

*1st Batt. Cdn. Scot. Regt.
Pipe Band in France
Pipe Major A.J. McMillan*

- July 14* *The Pipes were first played in Caen by three pipers. Pipe Major McMillan, A.J., Piper G.L. McMillan and Piper (Wee Andy) McGeorge. --Guard mount.*
- July 23* *Pipe Band played through the streets of Caen and in front of the railway station.*
- July 24* *Band marched through the streets again and stopped in front of a hospital and were treated to wine and biscuits.*
- July 26* *Band was sent back from the lines to practice and to get the instruments in shape.*
- July 27* *Band practice.*
- July 28* *Band practice.*
- July 29* *Band practice.*
- July 30* *Moved to rest area with the Batt.
Played retreat at Colomby-sur-Thaon
Pte. Poole, drummer with the 2nd, joins the band.*
- July 31* *Played at Brigade and at Div. H.Q.*
- August 1* *Practice and clean up. Piper Dave Miller of the 2nd Batt. joins the band.*
- August 2* *A.M. Played at Brigade inspection.
P.M. Played massed band with 1st Batt. Gordons. Photographs taken at the football game -- Gordons 7 Scottish 0.*
- August 3* *Band practice and clean up. Swim parade at the beach.
Pipe Major A. McMillan was presented with a copy of a new march "General Montgomery" by Pipe Major "Bob" Brown of the 1st Batt. Gordons, 51st Highland Division.*
- August 4* *Practiced massed bands for Corps inspection. -- Parade was cancelled.
Tenor drummer Naysmith gets some new "swings" from a Gordon drummer.
--Played pipes and drums until 11:15 and got hell for it.*

- August 5 Played Batt. to Brigade for an inspection by G.O.C. ° Canadian Army. General Dempsey. (Correction) General Simmons.
- August 6 Played at church parade. Held a short service for the men who have fallen in the unit since "D" Day. After the two minutes silence Pipe Major McMillan and Piper McGeorge played *Flowers of the Forest*.
Played around the field after the church parade at the R.S.M.'s request.
- August 7 Packed kilts and moved to a new area.
Re-lapped¹ drums.
Canadian Legion put on a show. *A Yank at Eton*².
- August 11 Moved to new area behind the unit.
- August 12 Still working on drums, so the pipers played by themselves. Two new tunes: *My Faithful Fair One* and *Farewell to the Creeks*.
Piper Willie Simple returns to the band. He was wounded on "D" Day.
- August 13 Band practice.
- August 14 Band practice. And plenty "air raids".
Piper "Bud" Spellman joins the band.
- August 15 Band practice. Wee Andy in charge because the Pipe Major had a tooth out. -- or was it the shortage of reeds?
Pipe band expects "Wallace"³ back soon.
- August 16 Pipe Major writes down all the tunes played by the band and can't figure out what happened to the 6/8 tunes. Thinks we play more than he can remember.
Band practice. -- Tenor drummer Naysmith is happy as hell because he won 19.00 francs in a friendly little game and intends to pay all his debts.
- August 17 Moved again to a new area, and this time a good place.
Naysmith lost the money he gained the night before. I have it now. Can. Legion puts on a show, "Katania".
- August 18 We can't seem to figure out what happened today. It couldn't have been important.
- August 19 Bath parade. And a feed of flapjacks put together by Sandy Howie - Bass drummer. Band practice.

- August 20 *Pipe Major and a few members of the band go on a recce. And for this first time they were successful. No one bothered about drinking cider.*
- August 21 *Rained all day and half the night. But nobody seemed to care. The drums got good and wet, also Wee Andy. We'd had our band practice even though everyone was plenty "high".*
- August 22 *We got orders to move today. It seems that as soon as we finish our slit trench we move. Played a friendly game of cards and drank wine.*
- August 23 *Band practice. A few of the C.H. of O. ⁴ pipers came over and we have a few drinks. Sang all the songs we knew and a hell of a lot we didn't know.*
- August 24 *Played retreat for A and B Ech ⁵.*
- August 25 *Band practice.*
- August 26 *Only chanter practice today. Pipes and Drums were packed to move to a rear area.*
- August 27 *Moved to new area. Band rode all night in open trucks.*
- August 28 *Band practice.*
- August 29 *Band practice.*
- August 30 *Played for the local mayor and his wife.*
- August 31 *Band practice. Drummer D. Knight returns to the band. Piper Stout joins the band. Played with the Nelson Pipe Band in peacetime.*
- Sept. 1 *Packed up to move again. Moved to Marguerite. Crossed the Seine River at 7 o'clock Piper Stephen and Piper McEwan played the pipes as we went over.*
- Sept. 2 *Rained all night so we didn't unload. -- no practice.*
- Sept. 3/4 *Moved and fixed up pipes and drums to play. We had our first taste of French beer. Not bad.*

- Sept. 5 *Moved to Wailly-Beaumont. Entertained the local yocals. Pipe Major was presented with an armful of flowers and a couple of French kisses.*
- Sept. 6 *Washed up. Played again in the evening. Pipe Major and Piper Waterton held up both corners of the bar drinking beer at Rang-du-Fliers, and was charged 176 francs⁶ for one egg and chips. He refused to pay. A couple of Jerry snipers were picked up by the F.G.*
- Sept. 7 *Band practice. Drummer Bono, wounded on June 9, returns to band.*
- Sept. 8 *Band practice.*
- Sept. 9 *Band practice. A Canadian pilot bails out over the band area.*
- Sept. 10 *Played at Bernieulles and was treated to champagne. Capt. Stewart toasted the people and they us. Pipe band plays a game of softball with the rest of B Ech. Score: B Ech. 15 Band 12*
- Sept. 11 *Band practice.*
- Sept. 12 *Played at Beussent-Pas-de-Calais. Bass drummer Sandy Howie was presented with flowers.*
- Sept. 13 *Stick and chanter practice.*
- Sept. 14 *Re-lapped drums.*
- Sept. 15 *Practice*
- Sept. 16 *Went up to Le Wast with the unit.*
- Sept. 17 *Played retreat at the same place as the old 16th in the last war.*
- Sept. 18 *Returned to B. Ech.*
- Sept. 19 *Band practice.*
- Sept. 20 *Went to Vimy Ridge and Arras.*
- Sept. 21 *The boys go to Arras again. And find plenty of Cognac and girls.*

