

This Is My Diary After Landing At Kowloon, China  
25 Days After Leaving Valcartier on Oct 23rd.  
1941.

Landed at Kowloon yesterday, November 16th. 1941.

- Nov 17th. We have the Winnipeg Grenadiers with us and the Royal Scots. (Imp)  
18th. The bed bugs are terrible, also red ants and termites.  
19th. Found a tarantula near my bed. There are also centipedes and scorpions.  
20th. We also have the 5th and 7th. Royput, tough looking fellows.  
21st. Over to Hong Kong looking over the defences. It is well fortified  
22nd. Battalion orderly Sgt. and it keeps a guy busy. Was promoted to L/Sgt on November 16th. 1941.  
23rd. Cool today, not much going on except that I'm Company Orderly Sgt  
24th. Went to Hong Kong, we are way up in the mountains staying in dugouts.  
25th. Setting up barbed wire, making sketches of the place. We are at Obelish Hill.  
26th. Came back to Shamshuipo, marched all the way back.  
27th. Saw a lot of old Chinese graves, they bury dead on hill tops.  
28th. In charge of fire Piquet, waiting for fire to start.  
29th. Clean up, also getting rid of bed bugs. The Japs seem to be getting saucy, will get hurt pretty soon.  
30th. Church parade this A. M. Reg. is C.B. on account Of Japanese situation.
- Dec 1st. We are manning the position over on Hong Kong, digging pits and placing barbed wire.  
2nd. At Obelish Hill placing barbed wire in case they come.  
3rd. Working on wire and digging more positions. Raining all day.  
4th. Working on wire again today. Very hot.  
5th. War expected at anytime, looks very bad.  
6th. Rest of the Regiment came out to the position today.  
7th. Lots of excitement- working very hard.  
8th. War declared. Japanese planes overhead all day bombing.  
9th. Bombed all day, also long range shelling, guns never stop  
10th. Planes overhead all night, the battle goes on-everything looks bad.  
11th. H.M.S. Prince of Wales and Repulse sunk by enemy planes-~~xxxx~~  
12th. Can't sleep. The shells are bursting all over the place.  
13th. Japs tried to land, but were driven off by our fire. Some enemy snipers were caught at Titan today.  
14th. Bombs falling. Big guns roar night and day.  
15th. Plane shot down, can't sleep in all this noise.  
16th. Heavy shelling all day- expect attack at anytime.  
17th. Japs have landed at Fort Lymoon and heavy fighting is on.  
18th. We have reinforced there, but we are getting the worst of it at Mount Parker.  
19th. At Stone Hill fighting is terrible, being driven back all the time.  
20th. Too terrible to say anything about. Japs good fighters.  
21st. At Sydney Mound lowering the valley.  
22nd. At Bridge Hill, very sharp encounter, two of our men killed.  
23rd. One Stone Hill, bad place, snipers all over-can't move.  
24th. At Stanley Peninsula, almost played out- Can't stand it much longer.  
25th. We attacked Cemetary, were almost wiped out. I escaped unhurt.  
26th. A truce had been made and we are now prisoners of war.  
27th. We are cleaning up the debris caused by the shelling and bombing.  
28th. Sunday. Still cleaning up the debris caused by the shelling and bombing.  
29th. Burying the dead. some terrible sights.  
30th. Marched to Victoria and are in the concentration camp.  
31st. Conditions are terrible. Dead bodies lying around all over.
- 1942  
Jan 1st. What a New Years Day. Thinking of my people.  
2nd. Very fine day. The stench is terrible. We put ground over some of the bodies  
3rd. Whale meat isn't very good food and rice either.  
4th. Rice and Church service. Hymns-- O God Our Help In Ages Past and Onward Christian Soldiers, All People that on Earth Do Dwell.  
5th. I am very sick, hope it isn't Malaria.  
6th. Much better today, but very weak and depressed.  
7th. Feeling good, almost better. The monotony is the worst.  
8th. Sleeping on concrete and that's pretty hard.  
9th. Some more of our wounded have come in from the hospital.  
~~xxxx~~

- 1942
- Jan. 10th. Raining today, can't get any news from outside. Wish to know how things are going.
- 11th. Sunday Church service this A M. Hymns- O God Our Help In Ages Past and Night and Good Night.
- 12th. We had a fair meal today. Nights are terribly cold. Only one blanket .
- 13th. Made myself a bed with bags, its fater than cement.
- 14th. Paid 3.00 for 2 chocolate bars, but they were good.
- 15th. Taking course in "lectricity, Magnetism and Radio.
- 16th. The Japs are taking everything of metal away, even the fences.
- 17th. Very hot today. I am doing some washing.
- 18th. Sunday. No Church service today. Padre Capt. James Burnett is sick.
- 19th. The Japs had us formed up and counted us. Cold today.
- 20th. Many Jap planes overhead, but they don't bomb us any more.
- 21st. There are many Jap warships in harbour. Hope they get sunk.
- 22nd. The japs have taken the Indian troops away.
- 23rd. The Hong Kong Volunteers have been taken away. Grenadiers have come here
- 24th. The Middlesex and Royal Artillery have been taken away.
- 25th. The Navy has been moved here. Church Parade. Hymns-- O god Our Help in Ages Past and National Anthem.
- 26th. Very warm today. Our rations have been cut.
- 27th. The food is terrible, can hardly eat the darn stuff.
- 28th. Much Plane activity. Rice three time a day.
- 29th. Seven sailors made their escape last night.
- 30th. News isn't so good today. Wish something would happen.
- 31st. Dreamed about Duncan McRae-- thought he joined the army.
- Feb. 1st. Very bad news about Singapore, hope it can hold.
- 2nd. Rice three times a day. Many planes overhead.
- 3rd. Wish I could get word from home, and know they are safe.
- 4th. Roof leaked very bad, looks like whale meat for supper- Rainy season has arrived.
- 5th. Rained last night. Bully beef and rice for dinner.
- 6th. Rice three time a day would give anything for a good meal.
- 7th. Washed out our hut. Had my radio lesson today.
- 8th. Church Parade- Hymns -"ight the Good fight and 100th Psalm.
- 9th. Rained hard last night, still very foggy.
- 10th. Weather is still cold and dreary.
- 11th. We are almost frozen to death and roof leaks awful.
- 12th. I hope none of my people ever have to go through what I'm going through now.
- 13th. We are almost frozen to death and roof leaks awful.
- 14th. Good B B C news last night. Lot of enemy ships sunk.
- 15th. Many of the boys have sore throats and colds.
- 16th. Dysentry is wide spread throughout the camp.
- 17th. Singapore fell to the Japs yesterday.
- 18th. I believe we are going to starve to death.
- 19th. Very cold rains every night. Haven't seen the sun for a long time
- 20th. Getting a needle for Cholera. Very bad disease.
- 21st. Japs have doubled the guard around our camp.
- 22nd. We are terrible hungry. Just talk about food.
- 23rd. Very fine day, just like August at home. Time is long.
- 24th. Very hot and some case's of Malaria and Dysentry also in camp.
- 25th. Hope everyone at home is well and nothing happens to anyone.
- 26th. Rice and squid for dinner today.
- 27th. We wash what clothes we have without soap.
- 28th. Strong wind. Wish we could get out of here. Time is so long.
- Mar. 1st. We are getting lousy as coots. We are crowded so close together
- 2nd. Same old thing day in and day out.
- 3rd. Dull and rainy. We are weak with hunger.
- 4th. Feeling rotten today. Hope it isn't Malaria.
- 5th. Feeling a little better, but weak as a kitten.
- 6th. Today is Stewart's birthday, wish him luck and health.
- 7th. Got a slight sunburn yesterday. Itchy as heck.
- 8th. Church Parade Hym- Unto the Hills Do I Lift Up My Longing Eyes.
- 9th. The Japs beat some Chinese unmercifully to day.
- 10th. Only rice today. The men are getting weaker.
- 11th. Japs had inspection Still just rice.
- 12th. Rice and fish sauce, very bad tasting stuff
- 13th. Some dirty brute stole my tooth paste today.
- 14th. We were inspected by Japanase camp Commandant.
- 15th. Dry rice today. Church service this evening. I will attend.
- 16th. Rice and some eggs. One per man- it's a treat.
- 17th. Japs are celebrating today. --- Don't know what for.
- 18th. The Japanase Colonal of all prison camps inspected us today.

