

Cheerio, Love Murray

Letters to Oak Lake, 1942-1945

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This document contains scanned copies of Murray McQuarrie's letters home to his family in Oak Lake, Manitoba. These letters carry a life across distance: training, friendship, homesickness, humour, and the ordinary details that survive history. Written between 1942 and 1945, they follow Murray from Western Canada to England and across Northwest Europe.

A Bit of Context

8th Reconnaissance Regiment (14th Canadian Hussars)¹

Murray served with the 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (14th Canadian Hussars), the reconnaissance arm of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division during the Second World War.

The 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (14th Canadian Hussars), commonly abbreviated to 8 Recce, VIII Recce or (within the British Army) 8 Canadian Recce, was the reconnaissance arm of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division during World War II.

¹ The following information was taken from *8th Reconnaissance Regiment (14th Canadian Hussars)*. (n.d.). Retrieved July 27, 2026, from https://www.liquisearch.com/8th_reconnaissance_regiment_14th_canadian_hussars

Formation and Structure

8 Recce was formed at Guillemont Barracks, near Aldershot in southern England, on March 11, 1941, by merging three existing squadrons within the division. Its first commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Churchill C. Mann. Mann was succeeded as commanding officer on September 26, 1941, by Lieutenant Colonel P. A. Vokes, who was in turn followed on February 18, 1944, by Lieutenant Colonel M. A. Alway. The last commanding officer was Major "Butch" J. F. Merner, appointed to replace Alway a couple of months before the end of the fighting in Europe.

8 Recce had its roots in the 14th Canadian Light Horse, a militia unit formed in 1920. One source claims the unit was the union of the 27th Light Horse and the 14th Canadian Mounted Rifles, but the official lineage shows no amalgamation in 1920, just a renaming of the 27th Light Horse. Authoritative lists of units in the Active Militia and the Canadian Expeditionary Force show no record of a "14th Canadian Mounted Rifles" – there were only 13 regiments of mounted rifles organized in the CEF. In any event, the 14th Canadian Light Horse in the 1920s was headquartered in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. It comprised 'A', 'B' and 'C' Squadrons based at Swift Current, Swift Current and Shuanavon, respectively. In 1937 the regiment was designated a mechanized unit, and in 1940 the regiment was renamed the 14th Canadian Hussars. In 1941 the regiment was mobilized, and its members joined with other reconnaissance personnel in England to form 8 Recce.

Following the pattern used in the Reconnaissance Corps of the British Army, 8 Recce was composed of a regimental headquarters (officially 26 men of all ranks at full strength), one headquarters squadron (222 men of all ranks) and three reconnaissance squadrons identified by the letters 'A', 'B' and 'C' (191 men each of

all ranks). The Headquarters Squadron contained a squadron headquarters (6 men), an administrative troop (44 men), a signal troop (40 men), an anti-aircraft troop (9 men), an anti-tank troop (79 men) and a mortar troop (44 men).

Each of the three reconnaissance squadrons was composed of a squadron headquarters (36 men), three scout troops (38 men each) and one assault troop (41 men). The 12 troops in the reconnaissance squadrons were numbered, with Troops 1 to 4 in 'A' Squadron, Troops 5 to 8 in 'B' Squadron, and Troops 9 to 12 in 'C' Squadron. Troops 4, 8 and 12 were the assault troops. A reconnaissance squadron was commanded by a major assisted by a captain.

A scout troop comprised one reconnaissance section and two carrier sections. Each scout troop (38 men of all ranks) would usually be commanded by a lieutenant assisted by a second lieutenant. An assault troop (about 41 men of all ranks) contained four assault sections (8 men each). Each assault troop was commanded by a lieutenant assisted by a sergeant.

The nominal strength of the regiment was 42 officers, 71 non-commissioned officers and 708 other ranks for a total of 821 men of all ranks.

Primary Mission, Weapons and Equipment

The primary mission of 8 Recce was to provide reconnaissance capabilities for the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division. Reconnaissance involves determining the location and capabilities of enemy units, and providing current information concerning the state of the theatre of operations (e.g., road and bridge conditions, alternative lines of advance). Weak enemy positions might be attacked if the

opportunity arose, but strong-points are generally bypassed and left for assault units to tackle. Nevertheless, determining the position and strength of the rear guard of a retreating enemy, or the location and strength of newly established defence lines, will frequently draw fire and provoke combat situations. Unless the enemy is retreating in especially disorganized fashion, a lightly armoured reconnaissance unit is vulnerable to land mines and ambushes. Consequently 8 Recce, along with other reconnaissance battalions, had significant assault capabilities to allow it to rescue pinned down scout units.

After its formation in England, 8 Recce was equipped initially with BSA M2 motorcycles, 15-cwt and 3-ton CMP trucks, light armoured cars, automatic weapons and radio communication equipment. The equipment was upgraded progressively during the three years of training in England to include more heavily armed armoured cars and a variety of weapons systems in response to the combat experience of other reconnaissance regiments in the Reconnaissance Corps. During the campaign to liberate northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands, the primary scouting vehicles of 8 Recce were the Humber Mark IIIA as well as the (from October 1944 onward) Daimler armoured cars. Although the ruggedness and speed of these lightly armoured wheeled vehicles was ideal for the reconnaissance role during the campaign across Northwest Europe, they were vulnerable to German antitank weapons, such as the 75-mm and 88-mm guns. Other major weapons deployed by 8 Recce included the Universal Gun Carrier, the M5 half-track, 2-inch light mortars, 3-inch mortars, 6-pounder anti-tank guns, PIAT portable anti-tank weapons, and heavy machine guns.

Toward the end of the war each scout troop was equipped with five armoured cars (three Daimlers and two Humbers) and seven Universal Gun Carriers (each mounted with one American .50-calibre heavy machine gun, replacing the original

.303-calibre Bren gun). Each assault troop was equipped with five half-tracks, each carrying one .50-calibre heavy machine gun.

In accordance with the system of vehicle markings used by the British Army, the vehicles of 8 Recce were identified as belonging to a reconnaissance unit by the presence of a square "unit mark" containing the number 41 in white on top of a two-tone, green above blue background.

Action During World War II

8 Recce spent the first three years of its existence involved in training and coastal defence duties in southern England. It was not involved in the ill-fated Dieppe Raid on August 19, 1942, and thus avoided the heavy losses suffered that day by many other units of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division. The regiment landed with its division in Normandy on July 6, 1944, one month after D-Day, and first entered combat as infantry in the on-going Battle of Normandy. The regiment's first two combat deaths occurred on July 13, when a shell struck a slit trench sheltering two men near Le Mesnil.

Following the near-destruction of the German Seventh Army and Fifth Panzer Army in the Falaise Pocket in August 1944, the remaining German forces were compelled into a rapid fighting retreat out of Northern France and much of Belgium. 8 Recce provided the reconnaissance function for its division during the advance of the First Canadian Army eastward out of Normandy, up to and across the Seine River, and then along the coastal regions of northern France and Belgium. The regiment was involved in spearheading the liberation of the port cities of Dieppe and Antwerp; it was also involved in the investment of Dunkirk,

which was then left under German occupation until the end of war. 8 Recce saw heavy action through to the end of the war including the costly Battle of the Scheldt, the liberation of the Netherlands and the invasion of Germany.

An early demonstration of the mobility and power of the armoured cars of 8 Recce occurred during the liberation of Orbec in Normandy. Over August 21 to 23, the infantry of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division had succeeded in pushing eastward up to the west bank of the River Tourques, but they were unable to expand an initial bridgehead across the river because of the presence of enemy positions in Orbec on the east bank. Humbers of 8 Recce had meanwhile scouted out possible river crossings northwest of the town. They succeeded in crossing the Tourques, then circled back to Orbec and attacked the German defenders unexpectedly from the north and east. Enemy resistance in the town was rapidly overcome and the division's advance towards the Seine could resume.

The reconnaissance role of 8 Recce often put its members well ahead of the main body of the division, especially during the pursuit of the retreating German army across northern France and Belgium in late August and September 1944. For example, elements of 8 Recce entered Dieppe on the morning of September 1, 1944, scene of the disastrous Dieppe Raid of 1942, a full 12 hours before the arrival of truck-borne Canadian infantry. The liberation of Dieppe was facilitated by the withdrawal of the German occupying forces on the previous day. The unexpectedly early liberation allowed a planned and likely devastating Allied bombing raid on the city to be called off. 8 Recce was responsible for liberating many other towns in the campaign across Northwest Europe.

During the Battle of the Scheldt, 8 Recce advanced westwards and cleared the southern bank of the West Scheldt river. In one notable action, armoured cars of

'A' Squadron were ferried across the river; on the other side the cars then proceeded to liberate the island of North Beveland by November 2, 1944. Bluff played an important role in this operation. The German defenders had been warned that they would be attacked by ground support aircraft on their second low-level pass if they did not surrender immediately. Shortly thereafter 450 Germans surrendered after their positions were buzzed by 18 Typhoons. Unbeknownst to the Germans, the Typhoons would not have been able to fire on their positions since the aircraft's munitions were already committed to another operation.

On April 12, 1945, No. 7 Troop of 'B' Squadron liberated Camp Westerbork, a transit camp built to accommodate Jews, Roma people and other people arrested by the Nazi authorities prior to their being sent into the concentration camp system. Bedum, entered on April 17, 1945, was just one of many Dutch towns liberated by elements of 8 Recce in the final month of the war. 8 Recce's last two major engagements were the Battle of Groningen over April 13–16 and the Battle of Oldenburg, in Germany, over April 27 to May 4. Three members of 8 Recce were killed on May 4, just four days before VE Day, when their armoured car was struck by a shell.

During the war 79 men were killed outright in action while serving in 8 Recce, and a further 27 men died of wounds.

Battle Honours

The battle honours of 8 Recce are as follows. The capitalized honours appear on the regimental guidon.

CAEN (July 6–18, 1944)

FALAISE (August 7–22, 1944)

Falaise Road (August 7–9, 1944)

Clair Tizon (August 11 and 13, 1944)

The Laison (August 14–17, 1944)

THE SEINE, 1944 (August 25–28, 1944)

ANTWERP–TURNHOUT CANAL (September 24–29, 1944)

THE SCHELDT (October 1 – November 8, 1944)

Woensdrecht (October 1–27, 1944)

SOUTH BEVELAND (October 24–31, 1944)

The Rhineland (February 8 – March 10, 1945)

TWENTE CANAL (April 2–4, 1945)

GRONINGEN (April 13–16, 1945)

OLDENBURG (April 27 – May 4, 1945)

NORTH-WEST EUROPE, 1944–1945

The Letters

1942

Moose Jaw - -
 Sept. 14th

Dear Mother ---

Well here I am in Moose Jaw
 the bus got in at about half past
 8. this morning, and boy was I
 tired. I got a room and slept till
 twelve o'clock, which was about
 an hour and a half ago. If
 you think it is wet down
 in Manitoba you should see it
 here, the ditches are all full
 and there are sloughs, and lakes
 all over. It started to rain
 when we were coming through
 (Mississin) (or how ever you spell it)
 and its raining here right now,
 so I guess there won't be much
 to do till it dries up. There
 is a lot of really flat country
 when you get through Regina, and
 around here, you can see for miles

I blame near missed the bus at Oak Lakes, I was in town ⁱⁿ lots of time but I thought I would get some cigarettes before I got on, I thought it would stop for about 5 min. but it only stopped for about 1 min. so when I came out with my cigarettes it was starting away. I let out a yell and the driver heard me because the window happened to be open, and he stopped for me. Well I just thought I would drop you a line and let you know I reached my destination. I will write again when I get a job. (if I do).

Love

Murray



Moose Jaw - -

Sept. 14th

Dear Mother - - -

Well here I am in Moose Jaw the bus got in at about past 8 this morning, and boy was I tired. I got a room and slept till twelve oclock, which was about an hour and a half ago. If you think it is wet down in Manitoba you should see it here, the ditches are all full and there are sloughs, and lakes all over. It started to rain when we were coming through (Moosimin) (or however you spell it) and it's raining here right now.

So I guess there won't be much to do until it dries up. There is a lot of really flat country when you get through Regina, and around here, you can see for miles.

I blame near missed the bus at Oak Lake, I was in town in lots of time but I thought I would get some cigarettes before I got on, I thought it would stop for about 5 min. But it only stopped for about 1 min. So when I came out with my cigarettes it was starting away. I let out a yell and the driver heard me because the window happened to be open, and he stopped for me. Well I just thought I would drop you a line and let you know I reached my destination. I will write you again when I get a job. (if I do).

Love

Murray

Parkbyz Lake.
Sunday Sept. 27th

Dear Mother,

How are you all? "Well I hope." I got your letter yesterday. So Sven and Jack are going to be married on the 26th. I will be home I think.

In fact I blame near came home a couple of days ago, We had about 6 inches of snow, and it was windy and colder than the north pole. But the snow all gone, practically now, and it looks like fair weather for awhile.

We overhauled a stationary engine, and took the motor out of a Model T Ford and

put it into another.

Model T, yesterday and today
was it cold work.

We won't get started
to thresh now till near
the end of the week, but
I can get in a few days
stacking hay. Well I
can't think of anything
else to write about so
Goodbye.

Murray.



Parkby Sask.

Sunday Sept. 27th

Dear Mother -

How are you all? "Well I hope.

" I got your letter yesterday. So Gwen and Jack are going to be married on the 26th. I will be home I think. In fact I blame near came home a couple

of days ago, We had about 6 inches of snow, and it was windy and colder than the north pole. But

the snow's all gone, practically, now, and it looks like fair weather for awhile. We overhauled a

stationary engine, and took the motor out of a Model T ford and put it into another Model T, yesterday and "boy was it cold work.

We won't get started to thresh now till near the end of the week, but I can get in a few

day's stooking maybe. Well I can't think of anything else to write about so

Goodbye.

Murray.

Parkby Sask.
Sept 18th

Dear Mother --,

Well how is everybody, and everything, well I hope?
Did you get my letter?
I got a job with a fellow
by the name of John Smith.
He lives at Parkby Box 18.
So when you write you had
better send it in care of him.
I came out from Moose Jaw
with him Tue. night and
fog did it rain, it rained
Wed. morning but I got in
a # of a day stacking anyway.
I stacked Tuesday and today and
have 3 or 4 more days if it
yet before we start threshing.
He has about 20 days threshing
to do.



Parkbeg, Sask.

Sept 18th

Dear Mother - - ,

Well how is everybody, and everything, well I hope? Did you get my letter? I got a job with a fellow by the name of John Smith, He lives at Parkbeg Box 18- So when you write you had better send it in care of him. I came out from Moose Jaw with him Tues. night and boy did it rain, It rained Wed. morning but I got in a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a day stooking anyway. I stooked thursday and today, and have 3 or 4 more days of it yet before we start threshing. He has about 20 day's threshing to do.

It is extremely rolling hilly country up here by Parkbeg. Parkbeg is 38 miles west of Moose Jaw and Smiths are 9 miles south of Parkbeg. They are very nice people, and have a baby about 6 months old.

Wages are good up here, I am getting 4 dollars a day for stooking and will get 5 for threshing, Well I guess I will sign off. Write soon!

In care of.

Mr. John Smith
Parkbeg, Sask
Box 18.
Murray.

Winnipeg Man.
Nov 15th

Dear mother,

Well how is everybody at home?

We got in Winnipeg to Friday morning
and if there ever was a pair of lost
sheep it was us. We had breakfast
and proceeded to find the Manitoba
Hotel. We found it without much
trouble by asking an old fellow, ~~who~~
who I bought a pair of gloves from.
When we got to the hotel, Oliver wasn't
up yet so we woke him up, and
got well cursed for it too, but he
was glad to see someone from
home. And we were glad to have
someone to show us the city.
We went all through Eaton and
the H. B. C. stores, they are sure
~~elaborate~~ big stores. Friday afternoon
we went to the recruiting office.
and they sent us up to West Osburnes
where we had our medical, and Dr
Ray, then they told us to ~~come~~ back
by 1/2 past 3 the next morning. So
we went back to the hotel and stayed
with old Oliver for the night.
All we did Saturday was get a
Intelligence test and sit around.

till noon, then they told us that we ~~they~~ couldn't get sworn in that day, but we could stay at Barricks if we wanted to, But we decided to go back to the Hotel and see a bit of the city, and go to a few shows.

We have great hopes of getting sworn in tomorrow although lots of guys have been here a week and haven't got their uniforms yet. We are getting into the armoured cars. Because we like them best. Well I guess I'll sign off.

Love. Murray

P.S. - I'll be home for five days once we get in, but if we don't get in pretty soon ~~well~~ we will be broke and have to stay for two weeks ~~till pay~~ so we can get paid. Well I doubt if you can read this letter, because I'm not used to writing.

Murray.

Winnipeg Man.

Nov 15th

Dear Mother - ,

Well how is everybody at home?

We got in Winnipeg $\frac{1}{4}$ to 9 Friday morning. And if there ever was a pair of lost sheep, it was us. We had breakfast, and proceeded to find the Manitoba Hotel. We found it without much trouble by asking an old fellow, who I bought a pair of gloves from.

When we got to the hotel, Oliver wasn't up yet so we woke him up, and got well cursed for it too, but he was glad to see someone from home. And we were glad to have someone to show us the city.

We went all through Eatons and the H.B.C. stores, They are sure elaborate big stores. Friday afternoon we went to the recruiting office. And they sent us up to Fort Osborne, where we had our Medical, and [X]Ray, then they told us to be back by $\frac{1}{2}$ past 8 the next morning. So we went back to the Hotel and stayed with old Oliver for the night.

All we did Saturday was get an Intelligence test and sit around.

—

till noon, Then they told us that we couldn't get sworn in that day, but we could stay at the Barracks if we wanted to, But we decided to go back to the Hotel and see a bit of the city, and go to a few shows.

We have great hopes for getting sworn in tomorrow although lots of guys have been here a week and haven't got there [sic] uniforms yet. We are getting into the armoured cars because we like them best. Well I guess I'll sign off.

Love. Murray

P.S. I'll be home for 5 day's once we get in, but if we don't get in, pretty soon we will be broke and have to stay for two weeks ~~till pay~~ so we can get paid. Well I doubt if you can read this letter because I'm not used to writing.

Murray.



WAR SERVICES

Fort Osborne
Winnipeg Man.

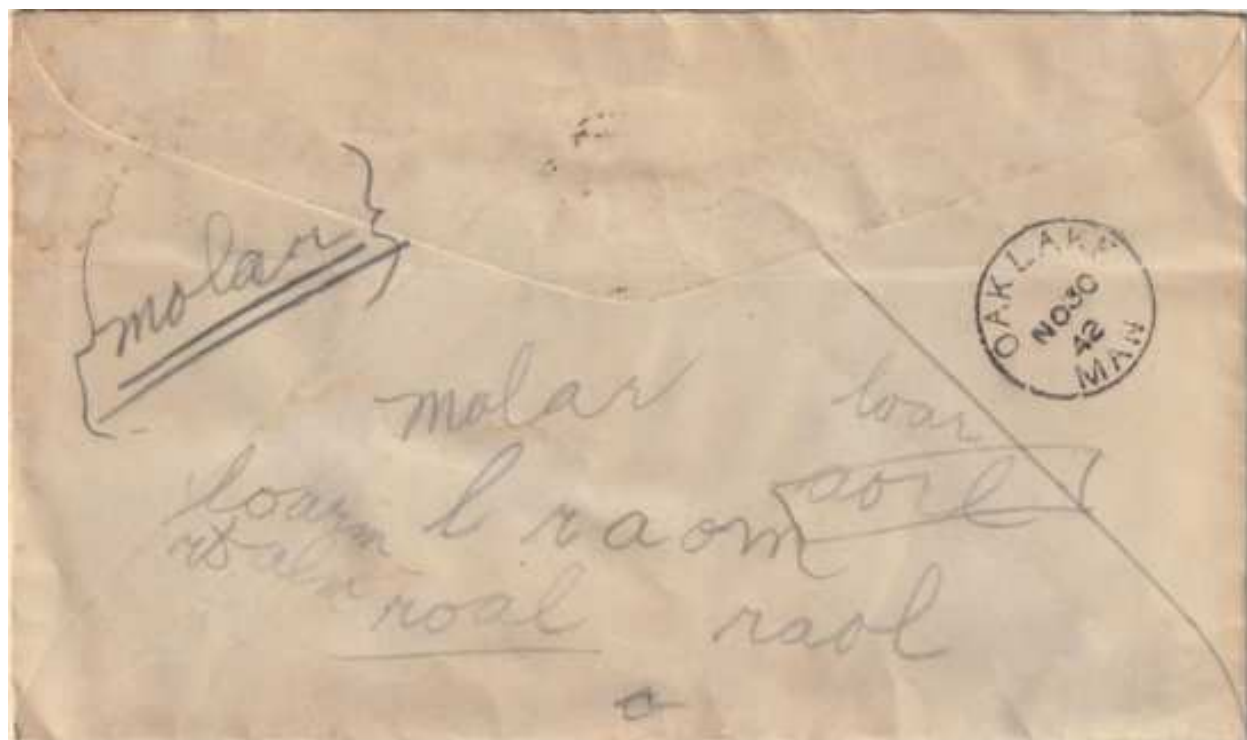
Nov. 27th 1942

Dear Mother,

Well how is everybody? Well I hope.
I am certainly in the army now,
"and how". We've had drill every
day since I got back, and went
on two route marches. Baldy and
I are both in B. Company and
no. 4 Platoon. He funks right
across from me. It seems they
have to give us so much training
here at Fort Osborne before they
draft us out to a Basic Training
centre so we're liable to be here
for a little while yet. so I'll be
expecting a letter. Well I can't
think of anything to write about
so I will sign off.

Murray.

PLEASE USE BOTH SIDES



Fort Osborne
Winnipeg Man.
Nov. 27th, 1942

Canadian Legion War Services [logo]

Dear Mother - ,

Well how is everybody? Well I hope.

I am certainly in the army now, "and how". We've had drill every day since I got back, and went on two route marches. Baldy and I are both in B Company and No.4 Platoon [sic]. He bunks right across from me. It seems they have to give us so much training here at Fort Osborne before they draft us out to a basic training centre so we're liable to be here for a little while yet. So I'll be expecting a letter. Well I can't think of anything to write about so I will sign off.

Murray.

Portage La Prairie
Man.

Dear Mother -

Well how is every body?
I got your letter the day
before yesterday and was
glad to get some news
from home, I was beginning
to think you had all died
out there. Well were all
through with Fort Osborne
and Winnipeg, thank the
Lord, I definitely do not
like Winnipeg! We were
drafted out of there yesterday
about 600 of us, 360 came
here, among them came Bddy
and J. Bddy is in Platoon
19, and Jim in 17.
I think Jim going to like
it here. The club is a

lot better than it was
 in Asborne. We sleep in
 huts - about 20 men to
 a hut. We get a half
 holiday today because it's
 Saturday. I got a pass
 and looked Portage over.
 I like Portage you can
 see around a little bit.
 And as soon as I got out
 of the garrison today
 I knew my directions
 for the first time since
 I left Oak Lake. We never
 did anything today, and
 there will be nothing
 tomorrow but Church Parade.
 Everything is different
 here. you told them about it

different do up your pack
 different, and have a different
 principal altogether of
 doing things. So Old
 is getting into the air
 force eh. I never saw
 him in Winnipeg.
 Well it is almost 10.15
 and the lights will
 be out any minute.
 So'll sign off.

Love Murray
 My address is

H 10 33 61 M.A. McQUARRIE
 Company 4
 Platoon 17
 100th Canadian active Base Training
 Portage La Poudre Centre



Portage La Prairie.
Man.

Dear Mother - ,

Well how is everybody? I got your letter the day before yesterday and was glad to get some news from home, I was beginning to think you had all died out there. Well we're all through with Fort Osborne and Winnipeg, thank the Lord, I definitely do not like Winnipeg. We were drafted out of here yesterday, about 600 of us, 360 came here, among them came Baldy and I. Baldy is in Platoon 19, and I'm in 17. I think I'm going to like it here, the grub is a

—

lot better than it was in Osborne. We sleep in huts, about 80 men to a hut, We got a half holiday today because it's Saturday. I got a pass and looked Portage over. I like Portage you can see around a little bit.

And as soon as I got out of the garrison today I knew my directions for the first time since I left Oak Lake. We never did anything today, and there will be nothing tomorrow but Church Parade.

Everything is different here, you fold your blankets different, do up your packs different, and we have a different principal altogether of doing things. So Ord is getting into the air force eh. I never saw him in Winnipeg -

Well it is almost 10:15 and the lights will be out any minute
So will sign off.

Love Murray

P. L. P.
10th Dec. Mon.

Dear Mother -

Well how is everybody?
I am fine so far but
I expect to have the
mumps shortly there was
two fellows went to the
hospital out of our hut
I day's ago with them
and our hut is quarantined
now. I didn't get Xmas
leave but will be home
for New years if I don't
get the mumps. I think
I'll get 7 days when
I do get leave because
they're talking about
giving us our 48 on
top of our 5 days Xmas

You see were supposed
 to get a 48 and a
 36. hr. ~~has~~ every month.
 I like it here, I'm sort of
 getting into the swing
 of it now, but I don't
 like this business of
 being quarantined!
 We've been taking nothing
 but foot drill since we
 came here, but we got
 our rifles a few days
 ago, so I suppose we'll
 be getting rifle drill before
 long for a change.

So Gwen and Peggy
 are having birthdays
 eh! Well give them my
 congratulations. I will give

home at New Year
 I've been intending to
~~write to you~~ I've been intending
 I come here. but we never
 got around to it yet.
 and I'm not writing any
 more letters than
 necessary because I've
 been burning cig.
 and 32 stamps for
 the last week. It's
 amazing the way
 your money goes in
 the army. Well I can't
 think of anything else to
 write about so I'll sign
 off.

Love Mary



P.L.P. Man

December 10,

Dear Mother - ,

Well How's everybody? I am fine so far but I expect to have the mumps shortly there was two fellow's went to the hospital out of our hut 2 day's with them and our hut is in quarantine now. I didn't get Xmas leave but will be home for New Years if I don't get the mump's. I think I'll get 7 day's when I do get leave because the're [sic] talking about giving us our 48 on top of our 5 days' xmas leave.

—

You see we're supposed to get a 48 and a 36 hr. pass every month.

I like it here, I'm sort of getting into the swing of it now, but I don't like this business of being quarantined.

We've been taking nothing but foot drill since we came here, but we got our rifles a few days ago, so I suppose we'll be getting rifle drill before long for a change.

So Gwen and Peggy are having birthdays eh! Well give them my congratulations. I will give them the rest when I get

—

home at New Years.

I've been intending to write to Gwen ever since I came here, but I've never got around to it yet. And I'm not writing any more letters than necessary because I've been bumming cig. and 3¢ stamps for the last week. Its amazing the way your

money goes in the army. Well I can't think of anything else to write about so I'll sign off.

Love Murray.

P.L.P. Man.

Dec. 13th

Dear Folks - ,

I got a letter from Peggy one from mother and one from Gwen/Inez yesterday so I did pretty good.

We are out of quarantine now and it was sort of a false alarm, no more fellows from our hut got the mumps so they let us out again. I'm sending you a couple of pages out of our camp magazine, one page particular [sic], describes what it is like in our hut after duty.

Love Murray

Porter Le Prairie,

"Keep in touch with the folks at home"



ON ACTIVE SERVICE
with the
CANADIAN FORCES

Dec 21st

1942

Dear Mother,

Well how is everybody?

I got your letter today and also
a parcel from Susan, and they
sent me a bunch of hunkies for
Lol did pretty good did it?

Baldy went home ~~today~~
with I had been able to go too.
But he home for N.Y. We had
a period of study on the ~~the~~
Le Enfield Bren Gun today, it
is quite a machine. We were
down to the ranges last Friday
too. We got about 3 inches of snow
here the other night.

There isn't very many left in



old m.c. company near
the old one on leave
A Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year....



I never saw the Collegiate get
to know what it is, but I'll
look around and see what
I can see. The Corporals took
pictures of our platoon, then
they got a bunch of prints and
sold them to me. I bought one
and am sending it.

Love

Murray

Portage La Prairie

Dec 21st, 1942

Dear Mother—,

Well how is everybody? I got your letter today and also a parcel from Gwen, and Inez sent me a bunch of handkerchiefs, so I did pretty good didn't I?

Baldy went home Saturday, I wish I had been able to go too. But I'll be home for N.Y. We had a period of study on the Le Enfield Bren Gun today, it is quite a machine. We were down to the ranges last Friday too. We got about 5 inches of snow here the other night.

There isn't very many left in Old No. 4 company now. There all gone on leave. I never saw the Collegiate yet to know what it is, but I'll look around and see what I can see. the corporals took a picture of our platoon, then they got a bunch of prints and sold them to us. I bought one and am sending it.

Love Murray.

Dec 26/42

Dear Mother:

Well how did you make out yesterday? I hope you had a very good time. I put in a nice peaceful day in the Portage General Hospital with my mug swollen up like a pocket gopher. I rather inwardly "Maw" I've got the mumps. I felt them coming on Thursday. My jaws were a little sore, and Friday morning they were very uncomfortable so I went on sick parade and landed up here. I intended heading for home today. They had the pass all made out and I bought my ticket, but I got fooled. They say I've got to stay here for two weeks. I don't know whether I'll be able to get my leave.

2

when I get out or not. I hope
so anyway. This is not such
a bad place, I'm in a room
by myself and the nurses are
very nice. I got a very welcome
letter from Dad a few days ago.
Thanks a lot Paul. I saw Vic
Williamson on Friday while I
was waiting to go to the hospital.
He's going home today, so
maybe you'll know I won't be
home before you get this letter.

Happy New Year

Love
Murray.



Dec 26/42

Dear Mother,

Well how did you make out yesterday? I hope you had a very good Xmas. I put in a nice peaceful day at the Portage General Hospital with my mug swollen up like a pocket gopher. In other words now "I've got the mumps." I felt them coming on Thursday. My jaws were a little sore, and Friday morning they were very uncomfortable so I went on sick parade and landed up here. I intended heading for home today. They had the pass all made out and I bought my ticket, but I got fooled. They say I've got to stay here for two weeks. I don't know whether I'll be able to get my leave when I get out or not. I hope so anyway. This is not such a bad place, I'm in a room by myself and the nurses are very nice. I got a very welcome letter from Dad a few days ago. Thanks a lot Paw. I saw Nic Williamson on Friday while I was waiting to go to the hospital. He's going home today, so maybe you'll know I won't be home before you get this letter.

Happy New Year

Love Murray.

Starage General Hospital
P. 4. 03.

Jan 3rd 43

Dear Mother -

I got your parcel and
was certainly glad to get
it. The socks were a big improvement
on hospital grub and they
pen and pencil are swell.
Thanks a million. I
don't think they are sending
the mail over from the
Camp Post Office, at least
I don't seem to be getting any
answers to my letters and
the box was over there about
2 weeks before I got it.

I am doing alright though I
was up today for the first
time and am a little wobbly
on the knees but otherwise
fine. I hope to get out of
here in another few days.
The time seems to pass
slowly, with nothing to
do but read, a nurse gave
me a crossword puzzle.

is at best I could get ^{also please excuse} ~~side~~ ^{writing your letter} ~~please excuse~~.
 back. But I haven't enough
 patience to work on it very
 long at a time.
 The young I wasn't able to
 get home for N.Y. but I have
 hopes of making it next
 summer. This winter they
 moved out of the old station
 and over here to the General
 Ward. My room right opposite
 the nursery, and there's always
 a hell a damn babies crying.
 But we get used to it. I can
 hear them sort of subconsciously
 now. I'm getting a good
 rest out of it anyway. I shouldn't
 need any sleep for about
 a year when I get out here.
 I guess Jack and Owen will be home
 now or have they gone back by now?
 Well here's hoping you are all
 well and happy.
 Love Murray.

They are a little short of paper here. This





1943

Portage General Hospital

P.L.P.

Jan 2nd 43

Dear Folks—,

I got your parcel and was certainly glad to get it, The eats were a big improvement on Hospital grub and the pen and pencil are swell, Thanks a million, I don't think they are sending the mail over from the Camp Post Office, at least I don't seem to be getting any answers to my letters and the box was over there for about 2 weeks before I got it.

I am doing all right though, I was up today for the first time and am a little wobbly on the knees but otherwise fine. I hope to get out of here in another five days. The time seems to pass slowly, with nothing to do but read, a nurse gave me a crossword puzzle book. But I haven't enough patience to work on it very long at a time.

I'm sorry I was not able to get home for N.Y. but I have hopes of making it yet, sometime this winter. They moved me out of the isolation ward over here to the General ward. My room [is] right across from the nursery, and there's always a half dozen Babies crying. But I've got used to it. I only hear them sort of subconsciously now. I'm getting a good rest out of it anyway I shouldn't need any sleep for about a year when I get out of here.

I guess Jack and Gwen will be home now eh or have they gone back by now? Well here's hoping you are all well and happy.

Love Murray,

They are a little short of paper here This is the best I could get So Please excuse.
Also please excuse writing also best I can do.



100th CANADIAN ARMY BASIC TRAINING CENTRE
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MAN.

Jan. 31st. 43.

Dear Halks -

How is everybody? I am fine I sorta neglected writing to you on account of I intended ~~to~~ going home this weekend but at the last minute they cut off all our passes for some reason or other, something about train service or something.

The paratroopers haven't been called in yet. The ~~S~~ Sargent told us we would likely be held off the draft and when they wanted another bunch of men they would call us, so it's hard to tell when we'll get out of here.

Baldy got a hook the other day.

Micky Stein is here now he came in with a draft Friday I was just over to see him a little while ago.

I was to the hockey game between the Portage seniors and the Rangers a week ago last night. It was the first Professional hockey game I ever saw, The Rangers beat 10 to 4.

There doesn't seem to be anything
much to write about so I'll close.

Write soon.

Love
Murray.



Jan 31st 43

Dear Folks—,

How is everybody? I am fine I sorta neglected writing to you on account of I intended going home this weekend but at the last minute they cut off all our passes for some reason or other. Something about train service or something. US paratroopers haven't been in yet. The Sargent told us we would likely be held off the draft and when they wanted another bunch of men they would call us, so its hard to tell when we'll get out of hear [sic].

Baldy got a hook the other day, Micky Stein is here now he came in with the a draft Friday, I was just over to see him a little while ago.

I was to the hockey game between the Portage Terriers and the Rangers a week ago last nite. It was the first Professional Hockey game I ever saw, The Rangers beat 10 to 4.

There doesn't seem to be anything much to write about so I'll close.

Write soon.

Love Murray,



227 Regt. F.C.

Group R. 24

London

Post.

Dec 18th 1913

Dear mother -

I got the letter from you on
 Peg yesterday, and am making time
 off to write this afternoon. I am
 working in the Sergeants Mess.
 They asked for some truckdrivers
 the morning before last and me
 and three other guys were crazy
 enough to volunteer, and I've been
 washing dishes and shoveling coal
 and splitting wood from 6 o'clock
 in the morning to seven at night
 ever since. We'll get off tomorrow
 though I think, we are supposed
 to start our training Monday, and
 we won't have any more fatigue
 to do then.

I just finished filling all the shoes
up I have 9 shoes to look after and
+ keeps me busy.

We are having wonderful
weather here, it is melting every
day just like spring, one thing
about working in the Sargents mess
we get blame good eats anyway.
But I'll be glad to get out of here and
start training.

The C. W. A. K is put on concert
for us last nite it was pretty good
too, They are having a dance for 127
tonite too. I am getting to like this
camp now, There are two other fellows
from Portage I know, They are washing
dishes in here too right now.

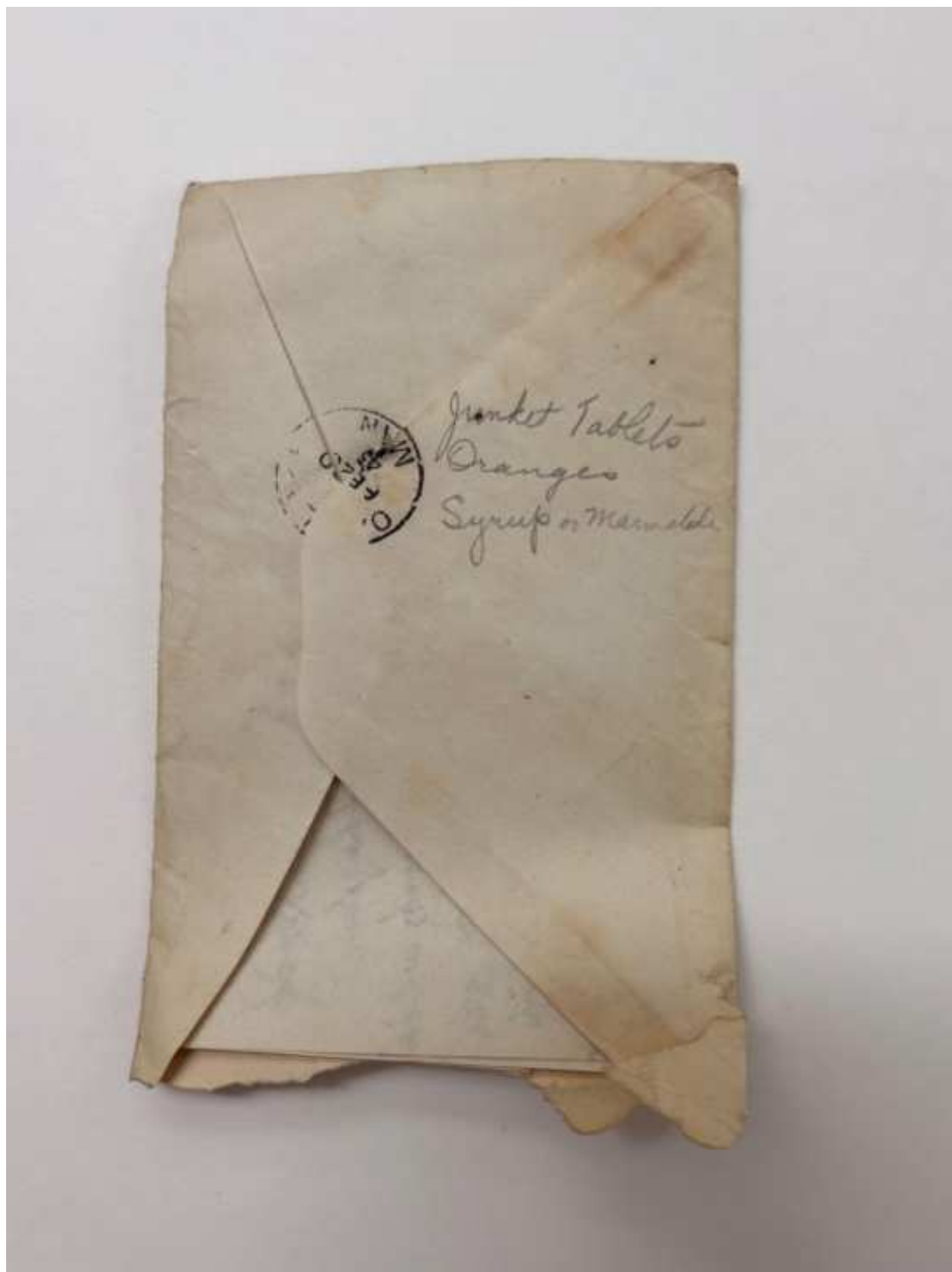
Where is Neil stationed now in
England? Send him my best wishes
and I'll send him some cigarets
if I get a chance.

Well I guess I'd better get back
 at fixing the stoves. The four
 stoves they cook on burn wood, which
 has to be split by the way, and there are
 five other heaters in the place which
 burn coal. Well I'll sign off for now.
 Hoping you are all well;

Love
 Murray.

P.S. Recon means Reconnaissance
 or the light armoured cars, or scout
 cars.

I didn't know I had any
 relatives up here. I'll maybe
 look them up some weekend.



A27 Recce J.C.
Group R 24
Dundurn Sask.

Feb 18th 43

Dear Mother—

I got the letter from you and Peg yesterday, and some sneaking time off to write this afternoon, I am working in the Sergeants Mess. They asked for some truck drivers the morning before last and me and three other guys were crazy enough to volunteer, and I've been washing dishes and shoveling coal and splitting wood from 6 o'clock in the morning to seven at nite ever since. We'll get off tomorrow though I think, We're supposed to start our training Monday, and we won't have anymore fatigue to do then.

I just finished filling all the stoves up. I have 9 stoves to look after and it keeps me busy.

We are having wonderful weather here, it is melting everyday just like Spring, one thing about working in the Sargents mess we get blame good eats anyway. But I'll be glad to get out of here and start training.

The C.W.A.K.s put on a concert for us last nite, it was pretty good too. I am getting to like this camp now, There are two other fellows from Portage I know, They are washing dishes in here too right now.

Where is Neil stationed now in England? Send me his address and I'll send him some ciggarettes if I get a chance.

Well I guess I'd better get back at firing the stoves. The four stoves they cook on burn wood, which has to be split by the way and there are five other heaters in the place which burn coal. Well I'll sign off for now. Hoping you all are well;

Love Murray.

P.S. Recce means Reconicens [sic] or the light armoured cars, or scout cars.

I didn't know I had any relatives up here, I'll maybe look them up some weekend.

A27 Cdn. Recd. I.C.

Dundurn.

Lask.

March 2nd 43.

Dear Mother -

Well maw, I just got a nice letter from myself today, telling me how everything was at home. I don't know how I found out about everything, but I must have somehow, and ~~written~~ written myself a letter. anyway I got a letter today signed Lovingly Murray.

But I think it must have been from you, because the writing is so good for mine, I guess it was just a little absent-mindedness on your part eh?

It's quite a while since I got a letter from you. I got off working at the Largent's mess a week ago yesterday, But the Rats put me in the Men's Mess the very next day.

and let me tell you it was
100 times worse.

I washed about a million pots
and pans three times a day
to say nothing of the stacks
of plates as high as the ceiling.
I also have still got dishpan
hands and a sore back from
bending over that stinking
greasy old sink. But we
were relieved of that job yesterday
thank the Lord, and are quite
happy again, if only we could
get started to our training.

They called out a bunch
~~at~~ last week to start, but
they only had room for so
many, and I wasn't lucky
enough to be with them.
They'll be getting another bunch
started pretty soon though and
likely I'll be in it, I hope so
anyway.

③



That's too bad about the kid's ~~of~~ having cold's and missing school, I've been pretty lucky this winter I've never had a real bad cold, like I used to get.

I was going to go to Saskatoon last weekend but they wouldn't give us fatigue men passes, because they didn't want to have to get replacements for us on Sat. Oh well, I saved money by not going anyway. I've saved 20 bucks out of last month's pay, I traded my purse for a money belt which I call my bank, and every payday I take ten bucks and put it ~~into~~ in my bank, and get along with what's left till the next pay day.

① I should have quite a nice little roll by July, when I get my furlough, at least that is when I'm hoping to get it.

We really had some wonderful weather here the last week of Feb. but it's turned colder than blazes the last day or so.

It should be spring in another month, it's seems long time since I was up here in Lark. last fall though, it seems more like a couple of years than 5 months.

Old is lucky to be so close to home, he'll be home on weekends pretty regular I suppose. I wrote to Peggy ~~to~~ a while ago I should be getting an answer pretty soon if she got it.

Well I'll sign off for now
Love Murray.



A27 Cdn. Recce. J. C.
Dundurn, Sask

March 2nd 43

Dear Mother—,

Well now, I just got a nice letter from myself today, telling me how everything was at home. I don't know I found out about everything, but I must have some way, and written myself a letter. Anyway I got a letter today signed "Lovingly Murray" But I think it must have been from you because the writing is too good for mine, I guess it was just a little absent mindedness on your part eh? It's quite a while since I got a letter from you. I got off working at the Sargent's mess a week ago yesterday, But the Rat's put me in the men's mess the very next day and let me tell you in was 200 times worse.

I washed about a million pots and pans three times a day to say nothing of all the stacks of plates as high as the ceiling. I also have still got dishpan hands and a sore back from bending over that stinking greasy old sink, But we were relieved of that job yesterday Thank the Lord, and are quite happy again, if only we could get started to our training.

They called out a bunch last week to start, but they only had room for so many, and I wasn't lucky enough to be with them. They'll be getting another bunch started pretty soon though and likely I'll be in it, I hope so anyway.

That's too bad about the kid's having cold's and missing school, I've been pretty lucky this winter I've never had a real bad cold, like I used to get.

I was going to go to Saskatoon last weekend but they wouldn't give us fatigue men passes, because they didn't want to have to get replacements for us on Sat. Oh well; I saved money by not going anyway. I've saved 20 buck's out of last month's pay, I traded my purse for a money belt which I call my bank, and every payday I take 10 buck's and put it in my bank, and get along with what's left till next pay day.

I should have quite a nice little roll by July, when I get my furlough; at least that is when I'm hoping to get it.

We really had some wonderful weather here, the last week of Feb. but its turned colder than blazes the last day or so. It should be Spring in another month, It seems a long time since I was up here in Sask. last fall though, it seems more like couple of year's than 5 months.

Ord is lucky to be so close to home, he'll be home on weekends pretty regular I suppose. I wrote to Peggy a while ago, I should be getting an answer pretty soon if she got it. Well I'll sign off for now.

Love Murray.



