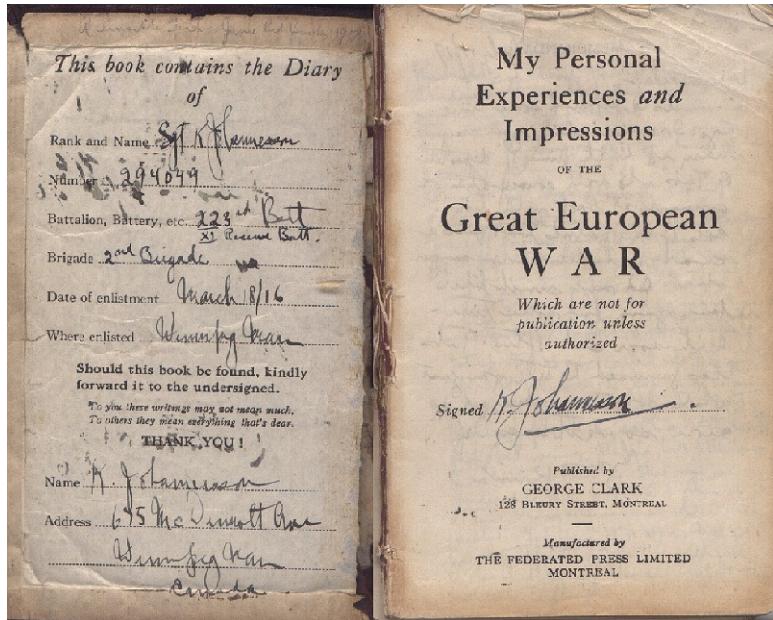


Daily Life in the 223rd
 (the Scandinavian-Canadian Battalion)
 from Konnie Johannesson's 1917 Diary



Cast of Icelandic Characters:

Thanks to Jon Sigurdsson IODE for the use of the biography pictures from Minningarrit



F-Freda (Holmfridur) Johannsson, in Grade 11 at Central Collegiate, living with her parents Agust and Margaret at 644 Simcoe Street. She and Konnie were married in May 1921.



Davey - John Davidson, another Icelandic friend. On the Falcons Executive Committee



Frank - Frank Fredrickson, Konnie's childhood friend, Falcons player and violinist



Axford - Captain 'Hebbie' Axford, the Falcons President

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Harry - Haraldur Johannsson, Freda's older brother, wounded at Vimy Ridge in May 1917.



B.M. Paulson, another mumps case



Bill Einarsson - another violinist along with Frank and Konnie



Skaptasons - they may have lived at Hythe near Shorncliffe



Major H.M. (Marino) Hannesson, a Falcons Executive



Konnie Johannesson, the author of the Diary



Ole Bjornson - the source of the mumps



Tubs - a good friend of Konnie and Freda, never known by any other name, only a picture.

Also mentioned:

Fred Thirlakson, Emil Johnson, Bjarni Stefansson, Steve Solvason, Bill Goodman, Ole Freeman.

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Konnie and many other people in the Diary had enlisted in the 223rd Battalion of the Canadian Army in March or April 1916. Frank F., Wally Byron, Bobby Benson, Harvey Benson and Konnie were now playing on the 223rd Division Hockey team. Hebby Axford was on the Executive and Gordon Sigurjonsson was the Trainer.

Selected days from the 1917 Diary:

Wednesday Jan 3rd: Hockey practice at 4 PM. Went down early to Recruiting Office then over to the Amphitheatre. Skated awhile then practiced. Fair condition. Got seats for game on the fourth. Got home from practice at 6:30.

Thursday Jan 4th: Took skates to Brawells. Went down to Recruiting Office in afternoon. Ordered special sticks. Played Vics (Victorias) our game, their score 4-3. Was in fair shape.

Friday Jan. 5th: Took 12:05 train for Portage la Prairie (to Camp Hughes) Wrote F. on train. Rode up to Portage Hotel in bus. Idled away afternoon. Supposed to practice but didn't. Skated at Portage rink for first time. Frank and I alone all night, many apologies to girls.

Saturday Jan. 6th:(at Portage) Got up at 8:00 AM. No breakfast, not time. Over on parade at 8:15. Beat it again at 8:45 for Wang's had breakfast with Capt. Lindal and Tom Johnson. Hockey practice at 3:00 PM. Fair work out. Ate at 6:00. Home and cleaned up and went to dance, helped Bill G. Played one extra on fiddle and drums rest of evening.

Monday Jan. 8th:(at Portage) Arose at 7:40 AM. On parade. Beat it, went to Tailors. Bummed around Canteen and Pay Office all morning. Hockey practice at 3:00. Noticed bad hip for first time. Home at 6 PM. Meeting of hockey players at 8:00 PM in Capt. Hannesson's rooms in Portage Hotel. Went over to rink and looked on. Then home to bed.

Tuesday Jan. 9th:(at Portage) Arose at 7:40 AM. Went on Parade, skipped off. Went to Tailor's and Barber's. Bummed around canteen. Went down to Villa at 10. Lay down from 10 to 12. Hockey practice at 3. Didn't go out.