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- 1942
- Mar 19th. Very hot and many Jap planes over here. Fast ones.  
 20th. Crisp breeze this morning. just like at home in summer.  
 21st. Made myself a bed on the much cleaner.  
 22nd. Church service by Rev. Strong of the Navy.  
 23rd. Rice and water three times a day.  
 24th. Three months a prisoner today.  
 25th. Rice and water again today. We don't get any tea.  
 26th. Very hot. Bubonic Plague is widespread in China.  
 27th. Awful pains in my legs. Had to go to M.O.  
 28th. Pains much better. Rheumatic pains.  
 29th. Thunder storm and rain. Church Service.  
 30th. Rice cake for dinner. Rice and one egg for supper.  
 31st. Very foggy and bad food, just rice.
- Apr. 1st. Bad food and rain all day.  
 2nd. More rain. Japs are salvaging all the boats.  
 3rd. Very hot and clammy and also rice.  
 4th. Wash day we got 200 parcels. I got a can of jam. 12 oz.  
 5th. Church service, Very hot and Clammy.  
 6th. Many Dysentery cases. Rice all day.  
 7th. Col. Sudcliff of W.G. Died of Dysentery today.  
 8th. Whale meat and we had a treat--- Chinese dates.  
 9th. Japanese tanker burned in harbour, very hot day. rice and bun  
 10th. Rice and dates. We got about three dates each.  
 11th. Wash day- we have a bar of soap 1" by 3" for 10 men.  
 12th. Church Parade- speaker Mr Strong of the Navy.  
 13th. Terribly hot. We are as black as negroes.  
 14th. The Japs must have suffered some reverses. They are beating the  
 Chinks.  
 15th. They are very hostile today. Madx about something.  
 16th. They are putting up wire charged with electricity.  
 17th. A small dog went against the wire and was killed.  
 18th. The British Navy ratings moved to Shamshuiipo today.  
 19th. 50 More R.R.C. ~~xxxx~~ men came back from hospital a lot in  
 hospital yet.  
 20th. Hitler's birthday also Aunt Bessies, many more to her.  
 21st. Just plain rice for four days. nothing to put on it.  
 22nd. Japs are mad. Americans are supposed to have bombed Tokyo.  
 23rd. Just rice nothing on it. I guess we can take it.  
 24th. Japanese Red Cross Colonel is supposed to come here today.  
 25th. Rain all night and all day. Squid for supper.  
 26th. Worst rain I have ever seen and the roof leaks awful  
 27th. Raining very hard all day. Fair meal, sweet potatoes and piece  
 of meat.  
 28th. Still raining, coming down in torrents. Egg plant for supper.  
 29th. Rice and bun today. still raining. Mosquitoes are bad.  
 30th. Rain, not many Jap planes around here now. 2 buns for dinner.
- May 1st. Rice and a teaspoonful of suger. Still raining.  
 2nd. Whale meat and rice. Raining something awful.  
 3rd. Rain coming down in torrents, heavy thunderstorm.  
 4th. Not much to eat today. Planes reported over here.  
 5th. Terrible dream about Grandma and Aunt Blanch, Dreamed they  
 were dead.  
 6th. We had air raid alarm last night. Japs afraid of raids.  
 7th. Chinese with hands and feet tied. Still raining.  
 8th. Must be getting fine in Canada. Japs are mad, beating the  
 Chinks terribly.  
 9th. Great Naval battle reported Warship reported sunk.  
 10th. I had a tablespoon of milt on my rice today.  
 11th. Very hot, Japs have a lot of ----- laying around here  
 preparing for something.  
 12th. Raining very hard. Great sea battle in Indian Ocean.  
 13th. Very hot cucumbers and rice, one sweet potato.  
 14th. Japs knocked out a Chink and left him on the street in rain  
 all day. Just ~~xxxx~~ before dark bayoneted him, he was alive  
 this morning.  
 15th. Cool breeze with showers, rice and a few dates. Hair cut.  
 16th. Japs have two Chinese women tied to a post. They have shot  
 their husbands.  
 17th. Sunday isn't what it was back home, heat is terrible.  
 18th. British are supposed to have bombed Hanci today. Cool today.  
 19th. Bun and tea made with musty flour. Raining very hard.  
 20th. Japanese big shot from Tokyo here today. Still raining.  
 21st. Cool and raining. Dreamed about Mother last night. she must  
 be worried.  
 22nd. Cool and high wind. Rice and whale meat today.  
 23rd. We were forced under pact to sign document that we wouldn't  
 escape.  
 24th. Suffocating heat. No wood to cook our meals. ~~xxxx~~

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~~My good friend...~~

- May 24th. Suffocating heat. No wood to cook our meals, things are bad here.
- 25th. Heat getting bad, 110 degrees in shade. Mosquitos eating us alive.
- 26th. One bun made with misty flour, sour as vinegar.
- 27th. Heat terrible, mosquitos awful. Japs beat a chink terribly.
- 28th. Heat is awful. Got new prison No 6102.
- 29th. Still hot as hell. Japs are working on sunken ships in harbour.
- 30th. 100 degrees in shade. We got shirts today, we need boots badly.
- 31st. Heat is still terrible. Dreamed about Stewart last night.
- June 1st. Wrote a letter home through the Red Cross, if the Japs let it through
- 2nd. Little cooler today, time is terribly long. Reading Jap propoganda papers.
- 3rd. Inspected by Jap Colonel, nice and cool, light breeze.
- 4th. Very sultry. Japs h ve towed a large ship badly damaged into port.
- 5th. Japs were on ship which turned over. Went down taking a tug with it.
- 6th. Great rumours going around. 1,000 British planes over Germany, 44 reported shot down.
- 7th. Very hot, mosquitos are terrible. Can't sleep. Wish I could get away
- 8th. Great naval battle reported in vicinity of Midway, Victory for us.
- 9th. Very hot. Washing clothes, trying to get rid of bugs. Place is full.
- 10th. Played volley ball. Japs say they entered Sydney harbour and torpedoed ships.
- 11th. Very hot. Rumoured we are to move from here. Can't be much worse.
- 12th. Very hot. Cleaned out our camp. Hope the bugs won't be bad tonight.
- 13th. Japs say they attacked the Alcutians. Bed bugs getting worse.
- 14th. Church service. Hymns- Rock of Ages- Lead kindly Light. Cool breeze Many planes.
- 15th. Medical supplies running out. We all have whabiers itch.
- 16th. Pouring rain, some men taken out on working party.
- 17th. Cool breeze, more men taken out on working party
- 18th. Played game of volley ball. Boiled cucumbers for supper with rice.
- 19th. Bun and rice for breakfast. Heat is terrible. Wrote letter to Grandma.
- 20th. Very hot, meat pie for supper . Large tiger shot at Stanley.
- 21st. Heat is getting worse. Church service.
- 22nd. Went to Kai Tak to work at airport. Saw some whites on Price Edward.
- 23rd. Five big bombers over here today. Reported that Sharnhorst is sunk
- 24th. Often heard about tar and feathering a man, but ~~as~~ it done today.
- 25th. Very hot. Col. Holme very sick and gone to hospital.
- 26th. Bad news reported, Germans are 50 miles inside Egypt.
- 27th. Heat terrible, we are all hungry. Not half enough to eat.
- 28th. Heat still bad and food worse. Church Service.
- 29th. Went to Kai Tak airport on working party. Hard work in this heat.
- 30th. Food is awful. Rice in morning, bun dinner- some kind of greens like weeds, and egg plant with cayene pepper.
- July 1st. Went to Bowen Road Hospital. Saw Eursal Kaine, some boys badly done up.
- 2nd. Raining all day. 3 more gigers at Stanley. Have very sore throat.
- 3rd. Went to Kai Tak airport to work, rained hard.
- 4th. We were paid to day, 30 yen for 2 days work, about 2 cents in Canada
- 5th. Church service. Hymns O Abide With Me and There is a Green Hill Far Away.
- 6th. Two years in army today. Also, Meda's birthday, wish her luck. Good news about Egypt and North Guinea.
- 7th. Heavy rain, thunder and lightning. Food very bad.
- 8th. Heavy showers again today. Little cooler.
- 9th. Heavy rain showers, we are still eating out of tin cans.
- 10th. Went to airport ~~to~~ work, had to come back on account of rain.
- 11th. Typhoon coming in this direction- heavy rain.
- 12th. Six fighters here. Church Service- Breathe on me, Breath of God and Onward Christian Soldiers.
- 13th. Nothing going on. Japs raised a ship in bad shape- will take time to repair.
- 14th. Heavy rain all night. Sleep outdoors on concrete, so many bugs.
- 15th. Rain in torrents, long dreary time. Thinking of trying to escape.
- 16th. Rain in torrents, Reported 11 Jap destroyers sunk in Aleutian Island
- 17th. Raining hard but cool. Had tea for supper. Month since we had tea.
- 18th. Rain again, terrible sore mouth. Everyone has it. Can hardly eat.
- 19th. Very hot. Lot of men have Malaria in camp again.
- 20th. Rained all day. Banana trees are growing in our camp quarters.
- 21st. Raining, almost a flood. Mouth still sore.
- 22nd. More rain, has rained every day this month.
- 23rd. More rain, not much going on. Wish we could get news of some kind.
- 24th. Lots of Jap planes overhead, both bombers and fighters.
- 25th. Seven months a prisoner today. Hope the war ends soon.

