

**Diary of the Fifteenth Canadian Field Regiment
Royal Canadian Artillery
1941 to 1945**



“The histories and traditions of field regiments of the Royal Canadian Artillery do not extend beyond the Second World War. Regiments were formed from independent batteries and were given numbers according to the sequence of mobilization and the place assigned to them in the divisions of the active army. Fortunately the batteries mobilized during this crisis date back to World War I; thus their traditions are rooted in something more than the struggle which began in 1939. The general pattern, then, is of regiments formed by name and number setting out new and young to win honour and glory for themselves, and for the batteries grouped under the regiment to add new laurels to their past battle honours.” *Robert A. Spencer Capt R.C.A. History of the Fifteenth Canadian Field Regt*

2 January 1941 – 17th Fd Bty, Winnipeg, MB, an 18 pdr bty during World War I, ordered to mobilize under the temporary comd of Capt JG Whitlock, OC of the Non-Permanent Active Militia (NPAM) bty with headquarters in McGregor Barracks (Armouries).

4 January 1941 – Lt-Col P.L. Park, Comd of 25th (Norfolk) Fd Bde, RCA is commissioned to raise and comd the 15th Fd Cdn Artillery.

9 January 1941 – 17th Fd Bty recruiting begins. About 35 all ranks mobilized with the bty, remainder recruited through Headquarters Military District No. 10. Grade IX minimum education requirement. All ranks live at home drawing subsistence allowance.

6 February 1941 – 17th Fd Bty quartered in Barrish building in downtown Winnipeg.

March 1941 – Early in the month 17th Fd Bty moves to the Robinson Building, an abandoned department store.

15 March 1941 – Capt AT Forsythe, MC promoted Major and takes over command of 17th Fd Bty.

12 May 1941 – 17th Fd Bty moves to Shilo, MB.

19 May 1941 – 95th Fd Bty begins recruiting in Calgary, AB under command of Maj Guy S Franks MC. Forty men join over a 3 day period. Additional recruits are selected at Edmonton District Depot, Camrose Training Centre and Currie Barracks for a total strength of 101 all ranks. Original location is in hutted camp around Mewata Armouries, the home of 19th Fd Bde, NPAM, its parent unit.

June 1941 – Beginning of the month, 95th Fd Bty moves to tented camp at Sarcee.

19 May 1941 – 110th Fd Bty of Broadview, SK is placed on Active Service under command of Maj DG McNeil MC ED. The 110th Fd Bty had been a unit of the 22nd (Assinaboia) Fd Bde NPAM in Military District No 12. It traces its history to its role as an inf unit, The Assinaboia Regt, which had served in France in World War I. It was headquartered in the Broadview Armouries, a building acquired from the “Sons of England” in 1939. The initial mobilization only brings in 30 members but recruiting throughout southern Saskatchewan raises its strength to 100 over its limit. There were some 30 sets of brothers and many members of the local First Nations. Much of the surplus strength are transferred to the Regina Rifles.

Spring/ Summer 1941 27 July 1941 – Regt HQ begins train move to Debert NS with 17th Fd Bty following 4 days later. The 95th Fd Bty left Calgary and picked up the 110th enroute at Broadview where the entire

town and most of the Indian Reserve turned out to see them off. It was during this move that all personnel are struck off strength of the btys and placed on strength of 15th Cdn Fd Regt.

Summer 1941 – Training in Debert focusses on Artillery skills in order to fuzze the unit together as a cohesive Artillery Regt. It was originally equipped with 18 pdr guns and 4.5 inch howitzers.

December 1941 – Half the Regt is granted Christmas Leave.

January 1942 – News arrives that 4th Cdn Inf Div is to become 4th Cdn Armd Div with 15th Cdn Fd Regt as the senior artillery regt in the Divisional Support Group as the Divisional Artillery was now known.

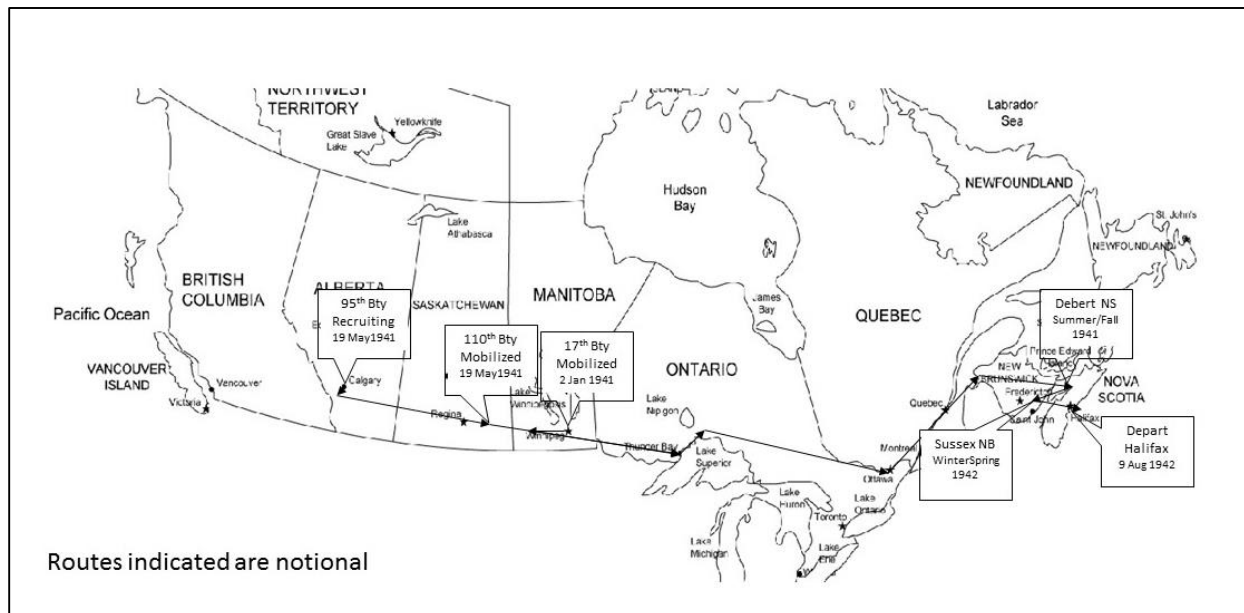
26 January 1942 – Road move begins to new home in Sussex, NB.

Winter 1942 – Regt is equipped with a full complement of 25 Pdr Gun-Howitzers fresh from Sorel, QC. It is the first fd regt to be completely equipped with the new guns. Maj DG McNeil MC ED is replaced by Maj HC Edworthy as BC 110th Fd Bty. Maj AT Forsythe MC is replaced by Maj Maj JH Moore as BC 17th Bty. White lanyards were authorized for wear when walking out.

10 July 1942 – 15 Cdn Fd Regt is warned to be ready to proceed overseas at any time after 0900 hrs 28th July. Preparations included the turning in of all guns, vehicles and technical stores. Mobilization number 1905 stenciled on all baggage intended for overseas.

1 August 1942 – Surplus baggage and small stores moved to the dock. The Regt also became the first issued new guns, already crated, at the dock which would accompany them overseas.

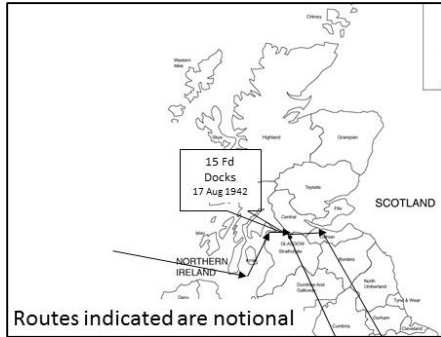
2 August 1942 – Drumhead service held on the regt parade square. World situation at this time – Far East overrun by the Japanese, Tobruk had fallen, Rommel at the gates of Alexandria, Stalingrad was barely holding out against the Germans and submarine warfare was at its height. The mood at the service must have been very serious and sober as the regt waited for the final movement order.



3 August 1942 – Movement order arrives with an early move planned for 6 August.

6 August 1942 – At 0400 hours reveille sounds, followed by breakfast, out clearance and a Regt march out the Ordnance Gate to the train station. Late that afternoon, the regt boards the *HMT Cameronia* in Halifax.

9 August 1942 – *HMT Cameronia* weighs anchor at 0900 hrs, sailed through the boom at the harbour entrance at 1100 and forms up with the largest troop convoy ever to sail from Halifax.



17 August 1942 – Northern tip of Ireland sighted in the morning and the HMT Cameronia docked King’s Pier, Glasgow at 1630 hours.

19 August 1942 – Disembarked and loaded on trains for Aldershot. RHQ, 17th Bty and 110th Bty on the first train which is a direct route through the Midlands. The 95th Bty is put on a second train, through Edinburgh and the East Coast, arriving the following morning. All are quartered at Waterloo East, the old Royal Horse Artillery barracks.

23 August 1942 – Baggage party arrives with kit and stores, reporting that most of the Officers’ belongings had been rifled.

September 1942 – Training begins with a review of basic training and tests of elementary training (TOETs). Officers practise driving, map reading and qualify as motor cycle drivers on the Nortons. Drivers are retested on the English road test while signallers and techs are involved in refresher skills training. All ranks receive hardening training with PT, route marches and battle drill. All guns are assembled by the end of the month although the regt was short one gun which had overturned enroute to Aldershot. Reinforcements arrive to replace some that had been left behind in Canada. Some 48 hour leaves are issued and the first dance is organized.

16 October 1942 – Regt is visited by the Minister of National Defence, JL Ralston.

October 1942 – Training consists of tp deployments around Aldershot, anti-tank practice at Lydd and calibration of the guns at Poling.

5 November 1942 – Regt holds a practice camp at Alfriston Ranges. This exercise features the first sighting of Focke Wulf 190s as the members line up for lunch. All take cover and there are no injuries or damage as three aircraft “flew low with guns blazing.”

16 November 1942 – Maj Franks and Maj Edworthy relinquish command of the 95th and 110th Btys respectively and are replaced by Maj KH Tremaine and Maj RP Rothschild.

December 1942 – Maj Moore, BC 17th Bty, leaves the regt for an attachment to the 138th Fd Regt, Royal Artillery to observe operations during the battle of Tunisia. He is replaced by Maj CD Kingsmill.

21 December 1942 – Regt returns to Alfriston Ranges for a two day ex.

23 December 1942 – Unit conducts its first Regt Change of Command with Lt-Col FD Lace taking over from Colonel Park.

25 December 1942 – The traditional Army Christmas Dinner is held with the Officers serving the troops.

January 1943 – The unit participates in the Divisional route march, a distance of ten miles to be accomplished in two and a half hours. All pass.

17 January 1943 – Unit departs to Sennybridge Ranges for a regtl gun camp. The route travels through Basingstoke, stopping for lunch at the old Roman road south of Cirencester. The route continues to Wales and reaches Builth Wells at the north end of the ranges. Troops are quartered in Pindre Camp and the Officers at the White Hart Hotel. While at the camp, the Regt receives news of their new home in the Camberley Area.

End of January – Exercise ends with a regt scheme observed by Lt-Gen AGL McNaughton CBE CMG DSO and Maj-Gen Worthington. Unit then deploys to Camberley where RHQ occupies the Hawley Lodge, officers in the Hawley Public School, 17th Bty in Park House, 95th in Fern Hill and the 110th taking over Farnborough Grange.

February 1943 – E Troop, 2 Sqn 4th Cdn Armd Div Signals is attached to the Regt. Maj CM Harding takes over comd of the 95th Bty from Maj Tremaine.

1 March 1943 – Unit deploys as an attachment to 1st Cdn AGRA during *Ex Spartan*.

April 1943 – The blue and red “15 RCA” shoulder flashes and the “74” transfers for steel helmets finally arrive.

April 1943 – Maj JH Moore returns from Tunisia and takes over command of 95th Bty from Maj CM Harding.

May 1943 – Maj CD Kingsmill relinquishes command of 17th Bty. The regt is busy with an exercise in Alfriston followed by a signal exercise, *Sparks*, in Camberley before setting out on *Gunbuster II* which is based on a simulated breakout of a beachhead and pursuit across England.



26 May 1943 – Regt returns to Camberley from *Gunbuster II* to discover that the Hawley School has been condemned, forcing the officers to move into tents. The end of the month had Maj FLEPT Clifford taking over 17th Bty and Maj RP Rothschild relinquishing command of the 110th Bty.

10 June 1943 – Regt departs to the summer training location at Park Wood. After a week training at Lydd, they return to Park Wood and receive their allotment of Ram tank observation vehicles.

28 June 1943 – The 2IC Maj HL Armstrong, ED is summoned to Buckingham Palace to receive the MBE for his work in developing the Sexton gun. Maj JW Aylward arrives to take over the 110th Bty.

7 July 1943 – Regt departs to Fargo Camp, Larkhill for Artillery practice.

12 July 1943 – Colonel Lace is succeeded by Lt-Col WAB Anderson.

17 July 1943 – New CO leads the unit, with accompaniment from the RCA Band, on a parade through the streets of Hailsham.

2 August 1943 – Regt is again inspected by the Minister of National Defence, JL Ralston and the Army Commander, Lt-Gen AGL McNaughton.

