

**BELVEAL, Norman Adrian**  
**Lance Corporal**  
**Sherbrooke Fusiliers Regiment**  
**Royal Canadian Armoured Corps**



Norman Adrian Belveal was born on May 14, 1924. His parents, Helmi and Eugene Henry (Harry) Belveal, and their two children, Melvin and Mildred, were living at Simoom Sound, but Norman was born in Sointula BC at the birthing house in Kaleva. He was delivered by midwife Edla Malm, who attended at many of the island's births in the early years. After Norman came four more children: Marian; Lorraine, who died when she was just a toddler; Robert; and Evert.

His mother Helmi Seiti Riksman was born in Enso, Finland on September 22 1901.

On January 30 1930 the family suffered a great loss when Helmi Belveal (29) succumbed to tuberculosis, or "galloping consumption," as it was known at the time, leaving her husband and six children without a mother.

Evert, the youngest child, was just two weeks old when his mother died. Following Helmi's death, Melvin and Norman remained with their father at Simoom Sound, while Robert, Mildred and Evert came to Sointula to live with their maternal grandparents, Matti and Katri Riksman, who were original Sointula settlers. Marian was taken in and cared for by a family living on the mainland.

## Family Belveal

Harry Belveal and Helmi Riksman had seven kids. Norman was the third in the row and daughter Lorraine died as a baby. The name of the father of Norman used to be Eugene Henry (Harry) Bassler and he was born on January 8 1896 in Seattle Washington (USA). He died in November 1951. His parents, former Swiss, died by a rail accident. And Harry came to Canada at the age of fifteen. He grew up in the Belveal family and he changed his family name from Bassler into Belveal. He also enlisted in the army.

Harry and Helmi had met each other when Harry was nursed in the Alert Bay Hospital (BC) by nurse Helmi. Quickly after that they got married.

Norman and his brother Melvin attended school at Simoom Sound. After his schooling was finished Norman worked at fishing and hand logging in the Fife Sound area. He bought himself a little boat, the Four Bits, that he was very proud of, according to sister Mildred. The Second World War had started by this time, and when he was 18 years old, Norman enlisted in the army. He was posted to the Sherbrooke Fusiliers Regiment, which was sent first to Britain and then into Europe in 1944, where it joined the Allied offensive against the Germans.

In the later stages of the war, the Sherbrooke Fusiliers were part of the operation to liberate the Netherlands from Nazi occupation. On April 2, 1945, Lance Cpl Norman Belveal was leading a troop of tanks, and as they entered the village of Wehl, the head tank received a direct hit from an enemy shell, killing Norman and two troopers. It was just weeks before what would have been his twenty-first birthday, and barely a month before the capitulation of Germany and the end of the war in Europe.

In May of 2013, the village council of Wehl (Doetinchem) designated a new residential street as the Norman Belveal Straat. Norman is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands, grave **XX. E. 4.**

In 2013 Norman's sister Mildred (93) and brother Robert (84) are still living.

Life story: ICB-Holten

