

Canadian War Museum Finding Aid
Fonds of J. Greenblatt
Accession number 19990209-002

Dates: 1944-1945

Extent: 186 letters contained in file 58A 1 155.3-6.

Biographical Sketch: Captain Joseph Greenblatt, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps (RCAMC), Canadian Army (CA), Second World War, was born in Isalova, Russia, on 21 February 1916. He enlisted as a doctor with the RCAMC, CA on 30 June 1942 and was initially stationed at the Rideau Military Hospital in Ottawa. After qualifying for active duties overseas, Greenblatt was first sent to Windsor (Ontario) and then finally to Great Britain in 1943. He went ashore into France on 6 June 1944, D-Day, with the assault section of the 14th Field Ambulance, which was attached to the 7th Brigade of the 3rd Division. Captain Greenblatt was one of the first Canadian doctors on the shores of France assisting with the movement and evacuation of casualties from the beaches of Normandy.

He was discharged from the Canadian Army on 12 February 1946, and passed away in 1982.

Language: textual material in the fond is in English.

Scope and Content: Joseph Greenblatt wrote this collection of 186 letters to his sweetheart, Miss Francis Trachtenberg (later Mrs. Greenblatt), during the Second World War. The collection follows the progress of a medical officer from D-Day through France, and into Belgium, Holland and Germany as he accompanied both an artillery and field ambulance regiment. In his letters home he writes candidly of the difficulties in practicing his religion under the circumstances (Greenblatt was Jewish), as well as the problems of performing surgery in some places in which he found himself. He also writes of the events of D-Day and the preparations that went into it, his frustrations of being bounced from unit to unit, and the ordinary people and living conditions that he encountered.

Arrangement: This finding aid has been arranged numerically according to the original filing system, as determined by Joseph and Francis Greenblatt. In a few cases, numbers are not present, which may indicate that letters were not received.

All letters can be found in file number 58A 1 155.3-6.

Detailed Listing:

Letter number	Contents
1	<p>4 April 1944. Remarks at how bad railway traveling is. Pleasant leave in London. Missed attending a friend's wedding while he was away. Bumped into someone in the Navy who was his junior intern at the Ottawa Civic Hospital, while in Piccadilly at 11:00pm during a blackout. Left for Newcastle on Friday, 31 March. Disappointed as the city shuts down at 9:30. His philosophy is "have a good time baby while you can". Sends a couple of photographs that were taken recently.</p> <p>NB: This letter is given designation of #1 as when Joseph left his record book in his hotel in Newcastle, and did not expect to see it again. His last letter (predating this particular collection) was dated 29 March 1944.</p>
2	<p>7 March 1944. Received an airgraph message from Francis Trachtenberg. She should vacation at a cottage in Ottawa. Wrote a letter to Erwin [unknown individual], expressing his sympathy.</p>
3	<p>10 April 1944. Received a package from Francis filled with apple juice, strudel, chewing gum and candy. Writes about US politics, and comments how little he has to write about.</p>
4	<p>14 April 1944. Outdoor life is a healthy one. Goes to bed around 10:00 and wakes at 7:00. Does his morning exercises and athletics. Mentions Ashby as his partner, and how he and Ashby are altogether different. He will not be as much fun, but he will be more dependable. The mail has been traveling very fast, and he is quite happy. Went out and partied the other night, and his tolerance low now. Glad that Francis enjoyed her trip to Florida. Writes about how Francis is trying to gain financial independence from her parents, as she is not employed at the moment. Francis was on a battleship, and Joseph writes that he cannot believe how immense they are.</p>
5	<p>16 April 1944. Nothing quite as miserable as sleeping under canvas during rainy weather. Felt rotten yesterday, and missed breakfast today. After playing volleyball feeling much better. Not going to play poker anymore as he is losing a lot. Sixth Victory Bond campaign is underway, and his boys are the leaders in the purchases, but the officers are waiting to see what his boys bought so that they can lead. Intends to buy \$200 more, which will bring his total to \$1000. Asks Francis not to tell his mother that he is sleeping under canvas, as she will only get wound up, and he would rather spare her the nightmares.</p>
6	<p>18 April 1944. Amazed at the speed that mail is traveling now. Is much better than the void of 6 months during the winter. Passover passed without event. He could have had a day off, but would need</p>

	a hospitality invitation from London.
7	22 April 1944. Has been trying to write this letter for an hour, but news is so scarce and subject material is limited. Received a letter from Bea [unknown individual] and mother today, and it sounds that Passover was not all it might have been. Very disappointed that he has not heard from Morton [unknown individual] yet, as there is a possibility that he could have met him somewhere.
8	26 April 1944. Still has heard no news, but feels that he should write regardless. Had a short weekend in London. Despite some financial difficulties, managed okay. Bought at \$200 war bond yesterday. While in London called the wife of a friend to congratulate her on her new baby. Still has not heard from Morton yet.
9	30 April 1944. The OC [Officer Commanding] issued orders that Joseph is not allowed to play poker until he has finished his correspondence. Unfortunate, as their courtship did not include the summer months, as it is quite beautiful at the moment. His friend in London had a baby girl. Tried to go over but the could not as the bars were open too late. Did not receive any mail last week.
10	3 May 1944. Heated game of cribbage is going on as he writes, with lots of cussing. Figures that his mail will take a couple of weeks before it catches up to him as he has shifted places. His health is at an unprecedented level. Activities are confined to reading, sun bathing, volleyball, baseball, and poker games. Misses Francis a lot.
11	6 May 1944. Received a letter from Lorne [unknown individual] today, and it seems they have not been able to procure a cottage yet. Reply to general questions asked by Francis.
12	9 May 1944. Glad to hear that Francis had a good time in New York. Received a box of shelled nuts that she sent while in Florida. Headwear has changed from the small wedge cap to berets. Since he has started winning at poker, feels that for some reason, his luck is telling him to be suspicious of Francis. He is orderly officer today, and is off to attend to some duties.
13	12 May 1944. Had to do business about 40 miles away yesterday, so took a jeep and drove away. On his way, stopped and wandered the countryside for a while. Met up with his old friend Captain Don Miller, RCAMC. Intended to send Francis's mother some flowers for Mother's Day, but was quite busy, and forgot. Might send his wristwatch back to her, as the army is issuing him one, and he finds it difficult to carry two. The wristwatch was the first present he received from Francis, and he cherishes it very much.
14	16 May 1944. Everyone has left camp tonight, as there is a show, however, Joseph must stay to hold the fort. Writes about Francis moving in New York. Light in his jeep burnt out last night while out, and he decided to stay the night. He could not find a place, so went to the police station to see what they could do for him. Took

	him to a very shabby hotel. Accepted as he had nowhere else to go, and the room turned out to be spotless. Was pleasantly surprised. Also had wonderful hospitality from the staff.
15	20 May 1944. Mail system is really terrific. Has been away for a few days, and received 8 letters in the meantime. Hopes that a friend does not join the Red Cross as so many have to sign up to stay in rehabilitation work when the war is over. Francis sent a picture of her, and he remarks that she looks a “whole lot pregnant”. About this time last year, he was on leave, and Francis was his sweetheart. Hopes that soon he can spend his disembarkation leave with her.
16	23 May 1944. Received a letter from Bea, in which she wrote that Francis sent a card to his mother on Mother’s Day, at which she was immensely pleased. Thanks her for remembering, and apologizes for not sending one to her mother. All of the letterheads have been cut off as it is strictly against military security. Wanted to make sure his wristwatch has arrived safely. Waiting for the bar to open, as he has not had a drink in months.
17	26 May 1944. Received 3 letters and remarks at how well the mail is moving. Concerned about Francis’ nausea spells. Suggests she go for a check-up. Is sending some photographs, and asks Francis if she can send some to his home. He is perfectly healthy.
18	30 May 1944. Tomorrow will be exactly one year that they parted at Union Station in Ottawa. It does not appear so long, but hates to think that it might be another year before he can see her again. Does not seem so long as Francis has kept up with regular correspondence. Days are passed in training, and nights are filled with the cinema or poker (his bad luck has returned).
* [No number assigned]	2 June 1944. Including a couple of things that he wants Francis to hold on to. Will write again in a few days.
19	3 June 1944. Mail system has reached a point where he expects a couple of deliveries a week. Writes to his parents just as often as he writes to Francis. No matter how much he writes it is not enough for his parents. Writes almost 2 letters a week to them. Saw a CWAC [Canadian Women's Army Corps] show last night.
20	5 June 1944. He is safe. Will write again in more detail when time is more available.
21	10 June 1944. Last time he wrote, he was taking a boat across the channel to France (D-Day). Wanted to write a lot more about it, but cannot for security reasons. Now that he has been in the “show” for 4 days, he feels a little more confident about things. Being in France is a little more dangerous than being in England, but they will emerge successful. Until yesterday he did not get away from work very much, and did not get very much sleep, but the “boss” pulled him out and relieved him. Slept yesterday for about 24 hours.
* [No number assigned]	12 June 1944. Mail has arrived, and he is amazed as there are more important things going on than having mail delivered. Received a

