

## Velma's Diaries - 1942

1942

DAY	MONTH	COMMENT
Thursday	January 1	Stormy but raining at night. We spent New Year's at Uncle Will's – had a nice turkey dinner. I got two parcels from Laddie – a nice tablecloth & 6 coffee spoons. Barb & I went to show in Hall. Wrote to Laddie afterwards.
Friday	January 2	Took off controls. Busy. Stormy. I went down to Grant's and showed them my presents. Played badminton. Finished Laddie's sweater. Had bath, etc. – late getting to bed.
Saturday	January 3	A lovely winter day. Busy. Elgin, Norma, Burnett & his girlfriend, Doris MacCrae, called & took me to show in Hanover- two features. We had lunch at home afterwards.
Sunday	January 4	Slept until noon. Elgin sold his car last week. Reading a swell book, "The Blind Man's House", by Hugh Walpole. Went to bed early & read.
Monday	January 5	A very cold day. Busy with report. I got a 4 <sup>th</sup> cable from Laddie. A Christmas one – 18 days in coming. Vera had a chance to start in Bank of Commerce. Went to bridge at Shirley's, nice time. Wrote to Laddie.
Tuesday	January 6	Very cold. Aunt Eva's house isn't very warm. Played badminton at night. We are out of soft water.
Wednesday	January 7	Still cold. I got Letter No.6 from Laddie. He received 3 of mine the day he wrote it. I am busy with hydro inventory. Went to library at night – dropped in at Grant's.
Thursday	January 8	Still cold. I got 3 letters from Laddie to-day, one written on boat (menu). Nos. 2 & 3 - very interesting letters. I went down to Grant's at night & talked for ages. Wrote to Laddie afterwards.
Friday	January 9	Cold & stormy. Reg McFadden is here auditing books. I got Letter No.1 from Laddie. Stayed in at night. Read good book & knit on socks – put cable up side.
Saturday	January 10	Very frosty. I got Letter No.5 from Laddie so now I haven't missed any. He sent some good snaps. Wilma was in to see me. I got a Scottish calendar that Laddie sent me from Edinburgh. Read at night.
Sunday	January 11	Not as stormy as it has been the past week. Read. I went to church at night & to Grant's afterwards. Wrote a long letter to Laddie.
Monday	January 12	Milder. Made out power bills. Elgin took me down to farm at night. Florence & Norma were up with him. We played cards – had Italian Spaghetti for lunch.
Tuesday	January 13	Mild. Balanced Waterworks books. Went to Red Cross supper, Com. meeting & played badminton afterwards.
Wednesday	January 14	Cleaned out drawers. Lorne quit school yesterday. I stayed in at night. Finished sock. Read.

Thursday	January 15	Wrote to Laddie. Had my hair done. Aunt Eva had ladies in for aft. tea. I met Mrs. Lynn Grant. Went to Bridge Club at Anna's. Got prize – cup & saucer.
Friday	January 16	Nice winter day, clear & frosty. Cleaned out cupboard. Went to library at night & got 4 books. Had bath etc.
Saturday	January 17	A lovely day – like spring. No letters this week. Went home at 5. Nadine is at our place. Mrs. Smith gave me a film & card to send to Laddie.
Sunday	January 18	Raining. I entertained Nadine. Elgin was up. I didn't go up to town at night. Read.
Monday	January 19	Very mild. I came up with Vic in morning. Norman was up to see me in aft. Phil Morgan here too. We had letter from Fowler's – they were up to see Norman Glass. Listened to Lux – wrote to Laddie.
Tuesday	January 20	Mr. Ferguson was here to-day. Thinks this will be his last trip. I went to Auxiliary at night. Walked home with Mrs. Ball – she is real nice.
Wednesday	January 21	Mild – like spring. Reg McFadden was here. I went to Bridge Club at Ethel's. Pineapple dessert & chocolate cake for lunch.
Thursday	January 22	Very mild. Still no more letters. A plebiscite of the Can. people is to be taken on the conscription issue. Aunt Eva & I called on Mrs. Teeter. Played badminton at night. Wrote to Laddie.
Friday	January 23	I got two letters to-day, Nos.10 & 11. Quite busy. Shopped after work as I am sending box to Laddie. Finished socks. Went to library – got books for Lorne.
Saturday	January 24	Very spring-like. I got four letters to-day, No.7, 8, 9, 12 – swell ones. I feel as if I am living in diff. world altogether. Got mauve Eng. handkerchief with dental crest on it. Lorne got his \$17 – Donny Pust, 8 yrs ago, stole it. Elg & Norma were up at night – stayed over night.
Sunday	January 25	Mild – beautiful day. Packed 3 <sup>rd</sup> box for Laddie – read over letters. Went to church & then to Grant's afterwards to read Edinburgh letter (dairy). I wrote to Laddie afterwards until 1:30 am – very long letter.
Monday	January 26	Mild. Making out water bills. Went to Auxiliary executive meeting at Mrs. Padfield's. Tired so went to bed early.
Tuesday	January 27	Busy. Dr. Burnett came home from Eng. to-day. Went to Red Cross. Went over to Drug Store afterwards – we talked for ages & got all het up about joining Air Force or Army. Shirley & Norman are engaged – he gave her the ring before he left for overseas.
Wednesday	January 28	A little colder. Busy. Went to Bridge Club at Berniece's, sandwiches for lunch. Sugar rationing came into effect to-day, ¾ lb. week.
Thursday	January 29	Wrote to Laddie. Hilda & I called on Mrs. Mike Wanamaker in aft. Played badminton at night. Read.

Friday	January 30	Colder. I was home alone at night when Inez called up. She was home for week-end so wanted me to go over – we chatted & had lunch until midnight.
Saturday	January 31	Marg Derby is here for week-end. I saw Florence down town. I got two more letters, No.13 & No.14. Laddie regrets that he didn't get married. Norman came up to see me in aft. Inez, Berniece & Barb came down to farm for a game of bridge.
Sunday	February 1	Cold. Slept until noon. Read in aft. Went to church at night & then was invited to Hilda's.
Monday	February 2	Frosty. Wrote long letter to Laddie. Stayed in at night. Knit & listened to Lux.
Tuesday	February 3	Milder. Busy. Had Com. meeting at night. Talked to Shirley afterwards; then Hilda & I went to a party at Odd Fellows Hall.
Wednesday	February 4	Had a cable from Laddie – he got my 2 <sup>nd</sup> parcel. Very busy. Went to Bridge Club at Hilda's.
Thursday	February 5	Sent an airgraph & airmail letter to Laddie. Hilda & I went up to Mrs. English's to plan Auxiliary crokinole. Went to Red Cross skating party.
Friday	February 6	Very mild. Busy – worked until six. Tired. Went to library, had bath & went to bed early.
Saturday	February 7	Stormy. Real busy. Went home after work. Read at night.
Sunday	February 8	Slept until noon. Elgin came up – he is taking a week's holidays. Read. Wrote to Laddie at night. We have to go on Daylight Savings time to-night – lose 1hr's sleep.
Monday	February 9	Frosty. Dark when have to get up in mornings now. Busy. I was out \$4 but Geo. Tracey gave it to me. Read & knit at night.
Tuesday	February 10	Nice day. Busy. Went to Red Cross supper & then to show in Hall, "Britain at War". Hilda & I are trying to plan crokinole for Thurs. night.
Wednesday	February 11	Busy. Went to Bridge Club at Anna's – we talked & talked. War news very black. Singapore has almost fallen. We are losing in Libyan campaign too.
Thursday	February 12	Wrote to Laddie. Had my hair done in aft. Hilda & I had Crokinole Party for Auxiliary at Mrs. English's. Lots of fun. Played peanut game. Lunch at church.
Friday	February 13	Finished bills. I got a nice long letter from Laddie, No.15. It is cold in his room- fireplace doesn't heat it enough. Went to library – got a good book, "The Keys of the Kingdom" by A.J. Cronin.
Saturday	February 14	An easy day for a change. Went home at five. Elgin & Norma came up – we played cards & had lunch.
Sunday	February 15	Lovely mild day. Read. Churchill spoke in aft. Singapore has fallen – things terribly black. Went to church at night. Read in bed – swell book.
Monday	February 16	Raining. Wrote to Laddie. I got Letter No.16 telling me all about his first visit to London – very interesting. I went down to Grant's at night & had a nice chat with them.
Tuesday	February 17	Made out gov't report. Went to Red Cross & to Auxiliary.

		"The Keys of the Kingdom" is a swell book.
Wednesday	February 18	Cold wind. I entertained the Bridge Club, gave them Italian Spaghetti for lunch.
Thursday	February 19	Wrote to Laddie. Read in aft & finished a pr. of socks. Played badminton at night.
Friday	February 20	Cold. Busy. Had letter from Florence. Had bath, etc. after work then Vera and I went to "Cavalcade of Canada" put on by high school students – speech by Judge Morley re: Victory Loan.
Saturday	February 21	Very cold. Real busy. Iced Laddie's Birthday Cake. Mother made 2 kinds of cookies for him at night. Elgin was up, stayed all night.
Sunday	February 22	Nice day. Packed Laddie's birthday box – had it over 11 lbs. so had to take out a tin. Went to church at night. Wrote to Laddie.
Monday	February 23	Lovely day, sun shining. Phil Morgan was in. We talked & talked about war marriages. He doesn't know what to do about the matter. Read & then went to Auxiliary Skating Party. Jack, Bob Ball, Berniece & I played badminton afterwards.
Tuesday	February 24	Grand day. Busy getting everything straightened up after billing. Went to Red Cross & to library.
Wednesday	February 25	Nice day. Read old diary. Went to Bridge Club at Ritchie's.
Thursday	February 26	Elgin got his call for Air Force – to start at Galt Mar 3. I got three letters, Nos. 17, 18, 20. Laddie is with 7 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance now & likes it – looking after Straths. Shirley & I went to I.O.D.E. military bridge.



