

30 Aug 44

Maj Kiirstead went up to liaison with CBH + I moved the sqn up about 1700 hrs. Ran into provost with APM + DAPM who wouldn't let me through. Went up on bike to see Maj Kiirstead, proceeded past where provost said no vehs were allowed to go. Reached CBH HQ. Was heavily shelled, contacted C.O. Returned + provost had put sqn into field. Called Col Summerville again + he wanted us up so I went despite the provost. Lost 3 tks on their account, 2 with tracks off + 1 ditched. Crossed Toggie just before dusk, + shelled hell out of ft 120. Maj Kiirstead sent me to find A Coy HQ. I didn't know where. Tanks ^(Batteries) went over mine 150-200 yds from base of ft 120, track broken + 1 boggie bugged. Went on foot to A Coy HQ about 200' thru minefield. Went back + forth several times, relaying messages etc. Under heavy shell + mortar fire all the time. CBH med carrier went up on mine in road + I disarmed about 10-12 hotz mines along the road. - Shw mine was found there later. CBH withdrew + we blasted hill again + CBH attacked again I waited at RAP for Pioneer offs to go up + left the mines. We started up but were driven back by sparks fire - tracers lighting up grass. Attack failed CBH withdrew + tanks left in front. I was scared for them. Could get no confirmation of withdrawal. Sounded like counter attack. Had my crew abandon the suggesting they bring my whiskey. (I had a shot of Rum at RAP). Withdrew tks about 4.30 and I positioned each one myself. Inf were in same line with us. Lost pen, pencil + pencil.

31 Aug

Thru day we fired a few shells at the hill. C Sqn + Irish took 120 from flank + rear. Petroled + ammoeled up in sight of 120. Lined up to move around to flank + up towards Monte Marone ^{about 16:45 hrs}. News of Counter attack + returned to pass in a hurry. No attack developed. Moved around to right + lagged about 1500 yds minus Monte Marone. I positioned all troops, laid on guards, brownie on ground mounts etc + had a rum issue. Claude Richards went to hoop.

1 Sep

CBH got orders to be on Monte Marone before 1st light. We got orders before I got to bed. CBH moved off at 0400 hrs. Tks moved up about 6. Sat in behind the hill all day. Under heavy shell, mortar + A/T fire. 2 tks # 3th (Bill Spencers) brewed up LD Fraser + Hayler killed. A.P. shell hit gun of my th (Byng) + ricocheted off turret bore broomed over, rained it out with an A.P. + kept on firing.

About noon Maj Kiirstead asked me to take 2 troop out about 1000-1500 yds to our left front. Went to top of hill + studied ground carefully thru glasses. I took Byng + Sug Wilson + Cpl Shepherd. Went out in the big wheel, blasting + machine gunning everything. H.E projectiles stuck in bore, half charge stuck, could get it neither in nor out. Cleared it in about 5 min + second half charge worked. Moved on into pass, Cpl Shepherd got A/T gun to my left + rear. Blasted targets + suspicious objects.

1 Sep (Cont)

2

Changed tks with Shepherd because wireless set wouldn't work. Drank + lot of water, got sick, had to get out + get my tooth. Fired empty Browning cases, my pistol + a 2" smoke at Sly to get his attention. Ammo got low, Wally Manley sent out to relieve me, saved 4 rds AP, 1 APHE, 1 HE to come back. Moved up to crest + fired coax at house, white sheets waved. Cpl Shepherd went up + investigated - Wops. He got out + went all through to make sure. Sgt Wilson's tk had gone dead + Robertson R M fixed the master switch. Manley arrived + I dismounted + put him in the picture returned to sqn via S.W edge of hill, shot at a lot of inf to my right + rear sent Cpl Shepherd back for Macdonald C.A. - caught his hand in 75. Picked up 3 prisoners, fired my pistol at one + made him put down a snipers rifle. Lots more fire around but A/T gun missed me to the left, then right + then ricocheted off my turret. Got out of there in the big wheel. Came up onto track with steep bank on left side. 1 track ran up on bank. It almost upset. I'll never know why it didn't. Got over crest. Put inf on tk + beat it back to sqn. 16 connectors broken on track when we got there. Took 635 pistol, cig lighter, pencils, pen + pencil set off prisoners. Lost pencils + pen + pencil set. Dead beat! Had some soup + coffee + recovered. I called R HQ + asked for relief. I wasn't complimentary. 8888 Sqn moved in just before dusk + blasted everything. After a hell of a time we netted them in on our rear links + got away about 2300 hrs. Jack Royce had us back to hill just north of Foglia River. I went looking for Beatty down by river + found it at base of hill. Moved it up to sqn lines + had a good nights sleep.