"Keep in touch with the folks at home"

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
CANADIAN FORCES

March 11th 1945

Dear Mother—

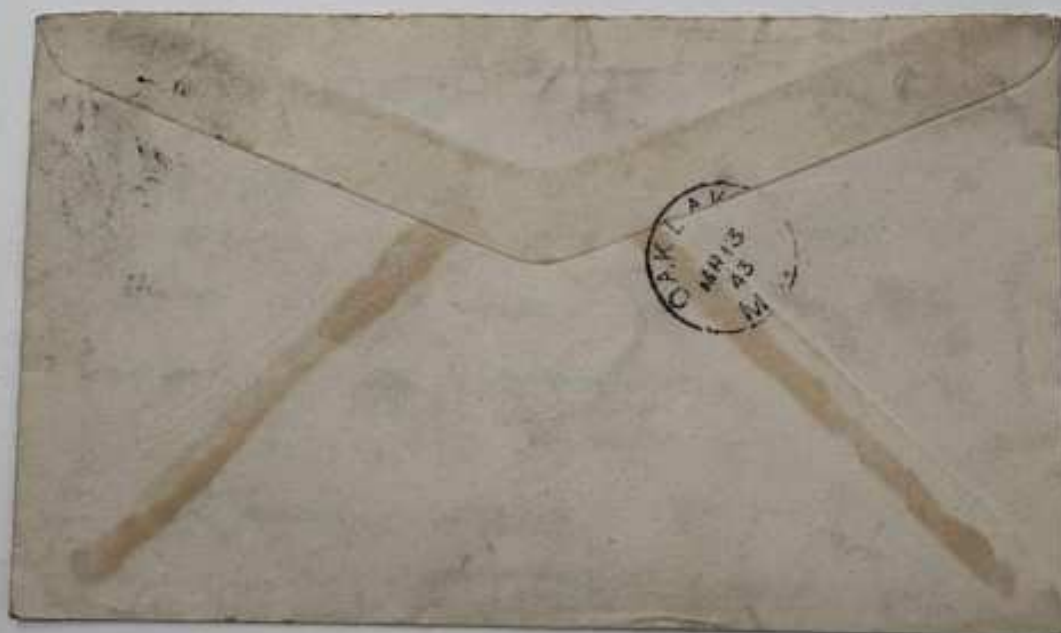
Well here I go again,
I got your letter the other day
and Peggy's. We've started training
now, we started last Monday,
no more fatigues for me now.
I got a letter from Gwen and
she said ~~the~~ Jack and her were
having the flu, I think I've got
it now. I got a blame bad cold
anyway when I was in Larchmont
last weekend, but I guess I'll survive
alright. We're having real spring
weather here just now, I hope it
lasts.

Who is this "Jean Hinds"?

I saw a real show tonight
(who done it) was the name
of it. abbot and Costella were
in it so you know it.
would be funny.
Well there doesn't seem to be
much to write about so I'll
close for now.

Love Murray





March 11th, 1943

Dear Mother—,

Well here I go again, I got your letter the other day and Peggy's. We've started training now. I got a letter from Gwen and she said Jack and her were having the flu. I think I've got it now. I got a blame bad cold anyway when I was in Saskatoon last weekend, but I guess I'll survive alright. We're having real spring weather here just now, I hope it last's.

Who is this "Jean Hinds". I saw a real show tonight (Who done it) was the name of it. Abbot and Costella were in it so you know it would be funny.

Well there doesn't seem to be much to write about so I'll close for now.

Love Murray.



A 27 Cdn. Div. 3 C.
Group B. 2.5.
Camp Dandara
Leak. April 5th 43

Dear Folks -

How is everybody and everything
I have been so busy lately I didn't
seem to have time to write.

We had our tests in E. M. I. and
Weapons last week, and I managed
to scrape through them by the
skin of my teeth. So I'm in
D. and M. now. We had our
first crack at driving this morning.
An instructor took each of us in a
truck out to a big field. The ~~guy~~
guy I was with just stopped,
told me to get behind the wheel,
and drive. I sure made the old
gear's clash for about 5 minutes
till I got onto it, then it was
easy.

2.



They are fanny to drive
they have the right hand
drive and you change
gears with your left, you also
have to double clutch it too.

It sure made me sweat for
awhile, but I think its going
to be a lot of fun now.

We'll have to learn to drive the
Dren Carrier ~~etc~~ and the arc. car
and maybe the motorcycle, thats
what I'd like to get to ride.

So Ewen's got the girls and
Jean's got a touch of appendicitis
eh? That's tough luck. Jean you
better be careful for awhile. That's
fewer that Ewen's got the girls.
There's never been any in the family
has there? I always thought that was
sort of hereditary, I to too bad but

③

I guess they have treatments
to cure it now.

We are having wonderful
weather here now, it's drying
up fast, and the grass should
be sprouting before long.

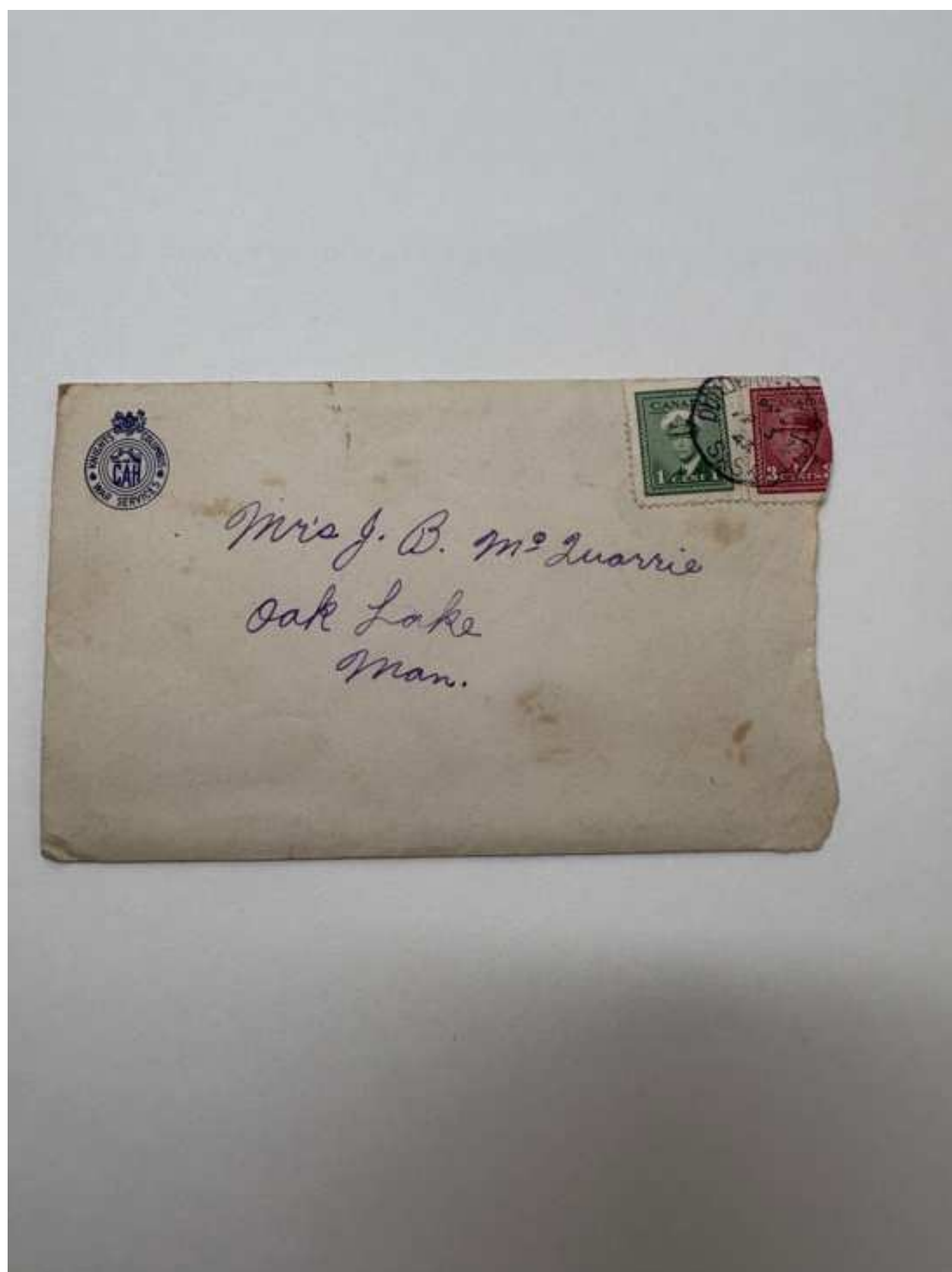
We'll write soon.

Love

Murray

P.S.

Have any of the sheep, lambs
yet.





A27 Cdn. Recce J.C.
Group R25
Camp Dundurn Sask.

April 5th 43

Dear Folk's—,

How's everybody and everything? I have been so busy lately I didn't seem to have time to write. We had our tests in S.M.J. and Weapons last week, and I managed to scrape through them by the skin of my teeth. So I'm in D. and M. now, We had our first crack [at] driving this morning. An instructor took each of us in a truck in a big field. The guy I was with just stopped, told me to get behind the wheel and drive, I sure made the old gear's clash for about 5 minutes till I got onto it, then it was easy.

They are funny to drive, they have right hand drive and you change gears with your left, you also have to double clutch it too. It sure made me sweat for awhile, but I think its going to be alot of fun now.

We'll have to learn how to drive the Bren Carrier and the ARC. car and maybe the motorcycle, that's what I'd like to get to ride.

So Gwen's got the goiter and Jean's got a touch of appendicitis eh? That's tough luck. Jean you have to be careful for awhile. That's queer that Gwen's got the goiter. There's never been any in the family and I always thought that was sort of hereditary, It's too bad but I guess they have treatments to cure it now.

We are having wonderful weather hear [sic] now, It's drying up fast, and the grass should be sprouting before long.

Well write soon

Love Murray. P.S. Have any of the sheep, lamb's yet



"Keep in touch with the folks at home"

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
CANADIAN FORCES

April 6th 1943

Dear Mother -

Did you get the big snow-
storm down there yesterday?
It rained cats and dogs here
the night before last, and
yesterday it snowed all morning.
Certainly miserable weather.
But it was a nice day today.

I didn't get the Motorcycle
course, instead they put me
on special weapons, and I'm
learning how to shoot the 3 and
6 pounders now.

They really have a bang to this

Have the men of the place
started seeding yet?

Some of the boys here are
having a lively game of
pingpong and the ball has
a habit of getting mixed
up with my pen and paper
quite regularly so I'll
sign off for now. ~~Dear~~

Love Muriel

P.S. Don't forget to send
~~send me~~ some pictures.

April 6th, 1943

Dear Mother—,

Did you get the big snow storm down there yesterday? it rained cats and dogs here the night before last, and yesterday it snowed all morning Certainly miserable weather. But it was a nice day today.

I didn't get the motorcycle course, instead they put me on special weapons, and I'm learning how to shoot the 2 and 6 pounders now. They really have a bang to them.

Have the men of the place started seating yet?

Some of the boys here are having a lively game of ping pong and the ball has a habit of getting mixed up with my pen and paper quite regularly so I'll sign off for now.

Love Murray

P.S. Don't forget to send some pictures.

A.27 Cdn. Recce. J.C.

Group R25

Dundurn Lock.

CANADIAN



ARMY

April 13th 43

(1.)

Dear Folks -

I got your parcel yesterday and some cooking really tastes good for a change, a great improvement on army Rations anyway, Thanks a lot mother,

I am taking it easy today I am put orderly for the day and there's nothing much to do but sweep the floor, dust off the beds and tidy up the washroom, I finished all that before dinner, and I got nothing to do this afternoon now but take it easy, which I feel exactly like doing by the way.

2.

CANADIAN



ARMY

I was to Saskatoon last weekend and just got back Monday morning in time for breakfast, and I'm still tired. -

I am getting so I can drive fairly well now, We had some good practice last week, they put all the trucks hauling gravel for a bad stretch of road here, and the road to the Gravel Pit is a nightmare of mudholes ~~and~~ bumps and washboards. We sure had a lot of fun, there were trucks running into each other and going in the ditch right and left.

3.

CANADIAN



ARMY

But so far I've never went
in the ditch, I'm keeping
my fingers crossed though.
Next week we'll ~~be~~ be
on track ~~with~~ vehicles,
driving the Bron carriers,
that should be a lot of fun.

There is some talk of a convoy
leaving here ~~to~~ to travel
around the country for a couple
of weeks in aid of the
war loan, and there's a chance
that some of us will be
with it I hope I get a chance
to go. There was a troop from
here went clear to Winnipeg
last year and back.

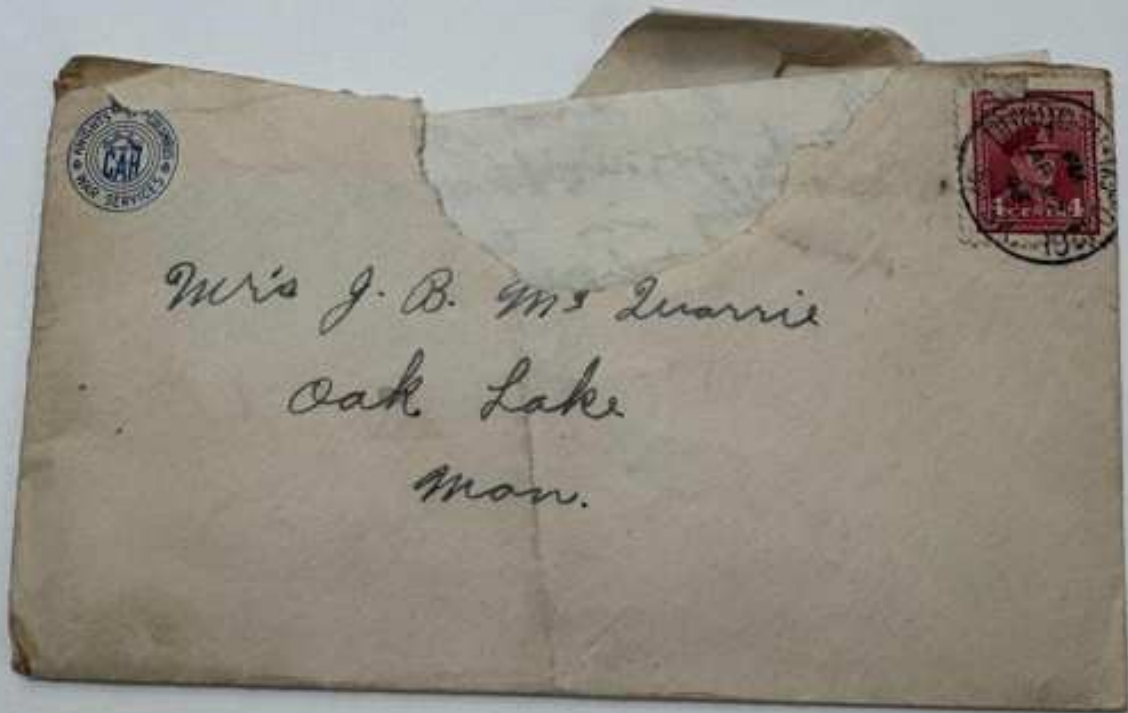
So you never can tell
I might be dropping in to
see you, in an armoured car
some fine day.

Well I'll sign off for now,
Write soon

Love Murray.

I just happened to think, this
is Neil's birthday isn't it?
or is it on the 15th.

He will be 23 won't he now?



Mrs J. B. McQuarrie
Oak Lake
Mon.

A27 Cdn. Recce J.C.

Group R25

Dundurn, Sask.

April 13th 43

Dear Folk's—,

I got your parcel yesterday and home cooking really tastes good for a change, a great improvement on army Rations anyway, Thanks a lot Mother,

I am taking it easy today. I am Hut Orderly for the day and there's nothing much to do but sweep the floor, dust off the beds and tidy up the washroom, i finished all that before dinner, and I got nothing to do this afternoon now but take it easy, which I feel exactly like doing by the way.

I was to Saskatoon last weekend and I just got back Monday morning in time for breakfast, and I'm still tired. -

I am getting so I can drive fairly well now, We had some good practice last week, they put all the trucks hauling gravel for a bad stretch of the road here, and the road to the Gravel Pit is a nightmare of mudholes, bumps and washboard. We sure had a lot of fun, there were trucks running into each other and going in the ditch right and left. But so far I've never went in the ditch, I'm keeping my fingers crossed though,

Next week we'll be on Track vehicles driving the Bren carriers, that should be a lot of fun. There is some talk of a convoy leaving here to travel around the country for a couple weeks in aid of this war loan, and there's a chance some of us will be with it. I hope I get a chance to go. There was a troop from here went clear to Winnipeg last year and back. So you never can tell I might be dropping in to see you, in an armoured car some fine day.

Write soon

Love Murray.

I just happened to think, this is Neil's birthday isn't it? Or is it on the 15th. He will be 23 won't he now?

BENJ. DRAHER
COMMISSIONER



HEADQUARTERS
20 ALBERT STREET
TORONTO, CAN.

WILLIAM BOOTH
FOUNDER

"Keep in touch with the folks at home"

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
with the
CANADIAN FORCES

GEN. L. CARPENTER
GENERAL



A 27 Cdn. Recce. Co.
Troop R. 35
Dundurn Camp

Lock April 26th 43.

Dear Mother -

How is everything going? I suppose everyone is getting at the spring work by now eh? Has Dad started seeding yet? The farmers up here have started sowing although it seems pretty early? Have you any lambs running around yet?

This is our last week on the Carriosa, Boy they are really fun, you can go anywhere with them, We go out here in the sandhills every day, and go places a mountain goat couldn't go, with them. But we sure get dirty riding in them, there's no top on them, and the dirt from the carrier in front is something terrific, you can just reach out in the air and grab a handful of sand its so thick.

Motorcycle

I am trying to get on the course when we are through with track this week, and be a Dispatch Rider, I think it would be a lot of fun tearing around on a motorcycle.

I went into Locketon last weekend with Allan Miller, neither of us had a pass, but the Provosts never picked us up, and they never missed us here at camp so we got away pretty lucky, and spent Easter Sunday away from here anyway.

Well I can't find anything to write about so I close for now.

Write soon.

Love

Murray.



A27 Cdn. J.C.
Group R25
Dundurn Camp
Sask.

April 26th 43

Dear Mother—,,

How is everything going? I suppose everyone is getting at the Spring work by now eh? Has Dad started seeding yet? The farmers up here have started I noticed although it seems pretty early? Have you any lambs running around yet?

This is our last week on the Carriers, Boy they are really fun, you can go anywhere with them, We go out here in the sandhills every day, and go places a mountain goat couldn't go with them, But we sure get dirty riding in them, there's no top on them, and the dust from the carrier in front is something terrific, you can just reach out in the air and grab a handful of sand its so thick.

I am trying to get a M.C. (motorcycle) Course when we are through with truck this week, and be a Dispatch Rider. I think it would be a lot of fun tearing around on a motorcycle.

I went into Saskatoon last weekend with Allan Millar, neither of us had a pass, but the Provosts never picked us up, and they never missed us here so we got away pretty lucky, and spent Easter Sunday away from here anyway.

Well I can't find anything to write about so I'll close for now.

Write soon.

Love Murray.

CANADIAN



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

May 16th 43

Dear Mother:

How is everybody and everything?
I forgot to tell you in my
last two letters, I bought a bond
and signed it to you. I don't
know when ~~it~~ you'll get it,
pretty soon I imagine.

They had a great old drive
on for bonds here, they
pretty near forced us to buy
them. They take so much
out of our pay every month
to pay for them so we were sort
buying them on instalments.

Well this doesn't seem
to be anything to write about
~~so~~ I'll sign off for now.

Love Murray.



May 16th 43

Dear Mother –,

How's everybody and everything? I forgot to tell you in my last two letters, I bought a bond and signed it to you, I don't know when you'll get it, pretty soon I imagine.

They had a great old drive on for the bonds here, They pretty near forced us to buy them. They take so much out of our pay every month to pay for them so we were sorta buying them on instalments.

Well there doesn't seem to be anything to write about so I'll sign off for now.

Love Murray.

"Keep in touch with the folks at home"



ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
CANADIAN FORCES

June 15th 1943

Dear Mother -

Well I managed to make it back to camp anyway. But I discovered when I got here that I'd forgotten my gaiters, I don't know if you found them or not. I think I threw them under the table in the back kitchen. I knew blame well I would forget something! I had a very uneventful trip got into Dundurn about half past five this morning, and I've been

half asleep all day.

Luckily we didn't do much
though. It's awful hot and
dry up here I don't think
they've been getting all the
rain here that you got down
there.

I had to borrow a pair of
gaiters to go on parade
this morning so? if you
don't mind please send mine
up eh mother?

Love Murray.





June 15th 1943

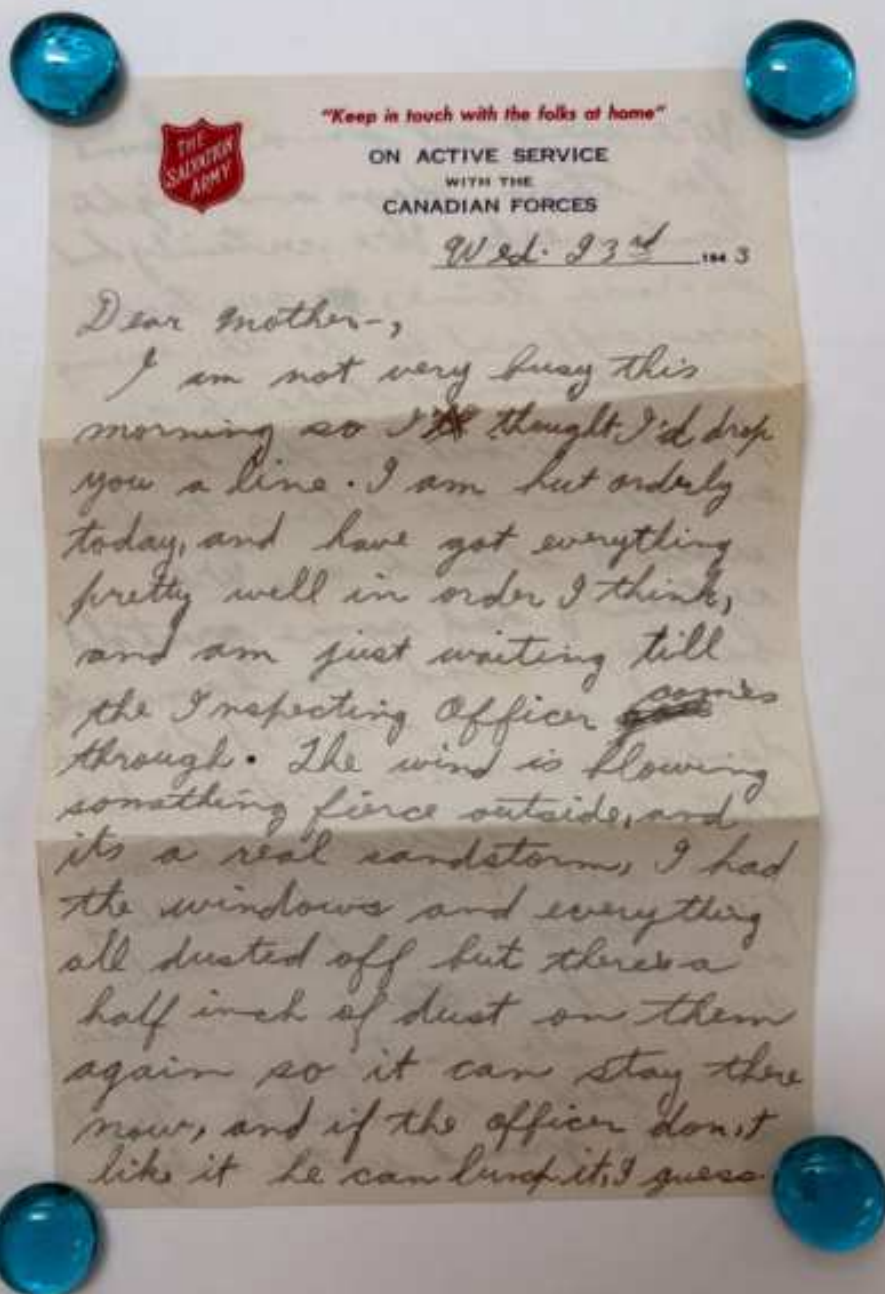
Dear Mother—,

Well I managed to make it back to camp anyway. But I discovered when I got here that I'd forgotten my gaiters, I don't know if you found them or not. I think I threw them under the table in the back kitchen. I knew blame well I would forget something! I had a very uneventful trip into Dundurn about half past five this morning, and I've been half asleep all day.

Luckily we didn't do much though. It's awful hot and dry up here I don't think they've been getting all the rain here that you got down there.

I had to borrow a pair of gaiters to go on parade this morning, so if you don't mind please send mine up eh Mother?

Love Murray.



2 We went out on a scheme
for three days and nights
last week. We certainly had
a rare time, ~~the~~ our troop
was supposed to be the enemy
and we would take up a
position out in the hills
and then the other troops
would attack us, We
certainly had some great old
battles, we had flankammanting
though so we didn't do much
damage, made a great racket
though. The first night we
were out it rained something
fierce, and we had to cook
our ^{own} ~~suppers~~ ^{suppers} ~~that~~ in our mess
time, I ate practically everything
raw. Then we had to sleep
on the ground with only

"Keep in touch with the folks at home"

(13)



ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
CANADIAN FORCES

three blankets and our groundsheet.
We put in a very, extremely,
miserable night, but the weather
cleared up then and the blasted
mosquitoes practically ate us
alive, but we had a lot of
fun anyway. I hope we go
out again pretty soon, its
better than fooling around
camp here anyway. We
haven't done a blame thing
to speak of this week, but loaf
around and do a little gun
drill. I am back on the
3 and 6 pounders again just
putting in time till a
draft goes out, I hope its

pretty soon because I'm
getting sorta sick of this
place. ~~But go~~

Bob Johnson, the fellow
who got deafened, He has
his wife in Dundurn and
he used to go home every night
but she got the scarlet fever
the other day and went to
the hospital in Saskatoon.
Chances are I'll get it because
~~we're~~ ^{we're} always fooling around ~~with~~
~~her~~ together.

Well write soon I haven't
got any mail so far since I've
got back. (P.S. It's still raining down
there.)

Love Murray

P.S. oh yes, I got the gaiters all
right. Thanks a lot. "My pen is out of ink".

Wed. [June] 23rd, 1943

Dear Mother—,

I am not very busy this morning so I thought I'd drop you a line. I am hut orderly today, and have got everything pretty well in order I think, and am just waiting till the Inspecting Officer comes through. The wind is blowing something fierce outside, and it's a real sandstorm, I had the windows and everything all dusted off but there's a half inch of dust on them again so if the officer don't like it he can lump it, I guess.

We went out on a scheme for three days and three nights last week. We certainly had a rare time, our troop was supposed to be the enemy and we would take up a position out in the hills and then the other troops would attack us, We certainly had some great old battles, we had blank ammunition though so we didn't do much damage, made a great racket though. The first night we were out it rained something fierce, and we had to cook our own suppers in our mess tins, I ate practically everything raw. Then we had to sleep on the ground with only three blankets and our groundsheets.

We put in a very, extremely, miserable night, but the weather cleared up then the blasted mosquitoes practically ate us alive, but we had a lot of fun anyway. I hope we go out again pretty soon, its better than fooling around camp here anyway. We haven't done a blame thing to speak of this week, but loaf around and do a little gun drill. I am back on the [I and 6] pounders again just putting in time till a draft goes out, I hope its pretty soon because I am getting sorta sick of this place.

Bob Johnson, the fellow who got deafened, he has a wife in Dundurn and he used to go home every night but she got Scarlet fever the other day and went to the hospital in Saskatoon. Chances are I'll get it because we're always fooling around together.

Well write soon I haven't got any mail so far since I've got back.

Love Murray.

P.S. Oh yes, I got the gaiters all right. Thanks a lot. "My pen's out of ink".

P.P.S. Is it still raining down there?



"Keep in touch with the folks at home"

ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
CANADIAN FORCES

Remondern

July 1st

1943

Dear Mother -

Well how is everything going in your part of the country? Is it still raining down there? It's been dry for the past couple of weeks up here. We've been pretty busy here the last few days, doing gun drill, and getting ready to put on a demonstration with the two and six pounders, for the benefit of the public at a town called Allantown. They are having a sports.

PLEASE EXUSE THE PENCIL MY PEN IS NOT WORKING SO HOT.

day there tomorrow. We
are going to put on our
show, then stay for the
afternoon and dance at night.
We should have a pretty
good time I think. Then were
supposed to go to a town
called Outlook Sunday, and
show our stuff again. They are
having a Community gathering
or something.

There's getting to be an awful
lot of men in G. I. I. now.
I hope they decide to ship us soon
pretty soon.

Well I can't think of anything
to write about so I'll close for
now.

Love Murray.
Write soon.

Dundurn

July 1st, 1943

Dear Mother—,

Well, how is everything going in your part of the country? Is it still raining down there? It's been dry for the past couple of weeks up here. We've been pretty busy here the last few days, doing gun drill, and getting ready to put on a demonstration with the two and six pounders for the benefit of the public at a town called Allan.

PLEASE EXCUSE THE PENCIL MY PEN IS NOT WORKING SO HOT.

They are having a sport's day tomorrow. We are going to put on our show, and then stay for the afternoon and dance at night. We should have a pretty good time I think. Then we're supposed to go to a town called Outlook Sunday, and show our stuff again, They are having a community gathering or something.

There's getting to be an awful lot of men at J.S.S. now. I hope they decide to ship us overseas soon.

Well I can't think of anything to write about so I'll close for now.

Love Murray.

Write soon.

Dundurn. Sask
July 6th

Dear Mother,

Well now goes every
little thing with your
folks, things are
looking up but here,
we have great hopes
of getting out of all-
Dundurn pretty soon,
Have chance of borrowing
about 15 or 20 bucks to
put in a supply of
necessaries, because I
am flat broke.

and pay day might be
quite a while off. I will
be signing all but 20 bucks
over to you sometime this
week anyway, so I would
appreciate it greatly if
you could manage to
scrape together 15 or 20 bucks
and wire it ~~P. D. P.~~ p. d. p.
to me. I guess I won't
be getting any more
leave's now. Well I hope
~~that~~ I get the dough in
time.

Love
Murray.
Write again soon



Mrs J. B. McGuire.
Oak Lake
Man.



Dundurn, Sask.

July 6th.

Dear Mother—,

Well How goes every little thing with you folk's, Things are looking up out here, We have great hopes of getting out of old Dundurn pretty soon, How's chances of borrowing about 15 or 20 bucks to put in a supply of necessities, because I am flat broke and pay day might be a while off. I will be signing all but 20 bucks over to you sometime this week anyway, so I would appreciate it greatly if you could manage to scrape together 15 or 20 bucks and wire it p.d.q. to me. I guess I won't be getting any more leaves now. Well I hope I get the dough in time.

Love Murray.

I'll write again soon.

"Keep in touch with the folks at home"



ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
CANADIAN FORCES

Thanks a lot for
sending the money
anyway, even if I didn't get it. I might get it out if
we happen to get through the station
and stop for a while.

July 10th 1943

Dear Mother ...

Got a letter from the
bank in Blacktown saying
there was some money there
for me if I would call
and get it. That is the trouble
I can't get a pass to go
there, because we might be
leaving any hour now, and
they won't let a man of us
out of the camp. anyway if
I could have got out after
this afternoon the bank
would have been closed.
So I guess I'll have to do

without the dough.

I got \$15 from Charlie Scott
anyway, so that I'll have to do
I'll save that much more.

I bought a whole bunch of
razor blades, soap, and tobacco
today.

Things have certainly been
in a uproar around here the
last few days, an eternity
of clothing parades, kit inspections
and papers to be signed. It's
a wonder most of us haven't
gone completely crazy.
But we're all set now.

I managed to scrounge two
new battle dresses, two new
pairs of boots, & new pairs

"Keep in touch with the folks at home"



ON ACTIVE SERVICE
WITH THE
CANADIAN FORCES

of fatigue shoes, and several
other miscellaneous articles
to numerous to mention.

They certainly equip us
well before we go overseas
anyway.

I signed \$15 a month over to
you, we are only allowed \$10
a month when we get overseas,
there, and they are taking \$5 a
month off for the victory bond
I bought, so that's \$23 I get
signed over, so if the war
lasts long enough I should
have quite a lot of dough

saved up.

Will you pay Charlie the \$15 I
got from him, I don't know
when that money I signed to you
will come through, I guess he
won't be in any hurry to get
it but I want to pay him back.
I took the liberty of telling him
that you'd pay him as I'd signed
some money over to you. ~~Is~~
Is that alright? "Thank you!"
"Mama!"

"Oh by the way" We forgot
his number again, and I can't
find his address ~~in~~ anywhere, so
if you'd write and send it right
away it might reach me before we
set sail. We get seven days leave
when we get over there and I
should try and find him.

With Love, Murray.





July 10th, 1943

{Thanks a lot for wiring the money anyway, even if I didn't get it. I might get it if we happen to get through Saskatoon and stop for awhile.}

Dear Mother...

Got a letter from the bank in Saskatoon saying there was money there for me if I would call and get it, That is the trouble, I can't get a pass to go there because we might be leaving any hour now, and they won't let a man of us out of the camp. Anyway if I could have got out this afternoon the bank would have been closed. So I guess I'll have to do without the dough.

I got \$15 from Charlie Scott anyway, so that'll have to do I'll save that much more. I bought a whole bunch of razer blades, soap, and tobacco today.

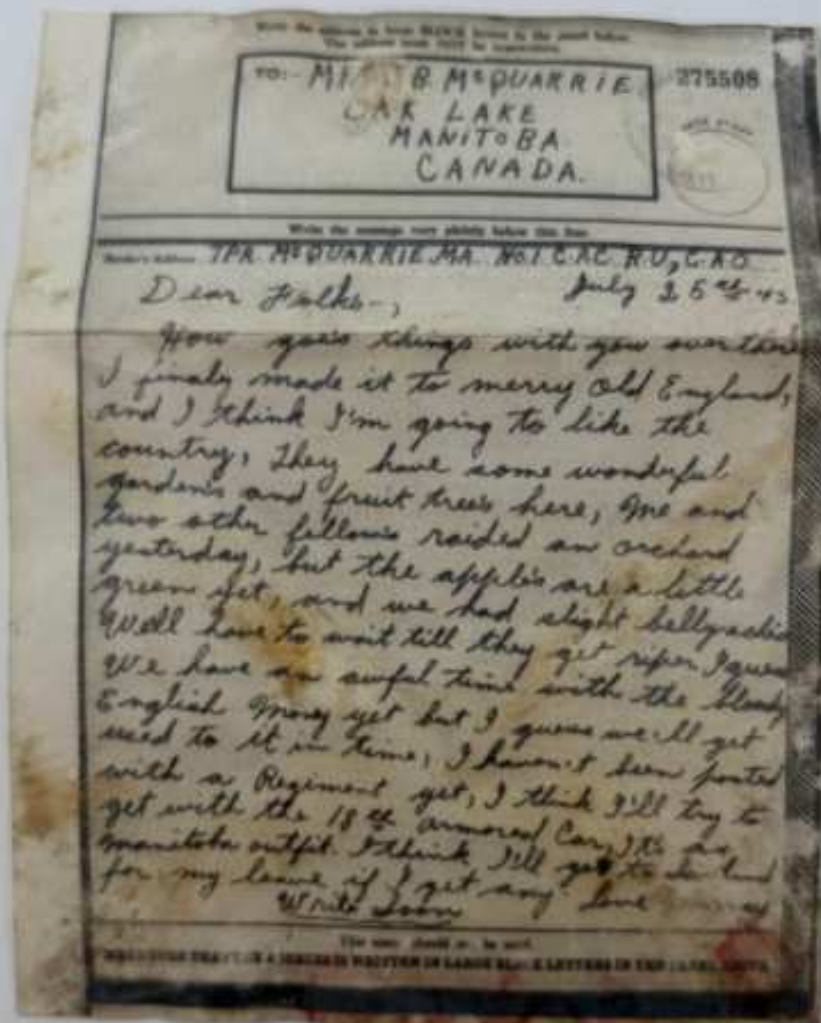
Things have certainly been in an uproar around here the last few days, an eternity of clothing parades, kit inspections, and papers to be signed, it's gone completely crazy. But we're all set now. I managed to scrounge two new battle dress's, two new pairs of boots, a new pair of fatigue shoes, and several other miscellaneous articles to [sic] numerous to mention. They certainly equip us well before we go overseas anyway.

I signed \$15 a month over to you, We are only allowed \$20 a month when we get over there, and they are taking \$8 a month off for the Victory Bond I bought, so that's \$23 I got signed over, so if the war lasts long enough I should have quite a lot of dough saved up.

Will you pay Charlie the \$15 I got from him? I don't know when that money I signed to you will come through, I guess he won't be in any hurry to get it but I want to pay him back. I took the liberty of telling him that you'd pay him as I'd signed some money over to you. "Is that alright?" "Thank you" "Moma".

"Oh by the way, I forgot Neil's number again, and I can't find his address anywhere, so if you'd write and send it right away it might reach me before we set sail. We get seven days leave when we get over there and I should try and find him.

With Love, Murray.







TPR. McQUARRIE. M.A. NO. 1. C.A.A. R.U, C.A.O

July 25th, 43

Dear Folks—,

How goes things with you over there? I finally made it to merry Old England, and I think I'm going to like the country, They have some wonderful gardens and fruit trees here, Me and two other fellows raided an orchard yesterday, but the apples are a little green yet, and we had slight bellyaches. We'll have to wait until they get riper I guess.

We have an awful time with the bloody English money yet but I guess we'll get used to it in time, I haven't been posted with a Regiment yet, I think I'll try to get with the 18th Armoured Car, It's a Manitoba outfit. I think I'll go to Scotland for my leave if I get any.

Love Murray.

Write soon.



(C.F.A. 302288)

OVERSEAS SERVICEEngland July 29th 43

Dear Mothers,

I am getting sort of settled now, and finally got around to writing a letter. I sent a note by airograph the other day I don't know if it will be readable or not, I sent it for sort of an experiment they say it gets there in about 12 days.

We haven't been posted to a Regiment yet, but I'm training with a bunch of, Royal Canadian Armoured Dragoons, so that might be what I'll be with. We're getting some pretty stiff training now, at least it seems so to me after not doing anything for 6 months.

but I guess I'll survive.

This is a great country to get lost in the blame roads run every which way and in circles and there's so many trees you don't know which way your going, me and another fellow went for a walk last Sunday and we had a heck of a time to find our way back.

Next Sunday is sort of a holiday or something here, and there taking a bunch of us guys who have just come here, to Windsor Castle, I hope there is not too many who want to go, I'd like to go, and look the joint over, from all accounts its quite a place.

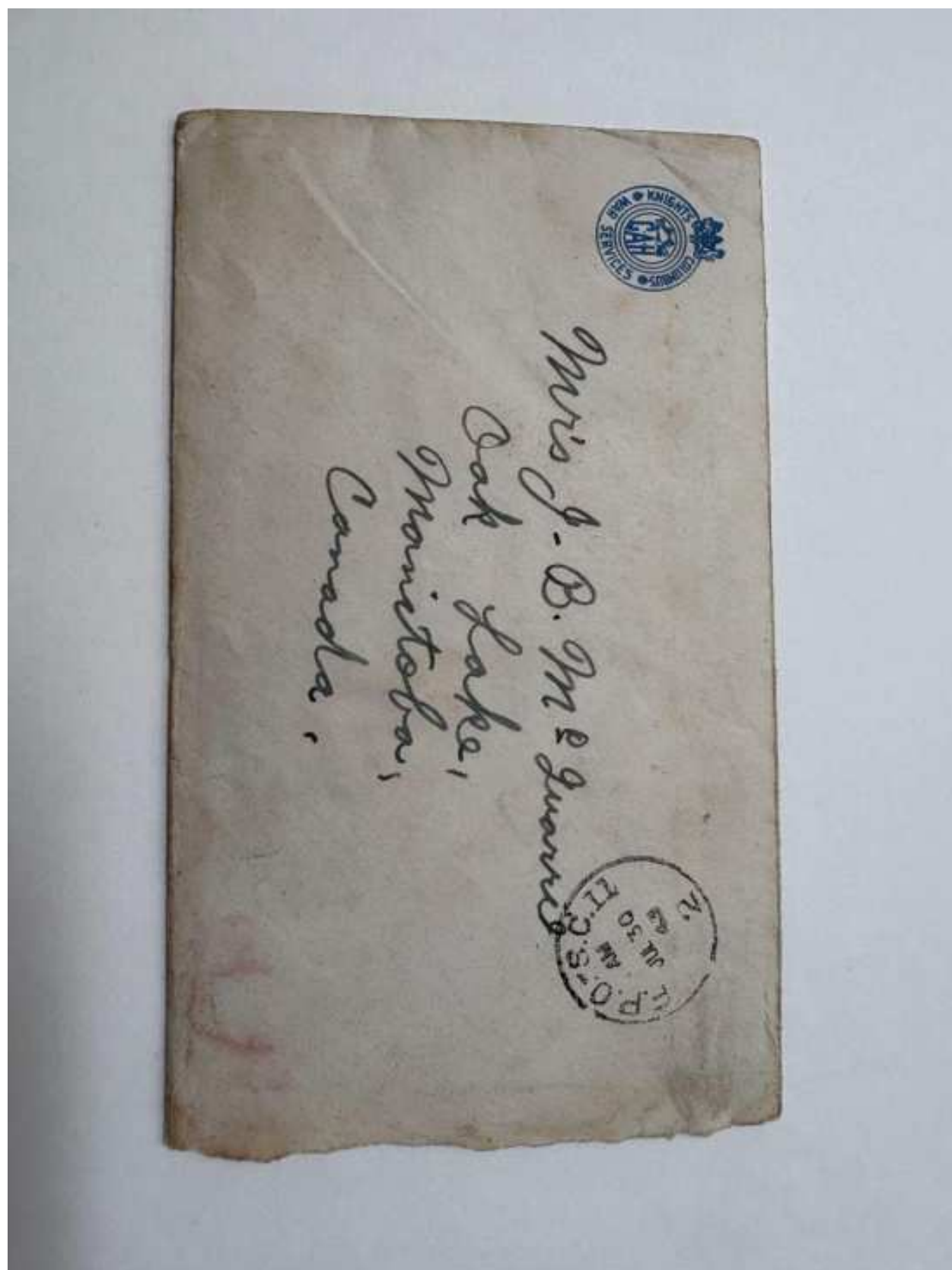
We get paid the other nite



C.P.A. 312

OVERSEAS SERVICE

I got four pounds, I'm getting onto this money now is really quite simple, you've got to forget all about Canadian money that's the only thing, and count in pence and shillings instead of dollars and cents. I hope I get Giles' address pretty soon I can't even send him a letter, I don't know his number and I've no idea where to look for him if I did get some leave, but it doesn't look like I'll get any for some time, well there's really not much to write about here so I'll sign off for now, Hope everybody is fine, Love Murray.
 Write soon





England
July 29th 43

Dear Mother,

I am getting sort of settled now, and finally got around to writing a letter, I sent a not by Airgraph the other day I don't know if it will be readable or not, I sent it for sort of an experiment they say it gets there in about 12 days.

We haven't been posted to a Regiment yet, but I'm training with a bunch of Royal Canadian Armoured Dragoons, so that might be what I'll be with, We're getting some pretty stiff training now, at least it seems so to me after not doing anything for 6 months, but I guess I'll survive.

This is a great country to get lost in the blame roads run every which way and in circles and there's so many trees you don't know which way you're going, Me and another fellow went for a walk last Sunday and we had a heck of a time to find our way back.

Next Sunday is sort of a holiday or something here, and there [sic] taking a bunch of us guys who have just come here to Windsor Castle, In hope there is not to [sic] many who want to go, I'd like to go, and look the joint over, from all accounts it's quite a place.

We got paid the other nite, I got four pounds, I'm getting onto this money now is really quite simple, you've got to forget all about Canadian money that's the only thing, and count in pence and shillings instead of dollars and cents.