Elgin

Friday	February 27	Wrote to Laddie. I got four more letters, Nos. 19, 21, 22, 23 & a silver butter dish for our Anniversary. Went down to Grant's at night for a visit.
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Saturday	February 28	Wrote to Laddie – answered letters – sent a cable. Went home at five. Elgin got a swell gladstone bag from the men at Smith's as he starts at Galt on Mon.
Sunday	March 1	Lovely spring day. Elgin & I went down to Mt. Forest in aft. We had a lot of fun at McIntyres – a lot of girls there – one in Air Force. Norma, Elgin & I came up home for a chicken dinner.



Norma and Elgin

Monday	March 2	Mild. Elgin started at the Galt Air Training School this morning. Wrote Laddie. Knit at night & listened to Lux.
Tuesday	March 3	Got ready for meeting. Went in to see Mrs. Steinacher. Went to meeting & then to Rebecca Bridge at Berniece's. Good luck – almost got prize. Lunch & dance at Hall afterwards.
Wednesday	March 4	Lovely day, very spring-like. I got 2 letters, Nos. 24, 26 – also cheque for our acc't. Went to Bridge Club at Rita's.
Thursday	March 5	Grand day. Wrote Laddie. Knit in aft. Hilda & I took some pictures. Read at night & played badminton.
Friday	March 6	Lovely day. I got 2 more letters, Nos. 25 & 27 – also negatives. Lonesome at night & then Lucille Trafford came in with Vera – made candy.
Saturday	March 7	Lovely spring day. Snow is going away very quickly. Looked at patterns for suit. Elgin came home from Galt. He & Norma were up for supper – he likes course – very interesting – a lot of studying, about 3 hrs. every night – airplane mechanics.
Sunday	March 8	Raining all day. Went down to Mt. Forest with Elgin in aft. & brought up Norma for supper.

Monday	March 9	Java has fallen to Japs. Very windy & much colder. Wrote to Laddie. Stayed in at night & knit until late as I am helping Vera with a sweater (baby) for the Red Cross.
Tuesday	March 10	Lots of snow now. The Eng. prisoners at Hong Kong have been brutally bayoneted by Japs. Went to Red Cross at night & then to Hilda's afterwards. Brockelbanks moved next door to us.
Wednesday	March 11	Milder. Had my hair done at night. Wilma was in to see me in aft. Vera & I knit until 1am to finish sweater for tea tomorrow.
Thursday	March 12	Mild. Our Red Cross St. Patrick's tea at Norma Gagnon's made \$32 – I served – we had layette on display. Went to bridge at Mary Firth's at night.
Friday	March 13	Wrote to Laddie, got samples for a brown suit & went over to Mrs. Wrights. Went to High School Commencement – an operetta, "The Moon Maiden", real good.
Saturday	March 14	I had Letter No.28 from Laddie. Went home after work with Elgin & Norma. Nadine was down for week-end. Elgin is still terribly thrilled with his course. We took Norma to Mt. Forest about 11.
Sunday	March 15	A lovely day. Helped Elgin fill out his income tax form. Read & amused Nadine. Went to church at night & visited Berniece afterwards.
Monday	March 16	Wrote to Laddie. Got Letter No.29. Went to a bridge at Mrs. Mike Wanamaker's – a terrible night, a thunderstorm & windy.
Tuesday	March 17	Mr. Wheeler was here most of aft. Very windy. Wrote Laddie at night, then went to Auxiliary at Marg McGirrs' & to Militia dance with Wilma – had a good time – danced until 3.
Wednesday	March 18	Tired to-day. Filed away stubs. Went to bed early at night.
Thursday	March 19	Mother has flu so I went down home in aft. – cleaned upstairs, baked & did some washing. Went to Bridge Club at Anna's – got prize – a relish dish.
Friday	March 20	Wrote Laddie. Got Letter No.32 from him, also 2 snaps. Took suit goods over to Mrs. Wright's. Visited at Brockelbank's next door at night.
Saturday	March 21	Raining in morning, then turned to snow in aft. I went home after work. Norma, Elgin, Lorne & I went to show in Hanover. Gary Cooper in "Sergeant York" – good.
Sunday	March 22	Real stormy. Got meals, etc. as Mother was sick. Tired at night so went to bed early.
Monday	March 23	I got 3 letters to-day, Nos. 30, 31 & one written to three of us on leave, also 3 play programs. I went down to Grant's at night & took letter that Laddie wrote to three of us while on leave in London & Penzance. Stayed until after eleven.

Monday, Feb.16, 1942

*Dear Dad, Mother & Velma*

*This will be a letter to all three of you, to tell you how I spent my seven days leave. I am addressing it to Velma because I sent the letter about my landing leave to Dad & Mother. So, Velma, when you get this letter (around the middle of March) will you take it down for Dad & Mother to read?*

*7 page letter about trip to London & Penzance*

*I will write again very soon, to let you know you three are always in my thoughts.*

*Laddie*

Tuesday	March 24	Wrote to Laddie. He is 27 to-day. I got a cable from him (dated 23 <sup>rd</sup> ) thanking me for parcel. Went to Red Cross at night & then to Sally's – Mrs. Knowles & Beth McLean there.
Wednesday	March 25	A new selective service program brought out. I got a parcel from Laddie – Serpentine stone gifts & atlas & napkin ring for Charles. Went to Mrs. Wright's after work to get suit fitted & then Shirley & I went to military bridge.
Thursday	March 26	A lovely day. Norma & I went to Guelph to shop. I got hat & 2 blouse materials. We had dinner at Peacock & then went to show afterwards. Saw Cary Grant & Joan Fontaine in "Suspicion".
Friday	March 27	Lovely day – sidewalks bare now. Wrote to Laddie. Went down to Grant's at night & got 2 decks of cards that Laddie sent me. Mrs. McFadyen was there.
Saturday	March 28	Ruby came up yesterday for a week. Elgin brought a Bob Gun of Windsor up with him for the week-end, a real cute kid – 18. We went to Mt. Forest at night, had lunch at McIntyre's.
Sunday	March 29	Slept in. Talked, slept and read in aft. We went up town & brought Vera down for supper. Boys left afterwards & we came up to town.
Monday	March 30	Dull & cool. Ruby is having a great time getting things ready for the expected baby. I got a letter from Laddie, No.33 & 3 snaps. Went to Mrs. Wright's at night – knit & read.
Tuesday	March 31	Cool. Wrote to Laddie. Busy getting Ins. books ready to send in. I got 2 more letters, No. 34 & No. 36. Went to Red Cross supper – my turn to help.
Wednesday	April 1	Nice day but cool. Busy. Washed my hair at night. Had bath, etc. afterwards.
Thursday	April 2	Nice day. Wrote Laddie. I got Letter No.37 telling me about reunion in London. I went home after work for Good Friday to-morrow.
Friday	April 3	Good Friday & a beautiful day. Winnie & Jack were down, also Nadine. Ruby went back in aft. Elgin was home. Mother & Winnie made my pink blouse. Played cards & crokinole. Elgin, Lorne & I went to show in Mt. Forest at night.

Saturday	April 4	Grand day – real warm. I got 2 swell letters, Nos. 35 & 39. Wrote to Laddie in morning. Evelyn Aljoe was in to see me in aft. I went to Grant's for a turkey dinner – girls home, also a Jean Williams. Afterwards Elgin, Allan, George, Vera, Evelyn & I went to Speer's Hall to dance – ice cream at farm.
Sunday	April 5	A lovely day, but cool. I like my brown suit real well. Went to church at night & for walk with Berniece.
Monday	April 6	Wrote to Laddie – 10 pages. Started bills. Stayed in at night. Knit and read.
Tuesday	April 7	Busy. I got 2 letters, Nos. 40 & 44 from Laddie & also some snaps of boys at reunion. He writes 4 or 5 times a week now. Vera & I went down to visit Mrs. Glass & Bertha. Wrote to Laddie after.
Wednesday	April 8	Nice spring day. I got Letter No.41 from Laddie & some snaps of Wellington's monument. Went to Com. meeting & to bridge at Berniece's – got prize – a candle lamp.
Thursday	April 9	Half holiday. I got 3 letters from Laddie, Nos. 42, 43 & 45, also reunion snaps. Had my ring cleaned in Hanover. Spent rest of aft. writing him a long letter. Everybody wants to see snaps – they are swell. Went to show in Hall put on by I.O.D.E.
Friday	April 10	Snowing. Real busy. Went visiting at night – to Violet's & Emily's – showed them snaps – had bath etc. afterwards.
Saturday	April 11	Snowing – horrid weather. Busy. Norman was up to see me in aft. Is leaving for Manitoba next week. I went home with Mother & Elgin. Read.
Sunday	April 12	Cold wind but bright. Norma was up for week-end. Murray Ritchies & Miss Smith were down at night. About 9 word came that Bob Hunter had been killed in Eng. – 1 <sup>st</sup> Durham casualty. Takes heart right out of you.
Monday	April 13	Nice day. Wrote Laddie. Bob's death casts gloom over town. Stayed in at night – read, knit & listened to Lux.
Tuesday	April 14	Nice day. Dr. Brad took the reunion snaps out to Hunters. Went to Red Cross at night & then up to Jamieson's. Presented Louise with nurse's watch before leaving for Africa.
Wednesday	April 15	Nice day. Busy. Played badminton & then Berniece, Hilda & I went for a walk – called on Jean Scott. Grand spring evening.
Thursday	April 16	A beautiful day, warm as summer. Wrote to Laddie in morning. Read & went over town in aft. Ethel, Hilda & I had last Bridge Club at Ethel's – toasted sandwiches.
Friday	April 17	Colder. Busy. Stayed in at night. Read, "How Green Was My Valley" and knit.
Saturday	April 18	Real cold. Keith Hunter was up for dinner – home on leave – has plenty to say. Elgin came up with mumps. I kept my distance from him.
Sunday	April 19	Elgin had Dr. Campbell come down to give him certificate. Has to stay home 21 days. Will miss class he has been with. He isn't a bit sick, eats every meal & is up talking as usual. Just has to keep warm. I went for a walk at night &



