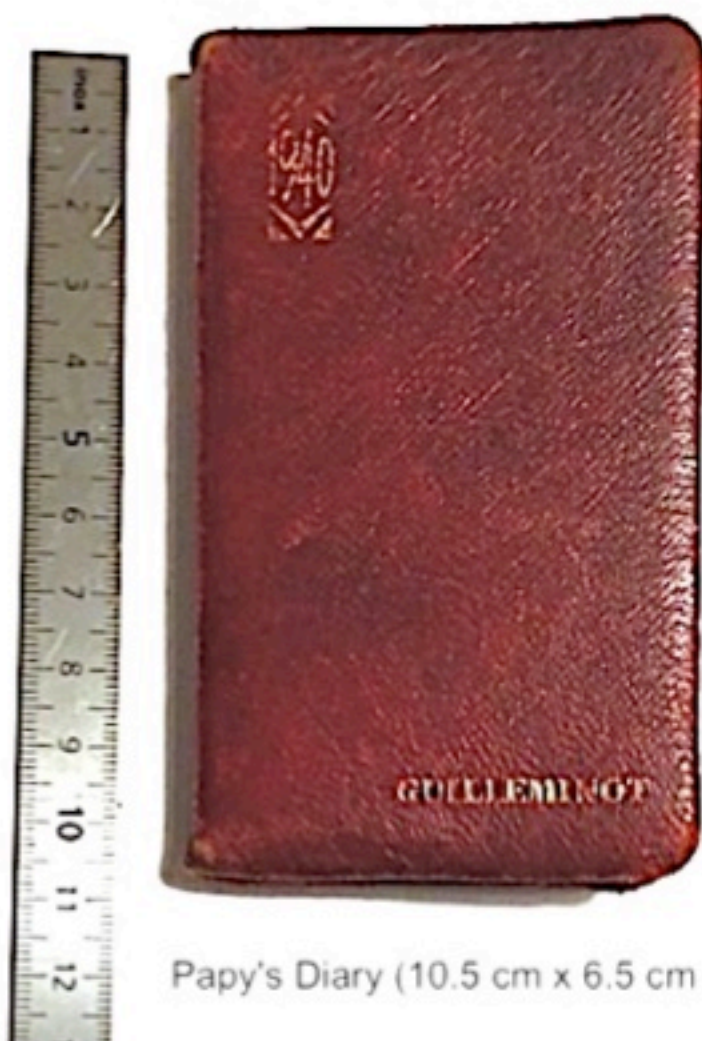


Diary of Frantz Zaviska*

*alias 'Papy'
or 'Gramps' in English



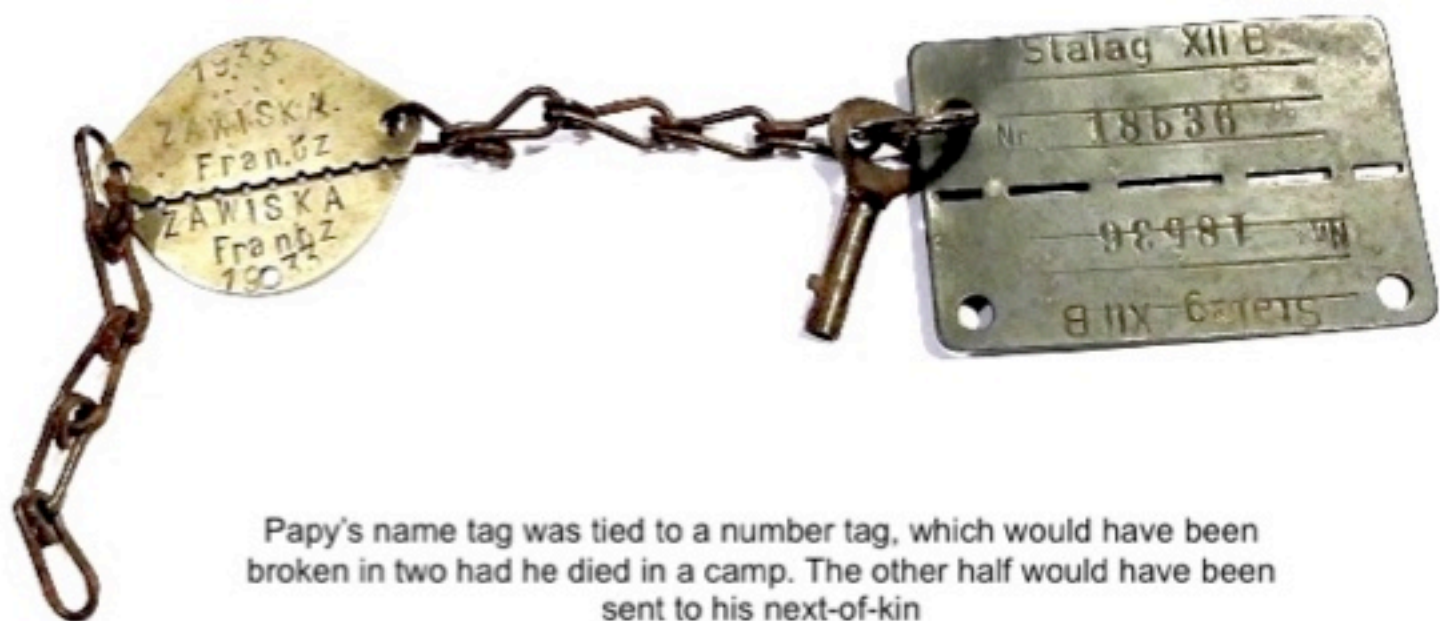
Papy's Diary (10.5 cm x 6.5 cm approx.)

PREFACE

This diary runs from 19th April 1940 to 18 April 1941.

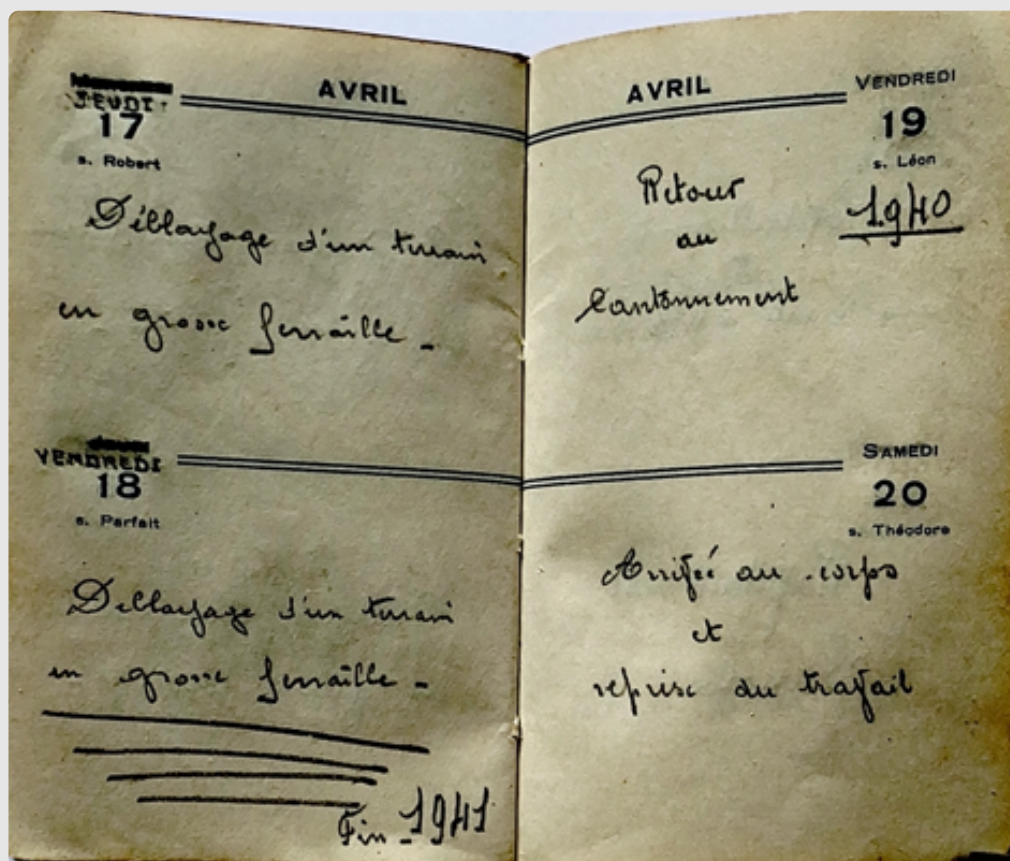
During that time, my father was:

- From 19 April 1940 to 24 June 1940 : a drafted private in the French Army on the Maginot Line
- From 24 June 1940 to 18 April 1941: a prisoner-of-war



Papy's name tag was tied to a number tag, which would have been broken in two had he died in a camp. The other half would have been sent to his next-of-kin

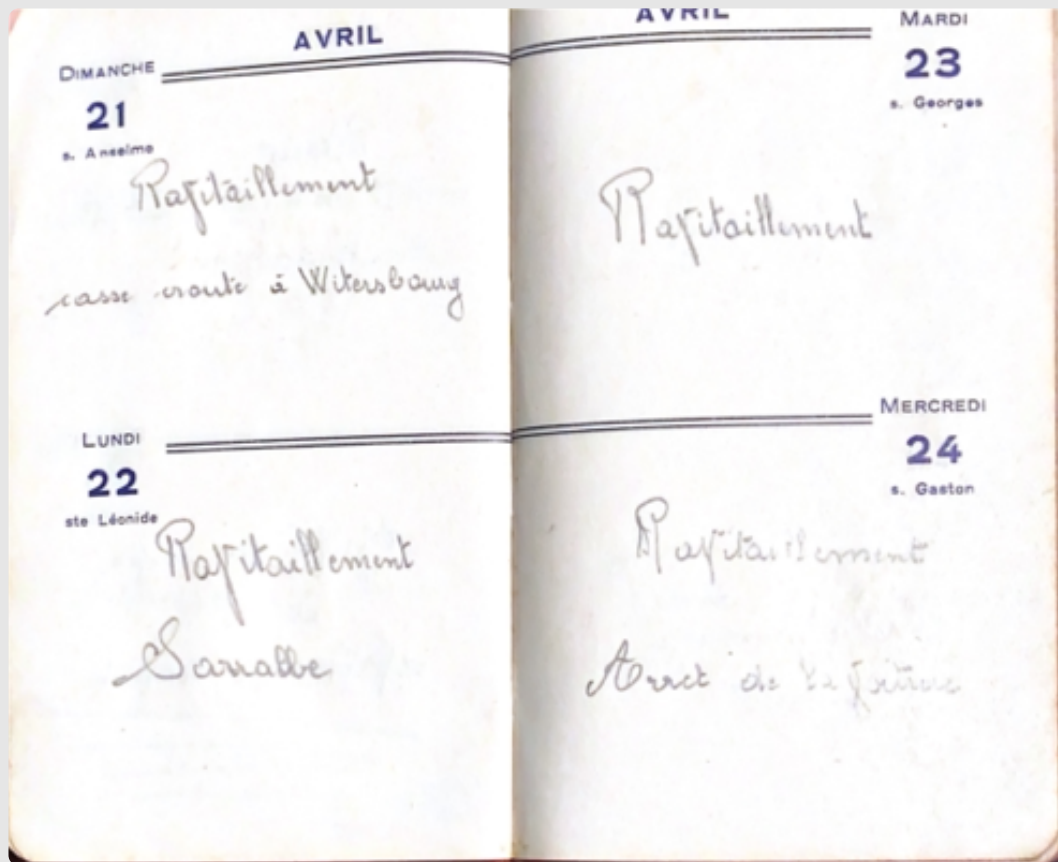
1940 and 1941



Papy's diary started on 19th April 1940 and finished on 18th April 1941*

*Translator's note : see "Fin 1941" added by my father

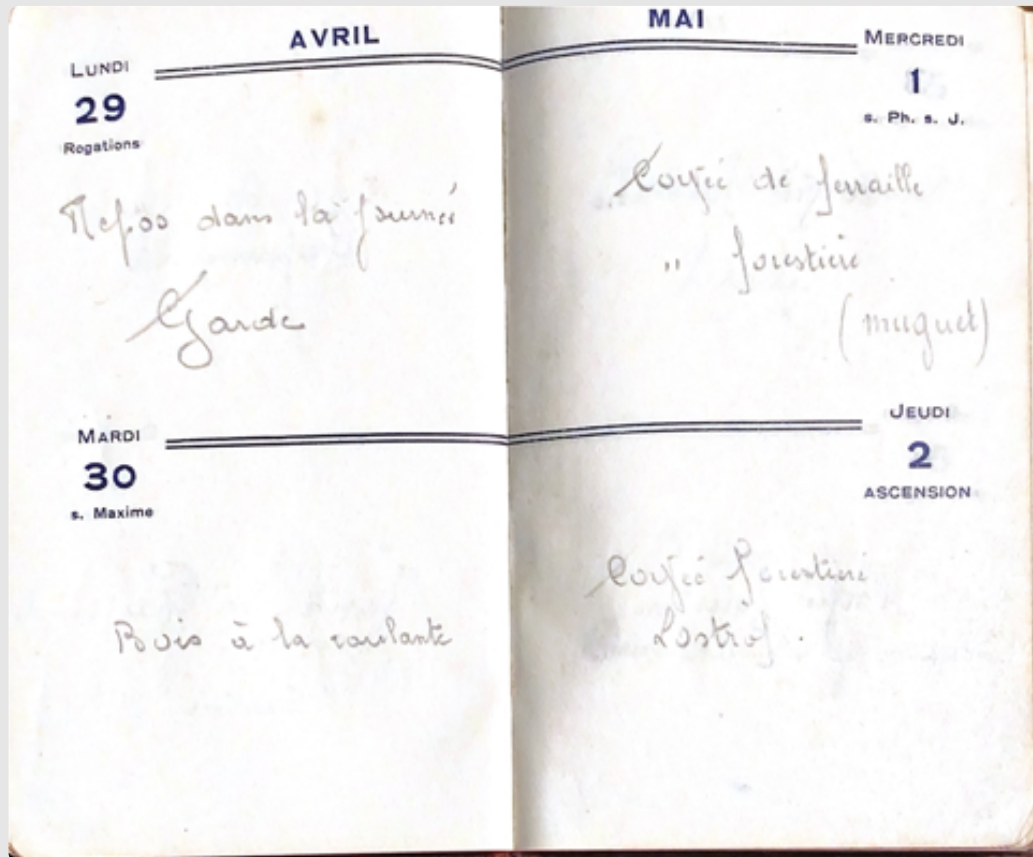
19400421 21st 24th April



On supply duty

19400501 1st May

1st May ("lily of the valley")