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- July 26th. Taken to Bowen Road with appendicitis, operated on at 2.30. Pain is gone, but very sick.
- 27th. Feeling much better. The nurses are very nice.
- 28th. Am bloated up and in terrible pain, can't sleep.
- 29th. Much better today, can move around in bed.
- 30th. Sat on chair while nurse made bed.
- 31st. So many cripples here, legs and arms off- some can't move.
- Aug 1st. The food is awful, just rice. What stuff when sick.
- 2nd. I get up when nurses are not around.
- 3rd. Had stitches out today, hurt awful.
- 4th. Side much better. Its cool up here on mountain.
- 5th. Nurse caught me up today and bawled me out.
- 6th. Doctor's told me I could get up today. I have been up for 4 or 5 day's.
- 7th. Very fine, side feels good. I have the plaster nearly off.
- 8th. They are taking lot of wounded back to camp and some of them are not fit to leave hospital yet. Darn Japs.
- 9th. Feel O K, May go to camp anytime now. Food is terrible.
- 10th. Came back to camp today. Just 14 days, quite quick.
- 11th. Have taken all nurses away from hospital, conditions getting worse
- 12th. Man died. Nox meat for 3 weeks, many going blind- gradually getting weaker.
- 13th. Grandma's birthday. Hope it's a happy day for her, May she see many more.
- 14th. Hong Kong volunteer died today, very hot. Itch and berri berri getting worse.
- 15th. Diphtheria in camp, hope I don't get it. We are in a bad spot.
- 16th. Conditions unbearable, we will all die in this awful place, bugs eating us alive.
- 17th. 100 degrees in shade. Nights just as hot. More have Malaria.
- 18th. Cooler today. This date, a year ago, we landed at Quebec from Newfoundland.
- 19th. Fierce wind and rain. Jap guard house blew down. Our hut leaks like a sieve.
- 20th. Four men escaped last night, one sargeant, corp'l and 2 privates
- 21st. This is Mother's birthday, hope she is well
- 22nd. Haven't heard if they caught the escaped men or not.
- 23rd. Very hot. Heard the Japs are missing on the Manchurian border.
- 24th. Heard news about a battle in Solomon Islands.
- 25th. Very hot. Two Jap destroyers went through harbour today.
- 26th. Big Jap officers went through camp today. Very hot, nothing to read.
- 27th. Hot, 100 degrees in shade. Tow men died last night.
- 28th. Still hot. I have awful pains in my legs, hope its not berri berri
- 29th. A little cooler. The Japs have taken 3 Sgt's away in reprisal for the men who escaped. They may kill them
- 30th. Japs have us on parade from 1 o'Clock till 8 in morning and it poured rain all the time. Many men played out.
- Sept 1st. Rain and mad. First man of my section died with Dysentery.
- 2nd. Fine with stiff breeze. Wish I could hear from home.
- 3rd. Japs reported to have lost 2nd battle of Solomons. I hope its true
- 4th. Very hot. Japs say they caught men who escaped, but I guess they lie.
- 5th. Hot. Jap Foreign Minister has resigned. Things must be getting worse.
- 6th. Very hot. Bad thunder and lightning storm. Chinese army reported near Canton 100 miles from here.
- 7th. Another man died. (Pomeray) 4 Jap fighter planes here.
- 8th. 7 British soldiers escaped, but were caught- 5 were shot.
- 9th. Cyril Ross died today. Cause of death, Dakkina Itch. Germans' haven't got Stalingrad yet.
- 10th. Another man died. Half have dysentery or Berri berri, we will all die soon.
- 11th. 100 degrees in shade. More men falling sick every day.
- 12th. Another died today, we wrapped him in sheet, buried him across the road.
- 13th. Heat bad. More men fall sick every day. I'm lucky so far, haven't had dysentery or berri berri.
- 14th. Another death from my patoo, pneumonia ( Buster Coffin)
- 15th. Still hot. Big Jap transport passed here today, hope its sent to the bottom.
- 16th. Jap inspector today. Cloudy with rain.
- 17th. Hot today. Reported Japs caught the Canadians that escaped and beheaded them.
- 18th. Very hot. Party went to Kai Tak today to work on airport.
- 19th. Very hot. Men dying rate of 3 a day. Malaria, Dysentery, Fever.
- 20th. Nice breeze. I think yesterday was Papa's birthday, hope he is well
- 21st. More sick. some going blind. 3 died to day.

1942  
moved to POW  
camp Shamshuipo

- Sept 22nd. Very nice day. The British are being taken away. don't know where to.
- 23rd. Lot more wounded and sick. came in from hospital
- 24th. I have a terrible toothache and fever, hope it isn't Malaria.
- 25th. Got my tooth out, very sore, We are supposed to move to Shamshupo tomorrow.
- \* 26th. Went to Shamshuipo, the barracks are bombed and shelled, not a window left.
- 27th. Very hot. We are cleaning up the place, very dirty. We are supposed to go to Japan soon, can't be any worse then this. More dying with diphtheria.
- 28th. Very hot. fever is getting worse. Won't be many of us get out of here. Rice with no meat.
- 29th. Another death today. Some men can hardly walk, weak and sick
- 30th. I had to go on working party, up at 4 o'clock in morning- get back at 8 o'clock at night. Tired.
- Oct 1st. 3 more deaths today. Too bad to die after living through all this mess.
- 2nd. Another death, diphtheria. Blowing hard and raining.
- 3rd. Out on working party, another man died today. Diphtheria.
- 4th. Another death in our company. J.E. Macarthur- diphtheria. The Japs won't give us any serum or medical supplies, we are in bad shape
- 5th. Very warm. Three more Canadians died today. 2 with diphtheria, 1 with gangerine caused from B ---- itch.
- 6th. Another death today, they are sounding last post and reville as I write. We don't know who will be next.
- 7th. More deaths. I am 30 years old today. Had rice and water for my meals.
- 8th. Three more deaths. One fellow from Tide Head Barkley, 1 from Madeline Island.
- 9th. Only one death today, we get 5 oz. of bread per man per day. Japs say a new treaty is being formed.
- 10th. I have taken diphtheria. I'm placed in an old building with windows along with 200 other fellows. Some dying every day, all lying on cement floor, the suffering is terrible.
- 11th. Can hardly write so sick. Tonsils big as eggs, can hardly breathe.
- 12th. Feeling a little better, but had bad night. Three died last night. Ralph Huntington.
- 13th. Only one death last night. I am thankful to be as well as I am, ~~xxx~~ some poor fellow covered with sores, big as silver dollars and with dysentery or diphtheria and the Japs won't do anything about it. I'll curse a Jap as long I live. I want all my friends and relations to do the same. The North American Red Skin in his worst, could never equal the slant eyed brutes.
- 14th. Feeling much better, except my nose is swollen twice its size and so sore. I have gargled Potassium.
- 15th. One of the Grenadiers died. I feel much better.
- 16th. Cpl. Chencille died. Had an air raid alarm, did'nt see the planes. Cpl Vermette from Campbellton just died.
- 17th. One man died last night and the Japs beat up about 40 of the orderlies. Also Major Crawford made them take off their shirts and beat them with a wide rubber band. Two more died this afternoon getting worse.
- 18th. Just one death last night. Very fine day. Rice with no salt.
- 19th. Two Navy men died last night. Bugs eating us alive.
- 20th. Many planes overhead today, expect an air raid. It's one year today since I have heard from home. I left for Valcartier just a year ago -- Papa, Mama, Jackie and Edith drove to Carlisle station. I mentioned in my diary that I would be gone a long time and was going far away.
- 21st. Many planes over here today. It's very fine. I'm getting better. but some the the boys can't take it, but it starvation that's the chief cause
- 22nd. Japs keep planes overhead all the time. They must expect an air raid. I hope at that, its raided soon. One death
- 23rd. Just one death. Very cold and a drizzle of rain falling, like an October day.
- 24th. Two deaths. Japs have moved all diphtheria patients to the Jubilee building. It's a large 5 storey army office, but was badly bombed.
- 25th. It's cold in here, but much better than those windowless huts, we are five in a room on floor, no beds, 19 Jap fighter planes overhead as I write. I guess this place will be bombed soon, they are afraid the British or Americans bombed here today. 10 planes flying high, the bombs did'nt miss here by much, but they sounded good. The place was covered with smoke and the fire shot high in the air.

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- 1942
- Oct 26th. Ver nice morning. The Allies bombed here again last night. I was asleep when I heard the drone of planes and the whistle of bombs real heavy ones, flames went up hundreds of feet. It was reported by the Chinese that Whitfield Barracks were hit with 6 bombs and 1300 Japs were killed or wounded. Hundreds of Chinese were killed.
- 27th. Nice and quiet today, no planes. They didn't even go up when the planes were over here yesterday.
- 28th. 11 a.m. The British dive bombed the ships in the harbour. They came right down, almost to the masts. One man was wounded by falling Ac Ac sharpnel and one man shot in the chest by a guard. They will pay for all this.
- 29th. Very quiet, no air raids. One man died. Food terrible, not fit for dogs, plain rice.
- 30th. Very quiet, no air raids. A large naval battle reported in Solomon Islands. Japs have lost two air craft carriers.
- 31st. Lovely weather, clear. lots of sunshine. No air radis. I hope they come over tonight. Two deaths, Noble and Parkley.
- Nov 1st. Very nice weather, too nice to be a prisoner cooped up in a small building.
- 2nd. Nice and warm, but no bombers. I wish they would come soon again.
- 3rd. One death. No working party for three days. I believe they are taking out another draft to Japan. I won't be taken on account of having diphtheria.
- 4th. Fine agin. This place is blacked out now. Great Naval battle reported in Solomon Islands. Hope Japs are wiped out.
- 5th. Two deaths, Albert Clapperton died last night. Dysentery- starvation
- 6th. Nice and fine. no working party today. Hear bombs exploding or heavy gun fire in the distance.
- 7th. Cloudy day. This is Philips birthday, hope he has a better time than I am having.
- 8th. The Japs took the A.C. Padre of the Royal Scots out of camp yesterday and beat him with big clubs, until he fainted and when he would come too, they would beat him again till he would pass out. They did that over and over, then brought him back to camp almost dead. They are brutes of the worst kind. I weigh less now then when I was 15 yrs old, but some men are worse than I am. Just Skeletons and can hardly walk.
- 9th. Nice day. One man from our company died today, but he is better gone as he was badly wounded and his wounds never healed. That's eleven months ago. His name was R. Forsyth Toronto, Ont.
- 10th. Japs told us about a month ago that there was a Red Cross parcels for us in Hong Kong, but never gave us any of them. To more deaths only the strongest will survive. I am one month in here today with diphteria, weak yet.
- 11th. Fine day, my throat is sore today and Rhabies Itch is giving me lots of trouble.
- 12th. Clear and fine, no bombers over here, wish they would come.
- 13th. Nice day, Some the men in a terrible state with their feet.
- 14th. Very fine. Good news that the Allies have moved into French Morocco Algeria and Tunisia. Met little resistance.
- 15th. Heard that Germans moved into Vichy France. Cloudy with little rain. There are a lot of Jap camouflaged boats and a large Red Cross Ship
- 16th. Foggy and rain. More Jap troops are being landed here from big freighters, then they go by ferry up river. There was a loud explosion last night.
- 17th. Dull and cloudy. My throat is still sore in mornings.
- 18th. Very foggy. There are a lot of old camouflaged tankers in harbour. Wish the bombers would come and bomb them. We are suffering from lack of Vitamin B. Some of the men can't walk, they are getting out of shape, they even cry with the pain, no rest at all. If we don't get out of here soon we will all be dead or cripples.
- 19th. Rain and fog. Bert Sweetman died last night, don't know what he died from but he had a bad head wound and was in hospital 10 months- was nice fellow.
- 20th. Just one death today. No working party today on account of rain.
- 21st. Was moved to Isolation ward, will be here a month. One death Jos Whalen. Japs were moving mechanized equipment all last night and there is a lot of large ships in harbour. Looks as if they are taking the stuff from here.
- 22nd. Harbour is full of large ships. Very fine day.
- 23rd. Nice and clear, Jap fighters planes up all day circling overhead. They must expect a bombing riad. I hope they come by hundreds.