		read.
Monday	April 20	Nice day but still cool. Wrote to Laddie. Busy. Stayed in at night. Listened to Lux. Cleaned dresser drawers.
Tuesday	April 21	Nice day. Busy. Went to a Tennis Club meeting & to Auxiliary at Mrs. Sharpe's afterwards. Norma Gagnon got a new bicycle to ride to work instead of using car.
Wednesday	April 22	Lovely & warm. Busy. Some of us wanted to go on our Bridge Party to-morrow night but Berniece didn't like show. Some time! Washed my hair & had it waved.
Thursday	April 23	A wonderful day. I got 2 letters, Nos. 49 & 53 from Laddie. Some of the kids had a ball game on Bruce St. We sat on veranda & watched. I went down to Grant's afterwards & then wrote to Laddie.
Friday	April 24	Grand day. Elg went out to-day – first since Sat. I got 2 more letters, Nos. 47, 48 telling about my parcel that was "salvaged from the sea". Dr. Grant finished my teeth. I wrote Laddie, had bath etc.
Saturday	April 25	A lovely day – quite hot. Busy. I went down to Mt. Forest for week-end with William Vollett. Norma & I went down town at night. Had a nice time, ate in restaurant.
Sunday	April 26	A swell day but actually hot. Mrs. McIntyre, Norma & I went to church Young People's service. We took pictures in aft. and went down town. Soonie, Ruth, Ken, Merv there. Ruth & Norma brought me home. We stopped in to see Elg.
Monday	April 27	A grand day. I got a post-letter telegram from Laddie, also Letter No.50. We voted on conscription issue to-day – plebiscite, "Yes" majority. Berniece & I went for a walk.
Tuesday	April 28	Wrote Laddie. I got Letter No.52 – wants me to send snaps. Went to Red Cross supper. Knit afterwards.
Wednesday	April 29	Grand day. Seeding, gardening way ahead of other years. Wrote Laddie. Got Letter No.51. I went to show in Hanover with Barb & girls. Saw James Cagney, Dennis Morgan & Brenda Marshall in "Captain of the Clouds" – swell.
Thursday	April 30	A beautiful day. Sat out on veranda all aft. & knit. Trees lovely on Bruce St. now. Went to Thank-offering meeting in church. Mrs. Dr. Pilkey spoke.
Friday	May 1	Wrote Laddie. Swell day – hot. Knit at night, read, had bath, etc.
Saturday	May 2	Lovely day- like summer. Reg, Mary, Violet, Harold & Betty came up. Betty stayed with Vera. We were over town at night.
Sunday	May 3	Windy and a little cooler. Vic, Elgin & Lorne went fishing. Sally, Nadine & I went to Winnie's. Mr. & Mrs. Watson, Joan, Jack & his boyfriend from Toronto were there. They called on us at night.
Monday	May 4	Cold. A great change. Wrote Laddie. Busy. Listened to Lux at night & knit.
Tuesday	May 5	Cold. Busy. Not feeling very well. I think I might have a light case of mumps – my jaws ache but there is no swelling of any account. Went to Com. meeting.

Wednesday	May 6	Cold & wet. I got letter No.59 from Lad – came in 2 ½ weeks time. Busy all day. Answered letter at night. My jaws still ache at times.
Thursday	May 7	Cold & wet. Harry Schenk died to-day from heart condition – 21. Our Bridge Club went on our annual spree. I took car. We had dinner in Chatsworth hotel – grand one – chicken & strawberry shortcake. Went to show Academy Award picture, “How Green Was My Valley”.
Friday	May 8	Much warmer to-day. I got letters No.54, 55 from Laddie, also some snaps. A swell one of him. Aunt Eva had a Vanishing Tea for Red Cross. Mother was at it. Went down to Schenk’s.
Saturday	May 9	Cool. Busy. Got Letter No.58 from Laddie. Wrote him. Went home at five. I am feeling better now. Read.
Sunday	May 10	Mother’s Day – gave her stockings & Elgin & I went out to lake for drive. Boys gave chocolates. Cleaned out drawers. Elgin went back to Galt to-day.
Monday	May 11	Went to bank & made out power bills. I got letters No.56 & 57 from Laddie. Snaps of G.C.O’s inspection. Typed out Rotary list. Went down to Grant’s at night & showed them pictures.
Tuesday	May 12	Raining. Wrote Laddie. Went to Red Cross. Read afterwards.
Wednesday	May 13	I got 3 letters from Laddie, Nos. 60, 61, 62. Spent the evening answering them & reading.
Thursday	May 14	Mr. Saunders was here washing walls. Anna, Barb, Hilda & I went to Owen Sound in aft. Shopped. I got pr. of white shoes & novel for Laddie. Had supper in restaurant.
Friday	May 15	Raining. Mr. Saunders finished office. I got letters Nos. 64 & 65 from Laddie, Also parcel of books, cards & map for Charles. Letter No.65 came in 2 weeks 2 days. I got Reunion snaps.

Letter #64

England, Tues., April 28, 1942

*My dearest Velma:*

*... Friday morning, as I told you before, was the date set for the inspection of certain units of our division by their Majesties. Consequently, it is needless for me to tell you that the clinic was closed, and the three of us accompanied the 7<sup>th</sup> L.F.A. to the inspection field where we were lined up to await the inspection.*

*Being an officer, I was a couple of paces ahead of the men, so was assured of being able to see all that there was to see.*

*The day was chilly and cloudy with quite a raw wind, and as no gloves were to be worn, our hands were soon quite chilly. But soon the sun broke through the clouds and it turned a little warmer. The hour drew closer to the time for inspection, and soon a cheer broke at the far end of the lines (there were several thousand troops there). Then the strains of the national anthem came to us on the morning air, while the Royal Standard was unfurled. That was the first big thrill of the day. Then away in the distance orders were shouted, and cheers arose as their Majesties finished inspecting each unit. Our unit was one of the last in the line, and we became more and more excited as the King and Queen drew near. At last, Col. Elder (the A.D.M. S.) gave the order “ten-shun”. Then came “Order Arms”, and the Service Corps men attached to our unit responded smartly. Then the fateful moment arrived, and order came “Royal Salute – Salute!”. Smartly the*

men with rifles presented arms, while the officers saluted and the remainder of the men smartly at attention. After this, the inspecting party passed between our lines, walking very slowly. First came the King, surrounded by many aides & brass hats, include our own General Sanram. Then came the Queen, likewise escorted. I was very fortunate as they both were looking my way as they passed. The King looked very well but was no as tall as I had thought. But my biggest thrill came when the Queen walked past me. She was almost past, but then turned directly towards me and looked me up and down, smiling that gracious smile of hers. Unfortunately, I was at attention, and didn't dare even to smile back, but I felt myself blushing furiously.

As the Royal Party came to the end of our lines, we all gave three hearty cheers for their Majesties, and stood at ease until the other units had been inspected.

All the C.O.s shook hands with the King, including our Col. Brom,?, who was in the inspection somewhere. The C.O.s also had lunch with the King and Queen in the camp, so next time I come overseas, remind me to be a C.O.

10 page letter includes description of his weekend in London  
and from his Durham family and friends

... No, dear, I don't want you to join up in the Airforce, or the Army or Navy either. They are no place for you, and I know what I'm talking about. So, please don't do it, Velma, for I don't think you would be happy there.

...

Well, Velma, take care of yourself until I come back to take care of you myself.  
I love you, angel, with all my heart.