2³ Sep.

Up about 7.30 + worked till 11 o'clock without taking off my pyjamas - on rations etc. Both Brig + CO. were around + congratulated us. Shook out onto higher ground + rested under tarp on / his notice to move. Moved out about 2300 hrs and moved up 2 miles + harboured. Had another decent sleep. Shook out back over hill at dawn, barely had breakfast + moved fwd + crossed Conca River + sat in a field all day. by dead horse. C Sqn got 2 tks a few hundred yards ahead + I fired at a Sherman. Tony fired bow gun about 1600 hrs when we started to move up + hit a guy in low S.P. moved up a few hundred yards + harboured for the night under the X rds. Bill Spencer's tk deleted. Tom slept at Maj's tk + Manley at mine.

4 Sep

Small shell landed about 10 ft from Wally + I at 0400 hrs. We were only dug in about 6" and got showered with lumps of mud. Went back

4 Sep (Cont)

to sleep + up again at dawn + moved up towards Coriano. Passed
 thru A Sqr. Wally Manley wounded in joint by sniper or sharpshooter. I was
 sent in Command of No 1 Pl. Advanced further, firing on lots of targets. Saw a tank
 in Coriano, my gun wouldn't fire - went over to Bacheliers th, but Jerry th left before
 we could fire. My gun worked O.K. again after firing twice with mechanical
 firing system. ^{Called up Honey to fix up, mangled, and for shells hole where coax had been firing on them.} About 20 o'clock ordered to adv. Went over crest. A/T gun opened
 fire + I went right in the big wheel to the ditch S.E. of Coriano about 6-800 yds - about 800
 yds in front of our own troops. F119 followed. Cpl Fleming in Bonas brewed up, Blouette
 killed, Fleming blinded, McCullum wounded + clothing burned, Charlie Harvey + Fleming J. S.
 got them back. The Maj + Fisher ducked into hole along ditch about 600 yds behind
 me. Iks collided + could not get out. Tom Robertson also got pinned down. Stayed
 in these forms all day - had fun shooting up inf on ridge 500 x N of Coriano.
 Seemed to be in no man's land. Then heard spand fire from all sides. Heard A/T
 gun about 600 x N.E. Recced on foot + watched but couldn't spot it. Scared a
 rabbit. Saw A/T gun knocked out 200 x E. + spotted pillbox. Went back, tried to get
 arty fire down on area 600 x N.E. but no luck. Heard another A/T gun 400 x E.
 Recc'd on foot again, could spot nothing, brought back a good fud of grapes. Made
 temporary arrangement with Maj + Jora to withdraw at dusk. A Bazuka fired at
 Vancanians th. Empty'd his frontal at fire + blasted whole area with coax. Sniper
 fired a burst of spands at my tank. Were heavily shelled + mortared. With 75 shells
 for urinals. Maj went off air about 1730 - 1800 hrs. At dusk Tom withdrew + I pulled
 back about 2020 hrs. Blanket of dust + smoke 12' on ground. Many haystacks
 blazing. Quite dark. TMC loaded + hand grenades handy. Knobby Sammon + Loken came
 out + signalled us to stop. Took them back with us. Had Tom fire a very light.
 for direction. Got back safely met Tom + Cloyd Hill. Checked with Knobby + Loken
 re Maj's ths - said they'd burned. Gave info to inf (Irish) who were going to try
 to work patrol out. Myers + Crosby also returned - said tanks hadn't burned.
 C.O. ordered Maj Hill + myself NOT to go on patrol unless we personally knew
 location of ths. Spands fire very close + enemy wounded etc found in Irish Coy HQ's.
 Withdrew to posn E of Moriano. B Sqr had only 6 ths. Gave whisky to Knobby
 + Loken. Posted Maj Kinstead, Sgt Fisher, Sgt Stevenson, 4 cpl Wentworth, Sgt Helchin
 + Sgt Stevens CT as missing. I feel sure we could have pushed on with inf that day + got
 up onto ridge N of behind Coriano

