

Diary of Philip Francis Le Cornu

No 1054442

244<sup>th</sup> Kitchener Own, Batt CE?, Peel St Bks, Montreal

Transferred 14<sup>th</sup> Canadian on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1917

The Canadian Pocket Diary

Age 22, Height 5ft 7in, weight 150 (10 st 10lb) (68kg)

Next of kin: Mrs H P Le Marquand, Les Ichat?, St Ouen

Shoe size 7, collar 15, hat 7, gloves 8

SS Lapland

On train Monday 23

3pm for off at r du ? info to have short march and refreshments on again 3.45

Dec 20<sup>th</sup>,

Left 9.25am for Gaspé Coast on NP Friday ? [ to drive would take 10 hours today]

8pm had a splendid time came back dec 29<sup>th</sup> 11.30 am

Dec 30<sup>th</sup>

228<sup>th</sup> batt wonderers

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>

C in am, ym in afternoon

January 1917

1 – gaity in eve with mac

2 – on duty Rec Officer – snow

3 – rec office, eve Orpheum – v good

4 – short route march 0 10 n 5 – fine and cold

5 – on guard – 2 relief 3 lost – rain and sleet

6 – off all day – arena c 8 w 4 – v cold

Sunday 7 – church parade at st james m ch – national service meeting pm

8 – 7018 route march am – arena ko 2 loyola 3

9 – boxing - bt drill – ex order and bf – out to b's with frank lb

10 - 10 route march – bath parade – out with harry in eve – cold

11 – coy and plat drill – very cld 15deg?

12 – mess ord – strand – very cold

13 - Shooting gallery am vg – arena w 12 q 3 -

Sunday 14 – st j church – movies with harry – ym or tea – strand with mac

15 – batt drill – r march – b f & mktry - st club ??

16 – pt – batt drill – musketry – s's club

17 – co's orderly – j c ? society pm pleasant time vaco?

18 – pt – musketry – miss Wilson – longeuil – pleas time

19 – pt and bf – coliseum in eve – ranges sec class

20 – bf – v cold – batt drill – pm gaiety strand

Sunday 21 – church parade crescent presby – s' club – st paul - w d s & f

22 – ro - t l m and mrs t lm @ queens – st j club – f and cold

23 – pt – r march – 8.30 back to b - fine

24 – pt – bf btn drill – wanderer 2 c 10

25 – or guard – 4 3<sup>rd</sup> relief – Kodak sent by n p boys

26 – off guard 9.30 am – on parade 2pm – fine

27 – pt and bf – battn drill – maaaa rink – wanderers 8 toronto 3 – fine & v cold

Sunday 28 – sick in all day with very bad cold – writing etc

29 – pt and bf – batt drill – musketry – “fromcall”?

30 – pt and bf btn drill – musketry ranges – earth quake – slight

31 – pt and b – d parade – b drill – musketry – cold

W 3 q 4 overtime

February

1 – bf pt - ? armoury

2 – ro - in all day – fine and cold

3 – pt bf – gaiety

Sunday 4 – church parade – ymca - st jas wds

5 – recruiting – st jas st – club

6 – ro – st jas st rec office – club

7 – rec in am – vac – mkty – s club

8 – rec in cote st paul all day – coliseum – very nice time

9 – on parade – benca in ere – very bad weather –

10 – parade in am – arena w3 c 6 – mr and mrs m – h l m – very cold

Sunday 11 – guard of honour – departure 178 in a/noon – imperial b – small ? - ? silence

12 – ro – out to dinner queens mr and mrs m – Orpheum very good – 12pm

13 – d parade – mr and mrs m a – strand in pm r r

14 – co orderly – mr and mrs m left 7.15 ocean

15 – d parade – k ins? – his majesty b - ? fm

16 – red cross fund p? – off in pm

17 – r + in am – s club – c4 w3 – imp ‘the girl philippa’

Sunday 18 – walk in am – taking snaps with w d s e l g and d – imp with b

19 – pt and bf – c drill – mkty – edb – d:a – kt

20 – ro med – d:a – taking flsh light snaps – burnt fingers

21 – l duty – sore hands – bena’s

22 – l duty – s hands – read and write every day

23 – do – b’s in evening

24 – lt duty - gayety – v good

Sunday 25 – lt duty – church parade – b’s in evening

26 – taken off guard – l duty – s club

27 – r march – h’s room – musketry – s club

28 – pt bf – batt drill – mkty – harry and l at miss hicks – very nice time

March

1 – pt bf – b parade – lery? Drill – bena's in eve

2 – pt – batt drill – comp drill – trench warfare – jubilee rink

3 – advanced guard – mr royal – khaki club pm – 12pm

Sunday 4 – sohmer park in a/noon – f hayes – strand – hails?