	letter from home saying that they have not received mail in weeks, and are starting to get worried. Today was the first day he could look at the newspapers. They are greatly exaggerated. Became bored, so asked to be moved up where the life is: "more interesting, and a fella is more in the picture". Apologizes for the lack of numbering, but it was because he left his book back at HQ.
23	16 June 1944. He is safe, "somewhere in France". Does not expect a repeat performance of D-Day. Read an English newspaper dated 14 June, and did not think the Canadians were getting enough publicity. Thinks this is because of the massive size of the English and American armies. Food he misses the most, is plain, ordinary bread. A USA AF [United States of America Air Force] chap passed through his hands after his plane was shot down. As Joseph was unable to write, he asked him to drop a line when he got to England. Hopes one day he can keep Francis in his arms in peace, serenity and freedom.
24	18 June 1944. Exactly one year that he landed on English soil. One thing that he was uncertain about was his reaction to fear. Has been OK in that respect. At times had been absolutely terror stricken, yet fortunately had sufficient will power to control that fear and carry on with his work. Anyone who says they are not afraid is absolutely crazy and is a liar. Fear has been expressed to him from high up, to the lowest private. The French neighbors are beginning to warm up to them, as at first they were rather cool as they thought it was another Dieppe. Wants to know how the news of D-Day was accepted in Francis's part of the world.
25	21 June 1944. Received letters from Francis about D-Day. Felt that she did not elaborate enough on her feelings towards the day. He The day will stay forever in his mind. On his way across the channel, he thought of writing Francis a letter, "only in the event of –". However, could not find he necessary words to express himself. His parents were quite worried about him, but after reading in the Ottawa newspapers, his father found out that the Medical Corps functions a bit to the rear of battles, and that reassured them a bit. Although, Joseph explains, this is not true, he is happy they think so.
26	24 June 1944. A bit to the rear area, for a rest. Congratulates the Allies on their air superiority.
27	27 June 1944. Sitting at a desk in a nice little chateau looking out over a beautiful garden, with practically all the comforts of home. In charge of a rest home, which accounts for his chateau residency. The enemy is only a few miles distant. Can occasionally hear artillery shots and the constant drone of planes flying overhead. General correspondence.

28	<p>30 June 1944. Is RCAMC CAO [Chief Administrative Officer]. Sitting overlooking his chateau garden. This morning, an MK109 [aircraft] tried to sneak through the lines, and it was so close to his room that he could have shaken hands with the pilot. Appearance of Spitfires made the plane retreat. Getting a little bored at the chateau, and longing to be able to get up again. Morton is up at Birmingham. His French is improving at leaps and bounds. Has a dog now also – a two-month-old, black and white “mongrel” named “Two-A”. Two-A is the number of Joseph’s particular bunch in the unit. At present, Two-A has fleas, but she is getting a wash soon. Trying to get her on the ration strength of the unit, with the OC’s permission.</p>
29	<p>3 July 1944. Raining today, and cannot recall one single day without some rain at intervals. Bea has told him that that his father received a Father’s Day card from Francis. He is very happy. Very grateful as Francis is carrying on for him while he is unable to. Tells her to be steadfast in her belief of their future. Puppy’s name changed to “Hard Tack” which is more appropriate and associated with the substitute for bread that they receive in field rations. Yesterday visited with one of the boys from Ottawa and they reminisced and discussed Ottawa gossip. Asks Francis to send some dog biscuits for Hard Tack. Francis has also had a sudden spree of luck in gambling.</p>
30	<p>9 July 1944. Has been working almost 24 hours a day the past few days, and has been unable to write even a short note. At present has two puppies on his hands, Hard Tack and Slit Trench (from one of the infantry regiments). His slit trench (or foxhole) is about 5 feet with sandbags and steps leading down to it. It is certainly a lonely place.</p>
31	<p>12 July 1944. Looks forward to mail, even more than food. Knew a few days before D-Day what they were doing as they had to be briefed as to their plan of action. The Petty Officer from Ottawa that he met used to live on the corner of Chapel and Stewart. Has just finished talking to a man in Counter-Espionage work for Intelligence. Counter-espionage is strong and well organized.</p>
32	<p>15 July 1944. Rather depressed as a very young pilot was brought to him, already dead. The pilot was not killed in an aerial engagement, but on a social visit towards the front, when a shell hit his vehicle. Because it is a slow time, more time to think about things. Confides in Francis as she is still living, and in a clean “other world”. Missing pages.</p>
33	<p>18 July 1944. Very pleased that Francis is spending a wonderful time on vacation at the Cape. Unsure if she is enjoying a quiet time, as his poker luck has been absolutely foul in contrast to a few days ago. The ambulance was mentioned in the papers, and Joseph’s name as well. Going back to his slit trench, as “discretion is better</p>

	than valor right now.”
34	21 July 1944. Sitting in a basement dugout of a stone farmhouse which is flea infested and with an abundance of mosquitoes. Thinks this is the worst place he has inhabited, however the stone walls are a foot thick, and it is rainproof and shockproof. Has left the unit, joined an artillery regiment, and is unsure if it is permanent or not. Has heard there was an internal revolt against Adolph [Hitler]. He does not believe in second hand stories and only half of what he reads.
35	24 July 1944. Still with the artillery regiment, and rather likes it. As far as luxuries are concerned, the ambulance was much nicer, as whenever they got back to HQ they could get some rest, and make a makeshift bathtub to become human again. With the artillery regiment, they never get the chance to get away or ease up at all. Although not very busy, cannot get away in case something does happen. Went back to the old unit yesterday to get some supplies, and found out that his OC had broken his leg and had to be evacuated. Pretty sure that he is going to be staying with his new unit.
36	27 July 1944. Rather bored, and although all he wants to do is get away for a bath, he cannot as something might happen. Has now been definitely posted as MO [Medical Officer], and is likely to stay here for sometime. Another MO dropped by his office the other day, and told him that a friend from Ottawa wishes to see Joseph, but he again cannot get away for even an afternoon. Has lost Hard Tack, but he will make sure that she gets the biscuits.
37	30 July 1944. Starts to explain the briefing for the D-Day landings. Given maps with bogus names and briefed fully. Knew the names of the streets and corners of every village that they were to pass through, however, never knew the names of the villages or the particular sector they were to land on. Not until after they left on 5 June that they received maps with real names and real map references. Started final briefing with “Well boys, this is it – tomorrow morning we land in the Coast of France”. Silence that followed was awe-inspiring. Because of what they had been through together during D-Day, was sad to leave the boys. One of these days they are going to go into town, and he is going to get “stinko”. Hasn’t had a drink since D-Day, and have been on the go ever since. Wishes he could get back to England for a leave.
38	3 August 1944. Unit has rested, but he says has been busier now than ever, as all the minor sprains and bruises that were forgotten in the heat of the action have become exaggerated during the rest period. Seeing things that first occurred three to four weeks ago that were let go because the boys were too busy to come around and see the MO and minor things have developed complications. Has toured a couple of Canadian General Hospitals, where he had friends