Sept. 22 *Band practice.*

Sept. 23 *Moved to a new area.
Wee Andy gets his teeth back.*

Sept. 24 *No practice today. Bass drum gets filled with water over night.*

Sept. 25 *Band decides to play "The Highland Wedding". Band practice.*

Sept. 26 *Band practice.*

Sept. 27 *Another trip to Vimy Ridge and Arras. Everyone gets "put".*

Sept. 28 *Piper Jimmy McMillan returns to the band. Band plays "The
Highland Wedding" for the first time.*

Sept. 29 *Band is called up to B.H.Q. to play in Calais, but are sent back
because the German general would not surrender. He has
until 12 tomorrow to decide.*

Sept. 30 *Band practice. The German general decides to fight it out.*

Oct. 1 *Calais fell today. Band practice.*

Oct. 2 *Moved to Steembaard. "Oddeege"*

Oct. 3 *Rained all day -- no band practice.*

Oct. 4 *Still raining.*

Oct. 5 *Moved to Vynghene. Crossed the Belgium border at 3:30. Band
notices that the buildings and farms are much cleaner and
modern than France. And the beer is much better.*

Oct. 6 *Band practice, and the first warm day in a week.*

Oct. 7 *Band practice.*

Oct. 8 *Band practice and a slash of chicken and eggs.*

Oct. 9 *Band practice.*

Oct. 10 *Band practice under Jimmy McMillan. Pipe Major goes up to
the Batt. Gordon Daniels comes to the band to learn the tenor
drum. Piper Jimmy McMillan is made a Lance-Corporal.*

- Oct. 11 Packed up and moved to Sleidings.
- Oct. 12 Drummer D. Knight makes up a new set of drum beats.
- Oct. 13 Band practice. Played ball with B. Ech. --lost 33-7
- Oct. 14 Played at A. Ech. and a retreat at Mallegnor, little Berlin as it is known to the Scottish.
- Oct. 15 Band went to Ghent with Capt. Gray and played inside the Town Hall because of rain. -- and for the first time we played "The Highland Wedding" in public.
- Oct. 16 No band practice because the band spent half the night coming back from Ghent.
- Oct. 17 No - nothing -- it's still raining.
- Oct. 18 Still raining.
- Oct. 19 Batt. comes out for a short rest (24 hrs) at Whisken. Band plays as the boys get ready to go back to the front.
- Oct. 20 Cleaned up and prepared to go to Brussels.
- Oct. 21 Band arrives in Brussels at 3:30 and plays at 4:30. The crowd here was so large that the band had to march away because we were holding up traffic. Spent the night at St. Jean's Barracks. Capt. Fraser was in charge. Everyone had a good time here, especially Porky Bono who got paid for "everything" he did. Piper Stephen pays 180 francs⁷ for a couple of beers and imitation wine, and don't like it a bit. We soon left that place.
- Oct. 22 Band comes back to B Ech. but stop on the way back and have some ice cream in Ghent.
- Oct. 23 Chanter & stick practice.
- Oct. 24 Batt. parade and band practice in the afternoon. Blankets are washed for the first time since we landed in France.
- Oct. 25 Band practice.
- Oct. 26 Band practice. Piper McEwan writes a slow march "My Fallen Camarade". He started some time ago but just finished it today.

- Oct. 27 *Band practice.*
- Oct. 28 *Too cold for practice today. Blanco spats and belts.*
- Oct. 29 *Band plays for a 1/2 hr in town (Sleidinge). Pipe Major was presented with flowers again. Two trucks of Jerries pass as we are playing and some were cheering - at least that's what some pipers say.*
- Oct. 30 *No band practice because it was too cold and wet. Most of the boys kick a football around to keep warm now. Jimmy McMillan is trying to teach the drummers to read music. We finally found out what a "seven" looks like in drum music and if we are right the Army Manual is wrong.*
- Oct. 31 *The weather was too cold for a band practice so the band played the odds and sods of B Ech. at football. Score: -Odds & Sods 6 Band 2*
- Nov. 1 *Still too cold and wet for practice.*
- Nov. 2 *Moved up to Maldegem to play for A Coy. Arrived there late and spent the night in a barn.*
- Nov. 3 *Moved back to B. Ech. A Coy was sent to a rest area in Ghent with the rest of the Batt.*
- Nov. 4 *Blanco^s and shine up. Waited for orders to move to Ghent.*
- Nov. 5 *Moved up to Ghent at 8 AM. Played the unit to a presentation of medals by Field Marshal Montgomery. Played the Regina Guard to the Town Hall.*
- Nov. 6 *Played the Scottish Guard to the Town Hall. Drummer Howie decides to leave the band and go to the lines, but comes back next day because he was needed in the band. Piper McMillan and Drummer Knight played the bass while Howie was away.*
- Nov. 7 *Played the Winnipeggs to the Town Hall and came back with the Scottish Guard. J.R. Marrs, once Pipe Major of the band gives a pkg of cigs to everyone.*
- Nov. 8 *Came back to B. Ech. Pipe Major gets orders to be ready to go to Paris. Band spends the rest of the day cleaning up.*

