

OCTOBER 1942

24th Day at Sea

Thursday 1

awoke at 7:45. Went up
on parade at 8:30 then
went back to bed for the
rest of the day - pretty
sucky. Sea was rough and
now a pale green.

Everything is very dear - steak &
eggs cost \$1.40, A glass of beer
cost 20c. Use of WC is 5c
Ride in tram 7c - to anywhere in
the city where that company operates
you can get a ticket + transfer
from one tram to another going in
same general direction. Three or
four companies operate trams in
Francia. Women drink in bars
with men - bars for beer drink
like milk bars

stations - very few. just a building
perhaps a platform or shelter
platform.

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25th Day at Sea

Friday 2

awoke at 6:30 and packed
our bags. Breakfast
then dressed in Blues by
10 am. Light lunch, &
then spent the rest of the
day watching land come in
sight. Entered Golden Gate
about 2:30 pm. Saw Alcatraz
Prison + Golden Gate Bridge
Oakland Bay Bridge. Docked
this afternoon about 5 o'clock
got leave about 7 pm &
went up town - went
to San Francisco Drake Hotel
+ China town - arrived
back at ship 12 midnight

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Saturday 3

Saturday 3

Arose at 7.45 didn't bother about
 breakfast - we dressed, packed
 our kits and then messed around
 on the wharf & boat till 11.30 am.
 We were then dismissed till 4.15.
 So we caught a street car up to
 the Civic Centre, had lunch
 then walked back down Market
 St. We met a chap from Berkeley
 he took us to several hotels -
 20th o' Mark etc - bought us drinks
 then took us by taxi to see
 Dolores Mission. On our
 way back to Union Terris Bldg
 a girl & her mother in a car
 picked us up & drove us to the
 wharf. We crossed by ferry to
 Oakland where we boarded the
 Southern Pacific train &
 set out for Vancouver. The two
 days in Triers were most enjoyed
 - people were very nice & very
 hospitable. Bought cards & pictures
 & collected a few more.

OCTOBER 1942
18th after Trinity Sunday 4

OCTOBER 1942

18th after
Trinity

Sunday 4

Trinity

Travelled all night - took the seats to
Summer time ends (subject to alteration)
We awoke this morning & found
that we were at Klamath Falls - (2
miles inside Oregon border. Had
breakfast in the dining car - negro
wait on the tables. Meals are very
tasty - ham & eggs, tomato juice, coffee
or milk, toast. For lunch lettuce
fruit salad soup, pork baked very
tender. For tea, fricassee chicken & vegs.
soup, lettuce tomato salad, stewed fruit.
The trains a not any better than
N.S.W. trains. Just a piece of twisted
wire down centre of carriage for
emergency chain. Steam pipes run
through the carriage & warm them.
Double windows - which apparently
are never opened. We looked at the
scenery all day - I took 16 photos.
There is a lot of timber growing in
Oregon - all looks like pine trees.
- very pretty lakes & rivers. Single
track railways. Freight trains
very long with 30 or 4 engine.
wait at sidings for others to pass.
We arrived in Portland Ore about
5 pm. Had tea & left for Seattle at
8 pm. Saw paper mill at Portland
flecting down river.

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Left Portland about 10 am on the Great Northern Rwy - not very cold - we slept most of the night. - I woke about 3:30 am and spent till 6:00 am looking out the window - saw some of Puget Sound - Bellingham on to Vancouver - arrived at 6:00 am. We had breakfast - handed in our blankets and received 3 new ones. We received an advance of 10 \$ Canadian and had our US money changed to Canadian - I received \$96.60 for \$88 US. We were then given leave from 11 am till 5:30 pm.

We took the train in to town - went to Tourist Bureau - collected pamphlets & set off to see town. Had a look at city from top of Marine Bldg. Vancouver has population of 310,000 - was quite warm - although there was a fog this morning. Daylight broke about 7:30 am. Everything is heated by steam - railway carriages etc. We visited Stanley Park - saw & photographed grizzly bears, Lodge, totem poles, Lions Gate Bridge - met some Canadian WAAFs. Had lunch at Georgia Hotel & a couple of drinks at Vancouver hotel. Left Vancouver for Edmonton at 8:00 pm to night. Beds are portion of lining of carriage not - about 12 inches of fluffed sack - then full down & are heated by

Heating cables - one near, one in
blaine OCTOBER 1942 cost 67c each.
We awake about 6:45 am and

