Rev. Appleyard's Diary

Excerpts from the personal wartime diary of H/Captain the Rev. Harold Appleyard about his collecting of shards of stained glass for the WWII Memorial Windows of Christ Church, Meaford.



Christ Church, Meaford

34 Boucher St. E | Meaford, Ontario, Canada



H/Capt the Rev. Harold Appleyard

The Reverend Harold F. Appleyard was the rector of Christ Church, Meaford from 1938 until 1949, but he was given a leave of absence from 1941 until 1945 to serve as chaplain to the Royal Regiment of Canada during the Second World War.

Whenever circumstances made it possible while he was overseas, he kept a daily record of his activities. That diary shows, often in sparce detail, his wartime passion for collecting shards of stained glass from war-damaged churches so that the memorial windows could be installed in Christ Church in memory of young men from Meaford who lost their lives in the war. Most of the pieces were collected in England where his regiment was stationed waiting to be a part of the D-Day invasion.

In the interest of privacy for Captain Appleyard (*later promoted to H/Major)*, who could never have imagined a public interest in his private personal notes, this document records his exact written words only for those days when he mentioned his collecting. Some utterly irrelevant background material has been deleted, but other parts have been left here to give the background of his circumstances. Those references as well as any to the very supportive English architect and historian, Mr. Sherren, are highlighted in red. Some of the pieces in the windows were collected for him by the man known to us only as Mr. Sherren.

- David Appleyard
  Son of the Rev. Harold Appleyard, 2026

Note: Harold Appleyard would later be elected a suffragan bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Huron, taking the title Bishop of Georgian Bay, and later still serve as the Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Armed Forces.

1943

Feb 7 Sun

Today I got in for a while on my first scheme over here. An imaginary landing of 400 paratroops took place 2 miles west of camp & our men had to engage them. I spent the morning with them which was the safest place for, according to the program the Officers Mess & Command Post were destroyed by a bomb. I came in at noon to go with Stan McConnell along with a truckload of his men to Winchester. I travelled in a Jeep & was it cold! We had an hour or so in the Cathedral. Joined in the Litany service. Had a talk with Mr. Adams & asked re possibility of getting some glass. He offered me some wood as well as hope of getting glass. For later he referred me to the Dean whom I wrote after my return home. Later we went on to the Winchester School. We went through the War Memorial, Chapel, Dining Room & Library. Then had to return. It was a beautiful afternoon though cold for Jeep riding. The country is lovely. There are large fields under cultivation that looked more like Canada than anything else I have seen.

Feb 10 Wed

Morning in office. 2 Int. Afternoon. Decided at last to go to Chichester. Left Borden at 1:10 and arrived in Chichester at 3:10. Walked up to the Cathedral. There is a huge elaborate Market Cross built in 15 something by one of the Bishops. The Cath. is only 100 yards south. It is very good Norman architecture. Most of it was built from 1075 on for 100 years. But there are later additions. It has a lovely spire & an odd Belfry which is a huge square tower standing at the road about 75 feet from the Church. The Cath is not large ... [and] has a single type of arch. Throughout wh. helps. It is attractive tho' the windows are rather gawdy. They had the flags of the united nations on the chancel steps. The cathedral has many irregular lines. The Cloisters are like a sagging square. There had been no bomb damage in Chich. Only a few broken windows, from gun blast[s]. While there the sirens went and shortly I started back to the station. When about 200 yds away from the Cath. a bomb fell about 200 yds behind me.

Windows were blown out of all the stores for 2-300 yds around. I returned to the Cath. & found 3 west windows blown in. I was given some glass from the debris. The bomb was not a large one but started quite a fire. 4 people were killed. Another bomb in the town hit a school & killed a few. The return journey (about 30 miles) took 6 hours due to a bomb having landed by the track & having destroyed one line. Arriving back at the camp about 11:30 I found that a bomber had strafed the camp about the same time as Chich. Was hit. No casualties in camp. It was a double celebration of the 10th Feb. – my baptism of fire.

Wed Feb 24

Ch. Conference in a.m. Took train to Salisbury in the afternoon & had 4 hours there. It was a beautiful sunny day. The lawn about the cathedral as covered with English daisies. The Cath. inside looked rather bare. The best of the stained glass had been replaced for the duration with plain glass. Many memorials were removed & fire equipment lying around didn't help ap- pearances. The chapter was occupied by beds for the use of evacuees. There was a new wartime verger who had made a good study of the Cath. & historical background & he was excellent – very human & didn't want atip. He gave me a small cross made from oak taken from the steeple King beam after it had been struck by lightning. He also promised to send me a larger cross which might be useful in a chapel back home later on. The Cathedral has suffered no damage so far. The cloisters are lovely & spacious. The lawn in the centre embraces two old cedars of Lebanon planted about 100 years ago.

In the evening we had a grand feed of Noodle Soup – Chicken –Xmas cake & Postum celebrating .....'s [?] presence in the camp for a few days. It was a memorable meal.

Mar 18 Thurs

Another bacon & egg breakfast. I brought 4 eggs away with me. (Got them safely back too). My first stop was Manchester, which was badly hit. The Cathedral is pathetic. The choir and north transept are all gone. Also the south side. The walls are filled in with some plaster-board & services go on in the Nave. I was present for noon day service. 1:25-1:50. About 20 were present. The service was very vitally real. All original glass was blown out but the verger secured me 2 nice pieces. I admire their courage in carrying on. For 3 months following the blitz they had services in a nearby church but resumed about Easter. (Damage was in December '40)

I went on to Liverpool and reached the Cathedral at about 1 minute to closing time. I was in for a few minutes. Windows are only slightly damaged, but the lady chapel windows are spoiled. The church outside is bomb scarred but nothing serious to the structure. Inside all furniture has been removed & it looks very bare. I met Canon Selby who promised to try to get me some glass. Returning downtown I passed St Luke's Church – entirely gutted. I went in and went around the ruins [picking up whatever I] wanted & I gathered a carton full. Then I ran into a 4SD CBVD truck which suggested an easy way to get my carton home. It was in charge of Capt. Kyle who was staying at the Officers Club in the Lime Street Station, like myself (4/6). He undertook to get the glass home for me.

At supper in the Officers Club dining room I ran into Wilf Rigney – first time in 20, years – he is Capt with some Liaison outfit in Liverpool – We had a great chat. I had an R.A.F. lad as roommate.

Mar 19 Fri

Left at 8:15 for Lichfield. Had a 2 hour stop there around noon. The Cathedral is of red stone like Liverpool, much larger than I expected. It is Eglish decorated throughout with dozens of statues & indeed all around outside are many more. This Cath. is associated with Bishop Selwyn who went from this bishopric to N.Z. Lichfield is a homey little town which seems to have no main street but a host of narrow ones with old red brick buildings everywhere. Had a nice dinner at 1:00 & left at 1:50 for Coventry. Here I had about an hour & a half which I used to good advantage. I walked to the main business section of the town & visited 3 churches. The town was terribly damaged. The centre section is probably 60% destroyed. Christ Church is gutted. I walked around & picked up a bit of glass. The Cathedral which was larger than I anticipated has beenbeautiful but is a shambles. May be sound enough for rebuilding. The tower is surmounted by a tall spire & looks sound. The windows are all empty. But an old caretaker broke a few bits of glass out of the stone for ames for me. Trinity Chursh (14th Cent.) stands amidst the desolation undamaged except for some windows. The Verger offered me glass in response to my request and led me to a large pile which had been gathered up. I asked if it might be available for me to use & he thought it would. So we phoned the Accountant Warden, Mr. Simpson, who seemed pleased at my request & is going to try to have it given to me. There would be enough for my whole window in Meaford Church so I have great hopes.

I decided to stop at Watford for the night as it would be difficult to get rooms in London but the hotels there were all full as I decided to come right on to Borden, which I did, having had a very enjoyable & profitable leave.

Mar 21 Sun

10:30 Garrison Theatre service. H.C. at 11:00. 10 present. In afternoon accompanied McConnell (padre) to Portsmouth. It was a lovely day & an enjoyable trip. Portsmouth has been hit hard in the down-town section. By chance we stumbled upon the Cathedral which is uninjured though surrounded by damaged buildings. This was an old parish church which was taken over to be a cathedral in 1927. It is most strange. The old church has become the choir, and a crossing-transept & a temporarily short nave added. The crossing arch is a terrific affair but it will be very effective. The choir is delightful with a perfectly charming altar arrangement.