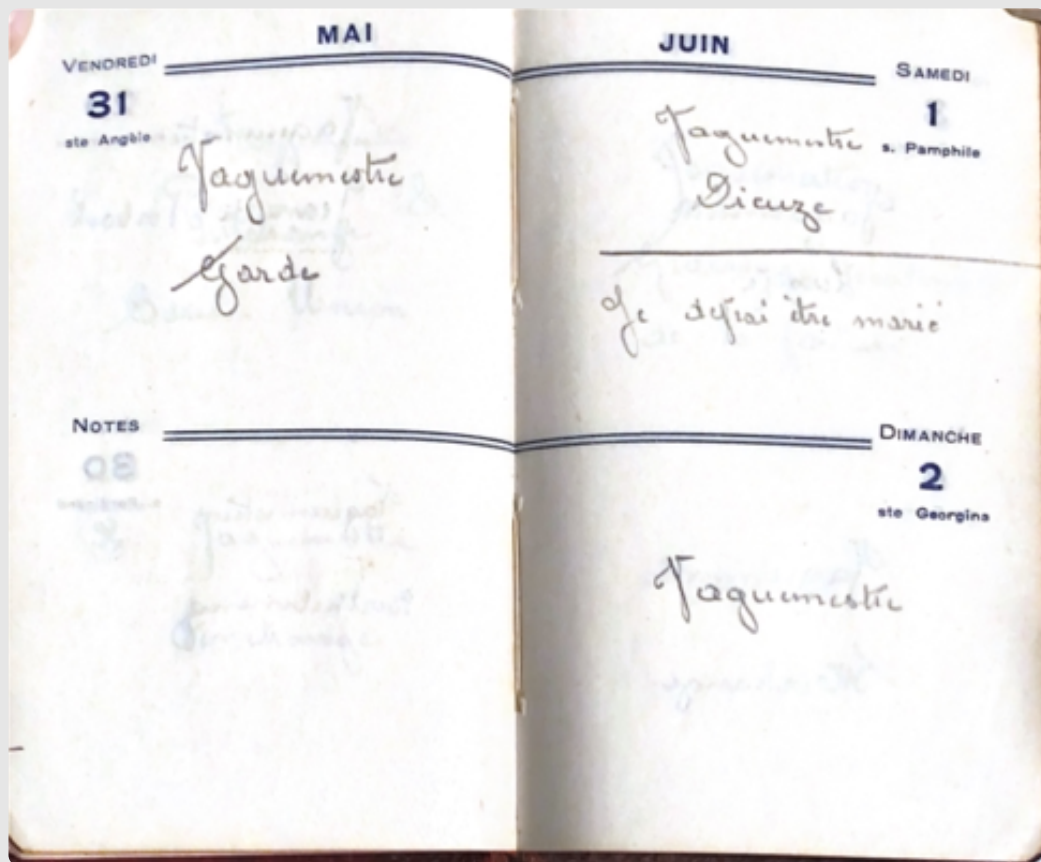


Chores (scrap metal, wood cutting) on 1st of May *

*Translator's note : the 1st of May is Labour Day, a day off work when it is customary to offer a sprig of lilly-of-the-valley or "muguet" to loved ones.

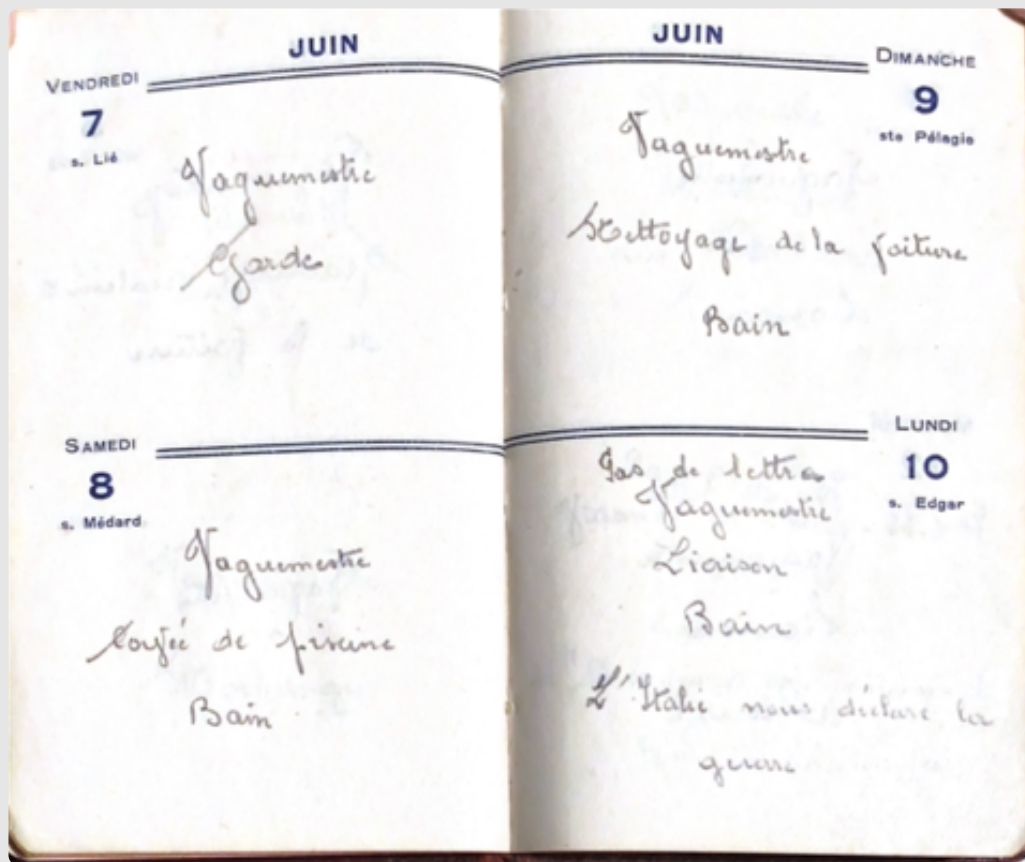
19400601 1st June

1st June (I was to be married)



I should be married (First of June)

19400607 10th june

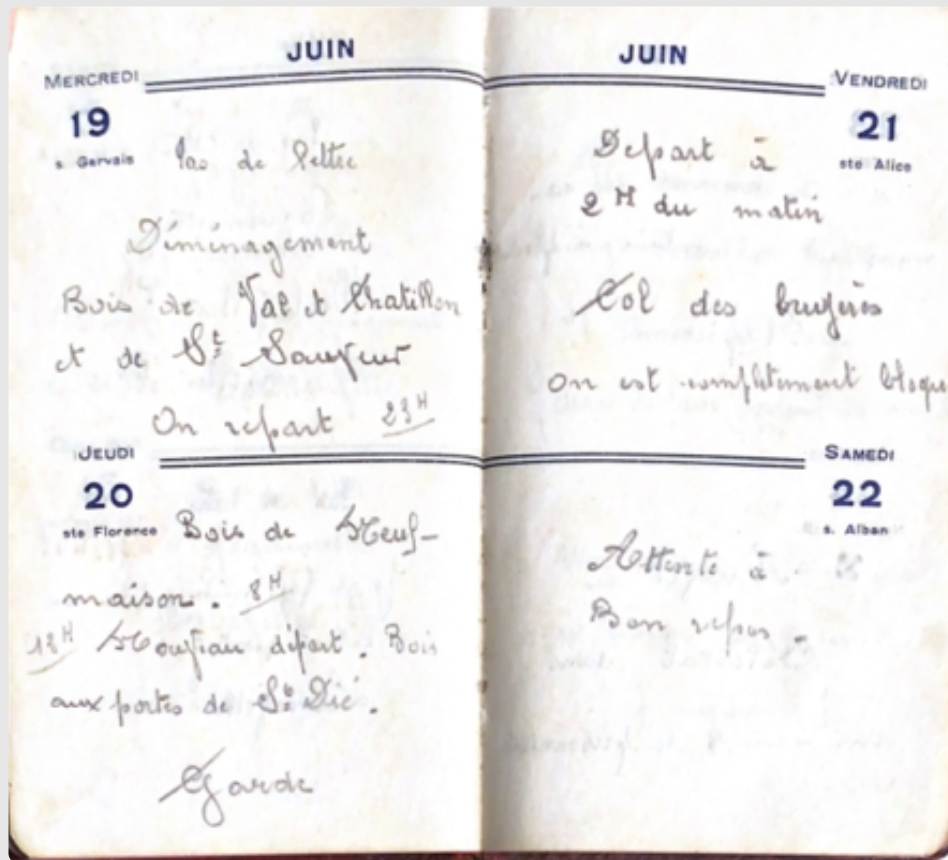


Italy declares war on us* (10th June)

*Translator's note: 'us' here means France

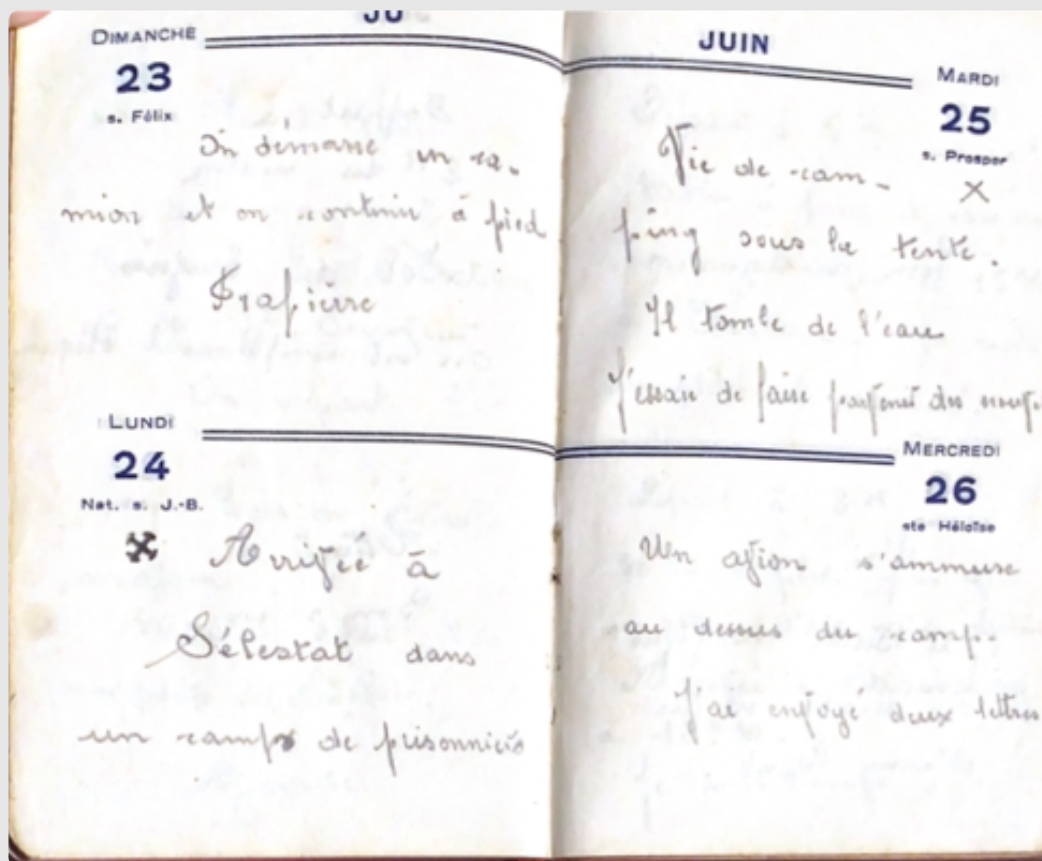
19400621 21st June

21st June (completely blocked)