Wednesday Jan. 10th :(at Portage) Arose at 7:40. Breakfasted at mess, almost choked. On parade at 8:00, Paymaster's muster parade. Beat it at 10:00, home to Villa, Frank and I. Ate at 12:40. On parade at 2:00. Vaccination, I excused (hockey players) Beat it down to rink to pack stuff and send in to city (Winnipeg). Retired at 12:00

Thursday Jan 11th:(at Portage) Arose at 8:15, breakfasted at Mess. Went home and packed my junk. Woke up Frank and Joe. Took train for city at 10:40. Train 20 mins. late. Got home at 1:00. Ate and called up F. couldn't get hold of her. Went down to Recruiting Office at 2:00 then to Orpheum with the boys. Went to Monarch-Vics game in evening with Lun (?), Monarchs 7, Vics 4. Retired at 11:30 PM

Friday Jan 12th: Went down to Y.M.C.A. at 10:00. Some of the boys didn't turn up so we bowled for a while and went home. Went down to Recruiting Office in afternoon. Hockey practice at 4:00. Everybody out. Volker out, no good. Through at 7:00. Didn't go home for supper. Ate at Venice with the bunch. Shot couple of games of Snooker at the Stag with Joe & Frank.

Saturday Jan. 13th: Hockey practice at 4:00. Home again at 7:20 PM. H. Baldwin called up at rink, about 7. Joe, Ole and I decided to go to Toboggan party.

Monday Jan. 15th : Stayed home all morning. Went to Tom's with Frank and got special sticks made. Played Frank game of Snooker, beat him 42-6. Played Monarchs, beat them 5-4. Fastest game yet. F. waited, bunch went to Kensington. The 2 Bills beat it to catch train.

Wednesday Jan. 17th: Hockey practice at 4:00 PM. Home at 6:30. Took F. to Walker (Theatre) in evening. Home at 11:40 after spending time in Waverly. Party already there, some girls and Axford too. Retired at 12:00

Thursday Jan. 18th : Stuck around house all morning. Went out to Baldwin's and Recruiting Office in afternoon. Then to Mart Hooper's for sticks. Stuck around Stag, bowling for a while. Home at 5:00. Game in evening 223rd & Vics. Left for game at 7:00. Vics defeated us 6-3. Retired at 12:30

Saturday Jan. 20th:(at Portage) Stuck around all morning, didn't do anything in particular. Refereed game between 223rd and Monarchs in evening, made a great success of it. Banquet of hockey players after game. Home at 1:30.

Sunday Jan. 21st:(at Portage) Stuck around house all afternoon. Invited out to Metcalfe's for evening. Capts. Scholer and Hannesson there. I did some sketching for them. Pretty fair likenesses. Home at 12:30 AM. P.S. Hockey practice from 3 to 4 in afternoon.

Thursday Jan. 25th:(at Portage) Took train for city at

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10:20, arrived home at 12:40. Hockey practice at 4:00. Went out to Waverly about 9:30. Retired about 12:30.

Friday Jan. 26th: Stuck around house. Went to Amphitheater in afternoon. Hockey practice. Had a good workout. Home at 6:30. Tubs came over, F. called up at time. I went home and made a punch. Retired at 10:45.

Saturday Jan. 27th: Went to Pantages with Frank. Hockey practice at 5:00 PM. Went to Orpheum in evening with F., dropped into Waverly on way home. Ole to be there, he was not.

Monday Jan. 29th: Did sketch of Ole. Got Harvey, Bobby and Byron in afternoon. Chased all over Sargent (Avenue) and Recruiting office for Bobby & Byron. Found them at 5 PM. Rushed home and finished them. Took bunch down to dressing room, gave them to Laydon at half-time. Monarchs beat us 5-3. My skates too fast for me, couldn't stand up.

Wednesday Jan. 31st: Stuck around house all morning. Did sketch of F's portrait in ink. Hockey practice at 5:00. Went over to F's after practice, stayed the evening. Got home about 12:00

Thursday Feb. 1st: Went down to Recruiting office. Met Joe, played couple of games of snooker, won one apiece. Played Vics in evening. They outscored us, our game as far as play went. Bad knee, didn't get to sleep until 4:20 AM.

Monday Feb. 5th: Got pass & Ole's letter. Called up Harvey at Portage and found didn't have to go out. Called up F. and managed to go to game, Vics 7, Monarchs 5. Poor game.

Tuesday Feb. 6th: Stuck around house in morning. Hockey practice at 4:30. Went to Orpheum with F. in evening, fair show. Dropped into Waverly. Home at 11:30

Wednesday Feb. 7th: Stuck around house until 3:30. Hockey practice at 4:30. Went to Pantages in evening. Seats for 1st show. Too late, went to second show. One good act only. Home at 11:30 after dropping in on Waverly. Frank & a dame there.

Thursday Feb. 8th : Stuck around house all morning,, Went downtown, to Stag and Recruiting office. Hockey game in evening against Monarchs. Our game 9-3. Went up to Waverly after game with F. Got home about 12:30

Saturday Feb. 10th: Went to Stag in afternoon. Hockey practice at 5. Didn't go home, went straight to F's. Stuck around a little while then went to Wonderland. Stayed awhile at F's on returning, got home at 12:15.

Monday Feb. 12th: Went downtown in afternoon. Dropped into Stag. Everybody shows 5-3 or 2-1 on us for game. Hockey game in evening. Just managed to beat Vics 8-7. They tied us 6-6 at half time.