25 August 1943 – Tents are struck in preparation for the move to a new area near Diss, Norfolk. Regt participated in *Ex Handspike* in the South Downs.

30 August 1943 – The conclusion of *Ex Handspike* is a long move to Sennybridge, Wales for a divisional exercise and practice camp.

13 September 1943 – Regt moves, through Luttleworth, to its new home in Diss. Maj JE Clement takes over 17th Bty from Maj Clifford.

20 September 1943 – Regt deploys on *Ex Takex I*, a withdrawal exercise culminating in move to Rake’s Heath.

1 October 1943 – Unit moves to new quarters in Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire, a few miles south of Cambridge. This location had previously been occupied by the 1st Polish Arm’d Div. RHQ is located in buildings on Main Street, 17th and 110th Btys share the recreation ground and 95th Bty is located in huts to the east of town. A few days after settling in, the Regt takes part in *Ex Takex II* and a series of exercises with 4th Cdn Arm’d Bde.

18 October 1943 – A withdrawal exercise is followed by a move to Holt in preparation for *Ex Grizzly II*. Maj JH Moore relinquishes command of the 95th Bty to Maj FT MacIntosh who retains comd for only a few days before turning the Bty over to Maj EG Cowley.

26 October 1943 – Unit returns to Shelford for a few days rest and prep for *Ex Bridoon*.

2 November 1943 – Regt moves at night with the 4th Cdn Arm’d Div to the start line of *Ex Bridoon*. During the exercise, an enemy arm’d force from the 9th Arm’d Div breaks through and comes across the well camouflaged guns of the 15th Fd Regt. In the umpire tally, 15th Fd Regt is credited with 36 tanks destroyed, fully 90% of the entire div.

November 1943 – The end of *Ex Bridoon* initiates the move to winter quarters with in Sheffield Park, Sussex. The route through London was uneventful, escorted as it was by the Metropolitan Police. Broken down into chinks of twenty vehicles, the passage was swift and only resulted in a few broken radiators caused by sudden stops of the gun towers. In Suffield Park, Gunners were quartered in small Nissen huts, 17th Bty near the gate on Lewes Rd, 95th and 110th Btys along the shores of a little lake. Officers were quartered in huts at the northern edge of the camp across the fence from the manor house which was the occupied in part by HQ RCA. Liberty runs were organized to Brighton, Haywards Heath and Hailsham. The local pub, *The Sheffield Arms*, became a favourite spot for all ranks.

12 December 1943 – Regt moves to Stevenage, the staging camp for the following day’s move to Redesdale, near the Scottish border, to take part in a week’s exercise. Next day’s move is to Doncaster and then Catterick before finally reaching Redesdale. The firing camp is wet, muddy and foggy. Regt is back in Sheffield on the 23rd.

25 December 1943 – The officers entertain the sergeants in the Officers’ mess and then adjourn to serve lunch to the gunners. In the afternoon there are movies in the recreation hut, an Officers vs Sergeants rugby game and then an Officers Dinner in the evening.

27 December 1943 – Regt has one day off and then departs to Alfriston for course shooting.

6 January 1944 – E Troop deploys to Larkhill for a 10 day exercise with 661 Air OP Sqn RAF.

January 1944 – Drivers are trained in vehicle waterproofing techniques. Regt deploys to Ashdown Forest Training Area where they have a night deployment and by morning are totally dug in. The first mine circus visits the unit demonstrating the elementary principles of dealing with mines and booby traps. The newly acquired Piat is fired. Protective vaccinations begin, three typhus shots on one week intervals. All are premonitions of the future European offensive.

February 1944 – Rumours of the pending assault are fed further with the arrival of experienced Comds from Italy. Lt-Gen SGG Simonds becomes GOC 2nd Cdn Corps. Each Bty has its first opportunity to fire in support, and over the heads, of their affiliated Inf Bn. The 17th - Lincoln and Welland Regt (LWR), the 95th - Algonquin Regt (ALQ) and the 110th - Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (ASH).

10 February 1944 – Regt leaves Sheffield Park and moves west through Haywards Heath, Cuckfield, Bolney, Petworth, and Midhurst in the first day of *Ex Jing*, an artillery ex with FOOs and BCs accompanied by their Inf and Armd compatriots painting the tactical situation. The next day they move to Larkhill via Petersfield and Winchester. Prior to this ex Lt-Col Anderson had announced to all his Officers that he would be posted to CMHQ on its conclusion. The presentation of his silver mug is canceled as is his posting.

17 February 1944 – Regt returns to Sheffield Park. Maj EG Cowley leaves the 95th Bty to attend the Senior Officers School in Oxford.

21 February 1944 – Maj HL Armstrong, the 2IC, is promoted to command a training wing of 1 CARU.

24 February 1944 – Regt moves to the Downs near Stanmer Park above Brighton and deployed to take part in a demonstration of close support with the Calgary Highlanders. This event is observed by Lt-Gen K Stewart CB DSO MC and Lt-Gen GG Simonds.

25 February 1944 – Maj VK Croxford is posted in as the temporary 2IC.

28 February 1944 – Regt parades with the remainder of divisional Artillery to meet the new GOC, Maj-Gen G Kitching DSO who is accompanied by the new CRA, Brig HJ Lane DSO.

1 March 1944 – Regt parades in the Ashdown Forest Area for an inspection by General Sir BL Montgomery GCB DSO CinC 21st Army Group.

2 March 1944 – Regt moves to an area south of Tunbridge Wells and dug in completely.

9 March 1944 – Regt lined the route east of Wych Cross with the remainder of the Div for a visit by His Majesty King George VI accompanied by Generals Stuart and Kitching.

12 March 1944 – Course shooting at Afriston Ranges.

15 March 1944 – Course shooting and then Poling for calibration.

29 March 1944 – CO held a practice 1098 loading trial in preparation for the order to pack all surplus kit by 1 April.

March 1944 – At the end of March the Regt was inspected by the Allied Supreme Commander, General Dwight Eisenhower. Maj JH Moore, who had formerly commanded both the 17th and the 95th Btys, returned from staff course and to resume command of 95th Bty.

1 April 1944 – Regt went to Lydd Camp for intensive small arms training including mock strafing attacks by diving Spitfires.

6 April 1944 – Regt deployed to *Ex Step* which featured the usual breakout of a bridgehead. The Ex had already been in progress for several days when 4 Div guns showed up beside 2 Div guns to assist 2nd Div Inf to pierce the ring.

21 April 1944 – An Officers' Mess Dinner is held with special guests, the CRA Brigadier Lane and the former 2IC of the Regt Lt-Col MH Toy.

22 April 1944 – A Regt Dance is held. CO's station wagon goes missing for several hours. Culprit was caught returning to camp.

April 1944 – Regt School established to train drivers in waterproofing vehicles. *Ex Step* was followed by *Ex Last*, a study group ex for RHQ and BCs, and then *Ex Lift*, a regt fire and movement exercise from Brighton to near Ashdown Forest. Between *Ex Last* and *Lift* was a one day Regt shoot in Alfredston. Excess baggage is sent to storage. Maj Crowley returns as 2IC. Lt-Col Anderson is posted to Army HQ as GSO 1 Operations and replaced by Lt-Col RW Coristine.

May 1944 – Strange things began to happen in Sussex. Mysterious camps are set up, identified with cryptic acronyms – RCRP, POL, DID. Strange troops appear in the area with new types of uniforms. A ban is imposed and liberty runs are restricted. It is forbidden to use binoculars except for lawful purposes.

Troops are advised to keep their, “mouth shut and see as little as possible.” Regt spent a day at Alfriston practising Mike target drill, a day at Hawkenbury Ranges and also time at Beachy Head practising Anti-tank and Anti-Aircraft firing. It then returned to Alfriston and, with the 5th Fd Regt and 23rd Fd Regt (SP) fires a barrage over the heads of the Algonquin Regt.

17 May 1944 – Regt is inspected by the Right Honourable WL Mackenzie King in the common near Forest Row.

1 June 1944 – Operational waterproofing kits are issued. Four officers and a group of signallers mysteriously disappear on what turns out to be participation in *Ex Rattle*, a wireless deception exercise.

3 June 1944 – Orders received to start waterproofing; to be completed by 11 June.

6 June 1944 – At 0945 a rumour begins which is confirmed with General Eisenhower’s announcement that D Day had arrived.

12 June 1944 – All Regt vehicles complete waterproofing. All are fully fueled, water cans filled, loaded with all stores except blanket and small kit. All gunners are issued with a pamphlet on behaviour in liberated France.

14 June 1944 – Gen Kitching pays a visit to the regt and gives the gunners a ‘fighting’ speech.

16 June 1944 – Regt Sports Day held. That afternoon, the first V weapon is sighted flying over the camp towards London.

19 June 1944 – Orders are received for the advance party to depart the following day.

20 June 1944 – Move orders postponed for the day, and then postponed indefinitely due to weather. As all vehicles are waterproofed and all equipment packed, regt improvises with route marches, mine lectures, first aid, PT and sports.

24 June 1944 – The six hour notice to move that the regt is under, is lifted for the day to allow the unit to take advantage of a long Saturday afternoon.

26 June 1944 – The advance party is warned for an immediate move but again no further word arrived.

28 June 1944 – CO holds a BC’s conference and advises that the beachhead is too still too small to take additional armour and that the move of the Div had been delayed by two weeks. Six hour notice to move is replaced by 24 hour notice to move allowing for troops to receive one 24 hour pass per week. Training for the two weeks consists of battle drill in the park, additional mine training by the engineers and a Divl Command Post exercise. Each bty dewaterproofs sufficient equipment to form a composite bty for a two day course shoot in poor visibility.

10 July 1944 – A regt Sports Day is held. The Gunner, a weekly newspaper published under direction of the Padre, makes its first appearance.

14 July 1944 – The rumour of the day was that the advance party would be moving shortly.

15 July 1944 – Advance party placed on six hours notice to move. The remainder of the officers are briefed that afternoon on the upcoming move.

16 July 1944 – The advance party moves out of Sheffield Park, through the marshalling area and boards an LST near Gosport with the GOC, CRA and other COs at 1900 hrs. The remainder of the regt has their last voluntary Sunday service in England. There had been no CB during the weekend and the troops spend their time with the usual activity of meeting friends in the local village or pub, the Sheffield Arms or the *King’s Head*.

17 July 1944 – Regt is CB’d as of the morning. Drivers are briefed and sports equipment distributed between the vehicles. A V1 rocket landed just outside camp across from the *Sheffield Arms* that night.

18 July 1944 – Advance party rolls off the LST near le Hamel, rushes through preliminary dewaterproofing, moves through Asnelles-sur Mer and arrives at the concentration area in the vicinity of Crépon. At 0730 hrs the remainder of the Regt departs past the Sheffield Arms, Wych Cross, Ashdown Forest training area, through East Grinstead under the newly installed balloon barrage, across London Bridge and into the heart of the City before emerging on the broad Roman road on the north side of the Thames Estuary heading eastward towards Tilbury.

20 July 1944 – Troops are trucked through Tilbury to the docks where they board either the Fort Biloxi, built in Burrard Docks Vancouver, or the Hannibal Hamlin, a Liberty ship. The ships moved out into the river that afternoon and drop anchor off Southend.

23 July 1944 – The ships finally start to move down river at 1900 hours.

24 July 1944 – Dawn sees the convoy off the Hampshire coast with the Isle of Wight on the left before dropping anchor off Cowes.

25 July 1944 – The ships set sail early in the morning for the cross channel voyage arriving off the Normandy coast that afternoon.

26 July 1944 – The unloading of vehicles begin with loading onto a Rhino ferry and then LCTs. There is a halt until the tide turned at 1400 before the LCTs can unload the vehicles on the beach at Courseulles-sur-Mer for their first stage of dewaterproofing. Next stop is the Star Assembly area, on the hills above Courseulles-sur-Mer with the remainder of the Div. All are in place by evening, except the Armd OPs which had landed at another beach. Recce moves onto Crépon to inspect the concentration area and the remaining vehicles follow shortly after nightfall. The vehicles are quickly dispersed, taking shelter from trees and hedgerows. Camouflage nets are erected, slit trenches dug and the troops bed down for their first night in France.

27 July 1944 - Dewaterproofing is completed, maintenance conducted and the regt briefed that their stay would be of four days duration. A volleyball court and baseball diamond are set up. The YMCA arrived to show a movie and troops went for walks to nearby villages, trading cigarettes for eggs.

28 July 1944 – In the afternoon, the CO arrives from Div HQ with orders to prepare the artillery for a move south of Caen. Recce parties move out 30 minutes later to meet the 2IC on the main road in Faubourg de Vaucelles, across the Orne River from Caen. There are no suitable gun area available and Recce returned suffering their first casualty, the A Tp BSM was involved in an accident on his motorcycle and broke his collar bone.

29 July 1944 – Recce again meet up with the 2IC at Vaucelles before moving to a suitable gun area on the outskirts of Cormelles. The area is exposed to direct observation of the enemy on the high ground to the front and Recce spent an uncomfortable night experiencing shelling for the first time.

