



NAME; Norman A. Harris

BRANCH OF SERVICE: Infantry

SERVED FROM: December 3, 1943

TO: August 6, 1946

THEATRE OF WAR: Continental Europe

In November of 1943 I received a letter from the Canadian Government ordering me to get a medical examination from my family doctor and if I was medically fit I was to report to the recruiting center in Kingston, Ont. on Dec. 3, 1943. My medical test turned out OK and I walked to a little railroad station called Corson's Siding about 2 1/2 miles from our home on Dec. 2, 1943. I had never been far from home before, so I was a little worried about traveling so far. I got into Lindsay and had to wait (as I recall) for about 3 hours for my train going east to Napanee. I changed trains there for Kingston and arrived about 2:30 a.m. There was a taxi waiting for us there (there were more recruits on the train by then) and it took us into the camp where we were given a cot and a blanket. I didn't sleep very well that night, as there was too much snoring and other noises that I wasn't used to. In the morning I was given a pair of mess tins - a knife, fork and spoon and a metal mug and told to go and stand in line for breakfast - rolled oat porridge, powdered eggs and toast. The next few days were spent with medical tests, issuing Army uniforms, web gear and equipment and a Great Coat, of course (about two sizes too big).

When I left home, the last thing my Mother said was "Don't you join active duty" and I didn't for the first day. I slept on it that night and thought, what's the use of being in the Army if you're not active. I asked the Officer the next day if I could change my document to active and he said "You sure can. What's your number?" I answered that I didn't have a number. He leafed through my papers and said,