It was cold driving home. We visited a burnt out church St Stephans & with luck secured a little glass. All Saints too was temporarily abandoned. It is rather shattered but may be rebuilt. Got some glass there too. We also visited St Mary's, Portsea, a fine big church. McConnell came for supper & spent the evening. Heard Churchill broadcast at 9:00.

April 13 Tues

Went along with Clem to Winchester (accompanied by Lt. Nichols). It was a beautiful sunny day which I enjoyed greatly. Went through W. School & the Cathedral. (Up the tower etc.) Was talking to Mr. Adams & received 3 pieces of old glass (over 300 years old) the origin of which he wouldn't tell but which undoubtedly came from the Cathedral. We all went to the Church of St Cross & went through the place thoroughly. Had free ale. I had the cup Ed. VII used when he called as Pr. of Wales. Home for supper & had a confirmation class. Rec'd 2 parcels – a good one from Muriel & also a good one from Aunt Amy.

April 15 Thurs

Cdn Army Chaplains Meeting in London. Caught the 7:25 train along with Clem & was in London by 9:15. It has been a beautiful day clear & bright & warm. We walked up to St Peter's Church just off the East End of Piccadilly stopping off at SPCK for a few minutes en route. It was great meeting so many of the other Chaplains--About 140 were there. St Peters is an old rather dirty crowded church but with a beauty about it. The Primate led a quiet hour, speaking on "Teach us to pray", a very fine address. Then we went to the Legion Club off Euston Rd. Canon Judd spoke here on the Church and the Post War World. Dinner at 1:30 -- The Room was beautifully decorated & we had an excellent meal (pork chops etc.) 2/6. Followed a short talk by Col Blakeney, Senior Chaplain of American Forces in European Zone. Group photograph. Denominational gathering followed. Clem & I walked down to Trafalgar Square & East to St Paul's. The city seemed strange, almost deserted & bright like mid-day. I got some glass from the caretaker of St Paul's Churchyard. Came on home.



H/Capt the Rev. Harold Appleyard

May 2 Sun

Had a trip to Brighton & Lewes today. I had to see a lad in Lewes prison so I had a duty warrant for the trip. Arrived at Brighton about 10:30 & went to church at St Peters. It was very high & not particularly enjoyable. The church is very large perpendicular. I walked on down to the waterfront – had lunch at the Y.M.C.A. The waterfront has a lot of the usual features – all closed up of course. The beach is all gravel & I can't understand people flocking to it. The Channel was calm as could be & it was easy to imagine it was Lake Erie. I was surprised by how little bomb damage there is – very little. I only saw one church damaged & it was all shot, Central Baptist Church, from wh. I got a piece of glass. On to Lewes which is a lovely old town with a Norman Castle dominating it. I didn't have time to investigate it but hope to again. I stopped to see St Ann's Church which goes back to 1150 – 1200 . The S. South has a very old stone roof. The font is Saxon wicker pattern. The processional cross is Abyssinian 1r4th Cent'y brought back by some English officer in 1868. Here lived an anchoritess in a cell against the church in the 12th century. She was buried there & her bones eventually discovered when the present vestry was built. There used to be stocks in front of the church but they are gone now.

Along the main street is an old house Tom Payne occupied about1770 for 6 years. The town library is an old 15th century house. I saw my first lad in jail & returned to the station & so home. Found a nice gathering in the Mess for tea & then wrote letters.

May 5 Wed

Attended Chaplain Conf at Aveford House. Went on afterwards on trip to Bisley where half the regiment was on a shoot. We stopped off at Bignor on the way. There are the remains of a Roman Villa. The floors are in excellent condition. Likewise an old church – Norman, of very early vintage. The road from here to Petworth I understand is very beautiful. I must try to cover it someday. Bignor is a quaint little spot, worth seeing. We went on & dined at Horsham. Then visited the Hosp. 6 men. Went on to Harley & found none there. Got a bit of glass at St Bartholemew's Church, Crawley. Eventually reached Bisley about 6:00. Spent the night in a tent.

May 12 Wed

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May 16 Sun

Went to Chichester & attended Matins at Cathedral. A beautiful day & a fairly well attended service. Afterwards I met Mrs. Southwell whose husband was A.P.C. in the Br. Army in the last war. Later he was Bp of Lewes & died 1926. She knew about my request for window glass & thought it was kept for me. Invited me to tea tomorrow. Had dinner at the Dolphin & had some Woolton pie – i.e. meatless dish – not bad but a bit cardboardy. Then took the bus to Bosham. Conductor forgot to put me off & I went as far as Ernsworth. Came back to Bosham & saw the church. A

children's service was on so I didn't go in. I would like to have seen the crypt which is considered fine. Returning to the Chichester Cath – I heard the presentation of a Concerto by a Frenchman. It was written in 1939 – presented once in France & now for its second time at Chichester. They used organ, strings and tympana. It was rather wearisome. Returned to Littlehampton & saw a show in the O's mess. I have wished a lot today to have had Muriel along. She would have made it a perfect day.

May 17 Mon

AM in office and part of PM. Several int's. Caught 3:45 to Chichester. Went to Cathedral & met Mrs. Southwell & Mr. Wilkins. The latter had my glass ready for me. Had tea with Mrs. Southwell & looked over the garden. Returned home with my glass. In evening attended a concert at the Y Hut.

May 19 Wed

Trip to Canterbury. 15 of us went on an educational trip arranged thru 2nd Division Ed'n Services in conjunction with the British.....?..... We left here at 5:59 and after changing at Brighton, Hastings & Ashford reached Canterbury at 10:07. It was a beautiful spring day – ideal for the purpose. At the Cath. we were met by a Miss Babington who knows & loves Canterbury & the Cathedral & who gave us a most interesting story of it all as we went around. Later on ...[I bought a book] from her on Canterbury which she then admitted she had written, and which she readily autographed. We were taken to the Br. Restaurant where we were given our lunch & then the men were turned free till 4:00 when we were to meet at the station. I went with 3 others to see St Martins which is the oldest church in England but doesn't look it. One unfortunate feature of wartime England is that the books on the history of churches etc. that are usually for sale near the door are no longer available so we didn't learn much about St Martins. It is undamaged except the windows which are somewhat damaged. I got some glass. Returning to the Cath. area I got more glass from St George the Martyrs. This church is absolutely destroyed except the walls. Much of Canterbury is demolished. The Cath.

is undamaged except the library which was demolished by a bomb. It is marvellous how much dest'n was down around St Paul's Liverpool and Cant. Cathedrals without seriously damaging them. I had a look through an old Pilgrim Hospital erected 1180 for destitute pilgrims to the shrine of Becket. Eventually it became the home for 10 brothers & 10 sisters who now occupy it – much like St Cross. "Canterbury" seems to come from "Cent-yr-brig" – (Stronghold for the people of Kent) which was the name of a fortified island in the river Stour which was here when Caesar came in 54 B.C.

May 28 Fri

A.M. various calls B office. Sp. Office. Int Pte Self. Clark. Transport office. Purdy Cooper. Back I office at 11:00 to meet Davidson. PM Went to Hove to take Chichester window to Cox and Barnards to be repaired. Then too the bus to Brighton Station. Just short of the station at the top of the hill is All Saints Church where some windows were damaged. I returned to the hilltop to see the church & was directed by a lady worker to Mr. Baldwin the Church Warden & a builder who knew about the glass. There I met the Rector, Rev Ham, who has been in Canada & whose father was Albert Ham., organist at St James Cath. Toronto. He informed me Cox & Barnard had the glass so I went back to them. There I spoke with Mr. Cox who showed me the glass & told me he would pick out a quantity for me representing various churches. This lot of glass was a real find and I hope to get some fine bits. Mr. Cox wants to do ... [it] without charge. In the evening attended a concert party in the Y Hut.

June 3 Thurs

Chaplains Conference in London. I took Ganton along to see the Legal Aid people about stopping wifes allowance. We left Chichester at 7:00 arrived London 8:33. Went to CMHQ & found Legal Aid in Trafalgar House, Lower Regent Street. Lt Munn looked after us -- & is putting the wheels in motion. Then went on to St Peters Church, Great Windmill Street where about 150 of us gathered to hear Dr Sclater, Moderator of the United Church of Canada. He gave 2 addresses. One on the necessity of a spirit of unity in Canada – in church & in state – and a second on Eph. 3:16 "to be strengthened with might by His Spirit". He was very good. Then we went to the Cdn. Legion Club, Cartwright Gardens WC1 where he gave an address on the "Churches & the Post War World". This was largely a matter of scouting the possibilities of Church reunion & was very fine. Dr Sclater is like Bp Seager in appearance mannerisms & voice. But rather more practical. I would consider him an outstanding Church leader. We had a grand lunch etc. At a denominational meeting afterwards we decided to hold another C of E get-together in 2 weeks time.