Good night, angel,  
Laddie

Saturday	May 16	Cold. Wrote to Laddie. I went home after work. Elgin & I went to show in Hanover. I saw "How Green Was My Valley" again. I called Mrs. Grant but she was too tired to go.
Sunday	May 17	A nice day. Elgin hasn't been to see Norma for two week-ends now. One side of Mother's face began to swell a little after eating fresh strawberries. I guess she has mumps on one side. I went to church & for walk with girls. Had ice cream & cake at Whitmore's.
Monday	May 18	Cool. Wrote to Laddie. Raining at night so stayed in. Listened to Lux & read.
Tuesday	May 19	Warmer to-day. Not very busy, looked over notes. Went to Auxiliary at Mrs. Roy Lawrence's.
Wednesday	May 20	No oil heating this winter. Cool. Looked over notes. Went over town & did some shopping at night. Hilda & I ate in Mel's.
Thursday	May 21	Nice day. I went down home in aft. & helped Mother with house cleaning. Mother's face swelled a little on both sides. Howard Watson reported missing over Germany. Anna & Norman to be married on June 19 <sup>th</sup> .

Friday	May 22	Raining. Busy. Wrote Laddie. Stayed in at night. Evelyn came home & was over at house. Finished reading "Mr. Bunting in Peace & War" – good.
Saturday	May 23	Raining. Bill Patterson & Emily were married at Manse at noon. Norma came up with Elg for week-end. We played "500" at night, had ice cream, etc.
Sunday	May 24	A miserable day. Damp & wet. I have a cold. I made pineapple dessert for supper. Winnie & Jack were down. Cleaned up at night. Elg, Norma & I went for a walk. Read afterwards.
Monday	May 25	Nicer to-day but cool. A holiday. I had a cold. Got meals etc. as Mother wasn't feeling very well. Elgin & Lorne caught a lot of fish. I went to show at night with Anna & Barb, Mickey Rooney in "Babes On Broadway".
Tuesday	May 26	Raining. Wrote to Laddie. Stayed in at night & read and knit.
Wednesday	May 27	A little warmer. Busy taking out meters. I got a permanent at night. Hair short (feather bob).
Thursday	May 28	Nice day. I met Marion Moore over town in aft. – she is on furlough – Moncton, N.B. so we went for a walk & had nice chat. Went for walk with girls at night – had ice cream – finished socks.
Friday	May 29	Wrote Laddie. I had two letters from Laddie - 70 & 71 - came in 2 ½ weeks. Went to bridge at Mrs. Kearney's for Red Cross.
Saturday	May 30	A lovely day – real warm. Wrote Laddie. Rained at night. Went down & visited Mrs. Grant.
Sunday	May 31	Br. Used 1000 planes in a big raid over Germany – city of Cologne wiped out completely – 1000 Canadians took part in flight. Went to church at night & then visited Sally & Vic. Rev Smiths were there.
Monday	June 1	Raining. I got 2 letters, 66 & 67, and a birthday card from Laddie. We, Bridge Club, bought present for Anna after work (clock). Went to rehearsal of Public School's participation in Music Festival, ate in Ying's afterwards with Marion Moore & Janet Robb.
Tuesday	June 2	Decided not to have Com. meeting. Got Birthday cable. Wrote Laddie. Norma was up in aft. At night Norma, Dorothy MacD. & little Bobby went for a walk. Bridge Club had party for Anna at Ethel's. She was getting a permanent – surprised her – gave her bedroom clock.
Wednesday	June 3	Busy. I got Birthday present from Laddie – solid silver salt & peppers & mustard dish. Went to I.O.D.E. Birthday tea. Went over town at night. Wrote Laddie.
Thursday	June 4	A nice day. I went to Owen Sound with Aunt Eva's. Got white hat & brown & white shoes. Stayed for show, Spencer Tracy & Katharine Hepburn in "Woman of the Year".
Friday	June 5	Real busy. Visited with Elsie Hunter at night. She is gong to be married soon. Had bath, etc.

Saturday	June 6	Raining in morning then cleared. Busy. Lorne, his girlfriend, Barb & I went to show in Hanover. Grand picture, Ann Sheridan & Robert Cummings in "King's Row".
Sunday	June 7	Cool. 26 to-day. Mother gave me Spode cup & saucer, Aunt Eva handkerchiefs & Lorne sandwich tray. Norma was up for week-end. We went to Winnie's & stayed for supper. I went down to Grant's at night, showed them my presents & had nice visit.
Monday	June 8	Lovely June day. Wrote Laddie. Busy. Visited Helen Renwick at night – she has been in bed for a month. Started a sweater for Ruby's baby.
Tuesday	June 9	A beautiful day. Got ready for meeting. Nothing unusual happened at meeting. Read afterwards. Mrs. Dr. David Jamieson died to-night.
Wednesday	June 10	Hot. Storm later. I got 2 letters from Laddie, Nos. 68 & 72, & one from Ruby. Went over town at night & did some shopping with Mother. She bought Anna a comforter. Wrote to Laddie.
Thursday	June 11	Sent congratulation cards to Marg Evans & Jean McGirr. Got Letter No.69 from Lad. Went to dinner for Anna at Freda's. She was completely taken by surprise. Grand dinner. Handkerchief shower. Wrote Laddie.
Friday	June 12	Busy. Raining. We have had a lot of rain lately – nearly every day. I went over to Miss Gerrie's at night. Her house & furnishing are real nice.
Saturday	June 13	Lovely day. Finished bills. I wrapped up toaster & iron for a wedding present to Anna from Laddie & me. Cy called to say they had daughter. Ruby & baby fine. I went over town.
Sunday	June 14	Cool. Vera went to Toronto to-day to look for job. Mother & I did some decorating for shower to-morrow night. I stayed home at night as Lorne had car away.
Monday	June 15	A nice day but cool. Wrote to Laddie & Ruby. Mother had a kitchen shower for Anna. 12 – good time.
Tuesday	June 16	Cool. Went to Auxiliary at Etta's. They gave Anna silver cream & sugar, 4 salad plates & cake plate. We had 19 page letter from Ruby – calling baby Jacqueline Lee.



Ruby and Jackie

Wednesday	June 17	Gasoline cut to 4 gals. a unit. Hilda & I went down to Anna's & saw her things.
Thursday	June 18	Vera got a job in Toronto. Jean got medal. Harry Wilson was in to see me. Going overseas soon. I wrote to Laddie. Went down to Anna's in aft. & helped – made a salad. I got 3 letters from Laddie, Nos. 73, 74, 75. Shirley, Lorraine & I went to see Beryl's things.
Friday	June 19	Wrote Laddie. A nice day – not too hot. Anna's wedding at 2pm. We decorated their bags while they were in Hanover having pictures taken. I served. Anna looked nice in long blue dress. They left on 6 bus.

**Anna Ritchie's and Norman Greenwood's wedding, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1942**



Norman second from left, Anna, Barbara



Sarah and Wilbert Blyth

Saturday	June 20	Real warm for a change. Wrote Laddie & told him about wedding. Finished a sweater for Ruby's baby. Went over town. Reg & Mary & Jake & his wife were up.
Sunday	June 21	Word came that Joe Noble was missing. Fowlers here. Aunt Eva & I went to church – anniversary. We went down to Nobles afterwards. I visited Inez too.
Monday	June 22	Lovely day. Aunt Eva went to Ruby's for 2 weeks. I got a post-letter telegram from Laddie saying he got my egg parcel. Wrote him an air letter. Busy. Visited Mrs. Schenk at night.
Tuesday	June 23	Cool. Clarence Ritchie's baby died – 7 weeks old – he had growth in thyroid gland. War news very black. Eng. lost in Libya. Germans entering Egypt.
Wednesday	June 24	Cool. Furnace on. Jean & I are getting along fine. Nadine is staying with us this week too. Quite a time braiding her hair in morning. Went to library at night.
Thursday	June 25	A nice day but cool. Wrote Laddie. I had my hair done in aft. Jean Brocklebank was here for supper. Had long letter from Laddie telling about leave in London. Berniece was over at night – had lunch.
Friday	June 26	A lovely day. I finished a sock for Elgin. Went over to drug store. Came home, read and had bath.
Saturday	June 27	Perfect day. Wrote Laddie. Busy. Elgin brought Joan Brayshaw, 12, up with him for week-end. He came up for me at 5. We went fishing after supper. Came up town.
Sunday	June 28	A lovely day. We all went to Galt – Norma & H. Becker too – to church parade. Elgin was in it. Had lunch in park afterwards. Home 9:30.
Monday	June 29	Nice day. Busy. Read at night & went down to Grant's to show them letter Laddie wrote while on leave in London. Got Letter No.77.