30 July 1944 – 17th Bty Recce was moves 1000 yards to the east. Further shelling is experienced by the Regt Survey Party which attracted 18 airburst salvos from four guns without taking any casualties. Meanwhile, the remainder of the Regt moved with the Div to a position south of Caen prior to coming into action. Orders for the move was to raise as much dust as possible in order to confuse the enemy. Route taken was the famed *Maple Route*. After a hot, dusty afternoon, the regt drives through Caen, across the Orne River on the “Winston Bridge”, through Vaucelles to the forward concentration area, a mile north-east of Fleury-sur-Orne.

31 July 1944 – The guns move forward to the new gun area where they take over positions previously used by the 3rd Fd Regt RA and the 3rd Div SPs. By 1600, all guns are in action on theatre grid and the regt has reported ready. The 95th Bty fires the first round in anger that evening at an unobserved target initiated by HQ RCA. 17th Bty has the regt’s first casualty due to enemy action when the bty is shelled that evening. Maj Aylward and a FOO move to Bras to meet up with the ASH, Maj Moore and a FOO moved to Hubert-Folie with the ALQ and Maj Clement and a FOO moved to Bourguebus with the LWR while a second FOO is dispatched with the Essex Scottish Regt (ESR) also near Bourguebus.

1 August 1944 – Regt starts firing on a fireplan at 0230, and continue for 3 hours, in support of an attack by 5th Cdn Inf Bde on Tilly-la-Campagne. A counter attack, that included 12 panther tanks, results in a defensive fire task at a very slow rate beginning at 0500 and lasting for 4 hours. This entails nearly 300 rds per gun, 90 tons of HE and 35 lorries of ammunition.

2 August 1944 – Very early in the morning, the LWR put in a silent attack. It is unsuccessful and requires heavy artillery fire as they withdrew back to Bras. That evening D Tp was deployed away from the

remainder of the regt to carry out harassing fire which drew a considerable amount of retaliatory fire in return. There are no casualties.

4 August 1944 - By the first week of action, the regt has fired 25,000 rounds; twice as many rounds as had been fired during all the training in England. The hot and dusty days are spent resupplying the unit with continuous replenishment. There is counter bombardment from the German side as well as occasional strafing runs but there was also time for the YMCA to set up a theatre in a factory building in Cormeles with movies every afternoon and a mobile bath set up at on the banks of the Orne near Colombelles. In addition there is canned beer that arrived with the first NAAFI ration. Unfortunately, the regt suffered its first fatal casualty when Gunner E. Doupe, the 2IC's driver was sprayed with shrapnel in his vehicle when a shell hit a tree nearby.

5 August 1944 – Patrol activity intensified. Gunner HP McNichol, an OP signaller, was killed by an enemy shell. The activity indicated that there was no lessening of the German combat power in the AOR.

7 August 1944 – Regt fires a large counter battery programme for 1 British Corps to support an attack made by 49th (WR) Div. Final prep was also made for *Op Totalize* the first divisional operation. The FOOs would move with their battalions with 15th Fd Regt in Direct Support. It was further augmented with the divisional artilleries from 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Cdn, 49th and 52st British and 1st Polish. In addition there is also the Cdn AGRA, 3rd, 4th and 9th British AGRAs and the 2nd Cdn and 109th British Hvy Anti-Aircraft Regts. In all there were 720 guns; 384 fd, 240 medium, 48 heavy and 48 heavy AA guns deployed in a ground role. At 2330 hrs the area south of Caen is lit up with searchlights in order to guide the night attack.

8 August 1944 – The initial barrage and aerial bombardment had finished shortly after midnight with additional concentrations fired for the next three hours. The Div's success in moving 7,000 yards necessitated a move of the gun line. At 0100 hours recce parties moved out and the guns received the order to cease fire at 0300. Their move took them through Vaucelles, then south on the road to Fleury-sur-Orne and, just at dawn, across the wheat fields towards Ifs where they halted in the shelter of the high ground. The route continued over the railway south of Ifs, then skirted to the west of Verrières. As they drove down the gentle slope south of Verrières, it was seen that the successful thrust the evening before had bypassed much of the German strength which was still in the midst of being engaged by the follow on forces. Roquancourt, 500 yards directly ahead, would not be reported clear until mid day. 10th Inf Bde, with 15th Fd Regt in close support was to clear the bypassed towns in succession and then form up in the area Bretteville-le-Rabet-Grainville-Langannerie. Unfortunately, the fact that the start line was not secure and the enemy resistance was stiffer than expected, the attacks were considerably delayed. It was then that the American Air Force blundered and dropped their bombs in the valley between Ifs and Vaucelles where columns of 4th Cdn and 1st Pol Armd Divs were marshaling for the advance. The Regt was oblivious to much of the bigger picture and recce was trying to prepare a position south of the enemy held town of Roquancourt in an area that was systematically being shelled from three sides, was taking sniper fire from all directions and was trying to avoid the many anti-tank guns that were firing at any moving vehicles. A near shell on one gun killed Gunner JS Rosengren and injured the remaining crew. They were successfully evacuated and a new crew was formed to take over the gun. This gun area was determined to be unfeasible. Another large Air Force wave reduced much of the enemy artillery firing and the regt moved into positions. Danger was still present as a heavy mortar concentration hit the 95th Bty position resulting in injuries to six members including two officers. The 110th Bty suffered an additional two casualties when the 10th Bde HQ was shelled for a total of 15 casualties in the regt during its first battle deployment.

9 August 1944 – Regt came out of action about midnight and moved independently by bty through the battered streets of Roquancourt, down the main highway, and into prepared positions in a wheat field south of the burning village of Cramesnil. A few enemy were flushed out of the straw stacks and the guns were quickly dug in. The first hot meal in two days arrived in time for breakfast. A few targets were fired during the day but overall it was quiet, even though the guns could hear the Poles engaged with

the enemy east of the woods of St Aignan, less than a mile away. At one point, two SP Btys of the Polish Artillery raced through the Regt area and did a crash action near 110th Bty. They plead with the Bty to assist them in repelling a counter attack supported by Tiger tanks. The Bty did assist, despite not receiving Regt approval until after the Poles were moving on. Recce parties were called towards evening and the Regt moved after dark.



10 August 1944 – The route returned to the main highway and moved south through a tree-lined street, turning east at Cintheaux, north through a Polish Inf unit position, and on up a draw where the guns deployed. It was now standard drill to first put the guns into action, dig slit trenches and then dig the gun pits for the guns to roll into by first light. It was during this night that the 28th Armd Regt (British Columbia Regt) moving with two companies of the ALQ moved east instead of south and ran into an anti-tank ambush, wiping out almost the entire force. Just after 0800 recce moved out to a road junction just north of Grainville. The position was open to enemy shelling, 17th Bty did deploy but were then ordered to withdraw in anticipation of an enemy counter attack. Unfortunately this caused a traffic jam with the remaining vehicles and they were left in the open with enemy artillery adjusted onto them. One gun tractor was hit resulting in the death of Gunner JH Bacon, and three casualties. Another three casualties were suffered by RHQ and Bdr WEG Stuart, a veteran of the Great War, was awarded the

Comd-in-Chief's Certificate for his coolness under fire. Following a hasty reconnaissance, the guns were deployed west of the railway just north of the Bretteville-sur-Laize-Cintheaux road. RHQ was established on the edge of a small wood, near a bty of German 88s that had been captured intact two days before. That evening the RQM brought a replacement gun trailer a quad forward to replace the one destroyed earlier in the day.

11 August 1944 – After a quiet night and morning with no activity by the enemy, and only a few tgts engaged by the guns, recce moved to the Robertmesnil area. One CPO was wounded by 88mm fire during the recce. Guns moved in shortly before dark and OP parties were relieved and joined up shortly afterwards. The regt spent the next two days in location, resting and reorganizing. The position was hot, dry and dusty. The medium guns, just down the slope from the Regt, drew considerable enemy fire some of which fell on the 17th and 110th positions.

12 August 1944 – Enemy fire struck a medium artillery ammunition lorry close to the 110th Bty position. Gunner GC Garceau was wounded by flying splinters and died shortly thereafter.

13 August 1944 – the 17th Bty area was shelled with one gunner wounded. Despite the heat, flies, dust and shelling, much valuable work was still accomplished. Stores were unloaded and repacked while some that had proven unnecessary was simply abandoned. Tps and btys were reorganized. 95th Bty had been the hardest hit, in three days it had lost 3 officers, 7 NCOs and 10 gunners. Recce parties were ordered forward to the Cauvicourt area to prepare positions. During the recce, rocket-firing Typhoons were attacking the enemy on roads in plain view across the valley. Digging parties were heavily shelled as they came forward to prepare command post and gun pits, but there were no casualties. Regt departed just before midnight 17th Bty near a small wood and group of buildings to the south, 95th Bty on the forward slope on the edge of town and the 110th Bty slightly to the east. RHQ was in a large quarry on the St Sylvain road.

14 August 1944 – *Op Tallulah* started at 1200 hrs with RAF mediums passing overhead and dropping their load on tgts marked by red marker shells. Fd and medium guns opened up with a smoke screen. 15th Fd OP parties moved forward with 10th Bde. At 1400 hrs RAF heavy bombers appeared from the north, cheered on by the troops until one sqn circled the town and started dropping its bombs on the gun area. On the hill behind Cauvicourt a stick of bombs landed squarely across the 95th Bty wagon lines. The cable truck was set on fire destroying D Tps small arms ammunition reserve. Fortunately tps were well dug in and only 3 tps were wounded. Gunner CG Westley was later awarded the Croix de Guerre with Bronze Star for his skill and courage in dealing with the wounded. By 1600 the bombers had disappeared back to the north. The echelon area had also been hit by enemy artillery. Gunner AA Kovar was killed and one other was injured. At 1900 hrs recce parties were pushed forward once again to an area on the narrow flats north of the river near Rouvres. Enemy artillery fire caused another casualty at this location.

15 August 1944 – The guns moved forward at midnight and were brought into action during the early dawn. A smoke screen was prepared but not fired and all ranks settled down to get some rest after two sleepless nights. Shortly after noon, recce moved off once again, crossing at Maizières to avoid traffic that was jamming the Rouvres Bridge. They then moved westward to reach the Rouvres-Olendon road. Gun areas were selected forward of the crest in a depression in a tremendous wheat field that stretched from the Olendon road to Sassy. During the recce, a lone Thunderbolt attacked, eventually dropping its 500 Lb load on a nearby petrol truck. Guns arrived before dark and deployed without incident. There was no firing that night and the only enemy activity was strafing that resulted in no casualties or damage at the gun area. The only casualty of the day was an OP signaller who was seriously injured by shrapnel at Perrières.

16 August 1944 – The high feature above Damblainville was occupied by 10th Bde and a FOO from 15th Fd Regt who did considerable damage to the enemy in the valley below. The gun area was relatively

quiet and the intervals between firing gave the gunners an opportunity to rest. The YMCA paid a visit and showed a movie. At midnight, the officers were called for orders with a move planned for first light.

17 August 1944 – Recce parties moved off at dawn through Olendon and Perrières before preparing positions on les Monts d’Erammes. The 95th and 110th Btys were near the top of the reverse slope, while RHQ and 17th Bty shared the hamlet of Ste Anne d’Entremont. As the vehicles moved onto the position they were strafed by a flight of Focke Wulf 190s. Fortunately, each tp of the Regt was accompanied by Bofors from the 8th LAA Regt that quickly swung into action downing three of the aircraft without any damage or injury. The Regt also received a visit from armed French civilians that brought in some prisoners as well as an American fighter pilot that had been in hiding for months. That afternoon recce moved over the bridge at Couliboeuf, turned south past Morteaux-Couliboeuf and pulled into a large wood northwest of Marais. The final disposition for the guns, which arrived around midnight, were in areas slightly back of these woods.

18 August 1944 – The gun area was somewhat crowded. The 23rd Fd Regt (SP) had carried out a crash action when opposition was encountered nearby, there were two sqns of tanks and the HQ of the LWRs. In addition, there was a Tiger tank roaming about and the area was thick with dust and smoke that shielded the active snipers. Later that afternoon, the FOO with the LWR, which had just taken Trun, was able to persuade, with some difficulty, the Sqn Comd of the ALQ that his imminent Armd assault on Trun was no longer required due to the LWR presence. The guns, meanwhile, had excellent shooting as the FOOs and the air OP engaged an almost continual stream of vehicle that appeared across the river.

19 August 1944 – At dawn the guns moved to a position just north of Trun. The area was cramped and RHQ and A echelon were in fact holding the front line along the highway. The forward position required the guns to engage targets that with switches of up to 180 degrees, a situation that was remedied by enlarging the gun pits and setting up two artillery boards. Some of the first tgts were actually behind the guns and allowed the CPs to watch the fall of shot. That afternoon, the regt area was heavily shelled by a high velocity gun which resulted in two wounded. Several Guns were damaged by shrapnel and gun and truck tires were badly cut. Further rounds landed near C Tp CP resulting in injuries to the GPO and four members of the crew. Gunner AR Whitford succumbed to his wounds the following day. Additional injuries were also suffered by the AA and Anti-tk personnel in the area. That afternoon, the FOO Capt Clarkson supported Maj Dave Currie of the South Alberta Regt in his successful taking and holding of St Lambert sur Dives. Maj Currie received the Victoria Cross for this action and Capt Clarkson was awarded the Military Cross. His citation read:

“The nature of the ground precluded suitable OP positions within the SAR area. Captain Clarkson, with complete disregard for his own safety, and under constant shell and sniper fire, moved his OP from vantage point to vantage point in front of the area held by our own troops, effectively controlling the fire of his regt. His gallant action was instrumental in repelling several attempts by the enemy to break out of the pocket. His energy, courage and persistence were of the highest order.”

