

MORALE OF CANADIAN CENSORS DURING  
THE SECOND WORLD WAR

by  
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This thesis by Ryan Alan d'Eon  
is accepted in its present form by the  
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## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Abstract**

We often hear about how censorship is enacted during war in order to protect the morale of a country's citizens while preventing valuable information from being intercepted by the enemy. However, we never hear about the morale of the censors nor do we see written historical texts relating to the topic. Using the diaries and letters written by Captain Robbins Elliott who was a field press censor for the Canadian military during the Second World War, we can determine the state of his morale.

Since this is an archival thesis, the first section contains a description of the documents belonging to Robbins Elliott beginning from his journey to Holland and ending with his research on various people and places. There is also an archival sketch of Elliott's life along with other access points that the reader may find of interest. The way that this finding aid is structured is consistent with The Rules for Archival Description (RAD).

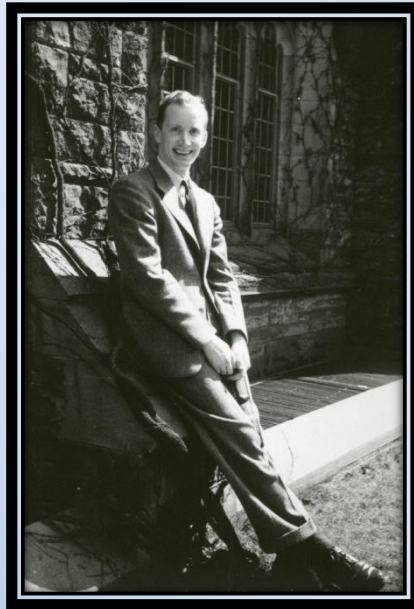
The second part discusses the historiography of Canadian censorship during the Second World War as well as both the press and military censorship systems. The archival records along with secondary research highlight what Elliott and other military censors thought about their duties and how some reacted to criticism of censorship. This section concludes that Elliott's morale remained intact as a censor throughout the war.

ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT ARCHIVES

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

# ROBBINS ELLIOTT FONDS

Accession 2004.009-ELL



Compiled by Ryan d'Eon

November 2015

**Robbins Elliott fonds. – [textual records, graphic materials]. – 1937-2004. – 2 boxes of textual records. – 216 photographs: b&w, colour, and neg. – 1 moving image**

## **Table of Contents**

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## Content

1. Boy Scouts. – ([19—] -1937, 1993-1996) – 2 folders of textual records and 13 photographs: b & w.

Series contains a diary, log book, correspondence, articles, and membership lists. These materials were used to record his experiences while he was in Holland during the jamboree as well as to gather information on his Boy Scout leaders many years after the event took place. These papers also discuss the history of the Boy Scouts in Wolfville as well as who was a part of this group.

### File List

2004.009-ELL/1 Boy Scout memorabilia [19-- ; 1937] includes:

- Diary and log book [1937] for Elliott who was the Troop Leader for 1<sup>st</sup> Wolfville, Troop 77.
  - The event was held in Holland between July 30<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup> and in his diary he discusses his departure to Holland on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July and how he had to wake up at 3am to take a bus to St. Pancras in London. He then takes a boat from Tilbury docks to Holland. On July 31<sup>st</sup> many of his fellow boy scouts became seasick due to the rough seas. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August he mentions seeing many different boy scouts from around the world such as Switzerland, India, and France with whom they marched together. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August Elliott and his fellow scouts were ordered to scrape potatoes because they were late for a particular event (does not specify which event). They were also invited to a camp fire where they met up with scouts from 20 different countries. They had difficulty leaving the fire due to the crowded area so they lined up to make it easy for about 7000 scouts to leave the area. During an inspection on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August a man named Skipper said that the Canadians deserve recognition for the appearance of their camp site. They did a lot of cleaning in their tents as well as other work and visited the St. Cathedral on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. He mentions talking with boy scouts from Bermuda and Scotland on the 5<sup>th</sup> and visited an art gallery on the 6<sup>th</sup>. On the 7<sup>th</sup> they visited the Australian boy scouts camp and on the 8<sup>th</sup> he mentions that four Dutch sea scouts came to see him. All of the scout leaders were presented with a jamboree emblem to each contingent leader on the 9<sup>th</sup>. They visited Rotterdam on the 10<sup>th</sup> with Scottish scouts and on the 11<sup>th</sup> they visited an island known as Marken where people were dressed up colorfully. Elliott's birthday is on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August where he turned 17. He mentions taking down the tents in preparation to leave Holland, no celebration is held for his birthday. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the last day in Holland he guarded their luggage and did some packing before leaving. Also in the log book there is some information about each Boy Scout organization in the world along with their symbol and flag.
- Manuscript [1937], entitled "De Nederlandsche Padvinders: Letters of a Canadian Scout attending the World Scout Jamboree held at Vogelenzang, Holland, in August 1937."

-This manuscript goes more into depth about Elliott's experience during the jamboree and is addressed to his family. They have been typed for easier reading but they were originally written in pen and pencil.

-The first letter describes his voyage to Holland and includes a photo that appeared in the Herald as well as the Chronicle. He mostly discusses the various people he met on board the S.S. Alaunia which took them to London.

-In the second letter he talks about his experience on the ship which consisted of playing ping pong, getting sea sickness (as many did on board), and rehearsing a song which was to represent Canada.

-The third letter mentions his arrival to Plymouth, London from which they took a train to St. Pancras Station and then a bus to Holborn Scout Hall. During his time there he visited St. Paul's Cathedral.

-The fourth letter mentions that Elliott and the rest of his group will be leading the British Empire Contingent in the March Past. He also visited St. James Palace where he saw the changing of the guards which was attended by a lot of people.

-In his fifth letter he talks about his first experience in Holland and how he received letters from his mother an aunt as well as the Acadian Journal. He also signed 40 autographs simply because he was a foreigner and mentions being pleased with his group being known as the tidiest, courteous, orderly Boy Scout group. The letters also mention his journey to Holland as well as going to a camp fire.

-In the sixth letter he begins his journey in Holland where he visited the island of Marken and spoke to the chief (of Boy Scouts?) during the Great March Past.

-In his seventh letter he mentions visiting Amiens, France where he visited the Vimy Ridge Memorial. There he saw the cemeteries and talks about practicing his French. He also mentions arriving back in London quite late and visiting Big Ben and St. Margaret's Chapel.

-The eighth letter he discusses his final days in England which consisted of talking to various people (one about political views at the time), meeting his cousin Edith, and seeing various places such as St. Paul's Cathedral. He also discusses his journey back to Canada aboard the Aurania which consisted of ping pong and reading a book titled "Let's Look at London" by Clarence Winchester.

-In his ninth and final letter he discusses his arrival in Quebec where he met his aunt Elsie and watched a horse race before heading back to Nova Scotia.

- Farewell dinner menu [1937] for the Cunard White Star
- 12 photographs from the event [1937], including images of the Scouts on the ship and in Holland
- 1 image [19-- ; photocopy] of the Scouts, includes names

2004.009-ELL/25 Wolfville Boy Scouts (1993-1996) for which Elliott was the Chair of Public Relations, includes correspondence, articles, and membership lists

-Text written by G. L. Porter about the history of scouting in Wolfville. It was created by E. Percy in April, 1911 and then in 1912 a council was formed for the Boy Scout Association where they created rules in which they must follow. In 1913 the Scout Hall was acquired and that many Boy Scouts had joined the army during WW1. However, there were still 97 scouts remaining. In May of 1924 there

were many members within the Boy Scouts which led to the organization being split into three groups. Attached is a written text discussing the Boy Scout camp at Sunken Lake and how it was needed to be rebuilt.

-Letter written June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1994 by Elliott to the participants in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Boy Scout program in Wolfville. Elliott says that he would like to see a biography as well as photo of their former scoutmaster which will be included in the society's book of remembrance.

-Letter written August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1994 by Elliott to MacLeod discusses the sponsorship of Boy Scout activities by the Wolfville branch. Because Elliott is chairman of the Wolfville branch institution committee he agrees to fund the Boy Scouts.

-Letter written February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1995 by Elliott to Johanna Allen which discusses the funding of the Wolfville Boy Scouts Association. The Wolfville legion decides to give the association 2500\$. Attached is another letter written January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1995 to Elliott asking for funding for the Boy Scouts Association in Wolfville.

2. School. – (1937-1948, 1969, 1990-2003) – 3 folders of textual records and 20 photographs: b & w, col.

Series contains newspaper clippings, program for The Tempest play, academic information regarding his time at Acadia University and at the University of Toronto, high school certificate, articles, booklets, and membership lists. These materials give insight into Elliott's academic life which eventually allowed him to acquire a job within the Federal Government. They also highlight other things he did while he was at Acadia such as the play.

2004.009-ELL/2 Acadia years (1938- [1941?]), includes:

- 9 photographs (1938- [1941?]), including images of Elliott as editor of the Ath, at a track meet, the football team, in a play, as a member of an Acadia Society (The Tempest), and as a member of the COTC
- clipping [1940] from the Acadia Bulletin concerning members of the COTC  
-There are five members by the names of Archibald, Williams, Elliott, Kelly, and Wooding
- Program (1941) for The Tempest, presented by the Dramatic Society of Acadia University

-The program gives information about the play as to when it was produced as well as a short description of the play. It also has a list of the cast members with Elliott playing the role of Caliban, a savage, deformed slave.

2004.009-ELL/3 Acadia and U of T (1942-1948, 1969, 1998), includes academic information regarding Elliott's studies at Acadia University for a B.A. and at the University of Toronto for a M.A. as well as later correspondence.

Correspondence:

-Letter is dated August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1946 and was written by a member of the department of political economy V. W. Bladen from the University of Toronto. The letter discusses what he should do for his M.A. Bladen says he would be able to finish his degree by 1947 and will have to take four courses. He also discusses the types of courses Elliott can take and where they will be located. Bladen ends the letter by saying he wants to further discuss possibilities with him.

-Letter dated August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1942, written by Alexander Beady discusses various books about political science which he should read during his spare time at the University of Toronto.

-Letter dated April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1969, written by Harry Logan mentions how he is glad to have heard Elliott at the Acadia “to-do” during the fall. He also mentions how his speech could have been shorter but then says that Baptists always have a lot to say.

-Letter from the University of Toronto dated April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1998, written by Barbara Edwards discusses Brock University who wanted to obtain a copy of Elliott’s thesis which he gave them permission to do so.

-Letter dated November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1946; author unknown [Elliott?] discusses Elliott’s life in terms of his academic career as well as other activities that he participated in such as the play on The Tempest. It also gives a short summary of his service in the military during the Second World War and that he is interested in doing a study on how Canada can maintain its exports as well as on the Soviet Union. The letter also mentions his current course of study which consists of him finishing his masters at the University of Toronto where he would be able to do a study on British Socialism, the British Labour Party, and the impact of Soviet and Western ideologies in the post war period. Furthermore, he wants to improve his journalistic background.

2004.009-ELL/23 class of 1941 reunion (1991) includes photographs and a booklet of songs

2004.009-ELL/21 Wolfville High School (1937, 1990-2003) includes high school certificates as well as Old Boys reunion articles, photographs, booklets, and “membership” lists

#### Correspondence:

-Letter written September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1990 by Glen to the Old Boys discussing a get together at Blomidon Inn.

-Letter written December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1995 by Elliott to septuagenarians discussing a gathering at Blomidon Inn and that the women will be meeting separately. Also, he mentions a lecture that took place at Acadia about the churches of Nova Scotia.

-Letter written in 1995 by Elliott mentioning that someone is invited to a get together at the Blomidon Inn for a high school reunion.

- Letter written April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Elliott discussing where the Old Boys of Wolfville will be meeting as well as the women and where they will be meeting.
- Letter written October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Elliott discussing the Old Boys of Wolfville and that they are invited back to Wolfville for various activities.
- Letter written August 7<sup>th</sup> (no date) by Elliott mentioning where the Old Boys of Wolfville will be meeting.
- Letter written (no date) by Elliott discussing sixtieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain during WW2.

Articles:

- Photocopy of an article by Glen Hancock dated August 1990 discussing the reunion of the Old Boys of Wolfville High.
- Photocopy of an article by M. Allen Gibson dated October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1996 discussing the life of a man named Jim.
- Photocopy of an article by Steve Macdonald dated 1997 discussing the Old Boys and their various reunions hosted by different people.
- Photocopy of an article by Harold Woodman dated March 2002 discussing a meeting with the Old Boys and what they did during WW2.
- Photocopy of an article by Glen Hancock discussing the Cohen family, specifically Bella Cohen and how he met her for the first time since they were in school.
- Photocopy of an article by M. Allen Gibson discussing the high school reunion.
- Photocopy of an article by B. O. Davidson discussing Wolfville in 1869, specifically about the schools and other buildings. There are two copies of this article.
- Photocopy of an article by Glen Hancock discussing his memories of his time in high school in Wolfville.

3. World War Two – (1942-1945, 1994-1995) – 10 folders of textual records and 14 photographs: b & w.

Series contains correspondence, diaries, army records, pamphlets, articles, programs, a ribbon, and contact lists. These materials give a lot of information about his service during WW2 as well as other things he did while he was overseas. They also give information on what took place during a reunion of WW2 veterans at Acadia University.

2004.009-ELL/4 War years (1942) being letters home, specifically:

- [2 May](#), HMAS Andes, to Mom and Dad, written the day before he sailed

-He mentions that there are 14 officers and 125 nurses on board and that some people got the mumps. He is also living in a first class cabin with six people.

- [8 May](#), HMTS Andes, to Dear People, ending in Liverpool

-He believes that he is going somewhere near Ireland and that there are two to three thousand people on board the ship from Canada, the USA, Australia, and many other places. There was no dancing on board and the men wanted the nurses to do a beauty competition but they refused. He also talks about boat drills they must do every morning and that he heard from BBC that the naval base at Madagascar was taken by the Japanese. He mentions mother's day as well and that he was thinking of his mother.

- [29 May](#), 3CDIRU, to Dear People. Part two of this letter was written on [31 May](#) 1942

-He went to London and seen what a London blackout was like and also went to St. [James Park?] and mentions the trenches, barbed wire, and the removal of the railings and fences. He also met the scoutmasters of the Holborn group from when he first went to London and learned that his friend John was in the hospital after being injured in Crete. He visited St. Paul's Cathedral and went to Edinburg where he mentions how busy it was there because of the war. He also talks about doing a lot of sight-seeing and going to dances in bars and talks a little bit about Wolfville and the Apple Blossom Festival.

- [5 November](#), #1 Cdn. Gen. Hosp. In the Field Ward A.

-He was injured during training when a mortar fragment hit his right wrist. The fragment was removed and his arm was put into a cast. He mentions that many officers had fallen during combat and that if his temperature is good he can go to a party that his friend, Pat Jones invited him to. Also, once his cast is removed he will be put into a convalescent home.

- [18 November](#), #1 Cdn. Gen. Hosp. Ward A Cdn. Army Overs

-He gets chocolates and apples from his family and friends and talks about going to an officer's tea dance as well as the future state of London after the war. He also mentions something a Canadian soldier said in regards to being in London. He says that they were there to maintain the strength of the Empire.

2004.009-ELL/5 War years (1943) being letters home, specifically:

- [8 February](#), from Cambridge, to Mom and Dad

-He sees a comedy at the Duke of Yorks in Brighton, England and has conversations with people about various topics.

- [No date](#) [1943?], likely from Dublin

-Letter is missing the first page, but it mentions the Abbey Theatre, which is known to be in Dublin where he saw a comedy. A pamphlet for Abbey Theatre, included in file 12, is dated 1943.

2004.009-ELL/6 War years (1944) being letters home, specifically:

- [19 February](#), from 7CIRU, to Mom and Dad

-He asks if his dad is home and talks about other people in his family as well as Canada getting an embassy in Brazil. He also mentions that a friend of his, Gordie Bell, is getting married.