We are completely surrounded at the Col des Bruyères (21st June)

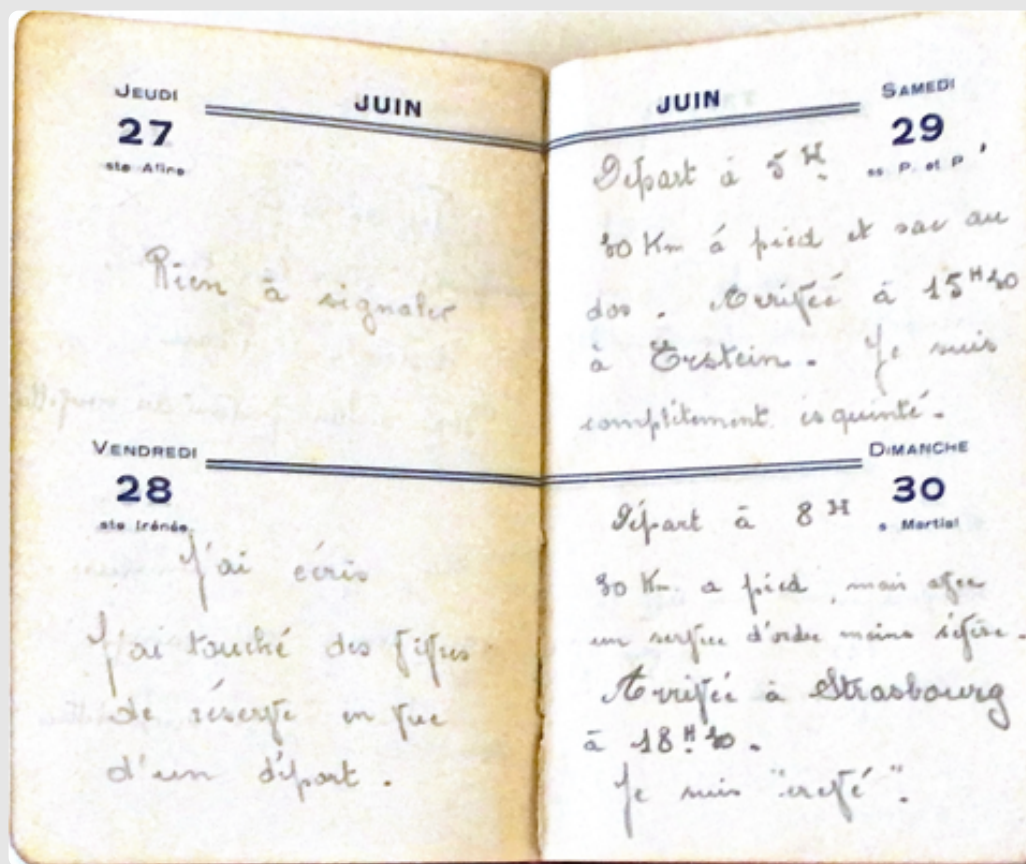
19400623 24th June



Arrival at Sélestat in a prisoner-of-war camp (24th June)

We sleep in a tent and it is raining (25th June)

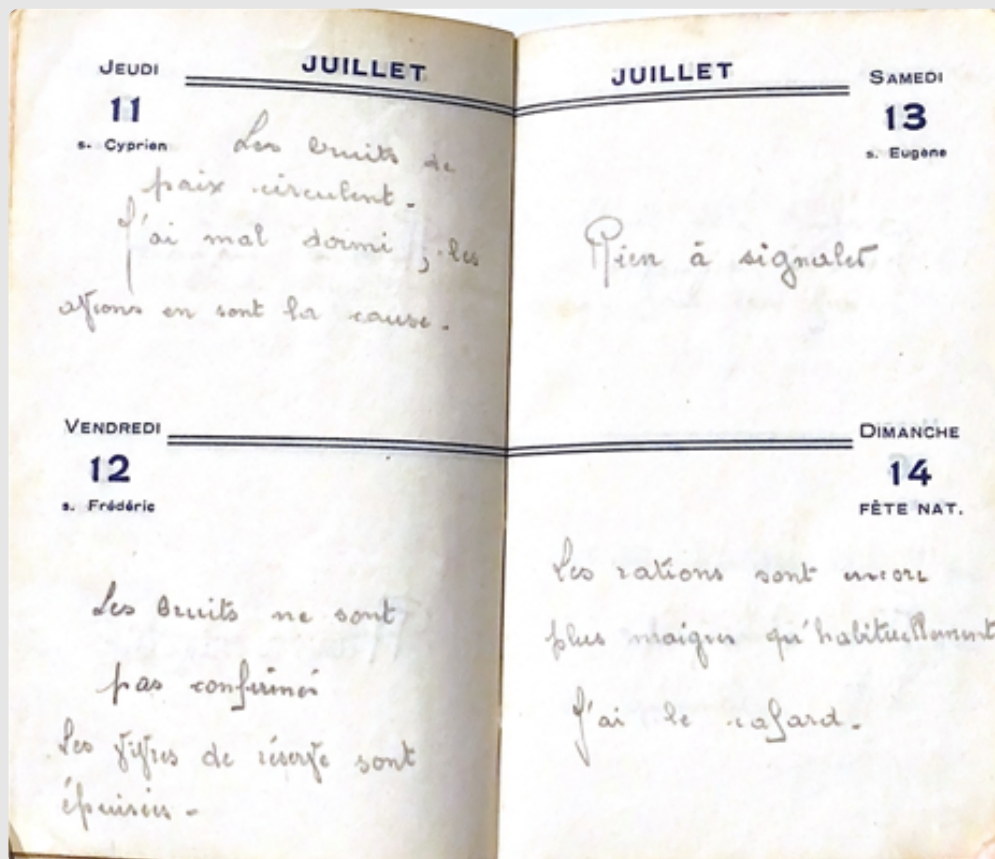
19400629 29th 30th June



30km rucksack march to Erstein (29th June)

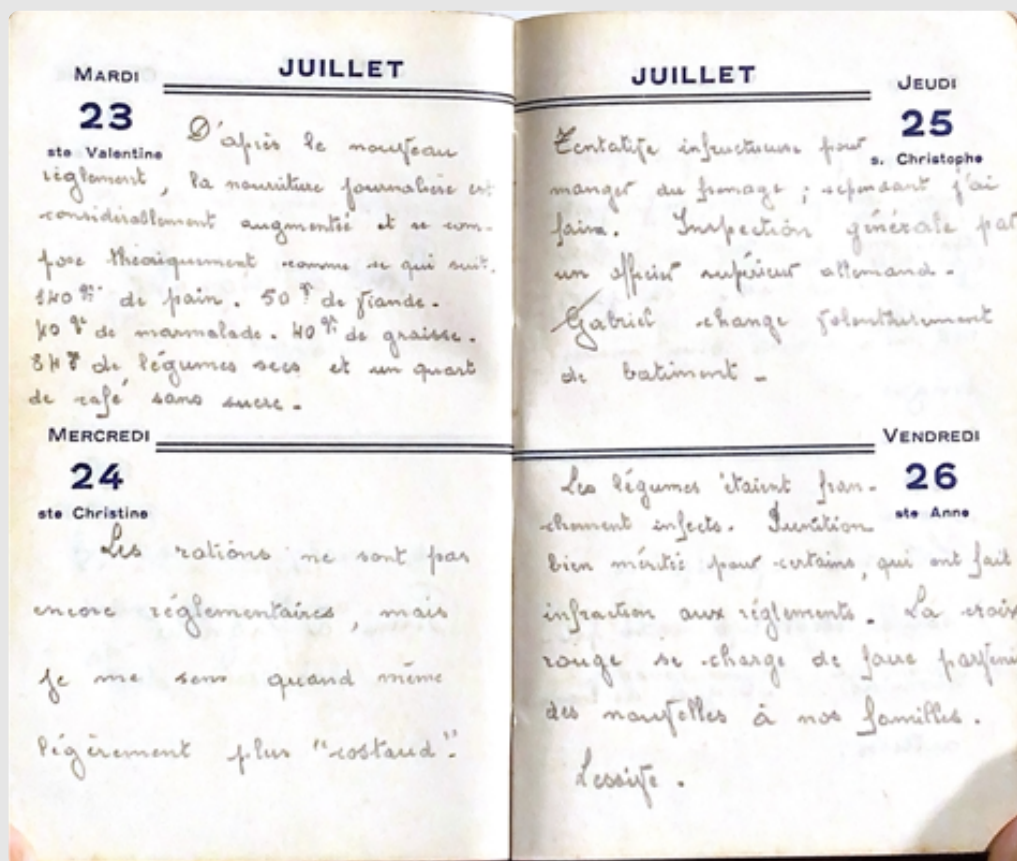
Same again to Strasbourg. I am dead beat (30th June)

19400711 11th 14th July



Rumours of peace Unconfirmed (11th and 12th July)
Smaller food rations, I am feeling down (14th July)

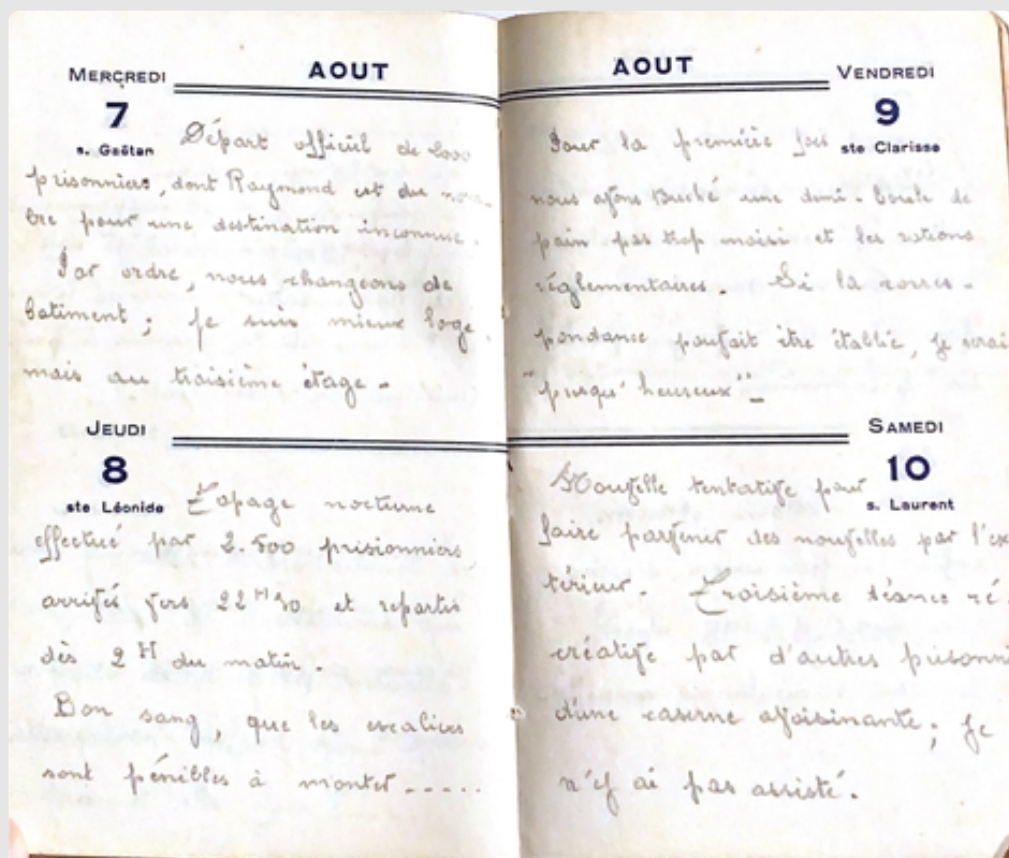
19400723 23rd 25th July



Food rations change due to new regulations (23rd July)

Inspection by German officer (25th July)