5 – pt bf – b drill – trench warfare – d a

6 – mo – benas

7 – capt l b – bt drill – musketry – gayety fred – v good

8 – bt drill – lery drill

9 – bt drill – leo? Drill – visual training – Orpheum – b – v good

10 – bf – full marching order – s club – vic rink

Sunday 11 – st l church - orchid? – write and s club – imperial bena

12 - ? – bf b drill – batt drill – r march

13 - ? – bf co drill – ex order – platt drill

14 – bath parade – vaccination – company drill – strand

15 – pay parade – r march – 7 or 8 – lea? Drill – imperial ?

16 – b's mon? – francais – theatre

17 – bt drill – Orpheum – gayety f and i?

Sunday 18 – farewell – church parade – amer pres church – irish parade in pm – imperial – b

19 – gen Wilson – services batt – mcgill campus – gayety - ? – beat c 14 – ranges – 12pm

20 – b mon order – to pack for departure – 12pm – all is excitement – bena and orp.

21 – turn in rifle etc – bena – medical exam – 1:30 pm?

22 – le b – mrs r Lindsay and miss l came up ? – packing kits etc – streets packed with visitors –left at 9:30 – vic – c o t l

23 – westmount rifles – gren guards all along streets to station - Friday ?tising day on train

24 – still on train – let off Moncton 30 min – arr Halifax 11:00

Sunday 25 – off train 10:30 – march on board ss lapland at 4pm – very fine

26 – b fast 7am – v fine – moved off u/v stream 7am – band etc

27 – foggy all day – white watch – gun ?c?ar – gun practice pm – leveling?

28 – still foggy – life belt drill – left Halifax 4pm

29 – cruiser calgarian – ss Lapland – ss metegamo – ss missonabie – ss southland – ss saxonian

30 – white watch – feeling a little out of sorts – cruiser chased steamer ok – v fine

31 – fine and windy – blowing a gale – midnight watch – 304 – pay parade – 5

April

Sunday 1 – gun ? 4-8 – seasick – feeling bad all day – heavy seas from se – 276

2 – very heavy seas – still sick – 8pm released off gun ? – enlg - 227

3 – off duty – much calmer – fine – l boat drill – 267

4 – v fine – l boat drill – calm bright weather – 287

5 – v calm and f calm – met 6 torpedo destroyers 8 am – all changed cruises ? – 316

6 – v fine – only metegama in sight – sighted land 4pm – v slow – sa – got in 6:30 am - ? call – 1:30 am struck mine [see wikipedia]

7 – 7 or 8 men wounded – 1 drowned – tork ? train l/pool – 9am – arrived shoreham 7pm

Sunday 8 – all troops very ? – sat 7/17 – up at 6am – b/fast 7am – first day in camp – thanksgiving open air service - ? – kit to replace lost men

9 – review at 9am – by brig gen landry? – 165 – 244 – 30 – med exam – ok – write in pm

10 – am fatigue – r march through town in pm - ? – 8 to 10 – 8am

11 – musketry – r march – 8 mile – write in pm – hail and rain – quaram?

12 – t ino ? – r march 7 – snow and hail – lancing

13 – musketry – to bramber castle – r march 10 – fine and warmer

14 – musketry – volun r march 7

Sunday 15 – church parade – 10am – v sht r march to 11:30 – pm s r march and rest on downs

16 – v fine – musketry am - duller – r march 8

17 – 8am – ranges 35 se – pm r march 8 or 10 – southwick - write

18 – 7:30 – ranges – doing really well – gas helmet instruction - ? r march

19 – ranges (gas helmets) – good – 3pm gas helmet instruction –  
20 - ranges – 3 test 103 – 3pm gas instruction - ? over the hills test  
21 – platn drill – no parades  
Sunday 22 – church parade 10am – r march 11 to 12 am – turn in equipt – writing  
23 – pt – equip clean – drill lev? And plt – r march 6 or 7 – photo bt  
24 – r march – dcm – lev plt drill – r march 9 or ?  
25 – coy drill – s tent – writing and m tickets – 6pm on guard to 2:30  
26 – am off – when your ? – 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian mail – r march 9 or 10 bramber castle  
27 – pt – coy drill – r march 7 or 8 – lancing - ?  
28 – pack up again – 10am march to 23<sup>rd</sup> res line - 2 ? in 6, 3 in f – speech by colonel ord rn?  
Sunday 29 – reveille 5:00 – church parade 8:30 – clothes issue 10am – making passes up to 10 pm  
30 – pt – cat mc kinner? And lecture – sq drill – col inspc – very satisfactory