I hope I get Neil's address pretty soon I can't even send him a letter, I don't know his number and I've got no idea where to look for him if I did get some leave, but it doesn't look like I'll get any for some time, Well there's really not much to write about here so I'll sign off for now, Hope everybody is fine, Love Murray

(Write soon)

18th Armoured Car Regiment
12th Dragons

7th Squadron
Canadian Army Ammunition

August 15th 43

Dear Mother -

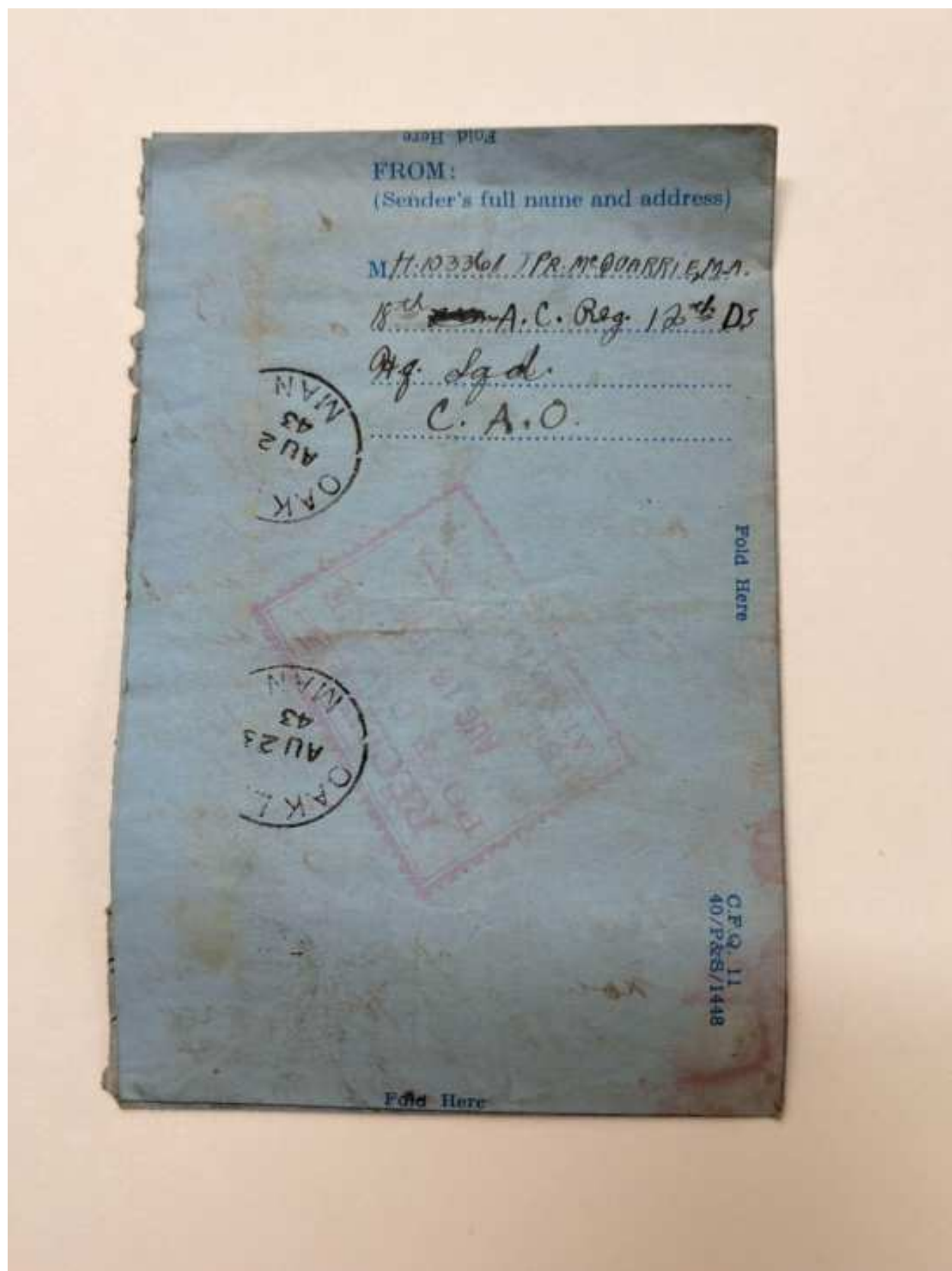
Well I finally got posted to the Reg.

They are on a scheme and it took us two days to finally catch up with them. But I'm still in the new and I intend to stay. I'm tired of being kicked around in training outfits and holding drills. They seem to be a pretty good bunch, the majority of us are from Manitoba so I guess that ~~is~~ accounts for it.

I don't know why they posted me to Headquarters Sqd, so far I haven't done anything, but I guess I'll be driving before long. Well I have to have a test in a fellow driver today that Dick Pleasure is with the outfit too, but I haven't seen him yet. I can't remember his number, so I can't write to him. I should be getting some mail before long, I've been over here practically a month now. Did you get my other letters I wonder?

How are things going at home there? I suppose everybody is busy cutting or threshing now eh? How are the crops this fall? They are still busy harvesting over here, I think if I ever get some leave I'll go out and get a job on a farm somewhere. We got through London yesterday, you can see it's been pretty heavily bombed alright, but most of the debris and stuff has been cleared up. We are pretty close to the coast at the present time, and the planes roaring around are fierce, you can hardly sleep at night for them, I guess there's really giving the Italians the devil these days. Well I hope I get some mail before long, it seems centuries since I got a letter. Hope everybody is fine.
Love Murray





18th Armoured Car Regiment

12th Dragoons

Hq. Squadron

Canadian Army Overseas

August 15th, 43

Dear Mother—,

Well I finally got posted to the Reg. They are on a scheme and it took us two days to finally catch up with them, But I'm with them now and I intend to stay, I'm tired of being kicked around in training centres and holding units. They seem to be a pretty good bunch, the majority of us are from Manitoba, so I guess that accounts for itself.

I don't know why they posted me to headquarters Sqd, So far I haven't done anything, but I guess I'll be driving before long, We'll have to have a test in driving and get the English standing orders first though.

A fellow was telling me today that Dick Pleasure is with this outfit too, but I haven't seen him yet. I wish I could remember Neil's number, so I could write to him, so far I haven't even found out where the Winnipeg Rifles Hq. are. I should be getting some mail before long, I've been over here practically a month now, Did you get my other letters, I wonder?

How are things going at home there? I suppose everybody is busy cutting and threshing by now eh? How are the crops this fall? They are still busy harvesting over here, I think if I ever get some leave I'll go out and get a job on a farm somewhere. We went through London yesterday, you can see it's been pretty heavily bombed alright, but most of the debris and stuff has been cleaned up, We are pretty close to the coast at the present time, and the planes roaring around are fierce, you can hardly sleep at night for them, I guess their really giving the Italians the devil, these days. Well I hope I get some mail before long, It seems centuries since I got a letter. Hope everybody is fine.

Love Murray.

18th Armoured Car Regiment, 12th Dragoons
Hq. Ldn England August 73

Dear Mother,

Got your airgraph letter, and was certainly glad to hear from you, that is funny I even got a letter first, I sent you an airgraph the day after we hit Camp, and I sent you just a plain letter, I even sent ~~you~~ my address too, I wrote to him ~~so~~ we should be able to plan a reunion in the near future I hope.

I was doing fatigues for a few days when I first hit the Reg. but I've been promoted now, I'm a waiter in the Officer's mess. It's a pretty soft job, ~~there~~ there are four of us and get a day off every four days.

I saw Dick Pleasure for a minute this morning I don't think he knew what was, I found out the number of his hut anyway so I'll go down tonight and inform him of my identity, I am growing a nice little mustache maybe that's the reason he didn't recognize me.

Aug 20th

Well I got a letter last night from you, it was sent through Dundurn and was written on July 11th. I didn't get the 20 you sent, I got the telegram the morning we pulled out, but I would have had to go to Bankstown to get the money, so I couldn't get it, I wrote again to you before we left, saying I didn't get it, but I got 15 from C. Scott, so if you'd pay him back that, I'd be much obliged did you get that letter I wonder? How says in the airgraph you'd sent another 10 I haven't got that yet but I'll likely be along in a week or so, it will come in handy too, I should get a leave before long.





18th Armoured Car Regiment, 12th Dragoons

Hq. Sqdn.

England

August 23rd, 43

Dear Mother—,

Got your Airgraph letter, and was certainly glad to hear from you, that's funny Gwen got a letter first, I sent you an Airgraph the day after we hit camp, and I sent Gwen just a plain letter, Gwen sent me Neil's address too, I wrote to him so we should be able to plan a reunion in the near future I hope.

I was doing fatigues for a few days when I first hit the Reg. but I've been promoted now, I'm a waiter in the Officer's mess. It's a pretty soft job, there are four of us and we [each] get a day off every four days.

I saw Dick Pleasure for a minute this morning. I don't think he knew who I was, I found out the number of his hut anyway so I'll go down tonite and inform him of my identity, I am growing a nice little mustache. Maybe that's the reason he didn't recognize me.

Aug 24th.

Well I got a letter last nite from you, it was sent through Dundurn and was written on July 11th. I didn't get the \$20 you sent, I got the telegram the morning we pulled out, but I would have had to go to Saskatoon to get the money, so i couldn't get it, I wrote again to you before we left, saying I didn't get it but I got \$15 from C. Scott, so if you'd pay him back that, I'd be much obliged, did you get that letter I wonder? You said in the Airgraph you'd sent another \$10, I haven't got that yet but it'll likely be along in another week or so, It will come in handy too, I should get a leave before long.

Has what I signed over come through yet? It should before long. Will you send \$5 a month worth of cigarettes over when its through, I am out of smokes already although I brought 4 tins of tobacco and a bunch of cigarettes with me. I'll have to see if I can buy some of those limey fags I guess.

They are going to open a canteen here tomorrow I think, They are getting the stuff in now. Well I hope everyone is fine.

Write soon. Love Murray.



18th A.C.R. 12th Man. Dragoons Hq. Sqdn. C.A.O.

Sept. 28th 1943

Dear Mother—,

How is everybody I wonder? Fine I hope! I haven't got any letters for a long time now. I got a letter from Peggy, and one from Gwen through Dundurn though. Also I got 300 cigarettes from the Dundurn Canteen fund. And believe me they really come in handy, They are really a treat after smoking the limey fags.

I finally had my nine day leave, Went to Manchester. Neil had written and said he'd try and get a 48 when I got mine, and we could meet in London. I wrote him when I was getting mine, and intended going to London for the weekend. But I got fooled. My train ticket was for Manchester only and I couldn't go anywhere else. I haven't heard form Neil since so I don't know whether he was in London when I was supposed to be there or not, I'm going to write to him today though.

Well I finally got out of the Officer's Mess, I am now a Driver Batman for the Paymaster. It's a pretty fair job, and I get a pound extra a month. All I do is keep his clothes washed and pressed, boots shone, etc. and drive him wherever he desires to go, What I haven't done when I get out of this army won't be much I can assure you, I'd make a great wife for somebody, you should see how I can press shirts and trousers.

Besides Dick Pleasure, I've discovered another Oak Lake Lad in the Reg. Louis [sp] Leach! I saw him one day with Dick, He knew me but I couldn't figure out who he was for quite awhile, He's grown cute little moustache too. We went to a show in a nearby village one nite.

I suppose everyone is busy harvesting now eh? How are the crops this year around Oak Lake. They should be pretty good if it rained as much all summer as it did when I was home on furlough. It's getting so it rains practically everyday over here now too and it's really chilly at nites.

Italy certainly capitulated quickly didn't she, Though the Yank's had pretty stiff going at (Salamero) ("or however you spell it.) for awhile. I hope we get into action before long, before its all anyway. Well "Fare-thee-well for now," Mom.

Love Murray.

so narrow and crooked and
there are so many ~~bigs~~ bicycle
on the road's too, Everyone from
6 to 90 ride bicycles over here.

I had nine days leave from the
10th of Sept. to the 19th. I went to
Manchester with a pal named Michel
later, we had a pretty good time,
It was nice to get away from
camp for a while anyway.

I haven't seen Neil yet, but
when we get to our winter
quarters, I'll have to get a H&S and
look him up I guess.

When I was on leave, we were
sleeping in the Y.M.C.A. and some-
one went through my trunk one
night and stole, my pencil and ~~my~~
the case I kept all my pictures in
so I haven't got a picture left
I wish you'd send some ch. kids
I guess I'll close for now,

Charis Love
Write soon Murray





18th A.C.R. 12th D. Hq. Sqn. C.A.O.

Oct 5th 43

Dear Peg,

How goes the battle Sister dear? You've been working at Taylor's this summer eh? I got a letter from you that came through Dundurn. I suppose about now you'll really have a lot of work to do, what with threshing and everything, or maybe you've quit there now and started teaching school have you? It seems to be I heard a rumor that you were going to teach for a year then take your Grade 12 or normal, Well good luck if you're teaching school you'll need it kiddo.

I am driving and batting for the paymaster now, its not a bad job, and I get a lot of driving over the country, it's really a job to drive over here, the roads are so narrow and crooked and there are so many bicycles on the roads too, Everyone from 6 to 90 ride bicycles over here.

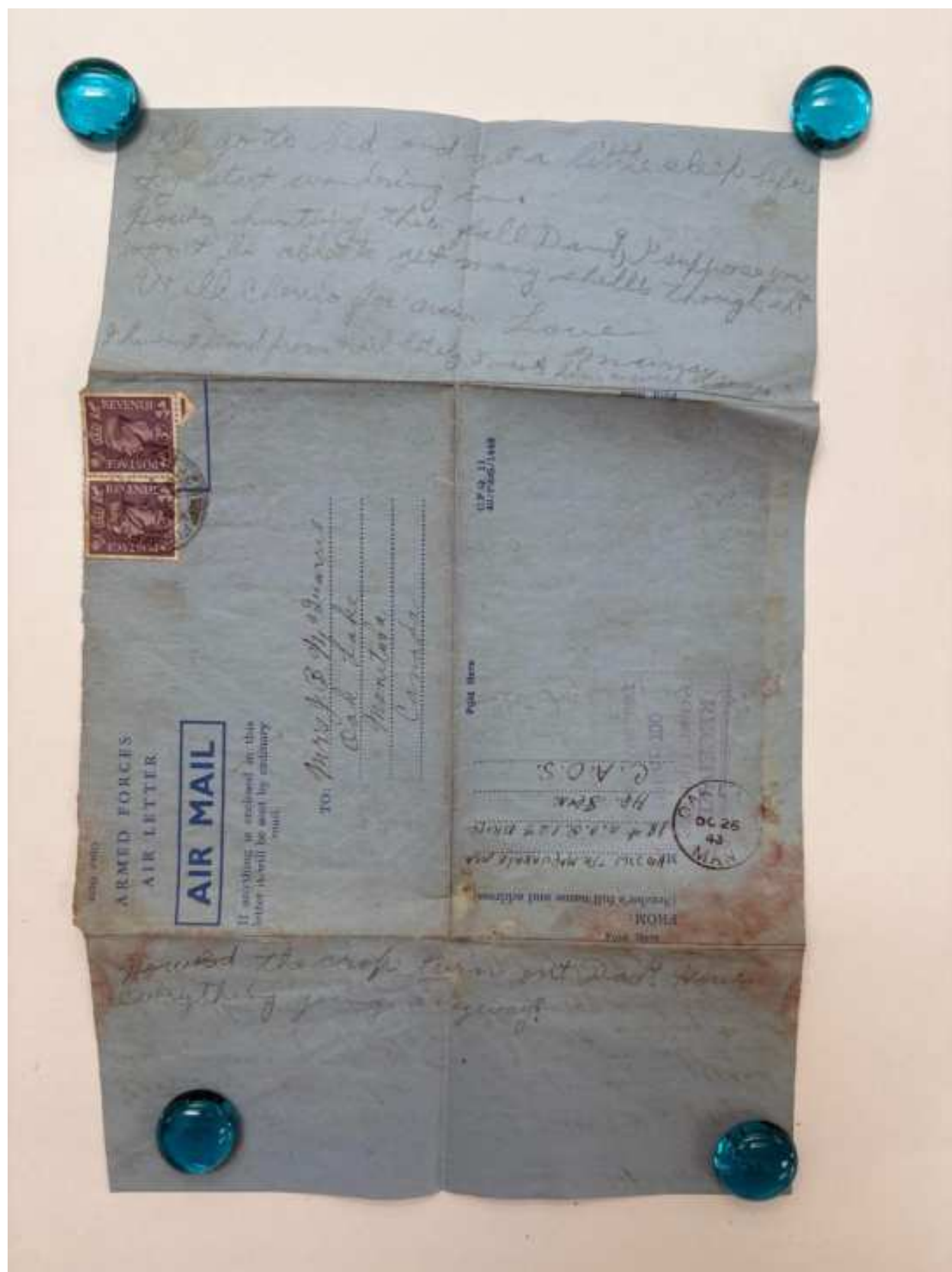
I had nine days leave from the 10th of Sept. to the 19th. I went to Manchester with a pal named Michael Slater, we had a pretty good time, It was nice to get away from camp for a while anyway.

I haven't seen Neil yet, but when we get to our winter quarters, I'll have to get a 48 and look him up I guess.

When I was on leave, we were sleeping in the Y.M.C.A. and someone went through my tunic one night and stole my pencil and the case I kept all my pictures in so I haven't got a picture left. I wish you'd send me some eh Kiddo?

I guess I'll close for now, Cheerio Love Murray,

Write soon.





12/10.43

Dear Mother–,

How goes everything with folks? Fine I hope! I got three letter from you a few days ago, and very welcome they were too. I guess your all through threshing and that by now eh? It's starting to get bad weather over here now, It's foggy and raining practically every night and morning, but it generally clears up in the afternoons, I had a bad cold but getting over it now, getting sot of climatized I guess.

Well I started this letter at the Y.M.C.A. but I'll finish it here at the hut, Pardon the pencil, but some rat stole my case with all my pictures in it and my pen and pencil set out of my tunic one night. I haven't got a picture left, send some will you please Mother? Whoever took them must have thought the case was my wallet I guess, He could have at least brought the pictures back they were no good to him. I was pretty busy today, the Paymaster just got back off leave last nite and we had to make a trip to Newmarket today, We left the first thing in the morning, and didn't get back until 6pm tonight. We're going to the ranges next week I think, for a few days and after that I guess we'll be moving to our winter quarters, at least I hope so, these old huts we're in now are getting pretty cool at nites.

I saw Louence [Louis?] for a minute tonight, He's been working in the kitchen for the last few days he says. How's your foot Dan? The next time you get mad and kick something pick something softer and smaller eh? I suppose you and Jean are happy to be back in school again are you? All the boys in the hut are out tonight,

it's certainly quiet for a change, I guess I'll go to bed and get a little sleep before they start wandering in.

How's hunting this fall Dan? I suppose you won't be able to get many shells though eh?

Well Cherrio for now.

Love Murray.

I haven't heard from Neil lately, I wrote him a week ago.

How'd the crops turn out Dad? How's everything going anyway?

Dear mother -

Oct 29th 1918

Well, I shall endeavor to write a few lines tonight, I got a letter from you today and the Chinese from New Zealand, but I'll not say Did you send any yet? I write and send it out every month, but I don't figure out how much it costs. I am coming through the rest of the year, I'll tell you later. I've been buying these funny fags and but I'm getting used to them, the only thing is they cost so damn much. By the way I suppose you'll be getting that victory bond I bought at 100 and they are selling them for 120 at the moment, but I figure it's a good way to save money.

We've been pretty busy lately, were on the ranges for a few days, then went on a scheme, against the 14th Division, it rained practically every day, but we had a fair time anyway, and we made a damn good show of ourselves as our officers say anyway.

I guess you're all having a very busy time too, what with the Chinese and the Chinese catching on fire, and what not.

I haven't heard from Neil for a month or more now, I figured he must have gone overseas, it's just as well, he didn't make it to London to meet me, seeing as how I wasn't there either. It's well. We might see each other on the road to Berlin, although by the way the Russian and the 8th and 9th army are going they would have



Oct 29th 43

Dear Mother—,

Well, I shall endeavor to write a few lines tonight, I got a letter from you today, and The Chronic from Mrs. Watson, but still no cigarettes, Did you send any yet? I wrote and asked to send \$5 worth every month, but I was figuring it out and I guess a 1000 a month would be sufficient If they get here, They haven't been coming through very good for the rest of the boys lately, till today today there was a lot of mail in, and practically everybody got cigarettes I've been buying these limey fags, and they are certainly a poor imitation for a cigarette, but I am getting used to them, the only thing is they cost so blame much. By the way I suppose you'll be getting that Victory Bond I bought at Dundurn pretty soon, It will be paid for at the end of this month, They are selling them again now to us, so I bought another \$50 one in your name, not because I'm patriotic, but I figure its a good way to save money.

We've been pretty busy lately, were on the ranges for a few days, then went on a scheme, against the 4th Division, It rained practically every day, but we had a fair time anyway, and we made a blame good show of ourselves, so our officers say anyway.

I guess you were all having a very busy time last month eh? What with threshing and chimneys catching on fire, and what not.

I haven't heard from Neil for a month or more now, figured he must have gone overseas, It's just as well he didn't make it to London to meet me, seeing as how I

wasn't there either. "Ah well" We might run into each other on the road to Berlin eh? Although by the way the Russians and the 5th and 8th army are going they won't have any need of us.

We're supposed to move to our winter quarters before long, I hope so anyway, these old huts are getting pretty chilly now, its so foggy and wet all the time, and we can't get anything to burn yet. Well I'll sign off for now, hope everybody is well and happy.

Cheerio Love Murray.

12th Dec. 1943. *Myzomela hypoleuca*. C.A.O.
 Near Mother - 43.

Received your letter of the 20th of Sept. and
the parcel the same day. Boy I was certainly
glad to get the parcel, those cigarettes really are
our friends. They didn't last long though, then
the many guys here out of a whole
lot of people got alright, one of my friends had
a package of it and we last ashore and I caught
the 1st of Oct. and it will go into action
on another ashore. I hope the other side goes
and get here before long, they don't seem too
all getting through for one side for some reason
or whether they want to withhold up in Montreal
or something. There's a lot of the parcel
and then over here, I really fell over, when they
said there was a parcel I was
well we had to move again, the fence will
didn't run in fact, was no good at
a higher and then invasion than ever now.
1935. I got lost again. I took some officers
down to a little town to catch a train
they were going on leave. Coming back
I took the right turn at the wrong time or
wrong town at the right time, or something.
Before I finally got back, it was raining
and dark as the devil. I made

things across Iowa this country and
to roads every time I go driving?

Nov. 12/48

Well I guess I'll finish this letter this morning.
I didn't get it quite finished last night because
I was so put for a while for no good reason.
So I'll be in it again. It's Reg. 1000



ARMED FORCES
AIR LETTER

AIR MAIL

If anything is enclosed in this
letter it will be sent by ordinary
mail.

TO Mrs. J. B. Murray.

Cap. Lake

Manitoba

Canada

GP 11
Air Mail

Post Here



FROM: (Sender's full name and address)
1922
M. J. B. Murray
1872
W.B.S. 87
O. B. O.

Love say you'll make it though I must quit
like you should be able to anyway. What are
you going to do when you get through
Grade 10? or have you made any plans yet?
I've got a lot of work to do on my car
today so I guess I'd better get started! Hope
everybody is fine. Love
Lore Murray.



18th A.C.R. 12th Man, Dragoons Hq. Sqdn. C.A.O

Nov 12th 43.

Dear Mother—,

Received your letter of the 29th of Sept. and the parcel the same day. Boy I was certainly glad to get the parcel, those cigarettes really came in handy, they didn't last long though, there are too many guys here out of smokes.

That soup is good alright, one of my chums had a package of it on our last scheme and I swapped it. I'll just save it till we go into action or on another scheme. I hope the other cigs you sent get here before long, they don't seem to be getting through for anybody for some reason or other, there must be a hold up in Montreal or something. Thanks a lot for the parcel anyway Mom, It's the first parcel I've got got since I've been over here, I nearly fell over, when they said there was a parcel for me.

Well we had to move again, the house we were in, the water system was no good it didn't run in fast enough, so we're in a bigger and finer mansion than ever now. It's fairly new too, it was only built in 1935.

I got lost tonight, I took some officers down to a little town to catch a train, they were going on leave, Coming back I took the right turn at the wrong time or wrong turn at the right time, or something. Anyway I really covered some territory before

I got back, It was raining and dark as the devil to make things worse. I curse this country and its roads every time I go driving.

Nov. 13th

Well I guess I'll finish this letter this morning, I didn't get it quite finished last night because the Y.M.C.A. put on a show for us and I saw it. So Grade 12 is pretty tough is it Peg? Oh, I dare say you'll make it through, Smart girl like you should be able to anyway. What are you going to do when you get through Grade XII? Or have you made any plans yet? I've got a lot of work to do on my car today, so I guess I'd better get started. Hope everybody is fine.

Cheerio

Love Murray.

18th Dec. 1943. 12.3. 1943. 12.3. 1943. 12.3. 1943.

Dec. 18th 1943.

Dear Mother -

Got your parcel alright, everything intact and as good as the day it was sent. Thank you very much Mother. It is a perfectly wonderful parcel, I certainly cheer a guy up to get something like that, from home. I think the morale at the Canadian Army would get pretty low if it wasn't for letters and parcels from home once in a while. I got a letter from you and also one from Diana tonight. Was certainly glad to get your letter. How are things coming?

We're getting pretty well settled here now, looks like we're going to be here for some little time I guess. It's a pretty fair town, there's 6 theatres, an ice skating rink, roller skating rink, and dance halls galore, and it's only about a five minute bus ride to get to the centre of the town.

It's pretty cool here now at night, and it rains more than enough, but I'm getting sort of used to it I guess, doesn't bother me any more now. I just ignore the weather. Haven't had a bad cold yet this winter, eh? Guess I better turn in now.





18th A.C.R. 12th M.D. Hq Sqn. C.A.O.

Dec 6th 43

Dear Mother–,

Got your parcel alright, everything intact and as good as the day it was sent. Thank you, very much Mother, it is a perfectly wonderful parcel, It certainly cheers a guy to get something like that from home. I think the morale in the Canadian Army would get pretty low if it wasn't for letters and parcels from home every once in awhile. I got a letter from Jean and also one from Gwen tonight. Was certainly glad to get your letter Jean, keep them coming eh?

We're getting pretty well settled here now, looks like we're going to be here for some little time I guess. It's a pretty fair town, there's 5 theatres, an ice skating rink, roller skating rink, and dance halls galore, and it's only about a 5 minute bus ride to get to the centre of the town.

It's pretty cool here now at nights, and it rains here more than enough, but I am getting sort of used to it I guess. Doesn't bother me anymore now, I just ignore the weather, Haven't had a bad cold yet this winter, "Oh" "guess I better touch wood."

The car I drive has had a slight difficulty in the mechanism of the carburetor for the last week or so but I've got it fixed now, and she runs like a top again. Well I guess I'll sign off, the lights are due to go out any second now so–

Good night, Merry XMas, Happy New Year to you all.

Cheerio Love Murray.

P.S. SEND MORE TOBACCO, I like it better than taylor mades.

15th A.O. R. 12th Man. Dragoon Reg. Septm
C. A. O.



25th Dec. 43.

Dear Mother -

Well it doesn't seem much like xmas here, I can't feature it, xmas day, no snow, and its not even cold out.

They got us up at 5.45 this morning, and we had to go on Church Parade at seven o'clock. We ~~go~~ went away down town to a church, about a four mile march. Then when we got out of there they had an inspection and march past, Colonel Robert took the salute. But we finally got back here, where we get a couple of hours to wait for dinner now, so I thought I'd scribble you a line.

Merry
Christmas

We had an egg each for

ice. I breakfast this morning, It's the second
 egg I've eaten since I came to this
 fair country. We very seldom
 get even dried eggs.

They say ~~there~~ they're cooking up
 a pretty fair dinner, "we'll see."

I quit my job battling and driving
 for the Paymaster, yesterday, just
 for a sort of Xmas present to
 myself, I was blamed well fed up
 with the job and him too.

I asked him to give me a
 pound ~~note~~ in advance when Neil
 was here you know, we were
 sort of short of finance, and he
 wouldn't give it to me, so he
 can get himself another batman
 now.

I'm enclosing the "programme," or
 whatever you call it, of the
 Church service, this morning, thought
 you might like to see it

3. It was a very nice service.
 It's got the imitation of our
 cap badge stamped on it.

Well, I wish I was home now,
 but hope we'll all be back this
 time next year anyway.

Later
 "It was, a very nice dinner,"
 "Turkey" with all the trimmings,
 "Pudding" and sauce", 50 cigarettes,
 and two Pils each, also a bottle
 of beer each. The officers served
 us. They had a concert after
 dinner too. So, a good time was
 had by all. "I'm all ready
 for supper now." Got an
 appetite worked up.

Hope everybody is fine,
 Cheers Love
 Murray





18th A.C.R. 12th Man. Dragoons Hq. Sqdn. C.A.O.

25th Dec 43.

Dear Mother –,

Well it doesn't seem much like Xmas here, I can't feature it Xmas day, no snow, and its not even cold out.

They got us up at 5:45 this morning, and we had to on Church Parade at seven o'clock.

We went away down town to a church, about a four mile march. Then when we got out of there they had an inspection and march past, Colonel Roberts took the salute. But we finally got back here, We've got a couple of hours to wait for dinner now, so I thought I'd scribble you a line.

We had an egg each for breakfast this morning, It's the second egg I've eaten since I came to this fair country. We very seldom get even dried eggs.

They say they're cooking up a pretty fair dinner, "we'll see."

I quit my job batting and driving for the Paymaster yesterday, just for a sort of Xmas present to myself, I was blamed well fed up with the job and him too. I asked him to give me a pound in advance when Neil was here you know, We were sort of

short of finance, and he wouldn't give it to me, so he can get himself another batman now.

I'm enclosing the "programe," or whatever you call it, of the Church service, this morning, Thought you might like to see it. It was a very nice service. It's got the imitation of our cap badge stamped on it.

Well, I wish I was home now, but hope we will all be back this time next year anyway.

Later

"It was a very nice dinner," "Turkey" with all the trimmings, "Pudding" and sauce", 50 cigarettes, and two bars each, also a bottle of beer each. The Officers served us. They had a concert after dinner too. So a good time was had by all. "I'm all ready for supper now." Git an appetite worked up.

Hope everybody is fine.

Cheerio

Love Murray

12 1/2 Manitoba Ragwings, Sp. Sp. C. 10



ON ACTIVE SERVICE

13-1-44

Dear Mother,

Received a cheque, day before yesterday, for \$4-10-6, I presume another Dear you sent it! There was no message or anything with it. So I take it you sent it anyway, and I thank you very much. I never took my leave, but I can save some money up now until such a time as I can go.

~~I~~ Was out yesterday afternoon, with Lator, to fellow I went on leave with before you know. We went to a show, Wintertime, with Lonnie & Jim. Then we went skating, but the lame skates we got weren't much good. The pair I had were about 7 sizes too big, and the skates were loose on the leather.

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES

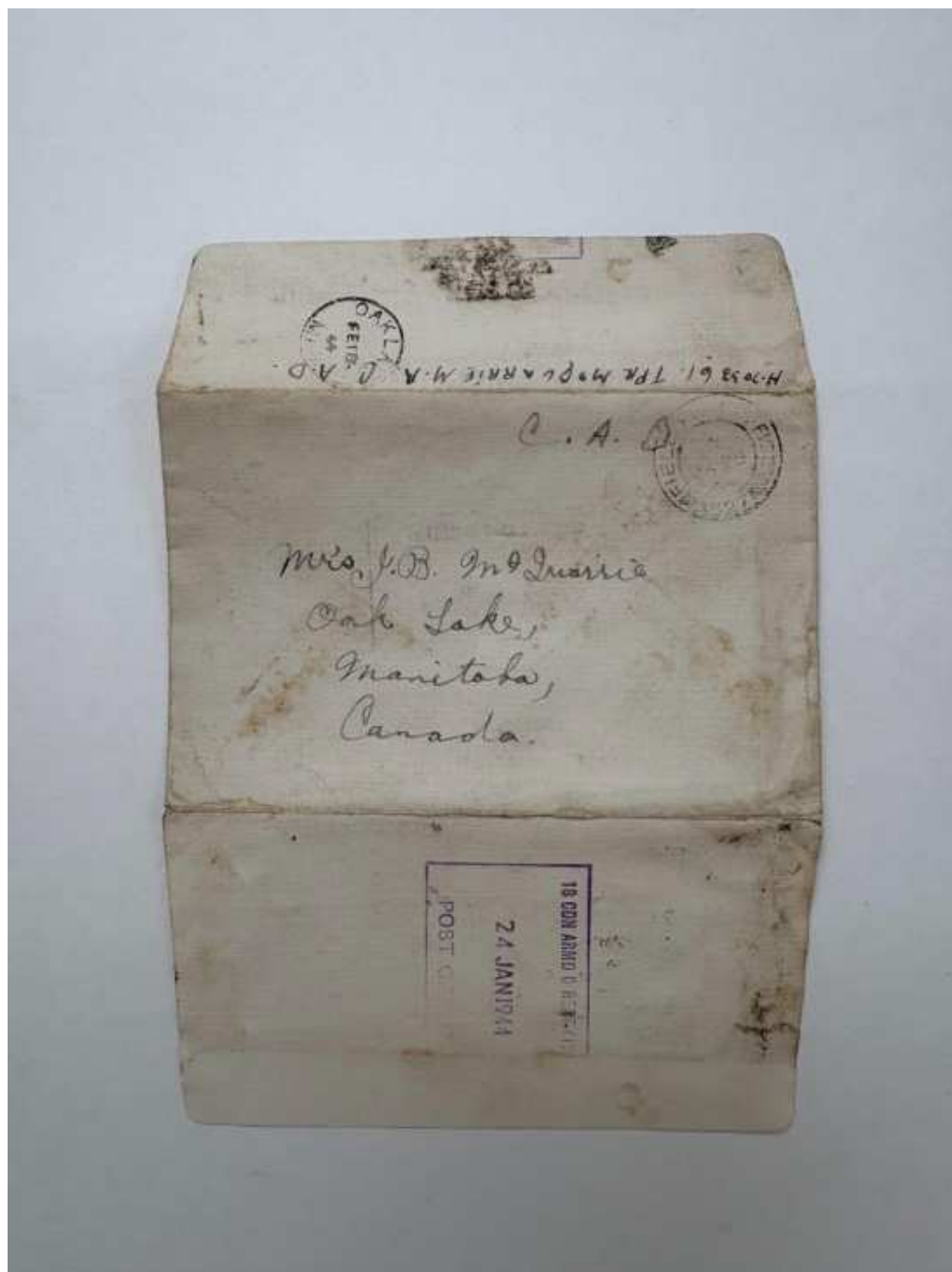


ON ACTIVE SERVICE

and I was continually saying
when I should have been saying.
We had a lot of fun anyway.
We have a radio here, and
there was a rebroadcast of Jack
Denny's program on a few
minutes ago, nice to hear it
again.

I got another parcel from L & B
the other day, but still no cigarettes.
I think also Whitcomb is smart
just pocket a lot of that money
people give him to send cigarettes.
Somebody is robbing us some way,
because it certainly isn't getting sent
now.
Well, I'll close for now. If everyone
is fine.
Love Murray.

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES



1944

12th Manitoba Dragoon's Hq. Sqdn. C.A.O.

23-1-44

Dear Mother—,

Received a cheque day before yesterday, for \$4-10-6 [?], I presume Mother Dear you sent it? There was no message or anything with it. So, I take it you sent it anyway, and I thank you very much. I never took my leave, but I can save some money up now until such a time such a time as I can go.

Was out yesterday afternoon, with Slater, the fellow I went on leave with before you know, We went to a show, Wintertime, with Sonja Hein [sp].

Then we went skating, but the blame skates we got weren't much good, The pair I had were about 4 sized too big, and the skates were loose on the boots and I was continuously zigging when I should have been zagging [sp?]. We had a lot of fun anyway.

We've a radio here, and there was a rebroadcast of Jack Benny's program on a few minutes ago, nice to here [sic] it again.

I got another parcel from Scotts the other day, but still no cigarettes. I think old Whitcombe must just pocket a lot of that money people give him to send

cigarettes. Somebody's robbing us somewhere because it certainly isn't getting sent now.

Well I'll close for now, Hope everyone is fine.

Love Murray.

12th Man and 2 ragaons 449 Lpdn P.A.O.



7-1-44

Dear Mother -

Got your air mail letter the other day, was certainly glad to hear from you again, the letters haven't been coming through very good lately, for some reason or other, I hope those cigarettes get here before long, all we got through the company so far is 300 from Peg, and 300 from I may before Xmas, ~~the weather~~

The weather here is not bad now, it hasn't rained for quite a while, We get a little frost once in a while though.

I'm on fatigue this week, Merry
Sanitary, There's miles
of corridors to be swept, and
Christmas

scrubbed daily, to say nothing
of the bathrooms, washrooms, and
toilets.

Later -

Well I received another letter from
you again today, ~~with~~ a plain
one written on the 9th of Dec.
your birthday greeting hit right
on the spot anyway didn't it?

Everyone seems to be getting
colds and the flu at home.

They've got quite a bit of flu
over here too this winter at home
but I've been lucky so far.
I had a bad cold awhile ago
but got over it all right.

I hope the kids are all up
and well again anyway.

I got notice this afternoon
I'd be going on ~~to~~ a new
school next week, so that
should be interesting, it'll be
a change anyway.

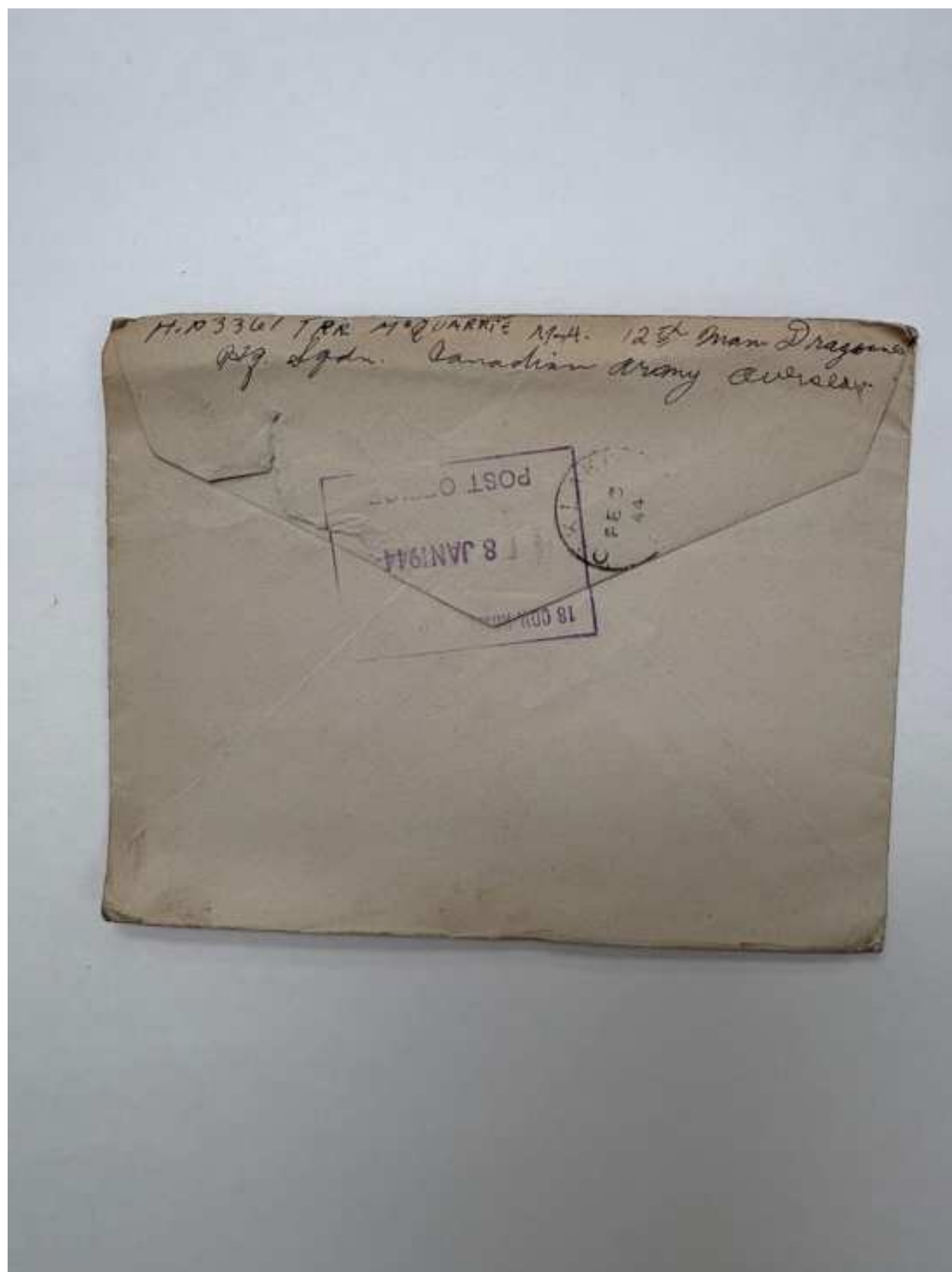
I was having a few games of
cribbage, awhile ago, certainly,
a long time since I played
crib, I almost forget how.

It is a good pastime in the
evenings anyway, & they have
an awful time to put in
time in the evenings, when
your broke and can't go
out. They have shows here
twice a week though, Monday
and Thursdays, so that breaks
the monotony somewhat.

Have you got that Bondget,
that I bought during my
stay at Danvers? I wonder?
It should be there by now,
shouldn't it.

Well I'll sign off for now,
Cheerio Love
Murray





12th (Man) Dragoons Hq. Sqdn. C.A.O.

7-1-44

Dear Mother—,

Got your Air Mail letter the other day, was certainly glad to hear from you again, the letters haven't been coming through very good lately, for some reason or other, I hope those cigarettes get here before long, all I've got is 300 from Peg, and 300 from Inez before Xmas,

The weather here is not bad now, it hasn't rained for quite a while, We get a little frost once in a while though.

I'm on fatigues this week, Sanitary, There's miles of corridors to be swept, and scrubbed daily, to say nothing of the bathrooms, washrooms, and toilets.

Later—,

Well I received another letter from you again today, a plain one written on the 9th of dec. Your birthday greeting hit right on the dot anyway didn't it?

Everyone seems to be getting colds and the flu at home eh. They've got quite a bit of flu over here too this winter it seems but I've been lucky so far, I had a bad cold a while ago but got over it all right, I hope the kids are all up and well again anyway.

I got notice this afternoon I'd be going on a mine course next week, so that should be interesting, it'll be a change anyway.

Was having a few games of cribbage, awhile ago, certainly a long time since I played crib, I almost forgot how, It's a good pastime in the evening anyway, a guy has an awful time to put in time in the evening, when you are broke and can't go out. They have shows here twice a week though, Mondays and Thursdays, so that breaks up the monotony somewhat.

Have you got that new Bond yet, that I bought during my stay at Dundurn I wonder? It should be there by now, shouldn't it.

Well I'll sign off for now.

Cheerio Love Murray

1-2-44

Dear Mother,

Got your air mail letter
of the 20th, It came in
good time, didn't it.

I got a writing pad and
envelopes, in a letter case
from Lewin the other day
for a birthday present.
I'm initiating it now,

also about a week ago.
I got that 1000 sigs from Alice
Henderson, they certainly were
a God send, I was right out.
I sent the card in them
back to him today, thank-
ing him.

That must have been
a bad fire they had in Town
eh, are they going to take
the other children away from

2. The mother, I wonder?

I guess Aunt Mita isn't
very well eh? How's ranch
not keeping the winter?

I guess Dad is pretty busy
again this winter, does he
do any curling this winter?
you seem to be having
a good winter there anyway.
Heath stays that way,
will probably hit pretty hard
in March though.

Norris and Bernice got
married on the 25th. Where
are they living? Is Bernice
still teaching school? That's
what she was doing wasn't
it? I lose track of what
everyone is doing, we
had an Enca concert here
the other night, with Canad^{ian}
singers.

3
 astute, and there was a girl
 playing the piano that
 looked enough like Eleanor
 Smith to be her, but I guess
 she's still carrying on her
 nursing career in Ontario
 - isn't she?

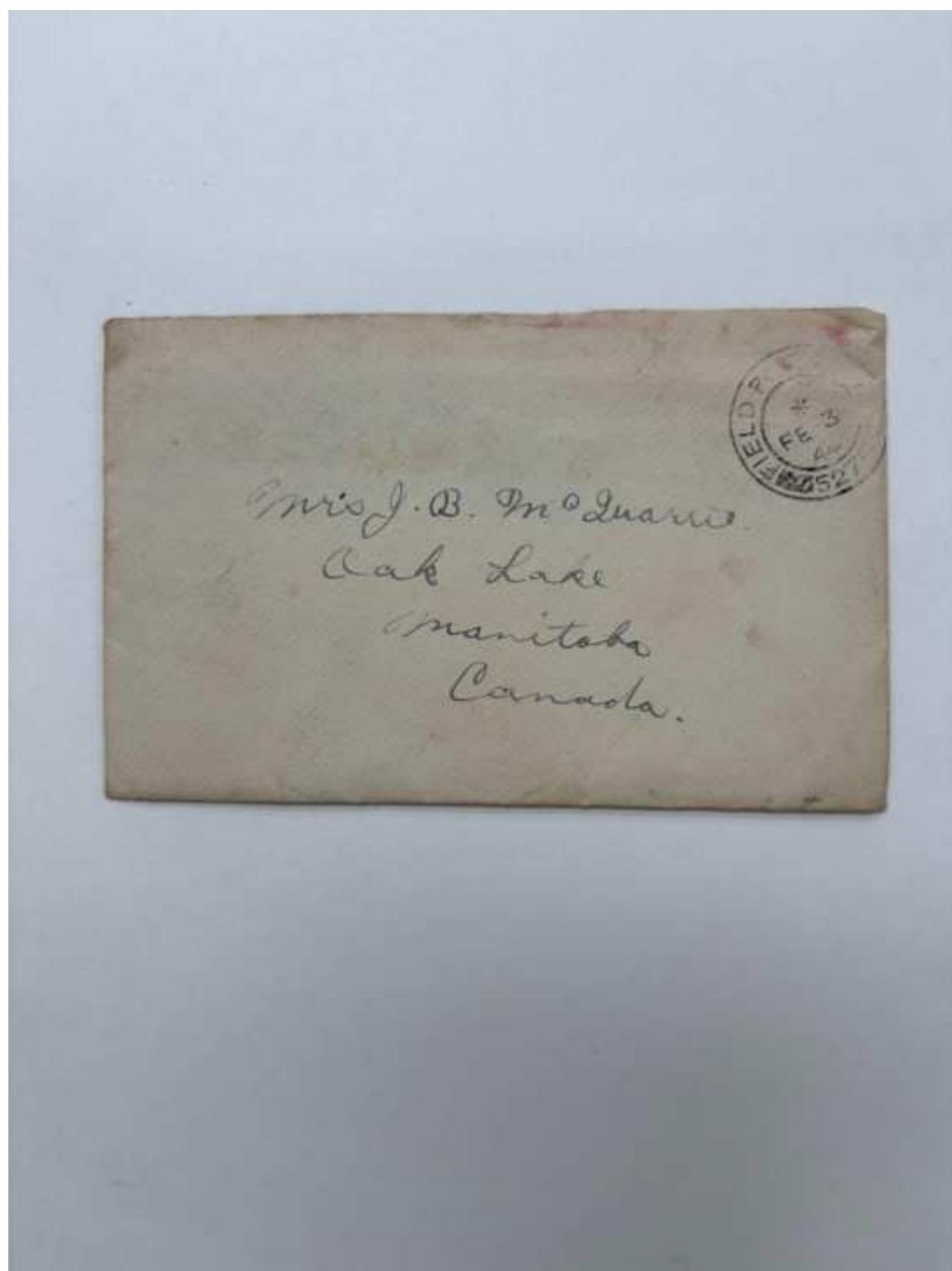
Well there doesn't seem
 to be anything to write
 about much. I were kept
 pretty busy now, started
 giving in P.T. again. -
 pretty near killed me the
 first few days.