Church parade at Galt – June 1942

*London, Sat., May 23rd, 1942*

*Dear Velma, Mother and Dad:*

*... This time I am spending all my leave in London, so I should have plenty of time to see everything I want to see. Especially as I have a 48 hour leave tacked on the seven days, and won't have to be back at camp until Sunday night, May 31<sup>st</sup>!*

*...walked around town, took underground, double decker buses, saw movie, play, Madame Tussaud's Waxworks, Chinatown, the Tower (saluted by a Beefeater), St. Paul's...*

*Wed., May 24th, 1942*

*...Walked around Piccadilly Circus, shopped, saw movie, play...*

*As you know, our letters home can't be too heavy, so I'll be on the safe side and send two instead of one.*

*Love,  
Laddie*

*Thursday., May 28th, 1942*

*Dear Dad, Mother and Velma:*

*... This is the second half of my letter to you concerning my activities on my "London Leave"*

*...got hair cut, visited the Zoo Regent's park, Lords' Cricket Field, saw movie...*

*Friday., May 29th, 1942*

*...packed my stuff. For I am going to stay at the Delaney's until Sunday night travelled underground to Waterloo, visited Westminster Abbey (most of it closed), saw movie, met friend Alex; they "took the tube" out to Edgewater, were welcomed by Delaneys*

*Monday, June 1, 1942*

*...relaxed in the Delaney's garden by fishpond - ... brass plaque in garden:*

*"The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The songs of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer God's hart in a garden,  
Than anywhere else n earth"*

*I thought that verse very lovely. Do you agree?*

*Alex and I enjoyed our week-end there very much.*

*...on Saturday, loafed, then left for London – I had a few tickets to see musical comedy "The Maid of the Mountains". It was a grand play and we all enjoyed it.*

*...supper at restaurant, walked along the Embankment, passed Cleopatra's Needle*



*to Westminster Bridge....  
 ...Sunday morning after breakfast, the four of us set off with our lunch, and went for a long walk...heard a cuckoo – “gave me quite a thrill”...  
 It was a grand holiday for me, and a lovely rest. I saw everything I wanted to see and did everything I wanted to do...*

*Love from,  
 Laddie*

Tuesday	June 30	Very busy. Lovely day but hot. I wrote to Vera at night & sent Birthday card & handkerchief. Went home. War news is very bad. Battle of Egypt is on now.
Wednesday	July 1	Holiday. Grand day. Jean Brocklebank is visiting at our place. Real busy. Mother made me green dress. Did ironing & packed chest. Went to show in Hanover at night. Took Hilda, her sister & Eliz. Seymour. “Ball of Fire” – swell.
Thursday	July 2	I slept at Hilda’s last night as Jean had me locked out. I got 2 letters from Laddie in morning. Very busy making out power bills. Hilda, Mary & I took some pictures in park. Went down to Grant’s at night. Wrote Laddie.



**Durham Park** Velma on right, Nadine in centre

Friday	July 3	Very busy. Com. meeting at night – only Mr. Cross present. Went to a reception for Mr. & Mrs. Vaughan (Irene Atkinson) at Clarence Barfoot’s.
Saturday	July 4	Nice day. Busy. The neighbours had a presentation for Elgin at our place. It was a great surprise for him. Norma, Jean Brocklebank, Elgin & I went to Mt. Forest. When we came back all calm. Then they gave him army wrist watch, sweater & 2 prs. socks.

Sunday	July 5	Lovely day but cool. We had fun with Jean. I came down to Galt with Elg Sunday night. Ross Kearney & 2 other boys came back with us – I stayed at Mrs. Brayshaw's.
Monday	July 6	Cool. I got up about ten. Joan & I went to visit her married sister. After dinner we went to show. Saw Red Skelton & Eleanor Powell in "Ship Ahoy". I came over to Brantford with Mr. Fleming. Had supper with Mary, Reg. We went to Helen's at night.
Tuesday	July 7	Cool but bright. Ironed in morning. Wrote to Laddie in aft. We went for a drive to airport & called on Norman at San. Visited Marson's & then Harold's.
Wednesday	July 8	Norman was to have met me in aft. & we were going to show & he was coming here for supper. The nurse called to say he couldn't get a pass. Mary & I went up town in morning & shopped. I went to show in aft. myself. Saw Ann Sheridan & Ronald Reagan in "Juke Girl". We went to Jake Anguish's for supper. Played checkers.
Thursday	July 9	Lovely day. Wrote Laddie. Went up town in aft. Did some shopping. Got braces & comb - file case for Laddie, one for Elgin too. Went for drive at night through residential section, Mohawk Park, picked cherries at Anguish's, called at Helen's & Violet's.
Friday	July 10	Raining. Wrote Laddie. Mary & I went to Violet's in aft. Stayed for supper & evening. Met Bob's girlfriend, Isabel for first.
Saturday	July 11	Went up town in morning. Reg drove me to Galt at noon to meet Elgin. Great load coming home – cherries, apples, etc. We went up town to get mail. Got 1 Letter – No.78. Joe Noble reported prisoner of war. I stayed home at night. Unpacked etc. Florence came home with Mother & Dad. Made lunch, talked.
Sunday	July 12	Florence & I got up about noon. Sat on veranda in aft. Beautiful day. Vic, Sally & Nadine here for supper. Lorne & I drove Florence home at night. Wrote to Laddie.
Monday	July 13	Hot. Mother & I washed. I cleaned pantry, etc. Real busy. I ironed. Uncle Irving came just after supper. He stayed all night.
Tuesday	July 14	Nice day. Windy. Busy. Ladies here in aft. to do war work. I went up town for mail – got 5 letters. Pasted in snaps etc. at night.
Wednesday	July 15	Nice but cool. Busy. Answered letters in aft. Saw twins (Davey's). Read, etc. at night.
Thursday	July 16	Mother & I were away all day. Dinner (chicken) at Uncle John's. Supper at Aunt Charlotte's & out to McGirr's at night. I got five letters, Nos. 79, 80, 81, 82 & 88. 6 snaps of Delaney's. Did nails etc. after I came home.

Friday	July 17	Wrote Laddie. Went to Mt. Forest. Arrived at Norma's in time for dinner. Went down town in aft. & then we went for a drive to Woodlands Springs & Pike Lake – took Mr. & Mrs. McIntyre along.
Saturday	July 18	Real hot. Busy – have all my jobs finished up now. Went up town in aft. for mail. Norma & Elgin came up. I read at night.
Sunday	July 19	Hot. Lorne & I went swimming in morning. Elg. & I went down to Mt. Forest for Norma in aft. Got box ready for Laddie. Sat out on veranda, lovely. Came up to Aunt Eva's at night, unpacked & wrote to Mary.
Monday	July 20	Started back to work after holidays. Dull & cool. Busy – a lot of jobs to be done – had two parcels from Laddie – books & dresser scarves. Inez & I went down to Anna's for walk. Saw wedding photo.
Tuesday	July 21	Lovely day. Wrote Laddie. Finished up odd jobs. Went to Auxiliary supper meeting at Myrtle McKechnie's.
Wednesday	July 22	Lovely day. Typed names on bills. Don't have to pay Unemp. Ins. Any longer. Visited Mrs. Grant at night. Then Aunt Eva & I went over town – finished Elgin's socks.
Thursday	July 23	Beautiful day. Wrote Laddie in morning. Went to Sunday School picnic at Holstein – swam, good lunch. Read after I came home.
Friday	July 24	Elg – 25 to-day. Lovely day. Inez & I played tennis – my first this year. We went to library & then called at Hilda's, chatted until 11:00, had bath.
Saturday	July 25	Beautiful day. Wrote Laddie in aft. Went over town at night – went home with Elgin & Norma. Mr. Brayshaw & Jack came up for week-end with Elg.
Sunday	July 26	A beautiful day. Helped Mother with meals. Lay out on the lawn in the aft. Norma came up for supper. Read at night.
Monday	July 27	Swell day. I got 2 letters from Laddie, No.95 & No.97 – 97 came in 13 days. Inez & I played tennis at night.
Tuesday	July 28	Grand day. Wrote Laddie. Took off water controls. War news very black these days. Rostov has fallen & Germans getting very near oil wells in Caucasus. Got 3 letters from Lad, Nos. 91, 92 & 96. Played tennis & went swimming. Inez, Elsie & I talked at Aunt Eva's until 11.
Wednesday	July 29	Wrote Laddie. Raining. Washed my hair & had it waved. Met Florence over town. Had ice cream & talked.
Thursday	July 30	Half holiday. Went home in aft. Aunt Mary Ann, Mrs. Hay & Dale there. Mr. Rubin called on me. I bought a mink-tone collar from him. Traded in my fur coat - \$10. I got 2 letters, Nos. 93 & 94.
Friday	July 31	Nice day but cooler. Busy. Inez, Anna, Shirley & I played tennis at night. Read, had bath, etc.
Saturday	August 1	Nice day. Wrote Laddie. Ruby, Cy, little Jackie, Mrs. Fulton & Vera came up in morning. First time I saw baby (1½ months old) – very cute, well formed, smooth face, dark eyes & a little curl on top of head. Vera likes it in Toronto.