	amongst nurses and MOs. Nurses looked lonely to his eyes, whereas previously they had looked very ordinary and certainly nothing to turn your head at. He says that it just goes to show what months of depression have done.
39	6 August 1944. Traveled down a beachhead, and is totally covered from head to foot with dust. Does not think that he will ever be clean again. Hard Tack has gone missing, and he thinks that the English troops have stolen her. Will now have to distribute the dog biscuits among the “regimental mongrels”. Does not know if Francis has received the wristwatch that he sent back. Francis has said that she would like to share his slit trench, and although Joseph finds it a “pleasureful” thought, he remarks that he would hate for her to share the same experiences and circumstances.
40	10 August 1944. Delayed in writing this letter as has been constantly on the move the past few days. Once he settles into his slit trench, they are on the move again to a new location. Is a most tedious procedure, but “a real must in this type of warfare”. Is healthy, and well fit, but is covered with bites from dive-bomber mosquitoes, black flies and harvest mites. Story of when he met an elderly woman. The woman asked if her town was free from fighting. Told her that it was not considered safe yet, but the woman wanted to go home. The town was on the way, so he drove her. When they got there, the woman’s home was still there, but “Jerry” had destroyed everything inside. Sympathized with her, but the woman considered herself lucky, her town was free, and her house was still standing.
41	13 August 1944. Sitting under a bamboo roof, salvaged from the enemy. Shelter is in direct observation of the enemy, and every once and a while, they “pop the odd shell”, which is not very accurate, but it does make his hand quiver and his head to duck. Artillery gun behind him, which practically throws him out of the chair when it is fired. General war situation seems to be going pretty well. Has not met the Americans yet, but hopes some day he will.
42	16 August 1944. Would like to see the reunion between the Americans and the British Canadians. Predicts that by the time fall comes, they will be able to spend a comfortable leave in Paris. His sense of values has completely altered since D-Day, which seems so far ago. Heard rumors that they are allowing leave back to England in a month’s time. Read in the Canadian press that they will be granting an additional financial gratuity to all members of the Armed Forces upon discharge (on top of the rehabilitation scheme). The gratuity is to be \$7.50 for every man that served in Canada and \$15.00 for every month served overseas. Heard that the Canadian Army will be sent to the South West Pacific Theatre of War, when this show is over. Feels that he has had enough when this show is over. Lost a good friend in the ambulance yesterday when a shell

	landed in his treatment room.
43	19 August 1944. Suffering for the past 24 hours with a case of dysentery. Vomiting, but thinks that he is towards the recovery side, but pretty miserable and depressed. Francis should not compare the apparent slowness of the Canadian Army against the American's rapid advance. She should not forget the where the strength lay for so long, and how there would be many more American casualties without the Canadians. Wants to get this settled here and now before he gets back home.
44	22 August 1944. Only has 15 minutes to write this letter. Re-captured an American Infantry Private from Ohio that had been captured by the "Jerrys", a "scruffy looking lot, with morale all shot to hell".
45	25 August 1944. On the move again. Because he is with the artillery, he is fully mechanized, but the distance is still great and tiring. Wandered into a farmhouse at 3:00am, and for all he knew, it could have been 10 miles behind enemy lines. Has heard reports from the Falaise Gap that 40,000 prisoners were taken, and 6,000 dead. "Jerry" is in full retreat, and they find it difficult to keep up with him.
46	28 August 1944. Still on the move, trying to make contact with the Germans, who are definitely on a complete rout. Letter from General Montgomery stated that victory in the west of France was complete and they must chase the Germans back to Germany. As long as the Germans are retreating, defenses are disorganized and it is only a matter of time before victory. Staying at a hunting lodge, and it is not the trophies or sporting photographs that impressed him – it was a modern washbasin with running water and a flush toilet, the first that he has seen in France. They call it a heaven sent. In the past few days, has experienced the thrill of liberating towns. Has received many gifts such as cider and eggs from the grateful citizens. Carries extra cigarettes and chocolates for the kids because they have not experienced such luxuries in over four years.
47	3 September 1944. Spending more time in his Jeep than any other place. Getting so fed up with moving that he will never stir from the house once they get married. German Army has now been "licked" in France. Germans are retreating, but all their vehicles have been shot and destroyed, so are stealing horses from passing farmers. Is very optimistic right now. In a Chateau, which is the loveliest he's seen in France. Asks Francis has received his wristwatch.
48	6 September 1944. Still following the enemy, and only have an occasional halt when the enemy decided to give battle. A few shells fix that situation, and away they go again. More afraid of the rainy season, which starts in October, than the enemy. Thinks that they must end the war this month, or they will not end it this year.
49	9 September 1944. In a very nice apple orchard that the Germans

	used. So close to German lines that when they camped last night they could not use lights. Thought it looked pretty grim in the darkness, but now that light has appeared, he says that he couldn't have found a better spot. Engaged in cleaning the channel ports and the site of flying bombs.
50	12 September 1944. Francis's parcel of dog food arrived. Stayed at the orchard location for three days now (longest so far), and haven't been fired on by the enemy, although have been doing some themselves. Might be getting shipped off to Burma after this show is all over. Saying a little prayer to hope that does not happen. Le Havre has fallen.
51	15 September 1944. Close to the Channel and figures to be in that area for a while, at least until the Channel ports are cleared up with their big coastal guns and numerous anti-invasion obstacles. Did not land in the area that they are in, because the landing would have been a nightmare. Sitting around playing bridge. Meanwhile, there is a barrage going on. "One sure thing, Jerry is not playing bridge right now". Does not have any medals, but you do not get medals for doing your job. Only interested in is the Victory medal.
52	18 September 1944. Apologizes for not remembering the Jewish New Year. Jewish personnel are to be allowed to excuse themselves from duty, to be present for ceremonies. Unit was very busy at the time, and was unable to go. Services were being held at Corps HQ, over 40 miles away. Has lost so many friends in the war. Canadians and Americans are a team, and everyone realizes that. Canadians do not envy the Americans however, because they have had to do the sticking, the fighting south of Caen so that they could break through and encircle. Admires the efficiently at which they perform. The idea that they might go to Japan is appalling – if not disgusting: "War narrows a person's horizon and the most important person in a soldier's scope of vision is himself. One does not think too much about another person's sacrifices, although one realizes that the next person is sacrificing as much or more than yourself."
53	21 September 1944. Have acquired "walkie-talkies", and just set them up to receive the BBC. Really does help in a large way to pass the long lonely hours. Went wandering today, and wound up in a recently evacuated German hospital and acquired a few instruments that might come in useful in post-war rehabilitation. Read in the paper that Brussels was holding sermons in the synagogues. Unfortunately, was no where near such a place, as would have liked to attend
54	24 September 1944. In a German dugout, which consists of a fairly large room, about 12 feet underground, solidly supported with large beams and about 10 tons of earth over top of it. Had to widen the stairs in case a stretcher had to come down. Installed lights, running off their own battery. Would not trade this for a chateau right now,

	as the Germans are still shelling them. Humorous story of mines and a cow.
55	27 September 1944. Changed locations again, and had no idea that he was leaving. Became hostile as hell, but there was nothing that he could do about it, as it was confirmed in writing. Came back to the Ambulance today. Feels dissatisfied and pushed around. Two weeks ago had assurance that he could stay with the regiment. Is not even with his original Field Ambulance. Going to the “boss man” to try and get an explanation. “I am very fed-up and disgusted with the whole thing”.
XX [no number assigned]	28 September 1944. Exploded on the “big boss medical man” during their meeting. Seems that he paid a visit to this unit, and it was a bit of a mess and attributable to a certain medical officer. Felt that the unit required a bit of jacking up, and felt that Joseph was an experienced Field Ambulance officer, and that was where he belonged. Although it was a compliment, Joseph is still not happy. The unit he is with has members of his class at university, and some originals, so he is not without friends. Tonight was the first night since 7 August that he was able to take his clothes off before going to bed. Going to see Bing Crosby in “On My Way” tonight.
56	30 September 1944. Moved again, only temporarily this time however, as the Infantry Unit that he is with, the MO has gone on three days leave, and he is filling in. These temporary stays have been known to result in prolonged attachments. “It doesn’t matter very much anymore, I am beyond the stage of caring”. General correspondence.
57	4 October 1944. In Belgium. Very different country to France, despite its geographic proximity. Difference lies in the character of the people. Amazed at the densely populated country. In some instances, you pass from one town to the next without even knowing that it was two towns. Omniscient cleanliness of Belgium compared to the “dirty, disheveled farmhouses in France.” People are very friendly and very hospitable. Most of them can speak French and many can speak English well, but their Flemish is absolutely incomprehensible. Grapes and tomatoes are in abundance, and they enjoyed these rare treats.
58	7 October 1944. Has returned to the Field Ambulance again, after being with the Infantry Regiment. Has electric light, easy chairs, beds and even an Officer’s mess. Wishes Russia would get cracking again and make a few advances in the Eastern border, which would help to no end.
59	12 October 1944. Past 5 days have been “hell on earth” and has not been as scared for his life ever in the campaign. Going to keep his story silent however, as he must abide my military security. Depressed at the announcement that the war will continue until 1945 or longer to complete. Rather emotional letter.

