

Transcription

Edward King

Tape 2

- Interviewed Jan, 27, 28, 1993 -

Edward: He was there, he was going back to the front again with the Regina Rifles.

Dave: Right.

Edward: The way you could easily tell the ones who went in on D-day is they had a special helmet invasion helmet. It's built different, it's kind of between an American helmet and a British shape, it's inbetween you know. And then they had there boots, they don't wear the gators. They have the higher boot. Buckle on the outside. Stuff like that they have. And the camouflage, real camouflage. And they were in the invasion, the ones that hit \_\_\_\_\_. We had two of them like that. But that's the only one I remember is with Griffith cause I met him after here at the reunion. And then there was a sergeant. And from there we went on, we walked, we marched away. I didn't know where I was at that time in tents there. Out in the country somewheres. I didn't know where I was. I didn't know what town, they don't tell us nothing. Figure we might try to get over there. So I went, so they moved us. We walked from there, that march. Quite a few. Probably 200 men, maybe more. Then we march to the station. When I got to the station, I recognize it was in that Aldershot, the station I recognize. We didn't go very far, just out in the country. We might have made a big circle out there to make it look like we went a long ways. Then we walked to the station and we start moving there towards France now, invasion. We moved from the time they landed, we confined to barracks and moving just about everyday. I remember we stopped one place there in England, the \_\_\_\_\_ choke train, this train was all loaded with chokes. And the people come there and they brought us coffee and cookies and stuff and gave us stuff. I remember that place and the train stopped under a long \_\_\_\_\_. It was kind of underground so a plane I guess wouldn't spot us. They stopped there and we got off, had a little bit of lunch. Then we got off up there by the coast where they go across the ocean now. And there we stayed in trenches there, we dug our trenches, stayed inside. It was just across the channel there from where the fighting was. So we stayed there, some of them guys went to, there was pubs eh. I went in there too, looked around. It was so crowded. There was a lot of them land army

they called them. They're women, but they're left to work the farm.

Dave: Oh yeah, okay.

Edward: They call them land army. They were there with the boys, the ones I seen there. There was these tank core, tanks were going over too, there was a lot of them. So they were with the British there too. There was British going over there too. And they come around in the morning, they have this speaker like, for waking up the boys. The British, Sergeant Major or something was travelling around in a jeep, travelling around waking up. Rise and shine now he'd say now in English. Rise and shine now mate, they'd say. Sergeant there, remember that crawling out of our trench there, trying to line up for a meal. When we got onto the ship, we walked onto the ship, smaller ship. I have some books there with me it shows what kind of ship we were in. We walked in there, but we weren't that crowded in there. I guess we had lots of room. We went over and the Sergeant pulled us to the side there and he talked to us as a crew. He's in charge of a certain many. And he asked us to pray with him. We prayed there. We went below the deck of the ship. I remember sitting there and we prayed. And then after that we, somebody must have went up. We were told to stay there at the bottom. After when we got closer to France, we could see the action over there as we got closer. We could the smoke here and there, and the firing the ship, the ships were firing rockets, into the land of the German lines. They weren't that far in. Few miles in only, that's how barely enough ground to move in more troops, before they do, before they attack again. So we got in there. They got some pictures in them books I have again of how they went in so far and then we got off different then the first ones did, we got off right off the ship. That's the drop, what do you call it, a kind of stairway. They dropped that and they have a rope or something to the shore, one guy takes it over there. Then we crawled down to the water, down to here rifled up, and that rope would guide us if we happen to fall or something. Crawl out all soaking wet. We line up and then we head out. We march all through the rest of that day. I don't remember eating any place, just what we carried our emergency ration. We had some stuff with us, water, that's all we'd get. Bowl of beef, can of, \_\_\_\_\_, and the water. So we marched there up to 2:00 after midnight after we hit our objective up there. We didn't go straight in. We went on an angle down the beach, right down where the British had landed in there landing. That's where they kept us there. While we were there, one day this was in June, 25, on a Sunday,