Farther north with the ALQ, the FOOs also had excellent shooting on Point 240, often resorting to small arms and the Brownings on the OP tanks.

20 August 1944 – At first light the gunners were startled to see parachutes floating down over the gun position. Initial paratroop alarms were quieted when it was discovered that the parachutes were actually supplies of food and ammunition intended for the Poles cut off in Chambois. One notable command “DF SOS FIRE” brought down three minutes of intense fire by the regt. This was repeated three minutes later, thus sending over 700 rounds on a pinpoint target in less than five minutes. At one time a German car sped through the gun area at Trun until put out of action by the alert AA gunners.

21 August 1944 – The shrinking pocket created larger and larger “no-firing areas” and by dusk the last target had been fired allowing the gunners some rest other than supported fire for mopping up small areas of resistance.

22 August 1944 – Recce parties moved out at noon along the broad highway northeast of Trun through mile after mile of burnt out carts, dead horses and Germans. They passed through the high rugged country near Hordouseaux and then southeast into the close country around Point 240. The guns moved up before dark into clearings along the valley. No firing took place that night. Orders were issued in RHQ which had been established in a well-built farm house.

23 August 1944 – Recce parties moved out before light in order to fit into the divisional column moving northeast along the main Chambois-Vimoutiers highway. They took the right fork at Champosoult towards the bridge on the River Vie. The going was slow as a bulldozer was required to clear away the carnage of the destroyed 7th Army which had been decimated by the Air Force along these roads. The road wound up the far side to the village of Roiville. The guns followed, taking up their allocated space in the column after having suffered a casualty to sniper fire in the early morning. The route continued across the River Tougues and onto le Sap, where a position was prepared on a flat green field just west of town. It was the first position since arriving in France, where the Survey Officer could actually see all three bty directors. Once the position was prepared, as the recce party sat down for lunch, orders arrived for a new position half way to Monnai.

24 August 1944 – The guns arrived just after first light and were quickly brought into action. Once this was completed, recce was again ordered to move forward with the guns close behind. At Bernay, the troops were welcomed by the town folk who lined the streets with offers of flowers, cider, wine and calvados. Initial deployment was to an orchard to the east of town, which was quickly changed to the western outskirts and finally to an area farther east, ending up in an immense wheat field near the little village of Rostes. The route here was nearly impassable as it had been torn up by Armd vehicles earlier. Two recce vehicles overturned and it was not before midnight before the gun area was ready, only to be given further move orders. Meanwhile, the guns were unable to reach the area and they deployed along the sides of the road, before being woken to move along to a concentration area in the dark. That night, Bdr SR Mark from 17th Bty was killed in a motorcycle accident when he crashed into a road crater.

25 August 1944 – The route continued northeast from Bernay, turned off the Rouen Road near the village of Boiseney, crossed the River Risle at Fontaine and climbed the steep slope to the village of Perrières-la-Campagne. Then eastward through Epréville and le Neubourg. During the day, it was discovered that the 3rd Cdn Div had come onto the 4th Div centre line. Small American patrols, jeep detachments and finally large calibre American gun areas were encountered before the regt was ordered into a harbour area in the fields and orchards near la Haye-Malherbe.

26 August 1944 – Regt was ordered to deploy the guns while remaining in the same harbour area. The 2IC, Maj EG Cowley and the BC of 95th Bty, Maj Maj JH Moore, exchanged positions. Divisional boundaries were re-established and recce parties moved out in the morning through la Haye-Malherle, Montaure and to positions in the fields around Tostes with the woods providing good flash cover. RHQ was established in town. That night, rafts were built to ferry the Algonquin Regt across to enlarge the beachhead established by a coy of the LWR.

27 August 1944 – An early morning fireplan was fired with smoke to obscure the movement of the Algonquin Regt with FOO spt across the river followed by the ASH with an additional FOO. The day was relatively quiet for the guns with the Padre providing services on each of the gun positions.

28 August 1944 – Recce parties led the gun groups into the marshalling area just south of Criquebeuf-sur-Seine. Recce parties continued over the bridge to Ile and crossed on the ferry to a road that ran just below the hill. They then moved eastward, passed under the railway bridge to an orchard 1000 yards short of Sotteville sous-le-Val. Gun areas were assigned along the track between Sotteville and the railway. Following the preliminary recce, they returned to the orchard, witnessing a substantial high velocity airburst shelling of the gun area they had just left. The wait in the orchard was notable for the large cache of eggs that was discovered and the ensuing egg feast that developed. They also noted a company attack taking place by the LWR close by the new area and were subsequently ordered to

prepare a new position on the southern slope of the hill near Freneuse, where the railway turns northward into a tunnel. There was only room for two batteries and the position came under fire as the 95th Bty deployed. Two gunners were injured by shell splinters and there were several harrowing near misses. 110th Bty CP set up in the railway tunnel and 17th Bty was placed on an island in the middle of the Seine. Gnr EN Degryse died that night when his carrier backed over a steep bank and plunged into the river.

29 August 1944 – Enemy resistance decreased that night and the following morning recce moved out through Sotteville, turning north at Igoville before heading north and east to Ymare. The guns moved into positions in the wheat fields during the evening. There were no calls for fire that night.

30 August 1944 – Early in the morning, recce led the way forward through Ymare, across the rugged valleys near Quéreville le Poterie and then north to Boos. Just as the position was nearly prepared, the recce parties were ordered to a new area between Fresne-le Plan and Mesnil-Grain. The unit was fast running out of maps for the new areas. Survey for the latest position was done with a 1/250,000 map. However, it appeared that the bulk of the enemy had withdrawn and a hasty divisional advance was ordered. 10th Inf Bde, right; 4th Armd Bde, left and the artillery in the centre along blue route – little better than a mud track for part of its length. Some opposition was encountered near Blainville-Crevon and at 2100 hrs they deployed in the sodden wheat fields just short of Martainville-Epreville.

31 August 1944 – About noon the regt joined the divisional march north along secondary roads, crossing the Crevon River at Blainville-Crevon and then reaching the high ground at Buchy at dusk. The guns came into action, but the intent was that they would stay in this location for a 5 day rest and repair period. It had been exactly one month since they had come into the line at Caen. Unfortunately, war has a certain unpredictability about it. At 2045 an LO from 2 Cdn Corps had rushed into the Div Hq with the startling news that the 7th Brit Armd Div had crossed the Seine and after a rapid unopposed advance had passed through Amiens and were headed towards Abbéville. 4th Div was ordered to move at once in order to balance that advance. 15th Field Regt was to be in close support of the Vanguard.

1 September 1944 – At 0030 hrs the regt pulled up to the main cross road in Buchy to await its position in the column. By first light 50 miles had been covered to a point just beyond Aumale. By noon they had been halted at the side of the road to await the clearance of a pocket of resistance at Araines. At nightfall, they were finally deployed in a concentration area in a wheat field just north of Hornoy. Regt maintenance team caught up the guns here at 2200 hrs. During the move an unarmed German had climbed into the cab of one vehicle begging to be taken prisoner and kept from the French! After helping with the resupply that night, he was deposited in one of the PW cages

2 September 1944 – Recce was summoned forwarded at midnight when Araines was reported cleared. It was an erroneous report and they were fortunately stopped by a detachment from the 53rd (W) Div. They returned to the concentration area and ordered forward at dawn. An Armd Div moves along roads and usually bypasses opposition for the follow-on forces. The 15th Fd Regt recce required substantially more room for their gun areas and they were often the first Allied force to set foot in many of the areas. Their route passed through the villages of Selincourt and Epauemesnil. Shortly thereafter they encountered a band of Free French fighters to which the CPO decided to try out his French and check the local conditions. This was fortunate as they advised that the next village Vergies was still held by the enemy! As they held a council of war outside the village they were overwhelmed by a strong force – of happy, smiling, cheering villagers who advised that there were no Germans except in the woodlines. They safely passed on towards Wiry-au-Mont and Hallencourt. The villagers from Vergies were left behind to ambush the gun line which they did by forming a human chain across the road and presenting them with eggs, wine, flowers and even a few kisses. Hallencourt had been liberated that morning and was bedecked in flags and celebratory villagers. The recce passed through and prepared a position in the valley below Grandsart. The YMCA came up with the maintenance column and showed a movie at 95th Bty CP which had occupied a tunnelled local air raid shelter.

3 September 1944 – National Day of Prayer marking the 5th anniversary of the war passed quietly as there was no firing requested. The regt moved that afternoon Liercourt where it crossed the River Somme over the 4 newly constructed bridges, and deployed after dark on the reverse slope above the town of Epagnette. Again, the regt was promised four days rest.

4 September 1944 – Repair and refitting began. There had only been opportunities for light maintenance of the guns throughout the advance and now they were given a thorough cleaning and prepared for future battles. A mobile bath was set up or the gunners could go swimming the tree-lined Somme. RHQ was established in a huge chateau, a former German hospital, and the YMCA set up a movie theatre there. Abbéville was out of bounds but the troops did converse with some of the Mademoiselles near the regt area.

5 September 1944 – Regt was placed on short notice to move and orders were given that evening for an early morning move.

6 September 1944 – The plan was for the 4th Div to move to Eecloo with all possible speed. The started by moving northwards from the start point at Bellancourt and travelled throughout the day on secondary roads in order to avoid interfering with the Polish Armd Div moving on the main highway through Hesdin. At Hucqueliers they turned northeast to join the Boulogne road west of St Omer. By mid-afternoon recce had reached St Omer and were held up by the blown bridges across the Canal de l'Aa. Bty positions were prepared just west of St Omer. Most of the regt was successful in the occupation but some missed the turn at the Setques road fork, drove into town and ended up being swarmed by the local villagers. They again got lost looking for the correct junction and again ended up in the village festivities. There were finally located by the Air OP who swooped low and dropped them a message with directions. By dusk, the regt was in action. RHQ was established in St Omer, 110th Bty on the western outskirts, 17th Bty near the suburb of Longueness and 95th Bty deployed west of this town with its bty CP deployed in the buildings of a small German airfield.

7 September 1944 – At 0300 hrs the guns came out of action in order to join up with the Div however, it was not until just after first light when the column actually began its advance. Through the town of St Omer, north along the canal to the bridge at St Momelin. Once across, they turned northeast and headed for the Belgian frontier. There was a long delay at the crossroads beyond the canal during which the regt pulled over to wait. It was here that they lost Gunner WG Kelly, an RHQ DR to a road accident. Regt continued moving through Arneke, Wormhout and Rexpoede before bypassing the strongly held Bergues to the south. A number of flying bomb launching sites and numerous concrete gun emplacements were overrun during the day. At 1515 hrs the Belgian border was crossed just east of Oost Capel and the guns deployed in the vicinity of Hoogstade.

8 September 1944 – Regt headed out towards Dixmude and Bruges. While the previous cloudy, rainy days had restrained the Belgiques from expressing much enthusiasm, the sunny weather brought out the largest and greatest reception that the troops had ever seen. The column was constantly held up by the throngs of civilians. The bridges to Bruges had been blown and the 110th Bty deployed in a grassy plot in Lophem, 17th to the right of the road and the 95th behind the wood to the east of the village. RHQ and the 17th Bty CPs shared the buildings of a local chateaux. The guns dug in and a few tgts were fired that afternoon, the first firing since the Seine. After dark, the ASH forced a crossing south of Moerbrugge followed by the LWR with a FOO party. Opposition was stiff and two members were injured next morning.

9 September 1944 – Shortly after first light the enemy was observed preparing a counter attack. Unfortunately, the line was out and valuable information could not be transmitted. Without hesitation, Bombardier F Bartlett swam across the canal in full view of the enemy with the vital information. For his, "initiative and determination under fire," he was later awarded the Military medal. Later in the day, the OC of the forward coy was wounded and Captain HH Griffin took over. As his subsequent Military Cross citation stated:

“He immediately took control of the situation and, in addition to bringing down and controlling most effective artillery fire, organized the company in beating off a counter attack with considerable loss to the enemy. When not actually engaged in controlling the fire of his regt, Captain Griffin continually encouraged the men and took part in the fire fight personally when the enemy penetrated to within 25 yards of his position. By his cool leadership under fire Captain Griffin was an inspiration to all ranks, and his prompt action in taking control of the company steadied the situation at this particularly critical time, and prevented an enemy breakthrough which would have rendered the battalion position almost untenable.”

The gun area was very busy responding with both Mike and battery targets. They also received high velocity counter battery fire which resulted in the death of battery signal NCO, Sergeant EA Holton and injuring Gunner J Cooke. The ASH FOO, Captain WG Findlay was also injured by shrapnel and evacuated while Major JE Clement was slightly wounded by a shell splinter.