1942

Nov. 24th. Very clear. Jap planes up since day break, they are using up their gas. About 35 planes here now, not all fighter planes. There were about 15 planes overhead all day. Two deaths, Arthur MacAllister died, he had electric feet, but he took dysentery too. I have a terrible sore mouth and ringworm, itch, so I have a bad time. Only the strongest will get out of here, we are guarded by Formosians now. We got some Red Cross stuff today. One ounce of bully beef per man per day and one ounce of raisins and we get 1/3 ounce of cocoa a man per week- not bad.

25th Very fine. Jap fighters just keep circling the place. One death  
 26th Cloudy and rain. One death. Ursal Kaine came from Hospital.  
 27th. Very fine. Linday Mann died. Most everyone have bad feet now. We had air raid alarm, but it did'nt happen.  
 28th Breeze of wind. Jap planes are still up. News we got about North Africa is very good and the Free French. We won't give up  
 29th. Three deaths today. We got a Red Cross parcel today weighing 15 lbs. 12 oz fig pudding, 12 oz orange marmalade, 10 oz bacon, 10 oz meat gelatine, 12 oz milk, 10 margarine, 10 oz biscuits, 2 oz ~~egg~~, 3 oz cheese, 3 oz ~~sandwich spread~~ sandwich spread, 6 oz suger, 1 bar soap, and 3 oz chocolate.  
 30th. Still eating my food from the Red Cross. It will save a lot of lives. Cloudy

DEC

1st. Very fine. One death. This Red Cross stuff only makes us want more.  
 2nd. Col. Tagonaga inspected this camp today, he is a big fat B---  
 3rd. Nice day, we hear that the Allies are doing good.  
 4th. Still quiet, nothing going on. Taganaga visited camp.  
 5th. Weather turned very cold. At least we find it cold on account of low vitality.  
 6th. Little finer today, but not much like Sunday.  
 7th. Very quiet. Not many deaths lately and no air raids.  
 8th. One year ago to day the Japs started bombing us and kept it up all day.  
 9th. Jap planes are here again. We hear that the Germans are on the defensive.  
 10th. Very cloudy, we were having a bad time of it one year ago.  
 11th. Still cloudy and cold. Planes are up today. One death.  
 12th. Still cold and cloudy. One Navy man died today.  
 13th. Misty and warm. Just like a hot day in July at home.  
 14th. Not so cold, but very hasey-- can't see very far.  
 15th. Two deaths, So many men can't walk, it's terrible. No one would believe if told.  
 16th. Nice and hot, but the time so long. The Japs are doing a lot of slapping, they must be getting the worst of it somewhere.  
 17th. Fine and a lot of fighters up today. Xmas is coming close, but I suppose we will get rice for dinner.  
 18th. Very fine today. The suffering getting worse, men cry with pain in feet.  
 19th Many Jap planes up, must expect air riad. Hope they do come. 3 men died, Maxwell Mann and -----  
 20th. It's a little cooler today. They expect some big shot from Japan.  
 21st. There was two Red Cross guys here today, they must have seen plenty.  
 22nd. Japs beat up the Brigade Major and an Officer from the Winnipeg Grenadiers, had to carry them to hospital, badly hurt. They are worse then animals.  
 23rd. We received 10 yen from the Canadian Government through the Swiss Red Cross. It's a great help.  
 24th. The yen before war was worth 1.4 Canadian, we buy eggs at .30 each.  
 25th. Not much like Xmas at home, no turkey, no fruit cake, but we get a double helping of rice. Hope are all well at home, and we may be together next Xmas. This time last year we were fighting for our lives, we were ordered to attack the Japs who had broken through the Middlesex Regiment at Stanley Village. Two platoons of us attacked them in some houses and in the graveyard. We attacked with 70 men. 26 were killed. 37 wounded and 15 got out.  
 26th. It's nice and warm, about 10 degrees above, some are out in sun without shirts.  
 27th. We were inspected by 6 Jap Generals.  
 28th. These Generals look like a bunch of coolies. Wish we could get away from here. it's terrible.  
 29th. Fine, just like August at home. No air raids for long time.



1943

moving to POW  
camp Omine

- DEC 30th. Very hot, we just go around with shorts, no shirts. Not so many deaths lately.
- 31st. Still hot and clear, last day of 1942, hope 1943 will see us out of here. Men are so sick they just cry and walk up and down, some go mad and have to be held down, others go blind.
- Jan 1st. The New Year is here, weather grand, but that's all.
- 2nd. Weather is still nice and warm.
- 3rd. I'm not feeling very good today, hope it isn't Dysentery, so many have it.
- 4th. Feeling better today. Weather nice and fine.
- 5th. All better now, food is getting bad.
- 6th. Just rice and radishes for almost a week.
- 7th. Nice day, sun very strong, nights cool.
- 8th. Very cold, and we haven't any clothes. Some are bare foot.
- 9th. It is rumored that we are going to move soon.
- 10th. We must be going to move sure. I hope they don't sink the ship.
- 11th. We have been counted and counted about 5 times today.
- 12th. We are going to move sure, a lot got inoculated against Cholera.
- 13th. Got a needle against Cholera, also a test for Dysentery.
- 14th. Was vaccinated and had throat swabbed for Diphtheria.
- 15th. Had another test for Dysentery and Cholera and throat swabbed.
- 16th. We got another needle for Cholera, we may leave any day.
- 17th. We got another and had to move out of our huts.
- 18th. Out on the road as I write this. Bertha's birthday.
- \* 19th. We left Shanshipo at 5 a.m. marched about two miles. We are on Japanese transport Tatu Maru, 18,000 tons. We are like rats in a trap, should we be torpedoed, not one would be saved. They gave us ten yen.
- 20th. Still afloat, going north east, not one of us have a life jacket. The weather is cooler, as we go north, hope this trip won't last longer.
- 21st. Still afloat, lot of the boys are sick, we must be getting close to Japan, we are just packed in like sardines, some no room to lie down, have to stand up in turns.
- 22nd. We can see many islands and sailing junks. We docked at Nagasaki, a Port in southern Japan on the Island of Kyushu. We were lucky to get here without being sunk.
- 23rd. We entertained last night about 12 p.m. after march through city to station and were all night on train, crowded so tight could hardly move, then we transferred to Orio, just 200 of us, the rest went on after going about 50 miles, transferred to a place called Ita and then we got off train at a place called Kawasaki and are in camp here, nice and clean, lots of hot water and 8 men in a room and food much better.
- 24th. We were examined by Jap doctors and weighed, we don't have any officers here with us. The war will be over for years before we will ever know.
- 25th. We got a needle in back, don't know what it is for, we also signed form not to escape, but there is no chance to get away unless we fly.
- 26th. It is pretty cold here. the ground freezes, but not very deep. I guess we are going to work in some kind of a mine. We get up at 5 a.m. breakfast at 6 a.m. dinner at 12 noon, supper 7 p.m. roll call 8 p.m. bed at 9. p.m.
- 27th. Very cold morning haven't been on working party yet, but may go out anytime. Have to count in Japanese.
- 28th. We drew our working clothes today, also water bottle.
- 29th. We went out, had to do Jap drill, it's a terrible position we are in and the worst is to salute the sun when it rises.
- 30th. We were up at 5 a.m. and out doing drill at 7 a.m. with snow falling, and running shoes on and cotton socks.
- 31st. Very cold, snow flurries, out doing drill, nearly frozen. I have heard of people dying of exposure, but after this I won't believe it. Got another needle.
- FEB 1st. Very cold, it snowed about five inches last night.
- 2nd. Raining, we worked around mine shaft cleaning up dirt.
- 3rd. Went down in coal mine today. I was first Canadian to enter mine as I was in lead. Very hot down below surface.
- 4th. In mine again today, very dangerous, not timbered.
- 5th. In mine again, it is hard work. Hope war ends soon.
- 6th. Not vaccinated in four places, will be like a sandwich, all these needles.
- 7th. Got needle for T.B. I was negative, but a lot were positive.
- 8th. Very tired and had a blood test today, arm sore.
- 9th. Snowing and raining, we worked on top of ground, miserable.
- 10th. Snowing, we are on top ground. Got needle in back, very sore.
- 11th. My back is very sore, we didn't work today, but it's just as bad in this cold.

