

LEFT: Army Service Forces; RIGHT: British Intelligence Corps



111th Wireless Intelligence Section, First Signals Intelligence Company, Intelligence Corps, British Liberation Army

Attached to the 113th Signal Radio Intelligence Company

Ron Wilshire, born 1919, was a Sergeant in the British Intelligence Corps. He worked in the Wireless Intelligence Section, initially intercepting Morse messages, but by 1942, intercepting enemy wireless (radio) signals. He had fluent French and German and was able to listen to and transcribe German radio traffic.

Ron was attached to the 113th SRI Company in April 1944, joining them in Colyton, Devon. Ron was a keen amateur photographer, and he took a number of photos of the 113th. Unfortunately we have little idea of people's names beyond the odd note on the reverse of the pictures.

He landed on Omaha Beach with 113th in June 1944 and from that date he wrote to his parents frequently always in a reassuring tone, rarely referring to the fighting and never suggesting he was ever in any danger. His parents kept the letters which we now have. The contrast between Lewis Dresser's field diary and Ron's letters is entertaining with Lewis being brutally factual and Ron stating that "..only the camouflage nets detract from the general impression of a picnic."

In late July, the 113th advanced to Lison and thence to St Lo – the main crossroad town in Normandy. The town was carpet bombed in order to dislodge the German forces; up to 95% of the city was destroyed.

In August the 113th were in Saint-Ébremond in France. Lewis Dresser's diary describes "the 113th riding academy" with several German artillery horses, and Ron captured the moment in his photos.

In September the 113th crossed the border into Belgium, and Lewis Dresser's diary notes the capture of nearly fifty fully armed Germans, and again Ron captured the moment.

And in early October in Jalhay Ron shot a number of photos of a baseball game, and the Red Cross clubmobile.

Ron stayed with 113th until mid-October 1944 when the 113th took up residence in a chateau in Limbourg, Belgium for a number of months. The letter to his parents records his feelings about leaving the American Army as "I've been far too happy with these people to want to leave them."

Ron went on to work as an Interrogator at various Internment camps across Germany until mid 1946.