I left at 4:00 to go call on Mr. Sherren. He was out but his partner Mrs. Hook was there & had me in for tea. I hope to get some good bits of glass from them & did get some from St Paul's & from St Giles, Cripplegate. I met Ken at 7:00 & we went to the Middle Temple & got a bit of clear glass from there. Caught the 9:18 home – were met by a truck at the station & was home to the damp & the mud by 12:00.

June 18 Fri

Spent the morning quietly at Geoff's. In fact, I didn't wake until 9:10. Went down to CMHQ & met Mr. Sherren at London Bridge Station at 1:00. We had a most interesting afternoon together going around to various old Wren churches. 1st Swithins completely gutted. Only 3 of the City Churches are gone beyond repair, out of 51. Several others are gutted but the walls are sound. (2) St Mary Abchurch. Badly damaged but not beyond recovery. Services go on in a tiny chapel. In front of the church they have found the floor & foundations of the old medieval church &

under the present church access has been found to underground rooms containing about 4000 coffins whose presence was unknown before. Some are lead & others wood. I saw them through an opening in the church floor. They will be more thoroughly investigated after the war. (3) St.....?..... (4) St Lawrence Jewry. So called because there were 2 St Lawrences. This one was near the Jew district of the city. Here work is going on the tower. This church was very famous for its carved woodwork. It is all gone but the church will be replaced. (5) St Giles Cripplegate, more of a Tudor type architecture. Has tall square tower with the top 20' of brick. It lost its top in the Great Fire & in the post-fire rebuilding stone was scarce so the top was built of brick. There's a lot of damaged glass in the church which I hope to get some of some day.

This church stood just outside the old Cripple gate of the city. So called because near the gate was a hospital where cripples used to receive forcible treatment for their ailments. Part of the old Roman city wall are to be seen near here & 2 bastions. Some of this wall was built into the walls of more recent buildings & has been discovered thru the shattering of the more recent buildings. St Augustine stands immediately east of St Paul's. (7) St Nicholas Cob Alley stands alone a bit to the south. This church is connected with the Bowes-Lyon family & the Queen has expressed a wish that it should be the first rebuilt after the war.

No towers were destroyed in the bombing of the city & amidst all the devastation these numerous towers stand sentinel over the debris that crashed around them. Had supper at Mrs. Hook's. Then went out to Geoff's for a visit & a further bit of food. I had an invitation to spend the night at St Paul's & returned there about 11:00. On the way in from Tooting Broadway by underground I saw many women going to bed in the underground bedsteads.

Apparently these beds are still used regularly. How the people sleep with the noise & draft of the trains I don't know.

I reached the Cathedral at 11:00 & was taken to the Crypt & given a tin hat and overhauls. Met some of the men. There are about 20-25 there

every night. Some are assigned to the Cath. for Fire Guard duty. Others go regularly for the sake of helping to guard the place. This was Mr. Sherren's 492 night. I met a Mr. Sullivan – Sec. Royal Inst. Br. Architects & Mr. Hobson – Vice- Pres Royal Academy. Alistair McDonald is usually

there Fri. nights but was absent this time. After introductions Mr. Sherren took me on a tour of the bldg. It was quite eerie prowling about it in the darkness with only 2 torches to light our way.

We covered the Crypt – Nave, Choir, Whispering Gallery & then went out to the Stone Gallery & around the roof of the Nave. The twin turrets at the front are huge when one stands under them. The cathedral is immense – cost in modern figures would be $35,000,000 paid for by custom duty on imported coal. Wren took 37 years completing it – during which time he also worked on dozens of others. We then went thru the roof. Dozens of tubs of water are placed at strategic spots. In the early days of the war in the scramble for tubs they took anything that would hold water – a couple of bath-tubs looked incongruous. Down in the Crypt the night passed quickly. I wrote Muriel, played darts & had a shave. About 6:00 a.m. we climbed to the top of the dome – about 750 steps. The view is extensive out over the hills of Kent & Surrey. Unfortunately it was a bit misty & the sun didn't come out. The height is about 350' & distances seem greatly reduced so one sees a lot of area from one single vantage point.

June 22 Tues

Went to Cardiff with Mrs. Sullivan & Peggy. Visited Museum again. Then out to Llandoff Cath. – a beautiful Cath. under a hill. Cleaned out by a landmine that landed in the churchyard. Services are being held in the Lady Chapel. Secured a bit of glass & a piece of carved teak wood from the choir stalls. Went on to Ivor Morgans for tea. Back by train to Risca & had another walk over the hills with Haldane.

June 24 Thurs

Peggy & I were planning to see St David's today – but by reason of a misinformation about the bus, we missed it and couldn't make the necessary connections. So headed eastward to Swansea. Swansea has suffered badly in the blitz – about 1/2 miles square is flat. I got a bit of glass from the Church of the Holy Trinity. We went out to Mumbles – about 5 miles around the shore to the west – a very pretty spot where we had lunch overlooking the Channel. Returned to Newport & started a game of bowls. Then the Sullivans decided to go to see Haldane's brother Cyril at Blaen Avon. They live in great style, up a lovely valley with great hills surrounding them. This part of S. Wales is quite impressive.

June 26 Sat

Came on to Wells & spent an hour or so around the Cathedral. It is one of the best both exterior & interior. It is very English throughout – very clean and clear of monuments on the walls. Its old clock is unique & a marvel. The Bishop's Palace, south of the Cathedral is moated. Swans swim in the moat & ring a bell when they wish to be fed. This is a thoroughly delightful old town & worth a whole day. I rushed on to Bristol where I had a couple of hours & picked up glass at a couple of churches. Then rushed on to London & so home to find that the batman had failed to come home from his leave.

July 29 Thurs

Padres Hour Brigade at 9:00. 30 out. Stayed around a while. Went into Chichester & took train to Southampton. S. has been hard hit. Many residences are destroyed. Much of Main Street shopping district is gone. St Barnabas suffered a direct hit and was completely obliterated. At St Mary's I succeeded in contacting the curate, Rev West who was very nice – invited me to tea & promised to help me get a particularly desirable bit of glass. At 6:00 I left for Portsmouth where I had 2 hours. Portsmouth has acres & acres of absolute ruins in the central part. People are scarce in the streets in the evening due to evacuation. It was pathetic to see children playing on piles of rubble with blocks of 100% ruin around them. St. Barnabas here was completely gutted too. It seems to be an unlucky name. It has been very warm but the heat is very welcome after so much coolness.

Aug 1st Sun

Service at 9:30. No pianist and I gave a poor lead to singing. Bd H.Q.at 10:15. Went on to Chichester to the service at the Cathedral. Lowther Clark was preaching on memories evoked by the 1st of August. The service had started at 10:30 so was over at 11:30. The I crossed the street to go to St. Peter the Great's & got in during the 2nd hymn. It was a service like our own at Meaford. Following the service I met the Vicar, Godfrey Wells, & arranged to get glass. It had been put away somewhere & I am to come during the week for it. Returned to camp & had an afternoon session with Maj Mackay & Joe Carty re Padres Hour subject matter. In evening went to Petworth YMCA to chair a concert but there was no concert party & we had a rather difficult sing-song. No trouble but too much competition from the lunch counter.

Aug 2 Mon

Went into Chichester & got the glass from St Peter the Great Church – a very nice lot. Spent most of the day reading & getting my house in order. Evening called at Y tent.

Aug 7 Sat

Off to Shoreham for a wedding of a lad from 4 Bgd H.Q. Cpl Stansbury. Went to Hove first to see Cox & Barnard about stained glass but found the place closed & everyone off on holiday. Made my way slowly to Old Shoreham Church – a lovely old Norman church, the nave of which goes back to about 900. The Red Lion Inn across the way was at one time a smugglers hideout & has in its cellar the end of a large tunnel they used to use in the early days for smuggling goods into the interior. Had lunch downtown & returned in time for the wedding. The Vicar Rev Simpson is a young chap & co-operative. The bride was quite pretty & the whole ceremony quite lovely. Went to the reception for a little while. Then broke away to go see Sompting Church. The bride's father insisted on my going by his taxi which he apparently had booked for the day. Passed over what is probably one of the few toll bridges left in England. Sompting Church tower is Saxon (dates to about 960) & has Roman brick work on it. The rest of the church represents 5 different periods. The Vicar came in & had me to the Vicarage for tea. – I had a very enjoyable time with them. Returned to camp being fortunate enough to get a lift out from Chichester shortly after arriving there.