they said there was a church parade, not a church parade, they said there's a church, Catholic church, wherever the Catholic RC's can fall in, there was a Corporal in charge. And away we went single file walk into church. We didn't have to go that far, there it was. A nice little church there. I think there was about 10-12 of us in that group. Most of these guys were Metis, French speaking, and French. Most are Catholic. We walked up there and got into that church. There's a lot of people around there already, French. They, one, somebody met us at the door, escorted us in. We marched right in carrying our rifles and our helmets, but some of us took it off as we respected. Took off our helmets, cause we couldn't let go of our rifle. And they set us in the side you know we walk into, to the side there was benches, bleachers more or less. We were sitting at the side. Then the service started. And we were sitting there, the 12 of us. And coming out they shook our hands. On the way out, these 2 French girls come out and say would you's like to have a drink or something, in French. Well most of them guys I was with spoke French, enough to get by anyways. They talked French. So we went into this, they let us into \_\_\_\_\_ in the back alley like a door there. We walk in there, and we sat. There was a long table there and benches, we sat on each side. And they put 2 bottles of wine on the table and bread. Bread was made different there. About that long a loaf and it more or less was round. They set it there and there it was. That was our lunch eh. We drank that wine and broke a chunk off of that bread and eat and drink another shot of wine. Till it was all gone. Then we thanked her and we left. That's how it was. But as we move along there, we're dressed in battle dress eh. Steel helmets and all that. We had to carry that all the time. We could get charged if we ever go without a rifle. And we walked back. That's when the British were attacking them. The big attack started that day. That's when we started moving again. It was our first time for us. But they were moving again. They went to the airport up there one time there. We were there all them boys were there somewheres, the guys I had team. I was in England with, the reinforcements. All at once when that day come on the 4th of July, 1944, it was a hot day. That's when the Winnipeg Rifles got a beating. They lost over 200 men in that. That's where the reinforcements, that's why they took, so they needed so many reinforcements. So they called us out and I went and met my cousin there, Olette and Daniels there and them guys I came overseas with. They were all there them guys I mentioned there. They're all lined up, I was visiting them for awhile, and there I was called back to my trench. Get back and get ready to move. I was, that's what I heard. Then we got into, the trucks pulled up. I don't know, I

couldn't keep track of the men, there was probably a couple of hundred or a hundred men moving there. I don't know what it takes in the truck maybe 30. I remember I sat right on the end gate, the back end you know, and this here, LaFleur was sitting right next to me, and he was really doing the talking, he was a talking person. Everybody was just serious, just quiet, just really taking it serious, the battle. And you could hear all the fighting, the shelling and all that, and the dead cattle laying all over, and all the damage they did. You couldn't even see a leaf on the tree. It was just like in the fall there, they were just like, like you hear the birds or something like that. Dead everything, horses. If you look on the field just scattered there, just blowed up. And I forgot to mention as we walk off that ship, that boat there, there was graves all over. Just wherever they drop, there was a marker there and a helmet on top, on top of the grave. So after we walked there, they were mostly British, so we walked through where the British had landed. They didn't walk us through where the Canadians had landed. They walked us off. So mostly British. So anyways, we got there when we first got there, I was so tired walking all that time. There was a trench there already dug, and so I just laid there, and as soon as I laid down, it was 2:00 after midnight by the time we stopped. I just laid down. When we were going up there to the front lines, this soldier said, we left on the 4th, 4th of July, but we never got there till the 5th. We had to stay overnight the group I was with. The next day again we moved just very slow too, I don't know what the holdup was but they just moved pretty slow. Finally we got over there. Where the battle was. Other things went through my mind on my way up there. What's it going to be like, the slaughter. There's so many casualties, we just happen to hit a real bad battle. And when we talked to them guys that just come out of that, them sections that we're suppose to go in, gee I thought, how long are we going to last. But I guess that was one of the worst battles that we had to face. We had to reinforce there. (interview stops)

Edward: A few things I guess I forgot to mention. That night where we camped there, the truck stopped and they said we're going to be here for the night, and like I said they moved very slowly, very cautiously I guess. And when we just laid in the back of a truck there, with 2 other guys, we just laid down there, it was warm in July, it was a hot night. We didn't have to cover up or anything. And these two guys I was with the had known each other before. One was original with the Rifles before, Winnipeg Rifles. I never got there names, but they were talking about the people that they were with. This one guy that

