

the development of plans for construction of a new facility. A survey was conducted and the majority of the parishioners supported the building of a new church spiritually and financially. A building fund was established and an anonymous donation of \$40,000 was given to the church community for the construction of a new church.

In 1991, the Building Committee was established. Initial members included Brian Hartwig, Fred Ostermann, Fred Preun, John Preun, Albert Stangl, Ken Thiessen and Nick Verklan. Various churches were visited for ideas on different structures and floor plans. A Fundraising Committee chaired by Tina Ostermann and the Ladies Auxiliary became involved in planning activities and events to raise money for the building fund. Fundraising initiatives included various social events, a letter writing campaign, auctions, raffles, yard sales, a community cookbook plus various other activities that still continue today. A second cookbook will be published in 2000.

In 1993, the Building Committee chaired by John Preun proposed a plan for the new church. It would be 4100 square feet and would meet the needs of 200 parishioners. Meanwhile 2.7 acres of adjacent land was purchased from the Department of Highways in order to secure enough space for the building project. Father Don Pruner blessed the proposed site on April 1995 and construction of the building began with projected completion by December 1995. Planet Construction, under direction of Albert & Clarence Stangl, began laying the foundation in May 1995. This task was completed in July 1995. Mary Stangl and her family set up their camper and served refreshments, snacks, and sometimes breakfast to the volunteers.

Construction by Bob Swanson and many volunteers offering their expertise, time, and talents completed our beautiful church in December 1995. Christmas Mass was celebrated in the new church.

In 1996 Mr. Herman Wehrle Sr. gifted his adjacent house and property to the community, to be used as a church rectory. An auction of memorabilia from the old church was held in the spring and the old church was taken down gently under the direction of Fred Ostermann.

A free standing bell tower donated by the Schützenverein and housing the original bell was constructed on the grounds of the new church. In June 1996, a Liturgy of Dedication was celebrated to bless the new church.

Several priests have served our community since the construction of the new church. Father Don Pruner served until his retirement in 1996, Father Sean Cahill was interim priest until fall 1997,



New St. Andrews and St. Margarets – 1995. Little Britain Road, off #9 Hwy.

Father Ken Barclay was parish priest from fall 1997 to June 1999 and commencing July 1, 1999 we will be attached to St. Theresa's Parish, Middlechurch with Monsignor Louis McCloskey as Pastor. Sunday Liturgy will be celebrated every Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

As a result of the ongoing faith and commitment of the parish, and a strong sense of community, St. Andrew's and St. Margaret's Church continues to grow and prosper. There are approximately 75 families in the parish. There is an active Catechism program that is held on Monday evenings throughout various times of the year as well as many opportunities for those who wish to be involved in a smaller and caring church community. New parishioners are always welcome.

Information from: St. Andrews History book (1982) and Parish Council Minutes 1988-present.

St. Annes Catholic Church – Petersfield



St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, Petersfield – 1999.

St. Clement's Anglican Church "Jewel of the Red River" 1861-1999

The people of St. Clement's Church will be celebrating their 138th Anniversary in 1999. Many of the families that attended are descendants of the original parishioners who recognized the need for a church in their area. Our future will be determined by the willingness of our people to demonstrate their faith in new ways.

On our 135th anniversary a weekend of special events and services took place. On Friday, November 22, 1996 a family night for the children with a hay/sleigh-ride, bonfire, and wiener roast, hot chocolate, story telling and singsong began the festivities. On Saturday, November 23, 1996, after a hot buffet and speeches, Simpson's Folly entertained us. Our Bishop and his wife joined us. On Sunday, November 24, 1996, we held an 1861 service followed by a traditional lunch of stew and bannock with more stories from the past. In the late 1800's a school was built at Mapleton where Rev. W.A. Watkins taught school and conducted divine services. St. Clement's began when the people decided it was time to build their own church. They raised 100 pounds sterling, with an equal amount donated by the Bishop.

In 1857, Samuel Taylor noted in some detail the building of the church. He describes his building of the church in his diary – stonework, carpentry, building and plastering. He describes how "John Hudson put in the Mapleton Church windows on the 9th. "On December 1861, Sunday 1st, "The Church of St. Clement's was opened for divine worship by the Lord Bishop of Rupert's Land and Mr. Hunter. The church was full of people from up above and down below. Indeed, many had to go home as it was rather cold that evening."

In the tower of St. Clement's hangs the "John West Bell". The bell was brought over by John West, the first missionary in Red River. It was hung in the first St. John's Church in North Winnipeg. As their parish grew, a larger church was needed. Since they needed a set of three bells for their larger church, the original bell was sent to St. Clement's. Mr. Taylor recounts that in 1862 "There was a fine bell put up at St. Clement's on Saturday 15th, after dark, at night, with fire and lantern light". The bell that still rings from the belfry was the first to be heard pealing over the wilderness west of Red River.

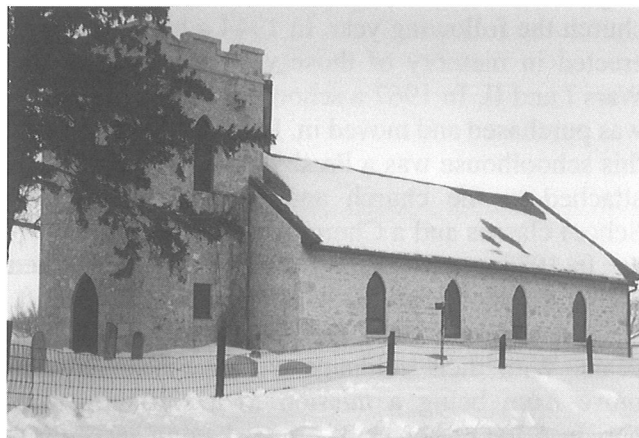
The parish of St. Clement's was established on the 18th day of June A.D. 1886 by the Deed of Incorporation. St. Clement's Cemetery was consecrated on February 12, 1876 and additional grounds on July 12, 1900. The church tower was intended to

be built to mark the Golden Jubilee of the consecration of the church. Difficulties in raising money needed to pay for the massive tower and the intervention of the First World War delayed the building. Finally, the tower was built in 1924. The Most Rev. Samuel P. Matheson, Primate of all Canada, conducted the service of consecration on July 15, 1928. Rev. Lot Swalwell was our Rector and Roderick McKenzie and J.T. Calder, the churchwardens. In 1887 the fast growing town of Selkirk north of Mapleton necessitated the building of Christ Church. The clergymen served as rectors for both St. Clement's and Christ Church. Rev. Roy Montgomery served both parishes through the depression and World War II. In 1958 the partnership between the two parishes ended. The people of St. Clement's built a rectory on River Road north of the church. Rev. Nelson Smith became our priest. In more recent years, St. Clement's enjoys a partnership with St. George's, Wakefield in Clandeboye.