10 September 1944 – The completion of the bridge across, the appearance of Cdn tanks decreased the enemy attacks and by noon prisoners began to appear. Gunner WW McDonald was wounded in shelling at Oostcamp and the FOO jeep tire was damaged. Unfortunately, Bombardier CF Steiner and Gunner WP Johnson became lost in taking up a replacement wheel. They headed northeast on the Bruges Road instead of southeast towards Lophem. The following first turn left put them on the road to Bruges. Near St Michel they were stopped by the enemy and taken prisoner, Steiner being wounded in the ankle. They were reported missing and it was not until several months that they were reported as prisoners. Steiner was held in a camp in Poland, escaped just before the Russians arrived in February 1945, travelled by foot to Krakow, by train to Odessa, by boat to Naples and on to Naples. Three days after arriving in England, he went to the RTO at Victoria Stn, reported that he had lost his pass on BLA leave, was issued a ‘duplicate pass,’ journeyed by leave train to Nijmegen and rejoined the regt on the Kusten Canal some 4-5 months after being captured.

11 September 1944 – Regt did considerable firing in support of the advance which was slow due to the desire not to inflict excessive damage on the picturesque old town of Bruges and drastic control of ammunition expenditure.

12 September 1944 – Shortly after first light, recce parties moved through Oostcamp to an area just south of the canal near the long disputed crossing at Moerbrugge with the guns deployed almost on the canal bank. In the evening the YMCA came up and showed a movie.

13 September 1944 – Recce parties moved across the Ghent Canal to positions north of Sysseele. The guns moved at mid-morning and by noon were in action in the fields around Spermalie Farm. At 2200 hrs an attack by the Algonquin Regt, preceded by a fire plan, went across the canals (Leopold and Canal de Derivation) that were side by side.

14 September 1944 – The enemy launched severe counter attacks throughout the day. Despite having four companies across, they were forced into a single company area, low on ammunition and the only communication was through the FOO’s No 18 set. At noon, the Algonquin were ordered to retire and the regt fired smoke and HE to assist. The FOO party was the last off the island and had to swim across. Despite all the activity Capt Davies and his FOO party came through unscathed, while Capt CH Clerkson MC was wounded in the shoulder while attached to the SAR at Moerkerke. For the remainder of the afternoon and that night, the regt fired a light harassing fire programme. All told they fired 5000 rds in 24 hrs; 25 lorry loads each requiring a round trip of 300 miles.

15 September 1944 – The guns rested that morning with no firing, only doing the maintenance required after the previous day’s firing. That afternoon, recce moved down the highway to a gun area near the village of Cleemputte, an area south of Maldegem. The guns arrived late at night in a heavy rain.

16 September 1944 – Recce was again moved forward in the afternoon, across the new bridge installed across the Canal de Derivation, through the streets of Eecloo and to a new gun area near the village of

Oostweld. 17th Bty and 110th Bty moved into this area just after dark while the 95th Bty was sent off to assist the 12th Manitoba Dragoons (18th Armd Car Regt). With two dismounted Btys of the 8th LAA Regt, this force was charged with the defence of the 'canal front' from Zeebrugge to Zoetendaele. The bty was deployed to the area north of Sysseele, in a tight gun area suitable for local defence, a location where they would remain for three weeks. During this time, Sgt NE Hahn, recently returned after injuries suffered at Roquancourt, had his gun destroyed by a premature that shattered the counterweight and split the barrel. There were, fortunately, no injuries.

17 September 1944 – The remainder of the regt spent a quiet day with only one target, scale 3, engaged. Tps were allowed to visit Eecloo for short periods.

18 September 1944 – Regt made a quick move forward through Oost-Eecloo to the village of Oosthoek to support attacks on enemy strongpoints in Bassevelde, Sas-van-Gent and Assenede. The guns were in action before dark and harassing programs were prepared to soften up the strongpoints.

19 September 1944 – Activity was limited to the occasional Mike tgt and nightly harassing fire.

20 September 1944 – As an indication of the limited activity, on both the 19th and 20th, 200 men were sent to an Ensa show in Eecloo. Meanwhile, the enemy did send a sizeable force across the canal at Zoetendale near 95th Bty. In an attempt to clear them out, Capt Davies utilized his OP tank with its turret Browning. Unfortunately, he was severely wounded by a sniper, a round entering his head below the ear. He was medevacked to England that night and eventually fully recovered but was never able to rejoin the regt. For his svc he was Mentioned in Despatches.

21 September 1944 – Regt moved north that afternoon, one bty at a time, to Haentjen and fired a harassing fire programme that night.

22 September 1944 – A busy morning of firing turned into a lull that afternoon. Recce was ordered east in the afternoon but modified to prepare positions near Maldegem. RHQ, 17th Bty and 110th Bty deployed just east of town that night, but did not fire any tgts. Clearance and differential lights were allowed to be used for the first time during the night move.

23 September 1944 – Regt now entered a period of relative calm as the Div was tasked to hold an extended front. OPs were hard to establish due to the nature of the ground and the AirOPs were only able to conduct occasional shots. The YMCA established a regt theatre and showed movies regularly. A div Arty recreational centre was established in Eecloo where ORs could spend 24 hr passes with overnight accom, canteen, dancing and movies. Officers were permitted to spend 24 hr passes in Ghent or Bruges. Lt-Col RW Coristine was recalled for staff duties in Ottawa and the 2IC, Maj JH Moore, assumed temporary command. Capt TJ Bell was posted in as a FOO to replace Capt Davies and had the shortest OP career on record. Less than 3 hours after taking over the OP in the stone church tower at Damme, he received shrapnel wounds from a heavy shelling. RSM Tom Hall, the original RSM from Debert, was returned to Canada while the 110th Bty BSM, RS Wilson was promoted to WO1 and appointed RSM.

27 September 1944 – LWR staged a successful patrol raid supported by a fire plan at the start and during the withdrawal. They captured twenty prisoners.

1 October 1944 – The fall of Calais freed up the necessary Inf Divs to continue with large scale operations. The role of 4th Div in Op Switchback was to form a firm base and provide additional artillery support to the attack of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Divs.

3 October 1944 – In the afternoon, recce parties made a long trip east through Eecloo, crossing into Holland at Sas-van-gent, then north along the Terneuzen Canal to the little Zeeland village of De Knol. Gun areas were prepared with careful consideration of camouflage and concealment. RHQ occupied the school, 17th Bty was near the village of Boerengat with gun positions sited behind dykes and between houses. The 110th Bty was sited in farmyards and orchards a few hundred yds to the east. Ammunition was carried from the road and buried in camouflaged pits. A week previously, a detachment had been

sent to the Château des Trois Rois to assist in the massive dumping programme required for the operation.

4 October 1944 – A second recce party was despatched to the De Knol area to support 7 Bde's crossing of the canal. RHQ, 17th Bty and 110th Bty moved to the position in the afternoon.

5 October 1944 – 95th Bty rejoined the regt at De Knol in what was now the greatest concentration of artillery since Caen. It included the divisional artilleries of 3rd and 4th Cdn Divs and the 3rd, 4th and 9th British AGRAs. At dusk the fire plan arrived and within hours all was in readiness. That evening, the officers (minus the FOOs who were away with 9th Bde) held a dinner in a local café and watched a movie.

6 October 1944 – At 0230 hrs the guns fired in spt of a diversion by 10th Bde and an hour later one by 4th Bde. At 0530 hrs the fire spt for the real attack by 7th Bde crossing the canal began. Despite the vicious counter attacks that were launched only a few thousand yards to the north, the guns were relatively quiet with only a few tgts engaged and a harassing program that night.

7 October 1944 – Before noon, the regt ceased to support the 7th Bde's attack and moved to their well-prepared positions at De Knol where they were to spt the waterborne assault by the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, the Hamilton Light Inf of Canada and the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders. The assault, scheduled for that evening, was postponed for 24 hrs due to the late arrival of the buffaloes (amphibious personnel carriers).

8 October 1944 – The assault began with night marker shells fired by B Tp to indicate the beaching points in the dark. Capt Griffin landed with the North Novas and Capt Campbell landed with the SDGs. About noon, Capt Campbell set out with a coy of SDGs to capture Hoofdplaat. He was soon wounded, returned after being cared for by the medics, and then wounded a second time. His OP Able, Lance Bombardier B Clark, brought him to safety the first time, returned to take over the FOO party, attended the wounds of the FOO the second time, as well as two other members of the party, continued to direct artillery fire until his communications were knocked out. At that time, he assisted in the evacuation of other wounded mbrs of the SDG. For his coolness, efficiency and bravery, which had tremendous influence on all who saw him and was of material assistance in holding the position at Hoofdplaat, Lance Bdr Clark was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

9 October 1944 – Over 5000 rds were fired in a 24 hr period against enemy forming up points for counter attacks, counter mortar and counter bty. In the afternoon, the guns were moved forward directly in the rear of the dykes.

10 October 1944 – This was one of the busiest days of firing since Cormelles with a large number of observed shoots and many quick fire plans to support local advances.

11 October 1944 – Regt supported the HLI in their capture of Biervliet and consolidation just before dusk. Seven separate counter attacks were beaten back with supporting fire from the guns throughout the night.

12 October 1944 – Regt continued its spt of the HLI.

13 October 1944 – Each gun fired nearly two hundred rounds.

15 October 1944 – About noon the last round was fired as the battle had moved out of range westward. Lt-Col RHE Walker arrived to take command of the regt. He was not a stranger as his last appointment had been the Bde Major at HQ RCA 4th Div.

16 October 1944 – Recce was ordered to prepare a concentration area near the town of Wyneghem, 4 miles east of Antwerp. The guns were ordered out of action and orders issued for the move on the 17th.

17 October 1944 – Regt set off early in the morning, following 19th Fd Regt (SP), down the Terneuzen Canal, through the outskirts of Ghent, bypassing St Nicholas, then across the Schelde to Antwerp by the practically undamaged vehicle tunnel. They were then guided through the narrow streets of the city and across the Canal de Jonction to the concentration area. RHQ, 17th Bty and 110th Bty shared a large château in the park, while 95th Bty occupied a smaller modern one a half mile away. Bath parades,

maintenance, cleaning of equipment and kit inspections were the order of the day. In the evening there were liberty vehicles to Antwerp where ENSA theatres and NAAFI canteens were already set up.

18 October 1944 – Recce parties moved out in preparation for Operation Suitcase and prepared positions east of the main highway near Putte. The Dutch-Belgian border cut across the regt lines. After the positions were prepared, they returned to Wyneghem.

19 October 1944 – The guns moved up in a slow steady rain and reported ready shortly after noon. There was no firing that evening and wireless silence was imposed. BCs and FOOs were allocated to the LWR, the Algonquins, the BCRs and the SARs.

20 October 1944 – At 0730 hrs, the attack began with a 30 minute programme of concentration on known hostile mortar and battery positions. Operation Winkle, white smoke, was fired for the aircraft to mark the forward edge of friendly troops. The morning saw little resistance so firing was sparse. The main difficulty was with mines and snipers.

21 October 1944 – The F Tp TL vehicle struck a mine, the first for the regt, with two injuries, one serious and one slight. Recce moved out that afternoon to meet up with the 2IC at near Noordeind for a position just north of the town. The guns arrived at dusk with RHQ occupying a prominent bricks works in the town. The Bde Comd appreciated an opportunity to surprise the enemy who appeared to be readying to withdraw. Rather than wait for a bridge across the Roosendaal Canal, he dismounted the forward tps and sent them and their FOOs across on foot.

22 October 1944 – The forward tps were at Esschen by first light and the enemy defences hardened considerably. The guns were busy and took several casualties. One FOO took an AP round in his OOP tank and was seriously injured along with his signaller. Another FOO was wounded by shrapnel in a second incident.

23 October 1944 – Recce parties moved to Zandstraat, a mile and a half south of Esschen at mid-morning. The guns departed at noon and were in position two hours later.

24 October 1944 – The guns were so close to the front line that the 95th Bty CP had an opportunity to watch the Yorkshire Inf, supported by tanks and flamethrowers, assault enemy strongpoints a few hundred yards away. At noon recce parties moved west of the railway and the guns were advanced one bty at a time in order to maintain constant fire. Soon after they were all in position they fired on a Victor tgt during a counter attack on the LWR that caught the enemy in the open. There were many casualties and over 100 prisoners were taken.

25 October 1944 – the guns were kept busy firing Mike and Uncle tgts throughout the day. There was intermittent shelling of the gun area however, no casualties were inflicted. In the evening the regt took part in a corps concentration. An enemy railway gun had fired from a location some 3000 yards from the regt. It had been spotted by aircraft and fixed by sound ranging when it fired one round that evening. In response, the Victor tgt was fired scale 3 from all guns within range, 144 fd guns, 112 mediums and 48 HAA, over 900 rds in return for one. It did not fire again.