60	<p>15 October 1944. Been very busy the past while. Last night was the first night in a week that he was able to get 8 hours of sleep. Most of the casualties are “Jerry’s” and only a few Canadians. Civilians are really the tragedy of the war. Poor people are pinned down often in no mans land with both sides shelling the hell out of them. Has been all along with the 3rd Canadian Infantry division, of the 2nd Canadian Corps of the 1st Canadian Army. Another Victory Loan campaign on right now, and he intends to buy more. He will probably buy \$300-\$400 worth of loans. Ever since coming to France, has intended to buy Francis something, however had not had the opportunity to be in a decent size place where shopping would be possible. The other day they sent a notice around asking if any of the field MOs would like to transfer to a hospital. Put his name in, but expects nothing to come of it.</p>
61	<p>17 October 1944. Nothing to report except that they are steadily advancing against a very stubborn enemy, who refuses to surrender: “these chaps are really fighting to the finish”. Mentions Jewish convictions, and how the war has changed his ideologies and faith.</p>
62	<p>19 October 1944. Francis asked Joseph if he was at Dunkirk, and he replied that it was able the only coastal show that he missed. Is now somewhere in Holland. About three nights ago, the campaign had the climax. The Germans decided that their position was the most important target in the whole area, and from 9:30pm to 6:30am every three to five minutes dropped shells in a radius of 50 yards from his position. Scored 4 direct hits to the house in which he was sleeping. One was killed and five wounded. The worst part was that he had to work through all of this. Does not think he will ever forget that night. Applied for transfer to a General Hospital because he is becoming a little exhausted and rather weary, and would like a chance to get away for a time. Doubts that anything will become of his application, as his luck is not good at the moment. Asks Francis to keep everything confidential, and not to tell his folks.</p>
63	<p>23 October 1944. Germans are still fighting, despite the fact that they are pretty well trapped. As long as they are behind some concrete, and the troops are not too close, they will fire everything they have. However, as soon as the infantry closes in, the Germans surrender with smiles on their faces. Latest rumor is that the “D-Day Boys” will be getting a week leave in England very soon.</p>
64	<p>27 October 1944. Been examining MOs to qualify RCAMC personnel as nursing orderlies. Went out on a bender last night, and drove 40 miles through the Belgo-Holland rain. He has heard no more from transfer angles. Bought \$300 of bonds, which brings his total to \$1300. Should provide a nice honeymoon.</p>
65	<p>30 October 1944. Nothing new to report on, except saw Serge Ferguson, from Ottawa. General Correspondence.</p>
66	<p>1 November 1944. Physical state is absolutely perfect, but mentally</p>

	still the doldrums. Not that he walks around with a long scowl all the time, but has lost interest in the whole proceedings. Does not see any future in the business. Not doing the administration job he should. Has lost his ambition. Still in Holland, and does not know what anyone wants the country for. Hollanders wonder as to why the Germans want their country. It rains all the time, and the ground is mud. "It rains, it's cold, it's miserable, it's monotonous, it's war."
67	6 November 1944. Moved back into a city for a few days rest, and the division has been given the freedom of the city, at which the Belgian people are out doing each other in the way of hospitality. Every soldier has a billet. The place that he drew must be very rich because everything is class. Maid brings his breakfast. The other night, he went drinking, and awoke at 3:00am. The bed was too soft, and he had to take the mattress off. Enjoying his time in the town, and could spend the month, even though it will not be that long. Prices for drinks are outrageous.
68	8 November 1944. Has become accustomed to luxuries, and is worried will not be able to give it up. The people are very nice, and quite wealthy. Given an invitation to stay with his hostess any leave that he gets. Days have been those of absolute relaxation. Works every third night at an accident station. Last night went to a concert. The news of Roosevelt's election is good news to all of them overseas. The people think he is marvelous.
69	13 November 1944. Was in Ghent, and he is again up front again. Very difficult to get accustomed to outdoor life after living such a civilian existence for a few days. Difference between military life and civilian life.
70	15 November 1944. Took a shower, which is a treat anytime under forward conditions. While in Ghent, bought some things for Francis, however left the items out, they were stolen, and has been unable to reveal the thief. Appointed Company Commander, which is supposedly a promotion, however does not particularly cherish it. Heard no more of his application for transfer to a hospital, and now thinks it will exclude him. Germans are fighting harder than ever, and their morale is high, so he thinks there will be one good fight left. Germans are marvelous organizers, and very difficult to rout into disorganization.
71	18 November 1944. Sitting in an apartment near the front line, that the Germans used as a first aid hospital. Red Cross painted on the roof, but was surely used for other purposes. Furnace at which the Germans have provided coal, which they could not take in their retreat. Germans used the building to store ammunition (information they received from a Dutch frontier guard). Hitler Youth threw grenades into houses during their retreat: "little satanic individuals".
72	21 November 1944. Moved back to HQ from the front position, and they are very short on MOs. Opened a 100-bed hospital for minor

	illnesses, which can be cured in two weeks. Has about 70 patients under his care, and has to check all the patients that come in from the front line, and direct them to their proper channels. Very happy to be busy again after all the time, even though was supposed to come back for a rest. Employing civilian nurses, who work without pay. They are doing a marvelous job.
73	24 November 1944. Mentions how much it rains in Holland. Cannot complain as is living in luxury, but it is the infantryman in his slit trench that is getting the raw end of the deal. They are the real heroes of the war with the circumstances they have to endure. They are letting people have one month's leave to Canada, however does not think he will qualify for a while. Having a party tomorrow night, and a Dutch brass band is to supply the music. Now has 100 patients to look after, and it takes all his time.
74	28 November 1944. Francis thinking about accepting a USO [United Service Organizations] proposition, which is 5-6 months. Does not think that he will be getting back before next fall, so he congratulates her for it. She will be much happier working for the USO than just sitting around doing nothing. Things are pretty slow right now. Brigadier is throwing a party down to and including company commanders. Most of the American Nurses that are in his hospital are from the South.
75	29 November 1944. Moved back to the front, and is presently occupying a decent house in a wood. Cold, however, and cannot light the furnace as blowing smoke is just asking for it. He has just completed censoring a publication from one of his Sergeants. Wants to put him up for promotion; however, does not want to lose him. Rivalry between the different companies. Went to a party last night, and brought some American Nurses. Went in their fatigues, as the Matron did not think they had their good clothes with them. Francis is going back to New York City to look for work, and he is happy.
[No number assigned]	2 December 1944. Party at HQ for all the divisional MOs, and must attend under orders. Has a chest cold, and drinking tonight is strictly taboo. Artillery guns are moving at the moment. Had a visit from a Jewish Chaplain who has recently been appointed to the Canadian Army in the field, and he is making an effort to visit all the soldiers in the field.
[No number assigned]	5 December 1944. Pace of the Canadian Army has slowed since D-Day, and at the rate they were going it would take generations for Canada to recover. Fuss in Canada at the moment as are unsure as to what to do about Home Defense troops who are refusing to go to action and come overseas. Shows how degenerated even the "Conservative Canada" is. Trying to organize a Christmas party for the kids in a nearby town. As soon as he can return from the front line, will take a run back to Belgium and buy some ice cream and toys. Jewish Ladies club of Ottawa is sending him 5,000 cigarettes