19400807 9th August



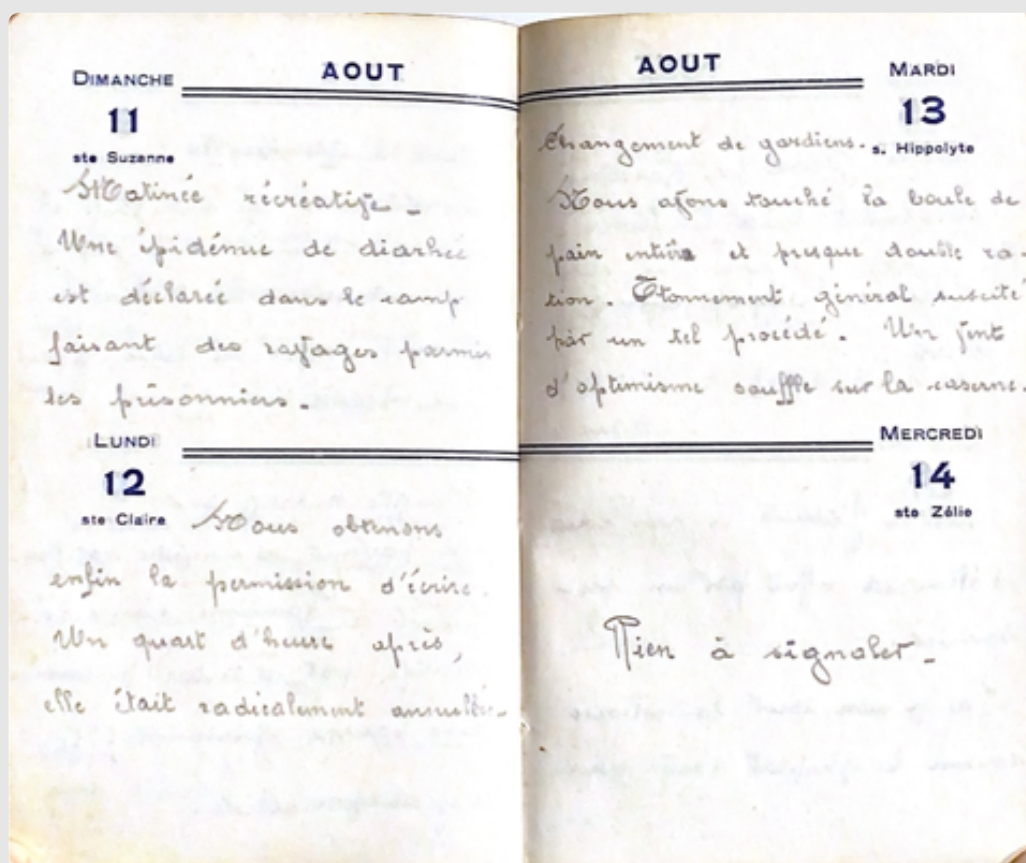
Departure of 1000 prisoners

Arrival of 2500 new ones (7th and 8th August)

Been given a whole loaf of bread

If I could get some letters, I would be "nearly happy" (9th August)

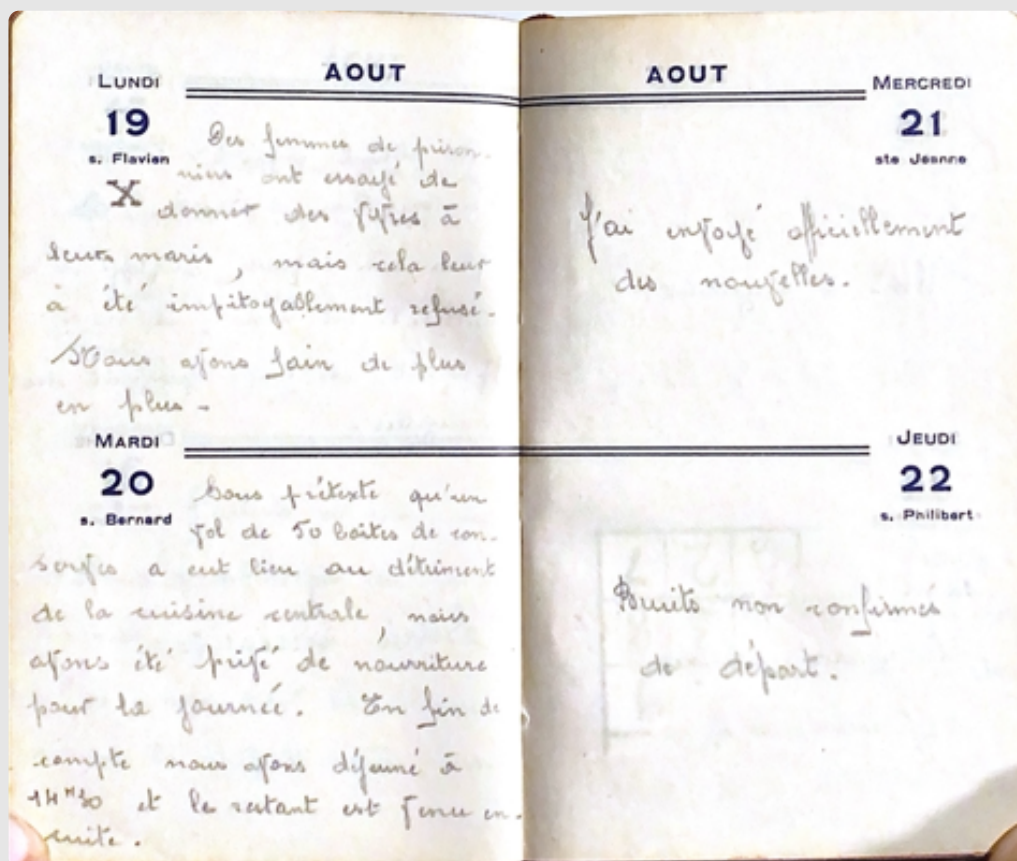
19400811 11th 13th August



Diarrhoea epidemic (11th August)

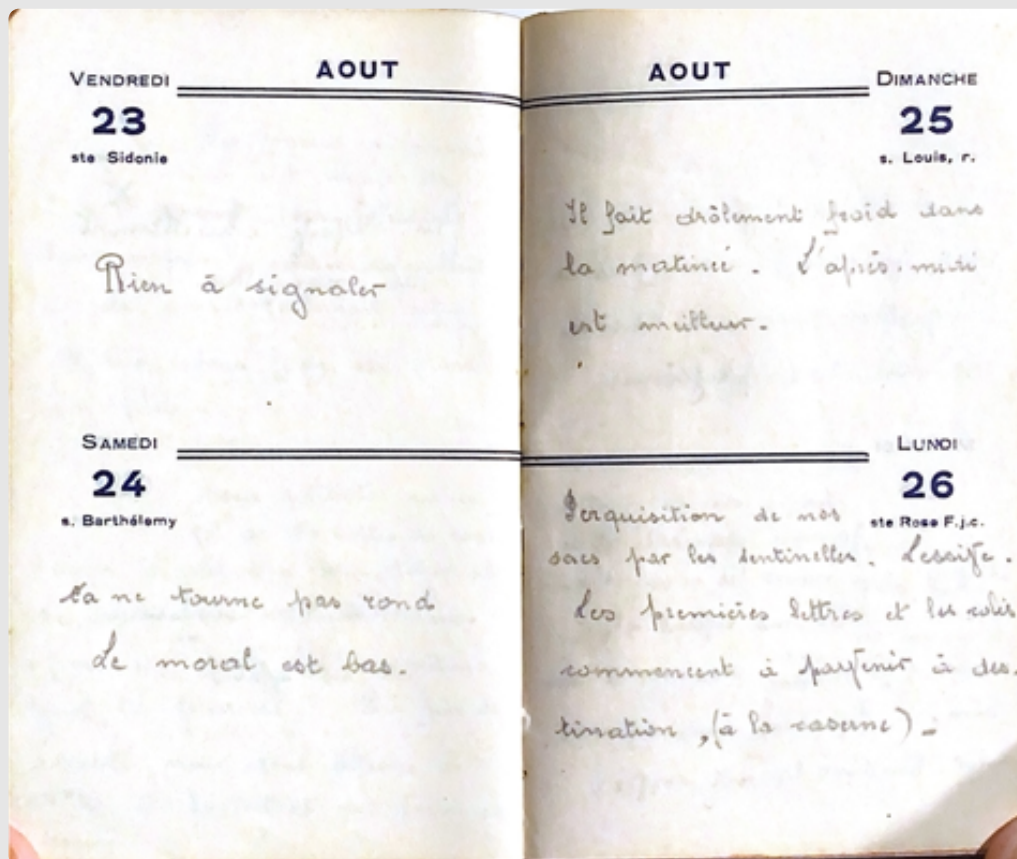
Received a whole loaf of bread (13th August)

19400819 19th August



We are hungrier and hungrier (19th August)

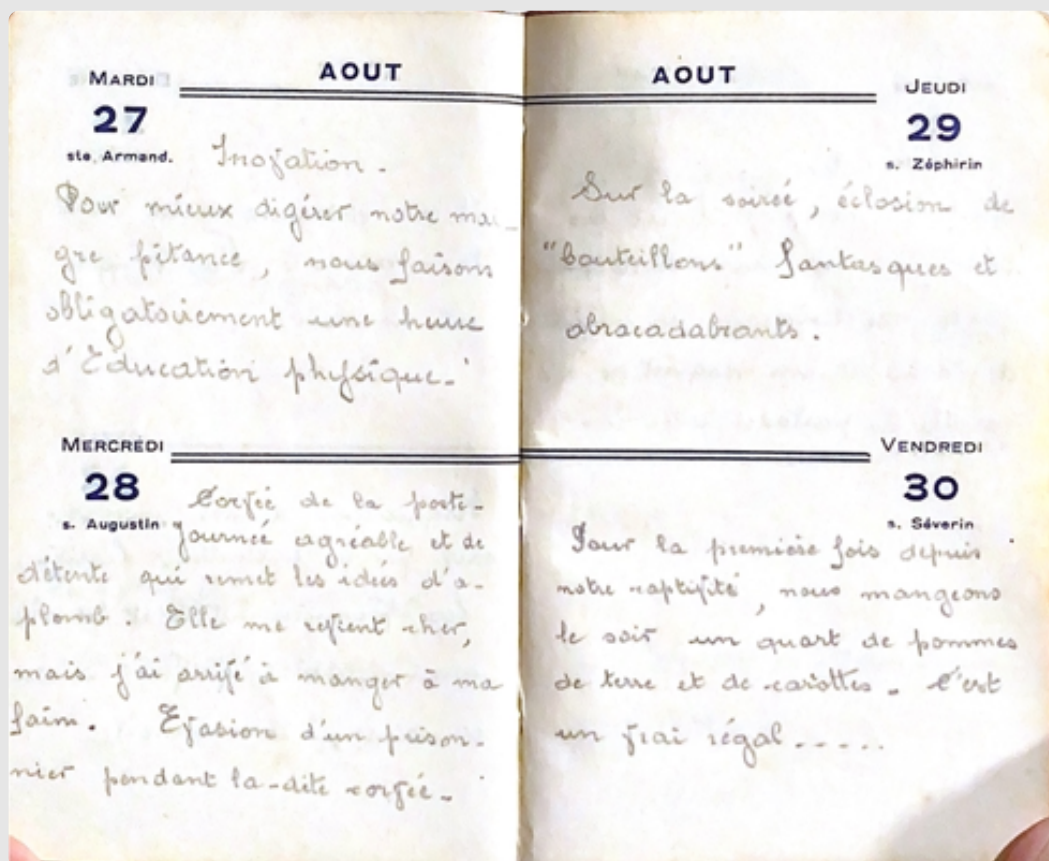
19400823 24th 26th August



Down in the dumps (24th August)

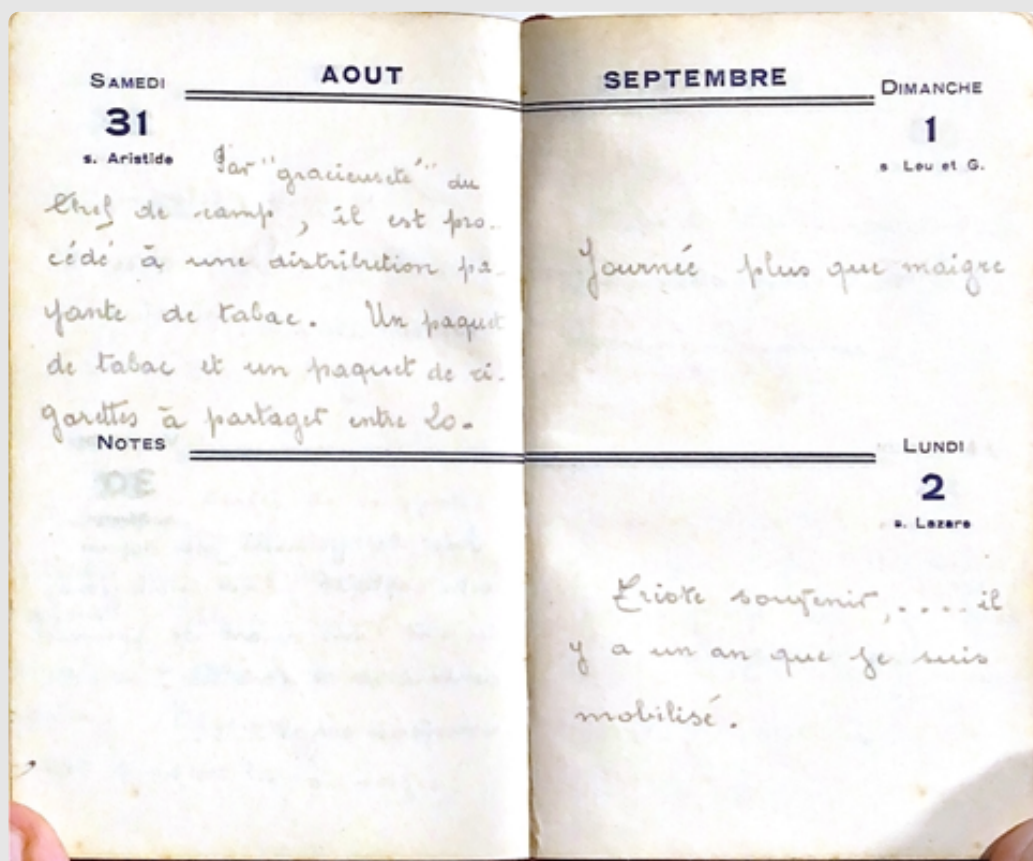
First letters and parcels begin to arrive (26th September)