- [29 February](#), from “Red Roofs” 10 CIB Coy RCASC 4 Div, to Dad  
-He mentions meeting someone by the name of Monty and that his Sergeant by the name of Pyke got back from fighting in Italy. Elliott says he was lucky to escape Italy.
- [26 May](#), from Senate House, to Mom and Dad  
-He went to see Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town” and to a church service for the Canadian troops. He read a book on press censorship and talks about applying to be a civil servant.
- [3 June](#), from Senate House, to Mom and Dad  
-He mentions that he is in the straights (underlined for some reason) and that there is a prisoner of war exhibition on the grounds in Clarence House on the Mall.
- [6 June](#), from Senate House, to Mom and Dad  
-He says that D Day was unofficially announced to him at 9 in the morning when his parents were still asleep. He also mentions his typewriter and how he does not want his parents to send it because he is busy and will not have the time to use it.
- [26 June](#), from London, to Mom and Dad  
-He is in London where he mentions becoming a censor for the military which is run by SHAEF Censorship that also works with Home Censorship. He went to a barbershop where a 78-year-old barber said he went on tour with Paderewski (a Polish pianist and composer) as his valet. He also mentioned meeting a girl named Edwina May who had an offer from Walt Disney to take characters that she created. Lastly, he mentions how London has changed after D Day in terms of resources. There are now more cabs and food.
- [8 July](#), from London, to Mom and Dad  
-In London he mentions that newspapers have become more popular since the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, 1944 and that he went to see Macbeth which was played by the present company. He also says that he cannot say anything bad about censorship and writes his new address. One of the last things he mentions is an attack on Caen and how he hopes they advance through the attack. He also has been promoted to a Captain.
- [5 August](#), c/o no. 5 Public Relations Service, British Liberation Army, to Mom and Dad  
-He mentions his prior visit to Holland with the Boy Scouts and that he went for a swim on the English Channel in Normandy where the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian division landed on D Day. He also mentions how he is the only Canadian amongst nine British censors and that they live together. He also had seen Caen in its destroyed state and talks about his work which consists of preventing soldiers from writing

anything that might make a fool out of someone. He mentions the people that he works with who are named Phillips, Stokes, Lanidley, and Kimber.

- [14 August](#), Field Press Censor, No. 5 PRS BLA, to Mom and Dad, in England  
-Elliott and Stokes went to Granville, France where they swam in the ocean and mentions that the French have a deep hatred for the Germans. He talks about his birthday and how nothing special happened but it did not bother him. He likes talking to the British compared to his own people and wonders when the war will be over.
- [12 September](#), Field Press Censor, No. 5 PRS BLA, to Aunt Mick, in Brussels  
-The room that he is staying in in Brussels has its own bath and he has access to luxurious goods and fruits. In terms of the war, he mentions the possibility of another offensive before the middle of October and that there is no longer a blackout in London.
- [15 September](#), FPC, No. 5 PRS BLA, to Aunt Lean,  
-The letter is written on the German letterhead from Paris, a small section of words has been cut out. He discussed Belgium and how there is a lot of celebrations taking place because they have been liberated. He also talks about Robert [Kick?] who entered Maastricht in the Netherlands with US troops. Robert sent messages to FDR and Queen Wilhelmina that were written by the people of Maastricht about how they were happy to be freed. He mentions the possibility of going back to London which depends on how strongly the Germans defend their own country.
- [4 November](#), Field Press Censor, No. 3 Cdn. PR GP3, to Mom and Dad  
-He discusses the Canadian army cleaning the Scheldt River and how the British newspapers have given the British army more credit than the Canadian army for the invasion of Antwerp. He talks more about his role as a censor and how people do not support it. However, he mentions that they are in no position to judge the use of censorship.
- [18 November](#), on a Canadian Army Public Relations Group No. 3 Europe 1944 Christmas card, to Mom and Dad  
-He mentions that the card is to counter negative opinion about censorship. On the card there is a drawing of two army trucks next to a shield that has a censor logo on top. At the bottom, several countries are written on the card along with an image of the press delivering letters which seems to glorify censorship.
- [27 November](#), Press Censors, 3 Canadian PR Gp., to Mom and Dad  
-He mentions that he went to see a press conference hosted by Maj.-Gen. Vanier, the Canadian ambassador to France. He talks about how the Major has a positive opinion about de Gaulle. He also attended another press conference where they discussed a recent winner of a V.C.

2004.009-ELL/7 War years (1945) being letters home, specifically:

- [31 January](#), from somewhere in Holland, to Mom and Dad



-He mentions the Russian advance and how they are 87 miles from Berlin. He also listened to Hitler on the radio and makes note of how he was not ranting because he is losing the war. He mentions that he is glad that Noreen is doing well at Acadia University.

- [14 February](#), to Elliott from Noreen, who is living at Whitman Hall at Acadia  
-She mentions that Elliott is the ideal man for her because he is handsome, other girls look at him, sensitive to her moods, nice to children/ animals, and lastly, because her father likes him.
- [4 March](#), from Nederland, to Mom and Dad  
-He mentions Finland declaring war on Germany and that other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Turkey have declared war but Iceland did not.
- [16 March](#), from Nederland encore, to Mom and Dad  
-He discusses events in Holland such as gunfire around where he is stationed and how he can no longer have hot showers. He also mentions Noreen spending the week with his family and how the British army men lost their false teeth while crossing a channel due to sea sickness.
- [1 April](#), from Press Censors No. 3 PR Group, to Mom and Dad  
-He mentions de Gaulle who had his new army march along the Champs Elysees. He also went to an army conference to learn more about the war.
- [19 April](#), from Germany, to Mom and Dad  
-He mentions that there was a little bit of resistance in Germany but they were able to move through efficiently. They removed German families from a three story building who left in a hurry without taking much with them. He also visited an Italian concentration camp where he saw many starving men, a hut where they placed 400 prisoners, and men who were maltreated while working in mines. The prisoners thought he was a reporter and wanted them to tell the public what the Germans did to them. He discusses Roosevelt's death as well and how it was a shock.
- [29 April](#), from Germany, to Folks  
-He discusses his visit to a Polish camp for women which contained 1800 women. Some of them were participants of the Warsaw uprising. They were freed by the Polish tanks a month before Elliott visited. He also discusses an end of war announcement, however, for him the war will not be over until he is back in Canada.
- [6 May](#), from Gelderland near Apeldoorn, to dear parents  
-Elliott wanted to know how his parents celebrated when the Germans surrendered to the 21<sup>st</sup> army group in Northwest Europe. He also mentions trying to get used to seeing friendly people because the Germans did not like them in the beginning. He also discusses not seeing a lot of starvation in Gelderland because the towns are small but he says that he will see some as he goes further west. He says that he

will also be back in Amsterdam, then in Germany. He also mentions that military censorship is not as necessary anymore and that he will be home once he is no longer needed. He is also happy that the war is coming to an end.

- [8 May](#), from Utrecht, to Mother and Dad
  - He mentions VE Day and mentions how the Dutch loved their arrival. He also discusses his voyage through the central part of Utrecht. He passed through Doorn where Kaiser W. sought refuge and mentions how the people loved them and celebrated everywhere they went. He also discusses his thoughts about the war ending and how he cannot express himself. He mentions it being a unique experience to have lived through the war.
- [12 May](#), from Utrecht, to Folks
  - He discusses the celebrations taking place in Holland where the Dutch are dancing with Canadian and British troops. He also mentions the plan to send troops to the Pacific to fight the Japanese.
- [25 July](#), from Bogotastrasse Wergnerhof West Berlin, to People
  - He discusses his visit to Berlin and how everything is destroyed. He saw the Reichstag and mentions having to go through Russian guards before entering the destroyed Chancellery. He also says that the Berliners are starving and that the reason why he went to Berlin was to see Colonel [Gilchrist?] to discuss the possibility of him going home.
- [27 July](#), from Berlin, to Aunt Mick
  - He mentions how people in Berlin are desperate for food and that women are selling themselves for chocolate. Despite that he says that it is a privilege to be in Berlin and wonders how long it will take to rebuild the capital.
- [27 July](#), from Berlin, to Folks
  - Continuing from the last letter, Elliott discusses watching the black market unfold and mentions that the Berliners want food and cigarettes while the Russians want watches. He ends the letter by saying that he will be back in Utrecht the next day.
- [16 August](#), from Utrecht, to Aunt Mick
  - He discusses seeing more celebrations in Holland and how the soldiers do not participate because they are anxious to go home. He also mentions turning in his vehicles and equipment as well as disbanding from his unit altogether. Also, he does not know when he will be able to go home and mentions being in Europe for his birthday for the fourth time in a row.
- [16 September](#), from a cove near Farnborough, to Mom and Dad
  - He explains the process of getting to Canada and expects to leave on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September on board the *Ile de France* from Southampton. He also hopes that his mother will be able to get to Halifax to meet him.
- [2 October](#), from CD400 MD6, to Mom

-He discusses leaving England and sailing on *Ile de France* on October 12. He also sent his mother 25\$ so that she could buy a new hat to wear before they meet at the gang plank.

2004.009-ELL/8 War diaries (1942-1945), with daily entries by Elliott, detailing his experiences in the Army.

1942 Diary: This diary Begins January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1942 and ends November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1942.

-In January his training had begun in Brockville, Ontario where he and his troops did a lot of marching. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of January he goes to Boston before arriving at Aldershot, Nova Scotia on the 27<sup>th</sup> where he gave a lecture on military importance.

-In February he is in Halifax and learns that he does not qualify to go overseas and will have to redo some courses in Aldershot. He mentions the Japanese taking Singapore on the 14<sup>th</sup>. He also mentions being frustrated because he needs to retake some courses and that he thinks he is more suited to go to war than others that have passed.

-In March he discusses more about his training and how he cannot wait to go overseas in July.

-In April he discusses spending time with Noreen and how he wants to get married to her in 1947. He also discusses British troops fighting the Japanese in Burma in which the Japanese were victorious. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> he gets a notice that he is one of five people assigned to go overseas and that his mother was disturbed by the news.

-In May he discusses his journey overseas to England in a crowded ship with 125 nurses, 14 officers, and 280 soldiers. On the 8<sup>th</sup> he mentions the Japanese surrendering to the British at Madagascar. He mentions the possible use of gas during the war as well. He takes a train to Liverpool then makes his way to Crookham Crossroads where he goes through more training and receives his military gear. He discusses his visit to Scotland on the 27<sup>th</sup> and mentions the Germans and Russians fighting at Kharkov as well as Rommel who invaded Libya.

-In June he mentions the fights in Kharkov and Libya again and that Churchill is in Washington. He is also preparing to go to war.

-In July he discusses his platoon was under fire on the 1<sup>st</sup> (training session) but does not specify where and discusses other aspects of this training. He also takes leave to London.

-In August he thinks about applying to be a paratrooper but does not think he will qualify due to a lack of courses. He mentions the Germans taking the Black Sea and Russian oil centers. He discusses more about his battle training with his troops and how they are doing well. He also mentions the raid on Dieppe that took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> and that he talked to a sergeant on the 30<sup>th</sup> about how he lost 500 soldiers in his unit during the raid. He also heard that German snipers took out entire companies and that all Canadian officers and NCO personnel were killed.

-In September he mentions the battle of Stalingrad and the Japanese at the Solomon Islands. He also went to an information session where he learned more about the raid on Dieppe.

-In October he mentions Stalingrad again and how it is still in Russian hands as well as speeches by Hitler and Goering. He also discusses more of his training.

-In November he was injured by a 3-inch mortar fragment that caught him in his right wrist while he was leading his platoon. His entire arm was in plaster but he can still move his fingers. He mentions Rommel and his troops leaving Egypt on the 9<sup>th</sup> as well the US entering Algeria. He also does not know how long it will take before his injury is healed.

1943 Diary: This diary begins January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943 and ends January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1944.

-In January he got his cast removed and is in physio therapy to exercise the muscles in his arm. He also discusses what he did during Christmas in London and how the city operates during wartime. He briefly mentions the war in the East where the Russians have surrounded the Germans in Stalingrad and that Rommel retreated to Tripoli. He also mentions the war in Italy where the British 8<sup>th</sup> army overtook Mussolini's empire that the Russians were victorious in Leningrad.

-In February he mentions Churchill visiting Turkey and Cyprus and how Hitler did not speak on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nazi regime, however, Goering and Goebbels mentioned their retreat in the East. He also says that the British 8<sup>th</sup> army is moving into Tunisia and that Stalingrad is now finished.

-In March he discusses various activities that he did while in the hospital and how he would like to have an office job to keep him off the front line.

-In April he discusses going to dances, shows, and having dinner at various places. He also mentions his office work.

-In May he mentions the Allies taking Tunisia as well as bombings in Italy and the Isles where they dropped 2000 tons of bombs. Not much in terms of his military work.

-In June he mentions receiving letters from Noreen and that the Russians are facing a German summer offensive. He also mentions that the Allies are still fighting in Sicily and the Germans are not fighting on two fronts yet but the Russians are attacking them.

-In August he says that the Russians have re-taken Kharkov and that the war in Sicily is finished but they are still fighting in the air.

-In September he says that the British and the Canadians invaded Italy and that his wrist is bothering him. On the 15<sup>th</sup> he says that the Italians surrendered but the Germans took North Italy, the Balkans, and Musso. He also mentions that the Axis is trying to push the Allies into the sea at Salerno and that the 5<sup>th</sup> US Army suffered serious casualties. Furthermore, he is content with his platoon because they are working into shape and that they may be entering France in the next month. He also made a list for himself of what he wants to achieve by the age of 30. He gives more information about the Italian campaign and the Eastern front in

terms of how the Allies had taken Foggia and how the Russians have taken Smolensk and entered White Russia.

-In October he is the mess [secy?] which he does not enjoy because cannot get promoted nor does he see action. He also mentions that the Russians have crossed Dnieper River.

-In November he mentions that the Russians have taken Kiev and the Moscow conclave. He also says that Stalin was speaking confidently and that he is close to Rome. Additionally, he says that Berlin has been bombed heavily during the week (written on the 26<sup>th</sup>) and that Russia has taken Gomel.

-In December he mentions the Teheran conference where FDR, Stalin, and Churchill met and they said that the war should be over by Christmas, 1944. He also mentions an assault led by Eisenhower with Tedder as deputy and that Montgomery will be commanding the British/ Canadian troops. Casualties are expected to be high.

-In January he returned from [Garnons?] on the 4<sup>th</sup> and was back in the hospital for more physio therapy.

1<sup>st</sup> 1944 Diary: This diary begins the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January and ends on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, 1944.

-In January he says that the Russians have taken Zhitomir as well as Korosten and that they are 25 miles away from Poland. He also says that the RAF made 9 major attacks on Berlin which is causing the capital to break down; the Canadians with the 8<sup>th</sup> army are heading through Ortona, and that the US is advancing through the South Pacific. He mentions Noreen and how she is still faithful even though he has been gone for 2 years and that General Marshall of the US Army stated that strikes in the US has prolonged the war. He mentions that the Soviets had entered Poland and that Berlin is estimated to be 3 quarters destroyed. On the 29<sup>th</sup> he returned from Basingstoke, England where he was on leave and went to Brockhurst, England.

-In February he goes on leave to Cambridge and discusses the possibility of him returning to Canada. He mentions the Russians entering Estonia and encircled German troops in the Dnieper River while Americans are pushing forward into Japanese territory, especially in the Caroline Islands. He also mentions that 1,000 Americans died when a ship torpedoed a transport ship and that the Germans fear an attack west of Marseilles as well as Brest. Discusses various activities while on leave as well.

-In March he goes out on a 2-day scheme with his unit and mentions that he has an interview but he does not know what it is for. He also says that the Russians launched at 500,000-man offensive across the Odessa -Warsaw rail line under the command of Marshal Zhukov and that the Americans are still bombing Berlin.

-In March he says that the RAF dropped 3,000 tons of bombs on Stuttgart and that Germany has taken over Hungary as well as the Carpathian passes. He also mentions the RAF bombing in Frankfurt and that two major factories in Berlin

were destroyed due to bombing. He mostly discusses various activities such as going to dances, cinemas, and eating dinner at different restaurants.

-In April he says that the Germans are retreating to Cassino and that the Russians are close to Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Odessa. On the 5<sup>th</sup> he says that the Russians are close to taking Odessa and that the Allies have been bombing Budapest, Bucharest and other cities. On the 10<sup>th</sup> he discusses more about the Russian advance where they have surrounded Odessa. He also discusses his interview and it was for being a field press censor and how the Germans admitted that the Allies can break through the Atlantic wall.

-In May he mentions being glad to be on leave and how he reported to SHAEF Censorship but the people he wanted to see weren't there. He also discusses other aspects about his possible censorship job and how much he would enjoy it. On the 15<sup>th</sup> he says the Allies have broken through the Gustav line in Italy and that Cassino fell to Polish and British forces on the 19<sup>th</sup>. He also mentions hearing a speech by Ike Eisenhower to Allied correspondence about their future relationship with his command. On the 24<sup>th</sup> he was in Canterbury where he attended a church service for Empire Day. On the 25<sup>th</sup> he says that Italy has fallen as well as preparations are taking place for D-Day. He also discusses how every censor is under the control of SHAEF on the 28<sup>th</sup> and that his number is 39. Includes a newspaper clipping discussing the 6<sup>th</sup> of June.

-In June he discusses his time on duty and how a woman teleprinter who worked for AP staff informed the US that the invasion was on (most likely D-Day). He also mentions his work as a censor during D-Day and talks about sending a D-Day message to the troops. German people are being encouraged to lynch allied airmen as well. Elliott gives a short summary of D-Day on the 6<sup>th</sup> in terms of supplies and also mentions how the 3<sup>rd</sup> division was deployed at Caen. Elliott also went to Italy to do some censoring which was a race against time. He censored a story that was written by Bill Stewart which said that the US 3<sup>rd</sup> division had the highest casualties and says that the Russians started an offensive from Vitebsk to Polotsk. On the 27<sup>th</sup> he says that the Russians have succeeded in breaking through Vitebsk and that the Germans are ready to give up Paris.