Among the memorials in the church are four stained glass windows. The window over the Holy Table depicts Christ blessing the children and was donated by parents during the incumbency of Rev. C.R. Littler "In memory of children at rest" in the churchyard. The window representing our Lord carrying His cross, is a memorial to the men of the parish who died in the two World Wars. The family of Paul and Nancy Pruden 1898-1946 gave the third window portraying the Apostle Paul. In the Centenary Year 1961, Miss Alexis Taylor donated a window in memory of Samuel Taylor, builder.

St. Clement's Church was named for the historic old Church in London, England; St. Clement's Danes. It has been fittingly called "The smallest but the most serenely beautiful of all Red River Churches."

Rev. T.C.B. Boone, Vernon Railton and Rev. S. Sharman researched the dates and details in the history of St. Clement's Church.



St. Clements Anglican Church, Mapleton – 1198 River Road

St. George's Wakefield Anglican Church by Gladys Aime

St. George's Wakefield Anglican Church was built midway between the Villages of Clandeboye and Petersfield in an area referred to as Wakefield. Before the church was built the services were held in Wakefield School. Professors and students from St. Johns College occasionally led the worship.

The records of Wakefield Mission go back to the year 1895 when the first committee was set up. In 1898 a meeting was held at the home of Archie Johnstone to consider the purchasing of a building site and the building of a church. At the meeting, one month later, a motion was made to purchase the present site for \$25.00. A parish to be known as Wakefield was formed.

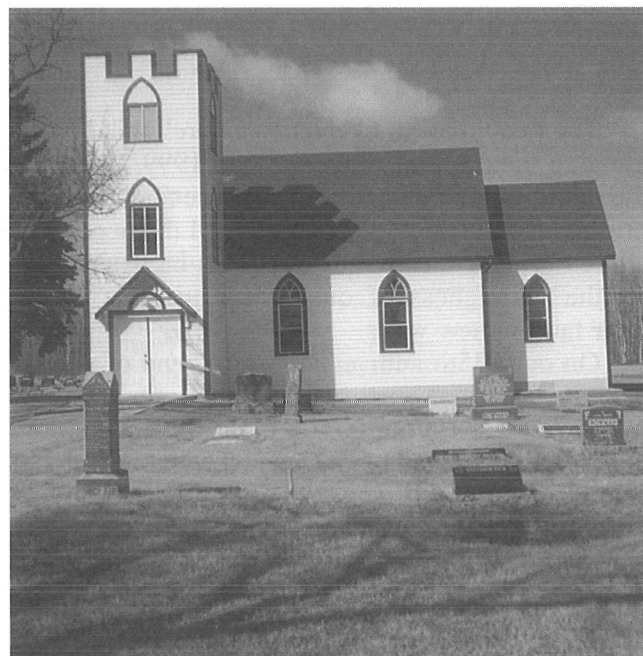
A campaign for a building fund continued until 1904. In 1903 a stone foundation was built by a stone mason. The money for this was raised by having local talent concerts. Finally, in 1904 the actual construction was started under the direction of the McKenzie brothers, Findlay, Robert, Ferdinand and Douglas. Other construction workers recorded were Joseph Kirkness, George Sutherland, Alex Johnstone, John Ross, Norman McLeod, William Phillips, Peter Sinclair, William Leask and George Smith.

A disagreement occurred over the position of the church. The priest decreed that the building would face east-west and the foundation was laid. The following year, the actual construction of the building began. The priest spent several days in Winnipeg. When he returned he found the foundation had been reassembled to face north-south and the building was going up at a fast rate. The dissension caused some workers to take their horses and go home.

The church, free of debt, was consecrated on November 6, 1904. A bell was sent out from England which was erected on a stand south of the church the following year. In 1944 a bell tower was erected in memory of those who served in World Wars I and II. In 1967 a schoolhouse from Parkdale was purchased and moved in. Prior to being a school this schoolhouse was a Presbyterian Church. It was attached to the church and is used for Sunday School classes and a Church Hall.

In 1989 extensive renovations took place when both the exterior and the interior received a facelift.

Many priests have served our parish over the years. With their guidance we have been able to move from being a mission to a self-supporting parish. A list of names of priests having served this parish are recorded in the Memorial Book.



St. George's Wakefield Anglican Church, # 9 Hwy, north of Norwood & Wavery Creek Road.

Our parish purpose is to serve God, be spiritually fed and provide guidance to the community.

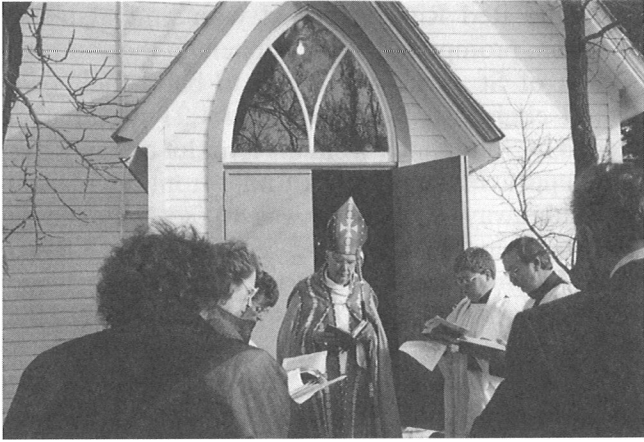
St. Matthew's Anglican Church, **Cloverdale 1980-1998** by The Rev. S.C. Sharman

St. Matthew's Anglican Church at the corner of Pigeon Bluff Road and Highway #67 continues in regular use. Services are held on the third Sunday of each month from April to December. The service in December is the Christmas service.

In the last 20 years, a number of improvements have been made to the building. First, came a new foundation, then a new roof of cedar shakes. The church was painted on the inside and outside and new siding was put on the north side. A new sidewalk was built between the parking lot and the church doors. The hard work of St. Matthew's A.C.W. and gifts from the parishioners and former parishioners made all the improvements possible.

Two very special events took place in these years. On Easter Sunday, April 16, 1995, a large congregation celebrated the church's 90th anniversary. After the service, there was a lunch and time for fellowship. On Sunday, October 20, 1996, The Right Rev. Patrick V. Lee, Bishop of Rupert's Land visited St. Matthew's and consecrated the cemetery. This was also the parish's Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

Two rectors have served St. Matthew's in these years, Rev. R.L. Brownlie (1977-1986), and Rev. S.C. Sharman (1987 to present).



At the Consecration of the Cemetery, St. Matthews Cloverdale, October 20, 1996. Bishop Patrick Lee stands in the Church doors, to his left is Rev. S.C. Sharman – Rector, and Roger Stagg – Lay Reader.