1943

- Feb 12th. A little warmer today, we worked on top.
- 13th. Warm and we are on top of ground. Japs admit evacuation of New Guinea and Solomon islands.
- 14th. We are making a small railroad to haul away the hill we are working on
- 15th. Still working on top, we are so hungry can hardly work
- 16th. We get some kind of cabbage soup three times a day & rice some times. We get seaweed with our rice, hope we get better food soon.
- 17th. Warmer today, but food no better.
- 18th. Down in mine today, we had rice and bark and some kind of tree for lunch.
- 19th. Very muddy, but not down in mine. Fleas are eating us up worse than bugs in Hong Kong.
- 20th. My feet are getting worse, pain me awful.
- 21st. We just cleaned up the place today, kept us going steady, cold today
- 22nd. We had to carry big rocks up steep hill to make a sidewalk. I will make them carry all these back before I leave this place, we are so hungry.
- 23rd. Very windy. We hear that Nagasaki was bombed heavily.
- 24th. We have to work so hard on a little rice, we have mid-day meal at 11 a.m. and supper at 7 p.m. Cold and snowing.
- 25th. Warm day, my feet are so sore can hardly walk. Everyone has sore feet. Cabbage soup 3 times a day, it's terrible.
- 26th. Still digging down the hill, where they are going to build for the miners, not for us though.
- 27th. Much warmer today and I'm sick with diarrhea, about half the men have it Bad food.
- 28th. Nice and warm today, but I'm so weak and sick. I can hardly stand up. Some of ~~the~~ the men passed out today. What suffering.
- ~~29th.~~
- Mar. 1st. We worked in rain all day, but it wasn't very cold. I got a can of meat with seaweed and a few beans.
- 2nd. Cloudy today. The Jap Sgt. beat up a lot of the boys last night because they were in bed before 9 o'clock. Had 3 buns for dinner.
- 3rd. Did't work very hard today, came back early. Rice and fish soup for supper and it was full of bones, terrible stuff.
- 4th. Worked on top of ground again today, our rice was sour as sour dough. Gave us all heart burn.
- 5th. We didn't work today as we start shiftwork tomorrow, wish we could get news.
- 6th. This is Stewart's birthday. I wish him good luck, we started shiftwork today, We get up at 4 o'clock and in bed again at 7 p.m
- 7th. Fine day, not so tired today. Very hot in mine and very dangerous
- 8th. Down at mine working at 1400 meters.
- 9th. Got some Jap papers, it looks bad for Germany and Italy. The Russians are doing good.
- \*10th. Down drilling with air drills and blasting very dangerous.
- 11th. Japs have a man tied up in guard house and he only gets a bottle of water per day, his name is Slim Calder, 7 days sentenced.
- 12th. Warm in day, but mornings all cold, terrible nights.
- 13th. Very tired and sick. Hope the Allies do something soon. Still have diarrhoea.
- 14th. Changing shift, we go in mine at 10 p.m. Japs beat up a lot of the boys, threw one fellow down stairs, blood all over the place, cursed brutes.
- 15th. We were paid today. I got 3 yen 6 sen, about 30 cents Canadian for onex months work, about 1 cent per day. It's terrible, warmer today.
- \*16th. We were in mine all night drilling and blasting with rice and raw turnips with salt on the turnips. Don't know how long we will last on this food.
- 17th. There was an earthquake at Osaka, but we didn't get it here. Not on the same island. The name of the town is Kawasaka on the island of Kysuhu, we are not far from Fukuka which is the H.Q. for war prisoners in this district. Time is going fast.
- 18th. Warmer every day. I guess it's spring time here.
- 19th. Nice day, but we are tired and hungry. Can hardly sleep, getting thinner all the time, Just rice, no bread and working so hard.
- 20th. This is a very long day, hope something happens soon. No real news now.
- 21st. The sky is grey and it's raining hard.
- 22nd. Men get hurt every day, a car broke loose and caused a cavein, 3 men hurt.
- 23rd. Two men hurt. Dysentdy had broken out. Hope I don't get it, worked at coal all night.
- 24th. Worked all night on coal, it is on fire down underneath.
- 25th. This is our day off, but we work around the camp.
- 26th. Down again, we go down at 2 p.m and come up at 11 p.m.. Not a bad

1943

- shift. Weather is getting warm, summer is close now.
- Mar 27th Nice and fine, too bad to be in captivity. Saw in paper that Japs have lost another transport, Tantula Maru 8,750 tons.
- 28th Can't tell Sunday from another day, these heathen brutes.
- 29th Three men killed in mine and four injured. All Japs, wish it had been 1,000.
- 30th Time is long and we have to work so hard.
- 31st. Raining very hard and muddy as the devil.
- Apr 1st. Getting nice and fine, trees are budding out.
- 2nd. The cherry trees are coming in blossom, very pretty. We are so hungry when we get in from work we can hardly eat, and then just rice and cabbage soup. I am so thin, I weigh about 130 lbs.
- 3rd. Warm, hot, raining hard, wish we could get some news of some kind or some Red Cross food.
- \*4th Pouring rain, Mud about a foot deep. There is snow on the mountain tops yet. We had to load 30 cars of med. They may break my back but never my heart.
- 5th Not feeling so good, have a temperature.
- \*6th I have Dysentery, passing blood, but have to go to work just the same. There are about 15 with it. One poor fellow fainted and we had to carry him.
- \*7th In terrible pain, just like my body would fall apart and getting so weak can hardly keep going.
- \*8th Still working with this awful disease and Japs won't do anything about it.
- 9th. Feeling a little better today but weak
- 10th Worse to day, can't get better on this food and working at the same time.
- 11th. Have the day off, had sort of church service, but no Minister. We sang two hymns--- O God Our Help in Ages and a psalm. Maj. Robinson was in charge .
- 12th Working again today and no better, passing blood and mucus what pain
- 13th Feeling a little better. Hope I'm getting well. Thank God.
- 14th Still sick and getting weaker each day.
- 15th Warm and sunshiny, but I'm so sick believe I'll die this time.
- 16th Nice and fine. If I wasn't so sick it would'nt be so bad.
- 17th Fine again and I'm no better and so many have it now.
- 18th Dull day. Not working today, the rest will do us good.
- 19th I have to go down in mine today what a life if it lasts.
- 20th I stagger all over the place. I'm so weak, just pass mucus.
- 21st. Feel a little stronger today. We are pouring cement, a footing for the mine props, we have caveins every day.
- 22nd. Nice and fine, but we have to go down in mine just the same. I feel a little stronger today. Hope I get better soon. Tomorrow is Good Friday.
- 23rd. This is Good Friday, everyone will be going to church back home.
- 24th The Jap papers say that the campaign in Tunisia is looking bad for the Axis. We are pouring cement down in the mine, making a wall. Our footwear is gone to pieces, some are almost bare foot.
- 25th Easter Sunday, lots of good food back home, we have been cut down again. We don't get any barley now, just rice and such a little bit. It looks like there will be an invasion of the Balkans real soon, hope it will be successful.
- 26th Nice and sunny day, but we will be going down in mine. I got beat up by Jap. Sgt. Cut my lip and tried to knock me down and I could'nt even hit back, but if God will only give me the chance when this is over, I will knock his head right off his shoulders, the dirty rat, yellow bastard.
- 27th Very bad day, everything went wrong. The Jap bosses were madk all day, hope it dosen't last long.
- 28th A man in my party got hurt today. Luckily he wasn't killed. Got caught between the muck cars and the cement wall. Johnnie Kain is his name.
- 29th We have today off, we cleaned out our quarters, also changed shift.
- \*30th Nice and warm. Our feet are all burned from the cement, our feet get wet all we have on is canvas sneakers and walking through the mud and water with the cement falling over us, feet all skinned. The Japs have issued us a uniform the same as their soldiers wear. I will make them eat the darned thing before I leave Japan.
- \* May 1st. We also have to walk around the building twice in our bare feet, it is supposed to cure Berri Berri, all have it now.
- 2nd. Down in mine, still at cement. I think this is Mother's day but not sure.. Anyway I wish Mamma and Grandma many more days of a happier kind when we are all together again.
- 3rd. We had squid soup for supper last night, what dirt we have to eat, but we are so hungry all the time we would eat anything.
- 4th Lovely and warm. Just like June at home. The climate is very good here. One of our man died today, he was so thin he could hardly walk