-In July he says that they will be able to push through Caen which fell on the 9<sup>th</sup>. He also mentions that they are around Caen but have not crossed the Orne River and that Vilna has been taken by the Soviets. On the 18<sup>th</sup> he says that many bombs were dropped on Colombelles near Caen in order to clear a path to Paris and that the Russians are nearing Brest Litovsk which was soon taken and brings them closer to Warsaw. One of the last things he mentions is an attempted assassination on Hitler. Includes a newspaper clipping written by General Smuts on Churchill.

-In August he is in Normandy where he discusses many places that he visited and how the war has changed the area. He also says that the US 3<sup>rd</sup> under Patton has almost made it across the Brittany Peninsula. He visited the Canadian censors at Rots and seen that their organization has improved. Lastly, he says that the Allies do not know if Rommel is still alive and that the Russians have cut off Riga.

2<sup>nd</sup> 1944 Diary: This diary continues through August and ends December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1944.

-In August he says that the Russians are entering East Prussia through Suwalki and the Americans have taken Guam and headed towards the Philippines. The 2<sup>nd</sup> British army crossed the Orne River to take the Falaise area which will allow the Canadians to cross the Seine to eliminate the threat at Pas de Calais. On the 9<sup>th</sup> he says the Canadians had taken their first objectives and are nearing Bretteville. He discusses breaches in censorship security and believes that Colonel Dupuy is behind it. He also mentions that the Americans are in Chartres, Châteaudun, Dreux, St. Calais, and Orléans. The Russians on the other hand have moved into the Danubian Basin and Elliott thinks that Germans would soon leave the Balkans, France, and Norway.

-In September he is in the frontiers of Belgium and will soon be entering Dieppe, Arras, Sedan, and Verdun and mentions that Russians were welcomed in Bucharest. While in Belgium's capital he says that they are celebrating still even though they have been free for a week. He says the Russians have passed through Rumania and are now nearing Belegarde where the German positions are weakening. This is also the case for Le Havre where the Americans are. On the 13<sup>th</sup> he says that 30,000 German troops want to surrender in the Loire region and says that FDR and Churchill are meeting in Quebec to discuss who will occupy what part of Germany. Includes a newspaper clipping about FDR and also a letter that Elliott wrote to Shirley about the bombing of the German 7<sup>th</sup> army which he believes was revenge for the shooting of French refugees in 1940.

-In October he discusses having trouble with his sinuses and says that Hungary is almost out of the war. He is near Antwerp where they are planning to free the city as well as closing a possible escape route for the Germans.

-In November he mentions a possible offensive that will bring them east from Rotterdam and the Americans are advancing south-east from Aachen where they met a lot of resistance. He also says that FDR will most likely be re-elected and that the Russians are not far from Budapest. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> he is still in Breda and says that there is not much censoring that is needed to be done. Lastly, he discusses the possibility of replacing a censor in Italy and perhaps staying in Europe until October, specifically in Germany after the war is done.

-In December he is still in Breda where he hears that the war will perhaps not be over by summer. He also says that the 7<sup>th</sup> US army is advancing in the Roer R. defenses past Aachen and that censors may be needed in Germany. On Christmas day he is in Brussels where he discusses the various activities that he did. He also says that France and Russia signed a pact and that Japan is being bombed from China. On the 30<sup>th</sup> he discusses the battle in the Ardennes forest where the 3<sup>rd</sup> US army was relieved in Bastogne and that the attack on the 5<sup>th</sup> US army in Italy has ended.

1945 Diary: This diary begins December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1944 and ends October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1945.

-In January some pages are missing and one section is scratched out, however, Elliott discusses the strong resistance in Bastogne and how the Allies are making a

lot of progress in Burma which is bringing them close to Mandalay. He also mentions buying two war bonds which are priced at 1000\$ and 300\$ and that the Allies should reclaim all their lost territory from the Battle of the Bulge. The Americans have also landed in Layon in the Philippines. He mentions interviewing German speaking censors on the 14<sup>th</sup> and that the Russians are close to Vienna while the British are closing in on Mandalay. On the 17<sup>th</sup> he says Warsaw was liberated by the Russians who are also nearing Germany and that Budapest has almost fallen. He mentions a rumor about German gas being able to go through their gas masks and that Germany is perhaps almost done fighting. He also says that the Russians are attacking Breslau and Posen and nearing East Prussia. On the 30<sup>th</sup> he says the Russians should be starting an attack on Brandenburg and Pomerania and that Stalin needs Posen, Breslau, and Konigsberg to help solve his problem of transporting supplies to troops.

-In February he says that Berliners can hear the Russians even though they are 45 to 65 miles from Berlin and that they are moving up along the Oder River near Austria and Frankfurt. He also says that Manila has been taken by the Americans while the Russians took two East Prussia strongholds on the 5<sup>th</sup>. On the 12<sup>th</sup> he says the Russians have broken through Breslau and are 90 miles from Dresden. On the 16<sup>th</sup> he mentions that the Americans had bombed Tokio (Tokyo?) and that the Russians are now 50 miles from Dresden. On the 25<sup>th</sup> he mentions General Eisenhower saying that a two front offensive could not start before June which means that the Russians now have time to finish their offensive. Eisenhower also wants to defeat the Germans who are located west of the Rhine and then bomb the Ruhr Valley. Elliott also says that Turkey is entering the war while pressure is being put on other neutral countries to enter and that the Americans had 6,000 casualties on Iwo Jima.

-In March he says that the Russians have passed through the Baltic and have cut off Danzig while the 2<sup>nd</sup> British army crossed the Rhine. Hodges and Patton soon reached the Rhine as well. He also says that Berlin has been bombed for the 17<sup>th</sup> time and that Iwo Jima is still in the process of being cleared. On the 17<sup>th</sup> he says shells landed not far from them and that he is preparing for a new offensive (does not go into detail). On the 25<sup>th</sup> he says Patton is nearing Frankfurt while Hodges passed the Remagen bridgehead. Kesselring has also been replaced by Rundstedt in the west and the Russians are making their way to Vienna.

-In April he says that SS troops have tiny pockets all over the country that they are defending and that Patton made his way to the Weimar region. He also says that Russia has declared war on Japan after a 5-year neutrality pact and discusses the occupation of Germany and how Britain will own all ports except for Bremen which will be given to the US. On the 16<sup>th</sup> he is in Germany. He mentions FDR's death and that the Americans and Russians are only 90 to 95 miles apart. The Russians are also entering Berlin from the east as well as the south while the 2<sup>nd</sup> British army will enter Bremen and Hamburg. He also mentions that concentration camps are being found.

-In May he says that the Germans in Northwest Europe have surrendered which means they can walk through Holland and make their way to Denmark. On the



12<sup>th</sup> he is in Utrecht where he got 8 pistols and discusses various activities and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> he says he will be going to England for a week.

-In June he made his way back to Utrecht on the 24<sup>th</sup> and discusses various activities that he did in England such as meeting different people as well as sight-seeing. Not much about the war or his service. He discusses what he wants to happen in his life which consists of getting home as early as possible, leaving the military, taking courses, and finding books to use for studying.

-In July he visits Paris where it was quite warm and also Berlin and mentions the possibility of going back to Canada in October.

-In August he went to London where he mentions how it has changed because the war in Europe has finished and how there are still victory flags flying all over the place. He also had a car which he sold for 1,200 francs.

-In September he mentions how he wants to get out of the military.

-In October he is on a boat to Halifax where he is staying with 22 officers in one room. He also mentions that the ship is overcrowded.

2004.009-ELL/9 photographs [1941? -1943] of Elliott during the War, specifically:

- [Portrait of Robbins Elliott](#) in uniform, taken in London
- [Portrait of Robbins Elliott](#) in uniform, taken in Wolfville
- [Portrait of Robbins Elliott](#) in uniform, taken in Holland
- Staff of the Censor's Office attached to No. 3 Canadian Public Relations Group on the Western Front, includes duplicate image with names. Official photograph
- Staff of the Censor's Office. Information about the photograph and men in the photograph is included on the reverse
- 2 photographs of Elliott standing on an unidentified street, taken on the same day. Street may be in Boston
- 2 photographs of Elliott with a bicycle, taken on Oct. 24
- photograph of Elliott and Joe Trainor of PEI, taken on Oct. 24
- 2 photographs of Elliott and others including hospital staff [1942], both with writing on reverse, including mention of Elderkin. [Photo of Elliott and others](#) has been digitized
- Elliott in uniform, standing next to a wall in Garnons, 1943, writing on reverse
- Elliott in uniform, at a camp
- Elliott and a friend in uniform
- Elliott in a Highlander uniform
- [Group of soldiers](#), likely the C.O.T.C. at Camp Aldershot. Includes Major Fred Kelly and Robbins Elliott. 1 original o/s ; 1 print

2004.009-ELL/10 Army records (1942-1945), specifically:

- A booklet entitled "Canadian Army (A.F.) Officer's Record of Service" that lists promotions, courses attended, service, medical classification, hospitalization, protective inoculations, and vaccinations
- List of home addresses of personnel who have served with the No 1 Canadian Field Press Censor Unit Canadian Army Overseas

2004.009-ELL/11 Canadian Army Records between 1941-1945 [2000; photocopy] being copies of Elliott's file at the National Archives of Canada, requested in 2000.

-In these files there is his application letter as well as many documents relating to his time in the hospital when he was hit in his right wrist. Also, his military course grades are present as well as his papers from the department of national defense. His dental records and other post war documents can be found within this section as well.

2004.009-ELL/12 pamphlets from England and Ireland ([194-], 1943) for the Churchill Club, the Abbey Theatre and the Gaiety Theatre

-The Churchill Club pamphlets discuss events that will be taking place as well as a description of the club. It says that it is for people who are interested in British history and culture

-The Abbey Theatre pamphlet shows a list of the cast members of a comedy called The Far-Off Hills.

-The Gaiety Theatre gives a list of cast members for the play Ghosts and a synopsis of the play.

2004.009-ELL/22 "Acadia Remembers" reunion for World War 2 vets (1994, 1995) for which Elliott was a member of the organizing committee, includes a photograph, a ribbon, correspondence, contact lists, articles, programs, and remarks at the dinner.

Correspondence:

-Letter written November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1994 by Maura Ryan and Steven Pound to the alumni discussing the planning of the WW2 veteran reunion for veterans who attended Acadia University.

-Letter written December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1994 by Elliott to Duncan G. L. Fraser telling him that the program for the veteran reunion at Acadia is ready.

-Letter written December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1994 by Elliott to Dunlap discussing the mailing for the veterans' reunion. Attached is a letter written to Elliott by Larry telling him that he is invited to speak at the Canada Remembers veterans' reunion.

-Letter written January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1995 by Katrina McLean to Elliott discussing the mailing process to the WW2 veterans for the reunion at Acadia.

-Letter written in March 1995 by Neil Price et al discussing the Acadia Remembers event.

-Letter written July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1995 by Larry to Elliott thanking him for details relating to the DeWolf house.

-Letter written July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1995 by Elliott to Duncan thanking him and the people who helped to plan the Acadia Remembers event.

-Letter written September 1995 by Alumni Office Staff to Veterans discussing the reunion and a list of attendees.

-Letter written by Steven M. Pound to the alumni asking them to complete a questionnaire relating to the Alumni Directory.

Articles:

-Articles from the Acadia Bulletin written by Linda Cann and Glen Hancock, congratulating Acadia graduates who have made various accomplishments as well as the WW2 Veteran's reunion.

-Pages discussing remarks at veteran's reunion dinner at Acadia which have been edited with a pen.

4. Government – (1941-1986, 1992) – 9 folders of textual records, passports, 11 photographs: b & w.

Series contains notes, memos, correspondence, passports, addresses, and articles relating to Elliott's time working with the Federal Government. These materials give insight into what he was doing while working with the government which also includes his salary. They highlight what Elliott thought was important for the Canadian Government to do during the recession of 1973-1975 as well as other things relating to education, immigrants, elections, and competing in the global market.

2004.009-ELL/13 Government of Canada administrative papers (1948-1965), being notes, memos relating to positions held by Elliott within the Federal government, and correspondence

-These papers show his salary as well as where he worked within the federal government. He worked in the departments of Secretary of State, Reconstruction and Supply, Resources and Development, and Public Works. These papers also give information on when we received a position in those departments as well as a summary of his life which ends in 1948.

Correspondence:

-Letter written November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1948 written to Elliott (author unknown) discusses a man named Bob Winters and how he would be a good cabinet minister and also about an appointment.

-Letter written November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1948 written by [Mary?] to Elliott discusses Bob Winters' cabinet appointment and how Elliott could become Winters' new private secretary.

-Letter written November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1948 by Stelle to Elliott discusses how Winters would not get back to Elliott right away because he left his mail while he was away.

-Letter written November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1948 by Elliott to Winters discusses the possibility of him becoming Winters' private secretary.

-Letter written November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1948 by Winters to Elliott discusses how he would like to meet Elliott and how he has high qualifications.

-Letter written November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1948 by [Mary?] to Elliott discusses how Winters did not return to Ottawa for a cabinet meeting and that a man named Labarge recommended Elliott.

-Letter written December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1948 by Arthur Potts to Elliott discusses how he is looking forward to seeing Elliott.

-Letter written December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1948 by Arthur to ministers Potts discusses Elliott and how he would be a good private secretary.

-Letter written December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1948 by Winters to Elliott discusses how he did not receive the position of Winters private secretary. Instead, a young lawyer received the position.

-Letter written December 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 1948 by Elliott to Winters thanking him for considering him for his private secretary.

-Letter written January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1948 by [Sutton?] to Winters discusses Elliott and how Winters has made a good choice for a private secretary.

-Letter written January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1950 to Elliott discusses a change in departments.

-Letter written August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1950 by Rekert to Normand Oakley discusses Elliott and how he is anxious to meet Oakley.

Letter written September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1952 by Elliott to Gerry discusses his duties during the war as well as after the war in order to apply for a position in the British American Oil Co.

-Letter written September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1950 by Elliott to Dunlap to give thanks for letting him see a show called South Pacific. Includes another letter attached discussing the show. Written by Harry to Oakley.

-Letter written March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1953 by Stelle Brown to Elliott discusses Elliott's interest in working at the civil service commission. It is a temporary position that he qualifies for.

-Letter written April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Elliott to Pierre discusses a book that Elliott wrote.

2004.009-ELL/14 papers (1947-1948, 1963, 1974-1975) relating to positions with the Canada Secretary of State Citizenship Officer. Also includes correspondence

-The documents discuss the guideless that new arrivals to Canada should follow. Also, it discusses education, attitudes towards foreign language groups, research among ethnic groups, and naturalization of the courts for certain areas in Canada. It also contains other written material about citizenship, the foreign language press, and newspaper clippings of Elliott discussing how Canada should change to compete in the world market and about consumption. Lastly, it contains a "do a tang" of Elliott's notes for the director of planning Centennial Commission.

Correspondence:

-Letter written January 14<sup>th</sup>, (no year or author) asking if Elliott is available for an interview.

-Letter written January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1947 to Mr. Foulds (no author) discussing giving speeches on immigration and how to educate them.

-Letter written January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1947 to Mr. Foulds (no author) discussing the foreign language press and what should be written in it.

-Letter written January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1947 by [Whaley?] to Elliott discussing a possible position as Citizenship Officer.

-Letter written January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1947 by [Whaley?] to Elliott discussing his interview for Citizenship Officer and how he is eligible and has a good chance of securing the position.

-Letter written February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1947 by Frank Foulds to Elliott discussing his work in the Canadian Citizenship Branch.

-Letter written March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1947 by Frank Foulds to Elliott discussing an appointment.

-Letter written June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1947 by [Rirrogau?] to Elliott discussing how he was successful in a competition for the Citizenship Officer position.

-Letter written August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1948 by P.M. Richards to Elliott discussing his article for the Canadian labour press and how it is too long and detailed. Attached is the article.

#### 2004.009-ELL/15 passports (1969-1982)

#### 2004.009-ELL/16 professional correspondences (1941-1986) with respect to various appointments.

-Letter written September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1941 by W.G. Allen and discusses Elliott's entry into the Halifax Chronicle.

-Letter written October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1962 by John J. Connolly to Elliott discussing a speech that Elliott had done.

-Letter written May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1969 E. A. Côté to Elliott discussing his job as the Canadian Government Exhibition Commission.

-Letter written in [1971?] (No author information on who it is written to) discusses Elliott's service in the Federal Government and also a new assignment created by Elliott.