came back he was a dispatch rider. He was riding a motorbike and he goes back and forth to the front and back. And he come and visit this guys friend there. They were talking beside me there. He was asking who was still alive, who was still going, who was killed and who was wounded? He was naming them, but the names didn't mean that much to me then, but they were talking through the night like that. Then we got on the truck again, back on, and start moving. Then we stop once and awhile, there was one place we stopped there was a big pile, I guess they already had to bring out some rifles, stuff that was damaged in the front lines. There would be piles of one place there they'd stop, truck stop and they, and officer said might as well get off and get out of sight and under the trees or something. So we spread out, out there, laying down there. There was a great big pile of rifles, probably about 3 or 3 1/2 feet high or so. 2-3 piles of them. Rifles they picked out from the front lines. There was 2-3 piles like that in that bush. I couldn't say which could be the British or could be the 8th brigader also attacking beside us. See we went the Winnipeg Rifles went over there. It was the 8th Brigade front they went. That was the 7th Brigade, so they took that one regiment to go and help that 8th Brigade, that's howcome we were there. That's what I seen there the piles of rifles. As we got down over there to where they let us off now, where that was that Marcelle, France. And was just a bunch of concrete laying, there was hardly any buildings standing. As we walked in there, we were getting shelled, shells were landing, but mostly up and down, dropping ourselves on the ground and trying to move ahead. Sometimes we'd crawl a little bit ahead and get up and move again and more shells. And there was a lot of hollering when we got there, because there was no slit transfers to get in. The shells were coming down and the officers were cussing there. Howcome they sent the men there with no trenches to get in. What's going on. The Sergeant was hollering there. He laid right on the bare, wherever he dropped there was pavement where we dropped, we couldn't dig there. There was debris like and we just laid there and shells were dropping. That was on the 5th of July, 1944. So finally Sergeant said, you and you, he says, you dig your trenches over there. He pointed just a little ways out of there. So it happened to be that there was another Indian there. I didn't, the first time I met him. You too he said. He just happened to be there, and he said you two dig over there. So I found out later it was, Fred Badger his name was. He was from Alberta. I didn't know where he was from for awhile. Fred Badger, he was an older, he was a few years older, well of course everybody was older than I was. I was only 18 years old. He was probably in his late 20's or 20. He was a

married man. Fred Badger was my first trench partner there. We were digging there. We stayed all that night, there was no way we could sleep. Oh yeah, there was some shells, I was going to say. They were shelling us then. Quite a few shells came over. Finally there was, we started digging our trench there. A lot of them boys just new coming in, first trench that they were making a trench. Boys there about 4 there making a trench. They made it way too wide. They want to make there \_\_\_\_\_ stay together, I guess, there was 3 of them. They didn't want to separate. They were trying to make one, but they makes it too wide. And one of them got hit, a flesh wound there from that shell. When they were digging there, I had a sergeant who said you guys dig and dig fast. You guys are no good to us dead, the only time you're any help to us is when you're alive. He hollered there. So we were digging our trenches there for our dear life. Just as fast as we could get down. But finally we were down about 2 feet or a foot and a half in the ground when the shells came back again. One landed, in the meantime while we were digging there I found his right name later, LaFleur there, the guy I was sitting beside me there talking. Well he'd known me a little bit, from there we met and we were talking. So he recognize me I suppose and he says to me can I borrow your pick, the ground is real hard. Sure, go ahead and use it. Here, but they gave us a pile of dirt we're digging and he sat down there and he kept talking to me. All of a sudden the shells come again and he, well we got down in our trench. He threw himself down alright, I guess I could see him from down this way, his helmet like that. And when I peeked out again, kind of the smoke, the smell was there, and I looked up and the smoke kind of settled and the dust and stuff settled enough to look. I peeked out and here he was laying flat down like that. The chranel had went through his steel helmet and cut him on his forehead like that. He was laying there, the blood was, I could see the blood there on the ground. And this here sergeant I forget what sergeant it was. It might have been an officer too, and anyways he rolled him over. He never moved at all or nothing, he was like dead like. Rolled him over. A pretty strong man, he picked him up. His head went backward. He picked him up and blood was just dripping down off his head there. His face just full of blood. But sometimes it's worse than it really is. Maybe at that time maybe it was and the jeep pulled right up there, and two of the guys, stretcher bearers, picked him up, helped him and loaded him up. Onto the Jeep and pulled out as well, he couldn't live I thought. But he was not on that killed in action, but in the casualty list, now I got the names straight. I thought his name was Labocan. But it was LaFleur. Labocan was the other guy. Anyway we spent that night