10 Sep. Sqn moved up into line with inf about 11.30 P.M. I was L.O.B.
Sqn returned to area near Misano same night.

12 Sep. Inf Com the attack tied up with 11 C.I.B + 8 N.B.H for Coriano
I was liaison between CBH + B Sqn. Spent most of the day at CBH HQ
+ returned to sgn just before dusk. I was using an Humber scout car.
about 2200 hrs Jerry dropped a flock of flares over our Sgn area but
nothing else. A Sqn + Perths took ridge S of Coriano on 13th.
(ed.) airburst directly over house, I got a lap full of telen.

13 Sep. CBH crossed start line 0100 hrs. I was at CBH HQ, in house. at 11.30.
Summerville had no communication with Coys. In spite of heavy damage
left Coy caught hell but things sorted out + CBH were on objective
(ridge N of Coriano) before daybreak. Engineers cleared route + used bull
dozers to make route across for tanks. 1 Bulldozer bugged itself
pushing a brewed up honey off the road. Long delay in getting another.
Sniper covered ridge + rd with spands. Route opened about 0800 hrs.
I crossed with Col Summerville with them. I crossed about 9.30 to
R.A.P. at 11.30. waited there till CBH HQ vech crossed + then went to their HQ again
were heavily mortared + shelled all day - damned heavy. Numerous reports
of the behind Coriano while C Sqn + Irish were clearing the town. None
appeared but C Sqn captured an undamaged Mk IV. During afternoon
Sgt Wilson picked up Irish Major - wounded by a sniper - through his escape
hatch. Lloyd Brown picked up his CSM same way. Charlie Harvey's th
received a direct hit on the gun about 2' from mantlet by H.E. shell.
Chapman R.M. fatally wounded. Ruddy A.S. nasty face wound. - Shrapnel
went down through front periscope mounts. Harvey etc really shaken. I fed them Pump Sgt Colwill creased across
head by a sniper. Recce Iks were bringing up petrol + ammo about 2200 hrs.
sgn of L.I. + Westons - moved them up + up to the rd in the afternoon
14 Sep. Recce Iks arrived about 0230 with petrol + ammo. Vince Mullet + I
took them around to all the ths. Lloyd Brown took a heart attack + we sent him
back with a Honey Iks. Got back to bed about 0400 hrs. Up at 0600 hrs -
had breakfast - (a shot of rum the same as the previous day) and farted around the
tanks. at 11.30. But Iks passed through. Went back to A.I. Ech for spare crews but
did not return as Sgn was pulled back out. I went up to Rynq + Balboa
helped the padre bury Stevenson + stole all the kit from the tanks. CBH - 270 Cas in 3 weeks 100 in Coriano show

15 Sep. Returned to Rynq, Balboa + Bonar with Jack Boyer, found remains of
Boucette + got jeep stuck. I hitch hiked back for a Honey while the rest incl Jack
Purcell, Sgt Harmer + Sgt Buskie reburied Hilchie - had lots of rum.

16-21 Sep. Reorganized Jack Scovil, Claude Richards returned. Lloyd Moore came
before the Coriano show.

22 Sep After supper went in Maj Ross' jeep to have quick look at new area. Caught in traffic jam on way back.

23 Sep Left at 0630 hrs on recce party. Expected to be at 11 o'clock + Maj Ross called me to recce area across Marnechio river + south of No 9 highway. Went up to high ground south of river and looked at area from there. Jerry did not know we were to harbour in that area because he hadn't left. Went back to unit area via Rimini and came up again in a scout car in the afternoon. Got to south border of area but couldn't get across ditch into area. Went into a couple Wop houses. Wops came running out of dugouts, slapping their hands + shook our hands, hugged us, kissed us. Had 3 good drinks of vino bianco. Returned to unit lines about dark.