	for distribution amongst the soldiers of the unit.
78	8 December 1944. His NCO [Non-Commissioned Officer] informed him of theft of two days rations. Joseph believes that the boys are trading the food for whatever they need. Believes that tomorrow there will be a chit on his desk asking him in a “special” way to meet the OC for a chat. Newspaper announced that the “D-Day Boys” have a chance for leave in England, but yet to extend to Canadian troops. Received unanimous approval from the troops in launching a Christmas Party, and is in charge.
79	10 December 1944. Glad that they did not marry before he left, as he would have found it unbearable. His Lieutenant (and stretcher-bearer) fell in love with a girl from one of the Unit shows. The man asked for leave, and Joseph consented, so he went to meet her. The girl ended up coming back to their unit, and they all had dinner together. Brigadier of the Brigade came for an unofficial visit today. Quebec taking the “contra-side”. Pros and cons of conscription. Wishes Francis a very Happy Birthday.
80	13 December 1944. Feeling religious after attending Chanukah service today, as is the first time in a year that he has been at service. Was in a water scheme traveling up and down the English Channel. Fell in the water, and had to swim 15 yards, all before the days march.
81	16 December 1944. New OC walked in today, and was his old OC from the 14 th [Field Ambulance]. There will be a few changes now. Just holding the line at the moment. Sends back a letter from his “Belgium Mother”, and is amazed at how well she writes in English.
82	19 December 1944. Listening to the radio for information on the 1st US Army’s battles against the Germans. Fears it is not going well for the Allies, however thinks they will be all right. Had a great time at the Christmas Party for the neighborhood. Everyone contributed liberally. Everything is at a standstill at the moment.
83	23 December 1944. Christmas party looks as if it is going to be a good one. The men are going to be given time off from 11:00 to 5:00, and the officers and NCOs will work. Was one of the chief waiters. After 5:00, the men go back, and the officers party. Concerned about the Germans breaking through the US line, however, still has the utmost confidence in his leaders.
84	26 December 1944. Had a draw amongst the Officers for leave to England, and drew first on the list, starting 5 January. Starting to make arrangements. Boys were drinking, and made a mess of the Mess Hall. After the soldiers’ Christmas Party was over and cleaned up, the officers had a small affair. A good time by all. Today was Open House.
85	29 December 1944. Looks forward to 4:00 to see if the mail has come. Drove to a nearby hospital to meet and renew acquaintances. Application he put in for a hospital is only a three-week tour of duty,

	and then returns to the field. Has therefore asked to be removed from the list. Has a good chance of becoming a Major. Comments on the hospital workers and their attitudes towards field medical officers. The 101 st US Airborne is a grand bunch of fighters and real swell guys too.
86	31 December 1944. Long poem to Francis.
87	1 January 1945. Apologizes for sending the poem. Cannot remember what he sent in it, and blames it on New Year's. Have had a difficult time getting the Open House prepared, and other entertainment. Getting prepared for leave in England, however, still does not know where he is going to wind up.
88	15 January 1945. Apologizes for not sending a letter while on leave in England. Arrived in London the night of 5 [January] secured a room and went to bed immediately. Travels with friends and acquaintances. Returned to London on 13 [January] to catch the train back to the continent.
89	18 January 1945. Has spent most of his time lounging around and recuperating a bit from the holiday. Paradoxical that has to return to the front to rest. Sudden Russian drive is very cheering but the Germans are very numerous and powerful. No doubt that such a breakthrough will make him call on all his resources
90	21 January 1945. Feels like a typical Canadian winter, and sympathizes with the infantryman that has to spend his time in a dugout. Couple of friends stopped by. No desire to stay in the army anymore.
91	25 January 1945. Returned from a Vaudeville concert at HQ. Includes a chart showing ranks and their badges. Tomorrow has an OC inspection, and spent most of the day cleaning and preparing. Busier these days, which passes the time quickly. One of these days, a patrol is going to go out and bring back Russians instead of Germans. The Russians are "going all hell bent for leather".
92	28 January 1945. Have been giving out promotions, however feels that he is still too junior a Captain to get a promotion, although the OC apologized for not being able to promote him. Not disappointed as his only concern is for the war to end, and return to Francis and a civilian way of life. The war is looking bright as the Russians smash through and are determined to end the war this winter. Their progress is amazing.
93	31 January 1945. Very lonely winter, the roads are horrible, and does not travel unless necessary. Asks Francis to get him a subscription to Time Magazine, as his knowledge of current affairs is very limited. General correspondence.
94	3 February 1945. Snow has melted and nothing but mud underfoot. Story of a young chap getting back from leave. Sitting around with the boys and chatting.
95	6 February [marked January] 1945. Having problems receiving the

	mail, and letters have become disjointed. Sent a roll of film in for developing, and came back blank. Written on German paper.
96	9 February 1945. Very busy day, and feels a bit out of practice. Germans have been bombing his area. Is a “helluva country”, and amount of rain that has landed in the past week is more than Canada ever got. Asks Francis to be his Valentine.
97	13 February 1945. Having great difficulty in writing because of military restrictions placed on him. Most of the days he travels around seeing people directly as it is his duty to maintain liaison between battalion surgeons, himself and to help them in any way possible. Then has to see his OC and talk over any new plans or news. Then checks with his Brigade HQ to see if they need any help, and then helps with casualties and extra administration duties. Fair amount of running around. Much work to do when he gets home before he can marry her. Personal details about their future.
98	16 February 1945. Sitting in a solid, but battered, school that he never felt that he could live in, but the work of 65 people made it a rather comfy place. One of the boys opened a can of stew, which will serve as evening lunch. News around here is not for publication, but Francis can deduce from the newspapers that something is going on. Floods have become main concern when trying to rescue civilians. Now being called the “Water Rats” in Holland. “Why the hell didn’t I join the Navy in the first place?”
99	19 February 1945. Does not think that he will break military security when he says that he is in Germany now, and has been there for quite some time. His company was the first Canadian medical establishment set up in Germany. Believes they edged another company by minutes. Did not know that they crossed the border, as the military provided no maps. Now, realizes how different the countries are. “From a land of starvation and poverty, one suddenly steps into a land of richness and plenty”. There is evidence of loot from all the other countries of Europe. The house that he is occupying is a former doctor’ house. He believes that the war will take a bit of doing still.
100	22 February 1945. Thanks Francis for her birthday telegram and congratulations, as almost forgot about it himself. Very busy that day, and the Colonel reminded him, and told him that if he wanted to go back to HQ and get plastered, he would find a replacement. Passed as one of the busiest days of the last few months. Happy that he is with this Division as they have borne the brunt of it ever since D-Day. He met the Colonel **, OC of a Field Regiment yesterday who was someone that he went to high school with for five years, and lived just down the street from him in Ottawa. One familiar face is worth a dozen back home.
1	25 February 1945. Finished listening to his Staff Sergeant spill out