#### May

1 - ?? – draw wet equip – and ? already for drill on return from leave  
2 – left 8:30 for London 6 day leave – arr vic 1 pm – s/Hampton 6pm  
3 – left s/Hampton 10pm – arr jersey 9am – eva’s 10:30  
4 – town 10am – r r ????? – eva’s les lands  
5 – st mary’s - ?? – town 3pm – h and e – very good time pm  
Sunday 6 - ?trum 9am – fine – st marys pm for day – church in eve st ouen  
7 – town 9am – fine – mrs simon? – mrs morrais ? – p of w camp to see henry  
8 - left jersey – 6:30 am – fine – gh – arr Weymouth 3pm – train 4:20 arr London 8:45 – left 9:05 arr  
brighton at 11:05 – left 11:25 arr camp at 12:30  
9 – coy off ?? – fine hut ord – write – sports for batt  
10 – pt – fine – drill bf – bombing – drill – cols ?? – cb 2 dys [ confined to barracks]  
11 – pt – rain – bf – drill – r march 10 m hove  
12 – pt bf – drill – pay parade – cb lifted – town in eve – rain

Sunday 13 – guard drill 8am to 9:30 – fall in 2:45 – stick man – orderly rm

14 – orderly rm – off 3:30 – write clean up

15 – pt – drill – bombing – bf – gass ins – ex order – write eve

16 – pt – drill bombing – bf - sports – town coliseum ‘all aboard’

17 – drill – bombing – bf – gas instn – rain

18 – pt – am passed through gas – pm live bombing – fine

19 – pt – drill bombing – bf – med inspection – fine

Sunday 20 – church parade 8:50 – write pm – rain

21 – trench digging – first aid lecture – bf – bombing – lecture – fog and rain

22 – pt – volunteered for 1st draft for 14<sup>th</sup> royal montreal regt – packing and preparing for departure – left shoreham at midnight

23 – arrived f/stone 3am – left for france 8pm – arr france morn ? – left rest camp Boulogne 8am – v hot

24 – 8am – arrived etaples 5:30 pm – 20 miles – mb?? – v hot

25 – parade 9am – med inspec 10 am – gas helmet issue – steel helmet, rifle etc - pt

26 – no parade – sleep and lay around all day – write pm

Sunday 27 – church parade – walk through c/side – ymca – dir suns ?

28 – fall in 7:40 – proceed to training camp – drill and gas, musketry instruction – arrival of remainder of our boys – camp 5:30

29 – releasing ?up day – morning off to aus? Camp 5pm – great time in tent all gaspe boys

30 – 8am ?? – ‘bullring’ – passed t gas – 4pm left for camp arr 5:30 pm – med exam for 244 draft

31 – 7:30 no and t ??? – bombing – bayonet fighting – pt – fine and warm

June

1 – 7:45 ????? – musketry, (watching gunman a/plane – arm drill being fired at by ??? ??? while flying over camp – coy drill – very warm

2 – 7:45 ???????- bombing – first aid – 244 ??? boys leave at base for G??? – bayonet fighting final course

Sunday 3 – church parade 9am – tent pegging – bath parade – writing and cleaning ? – fine and v warm

4 – 7:45 bullring – tw lecture [ trench warfare] – trench digging – took over trenches 1:30 pm to 9:30pm - bay 9 – supper 11pm

5 – b/fast 6:30 – bath parade 9am – write – washing – write and walk

6 – muster parade 10am – national service corps – warned for up lime? – ranges

7 – bulling 7:45 am – extended order – platoon in action – plat drill – aim drill – bath parade

8 – 7:45 bulling – en trenching ? – sandbag trench bldg. – med inspec

9 – standing by – box resp parade – 9am – pay parade 1pm – write

Sunday 10 – fell in 7am - ??? called left etaple 10am - arrived at ----- 5pm – billeted in farm yard – rain

11 - ????? – left ----- 9am for ---- arr at ----- 3:30 – billet in French chateau

12 – left ----- 9am - arr etb 3pm – billet – fine

13 – med parade – kit ins called – dismissed 1:30 for day – v fine

14 – pt 9:30 am – dismissed till 7pm – left for vr – to make road and fill shell holes – ret 3am

15 – no parade – 7pm fell in for working party arr ----- heavy shell fire – ret 4am

16 – no parade – h party – 2am – for shell ?

Sunday 17 – rifle ins 3pm – w party to 2am - ?? shells

18 – rifle ins – w party 7 to 2am – for shells ?