223rd O.S. Battalion (Canadian Scandinavian) Hockey Club
Winnipeg Patriotic League, Season 1916-1917

Top Row Left to Right:

Staff Sgt. G.G. Bjornson, Rover. Sgt. G. Sigurjonsson, Trainer. Capt. A.H. Lund, President. St. H. Axford, Executive. F. W. Walker, Defense

Bottom Row:

Cpl. Wally Byron, Goal. Pte. B. J. Benson, Defence. Sgt. Konnie Johannesson, Defence. C.S.M. H. Benson, Right Wing. Corp. Frank Fredrickson, Captain. Sgt. J. Olson, Left Wing

Tuesday Feb. 13th: Downtown at 10:00 AM. **Pictures taken of team.** We allowed to stay until Wednesday. Some luck. Went to Pantages in afternoon with Frank. Orpheum in evening with F. One of nicest evenings I ever spent with F. Happy as a lark. F. in great spirits. Retired about 12:00.

Thursday Feb. 15th:(at Portage) Drilled a class in afternoon. Officers and O.C. (Officer Commanding) looking on. I green at it, did none since Christmas. All OK. Went to movie in evening, Charley Chaplin, funny? Got home about 10:00 after dropping in to I.O.D.E. coffee rooms.

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Friday Feb. 16th:(at Portage) Went to City on 10:00 train, arrived home at 12:30. called up F. Had hockey practice at 4 PM. Walked home from Amphitheater at 6:30, bad storm, no cars. Stayed home all night. Retired at 10:30.

Saturday Feb. 17th: Hockey practice at 12:00. Had dinner at 5. Bought seats for Walker.(Theater) Called for F. at 7:30. Went to Walker in evening.

Monday Feb. 19th: Mended my puttees. Stayed home all day and read. Played Monarchs in evening. Winkler (?) beat us 5-4. Was to go to Portage same night. Didn't.

Thursday Feb. 22nd: Went down to Recruiting office at 2:00. Saw Capt. Snidal, I am to go to school to qualify as a Lieutenant, on Monday 26th for 6 weeks. To Duluth on 28th. Went to 223rd Auxiliary concert in evening. F. & her mother there, saw them home. Stayed until 12:00, retired about 12:30.

Monday Feb. 26th: Reported at school at 9:00, home at 12:00. Back at school at 2 PM, dismissed, went to show with the boys. Home at 5:30. F. Went to hockey game with F. Home at about 11:30 PM

Tuesday February 27th: Arose 8:00 AM. School all morning and afternoon. Went to Royal Alex(andra Hotel) with F & B. Had a very nice time. Went to Venice after dance. Home at 2:30

Wednesday February 28th: Arose 8 AM. School all morning. Leave in afternoon to go to Duluth. Put on my civilian clothes and met F & B on their way to school. Left for Duluth at 5:10, dined on train. Inebriation moderate in gang after crossing the boundary. Retired in berth about 12:00. Slept very little. Kept awake by night wanderers' glee.

Thursday March 1st: Arose at 9:00 AM, at Duluth at 10:20. Walked up to Hotel McKay, registered there with the bunch. Had lunch after practice at rink about 12:15. Talk about luck - didn't have to play in game, Walker played. Went to Cabaret St. Louis after game.

Friday March 2nd: Went to game in evening, acted as judge of play. People didn't understand rules of game, had eats at Haley's.

Saturday March 3rd: Breakfast at Haley's. Other boys left for St. Paul at 8:00 AM. Dinner at hotel at 6:30. Took train for Winnipeg at 7:00. A quiet time on train, retired at 10:30, slept well.

Monday March 5th: School all morning and afternoon. Went to game in evening, Vics & 221st with F.

Tuesday March 6th: School all morning and afternoon. Played scrub hockey game. Went to Wonderland with the boys, home at 11:30

March 7th to April 4th : Military school all morning and afternoon, no more hockey games.

Thursday April 5th : Written and practical exams.

Saturday April 6th: School all morning. Company Drill exams. Heard results in afternoon, I qualified as Lieutenant.

Wednesday April 11th: Played at 223rd Band Concert in evening, F. sang and Bea accompanied her.

Sunday April 15th: Home all morning and afternoon, (at 675 McDermot Ave, where Konnie lived with his parents Jonas and Rosa,) went to Church (First Lutheran on Victor St.) in evening. Farewell sermon, Freda sang, simply great. Shook hands with all my friends. Beat it for the Dominion 223rd Battalion concert. Walked up Portage Ave., met Kelly and Benson, walked to station with them, saw the bunch off. Retired at 12:50.

Tuesday April 17th: Took train to Portage la Prairie at 8:25 AM, arrived at 10:10. General on train, he beat me to inspection. I got on parade at 11:00 AM, on parade in afternoon. Stayed at boys' suite all evening, retired at 11:00

Saturday April 21st: (at Portage La Prairie) Arose at 7:00, on parade at 7:45. Called up Freda. in Winnipeg, couldn't get away by hook or crook. On parade all day. Fixed up packs that night and went to dance at Prior. Rotten place, danced 3 dances and sat out rest. Got back at 12:30.

Sunday April 22nd: (at Portage La Prairie) On parade in morning, muster parade in afternoon. **Preparing for Overseas in the afternoon and evening.** Men confined to Barracks.

Monday April 23rd: (on Train, Day 1) Arose at 4:30 AM. Entrained at 7 AM. Left at 10:00, arrived at Winnipeg at 12:00. (his family and friends were there to see Konnie and the Icelandic contingent off) Spent rather blue afternoon. Retired at 10:20, time change 1 hour ahead.

Tuesday April 24th: (on Train, Day 2) Arose at 6:30. All morning en route. Physical drill at Grant (a stop ?) for half an hour. All afternoon on train. Wrote a few postcards and retired early.