1943  
\* May

- 4th. and just last night the Japs gave him a beating. Poor fellow, his name is Murray. I think he is an American from Michigan.
- 5th We buried Murray today, he was so thin one man could of carried him. Rain is falling, they say happy is the corpse that the rain falls on. The Japs won't give us any papers so I guess there must be bad news for them. Hope so anyway.
- 6th This is a lovely day, sun shining and soft wind blowing. They have cut down our rations again, we hardly get enough to live on without working, but just as I write this there has come in Red Cross food and also boots. I don't know exactly what came in but it's a God send to us anyway. All overjoyed, just like children.
- 7th Lovely day, many planes overhead these day. We were all vaccinated again. We didn't get any of the Red Cross stuff yet. and I suppose the Japs will keep half of it for themselves as they did before. They made us stand at attention for one hour yesterday.
- 8th Grand weather, bright sun, didn't get any Red Cross stuff yet, don't know what is holding them up. There are a lot of centipedes, we even find them in the alleyways, their bite is very poisonous and painful.
- 9th. Lovely and fine like summer at home. This is our day off, but they keep running us around having fire drill and air raid drill Would just as soon work.
- 10th. Fine again today, we go to work at 2 o'clock, this is a good shift.
- 11th Nice breeze of wind from the north west, but the time is terribly long, just like same, we got a lot of barley in our rice about half and half. The Japs also sold us some small biscuits, about the size of a .50 cent piece, we pay a cent each and were allowed 16 each.
- 12th. Called out of bed for fire drill, we don't get much rest that way. Work our shift and then run around all day.
- 13th Warm, but no sunshine, had blackout last night, it's hard to get dressed in the dark, Jap papers say a submarine bombarded a place in Hokidade. I hope they keep it up, blackout again last night.
- 14th Nice and fine, We had to get out of bed and weed the yard around the camp.
- 15th I think there must be a big shot coming to visit us by the way they are cleaning up. Raining this p.m. No blackout tonight still waiting for our Red Cross parcels.
- 16th Dull and rainy, not working in mine today, but we will have to clean up the place just the same. We had to pull up all the grass and weeds in the rain, but it wasn't too bad after all. We go to work at 6 a.m. tomorrow on day shift.
- 17th Dull morning, but warmer this p.m. Still pouring cement, had to do P.T. for an hour after coming from work before supper.
- 18th Dull and cool. Still pouring cement Papers say the Germans and Italians have given up Tunisia and that Turkey has given up her strict neutrality for non belligerency as a British ally.
- 19th Cloudy and cool, very nice. Lots of plants around here and such a nice smell. Hope they give us our Red Cross parcels soon. Japs say that the Americans have landed on an island in the outer Aleutians.
- 20th The Japs offered us 1 parcel per room, that is 1 parcel to 8 men, but we didn't take it so they got an interpreter so now we hear we are going to get 1 each on our next day off.
- 21st. Nice day, sun bright, Had an air raid alarm last night. Time is long, but the months seem to go quickly.
- 22nd. Japs want all books and diaries turned in to them. I hope they don't get hold of this book, the brutes. Winston Churchill is reported in Washington, looks like the 2nd front will soon be on. I hope we get out of here this year. I mean 1945.
- 23rd. We got out Red Cross parcels today. 7 parcels between 8 men, it certainly is great to get Western food. The box is the same as the one we got in Hong Kong. All diaries, note books, pens and pencils have been taken from us, but I hid my pencil and diary so have to be careful not to get caught.
- 24th. Raining hard, we go to work at 12 p.m. tonight. Most everyone is sick from the amount of food they ate. Our Stomachs are so weak now, the least thing upsets us.
- 25th Tired this morning, Worked hard last night.
- 26th Lovely and fine, not too hot.
- 27th Raining today. The Japs want us to do the goose step when going through main gate.

1943

- May 28th Still raining hard and we were made walk around the camp in the mud in our bare feet, the lousy bastards, Will skip a few pages as my book is nearly full.
- 29th Finer today. Three flying boats just passed over here.
- 30th This is our day off, but we have been doing fire drill, air raid alarm and P.T. all day. I ate my apple pudding, it was delicious
- 31st. Raining, not a bad day in mine, this the the best shift day.
- June 1st. Nice day. Japs are mad about something.
- 2nd. Japs say 20,000 Americans were captured in the Aleutians and 100 Canadian Oplanes shot down.
- 3rd. We are off work today. Some big shot is coming here tomorrow and we are cleaning up the place. Nice and fine, not too hot.
- 4th Raining hard. Jap Col. inspected this camp today, he was an old fellow. We had to do P.T. all afternoon.
- 5th Raining again, very dull. Japs won't give us any papers at all. They must be keeping the news from us, as it must be good for our side.
- 6th Still raining. very warm, working today.
- 7th Rain again today. Pouring cement, hard job when on rice.
- 8th Rain again today. There are a lot of other workers here. I think they are from Korea,
- 9th Rain again. didn't work very hard today. Lot of Koreans here---- Conscript lbr.
- 11th Very hot. Had no papers since 21st of may.
- 12th Had church service, Maj. Robertson (the mad. officer, officiated both R. C.'s and priests attends. Hymns were Onward Christian Soldiers and All People That On Earth Do Dwell.
- 13th Very warm, we go down in mine at 10 o'clock tonight. We are on what they call the graveyard shift.
- 14th. Nice and warm, too nice anibe a prisoner, We caught a large snake in one of the rooms around 4 ft long. Japs say it isn't poisonous but they are afraid of it.
- 15th Nice day had a good night in mine. The guards are not too bad these days, but they change quickly.
- 16th The guards have been changed. My feet and chest is giving me a lot of trouble. If we don't soon get out of here we won't be much good for anything.
- 17th Raining, but very warm. Can't get any news at all now- no news is good news.
- 18th Rain again. A Korean was killed in the mine last night.
- 19th. Japs have an old gramophone and they play it for us. They think the men never heard a gramophone before. My feet are troubling me, can't sleep. They call it electric feet.
- 20th Lovely and fine, but we have to go down in that dangerous old coal mine just the same. It's a wonder some of us haven't been killed before this, there are daveins every day. we have been lucky so far. My feet are giving me lots of trouble and my hands are almost as bad. Can't sleep very much. The Japs have taken all the diaries so I'll have to stop. Too bad as I would liked to have kept on with my diary, but we may get free soon. The war can't last forever.
- 22nd. We are getting ready to go in the old coal mine, wish it would soon be over as I know how they must be worried about me. I haven't heard from home since leaving home on Oct 23rd 1941. but I hope everyone is well, but Grandma is getting old, poor old Gram, I would give anything to see her again. Mamma & Papa are younger and all the rest will be alright I hope. It's 12 o'clock noon and we are going in for our rice and food.
- 23rd. Nice and fine, but the time is getting long. It will soon be July and it's so lovely back home. Something should happen soon
- 24th Nice and bright, we are pauring cement yet. Some of the men are so crabbit they are a burden to themselves.
- 25th We were 18 months prisoners today, much too long. Reported that Winston Churchill was killed in a plane crash. I hope not.
- 26th Nice and warm. The Jap Sgt. Kobash has been taken away, reported they he did some sort of embellishment, I hope he never comes back.
- 27th Rain today and it's quiet, too quiet to last. We are supposed to get bully beef today, but no sign of it yet.
- 28th Nice and warm. There is some sort of trouble with this camp, lots of changes taking place. We got 3 cans of bully beef yesterday per man. I will help our Berri Berri. They also gave us a drink of cocoa and powder for the fleas.
- 29th The powder did'nt help much for the fleas, we are all in a bad condition. I cut my leg and it won't heal and I have a

- 7
- 1943
- June 29th Lump in my groin, can hardly walk but I have to go down in mine.
- 30th Very warm and we have to work so hard. The peaches are ripe here now and other kinds of fruit. Japs ~~took~~ took all the watches away from the boys last night, may get them back sometime.
- July 1st. This is a Dominion Day in Canada, don't suppose there is much celebration going on, but they have their freedom. I know we will be free next July. Our section head or boss is the worst man on earth, a proper brute and animal of the worst kind. It is raining harder than I ever seen it before in Japan.
- 2nd. My leg isn't any better. Sgt. Macdonald is very sick his temperature 103, he may have pneumonia.
- 3rd. Raining. We had some kind of stuff for supper like spaghetti for supper, but it was good. My leg isn't any better, running puss all the time. We have sores on us that won't heal, caused by lack of vitamin C. Lorne MacDonald isn't any better. The new camp Commandant seems to be much better than the last one.
- 4th Dull and rainy. We had some Red Cross dried fruit today, and 1 oz of oatmeal per man, tasted grand. We also had cocoa.
- 5th Dull and rainy. A bit of clothes has come in to camp also boots, they look like American Army boots and Manila was marked on the braces the Japs have taken back the uniform they gave us. We go to work at 10 o'clock p.m. This is known as the graveyard shift.
- 6th. This is Meda's birthday. I sincerely hope she is well and having a good time. I'm not quite sure of her age, it's either 33 Or 34 years. ~~xxxx~~ I am 3 years in the Army today. My leg is very sore just won't heal. Cloudy and fog in patches and also raining.
- 7th. Very nice day. Did'nt work very hard in mine last night. Two police officers just come in camp. Their police system in like the Gestapo in Germany. Two Koreans were killed in mine last night, they are conscript labour, poor fellows.
- 8th Dull and cloudy. My leg still festering, looks bad.
- 9th Terrible hot day. We got back from work at 6 A.M. and after having toll call and breakfast I was just in bed and asleep when they came and awakened me up to go downtown for wood for the oven as we get bread now, 3 cakes per day. It is a great help. I hear many planes overhead, we must be close to an airport.
- 10th Very warm, Fleas eating us alive, we have a powder, but it makes them worse. Tonight is our last on this shift. There was a bad cavein last night tons of rock came down.
- 11th Hot day. Did'nt get any sleep today, had to clean our rooms to do P.T. and run races. I won a race and got an extra bun. Japs had a funny sense of honour. Lorne McDonald no better. Got some news Churchill, Rosevelt and Stalin have met at Aden its reported.
- 12th Orangeman's day, big day in Canada in peace time. Had a cavein last night, one of my section had his leg crushed. Cpl. Jessup I had my foot hurt too, but not very bad. We are lucky to escape so far. The heat is terrible today. it's over 100 degrees in the shade.
- 13th Hot again today, not the same kind of heat as Hong Kong, no humidity.
- 14th Heat is terrible, can hardly sleep. The mine seems to get more dangerous each day. it's a wonder how we escape being killed. We got 3 jam rolls per man, cost us 18 sen.
- 15th Light breeze of wind today. Had rice and seawood what food.
- 16th Reported that Allies have landed in Sicily, 3 Divisions of Americans, 2 of British, 1 of Canada and we lost 40 boats and 3 cruisers.
- 17th Light breeze, helps to keep down heat. The Jap M.O. Came in last night. Very quiet reserved man. We didn't get any more news about the second front.
- 18th Light breeze makes it comfortable, except for the fleas, it would be okay. We were shocking the Japs, snapshots of places and girls, Their eyes just stuck out.
- 19th Nice and fine, we are on day shift, go to work at 6 O'clock in the morning. My leg isn't any better, swollen and red from knee to ankle, looks like blood poison to me.
- 20th Hot day and my leg is worse. Swollen terrible. Eight men out of 200 are allowed to send telegrams home, I was one of the lucky ones, I sent mine to Gram, wrote to Mamma last.
- 21st. Cool and breezy. I am on what you call the blues, when you can't go down in mine you go on the blues. 14 double winged single motored planes passed here today. Arley Enright got his feet hurt today Laid up with it.
- 22nd. Raining hard. My leg is terrible, couldn't sleep much last night it has turned to a blind carbuncle.
- 23rd. Raining hard and we have to work in rain. Leg isn't any better. Have been issued more orders about hurting our bosses or trying to escape the punishment is death.

