

Em. Hann. W 970503  
137/166<sup>th</sup> NEW FOUNDLAND Field Regt R.A  
C/O B. N. A. F  
19-5-43  
Bill

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 hells, 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 Longtop Hill, mentioned



many times, of <sup>2</sup>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 NFLD 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 yester-  
day 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,



Vic's, is one of the two guns from G/327 going, it is not official, but Double 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 ~~not~~ <sup>know</sup>, that some will turn up soon - A bit of good news. In a list of promotions which came out today Harold becomes a L/Bdr. He was worth it a long time back, but the Army always takes its own dead time. I had an air-letter and an airograph 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. Don't forget to write Mary an odd time Mother and I hope by now you have written that home of ours in Kirkmuirhill. How is the rationing affecting you?, is it sufficient



get by with, <sup>24</sup> no doubt it will take  
awhile for me to narrow things down  
it has worked OK in the British Isles.

Henry Oxford was over last night and showed  
me a nice photo of His Father and two Uncle's,  
The Feb ~~26~~<sup>26</sup><sup>th</sup> 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 4000 FLDERS  
were in Africa an 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.

21-5-48 Its Friday and a Bonnie Day,  
I expect to go for a swim this after noon. I have  
just finished a good bath and quite a line of  
clothes, including the scrubbing of my webbing  
belt and gaiters which will soon be as white  
as the driven snow, but its much better than  
blanchoing. Now I must tell you about, yes -  
terday and the big Victory Parade in Tunis.  
Anyone who wished to go, could go as  
spectators and return when the parade was



over 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 French men on horses quite colourful, than a long line of French troops, in which the Goon's took part, they did some excellent work and we had the honour of supporting 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 boy about 6 or 7 years old leading them, it was quite good. Then came the Yankee troops and their band (The French Troops also had a <sup>colourful</sup> 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



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 swooped to a salute about 100 planes or more, flew over in swell formation. I came back from T units to find myself on guard so it was a no bad, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> French family we met was quite friendly, their son was home on leave from the French army we had some Vin Rouge and Edouarde 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, Vin blanc and so on, fried eggs, flavoured to perfection with Pepper. Fried cucumbers, it was excellent. I have enclosed the recipe in Man'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 Mary 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.

Henri's hoping you have a swell  
summer and that this finds you  
all well.

Remember to write for now  
Cheery Bye

Love  
Zan  
Bill