	all the pent-up and long restrained thoughts that he has had since D-Day. Letter marks about 250 letters written in 20 months of separation. Surprised, as did not think he would have the initiative to write that many letters to anyone in that length of time. Eating food left behind by the Germans in their retreat.
2	28 February 1945. Moved back into a reserve position, and the other company has leapfrogged forward. Found the only house in Germany that is dry and comfortable, so has moved his whole company in and they are going to stay until they can go forward again. There is nothing new of interest.
3	4 March 1945. Couple of medical majors from another Field Ambulance in his Division wandered out on reconnaissance, got lost, strayed too far and the expected by tragic result. He was rushed to take command of another company last evening. Thinks it will only be temporary. The tragedy had a rather personal note as one of the majors was a classmate of his and the other was a very popular. Very easy to go astray, as there are inaccuracies on every map, which cannot be helped. Weather has taken a turn for the worse and everything is a sea of mud. Been very busy, and remarks, "I would like to see as many Canadians return to Canada as possible".
4	7 March 1945. Only a year ago they were talking about an "invasion rumor" and now they have come from the Normandy beaches to the Rhine. In nine months the entire picture of the war has changed. Hopes that the closing curtain is not as costly as the opening one. Back with the unit, and things have calmed down. Brought in a couple of majors from outside instead of giving a couple of captains a break. Campaign for the Rhine is nearly over. The offensive was supposed to open in January but German line in the Ardennes postponed the show, as everyone had his or her hands full at the time. Job was the left of the line, just as what they did at Caen and allow the other allied formations to breakthrough.
5	9 March 1945. Has been back at HQ for the past three nights, with absolutely nothing to do. First time he has been back in two months. He says, "this sudden return to peaceful existence is a bit too much all at once". Feels sort of restless and somewhat fed up. BBC reported last night that the 1 st American had a bridgehead across the Rhine. Feels more confident in the leadership of those higher up than ever.
6	13 March 1945. Absolute shortage of news, and what there is, is "untouchable" due to military security. Bombs dropping as he writes. Asks Francis to prepare for him to come home a little differently (still loving). Some personal thoughts. Busy with administration material. Going to have to prosecute on a court-martial (something he really does not want to do). Received a new jeep as his previous one was wrecked while hauling casualties under terrific conditions. Has been without one for 10 days, and managed

	to make the exchange yesterday.
7	16 March 1945. General correspondence about conversations amongst the others in the camp.
8	19 March 1945. Business at the rear gets him down. Keeping busy with administration work and equipment re-checks, but getting quite bored. Prosecuted a couple of cases yesterday. Discusses the procedures, and managed a couple of guilty convictions (“for a couple very guilty people”). Formal mess-dinner at one of the Highland infantry regiments. Finished around 3:00am, and he decided to leave when they began target practice with their revolvers.
9	22 March 1945. Asks Francis why she is somewhat disappointed in his decision to do post-graduate studies rather than surgery. By going to medicinal studies, he will be able to “strike it out on my own” and feel more confident.
10	26 March 1945. Rather busy as of late, as he was the first Canadian MO to bring a medical unit across the Rhine. Was the fourth MO across, but the other three in with infantry battalions. The firsts are: 1) 1 st Medical Company to operate on “D-Day” in Normandy. 2) 1 st Medical Company in Germany. 3) 1 st Medical Company across the Rhine. Where he is sleeping right now, cattle eating his food and waking him up at night.
11	29 March 1945. No one can appreciate good weather more than them, as air superiority is so great and such a tremendous help to them. Still on the left of the line, the toughest. Wishes that sometimes he could be given the position of breakthrough. Remains cautious even though English press reported that a German collapse is imminent. Sees the end of the war in sight, but nothing more than that.
12	2 April 1945. On the move again, and absolutely impossible to sit down and write. Seems he is crossing and re-crossing from Germany into Holland, and vice versa. Feels for the people of Holland. Both the Allies and the Germans are confused at the moment, and running all across the country.
13	4 April 1945. Chase is finally on, and having the toughest fighting on the Western Front of all the Allies, but it is as expected in the particular position they are in. The Dutch people inconvenience themselves to no end to accommodate the Allies. Very little food, fuel and homes. Have not lost their sense of humor. His guard caught a sniper the other night, and took him prisoner. Not very often that a Medical unit takes a sniper prisoner. News is so good right now that he is seeing visions of a not too distant future completion to the war.
14	7 April 1945. Francis will be in Ottawa, and he cannot believe he will not be there to greet her. Mentions Burma, and option to go

	back to Canada, have leave, and training and then go back to war. Would go to Burma, just to have a few months off to see Francis. Other news that disgusted him is all US Hospitals were closed to all except US Medics for a period of five years after the war. In England it is a year. That leaves only Canada, and McGill and Toronto University will be reserved for graduates of those institutions. Only option is Ottawa and to see if he can get his old job back again. Staying in no location longer than 24 hours.
15	10 April 1945. Noticed two things about the Dutch: how many speak English, and their hospitality. New Victory Bond campaign is starting again, and he thinks he will buy another \$300. In a few years it will start a little nest egg for them.
16	13 April 1945. Greatly shocked at news of President Roosevelt's sudden demise. Some people in the USA disliked him but to other allied nations, was a tower of strength and an idol to be worshipped. Dutch are quite broken up over it. Most days in his Jeep, doing reconnaissance, looking for new places to set up. 15 eggs for 25 cigarettes.
17	7 April 1945. Slight infection in right thumb, which is forcing him too write differently. Now in a beautiful little city in Holland, near the North Sea. Scouting new places to set up HQ. Met the Chief of the Underground when he arrived, and they have picked a few sites for HQ. Mentions the underground's activities during the past 24 hours. Been picking up paratroopers, and recounts the story of a civilian hospital where they found 20 POW casualties (US, Canadian and British).
18	20 April 1945. Since they have been living in the towns, it has been one party after the next. Attended a party put on by the Underground chief. Attended a party given by an Artillery Regiment. Getting a little tired of this, and wishes to get back into action again
19	23 April 1945. Horrible pictures just released of the prison camps such as Buchenwald, recently captured by the Allies. Everyone is inbred with the horror that the pictures depict: "if they're [sic] ever was a reason for hate, this is it". Carrying around the pictures for future encounters with Germans.
20	25 April 1945. Sad to hear Francis's father is not well. Things around there have quieted down a bit, and now seems as if the phase for Russian action has been entered. Made up his mind to definitely not go to the war in the Pacific. Going to try every way possible to get back home, and not going to be fussy how that object is attained.
21	29 April 1945. Back at HQ, and did not think that he was to be involved in anything, but it was decided that he would take care of casualties. During his travels, saved a few men from drowning in a river, or being carried into enemy territory. Rumor Germany has offered unconditional surrender to the British and Americans, but it

	is not applicable to the Russians.
22	2 May 1945. Moved yesterday, camped deep into Germany. Situated in a large school. Found a stamp collection, which he is sending home to Francis. "I am going to loot as much as possible. Amazed at the large number of homeless people that are wandering around. Rumor is that Hitler is dead. If the war ends, and he is to stay in Europe for a period of a year, will transfer to the Pacific Theatre for it would mean that he is in Canada for at least three months. They could at least get married.
24	11 May 1945. Biggest news is the proclamation of VE [Victory in Europe] Day with final capitulation of all enemy forces in Europe. Day they have been anxiously awaiting for. Partied with 12 other officers, and discussed how peace will affect them personally. Also an usher in a wedding the next day. Snuck up to Ghent to see his adopted mother. Stayed in Brussels last night, and the whole town was going mad. Will be getting details in a day or so as to demobilization.
25 [NB: letter not numbered]	13 May 1945. General correspondence replying to Francis' questions. Quest for worldwide democracy, demobilization. Has 98 points, but says if he were married, would have around 120 points. Remarks that it is unfair.
26	17 May 1945. Left Germany again, and back in Holland. In the process of re-organizing prior to taking up new role for the future. Explains the issue of going back to Canada, and how it affects him directly. Thinks he will be in this war for a few more months, however it is unfolding as he writes, and he is unsure as his return to Canada.
27	20 May 1945. Censorship and security regulations are relaxed, so can tell her that he is in a town called Baarn, 20 miles south of Amsterdam. 12 000 Germans situated here, and he is keeping guard until they move back home. Saw his first live show in three months. Intends to visit Francis's relatives in The Hague soon. His Jeep is being fixed up, and as soon as it is ready, he will be off. Also plans on visiting Amsterdam.
28	23 May 1945. Rather busy as of late, from the social point of view. Invited to the Brigadier's party, where he met the niece of Heindrick Van Loon. Other parties that he has attended in the past few days. OC has notice that he will be heading home in a week. He cannot get as much information as he wants, and therefore still does not know his future.
29	27 May 1945. Parties still going on, and the most widespread discussion between the men is how long they can continue before widespread collapse occurs. Also declined volunteering for the Pacific Theatre, and asked for a return to Canada. Trip to The Hague was unsuccessful, as he could not contact Francis's friends.
30	29 May 1945. Given a new job in the unit. Has been appointed