19400827 30th August



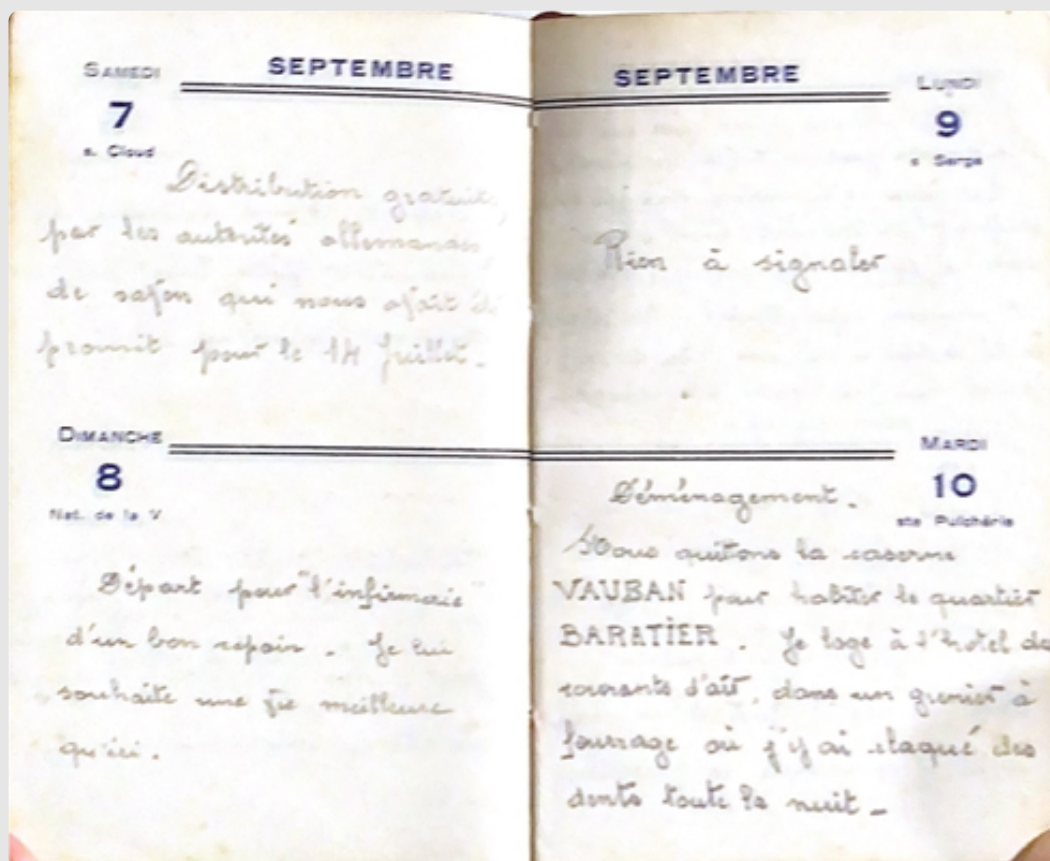
For the first time since captured, potatoes and carrots. A real feast ...

19400831 2nd September



A year since being called up (2nd September)

19400907 7th September



Soap distribution (promised for the 14th July)

19400920 19th 22nd September

19400920 19th 22nd September



I manage to buy an apple and I share it with André (20th September)

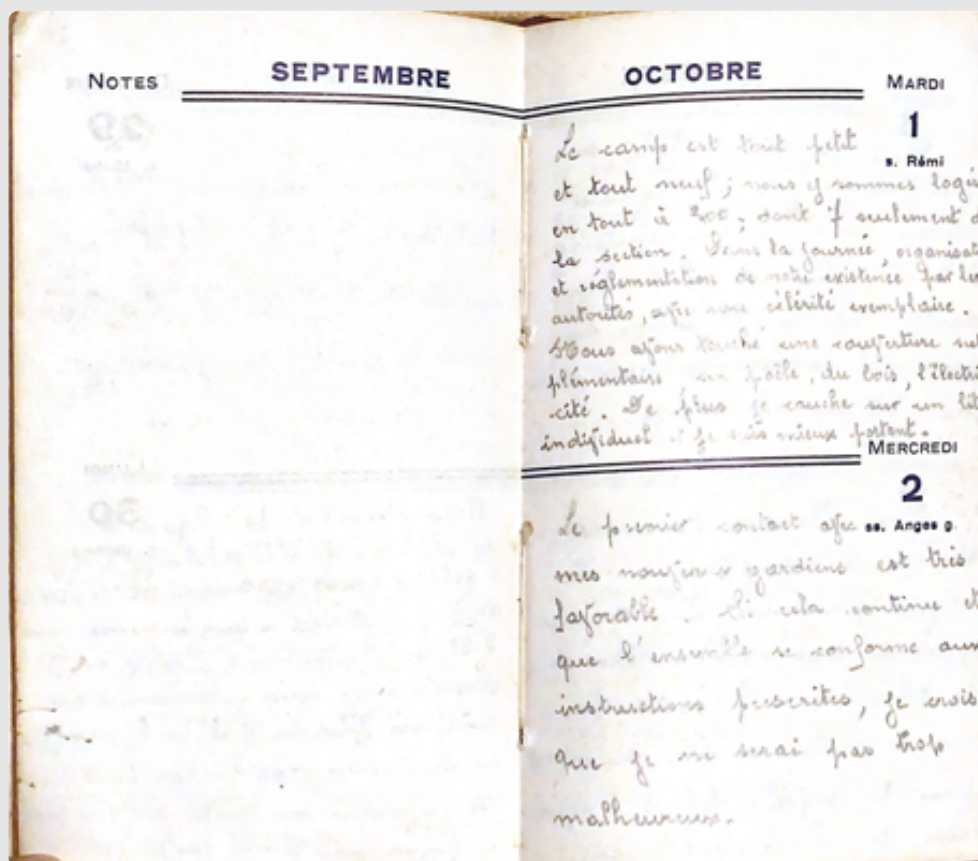
19400927 27th 30th September



Diarrhoea followed by shower and disinfection. Sleeping on concrete (28th October)

What a sad night; my Waterloo as a prisoner (29th October)

19401001 1st 2nd October

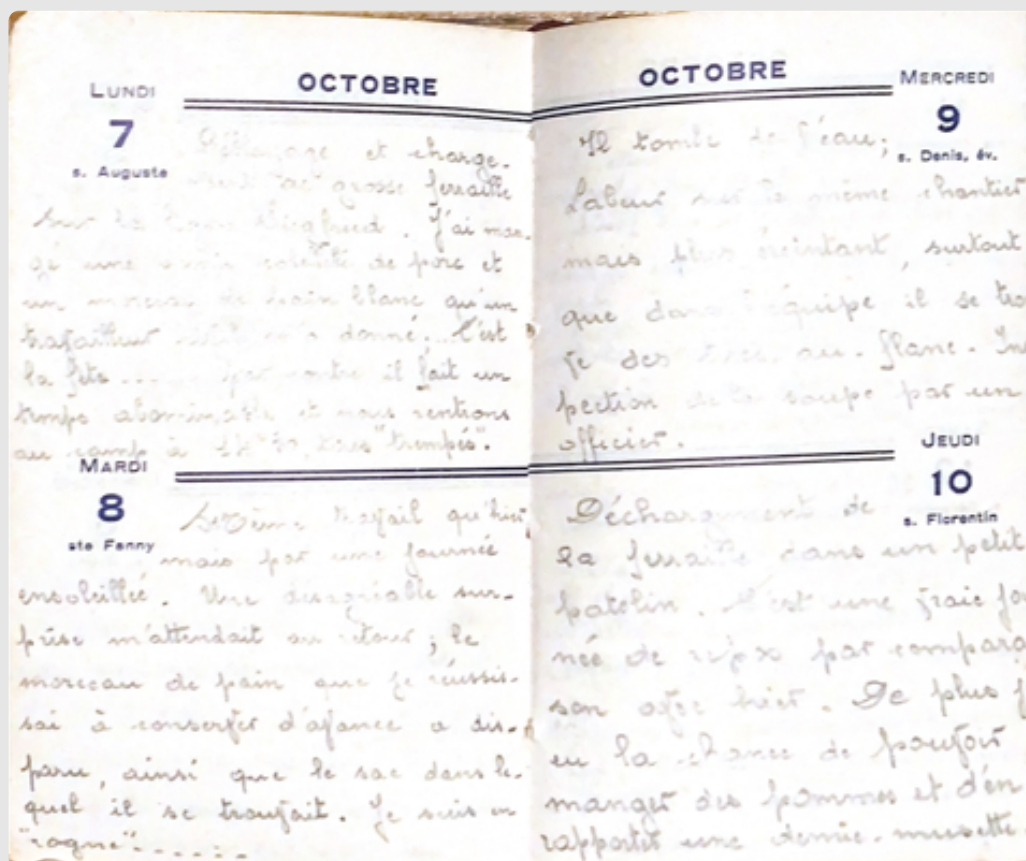


Arrived at new camp, much smaller, with 300 prisoners.

Extra blanket, wood-burning stove and sleeping in my own bed (1st October)

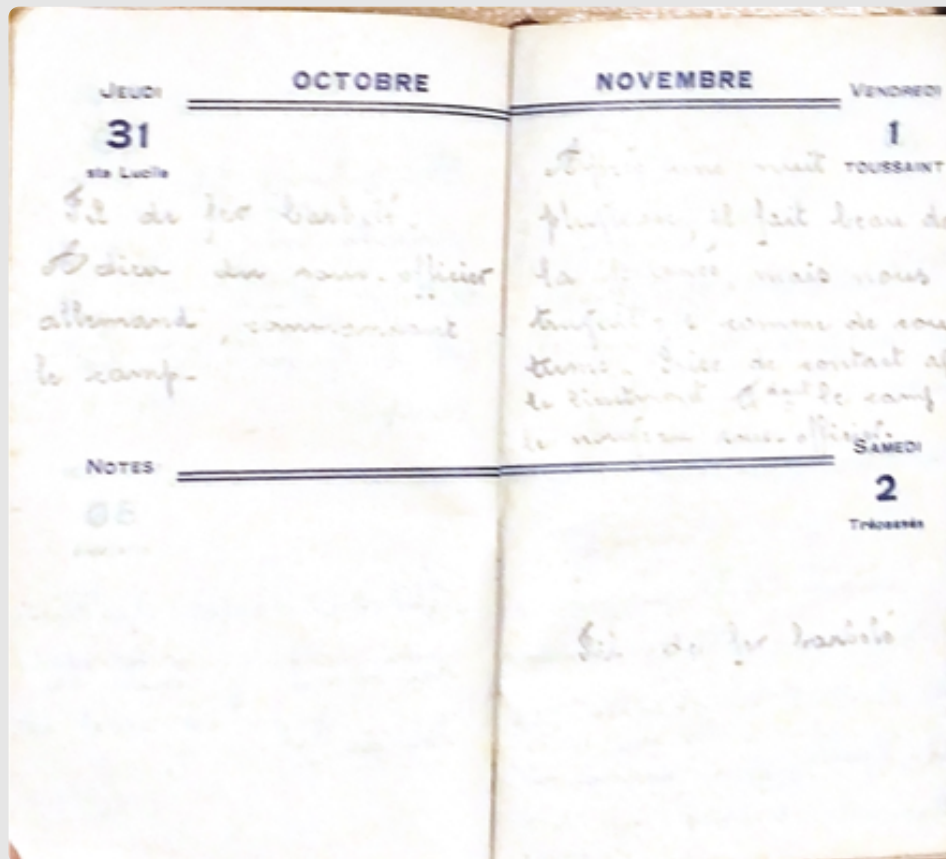
Perhaps I will not be too unhappy (2nd October)