-Letter written December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1976 by Jean Chrétien to Elliott discussing a certificate signed by the Prime Minister that Elliott received for his long service in the Federal Government.

-Letter written March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1980 by William G. Davis to Elliott congratulating him on becoming a member of the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

-Letter written April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1981 by William G. Davis to Elliott congratulating Elliott on receiving the position of Vice-Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

-Letter written March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1986 by David Peterson to Elliott thanking him for his service as Vice-Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

-Letter May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1986 by Lily Munro to Elliott thanking him for his service as Vice-Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

2004.009-ELL/17 professional addresses (1968-1972), specifically:

- To the annual meeting of the Toronto Branch of the Acadia University Alumni, entitled 'University Education: Thirty Years Later' (1968)  
-He discusses the problems of post-secondary education and how important universities would become in modern times. He also discusses life in the 30s and how universities must be better equipped because more people are attending universities to be more successful.
- To the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa concerning the Exhibition Commission (1969)  
-He mentions how exhibitions relating to Canada are being presented around the world in which they show Canadian art, forestry, agriculture, Indigenous craftsmanship and education and the exhibition committee handled 1,000 projects relating to Canada.
- To the Montreal Advertising and Sales Club concerning the Exhibition Commission (1970)  
-He mentions how the exhibitions are mostly located at areas relating to international trade affairs and how countries such as Hungary are buying Canadian products. The address mostly discusses how these exhibitions can help to encourage other countries to trade with Canada and to buy Canadian products.
- At the Americas' Conference concerning economics and design (1972)  
-He mentions the importance of having a strong industrial economy mostly relating to science and new technology. He also mentions how they are facing a period of stagnate growth, unemployment, slow investment and a surplus of export products. He asks the question: how does Canada remain independent while recognizing our global interdependence and that Canada needs to create a strategy in order to increase its industrial mobility. He also gives a list of things that Canada possesses to achieve this goal.

2004.009-ELL/18 articles (1948, 1992), specifically:

- Offprint entitled "The Canadian Labour Press from 1867: A Chronological Annotated Directory" (1948)  
-This directory contains 239 publications made by The Canadian Labour Press which contain descriptions of each journal.
- Unpublished manuscript entitled "Confederation Train and Caravans" (1992)  
-It discusses how the caravans and trains have toured all over Canada and how much the event raised and costs to create.

2004.009-ELL/19 photographs [between 1947 and 1967?], specifically:

- Elliott leaning on a building, perhaps at the University of Toronto
- A group of six men (including Elliott), posing with a rack of drying fish
- Elliott and another man (possibly Minister Robert H. Winters)
- Four men, Desarmeaux?, Zictoun?, Goulet?, and Elliott at the 1961 annual meeting of the John Howard Society

- Elliott posing with an Inuit woman
- Elliott posing with a group of men, women, and children next to a seaplane and a number of barrels
- Portrait of Elliott
- Elliott at his desk, holding a poster
- Large crowd of dignitaries, including the Queen and the Prime Minister, at an event
- Six men, standing in a group outside of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa
- Five men and one woman, standing between ruined columns

2004.009-ELL/20 1976 election campaign (1976) includes articles and correspondence

-Newspaper clipping of the Ottawa Journal discussing a civic election.

-Photocopy of a newspaper clipping discussing the taxes in the municipalities in Ottawa.

-Text discussing the Ottawa-Carleton Convention Centre and how it faces competition in Quebec, Winnipeg, and Calgary.

-Photocopy of a newspaper clipping written by Jane Becker discussing city taxes and their new plans.

-Text titled Problems and Issues Identified in Canvassing Poll in terms of traffic.

-Newspaper clipping discussing Gerry Trudel and how she should not be taken seriously in the Ottawa election.

Correspondence:

-Letter written November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1976 written by Norman B. Urie et al to colleagues discussing how Elliott would be a good defender for the Ottawa City Hall.

-Letter written November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1976 by D'Arcy G. Helmer to Elliott apologizing for a lack of attendance at a meeting.

-Letter written November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1976 by J. Grant Woosley to Elliott telling him that people might question him about the traffic problem in Copeland Park.

-Letter written November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1976 by Lloyd Francis to Elliott mentioning something that would help him in his election campaign.

-Letter written December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1976 by Macdonald to Elliott to wish him success in a contest.

-Letter written December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1976 by J. Grant Woosley to Elliott discussing funds for his campaign.

-Letter written December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1976 by Elliott mentioning how much he appreciates the support he received for his campaign.

2004.009-ELL/24 address (1963) at Founders' Day banquet

-It was written by Elliott and discusses the foundation of Acadia as well as the impact of science at Acadia. He says that it was first treated as a disciplinary subject and that physics was a lecture subject. He also discusses the 1938 centennial of Acadia as well as other centennials in Canada and what they should aim to achieve with the establishment of the National Centennial Act in 1961.

2004.009-ELL/33 Canadian Centenary Council (1962, 1963) includes a 1927 Dominion Diamond Jubilee booklet and three speeches given by Elliott as well as notes and correspondence dated 1992-1995

-Notes written by Harry [Brown?] discussing various aspects of Canada for the Canadian Centenary. He mentions one of the Canadian Prime Ministers, Pearson, who was a responsible voice in all affairs. He also discusses how Canada had a lot of achievements in the last 100 years and that we have become more industrialized.

-Notes discussing what are Canada's achievements and what may be the role of Quebec.

-Hilroy book which contains notes discussing the growing labour force in Canada and other various aspects about the country such as a new sewage system being installed in [Bowsman?]. It also briefly mentions the Vietnam War and how the U.S. has shot down 7 communist [nigs?].

-Notes detailing approved projects of a lasting sign.

-Program of the Dominion Diamond Jubilee taking place July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1927. Discusses the events that are taking place during that time.

-Remarks by Elliott dated October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1962 discussing Canada's Centenary. He mentions the lack of economic planning after WW2 and how 20 million dollars will be available for the world's fair in Montreal in 1967. He also mentions how grants would be subject to 7 principles that they must meet so that they can keep the grant.

-Notes from a statement by Elliott dated April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1963 discussing planning for the centenary. 3 groups are responsible for this named the Canadian Centenary Council, National Centennial Administration, and the World's Fair Exhibition Corporation. He also mentions problems such as how many people working in these groups are volunteers and that some areas need convincing that the planning relates to them. There are also communication problems between cities. He also mentions different phases for the planning.

-Report by Elliott dated April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1963 discussing how people are worried about the centenary because it is 5 years away. He mentions the tasks to refine the centenary project as well as what the research committee has done for the centenary.

Correspondence:



-Letter written May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1992 by Elliott to McIlveen discussing two projects for the centenary. Attached is her personal biography.

-Letter written December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1994 to Elliott from Graham Rawlinson discussing the origins of the Canadian Centenary Council. Attached is a letter by Rawlinson to Elliott dated November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1994 discussing the history of the Canadian Centenary Council.

-Letter written February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1995 by Graham Rawlinson to Elliott discussing a package that had arrived and how he found use of the Canadian Citizenship Council in Ottawa.

5. Research – (1915,1963-2004) – 14 folders of textual records, 3 floppy disks, 1 moving image, 7 photo negatives, and 4 photographs: b & w.

Series contains articles, correspondence, notes, lists, programs, a manual, and a menu. These materials were used to keep track of information that he had acquired for many different projects such as his book “Those Waiting Dreams,” the Wolfville Historical Society, The Rotary Club, Planters, and Mona Parsons.

2004.009-ELL/26 Malcolm Elliott [19--] includes addresses when Dr. Elliott was honoured and letters from Dr. Elliott to the Board

-Text written about the life of Malcom Elliott who served on the Board of Governors at Acadia. During WW2 he took over the medical work at Acadia because the physician who worked for Acadia was gone to war. It also mentions a building named after Malcolm Elliott located on campus at Acadia. There is also another text written about Malcolm Elliott’s life as well.

-Notes written by Malcolm Elliott directed to the Board of Governors discussing maintenance of the campus at Acadia as well as salaries.

-Notes written by Malcolm Elliott who wants to resign from the Board of Governors and plans to build a new chemistry building. It also discusses other funds relating to the Board of Governors.

2004.009-ELL/27 Eastern Kings Memorial Hospital (1963, 1977-1995) includes a history of hospitals in Kings County, photographs of the wing dedicated to Dr. Elliott, articles about the hospital, and correspondence

-In the history of the hospitals in Kings County it says that there was a committee created to build a hospital which was followed by funds from Acadia. It also discusses the building process of the church and the approximate costs. The fees and staff are also listed as well as a list of recommendations from a survey held on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1962.

-The newspaper articles discuss the committees as well as a history of the hospitals in Kings County and the approximate costs for certain parts of the

hospitals. One article written by Parker Bass Donham discusses the reform of the health care system and how he is opposed to it.

-Photocopy of a newspaper article dated May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1978 discusses the East Kings Memorial (EKM) Hospital Auxiliary 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a new wing that has opened at the EKM Hospital.

-Photocopy of a newspaper dated December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1994 discusses a legal issue over the closing of the East Kings Memorial Hospital.

-Photocopy of a newspaper dated November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1994 discusses Ron Stewart and how he was attacked in ads by doctors. On the back there is an article dated December 27<sup>th</sup> 1994 discussing a 64 million dollar cut relating to the closing of the hospital in Wolfville.

- Photocopy of a newspaper dated December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1994 discusses Gwen Phillips who is the mayor of Wolfville and how EKM Hospital did not get any cuts when other hospitals did. On the back there is an article dated August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1994 that discusses the Wolfville hospital and how it will still be operational despite its lack of funding.

- Photocopy of a newspaper written by Wendy Elliott and dated November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1993 discusses how important the EKM Hospital is to her. On the back there is an article that discusses nurses having the ability to do other kinds of work without the doctor's authority.

- Photocopy of a newspaper dated December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1994 discusses Ontario giving nurses the ability to diagnose illnesses. On the back an article written by Robert Sheppard discusses nurses having the ability to do more.

#### Correspondence:

-Letter written December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1977 by Herman Olsen to Elliott discusses funding for the building of the EKM Hospital. Attached is another letter dated December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1977 and written by R. O. DeWolf to Elliott thanking him for donating to the EKM Hospital Financial Campaign.

-Letter written September, 1978 by C. H. Chipman and G. L. Porter to Elliott discussing the financial campaign for the EKM Hospital and the progress that they have made. Attached is a letter written by [Maijoree?] to Elliott discussing the financial campaign for the hospital and how they want to raise 800,000\$.

-Letter written October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1980 by C. H. Chipman to Elliott discusses the opening of the Malcolm R. Elliott Wing in the EKM Hospital.

2004.009-ELL/28 Robert Laird Borden (1996, 2002-2003) includes notes, articles, and images

-Newspaper clipping dated September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002 discusses Canadian electoral history.

-Newspaper clipping written by J. D. M. Stewart discusses Wilfrid Laurier Day and how it is the first time they are celebrating this day. Also, he discusses how Robert Borden defeated Laurier in 1911.

-Newspaper clipping dated January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003 discusses a memorial being built for R. B. Bennett, Canada's only New Brunswick born Prime Minister.

-Article from the Canadian Gazette dated January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1912 discusses Robert Borden life and how he came into politics.

-Postal Codes, telephone numbers, and addresses given to Elliott from James Borden. Dated September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

-By laws of the Charles Macdonald House of Centreville Society.

-Notes detailing the life of Robert Borden which focuses on his academic and political life.

2004.009-ELL/29 Wolfville Historical Society 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2001) includes articles, images of the Wolfville Gun Club, minutes, ticket lists, programs, membership lists, and correspondence for Wolfville History Week in September of 2001

-Pamphlet for the Randall House which discusses its history, summer programming, memorial foundation, and service to the community.

-Page discussing the events held at Randall Houses on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Written by Elliott.

-Program about the Wolfville Historical Society banquet August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1941.

-Page discussing the life of James R. C. Perkin.

-Notes discussing the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wolfville Historical society and a house once owned by Jim Horton that inspired the organization of the society in 1941.

-Photocopy of a newspaper clipping discussing the foundation for the people who contributed to Wolfville's community development.

-Photocopy of a newspaper clipping discussing events of the Wolfville history week.

-Photocopy of a newspaper clipping written by Wendy Elliott discussing the community of Wolfville. On the back there is another photocopy of a newspaper clipping discussing the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wolfville Historical Society. Written by Harold Woodman.

Correspondence:

-Letter written by James D. Davison (no date or to whom it was written) about the history of the Wolfville Historical Society which also includes many addresses and postal codes.

-Letter written by Derek to Elliott (no date) discusses ticket designs.

-Letter Written August 6<sup>th</sup> (no year) by Derek to Elliott discussing the finished ticket designs. Attached is a copy of one.

-Newsletter written May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 (no author) discusses events held by the Wolfville Historical Society.

-Letter written June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Elliott to Robert Stead discussing the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wolfville Historical Society.

-Letter written July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by J. Roy Brideau to Elliott discussing the dates for Wolfville History Week.

-Letter written August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Derrek to Elliott discussing a ticket target list.

-Letter written August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Elliott to David discussing the program relating to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wolfville Historical Society.

-Letter written August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Derek to Elliott discussing ticket target lists.

-Letter written June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Roger Cann to Elliott thanking him for his contributions to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wolfville Historical Society.

-Letter written September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Jan Sparkman, the president of the Wolfville Business Development Corporation to Elliott saying that he cannot provide funding for the Wolfville History Week.

-Letter written September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Scott Brison to Elliott saying that he is unable to attend the Wolfville History Week banquet.

2004.009-ELL/30 Planter Studies (2001) includes minutes, memos, correspondence, and related papers concerning the idea of the establishment of an international Centre for Planter Studies in conjunction with the Kings County Museum

-Page written by the Old Kings Courthouse Museum discussing the history of the New England Planters as well as the purpose of the workshop relating to the New England Planters' Center.

-Pages discussing appraisal for a two-unit apartment and whether or not they want to tear it down to rebuild or make some modifications to it.

-Pages discussing the objectives of a project to facilitate the organization of the International Center of Planter Studies. It also discusses workshops within the center and the expected results which includes making improvements to the Old King's Courthouse Museum.

-4 pages with multiple names of New England Planters with dates next to them (possibly the years they came to Nova Scotia).

-Pages discussing the Committee for International New England Planters which outlines the members, meetings and what were discussed in them, and a mission statement.

-Notes from a CAMPAIGN Committee meeting discussing which organizations would be willing to help them with the planters' studies.

#### Memos:

-Memo dated February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Allison Magee to the "Special Planning Committee" which discusses that the Planters' Centre should declare itself a national museum as well as plans for fundraising.

-Memo dated March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Scott Schofield to Elliott discussing the possibility of getting support from Acadia for the Planter's Center.

-Memo date July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001 by Ken Clark to Michael D. Mallinoff discussing the history of the planters as well as their traditions. It also discusses inviting people from Connecticut and Rhode Island and why planter studies are important.

-Memo (no date) by Allison discussing the purchasing of a building next to a museum which will be used for the Planter' Centre and how the Kings Historical Society may want to purchase it.

#### Correspondence:

-Letter written May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001 by Robin Hennigar to Elliott discussing changes that should be made in the old courthouse in Kentville such as installing an elevator, ramp, kitchen, etc.

-Letter written July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Doug Smith to Elliott acknowledging his receipt of a Job Creation Partnership proposal for a Centre Coordinator.

-Letter written August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Doug Smith to Elliott discussing how his proposal was not going to be funded.

-Letter written October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001 by Scott Scheffield to Peter discussing a grant of 800\$ received and how there will be no visitations held at the Old King's Courthouse Museum due to the 9/ 11 attacks.

-Letter written (no date) by Elliott to Jessica Frail discussing an accounting summary which is attached as well as plans to promote New England Planter's studies. Also attached, is a letter written August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Jessica Frail to Elliott discussing funding and volunteer hours.

-Multiple emails attached together discussing the cancellations of the visitations due to the 9/ 11 attacks as well as meetings. Also attached are copies of the document discussing the history of the planters which was written by Ken Clark in a memo.

2004.009-ELL/31 manual for St. George's Lodge [1981]

-In the manual it discusses its founding as well as its history. It also discusses the rules, meetings, officers, treasurers, secretary, deacons, committees, fees and dues, etc. It also includes members of St. George's Lodge beginning in 1784 and ending in 1981.

2004.009-ELL/32 Mona Parsons (1995-2000), includes articles and information concerning the book, play, and documentary by Andria Hill as well as correspondence and trip-related information. *The play by Andria Hill (1995) cannot be copied with permission of playwright*

-Newspaper clipping written in Dutch and mentions Elliott.

-Multiple copies of a text written by Elliott and other authors describing the life of Mona Parsons. She grew up Wolfville where she met a Dutch businessman and married him in Amsterdam. She was then arrested by the Gestapo after joining the Dutch underground where she offered her home to allied airmen. She was placed in many different prison camps after being sent to Germany in 1941. She was liberated in April of 1945 and returned to Laren, Holland. She then came back to Nova Scotia where her heroic efforts were overlooked.