Aug 8 Sun

4th Bde H.Q. 10:15 service 48 present. Men sang *well*. After dinner went into Chichester to start off on a two-day leave. (Mon-Tues) Called on Rev Wells – caught the train to Hastings & found accommodation at the Yelton Hotel. Wandered about the town in the evening & in St Leonards. It is an uphill & downdale place & tiring to walk about but interesting. Old castle ruins crown one central hill & while the climb up was stiff there was a grand view from above. Down below a little fishing fleet nestled on the shingle. I called at St Mary Magdalenes just about the end of the service & met the Vicar, Rev Simpson who promised some glass.

Aug 9 Mon

Another little run around town & then took the bus to Winchelsea, a little old place – undamaged by bombs. Here Wesley finished his outdoor ministry. Here in the church I met a local historian who showed me around and took me to his home to get a bit of 14hth century glass that he had found around the old church. The glass in the church is all modern but it is a very old place – once under the control of the Barons of Winchelsea who apparently were merchant barons – this being one of the old ports that joined the Cinque Port Confederation. Into Rye where I spent an hour. This is a delightful *old* town with odd nooks & corners. (Esp. The mermaid). The central hill is crowned by the old parish church which has a striking clock on the N side of the tower (outside). The pendulum hangs down in the crossing about 20' below the ceiling. It is said to be the oldest clock in the country still running on its original works. Caught the train to Folkstone but made a mistake & landed back in Hastings. Reached Folkstone about 5:45. A clean town of the 19th century. Many great immense old-fashioned houses, not very interesting but obviously the summer resort of a well-to-do class. Took the bus to Dover over a very spectacular road that climbed high up the cliffs to give a grand view back over Folkstone. This drive to Dover is most lovely. Dover itself is a bit grubby. Nothing very romantic to it apart from its story. It has been knocked about a bit by shells but it is not as bad as I expected. The people don't like the

shelling because there is never any warning but it doesn't happen very often – maybe once a month or so. I climbed about the ruins of old St James Church wh. had been twice hit by shells & is absolutely wrecked. This is the old Fishermen's Church of Dover. It was replaced by new St James about 1840 but was used once a year. The court which disposed of salvage washed up on the coast used to meet here. As I left the place I met a Mr. Hancock who was 30 years with the Office of Works – repairing old historic sites etc. He took me to New St James & St Marys to get glass. There is also a St Marys on the hill east of Dover in the castle which has as its tower (church) an old Roman signal tower, still in good condition.

Took train to Canterbury & put up at the County Hotel.

Aug 10 Tues

Left for London stopping off en route for 3/4 hour to look at Rochester. The Cathedral was much finer than I anticipated. It has a lot of pleasing glass – very little damage. St Nicholas Church, 30' feet away has suffered a bit of broken glass & provided me with a bit.

Reached London at 11:00 & met Mr. Sherren at St Paul's. Had lunch & then met Geoff Stott – the three of us going on to a show "*Mission to Moscow*" at Warners Theatre Leicester Square. Visited S.P.C.K, Canada House & Legal Aid people. Saw Vincent & Raymond Massey going into Canada House. Had tea at Lyons. Went to Geoff's for a brief visit – Returned to Victoria & missed the train home, so took one to Brighton as the nearest place possible. Arrived there at 11:00 & tried to get into a hotel on the waterfront. There is a curfew law which clamps down on the waterfront at 8:30. I got by as an officer but after being turned down at 2 hotels a cop took me in tow & put me into a third one the Belvedere where I stayed the night.

Aug 11 Wed

Came on to Hove to see Cox & Barnard who have made a nice job of releading my Chichester panel. Came on home & got a lift out in an RCASC truck. This afternoon I am to go out and rejoin the unit. Found unit north of Worthing camped on the top of the downs, where a grand view for many miles along the coast was obtainable. (Pickaxe Scheme)

Aug 23 Mon

Arose at 4:20, had breakfast in the dark. Fortunately a heavy rain during the night had stopped & we were able to get away fairly comfortably. We left on foot at 6:00 & were at Chichester station just before 8:00. Entrained for Lastleigh. We all slept most of the way and woke up just in time. Then came a 3 mile march to a camp – in the pines & bracken – It is quite nice – airy & light. It is much like Temagami would be if cleaned up – but no rock. I'm doubled up with the M.O. again in a bell tent. Decided to go to Southampton in the evening – a truck was available for about 8 of us officers. We got in too late for the shows but saw the last half of a good one. Wandered around thru St Mary's to call on Rev. West who had had word from the Rector indicating I could have some glass I wanted. Going home we couldn't find the right fork out of Southampton & took 11/4 hours to go 6 miles to the camp. It was quite cold in the back of the truck & we were all well chilled. There was a great display of searchlights & several times they picked up English planes which looked like moths in the beams of light.

Aug 24 Tues

Accompanied B Co'y to area in Southampton devoted to street clearing exercises. Several blocks here are in complete ruin & ideal for such training. During the afternoon I crossed by ferry to call on Rev. V. West at St Mary's Church. He took the extension ladder from the P. Hall & helped me get glass from some of the windows. Another church on the E. side of the River, "Jesus Chapel", provided a bit more. After supper visited around the camp. Int. with C.O.

Sept 3 Fri

Today we complete 4 years of war & enter the fifth. It seems a long time but as we must be at least 2/3 thru, that's something. Had an interview with Minnie. Visited Brigade. Held service to mark Day of Prayer. Around camp for an hour or two – then decided to take bus to Southampton. Ran into Capt Morgan John there & had tea with him. Went on to St Mary's Rectory & met Canon Jolly & family. His wife is a 1st cousin of Ash Trumper. Went to the Day of Prayer service & had a second tea at the Rectory. Was given the glass I wanted & then came home. Had a couple of interviews & attended a show "*Yankee Doodle Rhythm*", or some such name, rather clever. Today the Canadians & English began the invasion of Italy & buoyed up our hopes of action.

Sept 23 Thurs

After a rather chilly night arrived in Dublin at 5:30. No hotels were open so spent an hour writing in the Station. After breakfast I wandered out to Phoenix Park & saw the zoo. I had hoped to get to Glendalough but again the bus connections were hopeless. Caught the 2:30 north & was in Belfast at 6:00. Put up at the Queens again. Went to visit the Lymburns at night & had a most pleasant time. Was invited for dinner next day & arranged to look for glass with Helen as guide in the afternoon.

Sept 24 Fri

Shopped in the a.m. Found linen very expensive & hard to get. Table linen is not made any more & has 100% tax on it. I got one cloth 2x2 ½ at £4.00 & a table set at 22/0. Had a visit with the Tom Carrolls & dinner (grand) at Lymburns. The afternoon quest for glass was not fruitful. Belfast has been rather hardly hit but not lately & is well tidied up now. Took the evening train to Dublin – staying the night at the Rothsay, Eden Quay – quite a decent spot & very reasonable.

Sept 26 Sun

A lazy day – Didn't get up till 11:00. Had a late breakfast – then too much dinner which later caused trouble in the night. However it was good. Again had a Sunday PM drive while Haldane did some Welfare Visiting. Packed a steel box with glass ready for shipment to Canada. The box from Cox & Barnard had arrived & is all ready for shipment to Canada, beautifully packed. Called on the Senior Sullivans and had a pleasant evening.

Oct 31 Sun

Returned to Exeter & took part in the Cath. service. Prof. Isherwood representing CMS preached well. Following the service the mayor [major?] took us about the town to see where the walls once stood. Exeter was a strong camp in early days being protected by a steep falling away of the land on all sides but the east. Gerald & I had lunch at Lyons & then visited several churches where I collected a bit of glass. We headed out to see Mrs. Brock's sister but every time we asked where her street was it was a mile further on so eventually we had to go back to the station without seeing her. The return journey was successfully accomplished & we were back in town by 11:00.

