



NAME: Harry C Bradimore 454-3359

BRANCH OF SERVICE: Artillery 5th Brigade C48585

SERVED FROM Aug 1942 TO 1945

I got to France a month after D-day and was in Belgium, Holland and Germany. I still remember my rifle number: 31L35A.

I joined up in Peterborough, but was sworn-in in Kingston. I joined the 6th Light Anti-Aircraft and trained in Petawawa. I had went to school in Coby but only to the 8th grade. Unless your people had money to send you to Lindsay or Peterborough, that was as far as you could go in school. And we were poor. I was 20 years old and my mother didn't want me to go. We went to England on the Empress of Japan, and it took 7 days. The Draft before us took 23 days. It was February, and cold when we left. I was on canteen guard and when I woke up it was balmy as we had gone south. We zig zagged and landed in Scotland, somewhere near Loch Lomond. I took the train to Camp Borden in the south of England and trained there until I shipped out.

They were short of Artillerymen so I went with the 73rd Battery, F troop, 5th Field Artillery. We were assigned to tents near Petworth. Just before I got there, the Germans had bombed the school and there was hardly any kids around – they were all killed. Staying in tents was not too bad. It was pretty warm. You get used to it. They were little bell tents sometimes with 3 men in them, sometimes 5 or 6. I celebrated my 21st birthday in an English tent.

In the fall we went to Rotting Dean just outside of Brighton where we were billeted in a school. We went up to Beachy Head where there was a big tower. Targets were run in a trench with the silhouette up above ground, and each gunner got a chance to shoot 5 shots at the silhouette.

I was just outside of Dover on D-Day, with all kinds of ambulances coming back. There to give support was The Black Watch, Calgary Highlanders, Maisonneuves and Toronto Scottish (they sure were a good-looking outfit). The Black Watch and Calgary Highlanders were on the other side of the Downs and you could hear the bagpipes all the way across. Bagpipes always sound good... from a distance! That's where I first saw Buzz Bombs. We saw the fire coming out of

the end and said "What's the matter with those air guys? They got it on fire, but they can't get them down!" Then I realized what they were.

Before we left, the 5th Brigade went to be inspected by King George VI in Brighton Park. Montgomery went up on his jeep and said "Gather round boys". Then he gave us a speech.

We landed in France the last week of June or the first week in July, and stayed on the beaches all night. Our outfit landed at Gold Beach, with the guns and quads all waterproofed. The Canadians and Scottish 3rd Div were laying 15 deep against the hedges. If you've ever smelled a dead horse or a dead animal, those little towns had the same smell. There was a Sergeant, a bombardier and 4 gunners. We just got there when one of the gunners dropped his Sten Gun and shot the Sergeant in the foot. But he never even left the area, just bandaged his foot and kept on going. We were below Hellfire Corners when we heard a rumour that the Germans were shooting Canadians in the back.

We crossed to the other side of Caen and got shelled a few times. Not in our troop, but in E troop there was a gunner got killed without a scratch, just concussion. We were there until the 7th or 8th of August when they put the push on toward Falaise. I met a guy in the Black Watch who said there was a whole company wiped out, all but 3 guys and one was pretty near out of his mind. It's a story, not necessarily fact. To our left the outfit from Lindsay got bombed. They were right near us. And a few guys I heard tell of got killed. Toward Falaise near Bretteville, we covered up our guns with a big Stars & Stripes 'cause this was where the Americans were bombing. They shot a red smoke bomb at us at 1600 hrs, but we never got bombed by them.

We crossed the Seine River and passed by the Vimy Memorial. There was a joint in the road- the left went to Dieppe and the other went up the coast. They fired a bit at us, but it wasn't like the First War. Montgomery had a march by of the whole outfit once everything was cleaned out. We moved up toward Nimegen, and ended about 6 miles from the German border.

We got outside of Antwerp, to the Scheldt and were in water most of the time because the Germans were flooding the area. We laid a barrage on Germans who were overrunning a

regiment. A lot of guys died there. They gave us cigarettes for trying to save them. They sent a British outfit by sea and the 2nd Div withdrew. There was a big push toward Walsbern Island, but our guns could only reach so far.

We went on into Oldenberg Germany and fired on the Rhine crossing all night. We were supposed to go through another day to a little place called Nordheim. There was a bunch of young German lads there, maybe six to thirteen years old, and they could speak pretty good English. We asked why they learned English and they said they were going to England to take over the factories. I think they were the German Youth Movement.

I got to stay in France while they got things organized for the ceasefire. I was one of the first ones to get Leave, to Paris!

It was November before I got home, and I worked for a while in the old basket factory in Coboconk. Then I worked building bridges and doing repairs on the Railway for 34 years.

*Gunner C38585 Harry C Bradimore passed away 2 Nov 2011.
He was a Life Member of RCL Branch 519 in Coboconk ON*

HARRY C.
BRADIMORE
1922
NORMANDY WWII



BRADIMORE

JOHN WM
1888 — 1973
HIS WIFE
DOTTIE L.
1891 — 1977

BRADIMORE

PEARL A. F.
BRYANT
1915 — 1997
IN GOD'S CARE