Wednesday April 25th: (on Train, Day 3) Cleaned up

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for march during the morning. Stopped at North Bay and went for a march around town. Left North Bay at 4:00 pm. Ate and had a good concert on train. Bill & I played violins, bunch sang. Went to bed at 9:00 pm.

Thursday April 26th: (on Train, Day 4) Arrived at Ottawa during the night. Arose at 5:30. Duke's (Governor-General's?) inspection at Main Station, I Platoon Commander. Lots of sweets dished out by Ottawa girls. Left Ottawa at 10:00 pm. Travelled all night, passed through Montreal. Much booze on train.

Friday April 27th: (on Train, Day 5) Travelled all morning. Arrived at Riviere du Loup at 2 pm, short march and run. Left and arrived at Campbelltown N.S. at 8. Went for a short route march over town. Left at 9:00. retired at 10 pm, awakened by Tom and Tubs, stayed awake until 12:00. Fell off the water wagon, took a smell of the cork. Everybody soused but I.

Saturday April 28th: (on Train, Day 6) Arose at 7:30. Travelled steadily until 11:00 am, Held up at Londonderry (Nova Scotia) by a wreck. Waited until 7:30 then went on to Truro. Stopped for about an hour. Very cold and wet. **Ole Bjornson sick with the mumps.** Retired at 11:00, pulled out into yards and fell asleep while waiting.

Sunday April 29th (on Train, Day 7) Breakfasted at 9, ate 4 eggs. Best breakfast yet. Arrived at Halifax at 11 am. First glimpse of Halifax and ocean-going Liners, Navy Cruisers and day boats. Stopped on side track in yards at 4:30. Went for a route march in afternoon. Saw Halifax, poor impression. Sat in train all night, had concerts in each car, sang and played.

Monday April 30th (on Train in Halifax, Day 8) Arose at 7:00. Went for route march in morning. Went for route march and football game in afternoon. Tied 182nd Battalion 1-1. General leave during evening 6-10 pm.

Tuesday May 1st: (on Train in Halifax, Day 9) Bath parade to YMCA in morning. Leave in afternoon, went through stores, bought music and underwear. Got back to Coaches 5:30. Confined to cars during evening. Played some of the new pieces.

Wednesday May 2nd:(on Train in Halifax, Day 10) Raining outside in torrents. Stayed in coaches all morning ready for embarkment. No orders, so leave granted from 5 to 7 pm. Went down to Madir's Cafe and Barber Shop. Got back to coaches, had concert, retired at 10:00.

Thursday May 3rd:(at Halifax, Day 11) Waiting for orders to embark. Orders came at 11:00, embarked on *Justicia* at 12:30. I received 2nd Class passage. Swell little cabin for 4. Ate same as Officers. Waited for Pay Box when loading our baggage. Left Halifax at 7:00 pm. Tugs pulled ship out of Dock. Passage through mined area and first symptoms of sea sickness, dizzy giddy feeling. Retired at 9:00 pm, lay awake for long time.

Friday May 4th:(at Sea, Day 12) Assembly at 10:00 am. Had a snooze before and after dinner. Went up with the boys to the Wet Canteen, had 1 Port Wine and 2 Beers. Stayed in cabin until 3, pay parade then. Went down to cabin, slept, ate and retired at 9:00 pm.

Saturday May 5th:(at Sea, Day 13) Arose at 7:30. Time altered half-hour, change of time caused us to miss breakfast. Had breakfast from our boxes. Assembly blew at 10:30, we all asleep in one cabin. Fitzgerald came down and woke us. About half-hour late on Parade. Ate and had a snooze. Sat down in Cabin for afternoon. Walked the decks for a short time in the evening. Retired at 9:30

Sunday May 6th:(at Sea, Day 14) Arose at 7:00 am. Deck Sentry Sergeant. Posting Sentries all day and night. Had short sleeps during the night.

Monday May 7th:(at Sea, Day 15) Came off Sentry duties at 9 am. No breakfast, ate some fruitcake and candy. Slept until 10, Assembly luncheon, then Assembly at 2:00. Had short snooze before dinner. Walked around decks for awhile.

Tuesday May 8th:(at Sea, Day 16) Arose at 7:40. Detailed fatigues for ship work. Assembly at 10, read until noon. P.T. at 1 pm for 'A' company. Through at 3 pm. Boxing tournament started in afternoon.

Wednesday May 9th: (at Sea, Day 17) Arose at 7:15. Did nothing in particular during morning. P.T. for 'A' Company at 1:00, Boxing Tournament at 3:00.

Thursday May 10th: (at Sea, Day 18) Arose at 7:15. Did nothing in particular in morning. P.T. for 'A' Company at 1:00. Boxing Tournament in afternoon. Clarkson won heavyweight. Assisted Fitz in raising details for the following day. Retired late.

Friday May 11th: (at Sea, Day 19) Arose at 7:00. Went on as Sergeant of Deck Sentries, 90 men, at 9 AM. Was on duty all day until 11:00 PM. Saw part of Boxing tournament in afternoon. Gillis given poor decision. Went to Dental Corps Concert in evening. Bill

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Einarson played, Alf accompanied. Went rounds of sentries and then retired at 12:00.