Nov 18 Thurs

Left at 9:00 for Wells. Overhearing conversation in the next compartment I learned there was an unneeded ticket there for the service. So I dodged into the next comp. & asked for it & got it. Met Rev. Briggs of Wraxall, Rev Garrad of Barrow Gurnay, & Rev. Drew, Glen Eagles, Yatton. Nice trio. I am to be Mrs. Briggs at the enthronement. Arrived at the Cath. at 11:30 & enjoyed the music & ceremony. The place is full of important people – barristers in wigs, mayors in scarlet robes & gold chains, several hundred clergy in robes. The dean & canons in red embroidered cloaks & finally the Bishop in cope & mitre. He was formerly Bish. Of Brisbane so his was only an enthronement – a simple but impressive affair. He spoke well—1st in the Choir and 2nd in the Nave. Had dinner in the Br.

Restaurant –a very good meal for 11p. Arranged with Rev Garrad to purchase a couple of spoons for the Sr. Chaplain as I had promised to do but could not due to the store not opening till 2:30. I took my departure on the 2:30 bus, reached Bristol 3:40. Picked up my baggage & headed for London. I had a 70 minute stopover at Bath & had a brief look at the city. It looks a bit grubby but has had a bad time. 400 were killed here by bombing. Bath Abbey has been beautiful – still is but has lost 60% of its glass – I was given a nice piece by the Verger.

We were quite late getting into London but I caught the 9:50 out via Clapham Jcn & was home at Denne House by midnight. Here I found a lot of mail awaiting me. – 4 letters from Mur. Choc's from Ev etc. & almost best of all – Ken had a fire going in the grate so the room was quite comfortable.

Dec 11 Sat

Conducted tour to Eton & Windsor. Left in the grey light of the early morning. The first snow of the season lay about 1/2' deep, quite cool but exhilarating. There were supposed to be 30 men but only 24 turned up.

Some of the others no doubt are on the advance party leaving tomorrow for "Frosty". Met Mr. Seivwright at L. Bridge – arrived Eton 10:30 – on the way Mr. Seivwright regaled me with accounts of experiences in the Abyssinian campaign. We went all through old Eton. The more recent additions exist far to the south. Old Eton was built about 1440. The chapel is lovely, but lost some glass when a bomb destroyed some of the first building Dec. 4/40. It lost a bit more today to me. In the big old hall each boy has his name carved on the oak panelling before leaving. 2nd generation Etonians try to get theirs near their fathers. There are many famous old names here. Shelley, Leopold (Belg.), Bowes-Lyon etc. The athletic end of things is well stressed. Each boy must take 2 hours "exercise" a day & has half a day for sports Tues, Thurs & Sat. There is no homework, but they work hard for 5, 3/4 hour periods a day. Lunch was at the Br. Restaurant at 1:00. We went to the Castle at 2:00. Saw St. George's Chapel again. Knights of the Garter recently disgraced & whose

banners were removed were the Emp. of Japan & King of Italy. Later we went on around the main block. The King & Queen were in residence but we were taken around under their windows and across the East front. Here the flower beds had all been turned into vegetable gardens. There were 2 small gardens which are tended by the Princesses. Our party was all service people. I wondered if civilians were allowed so close to the Royal Apartments. We came on to London where 15 wanted to stay over for a late train. The others went on on a 6:13 train. I walked from Waterloo up to the Strand & down Whitehall to Victoria. It wasn't dark – just gray & misty. Saw the News Theatre program at Victoria Station. 6 were missing which was annoying. Arriving home I found we are leaving for Scotland tomorrow evening. If the men are not back in good time they will be in for it.

Dec 31 Fri

AM In office an hour. 1 Int. Took Ted Carter with me to visit Jack Carter at Harley Hosp. Jack had broken his arm but seemed to be doing well. After dinner went to NETO [?] to see Chaplain Captain Rand re shipping glass to Canada. On to Bramshott to see Sgt Tait – found he had been transferred to No. 13 at Cuckland [?]. Went on to Haslemere to meet Gerald – picked him up & came on home. Dropped in on Sergeants' Dance. Spent the evening talking & retired about 2:00 after having spent a quiet time welcoming the New Year in. The party in the Mess downstairs was also quiet to my surprise.

1944

Jan 6 Thurs

Attended Chaplain Conference at Worthing. Caught the train to Bournemouth at 12:5-. Off on leave again. It's grand weather. We have had several lovely bright days – just a bit coolish & dry. If it were 20° colder & there were snow it would be like a good spell of Ontario January weather. Had a 3/4 stop-over at Southampton but didn't leave the station. Reached Bournemouth at 3:30 & proceeded to Palace Court Hotel where the Auxiliary Services had secured me a room. Bournemouth is simply a city of hotels. They are all rather attractive hotels of a substantial summer type, looking a bit down at the heel on account of war conditions & wartime occupancy. My hotel is very grand & I have a lovely room with private bath. I'm afraid I'll have to sneak out the back door or I'll be broke in the morning. Went for a walk along the beach-cliffs. The high cliffs remind me of Lake Erie by Pt Dover. It is much more attractive here than at the beach towns further east. A feature of B. is the way sidewalks & roads on many streets merge into one another and dozens of trees (pine) grow up through the middle of the sidewalk. I approached a large church thru the most peaceful cemetery I have ever seen. It turned out to be the B. Parish Church of St Peter. Bombs had fallen nearby & had blown in quite a bit of glass. The Sacristan gave me a nice bit. The Church has a unique carved oak RAF crest from N.Z. in memory of a N.Z. pilot shot down over B. in the Battle of Britain. Had supper at a snack bar to square up the hotel bill a bit & returned to my room to read. Had a bath in the small bathroom & crawled into bed to read. Was so comfortable here that I went off to sleep about 9:00 & was stirred by the housemaid coming in a few moments later to prepare the bed for my retiring.

Jan 7 Fri

Paid my bill 18/6 & 2/0 for the help & got on my way. Had to change at Temple Combe where I had a 25 minute wait. About 200 yds. away was St Mary's Church, damaged in a raid a few weeks before so I went and got some glass. Going on from Temple Combe I was in a coach with a Col. Tottenham (retired) & wife & a group of school children going to see Sherborne Abbey. On their advice I got off too & was very glad as the Abbey is very fine. It has the finest fan vault roof in England – equal to King's College, Cambridge. The stone is a warm yellow-brown & the church is entirely & beautifully painted. Met Canon Lovett of the Vicarage who promised to send glass.

Walter Raleigh used to worship in this church & built Sherborne Castle. This was his family seat. Came on to Exeter & went out to Pinhoe [?] to see Mr. and Mrs. Luke. The latter is Mrs. Ridd's sister-in-law. Had a pleasant visit & returned to Exeter to see the Redferns (Mrs. Brock's sister). Had a pleasant evening here. Two boys Andrew & Robert home too. Stayed the night & had a dream of dancing with Muriel in a big dry goods store at night.

Jan 8 Sat

Mr. Redford drove me downtown to the General Hosp. I wanted to see Miss Lilian Foster, niece of Alf Abrey. Found she was at the City Hosp. So I went there. Found she had been on night duty & had gone to bed so missed her. Then I went to St. Sidwell's Church which is wrecked & got some glass & so on to the station. Exeter is more smashed up than I realized last visit. First stop today was at Newton Abbot where I had about 50 minutes in wh. to accomplish a visit to Alf's other niece Miss Milford on Highweek Road. This was quite a rush but I made it & found her a very pleasant person. The 2 daughters Ruth & Naomi were there – a fine looking pair of girls. Learned that Mrs. Phillip's mother who was bombed out 2 years ago in Leignsmouth is still carrying on there. Came on to Plymouth & arrived here about 3 o'clock. Poor Plymouth is a city of dead building but plenty of very much alive people. Its chief characteristic as a

city is its acres & acres of rubble. St. Andrews Parish Church in the middle of the town alongside the Guild Hall is characteristic. Roofless & windowless it has been cleared & tidied. Grass grown where once were pews. Flowers (bulbs) have been put into beds along the walls – a reconstructed pulpit still serves its purpose. The altar stands in its old beauty with a canopy erected over it & here in the summer services continue to be held. Over the door is written "Resurgam" & rise it will again. All around is desolation. All the fine shops are gone. You find them occupying little shops & dwellings in other parts of the town. I walked over to the NW to Charles Church – gutted & probably not to be rebuilt. On through Mitley where comparatively little damage was done & down by the tracks to see St Augustines – a shambles – but they have cemented the floor to keep the rain out. It too will rise again. Then I went to see Mrs. A.M Pitts sister of Rev. R.C. at Meaford. She looks much like my mother & was lovely. She lives on the lower floor of a house, the upper floor of which is occupied by a Miss Hodge. I took tea with the pair in the upper flat. Had an exceedingly pleasant time & was invited to come stay overnight any time it should suit me. Should be glad to do so if the opportunity arises.