24 Sep. Left on recce again at 0500 hrs. I stopped to help Sgt McKinnon out of ditch with his scout car. Could not catch rest of party + entered area from east side, drove through it, saw noone + came out on east side again south of lateral. Heard spando fire and saw men sneaking around house by lateral. Made a dash for it. They were PLDGs, a sniper was covering N.E. corner of our area. Stayed there a while + set out on foot to find Maj Ross + rest of recce party. Found them at S.E. corner of area filling in the ditch. Went back up to lateral for vehs + spando fire whistled over my head. Tanks arrived about 9.30 + harboured. Shelling + mortaring all around all day but none actually in our area. Heaviest was on lateral rd. Reports of enemy tanks on our left + rear, but nothing developed. Noticed 2 troops of Churchills on our immediate left + liaised with them. Claude Richards' nerves cracked in the P.M. He was really in bad shape. I took him down to RHQ to the M.O. + then went on to AI Cch to get a New mech. Just at supper time they started shelling. Sgt Brennan got it with the first one, a very serious wound in the left breast. Several more came over. M.O. came + fixed him up. I almost broke Boyer's ribs when I dived in on top of him in his slit trench with my binoculars around my neck. Got my New mech and returned to sgn. Another shell came just as I left. Stopped the jeep + hit the ditch in a hell of a hurry but no more came.

When I got back to the sgn Tom Robertson told me ab was sick and I was to go to RHQ. I wouldn't believe him because I didn't want to but finally he persuaded me. I was very unhappy and used some of my choice language. Moved down to RHQ and took over. Col had been very nice to me every time I'd met him after he'd given me shit.

25 Sep ab went to loop in the morning + I got things straightened around mounted maps etc. Quite a bit of shelling around the area. CO had an O op in the evening + we were to go in with the Irish but damn hell through. I spent the

25 Sep (Cont)

early part of the night making our jargon codes universal. Rained in the night + quite a bit of shelling. Lloyd Nell returned making us one over str on maps - Maj Bruce to revert.

26 Sep.

Up at 0500 hrs to report to Bde conditions of ground for tanks. It was pretty slippery. Rugged around most of day with nothing happening. Practically no shelling. Another Op at 1920. We were to go in with 11 CIB tonight + relieve 12 CIB + HSH, only to keep contact with Jerry by patrols + move fwd if he withdrew. Not to attack. Moved in afternoon (RHQ gp + RECCE only) to house about 1 mile N of 709 lateral. Plan was changed 11 CIB relieved 12 CIB that night but Iks were not to go in till morning. Fair amount of shelling. Bedded down in upstairs room which shook like a leaf every time a gun went off or a shell landed within a half-mile. Only consolation of this job is that I have my own jeep - such as it is. An engineering firm from C.O.D found out I'm stuck here till Ab. gets back. - unhappy day. Starting to write some overdue letters now but haven't rec'd any for about a week.

27 Sep - Stayed at same place all day.

28 " - Moved up to large house about $\frac{3}{4}$ East of S. Mauro. Were very heavily mortared + shelled. Sgns were further up with 11 C.I.B. A on rt B centre + C left.

29 Sep - 2 Oct. Remained in same location. Very heavy mortaring and shelling all the time. Had numerous very close ones. B sgn lost 3 tks, 2 by bazukas + one by shell fire. C sgn also lost 3. Had a counter attack one night, mostly shell fire, but Bde were much more excited and concerned about it than the forward troops. The attack was postponed indefinitely due to bad weather. Boyer lost 2 trucks from shellfire, one petrol one brewed up. He also lost his jeep trailer. We then moved back handy our old loc'n, Bde were in our original house so we took another one very handy. A sgn had about a 170 mm unexploded shell in their house. As far as is known it is still unexploded.