The St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Winnipeg Beach

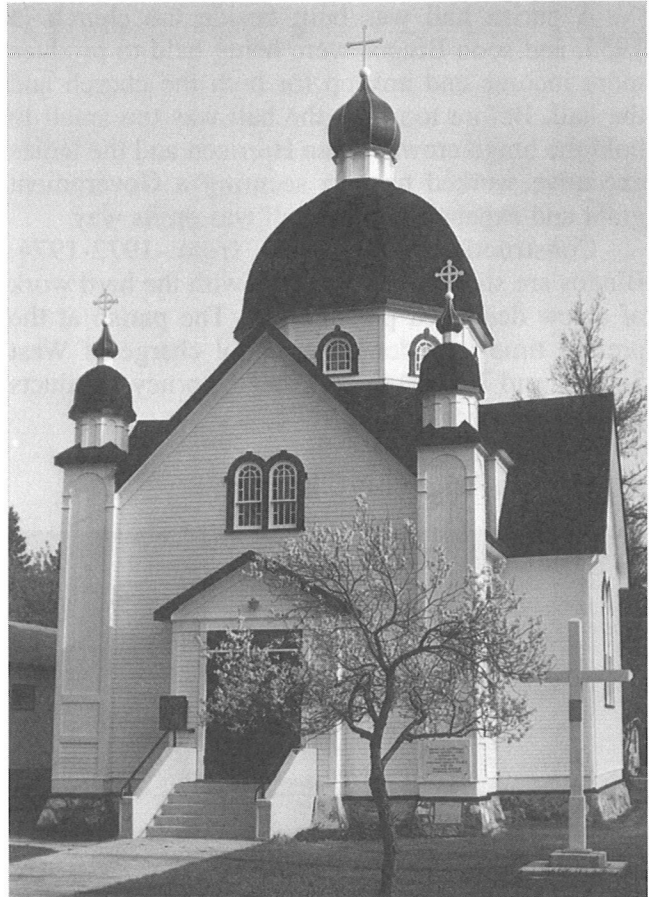
The St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church of Winnipeg Beach is located on Hazel Avenue in Winnipeg Beach. The church was constructed and furnished through the voluntary labour and monetary donations of all the parishioners. In 1936, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Rev. Dr. Vasyl Kushnir to elect a construction committee, which consisted of Carl Seyenchuk, Andrew Oleschuk, Michael Zelenitsky and Peter Marcina.

The construction of the church commenced under the foremanship of George Roga. George was paid by the parish community at the rate of 35 cents per hour. Prior to the church's construction, Divine Liturgies were being celebrated in private homes, most frequently in that of Peter Percan.

The cruciform wood-construction church was built upon a foundation and within a framework of concrete. Its gabled roof is dominated at the axis of its intersecting arms by an open dome and eight large windows. Two frontal towers are opened by smaller decorative versions of the central dome. Most of the churches built at that time were built on that pattern.

The inside walls are light coloured and behind the main altar hangs a large framed church icon of the Holy apostles, St. Peter and Paul which was painted by N. Pucenko and donated by K. Shkwarok in 1952. The front of the transversal naves is adorned by beautiful oil paintings of the Mother of God with the infant Jesus and Jesus Christ – Teacher. The family of Joseph Hawryliuk donated these.

Other Holy images upon the walls are the Stations of the Cross, which are oil painted and glass mounted.



St. Peter & St. Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Hazel Ave. Winnipeg Beach.

Many needed essentials have been purchased through the years such as carpeting, a chandelier and many more items too numerous to mention.

The parish cemetery lies upon a two-acre site purchased in 1952 from William Percan. The second acre was subsequently donated by him.

The parish Executive Church Brotherhood and Sisterhood which in 1971 began electing its own executive assumed responsibility for the church's upkeep.

The first longtime secretary, cantor, church director and author of a short written history of the parish 1936-1981 was Nicholas Ruta. At the present time there are only a couple of pioneer parishioners in our congregation, besides the 42 present members.

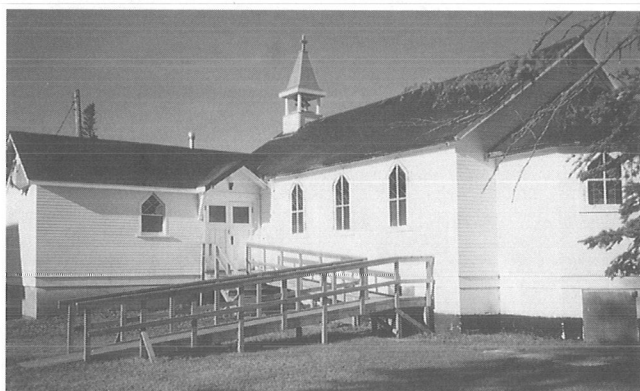
Catechism classes and religious instructions were held as long as there were enough children to attend.

Near the church stands a Mission Cross a remembrance of the Mission organized by Rev. Stephan Kulak. A bell donated by Maria Blakey, and blessed and christened Peter and Paul by Rev. Volodymyr Olach in 1950, is housed in a new belfry constructed in 1979.

A parish hall was built beside the church in 1955, and soon Bingos were being held to produce more income and upkeep for both the church and the hall. Before too long the hall was too small to hold the bingo crowds. Jean Harrison and the ladies executive worked hard in securing a Government grant and expansion of the hall was on its way.

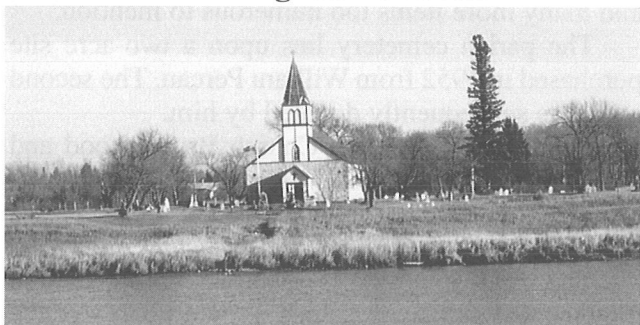
Construction took place from 1972-1974. Bingos are still held every week with the hard work of a few dedicated parishioners. The parish at the present time is under the pastoral charge of West Selkirk and Rev. Deacon Peter Chorney conducts pastoral services.

St. Peter's Anglican Church

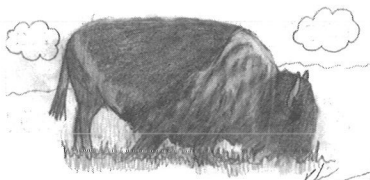


St. Peters Anglican Church, 1999, North Main Street and River Road.

Old St. Peter's Anglican Church



Old St. Peters' Anglican Church, East bank of the Red River.



GRAZING THE PAST AND PRESENT

St. Stephen's Church, Parkdale by Barbara Gessner

In the late 1870's the concentration of people

along the Red River, coupled with limited transportation, prompted the parishioners in the southern portion of St. Andrew's Parish to build their own district church. It was built on a 1.21 acre parcel deeded by John Setter from his river lot on the River Road approximately one-half mile from the present No. 9 highway. The edifice was 40 feet long and 22 feet wide, plus a chancel 14.5 feet long and 13.5 feet wide. A porch was on the west end of the church and a bracket mounted a bell on its roof. One entered the church from the south side of the porch. It is believed the wood for the church building came down river from the south. A Quebec heater was used during the winter months.



St. Stephens Church, Parkdale. Dismantled in the 1950's.