Ruby, Cy and Jackie

Sunday	August 2	We had a family party – Ruby & Cy, Aunt Eva’s, Winnie & Jack all here. Had picnic lunch. Nadine is staying with us Read at night.
Monday	August 3	Nice day but fairly cool. Civic holiday. Spent it quietly at home. 1 oz. of tea or 4 oz. of coffee per week per person – tea & coffee rationed. We washed & ironed, did Mrs. Davies’ washing too. Little, 1 ½ yrs., Frank came up in aft. & stayed for supper. We had letter from Elg, from Lachine. Berniece & I went for walk at night. Wrote to Elgin & Laddie.
Tuesday	August 4	Cool. I had two letters from Laddie, 89 & 90 - also post-letter telegram. Sales Tax auditor was here in aft. Aunt Eva & I went for walk. I wrote Laddie afterwards.
Wednesday	August 5	Cool. Busy. Inez & I played tennis at night. Read. I got a parcel for Laddie – books & negatives.
Thursday	August 6	Lovely day. Inez & I lay out in sun. Then Aunt Eva & I went to Rebecca picnic in park. Played tennis at night & read, “This Above All”.
Friday	August 7	Lovely day. Very busy. Had letter from Elgin. Likes it at Lachine. Played tennis at night. Wrote Laddie an airletter.
Saturday	August 8	Raining in aft. Busy – last discount day. Went over town at night. Met Florence & had chat. Mother made me yellow pyjamas & yellow aprons this week.
Sunday	August 9	Cool. Bert Chapman here. Slept in late. Read & had a snooze in aft. Went down to Ritchie’s at night. Anna & Barb walked home with me. Had ice cream.
Monday	August 10	Busy. Aunt Eva’s birthday – gave her a cup & saucer. Played tennis. Wrote Laddie.
Tuesday	August 11	Busy. Com. meeting at night. Lot of business. We are to get 60¢ a week cost-of-living bonus.
Wednesday	August 12	Lovely weather but cool. Played tennis at night & then Aunt Eva & I went over town & shopped. Brought home some ice cream.
Thursday	August 13	Nice day. Lay out in the sun in aft. Wrote to Laddie. Rotary Carnival at night. Large crowd. Worked in Red Cross booth. Anna won \$50 War Savings Certificate.

Friday	August 14	Hydro convention. Ab went. Lovely day. Finished bills. Inez had a dinner – Wilma, Shirley, Barb, Anna, Freda, Berniece & myself – good time. Looked at old snaps.
Saturday	August 15	Wrote to Laddie in aft. Not very busy. Inez & I played tennis. Vera came home. Inez came down with me for week-end.
Sunday	August 16	Inez & I got up about 10:30, looked at snaps. Lay out in sun in aft. Norma, Mr. & Mrs. McIntyre were up. We went for a walk after supper. Packed a box for Laddie – No.10. Inez & Etta gave me candy to put in it.
Monday	August 17	Vic started working for Massey Harris. Nadine is at our place this week. I got four letters from Laddie – Nos. 98, 99, 100, 101 & 17 snaps. Going to work on his B.A. Inez & I played tennis at night.
Tuesday	August 18	Cool. Wrote to Laddie. Went to show in Hanover with girls. Sam Dinger(?) took us. We saw Rosalind Russell & Fred MacMurray in "Take a Letter Darling", good witty & clever.
Wednesday	August 19	Cool. Aunt Eva went down to help Mother with threshing. Canadians & other troops invaded France at Dieppe (1 day), many casualties but raid successful. Many German planes destroyed. Played tennis, visited Berniece.
Thursday	August 20	Wrote Laddie. Spent aft. at Twamley's. Read at night. Loud crack of thunder – lightning struck transformer at factory.
Friday	August 21	Dad finished threshing yesterday. Hot. Got letter No.106 from Laddie. Played tennis.
Saturday	August 22	Hot. Very busy. Vera came home. Aunt Eva & I went over town & waited until family were ready to go home.
Sunday	August 23	Cool & raining. Very quiet day. Went to Varney church in aft., only 9 there. Wrote to Laddie at night.
Monday	August 24	Very cold. Not very busy. Read. Played tennis at night & then went down to Grant's – took Laddie's album & showed it to them. Harry McCaslin missing in Dieppe raid.
Tuesday	August 25	Very cool. Got 4 letters from Laddie, Nos. 101, 102, 103, 104 (2 censored). Answered them. They call him "Bitsy" in Eng. Played tennis at night & then Inez & I went to library. Duke of Kent killed in plane crash.
Wednesday	August 26	Nice day. Harry McCaslin reported safe in Eng. in morning & 5 o'clock in the aft. they got word he was killed. Went over town at night.
Thursday	August 27	Had letter from Elgin. Rained in morning but cleared up in aft. cool. Auxiliary picnic at Mrs. McLachlan's, played baseball. Went to meeting at Berniece's re: Labour Day week-end. She served angel cake, ice cream & ginger ale.
Friday	August 28	Cool. Wrote Laddie. Had my hair waved at night. Got coat samples.
Saturday	August 29	Did a lot of odd jobs. Reg & Mary Fowler came up for a week's holidays. I went home with them at night. Got letter No.107 from Laddie.
Sunday	August 30	A beautiful day. Quite warm. Reg & I went fishing in aft. (rubber boots & all). Swell time. Lorne went back to Toronto at night with Vic to look for a job – only 16. Got

		recommendation from Mr. Sharpe. Anna, Barb & Uncle Will came down at night.
Monday	August 31	Grand day. Wrote to Laddie & Elgin. Reg, Mary & Mother came up to office in aft. & brought me ice cream. Berniece & I went for a walk at night.
Tuesday	September 1	A beautiful day. Mother had letter from Lorne. Got a job in Massey Harris. Jean got a job in Royal Bank - only fifteen, but they couldn't get anyone else. She has 3 years at High School. I had a letter from Elgin. Com. meeting at night.
Wednesday	September 2	Wrote Laddie. Busy. Shirley & I played tennis with two English girls visiting at Rev. Jones'.
Thursday	September 3	Cool. Aunt Eva, Jean and I went to Owen Sound in aft. I got brown & black suede shoes, brown skirt goods.
Friday	September 4	Real cool. Took off controls. Wrote to Laddie. Went over to Twamley's at night to make arrangements for week-end. Inez got a new bike to-day.
Saturday	September 5	Raining & cold in morning but nice in aft. Eunice & Hap have a son. Inez, Barb & I went to Owen Sound Park after work Sat. afternoon. Got 2 double cabins. We shopped & then went to show, Wallace Bury in "Jackson Mail". Others - Sammy, Bern., Jean Scott, Marg Little & Freda arrived at 1 - had lunch.
Sunday	September 6	We brought 2 electric heaters & hot water bottles up with us. Cabins were terribly cold & damp but soon warmed up. Sunday - grand day - much warmer. Went to Division St. church - day of intercession. Lay out in sun & played tennis in aft. Grand big supper. Walked down town at night & window shopped.
Monday	September 7	A beautiful day for Labour Day. I wrote Laddie airletter. Read, lay in sun, and played tennis. We had our supper beside water on way to Martin's. Went to show at night, Abbott & Costello in "Pardon my Sarong". Home at twelve. Swell holiday.

**Owen Sound Tennis Court, Labour Day, 1942**



Velma

**Harriston Park, Labour Day, 1942**



Barbara and Velma in centre

Tuesday	September 8	Raining. I had letter from Elgin & 1 from Laddie, No.108 – long letter. Wrote Elgin. Raining, so stayed in at night & cleaned room, etc.
Wednesday	September 9	Raining again. I got a cable from Laddie saying, “Everything under control – fit as a fiddle”. Howard Thornell & a friend landed along. I went down home with them after supper, until they went to Owen Sound.
Thursday	September 10	Raining. I got a parcel from Laddie – books & pictures. Went down to Grant’s at night. Sally & Nadine stayed here all night as their furniture went to Toronto to-day.
Friday	September 11	A lovely day & Durham Fall Fair. I have Lorne’s bicycle now & went for ride on it – got along fine. Sally & Nadine stayed again.
Saturday	September 12	Aunt Eva, Jean, Sally & Nadine went to Toronto. Vera brought car back. Wrote Lorne. Elg. Was moved to St. Thomas to-day. Went home with Mother & Dad.
Sunday	September 13	Nice day. Varney Anniversary. Rev. Harris from Conn spoke – good. Went in aft. & at night. Norma came up & stayed for supper & went to church.
Monday	September 14	Raining. I got an airgraph from Laddie – came in 13 days – first one I have ever received. Wrote him. Inez & I took bicycles over to show grounds. She was learning to ride her new one. Listened to Lux – “This Above All”.
Tuesday	September 15	Grand Day. Warm. I got letter from Elg & 3 from Laddie, Nos. 109, 110 & 112. No.109 censored & names cut out. Rode on bicycle at night. Went down to Ritchie’s on it. Knit.
Wednesday	September 16	Lovely day – real warm. I got Letter No.111 from Laddie. Wrote Laddie. Mr. Conn coming tomorrow. Jessie up to see me. Jean started in Royal Bank to-day. Jessie Grant visited me. She & Bonnie are slanting(?) to Norma. Inez & I went to see Elaine Hunter’s trousseau – grand.
Thursday	September 17	Lovely day. Hot. Mr. Conn was moved back to this territory. He & Mr. McKie came to audit books in aft. I was at office all aft. in spite of holiday. Lots of fun. Had supper at Whitmore’s.
Friday	September 18	Wrote Laddie. A swell day. Hot. Inez & I went bicycling at night & then went over to Mrs. Wright’s. Norma’s birthday.