- Nov. 9 *Left camp at 6:40 for Ghent and changed trucks for Brussels. Arrived at Brussels at 0900 hrs. Left for Lille at 9:30 and arrived at about 10 o'clock. Lieut. E. Milton and a few others had to argue to get us on the train to Paris. We finally got on and stood up all the way. A few rode in the engine. We arrived in Paris at about 6 o'clock and were met by bus. We went straight to the Hotel Palais D'Orsay and it was a surprise to find that for once we were living like gentlemen on a trip. We had a hot meal a good night's sleep. The band was put on C.B.⁹. for the night.*
- Nov. 10 *Cleaned brass had a practice with the Provosts who were to march behind us. We were all pleased to hear that we were the only pipe band in the parade. We spent the rest of the time eating and getting ready for an inspection by the Canadian Ambassador to France General Vanier who gave us a little speech and two bottles of Black & White. We left the Ball room and played ourselves to another room where the band was ordered to play before we could get our wee nip. After this we all went out and had a rare time, and when I say "rare" I mean it!*
- Nov. 11 *All the band was on parade on time although some had only just come in. We rode to the Arc de Triomphe and took our place in the parade. We stood around for some time before the parade got started and nearly died of the cold. We played Bonnie Dundee as we marched past P.M. Churchill and General De Gaulle. The crowd was nearly going nuts half the time and we could hardly hear ourselves play. We marched down the Champs-Élysées and broke off after doing about 4-5 miles. We were told that General De Gaulle made a statement to the Press that the Canadians were the smartest on parade. That was our best parade for the day so we all went out for another "rare" time.*
- Nov. 12 *We played the Grenadier Guards at a guard mounting at the British Embassy and they later sent word to the Pipe Major that we were the best band they ever marched with. Some of us thought the R.S.M. was nuts but we didn't say so.*
- Nov. 13 *We packed up and went to Le Bourget airport to catch our plane back to Brussels. After waiting around for a couple of hrs our plane stuck its nose in the mud so back to the Palais D'Orsay and Paris we went. None of us were very much disappointed at this even though we were flat broke.*

- Nov. 14 *We left Paris at 9:30 for Lille by train, a real slow one. We arrived in Lille at about 6 and we were plenty hungry. The R.T.O. and Town Mayor sent us to a "Limey" Staging Camp where we nearly had to fight for meals. The band was out of smokes so had to borrow a couple from the "Limeys".*
- Nov. 15 *Left Lille for Brussels at 2:30 and arrived at 6. We spent the night at St. Jean Barrack and had a hot meal and an issue of 7 cigs.*
- Nov. 16 *Left Brussels at 9:30 on a 150 mile trip back to B. Ech. We arrived back at about 4 and had a meal. We were now in Holland and in billets for the first time since we landed in France.*
- Nov. 17 *Nothing doing today as we are waiting orders to move.*
- Nov. 18 *Band spends a couple of nights in a house and real beds for the first time since coming back from the line. Most of the fellows have their clothes washed by the people they are staying with. The name of the town is Nijmegen.*
- Holland**
- Nov. 19 *Moved to Overaulest and pipers go to one house and the drummers to another. Jerry sends over a few shells. The correct name is "Overasselt".*
- Nov. 20 *Band used the day to wash and clean up.*
- Nov. 21 *Drummers had a stick practice. Pipers are learning a new tune. So far we don't know the name of it. Someone heard the Black Watch play it in London. Jerry planes were over.*
- Nov. 22 *Too wet for a band practice. Bath parade in the morning. Major Henderson comes down to compliment the band on the Paris trip. Pte. Vic Poole comes to the band as a piper. (Nov. 14)*
- Nov. 23 *Sadie Hawkins day, but no Daisy May¹⁰ to chase you. Pipe Major and Piper Jimmy McMillan go to Brigade H.Q. to play. The long awaited reeds came in and practice chanterers are going steady now. Drummers could not do much in the line of stick practice because the baby downstairs was always - slaap¹¹ - or slapping.*

- Nov. 24 *Raining out so we couldn't play as a band. Drummers and pipers did a little practice on their own.*
- Nov. 25 *Drummers pressed kilts and tunics and polished drums. Even Tenor Drummer Naysmith cleans his drum and that doesn't happen often.*
- Nov. 26 *Band goes up to A. Ech. and plays at a church parade. From the church the band played the men to B.H.Q. where we had dinner. The C.O. Col. Crofton read us the letters he had received from General Spry and some other General who was in charge of the parade in Paris. We don't know his name. We then went to the R.C. Sanitarium at Dekkerswald, Groesbeek. After playing around the buildings the Nuns and staff served us tea and biscuits. Capt. Fraser was in charge. The Pipe Major had to go back for Tenor Drummer Naysmith who was teaching some beautiful patient the finer arts of tenor drumming.*
- Nov. 27 *Too cold for a band practice. Drummers and pipers practice on their own.*
- Nov. 28 *Cpl. Frank Kilner, one time lead drummer in the band, and who is now with the Provosts pays a second visit to the band. Sgt. Al Lahmer, drummer with the 2nd Batt. Band in 1942 and now in the R.C.C.S. ¹² comes with him.*
- Nov. 29 *This was our first warm day for over a week. We had a band practice and just played a few times when bass drummer Sandy Howie puts a stick through the bass. He started to relap another head right away. Christmas parcels coming in and we are eating pretty good. We expect to go up to the Batt. in a few days.*
- Nov. 30 *Batt. comes out for a rest. Band cleans up and waits orders to move up with the unit.*
- Dec. 1 *Band goes over to the unit at Dekkerswald. The G.O.C. 3rd Div. spoke to us on the war, leaves etc. The band marched the unit on and off the parade ground. After dinner we played the men to a Cdn Army show and return to B. Ech.*
- Dec. 2 *Drummers had a stick practice and the pipers had a chanter practice. It was too cold and wet for a band practice.*
- Dec. 3 *"Practice"*