Money for completion of the church came from friends and a grant from The Venerable Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Parishioners petitioned the Bishop of Rupert's Land to dedicate and consecrate their newly built church in 1877. Those who signed the petition included John Norquay (Manitoba's first native-born premier in 1878), John Tait, James Park (family for whom Parks Creek was named), Sam Slater, William Cromartie, Charles McDonald, Cornelius Irvine, John Setter and James Setter. Many of their descendants are still associated with the Parish. The church was consecrated and named St. Stephen's on March 8, 1879 with Rev. Richard Young as Rector.

The area designated to St. Stephen's extended from Parkdale to Mr. Clare's, a distance of 1.5 miles. Services were held every Sunday and in later years every second Sunday. Baptisms, weddings and funerals were conducted from St. Stephen's with burials in St. Andrew's cemetery.

In 1921 there were 16 families or 65 individuals identified with the church. Seventeen children were enrolled in Sunday School with Mr. S. Cawson, a layreader from Selkirk, as Superintendent. In the winter months they held classes in Free Larter's



Parishioners of the St. Stephens Anglican Church, Sept. 1941 – members include Cox, Beaton and Larter families.

house. Miss Margaret Larter taught Sunday School for many years and the picnics were held either at Larter's or with St. Andrew's group. In the 1930's, students conducted most services for \$6.50 a Sunday. Midweek Lenten services were also held there with an average attendance of 30.

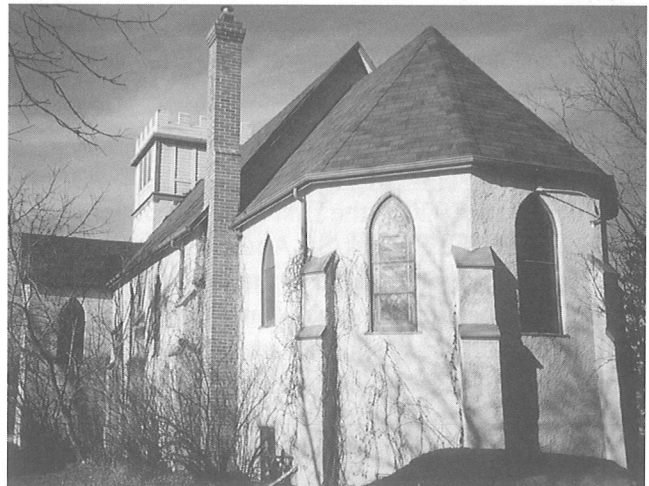
The number of families varied little over the years until the late 1940's when many of the younger members moved away and the older members died. Services were still held monthly in summer in the 1950's. Time and vandalism took their toll and in the late 1950's the little church was torn down. It is believed that the bell from the church is at St. Paul's Middlechurch.

In 1962 the Highways Department bought the church property to allow for the re-routing of the River Road and a parcel of land west of the original site belonging to Gladys Setter, was purchased in exchange. The site was rented out for a number of years as a parking lot and it too has been sold, ending another chapter in our local history.

Special thanks to Mr. Thompson, Registrar of the Diocese of Rupert's Land and Mrs. Alma Reid from Parkdale.

St. Thomas Anglican Church, Lockport by The Rev. S.C. Sharman

St. Thomas' Anglican Church at the corner of Stevens Avenue and River Road in Lockport, is a much-loved church with an active congregation and regular Sunday services. Services are held at 9:30AM each Sunday all year round.



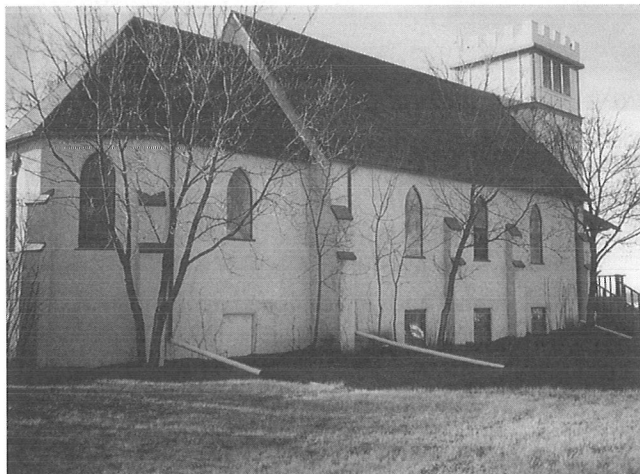
St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Stevens Ave. at River Road.

The church building has been carefully and faithfully maintained. The basement meeting room has been refurbished with new ceiling, floors, walls and paint. A washroom has been installed in the basement and ceiling fans in the sanctuary. The latest project is a new roof for the church.

The basement of St. Thomas Church serves as the parish hall for St. Andrew's Parish. Here fundraising events such as whist drives, the annual auction and Sunday school teas are held. The parish's business is conducted in the monthly Vestry meetings and the annual general meeting. Baby showers and bridal showers are held for members of the congregation. Parishioners also gather for receptions following baptisms and funerals.

The St. Thomas Anglican Church Women are a group of faithful Anglican women who raise the money needed to maintain the church. They hold whist drives, raffles and Bingo bowling for this purpose. The A.C.W. provides a Christian fellowship for the women of the congregation.

Recent incumbents of St. Thomas Church have included Rev. David Barclay (1971 to 1977), Rev. Robert Brownlie (1977 to 1986), and Rev. Stephen Sharman (1987 to present).



St. Thomas' Anglican Church north view, Stevens Ave and River Road.

Selkirk Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

In the late 1920's, the first families of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Selkirk/St. Andrews area were the Andrew Markevitch family, the Mike Wolonchuk family and the Jim Adderson family. Meetings were held mainly in private homes and rented space.

In the 1940's, one Selkirk resident who became one of Jehovah's Witnesses was Wally Olson. Eventually he was appointed to oversee the Selkirk Congregation and took the lead in bringing about Selkirk's first Kingdom Hall.

First Kingdom Hall-on Clandeboye Avenue

In 1942 a commercial building was purchased and the butcher shop was renovated into a Kingdom Hall. Old-timers remember the wood-stove at the back of the hall, and how it had to be tended all evening. In the early 1960's, the Steve Shyak family settled on Craig Avenue. Steve became the overseer and guided the next building project.

Second Kingdom Hall-on Clandeboye Avenue

From a series of standard Kingdom Hall plans from the Watchtower Society, the Selkirk Congregation selected a unique six-sided building design that well-suited their needs, since it would seat approximately 125. The lots to the West and East of their existing lot were purchased. The damaged rental property to the East was torn down, allowing just enough space to build the new hall. Members of the congregation collected granite rocks from various sites around Selkirk, under the guidance of stone mason, Steve Kobak. These stones were fashioned into the attractive two walls of the new Kingdom Hall. The old building was then torn down, becoming the new parking lot.

This building served the congregation and community well for 25 years. When the Kingdom Hall was being filled to capacity on a regular basis, it was evident that the congregation would have to expand the hall or sell their beloved building.