like that there. We weren't even hungry. We never ate all the time we were there. Just what we carry our little rations. We were sitting there in the dry, but you drink quite a bit of water. Going through, I drank quite a bit of water. I had to kind of ration that too, because we were in the position where they can't, stuff can't be brought in that easy, that shelling. Anyways, we spent overnight there, and the next morning we got posted to our, our Corporal come up to us, and I looked at it. It probably Lieutenant Bullet, he was our Lieutenant then. He had to take over because, there was a lot of changing hands that time. There was, the first one was when they went in they had the, what's his name now. Anyways, he was a different officer. I know his name, I just can't think of his name right now, but it's in there somewhere. Anyways, he comes up and he says, you guys will be in this section, #7 section. 18th platoon, B company. He called us out, our names afterwards. Just before we got on a truck after this. There was that Harry Herby, he was from BC. A real blonde guy, his hair is just about white, he's so blonde. And there's this George Crawford, from close to home there, from Turtleford. He was just a young fellow, not even 20 years old, young guys. And myself. And there was 2 guys left in there section, they were filling in that section. This Corporal Presnor was another one. The Lieutenant said Corporal Presnor will be your Corporal, he'll be in charge of you. And the second command is Selmon, the only survivor of that section. And Wes come along, and he was like one of them too, Corporal Wes, he was also there. But first only two come and he came later. When we got on the truck, he came on and said I'm in that section too, he told me. Wes was of German decent. He spoke German, and so Presnor, they talked German. When they took prisoners, they were pretty right tough, getting information off hand, first hand information there. If we were taken up there, we take prisoners and if they're talking about us or something, we found out that too. Sometimes they didn't do nothing to them. We'd ask them afterwards did they say anything about us. They'd say yes. Sometimes they did, sometimes they're just talking about something else. But that way it was pretty handy. Anyways we started back on the truck again, going back pretty well, to the 7th Brigade now, back to our brigade. Regina Rifles and Canadian Scottish area. Getting ready for another attack. We never captured, the con wasn't captured yet. We were just trying to get through the city. We went back there and we started digging in our ground, well there at least there was no close shelling, further back. But still there's an odd that shell that will always land. It's always dangerous. Only thing is that there's no small army firing something like that, grenades, that's the only difference. And

when we got over there, there was a kitchen there, kitchen truck was there. So we were going to eat now, lined up. Felt good to get some food now. So we lined up and started eating and there I met some of my friends again, Daniels, that Daniels there, Willy Daniels, an Indian from Sturgeon Lake, the one I went overseas with, I spoke Cree with. He was a happy going person, he laughed about everything. Me I was kind of scared you know, scared. Still there, but not as scared as some of them. A lot of them break down, but I didn't. So he says, come on he says, my trench is over here. You might as well come and visit me. So I went down there and put my coat and my \_\_\_\_\_ in there. All mix, that's 2 of everything, putting everything in one pot. We were sitting there again, on this dirt around that trench there. He was sitting on the side of his trench and I was sitting on the side here. We were eating, you know he says, he wasn't scared to mention things and it seems like he knew what will happen. I probably won't make it through this war he tells me. Oh, I was surprised you know, let's talk about death. It was there, but it was hard to say that you're going to get killed. He says I probably won't make it through this war he says. I wonder if I could make my will to you. Well I said, what if I don't survive, that won't help. So he said, I'll ask my, he never had a will made and he would ask to make a will. See, that's what happened. Usually they make a will. He hasn't made a will, because he was an orphan. He was from the convent. So he was asked to make a will. And he was trying to decide who he's going to make it too, and he decided to make it to me. Of course I didn't know what was there to make a will, what he had to make. So he asked his officer, commanding officer. He said, nobody can make a will to another soldier, it's not allowed. We can't make a will to another soldier. So that was out. So I don't know whatever happened to his will. So we were talking, as I mention I remember him talking about that. And then we went back, I went back after I ate, I went back to my own section there, where we were digging trenches there. Separately every section is together. In a platoon, there's 3 sections. And then there's a fort, platoon headquarters. And we were digging there and he said we're getting ready for another attack now. Getting grenades, putting, getting other grenades, live, they're live now, we pin them. Some of them were putting them on wherever there's little hooks on the belts. And we have the ammunition bandoleer, across like that. There's 50 in each bandoleer, we carry 2 bandoleers, so that's 100 ammunition, 100 rounds. Ready for an attack you see. Check the rifles, clean them real good, make sure everything is in order. And then they said everything is okay. Corporal comes around and checks. To see whether everything is okay. While we were there we got the



press come through. Probably one of those guys that's mentioned in the reporter, American, Canadian, what's his name now (end of side 1)

Edward: As they dropped them bombs there, they letting go of there bombs. When they let go, the plane would, I guess the weight of the bomb it lifts when the bomb goes off. The plane goes up a little bit on account of the weight I guess. The minute it let's go, it's got less weight. When they drop he goes up, I could see him going up. And the AKAK, the shooting there

Dave: The anti-aircraft.