19401007 7th 10th October



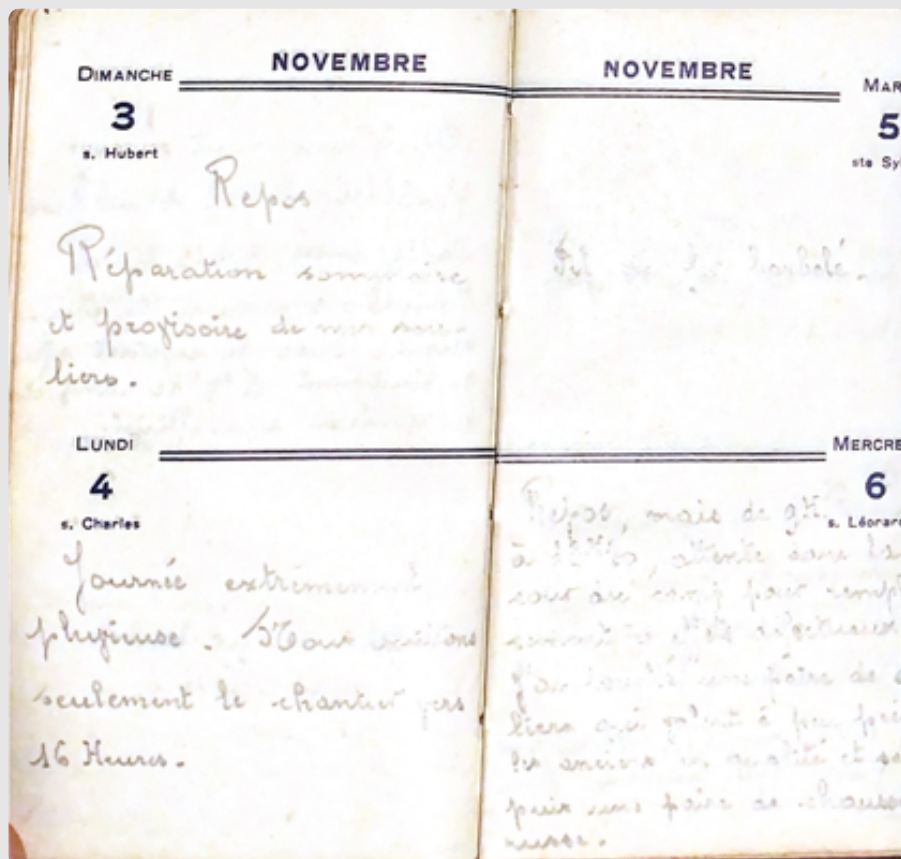
Work on Siegfried Line (7th October)

19401031 31 October 2nd November



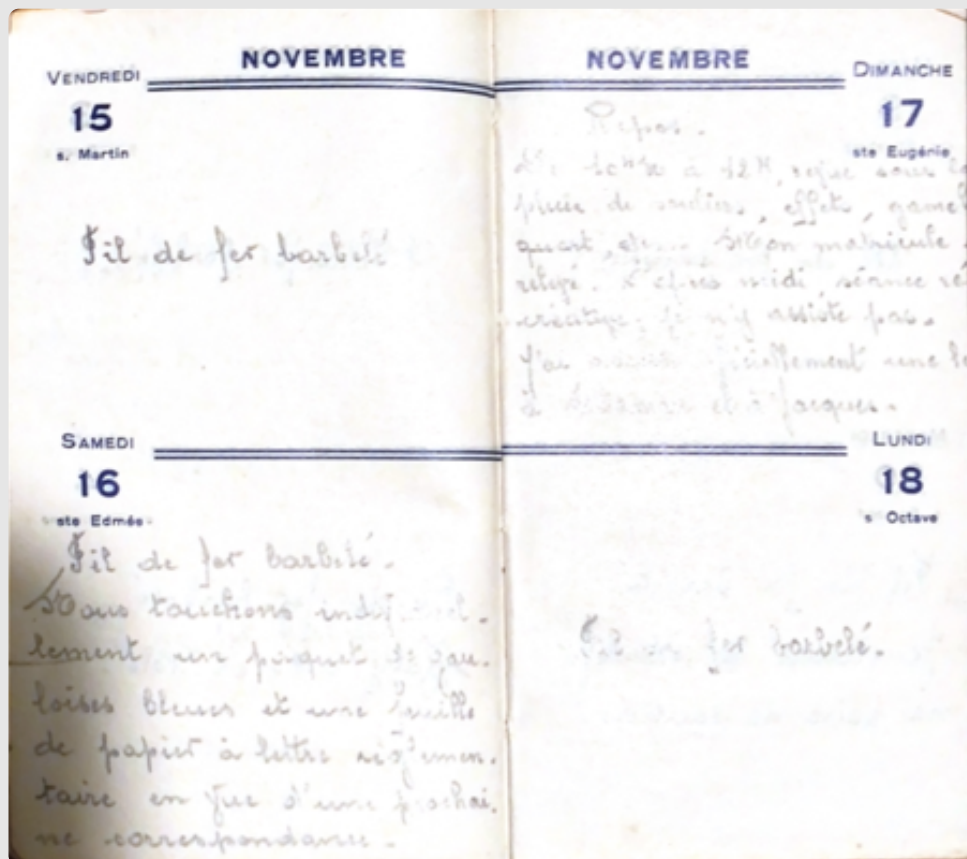
One German NCO leaves.
A new one arrives

19401103 3rd 6th November



Am given a pair of shoes (no better than the previous ones) and Russian socks (6th November)

19401115 15th 18th November

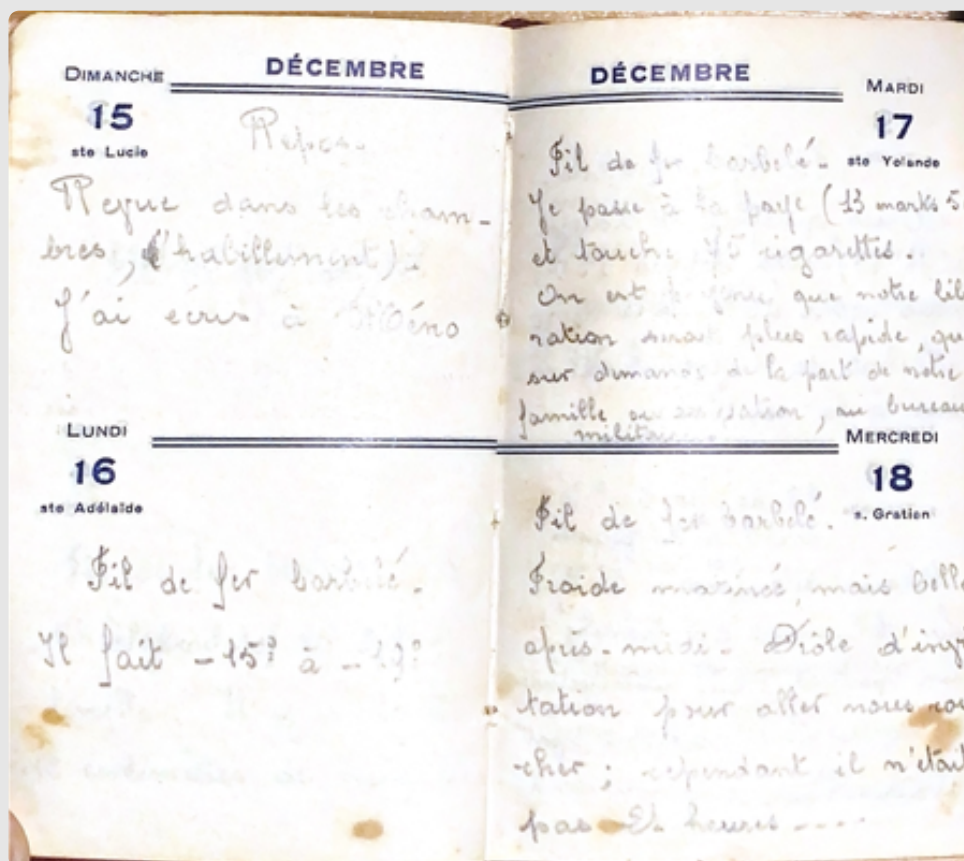


Am given one sheet of paper (16th).

Am writing officially to Mum and Jacques * (17th November)

- Jacques was my father's brother

19401215 15th 18th December

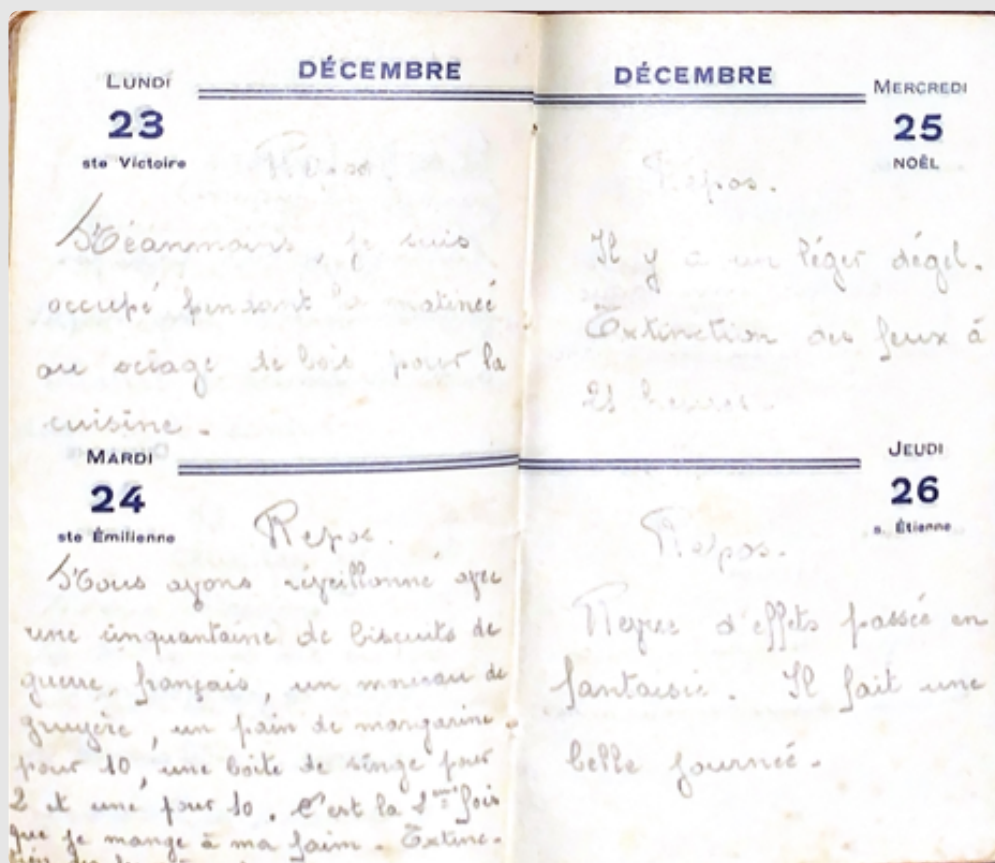


Sent a letter to Méno* - 15th December

Temperature varies from minus 15 to minus 19 (16th December)

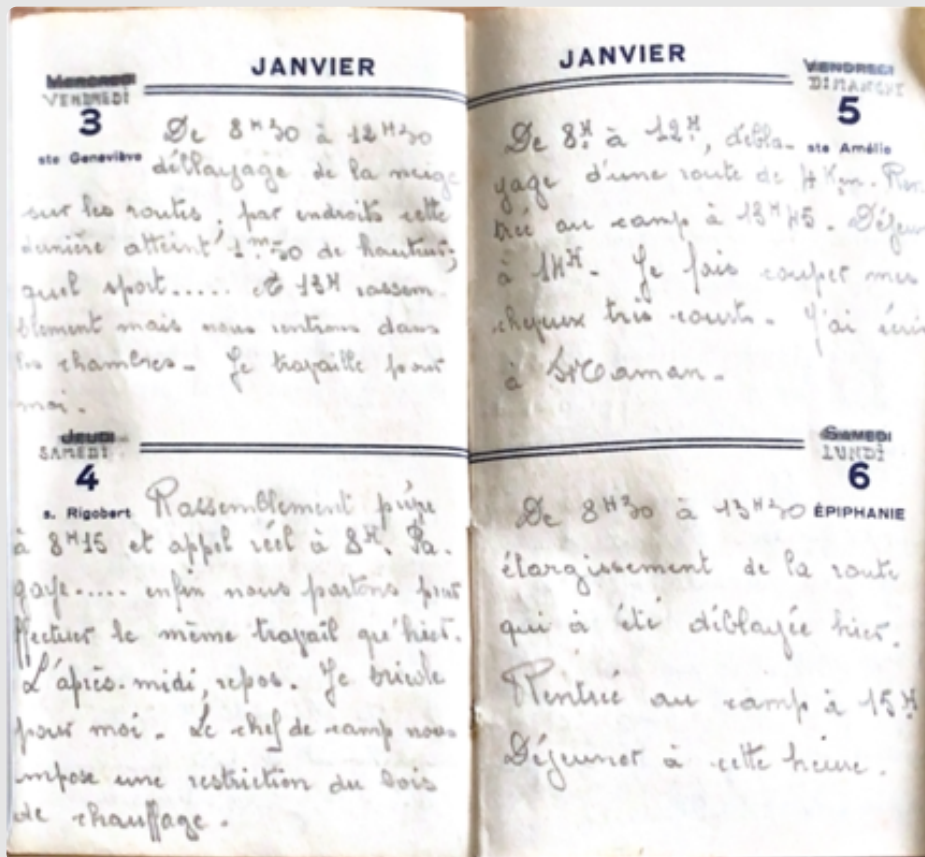
- Translator's note : my mother was affectionately known as Méno