-Pamphlet discussing a play about Mona Parsons.

-Photocopy of a newspaper clipping discussing Elliott and how he was trying to find a friend in Holland.

-Remarks by Elliott about WW2 and how he found his friend William in Holland.

-Page discussing the location of a Canadian cemetery in Holland along with descriptions, maps and layouts of the cemetery itself.

-Page outlining a tour of Holland.

-Pages discussing the liberation of Holland as well as the play about Mona Parsons.

-Page discussing honoring Dutch-Canadian friendship and the Canadian veterans of WW2.

-Page outlining the purpose of a visit to Holland.

-Several pages outlining the names of soldiers during WW1 in relation to the year they joined, their rank, and whether they were promoted or killed in action.

Correspondence:

- Letter written September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1995 by Andria Hill to the members of the Wolfville Historical Society thanking them for making people aware of Mona Parson's story. Attached are pages discussing the Mona Parsons play.
- Letter written June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1995 by Andria Hill to Elliott discussing a draft of the Mona Parson's play. Attached is the draft.
- Letter written February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1996 by Andria Hill to Elliott discussing how to get Mona Parson's story known to more people. Attached is a document discussing how little people know about Mona Parsons as well as a photocopy of a newspaper clipping discussing how Vision TV is looking for stories relating to human experience.
- Letter written June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1996 by Andria Hill to Elliott mentioning that a corner of Willow Park in Wolfville will be dedicated to Mona Parsons. Attached is a summary of the Mona Parson's play and a letter written June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1996 by Andria Hill to Mayor Phillips of Wolfville discussing the play.
- Letter written May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1997 by Laetitia von Asch-Pieters to Andria Hill discussing the play.
- Letter written April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1997 by Andria Hill to Caliban discussing possible funding from the Royal Canadian Legion for a tour of the play.
- Letter written December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1997 by Andria Hill to the Consulate of the Netherlands discussing the life of Mona Parsons as well as her wanting to find information relating to people who Mona Parsons knew.
- Letter written January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Henk Wisselo to Elliott discussing events relating to the liberation of Holland.
- Letter written February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Everland H. M. Lange to Elliott discussing Andria Hill visiting the Netherlands.
- Letter written March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1998 by Mart Snoek to Elliott agreeing to host Andria Hill in the Netherlands.
- Letter written March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Chris Penning to Elliott discussing how the Rotary Club members are looking forward to meeting Andria Hill.
- Letter written March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Herman Driehuis to Elliott and Hill discussing Hill's stay in the Netherlands.
- Letter written March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Elliott to Patricia Dietz discussing how Mona Parsons is not well known in Nova Scotia as well as the play about her.
- Letter written March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1998 by [We Vhferb?] discussing his meet with Mona Parsons during WW2.
- Letter written March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Hans van Wijk to Elliott discussing how he would like to have him and Hill at a Rotary club meeting in Holland.
- Letter written April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1998 by Rudolf Bakker to Elliott discussing how Hill is prepared to address the Rotary Club in Holland.

-Letter written April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1998 by Rudolf Bakker to Elliott discussing Hill preparing to address the Rotary Club in Holland and whether or not the Consulate of the Netherlands was able to do research for them.

-Letter written April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1998 by Elliott to Hans van Wijk housing arrangements for Elliott and Hill.

-Letter written April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1998 by Elliott to Willem D. van Mourik discussing the life of Mona Parsons.

-Letter written April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Rudolf Bakker to Elliott discussing the possibility of being able to trace the address of Wendeline van Boetzelaer.

-Letter written May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1998 by Giel Kleinjan to Elliott and Hill discussing how he enjoyed their company in Holland.

-Letter written June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by [W. Beeh?] to Elliott asking him if the trip to Holland was successful and about his trip to Iceland.

-Letter written June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Herman Driehuis to Elliott and Hill discussing how he was moved by being next to someone who helped to liberate his country. He also mentions how he hopes that Hill will have time to write a book about Mona Parsons.

-Letter written July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Mona to Caliban thanking him for his help during her trip to Holland.

-Letter written July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by W. E. Murphy to the Mayor of Wolfville and Council members discussing the possibility of naming a part of Willow Park after Mona Parsons.

-Letter written May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Matthew Trecartin to Elliott thanking him for his effort in producing a documentary on Mona Parsons.

-Letter written (no date) by Harry J. Barnstijn to Elliott asking him if he could be of assistance to him while he is in the Netherlands.

2004.009-ELL/34 Wolfville Mayors 1893-1993 [1999?] includes multiple lists of Mayors, Councilors, Clerks up to and including 1998, written text, and correspondence

-Text written by Watson Kirkconnell titled "The Streets of Wolfville 1650-1970." It discusses the size of Wolfville while giving a description of the town and where things are located. It also discusses the economic factors and the first streets that were built in Wolfville. There is also information on the street names and how they have changed over time.

-Text titled "How Crundale Press Can Help Your Organization Publish A Book." It discusses how publishing has changed in terms of copies. They can now print 200 copies without wasting money. Before they could only print 1,000 copies to be certain that they would make a profit. There is also a list of 4 important things they can do to help. Also, there is a page detailing the things they must include in order to get their book published.

Correspondence:



-Letter written November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1997 by David Newlands to Elliott discussing a grant to help support a manuscript and where he could receive help.

-Letter written June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Elliott discussing the possibility of him publishing a book about the Chief Magistrates of Wolfville.

-Note written by [Frank Rockwell?] discussing economics in relation to hotels, boarding houses for tourists.

2004.009-ELL/35 Wolfville Mayors [1999?] includes notes and images of Mayors and possibly other Town officials

-Notes discussing various incidents in [NS?] as well as hospitals and mental health facilities from 1879 to 1959.

-Various notes discussing other facilities in [NS?] as early as 1874 to 1962 and the costs to build them. They also mention the Dominion Atlantic Railroad tracks.

2004.009-ELL/36 Wolfville Mayors [1999?] includes an envelope with typewritten/written notes and an image for each Mayor, although it seems that the set is incomplete

-Paul Kinsman's folder includes a photo with notes describing mostly his academic career.

-William Marshall Black' folder includes notes describing many aspects of his life such as his academic career, masonic order, and other good deeds. There is also information on a hotel that he owned and turned into an opera house.

-Ronald S. Longley' folder is empty.

-A. B. Balcon, Jr' folder contains notes mentioning his health, and academic career, and other groups he was involved in.

-Alexander Sutherland's folder contains notes about his academic career and his teaching career.

-J. D. Chambers' folder contains notes discussing a duke. There is also an article by the Wolfville Historical Society about Chambers professional life. He was a member of the masonic order, first president of the Boy Scout Association, member of the board of trade, president of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and an organist at St. Andrew's United Church. There are also photocopies of pages discussing his family.

-Robert A. Wrye's folder contains a newspaper clipping mentioning how he was Wolfville's youngest mayor. There is also a questionnaire filled out by Wrye answering several questions relating to his position as mayor.

-Gwen Phillips folder contains a questionnaire filled out by Phillips answering several questions relating to his position as mayor. There are also notes discussing finances.

-Edward P. Bowles' folder contains photo negatives and an article by the Wolfville Historical Society about him. It mentions his marriage, the Town Council, his role as mayor, and his death.

-Eric Balcom's folder contains an article by the Wolfville Historical Society about him. It mentions how he was the first president of the Atlantic School of Theology as well as the first president of the N. S. Kidney foundation. He received an honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law from the University of Kings College and was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada. There are also notes about his life.

-A. Burpee Balcom's folder contains an article by the Wolfville Historical Society about him. It mentions how he received a B. A. from Acadia and a M. A. from Harvard. He was also an assistant in economics at Harvard and an instructor at the University of Minnesota. He had many positions at Acadia such as Chair of economics and Sociology, the registrar, and received an honorary degree in Civil Law from Acadia.

-Robert Stewart's folder contains a questionnaire filled out by Stewart answering several questions relating to his position as mayor. It contains information about his interests and politics.

-Murdoc Macleod's folder contains a list of topics possibly to be written about him. There are also notes about his interests, and groups that he was a part of.

-William L. Townsend's folder contains notes about his assets and flaws.

-William J. Kenny, Jr's folder contains a questionnaire about filled out by Kenny answering several questions relating to his position as mayor (unanswered). There is also a photo of him with other people and notes about his academic career, his family, and other groups he was involved in.

-John Frederick Herbin's folder is empty.

-Thomas L. Harvey's folder contains notes about his family, his role as mayor, and his academic career. There is also a written text (possibly for the Wolfville Historical Society) about his life and achievements. He was a member of St. George's Lodge.

-C. S. Fitch's folder contains notes about a woman named Laura who was the first woman elected into the Town Council as well as an unfinished written text about Fitch's life. There are also notes about Fitch's home address.

-J. Edward Hales' folder contains notes about his working life and groups that he was a part of such as the Board of Trade and the masonic order. There is also a written text (possibly for the Wolfville Historical Society) about his life and an article about his death.

-Ashton M. Wheaton's folder contains photos of Wolfville and the Acadia Dairy Company. There are also notes about his life. He was the manager the Acadia Dairy Company.

-Horton W. Phinney's folder contains a written text about him (possibly for the Wolfville Historical Society) discussing many aspects of his life. He had his own music company, and was president of many financial and trust corporations. He also managed Kejimkujik. There is an article about him and his sons discussing his business life and two photocopies of a framed message from Wolfville to Roger Phinney thanking him for his contribution to the town. Lastly, there is a letter dated June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Elliott to Phinney discussing a publication on Wolfville's mayors.

-C. W. Fairn's folder contains a letter dated October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Elliott discussing Remembrance Day and his book about the soldiers from Wolfville and Acadia University who served in WW1 and WW2.

-W. Kenneth Fraser's folder contains notes about his life, mostly discussing his academic career, service in WW1, role in the town council, and his organizing of the No. 268 Army Cadet Corps. There are also letters:

-Letter written January 11<sup>th</sup>, 1992 by Muriel Kerr to the Wolfville Centennial Committee mentioning how she was disappointed how there was nothing about her father (Kenneth Fraser) in the historical calendar.

-Letter written November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1993 by Elliott to Muriel apologizing for not including anything about her father and would like to receive a photo and biography of her father.

-Letter written January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1994 by Muriel Kerr to Elliott discussing the biography and photo of her father that she gave to Elliott.

-Letter written March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1995 by Elliott to Muriel Kerr discussing a book of remembrance and how he is pleased with the response of family members.

-James W. Bigelow's folder contains newspaper clippings discussing his life, specifically his family, and how he was the president of Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association. There are also notes discussing other groups that he belonged to such as the Masonic Order and it mentions his farmland as well. He was also a flour merchant.

-John T. Roach's folder contains notes discussing his role as mayor as well as his academic career and family.

-George Dewitt's folder contains an article by the Wolfville Historical Society about him. It mentions his graduation from Harvard Medical School in 1872 and his family. He was also practicing medicine in Chester, NS and was president of the Wolfville Fruit Land Improvement Company.

2004.009-ELL/37 key dates—Wolfville (1993) includes notes and a copy of "Historical Series: Eastern Annapolis Valley by Stewart A. Ferguson and Eleanor M. Palmer 1993" with information on a number of prominent landmarks and individuals

-Notes contain dates and a brief description of important events that happened during those dates around Wolfville and the Annapolis Valley.

2004.009-ELL/38 WHS Memorial Book project (1993) consists of three floppy disks, likely with WP6 documents, for various local names

2004.009-ELL/39 address to Rotary Club of Halifax (1993) concerning Wolfville's Centennial

-The address is written by Elliott and discusses the history of Wolfville as well as the Baptists who acquired farmland which eventually became the place where Acadia University was built. It also discusses projects and events that took place in 1992 and from New Year's Eve to late March. Attached are papers discussing arrangements for the presentation on the address.

2004.009-ELL/40 Grand Pre massacre Congress Acadien 2004 (2002) includes information about the massacre and the Congress, the Battle of Grand Pre, Col. Arthur Noble, the Noble Memorial, and handwritten notes

-Photocopy of chapters from a book discussing the arrival of the New England Planters after the deportation of the Acadians and the difficulties they faced during the decolonization process such as the broken dykes, and lack of cleared land. It also discusses the new settlements that were created by the New England Planters.

-Photocopy of a newspaper article written by W. C. Milner discussing the arrival of the New England Planters in 1760 which includes a list of the first arrivals and land grants. He also discusses The Borden House and the Borden family.

-Photocopy of pages from a book discussing battles at Grand-Pré.

-Photocopy of a book discussing the Grand-Pré tragedy from 1745 to 1755. It discusses how the French lost their colonies to the British and the battles that were fought between both countries. It also discusses the Noble family and the role that Colonel Noble played during the conquering of Acadia.

-Photocopy of a newspaper article discussing The Grand-Pré Battles Committee and how they are planning to build a memorial to Colonel Noble.

-Photocopy of a lengthy article discussing the life of Colonel Noble.

-Letter written October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1995 by Ruby Brenton to Archibald discussing questionnaires.

-Several handwritten notes discussing various aspects of Canadian history such as slavery, clothing, housing, nutrition, etc. There is also information about the Acadians and their struggles against the British as well as lists of various books.

2004.009-ELL/41 Those Waiting Dreams correspondence (1998-2000) includes correspondence, articles, and research concerning the book

Correspondence:

-Letter written October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1915 by George to his mother discussing an artillery barrage during the First World War.

-Letter written November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1995 by Elliott to Louis Comeau discussing a booklet titled “Fifty Years On” and informing young Canadians about the Second World War.

-Letter Written January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1996 by Elliott to Richard A. Winter discussing the booklet “Fifty Years On” and how it will be donated to many schools.

-Letter written November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1997 by L. S. Loomer to Acadia University asking why a soldier by the name of Gerry Meynell is missing from the honour roll list from the Korean War.

-Letter written April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by “Sirs” to the National Archives of Canada wanting information of deceased soldiers from WW1 and WW2.

-Letter written April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by the National Archives of Canada to Elliott discussing his request for information on deceased soldiers.

-Letter written June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1998 by Louise Brazeau from the National Archives of Canada to Elliott discussing how they are unable to give him the information he wants due to a heavy workload.

-Letter written August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Elliott to Scott Brison discussing his book about soldiers from WW1 and WW2.

-Letter written August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Scott Brison to Bill Wood discussing how Elliott’s request for information from the National Archives of Canada should be fulfilled.

-Letter written October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by Scott Brison to Elliott discussing how his request was denied and how he could go to Ottawa to do the research himself.

- Letter written November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by W. D. Hill to Elliott acknowledging his letter. Attached is a letter dated January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999 discussing an event.
- Letter written December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1998 by R. H. Prentice to Roger discussing information enclosed in the letter.
- Letter written April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999 by Joanne Houghton discussing information he may find useful on a particular person he is looking for.
- Letter written June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Marilyn Caillier from the National Archives of Canada to Elliott accepting his request for information on soldiers.
- Letter written August 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Elliott to Karl Larson discussing his book titled "Those Waiting Dreams" and what the price of his book will be.
- Letter written August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999 by Vincent Leung discussing the Alumni's support for Elliott's book, "Those Waiting Dreams".
- Letter written August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999 by Roger H. Prentice discussing the support for Elliott's book from the Acadia Archives and the Acadia Chaplaincy Department.
- Letter written August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Marta Khan from the National Archives of Canada to Elliott discussing personal information of soldiers.
- Letter written August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1999 by [Dair Ulysees?] to Elliott discussing a close relationship with a man named Hugh.
- Letter written May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Elliott to Larry discussing modifications to Elliott's book as well as its size.
- Letter written October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999 by Johanna Mennie to Elliott discussing a proposal.
- Letter written October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Elliott to [McHain?] discussing research and the cancellation of a telephone number. Letter seems to be incomplete.
- Letter written October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Luc Simard to Elliott the International Standard Book Number prefix of Elliott's book.
- Letter written October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Elliott discussing the publication of his book. There are two copies.
- Letter written November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Max to Elliott discussing a brochure on Elliott's book and a donation made by Max to Elliott.
- Letter written November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Elliott to Vernon Snair discussing the price of his book and the size.
- Letter written November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Elliott to Sarah Dennis discussing the release of his book which was released November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Gaspereau Press.

