a few casualties in 78th. To go on patrol to-night but it was cancelled because of the bright moon. Letters from Lou, Ola, W.C.C., Jessie Cattanach & 2 from Mack. Wrote home. Quiet night with a little rain. Kindell, Johnie, Billie, Tom & I in same old dugout.

Jan 6

Wakened at 2:15 a.m. by Fritz shell fire and I got very nervous. Shells dropped all around – wakened Tom & was just going to get up when one came in the far end. Kindell sleeping below hit in the wrist & Johnie who was above hit in the head., shoulder & knee. Managed to get Johnie to First Aid post where we all nearly turned sick. All our candles & candies stolen. Up to see line in a.m. Helping to make a bombproof dugout in p.m. On patrol at night – Tom, McInnis & I. Saw a few Huns. In at 12.

Jan 7

Woke about 10:30 as Major wanted to see us. Fixed up dugout, made cocoa & heated a pudding then washed & shaved in p.m. Billy Read in with us. About 4 p.m. Fritz strafed us heavy till 7 p.m. On ration fatigue. Tom on patrol again to-night. Same patrol as last night. Rec'd high school parcel also parcel from Aunt Kate. All alone in dugout.

Jan 8

Pretty chilly last night. Woke at 5 and had to go on ?? with Art Rice. Brigadier around the line. Didn't have to go back in p.m. All my parcel of eats stolen. ? broke his finger. Cheam is back & we heard that Johnie McMillan has died of his wounds. On ration party. To bed at 9:30

Jan 9

Slept till 11 a.m. Heavy bombardment from 6 to 9. Chaffey, Pappin, Huxton, Messinger & Vincent wounded. Our guns bombarded very heavy at 2:30 p.m. Our lines very bad. On patrol at night with Tom & Whitehead. Changed dugouts down with ? W.

Jan 10

Slept till 1 p.m. Gas alarm sounded on left at 4:30 p.m. False alarm. On no duty all day. Had a dandy feed at night around a jake fire. Tom isn't feeling extra well. Expect to get out to-morrow some time.

Jan 11

Left about 12 to go to Chambligneul. Rum jarred and shrapnel right on top of us around about 5 p.m. Went to Y.M. concert tonight & remained for sacred service after. A feed of shredded wheat. Jake billets & mail from C.H.G.

Jan 12

Didn't sleep well last night. Cleaned up in a.m. Went to transport lines in p.m. but failed to change my dirty salvaged equipment. Went to Y.M.C.A. concert at night. Didn't fancy it an awful lot. Stayed for sacred service.

Jan 13

P.T. in a.m. The section broke up and ? Hadyn, Henderson, White, Whitehead, McCouchie, A Williams, Tom & I are picked for the 8 observers. Wrote home & Ola in p.m. Heard from Manson & Connie to-night. Down to concert by 3rd Div Quartette & sacred lecture by Capt Cameron of Toronto. Snowing out & very cold too.

Jan 14

Didn't have church parade. Wrote Mrs Cattanach & Aunt Kate & had bathes. Down to services in Y.M. again by Capt Cameron. Very thrilling lecture and it sank well in. The fellows have gone back to their companies.

Jan 15

Loafed about in Y.M. & wrote Lloyd, Charlie & C.H.G. Down to concert by 73rd at night. Very poor. No pay yet. ? my foots with alick's waterproof.

Jan 16

Payed at last with D. Coy ? all day. Down to concert by 4th Div. Corps. At night. A big bombardment on at dawn. Up the line for us to-morrow.

Jan 17

Left at 11 a.m. with 14 platoon. From Chambligneul to gas school, through Villers-au-Bois and up Cabaret road. Am about 4:30 p.m. Put 8 of us in McInnis's dug-out. Tom is sick for quite a while. Snowed very heavy last night and all morning. About 2 inches deep. First snow to stay & drift. Warned for patrol but didn't go out.