After the expansion option was examined and found to be impractical, a search committee was appointed to find a new lot. The only suitable lot found in Selkirk was in the new area on Manitoba Avenue just before the Bypass. An offer to the Town of Selkirk at their stated priced was declined on zoning considerations. It really seemed like nothing would be found. Then Phil Reise developed a piece of farmland just north of Calder Road into a residential development. One 1.77 acre piece backed onto Main Street and looked perfect. Happily a deal was struck and a matter of anxiety, the lot, had become a source of happiness.

Next a committee was appointed to sell the existing Kingdom Hall. In time a buyer was found, the Selkirk Friendship Centre. They needed space for their Headstart Program, including a Parenting Program and a Daycare Centre. The congregation was delighted to see their building, with a few modifications, such as adding a kitchen, continue to serve the Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements area.

Since occupancy was required by the Friendship Centre in a short time, the congregation had to find temporary quarters. The East St. Paul Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses came forward and offered to

share their Hoddinott Road Kingdom Hall without cost. It happened, though, that their hall was also for sale due to their plans to build a new Kingdom Hall. This sharing began in August 1996.

Third Kingdom Hall-12 Hawthorne Place (off Calder Road)

The Elder Body of the Selkirk Congregation then appointed a five member Building committee to guide the construction of the new hall and work with the coordinating Regional Building Committee for Manitoba which directs the construction activity and construction workers for our area. The Building Committee was composed of Dick Downing, Albert McLeod, Orest Luhowy, Ken Alexander and Chairman, Bob Bealer.

The weekends of July 11-13 and July 18-20, 1997 were chosen for the main construction work.

From the 15 or so standard plans, a suitable plan was chosen, with a seating capacity of 180. Since the building was to be in a residential area, all the options chosen were so as to blend into the area. For instance, the roof line chosen tended to make the building look more like a house yet maintain its dignity.

With the building planned for the next summer, site planners from the Regional Building committee came and helped design the lot layout. Then, that fall a contract was signed to scape, gravel, and pack the driveways, parking lot and building site. In the spring, the local congregation worked diligently evenings and weekends building concrete forms, laying in-floor conduits, plumbing lines and radiant-heat pipes. Specialist teams from the Regional Building Committee were on hand to lead and guide each phase, such as steel-tying and concrete pouring.

When the official construction date arrived, the concrete slab had been in place the required number of weeks and everything was ready. Arrangements had been made to use the Mapleton School gymnasium as a cafeteria for the workers, young and old, men and women. The Regional Building Committee had organized 250 volunteer workers to come to this "build", including some from Saskatchewan, Northern Ontario and North Dakota.

On the first day, the walls went up, the roof trusses went on and most of the roof sheeting was put in place. People travelling along Main Street commented on their surprise to see no building as they passed in the morning and a full building that evening! With careful scheduling by the Regional Building Committee, each trade arrived, completed its work and departed. Local members also laboured with the various teams for a smooth, safe, enjoyable

project. Of course, hard workers develop a great appetite and they thoroughly enjoyed the sit-down meals, the coffee and snacks brought around throughout the day and the fellowship with Witnesses from such a large area.

The work for the second weekend included laying the sod and installing an irrigation system. Sod was purchased from the Libau area. A Bobcat was borrowed, as well as a semi-trailer tractor with two flatbed trailers. Dozens of young people worked at loading sod onto pallets for hauling to the site, and laying the sod after the Bobcat unloaded the trailers. After the second weekend, the local congregation finished off a number of the remaining items. Often additional help arrived for finishing up many of the complex/computer systems.

On May 10, 1998, an Open House was extended through the newspaper for neighbours, suppliers and community residents. Then, on May 16, a dedication program was held to dedicate the property to the creator, Jehovah God. The history of the work of Jehovah's Witnesses in the area was reviewed. The keynote speaker, Terry Attick, outlined the importance of such a building in the community. It is a place to worship the creator, to learn to follow in the footsteps of his son, Jesus Christ, and a place from which to share the Good News of the Kingdom in the area.

Since then, the principal of Mapleton School, Barry Kuly, approached the elders of the Selkirk Congregation to request the use of the Kingdom Hall as emergency shelter for his school. This was readily agreed to.

Further, the East St. Paul Congregation was able to sell their hall on Hoddinott Road. As a result, that congregation, at the date of writing, is sharing the Selkirk Kingdom Hall until they build their new hall near Bird's Hill.



Selkirk Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, 12 Hawthorne Road off #9 Hwy.

Winnipeg Beach United Church



Winnipeg Beach United Church, corner of Stitt and Murray.



Children are our future. To secure that future young men such as Henry Gamache, Charles Lyons and Thorstein Hygaard joined the 108th Infantry Battalion during World War One. Barracked in the poultry sheds of Red Feather Farm, formerly located in the area of Edstan Place, Selkirk, they trained here before they were sent overseas. This garden is dedicated to their memory.

LEST WE FORGET

In Flanders Fields

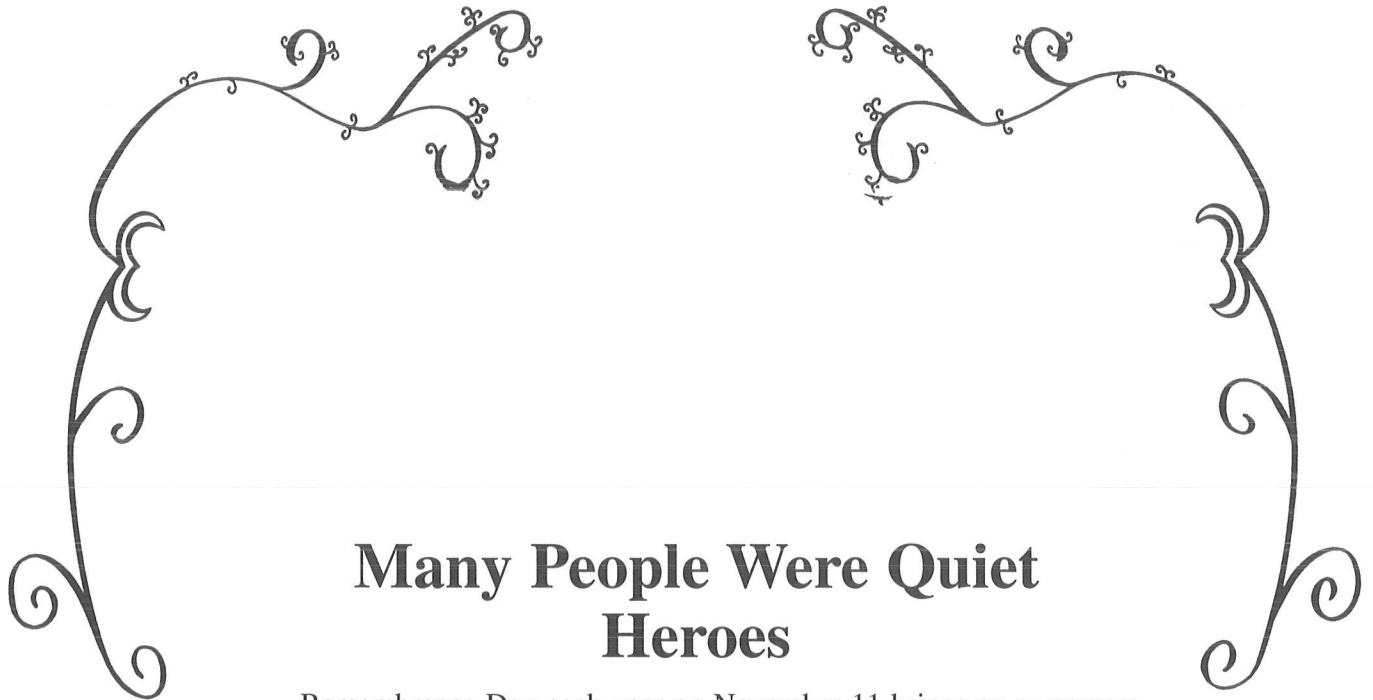
In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.

