



Baker, Robert Earl

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Robert is born the 1st of October in 1924 on Hermans Island, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia (N.S.), on the farm of his parents where he helped for 13 years.

The family later lives in Mahone Bay, Lunenburg County, N.S.

His parents are Earl Howard (43) and Lillian (43). Lillian is born in Mahone Bay. They were married on May 8, 1924 in Mahone Bay. Robert is the eldest of 7 children:

Robert Earl, Laurence Daniel (18), Gilbert Charles Howard (16), Christine (14), Carl William (12), Vincent Martin (10) en Bernard Cecil (9). Earl Howard is riveter (assemble several metal parts together by fastening them with rivets or bolts).

Robert married Madeline Joyce (18) in Mahone Bay on Februari 26, 1944. Madeline origins from Martin's Brook, N.S. They don't have children together. Madeline lives with her in-laws.

In brackets are the ages as on December 30, 1944.

Robert went to school until he was 14. He got grade 9. After attending school for 9 years, including 1 year at High School, he preferred to work. He had several jobs: For 3 years he worked on father's farm and fished on the coast; he was a woodcutter for 4 months; 3 months carpenter's servant; he has been installing telephone lines for 6 months and for the last 6 months he has been a pipe fitter at the Reinenburg Foundry Co. in Reinenburg, N.S.

Before enlisting in the Canadian Army, Robert joined the Non-Permanent Active Militia in 1943 for 4 months, as a reservist with the 20th Reserve Field Coy of the Royal Canadian Engineers.

On October 1, 1943, Robert was incorporated into Halifax, under the National Resources Mobilization Act of 1940.

Robert is 1.72m tall and weighs 70kg. He has blue eyes and dark brown hair. He has pain in his right eye when bending over. With this eye he sees less at a distance.

He is missing 5 teeth.

Robert hunts and fishes whenever he gets the chance. He repairs the engines of his car and his boat himself.

Robert arrives in Halifax on October 1, 1943 at #6 District Depot. He gives the impression of being stable, having enough abilities to become a good soldier.

From there he goes to #60 Training Camp in Yarmouth on October 21, 1943 and to the #14 Infantry Training Camp in Aldershot on December 17, 1943. On 20 December 1943 he started the advanced training. He is then 19 years old and is considered suitable for the infantry.

On February 1, 1944 he signs up for the paratrooper corps, but he is not considered suitable, on the PULHEM he scores a 2 on Mental.

On March 11, he is deemed fit to go overseas.

He leaves for Debert on April 3, 1944.

On July 18, 1944 he embarks and on July 24, 1944 he is in England.

There he was assigned to 3 CIRU, a reserve unit of the infantry, on 28 July 1944.

On August 12, 1944 he arrives in France, he is assigned to the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada on August 14, 1944.

On September 16, 1944, Robert is promoted to L/Corporal, on October 2, 1944 to A/Corporal.

Part of the war diary:

October 2, 1944. Weather - clear and cool - showers in the afternoon.

During the morning, enemy activity was limited to mortar shelling at irregular intervals. It was pointed out during a meeting. how many men there were who had not been trained for the task for which they had now been drafted into an infantry battalion. The Brigadier's intent is to hold the beachhead over Eindhoven and protect the right flank of the 6th Infantry Brigade as they continue to establish a beachhead in the Lochtenburg area. During the afternoon, a platoon from D Company was cut off. They were in no immediate danger and had suffered no casualties, but Colonel Ritchie planned a full attack to advance into that platoon. It was necessary to go from house to house to reach them and in conjunction with the infantry our carriers, equipped with flamethrowers, were used for the first time, while our 17 pounders fired from the flank at the houses known to be occupied by the enemy. B Company consolidated the position and the total result was a 300 meter advance, some minor casualties, 8 prisoners

and many enemy dead on the field. In the course of the evening we were again under fire from their artillery and mortars.

On October 2, 1944, according to official documents, Robert, aged 20, was killed in action. Nothing has been found about the circumstances under which.

Robert is temporarily buried on 3 October 1944 at the church of St. Lenaarts. On June 20, a reburial will follow in the Canadian cemetery in Bergen op Zoom. Robert is buried in plot 5, row E, grave 4.

Robert has been awarded the 1939-1945 Star, the French-German Star, the War Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.



Citation:

https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/9145/images/42127_83024005550_0125-00291?treeid=&personid=&rc=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=FTH6&_phstart=successSource&pId=47682&backurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ancestry.ca%2Fsearch%2Fcategories%2F39%2F%3Fname%3DRobert%2BEarl_Baker%26death%3D1944-10-2%26location%3D3243%26priority%3Dcanada

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2641434?Robert%20Earl%20Baker>

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2641434/baker,-robert-earl/>

<https://blackwatchwardiary.blog/casualty-database/>

<https://blackwatchwardiary.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/oct-1944-diary.pdf>

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