Jan 18

Up at 6 a.m. Tom & I on O.P. at Sap B'. Saw any amount of Fritz. Snowing out very heavy at noon. Freezing out at night. Its very quiet up here so far.

Jan 19

On O.P. again. Pretty quiet but cold up there. I have a bad cold in my head & throat. Tom is sick too. Writing home.

Jan 20

On O.P. nothing out of the ordinary only heavy bombardment at noon. Everything froze up hard. Mr Cockburn sprained his wrist. My cold is still bad.

Jan 21

Badly gassed last night by charcoal fire. Tom & all sick. Trouble over patrols. No sleep am dead tired. On O.P. with Andy. Narrow escape at noon from one whizzbang falling short

Jan 22

On O.P. again. Pretty cold. Waving at Fritz. Washed & had a proper shave & clean up tonight after 12 days. Expect to go out tomorrow.

Jan 23

Bombing attack on Sap B. last night. Unusually large & one man left on ridge of crater. I was the 1st to spot him. Left for Villers-au-Bois at noon. We're in huts with C Cooy. Saw Jack Fraser. Very cold out.

Jan 24

Stayed in bed nearly all day and we were cold even there. Cold out too today. Heavy strafing on to-night. Got letters from home, Ola & Jennie. My parcels & pictures had arrived o.k. Tom got a parcel from home to-night.

Jan 25

Hung around most of day. Still cold as ever. My cold is still bad. Too cold to write.

Jan 26

A & D. Coys came out to-day. Only got up for my supper. Oh but its cold.

Jan 27

Layed around as usual & half froze. Wrote home, Ola & Jennie. To bed at 5 p.m.

Jan 28

In bed all a.m. Cold here. Saw Billy Read to-night. Up the line to-morrow for us.

Jan 29

A little warmer out. Very slippery coming up. Arrived about 11:30. Dandy meals. Tom on patrol to-night & it's a bad one. I was on rations. Nice & clean.

Jan 30

On O.P. p.m. with Williams. Pretty cold on post and rum jars thrown about pretty badly in p.m. Dandy stewed apples and cocoa to-night. Tom is on patrol again.

Jan 31

On O.P. all alone. Narrow shave from sniper when looking over the top. Lucky for me he's made a poor shot. I located him even if he did nearly puncture my dome. Big argument on religion to-night. Tom on patrol.

Feb 1

On O.P. alone. Changed Coy's to-day. Lt. Mitchell sniped to-day about 4:15 right through head. Letters from home, Lillian & Connie.

Feb 2

On O.P. again. Saw Fritz changing batts in p.m. Both Findlay's and my name sent in on Bdge report to-day. My O.P. work is very interesting. We all expected to go on a raid to-night to get a prisoner. Five of us & Sgt Hanneford were to go out at 4 a.m. but Col. Sparling cancelled it at 12 o'clock. We weren't very sorry as up to that time not a one of us had slept a wink. The lice were fierce. The 72nd put on a raid but 2 off. & 7 men were casualties – unsuccessful.

Feb 3

On O.P. again as usual. Had a dandy wash to-night & shave. Washed my feet well too as the cold is bothering them. The 47th is pulling off a raid to-night on our left. The artillery is going now full bang. We're no coming out to-morrow not till a day after & at 2 p.m. our batt. is to raid to-morrow.

Feb 4

On O.P. again at 2 o'clock our batt sent on a bombing raid – very successful but only 2 prisoners. It was some barrage. I guess we go out to-morrow. Lt. Gristoff, Vincent, & McGregor raid. Former was killed. Lyall Squoir was killed to-day too by a shell outside the sig. dugout. Badly wounded in legs – died about 1 hour later.

Feb 5

On O.P. till 11:30. Relieved by 78th at 12:30 and got to Verdrel by a good help from lorry by 4 o'clock. Saw Squoirs body in Cariney. It was nicely sewed in a blanket to be sent to the transport lines for burial.

Feb 6

Slept till noon then loafed about & kept warm. Wrote home & Lloyd. Cold as usual.