- Dec. 6 *Band plays at a Christmas party put on by B Coy. 14 Cdn Field Abl. at Dekkerswald.*
- Dec. 7 *Practice*
- Dec. 8 *Practice. Pipers are learning some new tunes but, as usual the drummers have no idea what they are.*
- Dec. 9 *Band prepares to go to Div. H.Q. for a week.*
- Dec. 10 *Band trip to Div. is cancelled until the 18th Dec. The unit is trying hard to have this order changed so the band can be with the Regt. for Christmas.*
- Dec. 11 *Chanter and stick practice. Jimmy McMillan is still working on a new tune called the "Flying Scot".*
- Dec. 12 *Chanter and stick practice.*
- Dec. 13 *Practice.*
- Dec. 14 *Still nothing worth a mention. Drummers and pipers practice and talk about the leave to England and Canada.*
- Dec. 15 *Bath parade in the morning. Arguments and sleeping for the rest of the day.
Drummers can't get around to a good stick practice because of the baby downstairs.*
- Dec. 16 *Pipe Major goes to Div. for a meeting of Pipe Majors and C.O. It seems that Pipe Bands are to get trades pay, more promotions, more trips, more massed bands with an officer in charge. All bass, tenor and lead sides are to go to a drum school under some well-known Drum Major. It is also hoped that pipers from each band will be sent to Pipe Major W. Ross for a piping school. Robot bombs¹³ pass over and someone said about twenty passed over altogether.*
- Dec. 17 *Band spent the morning watching dog fights. Three planes came down but we couldn't see if they were British or German.*
- Dec. 18 *More flying bombs and jet planes¹⁴. Pipe Major comes back from a meeting at Div. The main thing at this meeting was to have a set of tunes to play whenever massed bands get together. There is still nothing definite about the drumming.*

Drum. D. Knight is all a flutter as to what the drummers will play for El Alamein - so am I. The band received orders to move to Div. and after we were all packed the order was cancelled. We are getting quite used to it now. L/Cpl. Jimmy McMillan has made up "seconds" for Piper McEwan's new tune "My Fallen Comrade" and some of us think it has "My Home" beat. Pte. Daubs who came to the band as a side drummer but changed to a tenor got his kilt and tunic today. He is now ready to play with the band. We expect to go up to the Batt. in a few days. Piper Wee Andy McGeorge is still away. He expects to go back to Canada.

- Dec. 19 Chanter and stick practice.*
- Dec. 20 Received orders to go to the Batt. at Dekkerwald, same place as the last time. This time we're to stay for a week.*
- Dec. 21 Played Reveille at 0800 hrs. Played a few times after dinner for the Coy's. Tenor drummer plays (Daubs) for the first time and does O.K.*
- Dec. 22 Played Reveille at 0800 hrs. Played at a children's Christmas party in the afternoon. Later some of the boys went to the B.H.Q. and H.Q. dance.*
- Dec. 23 Played Reveille and half the band was missing. Played at the same sanitarium as we did before. We had tea and cookies after we finished playing.*
- Dec. 24 Played Reveille. The ground is frozen now and it's all we can do to play for the cold.*
- Dec. 25 Christmas day, although it's hard to believe. Played Reveille. Marched up to the officer's mess for a drink and then played at the men's mess. Christmas dinner was good and there was plenty of beer. The Batt. gets orders to move in the afternoon.*
- Dec. 26 Band returns to B. Ech.*
- Dec. 27 D Day boys in the band are quite sore about the leave to England. It seems that there is a list in B. Ech. that goes to March and none of the band are on it.*
- Dec. 28 Chanter and stick practice.*

Dec. 29 Piper Doug Leask who was wounded on June 8 returns to the band. Piper Wee Andy McGeorge is still waiting at a British hospital. He is trying to get back to Canada.

Dec. 30 Chanter and stick practice. This was a great day for the drummers who located a large parachute and preceded with great gusto to tear it up. The drummers are now sporting bandanas. This is the latest fashion in the Nijmegen Salient.

New Year's Eve

Dec. 31 B. Ech. has four barrels of beer and quite a bit of rum. The party was spoiled by the absence of the rum. But everyone had a good time and sat around telling each other their troubles.

New Year's Day

Jan. 1 Most of the band were quite sick this morning. We spent the day talking about the missing rum.

Jan. 2 Band is to get new tunics to wear with our No. 1 dress. There is talk of a trip soon with the massed bands.

Jan. 3 All members of the band are issued with a pair of khaki hose tops. They are to be worn with our No. 1 dress. We blanco and prepare to go to Div. for a rehearsal. We are to play in Ghent, Belgium on Sunday. Leave to England is to start early in March for the band.

Jan. 4 Band goes up to the Cameron's camp for a rehearsal. Major Baird who is in charge of the massed bands spoke to us. He said he did not know very much about pipe bands but had hopes of learning. The rehearsal, as far as the drumming side of it, was awful. We hope to use Army Manual beats for the massed bands from now on.

Jan. 5 Band cleaned up and prepared to go to Ghent.

Jan. 6 Band leaves B. Ech. at 7:45 and arrives in Ghent, Belgium at 3 o'clock. We waited around for quite a while and then went to our billets. Everyone had a good time.

