

McIntyre, Roy Joseph

Private

G1486

Lake Superior Regiment (Motor)



Roy Joseph McIntyre was one of Edna (Mary) McIntyre and Roy McIntyre's ten children. He was born on January 29th, 1925 in Fredericton, and was raised in Saint John, New Brunswick. He lived on 140 Carmarthen Street in Saint John for his entire life. Roy had two sisters and eight brothers. Four of his older brothers, Harold, Raymond, Arthur and Alan were overseas at the time of his enlistment. He lived with his two sisters Helen and Edith, as well as his younger brother Douglas. Three of his brothers had been living elsewhere. Roy was familiar with the military, and longed to one day be a part of it just like his brothers, who were idols he looked up to.

Roy was raised in the Anglican Church. In his free time, Roy enjoyed playing baseball, cards, pool and bowling. Detective and comic magazines sparked his interest as well. When Roy was fourteen, he completed grade six after repeating a grade. He liked arithmetic the most out of all of his classes.

Roy had been a working man for years before his enlistment. He worked as a delivery boy, a meat cutter and a truck driver. At the time of his enlistment, he was working at the Saint John Dry Dock, helping with acetylene work. He wished to return to his former job after he served.

Roy stated that he had been supporting his mother, his sister Helen, and his brother Douglas at the time of his enlistment. His parents were separated but not divorced. He was closest to his mother Edna, with

whom he chose to live. Roy was unsure of his father's occupation and address as they did not keep in touch.

Military Background: Since June 1941, Roy had taken part in the non-permanent active militia reserve force with the Saint John Fusiliers. He also attended two summer camps in Woodstock where he worked as a meat cutter. He was a part of the weekly drill periods regularly.

Roy enlisted on the 9th of June, 1943 at the age of eighteen. He wished to be assigned to the Canadian Armored Corps (C.A.C.) as one of his brothers was there. When he enlisted, he was five foot eight inches tall and weighed one hundred and thirty-three pounds. He had a slim build and a youthful appearance. He had no health problems that would set him back in the battlefield.

Roy registered in Saint John and went to Fredericton for training. His next stop was Borden, Ontario where he would attend a second training camp. At this time, he qualified as a class three driver. On May 5th, 1944, Roy began his journey to the United Kingdom, arriving six days later. On May 11th, 1944, Roy was taken on strength as a trooper for the C.A.C. Roy fractured his hand while doing hand springs at 10:30 am on August 14th, 1944. This was the second fracture. He had sustained a similar injury on July 10th along with a concussion after taking part in a "scuffle" over a personal matter with a Trooper G.O. Cox while training in Bagshot. He left England on September 18th and headed to France. In October, he became a part of the Lake Superior Regiment for the first time.

The Culmination of his Life: The Lake Superior Regiment left for Britain on August 22, 1942. On July 26th and 27th, 1944, they arrived in France as part of the Fourth Armoured Brigade (Fourth Canadian Armoured Division), and continued their fight in North West Europe until the end of the war. The Lake Superior Regiment was in Normandy on July 20th, 1944. The task at this time was to assist in pushing away the German military and surrounding them in France. The Lake Superior's would fight through France, Belgium, Holland, and into Germany over the next ten months. This trip to Holland would change history for Canadian military, because the Lake Superior Regiment became the first in the Canadian army to take part and sink ships. This took place around St. Phillipsland during the battle of the Scheldt. At this time, the Lake Superior Unit bombarded the enemy naval vessels in the harbor at Zijpe. The tanks of the British Columbia Regiment were there to help them in the attack. The Lake Superior Regiment used anti-tank guns, three-inch mortars, and six pounders as their weapons of destruction. The Germans lasted only fifteen minutes before they decided to cease fire. The Lake Superior Regiment and the British Columbia Regiment claimed their victory.

There was a new sense of fierceness in the weeks that followed the return of the Lake Superiors to the Maas. These were weeks of non-stop patrolling in hopes of obtaining information. The Canadians and the Germans were both inspired to fight harder. The weather was cold and damp, and walking as well as driving became more difficult and dangerous as snow gathered.

Operation Veritable (originally planned for January) would begin in early February. This operation involved Canada and the United Kingdom against Germany. The objective was to clear the German forces from the area between the Rhine and the Maas Rivers. The plan was to cut off the vital manufacturing industries after crossing to the west bank of the Rhine. This would disable Germany and their means to continue fighting.

Lest We Forget: On February 17th, 1945, Edna McIntyre was sent a letter notifying her of her son's death. The letter stated what was known immediately about the death of her son, and that further details they received would be passed down to her immediately.

Roy was killed in action in Holland on February 5th, 1945. He was twenty years old. He died while with the armoured Lake Superior Regiment, he was first buried at the temporary burial ground in 's-Hertogenbosch.

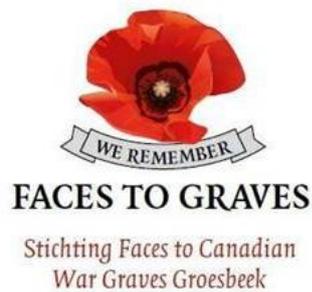
Later Roy was reburied in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. Grave reference **XV. H. 13.**

Awards: Roy's time serving in the war was greatly appreciated. To show the value of his service, he was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the France and Germany Star, the War Medal for 1939-45, the CVSM and Clasp.

Private Roy Joseph McIntyre

Lest We Forget

Biography courtesy of the Lest We Forget initiative of Belleisle Regional High School located in Springfield, New Brunswick.



Biography made available for Faces To Graves, with courtesy of Stephen Wilson, Belleisle Regional High School.

Bibliography:

Photo: Ancestry

Stanley, George .F In the Face of Danger: The History of the Lake Superior Regiment. Port Arthur, Ontario: The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment, 1960.

Archival Reference:

Military service files of Roy Joseph McIntyre obtained from Library and Archives Canada.

Internet Sites:

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial>

<http://www.army-armee.forces.gc.ca/en/lake-superior-scottish-regiment/index.page>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lake_Superior_Scottish_Regiment

http://www.ancestry.ca/genealogy/records/roy-joseph-mcintyre_127863354

<http://www.canadianbattlefieldtours.ca/>

<http://canadaatwar.ca/>

<http://www.thunderbaymuseum.com/exhibits/virtual-exhibits/lake-superior-regiment/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Veritable

17th February, 1945.

Mrs. Edna McIntyre,
140 Calmaithen Street,
Saint John, N.B.

Dear Mrs. McIntyre:

It was with deep regret that I learned of the death of your son, G1486 Private Roy Joseph McIntyre, who gave his life in the Service of his Country in the Western European Theatre of War on the 5th day of February, 1945.

From official information we have received, your son was killed in action against the enemy. You may be assured that any additional information received will be communicated to you without delay.

The Minister of National Defence and the Members of the Army Council have asked me to express to you and your family their sincere sympathy in your bereavement.

We pay tribute to the sacrifice he so bravely made.

Yours sincerely,
A.C. SPENCER
BRIGADIER
Acting Adjutant-General

FEB 17 1945

(A.C. Spencer),
Brigadier,
Acting Adjutant-General.

*Mum's mother
22.2.45
/EMA*



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Letter send to his mother from Library and Archives.