Well I'll close for now.

Love

Wmurray

P.S. I shaved my mustache
 off.



1-2-44

Dear Mother—,

Got your Air Mail letter of the 20th, It came in good time didn't it. I got a writing pad and envelopes, in a leather case from Gwen the other day for a birthday present, I'm initiating [sic] it now,

Also about a week ago, I got that 1000 cigs from Alec Henderson, They certainly were a God send, I was right out. I sent the card in them back to him today, Thanking him.

That must have been a bad fire they had in town eh, are they going to take the other children away from the mother I wonder?

I guess Aunt Nita isn't very well eh? How's Uncle Ad keeping this winter?

I guess Dad is pretty busy again this winter, does he do any curling this winter? You seem to be having a good winter there anyway, Hope it stays that way, It'll probably hit pretty hard in March though.

Norris and Bernice got married ion the 25th eh! Where are they living? Is Bernice still teaching school? That's what she was doing wasn't it! I lose track of what everyone is doing, We had an Ensa [sp] concert here the other night, with Canadian actors, and there was a girl playing the piano that looked enough like Elenor Scott to be her, but I guess she's still carrying on her nursing career in Ontario isn't she?

Well there doesn't seem to be anything to write about much. We're kept pretty busy now, started giving is P.T. again, pretty near killed me the first few days.

Well I'll close for now.

Love Murray,

P.S. I shaved my mustache off.

10th Nov. 2. Sat 19th 44.

1. Dear Mother,

I've been wanting to write for two or three days now, but just as I've seem to find time, I get your letter. I was certainly a surprise, it was a good letter, I finished the last piece last night, the only thing that wasn't enough.

But all was certainly good while it lasted.

The bottle is going on a return to me but I don't have to go back, I'm one of the war party.

I'm glad of that too because it's certainly not very agreeable.

for sleeping out.

We had a square dance in the mess hall last week. a good time was had by all. We're supposed to be having a dance for the whole Regiment, on the 24th at a dance hall down town they are going to rent full the night that should be something.

Well I'll have to finish this letter in the guard-house I guess, "Cap" don't get the wrong impression now, I'm not the prisoner, merely acting guard for a couple of hours, on a fellow who's under close arrest, waiting for

3. a Court marshal,

The Provost Cpl. had a heavy ~~blade~~ and asked me to stick around and watch the fellow ~~till~~ for a couple of hours.

Well one thing is nice and warm in here anyway, and there's a table and a good light to write by. This is about the warmest place in the whole camp, I think, it's a darn sight warmer than our room anyway.

I'm practically out of sight again, I hope to get some pretty soon.

"Oh," did you get that victory bond yet it surely





12th Man. D.

Sat 19th 44 [February]

Dear Mother—,

I've been meaning to write for two or three days now, but just didn't seem to find time, I got your birthday cake Wed. It was certainly a surprise, It was in in good shape too, I finished the last piece last nite, the only thing there wasn't enough of it. But it was certainly good while it lasted.

The outfit is going on a scheme tonite, but I don't have to go luckily, I'm one of the rear party. I'm glad of that too because it is not very nice weather for sleeping out.

We had a squadron dance in the mess hall last Wed. A good time was had by all. We're supposed to have dance for the whole Regiment, on the 24th at a dance hall down town they are going to rent for the night that should be something.

Well I'll have to finish this letter in the guard-house I guess, "oop" don't get the wrong impression now, I'm not the prisoner, merely acting guard for a couple of hours, on a fellow who's under close arrest, waiting for a court martial.

The Provost Cpl. had a heavy date and asked me to stick around and watch the fellow for a couple hours.

Well one thing its nice and warm in here anyway, and there's a table and a good light to write by. This is about the warmest place in the whole camp, I think, It's a darn sight warmer than our room anyway.

I'm practically out of cigs again, I hope I get some pretty soon.

"Oh," did you get that Victory bond yet it surely must have come through by now? The other one I bought the end of Oct. will be paid for before long now. Time certainly does go by in a hurry doesn't it?

Well, hope everyone is well and happy.

Good luck. Love Murray.

11th Street, N.Y. N.Y. 10011
 26-2-44.

Dear Mother -

Received your letters & ays
 from you yesterday, they
 were mailed on Jan 20th
 so they got here in
 good time didn't they?
 They got here just at
 the right time too, I was
 on my last week of the
 others. Thanks a lot,
 I haven't had to buy any
 for quite awhile now,
 and that's a relief. I'll let
 believe me.

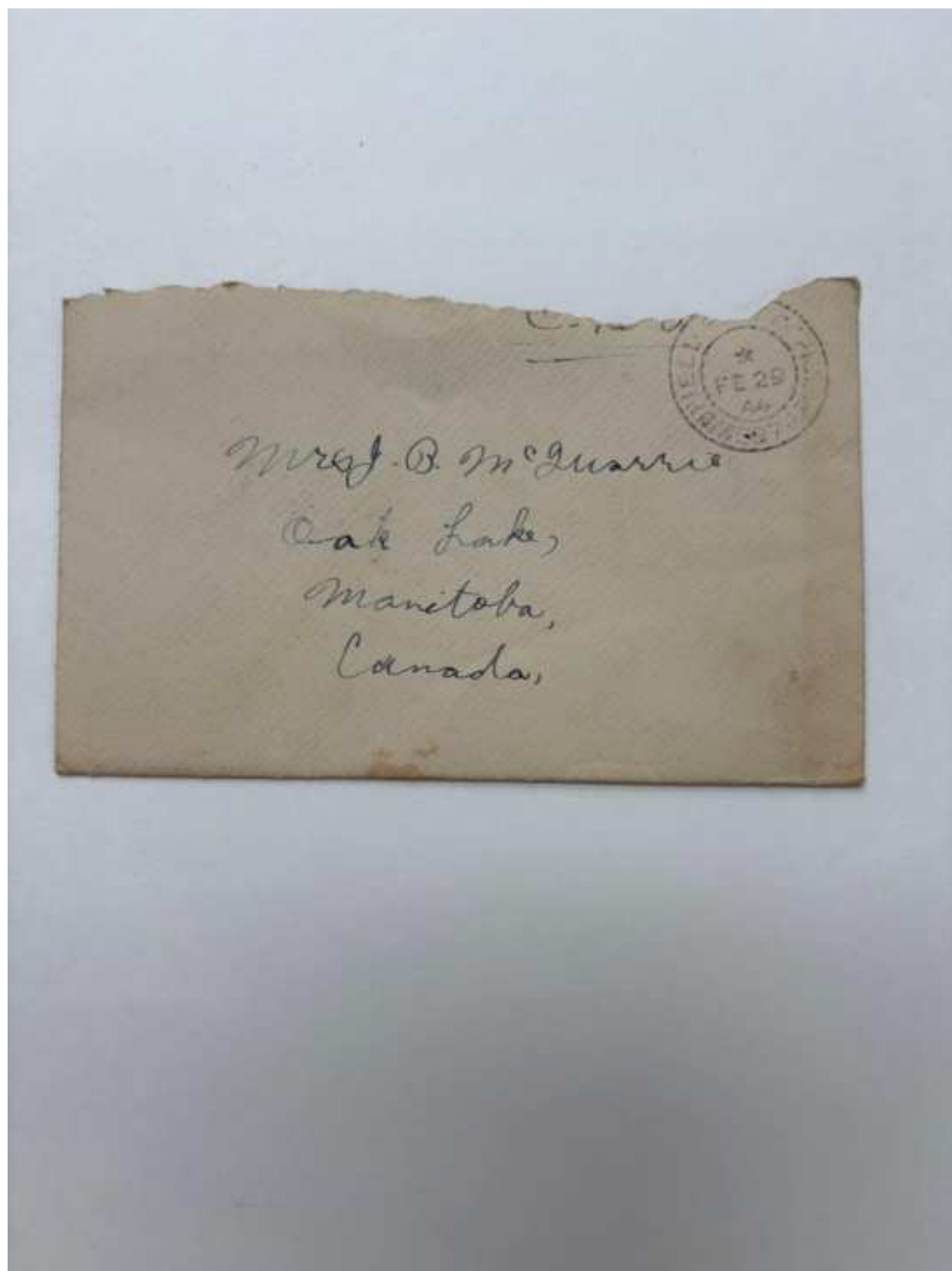
Well the boys got back
 off the schemes and I'm
 glad I didn't have to
 go, ~~feeling~~ judging
 from the reports brought

back by the boys. It must
have been awful. It snowed
every day the week out,
wake up in the morning
~~and~~ with these blankets
covered with snow, not
very nice I guess.

We had the Regional
Dance last Thursday, quite
a ho-ho-down I guess, I didn't
go, I had a bad cold and
thought the old blankets
were a lot more inviting
than the dance.

I got a letter from Susan
today, also the Chronos.
Well there's nothing to
write about, I hope everyone
is fine at home.

Love
Murray



12th Man. Drags. Hq. Sqdn. C.A.O.

26-2-44

Dear Mother—,

Received a thousand cigs from you yesterday, they were mailed on Jan 20th so they got here in good time didn't they? They got here just at the right time too, I was on my last deck of the others. Thanks a lot, I haven't had to buy any for quite awhile now, and that means a lot believe me.

Well the boys got back off the scheme and I'm glad I didn't have to go, judging from the reports brought back by the boys. It must have been awful, It snowed every day the[y] were out, Woke up every morning with there [sic] blankets covered with snow, not very nice I guess.

We had the Regiment Dance last Thursday, quite a hoe-down I guess, I didn't go, I had a bad cold and thought the old blankets were a lot more inviting than the dance.

I got a letter from Gwen today, also The Chronic.

Well there's nothing to write about, I hope everyone is fine at home.

Love Murray

1.

3-3-44

Dear Mother,

Well how's every-
 thing these days?
 I've been doing pretty
 well the last couple
 of days, got your letter
 yesterday, two from
 you, one from Ray, one
 from Skie Wallace, and
 a membership card and
 accompanying note from
~~the~~ for the Canadian Atlantic
 Service Legion from Herb
 Howell. I don't know
 what it's all about, I can't
 figure out what good it's going
 to do me. But apparently
 I'm a member of the Canadian
 Legion now anyway, whether
 that's any good to me or not

I don't know,

I got the half pound of
tobacco and couple of
packages of gum today.
Thanks mom, that helps
a lot. I like the roll your
own's better than tailor made.

It was sent the same time
as the cake was, wasn't
it, its funny it took so
much longer to come over.

I am pretty busy this
week, in kitchen fatigue
feeling potatoes, I've peeled
so many potatoes this
last few days that I'm
beginning to dream of them,
having nightmares with
potatoes chasing me. I'll give
you an idea how many
we peel a day. There are

Three ³ of us, and we feel
 ten of these big eight-gallon
 pots every day to say nothing
 of the carrots or parsnips,
 they decide to have one in
 awhile, I'm getting pretty
 good at the job now though
 I can really whip the hick
 off a dozen spuds in
 nothing flat. I don't think
 I will ever be able to eat
 them again though, just
 the thought of eating them
 makes me feel slightly
 sick. Well I'll sign
 off for now? Hope to
 hear from you again soon.
 Love
 Murray.

P.S. We got an orange sack
for supper tonight.
Times are looking up, first
mango I've had since I left
Canada.

3-3-44

Dear Mother—,

Well how's every little thing these days? I've been doing pretty well the last couple of days, got five letters yesterday, two from you, one from Peg, one from Elsie Wallace, and a membership card and accompanying note from the Canadian Active Service Legion from Herb Lionel [sp], I don't know what it's all about, I can't figure out what good it's going to do me. But apparently I'm a member of the Canadian Legion now anyway, whether that's any good to me or not I don't know.

I got the half pound of tobacco and couple of packages of gum today, Thanks Mom, that helps a lot, I like the roll your owns better than tailor made. It was sent the same time as the cake was, wasn't it, it's funny it took so much longer to come over.

Been pretty busy this week, on kitchen fatigue peeling potatoes, I've peeled so many potatoes this last few days that I'm beginning to dream of them, having nightmares with potatoes chasing me. I'll give you an idea of how many we peel a day. There are three of us, and we peel ten of these big eight gallon pos every day to say nothing of the carrots or parsnips they decide to have once in awhile, I'm getting pretty good at the job now though. I can really whip the hide off a dozen spuds in nothing flat, I don't think I will ever be able to eat them again though, just the thought of eating them makes me feel slightly sick. Well I'll sign off for now? Hope to hear from you again soon.

Love Murray.

P.S. We got an orange each for supper tonight, Time's are looking up, first orange I've had since I left Canada.

11-3-44.

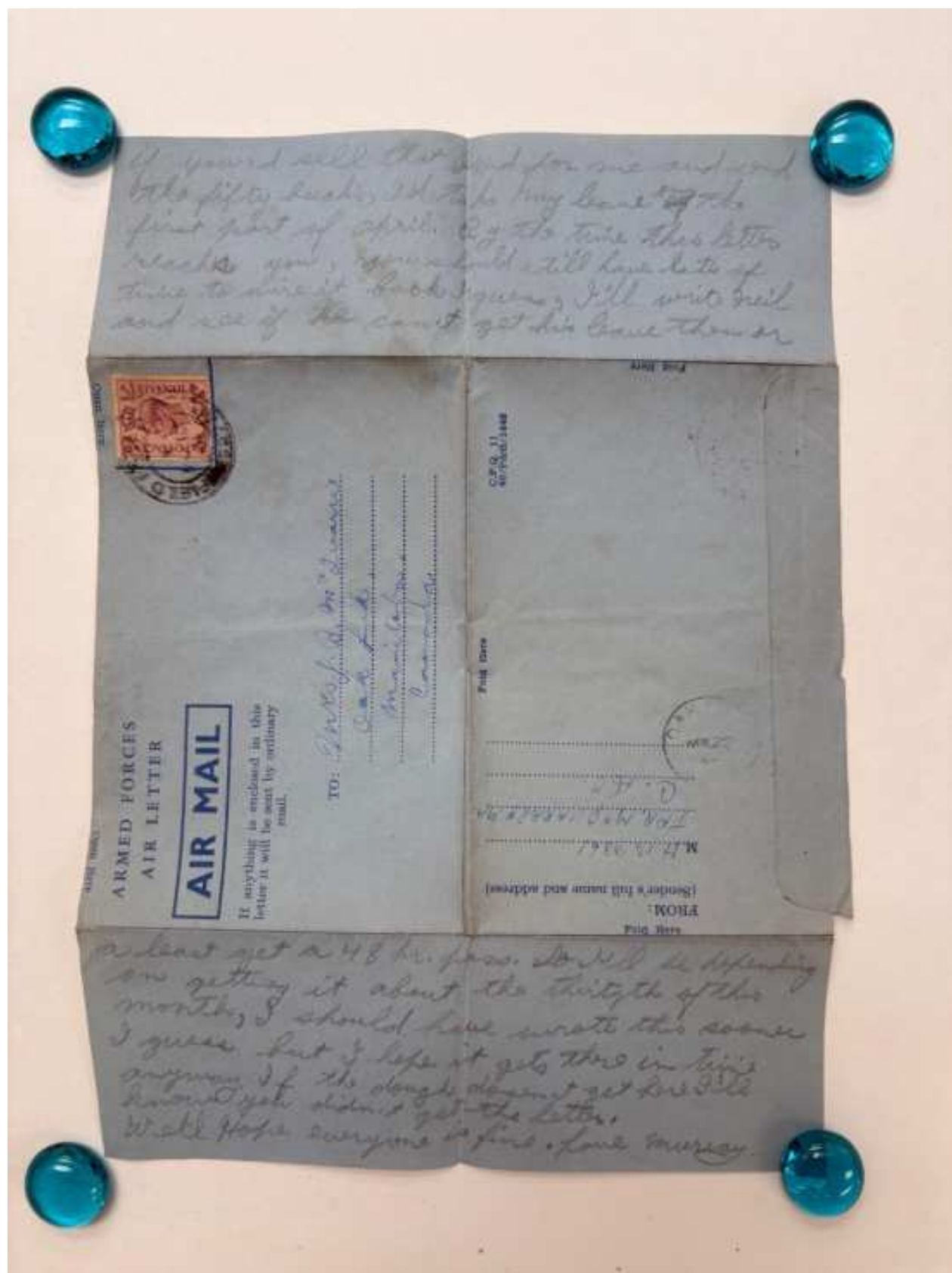
Dear Mother,

Well here I go again, Haven't heard from you since that the first letter is in the mail, but I thought I would

mail in for me one of these days.

you finally got the first V. Bond sheet I certainly took long enough to come through didn't it, you know I'm sort of sorry I bought these two bonds when this war is over and I get out of the army, is when I'm going to need a little capital to get started on, and a fellow won't be able to sell a bond for near its value because there's going to be thousands of guys like me, wanting to sell these bonds to get a little capital to get started on, so the value of them goes down.

you know it's a long time since I've had a leave, since Sept. 43. I think it's time I had another, I'm getting depressed and fed up with the same old routine all the time, the only thing is I can't seem to get enough to go on home, so I was thinking



11-3-44

Dear Mother—,

Well here I go again, haven't heard from you since I got the five letters in one day, but there should be one in the mail for me one of these days. You finally got the first U. Bond eh? It certainly took long enough to come through didn't it, you know I'm sort of sorry I bought those two bonds When this war is over and I get out of the army, is when I'm going to need a little capital to get started on, and a fellow won't be able to sell a bond for near its value, because there's going to be thousands of guys like me, wanting to sell their bonds to get a little capital to get started on, so the value of them go down.

You know it's a long time since I've had a leave, Since Sept 43. I think it's time I had another, I'm getting depressed and fed up with the same old routine all the time, the only thing is I can't save the dough, to go on one, So I was thinking If you'd sell that bond for me and send the 50 bucks, I take my leave on the first part of april. by the time this letter reaches you, you should still have lots of time to wire it back I guess, I'll write Neil and see if he can't get his leave then or at least yet a 48 hour pass. so I'll be depending on getting it about the 30th of this month, I should have wrote this sooner I guess but I hope it gets there in time anyway. if the dough doesn't get here I'll know you didn't get the letter. well hope everyone is fine. Love
Murray

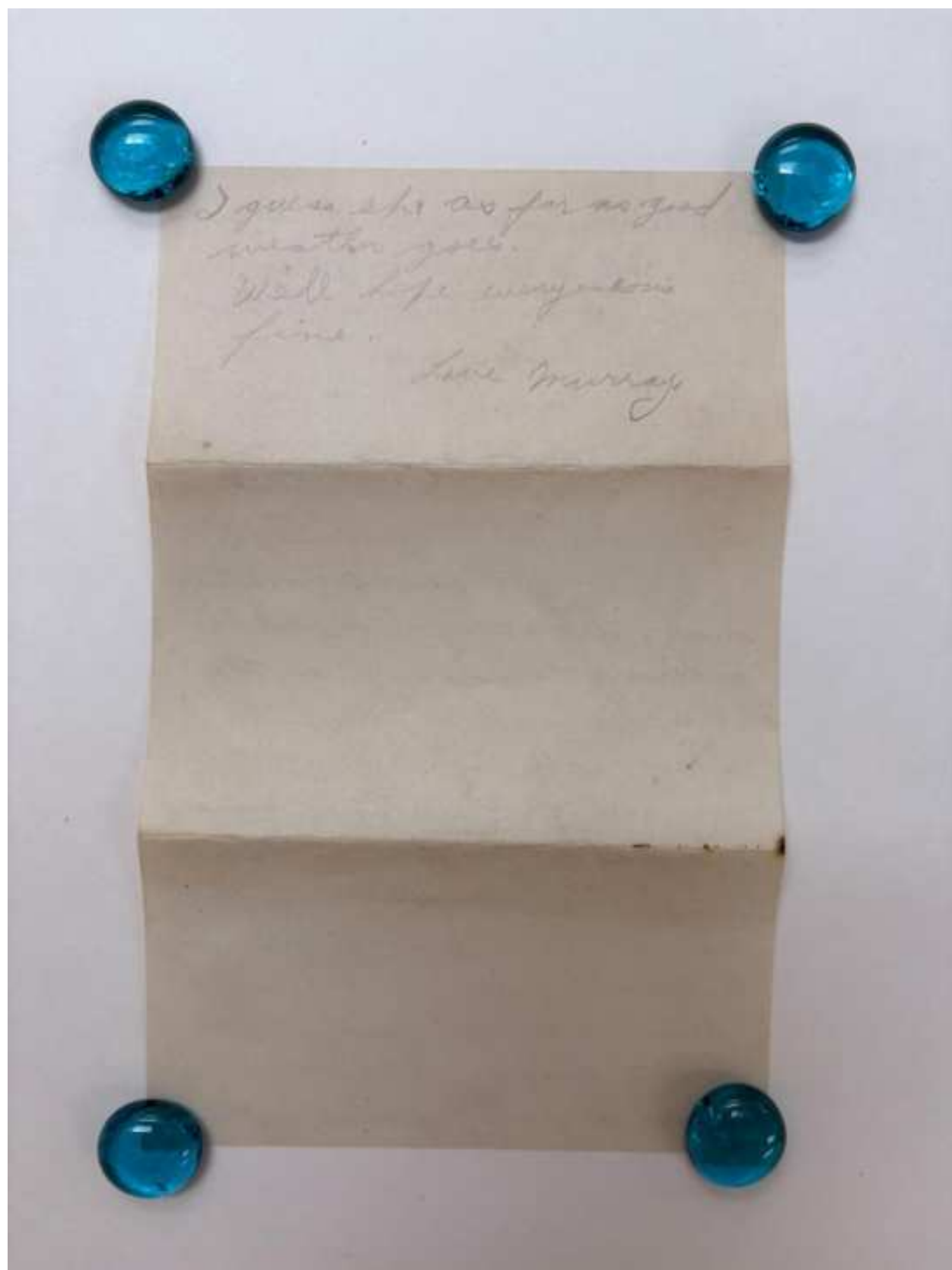
19-3-44.

Dear Mother -

Got your parcel with
the socks, tobacco, etc. in
it, It was certainly a welcome
surprise, thanks a lot.
Also got your letter with
in Feb. 9th, and 300 cigs,
from Oak Lake Community. so
I've been doing pretty good
eh? Well if the dough for
that war bond comes through
all right I'll be set for a
leave, I don't think I'll be
able to get my leave till
later on in April, there's some
talk of us not getting any
leaves in the first part of
April, on account of the
Easter holidays, we're not allowed
to travel on the train.

As the money will be here
in lots of time anyway.
Didn't tell you before that
all Montgomery inspected us
a while ago, then shortly
afterwards the King inspected
the Regiment, were getting
to be pretty important eh?

We've got new arm patches
now, before they were just the
ordinary Canada badge on the
shoulder and a blue patch
below with 12th D. on it, but
now we've got sort of a ~~new~~
marine coloured patch with
12th Manitoba Dragoons in white
letters on it, in place of the Canada,
and underneath, the plain blue
diamond shaped patch, looks
pretty snappy. Well you've
had a pretty good winter



I guess she is for no good
weather yet.
Will hope everyone
fine.
Love Murray

19-3-44

Dear Mother—,

Got your parcel with the socks, tobacco, etc. in it, It was certainly a welcome surprise, Thanks a lot. Also got your letter written on Feb 9th, and 300 cigs, from Oak Lake Community so I've been doing pretty good eh? Well if the dough from that war bond comes through all right I'll be set for a leave, I don't think I'll be able to get my leave until later on in April, There's some talk of us not getting any leave in the first part of April, on account of Easter Holidays, we're not allowed to travel on the trains. So the money will be here in lots of time anyway.

Did I tell you before that old Montgomery inspected us, a while ago, then shortly afterwards the king inspected the regiment, we are getting to be pretty important eh?

We've got new arm patches now, before they were just the ordinary Canada badge on the shoulder and a blue patch below with 12th D. on it, but now we've got sort of a mauve colored patch with 12th Manitoba Dragoons in white letters on it, And underneath, the plain blue diamond shaped patch looks pretty snappy.

Well you've had a pretty good winter I guess a as far as good weather goes.
Well hope everyone's fine.

Love Murray

Wg Ldn 18th C. P. R. 12th Manitoba Dragoons.

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.

C. A. O.

CANADIAN V.M.C.A.
OVERSEAS

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

THE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

April 19th 1941

Dear Mother -

Been sort of neglecting my
writing lately, but I'll get to
work tonight. I got two letters
from you, 3 or four days ago,
and 300 cigs from ~~my~~ aunt Claire.
We've been pretty busy lately.

We're camped out in the wide
open spaces now, and it's just
like a picnic as long as the
weather stays good, but when it
rains it's not so hot, blankets
and everything else gets wet,
a fellow has to be (tough and rugged)
as the Sgt Major says.

I've been on guard duty since
I came here, not a bad job.

CFA 170 (4/15)

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES

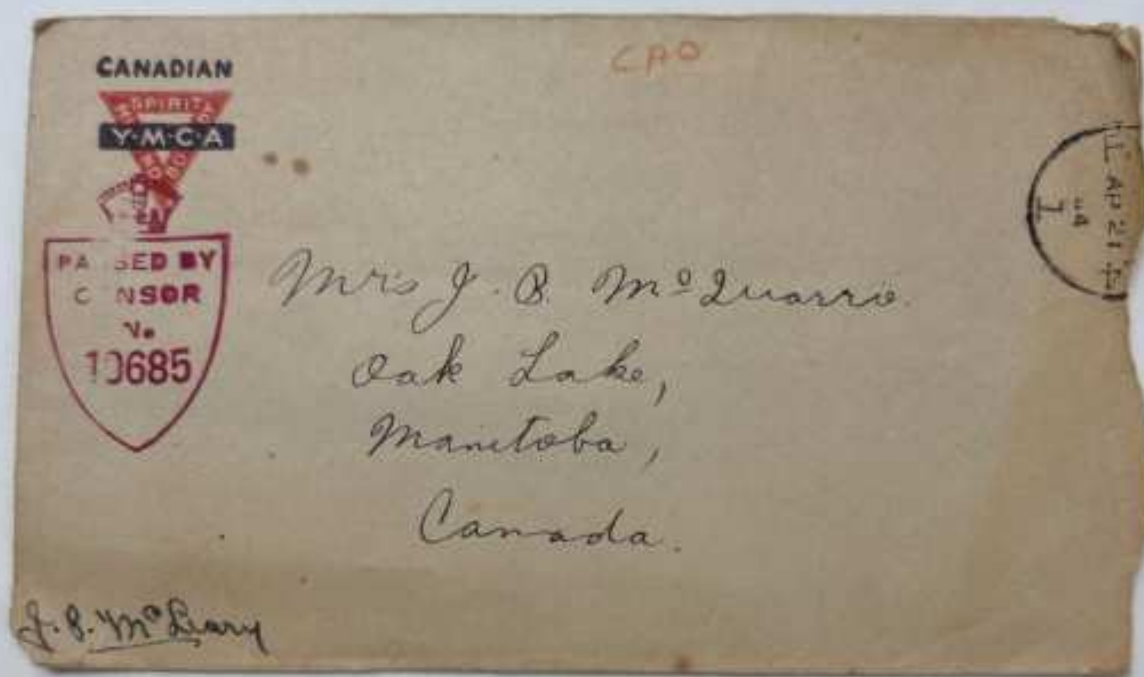
Well how's things going at home now, I guess the kids will be all over the mumps by now. eh? How's ~~the~~ things going with you Dad? Hope your feeling better? The spring work will soon be starting I guess, you'll really be busy then.

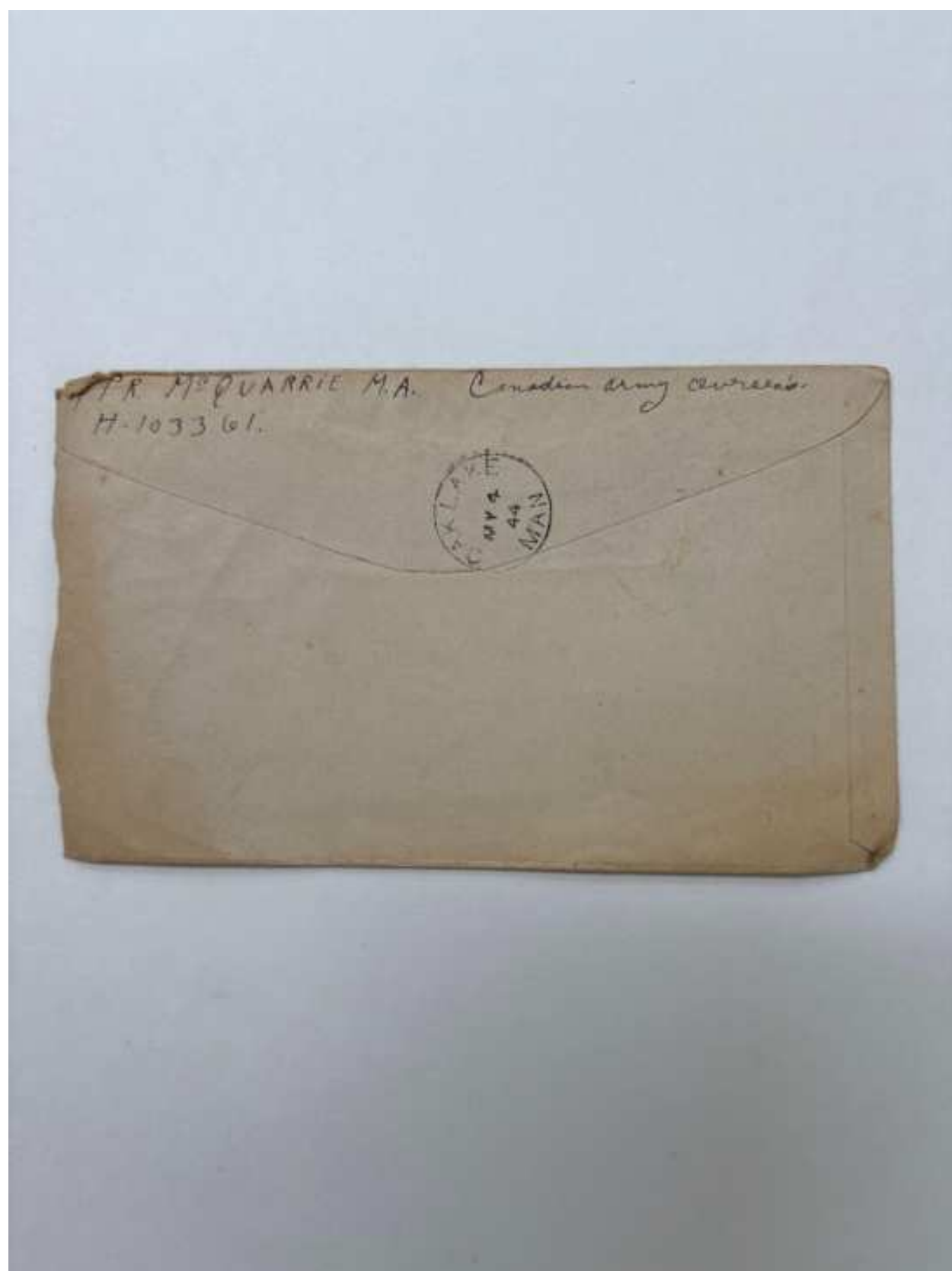
I didn't get my leave after all, by the way, ~~just a day or two before I was~~
 Just a day or two before I was supposed to go, that really makes a guy mad you know, it was the first leave I'd put in for since last Sept. too. I'm sorry I had you send that fifty bucks now.

But (such is life) I half suspected something like that would happen when I had enough dough for once to take a leave.

Well I'll close for now.

J.P. McGeary Love Murray.





Hq Sqdn. 18th A.C.R. 12th Manitoba Dragoons C.A.O.

April 19th 44

Dear Mother—'

Been sort of neglecting my writing lately, but I'll get to work tonight, I got two letters from you, 3 or 4 days ago. and 300 cigs from Aunt Claire.

We've been pretty busy lately. We're camped out in the wide open spaces now, and it's just like a picnic as long as the weather stays good, but when it rains it's not so hot, blankets and everything else gets wet, a fellow has to be "tough and rugged" as the Sgt. major says. I

I've been on guard duty since I came here, not a bad go.

Well how's things going at home now, I guess the kids will be all over the mumps by now eh? How's things going with you, Dad? Hope you're feeling better? The spring work will soon be starting I guess, you'll really be busy then eh?

I didn't get my leave after all, by the way, just a day or two before I was supposed to go, that really makes a guy mad you know, it was the first leave I'd put in for since last Sept too. I'm sorry I had you send that fifty bucks now.

But (such is life) I half suspected something like that would happen when I had enough dough for once to take a leave.

Well I'll close for now.

Love Murray.

15th A.C.R. 12th Manitoba Dragoons Reg. Sgd.

H102361
CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.

CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.
OVERSEAS

THE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

25-4-44,

Dear Mother -

Got the cake the other day.
Boy it certainly tasted good too.
(The rest of the boys say to tell
you it was good but you should
~~and~~ make bigger ones)

I haven't had a letter from you
for ages now it seems, but I
guess there will be some coming
through for me one of these days.
: Gosh there is really nothing to
write about I'm stuck practically
already. They are really strict on
the censoring now, we have
to hand over letters in unsealed
and an officer censors them.

We're still out in the bush, and
 were, if it's possible to be out in
 the bush in this country, living rough.
 I'm getting a nice sunburn anyway,
 being outside all the time.

It's pretty grim, getting up in the
 mornings, is the only thing, it
 still gets real chilly at night,
 and it's not very nice to jump out
 of bed, in the chill of dawn about 6 in
 the morning. But we get warmed up
 quick enough, with P.T. before
 breakfast.

Well I'll have to close for now,
 there's really nothing to write about.
 Hope everyone is fine.

~~John~~ Love Murray

Ms. Thanks for the cat.

18th A.C.R. 12th Manitoba Dragoons Hq. Sqdn H

25-4-44

Dear Mother—,

Got the cake the other day. boy it certainly tasted good too, (The rest of the boys say to tell you it was good but you should make bigger ones!)

I haven't had a letter from you for ages now it seems, but I guess there will be some coming through for me one of these days. Gosh there is really nothing to write about I'm stuck practically already. They are really strict on the censoring now, we have to hand our letters in unsealed and an officer censors them.

We're still out in the bush, as it were, if it's possible to be out in the bush in this country, living rough. I'm getting a nice sunburn anyway, being outside all the time. It's pretty grim getting up in the mornings, is the only thing, it still gets real chilly at nights. and it's not very nice to jump out of bed, in the chill of the dawn about 6 in the morning. but we get warmed up quick enough, with P.T. before breakfast.

Well I'll have to close for now, there's really nothing to write about. Hope everyone is fine.

Love Murray.

PS Thanks for the cake.

18th A.C.R. 18th Man. Dragoons C.I.C.

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.

CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.
OVERSEAS

THE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

3rd May 1944,

Dear Mother -

Received your parcel with the
cigs and tobacco in it, and also
a thousand cigarettes, so that'll keep
me going for awhile, you'd better
not ~~send anymore~~ buy anymore at
home and send it, it costs too much
that way, as long as you keep
them coming through the company
I should have enough, I guess.

I'll tell you what you can send me
though if you like, is some tooth
paste or powder, and some razor blades.

Well I'm glad to hear that everyone
got over the mumps alright,
even you had them eh, that's a
pretty grim I guess.

Has Dad got over his stomach
trouble yet, I hope so anyway.

CFA 176

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES

Well we're toughing it still, here,
 Living like Indians in the old
 days, Every man for himself

Everyone has some sort of a tent
 or ~~water~~ sleeping bag improvised now
 for himself out of old canvas or
 something, another guy and myself
 got an old sheet of metal roofing
 and set it up on four pegs in
 the ground, and we sleep under
 that. It keeps the rain off us
 when it rains anyway.

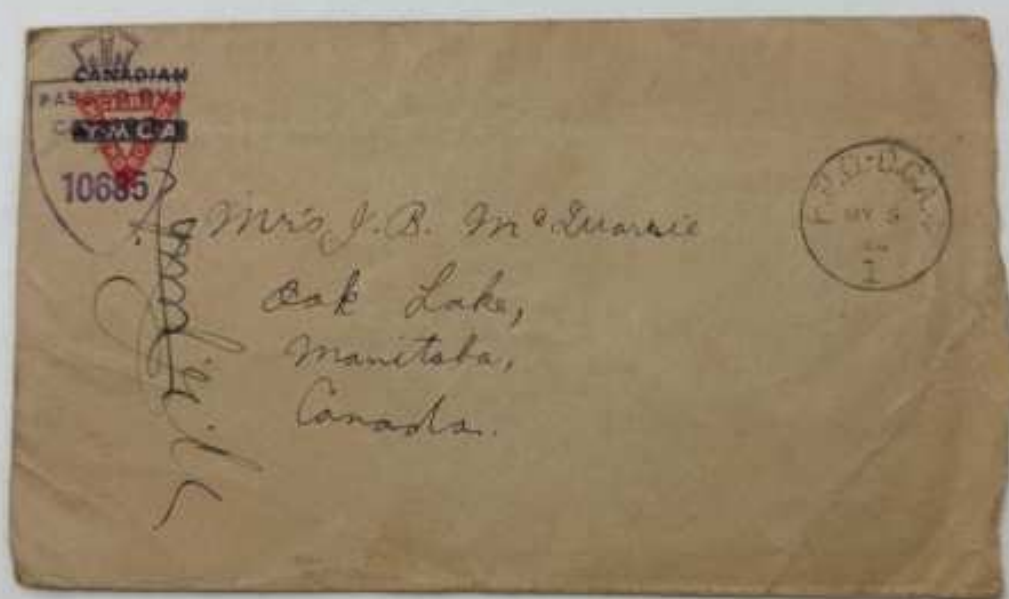
I don't mind this living out though,
 it's a lot better than in some tuffy
 old hut anyway as long as the
 weather is good.

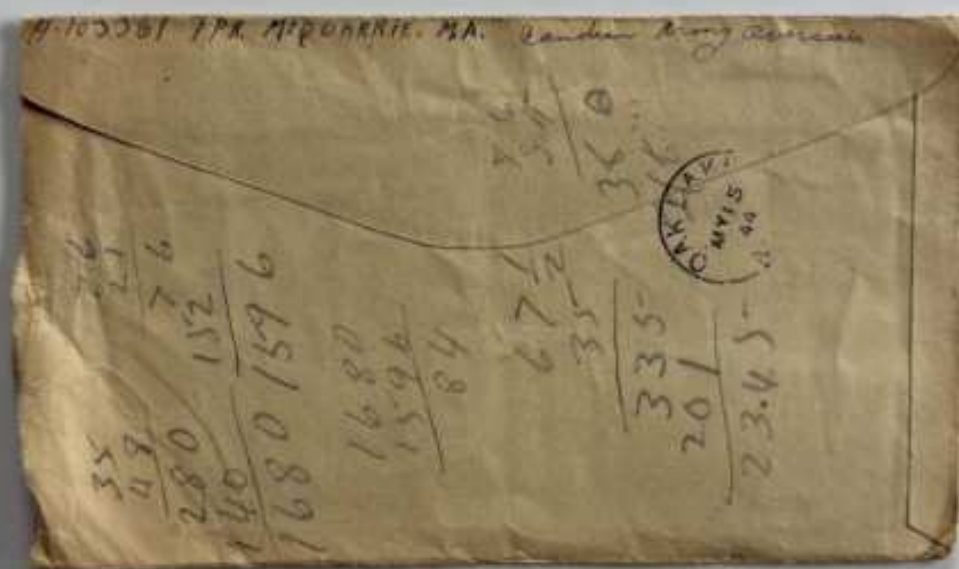
"Thanks for the parcel and cigs."

Love

Murray

M. J. [unclear]





18th A.C.R. 12th Man. Dragoons C.A.O.

3rd May 1944.

Dear– Mother–,

Received your parcel with the cigs and tobacco in it, and also a thousand cigarettes, so that'll keep me going for a while, you'd better not buy any more at home and send it, it cost too much that way, as long as you keep them coming through the company I should have enough, I guess.

I'll tell you what you can send me though if you like, is some toothpaste or powder, and some razor blades.

Well I'm glad to hear that everyone got over the mumps all right, even though you had them eh, that'd be pretty grim I guess.

Has Dad got over his stomach trouble yet? Hope so anyway.

Well we're toughing it still, here, living like Indians in the old days, every man for himself.

Everyone has some sort of a tent or sleeping bag improvised now for himself out of old canvas or something, another guy and myself got an old sheet of metal roofing

and set it up on four pegs in the ground, and we sleep under that. it keeps the rain off us when it rains anyway.

I don't mind the living out though, it's a lot better than in some stuffy old hut anyways as long as the weather is good.

“Thanks for the parcel and cigs .”

Love Murray.

12th Battalion I.C.B.F., C. A. O.

Dear mother, Sun. June 18th 1914

I gave it about time been dropping
you a line again, been moving again,
you will with the Regiment any longer
but hope to get back to it again before
long.

Well I just finished dinner and am sitting
in the shade of an old chestnut tree.
The boys are all lying around taking
life easy, I don't do a thing either
or at least trying to, have something
come of the guys anyway I guess I'd better
get a trim myself. I had all of mine cut
off about three weeks ago, its coming
in nicely again now about as much
long. That was the state back in the
regiment before I left, some guys even
shaved their heads.

Well I think I'll have a shave after I
get my hair trimmed, and see you
tonight. Hope everyone is fine at home
I haven't heard from you for quite a while
now, but I guess the mail will come
through eventually. Cherio love Murrey.



12th Battalion 2 C.B.R.G, C.A.O

Sun. June 18th 44

Dear Mother,

I guess it's about time I was dropping you a line again, been moving again. I'm not with the regiment any longer but I hope to get back to it again before long.

Well I just finished dinner, and sitting in the shade of an old Chestnut tree, the boys are all lying around, taking life easy. There's a fellow cutting hair or at least trying to, he's practicing on some of the guys anyway. I guess I better get a trim myself. I had all of mine cut off about 3 weeks ago, It's coming in nicely again now about an inch long. That was the style back in the regiment before I left. some guys even shaved their heads.

Well I think I'll have a shave after I get my hair trimmed, and see a show tonight. Hope everyone is fine at home. I haven't heard from you for quite a while now, but I guess the mail will come through eventually.

Cheerio.

Love Murray.

No 2, La B. P. L. (Canada) ^{anyway}
 Dear Mother, 29 June 44.

How goes the battle with you folks
 I wonder. Haven't had any mail now
 for about six weeks. The smokes
 are about done now too. I've got
 you, I ~~don't~~ ^{have} to buy some
 lipos if I don't get any mail.

I guess school will be through now
 till after summer holidays. The
 kids will be happy about that anyway.
 How's the crops looking this year?
 I suppose ~~we~~ everyone will be starting
 haying pretty soon with I was
 back haying myself now, maybe
 I will be next summer though
 hope so any way.