Tuesday 6

found we were passing through just ordinary hilly country some with pine trees and a tree with silvery trunk & golden yellow leaves - being autumn they are losing their leaves. About 10 am we began to see high mountains. Unfortunately there was a lot of cloud about & occasionally it rained. However what we saw was magnificent - high mountains, deep gorges & the colours shown in coloured pictures are really there - though not as brilliant - purples, greens, browns, gold, yellows etc. Mt Robson was the highest peak in Canadian Rockies 12,972 ft. - we stopped for a few minutes. I took about 24 photos - hope they come out. We travelled by the Canadian National Rwy - stopped at Jasper - where we marched around for about 15 mins in light rain & then back into train. As soon as we left Jasper Natl Pk we were out of the Rockies - & almost as soon as we left them the sun came out. - bad luck it was so dull during the day. We arrived

at Edmonton at 7.30 pm. Ken

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Geoff + I went down to the baggage

Wednesday 7

wagon + helped unload the large
tin bags. Then we had a short
gun parade, drew sheets + pillow
and a hot bath + went to bed.
Arose at 6.30 this morning had
breakfast + then unpacked our
bags - we sent our washing
to the laundry - had dinner
and this afternoon we were
photographed - for identification
purposes. About 4.30 we were
given leave for the night. We
didn't wait for tea - but went
in to town. The camp (Manning

Depot) is in the Exhibition
grounds - about 10 mins by
tram from town. The soil
here is very black - houses
have no verandahs or fences.
Saw Kenney, Geoff, Ken + I walked
around town - finished up
at a dance in the Masonic
Hall. I came home on
my own - some chap in a car
gave me a lift out. Met a
girl who knew Kevin O'Donnell.

you cannot do your own washing
on the station - it has to be sent to a laundry.

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Thursday 8

The huts are quite warm inside.
- I used only one blanket last
night - and was not at all cold.
Houses have no verandahs - &
mostly two story - gives them a
very severe appearance. No
fences between houses - vegetable
are grown on vacant blocks - no
fences around them - girl told me
they plant a lot + then are sure
to get some of them. Very cold
this morning - we had a C.O. parade
in 5 A then went for a route
march up past the air observer's
school. The boys went mad
- would not march properly
broke the ranks and divided into
shops to buy biscuits etc. We
were fingerprinted this afternoon.
Had leave from 5 pm so we went up
town - went into a store + got some
brown paper + cardboard - wrapped up 3
books of photos + sent them home.
Had tea at Hotel Corona - wonderful
meal for 50 c. met a couple of girls -
Geoff + Ken went down to station with
them - I met another + made a date
for tomorrow night.

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Friday 9

Arose at 6.20 am washed shaved etc. not so cold this morning. We did practically nothing to day. All the morning we spent on a parade & then sitting around. This afternoon we signed a paper & saw a few films in the picture show. Although we are being posted to tomorrow and should be CB we are being given 0200 leave. We went in to town & I posted 2 airogram letters - one to Elaine & one home. Collected the photos - most of them are OK - some are pretty flat. Ken & Dick went off on their own. Geoff & I had dinner at the Shasta. After dinner we picked up our two girls & went to pictures "Crossroads". William had to be home by 11 o'clock so I took her home - then went over to the bowling alley & had a ~~comp~~ game. Then went to supper with Sam & three girls - caught a tram for home at 12.30. There was a dance on the station to night.

Black soil on prairies & Edmonton

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Cats cut & shocked, some threshed

Saturday 10

Arose at 6.40 am - the corporals had a job getting us out of bed. We had breakfast - grapejuice & bacon like chips. This morning we played softball - quite a good game. This afternoon we handed back our sheets, knives forks etc - had a medical exam, and packed our kit bag. (It was very warm to day) and had a medical examination. We had leave this afternoon from 5 pm. After tea we went over to the canteen - read a bit and mucked around. Then about 8 o'clock they rounded us up took us up to the station and put us on board a train. There were two carriages for about 80 of us - plenty of room. 3 of them were RCAF boys who got off at Saskatoon.