Jan. 7 Bands fall in at 1300 hrs and stand around in the cold for over 1 hr. After this most of the boys agreed that Major Baird did not know anything about pipe bands. We marched up to the castle and played our new no. 1 set. From there

the bands marched up to the Town Hall. The weather here changed and it rained, snow, hailed and what not. Three side drums broke, all from the same band. The five pipe majors and Drm. Knight went into the Town Hall with the guard and played the slow march. After this was over the pipe majors stayed and the bands and guards marched home. Everyone was glad it was over as we were pretty cold and miserable.

- Jan. 8 Bands leave Ghent at 9:45 and arrive back at B.Ech at 5 after a cold and miserable trip.*
- Jan. 9 Relapped the drums.*
- Jan. 10 Chanter and stick practice.*
- Jan. 11 Chanter and stick practice.*
- Jan. 12 Chanter and stick practice.*
- Jan. 13 Band is called up to the Batt. Three of the drummers have their drums apart but we manage to get one together in time to play. Tenor drummer Naysmith and Drummer A. Knight are to go to Div. for a week. Band plays for 1 hr. at the Batt. It was too cold to play any longer.*
- Jan. 14 Band goes back up to the Batt. to play after a church parade. After playing for about a 1/2 hr. for the men we went to the officer's mess for a drink on Major Mathews. After that we played a few tunes in front of Brigade H.Q. and were treated to a drink of cognac.*
- Jan. 15 Drums are all relapped. Pipe Major tells us that we may get white spats, belts and drum slings. Also a new tenor drum skin.*
- Jan. 16 Chanter & stick practice.*
- Jan. 17 Drums are put together and cleaned. Band prepares to go to Div. H.Q. for a week.*
- Jan. 18 Chanter & stick practice.*
- Jan. 19 Moved up to Div. H.Q. Played with the massed bands in the afternoon at a concert.*
- Jan. 20 Played reveille. Chanter and stick practice with the massed bands. Played for a church parade.*

Jan. 21 *Played reveille and for about an hour in the afternoon. Chanter and stick practice.*

Jan. 22 *Played reveille and for an hour in the afternoon. Chanter and stick practice.*

Jan. 23 *" " " "*

Jan. 24 *Played reveille.*

Jan. 25 *Played reveille. Moved back to B, Ech. in the afternoon.*

Jan. 26

Jan. 27 *Chanter practice.*

Jan. 28

Jan. 29

Jan. 30 *No chanter or stick practice. We can't practice in our billets here and it's too cold anywhere else.*

Jan. 31 *Chanter & stick practice.*

Feb. 1 *Chanter & stick practice.*

Feb. 2 *Chanter & stick practice. Prepare to play for the Div. guard.*

Feb. 3 *Play the C.S.R. guard at the Div. guard.*

Feb. 4 *Chanter and stick practice.*

Feb. 5 *Chanter and stick practice.*

Feb. 6 *Chanter and stick practice.*

Feb. 7 *Chanter and stick practice.*

Feb. 8 *Chanter and stick practice. Boys in the band were up all hours of the night watching the bombing and the artillery barrage that went in before the unit.*

Feb. 9 *Chanter and stick practice.*

- Feb. 10 *Two pipers go up to the Batt. to play at the funeral of one of the boys that was killed in the last attack the unit made.*
- Feb. 11 *Chanter and stick practice.*
- Feb. 12 *Chanter and stick practice.*
- Feb. 13 *Chanter and stick practice.*
- Feb. 14 *Band practice. The first day we have had that was warm enough.*
- Feb. 15 *Band practice.*
- Feb. 16 *Band practice. We get our new leather sporrans.*
- Feb. 17 *Band practice.*
- Feb. 18 *Chanter and stick practice. It's too wet for a band practice.*
- Feb. 19 *Band practice.*
- Feb. 20 *Too wet for a band practice. Drummers press up their kilts.*
- Feb. 21 *Band gets orders to go to the Batt. who are coming out for a rest.*

Germany

- Feb. 22 *Band moves to Cleves, Germany and dig slit trenches for themselves as soon as they arrive. We go to B.H.Q. to meet the men but are sent back. Three pipers play the men back from the lines and are met by the band as they enter the camp area. There wasn't much left of the Batt. as their last action was one of the hardest yet.*
- Feb. 23 *Band plays reveille at 0900 hrs. Pipe Major and L/Cpl. Jimmy McMillan play the "Last Post" for some of our men that were buried here today. Later on in the day we worked on our trenches. At 6 o'clock we played retreat. This was the worst show the band ever did. Nothing seemed to go right. It was more than an "off day". Bad weather prevented the band from wearing the kilts. R.S.M. Fisher treats the band to a bottle of whisky. Band returns to B. Ech.*
- Feb. 28 *Band digs themselves dugouts and trenches. Went looking for a Jerry that was seen the night before by A. Howie. No luck.*

- March 1 *Lieut. D.B. Stewart comes back to the unit on Feb. 24. He was a piper in the band before he went to O.C.T.W. The Pipe Band "flag" that was carried all through the schemes⁵ and what not in England, and was brought into France on "D" Day by C.E. Stewart was sent back to the band from Canada. This flag has all the schemes and places the Batt. has been to marked on it.*
- March 2 *Pipe Band is called up to the Batt. and spend the night in a barn.*
- March 3 *After waiting around all morning the band is sent back to B. Ech.*
- March 4 *Band spends the day working on their tents and dugouts.*
- March 5 *We were to have a band practice but went on a bath parade instead.*
- March 6 *Band practice. We are told that we are to get leave on the 31st of March.*
- March 7 *Band practice.*
- March 8 *Lieut. D.B. Stewart comes down for two pipers and two drummers to go with him to Shertingdenbosshshshsh⁶ (Map ref.?) to play for our boxers.*
- March 9 *Band moves up to the Batt. B. Ech. moves.*
- March 10
- March 11 *Band plays reveille.*
- March 12 *Band plays reveille and retreat. L/Cpl. McMillan starts to teach the pipers
Drummer D. Knight teaches the drummers.*
- March 13 *Band practice in the afternoon. Chanter and stick practice in the morning. We were to play retreat but it was cancelled.*
- March 14 *Played reveille and Batt. parade in the morning. Stick and chanter practice until 12 noon. Band practice all afternoon. Played retreat at 1630 hrs.*