Well I hope everyone and everything
 is fine with you folks, I'm fine
 myself and no doubt will stay that
 way so don't worry about me if you
 don't get letters regular, it's hard to find
 time to write, (to Chris for now) Love
 Marge



No. 2, C.B.R.G. (Can Army)

29 June 44

Dear Mother,

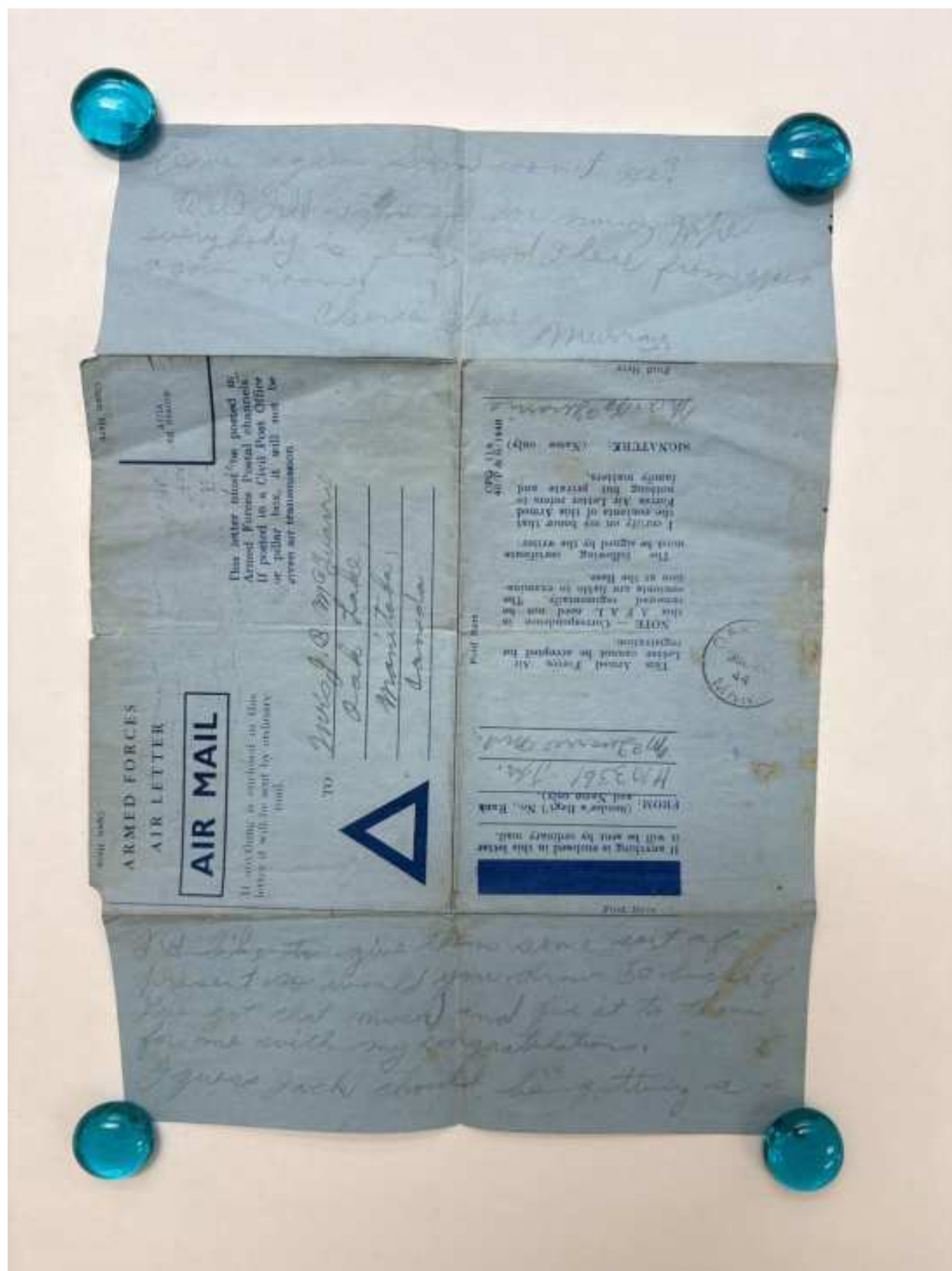
How goes the battle with you folks I wonder? haven't had any mail now for about 6 weeks. the smokes are about done now too. I've got enough to last me about another week then I'll have to buy some limeys if I don't get any mail.

I guess school will be through now till after summer holidays eh? the kids will be happy about that anyway.

How's the crops looking this year? I suppose everyone will be starting paying pretty soon wish I was back paying myself now, maybe I will be next summer though. Hope so anyway.

Well I hope everyone and everything is fine with you folks, I'm fine myself and no doubt will stay that way so don't you worry about me if you don't get letters regular, it's hard to find time to write, (So Cheerio for now)

Love Murray





(NO.2) C.B. R.G. C.A.O.

July 13th 44

Dear Mother—,

Got your letter of July 7th and was certainly glad to hear from you again, but what's this about Neil? this is the first letter I've had for about 6 or 8 weeks you know, and by the sound of your letters I take it he must be a prisoner or something! I wish I knew what it's all about? but maybe I'll be getting some more delayed mail before long and it'll clear up the mystery.

I got 300 cigs from you today too, they were certainly a Godsend, they were sent last November pretty good eh? (8 months.)

Well I was glad to get the letter and know that everything is fine at home. Hope you're over the cold, Dad, by the time this gets there. Your [sic] getting lots of rain I guess eh? Good weather to catch a cold in all right. I've been thinking that Jack and Gwen might be a little short of dough when the baby arrives and anyway I'd like to give them some sort of present so would you draw 50 bucks if I've got that much and give it to them for me with my congratulations. I guess Jack should be getting a leave again soon won't he? well I'll sign off for now, Hope everybody is fine, and I here [sic] from you again soon,

Cheerio. Love Murray

Post Office Box 101 (B. L. R.)

July 31st 1944

Dear Mother -

Here I go again for a few lines
hope you are in fine, the doing
all right the day you are in. I hope you
don't get a little more
down in the heart now. I'll come in
soon.

I suppose you'll be hunting at home
now or pretty soon again. I'll write
people for you saying that their work
out well. I'll come in soon.
I'm on a field outside with me
at most field to me here today, being
three horses in a little four foot riding
they can be with me.

Look I wish I'd get some mail
before long. It seems a long time
since I got that last letter from
you. I've been writing so often
lately my mail never catch up to
me.

But the address is just what
you are at the top of the letter so I hope
it'll find you soon. I'm still in
the dark about it. I'll be so glad
to hear from you soon.

P.S. and

Chick Love



No J. C. B. R. C.A.O. (B.L.A.)

July 31st 44

Dear Mother—,

Here I go again for a few lines, Hope everyone is fine, I'm doing all right, Parly [sp] vous Francais? Non, non. I wish I'd learned a little more French in school now, it'd come in handy.

I suppose you'll be harvesting at home now or pretty soon anyway. The French people here go calmly about their work just like there wasn't a war on. There was an old fellow cutting wheat in the next field to us here today, driving three horses on a little four foot bindery. They seem to be quite friendly.

Gosh I wish I'd get some mail before long, it seems a long time since I got that last letter from you. I've been moving so often lately my mail never catches up to me. But the address is just what you see at the top of the letter so I hope I hear from you soon. I'm still in the dark about Neil so I hope to hear from you soon.

Cheerio. Love Murray

2

CANADIAN



ARMY

ask for a bunch of
guys, they're really tops.
The bus driving ever
since I came to the Reg.

They gave me a vehicle
the second day I was here.

We'll leave everything
with everyone at home,
you'll all be pretty
busy I guess eh? I'm lucky
you didn't get killed
with so much around
you said in your letter.

The mosquitoes were bad
back there, well we got
them here in France too
they practically eat me alive
last night, and then starting
to fly around very

3

CANADIAN



ARMY.

amazingly again tonight
 I guess I'm an uncle
 by now eh? I wonder
 whether I'm a nephew
 or a niece (the experience
 is terrible) I hope I get
 a letter before long.
 and I hope I get that
 1000 cigs you sent
 too Dad, I can sure
 use them

Since I'll have to
 sign off for now, it's
 getting too dark to write,

W. L. M.
 Cheria Love
 Murray.





8th Cdn. Recce. Regt. 14th C.H. C.A.O.S.

Aug. 13th 44

Dear Mother—,

Well here goes for a (very) few lines,

Got your AIR MAIL letter of July 18th and also a plain one written on 10th of June, I was certainly glad to hear from you again, it was quite a while since I got a letter, But my mail should eventually catch up with me now and come through better, that I'm with a Regt. again.

I think I'm going to like it here fine, The troop I'm in, you couldn't ask for a better bunch of guys, They're really tops.

I've been driving ever since I came to the Reg. They gave me a vehicle the second day I was here.

Well how is everything with everyone at home, you'll all be pretty busy I guess eh? It's lucky you didn't get hail with so much around, you said in your letter the mosquitoes were bad back there, well we've got them here in France too they practically eat me alive last night, and there [sic] starting to buzz around very annoyingly again tonight.

I guess I'm an uncle by now eh? I wonder whether I have a nephew or a niece (the suspense is terrible) I hope I get a letter before long and I hope I get that 1000 cigs you sent too Dad, I can sure use them.

Guess I'll have to sign off for now, it's getting too dark to write.

Cheerio Love Murray.

CANADIAN



ARMY

15th Sept. 44

Dear Mother,

Hair goes for a few
 more lines to you, I'm in
 the 105th British General Hospital
 now but I won't be here
 much longer, ~~now~~ I'm going
 to a convalescent depot I think
 my knee is pretty good now,
 they left the bullet in, the
 doctor figured it would do
 more harm to operate and
 take it out than to leave
 it in, it's pretty dangerous
 to operate on a knee I guess
 there's so many tendons and
 things, I'll be as good as
 ever in a couple of weeks

CANADIAN



ARMY

it aches quite a bit at
nights if I walk on it too
much yet, but the hole is
healed over.

Look I don't know if
my mail will ever catch
up to me now, I guess you
might as well address it
to the 8th Recce. again, I'm
going to try and get back there
again with them, but whether
I'll go straight to the Reg. when
I get out of convalescent depot
or to the C. O. R. I don't know
but ~~it~~ in any case you
might as well send it to
the 8th Recce Regt. unless I write
telling you different.
I really mean around now.

CANADIAN



ARMY

3.
 Just my luck to get hit just
 when I get nicely organized
 with a Regt. again, with a
 chance to get my mail
 straightened out again.

Oh well, I hope it's soon
 over, as we're really been going
 to town, in a big way
 the last couple of weeks
 haven't we!

How's things going with
 you folks, I suppose the
 harvesting is pretty well
 over with by now eh!

How were the crops?
 Turned out good I hope
 Well I'll sign off for now.
 Cheerio Love

Hein Murray



1st. Sept. 44

Dear Mother—,

Hear [sic] does for a few more lines for you, I'm in the 108th British general hospital now but I won't be here much longer I'm going to a convales Depot I think my knee is pretty good now they left the bullet in, the doctor figured it would do more harm to operate and take it out then to leave it in, it's pretty dangerous. to operate on a knee I guess there's so many tendons and things, I'll be as good as ever in a couple of weeks. It aches quite a bit at night if I walk on it too much yet, but the hole is healed over.

Gosh I don't know if my mail will ever catch up to me now, I guess you might as well address it to the 8th Recce. again, I'm going to try and get back there again with them, but whether I'll go straight to the Reg. when I get out of the convalescent depot or to the C.B.R.G I don't know but in any case you might as well send it to the 8th Recce Regt. unless I write telling you different. I really move around don't I?

Just my luck to get hit just when I get nicely organized with a regiment again, with a chance to get my mail straightened out again.

“Ah well,” I hope it's soon over, We've really been going to town, in a big way the last couple of weeks haven't we?

How's things going with you folks, I suppose the harvesting is pretty well over with by now eh? How were the crops? turned out good I hope.

Well I'll sign off for now.

Cheerio Love Murray





8th Cdn. General Hospital C.A.O.

25th Aug 44

Dear Mother—'

Well how goes everything with you folks I wonder? Gosh it's ages since I got any mail seems like, and I probably won't get any for some little time again now, I'm having a nice rest in hospital here right now, I got a slug from a sniper went in along the side of my right knee, but it's not serious it never hit any bones, so I'll be fine again in a while.

I got the telegram from Dad about the baby, That's great isn't it? I hope both still are doing fine, I wrote to Jack and Gwen when I got the telegram, but I don't even know her name yet.

It's pretty good here, they have Canadian nursing sisters, and its certainly a luxury to sleep on a bed and mattress again.

Well we've got jerry on the run now if we can keep him that way it should be over pretty soon, I hope so anyway, I for one have seen enough to make me good and sick of the whole bloody business. Well hope to hear from you soon send us a picture of the baby eh? Has Jack got home from furlough yet?

Cheerio Love Murray

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.

CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.
OVERSEAS

THE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

10th Sept. 1941.

Dear Mother,

Just a few lines to let
you know we are still navigating
the sea in a convalescent camp
now, and are doing fine,
as good as ever was. I
won't be here long. I think
I'll be going to V.A.H. in
a few days. Pretty, my knee
aches a bit at night yet, but
the stiffness and soreness has
gone pretty well now.

We are at pretty easy work,
don't do anything much but a
little light P.T. and play ball.
I went for a walk this afternoon
and saw a few birds.

CFA 170

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES

Appleby there all kinds of them
around here, you almost would feel
you go into a box a few of them
they have about here twice a
week, we saw "Yank at the"
the night before last.

It acts pretty chilly here night
now, this morning there was
white frost on the ground.
P. Linkin sold crabs out at bed
time for breakfast.

Well, I wonder how things are
going with you folks. I hope I hear
from you soon, this business of
writing and never getting any
letters is getting a bit boring.

My niece is a month and a half old
and I don't even know her name
yet, positively gruesome isn't it.
Now is she making out
anyway has she learned to
talk yet? I guess not.

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.
OVERSEASTHE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

3. Well I guess I'd better finish this if I'm going to, we just finished supper, we had spawlt never guess what, "bullybeef" when this war is over, if anyone so much as mentions bullybeef to me, I'll cook him over the side of the ship, but we're pretty good at water of it.

I still don't know anything about Neil, but there's a few guys coming in tomorrow, say from the front, I'm bound to strike something down or later that I know something about him.

Well, yeah, had it for now I guess
Hope every one is fine.
Chris Love
[Signature]

CFA 178

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES



10th Sept. 44

Dear Mother—,

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still navigating, I'm in a convalescent camp now, and I'm doing fine, as good as I ever was, I won't be here long, I think. I'll be going to C.B.R.B. in a few days probably, My knee aches a bit at night yet, but the stiffness and soreness has gone pretty well now.

We have it pretty lazy here, don't do anything much but a little light P.T. and play ball etc. I went for a walk this afternoon and got a lunch of apples, there's all kinds of them around here, almost every field you go into has a few apple trees.

They have shows here twice a week, we saw "Yank at Eton" the night before last.

It gets pretty chilly here at night now, this morning there was white frost on the ground. Blinkin cold crawling out of bed in time for breakfast.

Well I wonder how things are going with you folks I hope I here [sic] from you soon, this business of writing and never getting any letters is getting a bit boring.

My niece is a month and a half old and I don't even know her name yet, positively gruesome isn't it. How is she making out anyway? Has she learned to talk yet? I guess not eh?

Well I guess I better finish this if I'm going to, we just finished supper, we had you'll never guess what, "bully beef" when this war is over if anyone so much as mentions bully beef to me I'll conk him one. I'm that sick of the stuff, but I'll probably get a lot sicker of it.

I still don't know anything about Neil, but there's a few guys coming in here, every day from the Winnipeg Rifles, I'm bound to strike somebody sooner or later that knows something about him.

Well you've had it for now I guess, Hope everyone is fine.

Cheerio Love Murray

103 C. B. R. Co. C. P. O. B. L. A.



Sept. 17th 1918

Dear Mother -

Well I was struck it lucky at last, the day before I left the convalescent camp, I got four letters and a parcel, one letter from home written on the 11th of July and three from you written on June 3rd, June 15th, and July 31st the parcel as far as I could make out ~~was sent to you~~ must of sent in January it was so battered up and squashed and so many addresses on it the date it was mailed was unrecognizable.

The mail service in the Canadian Army is really wonderful in it.

I salvaged some Toothpowder,

CANADIAN ARMY



a couple of bars, and a razor
blade out of the parcel anyway.
- to this Baby's name is Dorothy
Brendalyn, and she weighs
8 lb. 6 oz., nice name, nice weight,
and very nice baby, I guess eh?
Does she bark very much?

I hope I get back to the
8th Recce before long again,
but it's hard to say how long
I'll be here, my leg is ~~not~~
hundred percent ~~OK~~. now, as
good as ever.

I haven't found anything about
Neil yet, if ~~he's~~ a prisoner
we should be getting word
pretty soon, though it takes
quite awhile I suppose, to
get word through the Red Cross.
Well Cheerio, Love to all
Murray.





No. 2 C.B.R.G. C.A.O. B.L.A.

Sept 17th 44

Dear Mother—,

Well I struck it lucky at last, the day before I left the convalescent camp, I got four letters and a parcel, one letter from Gwen written on the 11th of July and three from you written on June 3rd, June 18th, and July 31st. the parcel as far as I could make out you must have sent in January it was so battered up and squashed and so many addresses on it the date it was mailed was unreadable.

The mail service in the Canadian Army is really wonderful isn't it.

I salvaged some tooth powder, A couple of bars, and a razor blade out of the parcel anyway.

So the baby's name is Dorthy Gwendolyn, and she weighs 8lbs 4oz, Nice name, nice weight, and a very nice baby I guess eh? does she baul [sic]l very much? I hope I get back to the 8th Recce before long again, but it's hard to say how long I'll be here, My leg is hundred percent okay now, as good as ever.

I haven't found anything about Neil yet, if He's a prisoner we should be getting word pretty soon, though it takes quite a while I suppose, to get word through the Red Cross Wall.

Cheerio, Love to all
Murray.

no 3 C.B. B.L. B.L.C.

Ad. Oct. 44.

CANADIAN ARMY

1.
Dear Mother -

I'm sorry I've been so long
in writing, but I just never
seem to find the time.
I got a letter from Peggy
the other day written in
husband's and 1300 cigarettes,
a thousand you sent, and
300 sent by the train.

I was certainly glad to get
get them. I'd been smoking
limey fags for about two months.

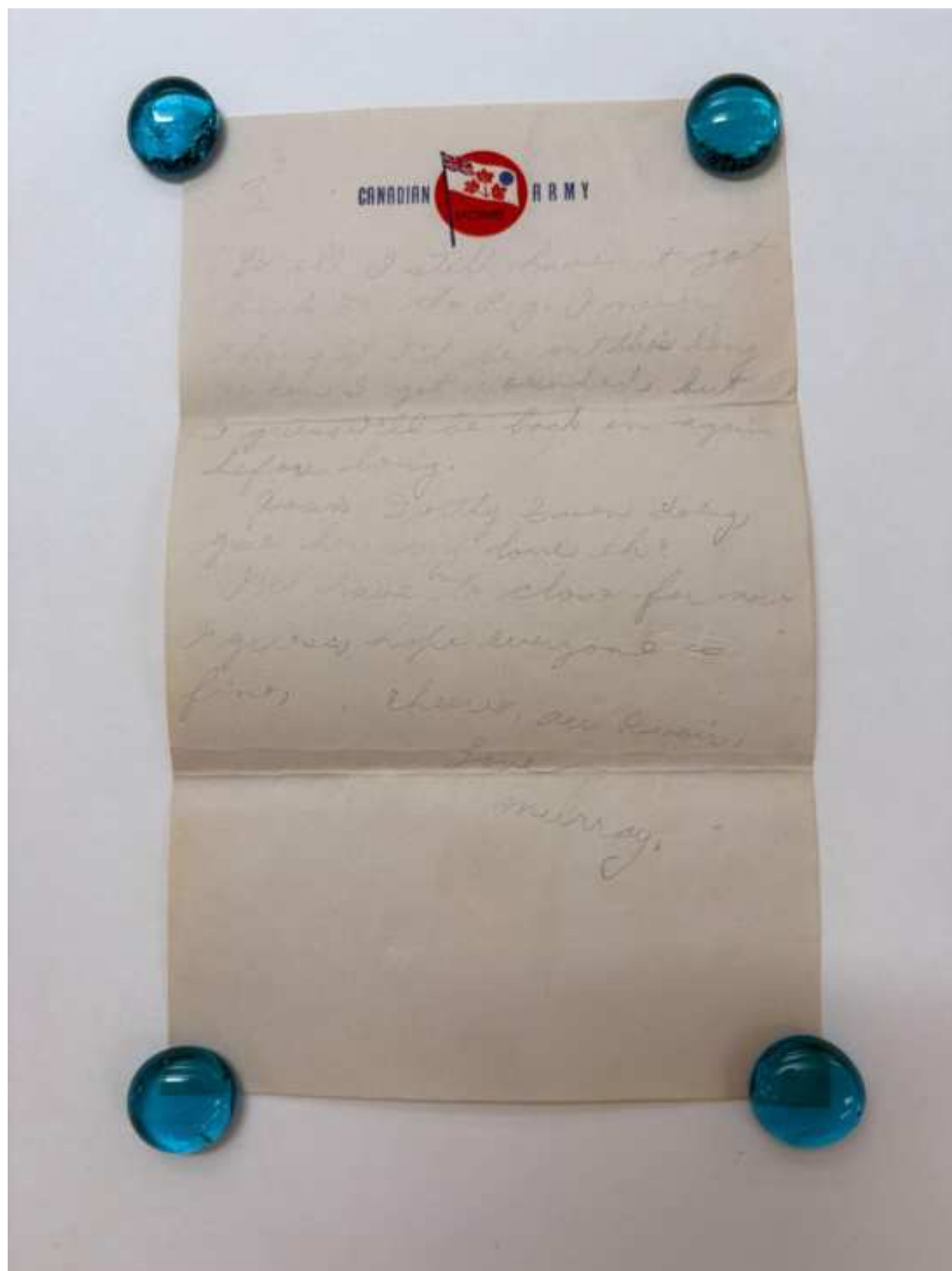
Well I'm pretty sure Neil
is a prisoner, now, I was
talking to a fellow from
~~the Winnipeg Rifles~~ the Winnipeg
Rifles today. He was in B Company
and knew Neil, the butch.

CANADIAN ARMY



He was in the second
day when I was in the
the next day a couple of
sections just disappeared and
we were with the one of them
the fellow I was talking to
his father was with the
in a section on rail cars.
He says it's pretty certain
they'd been cut off ~~and~~
and taken prisoner.

He maybe they're not too
bad off. I was talking to
a fellow ~~who was a prisoner~~
who was a prisoner for
a month and escaped. He
said that the odds tonight were
bad, a lot better than he'd
expected they would be.







No.2 C.B.R.G. B.L.A.

2nd Oct. 44

Dear Mother—,

I'm sorry I've been so long in writing, but I just never seem to find the time, I got a letter from Peggy the other day written in august, and 1300 cigarettes, a thousand you sent, and 300 sent by the town. I was certainly glad to get them, I'd been smoking limey fags for about two months.

Well I'm pretty sure Neil is a prisoner now, I was talking to a fellow from the Winnipeg Rifles today, He was in B company and knew Neil, the last time he saw him was the second day they were [illegible]. It seems the next day a couple of sections just disappeared, and Neil was with one of them,

The fellow I was talking to, His brother was with the same section as Neil too. He says it's pretty certain they'd been cut off and taken prisoner.

So maybe they're not too bad off, I was talking to a fellow who was a prisoner for a month, and escaped. He said that he was treated not bad, A lott better than he'd expected they would be.

Well I still haven't got back to the Reg. I never thought I'd be out this long when I got wounded, but I guess I'll be back in again before long.

How's Dorthy Gwen doing, give her my love eh?

I'll have to close for now I guess, hope everyone is fine,

Cheerio, au revoir,

Love Murray

9/103361 TPR. McQUARRIE M.A.

2 C.B. R.S.

C.A.C.

CANADIAN



ARMY

9th Oct. 44.

Dear Mother -

Here goes for a few lines
again, it's will probly be ^{very}
few too.

We are in Belgium now
it's certainly a lot nicer
than France, in the cities
you can go into stores and
buy all the fruit and ice
-cream you want, it's not
very good icecream though,
but it's a pleasant change
from bully beef.

I'm going back to the 8th Recce
Regt. again, I'll probly be any day
now, I hope there's some mail there
for me when I get there.

I never thought I'd be out
of action this long what a



get hit. But that's the army
for you.

How's things going at home
these days. I was reading in the
paper that it was pretty
cold and you'd got some
snow already, you're the
hunting there this fall, many
ducks and geese, I suppose it'll
be pretty hard to get shells
now though.

Well mom I guess you've
"had it" for now, hope
everyone is fine; How's young
D. coming can she walk
yet?

Love

Murray.



H 103361 TPR McQUARRIE M.A.
2 C.B.R.S. C.A.O.

9th Oct. 44

Dear Mother—,

Here goes for a few lines again, it will probably be few too.

We are in Belgium now, its certainly a lot nicer than France, In the cities you can go into stores and buy all the fruit and ice cream you want, it's not very good icecream though, but it's a pleasant change from bully beef.

I'm going back to the 8th Recce Regt. again, I'll probably go any day now, I hope there's some mail there for me when I get there. I never thought I'd be out of action this long when I got hit, but that's the army for you.

How's things going at home these days. I was reading in the paper that it was pretty cool and you'd got some snow already, how's the hunting there this fall, many ducks and geese, I suppose still be pretty hard to get shells now though.

Well Mom I guess you've "had it" for now, hope everyone is fine, How's young Dot coming can she walk yet?

Love Murray



8th Cdn. Recce. Regt. C. Sqdn. C.A.O.

14th Oct. 44

Dear Mother—,

Well I finally made it back to the Regiment again Mom, to the same squadron and same troop too. I never thought I'd be out so long as I've been and it was a pretty good rest but I'm glad to be back anyway. Maybe my mail will catch up to me now a little faster. It's no good getting letters two or three months old, though parcels and cigarettes are extremely welcome anytime.

How's things going at home now, I guess you'll be getting all set for winter eh? It's beginning to get wintry enough for me in this country too.

Well there's nothing much to write about so I'll close for now, I thought I'd write and let you know I was back with the Regt. again anyway. Give my love to Gwen and Dad.

Cheerio Love Murray

5th ~~Regiment~~ Recce. Regiment. C. Sgd. Co.
 2nd S. C. B. I. Co.

20th Oct. 44.

Dear Mother,

Here goes for a few lines
 again. Now everybody and everything
 these days, I guess the weather is getting
 will be getting pretty wintery back
 home by now eh?

We're in Holland now, there's certainly
 lots of water here anyway, if a guy
 starts to dig a slit trench trench, and
 the first thing you know you got
 a well.

A funny thing happened this
 morning, you remember Cumberland
 when we had that bunch of
 cattle at Oak Lake for the summer
 and winter, and the two fellows
 that worked for ~~them~~ Jim, Ferguson
 and another ~~dark~~ dark lad, Lloyd I
 think his name is, anyway ~~anyway~~
 we've been in the same station
 as Ferguson for almost a week
 now and never knew it was the

2 guys he ever got talking this
morning about home, he said he
was from Maple Creek, and I
got thinking I'd seen him
somewhere before, and asked him
if he was ever at Oak Lake,
and it all came out.

He was a corporal till the
other day, and had a bunch of
men, his my section long to now.
and a great guy, he was asking
about everybody.

24th Oct. 47

Well maybe I'd better finish this
letter now, due to enemy action.
I was unable to do so the other
day! Jerry must like this country
the way he fights for it, and holds
on, personally I don't see what I can
do in it. I'd be glad to get out of
it. By the way I'm writing this
in a slit trench, but Jerry hasn't
fought out position much today,
so it's comparatively quiet except
for shells and mortar going over.

300 ft. 10 better to work.

I saw a machine gun starting to
rattle and it isn't sure.

We're having beefsteak for dinner
today, a nice little yearling
accidentally ~~that~~ got killed yesterday,
so we whip the hide off him
our troop is going to eat good
for a day or two anyway.

A few days ago we had a great
park, ~~in~~ lots of animals
get killed, accidentally, what with
mortaring and shelling and
what not.

Well I'll close for now.
Hope everyone is well and
happy. Give my regards to Jack
Brown and Delbert.

Hope you get some mail before
long.

W. B. M. M.

Love
Murray.





8th Recce Regiment C Sqdn. C.A.O. B.L.A.

24th Oct. 44

Dear Mother—,

Here goes for a few lines again, How's everybody and everything these days, I guess the weather will be getting pretty wintry back there by now eh?

We're in Holland now, there's certainly lots of water here anyway, if a guy starts to dig a slit trench, and the first thing you know you got a well.

A funny thing happened this morning, you remember Cumberland when he had that bunch of cattle at Oak Lake for the summer and winter, and the two fellows that worked for him, Ferguson and another dark Lad, Loyd I think his name is, anyway I've been in the same section as Ferguson for about a week now and never knew it was the guy till we got talking this morning about home, He said he was from Maple Creek, and I got thinking I'd seen him someplace before, so I asked him if he was ever at Oak Lake, then it all came out.

He was a corporal till the other day, we lost a bunch of men, He's my section Sargent now and a great guy, He was asking about everybody.

26th Oct. 44

Well maybe I'd better finish this letter now, due to the enemy action I was unable to do so the other day! Jerry must like this country the way he fights for it, and holds on, Personally I don't see what he sees in it. I'd be glad to get out of it. By the way I'm writing this in a slit trench, but Jerry hasn't bothered our position much today so it's comparatively quiet except for shells and mortars going overhead.

Oops. I'd better touch wood.

I hear a machine gun starting to rattle and it isn't ours.

We're having beefsteak for dinner today, a nice little yearling accidentally got killed yesterday, so we whips the hide off him. Our troop is going to eat good for a day or two anyway.

A few days ago we had fresh pork, lots of animals get killed, accidentally, what with mortaring and shelling and what not.

Well I'll close for now. Hope everyone is well and happy. Give my regards to Jack and Gwen and Dot eh?

Hope I get some mail again before long.

Love

Murray.

9th Candm Recce. Reg. C. Sgdn.
C. S. O.

2nd Nov 44.

Dear Mother -

1. Received your letter of the 20th Oct last night, Boy it was certainly a treat to get a letter that wasn't a couple of months old. In fact it was a treat to get a letter period, also I got 300 pages that were sent to the 12th Division they were pretty battered up but they ~~still~~ smoke anyway, and are a darn sight better than the limey ones I've been smoking for the past while.

We're in a position in a little town right now, and there's all kinds of Civies around, it isn't safe to pull out a stick cigarette where they can see you, if you do your immediately surrounded and everybody wants a smoke, women, kids, and men, from 9 to ninety.

2. They haven't got any tobacco
 leaf in Holland at all, the
 Boche took it all when they
 pulled out I guess.

You certainly see some great
~~new~~ scenery as we go along.
 If we happen to get to a
 place that hasn't been damaged
 much, ~~you~~ you see the house windows
 going around with ~~sort of~~ gold
 coloured blinkers sticking out ~~there~~
 on each side of their head,
 and big white hats on, blue
 aprons and the wooden clogs
 of course, they wear clogs in
 Belgium and France too, in
 case I never mentioned it before,
 But these people in Holland
 just look like something out
 out of a picture book.
 I wish I had a camera I'd like
 to get a few pictures to
 send home to you.

3. That other day we took a tour
 these three fighting Dutchmen ^{agreed} there,
 and you should have seen
 the round up of the collaborators
 that took place, we saw them
 cut the hair off of about fifteen
 women and parade them around
 the streets, but when I went through
 Antwerp I saw the Belgians with
 a man and a woman collaborators
 they had nazi signs painted
 all over them, you should of
 seen the crowd around them
 all yelling, kicking, and spitting
 at them, I laughed ~~at~~ at one old
 fat lady she came running up
 and charged right through the
 crowd and started hitting the
 collaborators over the head
 with her umbrella they took
 quite a beating till someone
 pulled her away. *W. Buckley*
 Well mom I gotta go in a hurry.
 so cheerio for now. Love mums.
 Hope you are fine.





8th Candn. Recce. Reg. C. Sqdn. C.A.O.

2nd Nov 44

Dear Mother—,

Received your letter of the 20th Oct last night, Boy it was certainly a treat to get a letter that wasn't a couple months old. In fact it was a treat to get a letter period, also I got 300 fags that were sent to the 12th Dragoons that were pretty battered up but they smoke anyway, and are a darn sight better than the limey ones I've been smoking for the past while.

We're in a position in a little town right now, and there's all kinds of civies around, it isn't safe to pull out a deck of cigarettes where they can see you, if you do your [sic] immediately surrounded and everybody wants a smoke, women, kids, and men from 9 to 90.

They haven't got any tobacco hear [sic] in Holland at all, the Boche took it all when they pulled out I guess.

You certainly see some great scenery as we go along, If we happen to get a place that hasn't been damaged much, you see the house wives going around with sort of gold coloured blinkers sticking out on each side of there [sic] head, and big white hats

on, blue aprons and the wooden clogs of course, They wear clogs in Belgium and France too, in case I never mentioned it before,

But these people in Holland just look like something out of a picture book. I wish I had a camera. I'd like to get a few pictures to send home to you.

The other day we took a town these three fighting Dutchmen were there and you should have seen the Roundup of collaborators that took place, We saw them cut the hair off about fifteen women and parade them around the streets, but when I went through Antwerp I saw the Belgians with a man and a woman collaborator. They had Nazi signs painted all over them, you should have seen the crowd around them all yelling kicking and spitting at them, I laughed at one old fat lady she came running up and charged right through the crowd and started hitting the collaborators over their heads with her umbrella, They took quite a beating till someone pulled her away,

Well Mom I got to go in a hurry, so Cheerio for now.
Love Murray.

Hope everyone is fine

8th Cendon. Recd. Regt. C. Lghm. C. S. C. D. S. L.
15th Nov 44

Dear Folks -

Well here goes for a few lines
again. I shall be two years tomorrow
since I joined the army, seems a
long time ago, to me, but I
guess two years isn't much,
when compared to the lads that
left in 1939 and 40.

We've got some old time
music on the wireless this morning
it's pretty good. The boys are all
sitting around speculating when they
will get home, and ~~some~~
varied is the opinion, I won't
commit myself but I can't see
it lasting much longer. I always
said as long as I'm home for the
Xmas of 1945. I'll consider myself
lucky. But the war will be
over long before that, it will
take a long time to get every
one home again though.

2. Well the lads in the last war
used to talk of the mud and
rain of France, but I'll bet
it had nothing on this.
God forsaken Holland, I never
saw anything like it in my life.
I'd take ten Manitoba winters
sooner than a month in this
country any day.

I got two chronics in the
mail last night. Dicky Blainey
was wounded about the same
time I was in the hospital and
got ~~the~~

We were out for a rest awhile
ago, I spent a little time in
Antwerp and Brussels. I'll send
a few postcards of Brussels I
got there. You haven't had any
news of Neil yet I guess eh?

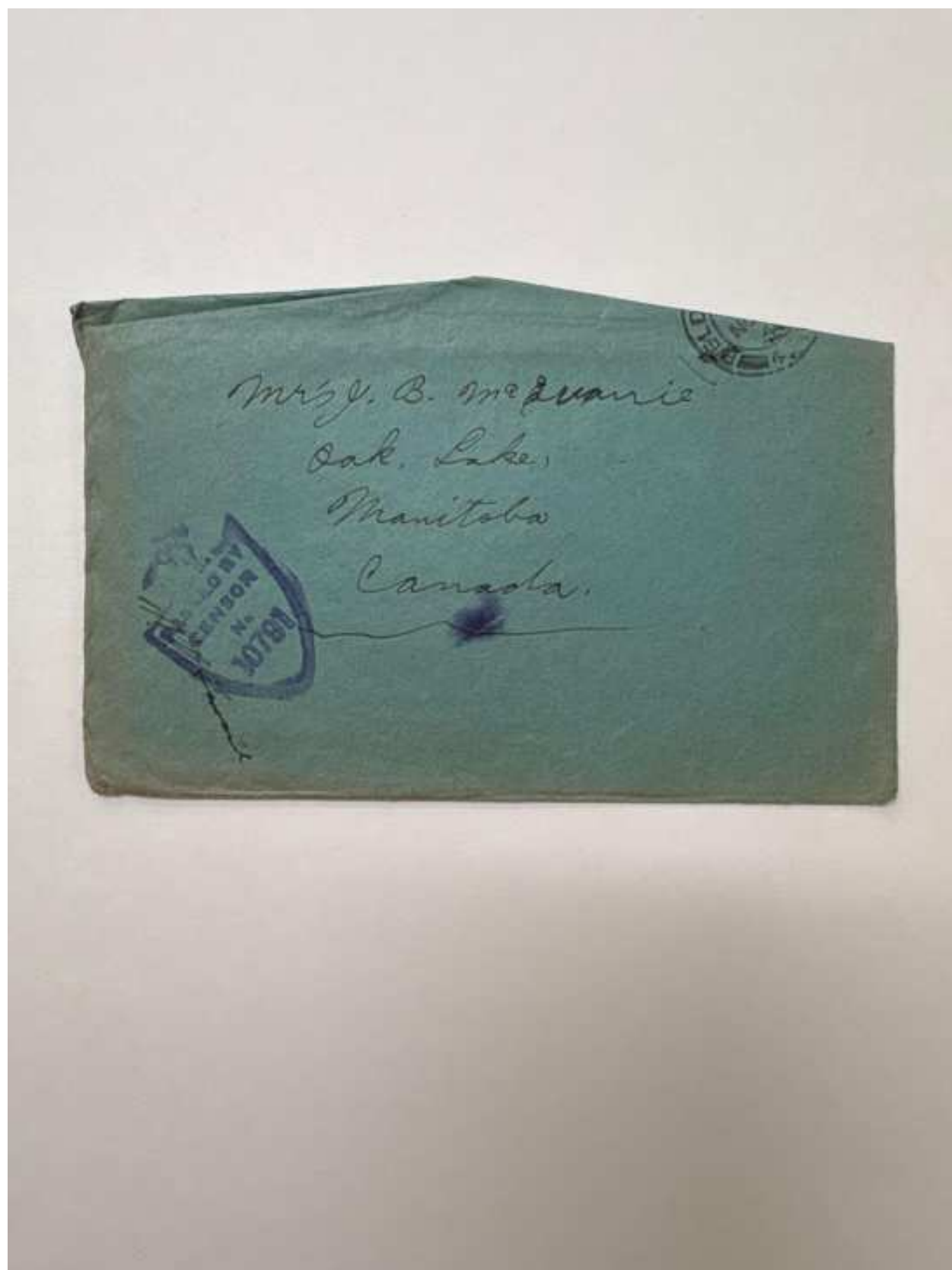
He's a prisoner sure enough I guess.
Wait till we get to Germany we'll
set them all free again, and
make everybody happy. (But the Germans

^{3.} How young ~~that~~ I'm progressing
these days? Jack is still stationed
out in B. C. I suppose. I've been
going to write to him for
months, but it keeps me going
to get a letter to you folks
occasionally seems like.

I see by the Chron that I had
my picture in the Arrandon box.
I'd completely forgot that day
we went through ~~Delaine~~, we
stopped about the centre of the
town, and this reporter came
behind us in his jeep and
started taking pictures, you
should have seen him get
out of there about a half hour
later though, and in a hurry,
when a few snipers started
shooting at us.

Well I'll sign off for now.
Hope everyone is fine, and I
hear from you again soon.

Come Cheerio Love
~~Love~~ Murray,



8th Candn. Recce Regt. C Sqdn. C.A.O.B.L.S.

15th Nov 44

Dear Folks—,

Well here goes for a few lines again. It'll be two years tomorrow since I joined the army, seems a long time ago, to me, but I guess two years isn't much compared to the lads that left in 39 or 40.

We've got some old time music on the wireless this morning its pretty good, The boys are all sitting around speculating when the [sic] we'll get home, and varied is the opinion, I won't commit myself but I can't see it lasting much longer I always said as long as I'm home for the Xmas of 1945 I'll consider myself lucky, but the war will be over long before that, it'll take a long time to get every one home again though.

Well the lads in the last war used to talk of the mud and rain of France, but I'll bet it had nothing on this God forsaken Holland, I never saw anything like it in my life. I take 10 Manitoba winters sooner than a month in this country any day. I got two Chronics in the mail last night. Dicky Pleasure was wounded about the same time I was in the hospital was He?

We were out for a rest awhile ago, I spent a little time in Antwerp and Brussels. I'll send a few post cards of Brussels I got there. You haven't had any news of Neil yet I guess eh?

He's a prisoner sure enough I guess, Wait'll we get to Germany we'll set them all free again, and make everybody happy. (but the germans)

How's young Dot progressing these days? Jack is still stationed out in BC I suppose. I've been going to write him for a month, but it keeps me going to get a letter to you folks occasionally seems like.

I see by The Chronic that I had my picture in the Brandon Sun, I'd completely forgot that day we went through Trelaise [sic], We stopped about the centre of the town, and this reporter came behind us in his Jeep and started taking pictures, you should have seen him get out of there about a half hour later though, and in a hurry, when a few snipers started shooting at us.

Well I'll sign off for now

Hope everyone is fine, and I hear from you again soon.

Cheerio Love Murray

Little little girl and the same with me
 know what she meant. I got my eye on one
 too. Walter has some in Bay can she hear
 new thought. We stayed by those houses for
 a couple of days. I and the old lady and
 the girl went down to the ground for my eye
 and on better ground and better ground
 sister. Little sister in the same and

24th Dec. 1890
 1890
 1890

Dear Mother -
 I got a couple of letters from
 you the other day just after I'd
 finished writing, one written
 on the 21st day and the other on the
 6th of Dec. I wanted to get them
 before I wrote, but the other side
 must wait as coming through
 from you from near as I
 got the page from Charlotte
 the other day too.
 Constance and Morris have a
 baby too eh? Everyone around
 our lake seems to be getting married
 and starting to raise kids.
 What do you think of getting married?

24th Dec. 1890
 1890
 1890



8th Cdn. Recce Reg.

C Sqdn.

C.A.O. B.L.A.

19th Nov 44

Dear Mother—,

I got a couple letters from you the other day just after I'd finished writing, one written on the 31st OG and the other the fifth of November. I wish I'd got them before I wrote, but I think mail will be coming through pretty good from now on, I got 300 figs from Charlie Scott the other day too. Bernice and Norris have a baby too eh? Everyone around Oak Lake seems to be getting married and starting to raise kids. What I'll do I think is get me a Little Dutch Girl and take home with me. How that be Ma? I got my eye on one too. Betsy her name is, boy can she ever sew though, we stayed by their house for a couple days, and the old lady and two girls couldn't do enough for us, they sewed on buttons, darn socks, wash clothes, heated water for us to shower and everything, They're really great Housekeepers these Dutch women, they really keep things spic and span, We had one room in the house we used in the day, that's when we were doing night work, and it was scrubbed out clean as a whip every morning before we got in. Pretty near broke her heart the first morning though I think, we all came trailing in, with about 6 inches of mud on our boots, and flopped down all over, Her nice clean room didn't stay clean very long, but after that most of us used to take our boots off. The Dutch people before they go in the house just step out of their wooden clogs. Nice and handy for them.

Danny is working for Charlie now eh? I guess I've lost my chances for a job when I get back. Charlie knows a good man when he gets one. well I'll have to sign off for now I guess. By the way, sometime if you happen to send a parcel stick a half dozen handkerchiefs in would you please, I haven't one to my name and the Army doesn't issue them. Hope everyone is fine.

Cheerio Love Murray

8th Cdn. Recce. Bg.

C. Lpdr.

10. 8. 07 ~~10. 8. 07~~ 2nd Nov 11

Dear B. men,

Well I guess its really time I was writing to you and Jack. I've been going to for a long time but I just don't seem to get it done. I got your telegram of the 3rd of Sept. yesterday, pretty good eh? I got quite a pile of letters yesterday written in Sept. and Oct. all of them expressing the hope that I'll soon be better, and such ballydoos. It seems funny to be getting them now though, I've been back to the Regt. about a month. They really should say in the telegram they sent home to the folks whether a guy is badly wounded or slightly like ~~some~~ I was.

You and Jack are a very good men and Papa I guess eh? Well according to mums letters I guess you got something to be proud of in Det. Jack I wish I could see her. Mother said in a letter that you sent some pictures, I should be getting them before long.

You know I got a letter from Dad yesterday too. I'm going to keep it for a souvenir. It is so seldom I hear from him, I was sure good to ~~hear~~ get a letter from him though. You remember Hergre who worked for lumber? He is my section Sergeant. We were in the

long. Sergio is a great guy though he was
a Lph when we landed in Brazil, I'm
supposed to be a Lph now but it hasn't
come through yet. I wish it would, & come
through at all. I keep me going to look after
myself. Well give my best to Jack & me
and also little D. & D.
Cherie Luck and some names. and
198

POSTAGE
FREE

CHRISTMAS ISSUE
1944

AIR MAIL

This letter must be posted in Armed Forces Postal channels. If posted in a Civil Post Office or pillar box, it will not be given air despatch.

Barry J. Dean
Co. 4th of Ill. Marines
and Lake. Near
Canada.

[illegible]

and section for about a week before we started
each other. He was asking about everyone, was sure
surprised you were married and had a baby.
He marvelled though how quickly people grew up.
Mother mentioned in a letter that Jimmy was
seventeen. God you know it hard to believe. Since
when I left they were just little kids here and
Peggy and Elaine and I haven't seen you.

Open Here

ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER

AIR MAIL

CHRISTMAS ISSUE
1944

POSTAGE
FREE

This letter must be posted in
Armed Forces Postal channels.
If posted in a Civil Post Office
or pillar box, it will not be
given air transmission.

TO: *Mrs. J. Dean*
C/O Mrs. J. B. McQuarrie,
Oak Lake, Man.
Canada.

10391

8th Cdn Recce Reg.
C. Sqdn.
(C.A.O.)

21st Nov 44

Dear Gwen—,

Well I guess it's really time I was writing to you and Jack, I've been going to for a long time but I just don't seem to get it done, I got your telegram of the 2nd of Sept yesterday, pretty good eh? I got quite a pile of letters yesterday written in Sept. and Oct. all of them expressing the hope that I'll soon be better and such ballyhoo, It seems funny to be getting them now though, I've been back to the Regt. about a month, They really should say in the telegram they send home to the folks whether a guy is badly wounded or slightly like I was.