26 October 1944 – The previous afternoon a force consisting of a B Coy of the ALQ, a tp of SAR tks and a FOO, Capt Forbes captured an important crossroads a mile west of Wowsche Plantage and held it despite being cut off and continually counter attacked by inf and assault guns. In the words of his citation for the Military Cross:

“The company commander was wounded and evacuated leaving Captain Forbes the senior officer present with one subaltern of the company and the subaltern of the tank troop. Captain Forbes immediately took command of the force. With no regard for his own safety, Captain Forbes, during repeated counter-attacks which were supported by heavy fire, throughout the day, left his tank and moved about the position, liaising with the two officers, organizing the defence, and encouraging the men by his presence and personal direction. By personal liaison and use of his artillery communications he passed

vital information to battalion command post in addition to performing his duties as FOO."

Late in the afternoon, after all attempts at sending up reinforcements had failed, the force was withdrawn under cover of two smoke screens.

27 October 1944 – Recce parties moved early in the morning to a gun area near Overberg. By 1400 hrs the whole regt was in position and on theatre grid. Little firing took place

28 October 1944 – Regt again moved well forward to a position a half mile south of Overberg. The space was very narrow and the btys were moved one at a time, completing their move by dusk. During the afternoon, the Regt lost its first officer. Captain HF Mogeey, B Tp Comd was instantly killed when struck by splinters of a shell which scored a direct hit on a tank outside the doorway he was standing in. A simple ceremony was conducted by the padre and he was laid to rest in the military cemetery at Bergen op Zoom. During the night the regt engaged many tgts to the north of town, many at ranges well under 1500 yds, and one as short as 900.

29 October 1944 – By first light the Bde had broken through and the enemy resistance seemed to have vanished by that evening.

30 October 1944 – Activity was reduced to long range harassing fire.

31 October 1944 – The guns stayed in position at Bergen op Zoom. They were inspected by the CRA, Brigadier Lane and in the evening there were movies and liberty vehicles to Antwerp.

1 November 1944 – Regt moved through Bergen Op Zoom to a position in the flat sandy fields east of the highway at Halsteren. There were few tgts during the day and some harassing fire at night.

2 November 1944 – At 1700 hrs the regt fired white smk to indicate the forward tps as forty Typhoons came in for a strafing and bombing run. This was followed by an attack two hrs later under the cover of a fireplan of different concentrations. The regt spent a busy night firing HF and DF tasks. In the evening four liberty vehicles made the trek to Antwerp half the CP crews and the guns enjoyed an evening on the town while the remainder worked away in wet gun pits and draughty CPs.

3 November 1944 – New attacks were successful in the evening and once again the enemy melted away.

4 November 1944 – Recce moved out early in the morning to a new position immediately south of Steenberg. The area was low and wet requiring much effort to get the guns in. At one point a quad was stuck in the mud so badly that the winching actually pulled the house over that it was attached to before moving the quad.

5 November 1944 – A special RCA church parade was held in the cathedral at Bergen op Zoom at which 100 men from each artillery regt attended. This was followed by a parade reviewed by the CRA, Brigadier Lane. That afternoon the regt redeployed to wet muddy fields south of Dinteloord. That night preliminary bombardment commenced on Willemstad while rain was pelting down.

6 November 1944 – Willemstad was taken later that afternoon with only light firing from the guns. During the afternoon, the CO inspected the gun line and the YMCA showed a movie in a barn close by.

7 November 1944 – Regt moved back to a concentration area in Steenberg. Most everyone was accommodated with a roof over their head. The YMCA showed another movie that night and the first personnel that had been lucky enough to get a 48 hr pass in Antwerp returned.

8 November 1944 – Recce parties left with the divisional recce to the new area that they were to hold between Raamsdonk to Heusden. The last liberty vehicles made the trek to Antwerp and in the evening a number of the gunners were sent to an army show in Bergen op Zoom.

9 November 1944 – Regt moved out in a heavy wet snowstorm through the outskirts of Bergen op Zoom, east along the main highway through Roosendaal and Breda. They skirted Tilburg, across the Wilhelmina Canal to the village of Vaart. RHQ was established in Vaart with 110th Bty just ahead, 17th and 95th Btys were deployed in the neighbourhood of 's Gravemoor.

10 November 1944 - Work on the gun positions continued. That day it was learned that the CRA, Brigadier HJ Lane, DSO had been killed on a recce when his jeep hit a mine. The funeral the following day saw each of the Arty COs as honorary pallbearers with the artillery RSMs as pall bearers. The coffin was carried on a flag draped trailer towed by 1 110th Bty gun tractor. The route was lined by over seven hundred tps from all the div arty units.

11 November 1944 – 19th Army Fd Regt ceased to be under cover of the div and 15th Fd regt was ordered to move further east to cover the wider front. During the night the regt fired for the first time since moving to the Maas. It brought immediate retaliation in counter battery fire that landed on the recently vacated 17th Bty position.

12 November 1944 – The remainder of the regt moved so that they covered a frontage of 7500 yds. Each bty occupied a village, RHQ and 17th Bty shared Niewkirk, 110th Bty deployed in Vlijmen and the 95th Bty was in Drunen. Regt A ech was set up across the Afwaterings canal at Kromvoirt. The regt stayed in this position for the next two weeks firing slightly over 100 rds per gun.

23 November 1944 – Recce parties from 80th Fd Regt RA arrived to begin the handover from 15th Fd Regt

25 November 1944 – Guns came out action in the afternoon, one bty at a time and harboured at the side of the road.

26 November 1944 – Regt moved off to Boxtel via Helvoirt arriving at 1000 hrs for a period that was to be two weeks in duration. Vehicles were parked on the broad shoulders of the bypass which provided good hardstand for maintenance. Tps were quartered in a large school. The YMCA established reading and writing rooms and the Auxiliary Services cinema in the town showed movies nightly. Rest and maintenance were much needed and seemed to be equally divided between the two. As well there were classes in mine refresher, signals refresher and sports. The new CRA, Brigadier CM Drury DSO MBE presented Captain HH Griffin and Sergeant F Bartlett with the Military Cross and Military medal respectively for their heroism at Moerbrugge on 9th September. General Eisenhower paid a visit to Div HQ. The adjutant was sent off on a task by HQ RCA to visit every gun position that the regt had occupied earlier to ensure that no ammunition had been left behind.

2 December 1944 – The Officers and Sergeants held parties. Possibly somewhat subdued as the Army's calculation of two weeks was in error and the regt was to return to its original location along the Maas sector.

3 December 1944 – Regt moved back to Drunen, Nieuwkuik and Vlijmen. By noon they were in position.

4 December 1944 – Regt was assigned a wider zone which resulted in RHQ moving to Ist Straatje, southwest of Kaatsheuvel, 17th Bty to 's Gravemoor, the 110th Bty west to Kaatsheuvel and A echelon to Loon op Zand. The 95th Bty remained in Drunen for a week before moving to Waalwijk. OPs were established in the Capelle area, Waalwijk and Heusden. As soon as the routine was established, the regt schools started up with signals and ables training. The routine consisted of allowing one bty out of action at a time with one of its guns taken out of its pit and dismantled for maintenance.

6 December 1944 – Each bty, RHQ and A ech planned parties around St Nicolas' Day for the children in each of their respective villages. Festivities included cakes and cookies from the regt bakery, a donation of a chocolate issue to the children, a puppet show, truck rides, and a visit from the saint and his black slave.

11 December 1944 – Regt was inspected by Major-General C Vokes, the new GOC 4th Cdn Armd Div.

12 December 1944 – The guns deployed forward to the dykes near Raamsdonk in order to reach out to a reported bn training camp in Nieuwendijk. All data was prepared beforehand and the guns withdrew in the dark before any retaliatory fire appeared. The results were inconclusive at the time and it was not until months after the war that Col Moore and Maj Walker managed a trip to investigate. Turns out the Bn had left two days before the shoot and the only casualties were two Germans killed and a number of local inhabitants wounded and killed.

December 1944 – There were also sightings of flying bombs overhead directed towards Antwerp.

18 December 1944 – The planning for upcoming Christmas dinners was interrupted by the news of the German offensive in the Ardennes.

20 December 1944 – Regt was warned for an immediate move. Following orders at HQ RCA, the 2IC and recce parties moved to Oisterwijk, east of Tilburg, to prepare a concentration area.

21 December 1944 – The guns left their positions before the 2nd Polish Fd Regt arrived and made a speedy move to the concentration area near Haaren. The 4th Div was Army reserve and placed on 6 hrs notice to move. Billets were scarce and many tps were quartered in cold barns.

23 December 1944 – Regt was still in the concentration area and the gunners' Christmas Dinner was served up in local hotels. WOs and Sergeants took over guard duties and assisted the Officers serving. Later the Officers served in the Sergeants' Mess before having their own dinner in the De Swaan hotel. Lt-Col WAB Anderson, former CO was a guest at that dinner.

24 December 1944 – A rumoured airborne assault by the enemy caused the Div to respond with a move to what was a suspected landing site. Recce parties left in the morning, and the guns in the afternoon, through the outskirts of Tilburg, along the main Breda highway to the concentration area near Rijen. For most tps, Christmas Eve was a cold night spent outdoors with only a tent or lean-to for shelter.

25 December 1944 – Recce moved out in the afternoon to Bavel, south east of Breda for a new concentration area. Regt moved soon after with RHQ settling in the small town of Bolberg, and the remainder of the regt in farm buildings east of Bavel. All were on 4 hours NTM during the day and 2 hrs NTM at night with precautions against airborne assault put in place.

26 December 1944 – Btys were ordered to select platforms in the vicinity of the billets, to complete survey and to register some tgts on the vicinity of the nearby airfield.

1 January 1945 – New Year's Day saw the Regt still at Bavel. They were on the small arms range when the Germans made their famous raid on Antwerp and airfields in Belgium and Holland. One plane was shot down over the regt area and the BSM and a patrol captured the pilot.

2 January 1945 – Reports of heavy enemy concentration north of the Maas resulted in Op Trojan and the regt moved to Drunen to sp Polish patrols in their quest for prisoners. The entire British 1st Corps artillery, two sqns of fighters and several flights of Air OPs were also to take part. Regt returned to Bavel after bad weather forced a 24 hr postponement. During the postponement, the CRA Brig Drury presented Lance Bombardier B Clark with his Distinguished Conduct Medal. During the parade the maintenance LAD created a considerable stir in trying to unsuccessfully dislodge a round that had jammed in the breech. The barrel had been removed and all sorts of paraphernalia attempted to no avail. The barrel was subsequently, "buried in a watery ditch and left to nature." Wonder if it's still there?

3/4 January 1945 – Bad weather forced another postponement in Op Trojan.

5 January 1944 – The regt moved to Drunen and fired off less than 100 rds per gun as part of Op Trojan. Many enemy gun positions were shown to be dummies and there was no longer any doubt that the Germans had merely set up a cover plan for the Ardennes offensive.

6 January 1945 – Regt moved to Nieuwe Vaart, west of Kaatsheuvel to support the Polish attack on Kapelsche veer. The attack was launched that night and met strong resistance.

7 January 1945 – Regt was required throughout the day to continue with its spt to the Poles. The Polish atk subsequently failed to dislodge the enemy and the regt was released to again return to positions along the Maas. RHQ, 17th Bty and 95th Bty near Drunen and 110th Bty at Waalwijk. Meanwhile the attacks by flying bombs intensified with as many as 100 flying overhead in a day. A killing field was set up south of Breda and a few did land in the regt area however casualties were limited to two that were injured by flying glass.

January 1945 – There was also additional danger from a div trg school set up on barren land northeast of Loon op-Zand. Ricochet rds from the 17 pdr anti-tank range often landed in the regt area. While 17th

Bty was moved to avoid the danger, one rd did strike an ammo tk involved in preparing an alternate posn. Two members were injured by flying shrapnel and two members, Lance Bombardier TE Craddock and Gunner T Dexter were awarded the Comd-in-chief's certificate for gallantry. They had assisted the wounded and then extinguished the fire that had ignited the cordite charges in the vehicle. The regt hockey team was also able to begin their schedule during this period, winning the div arty championship but beaten out in the div final. BSm CD Ward, 17th bty was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident at Drunen.

13 January 1945 – The CO left for England to lecture on the topic "Artillery Support in an Armd Division." The 2IC assumed comd in his absence.

22 January 1945 – The 2IC was called for a briefing on Operation Elephant, a bde assault on Kapelsche veer. The Germans had resisted the Poles and a subsequent attack by 41st Commando.

24 January 1945 – Gun posns were prepared for Op Elephant and a dumping program began.

25 January 1945 – Regt occupied the posn and by 1400 hrs were in action and ready.

26 January 1945 – The fire plan began at 0725 hrs.

27 January 1945 – The battle was intense with continual fire from the guns and much danger for the FOOs.

28 January 1945 – The CO returned from England during the night and then took over rep duties at the Bn CP. In many cases the inf coy comd had been killed and the FOOs stepped in to rally the tps. At one point the CO requested a SITREP from the FOO and was told, "there seems to be just one other man besides my crew." FOOs were relieved as often as they could be.

30 January 1945 – at 0900 hrs a large scale link up between the Cdn units was achieved and an hr later the area was reported clear. The battle was over. 135 enemy dead, 35 captured and 65 wounded had been evacuated. The prisoners blamed the artillery for most of the casualties. The FOOs miraculously escaped with only two casualties. Over 14,000 rds had been fired, twice the original allotment.

