

**Merpaw, William Leo**  
**Private**  
**Argyll and Sutherland**  
**Highlanders of**  
**Canada (Princess Louise's)**  
**C 1022993**



William Leo Merpaw was born 6 July, 1924 in Cornwall, Ontario, the son of Neil and May Merpaw, a boy with brown eyes and hair and a dark skin. The family was Roman Catholic and there were six children, four boys and two girls: the sons, William, Leonard, Cornelius, Dalton and the girls, Agnes and Lula.

William went first to the Centre Ward Boys' Separate School, then the Gonzaga High School and later to the Cornwall Collegiate Vocational School until he was fifteen years of age. He and his brother Leonard sang in the St Columban's church choir. He went to work at the Cornwall Pants and Prince Clothing Company and later at Cornwall Chemicals; he also worked at his father's ice factory, Merpaw and Merpaw Ice.

On 4 March, 1943, Leo joined the army in Cornwall with the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders Regiment where he received his basic training; later he was transferred to Camp Borden, Ontario where he obtained his driving license. After five months, he was given leave which he spent at home in Cornwall. Then he left for England on 14 August, 1943 where he stayed for his last training course.



*William*

William Leo was then attached to the Canadian Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regiment, arriving in France on 19 July, 1944. Via France and Belgium, he reached the Netherlands where on 30 January, 1945, he was killed. He was 20 years old. He was buried temporarily in a field north of the Catholic cemetery in Orthen, 's-Hertogenbosch. In January, 1947 he was reburied in the Canadian Military Cemetery, Groesbeek.

Plot **XV. H. 9.**

Text on the gravestone: Heb.13.1 Let brotherly love continue





## FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian  
War Graves Groesbeek

Life story: Fred Hulsman, Research Team Faces to Graves.

Source:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Library and Archives Canada  
Family Merpaw  
Family Beisselgel



**PTE. WILLIAM L. MERPAW**

Son of Neil Merpaw, 5 Lauber Avenue, who arrived "Somewhere in England" on Friday, September 3, according to a cablegram received.

Born in Cornwall on July 15, 1923, and attended the Centre Ward Boys' Separate School, Gonzaga High School and Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational School. Was employed at Cornwall Pants and Prince Clothing Company and was in the service of Cornwall Chemicals Limited when he enlisted in the S., D. and G. Highlanders, at Cornwall, in March, 1943. He took his basic training in Cornwall and was transferred to Camp Borden, where he became a driver. He spent his furlough with his family in Cornwall and left for overseas the last week in August. His address is C-102993 Pte. Merpaw, W.L., No. 4 C.I.R.P., Canadian Army Overseas.

Pte. Merpaw has a brother, Leonard Merpaw, in the R.C.N.V.R., in training in Montreal.

*8 februari 1945 Cornwall Standard Freedholder*

## City Soldier Dies In Action

Nell Merpaw, 218 McGregor Avenue, was notified yesterday that one of his sons, C-102993 Pte. William Leo Merpaw, had been officially reported killed in action overseas. The young Cornwall soldier has been overseas since September 3,



PTE. WILLIAM MERPAW

1943, and went into action July 8, 1944.

Pte. William L. Merpaw was born in Cornwall on July 15, 1923, and attended the Centre Ward Boys' Separate School, Gonzaga High School and Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational School. He was employed at Cornwall Pants and Prince Clothing Company and later was in the service of Cornwall Chemicals Limited. He enlisted in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, at Cornwall, in March, 1943, and took his basic training in Cornwall and was transferred to Camp Borden, where he became a driver. He spent his furlough at his home in Cornwall and left for overseas the last week in August, 1943.

He has a brother, Ordinary Seaman Leonard Merpaw, in the R.C.N. V.R., on the high seas.

Besides his parents, he leaves two sisters and three brothers. Mrs. Gordon Davidson, Miss Eulalia Merpaw, Cornelius Merpaw and Dalton Merpaw, all in Cornwall; and Ordinary Seaman Leonard Merpaw.