By Lindsay Coley, daughter of Ron Wilshire



Ron Wilshire and Jerry Colyton, Devon



Sergeants, Ron in the foreground Colyton, Devon



Tug of War Colyton, Devon



Just idling Colyton, Devon

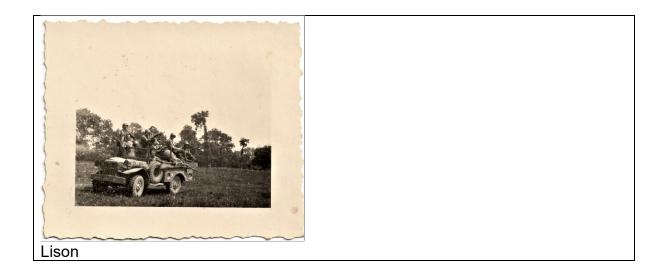


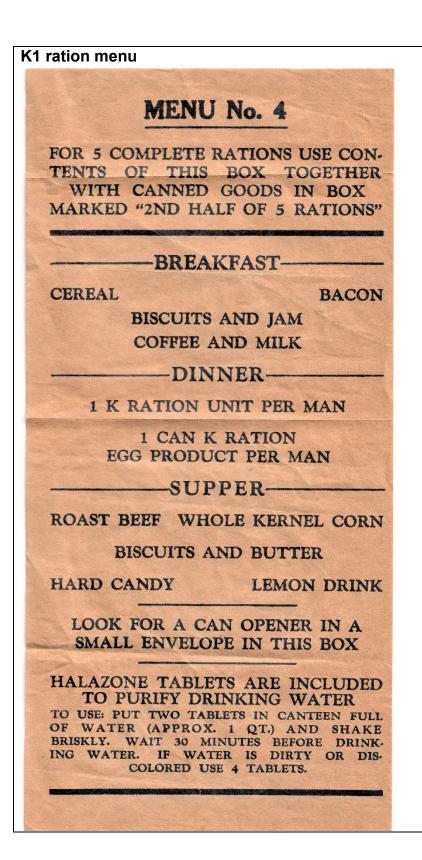
Ray and George Colyton, Devon

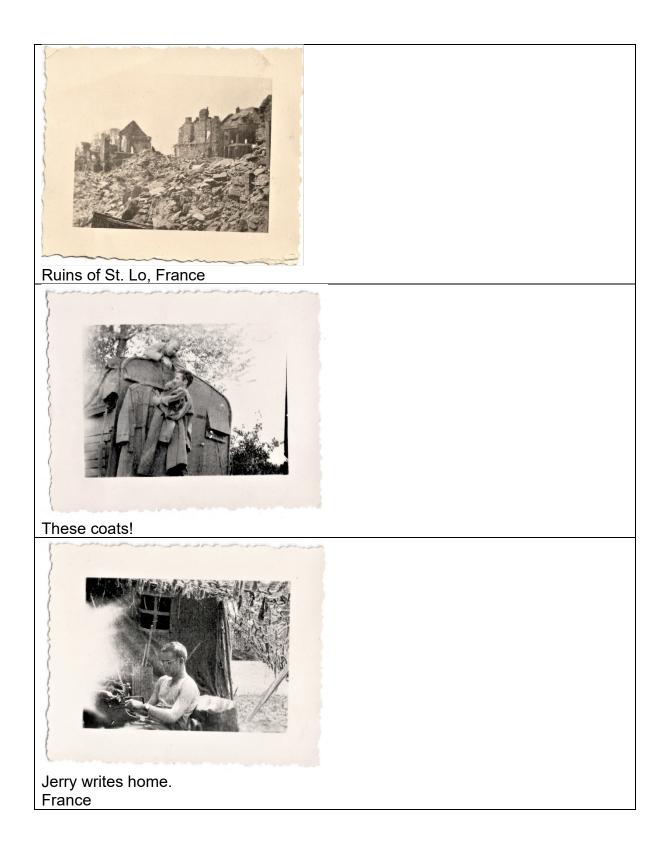


Ron and 113th soldier France Daily news bulletin Ron's name as best athlete. No idea why!

	DORKBENDER NEWS AND SODA DISPENSERS THIRD TENT ON MESSAGE ROW YPRES : CLANCY TREASURER: CLANCY WHEN BETTER NEWS IS FIT TO PRINT"			
	SUBJECT: O900 NEWS BROADCAST FROM BBC ON 38.6 MOTORCYCLES			
	THE RUSSIANS HAVE CAPTURED SIX ENEMY STRONGHOLDS BETWEEN THE CARPATHIANS AND THE BALTIC INCLUDING STANISLAVOV, LVOV, BIALYSTOK, AND DVINSK. THEY HAVE ALSO TAKEN A TOWN 35 MILES SOUTHEAST OF WARSAW AND ARE REPORTED WITHIN 30 MILES OF THE CITY. OUR ALLIES HAVE DE- PRIVED THE GERMAN ARMIES IN LATVIA AND ESTHONIA OF THE LAST MAJOR ESCAPE ROUTES BY CAPTURING ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ROAD AND RAIL CENTERS IN LITHUANIA.			
	IN NORMANDY AMERICAN ARMORED COLUMNS ARE THREATENING TO CUT OFF A CONSIDERABLE GERMAN FORCE ON THE WESTERN SECTION. THE ENEMY ARE FALLING BACK ON THE BIG ROAD CENTER OF COUTANCE. THE AMERICAN COLUMNS WERE LAST REPORTED TO BE ONLY 5 MILES FROM THIS TOWN. NO IMPORTANT CHANGES HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM THE CAEN SECTOR WHERE UNITED KINGDOM AND CANADIAN TROOPS ARE CONTAINING THE BULK OF THE GERMAN ARMOR.			
	HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN HEAVY BOMBERS FROM ITALY YESTERDAY ATTACKED HUNGARY'S LARGEST INDUSTRIAL PLANT IN BUDAPEST. IN ITALY 8TH ARMY TROOPS HAVE REACHED A POINT ABOUT 8 MILES SOUTH DEST OF FLORENCE. THE KING HAS BEEN VISITING THE 8TH ARMY FRONT.			
and the sub-	IN THE CENTRALPACIFIC AMERICAN MARINES NOW CONTROL ONE THIRD			
	OF TINIAN. R A'F MOSQUITOES ATTACKED STUTTGART LAST NIGHT.			
	WRIT BUT NOT READ BY CLANCY "THE GREAT" DORKBENDER			
	BOY MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED: ? HANDSOMEST BOY : WILLY "THE DEACON" BARSONS BEST ATHLETE : RONNIE "THE DUCK" WILSHIRE SMARTEST BOY : VINCE "WISE GUY" CROWLEY FUNNIEST BOY : MIKE "MICKEY" MICHAELS			
	*NOTE: QUINCY AND AL AINT HERE			