- Letter written November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Rogan to Elliott discussing his book.
- Letter written November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Kay to Elliott congratulating him on his book. She also mentions a locket.
- Letter written November 29<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Larry to Elliott thanking him for giving Larry a copy of his book.
- Letter written December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Heather Hampson to Elliott saying that MTT will not be able to support his book.
- Letter written December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Pat Odak by Elliott saying that the Ortona Branch #69 of the Royal Canadian Legion would endorse his book.
- Letter written December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1999 by Elliott to the Comrade Secretary discussing his research for his book as well as the price.
- Letter written in 1999 (Month not visible) by Marilyn Caillier to Elliott discussing fees for photocopies of military records from WW2.
- Letter written February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2000 by Norman Franks asking for information on a man named Norman Fowlow.
- Letter written February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2000 by Darlene Moore Rogers to Elliott saying that The Chapter has declined to purchase his book.
- Letter written March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2000 by Norman Franks to Elliott discussing an error in his book specifically on a plane number.
- Letter written March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2000 by Bill and Elizabeth to Shirley thanking her for her gift which was Elliott's book.
- Letter written May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2000 by Chuck and Shirley to Elliott and Nan discussing Elliott's book and how much they enjoyed it.
- Letter written December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2000 by Ian R. MacIntosh to Elliott discussing how he would like to order two copies of Elliott's book.
- Letter written April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by Elliott to Rauba expressing his gratitude for the sponsorship of 60 copies of his book.
- Letter written (no date) by Ron [lgau?] to Elliott thanking him for a copy of his book and how great he thinks it is.
- Letter written (no date) by Peter J. Foote to Elliott giving him information on soldiers who served during WW1.

Articles:

- Photocopy of a newspaper article written by Elliott asking if anyone has any information on the soldiers who served during WW1 in Wolfville.

- Newspaper article promoting Elliott's book. Includes a photocopy as well.
- Photocopy of a newspaper article written by Harold Woodman about his experience reading Elliott's book.
- Photocopy of a poster describing Elliott's book along with the price.
- Photocopy of a newspaper article written by Brent Fox discussing Elliott's difficulty in acquiring information and soldiers along with one woman who were killed during WW1 and WW2.
- Photocopy of a newspaper article written by Tom McCoag discusses a book about the 497 North Nova Scotia Highlanders who died during WW2.
- Photocopy of a newspaper article written by Elliott asking if anyone has any information on soldiers who served in WW1 or WW2 in Wolfville.
- Photocopy of an article written by Bill Crowell discussing the reunion of Canadian soldiers who took the No. 2 Canadian Army University Course at Acadia.
- Photocopy of a chapter from a book discussing the organization and early training of the 85<sup>th</sup> during WW1.

Notes:

- Incomplete set of pages with information of soldiers from WW1 and WW2 as well as mobilization during WW1, the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and the British regimental system from WW1 to the Korean War.
- List of soldiers who served in WW1 and WW2.
- Page discussing the different armies in Europe mostly likely during WW1.
- Page discussing the Canadian Expeditionary force during WW1.
- Part of an introduction from Heather Robertson's "A Terrible Beauty" discussing how the Canadians obtained a sense of identity from the war.
- Page with information of soldiers from both world wars which also includes family information.
- Page discussing Hugh, a soldier who died during the Korean War.
- An introduction discussing the service of soldiers during WW1 and WW2 from Wolfville.
- Photocopy of CAUC Remembers includes information of soldiers from Acadia who served during WW2.
- Notes discussing the 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian mounted Rifles during WW1.



-Notes discussing an extraction from [Handboah?] on the hardships soldiers had to face during WW1.

-Page with names of soldiers who served during WW1.

-Page with names of soldiers who served during WW2 which also includes the units they served in.

-Page discussing tourism in Nova Scotia.

-Page including extracts from other texts glorifying the role of soldiers who served in the military.

2004.009-ELL/42 Those Waiting Dreams and the obelisk (2002-2004) includes photographs, correspondence, articles, sing up sheets, a menu, programs, and handwritten lists

Correspondence:

-Letter written July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003 by Elliott to Ann Hiltz discussing the plans to build a WW2 monument next to the WW1 one at Acadia University.

-Letter written September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003 by Sandy Shelly, office of alumni affairs to Elliott discussing a change in citation for a scholarship.

-Letter written by Deborah Elliott, director of alumni affairs to the alumni discussing plans for a veteran's reunion for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WW2.

Articles:

-Photocopy of an article from *The Athenaeum* discussing physical training and how many university students neglect physical exercise.

-Photocopy of an article from the Acadia Bulletin discussing class reunions and a fire at the old gymnasium.

-Photocopy of an article from *The Athenaeum* discussing the building of the new gymnasium.

- Photocopy of an article from *The Athenaeum* discussing the new gymnasium.

- Photocopy of an article from *The Athenaeum* discussing the work in many institutions at Acadia such as the Seminary.

- Photocopy of an article from *The Athenaeum* written by Wendy Elliott discussing the Remembrance Day ceremony and how another memorial should be built for other soldiers who served in other conflicts other than WW1.

- Photocopy of an article from *The Athenaeum* discussing the history of gymnasiums at Acadia University.

- Photocopy of an article from the Halifax Herald discussing the unveiling of the WW2 memorial at Acadia as well as recognition of the people who served.

Programs:

-Dinner menu for the veteran's reunion. On the back there is a small biography of the life of C. Maxwell Forsyth-Smith who served in the NS Regiment during WW2.

-Program for the unveiling of the WW2 cenotaph.

-Veteran's Commemorative Reunion 2005 registration form.

-Schedule of events for the veteran's reunion.

- Torn page from a magazine discussing scholars looking for alternatives to war. Mentions 9/ 11, the Iraq War, and the HIV/ AIDS crisis in Africa. Written by Brad Faught.

Notes:

-Lists of soldiers who served in WW1 and WW2 as well as a list of men and women from WW1 and WW2 whose photos are missing.

-Lists of soldiers which include the units they served in, where they are from, which Acadia class they belonged to, and whether or not they have a photo.

-Pages outlining the proposal to rebuild a war memorial.

-Notes discussing specs of the Acadia gymnasium as well as soldiers who served in WW1.

-Typed page discussing the history of the gymnasium at Acadia University.

### **Biographical Sketch**

Robbins Leonard Elliott (1920-2003) was the son of Dr. Malcolm R. and Jean Steadman (nee Haley) Elliott. He graduated from Acadia University with a B.A. in 1941 and from the University of Toronto with a M.A. in 1947.

Elliott was a troop leader for the Wolfville Boy Scouts where he participated in the World Scout Jamboree in Holland and got to visit other places such as England and France. He then started his career as a local correspondent for the Halifax-Herald-Star and was also the editor of Acadia's *The Athenaeum* between 1939 and 1941. Before going overseas, Elliott was on staff with the Halifax Chronicle in 1941. He joined the military in 1941 and stayed in the Service until the end of the War, serving with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders and the Canadian Intelligence Corps. He was a Field Press Censor, attached to No. 3 Canadian Public Relations Group on the Western Front. He got to visit Berlin in its destroyed state towards the end of the war and saw how the Germans were affected. He also visited concentration camps witnessing how the Nazis carried out The Final

Solution first hand. Elliott retired with rank of Captain once the war was over. Because he visited Europe before the war had begun, he is one of the few Canadians who got to see a dramatic change when he returned as a soldier which is discussed in his diaries.

When he returned to Canada, Elliott began a long career within the Federal government in 1947. He worked with many departments, including the Canadian Citizenship Branch, the Minister of Resources and Development, Public Works, the Canadian Government Exhibition Commission, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Department of Industry, and the Department of Trade and Commerce. Elliott retired in 1977 and returned to Wolfville where he published his book titled "Those Waiting Dreams."

Beyond his career, Elliott's other interests were wide. He was a member of the Rotary Club and the Legion, active in local historical societies, and an author. In 2002, he received the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

Robbins Elliott married Myfanwy (Nan) Millward McGuire of Ottawa in 1950 and they raised four children.

### **Custodial History**

All records were held by the family until transferred to the Esther Clark Wright Archives in 2004.

### **Notes**

Supplied title based on contents of fonds.

Records subject to the *Copyright Act*. Written permission from the Copyright holder is required in order to publish any of these records.

For reasons of historic authenticity, all file titles provided by the author and captions provided by the photographer are transcribed unedited. The spelling of both peoples' and places' names has changed with time, so inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the titles are unavoidable. Files and captions may also contain inaccuracies or terms that would now be considered offensive.

Robbins Elliott's original filing system maintained.

Some items have been digitized and are linked to descriptions within this finding aid.

See also Samuel Elliott family fonds (Annapolis Co., NS), 2004.008-ELL, for a family tree and records of other family members.

See also Ronald and Vera Longley fonds, 1974. 004-Lon, for information on the Masons, New England Planters, and the Town of Wolfville.

See also Acadia University Office of the President Dr. Cutten, 1900. 190-PRS, for files related to WW1.

See also George Barton Cutten, 1900. 010-CUT, for information on WW1.

See also Those Waiting Dreams by Robbins Elliott [SPACAD]

See also Fifty Years On by Robbins Elliott [SPACAD]

See also The Ontario Book of Days by Robbins Elliott [on\_line]

See also Books about Mona Parsons

**Related Material:**

Samuel Elliott fonds, 2004.008-ELL/49 photographs [19--]. All came in one envelope marked 'RL', specifically:

- A) group of men and women at a cemetery
- B) parade marching down a street
- C) Robbins, sitting at a desk, with a copy of the Ath
- D) group of men, processing onto Acadia's campus

**Citation for this electronic finding aid:**

This finding aid should be cited as a website. Relevant information is as follows:

Title: Robbins Elliott fonds

Date: 2015

Author: Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University

**Access Points**

Elliott, Robbins, 1920-2003

Parsons, Mona, 1901-1976

Corporation of the Eastern Kings Memorial Hospital

Wolfville Historical Society

College students—Societies, etc.

World War, 1939-1945—Personal narratives, Canadian

Grand Pré (N. S.) – Massacre, 1747

New Englanders – Maritime Provinces – History

Acadian World Congress (2004: Nova Scotia)

## **Morale of Canadian Censors During the Second World War**

During the Second World War, censorship played an important role to ensure that information would not get into the hands of the enemy nor weaken the morale of civilians and soldiers. We often read about how the Second World War impacted the morale of civilians and soldiers, but we never hear about the morale of the censors. Did they believe what they were doing was making a difference? Were they affected by public opposition to censorship? By looking through the letters and diaries of Captain Robbins Elliott, a military censor from 1944 to 1945, we can get an idea of what he and other censors thought about the work they had to do during World War Two.

There have been very few written works on the topic of Canadian censorship during the Second World War other than two articles and three books. Because of this, the historiography will be fairly short. It is interesting that only a journalist and a few historians have decided to research and write about this part of Canadian military history, especially since the Canadian government kept a lot of information about the war from the public. One would think that many people would be interested in discovering what was censored and why in order to develop a more complete history of the Second World War. However, this is clearly not the case.

One of the first works ever published on Canadian censorship in World War Two was written by Gillis Purcell. He was a Canadian journalist who, was also a Public Relations Officer holding the rank of captain during the war.<sup>1</sup> After the war, he was the

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<sup>1</sup> Timothy Balzer, *The Information Front: The Canadian Army and News Management during the Second World War* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011), 24-25.

general manager of the Canadian Press from 1945 to 1969.<sup>2</sup> He wrote an article titled “Wartime Press Censorship in Canada” published in 1947. Purcell discusses how the rules of censorship changed over the course of the war due to certain events. One of these events occurred in August of 1940 when Montreal Mayor Camillien Houde spoke out against conscription. He told French Canadians not to register for the military draft because he believed it was an “unequivocally a matter of conscription”. This statement led to him being placed in an internment camp. Press censors ruled that the statement Houde had made was a violation of the Defence of Canada Regulations and should not be published. However, the ruling by the censors came out too late and the Montreal *Gazette* as well as the Toronto *Globe and Mail* both published Houde’s statement. The roles of the censors were only defined three years after the war had started by the order-in-council of August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1942. Prior to that, the censors did their jobs based on various interpretations of the *Censorship Regulations*. By declaring that Houde’s statement violated the Regulations and should not be published, the censors were going above and beyond the authority that they actually possessed. Purcell also mentions that the censors were seeking out disruptive statements when they had no authority to do so. Their job was to simply wait for media companies to send them material that they would either pass or censor.

The censorship laws changed again on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1942 when the Department of Justice ruled that no newspaper company should be prosecuted for publishing public statements, which meant they no longer had to submit this type of content to the press

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<sup>2</sup> Bruce Levett, “Gillis Philip Purcell,” *Historica Canada*, last modified December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013, <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/gillis-philip-purcell/>.

censors.<sup>3</sup> Purcell argued that censors would not have been successful without the cooperation of the press and that it was the press which was the greatest threat to freedom of speech. This would be the case since the press had to send in their stories to the censors in order to get clearance. If they wanted, they could have published it without sending it to the censors and possibly face prosecution. He concludes by saying that Canada's censorship was fair but it should never eliminate freedom of speech such as in the Houde incident.<sup>4</sup>

Nothing more was written on the topic until 1996/ 1997 when Daniel German, a senior archivist at the Library Archives Canada, wrote an article about the November 1944 mutiny in Terrace, British Columbia. The mutiny started when the terms of the National Resources Mobilization Act (NRMA) were changed so that conscripted soldiers could be ordered to fight overseas. Many of the soldiers who were stationed in Terrace were French Canadians who felt isolated in the English province of British Columbia. Once they discovered they were to be introduced to the heavy fighting in Europe, they began to protest. A store containing weapons and ammunition was broken into suggesting that these soldiers may have been preparing a more serious mutiny. The mutiny began on the 24<sup>th</sup> and ended on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November without any casualties. The problem for censors was to decide how much information about the incident should be released to the press and other media. There was a lot of debate between the military, censors, and the government on what should be done in order to prevent additional mutinies from occurring. The military was worried about exaggerated stories in relation to the protests

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<sup>3</sup> Gillis Purcell, "Wartime Press Censorship in Canada," *International Journal* 2, no. 3 (1947): 251-254. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40194144>.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 260-261.

and wanted stricter censorship. However, the censors allowed many articles to be published under the condition that it would not harm the security of Canada or create disorder within the military. Some censors actually refused to follow the demands of the Canadian military to be stricter towards censoring the conscription mutiny, most likely because the censors believed that censoring this incident completely would cause more harm than good. Luckily no disorder occurred and this incident was seen as one of the most successful acts of censorship because it allowed coverage of the event without harming national security. German's main argument is similar to Purcell's because he also addresses freedom of speech in relation to the press and the system itself. He states that the censorship system was successful and that the censors had addressed the moral ambiguities of war by going against censorship.<sup>5</sup>

In 1998 Claude Beauregard wrote *Guerre et Censure au Canada 1939-1945*, drawn from his PhD thesis and written at the University of Laval in 1995. It is probably one of the first books written on the topic by a professional historian, especially in French and covers the formation of censorship, press censorship, and military censorship. In his introduction he states that research on censorship during war had been ignored by military history and by journalism.<sup>6</sup> He analyses censorship in relation to how it was used and how the main actors reacted to it.<sup>7</sup> He also answers basic questions such as the definition of censorship, how it was practiced, and who had the authority to carry out censorship. Beauregard's main argument appears to be that censorship was an abuse of power, thus

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<sup>5</sup> Daniel German, "Press Censorship and the Terrace Mutiny: A Case Study in Second World War Information Management," *Journal of Canadian Studies* 31, no. 4 (1996/ 1997).

<http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.acadiiau.ca:2048/docview/203514893?accountid=8172>.

<sup>6</sup> Claude Beauregard, *Guerre et Censure au Canada 1939-1945* (Sillery, QC : Les éditions du Septentrion, 1998), 14.