Edward: The anti aircraft was all over them. It was all around, just steady, air bursts all over. Big black smoke all around them planes. Out of all that bunch we seen only 2 go down. I don't know if they had time to bail out, because they weren't that high up, they kind of bombed very low. I never noticed any bailing out. Anyways, they went through that. As the bombs were dropping, it seemed like that the ground where we were was moving. That's how it felt like you know. It was just big explosions. The next day we were to move and attack now. We were attacking. They wake us up and we're just laying out in the dirt now, trenches, and nobody even bothered wash or anything. Kitchen there to line up, but not many cared to eat. Only attack. So we were moving up. We went through C company, where I had some friends. An Indian from Calgary was there, that small guy. His name was Joe Pasette. And he was with a Sergeant, Sergeant Crock. He came with, he was a good friend of him, they were together, Sergeant Crock. His name was Edward, that one too, that Sergeant. Cause he asked me one time what's the E for, he was taking down my right name and number. It said E King. He said what's the E for. I said Edward. Oh he said, same with mine he told me. That's the only way I found his name was Edward. Then, he was from Edmonton, that guy. They were helping each other putting there equipment on, as we went through them into there platoon. There company, they were in C company. As I went by I knew them. Up there they charged, they were going to make a charge clean house fix bayonet. That's the only time I remember fixing bayonet. You know those bayonets. They ordered to fix bayonets, charged to clean out. We were doing the cleanup they call that. The battle went in, but always an odd one.

Dave: You were going house to house more or less?

Edward: Bushes, bushes here and there, spreading out. It was out in the field. So we were moving along and finally we got held up, we were on what they call a reserve. The battalion, now that we had gotten a beating, the regiment had got the beating, they put us on reserve. The other ones, the Regina's were on our right, and the Canadian Scottish on the left. And we were in the reserves, so whoever needed us. But we were getting all that shelling there as well. Accept, the light machine guns and grenades like, that 's the only thing, but we were getting just as much shelling and artillery and what not. And \_\_\_\_\_ that time, that's when they first experienced that. That was something, that \_\_\_\_\_ when they come. And we walked along slowly you know, just go and stop, see what's happening. Dig a trench, if he says dig in, then we dig in. Shovel was pretty handy. That day they put me as a runner, my officers asked me to be a runner. \_\_\_\_\_ and runner. I said okay. And he said you go and tell them people out there that we're moving. They were in the trenches. I went up there and said get ready to move. They asked me, who are you to give us orders here. I had no rank to show. I was just a runner. Anyways, I went back and said they refuse to move on my order. So, he sent a corporal up. Gave them hell to start with, because it was orders from the lieutenant, really, but he just passed on. They were just kind of, so anyways, when I was walking up there, some of them probably knew me. One of them said when I was coming, kingdom come he says. Thy will be done he was saying. I remember that plainly, they were making fun of my name I guess. Anyways, we moved anyways. We moved up a little ways. Oh yeah, I forgot to mention that one guy there, right off the start, that came with us with the reinforcements. Brown. Thomas Brown. He was one of them that came, was always with us. I mentioned 3 guys. There was a Henry and Crawford, Harry Eurbeke there, Crawford, George Crawford, and Thomas Brown and myself, so there was 4 of us in that group that went there. That's the way it was. I forgot to mention Brown. He was a new guy like I was. He was one of the shortest time I believe in the army. He was called up in December of 1943 and he took his training till May, he was shipped overseas in May. In June he was in action. That's all that same year. And then he was killed in Feb. 17, 1944. So he was just a young fellow. The only son in the family. That was, that was one guy I forgot to mention to start with, Brown. He end up as a Corporal.

Dave: Where was he from?

Edward: He was from West of Calgary. Not Calgary, in Alberta. Not in Calgary there, Altuna. Small little, Altuna maybe.