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19th after
Trinity

Sunday 11

awoke about 6:30 am and went
along to breakfast. The meals
were not bad - but still not as
good as those on the Stn
Pacific in U.S. We were
crossing the prairies to-day.
The harvest has been taken
in - seemed to be almost all
oats - some was still in stooks.
A lot of the paddocks are just
very small patches in between
clumps of small trees - not
quite as tall as poplars. We
followed along a fairly deep
valley for a few miles - and crossed
another couple. Arrived at
Portage la Prairie about 4:00
and were picked up by a bus &
taken out to the No 7 R.O.S. -
about 4 miles out of town.
We had tea - excellent - food
is placed in dishes on tables -
you help yourself. Girls are
there to wait on the tables

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Monday 12

and wash up when it is all
over. Excellent food and plenty
of it - the girls are very reserved
- will not even speak. A few
of us returned to town in a
truck & picked up our baggage
from the station - had a couple
of drinks & came back to camp.

awoke this morning at 7:45 -
missed breakfast which is at
7:30. If we had no lectures we
could have had breakfast at
8:30 - which is for chaps who have
been flying the night before.
We ~~went to~~ drew books, and
nav equipment. We commenced
lectures this afternoon -
photography, and instruments.
the Dalton Course & speed calculator
and magnetism.

Jack Danham & I developed a
couple of negatives to night.
We had a bit of bother getting
the films into the reel.

OCTOBER 1942

Tuesday 13

Arose at 7.20 and dashed up for breakfast. It was just nice & cool this morning. We commenced lectures at 8.30, each lecture lasts 1 hr with 5 min break between. Three lectures this morning - they finish at 11.30 then we have breakfast dinner at 12.15 and resume lectures at 1.0 and go through till 5 o'clock. The CO & CPO had a talk to us this afternoon. Then there was a master parade outside No 4 hanger at 4.50 when the CO told off the pilots for low flying & stunting. After tea I went back to the lecture room and wrote a few letters - one home, one to Elaine, one to Du Chesne. Worked out a few examples on the Dalton & went to bed about 4.30 pm.

They issued us with a
worslet wash.
OCTOBER 1942

Wednesday 14

Arose at 7.0 am and had breakfast - corn flakes or bran flakes, hot cakes with butter & honey & bacon, tomato juice, tea or coffee. Did lectures this morning and dinner at 12.15 we are on 2nd sitting this week. Dinner was soup, baked meat, potatoes, beetroot, cabbage salad & cherry pie, milk or tea. More lectures this afternoon including games and photography. Tea to night was baked meat, stewed fruit, cherry pie. The airport is a civilian job - everything but our training is done by civilians & under civil control including flying, maintenance, messing, cleaning barracks - administration - practically everything is done by civilians - hence the girls who wait on us in the mess.

OCTOBER 1942

Thursday 15

Had a photo of the flight
taken in front of an Anson
to-day. We had a look through
a plane.

In the urinal just out
eye height on the wall
are a couple of cards on
which are plane silhouettes

I was elected class
senior to-day - acting
Corporal - eat in Corps mess.
Leave any night without
leave pass - wear stripes

OCTOBER 1942

Friday 16

Joe's birthday 22nd.

Arose at 6.45 had breakfast
and was over at the Briefing
room by 7.45. We were given
instructions, put on parachute
harness and took off at
8.30am. Time is kept in G.M.T.

We had to do some pinpointing
- direct the pilot where to fly
& point out the object when we
got to it. It was grand. edson

1. Air speed 120 Height 5,500.

Had lectures as usual this
afternoon - tried identifying
stars to night

Flight duration 3 hrs.

OCTOBER 1942

Saturday 17

Arose at 6.45 shaved, breakfast
& took off about 8.15 on a
photographic flight. Three
of us in a plane, took 5 photos
each from 1,000 ft. Lectures
this afternoon as usual.
Came through in DRO's
yesterday my appointment as
acting corporal unpaid. Wear
stripes, get leave any night
without pass, eat in corporals
mess.

Developed a film this morning
& also one for Jack Denham.
Both came out all right.

OCTOBER 1942

20th after
Trinity

Sunday 18

Work as usual to-day.
We did another pic-painting
exercise this morning
took off at 8.30 & returned
at 11.30. Lectures as
usual this afternoon.
We went in to Portage
to-night to a social
in the Church of England
Hall - not bad - Fred
Smith & I took home a
couple of girls - Roberta
and Norma Dyer

OCTOBER 1942

Monday 19

Arose at 7.30am and just arrived in time for breakfast lectures as usual. El/Lt Proudfoot managed to get a \$10 loan for us - we commenced our 48 hr leave this afternoon. Caught a bus at the RCAF station & caught a CN train at 4.40, arrived at Winnipeg 5.30. Went up to Airman's Club & were billeted out with Mrs Garret. We gave her a ring & she & her daughter came in and picked us up in the car. Then Shirley took us back up town again to have a look around. We arrived home at 11.30 & went to bed about midnight.