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*, 18-20.



opposing Purcell and German. This is highlighted in an article written by Bernard Dagenais, who is a professor at the University of Laval, where he argues that Beauregard demonstrates how Canadian politicians were aware of their abuse of power in relation to censorship and that many censorship documents were destroyed after the war. Beauregard concludes his book by saying that studying censorship makes us reflect on the power of the government during times of crises and that censorship itself is irrational, thus showing his disapproval of censorship.<sup>8</sup>

Thirteen years later in 2011 Mark Bourrie published, *The Fog of War*, a shortened version of his PhD thesis on Canada's press censorship during the Second World War. He gives a more general history of Canadian censorship during the Second World War from a journalistic perspective while highlighting famous historical events and how they were censored. One such event was the Japanese balloon bomb campaign. The balloons were made of paper and silk, 12 metres tall and filled with hydrogen. Attached to the balloons were altimeters and ballast weights in order to keep them in the stratosphere. Sand bags were also attached in case the balloons cooled and dropped below the jet stream. The sand bags would automatically detach from the balloons thus allowing them to drift back up into the jet stream. The balloons were designed to catch the jet stream at 10,000 metres to drift at 220 kilometers an hour in order to hit North America after four days of travel. They carried fire bombs and high explosives which could have caused serious damage; however, the campaign was a failure. The majority of the balloons were launched during the Pacific Coast rainy season and there was only a slim chance that these bombs would land in a forested area and cause large fires. Despite the overall failure of the campaign,

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<sup>8</sup> Bernard Dagenais, "Ouvrage recensé: Claude Beauregard, *Guerre et Censure au Canada, 1939-1945*," *Recherches sociographiques* 41, no. 1 (2000) : 136-137.

one balloon managed to claim the lives of a woman and five school children who examined a downed balloon near Lake Oregon, in May 1945. Any information regarding flight paths or number of balloons was censored in order to prevent the spread of fear. However, Bourrie says that these balloons sparked more interest than fear.<sup>9</sup> He also agrees with German that censorship was successful: “Canadians were usually well served by the people who took on the often thankless job of press censor.”<sup>10</sup> However, he also argues in favour of the press saying that censors were never able to dominate the media.<sup>11</sup>

That same year, *The Information Front: The Canadian Army and News Management during the Second World War* was published. It was written by Timothy Balzer, a history professor at the University of British Columbia. Instead of focusing on the press and military censors, Balzer focuses on the perspective of the military and how it controlled the media during the war. More specifically, he discusses the role of the Public Relations Officers (PRO), who worked with the press, press censorship, organized reporters in the field, and worked with war correspondents whose job was to cover stories on the war despite being subject to the rules of censorship.<sup>12</sup> His argument is that the news media was not spineless during the war and that the Canadian military had to be careful or face political embarrassment and criticism for their actions.<sup>13</sup> Although this book does not focus on censorship compared to the other sources listed above, Balzer does discuss military censorship in broad terms and how the PROs and war correspondents worked with the censors when deciding what information was to be

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<sup>9</sup>Mark Bourrie, *The Fog of War: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War Two* (Vancouver: D & M Publishers Inc., 2011), 224-225.

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*, 18.

<sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*, 28.

<sup>12</sup>Timothy Balzer, *The Information Front: The Canadian Army and News Management during the Second World War* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011), 2-4.

<sup>13</sup>*Ibid.*, 9.

released and what was to be censored. One example occurred when the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division arrived in Britain in December, 1939. The Canada House (the first PR organisation) worked with the Canadian Army as well as British military PROs and censors to coordinate the characteristics of publicity for this event to ensure the enemy would not learn about the troop movements, the name of the port and so on.<sup>14</sup>

All of these written works make a unique contribution to the historiography of Canadian censorship during the Second World War. It seems as though all authors except Beauregard agree that censorship played a significant role during the war but they do question the morality of censorship especially when it comes to freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. When reading the letters and diaries of Captain Elliott, it appears that he shared the same opinion as the majority of the authors listed above. He defends the censorship system and the Commonwealth cause. The fact that he enjoyed good working hours, comfortable living conditions, and the ability to travel also boosted his morale.

Before discussing Elliott's life as a field press censor, the Canadian press and military censorship systems along with the difficulties they had to face will be discussed. There were a few important men within Canada's press censorship system during the war. Walter S. Thompson was known as the Dean of Canadian Publicity due to having a lot of experience in publicity. He had engaged in newspaper work all over the globe and was the director of publicity for the Canadian National Railways.<sup>15</sup> He was contacted by Maurice Pope who was the Director of Military Operations and Intelligence in Canada on

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<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 15.

<sup>15</sup> N.A. "Censorship To Be Under Control of Walter Thompson," *Ottawa Citizen* 97, no. 66 (1939): 11.

[https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2194&dat=19390904&id=S\\_guAAAAIBAJ&sjid=udsFAAAAIBAJ&pg=4537,6559716&hl=en](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2194&dat=19390904&id=S_guAAAAIBAJ&sjid=udsFAAAAIBAJ&pg=4537,6559716&hl=en).

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1939. Pope informed Thompson that Thompson would be in charge of the Canadian censorship system.<sup>16</sup> Important roles during the early years of the censorship system were played by Major L. Clare Moyer and Oswald Mayrand, who were Canada's head censors along with Lieutenant Colonel R. P. Landry who managed Canada's radio censorship.<sup>17</sup> However, Moyer soon left his position and was replaced by C. J. Hanratty as head censor, specifically of the English press.<sup>18</sup> Although Thompson seemed like the right man to be in charge of the censorship system, he did face some difficulties. Most notably he lacked management skills. While newspaper editors wanted a clear set of censorship rules and a system that would easily allow them to know which stories they could publish, they often had to guess which stories might violate the *Defence of Canada Regulations*. After Thompson threatened Floyd Chalmers of the Financial Post for refusing to stop his criticisms of the military, relations between the censors and editors were ruined resulting in Thompson's dismissal in early 1940.<sup>19</sup> Pope then succeeded to Thompson's position. Pope faced his own limitations – he knew how to plan but like Thompson, lacked management skills. He assigned a lot of work to his subordinates and did not like to delegate his position even when he had other responsibilities.<sup>20</sup>

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, 1942 Prime Minister Mackenzie King decided to reorganize the censorship system which led to Pope's replacement. He was replaced by Oliver Mowat Biggar, a lawyer who also served in the military during the First World War and was a

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<sup>16</sup> Mark Bourrie, *The Fog of War: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War Two* (Vancouver: D & M Publishers Inc., 2011), 29.

<sup>17</sup> Mark Bourrie, "Between Friends: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War II" (PhD diss., University of Ottawa, 2009). 85.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, 100.

<sup>19</sup> Mark Bourrie, *The Fog of War: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War Two* (Vancouver: D & M Publishers Inc., 2011), 29-33.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 43.

Canadian delegate at the Paris Peace Conference in 1918-1919. He also became Canada's first chief electoral officer after the First World War and retained that position until 1927.<sup>21</sup> Overall, however, Wilfrid Eggleston ran the entire press censorship system during the war. He replaced Hanratty as Chief English-Language Press Censor in the spring of 1940 which put him in charge of all the English censors.<sup>22</sup> While the censor's job was to keep morale high, Eggleston believed that eliminating Nazi propaganda from Canadian newspapers was more important. This can be seen in an article he published in 1941 titled *Press Censorship*, where he mentions the developments in psychological warfare, specifically by the Nazis. He says that he was forced to read enemy propaganda which he calls subtle and insidious and that it is designed to break down people's will to fight as well as confuse and disunite people.<sup>23</sup> In 1944, Biggar had a heart attack making Eggleston the new Director of Censorship while still maintaining his original position as Chief English-Language Press Censor. However, in the winter of 1944 Eggleston resigned leaving press censor Warren Baldwin (who was originally Eggleston's assistant) as the new Chief English-Language Press Censor and Fulgence Charpentier, who was the Chief French-Language Press Censor, as the Director of Censorship. Both Charpentier and Baldwin would be the ones to deal with post war publications and to write the final report which was to be given to the government and military at the end of the war.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 44.

<sup>22</sup> Mark Bourrie, "Between Friends: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War II" (PhD diss., University of Ottawa, 2009). 103.

<sup>23</sup> Wilfrid Eggleston, "Press Censorship," *The Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science/Revue canadienne d'Economie et de Science Politique* 7, no. 3 (1941): 316-317. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/137095>.

<sup>24</sup> Mark Bourrie, *The Fog of War: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War Two* (Vancouver: D & M Publishers Inc., 2011), 45.

The different civilian censorship branches were voluntary, meaning anyone could join. Censors did not have a lot of authority mainly because they could not seek out stories to censor. Instead, they had to wait for the press and other media companies (depending on the branch) to send them stories they were considering for publication. The censors would then either pass or censor the story depending on whether or not it could cause a decline in moral amongst the Canadian civilians and soldiers. Censors also could not press charges on people who did not follow the rules of censorship. That power was reserved for the Minister of Justice. However, they could approach individual ministries whose secrets were published and encourage them to press the Department of Justice to lay charges against journalists who violated the regulations. Civilian censors also did not handle information from the war front, since that job was in the hands of the military censors.<sup>25</sup> They would also send censorship orders and directives by mail, or if it was an urgent matter, by telegram. These orders and directives were the primary guides for reporters and editors and over the course of the war nine editions of *Press and Radio Censorship Directives* were published. The booklets contained an outline of the development for censorship policy including the policy itself, copies of the relevant Orders-in-Council, and the *Defence of Canada Regulations*. Each booklet was numbered and had to be assigned to specific people. Also, once a new volume was created, the old one had to be destroyed. The booklet also contained blank pages so that journalists could write down the new directives as they came out.

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<sup>25</sup> Mark Bourrie, "Between Friends: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War II" (PhD diss., University of Ottawa, 2009). 86-88.

However, because new directives were being sent to the journalists on a regular basis it confused them as well as the censors themselves.<sup>26</sup> Many of these new directives would overlap and contradict themselves at times. Once Pope took over as the Director of Censorship in March of 1940, publishers received background directives that explained the need for censorship policies. Censors began studying broad security problems while obtaining information from the military. An edition of the *Press and Radio Directives* issued in July 1940 contained the principles relating to the censorship of the naval and army news which the newspaper editors were to follow when deciding whether or not to publish a story. This allowed for a better functioning of the censorship system because instead of censors constantly creating detailed directives, editors would self-censor based on these military principles.

By January 1942, the ninety-two censorship directives were reduced to twenty-two, with each one describing a broad topic that was to be censored. These topics included the training plan of the air force, casualties, military and civil aviation, gold movements, prisoners of war (POW) who escaped, political refugees from enemy countries, naval operations, shipping information, military equipment, weather, the arrests of spies, internment, enemy aliens, and sabotage operations.<sup>27</sup> Before Pope became the Director of Censorship, the Canadian Press disliked censorship under Thompson because of its disorganisation. However, once Pope took over (although the system was still somewhat disorganised) he changed the system so that the military's need for secrecy

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<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 115-116.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, 116-117.

could be met, resulting in improved relations with the Canadian Press. This resulted in the Canadian Press supporting censorship thus facilitating its function.<sup>28</sup>

As for the military censorship system, it was Gillis Purcell who suggested that the military have its own field press censors. This suggestion was realized in 1943 when Canada began the Italian campaign.<sup>29</sup> On the first of May, 1944, censorship was taken over by the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) with Colonel George Warden from Britain and Lieutenant Colonel Richard H. Merrick from the United States as chief censors. Censorship was part of the Public Relations Division which aimed to control the press during Operation Overlord in order to ensure its success. SHAEF followed the censorship practices of the United States and Britain that were developed in the United Kingdom after the war started. A joint press censorship group led by Merrick had earlier been created which included officers from the Allied ground, sea, and air forces. Its task was to advise the British Ministry of Information on press and radio censorship material in the UK in relation to military operations. The joint press censorship group also censored material returning to the UK. Army Group commanders were given responsibility over field press censorship and followed the principle: “the minimum of information would be withheld from the public consistent with security.” This meant no information would be released that could benefit the enemy as well as information that could ruin morale. Field press censors also could not release any unauthenticated information. There were seventeen items which could only be cleared by SHAEF censors, including high policy matters involving SHAEF or the Supreme Command plus

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<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, 132.

<sup>29</sup> Timothy Balzer, *The Information Front: The Canadian Army and News Management during the Second World War* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011), 30.



information on troops and casualties. Censors would follow a censorship bible which was two hundred pages long and included the censorship policies of British, Canadian, and United States forces that were stationed in Europe. They were supplemented by directives known as Press Relations Censorship Guidance and Press Censors' Guidance outlining the items to be passed or suppressed by censors.<sup>30</sup> Captain Elliott was a part of SHAEF censorship, and by understanding how SHEAF censorship was organised we can get an idea as to what his work concerned.

While censors had a set of rules to follow while performing their duties, the Canadian Press also had to follow a set of regulations during the Second World War. The first laws to be implemented were passed September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1939 under the title *Censorship Regulations*, written in eighteen paragraphs. The regulations banned censorable material and severely punished anyone who violated them. These laws were removed in January, 1940 and were replaced by regulations 39A and 39B which will be described shortly as they will become part of a larger set of regulations.<sup>31</sup> In 1942, the *Defence of Canada Regulations* were printed which consisted of one hundred regulations in total organized into six parts and it is under the *espionage and acts likely to assist the enemy* (part II), *public safety and order* (part III), and the *general and supplement provisions* (part VI) sections where we see the regulations on censorship.<sup>32</sup>

For the sake of brevity, only those three will be discussed since they outline the rules for censorship. According to part II, regulation 14 (5), all mail should be censored

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<sup>30</sup> Forrest C. Prague, *The Supreme Command* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1989), 90-91.

<sup>31</sup> Gillis Purcell, "Wartime Press Censorship in Canada," *International Journal* 2, no. 3 (1947): 251. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40194144>.

<sup>32</sup> Edmond Cloutier, *Defence of Canada Regulations (Consolidated)* (Ottawa: Printer to the King's Most Excellency Majesty, 1942), 3-4.

which is defined under the Post Office Act as including all other classes of mailable content that pass through the mailing system of Canada.<sup>33</sup> Under part III, regulation 39A, no one can create any type of document whether it is a letter, article, book or pamphlet and nor can they circulate it if it causes any type of disaffection to the British King (His Majesty) or gets in the way of the success of the Commonwealth forces or any of its allies. Also, if any publication has prejudice towards the recruitment, training, discipline or administration of the Commonwealth forces or even towards the safety of the state itself, it should not be published. Regulation 39AA states that no contents of a secret meeting held by the Senate or the House of Commons can be published unless the information is communicated by the Speaker of the House. Regulation 39B discusses the prosecution process if anyone were to violate regulations 39, 39A, or 39C. If one does violate any of these regulations, they will not be put in prison without the consent of the Attorney General of Canada, a counsel representing the Attorney General of Canada or of the province. However, for regulations 39 and 39A, one can defend him or herself if he or she believes that the material that was published was in good faith and did not violate those two regulations.<sup>34</sup>

Censors actually helped to create (or amend) a law that was an amendment of Regulation 16 (part II) on October 26, 1942. This allowed for a publisher of a newspaper company to defend a publication by providing evidence that what he or she published would not be of any value to the enemy, therefore making it publishable. Lastly, Regulation 63A (part VI) gave the Chief Censor of Publications the authority to say that a

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<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, 20-21.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, 61-62.

certain publication was not a violation of the Regulations. However, only the court could say that a publication was a violation.<sup>35</sup>

Censors, who went above their duties as seen in the Houde case as well as refusing to follow orders as mentioned in the Terrace mutiny incident, could have very well had an impact on morale. Press censors also had poor resources compared to the military censors mostly because they had to work in small rooms and had no gas rations which could have made it difficult for some censors to travel to work.<sup>36</sup> However, because the primary sources that I have read are from a military censor, it is difficult to know what the press censors and other civilian censors actually thought of their duties in comparison to the military censors.

Furthermore, the military did not like to work with the press censors which allowed a lot of information to get leaked to the press. Bourrie suggests this was because the military did not respect the censors.<sup>37</sup> Press censors would continuously be arguing with the military in order to get information released to newspaper companies who did not seem care whether or not they actually received the information, according to Bourrie.<sup>38</sup> Press censors could not succeed in establishing good relations with intelligence officers as well, making their goal of having information released much more difficult. The military was very secretive to the point where Canada's military news would be heard on radio broadcasts from the United States, which would then lead to the press censor's office

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<sup>35</sup> Gillis Purcell, "Wartime Press Censorship in Canada," *International Journal* 2, no. 3 (1947): 251-252. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40194144>.

<sup>36</sup> Mark Bourrie, *The Fog of War: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War Two* (Vancouver: D & M Publishers Inc., 2011), 32.

<sup>37</sup> Mark Bourrie, "Between Friends: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War II" (PhD diss., University of Ottawa, 2009). 192.

<sup>38</sup> Mark Bourrie, *The Fog of War: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War Two* (Vancouver: D & M Publishers Inc., 2011), 47.

phones ringing with calls from journalists asking what they could report. One example of this was the invasion of Sicily.<sup>39</sup> News of Canadian involvement in Operation Husky (invasion of Sicily) was released in the U.S. ahead of reporting in Canada. If it had not been for Canada's southern neighbor, many Canadians would have been left in the dark.

The censors had a difficult time with the Navy as well. The press censors learned to ignore the naval officer's more extreme demands.<sup>40</sup> When U-boats began sinking ships in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the summer of 1942, censors wanted news of some of these attacks to be released to the public.<sup>41</sup> Censors believed Canadians would become complacent or suspicious if rumours of the attacks leaked out. Press censors also wanted to inform Canadian citizens that the war was closer to home than they thought.<sup>42</sup> While keeping Canadian morale high was a priority, censors also wanted to encourage rationing, overtime shifts, bond drives, and even conscription in some cases to help the war effort. Allowing some negative events to be published kept people worried about the soldiers on the front and made them want to contribute.<sup>43</sup> Censors would be embarrassed at times when asked a question on a particular incident simply because they were not informed due to the military's close guard on information. One example of this would be Captain Eric Brand of the Royal Canadian Navy who sometimes would not inform censor H. Bruce Jefferson (a Halifax censor whose office was located in the Nova Scotian Hotel

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<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, 53-55.