19401223 23rd 26th December



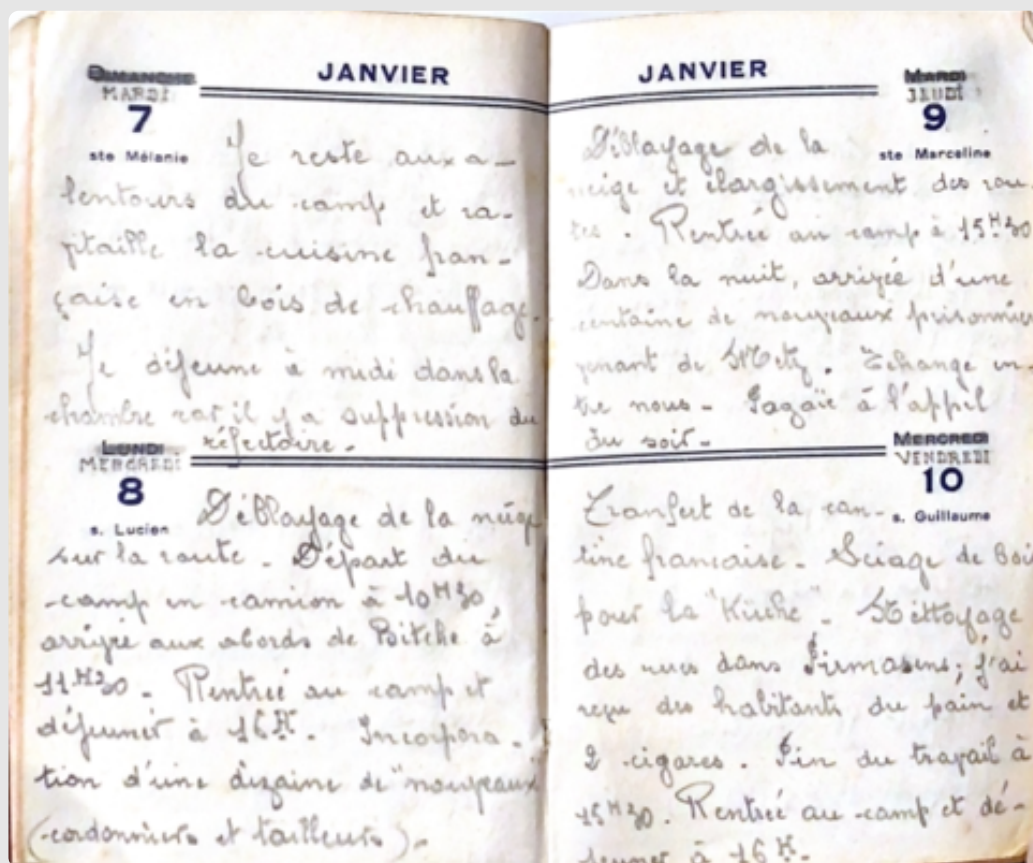
Christmas Eve with war biscuits, a lump of Gruyère, some margarine and Spam. Second time I have enough to eat.

19410103 3rd 6th January



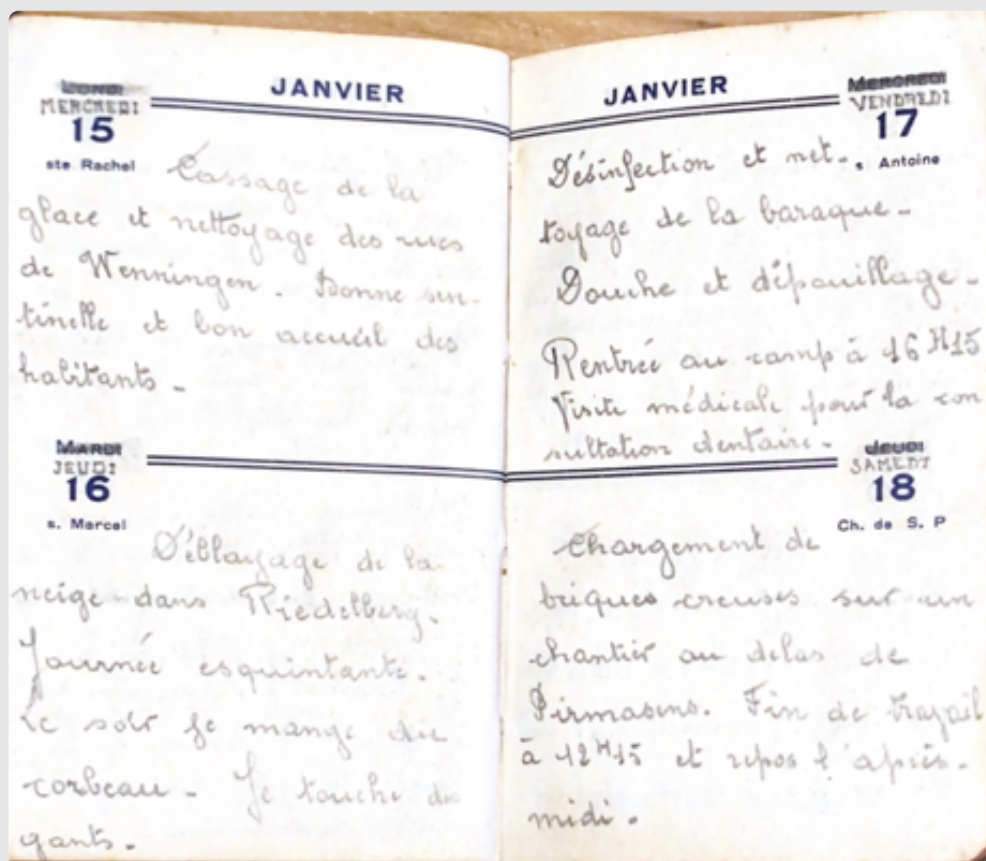
Snow clearing on roads (1.50m in places)

19410107 7th 10th January



Snow clearing in Pirmasens. The villagers give me some bread and 2 cigars (10th January)

19410115th 18th January

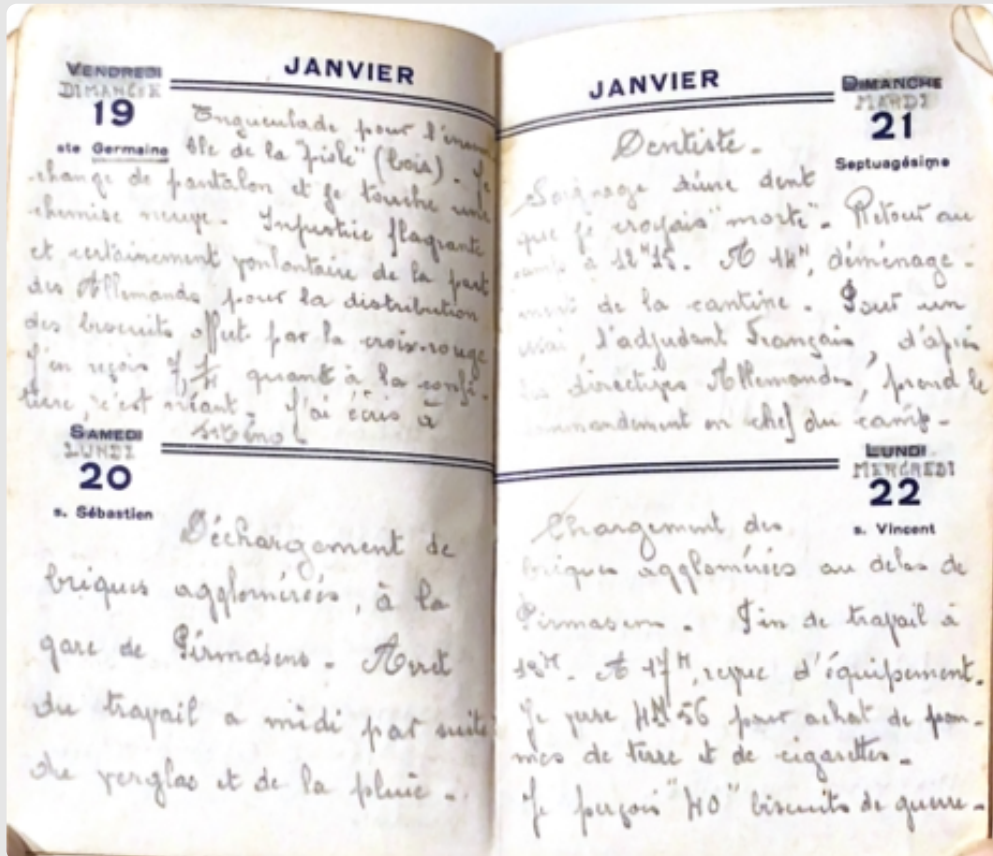


Eating crow* in the evening

Am given some gloves (16th January)

- Translator's note : not to be taken as a figure of speech; my father did eat real crow

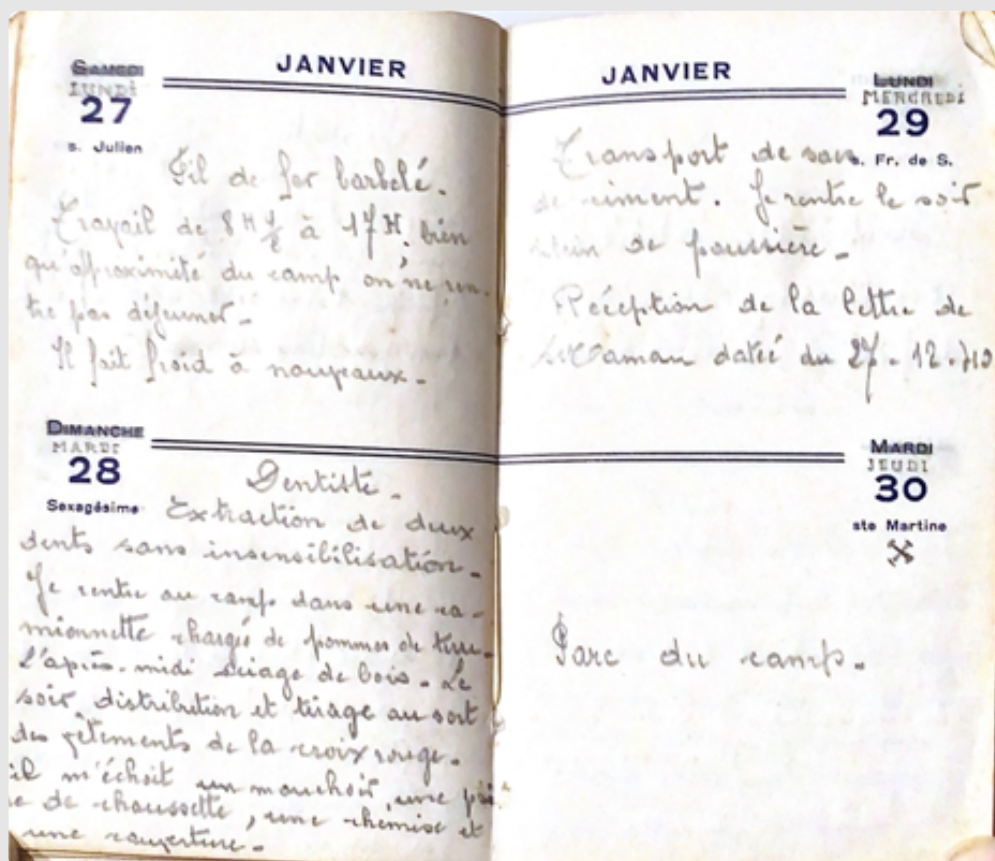
19410119 19th 22nd January



Unfair and probably deliberate distribution by the Germans, of biscuits given by the Red Cross (19th January)