- March 15 *Played Div. Guard at Ravenstein, Holland.*
- March 16 *Played reveille. Went to Nijmegen to play at a football game. We came back early because of rain.*
- March 17 *Played reveille. Played at Div. H.Q. with the 3rd Div. massed bands. Came back and played retreat and at the Officer's Mess afterwards. The boys in the band are counting the days to their leave. We are to go on the 31st March.*
- March 18 *Played reveille & a Batt. parade. Played at the brigade rehearsal for a Div inspection that is to take place in a few days.*
- March 19 *Sports Day. Played a few tunes before the sports started. Peter Burt wins the 3/4 mile race. Four other members of the band enter in the relay race but didn't do so good.*
- March 20 *Played reveille & Batt. parade. Drummers stayed on the parade ground for a practice while the pipers had a chanter practice under L/Cpl. McMillan.*
- March 21 *First day of spring. Band practice in the morning with chanter practice afterwards. Batt. parade in the afternoon. Everyone "blancos" for the G.O.C. inspection tomorrow.*
- March 22 *Play reveille. Clean up for the G.O.C. inspection in the afternoon.*
- March 23 *Played reveille. Band practice.*
- March 24 *Played reveille. Chanter & stick practice.*
- March 25 *Played reveille. All the staff pipers go to their Companies. They are to play when the unit crosses the Rhine.*
- March 26 *Played reveille. Remainder of the band return to B. Ech. A Jerry plane machine guns the area.*
- March 27 *Boys of the band prepare for leave.*
- March 28 *Word comes through that our leave to England is cancelled. We are to go with the massed Cdn. bands to Arras and Vimy Ridge, France. Everyone is quite mad about the whole thing. We are now told that we will go on leave on the 15th April, but after what's happened- no one believes it.*

- March 29 *After waiting around for others, word comes in at 2200 hrs. We are to leave at 0600 in the morning. Band arrives at Leave transit camp along with the other bands. Everyone gets new battle dresses etc. It's a Pte's dream. It's the first time in four years that a Q.M. gave away what he is supposed to give away - without a fight. We even got our correct sizes. Everyone has a shirt and tie now. - Must want recruits for the Burma "do".*
- March 30 *Shower parade.*
- April 1 *Bands get up at 5:30. We were supposed to move off at 7 o'clock but as usual we didn't get started until 10. Arrived in Arras late at night and we get a hot meal. We were still without billets at midnight as we slept in the cook-house. Everyone was quite mad but there wasn't anything we could do.*
- April 2 *No parades today so everyone goes downtown to Arras. No. 4 was supposed to be out of bounds but no one paid any attention to that rumour.*
- April 3 *Band practice. Pipe Major Essen¹⁷ is in charge. Everyone agrees that he is doing a good job of it*
- April 4 *Band practice and blanco web belts. We leave Arras at 2:30 St. Omer. Played retreat there and headed back for home and a hot meal.*
- April 5 *Massed bands march to Arras and put on a retreat.*
- April 6 *Bands left Arras for Lille at 2:30. Played retreat at 6, had a cup of tea and headed back for home.*
- April 7 *Practice at Vimy Ridge.*
- April 8 *Bands have a day off to blanco etc.*
- April 9 *Memorial service at Vimy. The guard is inspected by General Crerar, Major-General Vanier, Canadian Ambassador to France, Mayor of Arras and high ranking British officers attend the service. After the service was over the bands played retreat and had some pictures taken with General Crerar in front of the Memorial.*

- April 10 *Left Arras at 9:30 for Brussels. Arrive at 3:30. All the bands stay at the Cosmopolite Hotel. Everyone gets good rooms - even the drummers are satisfied.*
- April 11 *Fall in at 8:55 in front of the Hotel. March to "Grand Place" and played retreat. All the Pipe Majors are presented to General H.D.G. Crerar, C.B. D.S.O. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief 1st Canadian Army. March from "Grand Place" to the trucks that are to take us away. Massed bands play retreat at the Parc du Cinquantaire. After this was over we went into a building where Major Baird spoke to us. After a smoke we left the Parc du Cinquantaire and played back to the Hotel Cosmopolite. Everyone is to get a 48 hr. pass that starts today.*
- April 12 *Everyone is having a good time. We may get our much overdue leave to England on the 15th - that is if we can get back to Camp in time.*
- April 13 *Band leaves Brussels for Nijmegen and stay at the Cdn Leave transit camp. Our leave is again cancelled because we could not get back in time.*
- April 14 *Band waits in transit camp for transportation back to the unit.*
- April 15 *Still waiting for transportation to the unit. Played leave personnel to the train.*
- April 16 *Still at leave transit camp.*
"@!!!%%#@#!!! leave"
- April 17 *Band leaves transit camp and arrives at B. Ech. at 5:30.*
- April 18 *Band packs up and goes to the Batt. at Zwolle, Holland. Played in front of Command Post.*
- April 19 *Band moves with the Batt. to Hoogezand. Played around the streets for a half hour and returned to billets.*
- April 20 *Band plays again in Hoogezand and returns to billets.*
- April 21 *Band is called to play a retreat with the 3rd Div. massed bands for the G.O.C. 3rd Div. Everyone gets a good drink of rum and we return to our billets.*

April 22

Band returns to B. Ech. R.S.M. Fisher gives the band a talking to, on their behaviour while up with the Batt. We are going on leave on the 25th, and were paid today. It seems that we really will go this time.