31 January 1945 – The 17th Bty returned to Drunen at noon while the 95th and 110th departed at dusk after handing over to Polish artillery.

2 February 1945 – 17th Bty deployed to Vlijmen and new FOOs were sent to Hedikhuizen. One casualty was incurred as a few rds of 17cm airburst laced the area as they were departing. The average expenditure for the next three weeks was less than ten rds per gun per day. This period of inactivity was filled with regt schools and also opportunities for extended leave, including to Paris and even England. The padre set up weekly services.

6 February 1945 – The 2IC, Maj Moore, left to attend a regt comds course in England.

18 February 1945 – The CO was summoned to HQ RCA and recce parties were ordered to stand by. The CO, acting as the CRA during Brig Drury's absence in England, went to Reichswald forest in connexion with the artillery plan. Thus, he and Gunner Gulman, his driver, were the first mbrs of the regt to enter Germany.

19 February 1945 – Advance parties moved to Vught and prepared a concentration area.

20 February 1945 – The 110th Bty moved to the concentration area. Late that night, further orders were issued at RHQ for a further move.

21 February 1945 – the remainder of the regt was relieved by elements of the 1st Polish Armd Div and moved to Vught. As far as 4th Div was concerned, the battle of the Maas was over and the invasion of Germany was about to begin.

22 February 1945 – The six OP tks, 17th Bty and 95th Bty moved out at 0600 hrs and the regt one hour later. They reached Nijmegen at 0900, in somewhat reversed order as the leading elements had made a complete circle just north of Grave before rejoining the column just in front of A echelon. They turned eastward at Nijmegen following Ruby Up through the desolate border district of Holland and over the hills to Groesbeek. At 1000 hrs the column passed the grim sign, "This is Germany, do not fraternize." The route led through a single tracked roadway through the firs of the Reichswald Forest. Shortly after

noon they passed the important Materborn road junction south of Cleve, skirted the city, and turned south on the Goch Road. South of Hau they were met by guides and brought into the concentration area, a muddy field on the eastern edge of the forest. Slit trenches were dug as the area was open to air attack. (Me 262s had been seen in action by the recce party the day before)

23 February 1945 – Regt spent two days at Hau amidst Spartan accommodation. It was noted that the ban on looting may not have been enforced as firmly as previously as there appeared ample evidence of fresh pork chops, roast beef and fried chicken; a rare luxury after a winter of M&V. Preliminary orders were issued and a preliminary gun area a half mile southeast of Louisendorf was recce'd. RHQ moved to a new location in a house on the west edge of Cleve Forest.

24 February 1945 – All pits had been camouflaged and ammo dumped by the afternoon. The CO issued final orders that afternoon that outlined the regt's role in OP Blockbuster. FOOs and reps left that afternoon to join up with their sptd arms; The Algonquin, ASH and 10th Bde HQ. After dark a violent counter-attack that came within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the new position held up the deployment of the guns. Regt moved in later and fit the complete regt into what would normally have been considered a Bty position.

25 February 1945 – Regt's initial role was simply to wait until required. There was some counter bty fire on their location and one gunner was wounded. Traces, task tables, tgt and counter-bty lists arrived in the afternoon. Bty CPs worked on the fire plan which was the largest ever seen. Ph I was to be a comprehensive corps barrage, the opening range of which was too short for the guns to engage due to crest clearance issues. Ph II consisted of two barrages on call and literally hundreds of concentrations. Hostile bty lists were several pages long.

26 February 1945 – Early in the morning the enemy launched a determined counter thrust with 56 tanks which was successfully beaten back. At 0345 hrs the guns lashed out with violent concentrations aimed at every building in the path of the advance, followed by the Ph I barrage. Within a few hours each gun had expended 150 rds. Fortunately the guns were well dug in as the enemy began counter bty fire almost immediately from locations in the south. These were usually not just single rds but rather 8 gun stonks bursting with great accuracy on cross roads throughout the area. An enemy 88mm gun scored a direct hit on the 95th Bty DA gun killing three members; Gunners GA Stewart, Gunner EG McLeod and Gunner WH Birchall. The other three members of the gun det survived unscathed. 110th Bty was subjected to constant shelling from a heavy gun. On one gun on particular, all took cover except Bdr J. Manley who continued to fire the gun alone. After going through this period of danger uninjured, he was killed instantly later that morning when the trench in which he was resting received a direct hit. For his bravery he was posthumously awarded the Comd-in-Chief's Certificate. The attack of 4th Div began as they crossed the start line at 1015. The gun area was ahead of the Div and was subsequently inundated by armd vehicles crossing through the position. Firing slacked off and there were only few tgts engaged on call from the FOOs. The advance was so rapid that the 2IC spent time with the QORs as they cleared the next gun area near Keppeln. As soon as the attack was completed, recce was called forward. By dusk recce was completed and the guns were called forward just before midnight.

27 February 1945 – The guns required winching out of their previous position, a long and laborious task in the dark.

28 February 1945 – As the LWR prepared to cross the start line for the next bound they were caught in what was described as the greatest concentration of fire that the enemy had ever mustered. The attacking companies were decimated. The FOO driver, Gunner R Tatlow, was killed instantly when a shell fragment pierced his heart and the FOO was slightly injured. The Hochwald Gap became a bitterly contested battle. It was during this battle that Major EG Cowley, BC 95th Bty, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for "Courage and accurate direction of artillery fire under the most intense enemy fire." His citation read:

“Throughout the entire period Major Cowley moved about the position, frequently over open ground, to direct the fire of his artillery onto the enemy positions and forming up places. On several occasions when enemy counter-attacks were obviously imminent, this officer refused to take cover and continued to bring down fire with such devastating effects that every attack was beaten off with severe losses to the enemy. His complete disregard for personal safety was an inspiration to the troops he was supporting and an example of which his own regiment may well be proud.”

1 March 1945 – Recce parties were ordered forward, in the afternoon, to an area on the outskirts of Udem. The guns were in position well before dusk. The wet weather made movement almost impossible and there was considerable winching of vehicles. There was only light firing that night.

2 March 1945 – The west edge of the Hochwald was found to be abandoned that morning. Resistance between the Hochwald and the Balberger remained strong. A Company of Algonquin passed through and were not heard from again, a number being killed and the remainder captured. The FOO tk with this force received four direct hits from an anti-tank gun. The crew were able to bail out and escape, the FOO and one gunner being seriously injured and another slightly injured. The driver escaped unhurt. Firing from the regiment area were intermittent targets of opportunity. At noon recce parties moved forward of the town to a location near Udemerbruch, just south of the railway. Heavy shelling accompanied the guns as they arrived later in the day. Two members were wounded and Gunner ER Russett died on the way to hospital that night. The guns were again moved to the boggy ground at the bottom of the valley on the other side of Udem.



3 March 1945 – FOOs with the SAR and the ASH passed through to Labbeck in the morning. The guns remained in position at Udemerbruch and engaged in air OP shoots and bombards in spt of 3rd Div. At night they were busy with HF tasks involving some 50 rds per gun.

6 March 1945 – recce parties were summoned forward to prepare positions on the southern slopes of the Balberger feature. They found an area south of Balberger Wald astride the road that runs from the

forest south to Sonsbeck. Regt left Udemerbruch at 1100 hrs. enroute they were buzzed by two ME 109s without incurring any damage. Soon after they were shelled by a heavy calibre gun which scored a direct hit on a C tp gun pit. Gunner JH Maddison, Gunner CT Isaacs and Gunner WH Morehouse died instantly and Bombardier WA Luke died the following day from his injuries. One other gunner was injured while the Det Comd was unharmed. Meanwhile the FOOs were busy in the attack on the approaches to Veen.

8 March 1945 - The FOO with the LWR, Captain FG Stanley was instantly killed in an explosion when a tank struck a pile of mines. That night the enemy began a withdrawal from Veen and the fighting abated somewhat.

9 March 1945 – Recce parties moved to an area just west of Veen. The enemy continually shelled much of the area as they seemed intent on expending all ammunition that they held. A modest HF programme was put in place that night. However, much of the area was beginning to be covered by no firing zones due to friendly forces.

10 March 1945 – The last rounds for this operation were fired shortly after noon. Recce parties left for Vught to examine the divisional concentration area.

11 March 1945 – Empty Guns, Cease Firing came at 1030 hrs. The rest of the day was spent on maintenance and trips to the mobile baths. FOOs returned from their supported arms and it was a regt of tired, unwashed and, in many cases, sick men. The lousy weather and the strain of battle had left their mark. For the first time since Normandy, dysentery had started to develop. Regt prepared to leave just before midnight.

12 March 1945 – The drive back to Holland was a nightmare. The route led through the narrow muddy road in the Balberger Wald, and along the railway embankment to Udem. Many vehicles slid into the ditch and had to be towed out, and many drivers fell asleep during these long halts. Despite difficulty finding the route east of Cleve, the regt was in Nijmegen by first light where it turned down Maple Leaf for a speedy run to the Boxtel by-pass which was reached by 100 hrs. The 110th Bty was quartered in buildings of its own just north of the town, the 17th Bty and 95th Bty occupied quarters in the centre of town and officers were billeted in private homes. Maintenance and training were the order of the day.

18 March 1945 – Recce parties were ordered north to prepare positions along the left bank of the Rhine. Digging and Camouflage parties arrived two days later.

22nd March 1945 – At 0900 hrs the regt moved out. It had almost become a tradition that this would be the morning after some social event, in this case the Officers' dance the night before. It was a bright sunny morning and the regt turned northward along Maple Leaf, through 's Hertogenbosch, and Grave to Nijmegen. There they turned east to Cleve, along the Calcar road in the shelter of a smoke screen, deploying in the river flats just south of the little village of Huisberden. By 1400 hrs they reported ready to HQ RCA. Capt EE Campbell was promoted Major and took over comd of 95th Bty, Maj Aylward, BC 110th Bty since Park wood was placed on draft to return to Canada on rotation leave. Capt Sinclair stepped in as the temporary BC.

23 March 1945 – Task tables, fire plans, traces and tgt lists in spt of OP Plunder arrived from HQ RCA. At 1900 hrs the barrage started.

24 March 1945 – Regt was busy with Victor tgts in spt of the bridgeheads established across the Rhine. At 1000 hrs the Dakotas dropping the airborne force in the area of the Diersfordter Wald could be seen from the gun line. These were followed by waves of gliders that landed within range of the guns for spt. Former FOOs of the regt were employed with the airborne force. Extensive HF tgts were fired that evening. There was some retaliatory fire from heavy guns but no damage or casualties were incurred.

25 March 1945 – Regt took part in a fire plan in spt of 9th Cdn Inf Bde's attack on Praest enroute to Emmerich. The remainder of the week consisted mostly of HF tasks. The gunners were kept busy, mostly at night.

29 March 1945 – The original 700 rds per gun were expended by the 29th. By the end of the week, each gun had fired 12 tons of high explosive shells.

31 March 1945 – The HF tasks came to an end as 3rd Div was closing in on Hoch Elten and its tgts were soon out of range. The guns came out of action and recce crossed the river to prepare a concentration area on the other side. The guns spent the afternoon in preparation and final orders were issued at midnight.

1 April 1945 – At 0420 the guns left the Huisberden area for the bridge at Rees, a magnificent 600 yd long Bailey bridge, then west and finally north. They passed by one corps and two div HQs before arriving at the concentration area at Bienen. A hot breakfast was ready, maintenance started and the crews settled down to an Easter Sunday rest. The service was interrupted by the familiar call, “Recce parties.” That evening the CO joined up with 10th Bde HQ and the FOOs joined the ALQ and ASH regts.

2 April 1945 – At 0100 hrs the guns moved northward in an artillery group under the CRA into the Dutch province of Gelderland, through Westendorp and Halle before reaching the woods south of Ruurlu by 0900 hrs. Shortly before noon, they moved up through Ruurlu and deployed near Barchem.

3 April 1945 – Recce parties moved out at first light. The guns fired only limited HF tasks during the night followed by a few regt concentrations in the early morning. They came out of action at 0800 hrs and took a route to the east, then directly north to the canal, then southeast to Geesteren, north to Gelselaar and Diepenheim and finally to the gun area near Wegdam. By 1100 hrs the btys reported ready and began receiving a dumping program of 100 rds per gun. At 1830 hrs a smoke screen and HE concentration was fired in spt of an attack by 4th Bde at Delden.

4 April 1945 – Recce parties moved forward shortly after noon, crossing the Twente Canal west of Delden, and preparing positions near the apex of the Delden-Borne-Almelo triangle. The recce was interrupted by some over-enthusiastic members of the Dutch Oranje Bde who mistook the Cdns for enemy. Fortunately, no injuries were incurred. That afternoon the guns came out of action but did not start moving to the new location until just after midnight.

5 April 1945 – The gun group crossed the canal at Delden but was blocked on their original route north to Bornerbrook by small arms fire and were directed to a route further south through Borne. They rolled into the new gun area at dawn. That night a HF program was directed at the enemy in Wierden through which the enemy was reported withdrawing.

