No photo available

WILLIAM LLOYD HOLLETT **F/11177**
Private

Personal matters.

William Lloyd Hollett was born on September 9, 1913, in Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia. He was unmarried and lived at 8 Queen Street, Sydney Mines. He was the son of Leonard Hollett and Leah Hollett (maiden name unknown), who married on June 30, 1910, in Sydney Mines. They lived in New Waterford, Nova Scotia; his mother later moved to Clyde Avenue in Sydney Mines. He had one older brother, Clifford E. (service number F/75687), and seven younger sisters: Ada, Irene, May, Mildred, Margaret, Evelyn, and Rosalyn. The first four were already married. His father worked as a miner. He attended public school for only nine years, completing Grade 8. Disliking school, he even ran away for a week at one point. He left school at the age of 16 and subsequently worked in the Sydney Mines coal mines for 12 years. His hobbies and favorite sports are unknown.

Military affairs.

He enlisted with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment in Sydney Mines on September 8, 1939. His service file does not clearly indicate where or when he received his training and education. It is notable, however, that he spent over four months in Great Britain in 1942; he later departed for Great Britain for good via Halifax, Nova Scotia, on April 4, 1944, and proceeded to France on September 3, 1944. He was killed in action on October 26, 1944, during the fighting around Huijbergen. He was initially buried at the Huijbergen cemetery (SH3, Map Ref. 664198)—located on the road to Bergen op Zoom, southwest of the church—and was subsequently reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom (Plot 04, Row C, Grave 07).

Details.

• His headstone bears the inscription: "Only those who have lost can tell the pain of parting without farewell."
• He received the following decorations: the 1939-45 Star, the France and Germany Star, the War Medal, and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp.
• His total earnings over more than five years of active service amounted to $597.04 (Canadian), including final pay. It is likely that not all payments were recorded in his service file, as this amount seems very low.
• It is surprising that the CWGC states in all documents—and even on his headstone—that he was 33 years old at the time of his death. He would have been 31 (born in 1913, died in 1944).
• His service file contains little additional information of interest about him. No photograph of him was found either.
• Very little additional information was found via Google or Wikipedia, either.
• https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/715637
This site features a photograph of his headstone.
• https://www.canadianletters.ca/document-63777.html
This site features a fairly detailed letter he wrote during his first stay in Great Britain. Dated June 9, 1942, and addressed to his father, the letter offers a good impression of his daily life.

Sources consulted for this story:

1. https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/715637
2. https://www.canadianletters.ca/collections/469/H.html
3. https://www.canadianletters.ca/document-63777.html

Story compiled by H. v. R., Faces to Graves Bergen op Zoom.