Feb 7

Slept in again. Herd from Connie & Peter. Wrote ? Paid 15 Francs.

Feb 8

Arose at 3 p.m. This would be jake only its cold in bed. Wrote Peter & Aunt Kate. Alex Boyer took me down a pair of socks from Aunt Kate & Mrs. Lyle.

Feb 9

Nothing doing in particular. Out with Web & Hartley for a feed of eggs. Wrote home.

Feb 10

Inspected by Gen. Watson in p.m. & Lieut. Griffon got his military cross. Cold on the feet. Rumours of our battalion broken up into drafts. Lieut. Vincent is made our scout O.C. and he gave us a smoker to-night.

Feb 11

This is Tom's birthday & he's for CO's office but got off. Up the line to-morrow. Its warmer out to-day.

Feb 12

Up at 5:30 a.m. and at 7:30 we left for Vimy Ridge. Arrived about 12. On O.P. all p.m. Everything quiet and got a pretty good report. Big raid to-morrow morning on our left.

Feb 13

On O.P. all day and got dandy reports. Helping build up Tereddy's O.P. at night. I'm pretty tired and my toes are bothering me a lot. Got a letter from Jennie.

Feb 14

On O.P. again. Pretty heavy shelling. Had to go out as covering party for wiring party. Didn't have to go out as Fritz started his rum jars. Narrow escape. Poor feed.

Feb 15

On O.P. again The 72nd are having a raid to-night at 3 a.m. Wrote Jennie & Ola. My throat is sore to-night but my cold is much looser & better. My trench feet are not so sore either. Fritz shelling close to our dug-out.

Feb 16

On O.P. as usual. Pretty quiet day & warmer. The 72nd got 11 prisoners & only had 3 casualties. The bombardment woke me up. Wrote home to-night & had a big feed.

Feb 17

Very misty out and only on O.P. till 9 a.m. Raining slightly to-night. Got washed up & shaved. The fellows got a bottle of Scotch & it caused some fun.

Feb 18

Got up about 8:30 and didn't go on O.P. at all. Came back to Villers at 11 a.m. Trenches pretty muddy.

Feb 19

Slept till 1 p.m. Wrote Lillian & Pearl O'Hara in the Chaplain Canteen. Pretty poor meals.

Feb 20

Slept as per usual till noon. Rainy & misty out. Rec'd a parcel of socks from the I.O.D.C. Chapert of Osnabruch Centro. Wrote Miss E. Eamer to-night aslo Christine. Got letters from Manson, Jean, Ola & Christine McL.

Feb 21

Up for breakfast. Mapping out enemy lines to-day with tape for the raiders to practice on. Put with Mr. Vincent on compass work. D. Coy came out tonight. Mac McD reported engaged. Some story. Wrote to Jean Urquhart. Had about five feeds in the whole evening. Alex was up with Iam & Urabhat?. Tom went down to see George. Couldn't find him.

Feb. 22

Nothing much doing today cleaned. (rest unreadable)

Feb 23

Slept till noon then had a bath & change of clothes. Wrote to Stan? & home in the p.m. Went to concert & movies at night. They were Jake. Tom is better.

Feb 24

Got up for T & my breakfast then he got my dinner. Got up at 3 p.m. had to take in tape & flags. Went to the movies at the Y.M.C.A. I saw 6 reels. They were Jake.

Feb 25

Up at 6 a.m. and got to Vimy Ridge about eleven. After a good dinner we went on O.P. all p.m. ? started at 5 p.m. with / & gave us particular H---. He's got more ? guns in.

Feb 26

On O.P. all a.m. Very interesting morning. Saw Fritz relieving & also spotted a machine gun. Went around with the Artillery Off. but were not allowed to staff it. Hartley was killed at Suhez dump last night. didn't find his body till this morning. He was blown into a small hole and his stomach was torn open. His right hand was also torn by shrapnel. An awful mess. The big raid comes off tomorrow morning. I hope its a grand success, especially the new gas.