	adjutant to deal with the ever-increasing paper work. Enjoys it however. Unit not going to be staying in Germany, and there is a possibility that they will be coming home as a unit. Has been loaded up with the title of Mess President.
31	2 June 1945. New job is working out, and he is staying quite busy. Planned and carried out a party the other day. Went quite well. Today first group of people left for Canada. He handed out proper documentation to them, and bid farewell. "If ever I felt jealous of anyone in my life, it was them. Lucky blighters."
32	4 June 1945. Been having too much fun at parties, and has cancelled all commitments for parties this week, and shall stay home. On the 6 [June], they are having a huge Divisional Parade to commemorate the Divisions Normandy assault of one year. Still does not know where he stands, as the 3 rd Divisional Occupational Force is coming in soon. Has also given into Francis's wishes of a large wedding. Discusses financial matters.
33	8 June 1945. Staying true, and not going to parties or social events. It has become boring and monotonous. Is getting a little worried about civilian life, and what it is going to be like after demobilization. On the 6 [June] they had a large parade. He did not have to walk, and rode in an open Jeep. Using a German 35mm camera now, and having a lot of fun with it. Flying to England on the 15 or 16 [June] on leave.
34	12 June 1945. Volunteers for the Pacific are daily being dispatched to Transit camps en route to Canada. Numerical strength of the unit is steadily dwindling and the administration is rapidly increasing. Now the Senior Officer in charge. Yesterday had a large, ceremonial parade. The unit that he is in, he figures that he will probably not go home with. It will be gradually broken up. The medical units are to stay until the Occupation Force will be comprised of volunteers and those with fewer than 60 points. He will stay with this unit until it is no longer, and then join another to head come to Ottawa. Figures that he will have a six-month Army medical term when he gets back.
35	15 June 1945. Receiving his leave on the 18 [June] for eleven days. Personal correspondence.
36	18 June 1945. In London again on his first day of leave. Flight only took two hours. As soon as he got to his hotel, poured himself a bath, something he has dreamed about ever since he heard he was to go on leave. More confused as to his chances of coming home than ever. Daily changes and he really does not know where he stands. If nothing changes by the time he gets back, is going to volunteer for the Pacific just to get home. Promises to show her London one day.
37	22 June 1945. Stayed in London for three days, then decided to come down the coast for a few days. However, could not get a hotel

	booking. Arranged a hotel for a few days by going through friends. Decided to take life easy until the 26 [June], when they return to London. Heard today that the Trans-Atlantic telephone service is to be resumed from London however does not have her telephone number or address.
38	29 June 1945. Last time he wrote, was at Sheldon, writing about how boring it was. Next day four other Canadians joined them, and they partied. Went back to London on the 26 [June], and stayed there until he flew back today. Had a nice time, and is satisfied to be back. Sends home a few photographs as he intends to start an album collection when he gets home. Photography appeals to him now that he has a good camera.
39	2 July 1945. Remarks that nothing has changed in the 12 days that he was gone. General correspondence.
40	5 July 1945. Things are still the same, yet they have picked up a bit in the last couple of days as a lot of men have left. There is not enough work for 5% of the original force. Last night saw a concert.
X [no number assigned]	6 July 1945. Enclosing some pictures. Nothing new.
41	8 July 1945. News that by year's end, will still be more than 50% of the Canadian Army on the continent. In a bind also as the volunteers for the Pacific Theatre have been held up from going home. Unit is breaking up, and he figures that in two weeks it will completely fold up and he will be shifted to another Field Ambulance Division. Ken Clarke, his OC, is at Buckingham Palace receiving his Military Cross, so Joseph is the OC today. Envious the Americans as they have priority of going home first.
42	11 July 1945. Returned from "Winged Victory", a movie. Has not been out since he returned from England. Very serious question on all the minds is how to keep morale and discipline during the waiting. Personal correspondence.
43	14 July 1945. Heat in Holland is unbearable, and takes a lot out of him each day. Only way that he is keeping cool is by driving around in his Jeep all day. Things are pretty slow. Has a court martial on his hands right now, and it is a tough thing considering this stage in the game, but there was nothing that he could do. Ken (the OC) will be back tomorrow.
44	17 July 1945. Heat stroke has broken, and they are sleeping under canvas, which gives him more energy. Tried to call Francis while he was in London using the Trans-Atlantic service, but calls had been booked for two weeks, longer than his leave. If he is home by Christmas, he will be happy. The unit he is with will disband early August.
45	20 July 1945. In Utrecht staying with billets in a lovely house. Busy crating up their equipment and dispatching very small groups of men in drafts back home. Still sending pictures home to Francis.

46	24 July 1945. OC has been selected to go back to Canada, but was informed today that he was “frozen” by the Army Medical authorities and had been deleted from the roll. Process of disintegration has set in, and they should be folding up definitely prior to mid-August. Once that happens, he is going to take it easy and tour the country, see as much and do as little as possible.
47	28 July 1945. As of 1 August, will be with the 22 nd Field Ambulance. Life is very monotonous; there is not much to do. On Thursday night was fixed up on a date, and it was the first time that he had going out in six weeks. After that night, it will be another twelve weeks before he goes out again. Working every angle to get home and thinks that he is getting the “short end of the stick”.
48	30 July 1945. Tomorrow, moves to the 22 nd Field Ambulance and figures that mail will get redirected and not show up on time. Finished prosecuting his case today, and was the second time out of two that he has been successful. As he stays in Holland, the more he dislikes the place.
49	1 August 1945. Now with new group, and not particularly happy. Slummier than his previous group. He has become the 23 rd Field Ambulance all by himself, as the unit must exist on paper. Having a problem buying things for Francis, as the currency situation is a mess.
50	4 August 1945. News around gets blacker each day regarding repatriation. “When the wet Autumn of Holland starts and fewer and fewer people leave units for Canada, the men are going to get restless which may or may not emerge as a major riot.”
51	7 August 1945. Thinks that March or April would be the time to come home. Should be thankful that he has not been seized for the “Occupational Force”. Has a meeting with the medical big shot of the Division, does not know what he wants, and hopes that it had nothing to do with a new job. Living in the Brigadier’s Mess.
52	10 August 1945. Everyone excited over the radio news that the Japanese negotiations to accept almost completely the surrender terms of the Potsdam ultimatum. Reference to his thoughts on Atomic Warfare and the possible lives that have been saved as a result. He is stupid for not volunteering for the CFEF, as he would be home now. Was asked by the medical big shot to run a St. John’s Ambulance course for the Divisional Training, something that he had no choice in the matter. Was planning on going to Paris in September. Also gets to see all his friends at Brigade HQ as he lives across the street now. The Postal Corps have not delivered his mail to the new address however.
53	13 August 1945. Has not received any mail. He has just returned from a complete tour of Holland, as he was trying to procure a camera. Decided amongst the men that April will probably be the time that they go home to Canada. Social life is also at a nil. The