John McCrae



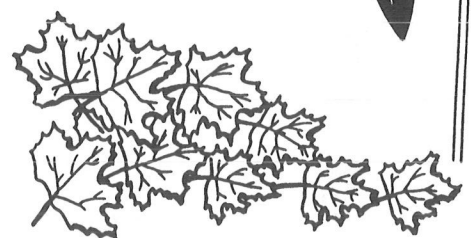
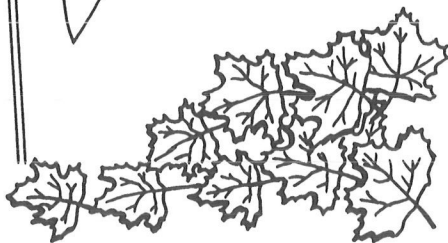
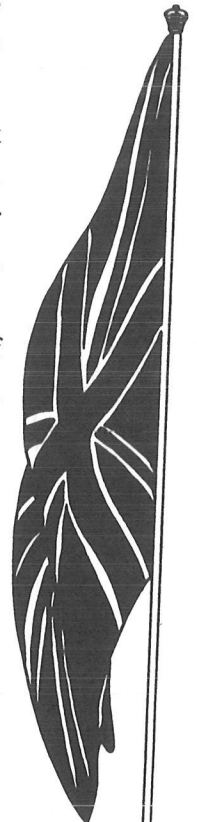
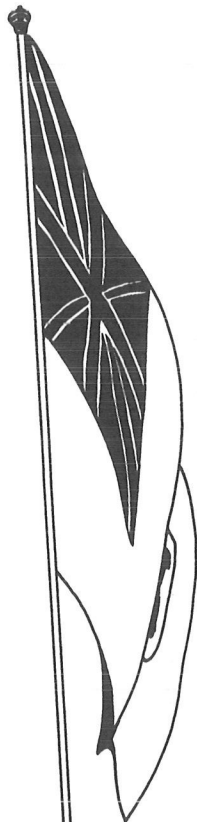


Many People Were Quiet Heroes

Remembrance Day each year on November 11 brings an awareness through all the newspapers and telecast programs of what it is like to actually fight an enemy with guns and gas, tanks, machine guns, bombs and heavy artillery.

When the veterans came home from the war they wanted to forget about the whole ordeal and get on with a new life in a safe environment. Most of them didn't want to relate their experiences to their children or grandchildren, and perhaps nobody wanted to listen until they got older, and then sometimes it was too late.

We owe our veterans an eternal debt of gratitude for their sacrifice of five or six years of their lives, and, for far to many, the supreme sacrifice, their future



**Excerpts from the diary of Guardsman
Ronald (Randle) Roy Tocholke who served
with the Canadian Grenadier Guards in
Europe.**

June 29/44 – England

The Commanding Officer spoke to the whole Regiment. The time is 0830 hours. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the delay in our move into the European Theatre of Operations. It seems that the Bridgehead is not big enough to take any more armour.

June 30/44 – July 18/44 – England

The Regiment is preparing itself for action when the call comes through. We are getting ourselves ready and physically fit by going on long route marches and playing War Games. The boys are getting a little restless. They want to cross the canal to get into Action.

July 19/44 – July 26/44 – England

This time was spent loading men and equipment on to the many ships and boats and made the crossing over to France. The Regiment was completely in Normandy on July 26.

July 29/44 – Gretheville

Today we exchanged some shelling with the enemy. We came under some heavy shell and mortar fire by the Germans.

July 30/44 – Gretheville

The Germans are resisting our attack on their positions. Shelling and mortar fire is heavy and our advance is stopped. We can only try and hold our position.

August 6/44 – Mondeville

More shooting took place near the Town of Cormelles. Targets were Tilly La Campagne and La Hogue. It was decided that our tanks needed more protection from German gun fire. The tanks are to have tracks welded to the outside. This will be done one troop at a time.

August 9/44 – Causemil

At 0330 hours we pushed off to take Bretteville-Le-Rabet and complete Phase 1 of the operation in hand. No. 1 Squadron was left in the orchard to rest. Lieutenant Grieves silenced an 88mm gun with high explosives. The town was entered by Lieutenant McKinnon whose tank was hit and brewed – he was wounded. By 1500 hours the town was cleared. Scores of enemy were killed by high explosives and machine gun fire. 60 Prisoners of War were taken. We have been ordered to push off without delay to start with Phase 2. No. 2 Squadron was the first to leave.

August 10/44 – Hill 195

By 0630 hours the Regiment had moved up

behind No. 2 Squadron. The order to move came through at 0800 hrs. One of our tanks (name Grenadier) was fired on and destroyed. At 0815 hours No. 2 Squadron moved on hill 195. In the area of St. Hilaire Farm No. 2 Squadron lost two more tanks but in return destroyed a German 5 barrelled Mortar Launcher. Another two tanks were lost when they ventured too far to the right and were hit and burned. The Germans countered with Anti-Tank guns to the right flank of St. Hilaire Farm area. The Germans set four of our tanks ablaze. The Germans mounted a counter-attack on the left flank with approximately 300 Infantry and six tanks. During the battle we lost five more tanks which were hit and set ablaze. We reinforced our position by bringing up six new tanks but two of these tanks were destroyed. We experienced a great deal of difficulty in caring for the wounded. Enemy fire became very heavy and a second counter-attack was mounted by the Germans. Our tanks shelled their positions and the attack was soon broken up – the Hill (195) was ours. Late in the morning three Robot Tanks were launched against us but they were blown up without doing any damage.

