



Name: William Harris



RegNr: C123281

William was born on June 10th 1912 in Tannochside, North Lanarkshire, Scotland.

He emigrated to Canada on 18 April 1929 with his younger brother Andrew, shortly before the outbreak of WW2.

He enjoyed boxing and was called Bill by everyone.

He was the son of James and Barbara Harris.

He became a seaman and worked at Sowards Coal Company, Kingston Ontario until mid-early 1944. In the meantime (1943) he enlisted in the Canadian army.

On 3 January 1944 he was medically examined, military district 3 in Kingston.

When called up he joined the South Saskatchewan Regiment, R.C.I.C. (Royal Canadian infantry corps).

Then:

26 June 1944 transfer overseas to the United Kingdom. July 3 Disembarked United Kingdom

July 4 Merged with Canadian Artillery Holding United Kingdom

August 11, 1944 SOS (Struck of Strength) The Winnipeg Grenadiers United Kingdom

September 5, 1944 Disembarked at Dieppe, France.

TOS (time on station, which is the length of time a military unit remains at a specific location for operations or support).

They were taken over on strength from X4 list South Saskatchewan Regiment, 6th Division Second Canadian Army

as reinforcements. They had only 63 men left in the 4th Rifle Company.

On October 3, 1944 they arrived at Brasschaat, Belgium. William took part in Operation Ayntree.

The Battle of Brasschaat was actually a small battle, fought just after the SSR had captured a small town on the Antwerp-Turnhout Canal called Lochtenberg. The town there is now included in St Job in 't Goor, which they actually captured on October 3, and then fought on towards Brasschaat.

William Harris was killed early in the day.

Together with Bill, private Leonard White was also killed that day and there were 4 wounded.

Actually he was killed when they were still in Lochtenberg, in a small counterattack by the Germans"

Bill was temporarily buried in a small military cemetery in ST. Job in 't Goor, at (now) Eikenlei 63.

On October 5, the Canadians crossed the Dutch border and were in Putte.

The battle continued without William.

On June 29, 1945, Bill was reburied in the Canadian cemetery in Bergen op Zoom.

His younger brother Andrew visited William's grave in Bergen op Zoom in 1983. He had never been there before.

Andrew died a year later.

Sources:

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