Saturday May 12th: (at Sea, Day 20) Arose at 7:00. Came off duty at 9:00. Torpedo Boat Destroyers met us during morning and are escorting us. Left the steamer 'Corrigan' behind. Witness in Orderly Room case at 3:00 pm. Saw Exhibition Boxing bouts. Had a salt water bath.

Sunday May 13th: (at Sea, Day 21) Sat around all morning. Had a concert in afternoon. Doc, Axford, myself, Kelly in our cabin. Sighted land at noon, off north coast of Ireland. Cleaned up and packed. Retired at 11:00. Roused by gang at 12, asleep at 1 am. Arrived at Liverpool during the night.

Monday May 14th: (at Sea, at Shorncliffe, Day 22) Arose at 7:00. Went up on deck to see Liverpool as it looked from the river. Ate lunch on ship, disembarked at 2 pm. Left for Shorncliffe at 5:45, arrived at 4:00 am. Marched out to Camp. No sleep during night. Stationed at Lower Dibgate, Shorncliffe.

Tuesday May 15th: In Quarantine Camp. Had breakfast at 5:00 am. Got into a tent with Bill G, Hank, Tom, Dave, Tubs and B.M. Paulson. Slept until 11 am. Saw first English Airplane and Dirigibles. Muster parade in afternoon. Blankets issued. Sat in Kelly's tent during evening and rain storm. Retired about 9:30. Five of us slept together. Woke up several times during the night.

Thursday May 17th: Arose at 7 am. Paraded Platoon for breakfast during rainstorm. Rained all morning, **wrote application for transfer to Royal Flying Corps.** Interviewed by OC along with Tom. Sat around in afternoon, wrote Freda and mother, told them about the camp we were in. Went up to 11th Reserve Battalion grounds, played ball after supper, had some refreshments and walked back. Met Joe Task. Back in Camp, sang, fell asleep.

Friday May 18th: Moved into Quarantine tent. Arose at 7. Gave A Company PT for an hour. Marched up to 11th Reserve Batt. Batt. divided into Squads. Marched back and put in Quarantine. **B.M. Paulson got the mumps.** Moved our tent in afternoon and sat around the rest off day. Could not move from our Quarantine square. Retired early. Saw flashlights (searchlights) in sky for first time.



Saturday May 19th: First day of Quarantine, Shorncliffe. Breakfast in bed. List of fellows in our tent in Quarantine: Tubs, Tom, Henry, Davey, Fred Thorlakson, Bill Goodman, Bill Einarson and myself. Cleaned up generally around tent in morning. Were taken for a walk in afternoon, went to Seabrook, a town on sea coast. Returned at 4 pm. Had our supper, lounged around, sent orderlies to Canteen for drinks. Did some sketching after quenching thirst. Sam Kelly came down to tell us about OC's trip to London regarding transfers to Air Service. Got Kelly to steal us a loaf of bread and then we had pork and beans and bread by candlelight after retiring.

Sunday May 20th: Arose at 9 am. Polished all our buttons and belts, boots. Sat around all afternoon and wrote diary and letters. Heavy rainstorm during night. Our tent flooded. Had broken sleep. Heavy thunder and lightning.

Monday May 21st: Arose at 9 am. Shaved and cleaned up. Dug out trench around tent which had filled in during storm of last night. Slept in afternoon. Played ball with Tom and tried some jumping, running. Had pork and beans in bed with candlelight. Discussed literature with bunch. Fell asleep at 12.

Wednesday May 23rd: Arose at 9 am. Gave 'mumpies' PT. **Made out forms for transfer.** Played violin with

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Bill E. all afternoon. Sat around during evening and retired early.

Thursday May 24th: Arose at 9 am. Cleaned up our shoes, buttons, belts, etc. for afternoon. Went down to Folkestone in bunch, met Doctor. Took bus and walked back home. Stopped for lunch on way. 223rd cleaned up in sports for 11th Reserve Battalion. Tired and foot weary after day. Played and sang in rear of our tent then retired early.

Friday May 25th: Slept until 10. Got up and Tubs told us to get ready to move from Lower Dibgate to 11th. Arrived 11th at noon. Ate under shade of trees by road through 11th and 8th. Moved into Quarantine tent and had just fixed up tent and finished our supper when 'Fritzers' raided us. One bomb dropped 15 ft from us. Bill E, Bill, Tom, Hank, Davey and I all cut by flying glass. Raid lasted about an hour. Bill E and I hit for prairies and big oak tree. Helped girls over fence on way. Town of Folkestone, 2 streets blown to pieces. Holes out through our tent from shrapnel. Left for Hospital 8:30 for anti-poison injection. Assisted carrying in the wounded at Hospital. Had a lunch at 11:30 (pm) there and then walked back to our tent. Could not go to sleep for a long time.

A quote from "Tumult in the Clouds", by Nigel Steel and Peter Hart, p263 (not part of the Diary)

"The first German Gotha air raid occurred in the early evening of 25 May 1917 when twenty-one aircraft arrived over Britain and, having been deflected from London by foggy conditions, bombed Shorncliffe Camp and Folkestone. In all casualties totalled ninety-five killed and 195 injured. Although many RNAS and RFC pilots attempted to intercept the raiders the lack of any co-ordinated plan of defence became evident as individual pilots tried to attack the high flying German formation which deployed massed machine-guns"



Saturday May 26th: Arose at 8. Washed up and sat down in our tent to write up yesterday's raid. Lounged around. **Took two pictures of wreckage from bombs.** Sat around and read all afternoon. Received papers for M.O. examination etc. for Flying Corps. Lounged around in evening and retired early.