You and Jack are very proud mama and papa I guess eh? Well according to Mom's letters I guess you got something to be proud of in Dot, Gosh I wish I could see her, mother said in a letter that you sent some pictures, I should be getting them before long.

You know I got a letter from Dad yesterday too, I'm going to keep it for a souvenir. It's so seldom I hear from him, it was sure good to get a letter from him though.

You remember Fergie who worked for Cumberland. He's my section Sargent, we were in the Same section for about a week before we remembered each other. he was asking about everyone, was sure surprised you were married and had a baby.

It's marvelous though how quickly people grow up. Mother mentioned in a letter that Danny was seventeen. God you know it's hard to believe, it seems when I left they were just little kids him and Peggy and Jean and I haven't been gone long. Fergie is a great guy though. He was a Cpl. when we landed in France, I'm supposed to be a L/Cpl. corporal now but it hasn't come through yet, I wish it wouldn't come through at all, It keeps me going to look after myself.

Well give my best to Jack Gwen and also little Dot .

Cheerio Luck and Love Murray.

Pt Coln Reese Regt.
Camp. C. & O. S.

25 Nov 44

Dear Mother,

Got your letter of the 13th today, I'm certainly glad to hear that Bill is safe, I figured you'd be getting news pretty soon.

IT's now

Well I guess if I'm going to write this letter I'd better get crackin' it.

It's really still the 21st I felt in about a hour and a half it'll be the 21st. I've got about an hour to write this before I'm on duty.

Got a parcel, from Oak Lake and Community today, nice little Christmas cake in it but when you divide it among a section it's a pretty small piece each, that's the way we do anyway, if anyone can get a parcel, everyone gets a share of it, there's a great bunch of boys, short and share alike that are in there.

I'm glad on a way spent well, in another word I'm not, I've had a long hard wait already, and will have a little while longer.

I guess, but soon it'll all be just a thing of the past, time goes by, it's a funny old world, I won't wait you to worry too much, the same as me, I mean if I don't happen to write for a week or two so I've often not done it nothing to get alarmed about, sometimes we have lots of time and feel like writing other things.

ARMED FORCES
AIR LETTER

AIR MAIL

If anything is enclosed in this
letter it will be sent by ordinary
mail.



TO:

Mrs J B McQuinn
Oak Lake
Manitoba
Canada



8th Cdn. Recce Regt.
C Sqdn. C.A.O.S.

25 Nov. 44

Dear Mother,

Got your letter of the 13th today, I'm certainly glad to hear that Neil is safe, I figure you'd be getting news pretty soon,

27th Nov

Well I guess if I'm going to write this letter I'd better get cracking eh? It's really still the 26th but in about a hour and a half it'll be the 27th. I've got about an hour to write this before I'm on duty,

Got a parcel from Oak Lake and Community today, nice little Christmas cake in it but when you divide it among a section it's a pretty small piece each, that's the way we do anyway, if anyone gets a parcel, everyone gets a share of it, They're a great bunch of boys, share and share alike that's our motto.

I'm glad in a way about Neil, in another sense I'm not, He's had a long hard wait already, and will have a little while longer I guess, but soon it'll all be just a thing of the past, time goes by, it's a funny old world, he won't want you to worry too

much, the same as me, I mean if I don't happen to write for a week or two as I've often not done it's nothing to get alarmed about, sometimes we have lots of time and feel like writing other times we haven't, Myself, sometimes I've got the time and sit down to write only to find I can't. I don't know I've just got to get in the mood or something, Neil will only be able to write so often though, I don't know what it is two a month or something I think.

Give me his address when you get it eh, I'll drop him a line I guess there's no regulation on the number of letters he can receive. I hope I get your parcel Mom, It'd just be my luck though that it was on one of the boats that was burnt,

Well I guess you have had it for now
Hope everyone is fine.

Cheerio Love Murray

H10336 L. A. McQUARRIE

9th Cal. Rec. Regt

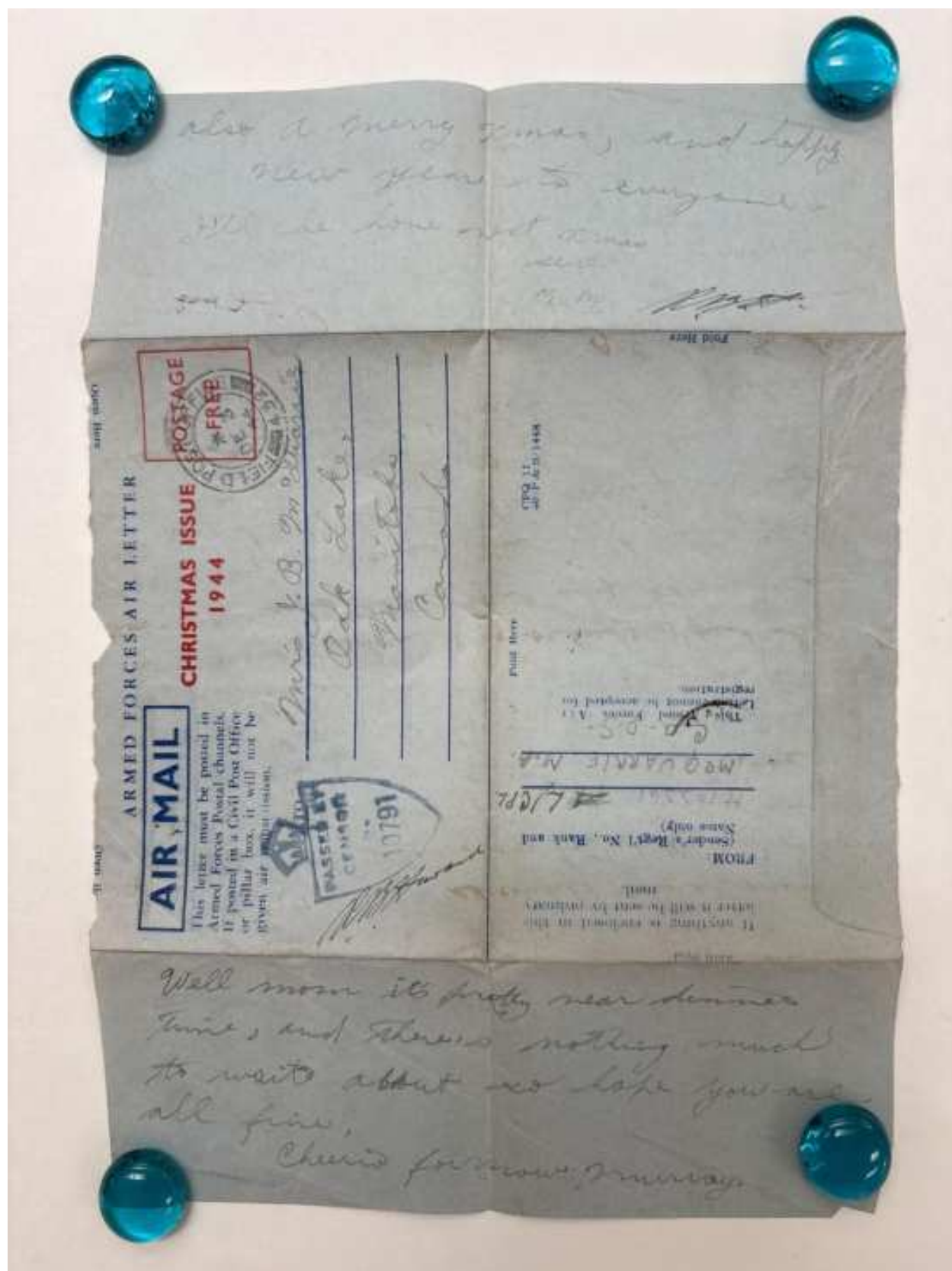
C. Japan

O. S. S.

30th Nov. 1911

Dear Mother,

Well have very little thing back in the civilization, the only thing I had here money, things, and very scarce and I'm beginning to get civilized to these things now, I got a couple more months old letters the other day. Lots but very welcome just the same, I guess I shall have lot of snow in Japan also, I was staying in a little house and over home off now, the old lady give me a pair of wooden shoes to wear when I'm around, when I go outside I just slip them on and then just slip them off again before I come in right handy they are and it helps keep her floor clean. We get along pretty good, I'm though she speaks nothing but Dutch and we nothing but English. I'm going to get her to do my washing for me, give her some soap they're certainly short of soap here, can't get it at all. One thing they got lots of is apples and good ones too, we've always got all the apples we want to eat.





H103361 L/CPL McQUARRIE M.A.

8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.

C Sqdn.

C.A.O.S.

30th Nov 44

Dear Mother—,

Well how's every little thing back in civilization, We're not doing too bad here now, Jerry's not very active and I'm beginning to get climatized to the country now. I got a couple more months old letters the other day. Late but very welcome just the same, I guess you all have a lot of snow by now eh, We're staying in a house in our time off now, the old lady give [sic] me a pair of wooden clogs to wear when I'm around, when I go outside I just slip them on and then just slip them off again before I come in right handy they are, and it helps keep her floor clean.

We get along pretty good even though she speaks nothing but Dutch and me nothing but English, I'm going to get her to do my washing for me, give her some soap, they're certainly short of soap here, can't get it at all. One thing they got lots of is apples and good ones too, we've always got all the apples we can eat.

Well Mom it's pretty near dinner time, and there's nothing much to write about so hope you are all fine. Cheerio for now, Murray

Also a Merry Xmas, and happy New Year to everyone. I'll be home next Xmas sure.
M.M.

John Doe (Rgt.)
 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

5-12-44

Dear Mother-

Well here goes for a few lines again
 but a package of 300 pages from you the
 other day, thanks a lot I sure needed them.
 Don't let your name travel you want
 don't get sunk, but if it was sent
 to C. B. C. it might take an extra four
 or five weeks to get here.

Well it's been pretty quiet on our
 front now for quite awhile, all we
 do is lay around and do guard, now
 getting fed up with it, wish we'd get
 out on the offensive again.

We had a wild duck dinner day
 yesterday boy it was good we traded
 canned stuff to a civvie for them, give
 we got between the section 12 men, were
 quite enough, so yesterday we got some of
 them from him, were really going to
 have a feed tonight almost a duck
 a piece. I hope not. The mallard ducks
 too, the civilians catch them in nets
 or somehow they don't shoot them
 anyway.

Woke up on a lovely light br. but right
 now we go back in again tomorrow
 night, a bunch of us are going to

to be five hundred go every day.
 Take a long time for every one to
 get anyway at that rate.
 Well hope everyone is well and happy.
 Merry Christmas and all the
 best for the coming year to all
 Love Murray.

If anything is enclosed in this
 letter it will be sent by ordinary
 mail.

FROM:
 (Sender's Reg't No., Rank and
 Name only)

H/03361 S/Btl.

McQuarrie, C.A.B.

This Armed Forces Air
 Letter cannot be accepted for
 registration.

NOTE—Correspondence in
 this A.F.A.L. need not be
 insured regimentally. The
 contents are liable to examina-
 tion at the Base.

The following certificate
 must be signed by the writer:

I certify on my honor that
 the contents of this Armed
 Forces Air Letter refers to
 nothing but private and
 family matters.

SIGNATURE: (Name only)

Col. McQuarrie

Print Name

CPG 11A
 45/P & Q/1448

This letter must be posted in
 Armed Forces Postal channels.
 If posted in a Civil Post Office
 or pillar box, it will not be
 given air transmission.

AIR MAIL

ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER



McQuarrie, C.A.B.
 S/Btl.
 Canadian.

see a show this afternoon, we have to go
 about twenty-five miles in a truck to
 see it I don't know if it will be worth
 it or not.

There's rumour going around that the Canadian
 Army is going to get leave back to
 England, starting in the 1st, supposed

8th Recce Regt.
C Sqdn. C.A.O.S.

5-12-44

Dear Mother—,

Well here goes for a few lines again,

Got a package of 300 fags from you the other day, thanks a lot I sure needed them. Boy I hope your Xmas parcel you sent didn't get sunk, but if it was sent to C.B.R.S. it might take an extra four or five weeks to get here.

Well it's been pretty quiet on our front now for quite a while, all we do is lay around and do guard, I'm getting fed up with it, wish we'd get out on the offensive again,

We had a wild duck dinner the day before yesterday. Boy, it was good we traded canned stuff to a civie for them, five we got, between the section 12 men, wasn't quite enough, so yesterday we got ten of them from him. We're really going to have a feed tonight almost a duck a piece. They're nice big mallard ducks too, the civilians catch them in nets or somehow. they don't shoot them anyway.

We're out on a 48 hour rest right now, we go back in again tomorrow night, a bunch of us are going to see a show this afternoon, We have to go about 25 miles in a truck to see it. I don't know if it'll be worth it or not.

There's rumors going around that the Canadian Army is going to get leaves back to England, starting on the 9th, supposed to be 500 go everyday. take a long time for everyone to get one anyway at that rate.

We'll hope everyone is well and happy,

Cheerio Merry Christmas and all the best for the coming year to all

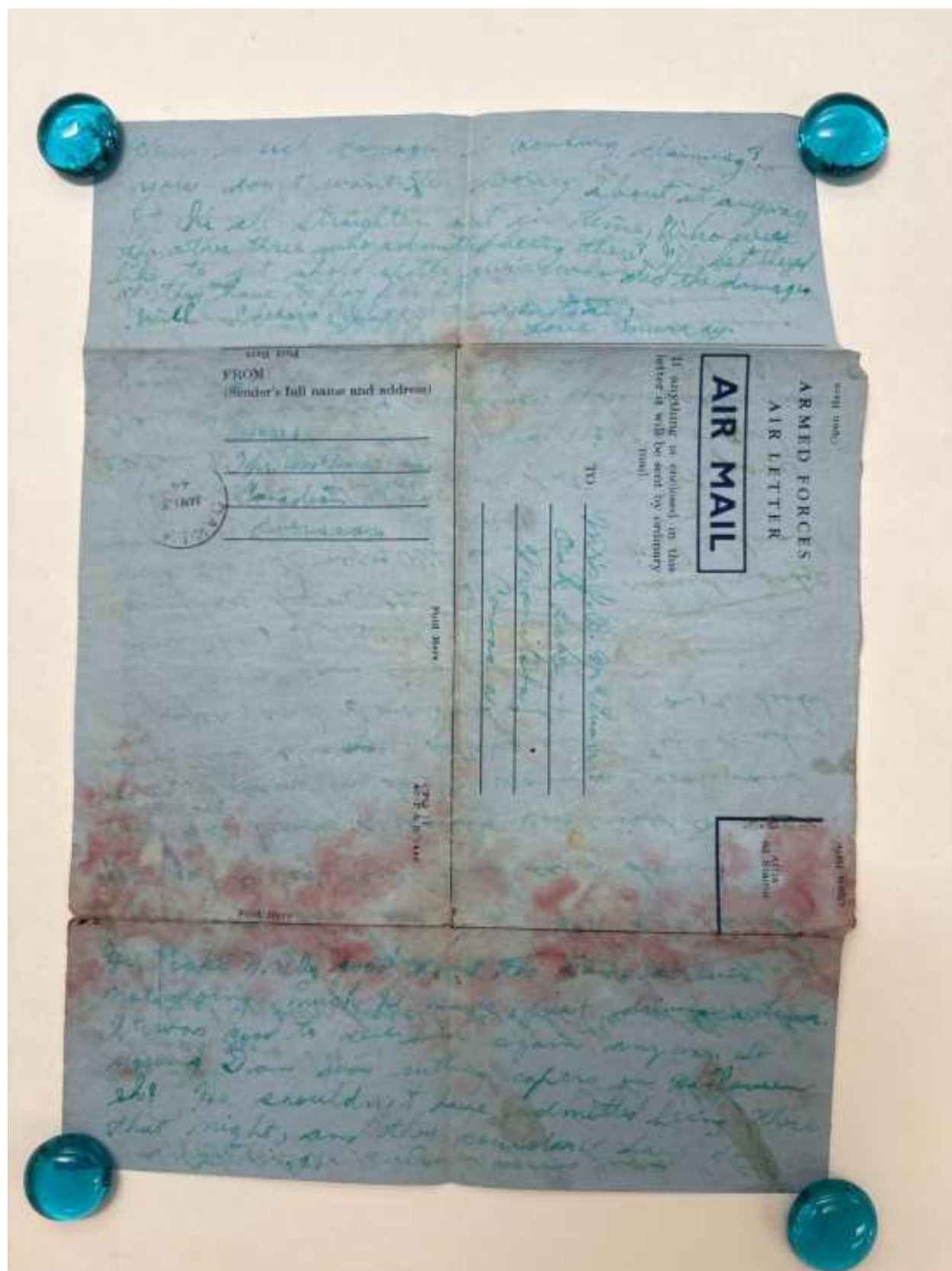
Love Murray.

15th A.D. 12. non. Mayensis. 1894. P. 18.

Dear Mother -
I got your joyful and loving letter of the 11th
of Nov. and was very glad to hear
from you. I was very glad to hear
you got a dog, and I am sure
you know certainly surprised to
know I came in to the room at noon, and
saw this stranger sitting on the table reading
a paper, and I wondered who it was, He looked
up when I came in, but did not recognize
me either, I thought I must have seen him
somewhere before, then I saw his shoulder badge
with the Winnipeg Rifle on it, and it dawned
on me it must be him.

The carton of pipe was put, in the parcel
certainly helped a lot goes right out and
rail also smoking makings. The cookies were
good too. He went back last night.
How are the boys? Love to you all.

How are the 15 a month the single coming through
my leave is due now but I can't go, because I
don't seem to be able to raise any money.
I wonder if you could send me some if I
get any at home yet? I bid Bill to take my leave
about the 15th of June.



18th A.C.R. 12th Man Dragoons Hq. C.A.O.

Dec 11th 44

Dear Mother—,

Got your parcel and letter of Nov 11th. It got here at a good time, Neil was here [illegible] to him [illegible]. He got 4 days leave and came down to see me, I was certainly surprised to see him, I came in to the room at noon, and seen this stranger sitting on the table reading a paper. And I wondered who it was, He looked up when I came in, but didn't recognize me either, I thought I must have seen him someplace before, then I saw his shoulder badge with the Winnipeg Rifles on it, and it dawned on me it must be Neil.

The carton of cigs you put in the parcel certainly helped out a lot, I was right up and Neil was smoking making's. The cookies were good too. He went back last night, I'm going to see him again when I go on leave.

How are the \$15 a month cheques coming through? My leave is due now, but I can't go because I don't seem to be able to save any dough, I wonder if you could send me some if I've got any at home yet? I told Neil I'd take my leave about the 15th of January .

He looks pretty good, about the same as ever, not doing much, He says just driving a truck. It was good to see him again anyway. So young Dan was cutting capers on Halloween eh? He shouldn't have admitted being there that night and they couldn't have done anything. How much damage is Ronburg claiming? You don't want to worry about it anyway, It'll be all straightened out in time. Who were the other three who admitted being there? I'll bet they'd like to get a hold of the guys who did the damage. if they have to pay for it.

Well Cheerio, Happy New Years to all ,

Love Murray

1st Col. Recd. Regt.

C. L. L. L.

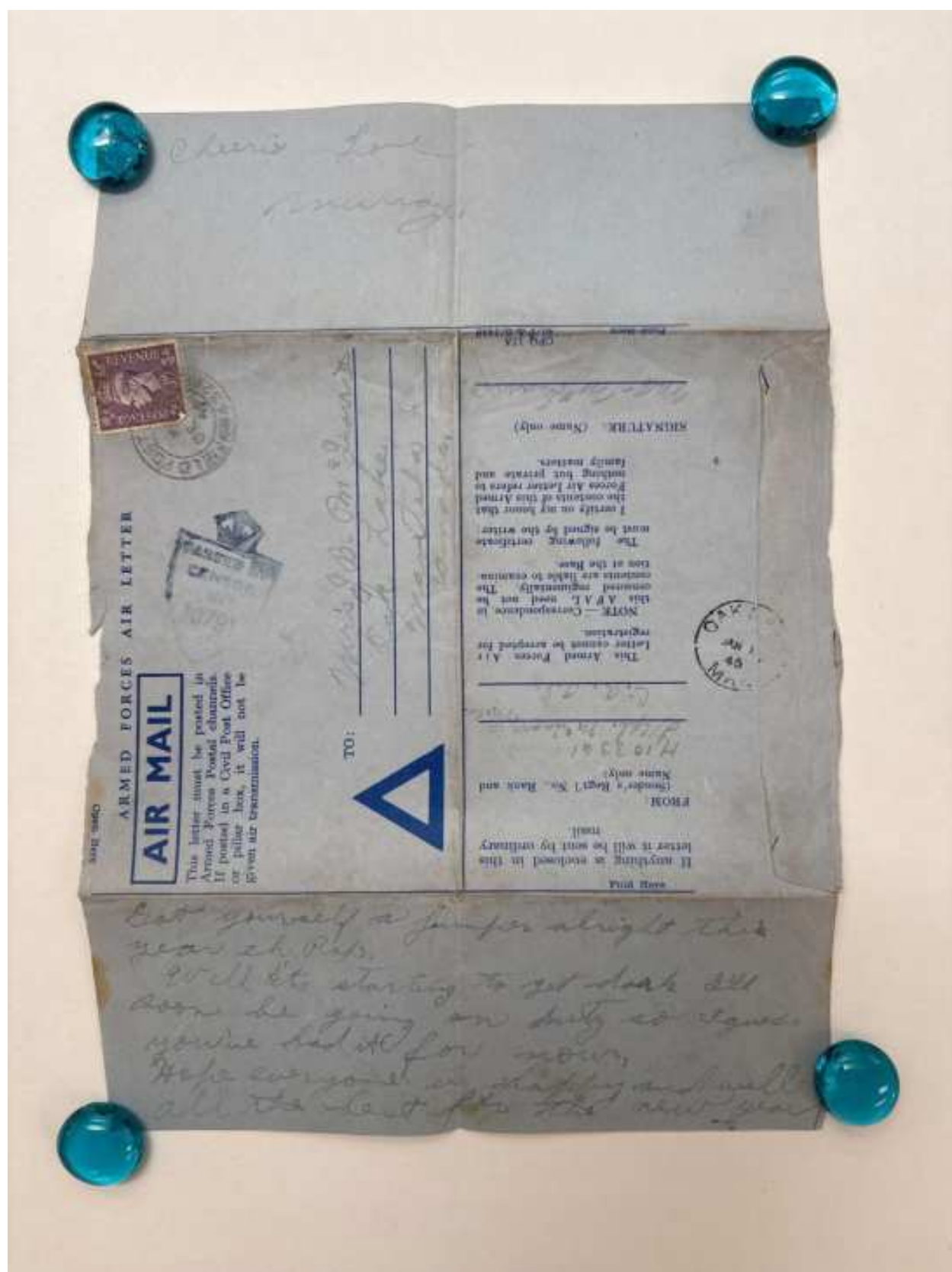
C. a. S.

21st Dec 1914.

Dear Mother,

Here goes for a few lines again,
 got your family letter the other day was
 glad to hear from you all again.
 After just having a bit of argument about school
 for how old I am I was just bragging that
 when in 8 weeks and when only fifteen and
 some of the guys don't believe it. It likes
 to get these ages straightened up. What I
 really need is a little look with birthday
 dolls in it of the family. The only birthday
 I'm sure of is mine and mine April 15th isn't it.
 I'm glad mine letter are getting through
 okay now. Mother said just got your long
 wanted parcel across me which I open it.
 Well that is a very nice parcel the
 boys think the cake looks pretty good
 there going to have it for supper.
 That hamper and socks look pretty
 good to me. The way in how it
 is. Thanks a lot folks that a good
 parcel and nothing in it was spoiled
 I think the best shape of any I
 got so far. The only thing I don't like
 were socks which to the hamper and
 having some socks you shouldn't better
 sending them anyway. I never get it. Some
 some of the guys like some things.

How's the leg coming along now
 hope it's better by now's accidents
 will happen without they!



8th Cdn. Recce Regt.

C Sqdn.

C.A.O.S

21st Dec 44

Dear Folks—,

Here goes for a few lines again, got your family letter the other day was glad to hear from you all again, We are just having a hot argument about school, Say how old is Jean I was just bragging that she's in grade XI and she's only fifteen and some of the guys don't believe it. I'd like to get these ages straightened up. What I really need is a little book with birthday dates in it of the family. The only birthdays I'm sure of is mine and Neil's April 13th isn't it. I'm glad Neil's letters are getting through okay now. Hallelujah just got your long-awaited parcel excuse me eh, while I open it. Well that is a very nice parcel. The boys think the cake looks pretty good. We're going to have it for supper. That handkerchief and socks look pretty good to me. By the way who's the poet? Thanks a lot folks, that's a good parcel and nothing in it was spoiled. It's about the best shape of any I've got so far, the only thing those pills were sort of stuck to the handkerchief and shaving cream box, you shouldn't bother sending them anyway I never eat them. Some of the guys like them though.

How's the leg coming along Jean Hope it's better by now, accidents will happen won't they! Got yourself a jumper alright this year eh Pops.

Well it's starting to get dark I'll soon be going on duty so I guess you've had it for now, Hope everyone is happy and well all the best for the new year.

Cheerio Love Murray

1945

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.
OVERSEASCANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

THE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

8th Cdn. Recce Bgt.

I depdn.

C.A.O.S. Jan 2nd 45

Dear Mother -

Had to go for a few lines again, but safely over Xmas and New Year's anyway and had a very quiet time I must say. Got three hundred cigarettes from you the other day but haven't got any letters lately. The sigs were certainly very welcome I was right out.

We're getting 48 hr. passes to Belgium now, I should be getting one before long, quite a few of the

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.
OVERSEAS

L. CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

THE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

guy's have gone from
our troop already and
they all had a pretty
good time. Some of the
guy's are going to England
on 1 day leavers too now
but all the old guys in
the Regiment are going
first, I should go in
a couple of months
or so I guess. but it doesn't
look very promising at
the time being, Bby I'd
certainly like to get back
to old Limerick again
I think I'll head for
Blascoe when I do get
there. Have you heard

CFA 170 (482)

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.
OVERSEAS31 CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICESTHE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

any more from Neil
lately I wonder. I guess
He wouldn't have a
very merry Xmas, Probly
wouldn't be too bad though
with Red Cross parcels they
get can you send parcels
to him from you through
the Red Cross. Well I guess
I've about come to the
end of my tether, there's
a big crap game going on
~~at the~~ beside me and I
can't write and watch the
game too ~~long~~ Hope everyone
is well and happy.

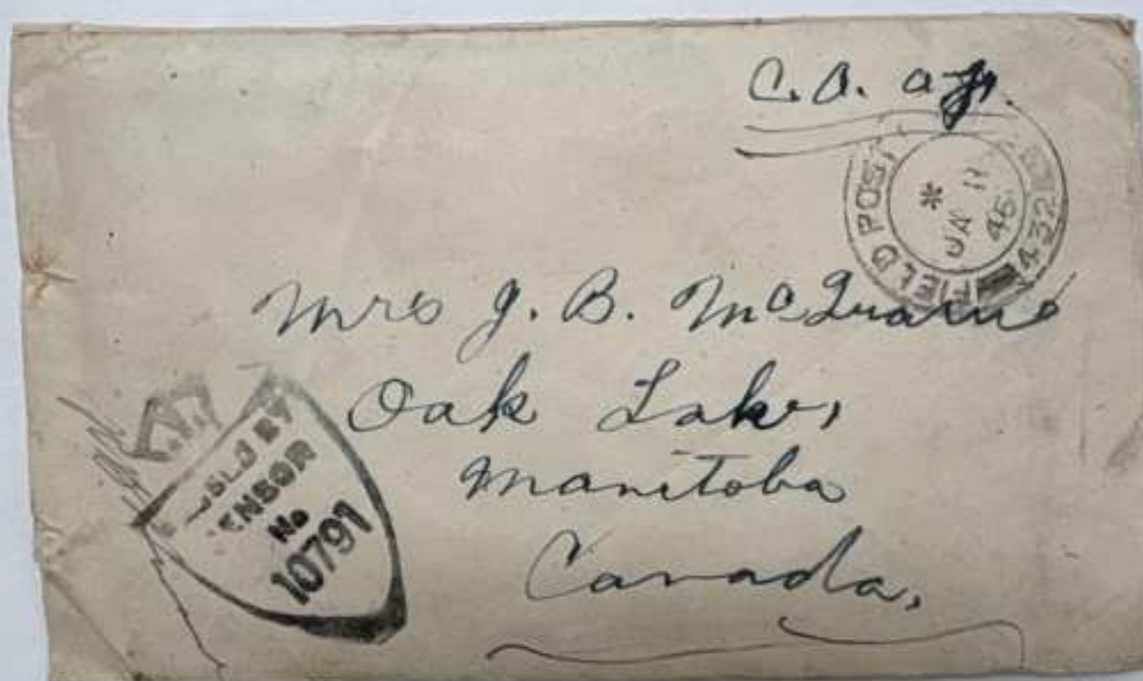
Cheerio Love To all

J. Buckley

Murray

CFA 179 (485)

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES





8th Cdn Recce Regt.

C Sqdn.

C.A.O.S.

Jan 2nd 45

Dear Mother—,

Here goes for a few lines again, Got safely over Xmas and New Years anyway and had a very quiet time I must say. Got 300 cigarettes from you the other day but haven't got any letters lately, The cigs were certainly very welcome. I was right out.

We're getting 48 hour passes to Belgium now, I should be getting one before long, quite a few of the guys have gone from our troop already and they all had a pretty good time. Some of the guys are going to England on 7-Day leaves too now but all the old guys in the Regiment are going first, I should go in a couple of months or so I guess but it doesn't look very promising at the time being, Boy I'd certainly like to get back to Old Limey Land again I think I'll head for Glascoe [sp] when I do get there. Have you heard any more from Neil lately I wonder. I guess he wouldn't have a very merry Xmas, Probably wouldn't be too bad though with the Red Cross Parcels they get. Can you send parcels to him from you through the Red Cross? Well I guess I've about come to the end of my letter. There's a big crap game going on beside me and I can't write and watch the game too. Hope everyone is well and happy.

Cheerio Love to all Murray.

7th Cdn. Recce. Bde. 8th Jan 1945.
 C. Spdm.
 C. A. O. S.

Dear Mother -

I got your letter of the
 23rd Dec. the other day, was
 glad to hear from you again.
 I say you said in your letter
 I'd be 20 on the 7th I figure
 I'm 21 which of us is right
 anyway ~~then~~ you've got me
 worried I always figured I knew
 my own age ~~any~~ at least.

I guess everyone will be
 over Xmas and New Year's by
 now eh? How's your knee
 getting along Jan Hope it's
 better by now!

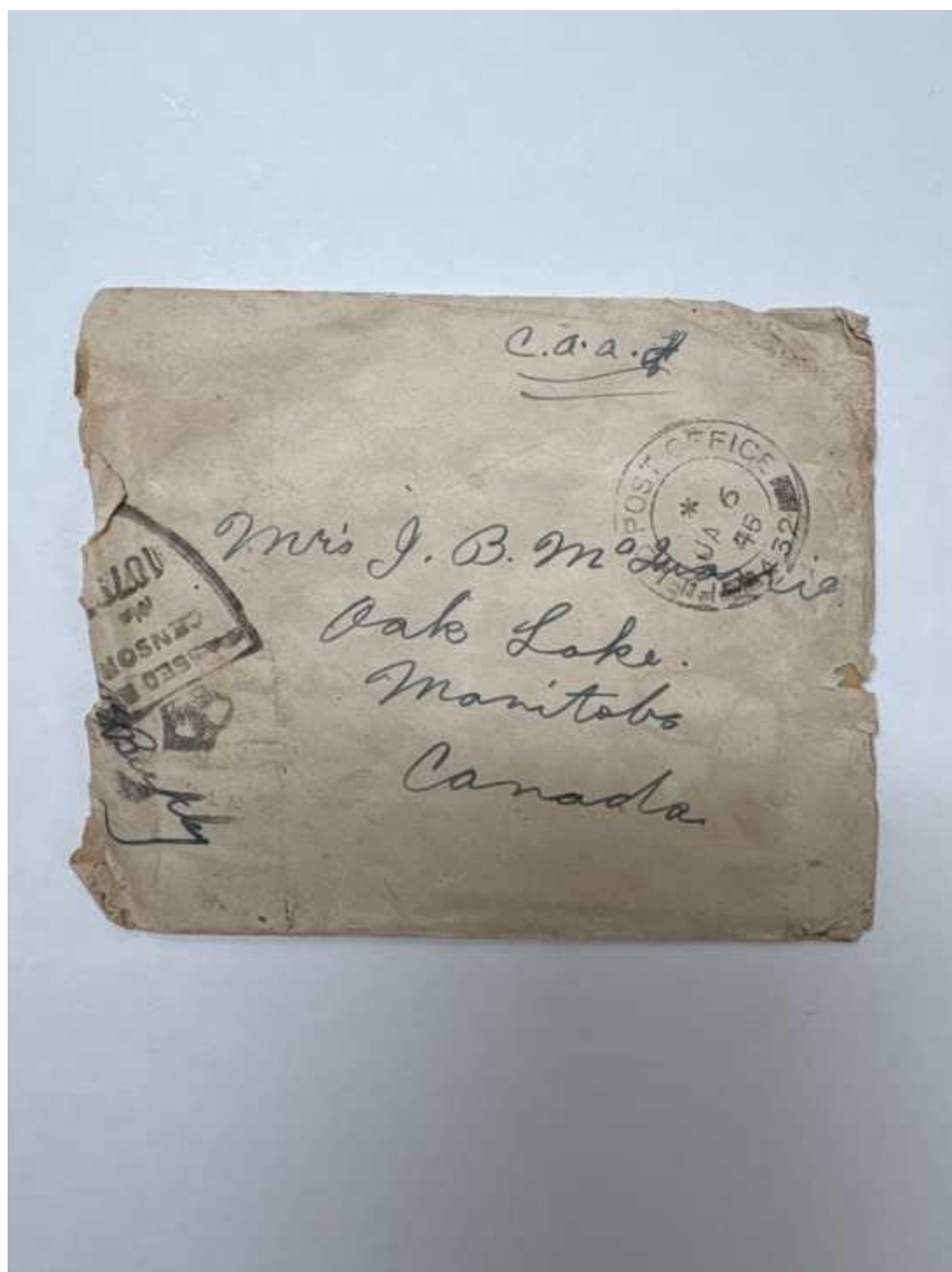
Well there doesn't seem to
 be very much to write about
 still the same old drag here,
 I suppose real winter has
 set in back there now eh?

We're having a bit ourselves
 now, everything blanketed
 in about 4 inches of snow.
 It's not very cold though.

I guess you've had it for
 now. Hope everyone is fine.

Cheerio Love

Murray





8th Cdn Recce. Regt,
C Sqdn
C.A.O.S.

8th Jan 1945

Dear Mother—,

Got your letter of the 23rd December the other day, was glad to hear from you again. Say you said in your letter I'd be 20 on the 7th I figure I'm 21 which of us is right anyway you've got me worried I always figured I knew my own age at least.

I guess everyone will be over Xmas and New Years by now eh? How's your knee getting along Jean hope it's better by now!

Well there doesn't seem to be very much to write about still the same old drag here, I suppose real winter has set in back there now eh? We're having a bit ourselves now, Everything's blanketed in about 4 inches of snow. It's not very cold though. I guess you've had it for now Hope everyone is fine

Cheerio Love Murray

7th Chas. Regt.
Edgemo
C.A. 29

Jan 12th 1946.

Dear Mother,

Well here goes for a few lines again, do I ever have the blametest look, I'm in hospital again not a regular hospital really, they have no nurses (worse look) its more like a convalescent place, where the minor casualties come.

Well I suppose you'll want to know what I've been up to now, well it was like this, there I was sitting by our stove peaceful as could be, sweeping his with the boy's, when along comes our Eph. Burns, he wants to get something behind the stove, to get it he has to reach over me and the stove too, as I'm to lazy to move out of his way, well he lost his balance, now there was a bottle of water bubbling and ringing merrily on the stove, and one of our friend Jimmie's flailing arms managed to upset it as he was trying to regain his balance.

I now where should fully a quart of
 the contents of our little kettle
 spill but into your's Truly's left
 foot which was gaping wide open,
 as I'd neglected to lace them when
 I got up. "Well what a shame!"
 Did you ever have a quart of boiling
 water poured in your foot when
 it was on your foot? It is definitely
 not a pleasant sensation, take my
 word for it if you've never had the
 experience. Believe me folks I had
 that heat and ache off in .0001
 seconds flat, maybe faster, and the
 boys say the curses and bellows
 that filled the room and threatened
 to rattle the windows out, were
 something remarkable. I guess they
 must have been too, because the
 troop about a mile ahead of us sent
 a messenger back to find out what
 all the noise was and to stop it as
 it was drawing mortar fire on the
 position. I guess the jerries figured it
 was a couple of Regiments coming in

3.

for an attack on something.

Well anyway our good Cpl. Binney poured a half a bottle of linseed oil over my foot (in this case "the troubled waters") and swathed it in bandages where the skin had come off already, and whisked me down for the m.o. to have a look at, well the m.o. looks at it quite intelligently and sympathetically then ~~the~~ quite the opposite gives it a few experimental pokes to which I nobly responded, "focally". So he put some ~~more~~ kind of grease on it and bandaged it up quite nicely, a lot better job than Binney did I must say, but I guess if Binney had the experience the doc's had he'd probably do it as good, although I don't know, I've lost some of my faith in Binney's I must remember to watch him around stoves and hot water in the future.

From there the m.o. which's

4.

me away to this place, after telling me I'm going to have a very sore foot for a while (as if I didn't know)

Well what with all the whisking here and there and ~~the~~ general mix up I contrived to lose my shaving kit one way or another out of my small pack which a couple of the boys had kindly brought to me when they found I was going to Hospital, so I landed up here with a three day growth of beard and nothing to shave with, after a couple of days one of the orderlies asked me what kind of job I had in the navy? (so I borrowed a razor from a fellow patient)

Well to get back to my foot again or are you getting tired of hearing about that? now, oh I'll tell you anyway. The other morning the orderly unwrapped my ailing foot and the M.O. looked at it, and lo and behold

5. where the skin wasn't already off
 several great fat monstrosities,
 water blisters had formed, now the
 m.o. he is a busy man so he told
 the orderly what to do about the
 blisters. The orderly appeared to
 be quite delighted and rushed
 away to come back in a few seconds
 with a little box full of skin knives.
 I guess its not often he gets a chance
 to perform a major operation like
 he did on me. He really did a
 very good job though, he punctured
 all the blisters, and the water that
 ran out of them threatened to flood
 the place, I understood then why I'd
 been so itchy the night before, all
 the water ^{which} had been going to my
 feet to sustain those great blisters
 I guess, then he proceeded to remove
 the dead skin with his ~~skin~~ little
 knives asking me every once in a
 while in a very professional tone if
 this hurt or that hurt.

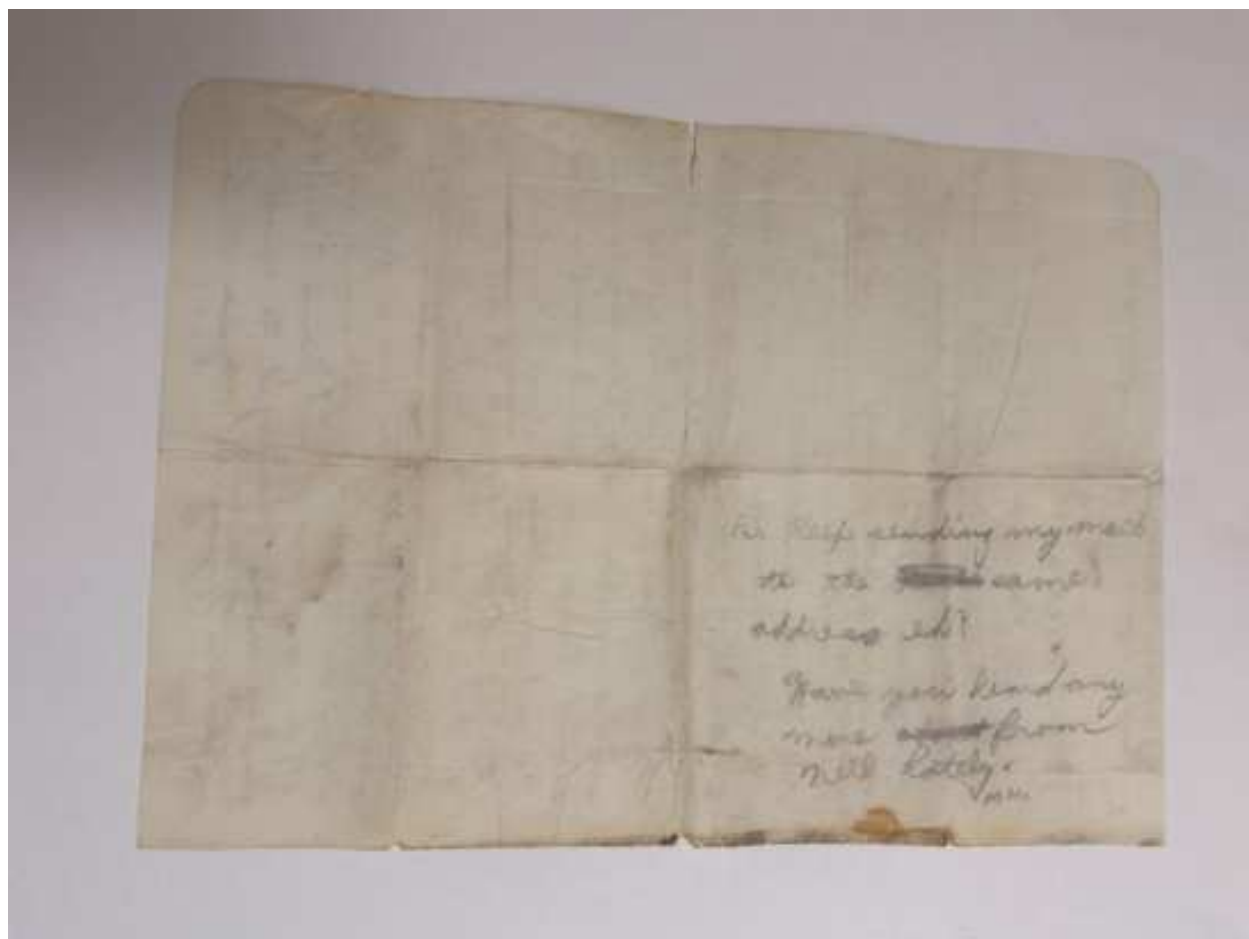
6. finally I told him I'd let him know alright if it hurt, and to go ahead with his skinning, "He did" and "I did" when he got slightly off course and took some hide off that wasn't dead. He did a very good job though on the whole, anyway the old dog seems to be healing alright. I dare say in a few days when I grow some more hide I'll be going back to the Regt. I'm having a good rest in the meantime, but I'll probably get pretty monotonous after awhile.

Well I see my next door neighbor whom I loaned this writing paper & from is casting a quizzical glance at his diminishing ~~paper~~ pad so I'll close for now. Hoping you are all in better health than yesterday.

Cherio Love to all.
Murray

P.S.

I hope you take this letter with a grain of salt.



8th Cdn Recce. Egt.

C Sqdn

C.A.O.S/

Jan 12th 1945

Dear Mother—,

Well here goes for a few lines again, do I ever have the blamest luck, I'm in the hospital again, not a regular hospital really, they have no nurses (worse luck) it's more like a convalescent place, where the minor casualties come.

Well I suppose you'll want to know what I've been up to now, well it was like this, There I was sitting by our stove peaceful as could be, swapping lies with the boys, when along comes our Cpl. Binns, He wants to get something behind the stove, to get it he has to reach over me and the stove too, as I'm too lazy to move out of his way, well he lost his balance, now there was a kettle of water bubbling and singing merrily on the stove, and one of our friend Binns' flailing arms managed to upset it as he was trying to regain his balance.

Now where should fully a quart of the contents of our little kettle spill but into your's truly's left boot which was gaping wide open, as I'd neglected to lace them when I got up, "Well what a shamozzle."

Did you ever have a quart of boiling water poured into your boot when it was on your foot? It is definitely not a pleasant sensation, take my word for it if you've

never had the experience. Believe me folks I had that boot and sock off in 0.0001 seconds flat, maybe faster, and the boys say the curses and bellows that filled the room and threatened to rattle the windows out, were something remarkable, I guess they must have been too, because the troop about a mile ahead of us sent a messenger back to find out what all the noise was and to stop it as it was drawing mortar fire on the positions I guess the Jerries figured it was a couple of regiments coming in for an attack or something.

Well anyway our good Cpl. Binns poured a half a bottle of linseed oil over my foot, (in this case “the troubled waters”) and swathed it in bandages where the skin had come off already, and whisked me down for the M.O. to have a look at it, well the M.O. looks at it quite intelligently and sympathetically, then quite the opposite gives it a few experimental pokes to which I nobly responded vocally so he put some kind of grease on it and bandaged it up quite nicely, a lot better jobs than Binnsy did I must say, but I guess if Binnsy had the experience the doc’s had he’d probably do it as good, although I don’t know, I’ve lost some of my faith in Binns I must remember to watch him around stoves and hot water in the future.