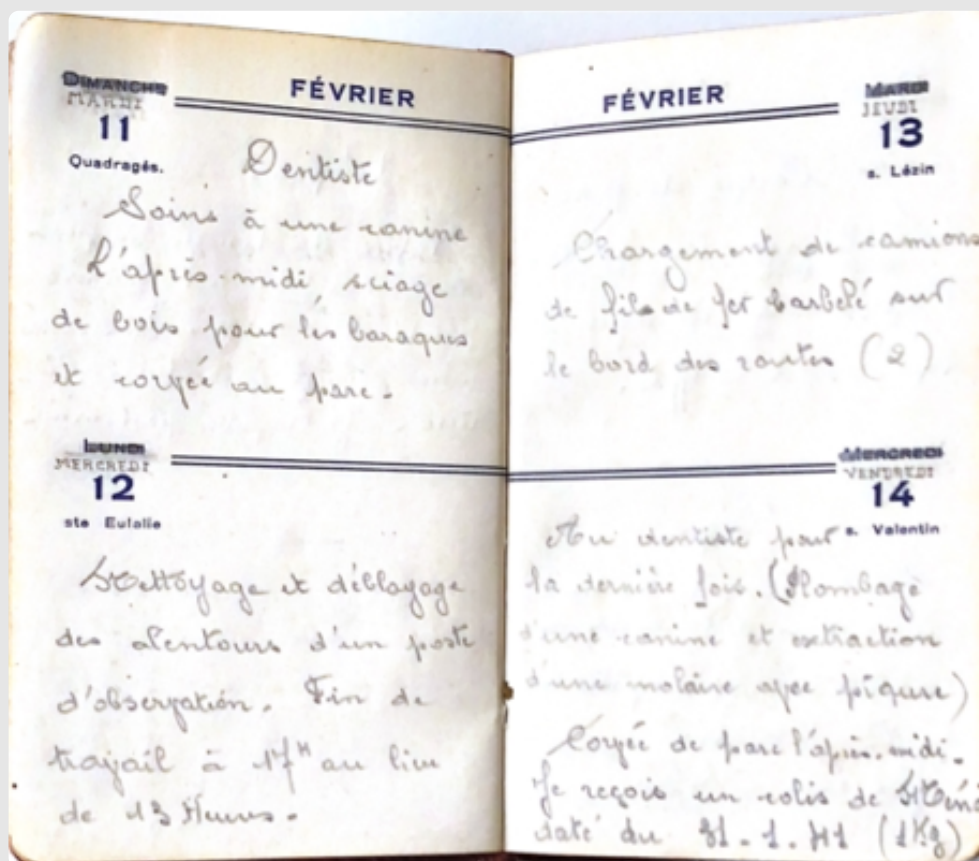
A French warrant officer takes over command of the camp on a trial basis (21st January)

19410127 27th 30th January



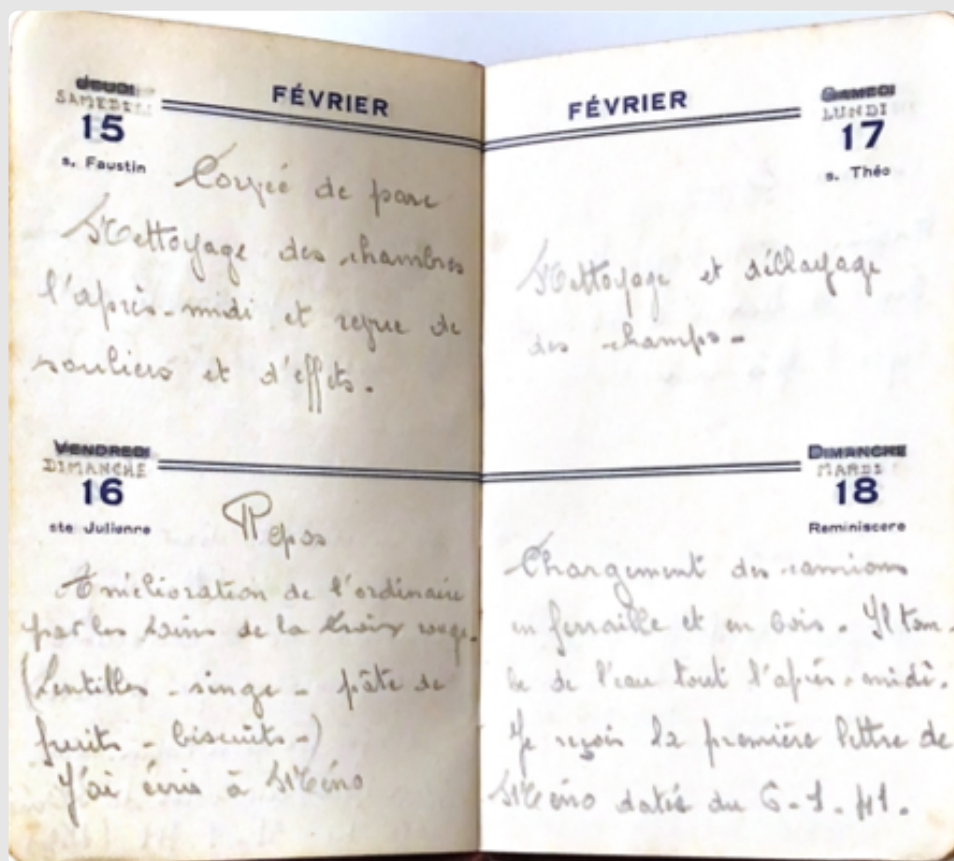
Two teeth pulled out without pain relief (28th January)

19410211 11th 14th february



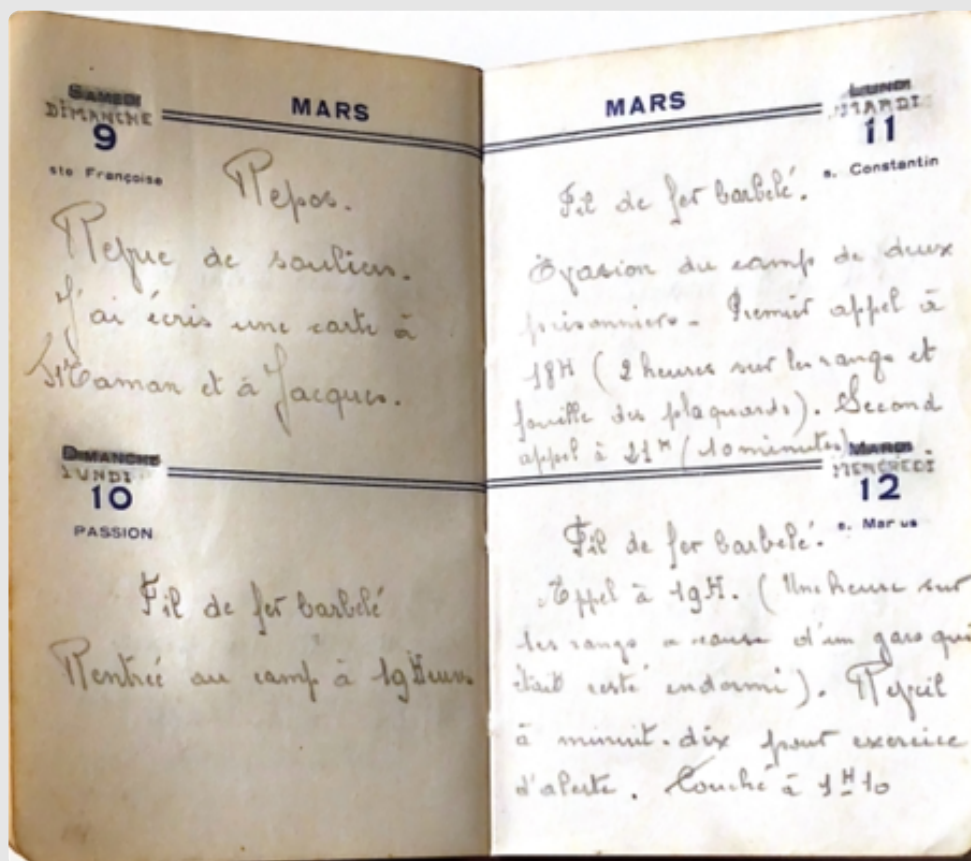
More visits to the dentist
Received a 1kg parcel from Méno

19410215 15th18th February



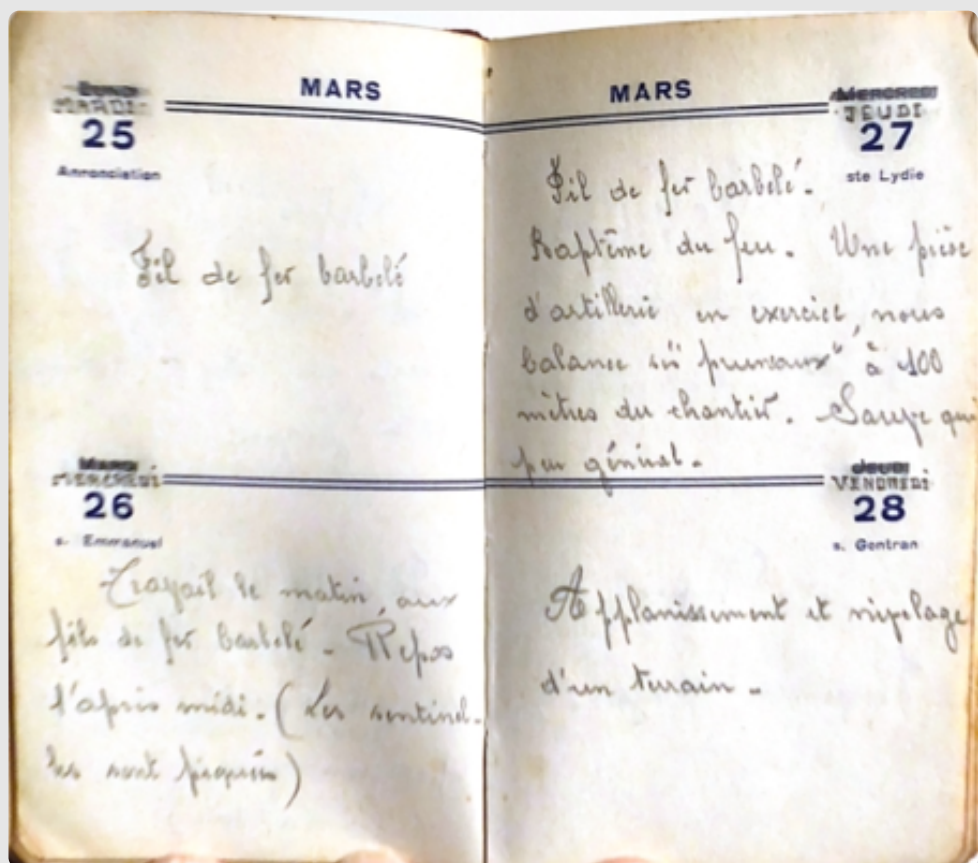
Received my first letter dated 06/01/41 from Méno

19410309 9th 12th March



Two prisoners escape. We line up for 2 hours and our cupboards are searched (11th March)

19410325 25th 28th March



Baptism of fire : an artillery gun on exercise fires at us 100m from where we work - "Every man for himself" is on.

FICHE DE DÉMOBILISATION

N° de la fiche

7108 PROVISoire

Exemplaire N°

1

Centre de Démobilisation de

ARRAS

(2) Pas de Calais

Arme:

Artillerie

Grade:

29 Classe

Nom:

ZAVISKA

Prénoms:

Frantz

Né le

26 MARS 1913

à

PONTENAY-le-FLEURY

Nationalité (1): Français de naissance - naturalisé - ne justifiant d'aucune nationalité (art. 3 de la loi de recrutement)

Situation de famille (1): célibataire - marié - veuf - divorcé - enfants

Profession (exercée avant les hostilités)

Chef de poste fabrication d'ambaque

Adresse (avant les hostilités)

196, Rue du Maréchal Pétain à ROUVROY S/LENS

Adresse où se retire l'intéressé

d?

L'intéressé a-t-il du travail dans sa profession à l'adresse indiquée

oui

Bureau de recrutement

VERSAILLES

N° matricule de recrutement

410

ou à défaut localité dans laquelle a été passé le conseil de révision

Emploi au corps: Chauffeur auto

Dernier corps d'affectation

Section Munition auto N° 708

Fait prisonnier à

LA BOURGONCE, le 22 JUIN 1940

Dernier camp de prisonniers où l'intéressé a séjourné

STALAG XII A

N° d'immatriculation au camp de prisonniers

18536 STALAG XII B

Centre mobilisateur ou unité, ou dépôt, rejoint

Dépôt Artillerie NEUFCHATEAU

au moment du dernier appel sous les drapeaux (1) Date:

2 SEPTEMBRE 1939

(1) Rayer les mentions inutiles.

(2) Département.

La démobilisation du titulaire de la présente fiche n'est valable que pour la durée du congé de captivité qui a été accordé par l'Autorité Allemande

EMPREINTES DES 2 DOIGTS	SIGNATURE de l'intéressé
	

A

ARRAS

le

3 NOVEMBRE 1942

M. Blotter

Le Commandant
du Centre de démobilisation.



No diary entries from 18th April 1941 until his demobilisation in November 1942