<sup>40</sup> Mark Bourrie, "Between Friends: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War II" (PhD diss., University of Ottawa, 2009), 195.

<sup>41</sup> Mark Bourrie, *The Fog of War: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War Two* (Vancouver: D & M Publishers Inc., 2011), 88.

<sup>42</sup> Mark Bourrie, "Between Friends: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War II" (PhD diss., University of Ottawa, 2009), 198.

<sup>43</sup> Mark Bourrie, *The Fog of War: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War Two* (Vancouver: D & M Publishers Inc., 2011), 11.

behind Pier 21) when a ship was sunk.<sup>44</sup> Jefferson would never be able to answer reporter's questions simply because he was never up to date on current events. "If Capt Brand had not been quite so mysterious in his recent disclosures we easily could have prevented even the vague and uncertain publicity that appeared this morning," the Halifax censor wrote in 1942 after being surprised with questions about a major sinking.<sup>45</sup> It is highly unlikely that Jefferson was the only censor who experienced these issues. However, we do not know if issues such as Jefferson's affected their morale.

Military censors were disliked by enlisted soldiers as well as officers, not to mention that some people in general disliked the entire idea of censorship. Most of these censors either joined the military and then became censors (which would be the case for Elliott) or were journalists who ended up working for the military as censors. Nevertheless, you could not tell the difference between a soldier and a journalist because they both wore military uniforms and carried the rank of an officer and stayed in nice rooms to do their work.<sup>46</sup> One Canadian officer wrote while stationed in England, "They are censoring our letters right here in Camp now so I will send this by civilian post, as I don't want any fat son of a bitch reading my mail." The Canadian censors still found the letter despite the soldier's efforts.<sup>47</sup> Censors were definitely aware that people did not support their duty, whether it was because they wanted to know more about the war or wanted freedom of speech; however, this opposition did not affect the morale of Elliott. In

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<sup>44</sup> Carrie-Ann Smith, "Pier 21's Role in the Second World War," *pier21.ca*, accessed February 28, 2016. [http://www.pier21.ca/wp-content/uploads/files/First\\_75\\_Years/research\\_wwii.pdf](http://www.pier21.ca/wp-content/uploads/files/First_75_Years/research_wwii.pdf).

<sup>45</sup> Mark Bourrie, "Between Friends: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War II" (PhD diss., University of Ottawa, 2009). 196.

<sup>46</sup> Mark Bourrie, *The Fog of War: Censorship of Canada's Media in World War Two* (Vancouver: D & M Publishers Inc., 2011), 188.

<sup>47</sup> Andrew Carrol, "Canadian Troops Sound Off About the Brits," *historynet.com*, last modified December 1, 2010. <http://www.historynet.com/canadian-troops-sound-off-about-the-brits.htm>.

a letter written on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1944 to his parents he says: “Some people are not very friendly with censorship, for them it seems to fulfill a negative purpose, but most of them are not in a very good position to judge that.”<sup>48</sup> Elliott was proud to be a censor regardless of what other soldiers or civilians thought. Or, as another censor wrote, “pigs is pigs and freedom of speech is freedom of speech, but there are limits to both.”<sup>49</sup> This again demonstrates how another censor strongly believed in the duties they had to carry out to ensure victory. Censors also worked with one another and lived in the same barracks. Elliott for example lived with nine British censors with whom he got along quite well.<sup>50</sup> Because censors were often together this could have given them a sense of community thus boosting their morale which is comparable to the soldiers who spent many nights in foxholes and who would look out for one another. It is obvious that the censors were rarely in harm’s way; however, they would have most likely given each other moral support just like the soldiers who faced combat.

Before joining the military Elliott worked with the Acadia University newspaper called *The Athenaeum* from 1939 to 1941 as an editor in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. He was also a local correspondent for the Halifax-Head-Star and then the Halifax Chronicle which made him an excellent candidate for the position of military censor. Elliott became a regular military officer before he became a field press censor. He joined the Canadian military in 1941 after graduating from Acadia University and served with the Nova Scotia

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<sup>48</sup> Robbins Elliott, letter, 1944, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/6, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>49</sup> Andrew Carrol, “Canadian Troops Sound Off About the Brits,” *historynet.com*, last modified December 1, 2010. <http://www.historynet.com/canadian-troops-sound-off-about-the-brits.htm>.

<sup>50</sup> Robbins Elliott, letter, 1944, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/6, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

Highlanders and the Canadian Intelligence Corps.<sup>51</sup> Unfortunately for Elliott, it appears that he did not enjoy being an officer. When Elliott first joined, he was interviewed by the Director of Public Relations on January 10<sup>th</sup> 1942, where he would have most likely acted as a liaison between the public and the military.<sup>52</sup> He did not obtain this position however since he Elliott failed to become an officer during his training period in January 1942. A document from the School of Instruction located in Aldershot, Nova Scotia says that Elliott failed to become an officer due to poor map reading, small arms training, and a lack of leadership qualities.<sup>53</sup> “It was quite a shock on Thursday to learn that my month at Aldershot had not qualified me and I worried have to repeat.” He writes in his diary February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1942.<sup>54</sup> Wendy Elliott, who is Robbins Elliott’s daughter, said that “he was always a klutz” which of course would make the small arms course more of a challenge for him.<sup>55</sup>

Furthermore, when he finally becomes an officer, he was dispatched to England on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 1942.<sup>56</sup> He wrote in his diary on October 16<sup>th</sup> 1942: “Almost the end of another week and at the time of writing I’m rather fed up with things.” He also says: “I’ve been working on a rather desultory way to prepare a unit guard of 31 men and NCO’s for competition in a ceremony at 3<sup>rd</sup> Div HQ on Monday.” To make matters worse the commanding officer (CO) was avoiding him. Elliott also had to select a guard and train

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<sup>51</sup>Robbins Elliott fonds finding aid, 2015, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>52</sup> Robbins Elliott, telegraph, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/11, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>53</sup> Robbins Elliott, military document, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/11, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>54</sup> Robbins Elliott, diary, 1942, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/8, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>55</sup> Wendy Elliott (Robbins Elliott’s daughter) in discussion with the author, February, 2016.

<sup>56</sup> Robbins Elliott, letter, 1942, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/4, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

him for the competition. Training new recruits and probably performing other tasks that he did not discuss in his diaries or letters were all new to him, which perhaps is the main reason why he was frustrated. Even though he was experiencing new things, he says that life was dull for him at this point in time. In relation to non-military work, he was always doing the same leisure activities which consisted of watching films, drinking, and going to dances. Elliott was having bad dates with women as well. For example, he says: “Had a date in Horsham last evening – a eligible\* at the R. N. and then dinner afterwards, but I was late and she didn’t wait.”<sup>57</sup> Because Elliott received an interview with the Public Relations Division while training to become an officer demonstrates that he would have rather worked as a censor, especially with his journalistic background. However, he instead took on the role of a regular officer which he clearly did not enjoy.

Additionally, Elliott was wounded on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1942 when a mortar shell fragment hit his right wrist while leading his platoon during a training session.<sup>58</sup> He was firing from the hip when two “enemy” mortar shells exploded resulting in his wound. Luckily for Elliott, he could still move his fingers in his right wrist despite having limited movement.<sup>59</sup>

Lastly, in 1943 he writes in his diary saying he does not feel at home because the women where he is stationed are not his type. He was also disappointed that he was not

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<sup>57</sup>Robbins Elliott, diary, 1942, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/8, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>58</sup>Robbins Elliott, medical record, 1942, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/10, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>59</sup> Robbins Elliott, letter, 1942, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/4, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.



going into battle anytime soon and if he did, it would solve all of his problems.<sup>60</sup> It seems as though the main reason why he did not enjoy his time as a regular officer was because he did not go into combat. Instead, he had to train troops. Elliott probably thought that ending the war as soon as possible was a priority and that being anywhere else but the frontline was a waste of time. Many soldiers who were wounded or not in combat thought this way.

Once Elliott was interviewed for a potential job as a military censor in 1944 he writes in his 1944 diary on April 12<sup>th</sup>: “Once again my morale has been boosted – pray God it will not be lowered as always before.” Elliott was quite confident that he was going to get the job and once he did he believed that he would enjoy it. Elliott was then attached to No. 3 Canadian Public Relations Group prior to being taken over by SHEAF on the Western Front where he would serve for the rest of the war.<sup>61</sup> He only had to work nine to five thus allowing him to get sufficient rest and have more leisure time every day.<sup>62</sup> Had he continued on as a regular officer, he would have not had this luxury, especially if he was sent on an operation.

As for his work, Elliott does not go into much detail for obvious reasons. However, in one letter written to his parents June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1944 he says: “Here is the Room (#16) about 25ft long and 20ft wide. In the centre of the room four large tables are shoved together and the routine censors (usually about 8 on duty). We have a senior press censor

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<sup>60</sup> Robbins Elliott, diary, 1943, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/8, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>61</sup> Robbins Elliott fonds finding aid, 2015, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>62</sup> Robbins Elliott, diary, 1944, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/8, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

who acts as continuity officer\* and gives guidance on difficult copy.”<sup>63</sup> Elliott also mentions censoring stories from people such as Hanson Baldwin<sup>64</sup>, Robert Ross Munro<sup>65</sup>, and other correspondents and how he believes it is a good thing. He also finds his work interesting especially since he handles stories that very few people will see and that he likes his co-workers.<sup>66</sup> Wendy Elliott says that he enjoyed working with the people that he did because they were like-minded people. She also says that “he was more of an intellect than a soldier” therefore he was more suited for this job since he would use a pen rather than a firearm.<sup>67</sup>

Nothing negative is ever said about censorship in Elliott’s diaries and letters. In one of his letters to his parents he states that he cannot say anything bad about censorship because he works for SHAEF.<sup>68</sup> However, he is not encouraged to promote censorship and can still have a personal opinion on the matter, especially when it comes to writing in his personal diaries. There was a section in his 1945 diary where it was blacked out with ink. However, this could have been anything relating to location, troop movements and numbers or simply something personal that he did not want anyone to know. Due to the fact that Elliott speaks highly of censorship even after he begins working as a censor, it is

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<sup>63</sup> Robbins Elliott, letter, 1944, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/4, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>64</sup>Hanson Baldwin graduated from the United States Naval Academy and was a military affairs editor for the New York Times beginning in 1929. He also published many books on military and naval history. Robert D. McFadden, “Hanson Baldwin, Military Writer, Dies,” *The New York Times*, last modified November 14, 1991, <http://www.nytimes.com/1991/11/14/world/hanson-baldwin-military-writer-dies.html>.

<sup>65</sup> Robert Ross Munro was the Canadian Press’s head war correspondent during the Second World War. *Canada from Afar: The Daily Telegraph Book of Canadian Obituaries*, ed. David Twiston Davies (Toronto: Dunburn Press, 1996), 187.

<sup>66</sup> Robbins Elliott, diary, 1944, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/8, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>67</sup> Wendy Elliott (Robbins Elliott’s daughter) in discussion with the author, February, 2016.

<sup>68</sup> Robbins Elliott, letter, 1944, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/4, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

clear that his morale is not affected at all. If anything, he saw himself as being a more productive man in the service compared to what he did in the military prior to becoming a censor.

Furthermore, while enlisted soldiers slept in trenches and foxholes, or if they were lucky, an abandoned house or barn, the censors had very comfortable living arrangements. In Elliott's 1944 letters dated August 5<sup>th</sup> and September 12<sup>th</sup>, he says: "At the moment I am the only Canadian attached to a group of nine British censors, and we all live very comfortably in a three-story billet in a provincial town that you will probably know." "Our censors' room is elaborately furnished, and our own private rooms are complete with bath. The same thing held in Paris last week where I held forth for six enjoyable days." Elliott also had access to many goods. He wrote, "Luxurious goods and fruit are in abundance. I have been gorging grapes and peaches, and will continue to do so until the novelty has worn off. Such things as briar pipes and fountain pens are plentiful."<sup>69</sup> However, there was one incident in Normandy, France in August of 1944 where he was placed in lesser quarters. He says: "We have no radio here – only 2 typewriters and the room for censors is small. The Canadian setup is far superior but there is convenience right here in town that not everyone can take advantage of." This was after censorship had been taken over by SHAEF. It seems Elliott was much more pleased as a field press censor for the Canadian military. Despite this however, the accommodations were more of a minor inconvenience than something that would harm his morale. In his diaries he is always talking about having drinks and fine meals at various locations while

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<sup>69</sup> *Ibid*

going to dances and tea parties as well.<sup>70</sup> Elliott's comfortable living arrangements would have definitely made his work much more enjoyable than if he had stayed in a barracks with cafeteria style food. Although regular military officers in general were just as valuable and better treated as well, they still had to sleep in foxholes or make-shift houses while in combat.

He liked the fact that he would be able to travel more because he was a field press censor (especially without worrying about being wounded or killed since he was there after the matter).<sup>71</sup> For example, in April 1945 Elliott goes to visit a concentration camp in Germany. This camp contained Italians who refused to work for Germany after the Armistice of Cassibile was signed between Italy and the Allies on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1943. Italians were brought into Germany from Bosnia, Albania, Yugoslavia, and Italy. Elliott mentions in a letter dated April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1945 how the prisoners thought he was a reporter and wanted to tell him what the Germans had done to them. Elliott also visits a camp containing 1800 Polish women in Germany. In July of 1945, Elliott goes to Berlin where he seen many unsettling things such as starving Germans, women selling themselves for chocolate, and watching the black market unfold where Germans tried to buy food and cigarettes while the Russian soldiers wanted watches. Elliott also has the unique opportunity to enter the destroyed Reichstag, where many Germans would have made their last stand.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> Robbins Elliott, diary, 1944, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/8, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>71</sup> Robbins Elliott, diary, 1944, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/8, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>72</sup> Robbins Elliott, letter, 1945, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/7, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

Due to the fact that Elliott never criticises the censorship system demonstrates that he is faithful to the system and that he believes his duties are contributing to the war effort. Having the opportunity to stay in comfortable rooms compared to any other type of enlisted soldier or officer and traveling across Europe gave him the feeling that he was important. All of the factors essentially had no negative effect on his morale whatsoever.

Elliott's diaries and letters do have some similarities, since he recounts many of his various experiences to his family while writing about them in his diaries. Examples include his wounding incident and when he became a field press censor, along with significant war event such as D-Day. However, there are some differences. His diaries mostly discuss war events, especially near the end of the diaries where he discusses the advancing Russians. The first two diaries, dated 1942 and 1943 go into a lot more detail about his life in the service than in his 1944 and 1945 diaries due to the fact that he becomes a censor. His letters on the other hand mostly highlight his leisure activities and the places he visits while in Europe. I was surprised to see more about his censorship work in his letters than in his diaries even though it was only one letter describing his duties. I was also hoping to acquire more insight on his thoughts about the war and his duties especially since a diary is meant for writing down personal thoughts. Nevertheless, there was a sufficient enough material that allowed me to understand what his opinions were, especially in regards to censorship.

Lastly, after the war had finished Elliott continued to work with the Canadian Federal Government. He first began to work in the Canadian Citizenship Branch in 1947 where one of his jobs consisted of working with the foreign language press establishments in Canada in order to publish information that immigrants would find useful when first

arriving. In a memorandum to Frank Foulds, the Director of the Citizenship Branch, Elliott says that articles should be written with a better understanding of the Canadian immigrant while making them aware of the problems that they will face. He suggests that a representative of the Canadian Citizenship Branch be placed in Europe where the majority of immigrants will be coming from and that language courses both in English and as well as on Canada's democratic system should be instituted in Europe.<sup>73</sup> Elliott would work with several other branches in the Federal Government during his career such as Resources and Development, Public Works, the Department of Industry, and the Department of Trade and Commerce before retiring in 1977.<sup>74</sup> Throughout Elliott's life, his daughter said that "he did not express any regret or resentment" about his service during the war thus demonstrating that he believed in what he had to do.<sup>75</sup>

Canadians would serve in numerous areas of the military throughout the war in order to protect their country from the threat of fascism. It is beyond doubt that part of their success in defeating the Axis had to do with morale. Elliott's letters and personal diaries clearly highlight his support and confidence in the censorship system which gave him greater insight into the war itself than if he would have been a regular officer. His journalistic background and comfortable living arrangements made him feel that he was important in the war effort and allowed him to carry out his duties effectively. Even after the war he continued to work with the Canadian government thus demonstrating that his view of government practices during the war had not been tainted during his service.

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<sup>73</sup> Robbins Elliott, memorandum, 1947, Robbins Elliott fonds, 2004.009-ELL/13, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>74</sup> Robbins Elliott fonds finding aid, 2015, Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University.

<sup>75</sup> Wendy Elliott (Robbins Elliott's daughter) in discussion with the author, February, 2016.

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