19 – 2 pm r inspection – w party 7 to 2am – again shelled – rain

20 – 2pm r ins – rain – w party 7 to 2am – shelled

21 – went to see boys of 14<sup>th</sup> in pm - ??? market?? – w party 7 to 2am – rain

22 – r ins called off – write pm - ?? – w party 7 to 2 – rain

23 - r ins - ?????? came over to see us – w party 7 to 2 – fine

Sunday 24 – r ins 2:15 – w party 7 to 2 - ??? left – moved into b????

25 – r ins 2:15 – horse sh?? – chateau de la haie – w party 7 to 2am – rain

26 – r ins 2:15 – mail for 14<sup>th</sup> – built biry?? – w party 7 to 2am – fine



27 – rain – moved away to r?? camp p btt – w party 9 to 3am

28 – fine – b/fast 10 am – w party 8 to 3am

29 – rain – w party 8 to 2 am

30 – r ins – fine – w party 8 to 2am

July

Sunday 1 – aerial fighting - pr ins 2pm – w party 8 to 2am - dull

2 – bath parade – 2pm – w party 8 to 2am – v fine

3 – r ins 2:15 pm – fatigue – v fine

4 – fatigue am – pay parade 1:30pm – v fine

5 – write in am – l, w le m, c p le m – r ins 2:15 – w party 8 to 2

6 – r ins 2:15 – 2 parcels recd – vilieu au bois - f and l – w party 8:30 to 2

7 – r ins 2:15 – aerial fights – w party 8 to 2

Sunday 8 – rain – church parade called off – write in pm – recd 1<sup>st</sup> mail since in france – w party 7 to 2

9 – r ins 2:15 – rain – w party 8 to 2 – camp shelled

10 – r ins 2:15 – w party 8 to 2 – fine

11 – dulcies birthday – bath parade – b de bois – king George and staff ?????????? – r ins 2:30 – w party 8 to 2

12 – r ins 2:15 – big 14<sup>th</sup> mail – w party 8 to 2 – ballam ath? By fritz c?? plane

13 – parcel – july 2<sup>nd</sup> 7 june – r ins 2:15 – chateau de la haie – rigletto – w party 8 to 2

14 – lots of shrapnel – no parades off till 10pm

Sunday 15 – rain - day w party 7am to 4pm – reading – linked by fato – mail from c

16 – w party 7 to 4pm – fritz shelling lines heavily trying balloons with shrapnel – mail from c – fine

17 – w party 7 to 4pm – fine – many planes flying near lines – road on v r heavily shelled – balloon brought down bt fritz

18 – w party 7 to 4pm – v rainy – dead bodies being dug up every day – write – write parcel ?????

19 – rain rain rain – w party 9 to 4 – mail from canada and jersey

20 – fine – w party 7 to 4 – our aircraft guns firing all am at fritz shrapnel falling all around us – brad dine? in the side – 14<sup>th</sup> mail 5

21 – mail 5 – no parade in am – fine – r ins 2pm – b parade – v de bois – chat de la haie – saw Charlie and syd le m had a great chat

Sunday 22 – v fine 7 – write l and r le r – no parade – fritz plane shelled by our guns – r ins 2pm – old mail 3 – w party 8 to 2

23 – no parade – w party 8 to 2 – fine – write am – fatigue 1 hour in a/noon – balloon brought down on fire – heavy bombardment on prisoner ?? drain

24 – fine – water fatigue – disinfecting fat? – pay parade – camp shelled

25 – rain rain thunder – villieu du bois – escort for pre ? – no parades – thunder lightning very strong

26 – fine – 2 parcels jersey – villieu and chateau de la haie for gas gas respirator – p j g – w party 8 to 3 – mrs l v f r parcel

27 – fine v warm – aerial fight am – balloons shelled – r ins 2:15 – mail parcel from eva – w party 8 to 3

28 – thunder and rain – gas resp ins – heavy bombardment – w party 8 to 3

Sunday 29 – no parades – write - my 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday – rain and mud mud mud

30 – bath parade – rain – c de la haie 9:30 – no parades – writing – heavy bombardments –

31 – rain rain – w party 8 to 12pm – write sleep all day – heavy bombardment

August

1 – rain again – no parades – big advance ??? wires ??? – brought down hut for ??? firing ????? – mail from Canada and j

2 - no parades – everlasting rain and mud to knees – parcel from amy – write a anf f le m – mail from rler

3 – still raining – loaf around all day – mud to your knees – wash clothes – no parades

4 - 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of war – still raining – pay parade – w party 8 to 1 – mud from head to foot