Came away from the to take a walk up on the Hoe. Night isn't the best time for sight-seeing even if there is a moon & especially if it is raining a bit. However the Hoe is quite a spot. It is a long ridge that parallels the harbour. Along it runs a paved promenade about 50 yds wide & 1/2 mile long. At one end is a great fortress affair which is the Citadel or Army Barracks. Splendid monuments line the promenade & innumerable couples shelter in the darkness. The view up here by day-light must be marvellous. Drake's spot for playing bowls was down below – nearer the waterfront. I'm staying at the Continental which seems to be full of Americans & a bit noisy.

Jan 10 Mon

Last night when I put the light out & opened the black-out curtains I saw the Cath. about 12' from my window. The bells rang every 1/4 hour but didn't keep me awake. This morning after a fine breakfast Watkins & I went over the Cath. which was build in Dec. English style about 60 years ago. I like it except for the altar screen & I think the glass is poor. Took the train at 11:00 for Penzance. This is a non-descript town with higgledy-piggledy streets & an excellent Br. Restaurant. The C. of E. Church (St Mary's) is very unusual & modernistic in its fittings -- & a bit garish. There are nice paintings available in many stores. I'm sorry not to be able to purchase a few. The bus for Land's End left at 1:15 & it was just under an hour's journey. 2/6 return. Just before reaching Land's End we went down to a lovely little cove "Sennan's [?] Cove" – a beauty spot – sandy beach between rocky headlands.

Land's End itself is really impressive. The great crags must be a couple of hundred feet high & are almost vertical. The Atlantic was fairly smooth & deep green – but threw up occasional gusts of spray. This spot is worth seeing. Cornwall as a whole is very rolling & pastoral to appearances. There are some magnificent views but of course January isn't the best month. The broom bushes are in bloom & occasional roses. Palms flourish here & look odd on station lots. I haven't seen a single thatched roof in Cornwall or Devon.

The trip over to St Ives is not to be missed (via the back road). The view of Penzance & St Michael's Mt is superb – Also the approach to St Ives. This later is a charming collection of houses built apparently in almost complete disorder. The byways run all around every house. There are no private back yards & only a few very small front yards. The town is built on a hillside overlooking a lovely bay. It is clean as can be & must be absolutely delightful in summer. It is truly an old world fishing village. Had a chat with the station agent in his office while waiting to get my train. He has a brother in Toronto. Cornwall, like Ireland, has sent her sons all over the world.

Feb 11 Fri

AM around camp. PM accompanied 20 men to Hove where they were getting a bit of experience driving trucks in water. Took advantage of the opportunity to call at Cox & Barnards. Got home about 7:00 & finally got my letters up to date. It's a great relief. Visited R.A.P. – 5.

Feb 18 Fri

Educational Tour to London with 15 men. We arrived about 11:00 & went to St Paul's where Canon Alexander met us & took us on tour. He has been Treasurer of the Cath. for about 35 years & knows all there is to know. He was responsible for the work done on the Fabric 12 years ago when the pillars were filled with liquid cement to make them stronger. This was a good tour – from Crypt to Stone Gallery. Had lunch with Mr. Sievwright, then to the Evening Standard to see the afternoon paper come off the press. This office also puts out the Daily Express & is owned by Beaverbrook. The Standard has a sale of 300,000 a day. Its presses are quite wonderful. Each one puts out 35000 copies an hour. Paper comes in rolls 5 miles long & each roll produces 12000 wartime papers. The process of switching from one roll to another without stopping the machine is quite clever.

Went from here to Stanley Gibbons – walked along the Mall to Buckingham Palace & Westminster Cath. This latter is as usual with RC churches garish - - & foreign. It is the Ch. of Rome not of England. Saw a show – Jack Benny & returned home. Picked up some glass at St. Andrews West.

Mar 10 Fri

Off to London. Called Mr. Sherren but got no answer. Later on I found his phone had been out since a bombing raid 3 weeks ago took down some necessary wiring. Since I couldn't get in touch with him I decided to go see St Alban's in the afternoon & see him later. St Albans is about an hours run north from St Pancras. The Cathedral is well worth seeing. It was begun about 1060. Has a lot of early work in it. E.g. [Edited]

Roman brick. There is a good deal of mediaeval painting on the walls. The choir comes down into the Nave. The Altar screen is like Winchester. It is all very lovely & impressive. The town too has some interesting overhanging houses. Back in London I went to a show – "*Madam Curie*", which was good & then went to St Paul's & found Mr. Sherren there. Sullivan (architect), Hobson (artist) & McDonald (son of Ramsay) were all there. We talked till 3:00. Then went to bed in the crypt.

Mar 30 Thurs

Took 30 men today to Canterbury. It was a beautiful spring day. Kent had had a night shower & looked fresh & green – hawks were frisking in the fields & the heath was beautiful. Arrived at Canterbury, we were met by Mrs. Lynch, a new Representative of the Br. Council. Arrangements were somewhat altered & we went first to St Augustine's Abbey which has been partly excavated & revealed many imp. finds. 3 early kings of Anglia & Wessex and a lot of Archbishops of Canterbury. The rest of the area is to be excavated after the war. At the moment a barrage balloon floats high above the area.

The cathedral looked very fine in the bright light, & Miss Babington kept the men well interested. None of them left the party & it was a most successful day. After the tour I went to see the Chapter Agent & then an old man Mr. Caldwell who gave me a fine bit of glass from the Cathedral. I toted it back to camp under my arm, having learned that the time to get glass is at the first opportunity. Now with our moving out Sat. a.m. it is a bit of a problem to know what to do with it. Arrived home at 8:00 & found

parcels from Miss Fuller & Bert Bright awaiting me. The former had a most delicious fruitcake & the latter 2 Doz Chocolate bars. Engaged myself packing for our move out on Exercise "Step" & got my stuff into some sort of order. Meanwhile a Mess Dinner (our last, I believe) downstairs had developed into a rather noisy party. In an effort to use up bar profits & stock, drinks were going pretty cheap.

April 12 Wed

Chaplains Conference at Hove. Dr Bingham was with us today & we had a very pleasant meeting. Had dinner after in one of the hotels. Took my Canterbury glass to Cox & Barnard who will have it done next Wed. Came home via the Hosp. to see Hudson. Back in camp made enquiries relative to a check up on the Jeep's condition. Had an interview with the Adj & RC Padre of the English Regt next door. 1 Int with George. Wrote letters all evening.

April 18 Tues

AM in camp and called at Mr. Horsey's. PM Joe Cardy called. Went to Cuckfield Hosp (No. 13) (2). Got some oranges in the Canteen. Went on to Hove – Cox & Barnard & picked up the Canterbury glass – all fixed up beautifully. It was a perfect Spring afternoon & the drive down and back was a delight. Evening. Took the glass to the Vicarage & called on Mr. Horsey for a pleasant hour. Finished packing & went to sleep in my bare room – not looking like itself but cleaner than it has been in months.

April 28 Fri

The CO decided at breakfast that I should go back to Updown House to get cigarettes for the men so Ganton & I got away at 9:30. It was a fine day & we had an enjoyable trip. At Lincoln I had about 20 minutes in the Cathedral – at Peterborough 5 minutes. Here I also met Lightbourne in the Officer's Canteen. Another stop was at Chelmsford where I looked over the Cathedral. This was a parish church until about 30 years ago. It is rather nice. It had suffered a bit of broken glass by bomb blast in April '43 & I was given a bit by the Provost. This chap is on the board of C.C.S. who have the task of appointing the Principal of Huron College. We drove on to Tillbury & crossed by ferry to Gravesend & so on to Betteshanger arriving about 8:30.

AM gave character witness for Doaust in Scunthorpe police court. He got off for a £2 fine. Had a shower. Afternoon chilly & drizzly. The chaps on the scheme aren't going to enjoy it much. Nothing much doing all day. Visited 11 A.D.S.(3) Guard Room etc. Went on cooker to H.Q. Co'y for evening meal – Gave each man a choc. bar.