From there the M.O. whisks me away to this place, after telling me I’m going to have a very sore foot for awhile (as if I didn’t know)

Well what was all the whisking here and there and general mix up I contrived to lose my shaving kit one way or another out of my small pack which a couple of the guys had kindly brought to me when they found out I was going to Hospital, so I landed up here with a three-day growth of beard and nothing to shave with, after a couple of days one of the orderlies asked me what kind of job I had in the navy? (so I borrowed a razor from a fellow patient).

Well to get back to my foot again or are you getting tired of hearing about that by now, oh I'll tell you anyway, The other morning the orderly unwrapped my ailing foot and the M.O. looked at it and Lo and behold where the skin wasn't already off several great fat monstrous water blisters had formed, Now the M.O.. here is a busy man so he told the orderly what to do about the blisters, The orderly appeared to be quite delighted and rushed away to come back in a few seconds with a little box full of shiny knives, I guess it's not often he gets a chance to perform a major operation like he did on me. He really did a very good job though, He punctured all the blisters, and the water that ran out of them threatened to flood the place, I understood then why I've been so thirsty the night before, all the water I'd drank had been going to my foot to sustain those great blisters I guess, Then he proceeded to remove the dead skin with his little knives asking me every once in awhile in a very professional tone If this hurt or that hurt.

Finally I told him I'd let him know I'll write if it hurt, and to go ahead with his skinning, "He did" and "I did" when he got slightly off course and took some hide off that wasn't dead. He did a very good job though on the whole.

Anyway the old dog seems to be healing all right. I dare say in a few days when I grow some more hide I'll be going back to the Regt. I'm having a good rest in the meantime, but it'll probably get pretty monotonous after awhile.

Well I see my next door neighbor whom I borrowed this writing paper from is casting anguished glances at his diminishing pad so I'll close for now, Hoping you are all in better health than your's truly.

Cheerio to all. Love Murray

PS I hope you take this letter with a grain of salt.

Keep sending my mail to the same address eh? Have you heard any more from Neil lately?

8th June 1961



Dear Mother

Just a note to let you know.

I'm back to the Regt again

the first is all the things now

I was in the Lab Hospital only

15 days. Payable for the calendar

E. novae, Mantal

1. A large, dark, irregularly shaped mass, possibly a tumor, is visible on the left side of the image.

...to check this morning

the 1st of March 1883

[Faint handwritten text at the bottom of the page]

at my mother's death was in hospital

Before that we got there

[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]

Handwritten note: ...mail order for

great Helix

1871

at all - hope

Have you seen the ... at home

Hope I have not been too late.

...the



8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn.
C.A.O.S.

Jan 26th 45

Dear Mother—,

Just a line to let you know I'm back to the Regt. again. The foot is all healed up now. I was in the hospital only 15 days. Boy, it's pretty cold out here now, Manitoba has nothing on this country for [illeg] if you ask me, about two o'clock this morning I was wishing I was back in the old bed in the hospital. I wrote to you when I was in the hospital but maybe this will get there before that one will, I suppose I won't get any mail now for a month or so, I certainly have a great time with the mail, don't I?

[illegible]

Well I hope you're all fine at home. Have you heard from Neil again I wonder?
Hope I hear from you before long.

Cheerio, Love Murray.

PS Got your parcel with the socks just now. Thank you. Love M.M.

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.
OVERSEASTHE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

8th Cdn. Recce. Bgt.

C. Sp. S.

C.A.O.S.

8th Feb. 45.

Dear Mother,

Here goes for another few
lines and it'll probably be
~~just~~^{really} a few. Haven't had
any mail for about a week
now but it'll probly be coming
in for me one of these days.
Do you get my letters pretty
regular I wonder? I'm trying
to write as often as I can
even if it's only a page, just
to let you know I'm still
kicking you know. By what they
like about mail not being
very important but I'd rather
not get rations for a couple of
days and get mail sooner
than get rations and no
mail I must be getting soft.

CFA 170 (4485)

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES

or something it never used to
bother me before so awful
much. Well it doesn't look
like the old war was last
a lot longer the Russians
have been really going to
them lately & hope they
keep it up, you were saying
in one of your letters that
people thought the Baby looked
like me in certain respects.

(Feb. Feb. poor unfortunate child!)
Now the state of my finances
I wonder? I might be sending
home for some dough but I
never get a leave to England
but by the looks of things
I won't have to worry about
that for some months I
guess.

Well cheerio for now
Love to all
Murray

P.S.
Please send Love to all
some envelopes
and writing paper.

mostly envelopes etc?
Murray

8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn.
C.A.O.S.

8th Feb 45

Dear Mother—,

Here goes for another few lines and it'll probably be really a few, Haven't had any mail for about a week now but it'll probably be coming in for me one of these days

Do you get my letters pretty regular I wonder? I'm trying to write as often as I can even if it's only a page, Just to let you know I'm still kicking you know. Say what they like about mail not being very important but I'd rather not get rations for a couple of days and get mail sooner than get rations and no mail I must be getting soft or something it never used to bother me before so awful much. Well it doesn't look like the old war can last a lot longer, The Russians have been really going to town lately. hope they keep it up, You were saying in one of your letters that people thought the Baby looked like me in certain respects. (Tsk. Tsk. poor unfortunate child!)

How's the state of my finances I wonder? I might be sending home for some dough if I ever get a leave to England but by the looks of things I won't have to worry about that for some months I guess.

Well Cheerio for now

Love to all Murray

PS Please send some envelopes and writing paper. Mostly envelopes eh?

8th Cdr. Recce. Regt.
C. Sqdn.
C.A.O.S.

12-2-45

Dear Mother -

Got a letter from
you today written on
the 27th Dec. it got side-
tracked and went to the
Hospital I guess but I
was plenty glad to get
it anyway. I'm glad
to hear Dick Pleissner
won't lose his legs
after all, he'll certainly
be glad to get back
home again I bet.

I'll write to him now &
I got his address, I
shouldn't be so very
long now till

they'll all be free any
way with the Russians
driving the way they
are and we starting
for Berlin now.

It should, nt be so
very long now.

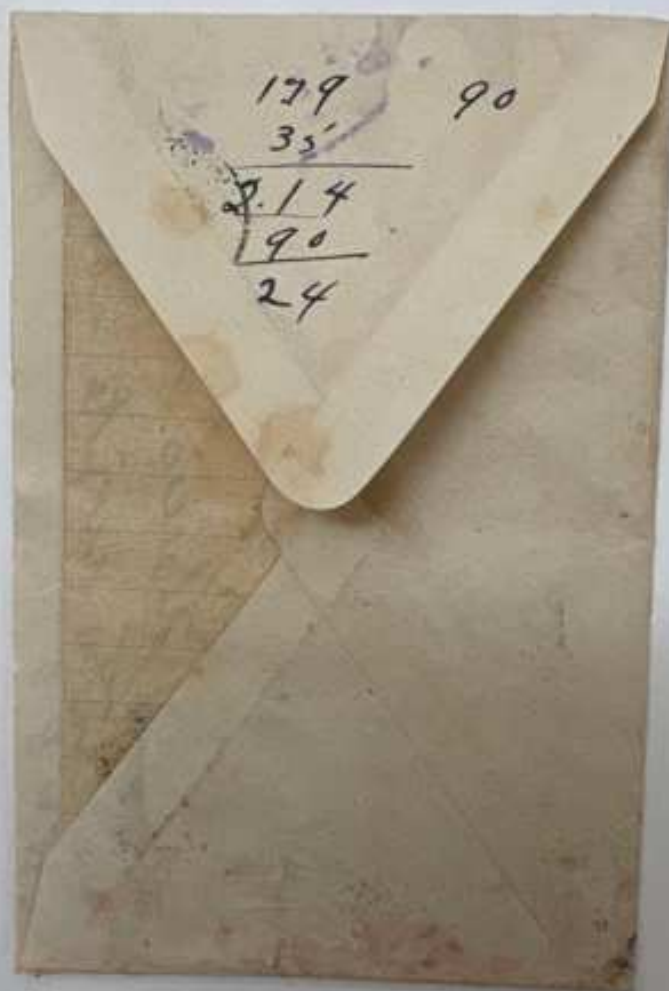
Those socks you sent
are realy coming in
handy, they came in
pretty good time too.

Well there's nothing
much to write about
so I'll close down
for now, hoping everyone
is fine.

Cheerio
Love to all

Murray. 





8th Cdn. Recce Regt.

C Sqdn.

12-2-45

Dear Mother—,

Got a letter from you today written on the 27th Dec. it got sidetracked and went to the Hospital I guess but I was plenty glad to get it anyway. I'm glad to hear Dick Pleasure won't lose his legs after all, He'll certainly be glad to get back home again I bet. I'll write to Neil now I got his address, it shouldn't be so very long now till they'll all be free anyway with the Russians driving the way they are and us starting for Berlin now. It shouldn't be so very long now. Those socks you sent are really coming in handy, They came in pretty good time too. Well there's nothing much to write about so I'll close down for now, Hoping everyone is fine,

Cheerio Love to all Murray

8th Cdn. Recce Regt.
C. Ldn.
C.O.S. 31st Feb. 45.

Dear Mother -

Received your letter with the address book the other day thanks very much its just what I needed. I was looking at that diagram you sent, Neil might be one of the prisoners that the Russians released in their drive, ~~as~~ as far as I can make out they must have that town of Ruhberg.

Well I'm in Germany myself now. Hope to be in Berlin before long.

Regt.

Feb. 45.

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I'm having an awful time
 trying to find a place
 under our tarp that
 doesn't drip, I got
 a big drop on this
 paper already it nearly
 shows up the indelible
 pencil ink? I shall I could
 find to write with though
 I struggle to writing letters
 too. He says his young
 brother is in pretty bad
 shape he got thrown off
 a horse, and broke his
 arm in two places, three
 ribs, and his collar bone
 I guess your knee is
 alright again now
 eh Jean, I guess

your mother & only one
 who father off. I
 saw Peggy getting
 along with nursing
 Does she find it
 interesting. I wonder
 how her my love when
 you write her. I suppose
 she'll be able to get
 home fairly often.
 Well I'll have to
 sign off for now.
 Love to all
 Murray

ARMED
AIR I

AIR

If anything is
letter it will be

FROM:
(Sender's full name and address)



8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn.
C.A.O.S.

21 Feb 45

Dear Mother—,

Received your letter with the address book the other day. Thanks very much it's just what I needed. I was looking at that diagram you sent, Neil might be one of the prisoners that the Russians released in they're [sic] drive, as far as I can make out they must have that town of Nuhlberg.

Well I'm in Germany myself now, hope to be in Berlin before long. I'm having an awful time trying to find a place under our tarp that doesn't drip, I got one big drop on this paper already it really shows up the indelible pencil eh? It's all I could find to write with though, Fergie is writing letters too, He says his younger brother is in pretty bad shape. He got thrown off a horse, and broke his arm in two places, three ribs, and his collarbone. I guess your knee is all right again now eh Jean, I guess your [sic] not the only one who falls off horses,

How's Peggy getting along with nursing? Does she find it interesting I wonder, Give her my love when you write eh? I suppose she'll be able to get home fairly often.

Well I'll have to sign off for now.

Love to all Murray.

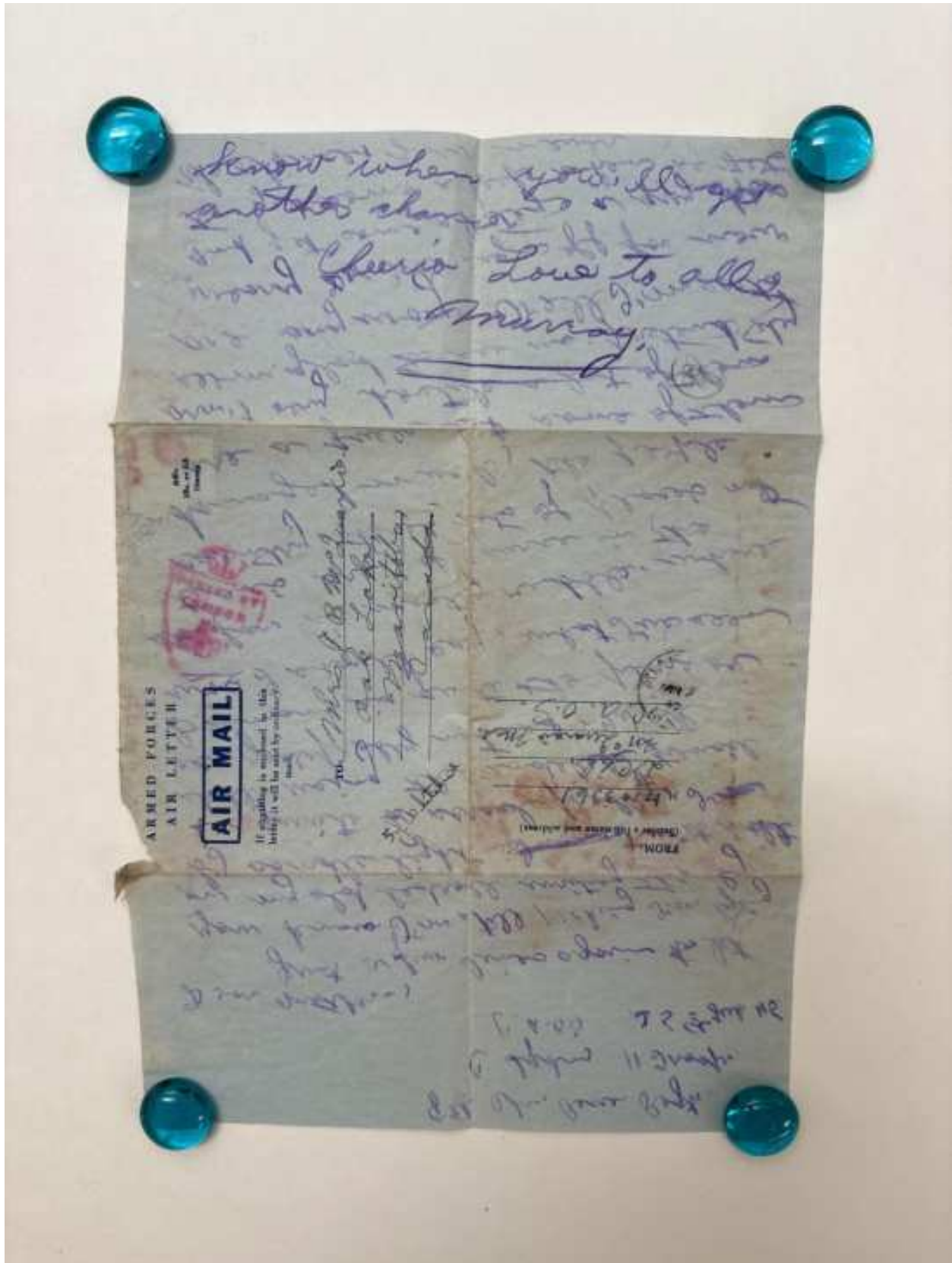
8th Cdn. Recon. Regt.

C. Sqdn. 11 Troop.

C. A. O. 25th Feb 45

Dear Mother,

Just a few lines again to let you know I'm still picking I'm lying on my old bedroll writing this by candle light. ~~I don't~~ it will be quite a scratch pretty. I'm still using the indelible pencil as you probably noticed. Well Germany is quite the place as was I should say, what I've seen so far is mostly rubble, where towns are, of course in the country there's lots of places not damaged much, the people are a queer lot some of them aren't very hostile a lot of them seem glad to see me and I'm sure are any way. Well I'm sorta weary so I'll sign off for now and get some sleep a guy has to get some sleep when he gets the chance. I'm never



8th Cdn Recc. Regt
C Sqdn 11 Troop
C.A.O.S.

25th Feb 45

Dear Mother—,

Just a few lines again to let you know I'm still kicking, I'm lying on my old bedroll writing this by candlelight so it will be quite a scrawl probably, I'm still using the indelible pencil as you've probably noticed. Well Germany is quite the place or was I should say, what I've seen so far is mostly rubble, where towns are, of course in the country there's lots of places not damaged much, the people are a queer lot some of them aren't very hostile a lot of them seem glad to see us, pretend they are anyway. Well I'm sort of weary so I'll sign off for now and get some sleep. a guy has to get some sleep when he gets the chance. you never know when you'll get another chance.

Cheerio Love to all, Murray.

8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C. Sqdr. 11 troops
C. A. O.S.

Dear Mother -

2nd March 45.

How goes everything with
you folks? Good I hope. Got your
parcel with the cake and candy
and tell I wish I didn't have much
trouble getting it out of the cans.
There was lots of willing hands
to help, get it out and eat it
too, it was sure good. The girls
got it.

Well things are not going so bad
where we are, we are receiving rations
beef, bacon, eggs, fresh milk, &
milked an old Holstein cow
this morning. I just to keep in
practice, and get some milk for
breakfast.

Gargie and Clements, from our
section are going to leave
to England next week.







8th Cdn, Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

2nd March 1945

Dear Mother—,

How goes everything with you folks? Good I hope. Got your parcel with the cake and candies and tell Gwen I didn't have much trouble getting it out of the can. There was lots of willing hands to help get it out and eat it too, it was sure good, this [illegible] got!

Well things are not going so bad where we are, we're living royalty. beef, bacon, eggs, fresh milk, I milked an old Holstein cow this morning, just to keep in practice, and get some milk for breakfast. Fergie and [Illegible] from our section are going on leave to England next week. They're getting all shined up and ready. Boy I'd like to be in their shoes. But it will be quite a while before I get to go.

We're not even getting 48 hour passes anymore. I hope they start up again I've never had one yet. Well hope everyone is fine. Thanks for the cake.

Cheerio love Murray.

8th Cdn. Recce. Regt
 C Sqdn. 11 Troop,
 C.A.O.S.

Dear Mother - , March 7th 45.

Received a parcel from
 you last nite, the
 one with the socks, soap,
 and handkerchiefs, I
 was right glad to get
 it. believe me those old
 Canadian chocolate bars
 taste pretty good after
 eating this limey chocolate
 we get in our rations.
 We killed another
 beef this morning I'm
 getting to be a first

class butchers, think
 I'll go into the business
 after the war, I got
 300 fags the other day
 from the Ladies of the
 Town, I guess that's
 who their from any
 way. I just put some
 wood on the fire and
 it's smoking something
 fierce and blowing my
 way, worse luck. I guess
 I'll have to move from
 my comfortable position,
 No the winds changed
 again, I guess I won't.
 Now Fergie's piled some
 green wood on it

going to smoke me out
altogether I guess.

How's things going
with you folks anyway?
I haven't ~~heard from~~
had a letter from you
for quite awhile now,
How's young Dot doing
got all her teeth yet?
you mentioned in
a letter quite awhile
ago that she was
getting a couple.
We'll hope to hear
from you again soon.
Love to all

Murray.

ARM
AI

AI

If anyth
letter it

FROM:
(Sender's full name and address)

H 1033 61



8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop,
C.A.O.S.

March 7th 45

Dear Mother—,

Received a parcel from you last nite, the one with the socks, soap and handkerchiefs, I was right glad to get it. Believe me those old Canadian chocolate bars taste pretty good after eating this Limey chocolate we get in our rations.

We killed another beef this morning. I'm getting to be a first class butcher I think I'll go into the business after the war, Got 300 fags the other day from the ladies of the town, I guess that's who they're from anyway. I just put some wood on the fire and it's smoking something fierce and blowing my way, worse luck. I guess I'll have to move from my comfortable position, No the winds changed again, I guess I won't . Now Fergie's piled some green wood on it. Going to smoke me out all together I guess.

How's things going with you folks anyway? I haven't had a letter from you for quite a while now, How's young Dot doing? Got all her teeth yet? You mentioned in a letter quite a while ago that she was getting a couple. Well hope to here [sic] from you again soon.

Love to all Murray.

8th Colo. Recd. 8th
 A. Lyden, 11 July
 C. O. O. S.

Dear Peg, 10 March, 46

Received your letter
~~off~~ March 1st and was
 very glad to hear from
 you again. I'm also
 glad to hear you
 like nursing fine,
 (so far). How long
 do you have to
 train before you
 become a qualified
 nurse? and do you
 get paid while you
 are in training?

Things are not going
too badly with us
we get the old "thrill"
as Buck says, or to
put it in his own
words, when we had
a "plot" the other morning
(Right thrillin' little
(D & I) eh Postner!)

Buck is the driver
in my vehicle in case
your wondering.

I'm writing this from
a cellar by candlelight
Buck is writing too, we
got quite a nice little
home here, pretty near
shell proof (I hope)

We got a stove in it
and its pretty cozy,
Oh yes and whenever
we happen to get
hungry there's a
shelf full of preserved
cherries ~~and~~ I'm
getting sick of them
I've eat so many.

They say a lot of the
food here is poisoned
~~but I guess those cherries~~
arent or I'd be dead
long ago. Well the
old candle is burning
pretty low so I'll sign
off for now (write soon)

Cheerio Love
(M) Murray



8th Cdn Recce Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

10 March, 45

Dear Peg,

Received your letter of March 1st and was very glad to hear from you again I'm also glad to hear you like nursing fine.(so far). How long do you have to train before you become a qualified nurse? And do you get paid while your in training?

Things are not going too badly with us. We get the odd "thrill" as Buck says, or to put it in his own words, when we had a ("do") the other morning (Right thrillin' little (Do) eh podner!)

Buck is the driver in my vehicle in case you're wondering. I'm writing this from a cellar by candlelight. Buck is writing too, we got quite a nice little home here, pretty near shell proof, (I hope).

We got a stove in it and it's pretty cosy, Oh yes and whenever we happen to get hungry there's a shelf full of preserved cherries. I'm getting sick of them I've eat so many.

They say a lot of the food here is poisoned but I guess those cherries aren't or I'd be dead long ago. Well the old candle is burning pretty low so I'll sign off for now
(Write soon)

Cheerio Love Murray.

8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.

C Sqdn. 11 Troop.

C. A. O. S.

Dear Mother - 10 March 45.

Well how goes
everything back in
civilization, Got a letter
from you and one
from Reg this morning
~~not~~ not so bad eh?

I'm writing this ~~in~~
a cellar by candlelight

They have pretty good
cellars here concrete

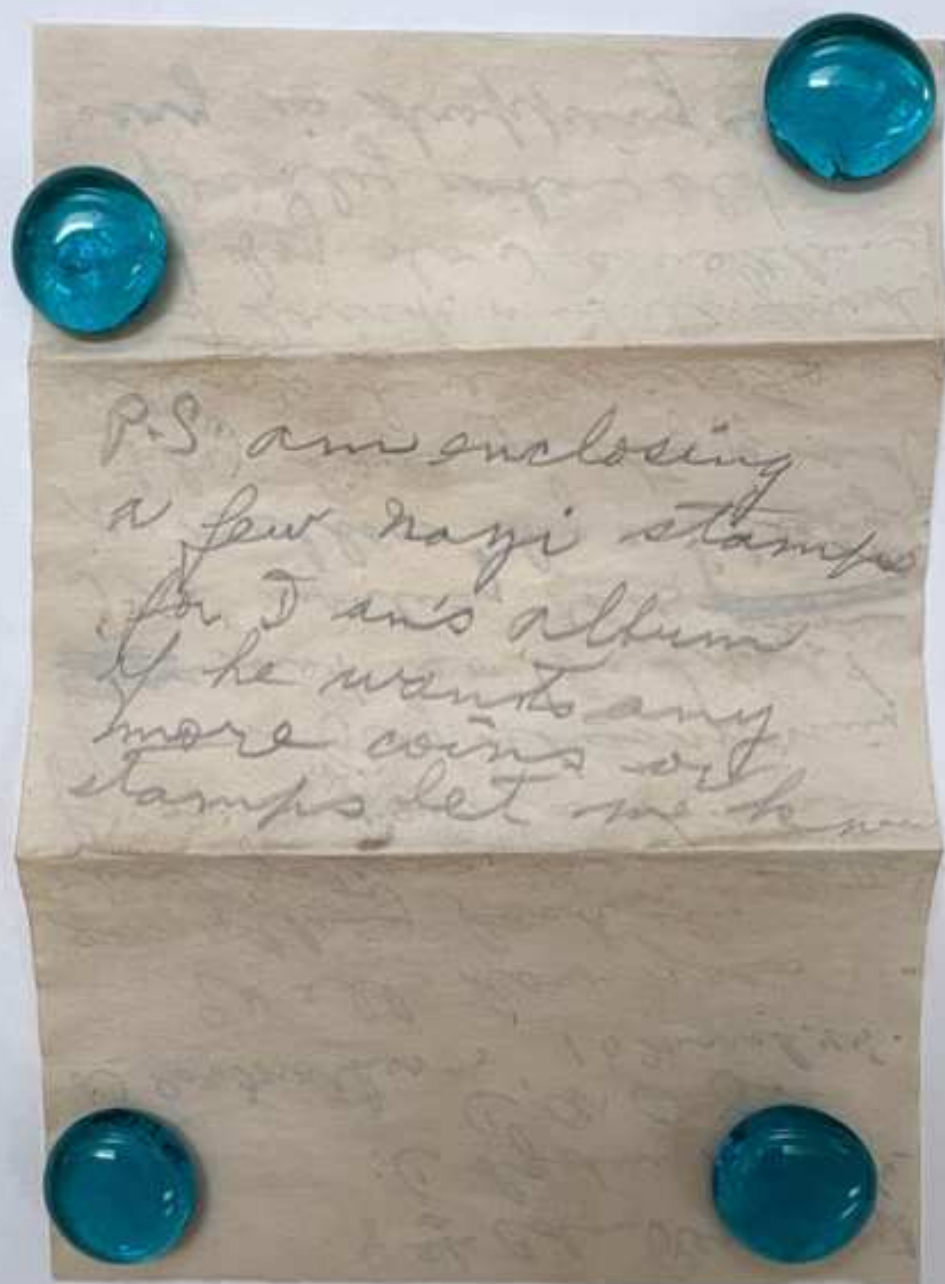
and brick and reinforced,
and boy do I love them,
especially when old
Jerry is dropping shells

Left and right as he
has a nasty habit
of doing!

I'm glad to hear
the wooden shoe's got
to go finally, it
took quite awhile
for them to get
there though I thought
they'd get there faster
than that.

Dan is getting to
be quite the hockey
player by the sounds
of things, and Joan
too. I hear she scored
a goal one night
on the girls' team.

I guess the hockey and
 skating will be
 pretty well over.
 for this year, in
 a week or so eh?
 Dick Blatter is
 home now & he
 discharged from the
 army! I'll bet he
 got a great reception
 when he got home.
 Well I'll sign off
 for now.
 Cherio
 Love to all
 Mervyn (H)



P.S. am enclosing
a few rayi stamps
for Jan's album
if he wants any
more coins or
stamps let me know





8th Cdn. Recce regt.
C. Sqdn 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

10 March 45

Dear Mother—,

Well how goes everything back in civilization, Got a letter from you and one from Peg this morning not so bad eh? I'm writing this in a cellar by candlelight. They have pretty good cellars here concrete and brick and reinforced, and boy do I love them, especially when old Jerry is dropping shells left and right as he has a nasty habit of doing.

I'm glad to hear the wooden shoes got to you finally, it took quite a while for them to get there though, I thought they'd get there faster than that.

Dan is getting to be quite the hockey player by the sounds of things, and Jean too. I hear she scored a goal one night on the girls team. I guess the hockey and skating will be pretty well over for this year in a week or so eh?

Dick Plaisier is home now eh? Is he discharged from the army? I'll bet he got a great reception when he got home.

Well I'll sign off for now

Cheerio

Love to all Murray.

P.S. Am enclosing a few Nazi stamps for Dan's album. If wants any more coins or stamps let me know .

2nd Cdn. Recce Bgt.
C. Sqdn. 11 troops,
C.A.O.S.

Dear Mother - 15-3-45

Here goes for a few
lines again I'll probly
be very few too.

We're having lovely
spring weather the last
few days Boy it been
realy nice, birds singing
sun shining, certainly
great after that winter,
about another month
you'll probly be getting
nice weather back home
too, but I'd like to
be home this spring

Josh it'd be nice to
be back, Wake up in
the morning and not hear
the old gun's grumbling
no more sucking pellets,
boy it'll certainly be great.

Well I can't find anything
to write about so I'll
have to close for now.
Hope everyone is fine
and I hear from you
again soon.

Cheers Love to all.

Murray.

8th Cdn. Recce Regt
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S

15-3-45

Dear Mother—,

Here goes for a few lines again it'll probably be very few too.

We're having lovely Spring weather the last few days. Boy it's been really nice, birds singing, sun shining, certainly great after that winter, about another month you'll probably be getting nice weather back home too, Gosh I'd like to be home this Spring.

Gosh it would be nice to be back, Wake up in the morning and not hear the old guns grumbling no more ducking shells boy it'll certainly be great.

Well I can't find anything to write about so I'll have to close for now. Hope everyone is fine and I hear from you again soon.

Cheerio Love to all Murray.

8th Can Bn Recd Regt

2nd Bn 11 Troop

P. O. S. S.

23 March 45

Dear Mother,

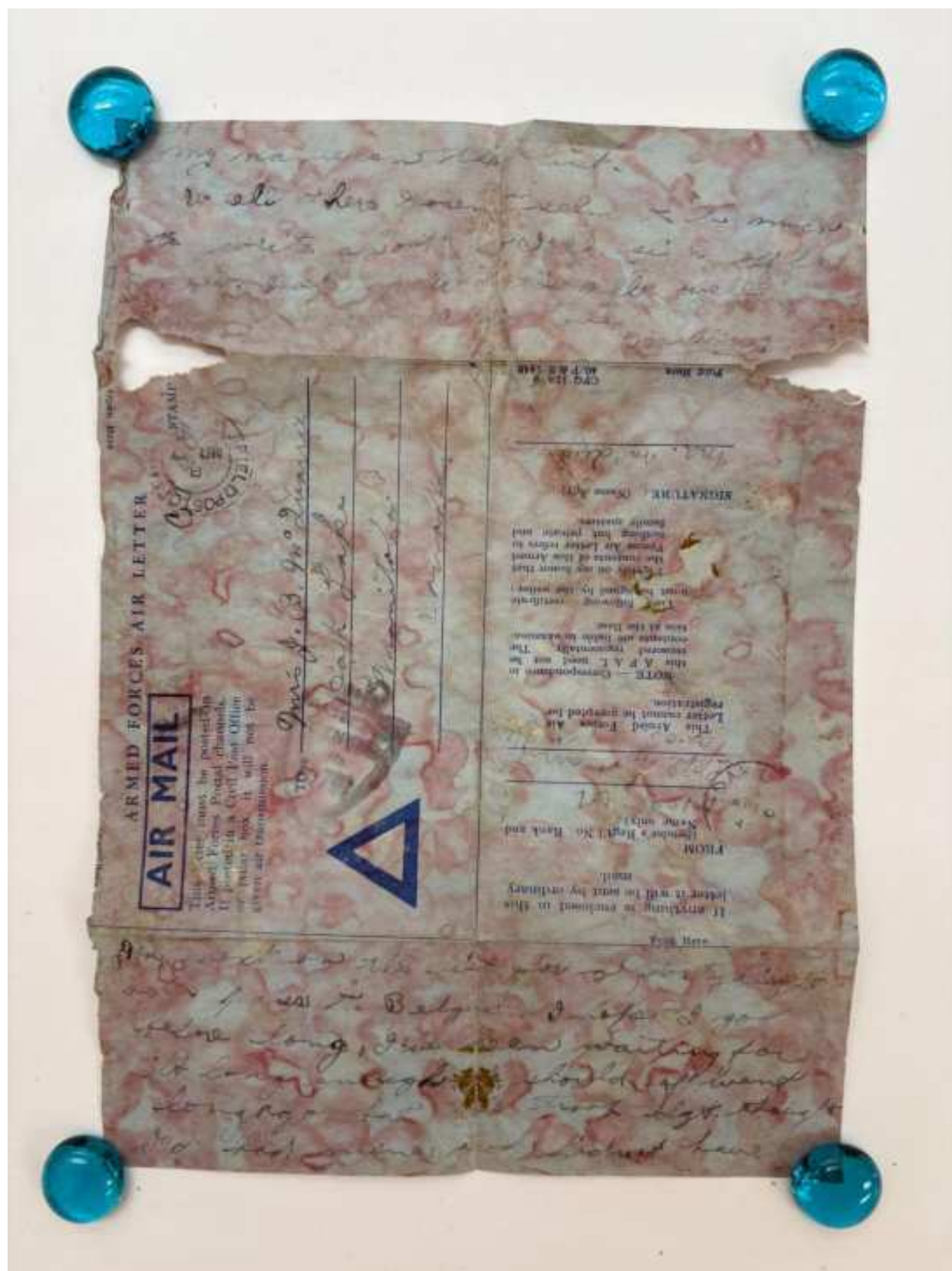
I got a letter from you yesterday
and also 3 or 4 smaller ones which were
very welcome indeed.

You asked if I would leave word
in this Regiment, the 1st Bn, for
for you know the 18th Armoured Car Regt.

Well we're out for a rest for the
time being. and it's about time too.
We're having some sweeties some of
the boys are laying around with their
shirts off getting the start of a tan
already.

25th March 45

I reckon so how it's about time to
let the boys know that the 18th Armoured Car
Regt are from leave in England they really
had a good time by all account
we've had a good time too. I hope
you're all well and happy.





8th Cad. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

23 March 45

Dear Mother—,

Got a letter from you yesterday and also 300 cigarettes which were very welcome believe me. you asked if Louis [sp] Leach was in this Regiment. He's not, as far as I know he's still in the 18th armoured car Regt.

Well we're out for a rest for the time being. and it's about time too.

We're having lovely weather some of the boys are laying around with their shirts off getting the start of a tan already.

25th March 45

I reckon as how it's about time I finished this, Fergie and [illegible] are back from leave in England they really had a good time but all account.

We had a shower yesterday, and got deloused, and this morning we had a church parade. I'm next on the list for a 48 hour pass to Belgium. I hope I go before long. I've been waiting for it long enough, I should have went long ago but our troop Sgt thought I'd had mine and didn't have my name on the list.

Well there doesn't seem to be much to write about, I'll sign off now. Hope you are all well

Cheerio Love Murray

8th Ohio Recd Regt.

C. Lydon 11 Troops

C.A.O.S.

3rd Feb. 45.

Dear Mother,

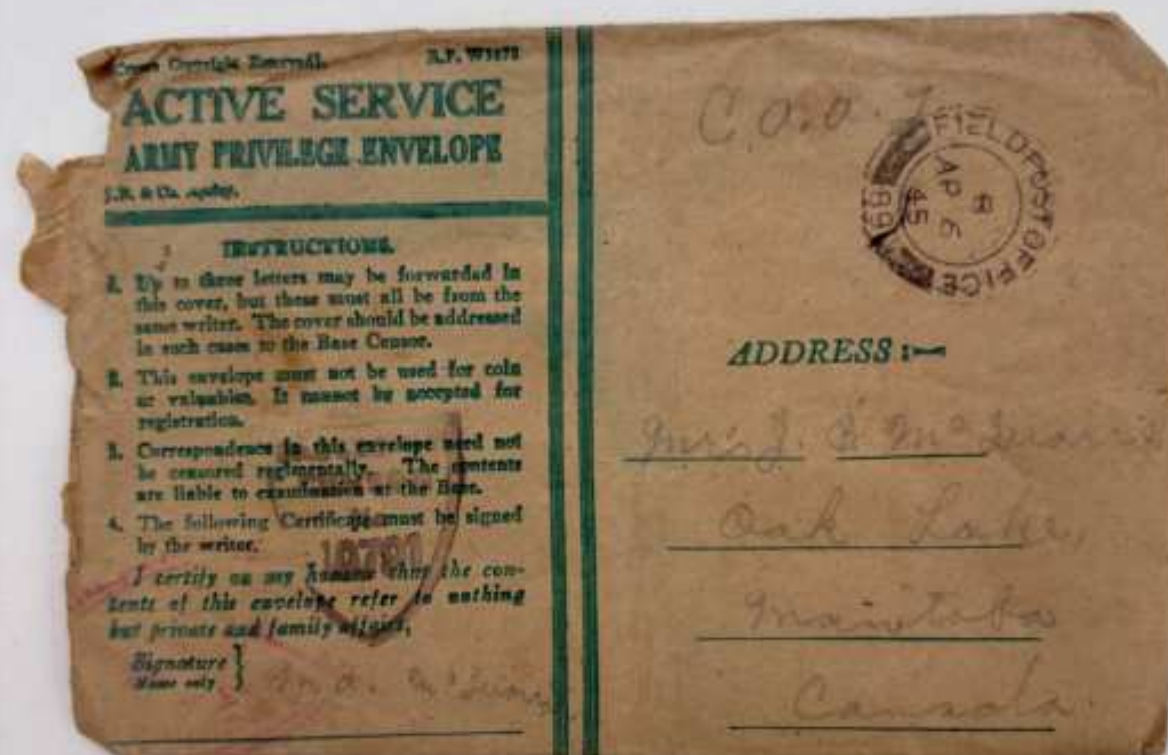
Just a few lines again, just from
on my way to Cincinnati and
just get back, had a very nice time
It was certainly great to get out for
while anyway, but I'm happy to
get back with the boys again, we're
certainly going to town now and
I don't want to miss it. Got the
bleeding again, I'm sure.

I got your letter yesterday, it was
waiting for me when I got back, I was
certainly glad to hear from you. You
should write more often, you'll be plenty
bigger from now on, I guess with the
spring work.

I got my picture taken when
I was in Cincinnati, it's not very good
I'll enclose one for you.

anyway. I thought I'd check for
 a name for you for the Pure silk
 (as they said) I'll send it in this letter
 thinking you'll have to sign off for
 now. Hope to hear from you again
 soon.

Best love to all
Murray.



8th Recce Regt.
C. Sqdn. 11 Troop.

2nd April 45

Dear Mother—,

Just a few lines again, I've been on my 48hr to Brussels and just got back, had a very nice time it was certainly great to get out for a while anyway, but I'm happy to get back with the boys again, we're certainly going to town now and I don't want to miss it. Get the Bloody Business over with.

I got your letter Dad, yesterday it was waiting for me when I got back. I was certainly glad to hear from you, you should write more often. You'll be plenty busy from now on I guess with the spring work.

I got my picture taken when I was in Brussels, they're not very good. I'll enclose one in this letter anyway. I bought a handkerchief for a souvenir for you Mother pure silk (so they said) I'll send it in this letter too, I guess I'll have to sign off for now Hope to here [sic] from you again soon,

Cheerio Love to all. Murray.

8th Co. Pers. Regt.

C. Lyden. 11 Troops.

C.O.O.S. 6th April. 45

Dear Mother -

Got your parcel yesterday
Boy that really came at a
good time we were a little
short on grub and we had the
cake for supper, that was
really a good cake (Graham) and
the socks will come in mighty
handy. Thanks a lot for
everything. Well sorry I guess
I won't be able to finish this
now.

7th April 45

We're gone again, Boy we're
really kept busy these days &
and Express we're keeping
old Jerry a darn sight busier.

But it's great to be out the
mound again, after sitting on
dykes in the cold and rain
all winter. (and snow)

I got a letter and some pictures
 from Peg yesterday, she looks
 pretty good and seems to be
 enjoying her work alright,
 I always figured she'd take
 to ~~that~~ mowing pretty good,
 one of the boys here has just
 been trying to get a little
 kid about five years old to take
 a stick of gum, but he won't
 have anything to do with the
 gum. He took it in his hand,
 looked it over, smelled it,
 and gravely handed it back
 to Norm. I guess the kid never
 saw anything like it in his
 life so far.

Well hope everybody is fine
 Love to all.

Murray.

P.S. Just got your letter of the 28th March.
Hope I at last got over the vaccination and
inoculation bit.
Cheers
Wm

8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

6th April 45

Dear Mother—,

Got your parcel yesterday. Boy that really came at a good time we were a little short on grub and we had the cake for supper, that was really a good cake Gwen, and the socks will come in mighty handy. Thanks a lot for everything. Well sorry I guess I won't be able to finish that now.

7th April 45

Here goes again, Boy we're really kept busy these days and I guess we're keeping old Jerry a darn sight busier.

But it's great to be on the move again, after sitting on dykes in the cold and rain all winter. (“and snow”).

I got a letter and some picture from Peg yesterday, she looks pretty good and seems to be enjoying her work all right, I always figured she'd take to nursing pretty good.

One of the boys here has just been trying to get a little kid about 5 years old to take a stick of gum, but he won't have anything to do with the gum. He took it in his hand, looked it over, smelled it, and gravely handed it back to Norm. I guess the kid never saw anything like it in his life so far.

Well hope everybody is fine

Love to all.

Murray.

P.S. Just got your letter of the 28th march. hope. got over the vaccinating and inoculations okay. Cheerio Murray.

9th Cav. Arce. Regt.

Company 11 Troop

U.S.A.

16th April 45.

Dear Mother -

Just a few lines again get a letter from you yesterday written on the 5th April. Boy we're really busy no time for anything. We're liberating again for the next couple of weeks. Did I tell you we were in Holland? The people are certainly glad to see us. It doesn't take them long to get out there flags after we go through a town. They just declare a public holiday & think everyone is out on the streets waving flags and throwing flowers at us and when we stop, thousands address a crowd about ten feet deep around the vehicle, asking for cigarettes and chocolate, and the girls crowd around and want your autographs. You'd think we were movie stars or something.

Well I'll have to write off for
now I guess, hope everyone is
fine.

cheer's love to all

9. 10. 1944

ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER

AIR MAIL

This letter must be posted in Armed Forces Postal channels. If posted in a Civil Post Office pillar box, it will not be given air transportation.

(10) Miss L. H. M. Quade
Oak Lake,
Wisconsin

Point View

CPQ 11
2006.06.29.1448

This Armed Forces V.I. Letter cannot be accepted for registration.

FORM
(Sender's Name) No. Blank and
Name only)

If anything is enough in this letter it will be seen by ordinary men.

As yet, I got that ~~packet~~ tobacco
and ~~an~~ paper you sent, it will
come in mighty handy. You said
to let you sent another parcel
Hope it gets here soon.

8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

16th April 45

Dear Mother—,

Just a few lines again got a letter from you yesterday written on the 5th of april. Boy we've really been busy no time for anything. We've been liberating again for the last couple of weeks, Did I tell you we were back in Holland?

The people are certainly glad to see us. It doesn't take them long to get out their flags after we go through a town.

They just declare a public holiday I think everyone is out on the streets waving flags and throwing flowers at us and when we stop there there's [sic] a crowd about 10 ft deep around the vehicle, asking for cigarettes and chocolate, and the girls crowd around and want your autograph. You'd think we are movie stars or something.

Oh yes, I got that tobacco and papers you sent, it will come in mighty handy. I'm glad to here [sic] you sent another parcel. Hope it gets here soon.

Well I'll have to sign off for now I guess, Hope everyone is fine.

Cheerio Love to all Murray

8th Col. Recce Bgt

C. B. 11 Group

C. A. O. S.

21st April 45

Dear Mother -

Here you find a few lines again
haven't had any mail now for
quite some time, should be some
soon. By the way that 300 cigs I
told you I'd received turned out
to be cigarette tobacco instead, but
it's alright for a change, I don't
smoke so much when I've got that
because I'm too lazy to roll ~~roll~~
them.

We've got a little pup in our
section, we got him in Holland,
By the way we're back in Germany
again conquering not liberating.

The pup is black and white, just a
mongrel, and about two months old
I'd say. He's just getting to the comical
stage now. We have a lot of fun
with him, he's not so much
fun at night sometimes if we've
been travelling all day, he always

sleep. but maybe he'll improve as
he gets older. I hope so anyway.
Give ~~me~~ Dad these days. hope
she got over the inoculation ~~shot~~
by now.

cheerio Love to all.

Manning.



ARMED FORCES
AIR LETTER

AIR MAIL

If anything is enclosed in
this letter it will be sent
by ordinary mail.

TO Mrs. B. B. McQuarrie

2nd. Floor,

Manitoba

Canada.



PROOF:
(Sender's full name and address)
M. H. 103610 / 44
McQuarrie
C.A.O. 5.
40

sleeps if we're on the move, and after
sleeping all day doesn't feel like
sleeping at night so he goes round
chewing the guy's boots, licking your
face, tramping all over you, and howling
He's pretty hard on the nerves
when a guy's tired and wants to

ARMED FORCES
AIR LETTER

AIR MAIL

If anything is enclosed in
this letter it will be sent
by ordinary mail.

TO

Mrs J. B. McQuarrie
Oak Lake
Manitoba
Canada



8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.

C Sqdn. 11 troop

C.A.O.S.

21 April 45

Dear Mother—,

Here goes for a few lines again haven't had any mail now for quite some time, should be some soon. By the way that 300 cigs I told you I'd received turned out to be cigarette tobacco instead, but it's all right for a change, I don't smoke so much when I've got that because I'm to [sic] lazy to roll them.

We've got a little pup in our section, we got him in holland. By the way we're back in Germany again conquering, not liberating.

The pup is black and white, just a mongrel, and about 2 months old I'd say. He's just getting to the comical stage now. We have a lot of fun with him, He's not so much fun at nights sometimes if we've been traveling all day, He always sleeps if we're on the move and after sleeping all day he doesn't feel like sleeping at night so he goes around chewing the guy's boots, licking your face, tromping all over you, and howling. He's pretty hard on the nerves when a guy is tired and wants to sleep. but maybe he'll improve as he gets older. I hope so anyway.

How's Dot these days. Hope she got over the inoculations okay by now.

Cheerio Love to all Murray

8th Cdn. Des. Regt.
C. Ldn. 11 Troop.
C. L. O. S.

