

Em. Hann. W 970503
137/66th NEW FOUNDLAND Field Regt R.A
C/O B. N. 9. E
19-5-43
B all

Dear Mother & Dad:

This is a beginning of your letter for this week, as I expect the weekend will find us on the move to a new and permanent position for a wee while, its unlikely that we will fight again for a wee while, but do a spot of special training first. We all would like a return trip to Bonnie Scotland, before action again, but we can only hope for the former to happen. It has been a very quiet week so far. We are all busy cleaning our kit and equipment after 4 months in the hills, it was needed. I am glad for many reasons that this campaign is over, chiefly because it should give you both, less worry for a wee while, also we are glad of the rest. We covered quite a bit of Africa if you listened to the news attentively you would of heard Longstop Hill, mentioned

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many times, of all the places we were
that was possibly one of the most important.
But its all over now and the main thing is,
it ended in Victory for us and I think the
Newfoundlanders proved themselves, of course
that is for others to say. It was said on Parade
by a Colonel, whose Regiment we supported,
that the N.F.D gunners, were the best gunners
he ever had in North Africa. So it is a start
on the road to fame for the 166. One should
not blow one's own horn, but it makes good
material for a letter and I thought you would
like to hear it. We thought Africa was
finished with rain for a wee while, but yes-
terday afternoon we had a genuine rain, hail
and thunderstorm, but today it shone again
and dried things out. I was over to see Vic
today, with a few magazines I had finished.
They were busy getting ready for the Victory
Parade, which is being held in Tunis tomorrow.
Our Regt will represent Newfoundland
and 2 guns are going from each Battery,

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Vic's, is one of the two guns from 9/Btry
going, it is not official, but Rouble up Monty
may inspect them anyhow - the Radio will
tell you about it, long before you get this.
Vic is in good health and fine spirits,
it is also awhile since he heard from
home, its 3 weeks since I had my last
letter from you and Mary No 46, written in
February. But we hope and ^{know} ~~not~~, that some
will turn up soon - A bit of good news.
In a list of promotions which came out to-
day Harold becomes a L/Tdr. He was
worth it a long time back, but the Army
always takes its own dead time. I had an
air-letter and an autograph from my Mary
last weekend, all is well in Scotland and
Donald was home on leave. She mentions it
being a long time since mail came from
home. Dont forget to write many an odd time
Mother and I hope by now you have written
that home of ours in Kirkmichael. How
is the rationing affecting you, is it sufficient

get by with, no doubt it will take awhile for one to narrow things down it has worked ok in the British Isles.

Henry Ixford was over last night and showed me a nice photo of his Father and two Uncle's, The Feb^{26th} issue of the Western Star spoke well of Scotland, it was the "Kings Men" column did you read it? I always read and look for that column, it is quite good.

It made a mistake about saying 400 NELDERS were in Africa on R.A Regt numbers nearly 1000, but what's the diff, we were here and helped do the job, so that's the main thing.

25-5-41 It's Friday and a Bonnie Day, I expect to go for a swim this afternoon. I have just finished a good bath and quite a line of clothes, including the scrubbing of my webbing belt and garters which will soon be as white as the driven snow, but it's much better than blanconing. Now I must tell you about yesterday and the big Victory Parade in Tunis. Any one who wished to go could go as spectators and return when the parade was

over. ~~It~~ was out had a good day, the V
parade was excellent. I had a good view
of the saluting platform and the parade as
it passed by. First came Frenchman on horses
quite colourful, than a long line of French troops,
in which the Loon's took part, they did some
excellent work and we had the honour of sup-
porting them, they got the 2nd biggest ovation
in the Parade. In the French Troops, one had a
Regt had a big Black Goat leading them, the
mascot I expect, another Regt had a wee bay
about 6 or 7 years old leading them, it was quite
good. Then came the Yankee troops and their
band (The French Troops also have a ^{colourful} band.)
Then came the British Troops, with
a band and following them came the
motorized stuff. Generals Eisenhower, the
leading figure and Giraud, Alexander,
Anderson, Cunningham the naval man and
Cunningham the Airforce man. made up the
party on the saluting platform. The highlight
of the Parade and the men who got
the biggest cheers from the crowd, was

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the Scotch Bag-Pipes band, every Scotch Regt in Africa was represented and the many different kilts made their band most outstanding and very smart. One tall Scotchman, with a massive beard stood out in the band. They played many of the stirring tunes that led them to Victory out here. Cameraman were everywhere and the Scotch Band was snapped, many, many times. Before you get this letter. You will no doubt be seeing all this in the news reels. Many Yanks have some swell snaps as every 2nd man had a camera. Our Regt was not in the actual parade, but our guns were parked with tanks and things on the side of the line of march. It was a sunny day for it and things went off fine. The Yankee and British airforce flew over and roared to a salute about 100 planes or more, flew over in swell formation. I came back from Tunis to find myself on guard so it was a no brad, end to a fine day. As expected we move again

this weekend, so I will close your letter tomorrow.
There is still no mail from home since I started
your letter, but the week is not gone yet. Well I
didn't get swimming on Friday, but was there yesterday
afternoon (23-5-43) it was just swell the water
and sun was at its best and the beach as usual
was perfect. Friday afternoon my chum and myself
decided to see what was in these hills and the
3rd French family we met was quite friendly,
their son was home on leave from the French army
we had some Vin Rouge and Edouardade played
us a few tunes on the violin, it was a pretty good
afternoon and we were invited back last night
We had a few gifts for them, so out we went
and spent a gala evening Vin Rouge, & meat
and so on, fried eggs, flavoured to perfection
with Pepper. Fried cucumbers, it was excellent
I have enclosed the recipe in Mary's letter, so
you must try it, then we had almonds and
a cup of tea, it was quite an evening, seeing
we are in Africa and we got in about
midnight. At the moment I am dressed and

waiting for a church parade, after that we
prepare to move. There is little more news
no mail turned up, but it will soon. Tell
Gran to keep well and remember me to anyone
who enquires. I hope you got my telegram
from Tunis and that you will remember
to send many the gift for her birthday
all 3 of us are well and in fine
spirits, so Mother for quite a wee while
there is no need to worry.

Denis hoping you have a swell
summer and that this finds you
all well.

Remember to write for now

Cheerioe Baye

Love
Son
Bill