May 7 Sun

Overslept this morning & was late for church service. It didn't matter much tho' as it was a Voluntary service & with C & A Co'ys moving to higher camp sites there were only 6 out – same number for H.C. Went to Winterton thinking to go to Beverley Minster for the afternoon but found I couldn't make satisfactory bus connections so waited till 3:00 & went to Lincoln. Humphrey Clifford, Sgt. Ingram & I were the party. We were in time for the 3:45

Evensong. The singing was lovely. 20 boys & 7 men. The Cathedral has its coloured glass in position & is thrilling in its beauty. We were shown the Chapter House – where Ed I – II held Parliament & where Kings John and Stephen were looked after at the time of their coronations (in Lincoln Cath.) Arranged with Canon Larkin for a party of men to visit the Cathedral during the week. Lincoln was crowded with troops & it was

difficult to get anything to eat – However we finally secured a good tea at the Rainbow Milk Bar, though it took so long to get it we missed the evening service.

9 May Tues

Into town in a.m. Did a bit of business & then caught the bus for New Holland & Ferry to Hull. Hull has been badly blitzed in them early part of the war. The centre of the town is very patchy – many buildings being destroyed & cleared away – but not whole blocks. I believe East Hull was hit rather more severely. First impressions weren't very favourable. It looked down at the heel & dingy apart from any bombing. Later I decided that it was due to the course taken by the bus to the town centre. The city really has some fine buildings. The parish Church is quite outstanding. Unfortunately I didn't get into it because I went there after closing time. Caught a bus for Beverley & visited the Minster. The exterior is like York, the interior is like Lincoln. It has some magnificent carved stonework & wood work. The choir stalls and Misericord seats (68) are 16th century, but other carving is 14th. The most amusing bit was a monkey with a dog under his arm playing on his tail as on bagpipes. The howl of the dog no doubt did for bagpipe music. The Minster was founded about the year 700 by St John of Beverley, who is buried beneath the floor. His old stone Saxon chair is still in the Minster. This is one of the sanctuaries of medieval days & many a man found safety in its hospitality.

I was able to climb the tower & traverse the space above the ceiling. Here are the usual huge beams but crooked as can be, tho' apparently especially selected for their various jobs. In the tower too is a 16' Katherine Wheel used for hoisting materials up through an opening in the tower ceiling.

I had a look at St Mary's too which had been recently redecorated – as to the ceiling. It is chiefly blue with gold stars, & a lot of red, gold & green & is rather effective.

Returning to Hull I got some glass from one of the bomb-damaged churches & so back by ferry & bus to Scunthorpe & then via water-truck to camp. Spent an hour in the camp lines.

Scunthorpe is an industrial town. The industry is chiefly iron & steel. One huge plant employing 8000 workers. The population of the town has gone up greatly in the last 5 years & a lot of the influx is of course character. The town morally is a cess pool & no good for the Reg't. A misunderstanding on the part of the troops just before last pay day re going on Field Pay resulted in the men drawing out all their money & spending it in Scunthorpe. Result – 22 AWL's the next day. I think matters are settling down somewhat.

I neglected to mention seeing the birthplace of Wilberforce 1759 in Hull.

18 May Thurs

Visited Joe Cardy at Essex Scottish. Then to Brigade to distribute cigarettes to Royals. Then accompanied by Sgt. Graham, went to have another look at York. The day was the usual mixture of rain & sunshine but on the whole was fairly good & the trip was quite a success. Arrived at York at 1:30 & went direct to Cath. The glass being replaced by plain glass gave it a rather bare appearance. But a couple of things made the cathedral more attractive than ever. The stone walls ceilings & monuments in the 2 chapels at the E. end of the two choir aisles have been cleaned. The stone is a lovely creamy colour & the result of the work is delightful. Secondly they have increased thus use of colour. One of the effigies of a long dead bishop has all been coloured as in life. The improvement this makes in the cathedral is amazing. The woodwork in the choir & especially in the sanctuary is being painted. Angels are appearing now in their proper colour instead of as ancient darkened oak. The effect is striking. They are using a good deal of gold and the choir is being livened up greatly.

We came out to find it raining but started out on a tour of the town anyway – looked in at the College and a number of Churches -- one very High Church was interesting being turned into a sort of museum. It was jammed full of all sorts of furnishings & looked like a dark old antique shop, apparently the expression of the individuality of the Vicar. The city has suffered a few hits but isn't bad. The "shambles" has been jolted a bit & the old leaning houses are shakier than ever. That street looks tough – with closed shops & boarded windows. We saw one burnt out church & another which was closed tho apparently not very badly damaged. Returned to the Cathedral for Evensong at 4:00. Being Ascension Day they had a particularly good anthem. The singing (sometimes unaccompanied) is so correctly timed it rather cuts the congregation out, one feeling that one would spoil the performance by joining in. However it was an A1 service. Saw Clifford's tower. On the return trip we had a 1 1/2 hour stopover at Doncaster. So far as we could see in a wall from the station to the far end of the town, Doncaster today is a very modern town with nothing of special interest except a park. This latter is tops. About 10 acres, it has a fine landscaped entrance which is beautiful just now & doubtless will continue so as the summer progresses. There are bowling greens – 8 tennis courts – Cricket ground etc. It's quite an ideal set-up. Arrived home about 10:30 after a successful day.

"Volunteers" – the will to see the thing thru and 2 the larger aim – the cooperating with God to win a new world. To bring in its good life which can be brought only by good men. Go all out to hit the target.

Col. Fleming & Brig. ..... spoke after lunch. It is amazing how confident these higher-ups are of a successful, early wind-up for the war. They all stress our preponderance of equipment & the completeness of our plans. They do inspire confidence in us.



One of Appleyard's countless burials

3 June Sat

Sam Decker's Funeral today. Up at 3:45 to get over to Eastry & down to Deal to catch the 5:45. Changed at Tunbridge & Guildford & Aldershot arriving Brookwood 11:00. The cemetery was very beautiful, hundreds of rhoda- dendrums in all colours being in full bloom. Went on to London afterwards & called Stotts and Mr. Sherren. My young friend David Stott has gone to Scotland because the bombing was too near & was making him nervous. Had myself polyphotoed. Came on at 3:15 & reached camp about 7:30. A long day.

> *That notation was written just three days before the D-Day invasions of June 6, 1944. Canadian troops had been stationed in England for over a year and a half awaiting th day when the conditions would be right for an invasion to drive the Nazi troops out of Western Europe.*

The D-Day attack by the Allies was the largest seaborne invasion in history. At this point there is a gap in the diary of four months during which time he moved to the continent and apparently spent time in the war-torn areas of northern France before moving on to Belgium. It is not known whether the situation did not give him the opportunity or inspiration to write, or whether some diary portions were lost amid the chaos.

1945

Although we know that Appleyard picked up several pieces of glass, there is no record of his thoughts or experiences. With well-planned determination, his regiment forced its way through France and Belgium and finally to the Netherlands, which he always thought of and referred to as Holland. He stayed with the regiment throughout those weeks, rescuing the wounded and collecting the dead from battlefields for their burials which he would conduct before writing letters of condolence to families back home in Canada. Throughout this time, he accompanied the men of his regiment, encouraging them, supporting them, and often burying them as they participated in the Allied invasion that pushed the Nazis back into Germany.

While on the continent, the padre almost abandoned his search for suitable pieces of glass and never mentioned it in any of his surviving diary notes. Those notes, when they exist, simply record the each day's activities.

The next time he referred to stained glass was on Friday March 9, the day after he embarked at Calais for a brief leave back in England. Once there, he began thinking once again of collecting glass for the memorial windows.

Fri 9 Mar

Had a grand sleep. Went out with the Stotts for lunch & then down town on bits of business in the p.m. Called on Col. Eric Jones & saw Col. Wilder & Jack Anderson. Joined the fire watch at St. Paul's again. Mr. Sherren gave me a pair of stone bookends from St Paul's Cathedral. Mr. Sullivan wanted me to speak to the men re Germany so I did & answered questions for an hour. Retired to bed in the Dome at 1:00. Back itchy – Lumbago has given way to a rash.