6 Oct. - Moved back up to old spot $\frac{3}{4}$ mile E of S. Mauro about 1530 hrs. Were given a very warm welcome with shells etc. House had received several direct hits while we were away. In evening I went down to AT Ckelon + while I was away the put one shell in West end down stairs room, one in North West upstairs room + one on the front div patch of Hussar. 3 lads of assault th wounded, 2 CBH + Howard, my batman, got very minor wounds. Intermittent shelling all night. B Sqr lost complete the crew in FHQ by a shell 3 killed 2 seriously wounded

7 Oct. - Moved at noon to a house about 800' farther south + off the main drag. No heavy shelling in this area. O' Sp at C.O's spot in 11 CIB mansion at 1500 hrs. Attk to go in tomorrow night Irish right, CBH left. NZ attky at same time. I got some material from B Sqr + Homer + I went into S. Mauro. I got a pitcher + we found a new Fiat which Homer is going to get. Wrapped up the pitcher + material to send back.

8 Oct. - Rained in the night, making the going very sticky. Nobody moved anywhere. Rained practically all day. The attack postponed 48 hrs. Drove down to A eck in the jeep.

8 Oct (cont)

in the afternoon with Homer. It was a dirty drive.

9 Oct - 3 yrs ago today I watched the shores of N.S. disappear over the blunt end of the Monarch of Bermuda. About 11 o'clock I started to go to see the Colonel, got almost to the jeep when there was a loud bang + stuff splashed into the mud around the jeep + off the tks so I withdrew hurriedly into the house. Jerry shelled for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hr - not too close, just close enough to be uncomfortable. Went down to see the C.O. about dinner time, + then went around to signs warning them re rece parties being on 1 hr notice - move back. Got stuck in A sqrs rd. just got out of there + they shelled "C" sqrs. I took M.O. up and brought a minor gas back. Did a lot of shunning around in the afternoon. A fair amt of shelling. Was into S. Maurice with Boyer but found nothing. am now starting to write letters.

10 Oct New Zealanders took over from the 11 C.I.B

11. Oct. We moved back to our old spot south of "Star" route 9 and into the house we were originally in. Bde HQ had moved out. We expected to be there for about a week.

12 Oct - got things Ted up to move back to Piccione

13 Oct - moved back to Piccione at 0500 hrs and got settled into buildings. Had a reasonably good R HQ mess

14 Oct - Got things Ted up for range shooting (out to sea) and 17 hr courses to start Sun. morning. Went to see "Going my way" with Bing Crosby.

18 Oct

Went to TDR, just north of Riccione, ^{in the morning} to see demonstration of 17 pdr Camouflaged, also dummy 75 mm mounted on back box.

In the afternoon went to see a demonstration of the Crocodile flame thrower on a Churchill tank. It is a damned good weapon - for our side only I hope. Saw Brig Bradbrooke there and invited him to our party.

19 Oct - Felt better than I deserved. Went down to the range + crew commanded for firing the 17 pdr out to sea. C.O. checked over the report on Gothic line operations + Jeff + I checked on the map.

Had dinner at A Sqn. B Sqn offers, Jack Boyer + I were invited. Then Boyer + I + Sqn leader, CO + 2/c went to the sgt's party. There was a good time for all.

20 Oct - Nothing special happened during the day - just the usual. Went to the CWAC show at the Strand Theatre in the evening. ^{Boyer, Homer, Tom Wier + the M.O.} It was a damned good show

21 Oct. Recce parties put on 1 hrs notice and the unit on 12 hrs notice to move from 1200 hrs. Had a party in the mess that night and I was starting well but was interrupted several times on business regarding the move

and getting people back who were working with the Engineers etc. Did not use my jeep for the party as it was raining.

22 Oct.

Reece parties left at 0800 hrs and the tanks moved shortly afterward. Wheels moved about 1530 hrs. Jeff + I went in the jeep about 1400 hrs. Tank convoy was all bugged up + didn't get in until late afternoon. We were in a farm house behind the Savio River. Practically no shelling. Left A, B + part of A1 Ech^{Reece} in Reccione to hold our buildings. Mailed parcel to Annie.