Altario I believe. Anyways, I don't know if it's on a map anymore. There were kind of horse ranching there. He use to like horses. Talk about his horse. And I was in trench with him a long time. And he was serious about, he really was not scared, he was serious. Carry his duty, perform his duties. That's how he got to be a corporal I guess. He was a good soldier. Anyways, that's one guy I forgot to mention. And then we were attacking there. I said we moved up. We moved again a little ways. Stopped, for some reason. I don't know, just got to move when we're told. And they were, where they were told to be. Can't just wonder around. Walked out there to that distance too far away to my right, 100 yards or so, whatever they tell you and keep even. That's how we moved up, stay in that position. Doesn't matter what, if you like it or not. Just go along. And it's everybody like that. We're trained that way, years of training that. Training, just do automatic. So we got up there, there was more shelling. Oh yeah, that reason we got held up there for a while, I guess there was a lot of shelling there just ahead of us. There was casualties there. And the only one I could see on the casualty list was LeClaire. One Winnipeg Rifles laying there. LeClaire was listed on that day as killed in action. And we dug, they had the trenches there already made when we got there, me and Brown got down in trenches. Some more shells came. We got held up again, we dropped in those trenches. We were sitting there. This dead man was laying not too far away from us, may be 25-30 feet away from us. We were looking there at him. He was laying face down, he had rifle in his hand there like this. With his hand pointing like you know. But his head was down, just like he was taking cover. Just laying there. He had, you could tell he came in on D-day, because he had that invasion helmet, on, and them \_\_\_\_\_. Glasses there were on pretty good yet. \_\_\_\_\_ glasses, regimental glasses. Then laying there, and I said to Brown. You'd think that guy is just resting there the way he was sitting there. No, but he's very dead he said. So when I was heading my way out, now when they said move out. I turn and make a little circle there to go closer to him. There I could see the blood, just about the same way as that other guy there, that LaFleur. But this one was more serious. It must have went further deep. The blood was, I could see the blood on the ground in front of him yet. I could see where he was hit. He moved down like that. There was shelling, there was shells all over. Kept moving. He was moving along at that certain speed, you can't even run, ahead or back, you just go to keep that distance. Even no matter what happens. So we were going along, and there I met some of them Regina rifles were getting some casualties already. They were carrying one guy out on

stretchers, coming. And that jeep was moving back and forth with casualties on it. And that one there they were tearing out was an Indian in there. In that carrier. And he just, I just wave at him, cause I recognize him. He was my kind. I never had time to talk or nothing. Get stories from or nothing. I could tell he was. Anyway, we kept on moving, and we got so far and we got shelled again, we didn't go very far. Shelling again right amongst them. That's when that Ludwig, got wounded. Frederick Ludwig. He was a little bit ahead of me. He was wounded over there then. Probably on the leg cause they carried him out on a stretcher. He was laying down on the grass there that ran along the bushes there. They carried him right beside him, walked by about 2 feet away from me. I didn't know him at the time, but I found out it was Fred Ludwig. And that's what happened there. And we were kind of waiting there. And the Canadian Scottish are going in now, to our left over here to attack them. I forget the name of that little village. We were attacking them. And that's when that Bellatoski come up, Corporal Bellatoski come up. From the south. From Alberta also, he was from Lethbridge. And he was a farmer. He had land, he rented out his land to someone. He owned it, he was a big farmer. He joined the army and he rent his land. He was there. We were with him in the same trench. We had our trench ready, me and Brown. So we let him in with ours, with us there. So we moved out again. We lined up now, and there was a wheat field there. We lined up like we were going up. It was important, this Canadian Scottish were getting kind of a beating there. Too much casualties I guess. We lined up in that field, wheat field, and we moved out, there was shells there. But now we were spread out, but there were shells landing, but they couldn't get us, we were too far apart, we were spread out, they can't get too many at once. So maybe get one or two, that's all. Majority were still mobile. We were spread out, and when shells come we'd get down in that field, wheat field. Can't see very much, when you're down you can't see. Meantime, there was a motorbike going back and forth, carrying messages I guess, for some reason. He was going back and forth and all of a sudden a motor bomb went. They were trying to get him. They could hear him going, he was pretty loud, the motorbike. They were trying to get him. And one hit right close to him, by him I guess, blowed him up. The motor sound quit, and they went up, I just happened to see him fly up. He flew up in the air and just landed there and that was it, no noise nothing. Motorbike was gone. So we decided, it was getting kind of dark, that little village was just one big fire, burning smoke, it was just demolished. Big buildings were just smashed up. So we walked up gradually now, now I was real dry all that hot day. Just