Saturday	September 19	Rained in aft. Elsie Hunter married at four. I got cable from Laddie saying he got my 10 parcel. Went to presentation at Keelar's for Ross – gave him a watch.
Sunday	September 20	A quiet day. Cold but bright. Read & knit. Finishing booties for Eunice's baby. Went to church at night.
Monday	September 21	Very cold. Wrote Laddie. We can't use our electric heater beginning to-day – have fire in stove. Visited Eunice & Hap at night & saw new baby, Leslie – gave him blue booties.
Tuesday	September 22	Cold & wet. Washed my hair & had it waved. Knit on my sweater until late. Elg & Lorne both coming home this weekend.
Wednesday	September 23	Cold & wet. Wrote Elgin & Lorne. Went to I.O.D.E bingo in Hall, proceeds for soldiers' Christmas boxes. Good crowd. Played several games.
Thursday	September 24	Cold. Wrote Laddie. Went home in aft. & helped Mother bake a Tomato Soup Cake to send Laddie. Knit at night.
Friday	September 25	Cold & wet. Russians are still holding Stalingrad. Did some shopping after work.
Saturday	September 26	Cold & wet. Lorne came home. He came up for me after supper. I packed a box for Laddie. Elgin came home after we got to bed.
Sunday	September 27	Elgin, Norma & Lorne here. It was the first time we had seen Elgin in his uniform as he hadn't been home since he got it 2 months ago. He talked & talked, telling us all about the Air Force. We went out to Winnie's for a little while in aft.
Monday	September 28	Ground was covered with snow this morning. Wrote Laddie. Listened to Lux at night, knit & read.
Tuesday	September 29	Cold. Norman was moved to Aylmer so Anna won't be going out West now. She finishes at store to-morrow. Went to Red Cross & then Auxiliary at Mrs. Colton's. Shower for Marg Storrey.
Wednesday	September 30	Cold. Got Letter No.114 from Laddie & was I ever glad to get it! Swell letter. Knit & Read at night.
Thursday	October 1	Nice day. Wrote Laddie. Aunt Eva & I went out to Winine's in aft. as they were threshing.
Friday	October 2	Lovely day. Busy. Finished sleeve of sweater. Lorne is working for Rogers' Silverware Co. now. I stayed with Hilda all night. She has moved to Hartley house.
Saturday	October 3	Lovely fall day. Busy. Wrote Laddie. Read some magazines at night & did some shopping. Went home with Mother & Dad.
Sunday	October 4	Windy & cool. Looked over clothes. Read. Went to church at night & in to Berniece's afterwards.
Monday	October 5	Wrote Elgin & Lorne. Dad's birthday – 54. Knit at night. Jean had Mission Circle. Wrote to Ruby.
Tuesday	October 6	Busy. Went to Red Cross supper. Got up enough nerve to ask them for a raise. Got \$10 a month more. Wrote to Laddie after I came home.



Wednesday	October 7	Lovely day. I am very happy about raise. Went for a ride on bicycle – visited at Ritchie's. Knit.
Thursday	October 8	Lovely day. Aunt Eva, Jean, Joan & I went to Owen Sound. I got red & brown dress goods. We ate at Scopi's & then went to see "Mrs. Miniver" – a marvelous show – the best war picture I have ever seen. Car ran out of water on way home – had to get farmer.
Friday	October 9	A grand day. My coat goods came – took it over to Mrs. Wright's. Vera came home after supper. We talked until midnight. Finished my brown cardigan.
Saturday	October 10	Grand day. Wrote Laddie. Aunt Jennie Ribey was at Aunt Eva's. Elgin & Lorne home. Lorne cut his finger in a ? machine. Has to stay home for 6 weeks. Norma, Elg & I went to Mt. Forest at night. Mr. & Mrs. Watson landed along.
Sunday	October 11	A beautiful day. Thanksgiving Sunday. Elgin, Norma, Lorne & I went for a drive through country in morning. All went to church in aft. We had 11 for chicken dinner at night. Winnie, Jack & Aunt Jennie here. Watsons went back at night. Aunt Jennie stayed all night.



Velma and Norma

Monday	October 12	Thanksgiving Monday. Beautiful day. Very busy fixing clothes (brown sweater & skirt). I took Aunt Jennie up to Twamley's in morning. Reg, Mary, Lizzie & Jake called on us in aft. on way home from Wiarion. Aunt Eva, Jean, Nora & I went to show in Hanover. Saw, "This Above All".
Tuesday	October 13	A grand day. Got 2 letters from Laddie via airmail. Nos. 115 & 116. Also got letter written on leave in Wales. Went to Red Cross at Schutz's & then went down to Grant's.
Tuesday, Sept.9 – Sat. Sept.12/1942		

*Dear Velma, Mother and Dad:*

*...I have been having a wonderful time to date, and although I haven't been doing anything very exciting, I have seen some of the most beautiful country in the world...If only you three were here to enjoy it with me, everything would be perfect. ... The reason North Wales was chosen was because Jim, Frank and Phil knew a family there and had arranged for our party to stay there.*

17 page letter about trip to north Wales

– travelled by train to Abersoch to stay with Davies family in their “summer home”, explored area and seashore, rowed in Davies’ boat; took bus to Pwllheli and then to Beaumaris, enjoyed stay at Buckeley Arms hotel, toured about, visited a ruined castle, played snooker, chatted with other visitors, then returned to London Sept. 14, went to a movie

*...So that is the end of my account, and now I am all set for another three months work, before another seven days leave comes up.*

*...I'll write to you in a day or two, so, until then, I'll leave you.*

*All my love,*

*Laddie.*

Wednesday	October 14	Lovely day. Wrote Laddie. Busy. Went down to see Marg Storrey's trousseau at night.
Thursday	October 15	Cloudy. Mother, Dad & Aunt Eva went down to see Ross to-day. He is much thinner. I had supper at Ritchie's & then went to a re-organization of the Badminton Club. Secy. again.
Friday	October 16	Busy. Went to library at night & got "The Unknown Country" by Bruce Hutchison. Had bath, etc. Laddie sent \$110.50.
Saturday	October 17	Wrote Laddie an airletter. Raining. Marg Storrey's wedding. Went home after work. Mother & I cut out scalloped collar.
Sunday	October 18	Nice day. Read. Aunt Eva & I went to church at night & stayed for meeting afterwards on connection with 3 <sup>rd</sup> Victory Loan. Geo. Noble made wonderful speech.
Monday	October 19	Nice day. I had an airletter from Laddie, No.117, written Sept. 25. Read & knit at night.
Tuesday	October 20	Lovely day. Wrote Laddie. I got another airletter to-day, No.121 – two weeks time. Letter from Elgin too. Went to Red Cross at Ruth Miles' & to Auxiliary afterwards.
Wednesday	October 21	Nice aft. but rained at night. Busy. Went to Berniece's at night to play bridge.
Thursday	October 22	Last disc't day so I worked in aft. Rained all day. Spent aft. writing Laddie. Aunt Eva, Jean, Nora & I went to show in Hanover. Saw Jean Arthur & Cary Grant in, "Talk of the Town".
Friday	October 23	Busy. Went to Mrs. Wright's to have my coat fitted; washed my hair & had it waved.
Saturday	October 24	Cold but bright. Busy. Aunt Eva came down with me for week-end as Jean was in Owen Sound. We stayed up until Elg & Norma came home – had lunch.

Sunday	October 25	Elg, Norma & I went to Mt. Forest church in morning. Had dinner at McIntyre's. Came home in aft. & had supper. Elg went back about 7 & we came up to town. Read.
Monday	October 26	Cold. Wrote Laddie. I received 2 letters from him, Nos. 119 & 120. Listened to Lux & knit at night.
Tuesday	October 27	Ground covered with snow. Busy. I went to Red Cross at Norma Gagnon's. Helped pack overseas box. Floyd Kearns got it.
Wednesday	October 28	Cold. Got No.118 from Laddie. Finished water bills. Went to Community Party – played bridge at Oddfellows Hall. Dance after. We ate in restaurant afterwards.
Thursday	October 29	Milder to-day. Wrote Laddie long letter in morning. Went home in aft. Ironed. Auxiliary Thank-offering meeting at night. Mrs. (Dr.) Gordon Agnew spoke – good.
Friday	October 30	Mild. Busy. Went over to Mrs. Wright's after work. Stayed in at night. Tired. Read & knit.
Saturday	October 31	Mild. Went home after supper. Knit & planned Laddie's Christmas box. Halloween night. Lorne played a joke on us – put lights out.
Sunday	November 1	Nice day. Read. Went to church at night & down to Anna's afterwards. Her birthday – 30.
Monday	November 2	Raining. Wrote Laddie & Elgin. Listened to Lux at night, knit & read.
Tuesday	November 3	Snowed a little. No meeting to-night. Went to Red Cross meeting at Mortley's.
Wednesday	November 4	Nice day but cool. Finished Laddie's socks. Went to Rebecca Euchre & dance.
Thursday	November 5	Wrote Laddie. Went home in aft. Ironed 4 pairs of curtains. Tired at night so read & went to bed. I got my new winter coat. Mrs. Wright only charged \$3.25.
Friday	November 6	Allies won a great victory in Egypt – defeated Rommel's forces. Might be turning point of war. Finished reading, "The Unknown Country" – a wonderful book. Went to library.
Saturday	November 7	A year ago to-day since I last saw Laddie. Sent him an airletter. Busy. Elgin came home. We went down to Mt. Forest to the show. Norma came back with us.
Sunday	November 8	A lovely day. I packed Laddie's Christmas box. Uncle Charlie & Aunt Charlotte were here for supper. Elgin left shortly after supper & I came up town.
Monday	November 9	American troops are landing in North Africa. Allied offensive has begun. Went to see Mrs. Whitmore at night, as she fell on the sidewalk & injured her leg – has it in a cast.
Tuesday	November 10	Raining. War news is still very good. Went to Red Cross at Mrs. Wanamaker's & to trousseau tea for Mary Whitmore at Mrs. Roy Lawrence's.
Wednesday	November 11	Snowing. Ground covered. Wrote to Laddie. Went to a recipe shower at Mrs. Irwin Sharpe's for Marg Storrey. Played bridge. Nice lunch of little cakes & sandwiches.

