

**Charles McDowall Smyth's (CMS) Account of the End of WWI  
and the Armistice: November 11, 1918**

**Actual and Estimated Summary Sequence of Events from Sep 17 – Nov 11, 1918,  
as it Corresponds with the Typed Document Account.**

PAGE 1

Sep 17, 1918 page 1 of typed document	CMS leaves Folkestone, England, with No. 1 Company of the Canadian Engineers Officers Corps; crosses to Boulogne, France; spends the night in the Officers' rest camp (St. Martin's or Ostrohove camp).
Sep 18, page 1	CMS moves to Canadian Base at Étaples for 3 days til about Sep 21.
Sep 21, pages 1, 2	CMS moves on to Canadian Corps (Engineers) Reinforcement Camp at Aubin St. Vaast for about 9 days. Tents get erected; goes to YMCA to arrange getting meals for the officers.
Sep 22, page 2	Censors mail.
Sep 23 - 25, page 2	Makes a couple of trips to Hesdin and one to a big aerodrome nearby.
Sep 26 – 30, page 2	CMS is told what unit he is allotted to: 7 <sup>th</sup> Bn., C.E. (7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Engineers)
Oct 1, pages 2, 3	CMS leaves Aubin St. Vaast camp at 8 am; train pulls out at 11:00 am, stops in Doullens railyard; skirts Arras, arrives Croisilles railhead, 10:30 pm. Camps on the track in Croisilles.
Oct 2, page 3	CMS stays near Croisilles, moves on at 4 pm to Bn. HQs at dark. Camps in the old Hindenburg line between Cagnicourt and Quéant.
Oct 3, pages 3, 4	In the morning, CMS moves forward to just in rear of Bourlon Wood. He is detailed to "D" Company and is given No. 13 Subsection. Stays here for a few days; little to do; nightly bombing by enemy planes.
Oct 8, pages 4, 5	CMS is ordered to go to 4 <sup>th</sup> CMRs (Canadian Mounted Rifles) near St. Olle (west of Cambrai) to report to the battalions and see what is happening. He abandons the route with the driver and proceeds on foot towards St. Olle. CMS gets knocked down by two shells and gets a mouthful of smoke and gas.
Oct 9, pages 6, 7, 8	A wagon is sent up to CMS near Fontaine-Notre-Dame. Arrives in Cambrai Oct ?. After fall of Cambrai, CMS hangs around near Bourlon for a few days to Oct 15?, then moves back to Cagnicourt for a week till about Oct 22. After Douai is taken, Oct ?, he moves there. CMS then reaches Lewarde and marches to Montigny, where he spends the night in a Sanatorium that had been used by the enemy as a field hospital. Next day, he marches near to Somain, where they are put up in houses. Next day, CMS starts working on the road and proceeds to Wallers, where he stays one night. Next day, CMS heads towards the Maurice Sabatier mine in Forêt de Raismes. He stays overnight, then scouts forward to Escaupont, where the front line is. He examines the Maurice Sabatier mine.
Oct 25 – Nov 6, pages 8, 9, 10	CMS stays at the Maurice Sabatier mine for 12 days, fixing roads from Raimes to Forêt de Raismes, Escaupont, Thiers, Bruay-sur-Escaut and Anzin.
Nov 7, page 11	CMS moves through to Valenciennes to Onnaing and spends one night there. He is sent with No. 13 Subsection to join the RCR (Royal Canadian Regiment) at Quiévrain, Belgium, but then he is ordered to join the PPCLIs (Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry) till middle of the night. At dawn, he gets on the road into Thuilin.

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PAGE 2

Nov 8, pages 11, 12	In Thuilin, CMS works on the Thuilin railway crossing. At night he moves to Hainin, spends one night.
Nov 9, pages 12, 13	CMS moves on to Boussu, fixing craters; gets a great reception. Then he moves on to Hornu and, eventually, Jemappes. He sleeps in a good bed in Jemappes.
Nov 10, page 13	CMS is sent to the RCRs at Cuesmes on the outskirts of Mons. There is nothing to do all day; is held up by the enemy.
Nov 11, pages 13, 14, 15	1:00 am. CMS is sent for by the colonel of the 42 <sup>nd</sup> Division. CMS temporarily joins "A" Company of the RCRs, then rejoins the 42 <sup>nd</sup> Division in Mons, arriving at 6 or 7 am. He meets the 42 <sup>nd</sup> Division at the station and follows their band (kilts and bagpipes) up to the Grande Place. Large crowds. People are calling out: "Vivent les Canadiennes!" At 10 am there's a ceremonial parade with General Clark of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Brigade. CMS stays in Mons to find stragglers; he starts back to Jemappes to join the battalion, where he finds the company is about to start on to Mons. He gets a ride back to Mons with an Ordnance Corps major. Arrives to see the entry of the Canadian Corps commander, General Sir Arthur Currie. The 7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion band, Canadian Engineers, is playing the Belgian National Air; there's a marchpast and great celebrations.
Nov 12, pages 1 - 7	CMS begins writing his account of the end of WWI, Sep 17 – Nov 11, 1918, pages 1 – 15, handwritten (43 pages total), while being billeted in Belgium. At some time – perhaps on November 11 – CMS collects two posters from the streets of Mons proclaiming the end of WWI.
Nov 14, pages 7 - 8	CMS continues writing his account; pages 15 – 18, handwritten.
Nov 16, pages 8 - 10	CMS continues writing his account; pages 16 – 23, handwritten.
Nov 18 – Dec 4, 1918, pages 10 - 17	CMS continues writing his account from this date until he finishes and signs the document on Dec 4, 1918, in Mons, Belgium; pages 24 – 43, handwritten.