that water we had, it was not way. Just get dry, the water, towards midnight I suppose now. It was dark already. They decide to reinforce the Canadian Scottish. As we were moving up there was building burning. This big building was burning, we were walking beside it. And down the below, it showed the light, the reflection from the burning, and I counted 8 Germans laying there, in a row. Wounded, they were groaning. Moaning and crying, in heavy pain. I walked by like that. And we got over there to our place and I said we're asking for water. Can I get water. The lieutenant and officers said the watertank is over there, but it's under snipers. Snipers are shooting at whoever moves for water. They said if you go you have to stay down. So we crawled over there to the watertank. 3 of us. To get water. There was a tap there, and we were laying on the ground. Open the tap, crawl over there again. He had spotted us, a sniper had spotted that watertank, and he was taking shots at whoever went for water. So we went and got our water, and when we come back, the trenches were in. They were already there. They were already made. So we crawled in the trench. We set up our machine gun, Bren gun. Bren gunners there, there was 3 of us on the Bren gun. Taking turns, eh. The number 2 one carries the mags, change the mag and the other one is just on the trigger and starting. And we were firing and we let out a few shots that were there. Opened up into the dark, wherever the enemy is suppose to be. We were there and so I thought, I got water now, I could eat. So I went and sit down. There was a few dead bodies in there, in that trench, a fairly wide trench. There was a few bodies there I noticed when I went there. This young guy come in, come in as reinforcement. This real young guy, said he was 17 years old. He looked young too. So we were sitting there. I went and sat down on one of them bodies, no place to sit down. I squat down on top, sat and opened my bull of beef and hard attack of drinking this water. He comes, see there's one is off and one is on \_\_\_\_\_ that's where we were having our meal. He sits down and comes and sits beside me. Anyways, we start eating. And he says, what are we sitting on, he says to me, after we ate for a while. Oh I said, that's a German body I said we're sitting on there. Oh, he jumped right up. He said you should have told me. He started throwing up. He couldn't take it. I was wondering what happened to him, but I guess it really bothered him. Didn't bother me, all I knew it was there, and I had to sit down someplace. It was hard for him. Then the next day, the next morning came, we started looking around. Some of them Canadian Scottish took cover there someplace I guess. Wounded, but they couldn't get out. They were in the trenches, they start coming out. Bandages and some in rough shape. Some of them are just

found. And oh, gees, they had a lot of casualties. There was a slit trench there, where a machine gun was lined up, it was a communication trench. A big long trench. Maybe 50 feet long. And they set it up, they had there machine gun lined up in line with that, someplace in the distance I guess. And when these Canadian Scottish attacked, when they seen the trenches, they're going to jump in there for cover, and there it was just a trap, and machine gun bullets were going in there. And the minute they jump in there, the bullets were clear for them to shoot in too. You see, as small short trench, there's no way they're going to get you that easy. But the long communication trench like that, they can easily pick you up. Unless that's the reason they make them zigzag. Make them zigzag trenches when you build trenches, you don't make them straight. Cause they can come in from one end and take the whole

Dave: The whole lot of them out.

Edward: Yeah, that's how they made it, especially for that I suppose, the trap. And they did, they got quite a few. Probably an old trick from way back. And we walked through the city there, a little town was left, next there was guys looking around. There I seen these Canadian Scottish. Some of the a whole section wiped out. Corporal, and men behind him in a row like that. Just as they fall the way they're hit, they are laying there. We seen all that, and I seen that casualty list after. And now when I look at that casualty list, killed in action, the Canadian Scottish, them were the guys I was looking at that time. But I never looked at there names. The tag was already taken out and registered. Anyways, from there now we moved again, and that next day, I guess that was on the 9th now. On the 9th of July, we were moving up again. The whole works moved up then, tanks, anti-tanks, infantry, all spread out in the field now. We're moving along. And now my partner, the friend \_\_\_\_\_ partner, we kind of paired off two. Was that new guy that come in, that young kid. Then we start out in the field. We were out in the open field. Big open field, and we got pinned down with the artillery. And motor coming in. All over, and we were just spread out. They really tried to knock us out. So we're digging there in the ground with this new reinforcement, we're digging, and I was on my hands and knees digging this one, cause I know it wasn't safe to stand up. I was digging it by hands and knees, and I was watching, I was waiting for a shell. If it comes too close, I'm going to throw myself in that trench. So I, we didn't go down too far. Sure enough, the shells were coming real close to us again. I just threw myself down, and this guy throwed on top of me there.