August 21/44 – Point 262 (Polish Hill)

The intention for today was to open the Polish line of communication. At 0800 hours, in pouring rain, we moved out. The road, as were all roads in the area, was lined and in places practically blocked by destroyed German vehicles of every description. Horses and men lay rotting in every ditch and hedge and the air was rank with the odour of putrefication. Most of the destruction must have been done by the Air Force but the Poles had done their share. The advance was done in two stages, first Hill 239 and second Hill 262 where the Poles were cut off. No. 1 Squadron lost three tanks in this push. They belonged to Lieutenant Hobday and Corporal Lennie, both killed, and Sergeant Walker, wounded. The enemy losses, however, were much more severe being 2 Panthers plus another probable, 1 Panzer Mark IV, 2 self propelled guns and probably 100 German infantry killed. Captain B.E. Ghewy personally got one of the Panthers, the two self propelled guns and the Mark IV. No. 1 Squadron's co-ax guns fired almost continually from leaving Point 239 until arriving at Point 262 and the results were devastating. All the Germans in the area were either killed or ran away and the line of communication was opened. The picture on Point 262 was the grimmest the Regiment has so far come up against. The Poles had had no supplies for three days. They had several hundred wounded who had not been evacuated and about 700 Prisoners of War lay loosely guarded in a field. The road was blocked with

burned out vehicles both our own and the enemy's. Unburied dead and parts of them were strewn about by the score. Before the last of the Squadrons had arrived Captain Sherwood was on the scene with his advance A Echelon bringing in supplies for the Poles and evacuating the wounded. Captain MacDonald, the medical officer, pitched in with all his resources to assist in the evacuation of the casualties. The Poles cried with joy when we arrived and from what they said it is doubtful if they will ever forget this day and the help we gave them.

August 24/44 – Bois de Maubuisson

The Echelon arrived at 0430 hours guided by Lieutenant Tomlinson. At first light No. 2 Squadron moved north to Point 195 without opposition. We received orders at 0730 hours to continue the advance. No. 2 Squadron returned to the Centre Line, the Regiment assembled and pushed off at 1245 hours. We passed through Broglie and Bernay. Everywhere the civilians were most demonstrative and joyous. At 2000 hours we harboured about one mile from the Risle River. Eighteen Prisoners of War were taken but these were Germans who had stayed behind to be taken and offered no resistance. It was with great regret that we learned of Captain B. E. Ghewy's death. The jeep in which he had been riding went over a mine. Major Hamilton who was with him was wounded in the leg and Guardsman Hamilton, the driver, was killed.

August 26/44 – Pont de L'Arche

The Regiment advanced from Crasville to Pont de L'Arche on the Seine. No. 3 Squadron led, followed by Regimental Head Quarters, No. 1 Squadron and No. 2 Squadron. For the first time since we started operations the Anti-Aircraft Troop was employed in a reconnaissance role. We harboured in woods about one mile from the Seine. There was an O Group (Officer's Meeting) at Brigade at 2115 hours. There will be no advance tomorrow but a Squadron is to give fire support for an Infantry crossing of the Seine.

August 27/44 – Pont de L'Arche

The Squadron "shoot-in" was cancelled and as a result all hands spent the day in maintenance and rest. Lieutenant Tomlinson left the fighting Echelon to get a few days rest. No shelling was experienced today – it was rather quiet. There was a Brigade O Group at 1830 hours – we cross the Seine tomorrow. Two officers came up today with some badly needed tanks. They were Lieutenant Porter and Lieutenant Milne.

August 28/44 – Freneuse

There was a Brigade O Group at 0030 hours. The Regiment moved from harbour at 0730 hours and were enroute to the bridges within a short time.

Captain Hale was in control with the commanding officer and intelligence officer rolling with the Brigade group. The crossing was uneventful but the Regiment experienced heavy mortar fire in an orchard on the other side. Captain Sherwood was wounded and five other ranks were casualties. Two of them Guardsman Linstrom and Guardsman Gage were fatal. The Regiment moved into a harbour at 1930 hours and dug in. The enemy was throwing over plenty of air bursts and mortar from the Rouen pocket.

August 29/44 – Les-Granges Masures

Brigade O Group was held at 0815 hours. 28 Canadian Armoured Regiment and 21 Canadian Armoured Regiment led off and we moved at 1420 hours to Igoville. Regimental Head Quarters and No. 1 Squadron with No. 2 Squadron remaining here while No. 3 Squadron and C company of Lake Superior Regiment proceeded to Les-Granges Masures. Patrols went out and reconnoissanced the town. We harboured here for the night.

August 30/44 – Capendu Point 156

There was no move this morning and everyone slept. The Regiment moved at 1230 hours and harboured there for the night.

August 31/44 – Buchy

The ground was six to eight inches deep in mud. We moved at 1600 hours and by-passed 28 Canadian Armoured Regiment and 21 Canadian Armoured Regiment. No opposition was encountered and we arrived in Buchy in short order where we were given another glorious welcome.

September 2/44 – Liercourt Point 97

The Regiment received instructions to reconnaissance approaches and possible crossings of the Somme River. The four bridges at Pont Remy are blown. Five men managed to cross and the people were so overjoyed they rang church bells causing Jerry to plaster it with mortar pinning our men down. They returned late that night. Heavy shelling in the morning caused two casualties in Regimental Head Quarters, Lieutenant Chevrier and Guardsman Gadal.

September 3/44 – Buigny L'Abbe

There was no move this morning so everyone slept late. The Regiment moved at 1200 hours and crossed the Somme without difficulty firming up at 1600 hours in Buigny L'Abbe. Local Free French handed over 45 Prisoners of War. The Polish Division passed through at 1700 hours.

September 4/44 – Francieres

We are on 24 hour notice. Late in the morning we moved a mile and a half to a new harbour area near Francieres. Major Smith rejoined the Regiment. He is now second in command. Captain

Greenleaf promoted to Acting Major takes over No. 2 Squadron with Major Cassils going to No. 3 Squadron.

September 5/44 – Francieres

Day spent in maintenance and refitting. It is the first time the whole Regiment has been together since the start of the campaign. The Commanding Officer attended a Division Conference. We are now in 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade and are to marry up with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. We are sorry to leave the Lake Superior Regiment. Lieutenants MacDonald, Ekers and Verner were promoted to Captains today.

September 6/44 – Setques

The Regiment moved at 1130 hours. Progress was slow and dust was very bad. We were in the rear of the Brigade column so for once it was a real "Cooks Tour". It passed through Domvast, Le Boisle, Regnaville, Hesdin, Wambercourt, Embry, Mamnghem, Bourthes, Nielles, Lumbres and harboured just passed Setques.

September 7/44 – Eykhoek

The Regiment moved at 0400 hours in the face of torrential rain. We are in reserve to the Lincoln and Welland Regiment in the vanguard. After crossing the canal at St. Omer, progress improved. There was no stopping for meals – it was a steady push. We crossed the Belgian frontier and reached Loo at 1340 hours. Here we were stopped by a blown bridge and were attempting to by-pass when we received the order to halt. After two hours orders were received to turn back. We retraced our steps about three and a half miles and harboured near Eykhoek.

September 16/44 – Bellebargie Bosch

We were on maintenance all morning. The Regiment moved at 1700 hours. Corporal Smith J. was severely burnt today starting a sand fire. There was a Brigade O Group at 2300 hours and a Commanding Officer's O Group at 2359 hours.

