

HODGSON, SAMUEL NEWTON

Private

G49408

**Lake Superior, Motor Regiment
RCIC**



Samuel, known as Sammy in the family, was born 26 October, 1922 at Charters Settlement, New Maryland, York County, New Brunswick in Canada. One of ten children, he was the son of Samuel Newton Hodgson, who was of Irish descent, and Catherine M. of Fredericton, New Brunswick; they had married in July 1913.

Samuel stated later that he was of the Baptist faith. The family moved to South Devon NB where Samuel attended Devon Superior School until grade VIII. He had many friends and was popular at school; as a teenager he belonged to the Devon Hockey Club and was known for his clean sportsmanship.

According to army records, Samuel left school at age 16 and joined the reserve army a year later; he felt himself qualified as a carpenter and hoped to continue as a carpenter after the war. He had been born on a farm but was not interested. in becoming a farmer.

MILITARY INFORMATION

In April 1941 Samuel enlisted in the Royal Canadian Engineers and spent the first half year training in Fredericton NB and Petawawa, Ontario. At this time he was described as being 5 ft 7 in tall with fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. His father had died and two of his brothers were serving in the armed



forces. Samuel was to spend the next two and a half years training in England,. His unit came to Halifax, Nova Scotia. in October 1943, boarded ship and arrived in Greenock, Scotland ten days later.

Stationed in the southern England, he began a three month training as a blacksmith, qualifying as a helper; he continued as a blacksmith until June 1943 and then changed direction completely to become a cook after a seven week course. At this point he was a Sapper in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Engineers.



Seven weeks after D Day, Samuel with his unit arrived in France, 26 July, 1944; he was then posted to the infantry with the Lake Superior Regiment which had converted to a motor battalion and been given a fleet of universal carriers. For the ten remaining months of the war, the LSR fought its way through France. To Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. It was involved in the fierce battle of Falaise Pocket in Normandy, leading to the Chambois battle in the same area in August. Over the next five weeks the LSR worked its way some 200 kilometers in the direction of Antwerp where it took part in the Scheldt fighting during October and early November; this was aimed at freeing the port so that it could be used for shipping much needed supplies to the forces.

As winter approached the LSR continued on its way eastward through the Limburg provinces of Belgium and the Netherlands and towards the Rhine in Germany. The weather worsened and after the frost there was considerable rainfall, coupled with deliberate German flooding, which made transport very difficult at times. On 18 February, 1945, Samuel Hodgson was wounded and admitted to the Canadian General Hospital for a short time. He then rejoined his unit.

By early February 1945 the LSR was engaged in the Veen battle, close to the old Roman city of Xanten. Nowhere was fighting more fierce than in this region, in the last months of the war. Near the small village of Issum, by Kandershof on the right hand side of the road running east, Private Samuel Hodgson was killed in action on 9th March, 1945. The commanding officer in his letter to Samuel's mother wrote that he was temporarily buried in a cemetery five miles south of Xanten. A few months later his body was transferred to the Canadian War Cemetery, Groesbeek.



Old gravemarker



Samuel was survived by four brothers, two of whom were also in the forces; Gunner William was serving in Italy and Corporal Charles was stationed in England. Of his five sisters, Lois was in the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC).

Forty soldiers belonging to the Lake Superior Regiment lie in the Canadian War Cemetery, Groesbeek. Together with Samuel Hodgson, three others were killed between 8 - 12 March 1945.



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek

Life story Gwyn de Jong, Research Team Faces To Graves.

Source:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

Photos and information: Judy Henderson

Daily Gleaner: March 1945 – *Another Devon Boy Killed In Action On The Western Front*

*Pte. Samuel N. Hodgson, Arrived in England on His Eighteenth
Birthday - Was With Reserve Army When 17*

Has Two Brothers Overseas, One Fighting in Italy, One in England

Another young man from South Devon has given his life in the present war. Mrs. Catherine Hodgson, South Devon, being notified yesterday by the Department of National Defense, Ottawa, that her son, Pte. Samuel N. Hodgson, had been killed on the Western Front.

Pte. Hodgson was the son of the late Samuel Hodgson and Mrs. Catherine Hodgson, South Devon, and was born at New Maryland 21 years ago. When he was a small child the family removed to South Devon and he attended the Devon Superior School. In 1941 he joined the Reserve Army and when volunteers were asked for from that unit for the active army, he was one of those who offered. He enlisted in the R.C.E. and received his basic training at No. 70 C.A. (I.) T.C., Fredericton and at Petawawa. In October 1941 he went overseas and arrived there on his eighteenth birthday. He was stationed in England for three years and went to France in the summer of 1944 and was a cook with the R.C.E. and later transferred to the infantry. In January last he was wounded and spent a short time in hospital and then rejoined his unit. He was killed a few days ago. He had a great many friends, was popular with his schoolmates and others and his death is deeply regretted. He is survived by his mother, four brothers, Gnr. William Hodgson, in Italy; Cpl. Charles Hodgson, in England; Gordon Hodgson and Robert Hodgson, at home; and five sisters, Mrs. Howard B. Jones, South Devon; Mrs. Hiram McKeen, Halifax, N.S., Pte. Lois Hodgson, C.W.A.C., Halifax; Dorothy Hodgson and Marion Hodgson, at home.

Before entering the army he was a member of the Devon Hockey Club and the Baseball Club and known for his clean sportsmanship.

H.Q. 405-H-23,231 D.R. 2(D)

25th May, 1945

Mrs. Catherine Hodgson,
South Devon, York Co., N.B.

Dear Madam:

Information has now been received from the overseas military authorities that your son, B49408 Private Samuel Newton Hodgson, was buried with religious rites in a temporary grave located at a point approximately 5 miles South of Xanten, Germany.

The grave will have been temporarily marked with a wooden cross for identification purposes and in due course the remains will be reverently exhumed and removed to a recognized military burial ground when the concentration of graves in the area takes place. On this being completed the new location will be advised to you, but for obvious reasons it will likely take approximately one year before this information is received.

Yours faithfully,

C. B. Radine
for C.L. Laurin, Colonel,
Director of Records,
for Adjutant-General.

/JLH

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