

Stewart Irvine McGrouther

Corporal

The Royal Regiment of Canada



B-70329



Stewart Irvine McGrouther

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Stewart Irvine McGrouther was born 20 March 1918 in Toronto, Canada. The family McGrouther so far as is known at that moment consisted of his father Peter, born in Scotland, his mother Louise, (also known as Annie), born 1874 in Ontario and his sister Gladys, born 1907 also in Ontario.

Peter left Scotland in 1903 and emigrated to Canada. He and Louise married probably in 1908. The family lived at 1134 A College Street, Toronto and later moved to 39 Glenn Park Avenue, North York, Toronto.



Forest Hill Public School

Stewart Irvine attended the Forest Hill Public School and completed grade 8; after that he had technical training at the Northern Vocational School in Toronto.

There was enthusiasm for sport at this school with many sport facilities. Stewart was keen on athletics and (ice?) hockey. In his free time he liked to use his hands and work with wood.



Northern Vocational School

On 21 September 1940 Stewart married Alberta Agnes Garlick. She was also born in 1918 in Simcoe , Ontario. They lived at 536 Woburn Avenue, North York, Toronto. On 24 August 1942 they became the proud parents of a daughter, Carolyn Louise. By that time, Stewart McGrouther was already in military service.

MILITARY INFORMATION:

Stewart was called up 9 April, 1942 under the National Resources and Mobilization Act (NRMA). He began as a soldier with the Queen's York Rangers and did his basic training course in New Market, Ontario.



Basic Training Course



The Queen's York Rangers worked in defense as part of Military District no. 2 unit until it was disbanded 15 October 1943. More than 2000 Rangers served in the second world war but those that went to Europe were transferred to other regiments.

After this, Stewart was transferred 29 June 1942 to Camp Borden, by the Canadian Army Medical Corps Training Centre. Almost a year later, 18 May 1943 in the same camp, he changed to the Canadian Infantry Training Centre.



Camp Borden



The army leaders were very positive about Stewart. After an interview with an officer in the Chippawa Barracks, the Captain reported:

Chippawa Barracks.

“Unusually good mechanical aptitude and more than average in intelligence and general learning ability. Sufficient for training in any technical line. Has had good general practical experience and seems to be an all-round general handyman. Has done some domestic plumbing and pipe fitting and has been a carpenter. has constructed his own house. interview disclosed considerable degree of initiative. Man should be reliable and steady. Is well adjusted and would appear to be capable of assuming responsibilities and discharging them satisfactorily. Has had exceptionally good office experience in civilian life and good general business practice. Also good driving experience. Stability and deportment good. Satisfactory as Clerk in Q.M. stores (storeman), Clerk in orderly Room, Driver or Mechanic”.

Before his journey to Europe, Stewart was taken from the General List and transferred to the Royal Regiment of Canada, Canadian Infantry Corps, 24 August, 1943.

This became part of the 4th Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit and arrived in England 1 September 1943. Stewart had become a chauffeur, 8 June 1944 from Mech, M.V. class C.



The Royal Regiment of Canada left England 3 July 1944 for the battlefield in France, arriving the next day as part of the 4th Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division. They later took part in the fighting in Northwest Europe until the war ended the following year.

On 25 July 1944, Stewart was promoted to Lance Corporal and on 29 August to Acting Corporal. According to his superiors his work was so good that by 29 November he became a full Corporal.

Fighting all the way on the mainland of Europe, the Royal Regiment proceeded in the direction of the Netherlands. They took part in the Falais Pocket (August), Dunkirk (September), Schelde (October/November), Woensdrecht and Zuid-Beveland (October).



'Buffalo' amphibious vehicles, bringing forces from the Canadian Army to the other shore of the river Scheldt.

After heavy fighting (Operations Veritable and Blockbuster etc.). The regiment went in the direction of Groningen in order to free the rest of the Netherlands from the Nazi occupation.