1943

- July. 24th. Still raining. Large Jap Bomber passed over here today. Had mackeral for supper, went good with rice. I'm tired tonight and my leg isn't any better, have a towel for bandage.
- 25th. Hot day. A Jap miner came out of mine dead today, must have been caught in a blast. The old camp Commandant visited here to day. Got my back burned with the sun.
- 26th. Terribly hot day and heavy rain showers, thunder and lightening. I have been thinking of my folks at home a lot lately, I hope none are sick.
- 27th. Cooler today, have day off, it's a Jap holiday. We had a Concert dressed some of the fellows up like girls wasn't bad. Dreamed about folks at home again.
- 28th. Misting rain all day. I didn't work so hard today. Rice ration had been cut, must have trouble getting rice. There was a Jap General here today, an old fellow with a lot of ribbon.
- 29th. Showers all day. My but we are hungry all the time. A ~~gawking~~ gnawing in our stomachs. A Jap sentry just passed and almost caught me writing in this book. My leg is better today.
- 30th. Showers, sunny this p.m. Reported that Premier Mussolini has been put off his job and Marshall Bagdallio had taken his place
- 31st. Very hot, can't sleep at night. There must be a million fleas in this place. We are covered with bites. I hope I'm home for next July. I certainly don't want to be alive and here this time next year.
- Aug 1st. Heavy rain, Lightening hit a house over by the mine, made an awful noise and smoke. Time seems long, but months go fast.
- 2nd. Cooler to day, had cocoa for dinner it was delicious. Red Cross stuff. Had today off. Certainly need it, want all the rest we can get, so weak takes so little to make us sick.
- 3rd. Heat terrible, but after this month it gets cooler. I have a terrible pain in my stomach and abdomen, lot of the fellows are the same.
- 4th. Hot day. I'm tired to night. Most every woman in this place is carrying a baby in a sling on her back, or else she is pregnant. There are so many children wherever you look.
- 5th. Cool breeze makes it better for sleeping. Lorne MacDonald died today. He was a nice fellow. I got down in mine today.
- 6th. Very warm. We buried Maddonald to day out on the hillside. Our M. O. acted as Minister. The coffin was made with thin 1/2 inch boards and covered with paper. He is happy now. Just the other day he asked me when I thought it would be over, seemed to know he couldn't last it out.
- 7th. Cool Breeze. Many of the boys getting think. My shoulder is sore. We had to carry poor Lorne about a mile on our Shoulders, His home was in Scotstown, Quebec.
- 8th. Very hot day. Had an air raid ~~alarm~~ ~~raid~~ last night and again today. Did't see or hear any planes. Soup and rice again today
- 9th. Nice cool breeze. We put our blankets and mats out in the sun to see if it would do the fleas any good. Had mackeral for dinner, a change from soup.
- 10th. Not so warm. We are on night shift, go down at 10 o'clock.
- 11th. Fierce storm, thunder and lightening, but abating this evening I have lost my appetite, can't ~~eat~~ eat any rice hardly, and the rice is vulnerable.
- 12th. Awful hot, can't sleep. Japs are getting tough these days, wouldn't let No 2 party take a bath when they came from work.
- 13th. Heat just awful, can't sleep a wink. Today is Grandma's birthday, hope she is well and in good health. I have forgotten her age.
- 14th. Awful heat. Will be glad when the shift is over. A large rat attacked Red Windsor and bite his leg in two places. Don't get news of any kind, would love to hear how things are going all over the world.
- 15th. Hot. The men got the chance to get two packs of cigs each yesterday, a long time since smokes have been cut off, also had cocoa for dinner and 48 eggs in soup. 48 eggs between 200 men.
- 16th. Raining hard and a little cooler, fleas not so bad when its cool. Had Seaweed soup for dinner and again the the mine.
- 17th. Cooler, but fleas just terrible, We have some kind of pay cards that we have to get punched before going in mine. Had bread for supper.
- 18th. Cooler at night. We have been given a note book as they have relented somewhat. My feet are burned with cement, so sore the skin is all off. Seaweed soup for dinner, or kelp as we call

1943

- July 19th it home. Guard changed again.
- 19th Cool breeze, but fleas bad as ever. Issued 1 bottle of bear  
1st night. 60 sen per bottle, also a raise in pay. I get  
.25 sen per day. Cyclone expected tonight, all windows  
closed up.
- 20th Strong breeze. very strong during the night. Another man died  
today. Eddie Savoy, he used to be in my platoon, home is in  
St John, N.B. will be buried tomorrow.
- 21st. Almost devoured by fleas last night. Peter Delarosbil got his  
foot smashed last night. Had good soup, potatoes and meat.  
Buried Savoy today. No was 6-30318 R.F.M. I was on funeral  
party, carried the cross buried on hillside one mile from  
camp. Sgt. D'avignon performed rites, was R. C.
- 22nd. Nice day, light breeze, we are off to day to clean up the  
place and kill the fleas. Yesterday was pay day I got 6 yen 70  
yen. We have squid soup for supper. Major Robinson inspected  
our quarters today. Japs seem to have relented somewhat lately.
- 23rd. We are on morning shift this week, drilling and blasting.
- 24th. Jap in charge of my party got hit with a rock from a dynamite  
blast, hurt pretty bad, another lad, Allan Larriault cut on  
the head when coming up the ----- We have been given the  
opportunity of sending a message home by radio, 55 words, 9  
men out of 200, I was one of the boys selected, I send my  
message to Mamma. We were given an apple each, very sweet and  
juicy but hard, tasted like peas and the colour of a pear.
- 25th. Warm with heavy rain. Hear that Churchill made the statement  
in Quebec city where he and President Roosevelt met that the  
war would be over in Europe this winter.
- 26th. Not so hot today, light rain. Have all been photographed today  
3 men at a time, don't know what it is for. Get potatoes often  
just like our green mountain variety.
- 27th Have been given about 150 books of many kinds, some are fiction  
but a lot are tras books written by many writers of many  
countires. Rain.
- 28th Rain again. Books are a great help, we read when not at work
- 29th. Very hot. Mosquitoes are bad as they were a month ago. Don't  
get much first hand news. But hear there was a revolution in  
Argentine on 4th of July, 1942. Noticed it in an old Nippon  
paper that was here today.
- 30th Still hot, rain in evening. Have a 9 hour shift this week.
- 31st. Rain in torrents this a.m. mud up to our ankles. Had 3 cakes  
for dinner about the size of our drop cakes in Canada. Wish  
something would happen soon, getting tired of this life.
- Sept 1st. Weather nice to day. Reported that some Canadian prisoners  
at a place called Oris, not far from here tried to escape and  
were caught, 3 wereshot, they say they were crazy. Conducted  
a search to day, took away a lot of stuff, but they didn't get  
my letters or diary, darn them, they must have been bombed aga  
and that makes them mad, so they took it out on the prisoners.
- 2nd Nice day, but we have to pull all the grass around the camp an  
then go down in mine at 10 p.m. All lights out, must be bombed  
some place.
- 3rd. Japs seem to be worried. Blackout again.
- 4th. Raining. Food bad. Something should start in Europe soon, hope  
there won't be any stop to it this time.
- 5th This night shift is bad, can't sleep in daytime. Pouring rain  
this p.m. Reported that the Koreans are taking over from us  
if they do, I don't know what we will be doing.
- 6th Nice and fire. Had 3 buns in mine last night about the size  
of drop cakes, half baked and s ur. I guess they have lost an  
island in Solomons, Bouganville.
- 7th Weather not so hot lately. Rumoured that the British 6th Army  
had landed in Italy. Japs gave one of the boys a beating and  
put him in a cooler, they don't take it. Many planes here tod
- 8th Weather just right last few days, all have a terrible cold in  
the head, sneezing and a headache, tough old time.
- 9th Cooler with rain. We are almost finished the job, we have be  
working on since going down in mines. Suppose we will be  
working in coal after this.
- 10th Dull and cloudy with rain. Japs are mad about something last  
night. Made us stand at attention for 1/2 hour ( mon ti jo)  
said we weren't working, we just laughed at them.
- 11th Still raining. Japs have the papers and are reading them from  
top to bottom, must be bad news for them, hope there is. To-  
morrow is our day off, 10 days shift is tiresome.
- 12th Dull and cloudy. Had a cavein just after we got past a bad  
spot in our shaft, lucky not to be under it when it fell.