September 20/44 – Philippine Station

No. 3 Squadron were ordered to move about two miles north-east to a small railway station and seize and hold the ground in this area. The attack went in at 1100 hours and the objective was gained by 1200 hours. The Squadron captured 150 Prisoners of War and an ammo half-track and knocked out a new type of 88 mm anti-tank gun that had a muzzle brake and an extra long barrel. In going out to recover a damaged tank this morning Lieutenant D. J. Sherwood backed his scout car over a mine and was killed. Sergeant Harper and Corporal Ervine were wounded. At 1500 hours Major Hale was ordered to push on north-west and then swing north and east thereby seizing the two cross-roads that covered the route

to Philippine. The attack came under heavy mortar fire and was forced to halt 100 yards short of the objective. They firmed up about a mile beyond Philippine Station. The tank casualties in this attack were two Crusaders and two Shermans. Guardsman Pederson was killed and Lieutenant Birss, Guardsman Annable, Guardsman Hotchkiss and Guardsman Cannon were wounded. No. 1 Squadron moved up to the station and firmed up. No. 3 Squadron was ordered to retire and joined Regimental Head Quarters about a mile short of the station. No. 2 Squadron moved into No. 1 Squadron's position at Valk. Artillery was laid on.

October 1/44 – Drongengoed Bosch

Leaves continue to Bruges where a recreation centre has been opened up. Church parade was cancelled because of bad weather. The tank crews start to draw new winter suits which immediately become known as Zoot Suits. Military curfew, 2100 hours, is in place on all nearby towns.

October 10/44 – Roode Hand

Activity along our front continues to show a fair amount of liveliness. Our forward positions are coming under mortar fire.

October 14/44 – St. Jobin Der Goor

A school of two officers and five NCO's arrived today to instruct in gunnery, wireless and D & M. The school is mainly a mutual information set-up. Our lads give us tips on their specialities as well as receiving them.

October 20/44 – Wittehof Farm

No. 1 Squadron worked up the left flank while No. 2 Squadron cleaned out the Village Calmpthout. Late in the day resistance on both flanks softened and both forces completed Phase 1 of Stage 1 which was to reach at all costs the Roosendaal Canal. Captain Macdonald and Lieutenant Milne were wounded today.

October 28/44 – Vyfhoek

No. 2 Squadron arrived on objective at first light and were relieved by No. 1 Squadron. Later on No. 3 Squadron moved in to cover Regimental responsibility, the Bergen-Op-Zoom – Roosen Daal road. Our Commandos consisting of 20 men under Sergeant Hubert, accounting for well over 40 prisoners. Corporal Gormley was mentioned for taking 15 prisoners with an empty Bren Gun thus nullifying the threat to our rear. Guardsman Quail, one of the Commandos, was killed. Heavy mortar fire occurred throughout the night.

November 1/44 – Moerstraten

Last night the Algonquins were to put in an attack on Steenberg. It was very hard slugging with the Germans laying down heavy shell fire on the whole front. The Lake Superior Regiment under

our command had to hold the original bridgehead made by us the night before. By morning we had gained 500 yards. At 1800 hours the Regiment moved into harbour for a good night's rest.

November 7/44 – Lage Hoef

One hundred and twenty men went to Antwerp today. We were informed that we were to come under command of 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade and the Division would move into a new area north of Tilburg and then relieve the 7th Armoured Division. The grouping 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade to be Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, Canadian Grenadier Guards, Governor General's Footguards, South Alberta Regiment and the New Brunswick Rangers.

November 11/44 – Vrijhoeve Capelle

Twenty-six years ago today the German Army was laying down its arms but today the usual routine goes on. The complete change over with the 5th RTR took place and the billets are superior to our last. Our role is now a counter-attack role with 2 and 3 Squadron up, and No. 1 Squadron in reserve. The night was quiet except for five rounds of 10.5 cm shells fired on us.

November 18/44

More rain with a strong north wind is making our watch for German patrols very miserable. My clothes are damp and smell to high heaven. There is little activity to be seen on the German held side of the river. I am a very weary, and miserable, young soldier. It has been reported that some German movement has been seen during the night.

November 20/44

It is raining hard again. My slit trench is wet and muddy. When will this rain ever stop! We need, all of us, a change of clothes and a bath parade, however, this is not to be. The Germans launched some V2 rockets during the night. Their target will be either London or Antwerp. Compass readings have been taken to pin-point their location. It has been quiet night. I am wet and shivering and am sorely in need of rest.

November 22/44

After we had a hot breakfast (mobile kitchen) we rolled out (tanks) to shell individual enemy machine-gun emplacements and observation posts. We returned to Vrijhoeve-Capelle late in the afternoon. Cleaned our gun barrels and replenished our spent ammunition. All tanks were topped off with fuel.

This part of my time spent in Holland is from memory only and may not be accurate as far as dates are concerned. A part of my diary from November 2/44 through February/45 has gone missing.

Plans for a festive Christmas was upset due to

the situation in the Ardennes (The Battle of the Bulge) when the Germans broke through the American held front. On December 20 we received orders to move our tanks south to the Dutch City Breda, should we be needed in the Ardennes battle. The battle was going badly for the Americans at this time and on December 23, in a blinding snow storm, we moved over the Belgium border near Antwerp. When it became clear that the Germans had been held, we returned to the frozen polders in Holland, north of sHertogenbosch.

1945, Germany

Our Brigade's biggest battle of the war was yet to come. Plans had to be made in the next two or three days to prepare for this battle. The enemy's defence against Squadron 2 and Squadron 3 Canadian Infantry Divisions was based on a ridge running south from Calcar to east of the Town of Udem. As long as the enemy had possession, he could control the battlefield, as well as 2nd Canadian Infantry Division.

We formed up near Louesendorf under the cover of darkness during the night of the 25-26 of February. The order "move now" came somewhere near 0950 hours. The going was tough made by the greasy mud. Tanks, carriers and half-tracks bogged by the dozen. A few tanks went up on mines, and 88 mm shells took their toll. Bazookas too were active, but the advance continued. Late afternoon found us on our objective north-west of the Village of Keppelen. Anti-tank fire had been intense and tank losses were heavy. Our second phase of attack was the ridge north- west of Udem.

The ridge was as anticipated, ringed with anti-tank guns. Mud conditions became worse. By last light we were on our objective. The enemy defence line was destroyed. Twenty-five officers and 650 men were taken prisoners. Many dead lay about on the ground, with enemy as well as our own. We lost 35 tanks in the seven mile run at the ridge.

The most intense shelling by the enemy in this war was started on February 28/45 and lasted for the next three days. Our objective was the Hochwald. The ground conditions were appalling and tanks bogged before they could get into tactical positions. We were shelled with mortars, rocket projectors, 88mm guns, and super-heavy artillery from across the Rhine. The enemy tried to mount two counter-attacks but were unsuccessful on both occasions. At last, after three days of intense fighting, long promised relief arrived on March 3/45.

The next five days were only days of misery, as ground conditions deteriorated from further rain. On March 8 we were used in an artillery role to carry out predicted shoots on the Veen area. On March 9