Kaput¹⁸

Pipe band gets their leave on the 29 April. And this time we do go. With V.E. Day and what not I have lost track of where we were and when so the following is what has happened since my last entry.

May 11

Batt. parade.

May 12

Rehearsal for Div. inspection on an airport near Emden, Germany.

May 13

Memorial service for the men who fell with the unit. Band played Piper H. McEwan's new tune "Our Fallen Comrade" for the lament.

May 14

Inspection by General Simmonds.
Played with 3rd Div. massed bands at Utrecht.

June 3

Played at Officer's mess dinner.

June 4

Bands get 5 bottles of Jerry rum from Col. Henderson and Major Mathews.

June 8

Kaput

Played at The Hague. Went to Oldenburg, Germany to play for Mess dinner. Piper Waterton, Leask, Burt and Bass drummer Sandy Howie leave for Canada. Band plays them away. Former Pipe Major Marrs tells us "Wallace" has died⁹. No one knows for sure.

Band Inner Circle no. 2 has feed every night. A rare splash. This is known as B.I.C. No. 2.

"Kaput"

-MARCHES-

<i>Reg'l March</i>	<i>All the Blue Bonnets are over the Border</i>
<i>March on Pde</i>	<i>Scotland is my ain Hame</i>
<i>Meal Call</i>	<i>Brose and Butter</i>
<i>Reveille</i>	<i>Johnnie Cope</i>
<i>First Post</i>	<i>The Battle of Killiecrankie</i>
<i>Last Post</i>	<i>Lochaber no More</i>
<i>Lights out</i>	<i>The Highland Cradle Song</i>
<i>Salute</i>	<i>Scotland the Brave-General- last 8 bars 1st part</i> <i>-Royal- whole of 1st part</i>

<i>2/4's & 4/4's</i>	<i>Highland Laddie</i>
	<i>The Barren Rocks of Aden</i>
	<i>Teribus</i>
	<i>Corriechoille</i>
	<i>McKenzie Highlanders</i>
	<i>The Back of Benachie</i>
	<i>My Love she's but a Lassie yet</i>
	<i>Jenny's Bawbee</i>
	<i>Happy we've been together</i>
	<i>Bonnie Country Garden</i>
	<i>Greenwood Side</i>
	<i>Will ye no come back again</i>
	<i>The Brown Haired Maiden</i>
	<i>51st Highland Division</i>
	<i>The Portree Men</i>
	<i>Invercauld</i>
	<i>Wha' saw the 42nd</i>
	<i>The Black Bear</i>
	<i>Caller Herrin</i>
	<i>The Sweet Maid of Glendaruel</i>
	<i>Campbell's Farewell to Redcastle</i>
	<i>The Dornoch Links</i>
	<i>The Earl of Mansfield</i>
	<i>Colonel Cruden</i>
	<i>The 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar</i>
	<i>The Atholl and Breadalbane Gathering</i>
	<i>The Seige of Delhi</i>
	<i>Captain Norman Orr Ewing</i>
	<i>A Man's a Man for a' That</i>
	<i>25th K.O.S.B.'s</i>
	<i>The Badge of Scotland</i>
	<i>92nd Gordon Highlanders</i>

*The Rowan Tree
Far o'er the Sea
Dumbarton's Drums
The Inverness Gathering
The Australian Ladies
The Highland Wedding
8th Argyll's - Bosincourt
Jenny's Black E'e
Men of Argyll
Seann Truibhas*

6/8's

*The Mucking of Geordie's byre
The Midlothian Pipe Band
The Glendaruel Highlanders
Queen Elizabeth
The Hills of Glenorchy
The Bugle Horn
Dovecote Park
Dorothea Stuart
Wi' a Hundred Pipers in 'A
Bonnie Dundee
Cock of the North
Donald's Awa' to the War
Farewell to the Creeks
Steamboat
Scottish Horse (J. McColl)
Lochiel's Welcome to Glasgow
I'll loe ne'er a Laddie but ang
The March of the Cameron Men
Pibroch o' Donald Dhu
Poltoloch House
Portree Bay
Alamein
Bonawe Highlanders
Stirling Muir
Port Askaig
The Atholl Highlanders
Argyll and Western Isles*

Retreats

*The Green Hills of Tyrol
Lochanside
Magersfontein
When the Battle is Over
My Faithful Fair One
The Road to Glendaruel*

Slow Marches

*The Badge of Scotland
The Mist Covered Mountains
Brig o' Doon
My Home
Road to the Isles
The Skye Gathering
The Borderers
Loch Duich
Weary Maid
Top of Ben Lomond
The Flowers of the Forest*

Strathspeys

*Louden's Bonnie Woods and Braes
Standard on the Braes of Mar
The Marquis of Huntly's Highland Fling
Lads with the Plaids
Back of the Change House
Because he was a bonny Lad
Munlochy Bridge*

Reels

*Tall Toddle
The Kilt is my delight
The High Road to Linton
The Piper of Drummond
Jock Wilson's Ball
Sleepy Maggie
Kilcoy Castle*

MEMBERS OF THE PIPE BAND - DEC. 15/44 HOLLAND

Pipers

Pipe Major A.J. MacMillan
L/Cpl. J.G. MacMillan
Piper G.L. MacMillan
Piper A. McGeorge (S.O.S.)
Piper W. Simple
Piper W. Stephen
Pte. P.S.M. Burt
Pte. H.E. McEwan
Pte. D. Miller
Pte. J.A. Stout
Pte. J.A. Stephen
Pte. A.C. Waterton
Pte. D. Leask