	main type of conversation is the surrender of Japan.
54	16 August 1945. Big news is that the War is finally over throughout the world, and they all pray for a speedy return to a more normal way of life. Dutch cannot understand why the Canadians are still there. Very personal words about the Dutch and their way of life. Saw a show put on by a traveling Canadian troop.
55	20 August 1945. Started his medical course in anatomy today, and found it very interesting. Unfortunately there are no textbooks, and the course is valueless. Hopes his books will show up soon, so he can delve deeply into the subject. Explains the procedure to call him on the telephone, and draws a little map of the surrounding Brigades and Field Ambulances. Went to synagogue yesterday for Thanksgiving, and was disappointed by the chaplain.
56	24 August 1945. Been working very hard the past few days, trying to get some administration work in order. Sends his sympathies to Francis's sick father. Trying to get a camera for Francis. News is good regarding repatriation. Everyone is in better spirits. Divisional first aid course is starting Monday, and he cannot get out of it. "If we lose the peace despite winning the war, than all is lost".
X [no number assigned]	25 August 1945. Short note sending his sympathies to Mr. T [Trachtenberg] whom has had a recurrence of his illness.
57	27 August 1945. Has more work than he knows how to accomplish. Writes of his typical day. Personal correspondence.
58	30 August 1945. Have been 20 wet days in August in Holland. Everyone is decorating, as it is the Queen's birthday soon. USA is at the forefront of conversation due Lease-Lend. United States interest in Canada's uranium.
59	2 September 1945. Good reason to be optimistic, as has found out that more than 50% of Division 2 will be out by September, and Division 3 (his division) should be out by the end of October, as the medics will be the last to go. His first aid course and anatomy course are taking up most of his time.
60	5 September 1945. Has met up with a woman from Ottawa, who he knew, and went out dancing last night for the first time in a couple months. His textbooks finally arrived from home, and he is looking forward to studying. A couple of boys returned from Paris today, but they could not find the perfume that Francis asked for. Hopes to make it to Paris by the end of the month, as his first aid course will be wrapping up by then.
61	9 September 1945. Brigade HQ had a "smash-up" party last night and they had a very enjoyable All-Canadian party. Incident between a soldier discussing the Halifax riot on V-E Day, and another highly decorated soldier being rather irritated by it. Second day of Rosh Hashanah, but it is just another day as far as he is concerned. Possibility that he could get stuck in England on his way back to Canada. The 3 rd Division might start moving by 26 September

	ahead of schedule. Hopes to be clear of the continent by mid-October.
62	12 September 1945. Replies to Francis's statements about Dutch and British colonization. Diverting his time to the theatre, as the 9 th Brigade is producing a skit. Has been put in charge of the skit. Doing a bit of studying, but finds it difficult to get down to it. Still hoping to go home with the Division.
63	15 September 1945. Has Airgraph received from Francis, which was very small. He should have known that the superior mail service would slow down eventually. Repatriation has been postponed, and they are offering long leaves again. Joseph does not mind too much. While traveling, came across an accident involving a Jeep with some soldiers. Stopped and helped the people (who had big gashes, and broken legs). Did not have any of his medical supplies with him, so he had to improvise. Took him two hours to clean the situation up.
64	18 September 1945. Letter of personal nature. Mentions that the big shot medical officer came to base, and assured Joseph that he would be going home with the 3 rd Division. That means a return by Christmas.
65	21 September 1945. Last night was the stag party, in which his skit was performed. Went very well, only there was no Hollywood scout, and is certain that many of the cast members will miss this vocation in life. Personal matters such as wedding plans
66	25 September 1945. Went up to Amsterdam with regards to some civilian relief work concerning Jewish people. Had dinner with the Rabbi, and saw an Art collection. Was invited to play in a tennis tournament for 3 Division vs. Dutch civilians. Could hardly move when he got back from the tournament.
67	28 September 1945. A year ago, remembers some "shaky" times at Antwerp. About his returning, is glad that Francis is not planning a time, as things tend to be delayed in the army. When he gets to England, is planning on buying some clothes, typically English tailors take 2 months to make up a suit of clothes. Hopes to get to Paris next week for a few days.
68	1 October 1945. Attended a conference by General Simmonds [Greenblatt was unsure if he was indeed General Simmonds], who is the C in C of the 3 rd Division. General explained that the Division should not expect to move before 31 October. Figures that means that they will move by the 3 rd week of October. Thinks if he can get home by Christmas, will be fortunate. Has been offered a job as historian to write the history of the three Field Ambulances in the Division. Wants no part of this job, and it only prolongs his stay over here. Has been able to avoid it so far.
69	4 October 1945. Lets Francis in on a Top Secret information: there is a sudden demand in Ottawa for further medical officers, and it has

	been decided that the 14 th and 22 nd Field Ambulances will amalgamate and the higher point officers will be sent home. Good possibility that could mean his return. In the meantime, has a leave allotted for Paris on 12 October, and hopes to take advantage of it. Personal correspondence.
70	7 October 1945. Leave to Paris has been postponed one day, until 13 [October] now. Looking forward to it very much. Went up to The Hague yesterday, and saw one of his cousin's husbands, who cannot come home early either, as he is working in the vehicle turn-in depot.
71	10 October 1945. General correspondence and answers to previously posed questions. Things are routine and his class has ended, so has even more leisure time than before. No news of repatriation. Excited to get to Paris and look up a few old friends.
72	14 October 1945. Rather uneventful journey to Paris. Took his Jeep to Brussels, and then boarded a train. Took a tour of the city. Will be kept quite busy while there. Hotel is centrally located and within walking distances of everything. Has tickets to the ballet. Has been unsuccessful with meeting up with Erwin (his old friend).
73	18 October 1945. Getting a little tired of sightseeing, and needs a bit of rest. Has been over most of the hot spots in Paris. Experiences and feeling in Paris during leave. Has not heard from Erwin. Cutting short his time in Paris, as will be joining a couple of boys from another unit and leaving with them on Saturday instead of Tuesday. He does not know where he is going in France.
74	24 October 1945. Just returned from an affair with the 3 rd Division Medical Society. Realized that he is the oldest member in service in this division, except for two others, the only MO left with the Division that landed on D-Day. Saw Erwin in Paris. Today moved over to the Battalion. Personal matters.
75	31 October 1945. Has been in bed, nursing a cold and mild case of influenza. Did not want anything interfering with repatriation, so went to bed immediately after developed a fever. Today had the final inspection from the Supreme Commander. Will probably catch the 19 December boat home.
76	2 November 1945. Received a message that he is to leave the battalion on 5 November, and posted to England for employment in the UK. Not hopeful about getting home in the near future. Has more points than any other the other MOs and does not know why he must stay. Feels helpless and his faith has been shattered.
77	5 November 1945. On his way to a camp near Brussels, the first leg of his journey to the UK. Nothing that he can do until he gets to England. Apologizes for all the mess.
78	6 November 1945. At the transit camp awaiting his return to England. There are about 20 MOs, 15 are bound for Canada, the remainder are slated for duty in the UK. Gives his new address.

79	10 November 1945. Still in Belgium at the transit camp, as they do not have the priority to go to England. Rumor that they may leave tomorrow night, but he has not heard anything yet. Every afternoon they go into Brussels to see a show, and they either stay for supper or come back to base. Most of his days are spent reading. More optimistic and can see this in humorous light.
80	14 November 1945. Monday night, rode in a carriage bound for Calais. Boarded a boat, landed in Dover, stationed at Aldershot. MO in charge however said that there was no job for him immediately, and perhaps a leave was in order. Said that he did not expect them to be in England for more than a couple of months. Planning on seeing a few people while in England.
81	17 November 1945. Has been brought over to the UK for employment, but his points were too high for unemployment, so he is to be shipped to another depot and wait for shipment home. Supposed to get that post within a week. Has only been in London once since he has been there, and done little shopping.
82	27 November 1945. Returned from leave, and failed to write during his absence. He spent time with the Rosses, and some time in Scotland. Name has been put on a list that has been sent to London, and should hear in the next day or to as to the situation. Francis should not come over, as it would only complicate things. Keep her fingers crossed.
83	4 December 1945. Final orders have appeared today, and is not on the list for 6 [December], however, has a good shot at 16 [December]. Has been instructed to go on leave again. Trying to arrange for a few days at the Imperial Hotel in Torquay. Has not found anything in England for Francis's birthday.
84	9 December 1945. Returned from four-day leave, and stayed at the Imperial Hotel. Still has no new information as to his return. News around there is "The Loan" by US to Britain.
85	11 December 1945. Has been assured that if he does not go on an earlier date, then he would be going on the [Queen] Elizabeth, which is scheduled to leave England on 22 [December]. Will not be home for Christmas, as he will land on 27 [December]. Disappointed, but refuses to let the army break his spirit. Cannot wait to see Francis again soon.
86	15 December 1945. Has been offered leave until Monday, but would rather not spend any money, so is waiting at camp. Four ships leaving between 21[December] and the end of the year. Told that he has to go to Canada immediately. Trying to make the Queen Elizabeth, and thereby home by New Year's. Will wire her when he knows when he is leaving. "Keep smiling, and I'll be there soon."

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