9th May 45.

Dear Mother -

I got your parcel the other day, I thank's a lot, It was a very nice parcel.

Well the war is over, seems strange doesn't it,

We got the "Cease Fire" at 8 o'clock on the 5th, quite a while before some of the other fronts got it.

I've just been listening to Canadian news on ~~the~~ our newly aquired German radio

I guess they had quite the celebrations, in some cities, I guess they wouldn't have much in old sabbath though, or did they?

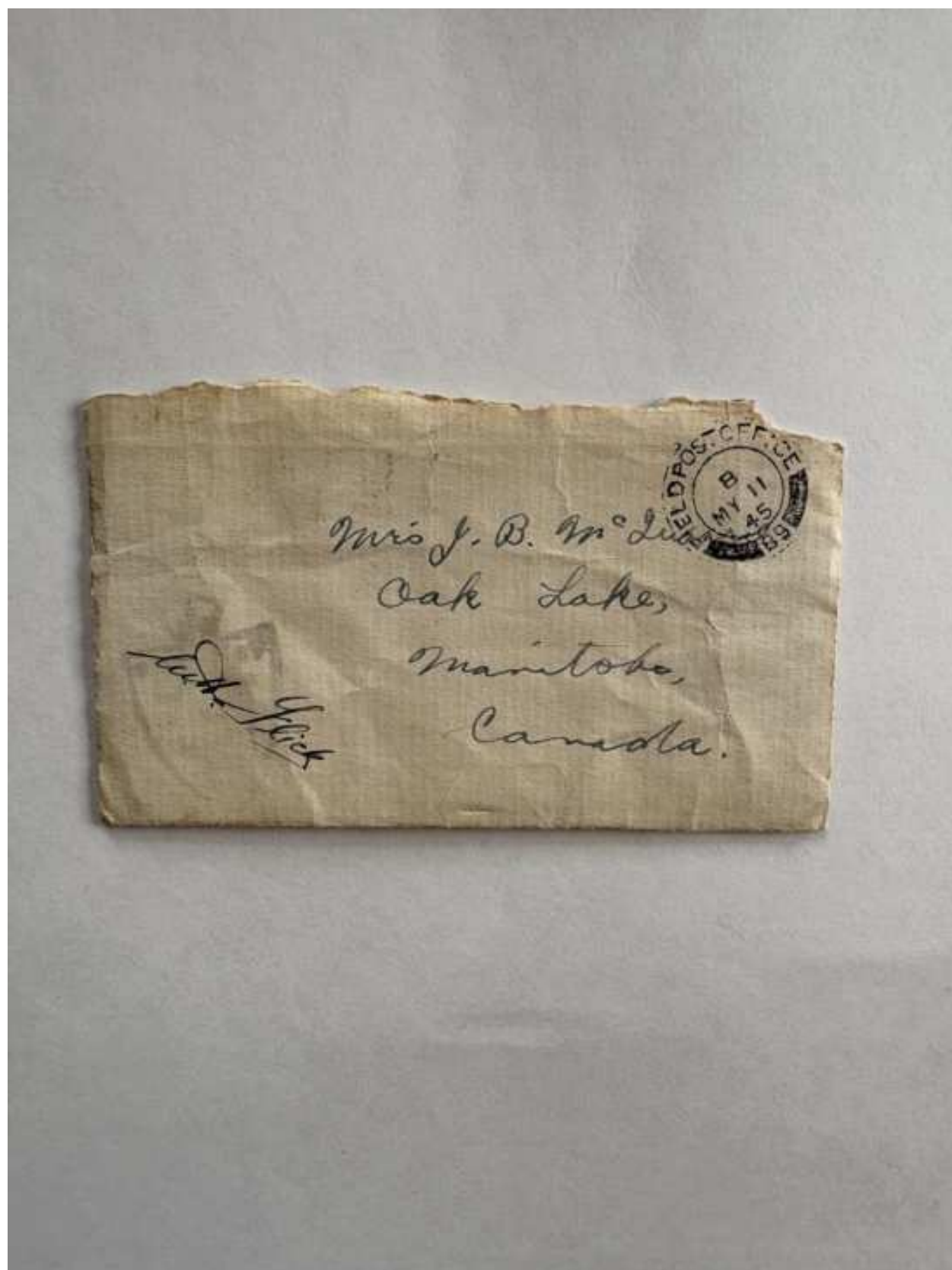
Have you heard anything

about Neil yet! I hope so,
 If you haven't you soon
 will probably. There are so many
 prisoners been liberated
 all at once they can't
 possibly keep track of them
 all.

I hope I get home before
 long, it'll probably be quite
 awhile though, a certain
 amount of us will have
 to stay here in view of
 Occupation, and that's about
 all the 4 and 5 year series,
 now will go first, I haven't
 even put in three years yet.

By the way would better
 address my mail I pr. again
 instead of I. P. H., I was celebrating
 when we got the "Ceasefire" and got
 into a scrap with a couple of Japs.
 Result - I'm under open arrest waiting
 sentence, I'll lose my books and some of my
 property but I'm not sorry. Cheers Love to all
 yours

Hope to see you all soon
Love.
M. M.



8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

9th May 45

Dear Mother—,

Got your parcel the other day, Thanks a lot, It was a very nice parcel.

Well the war is over, seems strange doesn't it, we got the "Cease Fire" at 8 o'clock on the 5th, quite a while before some of the other fronts got it

I've just been listening to Canadian news on our newly acquired German radio. I guess they had quite the celebrations, in some cities, I guess they wouldn't have much in Old Oak Lake though, or did they?

Have you heard anything about Neil yet? I hope so, if you haven't you soon will probably. There's so many prisoners being liberated all at once they can't possibly keep track of them all.

I hope I get home before long, it'll probably be quite a while though, a certain amount of us will have to stay here in Army of Occupation, and no doubt all the 4 and 5 year service men will go first, I haven't even put in 3 years yet.

By the way you'd better address my mail Tpr. again instead of L/Cpl., I was celebrating when we got the "Cease Fire" and got into a scrap with a couple of Sgts. Result- I'm under open arrest waiting sentence, I'll lose my hook and some pay probably but I'm not sorry.

Cheerio Love to all Murray

Hope to see you all soon.

Love M.M.

8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.

1st Lt. H. J. H. H.

O.A.O.S.

23rd May 45.

Dear Mother -

Here goes for a few lines again.
Got your letter of the 15th today and
was certainly glad to hear from
you again. The mail hasn't been
coming very good lately, I hope
you've got word from Neil by now, you
should have. I imagine all the ex-prisoners
are back in England by now. Hope that's
OK.

Look I'm getting fed up with this
flashed country, we're not doing anything
but a bit of guard rows but we've
got to clean our web, and be
properly dressed, and every other thing.
Just like it was in England.

Really getting sick of having to
stay here in the army of occupation.

I'll go completely crazy, I think.

I should be getting a leave to
England next month anyway that





8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

22nd May 45

Dear Mother—,

Here goes for a few lines again, Got your letter of the 12th today and was certainly glad to hear from you again the mail hasn't been coming very good lately, I hope you've got word from Neil by now, you should have, I imagine all the ex-prisoners are back in England by now. Hope he's okay.

Gosh I'm getting fed up with this blasted country, We are not doing anything but a bit of guard now, but we've got to clean our web [?], and be properly dressed, and every other thing just like it was in England.

It's really getting me down if I have to stay here in the army of occupation I'll go completely crazy I think. I should be getting a leave to England next month anyway that's something to look forward to in the near future. Hope that 30 days leave in Canada rolls around before too many years pass too. Thank you for the poem Mother, It's very nice. Well I'll sign off for now. Hope to hear from you again soon.

Love to all Murray

Sub Coln. Recce. Regt.

C Spoken 10 J. 1896

C. A. C. S.

6 June 1945.

Dear Mother -

Well goes on well now again
at your letter

and back in the morning. The tide was late.

glad to see you in England. I was certainly

and if I get a letter back

I might possibly meet up with

under 1 gal and under 1 gal

1890

... of
... ..

to Canada through.

It met Baldy before the night

det, it was extremely good to see

you, I have been thinking how to

of us from a load

...the ... into ...

... and the others and the





8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.

C Sqdn. 11 troop

C.A.O.S.

6 June 1945

Dear Mother—,

Here goes for a few lines again got your letter saying Neil was safe and back in England, I was certainly glad to hear that, I wrote to him and if I get a letter back in time I might possibly meet up with him when I go on leave, I'll be going about the 10th of this month probably. Chances are he'll be on leave or maybe on his way back to Canada though.

I met Baldy Reeves the night before last, It was certainly good to see him again, It was funny how we happened to meet, a truck load of us from C Sqdn. went into Groningen again to see a show. In the show I was sitting next to the aisle and the lights went on for an intermission and who should be sitting across the aisle from me but old Baldy, same as ever, were we ever surprised. I always thought he was with the 1st division but he's with the 5th. in the Perth Regt. He said he figured I was in the 2nd Division but didn't know what Regt. He's going to Glasco [sp] for his leave soon too so I might see him again, Well I'll have to close for now hope everyone is fine.

Cheerio love to all Murray.

Col. Beece W. 5.

Edin. 11. 1845.

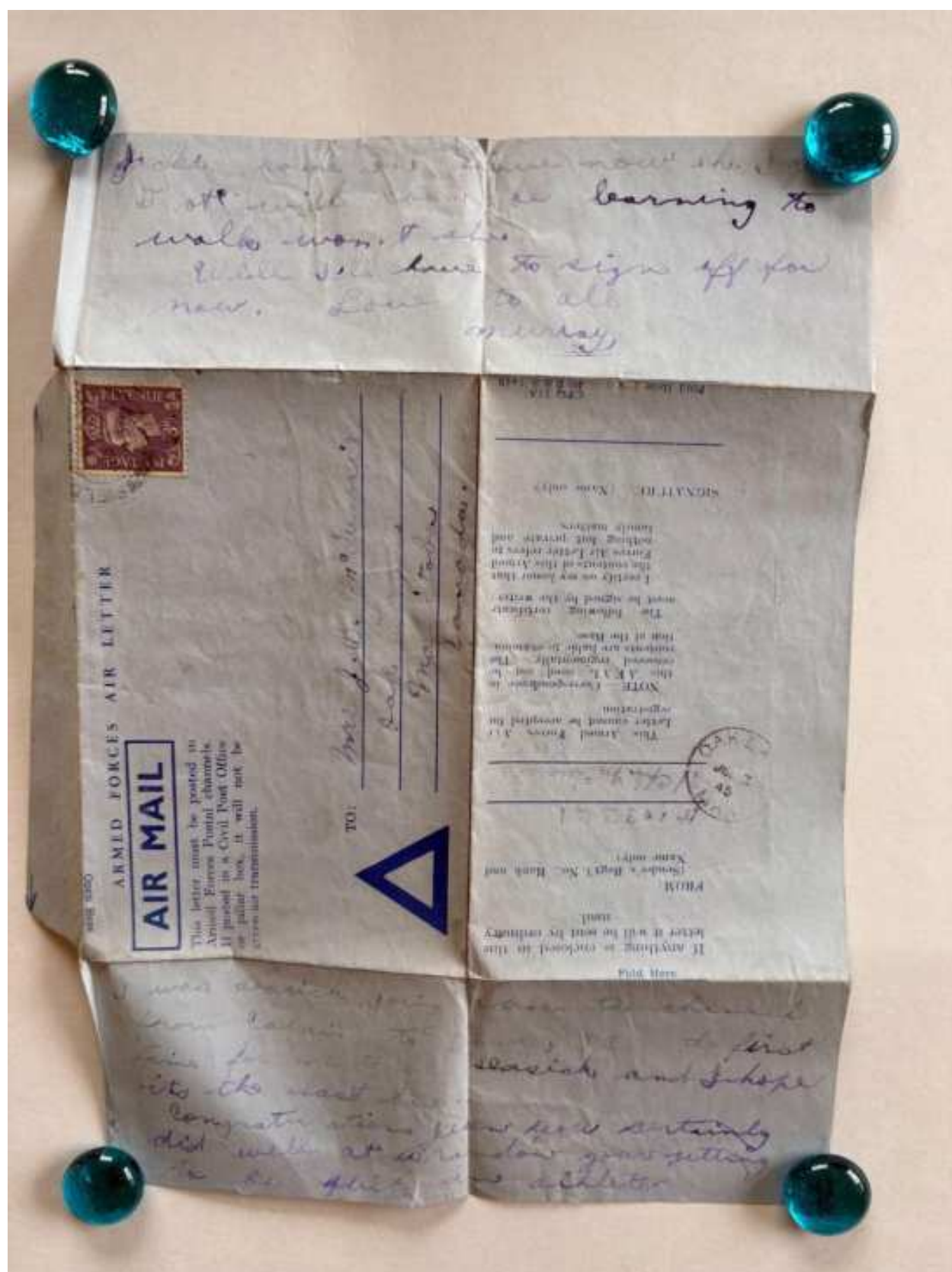
C. A. S. S. - 26 June 45.

Dear Mother -

Just a few lines again, I just got back last night from my leave in Glasgow. We spent six days in Glasgow then went on to Edinburgh. We really had a swell time, I was certainly sorry to come back again. I like Edinburgh better than Glasgow it seems to be a cleaner town.

We went around and saw a few old castles and one afternoon we climbed up to King Arthur's Seat until it is the highest hill around here, so you can certainly get a great ~~view~~ view from there, that where old King Arthur used to go when he was a boy.

My wife went by the car to Edinburgh too but it was still a bit chilly and didn't go swimming. The only trouble with the leave is to get the old back, it's a long way from Glasgow to Scotland.





8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

26 June 45

Dear Mother—,

Just a few lines again, I just got back last night from my leave in Glasco [sp]. We spent 6 days in Glasco then went on to Edinburgh. We really had a swell time, I was certainly sorry to come back again I like Edinburgh better than Glasco it seems to be a cleaner town.

We went around and saw a few old castles and one afternoon we climbed up to King Arthur's seat which is one of the highest hills around there. Boy you can certainly get a great view from there, that's where Old King Arthur used to go when he wanted to think so they say. It's nice down by the seashore at Edinburgh too but it was still a bit chilly we didn't go swimming. The only trouble with the leave is the trip there and back, it's a long way from Germany to Scotland. I was sick going across the channels from Calais to Dover, it's the first time for me to be seasick and I hope it's the last too.

Congratulations Jean you certainly did well at Brandon you're getting to be quite an athlete. Jack's home on leave now eh. I guess Dot will be learning to walk won't she.

Well I'll have to sign off for now.

Love to all Murray

8th Cdm. Recce. Bgt.
C. Sqdn. 11 Troop.
C.A. O.S.

22nd July 1945

Dear Mother,

Got a letter from you tonight
I didn't get some cigarettes before
long. I've been out of cigarettes and buying
them ones for a long time not
having. Now about sending about to
Howard they might let me for
a little while.

I was down to the dentist today
and got a couple of teeth filled.
I have to get a lot of work done on
them the dentist said, I have to
go back on Monday.

I hope Neil is back on his way
by now. You asked if I joined
up for Burma, no, I was considering
it seriously for a while, but decided
I'd had enough without going to
Burma. That 30 days leave looks
mighty good though.





8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

2nd July 1945

Dear Mother—,

Got a letter from you tonight, I hope I get some cigarettes before long, I've been out of cigs and buying limey ones for so long it's not funny, How about sending about 10,000 they might last me for a little while.

I was down to the dentist today and got a couple of teeth filled I have to get a lot of work done on them the dentist said, I have to go back on Friday.

I hope Neil is back or on his way by now. You asked if I joined up for Burma, No, I was considering it seriously for awhile, but decided I had enough, without going to Burma. That 30 days leave looked mighty good though.

Well guess I'll sign off for now.

Cheerio love to all.
Murray.

of the Old West Right
 I signed 11/3 no. 1
 C.A.O.S.
 Dear Mother - 26. 1-45
 Here goes for a few lines again
 Last your letter of the 15th, and
 was certainly glad to hear Neil
 is back in Canada. I guess he'll
 be home by now.
 Now going on a quest, after some
 for the winter. In the 1-45
 See the night there, one place
 I'd like to go yet in to Paris.
 You going there my next nine
 day leave if we're still on
 the continent, there's a rumor
 going around that we're going
 sailing to England pretty soon.
 I hope we can see some of the
 dead or country we all
 life there. Holland, I say, didn't
 get nothing here. I all
 the girls are scared to
 go out with Canadian
 now in some part of the
 the people don't like it,
 and threaten to shoot
 them down off like they
 did to girls who went
 with the Germans.
 But now the army is going
 to make us work and
 the Hollanders farmers round
 here. For the most part
 for eastern volunteers
 today to work and
 and not a man is
 so far going to detail
 winter tomorrow. We get
 there's not much work here.

I know I'll take five years
in the digger before I'll
work on any of these
lousy farms for them.

~~I know~~ If they take me
back to England I'd be
glad to help the farmers
out. but not in this
flatted country.

We'll hope everyone
is fine.

Love to all
Murray.

ARM
AIR

AIR

If anything
letter it w

MAILED
CENSO
No
1079

FROM:

(Sender's full name and address)

10/10/1941
10/10/1941



8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

26-7-45

Dear Mother—,

Here goes for a few lines again, got your letter of the 15th and was certainly glad to hear Neil is back in Canada. I guess he'll be home by now. I'm going on a seventy-two hour pass to Amsterdam on the 28th See the sights there, one place I'd like to go yet is to Paris, I'm going there my next nine day leave if we're still on the continent, there's a rumor going around that we're moving to England pretty soon. I hope so, I never seen a deader country in all my life than Holland, They haven't got nothing here at all

The girls are scared to go out with Canadians now in some parts because the people don't like it and threaten to shave their hair off like they did to girls who went with the Germans and now the Army is going to make us work on the Hollander's farms around here. The Sgt. Major asked for sixteen volunteers today to work on farms and not a man volunteered so he's going to detail sixteen tomorrow. I'll bet there's not much more work done. I know I'll take five years in the digger before I'll work on any of there [sic] lousy farms for them.

If they take us back to England I'd be glad to help the farmers out but not in this blasted country.

Well hope everyone is fine.

Love to all Murray.

8th Co. 1st Regt.
C. 2d Div. 11th Corps
C. 2d S.

7-8-45.

Dear Mother,

Received your letter today and was
certainly glad to hear from you again.
I'm glad to hear that finally made it
home and is in fair shape. All the
"Greetings and all the best old top."

We're having a pretty dead time here
now, absolutely nothing to do, will
go completely stiffy if we stay here
much longer. The people here are
pretty old fashioned, the women wear
long black dresses and white starched
on their heads, and the preacher
in church tells them its wrong to
go to shows or dances, they go to
church about four times each
Sunday. They're pretty poor people
about two centuries behind times
I'd say. ~~Of course~~ course I'm not talking
about all of Holland, there's just
the odd town like this one, but
fall when we were in South-
Doverland it was the same way.

day to see the finals in the Coln Army
Sports North Div. made the highest
score, and I'm sorry to say poor old second
Div. came last with three points.
Criteria ~~for~~ for now, send the all
P.S. I could store use some
page.

If anything is enclosed in this
letter it will be sent by ordinary
mail.

FROM:
(Sender's Reg't No., Rank and
Name only).

#103301

11/11/11

11/11/11

11/11/11

This Armed Forces Air
Letter cannot be accepted for
registration.

Post here

CPG 11-1-11-11

This letter must be posted in
Armed Forces Postal stamp
If posted in a Civil Post Office
or other box, it will not be
given air transmission.

AIR MAIL

ARMED FORCES AIR LETTER

TO:

11/11/11

11/11/11

11/11/11

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11/11/11

and postcard customers.
I was in amateurism one at 72 years
It's a pretty fair team, but rather
with black marks. I got some pre-
war postcards I'll send later.
I was in 72 in Winnipeg, also the other



8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

7-8-45

Dear Mother—,

Received your letter today and was certainly glad to hear from you again, I'm glad to hear Neil finally made it home and is in fair shape. "Greetings and all the best old top."

We are having a pretty dead time here now, absolutely nothing to do, I'll go completely daffy if we stay here much longer. The people here are pretty old fashioned, the women wear long black dresses and white do-dads on their heads, and the preacher in Church tells them it's wrong to go to shows or dances. They go to church about four times each Sunday. They're pretty queer people about two centuries behind times I'd say. Of course I'm not talking about all Holland, there's just the odd town like this one. Last fall when we were in South Beverland it was the same way. Old fashioned customs.

I was in Amsterdam on the 72-hour pass It's a pretty fair town, but rotten with black market. I got some pre-war postcards I'll send later. I was in Nizmegen also the other day to see the finals in the Canadian Army Sports. Forth [sp] Div. made

the highest score, and I'm sorry to say poor old Second Div. came last with three points.

Cheerio for now, love to all Murray.

P.S. I could sure use some fags.

Dear Murray,

Oak Lake, Aug. 9, 1945

It has been a nice day again. Gwen Scott and the girl from the egg grading station, Muriel Armstrong, rode out on bikes this afternoon. Jean and Gwen and Neil were home and they all seemed to have quite a lot of fun and then as Jean had to go to Stanton with the girls' softball team they all decided to go along. They left here Neil and Gwen Scott riding the bikes and the other three in the buggy behind old Sparky. I expect they would be in time to get a ride in the truck. I have'n't heard anything from them yet. Bert Fuller was taking the truck load out. We've been wondering how your boys are making out about working on the Dutch farms. Daddy says if they would just bring you home there is lots of work on Canadian farms needing to be done. But I suppose there is not much between them and starvation. A big elevator at Port Arthur exploded the other day and blew up two million bushels of wheat. What do you think of this Atomic bomb they are using against the Japs? If they can harness that power for peace it should mean marvelous things for the world. Daddy is swatting flies. They seem to come in at night. I think I'll go back and see if the chimney upstairs is closed. They must be getting in somewhere. There is quite a storm going around just now. Neil is fine. He had a bilious spell one night but looks fine again now. He washed his uniform today. I have an idea it will be a bigger job pressing it but he says he has done it lots of times so I suppose he knows. Did we ever tell you that Jean passed her Grade XI all right? She intends to go back for Grade XII this next year. She had her seventeenth birthday the day before yesterday, the 7th. Daddy and Danny have been putting hay in the loft. Some crested wheat grass they sowed

The girls won their game alright last night 16-11
 They beat Varden a few days ago too 13-12 so they
 beginning to feel pretty good. Mom.



102614
 H
 Mrs. J. B. McQuarrie, M. A.
 C. Squadron 11 Troop
 8th Can. Recce. Regt.,
 Can. Army Overseas.

The enclosed is restricted
 to the sender only

Mrs. J. B. McQuarrie
 Oak Lake
 Manitoba
 Canada.

CANADA

AIR LETTER
 PAR AVION

last year up on this north field. Uncle John was out
 yesterday afternoon with Emery's engine working on
 some couch across the ravine. Uncle Al was able
 to get up a little but the other day he stayed up a little
 longer than usual and had another attack so for the
 present he is back in bed. It is discouraging for
 him. Did I ever thank you for the little photo you
 sent, - after you had been to Scotland? We all like it very
 much. It is really good I think. Well laddie, I hope you
 are well anyway. We sent you a parcel on Monday
 and will order more cigs this week end. Some of them
 should be getting through soon. It is 11.30 so I guess
 I had better go to bed. I am so sleepy these days
 at the best of it. Good night laddie. Truly Mother.

Oak Lake, Aug. 9, 1945

Dear Murray.--

It has been a nice day again. Gwen Scott and the girl from the egg grading station, Muriel Armstrong, wrote out on bikes this afternoon. Jean and Gwen and Neil were home and they all seem to have quite a lot of fun and then as Jean had to go to Kenton with the girls softball team they all decided to go along. They left here, Neil and Gwen Scott riding the bikes and the other three in the buggy behind Old Sparky. I expect they would be in time to get a ride in the truck. I haven't heard anything from them yet. Bert Fuller was taking the truckload out. We've been wondering how you boys are making out about working on those Dutch farms. Daddy says if they would just bring you home there is lots of work on Canadian Farms needing to be done. But I suppose there is not much between them and starvation. Big elevation at Port Arthur exploded the other day and blew up two million bushels of wheat. What do you think of this atomic bomb they are using against the Japs? If they can harness that power for peace it should mean marvelous things for the world. Daddy is swatting flies. They seem to come in at night. I think I'll go and see if the chimney upstairs is closed. They must be getting in somewhere. There is quite a storm going around just now. Neil is fine. He had a bilious spell one night but looks fine again now. He washed his uniform today. I have an idea it will be a bigger job pressing it but he says he has done it lots of times so I suppose he knows. Did we ever tell you that Jean passed her Grade XI all right? She intends to go back for Grade XII this next year. She had her 17th birthday the day before yesterday, the 7th. Daddy and Danny have been putting hay in the loft. Some crested wheatgrass they sowed [sp] last year up on the north field. Uncle John was out yesterday afternoon with Emery's and John working on some couch

across the ravine. Uncle Ad was able to get up a little but the other day he stayed up a little longer than usual on had another attack so for the present he is back in bed. It is discouraging for him. Did I ever thank you for the little photo you sent, after you had been to Scotland? We all like it very much. It is really good I think. Well laddie, I hope you are well anyway. We sent you a parcel on Monday. and we'll order more cigs this weekend. Some of them should be getting through soon. It is 11:30 so I guess I had better go to bed. I am so sleepy these days at the best of it. Good night laddie. Lovingly Mother.

Fri. Morning

The girls won their game all right last night 16-11. They beat Verdin a few days ago too 13-12 so they are beginning to feel pretty good. Mom.

Lottery. 45.

Dear Folks,

Just a few lines again
I just got back from Brussels
yesterday, had quite a
nice time, but I've only
got 1st left in my paybook
now, I don't ~~what~~ know
what I'll do for money
when I get another England
leave, I'm due for one
next month sometime
I think.

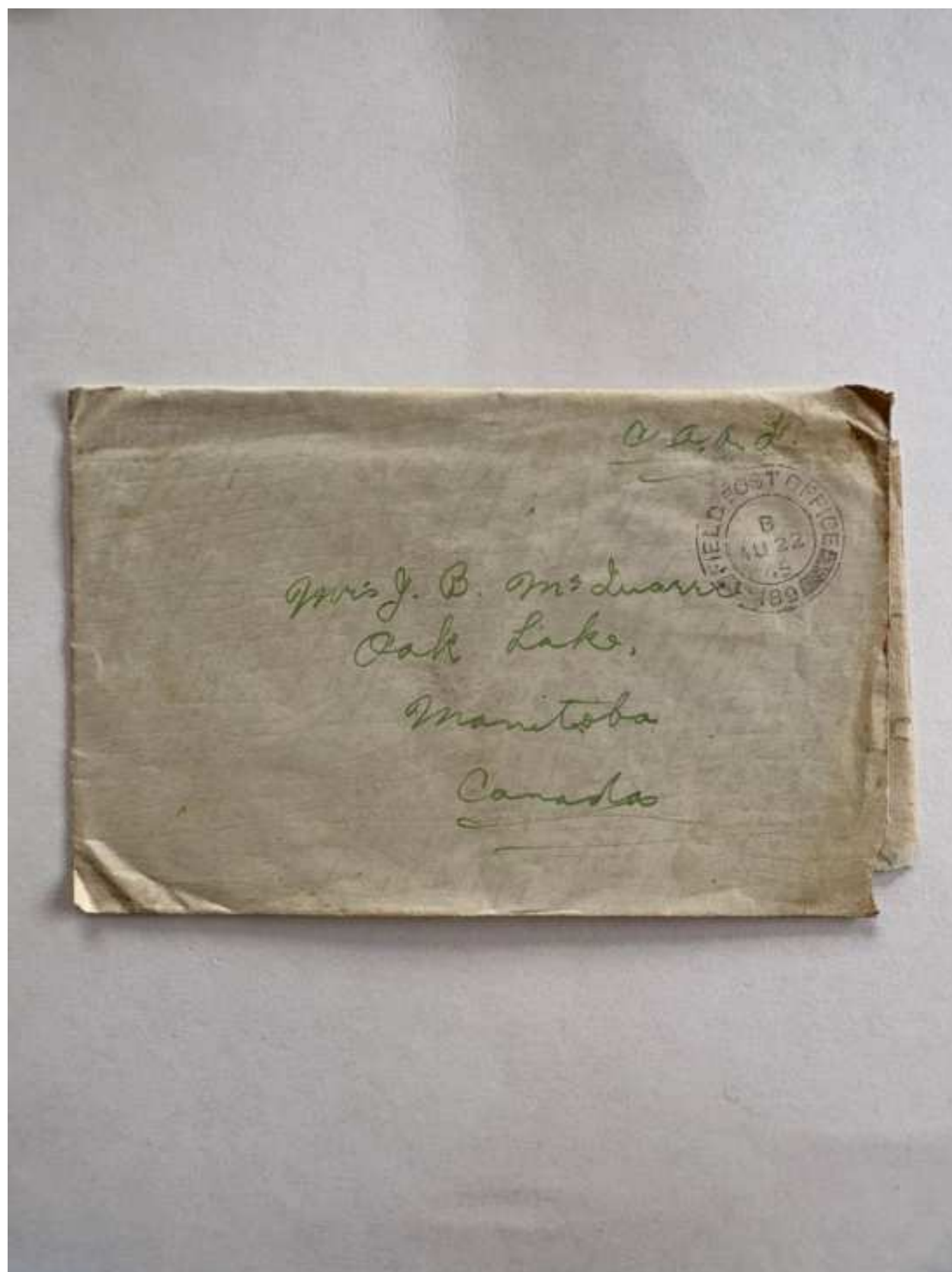
I guess Uncle ad. is in pretty
bad shape eh? Well I
guess Ard will be able
to get his discharge
pretty easy. I suppose Neil
will be getting his pretty
soon will he? or is he

going to ~~make~~ stay in the
 army for good. (like me)
 I think I'm in it for good,
 at least for another year
 anyway, I probably won't
 get home from here
~~for~~ till next ~~spring~~
 by the looks of things.

I can't understand why
 I'm not getting any cigarette
 Every letter ~~you~~ I get you
 say you've sent some more
 but I haven't got any for
 about two months now.

Well there's nothing more
 to write about, hope
 everyone one is well
 and happy

Cheris for now
 Love to all
 every



Wm J. B. McQuinn
Oak Lake,
Manitoba
Canada

20 Aug 45.

Dear Folks—,

Just a few lines again I just got back from Brussels yesterday, had quite a nice time, but I've only got 1 £ left in my pay book now, I don't know what I'll do for money when I get another England leave, I'm due for one next month sometime I think.

I guess Uncle Ad [?] is in pretty bad shape eh? Well I guess Ord will be able to get his discharge pretty easy. I suppose Neil will be getting his pretty soon will he? or is he going to stay in the Army for good. (like me.) I think I'm in it for good, at least for another year anyway, I probably won't get home from here till next Spring, by the looks of things,

I can't understand why I'm not getting any cigarettes Every letter I get you say you sent some more but I haven't got any for about 2 months now.

Well there's nothing more to write about, Hope everyone is well and happy

Cheerio for now

Love to all Murray.

8th Cdn. Recce. Bty.

@ Ldln 113 regt

C.A.S. 5.

29 Aug. 45.

Dear Haldes-

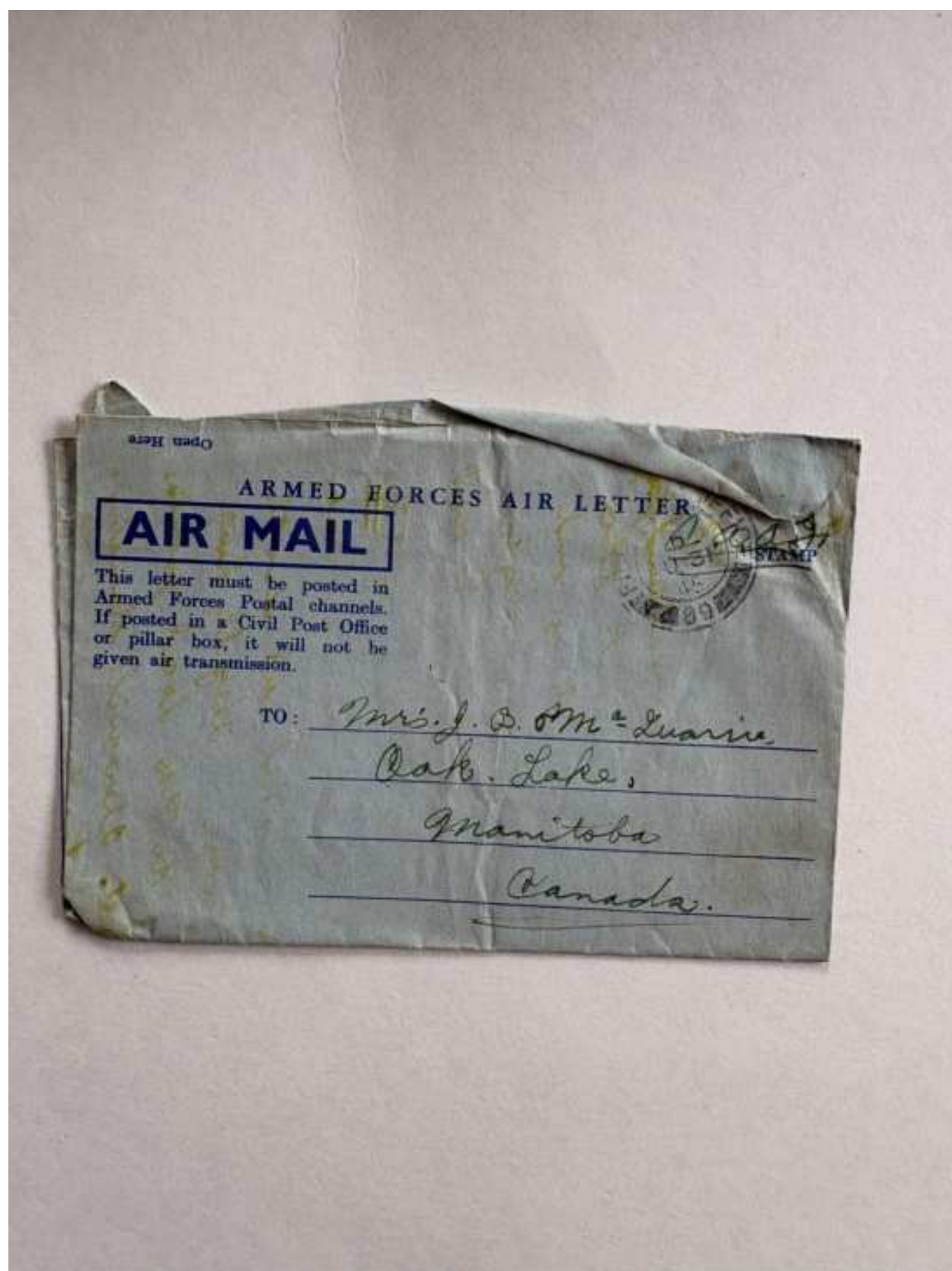
Just a few lines again, I'm happy
to say I finally got 300 pags your dear
mother. I hope the rest come pretty soon.
The package I got today was sent Aug 28

It's a great time for the ~~Holland~~ people
these days, they celebrate their
queen's birthday on the 31st Aug. and
they've been busy the last few days
decorating the towns for the event.
Now Aldershot here both sides of the
street are lined with Xmas trees,
and every house is decked out with
wreaths and flowers. They'll have
a great time according to the local papers,
on the night of the 31st. There will be dancing
and singing in the streets and everything
and anything goes. Personally I don't see
much sense in it all myself but I guess
they get a kick out of it.

Well hope everyone is well and happy

Cheers for now

Love Murray



8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

29 Aug 45

Dear Folks—,

Just a few lines again. I'm happy to say I finally got 300 fags you sent Mother. I hope the rest of them come pretty soon. The package I got today was sent August 8th

It's a great time for the Holland people these days. They celebrate their Queen's birthday on the 31st August and they've been busy the last few days decorating the towns for the event.

In Olderbrook here both sides of the street are lined with Xmas trees and every house is decked out with wreaths and flowers. They'll have a great time according to the local yokels on the night of the 31st. There will be dancing and singing on the streets and everything and anything goes. personally I don't see much sense in it all myself but I guess they get a kick out of it.

Well hope everyone is well and happy

Cheerio for now
Love Murray.

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN T.M.C.A.
OVERSEASTHE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES8th Cdn. Recce Bgt.
a 8th Cdn. 11 Troop.

C.A.O.S. 10 Sept. 1945.

Dear Mother,

Just a few lines again
How are you all doing I
haven't heard from you
for quite awhile now.

We have moved to a
new camp now close to
Amesfort. It's a pretty fair
~~place~~ ^{camp} & German airforce
officer's used to live in it.

I'll be leaving this Bgt.
on the 17th I'll probably be
posted to a Bgt. from Manitoba
or else held at the Depot.
Depot in Nymegen till a draft
~~you~~ ^{home} of Manitoba guys
go home and come home with
them. I can't go home

4/71 OA 119

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.

CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.
OVERSEAS

THE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

with the 8th Recce. Regt. because
they are from Saskatchewan
and I have to go home
with a outfit from my
own province.

I hope I get some of those
sig's you sent before the 17th
or I'm afraid they'll never
catch up to me when I move.
Well I suppose your well on
with the harvest at home
there now eh? are the
crops pretty good this year?
Hope to hear from you soon.

Cheerio. Love to all

Murray

4/71 CIA 126

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES



8th Cdn. Recce. Regt.
C Sqdn. 11 troop
C.A.O.S.

10th Sept.1945

Dear Mother—,

Just a few lines again. How are you all doing? I haven't heard from you for quite a while now.

We have moved to a new camp now close to Amesfort. It's a pretty fair camp. German Air Force Officers used to live in it. I'll be leaving this Rgt. on the 17th I'll probably be posted to a Rgt. from Manitoba or else held at the Repat Depot in Nymejin till a draft of Manitoba guys go home and come home with them. I can't go home with the 8 Recce Rgt. because they are from Saskatchewan and I have to go home with an outfit from my own Province.

I hope I get some of those cigs you sent before the 17th or I'm afraid they'll never catch up to me when I move.

Well I suppose your well on with the Harvest at home there now eh? Are the crops pretty good this year? Hope to hear from you soon

Cheerio. Love to all

Murray

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES Inc.

CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.
OVERSEAS

THE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

472-C.D., M.D. 10.
C.A.O.S.

18th Sept 45

Dear Mother -,

Just a line to let you know that I'm finally started on the way home, I'm at the depot at Nymingen now. We'll be starting for England in a couple of day's, In England we get ten days leave and the officer says we'll probably be waiting there for 6 weeks or 2 months before we sail for Canada. But at least it's a start anyway,

I've been having quite a bit of trouble with

471 CFA 170

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES

CANADIAN LEGION
WAR SERVICES INC.

CANADIAN
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
WAR SERVICES

ON ACTIVE SERVICE

CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.
OVERSEAS

THE SALVATION ARMY
CANADIAN
WAR SERVICES

my wisdom teeth lately
my jaw was so swelled
up I could hardly open my
mouth, if it goes down
enough I'm going to have
them out when I get
in England.

We'll hope everyone is
fine, I'll write again
when we know a little
more.

Love to all
Murray

The address is simply
472 - C.D., M.D. 10
C.A.O.S.

471 C.A. 176

PLEASE WRITE ON BOTH SIDES

472-C.D, M.D. 10

C.A.O.S

18th Sept 45

Dear Mother—,

Just a line to let you know that I'm finally started on the way home, I'm at the Depot at Nymigin now

We'll be starting for England in a couple days,

In England we get ten days leave and the Officer says we'll probably be waiting there for 6 weeks or 2 months before we sail for Canada but at least it's a start anyway,

I've been having quite a bit of trouble with my wisdom teeth lately My jaw was so swelled up I could hardly open my mug, if it goes down enough I'm going to have them out when I get in England.

We'll hope everyone is fine, I'll write again when we know a little more.

Love to all

Murray

{The address is simply 472-C. D, M.D. 10 C.A.O.S}

C. D. 472. M.P. 10.

Cdr. Army England

7th Dec. 45.

Dear Mother -

Just a few lines again
got a letter from
you yesterday and
was certainly glad
to hear from you
again. also got 300

~~sent~~ ~~to~~ ~~you~~ ~~from~~
you which I was mighty
glad to see, believe me
Neil and Jack are
discharged already.

Well I think I'll be
pretty lucky to get
home by xmas after
all, we just got back
from our ten days
leave, and there is

certainly no hope of being
shipped to Canada right
away so we'll probly
go on another haul
in a few days. What
a life. Probly when
I do get back to Canada
I won't be able to get
discharged for a year
or so anyway I haven't
got enough points.

Well cheerio for now
Love to all

Murray

C. D, 472. M.D. 10
Cdn Army England

7th Oct. 45

Dear Mother—,

Just a few lines again got a letter from you yesterday and was certainly glad to hear from you again. also got 300 cigs from you which I was mighty glad to see, believe me.

Neil and Jack are discharged already eh? Well I think I'll be pretty lucky to get home by Xmas after all. We just got back from our 10 days leave, and there's certainly no hope of being shipped to Canada right away so we'll probably go on another leave in a few days. What a life. Probably when I do get back to Canada I won't be able to get discharged for a year or so anyway I haven't got enough points.

Well Cheerio for now

Love to all

Murray

Oak Lake, Oct 14,
1945.

Dear Murray -

I've got a rather poor light just at present. Hoping it will improve soon I let this headlin lamp blaze up and everything about it is black. It is clearing off gradually. We haven't had any letter from you for awhile now, but I am not surprised at that. You will be busy making the most of your leave in England, and I sure hope you are enjoying every bit of it. Neil has been having a time lately. Charlie and he have been duck and goose hunting with a coyote thrown in for good measure. He was home today for some clean clothes. He is to help Mr Scott cut some wood in the morning and then will be home again. He is to take the bus here tomorrow night for Wpg. Just going home to be interviewed about getting into the Frontier and Globe Guardian. Edna is going over this afternoon to get ready to help him fix a place. They have just got home now. Henry is away to bed. He is feeling kind of tough with a cold in his head. We have all had a kind of flu. I am supposed to go to Brandon Tuesday morning to get the rest of my teeth out, so I suppose I'll be toothless when you get home. We have not heard from Peggy since she went back to Brandon, but I expect there will be a letter tomorrow. Sam and Daddy were over at Uncle Ed's all week threshing. It is done now though and Ed was going to Wpg today to get his discharge. He was supposed to have gone last week with Gene. Jack Dean is still in Deer Lodge Hospital waiting to have his operation. He had a cold but it was

Oak Lake, Oct 14, 1945.

Dear Murray.--

I've got a rather poor light just at present. Hoping it will improve soon. I let this Aladdin lamp blaze up and everything about it is black. It is clearing off gradually. We haven't had any letter from you for a while now, but I am not surprised at that. You will be busy making the most of your leave in England, and I sure hope you are enjoying every bit of it. Neil has been having a time lately. Charlie Scott and he have been duck and goose hunting with a coyote thrown in for good measure. He was home today for some clean clothes. He is to help Mr Scott cut some wood in the morning and then he'll be home again. He is to take the bus here tomorrow night for Wpg. [Winnipeg] – Just going down to be interviewed about getting into the Forestry and Game Guardian business. Joe Parks came over this afternoon to get Daddy to help him fix a plough. They have just got home now. Danny is away to bed. He is feeling kind of tough, with a cold in his head. We have all had a kind of flu. I'm supposed to go to Brandon Tuesday morning to get the rest of my teeth out, so I suppose I'll be toothless when you get home. We haven't heard from Peggy since she went back to Brandon but I expect there will be a letter tomorrow. Danny and Daddy were over to Uncle Ad's all week threshing. It is done now though and Ord was going to Wpg. today to get his discharge. He was supposed to have gone last week with Gavin Jack Dean is still in Deer Lodge Hospital waiting to have his operation. He had a cold but it was Almost better so I suppose they will be operate soon now. he has been down there almost 3 weeks I guess. Neil brought seven nice Mallards home the other day and last night he sent two more ducks and a goose, so we are doing pretty well Uncle Rob's are expecting George home this month. maybe you and he will make it about the same time. it seems marvelous to think

that you will soon be coming. I hope you aren't seasick. there is a provincial election tomorrow so I guess we'll have to go and vote. Daddy has a lot of things waiting to be done he says. Haystacks to fence and the hen house to roof among them. is there any you sending you any more cigs?

Good night laddie, Lovingly Mother.

Dorothy is walking fine now, outside too. She sure does like to get out and can toddle off to the barn now. Did we tell you that Danny and Neil shot a wolf here one morning?

18th Oct. 45

Dear Polker,

Here goes for the last letter
I write before I see you all again
(18th) on the 19th sailing.

The ship on the Queen's line so
they tell us anyway. I am well
certainly be disappointed bunch
if guess if something happens.

I got 300 fags from you
today and 200 from Gervase
Holmes and I must be off.

With there nothing more to write
about that I can think of
in the time at short and sweet.

Cherish Love to all

observing

18th Oct 45

Dear Folks,

Here goes for the last letter I write before I see you all again (I hope) Our draft is sailing on the 22nd on the Queen Lise [?] so they tell us anyway, There will certainly be disappointed bunch of guys if something happens

I got \$300 fags from you today and 300 from Gwen Lots now I won't need them

Well there's nothing more to write about that I can think of.

So this time it's short and sweet.

Cheerio Love to all

Murray