



REGINALD GREENTREE

B/38800

About the family:

Reginald Greentree was born into the Greentree family and was one of 10 children of Thomas Patrick Greentree (1870-1956) and Clara Louise Greentree-Robarts (1872-1926). His father came to Canada from England at 14 and worked hard for his future. He bought and sold land—such as that where the present-day town of Drumheller is located in Alberta—and sold agricultural equipment, insurance, and real estate. Thomas Patrick was also very active socially in Drumheller, installing the first ferry, providing shelter for a detachment of the paramilitary North-West Mounted Police, starting the first school, and helping establish the Church of England there.

Besides Reginald, Thomas and Clara also lost their son, George Doveton, in war. He was killed on September 16, 1916, during WWI in Europe during the Battle of the Somme, serving with the Alberta Regiment. Reginald left school at 19 to go to work, eventually moving some 2,800 km east from western Canada to Sudbury, Ontario, where he worked as a warehouse clerk at the INCO nickel mine.

There he met Winnifred May Bolton (1918-1997) from Queensville, Ontario, whom he married on March 24, 1942. They then lived in Levack, Ontario. About eight months later, on November 17, 1942, their daughter Lloydette Fern Greentree was born in Sudbury. However, Reginald had enlisted in the Canadian army on July 22, 1942, to serve against the Axis powers and was therefore not present at the birth. Reginald would only see his daughter twice in his life, first during a Christmas leave from

December 22nd to 27th, 1942, and again from August 13th to 18th, 1943, before embarking for England.

Winnifred May did not remarry after the loss of Reginald. Lloydette Fern later married Robert Charles Copland (1939-1964), remained in Ontario, and eventually had two daughters and three sons, who in turn gave Reginald 12 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren to keep his memory alive. Lloydette Fern died on October 17th, 2017, in Welland, Ontario.

Military Affairs:

Reginald volunteered for the Signal Corps RCCS on July 22nd, 1942, at No. 2 District Depot in Sudbury, Ontario. His medical examination revealed that he had worked in warehouses for approximately seven years, and he was initially assigned as a warehouse worker at the RCCS. He indicated that he had not actually wanted that work and, if possible, wanted to be assigned as an operator. This was approved, and he was sent to the central training camp Barriefield CSTC (Canadian Signals Training Centre) in Kingston, Ontario.

In April 1943, he arrived in England, where he then went on to the 1 CSRU (Canadian Signals Reinforcement Unit) in Southwood, Blandford, Hampshire, for further training. In April, he successfully completed a course in "mining and booby traps." He was ultimately assigned to the 1st Line of Communications, which provided both cable and road communications for units of the 1st Canadian Army.

After his arrival in France on June 29, 1944, nothing is known about his actions on the continent until his death on December 16, 1944. That Saturday, December 16, 1944, was a dark day for the Allies and the inhabitants of Antwerp. Hoping to halt the Allied advance and regain control of the port of Antwerp, the Germans launched their Ardennes Offensive, supported by massive launches of V1 and V2 weapons aimed at Antwerp and Liège.

Antwerp had been bombarded with V-weapons since October 1944, but this day stands out as the one with the highest casualties. There are records of at least nine other V-bomb impacts in the city that day, resulting in a total of 679 fatalities. In addition, many other bombs fell, causing only material damage.

The most dramatic was the V2 that struck Cinema Rex at 3:23 p.m., where some 1,200 spectators were watching the film "The Plainsman" starring Gary Cooper. The projectile's explosive charge, weighing over 730 kg, claimed 567 lives: 296 soldiers and 271 civilians.

On that afternoon, Reginald Greentree and others were returning from leave in Brussels with a 60cwt truck when it was hit by a V1 flying bomb near Brasschaat/Maria-ter-Heide. There were 13 fatalities, including Reginald, and 9 others were injured. Of the 13 victims, 11 were Signalmen from the RCCS, and the other two soldiers were from other regiments.

They were all ultimately buried in Bergen op Zoom. Six of the Signalmen are buried side by side in row 05 G, and the others are all buried in the surrounding area.

Reginald is also commemorated on a memorial column erected in 2012 in Drumheller, Alberta, Canada, where he spent several years of his youth.

Details:

Upon entering service, Reginald received C\$1.30 per day. After the birth of his daughter, this was increased to C\$1.40 on January 1, 1943, and a month later to C\$1.50 per day.

After his death, the army paid Reginald C\$485.58 in War Service Gratuity for 879 days of service.

In the settlement of his estate with his wife, Winnifred May Greentree, it was recorded that he had saved eight C\$10 War Savings Certificates, two C\$50 Victory Loan Bonds, made 81 payments of C\$1.30 to a life insurance policy, and owned C\$300 worth of household goods.

Source:

RCCS/1st Line of Communication badge:

[http://www.rcsig.ca/index.php/File:21_Army_Group_Signals_ww2_formation_badge_\(felt\).jpg](http://www.rcsig.ca/index.php/File:21_Army_Group_Signals_ww2_formation_badge_(felt).jpg)

Family history and photos of Reginald's parents: Thomas Patrick Greentree

<https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/MXVY-CLV/thomas-patrick-greentree-1870-1956>

Obituary Lloydette Copland – Greentree

<https://www.cudneyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Lloydette-Fern-Copland?obId=11033077>

Websites V1 and V2 attacks on Belgium:

<https://pieterserrien.be/boeken/elke-dag-angst/overzicht-v-inslagen-op-belgie/>

<https://www.vergeltungswaffen.be/>

Drumheller cenotaph

<https://www.drumhellermail.com/news?limit=3&md=details&mfvrt=add%27&start=8988>

<https://www.drumhellermail.com/news/10951-four-names-to-be-added-to-cenotaph>

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