23 Oct.

Heard rumors of moving to Cesenatico for the winter. Maj Ross + I went there in the jeep (after coming to several blown bridges + road craters we couldn't pass) and rec'd bldgs. Chose the Rido Hotel. Sent word back for Tom Wier to move up bag + baggage next morning. RHQ also moved back there ^{next morning} but stayed in wireless contact. C.O. + I.O. at 11 C.I.B.

24 Move as mentioned above took place + we settled in. Tom Wier + I took a room together. Ray Neil was killed by a mine.

25. Heard rumors of Corps taking this area and we were to move - God knows where. Tom + I worked on the W.E. breaking it down into Sgr + Cchelons. I drove Jerry Edgely a new offr up to C Sgr in the evening. It rained like hell + the roads were narrow + slippery with lots of holes coming back in the dark. Did some more work on the W.E. in the evening. Got snaps + negatives fixed to send home.

26 Oct Rained like hell all day. Rumors that we were to move to Cervia. Maj Ross took recce party up in the afternoon. Corps Sigs moving in here tomorrow. Our move laid on for 8 o'clock in the morning. Finished the W.E. today + finally got it balanced all ways with everything. Wrote Sandy + Mrs Henderson + sent snaps. Writing home.

27 Oct. - We moved, it rained like hell, but I dressed in my oilskins, hat included and so didn't get too wet in my "Caravan" jeep. Finally got settled into a house temporarily. Had tried to make arrangements for the Itis to be evacuated but no dice so had Sgt McKinnon tell them to move out of the house we planned on using for R.H.Q. Maj Gosling stopped him + he came to see Maj Ross in the evening.

28 Oct. - Run around getting accommodation for the Sgns and in the P.M. went up to the sgns with Harry Walker to get clear of it all and to take the liquor ration up. B Sgn was across the Savio Rivin + all the Bailey bridges had washed out so we couldn't get to them. Took Scully to A.D.S. that night with a temperature of 104. Then had to rush around and get people ready to go on leave to Rome + Florence for 6500 hrs in the morning.

29 Oct. A, C Sgns + A.I. Ech moved back. We had a bigger allotment of buildings so got them in O.K. I moved up to the new R.H.Q. Entertained the Itis in the house that evening.

30 Oct B Sgn moved back and in the morning it was decided that Bill Wood would be adjt. I go back to B. Sgn + Waldo Julek + George Cahoon go to "C" Sgn.

31 Oct.

Went back and spent most of the day with Bill to clean up the final things. In the evening went to the show the "Kiwi Concert Party". It was a good show. One Chap impersonated Bing Crosby.

1 Nov Getting broken in to the sqw etc. Maj Blanchet arrived back + Lloyd Hill became a Capt but Tom Wier stayed as Maj. I was glad to see it that way. Wrote letters in the evening. They were much overdue.

3 Nov.

13.

Worked on the tanks again for the C.O.'s inspection. weather was against us. In the evening we had a little game of poker in the mess. I lost \$2.50.

4 Nov. C.O. Inspected the tanks. They were fairly good, but needed a bit of polishing. In the evening we had another poker game and assisted our spirits with a quart of gin, 2 quarts of beer and some lemon cordial all mixed up in one concoction. We had a heck of a lot of fun.

5 Nov. Church parade to Astra theatre. Padre Wright (new) gave us a good straight-forward sermon.

Worked on the tanks for about an hour in the afternoon and then what with being cold + hot, having headaches, belly aches + chills + feeling just plain miserable I went to bed. Was scared of Malaria so took 5 mepracine tablets. Spent a hell of a night.

6 Nov. - Felt better but no appetite. M.O. was in + I had a little temperature so he kept me in bed. Thought I might have jaundice! Took more mepracine.

7 Nov. - Felt still better but the doc still made me stay in on account of a little temperature. Brig had his inspection. I guess it went over good. Heard that Burns had gone somewhere, Chris Vokes has 1 Coy + J.D.B. Smith has 1 Div.