Sunday May 27th: Had breakfast brought to us. Lounged around tent all afternoon. Axford and Harman visited us. One continual stream of men from other Battalions passed our tent to see wreckage of bombs. Skipped over to Canteen with Tubs. Lounged around tent all evening.

Wednesday May 30th: Arose at 7 am. Paraded to M.O. send us down to Westcliffe Hospital for examination, eyes and ears for Air Service. Ate at YMCA hut Shorncliffe. Saw places where bombs fell. Came back to camp, moved tent over in other lines. Polished up new equipment. Retired early.

Thursday May 31st Arose at 6 am. Cleaned up, paraded to M.O. for examination. Went on Parade in morning and afternoon. Loafed during evening and retired early.

Friday June 1st: Arose at 6 am. Went on Parade. Called off Parade by R.S.M. along with Bill Einarson. Bill and I went to Metropole Hotel in afternoon to play at concert for wounded soldiers. Ate down at YMCA hut, rode home on Bus. Got 4 letters from family.

Sunday June 3rd: Arose at 6 am. Went to Church Parade. Felt rather blue and was much affected by hymns and prayer. Went to tent and sat around. Were told that our transfers had been turned down by Divisional Hdqrs. Felt sore and disappointed. Put on Fire Picket at 8:00 pm, retired at 10:15.

Tuesday June 5th On parade all morning and afternoon. Air Raid warning at 5:50. Beat it for trenches. Out of trenches at 6:50. Went to YMCA hut for coffee.

Wednesday June 6th: Arose at 6:00. On parade in morning. Went over to Hut 23, met Ross Miller, found out about R.F.C. Saw Fred Walker, paraded before Cameron. Advised to parade before O.C. Battalion. Retired early.

Thursday June 7th: Arose at 6 am. Hut Orderly for morning. Paraded before O.C. in afternoon, was told that he would see what he could do. Stayed off parade in afternoon, Hut Orderly. Sat around during evening. Retired 10 pm.

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Friday June 8th: Arose at 6:00. On parade during morning and afternoon. Received form for application to Officer's Cadet Corps from Major Hannesson in London. Sat around during evening, retired at 10 pm.

Sunday June 10th: Church parade during morning. Filled in Cadet course forms and gave them to Major Hannesson. Sat around tent and cleaned brasses while bunch played Bunker.

Monday June 11th: Parade all morning and afternoon. Sat around tent during evening. Gave R.F.C. papers to Major Hannesson. Retired 10 pm.

Friday June 15th: Arose at 6 am. Muster parade all morning. Up before O.C. at 1:00 pm regarding RFC transfers. B.O. for afternoon. Air raid warning at 7 pm, another at 8:30. Wrote mother during 2nd and told about my transfer. Back in tent at 10 pm.

Sunday June 17th: Arose at 6. On Church parade in morning. Kit and foot inspection after. Marched to Ranges, 10 miles in afternoon. Left at 2:00 arrived at 5:00. Terribly hot, many men fell out. Tom and I stuck to it. Had a slice of bread and some jam for supper. Retired at 9 pm, slept out in open.

Tuesday June 19th: Arose at 6. Squad Commander of 16 all day. **Quarantine was lifted.** Tubs left for Western Hangars(?) C.A.M.C. Headquarters. Retired early

Wednesday June 20th: Cleaned up and polished as I never did before. Paraded by Col. Walker before Brigadier General Lecky about RFC transfer. Promised to sign and forward them. Tom transferred to C.A.S.C. Davy and I going to RFC. Stuck around tent, all of morning off. Parade in afternoon. Went to Lord Roberts Club in evening, heard about Belgium trouble. (Vimy Ridge ?) Best string band I've heard. Retired early.

Saturday June 23rd: On parade as Squad Commander in morning. Got late pass and went down town. Had first Creme de Menthe and Manhattan cocktail, few beers. Went to a Vaudeville show, absolutely rotten. Ate after show, walked back 4 miles in 56 minutes. Saw searchlights in sky not very far away. Arrived at ten 12:15.

Sunday June 24th: Cleaned up and went on Church parade. Brigadier and General there. (They) Presented MM (Military Medal) to a Corporal. Arranged to go to ranges with 20 Squad. Taken off range party and parades for a week for purpose of training (for a

walking race) for Athletic meet July 2. Had a snooze in afternoon. Lay around all evening and retired early.

Wednesday June 27th: Arose at 6 am. Had a work out in morning. Slept in afternoon and had a rub-down. Got paid 5 Pounds 6 Shillings. Had a good feed at S.A. (Salvation Army) Many rumours. Retired early, kept awake by drunks.

Thursday June 28th: Had a work out in morning, set pace. Ordered to appear on Mobilization parade at 3:30 pm. Packed Overseas pack for first time. On parade at 3:30 pm. Dismissed at 6:00 pm. Ate at Salvation Army hut. Sat around tent, retired 9:30.

Monday July 2nd: Arose at 6 am. Appeared on 1st SA (Salvation Army ?) parade in my soldier career. Hung around hut all morning. Left for Folkestone Cricket Grounds at 1:30. Walked in Canadian Army Sports Championship meet. Copped 2nd prize. Tied with a Lieut. for 2nd, tossed and won. I ahead of him all the race, he sprinted and caught up, I sprinted with him and am sure I beat him by a foot or so. Declared a tie. Went downtown with Tom and Halli, ate, met Roy Wellefly. Got back to camp at 11:30.