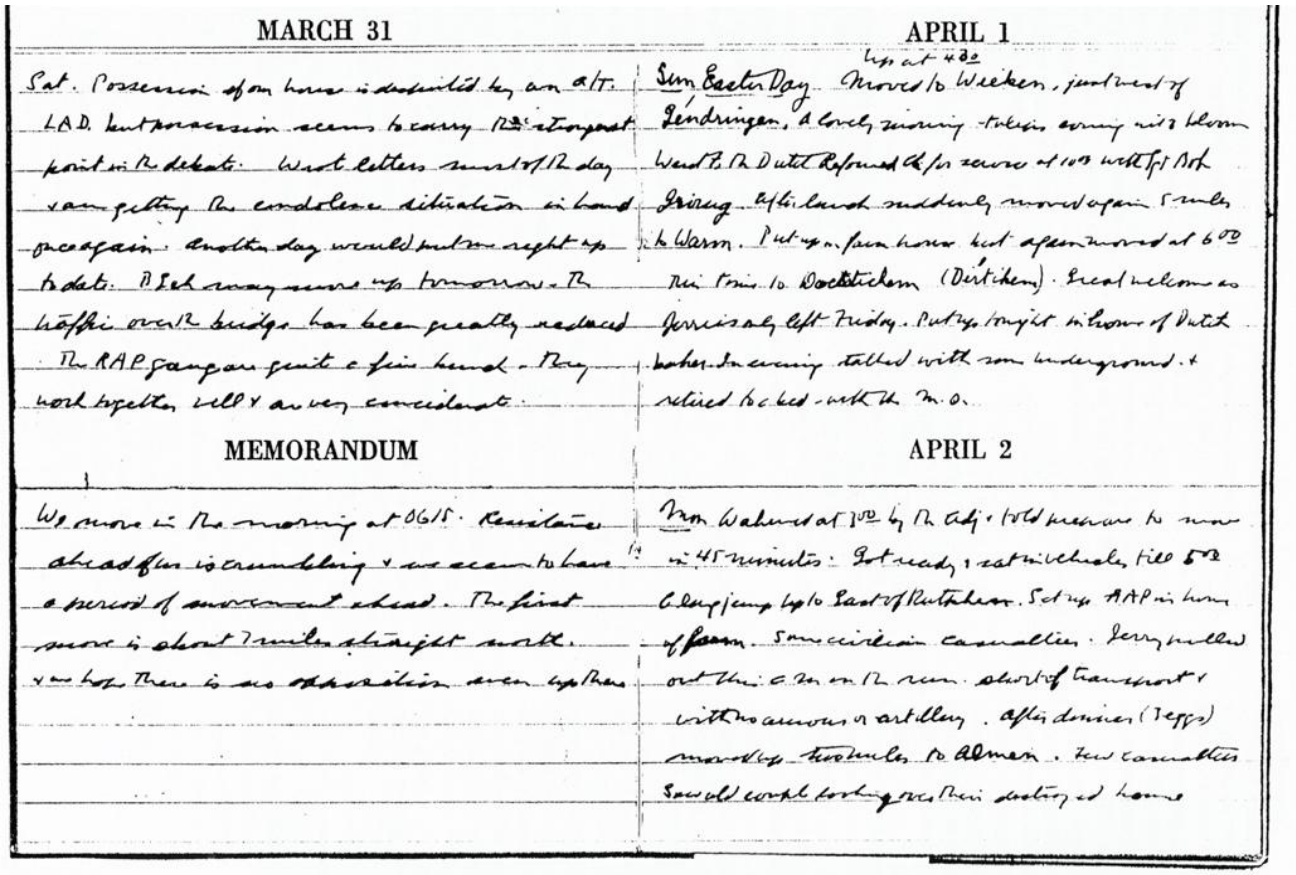
Sat 10 Mar

Breakfast with Mr. Sullivan & Wakelyn. Morning business, Army & Navy Store. Wippells. Met Mr. Sherren & Mrs. Hook for lunch. Stotts for tea & then took Mrs. Stott to see Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*. Good & funny.

Mon 12 Mar

Off at 10 for Hove to see Mr. Cox about the window. Got that arranged all right & thence to London again. Had a few hours before leaving for Newport and took in movie *Wilson*. Good flying trip to Newport & was met at the station by Haldane. Grand welcome at Risca. Leave passing most pleasantly.

> *His leave over, Appleyard returned to Calais and then on to the Netherlands for some of the fiercest warfare he had experienced. Once again, he was burying men and writing letters of condolence.*



MARCH 31

Sat. Possession of our house is described by an A/T. LAD. but possession seems to carry the strongest point in the debate. Most letters most of the day + am getting the condolence situation in hand once again. Another day would put me right up to date. Bed may move up tomorrow. The traffic over the bridge has been greatly reduced. The RAP garrison consists of five hundred. They work together well + are very considerate.

MEMORANDUM

We move in the morning at 0615. Resistance ahead of us is crumbling + we seem to have a period of movement ahead. The first move is about 7 miles straight north. + we hope there is no opposition even up there.

APRIL 1

Up at 4.30

Sun Easter Day. Moved to Wiekers, just west of Sendringen. A lovely morning + the sun coming with a bloom. Went to the Dutch Reformed Ch for service at 10.0 with 1st Bde Group. After lunch suddenly moved again 5 miles to Warm. Put up in farm house but afternoon moved at 6.00 this time to Doctstichem (Dutch). Great welcome as Germans only left Friday. Put up tonight in house of Dutch baker. In evening talked with some underground + retired to bed with the M.O.

APRIL 2

Was wakened at 1.00 by the Adj + told we were to move in 45 minutes. Got ready + set with whole Bde by 5.00 + clear of Doctstichem. Set up RAP in house of farm. Some civilian casualties. Jerry pulled out this a.m. on the run. Short of transport + with no armour or artillery. Offs drivers (Jeeps) manned by troops to advance. Few casualties. Saw old couple looking over their destroyed home.

Exact-size replica of the diary of the Twente Canal time

This scanned page from one of Appleyard's diary booklets shows the tiny, scribbled notes with which he recorded his experiences. April 2 was Easter Monday, and the Battle for the Twente Canal in Holland was underway. Later Appleyard was awarded the Military Cross in recognition of "gallant and distinguished conduct in the field." It is generally felt that the recognition was given in response to events during the Battle for the Twente Canal, April 2-5, 1945.

On March 17 he returned to Calais, France, and once again his search for glass seems to have ended for the time being. On April 10, he commented that it was 1000 days since he said "Goodbye".

On May 8, 1945, Nazi Germany unconditionally surrendered, Two days after VE Day (VE meaning "Victory in Europe"), he once again mentioned stained glass. Immediately, his life changed

dramatically, and on Monday, June 25 he was informed that he had been awarded the Military Cross. The following day he mentioned in the diary, "I feel very self-conscious & cheap but everybody has been very nice about it" He casually noticed his fortieth birthday on July 14th, 1945 and his fifteenth wedding anniversary on Sunday, September 9th. Then on Monday, September 25, he noted "3½ years in the army today! Groans!"

Thurs 10 May

The long drive home. First got some glass from St. Andrew's Ch. for my windows. Arrived home late to find unit encamped on near side of Oldenburg at village called Wardenburg. Excellent set-up. Mess Office, all one could want.

Sun 29 Jul

Service in Y Writing Room – only a handful out. After dinner spent time in office to prepare for Padre's Day tomorrow. Couple of Interviews. Evening – a movie in the Mess was a flop when the machine broke down. Received pictures of windows from Cox & Barnard. They are fine. Everybody who has seen them has been well impressed.

On Friday, November 2, Appleyard learned at breakfast that they would return across the channel to England that day. They were in Dover by noon.

Wed 7 Nov

Had a good sleep last night. Went out to Mrs. Hook's for dinner at a nearby café. Mr. Sherren couldn't join us but turned up after dinner with some oak from Christ Church St. James for me. This I took down with me down to Hove & visited the Cox & Barnard establishment. The windows look very nice though it was getting late in the afternoon when I arrived & the light was failing. I arranged for 3 windows. For the cloister – one for myself – one to include Canterbury glass left out of the other windows & one to be of Wren church glass to be provided by Mr. Sherren. Missed my train home to London but got another one & spent the night at Geoff Stott's.

Mon 12 Nov

Officers meeting at 9:00 after which I was free for the day so went up to London. Spent afternoon at the S.P.C.A. & Canada House. In the evening Mr. Sherren & Mrs. Hook joined me for supper & a show which I quite enjoyed. Missed my train home but got a late one over to Guildford—taxi to Godalming – army truck to camp.

On his final day in England, Harold Appleyard visited the grave of a soldier from Meaford, Captain Robert (Bob) Stewart, at Brookwood Cemetery. The brass collection plates now used by Christ Church, Meaford were dedicated in memory of Capt. Stewart at the same service of dedication for the memorial windows.



In front of a Meaford crowd assembled in the street at the corner of Sykes Street and Nelson Street, Appleyard received the Military Cross from Field Marshall Viscount Alexander of Tunis, the last non-Canadian to be the Governor-General of Canada. A dais was constructed in front of Meaford Hall for the occasion.