Drummers

<i>A. Howie</i>	<i>-Bass</i>
<i>J.G. Naysmith</i>	<i>-Tenor</i>
<i>A.M. Knight</i>	<i>-Side</i>
<i>D.D. Knight</i>	<i>-Side</i>
<i>J.O. Auger</i>	<i>-Side</i>
<i>J. Daubs</i>	<i>-Tenor</i>
<i>C. Poole</i>	<i>-Side</i>
<i>R.A. Bono</i>	<i>-Side</i>
<i>V. Poole</i>	<i>-Side</i>

Notes:

⁰ General Officer Commanding



Lieutenant-General Guy Simmonds

¹ Putting new heads of calf or goat skin on the drums.

² *A Yank at Eton* is an American comedy/drama film. It tells the tale of a rich, wild, cocky youth (Rooney) from an elite American school who has to move to England, where he attends the elite Eton College. The propaganda intent, as U.S. troops poured into the U.K. in 1942, was evidently to show that Americans and Britons could set aside their superficial differences and pull together in the common cause of the war effort



³ The Saint Bernard mascot of the 1st Btn.



⁴ Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa

⁵ **Echelon** - a subdivision of a unit, not to be confused with sub-units. Canadian Army units in the 20th Century were usually divided into several echelons for administrative purposes. As an example, an Infantry Battalion in the Second World War was divided as follows:

"F" (for "fighting") Echelon consisted of the rifle companies and support companies, and were located in the front line. As well, fighting transport and supplies, along with battalion headquarters, were considered part of "F" Echelon.

"A" Echelon was located three to five miles behind "F" echelon and held quartermaster stores, repair equipment, spare transport and supplies, the rear battalion HQ (where records were kept; the paymaster was also located here). "A" echelon was under brigade control.

"B" Echelon, under divisional control, held the Headquarters Company headquarters, dental staff, personnel Left Out of Battle, and was where kit was stored.

⁶ Approximately \$45 Cdn in today's dollars. (A Private would have earned \$1.30 a day, or \$17.33 in 2013 dollars)

⁷ If one is to assume this is the newly issued Belgium franc, this would be well over \$50 in 2013 dollars.

⁸ 'Blanco' was a cleaning and colouring compound for the web equipment worn by the troops. Available in various colours: white, khaki, green, black, RAF blue etc.



⁹ Confined to Barracks.

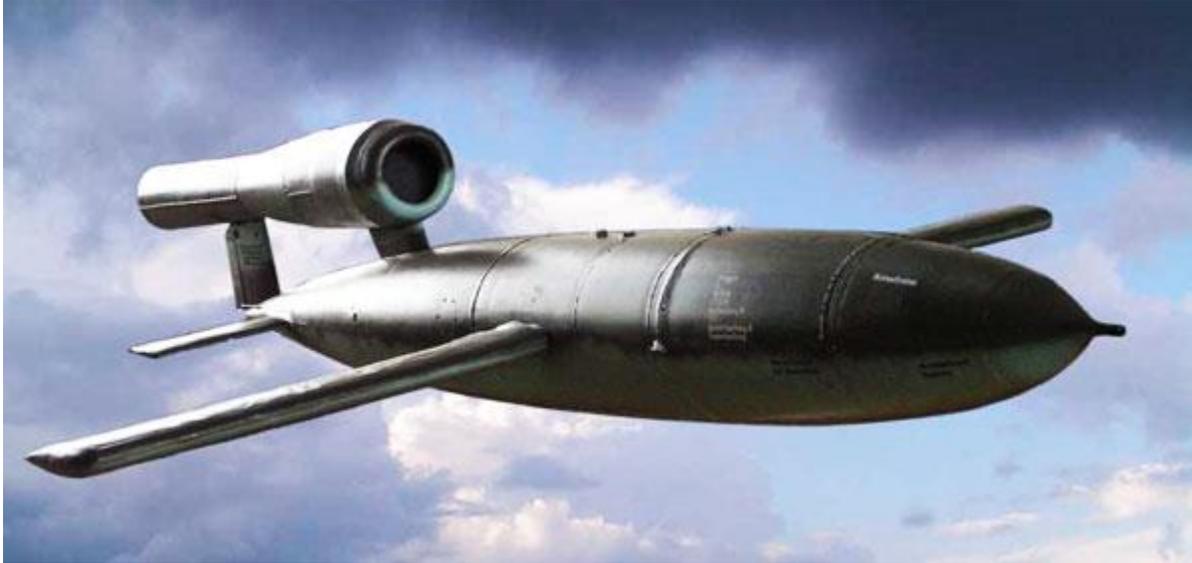
¹⁰ Character from the comic strip Li'l Abner which ran from 1934 to 1978.



¹¹ The Dutch word for sleep... or 'slappen'... sleeping.

¹² Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

¹³ The V-1 Robot or 'Buzz' Bomb, a pulse-jet-powered guided missile.



¹⁴ The Messerschmitt Me 262 *Schwalbe* ("Swallow") was the world's first and only operational jet-powered fighter aircraft in December, 1944.



¹⁵ Field exercises.

¹⁶ 's Hertogenbosch or Den Bosch

¹⁷ Pipe Major of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.

¹⁸ German for ‘utterly finished, defeated, or destroyed’.

¹⁹ Wallace in fact returned to Victoria with the Regiment, staying in the care of Piper “Wee Andy” McGeorge until his death in 1950. His ashes were placed in keeping of the Officer’s Mess.