8 Nov. - Doc let me up but not out so I spent most of the day writing letters. Was tired that night.

9 Nov. - Everything O.K. this morning so I'm now trying to get back in the picture again. ^{Bought Ray Neils serge for \$30.} Waldo is back as a capt so I'm 2 1/2 again.

10 Nov. - Well just the normal day except that Sam Aldredge stepped on a shu mine + lost a foot. Hunter Blunk came as road link so Waldo is Lieut in A Sqn again. Went to a show "Northern Patrol" tonight.

11 Nov George Pitt came to "C" ^{1 1/2} Sqn. Got word in evening "C" sgn
was to go up 14th and act as arty for 2 days.

13 Nov. Prepared for the move + the shoot.

14 Nov. Moved at 0630 hrs + arrived about 9 o'clock. mighty cold.
Lined up, paralleled guns, registered one target. arty C. P.
could not observe fall of shot at all satisfactorily. Cliff
stayed at Porter Fork HQ. I was mighty tired. Did a bit
of night firing. Slept in the tank.

15 Nov. Rain + mud. I was damned tired all day, and not
much appetite. Did a bit of firing during the day + quite
a bit during the night. Slept in the house.

18 Nov. Went to R.A.P. at 0900 hrs. Then to T.L.F.A. at Urvica. Then to 5 CCS
at Casenatico. Then to 4 CCS at Cattolica, then to ? Brit Sen Hoop
at Gano, and finally to 1 CGH at Jesi at 1600 hrs. Was put
to bed.

19 Nov - 20 Nov - 21 Nov. eating damned little, sleeping, reading,
writing + smoking. a nice hospital + damned comfortable.
See Sam Alderdice every day.

22 Nov. Nothing new. The M.O. told me I'd be going to No 5 in
Rome by hospital train tomorrow.

Corino 4 Sep.

Got into hole - Chased in by A/T gun fire - about 10.30. Reported back, heard C.O. have A. Sgt + Westons Twp attack to get them out. Was fucked up. C.O. told them to hold it off + then later said he hadn't meant that attack. Things reasonably O.K. during the day. Myers + Crosby wanted to leave Keith wouldn't let them. Fired at several Jerries with bazukas + 2 wounded we signalled up to the tanks + given shell dressings.

Dusk came, wireless comm. very bad. Crew left + Fisher looked over + saw the Majo tank was empty too. Thought it funny they'd leave without telling him. Tried to contact C.O. for help in to watch out for them coming back + shot to fire at them. Couldn't get through. Sgt Stevenson crawled into turret with him + asked if he could contact C.O. then said he'd try to get our own troops + tell them what happened + climbed out again.

Keith then started down thru Co drivers seat to go out escape hatch + someone climbed into turret. He almost spoke to him thinking it was Charlie but then noticed it was a Jerry. Fired 3 rds from his pistol into him + he climbed back out. Another Jerry opened Co drivers hatch over his head + he fired at him - 2 rds wouldn't ^{reach} ^{the} ^{C.O. calling + calling but didn't} ^{do} ^{any} ^{good}. ^{Next} ^{morning} the tank whispering + moaning for hours. He stayed very still. Next morning they were gone but there were Jerries all around the place. He hardly moved. A couple of grenades thrown at the tank + got a bit in one knee.

Next day things were quiet so he crawled into turret + put on steel helmet to have to look around. Just got the top out + bullets went thru it. Stayed quiet there all day + night.

Next day very heavy barrage came down so he took a look out of the turret + saw Wentworth + Stevens in the ditch. Crawled out to them. They were in bad shape. Johnny shot thru both legs + Charlie thru the back + lungs. Charlie was paralyzed from the back down + lying in water. Keith cleaned the maggots off them, bandaged them, gave them Morphine + at night went back to the tank + got milk etc for them. Bailed the water out of the hole that Stevens was in and made them all as comfortable as possible. Could hear Jerries passing about 20-30 ft away. He expected Stevens to die anytime. He buried Hilchie, tried to get Stevenson's body out of the Majo turret on last day 6th but couldn't. Dug a hole to shelter Johnny + Charlie. Was in bad shape himself last day. Nerves nearly gone and the 6th night 3 men appeared in front of him + asked if he was SNBH. They were an Irish patrol.