OCTOBER 1942

Tuesday 20

Arose at 9.0 o'clock. had breakfast and went up town, met Ken & Phil & Geoff. Ken & I did some shopping in Hudson's Bay Co - where Shirley works - she took us around while we did our Christmas shopping. It sprinkled a bit this morning & then the wind blew very hard & very cold. We wandered around this afternoon. I went up to the CPR station - looked around a bit & took a few photos. Winnipeg is quite a large city 225,000 and most of the population seems to be pretty girls - they are here in amazing quantities. The four of us took Shirley to see "A Yank at Eton" - Mackey Rooney - very funny. Went to bed at midnight.

OCTOBER 1942

Wednesday 21

Arose at 9.30 and had breakfast
Geoff. I went up to HBC and
met Shirley - we paid our
bills contracted yesterday
and then went around to the
airmen's club for dinner. We
met Phil & Ken there having
dinner. After lunch Geoff &
I went bowling - we met a
crowd of girls from some store
who asked us to join them -
which we did. We then met
Shirley and had another couple
of games - a chap came and
showed us how to bowl. We
then went home for tea - Mr
Garraat drove us up to the station.
It was snowing very lightly when
we arrived at Portage. Fred
Smith & I then went up to Gyro
and went to the pictures with
Norma & ~~Shirley~~ Roberta.

OCTOBER 1942

Thursday 22

Arose at 6.30 and had breakfast.
It was pretty cold to-day - about
50 below. Bit of snow lying
about in corners and among
the grass. The wind was quite
cool. We had a photographic
flight this morning - same
photos as last time. It was
very lumpy to-day & we ran
into the edge of a snow storm.
However all went well.
We had lectures this afternoon
& learned to take drifts on
the bomb sight. I got my
laundry back to-day & posted
10 Christmas cards.
Had Nav lectures till 9.30
to-night. The huts are all
heated - and are often uncomfortably
warm even when it is snowing
outside - we are often inside
working in shirt sleeves only.

Very cold taking drifts - moisture
inside was freezing as ice and
frost on bomb sights.

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Friday 23

Arose 6.45 - not so cold
this morning. Meals have
to be eaten in relays - we
are first on list for breakfast.
Had lectures this morning.
Snowed off & on during the
day.

We did a two hour flight
this afternoon, took turn
as 1st Navigator - kept
record of ~~the~~ courses, took
wind drifts, then plotted
our DR position. Set
course for home, calculated
an ETA. I arrived home
on the course given & right
on time.

We had a game of pool tonight
in canteen. Then went over
to class room & wrote a
few letters.

OCTOBER 1942

Saturday 24 ☉

Arose at 6.30 had early
breakfast. Fairly cool to-day.
Lectures as usual. We
had a route march this
afternoon instead of
drill.

They have commenced
holding parades at 7.45
am and 12.45pm each
day now.

Received back the laundry
I sent out last Monday.
Wrote several letters tonight.

OCTOBER 1942

21st after
Trinity

Sunday 25

Awoke at 7.0am breakfast
and lectures as usual.
Fairly cold to day -
about -10. We had
a game of football
this afternoon. Caught
up on all letters tonight.

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Monday 26

Lectures as usual.
Snowed again - just
enough to cover the
ground.

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Tuesday 27

We went up on a photographic flight this morning - taking Verticals - we got time intervals of $2\frac{1}{2}$ sec. cloudy & snowing.

Then had a DR trip to Spy Hill. Carried a Bombardier who dropped a bomb on the range after we returned. Snow melted to day except in corners etc.

OCTOBER 1942

Wednesday 28

Lectures as usual. Fairly cold wind blowing. Mick Abbott received a letter from Barbara to-day. So far I haven't heard a word from home - or from Elaine. Received a letter from Fay Roberts. We went in to Portage to a dance at the Mental Hospital. It was very good - a very friendly crowd - the girls come and ask you for a dance. Fred Smith & I went up & saw the Dyer before we went to the dance. Received the photos from Shirley Garrett.

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Thursday 29

Lectures, fairly (comparative)
warm to-day.

Some The half that did
not fly on Tuesday went
up this afternoon.

We went over to stores
this afternoon and
received our flying
kit. - bear-skin inner
suit.

OCTOBER 1942

Friday 30

Lectures.

Boys found a stray cat
wandering around the
place so they adopted
it - put in a cent
each for milk - Jan
keeper of money &
cat feeder in chief.

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Saturday 31

Lectures. Fairly cool.
They are building a
skating rink in
front of our hut.

We had a lecture by
a PO observer this afternoon.
There are no more
Observers we are all
Navigators either
WN, BN, or plain N.
(Wireless Nav) (Bomber Nav).