Thursday	November 12	Germans marched into unoccupied France. A dirty day – raining & snowing. I went home in aft. Ironed. Real busy. Mother is making me a red dress.
Friday	November 13	Everything is going O.K. for Allies in Africa. Very stormy. Plenty of snow. Had to get galoshes out. George was up to see me in aft. I got a permanent at Ethel's.
Saturday	November 14	Clear but cold. War news is swell these days. Went home after work. Knit & did odd jobs – cleaned cupboards.
Sunday	November 15	Nice day. Quiet aft. Read. Barbara & Uncle Will came down for supper.
Monday	November 16	Mild. Went to Dr. Grant & had my teeth cleaned. Listened to Lux, knit & read.
Tuesday	November 17	Mild. I got 2 letters, 122 & 127, from Laddie – 3 weeks since I had any. Came air mail & No.122 took 5 ½ weeks. Went to Auxiliary at Norma Gagnon's.
Wednesday	November 18	Wrote Laddie. Mild. We had our Commission meeting. Read afterwards. You can only travel 50 miles on bus now.
Thursday	November 19	Mild. Had nice rest in aft. Visited Mrs. Whitmore. Finished a pr. of ankle socks. Played badminton at night for first this season.
Friday	November 20	I got 3 letters from Laddie, Nos. 123, 124, 125. Aunt Eva went to Toronto this aft. for week-end. Militia dance. Jean went but I didn't. Inez came over & we talked until midnight & had lunch.
Saturday	November 21	Colder. Wrote to Laddie. Went home at five. Read & did odd jobs.
Sunday	November 22	Elg & Norma were here. We went out to Winnie's for chicken dinner – dumplings.
Monday	November 23	Mild. I bought a chesterfield (\$25) 2 <sup>nd</sup> hand on spur of the moment from McTavish (Bill Firth). We are going to give it to Mother & Dad for Christmas. Went to Red Cross at Allen's.
Tuesday	November 24	Mild. Aunt Eva came home at noon. I received letter No.126 from Laddie. I went down to Grant's at night & had nice visit with them.
Wednesday	November 25	Mild. Busy. Finished planning hope chest & did other work. Had letter form Ruby – 10 pages – all about Jackie. Stayed in at night. Knit & read. Bought "The Keys of the Kingdom".
Thursday	November 26	Snowing. Went home in aft. for holiday. Mother is making me a brown dress. Started a pr. of mitts for Jackie for X-mas.
Friday	November 27	The French scuttled their navy so the Germans wouldn't get it – over 60 ships. Busy. Wrote Laddie at night, knit, went to library. Finished "The Moon is Down" by John Steinbeck. Good book.
Saturday	November 28	Quite a lot of snow on ground. Busy. Went home after work. Elg wrote examinations to-day. Lorne stayed in Hanover all night.
Sunday	November 29	Nice day. Slept in. Lorne brought Shirley & Lois Weigner over for supper. Went to church & down to Anna's afterwards.

Monday	November 30	Wrote Elg. We sent him a writing kit for graduating. He phoned at night to say he got B grouping (which is highest you can get at St. Thomas). Gives him his L.A.C. – came 6th in class. Went to Red Cross at Mrs. Ball's.
Tuesday	December 1	Busy. Played badminton at night – a lot of fun. Wrote to Laddie & Vera afterwards. Elgin being sent to Winnipeg Thurs.
Wednesday	December 2	Very stormy. Busy. Stayed in at night. Read & knit.
Thursday	December 3	Terribly stormy. Back roads are blocked now. I had my hair finger waved in aft. Played badminton at night. Aunt Eva entertained ladies.
Friday	December 4	Still very stormy. Busy. Aunt Eva & I went to Oddfellows euchre at night. Aunt Eva got prize.
Saturday	December 5	Still storming, but not as badly as yesterday. Went home after work. Fixed clothes, etc.
Sunday	December 6	Quiet day. Went to church at night. Read afterwards.
Monday	December 7	Wrote Laddie. Received Letter No.128 from him. He has been sick – benign pneumonia, wrote letter while in hospital – nothing serious he says. Jake Anguish died suddenly from heart attack. Mother had letter from Brantford. Went to Red Cross at Clushey's.
Tuesday	December 8	Wrote Laddie. Busy. Nice day. Bright & sunny. Norma Gagnon is going to be married on Christmas Day. Went to Auxiliary at night. We decided to dispense with lunch at our meetings, owing to shortage of butter.
Wednesday	December 9	Nice day. Busy. Went to Bridge Party at Anna & Barbara's – 3 tables.
Thursday	December 10	Mother, Dad, Lorne & I went up to Owen Sound at noon. Mrs. Caswell cleaned office. Mother & I shopped & Dad & Lorne went to show. I got my picture taken at Meyers'. Played badminton.
Friday	December 11	Finished bills. I had letter from Elgin, written in Winnipeg. Stayed in at night.
Saturday	December 12	Wrote Laddie. Santa Claus Day in town. Sent Laddie his watch. Went home after.
Sunday	December 13	Very frosty. We were going to Uncle Charlie's for supper but couldn't get car started. Uncle Charlie came down for us. We had grand chicken dinner. Uncle Will's there too.
Monday	December 14	Wrote Elgin. Very stormy – terrible weather. I got the proofs of my picture – not so good. Stayed in at night.
Tuesday	December 15	Addressed Christmas cards. Got Letter No.130 from Laddie. He is out of hospital now & feeling fine. Played badminton at night.
Wednesday	December 16	Got Letter No.129 from Laddie. Had final Com. meeting. Got \$3 Xmas box. Elg coming home for Xmas. Nadine came up to-day for Xmas holiday. Called in at Grant's on way home from meeting.
Thursday	December 17	Cold. Worked all day. Finished Christmas shopping. Hilda & I collected for a present for Norma Gagnon from Auxiliary Girls. Sent Laddie a cable.
Friday	December 18	Busy. Bought present (crystal vase for Norma). Went to

		Public School concert.
Saturday	December 19	Very frosty. Wrote Laddie. Went home after work. Wrapped up presents until midnight.
Sunday	December 20	Very frosty, 15 <sup>o</sup> below zero. Came up town in aft. Went to church at night. Read.
Monday	December 21	A little milder. Busy. Went over town at night & bought some cards, etc.
Tuesday	December 22	Busy. Aunt Eva & I went to Norma Gagnon's trousseau tea. We went over town at night. Word came that Art Allen was missing, presumed dead, in Scot.
Wednesday	December 23	Mild. Elg came home to-day. Dad & Lorne met him at Midhurst. I got a lovely sterling silver compact from Laddie. Got a lot of nice cards.
Thursday	December 24	Mild. Elg came up in morning. We bought Norma's Xmas present at noon. A lovely blue dressing gown - \$11.95. Went home after work. Real busy until after midnight. Got card from Lad's Aunt Grace & Aunt Edith.
Friday	December 25	Christmas Day. Bright & cold. Ground covered with snow. I got some nice gifts – 2 cups & saucers, 5 handkerchiefs, sachets, \$2 from Rick & \$2 from Ab, plate in Spode, writing paper, stockings- 2 pr., doily, guest towels. We were at Aunt Eva's for Christmas dinner. Vic, Sally, Nadine & Mrs. Hope came up. Norma Gagnon & Sandy Taylor married to-day. Elg, Vera, Jean, Nora, Evelyn & I went to show in Mt. Forest. Saw Clark Gable & Lana Turner in, "Somewhere I'll Find You". Norma came back with us – had lunch.
Saturday	December 26	We had Aunt Eva's, Vic's & Winnie's down here for dinner 7 aft. Busy day. Mrs. Hope & Nadine stayed for week-end. Norma, Elg, Dad & I played "500" at night.
Sunday	December 27	Raining. Streets & roads a mess. Norma, Elg & I went up to Ritchie's for a turkey dinner. I went to church with Norman & Anna – cantata. I went in with Inez after church. Saw her gifts.
Monday	December 28	Colder again. Back to work. Wrote Laddie. Had cable from him saying he got my Christmas parcel, cable & card. Elg went back to Winnipeg on train to-day. Went to a dinner at Berniece's – 8 girls – played bridge after.
Tuesday	December 29	Got Letter No.134 from Lad. Busy. Played badminton at night & went over to Inez's afterwards for lunch. Oliver Hunter new mayor & Art McGowan new Commissioner.
Wednesday	December 30	Got Letter No.132 & Christmas card from Laddie. Inez & I went down to Allen's early in the evening. Then Aunt Eva & I went to Whitmore's to play bridge. Then Berniece, Anna, Barb & I went to Militia dance.
Thursday	December 31	Wrote a long letter to Laddie. Nice day. Busy. I got No.131 & No.133 from Lad – airmail. Spent New Year's Eve at Berniece's. We played bridge & then had lunch sent up from Chinamen's at midnight.

**For more information on Velma Irene Blythe, check out the "Meet the Diarists" section under "Discover" on our website: [ruraldiaries.uoguelph.ca](http://ruraldiaries.uoguelph.ca).**