- 23 Nov. Went to hosp train via statcher via ambulance about 4 P.M. had supper on train. arrived in Rome sometime during the night. Got off the train about 8 A.M.
- 24 Nov. met Bill Gilchrist + Herb Samblin, Norm Sawyer. - nothing new, except Maple leaf flourishes big heading re 16000 Zombies be ~~setting~~ sent overseas.
- 25 Nov. just the same as usual. Wrote Ruth, Helen, Glad, Annie + now starting a letter to Gordie Bruce.
- 26 Nov. just a usual day. Hank Corey, Russell Campbell + Goebel were in to see me for awhile. Wrote a poem.
- 27 Nov. Wrote to Helen, Annie, Howard Kinstead and sent the poem to the Maple leaf.
- 28 Nov. sent airmail x-mas cards + read + sent Mum's Birthday letter 300 from Regina
- 29 " " x-mas cards. - rec'd 1200 Cigs, 600 2d order in Tom White's name, " " home
- 30 " The usual. - nothing
- 1 Dec. Rec'd letter from Annie Nov 5. Wrote her + starting a letter to Helen.
- 6 " She Upham came in to hosp with jaundice
- 8+9. Had a hell of a stiff-neck.
10. Dec. Heard that Al Robinson was Big + going to France.
11. Dec. 1st day out, went to a show
- 14 Dec. arranged with Conway, B.C.D., to get a ride back to unit with him on Sunday.
- 16 Dec. - was discharged, got room at Chateau Laurier. Walked down to hospital + back in P.M. for some mail that just came in.
- 17 Dec. Up at 4.15 to catch truck at 5. man couldn't get breakfast + someone had stolen gas out of truck so didn't leave till 8.30. Got lost on one spot on trip back + didn't arrive at Arvia till about 10 P.M. Went to unit lines + found all English troops. Finally found a Cpl from Bde W/S + he took me to T.D.R. Hornearth + Hoig were there. Slept in Angevine's room. Found out that Lt. Col. Jack Eaton was C.O. 8 N B H.

18 Dec. Cleaned pipe + flue of office mess for Angevine in A.M. and came up to RHQ in P.M. Saw Maj Ross.

19 Dec. Horncastle, Hoig + I came to visit. They were on trig increment + Sam Buckhee because the hospital discharged me R.T.U. and G.sqr wont have anything to do with me. Unit is full of Cyts + Gordie Bruce is here Buckhee too. I argued Lloyd Hill out of sending me to stay at RHQ + came to A1 Ech with Boyer.

20 Dec. Was detailed as member of a F.G.C.M. at BCD. Charge d'attention. Chap was away 62 days. 2 yrs long w. h.k.

21 Dec. Went up to Recce tp with RSM + Boyer. They are holding the line. Also "C" Sqr is in on their feet. A little shelling but nothing much. Recd parcel of choc. bars from Aunt Sadie.

22 Dec. Sun shining this morning. Recd birthday parcel from home and wrote home + Annie.

24 Dec - Nothing special. Bill Wood came down in P.M pretty tight. Sgt Lorette came for me early in the evening to look after him. Spent part of evening down in Fitters case + took Bill home about 9 o'clock.

25 Dec. Had Christmas dinner at 1 o'clock. 2 bottles of beer/maer, bag containing choc bar, oranges, cigs, calendar. Pork, mince pie, etc. Col + Maj Ross were in for a few minutes. In P.M. I went up to GGHC RHQ as L.O. for "C" Sqr. S's were on C Sqr's left along Senio

26 Dec. Nothing special. moved to new house + Jerry shelled very heavily just after dark. S's had a "stand to" for about an hour.

27 Dec. Nothing special. Had a big feed of Chicken for supper. 7 of us ate 3 chickens cooked in an ammo box in our home made out door fireplace.

28 Dec. S's relieved by Westms + 8NBH by KRRC sod moved back to A1 Ech.

29 Dec. Did nothing, 30 Dec did nothing.

31 Dec " " , played Red Dog + Crap till nearly midnight