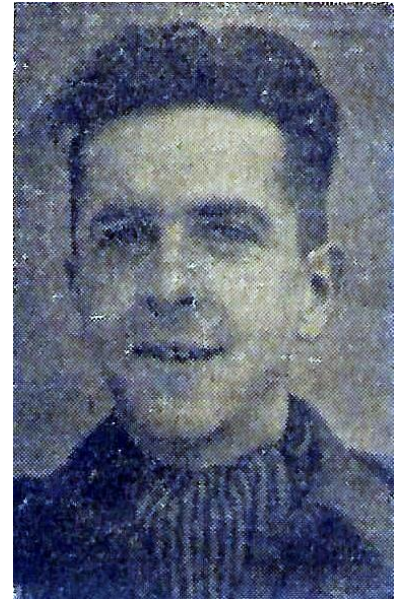


**McManus, John Francis**  
**Trooper**  
**British Columbia Regiment**  
**Royal Canadian Armoured Corps**  
**C/102995**



John Francis McManus of Arnprior, Ontario was born on Feb. 4, 1924, to Michael John McManus (1886-1967) and Loretta Hagarty (1897-1981). This Irish family comprised James Earl (1916), Thomas Anthony (1919), Mary Loretta (1921), Mary Isobel (1923); John Francis (1924-1945); Bernard Leo (1928); Mary Doreen (1931-1933) and Doris Marie (1934.)



Francis McManus had completed Grade 9 in high school and he had been working as a clerk for nine months with the Brewers Retail store in Arnprior.

He left that job to join up with the Royal Canadian Air Force but he was "short on education" according to his military records. However, he did enlist with the Canadian army on March 4, 1943 taking basic training in Ottawa, Ontario. His records showed he was five feet nine inches and weighed 130 pounds.

*Francis.*



Written on back " Taken in Holland Jan 22/45"  
Francis McManus standing 2nd from the right.

After disembarking in Britain on July 13, 1944, Trooper McManus went through training before he was shipped to the battlefield on Nov. 12, 1944, in Northwest Europe as a replacement soldier for this tank corps. He was a wireless operator and gun operator. His tank corps fought through France, Belgium, the Netherlands and then Germany.

During the Battle of the Rhineland in February and March 1945, his regiment took part in the attack on the Hochwald Forest and led a flanking advance toward the town of Veen, Germany. The Regiment fought some of its most violent battles in the Rhineland, suffering heavy casualties.

Trooper Francis McManus, 21, of Arnprior, Ontario died on March 8, 1945, of his battle wounds in Germany. He was a gun operator in 'A' Squadron, 28th Canadian Armoured. Regiment (British Columbia Regiment).

Trooper McManus was buried initially in a roadside cemetery near Xanten, Germany. Later his remains were exhumed and relocated to the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. His burial references are **XXV. B. 2.**

The inscription chosen by his family for the headstone reads:

“Beloved son  
of M.J. and L. McManus  
Arnprior, Ontario.  
May his soul rest in peace.”



*Francis at home in Arnprior.*



His father, Michael McManus in Arnprior, Ontario was sent his son's war medals which were the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp, the War Medal 1939-45, the 1939-1945 Star, and the France-Germany Star. His mother, Loretta McManus was sent the Memorial Cross.

Life story by Kurt Johnson





## FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian  
War Graves Groesbeek

Biography made available for Faces To Graves, with courtesy of Kurt Johnson.

### Tpr. Francis McManus Killed in Germany

ARNPRIOR, March 17. — (Special)—Mr. and Mrs. James McManus were advised Friday that their son, Trooper J. Francis McManus, had been killed in active service on German soil. He was 20 years of age last month.

Trooper McManus was only 18 years of age when he enlisted in March, 1943. He trained at Cornwall and Camp Borden and went overseas July 11, 1944. He remained in England until November last when as wireless operator and gunner he fought with a Canadian tank corps through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

8/3/45  
He was born in Arnprior and acquired all his education in the local separate and high schools. Surviving besides his parents are three brothers and three sisters—Earl with the R.C.A.S.C. at Camp Borden; Thomas of Chalk River, who served two years in the army and recently received his military discharge because of an injured spine; Leo, with the Bell Telephone Co., at Chalk River; Loretto, of Toronto, and Isobel and Doris at home.



*Francis on the right.*





Faces to Graves – cemetery find May 4, 2015.