6 April 1945 – There was considerable firing in spt of the ALQ atk at Wierden as well as an area west of Bornerbrook. The zero line which had originally been set at north was now swung to the west in order to cover the wide arc of tgts that the regt was engaging. The proximity to the erratic front line was also a hazard to resupply as one 60 cwt ammo truck from the 110th Bty found out. Missing the turnoff to the Bty area they continued on to the LWR forward coy posn at the same time as mortar fire arrived. Not wishing to be in the same area as falling mortar rds, the dvr sped right through the LWR posn and swung down a side road just short of the blown bridge. The ensuing small arms fire from across the bridge persuaded them to abandon the vehicle and they returned with only one casualty. The vehicle was recovered several days later, riddled with bullets. Maj AS Price arrived to take over as BC 110th Bty.

7 April 1945 – A FOO party accompanying a company of the ALQ tasked with securing a bridgehead over a canal 100 yards short of Wierden became pinned down. Due to the coolness of the FOO party under cover, they were able to extricate themselves, reform and resume the attack which established a successful bridgehead. For his competent and courageous actions during this attack and others, Gunner J Stepaniuk, the FOO signaller was awarded the Military Medal. The guns had been engaged in considerable firing all day. A recce was conducted on positions opposite Meppen, but the planned move by the guns was cancelled due to the continued activity at Wierden.

8 April 1945 – The guns engaged a number of tgts throughout the day, but by evening contact had been lost along the whole front north of the Twente Canal.

9 April 1945 – Wierden was entered without opposition and patrols pushed as far as Rijssen. Regt was placed back under comd of 10th Bde and ordered to move to Meppen. The guns departed at 1500 hrs in what would be their 3rd and last move into Germany. Their route took them over a good highway to Neufenhaus which they reached by dusk, and then over terrible roads to the Dortmund-Ems canal, over a pontoon bridge to the concentration area north of Meppen. The move took 19 hrs and 19th Btys location was the concentration camp outside of town.

10 April 1945 – Any hope of a rest period was short lived as recce parties were on the move at 0300 hrs. They prepared a position near Beckhusen, three miles south of the Kusten Canal in order to spt an attack on Dorpen. The guns soon rolled in and the regt reported ready at 1000 hrs. Two prisoners captured during the 17th Bty position reported that there were more in the woods and the Bty soon had their hands full with an additional 20 prisoners as well as a few French and Russian PWs. Barely were the guns in action when recce was ordered forward once again to a position 3000 yards to the north near Dorpen. Regt began occupying this posn one bty at a time when recce were placed on 10 min NTM due to a change of plans. At mid-afternoon they moved off with the guns behind the second company of ALQ. It was a short move, and the guns were deployed near the village of Neuborger shortly after noon. RHQ set up in a café in town. There was no firing from this posn.

11 April 1945 – Regt was warned for an immediate move in the morning and the guns moved off at noon. They deployed in the afternoon just east of Borgerwald and engaged tgts in spt of an attack on Breddenburg.

12 April 1945 – recce moved forward at first light, the guns shortly after and were deployed in a new area just north of Breddenburg by 0900 hrs. They had barely dropped their trails when recce was again called forward to a new area near Neuarenberg. The guns moved at noon and came into action shortly afterwards. The advance was now held up by a strong defence along the Kusten Canal. An extensive HF program was laid on that evening.

13 April 1945 – Tgts were engaged at infrequent intervals in spt of penetration attempts by the inf. Another HF programme was laid on during the night.

14 April 1945 – At 0130 hrs opening rds were fired in spt of a very successful attack on Friesoythe by the ASH who lost their CO in the battle. In retaliation the tps burnt the town to the ground. It was subsequently still too hot for the guns to occupy that afternoon.

15 April 1945 – Recce moved out shortly after first light to a posn east of the main road about halfway between Friesoythe and the Kusten Canal. The guns moved at mid-day and were in position by early afternoon.

16 April 1945 – The guns were kept busy supporting the inf along the canal during the day and HF tasks at night. There was little time for rest, though the ammunition expenditure was not large, the calls for fire were constant. There was also considerable work required to keep the routes passable into the position. Despite the work tempo, the YMCA did arrive and set up and show movies in a barn beside RHQ. During the course of these operations, some of the regt FOOs were deployed outside of the regt's range to spt. Several were with the SAR in its solo thrust to the east towards the approaches to Oldenburg.

17 April 1945 – At 0100 hrs the Algonquin, with FOOs from the regt, crossed the Kusten Canal. Resistance at first was surprisingly light. By first light three companies were across and the bridgehead was 500 yds deep. The guns fired quite heavily in the initial fire plan and they continued throughout the night as they were called on with tgts at frequent intervals. By afternoon enemy infiltration into the bridgehead had increased. The guns responded with HF tasks on likely FUPs and rtes of approach. Just before dark, the first determined counter-attack set the pattern that would be followed throughout the battle. Massed inf, supported by an SP gun moved down the main road in an attempt to overrun the defences. This was beaten back by calls of "Tgt 3415 all engage" which brought the full divisional artillery to bear.

18 April 1945 – Massed inf attacks continued despite the intense artillery fire. The FOOs worked in conjunction with the Typhoons in an attempt to destroy the SPs. A bridge across the canal was completed that evening.

19 April 1945 – Anti-tank guns and tanks in the bridgehead lessened the impact of the SPs but the suicidal attacks continued. Ammunition expenditure at 0600 hrs for the previous 24 hrs totalled nearly 200 rds per gun, the highest since crossing the Rhine.

20 April 1945 – The LWR expanded the bridgehead in an attack coordinated with artillery.

21 April 1945 – the bridgehead now contained 3inf bns and a number of tks. The counter-attacks had ceased but there was strong opposition to any movement out of the bridgehead. Over 1700 enemy had been slaughtered in the carnage, mostly at the hands of the artillery.

22 April 1945 – Recce parties moved forward to the south side of the bridge, along the side of the canal, to prepare new posns. The regt posn resembled a coastal artillery posn with the guns lined up along the canal. With the 23rd SP regt on the opposite bank there were 48 guns deployed in two lines less than 50 yds apart and not more than a mile long. It was a perfect counter-bty tgt but the enemy only responded sporadically and there was only one injury caused.

23 April 1945 – The guns were kept busy since their arrival in this new posn providing spt to the units expanding the bridgehead and responding to tgts of opportunity

26 April 1945 – Recce parties moved forward to new locations near Osterscheps. In the late afternoon, the guns came out of action and the gunners were able to see the effect of their barrages during the previous week; not a building standing, trees and shrubbery cut to pieces, enemy equipment scattered everywhere and the ground torn and cratered.

28 April 1945 – OP tank RB was struck by an AP round and caught on fire while crossing the railway tracks 300 yds from Zwischenahner. Fortunately the crew escaped without injury.

30 April 1945 – Recce moved out in the early afternoon to do a recce immediately south of Bad Zwischenahn. It was found to be untenable and they moved to a location three miles southwest of the town. The guns were ordered forward at dusk and were deployed in time to join in an Uncle tgt on a suspected enemy HQ.

3 May 1945 – The afternoon indicated loss of contact with the enemy and the guns were placed on one hour NTM. They were ordered forward in the late afternoon, traversing through the outskirts of Bad Zwischenahn and put into action close by Neuenkrüge. There was no firing that night.

4 May 1945 – Recce parties were summoned forward in the morning to prepare positions near Wiefelstede. The guns were ordered forward at 1600 hrs. They were barely in action, pits not yet completed when the order “Take post” came over the tannoy in order to fire an Uncle tgt at Scale 3. A fire plan came down shortly thereafter to assist the Argylls – the last fireplan of the war! That evening, at 2040 hrs, a BBC report came over the radio announcing that Field Marshall Sir Bernard Montgomery had accepted the surrender of all German forces facing 21st Army Group. Before midnight, the official word was received that the surrender was to take effect the following morning at 0800 hrs.

5 May 1945 – At 0759 hrs the Adjutant’s voice came over the radio, “Hello all stations Easy One, Cease Fire! Cease fire! Cease Fire! All stations Easy One over.” One by one the outstations acknowledged. Guns were hauled out of their pits and given the normal daily maintenance. In the afternoon and evening there were movies in the cinema established at Wiefelstede and also a stage show in Brink.

7 May 1945 – Recce moved to Barsel to select suitable accommodation for the regt in its occupation role. That night a large working party was dispatched to carry out repairs on the route into Barsel.

8 May 1945 – Roadwork was complete enough for larger scale recce to move into Barsel.

9 May 1945 – The remainder of the regt moved to Barsel. RHQ was established in the station hotel which provided enough room for the office, officers’ and Sergeants’ Messes and sleeping quarters. The remainder of RHQ personnel were in a tented camp in a nearby field. The LAD and A echelon were established in the nearby freight sheds. The 17th Bty was established along the road running southeast

from Barssel with BHQ in an old mill and outbuildings in the southern part of town. A and B tp were farther south near Lohe in a school and some farmhouses. The 110th Bty was the farthest south, occupying the school and farmhouses in Harkebrugge. The 95th Bty was quartered in an SS camp a mile northwest of Harkebrugge. The YMCA was established in the Barssel cinema and showed movies nightly. Canteens were established on a bty or tp level with beer hauled in from Brussels, schnapps from the Germans and rum supplied by the Army.

The day hostilities had ceased, Major JE Clement, BC 17th Bty was transferred to 3rd Fd Regt as 2IC. He was replaced by Maj AW Duguid

18 May 1945 – Every available 15 cwt and 60 cwt began work on a large scale round up of enemy ammunition located in the div arty area.

May 1945 – Lieutenant JEA Smith was presented with the Croix de Guerre for his valuable services as survey officer.

26 May 1945 – Regt ceased occupation duties and moved to a regt area in Neede, Holland. The tracked route led through Friesoythe, Meppen, Lingen, and Hengelo; while the wheeled vehicles travelled west from Bad Zwischenahn to Papenburg, then south through Haren, Coe

Vorden, Deventer and Ruurlo before approaching Neede from the southwest. RHQ was established in the local railway stn with regt stores and tps billets in a nearby factory, The 17th Bty and 95th Bty were quartered in nearby schools. Officers and Sergeants were billeted in private homes. The 110th Bty was set up in schools a few miles away in Eibergen.

May 1945 - The Café de Harmonie was requisitioned for use as a wet canteen. A dry canteen, christened "The Broadwincal Club," was organized and directed by the YMCA. It included a library, snack bar, services desk, lounge and games room with bi-weekly dances. The Y also sponsored nightly movies in the "Luxor Bioscoop", the local town cinema. Privilege Leave entitlements to Paris and the UK were reduced from 6 to 3 month intervals. A large number of vacancies for 72 hr leaves to Brussels and Amsterdam were also made available. In addition, the div arty sponsored a rest centre at Huis ter Duin at Noordwijk aan Zee, a luxurious seaside hotel. Guns, vehicles and stores were cleaned and turned in. Approximately 3 tons of canvas had to be dried and properly packed.

The above work was taken directly from the *History of the Fifteenth Canadian Field Regt* written by Robert A. Spencer Capt R.C.A. they are his word and merely intended to provide any interested person to carry a copy of the regt history should they wish to follow their brave route through Europe.
Leon Jensen

Honour Roll

4 August 1944	Gunner EC Doupe	Killed at Cormelles by enemy shell fire
5 August 1944	Gunner RH McNichol	Killed at Bourguebus by enemy shell fire while at forward observation post
8 August 1944	Gunner JS Rosengren	Killed at Roquancourt by enemy shell fire
10 August 1944	Gunner JH Bacon	Killed at Robertmesnil by enemy shell fire
12 August 1944	Gunner GC Garceau	Died from wounds received by exploding ammunition when a truck was hit by enemy shell fire near Robertmesnil
14 August 1944	Gunner AA Kovar	Died of wounds received from enemy shell fire at Rquancourt on 14 August 1944
23 August 1944	Gunner AR Whitford	Died of wounds received on 19 August 1944 at Trun
24 August 1944	Bombardier SR Mark	Died near Bernay as the result of an accident while on duty as a dispatch rider
28 August 1944	Gunner EN Degryse	Drowned in the Seine crossing at Freneuse
7 September 1944	Gunner WG Kelly	Died as the result of an accident near St Omer while on duty as a dispatch rider
9 September 1944	Sergeant EA Holton	Killed by enemy shell fire at Lophem
28 October 1944	Captain HF Mogyey	Killed by enemy shell fire while at a forward observation post at Bergen Op Zoom
26 February 1945	Bombardier J Manley	Killed by enemy shell fire at Louisendorf
26 February 1945	Gunner GA Stewart Gunner EG McLeod Gunner WH Birchall	Killed in their gunpit by a direct hit from an enemy shell at Louisendorf
28 February 1945	Gunner R Tatlow	Killed at the Hochwald Gap by enemy shell fire while driver of the OP tank
2 March 1945	Gunner ER Russett	Died of wounds received on 2 March at Hochwald Forest
6 March 1945	Gunner CT Isaacs Gunner WH Morehouse Gunner JH Maddison	Killed together in their gunpit by a direct hit from an enemy shell near Sonsbeck
7 March 1945	Bombardier WA Luke	Died from wounds received on 6 March with his three comrades above
8 March 1945	Captain FG Stanley	Killed by exploding mines near Veen