Sunday 5 – many planes – fine sunshine - guns again shelling – clean up after last nights work – no church ?? – w party 8 to 12

6 – write e v – fine – wash h k ? and socks – many planes – heavy fire - no parades – mail from c - l and b

7 – write b – fine – w party 8 to about 10:30 – heavily shelled and gassed had to retire and take shelter – no casualties one man slightly gassed

8 – no parades – rain in eve after fine day – mail from c and j – parcel from eva – ed and archie also had parcels – great feed

9 – 4<sup>th</sup> entrenching come in camp with us – fine but rain in evening – w party 1st night on ----- 8 to 12

10 – r ins 2:15 – fine and rain in pm – many planes over f lines – mail from c – heavy shelling – fritz shelled our balloons, one broke away and sailed?? Over the lines – no ???

11 – fine – 2 parcels f g hilda fall in 9am – arm drill to 10 – bath parade – c de la h

Sunday 12 – fine – church parade – no ?? for us yet – rc – read in pm – 5:30 warned for draft – 6:15 came to villieu – 8pm ????? shrapnel all over camp – fritz planes ? down?

13 – 9am issues parade – 12? Ration – 2:30 oc? Inspection – left 4:30am - 9:30 billets in ?? sheds

14 – fritz shelling early to 4am – Edwin wounded - ? of ?? – getting ready for line left about 8pm – rain and sleet

15 - ??? – bombs to captured lines - ??? hit about 5am – both legs – batton stuck by me all the while – went ??? at dressing station at c de la h - ?? ???

16 –

17 – c de l hh – a little better

18 – cdlh – mot much ?/

Sunday 19 – cdlh

20 – cdlh

21 –left for base hospital - ??? 4 gen

September

5 - air raid – 6 bombs dropped on camp

9 – operation stretch r leg – l leg getting on very well

October

4 – marked up for blighty – feeling much better

8 – col b consult surgeon inspected me – found strong enough for blighty

11 – left 4 hospital – 2am – train delayed for ? boat – went to le havre

12 – arrived le havre 4pm – went on board hospital ship panama 6pm stayed on ????? 6pm – arr blighty 6am

14 – arrived 6am on 12 ant train 9am – at oxford 3pm – lots of visitors

November

15 – moved from Ling 5 to Cowley sec orthopaedic

What happened on 15<sup>th</sup> August :

We are supporting 15<sup>th</sup> barrage from 4:20 the shelling and machine gun fire is terrific

5:00 a party of us go up to about 100 yds behind ??? front line with bombs

We have just reached there and all again moving when I get hit in both hips

Many are getting worse as our boys have just come a nest of his m g 's about 20

Bullets are thick as hailstones

After being hit I make a bit of noise and soon fall unconscious

When I come to butten my friend as stopped with me and I have all gear off

I only ask for water and if both my legs are gone as that is the feeling I dropped into thinking a shell (whiz b) had taken both off

I ask butler to end my troubles but no he will not

I go under again and during that time butler has found another of our boys and a stretcher from our old f line

It is a long way and a hard trip to the adv dr station so they try to get their prisoners to help carry me but they all wounded

I wake and find myself on stretcher after a few drinks of water for which I am craving they start off over the top at great danger to themselves

I at last get to the dr sta and shortly leave so butler afterwards told me

Left our l r ly which they were shelling heavily glad I was unconscious

I then go to fld camp and arrive ??? 58

Pretty bad but they decide to let me keep my leg

Leave there angry? For base arrive #4 gun carrier and leave there

Oct 12<sup>th</sup> '17 arrive oxford oct 14<sup>th</sup>

Do not have much treatment leave there 16<sup>th</sup>

Pretty well but with swelling on my hips which they find to be an abscess

Tapped it 3 times and on moh? 14<sup>th</sup> opened and scraped and immediately tub??

April 10<sup>th</sup> I am sent to Canadian hospital at Orpington for discharge but I develop an attack of appendicitis

Get over that ok

Again during first days of may I have very high temptr and on 12th it is 105 and I am scarcely able to move so they take me to theatre right away and give me quite a gash

On Sunday I have a very bad hemorage and still very weak

I'll lose my verve alright and very like a baby for first week

Getting over that glad to say

[..... died 14<sup>th</sup> September 1918]

Other notes

What if the best of wages be  
An empty sleeve or a stiff set knee  
A sightless eye or a crutch who cares  
As long as the old flag flrats and dares

Oxford

Four leaf clover arrives july 12<sup>th</sup> 1917

Villieu de bois

? out billets moved into birouaes then again moved to ablaim st nouaue into dug outs

With fred archie butler cork and myself

Happy under circumstances