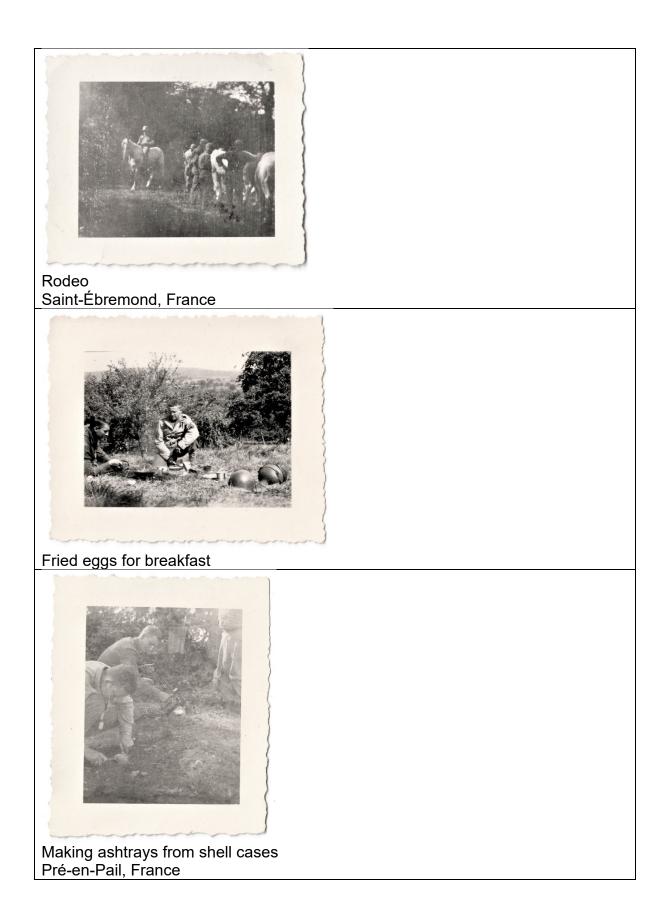
Bald manicurist and customer France

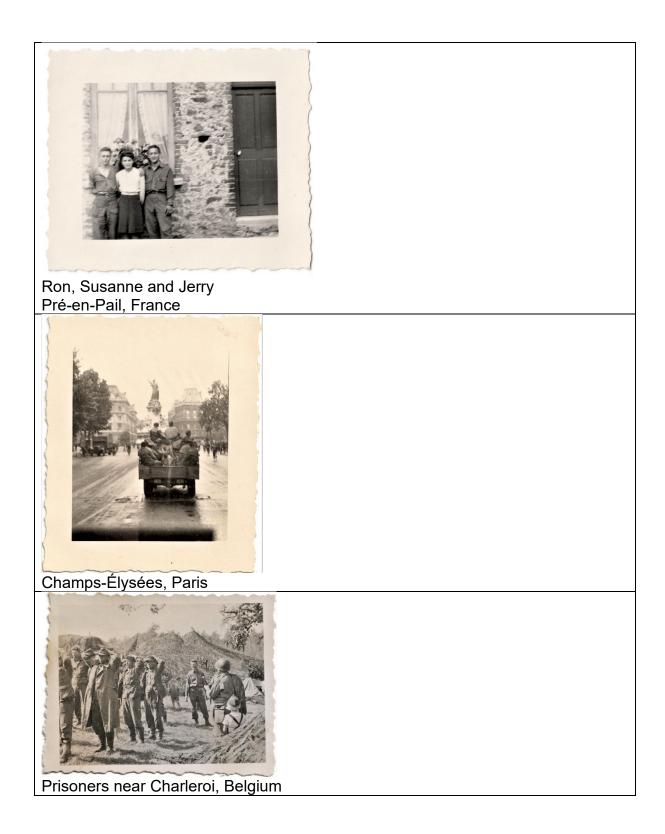


Mobile canteen France

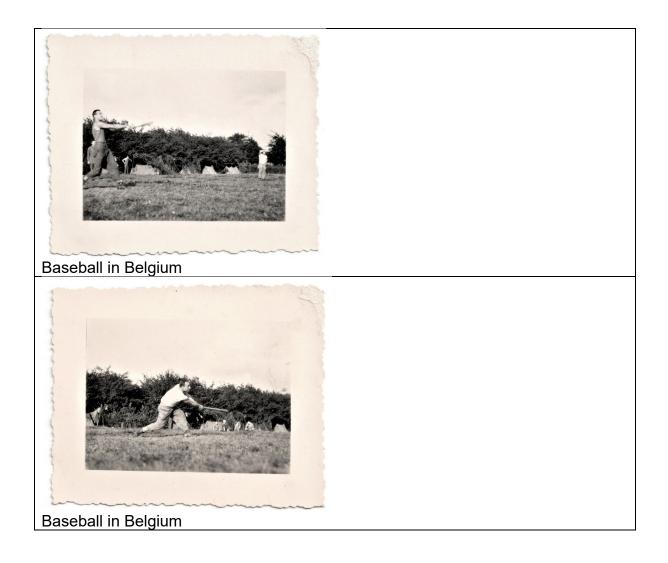


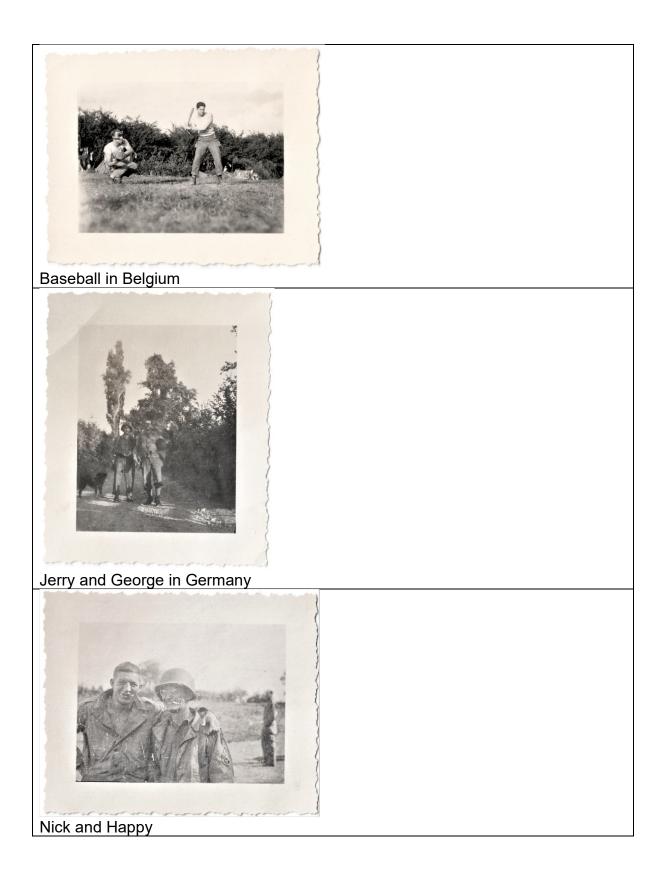
Mike on German cavalry horse Saint-Ébremond, France











Ron's Leaving 113th Letter

L/SGT WILSHIRE R.S., C/O 1 S.I.COY., I. C. B. L. A. BELGIUM. 11 OCT 44.

DEAR GANG,

NOW THE GRIFF. I EXPECT TO BE LEAVING THE AMERICAN ARMY WITHIN ABOUT A WEEK, BUT MY FUTURE IS STILL UNCERTAIN. MUCH TO MY REGRET MY JOB HERE HAS COME TO AN END AND I SHALL PROBABLY RETURN TO THE BRITISH ARMY. I DON'T LOCK ON THIS WITH THE SLIGHTEST LONGING, BECAUSE I'VE BEEN FAR TOC HAPPY WITH THESE PEOPLE TO WANT TO LEAVE THEM UNTIL THE VERY LAST DAY OF THE WAR, BUT THE PARTY IS OVER AND I MUST NOW LOCK AFTER MYSELF IN ANY FUTURE FIELDS THAT I MAY HAVE TO VISIT. AT THE MOMENT THERE IS NO IDEA WHERE I AM LIKELY TO LAND UP, THE NATTER IS STILL IN THE COURSE OF BEING DECIDED, BUT I SHALL LET YOU KNOW WHAT THE OUTCOME IS, THO' THE FULL STORY WILL BE JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE THINGS TO BE TOLD WHEN I RETURN HOME.

< 113th Radio Intelligence Company

<u>< Unofficial Informal Archive of the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Northwest Europe in</u> WWII			
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