Tuesday July 3rd to Saturday July 7th: (On leave. Went to Edinburgh Tuesday night. Returned to London July 8th, back to Shorncliffe.)

Monday July 9th: Arose at 6:00. On parade morning and afternoon with Squad 19 on Musketry. Went down town after parade and ordered music for Freda, having it mailed. Received a box from Mother.

Tuesday July 10th: Arose at 6. On parade all morning and afternoon with 19 for Musketry. Bummed around until retiring. Played violin a little then retired. Tubs visited me at 10:30, says he is going back (to Winnipeg) at the end of the week.

Wednesday July 11th: Arose at 6. On parade in morning, Musketry and muster parade. Off in afternoon, practicing for Concert, Bill, Frank, Steve Solvason and I. Saw Ole Freeman. He going back to Canada. Met Tubs, gave him Diary to take to Freda.

At this point the 1917 Diary was split into 2 pieces, the part up to now going back to Winnipeg with Tubs. The note at the front of the Diary says:

"Dearest Freda: As I promised some time ago I am sending you my Diary up to the time of departure of Tubs, who will convey this or smuggle it back with him. (He obviously did). Lots of the contents would not pass a Censor,

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hence the messenger idea. Tubbs has promised to tell you what's what over here and no more. Yours, Konnie "

(The Diary is now taped together, both parts being reunited when Konnie got back to Winnipeg in April 1919)

Thursday July 12th: Arose at 6 am. Musketry all morning. Off in afternoon to practice for Concert. O.C. met us on way to practice, got Frank and Jackie(?) off as well. Practiced medley of Rags. Played at Concert in evening twice and encored both times, sang an encore for last. Met Miss Baldock, gave her violin. An Aviator above doing good dives and stunts. Had some eats at the Salvation Army. Went back to Hut and retired.

Sunday July 15th: Arose at 6. Church parade in morning. Packed up in afternoon and left for Lyddespont Ranges at 5:00. A nice cool breeze blowing, easy march compared with last. Arrived at 8:00. Were given hot coffee and bread. Retired in hut at 9:30.

Monday July 16th Arose at 4:00 am. Had some hot coffee and started firing at 4:30. Had breakfast at 7:00. Fired until 10:00, off until 3:00. Fired from 3 until 6 pm. Made 101 points out of possible 110. Scrub ball game in evening. Sat out on cliffs and watched ships go by.

Thursday July 19th Arose at 4:00 am. On ranges until 9:30, made two good scores. Snipers took ranges at 10:00. We off until 3:00. Shook and aired blankets, cold and windy out, On ranges again at 3:00, off at 6:00. Sat around and retired at 9.

Friday July 20th Arose at 4 AM. On ranges all day as per usual. Was sent for by O.C. to play at Banquet. Left ranges at 4 pm, got back to camp at 5:30, cleaned up. Got parcel from mother. Played in Quartet at Officers' Banquet. Through at 7:30. Went over to Hut, made cocoa and had some eats out of box.

Sunday July 22nd Off for Church but air raid scattered us. Sat in hot sun all morning, nearly roasted. Went down to Skaptason's in afternoon, all the boys and violins. Had a swell time. Walked home from Hythe, just got back in time. Met Red Bergman of the MT6, he just over.

Tuesday July 24th Arose at 6. Marched out to entrenching area. Practised trench warfare.

Relieving and attack. Had noon hour meal out there. Marched home at 3:30. Arrived at 4:30. Received papers and box from home.

Wednesday July 25th Cleaned up extra well and shined belt. **Paraded before G.O.C. for Commission in RFC, Davey, Frank and I.**

Congratulated us and spoke of increase in responsibility. Hoped we would make good. Highly elated, we walked back to Camp. I wrote to Dad and told him of my success and asked him for money, to cable later. Ball Game : 11th-6 runs, 18th-2 runs, 11th Champions.

Thursday July 26th On parade all morning and afternoon, took gas (practice) in morning, went through chamber. Pay parade in morning, I got 2 Pounds 10 shillings. At YMCA concert after. Retired about 10.

Friday July 27th Arose at 6. Marched down to trenches, practiced trench routine in morning. Threw live bombs in afternoon. Marched back at 4:30, arrived at 5:30. Got letters (from his brother and sister). Had my past, present and future read with cards. Ate at Salvation Army Hut. Retired about 10.



Sunday July 29th Dressed for Church Parade. Let up in rain, fell in on square. Started raining, dismissed. Paraded to YMCA for service. Cold and windy out. Cleared up at 2:00. Went down to Skaptason's for pictures. Met Major Hannesson, he leaving for France that afternoon. Went back to camp at 4:30, made coffee in evening at retired at 10.

Monday July 30th Arose at 6. On parade with 19, good weather. Inspection in morning, O.C. found

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my rifle dirty. Not dirty, rusty. Practiced Funeral exercises in morning. Was member of Firing Party at funeral in afternoon. 8th Band attended. Through at 4 pm. Stuck around hut in evening.

Tuesday July 31st Arose at 6. Raining and windy out. Cold and miserable. Out in shirtsleeves for PT. On parade in Cavalry Sheds all morning. Off in afternoon to practice violins for evening at Banquet in Sergeants' Mess for athletes at 6:30. Fair supper. Retired to Saloon where concert was held. O.C. there. Played in Quartet and sang. Left at 12:30. Others hilariously soused. I disgusted, went home to hut and "put myself to bed".

