



EDWARD FRANCIS ARAB

LUITENANT

About the family.

Edward Francis Arab was born on 6 September 1915 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the son of Louis Arab and Sarah Sadie Murina Assiff. They live at 2 Linden Street in Halifax. Edward is the eldest of five children. His will mentions 1 sister Anne Hanson, and possibly 1 brother Joseph A Arab. His grandparents were the first Lebanese refugees to settle in Halifax. The occupation of his father/mother is unknown.

Edward left primary school in Halifax at the age of 13 in 1928 and then studied for 3 years at Saint Patricks 'Boys' High School in Halifax, gaining Junior Matric. He then studied art and law for 6 years at Dalhousie University in Halifax, then graduated as a lawyer. It is not known if he has a specific hobby or sport.

After graduating, Edward is approached by an established Halifax law firm, however, he decides to open his own practice. He soon gains a reputation for accepting many cases dealing with issues of prejudice and racism. He works in the legal profession for five years as an independent lawyer, until he joins the army. Edward Arab is not married.

Military affairs.

At almost 27 years of age, on 7(or 9) August 1942, he is enlisted in the Lincoln and Welland Regiment in Halifax.

He receives his training and education successively at Halifax until 14 August 1942, until 13 November 1942 at Brockville, in Ontario until 21 June 1943, at Aldershot Nova Scotia until 14 November 1943 and at St John, New Brunswick he receives field exercises until 21 February 1944 His training then continues until 4 June again at Brockville and Aldershot.

On 4 June 1944, he leaves for Great Britain, arriving there on 19 June. On 3 September, he goes to France to join the Allied troops. On 24 October 1944, these troops move towards the Dutch town of Bergen op Zoom. On 25 October 1944 at the liberation of Wouwse Plantage, he is killed along with nine others he is temporarily buried in a small burial ground in the Westerstraat in Huijbergen (southwest of the church, MR.665199, Sheet 25 NE). On 28 May 1945, Edward

Francis Arab is reburied in the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, plot 3, row D, grave 12.

Particulars.

- No additional text is written on his gravestone.
- He received the 1939-45 Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & CLASP, France-Germany Star and the War Medal.
- The total merits in his active service are not known.
- Little interesting additional information was found in Ancestry about Edward Francis Arab. In contrast, interesting information was found via Google. Two photographs of him were also found here.
- Edward is about 1.62 m tall, has brown eyes, brown hair and a scar near his left eye
- In 1938, Edward was the first president of the Canadian Lebanese Community in Halifax. His paternal grandparents, Abraham and Annie, were the first Lebanese to settle in Halifax in the nineteenth century. They fled Dimane, Lebanon because of the civil war there.
- Edward is proud of his Lebanese heritage, speaks Arabic. Their life is celebrated in 1949 by naming a street in his honour. Edward Arab Avenue is located in the Westmount area of Halifax.
- Before being enrolled in the Lincoln and Welland Regiment in August 1942, Edward had already attested to the Canadian Army four times. The first time was in October 1931, so just 16 years old. Later, he has done so three more times, namely in April 1937 after college, in November 1939 and in January 1941. Despite having a fine job with good prospects, he still chooses to enlist in the army. He believes he should help free the oppressed in Europe from the Nazis.
- Edward was probably wounded in a flamethrower attack on Mariabaan in Wouwe Plantage. From there, he was transferred to a military hospital where he died of his injuries. Edward Arab was temporarily buried in a small burial ground on the Westerstraat in Huijbergen. (source The Ninth Siege, Operation Suitcase, Robert W. Catsburg, ISBN 978-90-817893-4-9)