The Final Days:

The 2nd Canadian Army Corps had taken up new positions by the Nijmegen bridgehead with four divisions along the front line from Nijmegen via the Zeeland islands to Dunkirk, a distance of about 320 kilometers.



On 25 December, 1944, the 2nd Canadian Division, with Stewart McGrouther was placed as reserve across from the Reichswald forest, between Cuijk and Groesbeek. The most important mission of the 2nd Army Corps was the defence of Nijmegen.

Soldiers of the Royal Regiment of Canada are standing in line for a refreshment of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. War Service Overseas.

Eight days after the beginning of Operation Veritable, 16 February 1945, Stewart found himself in the Nijmegen area. The Royal Regiment of Canada was part of this operation that was meant to drive back the German occupiers to the other side of the Rhein.

Around 11 am on 16 February, Corporal Stewart Irvine McGrouther was busy with his colleagues unloading a lorry. Stewart had laid his stengun on a pile of mortar grenades. For an unknown reason, the stengun went off and Stewart was struck in the chest by a bullet from his own weapon. Three colleagues were witness to this ill-fated accident.

The medical services were called immediately and his wound treated; he was brought to the 10th Force Surgeon Unit (FSU) in Nijmegen. The exact location is not known. Around 13.30 Stewart underwent an operation but it was not successful. Around half an hour later he died from his wounds.



On 24 February 1945 Stewart was buried in a temporary grave in Jonker Bosch cemetery in Nijmegen. His final resting place is in the Canadian War Cemetery, Groesbeek where his remains were buried 26 July 1945, Plot 4 - Row A - Grave 7

Campaign Medals:



1.

5.



2.



3.



4.



- | | | | |
|----|--|----|-----------------------|
| 1. | 1939 - 1946 Star | 2. | France & Germany Star |
| 3. | Defence Medal | 4. | 1939 - 1945 War Medal |
| 5 | Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp | | |

CPL. STEWART IRVINE McGROUTHER, 27, was killed in action in Holland, his wife, who lives on Woburn Ave., North York, has been informed. He also had served in France and Belgium. He was born in Toronto and had attended Forest Hill public school and Northern Vocational school. He enlisted in April, 1942, and trained in Newmarket, Camp Borden and Petawawa. He married Alberta Gaeleck in 1940. Surviving besides his widow and one daughter, Lynn, are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. McGrouther, Glen Park Ave., North York.

M.F.M. 267
S.M.C. 44 (2034)
H.Q. 1772-381988

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

CC FILE H.Q. 405-31,368

CASUALTY (REPORT DELIVERY) OTTAWA 20TH FEBRUARY 1945

TO:-
MRS ALBERTA A MCGROUTHER
536 WOBURN AVE
TORONTO 12 ONT
35471

REGRET DEEPLY B70329 CORPORAL STEWART IRVINE

MCGROUTHER HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY REPORTED TO HAVE DIED SIXTEENTH FEBRUARY 1945 AS RESULT OF ACCIDENTAL INJURIES STOP YOU SHOULD RECEIVE FURTHER DETAILS BY MAIL DIRECT FROM THE UNIT IN THE THEATRE OF WAR STOP TO PREVENT POSSIBLE AID TO OUR ENEMIES DO NOT DIVULGE DATE OF CASUALTY OR NAME OF UNIT

PREPAID DIRECTOR OF RECORDS

Newspaper announcement of Stewart's death.

Spouse Alberta received telex of Stewart's death.



Stewart Irvine McGROUTHER

Lest We Forget

Archief:

Military service files of Corporal Stewart Irvine McGrouther, obtained from Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Internet Sites:

<http://www.cwgc.org/>

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>

<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk>

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/category.aspx?cat=39>

<http://www.thequeensowncameronhighlandersofcanada.net>

<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/Canada/CA/Victory/>

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca>

<http://www.100yearsoffreedom.ca/en/history.html>



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek

Story is composed by Hennie Koster - Researcher Faces To Graves.