Thursday August 2nd Arose at 6, sun up for a short while, raining again at 7:30. On parade all morning and afternoon. Fooled around Cavalry Sheds and only showed life when Officers came around. Canadian Mail in, I didn't get a single letter.

Sunday August 5th On Church Parade at 9:00. Brigadier there, 3 MMs (Military Medals) awarded. SAI(?) after Church parade. Sent mother a snap of group in front of tent. Retired early.

Tuesday August 7th Went to entrenching area, had some more battle practice. Trenches wet and muddy after rain. In some places mud up to ankles. Back at camp at 5:00, took pictures down town and ordered prints to be ready next Tuesday.

Friday August 10th (Konnie's 21st Birthday) On parade all day. Got letters from Harry and Tubs. Sat over in boys' hut for a while and then ate at Salvation Army. Read announcement of George and Lauga's (Konnie's older brother and new sister-in-law) wedding in (Winnipeg) Free Press. Retired about 10 pm.

Tuesday August 14th Cleaned up hut and then myself. Got word to go to London for interview on the 11:14. Left at 10 with Davey and Frank. Arrived in London at 2 pm. Went direct to Cecil Hotel for interview. Major remarked on my weight. Will give me a trial. To be called later. Sent Freda the score of "Chu Chin Chow" (which was still being played 40 years later), saw the show in evening. Most weird spectacle. Ate after. Went to rooms in Empress Hotel, retired about 12.

Wednesday August 15th (in London) Had breakfast and went to Trafalgar Square and waited for the American troops to march past. Saw them there, then went to Buckingham Palace and saw them march past King, Queen Alexandra and Lloyd George and

all the other "mucki-mucks". Went from there direct to American YMCA Hut. Had the best dinner I ever had in England. Left there and went to Madame Tussaud's Wax Works. Ate at YMCA Hut, left for Charing Cross. Left for Shorncliffe at 7:15. Back at camp that night. Fred Thorlakson waiting for me, he leaving on railroad draft in morning.

Thursday August 23rd Arose at 7 am. Hut Orderly for the day. Boys all warned for Draft except Davey, Frank and I. Spent evening with boys in 9E. Read, retired at 9:30

Friday August 31st Hut Orderly. Got a letter from Harry (Konnie's future brother-in-law, wounded during the Canadian Army attack on Vimy Ridge) He's going back to Canada, at Buxton waiting for a boat. Wrote him immediately. Spent rest of the evening with Frank and Mundie. Had eats from Frank's box at YM(CA?). Met Hallie, fooled around on road. Returned to hut, retired.

Saturday September 1st Hut Orderly. Went downtown in afternoon. It looked like rain, took a chance and left coats. Ate at Maple Leaf Club, got seats for Pleasure Gardens, "General Post" play on. Tommy fell asleep, Frank silly, I disgusted. Ate at Playdall's. Got soaked. Preached to Frank on way home. He condescended to never touch another drop as long as I didn't. Very simple enough for me. Beautiful moonlit night. Roamed around until 12:20. Made way back and retired, asleep immediately.

Sunday September 2nd Hut Orderly. Made up butter patties for D Coy. As I was finishing, Clarence Noise shows 2nd Lieutenant Homer Robinson up. I much surprised. Homer with the RFC, also Johnnie Thompson. Both going to Squadron in Edinburgh where Johnny Farquhar went to. Took Homer over to see Frank. Walked up to Salvation Army Hut. Left them there. Slept in afternoon. Over in Pay Office with Ole in evening. Stayed in Pay Office rather late. Retired about 11.

Friday September 7th Arose at 6:30. Hut Orderly. Spent morning with Frank. Draft pulled out.(for France)Lt. Bill C. went to 27th, France. Ole told me about being called to attend RFC course. Tommy told us he was going to France tomorrow at 3. Retired about 10.

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Saturday September 8th Arose at 6:30. Cleaned up empty hut. Warned to go over to Clearing Depot, away to school. Spent afternoon moving. Took pictures on way. At Clearing Depot at 5. Went downtown, spent evening at Pavilion Hotel with Bjarni Stefansson, Hebbie, Frank and Ole. Walked back to camp leisurely. Retired in Receiving (?) hut at 11:40

Sunday September 9th Arose at 7. Cleaned up equipment, turned it in to Quartermasters. Had haircut. Repacked my stuff. Had M.O. exam. Went to town on leave with Dave, Ole, Tom, Frank, met Jimmie Jones. Went to Y.M and then to Royal Pavilion Hotel. Met Bjarni Stefansson there. Walked back to Clearing Depot leisurely. Bjarni walked over with us. Retired about 11:40

Monday September 10th Cleaned up, and were sent to St. Leonard's on Sea, Hastings to No. 1 Wing, A Squadron, R.F.C. Cadet School. Changed at Ashford. One hour wait for trains. Roamed around, bought real ice cream. On way to St. Leonard's at 1:05 PM. Arrived at 2:30. Met by Cadets. Paraded to Billet, assigned room. Paraded for Tea. Paraded for particulars. Paraded for dinner, I off till 9. Paraded for Lecture at 9. Back at 10. At St. Leonard's on Sea, No. 1 Flight, A Squadron, No. 1 Cadet Wing, 11 Albany Road, Room 14.



At this point Konnie, Frank Fredrickson and John Davidson were no longer in the 223rd Battalion of the Canadian Army, but were now officially Cadets in the Royal Flying Corps.