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- 1943
- Sept 13th Still raining. Didn't hear any more rumours. We are on 2 O'clock shift this time, we are almost finished our part.
- 14th Cloudy and showers. Rice with beans for dinner. No rumours of any kind these last few days.
- 15th Cloudy with thunder and rain. 3 large bombers passed over here. We were all ginger printed today. Supposed to get candy today, good and bad come together.
- 16th Rain and thunger a.m. fine in p.m. Potato soup today, most every one had cramps. Rome occupied by German troops.
- 17th Fine day. Mosquitos bad as ever. Japs caught some of the boys gambling, don't know what they do about it. L. Cpl. Wood died he was so thin, had dysentery. Rumoured that Germans are giving Allies trouble in Italy and that there may be another Dunkirk.
- 18th Fine. Squash soup. Lot of the boys heartsick, vomiting and terrible cramps.
- 19th Raining in torrents, water all over. Rumoured that German have Americans in a bad spot. Reported the Italians have skuttled the liner Cante Verde at Shanghai, was a luxury liner, fine ship.
- 20th Still raining. No news today.
- 21st. Have a day off. Rained in a.m. fine in P.M.
- 22nd. Working now in anew shift, what a place to work in. If we don't get out of here soon it will be too late, dust so thick can hardly see each other and I'm getting tired holding a heavy jack hammer all day. It has turned cold. I wish they'd hurry and start bombing.
- 23rd. This is by far the worst day I ever spent in mine, we are in a dead end tunnel and the fumes from the blast and dust was so thick we couldn't see each other. I also have the diaherria and cramps.
- 24th Worked very hard again today, dust awful, our throats are sore. One of the boys hit a Jap and knocked him out, now he is in guard room.
- 25th Worked terrible hard today, dynamite wouldn't explode, battery was too weak. Hope it don't last long now.
- 26th. Hard day, we had to drill 24 4-foot holes with old drills and jack hammer is practically useless. Our feet are skinned and swollen and so painful, it is just like trench feet from being wet all the time.
- 27th Nearly played out tonight and I couldn't sleep last night feet pained so.
- 28th Worked hard as the duce, had to drill 34 4-foot holes with two hammers coming up, one of my men got caught between the cars and a big air pipe, I think he had a broken pelvis, how he will suffer Poor fellow, he is from New Richmond Quebec. Clement Cyr.
- 29th Nice day, no rain for a wonder. Cyr is a little better, not in much pain. Bill Hawk got hurt today, a rock hit him on the head. We had rice and shrimp for supper, not bad.
- 30th Getting colder lately, lot of planes up today. Another man hurt, one finger off and hand badly smashed.
- Oct 1st. Colder at night. Japs have taken the fellow that hit one of their crew away. I guess to Fukola, tied him hand and foot with rope, just as if he had killed someone, he will a hard time.
- 2nd. Not a bad day, they did't bother so much. They told us we are going to have a canteen, but they haven't anything in their stores so it won't be much use to us. I saw a large spotted snake today by the guard house, the guards killed it.
- 3rd. Very quiet, we slept all day, had a hard night in mine. They have an old radio we may accidentally hear some news sometime. Fleas here in thousands.
- 4th Showers, but not quite so cold. Mosquitos have left, but fleas are bad. No rumours lately.
- 5th Not a bad day. had a dream about home and about getting letters from home. I would like to hear if everyone is well.
- 6th Find it cool because we work in such a hot place in mine. Feeling bad tonight.
- 7th This is my 31st birthday, I am sure they are thinking of me today and worrying. I know I have caused them lots of worry these last few years. I may get a chance to make it up yet. I have rice and a very watery soup for a birthday and work hard as the duce, next year I may be close to home.
- 8th Nice day, sun bright, and had some Red Cross cocoa today.
- 9th Raining. This is Foster McGie's birthday he is my age. 31 years old, not a bad guy, in some ways. We get a lot of soup these days.
- 10th Have a sore under my arm, must be a boil. We were given more blackout curtains, look like a raid.
- 11th Lovely day, bright sun. No rumours of any kind. Arm stiff and sore
- 12th. Six of our planes just passed over here. Had shrimp for night meal
- 13th Hear that Wake has been bombed and shelled and that Russians have crossed Dniiper River, 50 miles above Kive, also the British 8th Army had landed in another place in Italy.

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- 1943
- Oct 14th. Very quiet except of an occasional plane. Rice and soup tonight
- 15th Misting rain, but not cold. Feet are sore as we are walking ~~around~~ almost on our bare feet, real agony. Hope it ends soon.
- 16th Fine, but misting rain. We were issued a pair of ytabi or canvas shoes, pair of pants, and a sort of smock., first thing in line of clothing so far.
- 17th Dull morning, P.T. and clean up our rooms. Rice and Greens for breakfast, some of the boys are asleep, one fellow is singing in a low tone the Prisoners song, another When we Do Get Back, if We Do Get Back.
- 18th Cloudy day. No news of any kind. Life here is almost unendurable we are all getting grey and lines in our faces.
- 19th Red Windsor lost his money, may be a sereach today, hope not as & they may find this diary. Another man in my party got hurt. Alfred Hunt from Chandler.
- 20th One of the boys has Diphtheria, hope it doesn't spread to anyone else as I had my share in China last year. Hear there is a meeting on in Moscow, Eden and Hull are both there and others.
- 21st. Have a severe head cold. The weather is cool at night. No more mosquitos, but lots of fleas.
- 22nd. We had a bad accident today, just when we were ready to come out of the mine, a cavein caught one man, but didn't kill him, ~~the~~ agonized cries he gave would make one shiver, but I escaped by inches. We soon dug him out, his back and spine are broken, both legs in many places, hips also, he won't live very long. Name is Jimmy Kaine from Matapedia, Quebec.
- 23rd. Fine. More men hurt 1st night in same places, tons of rock came down and there was a Jap killed there today, crushed to death. It's just 2 years ago today since we left Valcartier Can. for the Orient. So many won't go back, it seems cruel.
- 24th Spent a quiet day as it's our day off. The skies are gray and I feel lonesome and blue.
- 25th A year ago today our forces bombed hong kong for first time, hope they bomb here today.
- 26th Very cold, no news of any kind, monotonous times.
- 27th Very chilly, mist in a.m. Camp visited by a general of some kind.
- 28th Little warmer today, cold in a.m. Japs have two of the boys locked up in guard room because they forgot ~~some~~ tools in mine.
- 29th Cool and clear. Lights went out without warning.
- 30th Clear and cool, not much going on, Wish we could get news of some kind.
- 31st. Quiet and cool. fleas not so bad.
- Nov 1st. Many planes overhead all day, one more November rolls along.
- 2nd. Little warmer today. One more of our men hurt.
- 3rd. This is our day off, but I am sick I guess I got a chill, so hot where we work, and when we come up in the cold air, and our quarters are cold, no fire of any kind. Brought coal out of mine to day, big celebration.
- 4th I didn't work to day, first day since coming to Japan. Feel a little better. Nice clear weather, good time for bombing.
- 5th Working in mine, don't feel very good.
- 6th Very fine. This would be Grandpa's birthday, but he won't know all this.
- 7th Cloudy and dull, but not very cold. This is Phil's birthday. I hope he is having a good time, better than I am having. Anyway he won't be a prisoner. This life is almost unbearable, it seems it will never end. We escaped death by a hair, about 50 tons fell from the ceiling.
- 8th Sort of drizzle. Rice 3 times a day with soup, tough going, but we will win just the same.
- 9th Raining, muddy as the dickens. Had a small piece of meat and sweet potato for dinner, what a treat.
- 10th Rice again today with turnip soup. Wrote home today.
- 11th This is our day off. 25 years ago today the great war ~~ended~~ ended, but not this time. Had a remembrance service. Cold and dreary, they also searched again. Don't know what they are looking for.
- 12th. We hear that there is some news about Turkey giving passage to Allies through the Dardenelles.
- 13th Have Berri Berri, my legs are swollen when you press on them with fingers the dent stays. Rice is the cause of this disease
- 14th Heavy rain to day. but we are a long way under ground so it doesn't matter to us. Half of month gone already, time in long.
- 15th Would like to know when war will end. Some of the men have gone religious, never ~~swear~~ swear, others have turned to hate Gods name and curse everything and everyone, they are real Athiests
- 16th Warm, overcast and dull, Wish we could get some news.
- 17th Colder in mornings than I have ever seen it here.