He was crying, this young fellow. He didn't help me, they had this guy along with me, in bad shape. Anyways, he was taking it pretty hard. But they must have sent him out that day, cause I never seen him after. So we went from there, there was a big bomb hole there. A big blockbuster had landed, and it cleared a whole size of this room I guess. A big large one. So most of them, a lot of them were in there. In that. We went there too. In fact they called us. Get over there, he's going to talk to us. Our captain was there. He said, the minute we go through those bushes over there, we're going to stop and dig in. That's what he was going to tell us. Get there on our own. That's what he said. Get over there and dig in over there, that will be our objective. So we knew where we were going at least now. We made it over there in them bushes, and we dealt in our areas. I was digging there. That night, there that young fellow wasn't there with me then already. So they must have sent him back from that time they caught him and he was in tears. Another guy come with me there to dig in my trench. And then we were sitting there and when our trenches were dug there, we said, there's got to be the enemy, we're next to the enemy now. Closer up. They said, come over and get your grey coats. The truck pulled up for the night, them heavy overcoats, grey coats. We went over there, and we were there, while we were getting our grey coats, sorting them out there, as long as we have one, that's the main thing. So we were passing them out, the grey coats, 2-3 guys had went and dug there trench again. They want to be together. And sometimes, for myself it didn't bother me that much. Sometimes I'd dig that for myself, or if someone wants to be with me. But some guys want to be more together for some reason. Anyways, I guess these boys that's what they had did. They made the trench and they made it kind of a V-shape there trench. Like that. It wasn't just one, it was like two trenches together. And that's where they come for there grey coats, the three of them come up too. Usually just one comes up, but them guys, the 3 of them comes up. Well, while they were there taking there grey coats, shells come in, shells were dropping. And one had landed right inside of there trench. They said, that one looked like pretty close to our trench. They were looking back at the smoke coming up there. They walked back to and it was a right direct hit in there trench. None of them would have survived the way.

Dave: That's right.

Edward: It's funny, gives them a funny feeling. Boy. That night, we never slept hardly that night. On guard, pitch dark. You hear the slightest...you can imagine things coming up

through the dark. Shells eh. About 3:00 in the morning, we're on the 10th of July. We're going to move to attack the city. There was another brigade that went in I believe already, partways in the city. We're going to go in too. So we lined up. Corporal lined us up. All them guys there. The Corporal Pressnor leading us, and Eurbeke, Brown, Crawford, then we had that Lavocand was with us. Lavocand was with us. And then me and Wes was bringing up the rear. Corporal Wes, they always have a Corporal at the end, so the men, so they don't wander off I guess. They have the men in the front and the back, most of the time. And I always was more or less the last, next. That was my position mostly that I use to take. Tail end more or less. We're moving along and the shells were dropping again. It was dark yet. Shells come down, heavy artillery shells, the big ones. Not the little shells, big shells. And they were landing there. When we stop, everytime we'd stop, this is mostly the way we'd go down, on one knee and our rifle like this. We're sitting most of us like that. Or else some of them they'd drop. Either way, everytime we stopped. Smaller target, so we don't give ourselves away. Anyways, that's what I was doing. And while I was in that position, them shells were landing. And struck a shot and hit me right here in the back. Small. Just burn, just quick. And I jump naturally, just like someone had poked me with a hot iron. I made a jump. Oh, the corporal says, that landed a long ways away from us he says to me. He didn't, I knew when I got hit. But with all that excitement, it didn't bother me, I kept moving. So, we got moving slow again, you know. Move partways, then stop there. See what's, very, very cautioned, I guess. I don't know what, taking it easy. They have there 2-way radios. They mentioned where to be and how to move. We got into the city, I got where you see the pictures, some of them. That's how we walked through, just barely. Infantry to walk, where vehicles couldn't make it in here, this was smashed up so bad. Bulldozers had to make way for them vehicles to come through. So it more or less held us up that bombing, I guess, and they didn't get that many. The German army wasn't in there that much in that city. Not very good. Anyway, from there, as we went along into that city, into our position, objective there. There was civilians, French here and there, talking some of them. Come and talk with us. And there was, as we got there, there's a bridge that we're suppose to be guarding, holding. A bridge going across the Owen River. The river that runs through the city of \_\_\_\_\_. We were there protecting this bridge. So it could be there I guess to be used. We went up and they opened up with a machine gun across that bridge, that's where we were going. It was kind of a T-shape there, the streets there. The bridge comes into the



T-shape. We had to cross, even with that bridge, firing was coming out of that bridge. And there we got, some of them had just crossed that street and some were kind of divided, some stayed back. There again, we had one casualty there, one guy got hit. His name is Laverne. Laverne his name was this guy. Got hit in the arm, he was just behind me, sitting beside me. I was beside, they had these trees on the side, some of that bark come off of that tree there where I was sitting. Flew off of that tree and branches. Concrete on the wall there. Bullets there hitting the wall. Anyways, the Corporal on the other side, the sergeant they got across, they were already on the other side. They waved us on to get across. So we finally all got across over there, into our position now. Again, there were trenches already there. Didn't have to dig. The Germans, I guess, somebody had dug. There trenches were there. So we got there, and set up our machine gun again as usual. Three men on the machine gun, the Bren gun. And the trench, there was a communication trench again, leading to a block house. The block house was at the wall there, probably about 8 feet thick. Great big block house. And we going in the entry there. They tell us that was captured on the 6th of June. (end of tape)