Feb 27

On O.P. all day. Very interesting. Wrote home & C.H.? also Miss Bruce. Got a letter from home. There's a big barrage on on the left to-night. I'm last up to-night. Tom is not feeling at a well.

Feb 28

On O.P. all day. The officer was snipping a lot at the German sniper and machine gunner. Fired about 30 shots and never made a hit. They didn't even duck. I guess the raid comes off in the morning.

Mar 1

The big raid came off this morning & Freddie Whitehead is still missing. Art McArthur ... a bullet. 7 offices and roughly 170 men casualties. Counted 16 dead outside B'. Our gas didn't work at a well as some of the R.G.'s never turned some tanks on. Lt. McLennan wounded.

Mar 2

On O.P. but foggy in a.m. Got a letter from D? Lt. Hadyon is in charge of line to-night. Tom & Wilson out too. So far I'm alone. Going out tomorrow. Relieved by the 47th (10 Bdge)

Mar 3

On O.P. as usual but had a very exciting day. Both the 102nd and Fritz taking in their dead then we started to collect from B', ? didn't go with the 1st party after Sgt Knight but they got back all right. We started out again & I went this time. Fritz came out about 15 strong intending to take us prisoners. He caught one of M. G. men & drop his rifle in him. Went to fire but gun didn't go off. We were followed right close to our sap but no shots fired lucky. Jeffries got excited and walked right into enemies line a prisoner. Saw him taken away later. It's a good thing no one fired a shot as Fritz was armed and us not. The 47th Scouts never turned up but we went out about 3 p.m. and landed at Bouvigny. Rather a nice town.

Mar 4

Slept all morn. Got Hartley's pack & picked out his pennant and cap badge. Stayed around all night.

Mar 5

Stayed in bed till 10:30. Wrote home & got letters from home, Jennie & Stan. Lloyd is at home. Down to see Bob to-night. Got paid 15 francs.

Mar 6

As usual I rose about 10:30. Had a shave & a clean up for a change. Sent Hartley's pennant and cap badge home.

Mar 7

Up early and move a half mile east to some huts. They are pretty cold. Over to the Y.M.C.A. at night.

Mar 8

Overslept slightly as I did not rise until eleven. The weather is cold & stormy and bathing parade is cancelled. Got a new pair of trousers in p.m. Wrote Stan & Lloyd. At the concert at the Y.M. at night, Got a casualty parcel of Joe Ross in the 7 platoon.

Mar 9

Up for breakfast and on parade from eleven. All p.m. practicing attack at the chateau. Awfully cold & stormy out. Wrote home at night had a dandy ? up.

Mar 10

Inspection by Co. in the a.m. and were down to the chateau all p.m. Sports & decorations. Had to go up in the new line for 5 hours. Long march through mud for nothing.

Mar 11

Managed to get a breakfast from D. ? about 9 a.m. Left at 2:30 for huts at the chateau De La Haye. Very muddy roads and we're pretty tired. In Bow Huts – Had a hard job getting blankets and slept with our trousers off for a change.

Mar 12

Out in the a.m. on telescope & binocular observing. Very interesting work. Were to go to Hersin in the p.m. for baths but cancelled. Acted second in command and did more telescope work. Rained and we had map reading. Stayed in at night.

Mar 13

Went up to Hersin to draw some money him and get a telescopic rifle. Had dinner up there and got back about 3 p.m. went to a dandy concert at the Y.M. at night. It was an ? party & God it was funny. Getting a bath at last is the village to-morrow.

Mar 14

Down for a bath this a.m. and got a nice clean change. Gee we were lousy. More telescopic work in p.m. Rainy out. Going up the line to-morrow. Went to a 44th Band concert at the Y.M. to-night. Got Hartley's rubber coat and sugar out of his parcel.

Mar 15

Went up the line this morning & got there at noon. Relieved the 72nd on the old 64th frontage. Dandy day out and a good fire. Up the line on O.P. all p.m. Saw one of the enemy's new red planes. I've an old Indian with me as sniper.