

Northrup, Talmage Alfred
Lance Corporal
G7329
Royal Canadian Army Service Corps
6th Canadian Infantry Brigade Coy



Personal Information: Talmage Alfred Northrup was born the 9th of February, 1917 in Apohoqui, Kings County, New Brunswick to Joseph and Letitia Northrup. He was the last of four children and the only son. His sisters were Pansey, Swanhild and Marion although Swanhild and Marion died before he turned 4 years old. He grew up on a farm and had 2 years of actual farm experience. He left school at the age of 17. He had completed a total of 8 years of schooling. On May 1st 1937, he married Geraldine and took on a job at the Saint John General Hospital as an ambulance driver. During their time in Saint John, they had 3 children; Roy Edward, Talmage Clyde and Clarke Windsor. He was 5'8", had brown hair and blue eyes. His dream was to learn and enter the chef trade.

Military Movements: Talmage enlisted October 22, 1940 with the 2nd Battalion Saint John Fusiliers. He was guaranteed his job back if he returned from war. On the 24th of October he was attached to the No. 7 Detachment Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC). Sadly, his son Talmage died the next day. He remained in Saint John for training for a total of 33 months. May 27th he was posted to the Motor Transportation section and by September 11th he qualified for his Driver Class III.

During his time in Saint John, Talmage was admitted to the hospital a couple of times for unknown reasons, once for over a month. From

September 9th to the 23rd of 1941 he was granted a leave as his daughter, Patricia Ann, was born on September 17th.

In July 1943 Talmage arrived at Camp Borden. There he re-qualified for his Driver Class III. A month later he was taken on strength by No. 2 Transit Camp Debert, Nova Scotia where he prepared for his voyage overseas on August 24th, 1943.

Talmage arrived in the United Kingdom on August 31st. While training in the UK he joined the 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade Company, part of the 2nd Canadian Division. On March 10th, 1943 another son, Clarke, passed away. Talmage left the UK on the 6th of July 1944, one month after D-Day, and arrived in France the 9th of July. On August 11th Talmage Northrup was promoted from private to Lance Corporal.

Talmage would remain part of the RCASC within the 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade. The role of the RCASC was to provide support to Canadian soldiers. They moved supplies from the rear areas to the front lines. They delivered all rations, ammunition, fuel and other necessities. They had a variety of vehicles at their disposal.

Final Days: The 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade along with the rest of the 2nd Canadian Division took part in Operation Veritable. The object of this operation was for the 21st Army Group to take the western bank of the Rhine River thus eliminating the German's army last solid defense. They would do this by attacking the three German lines one at a time. First the outpost screen, then the Siegfried Line and finally the Hochwald Layback.

The first advance took place the 8th of February, 1945. Following an artillery barrage, the 5th Brigade moved forward. Conditions were less than ideal after a winter of flooding. The brigade destroyed six of seven of the German battalions after navigating through flooded land and a minefield. The first line and 1300 prisoners were taken the first day of the operation.

The second phase was just as successful as the first although it did take a little more time. Four divisions were sent to attack the Siegfried Line which drove the German army back into the Reichswald Woods. By the 16th of February, the 2nd Division had laid fire on the German troops along the Goch-Calcar Road. On the 19th, the 2nd Division was accompanied by Armored Personnel Carriers (APC's) against fresh German soldiers. They took the Siegfried Line by the 21st of February. British and Canadian armies were prepared for the third and final phase.

Operation Blockbuster had begun. The Hockwald Layback was located between two forests: the Hochwald and the Walberger. The 2nd Division

led the attack on the Hochwald Gap on the 27th of February. They approached through the strongest opposition of the operation so far but managed to hold a firm position. Renewed attacks were sent the 1st of March to clear out the Hochwald. The 2nd division did a fine job of advancing and holding and by March 4th the German army was retreating.

Through the three lines, the attack maintained south-east onto Xanten. The retreating German army was part of their better units and they were able to retreat without much loss. The 2nd division fought hard and strong and finished up Operation Blockbuster between the 8th and 10th of March suffering some 300 losses and over 1100 wounded.

Talmage Northrup was killed the 14th of March, 1945 by enemy fire on German soil. The exact cause of his death is unknown but in his role within the RCASC, it could have been the result of enemy fire, shelling or a land mine.

Lest we Forget: Talmage Alfred Northrup was initially buried in temporary burial ground in Bedburg, Germany and was later reburied in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery in The Netherlands, grave reference **VIII. C. 5.**

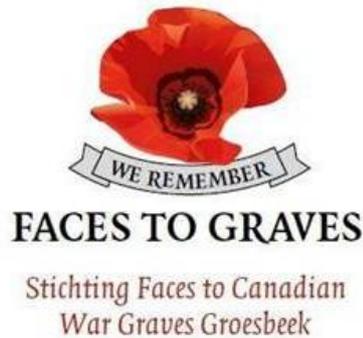
He was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the France & Germany Medal, the Defense Medal, the War Medal, the C.V.S.M & Clasp and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. Talmage died valiantly for his country doing what he thought was right. He was 28 years old when he died. The war would be over in Europe less than 2 months later.

Talmage Alfred Northrup

Lest We Forget

Biography by James Durnnian. (Courtesy of the Lest We Forget initiative of Belleisle Regional High School, Springfield, N.B.)

Video by a student at Belleisle Regional High School as part of the school's Lest We Forget initiative: <http://youtu.be/SLbKJ-CIYFQ>



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

Bibliography

Stacey, C.P. Official History of the Canadian Army in the Second World War, Volume III The Victory Campaign: The Operations in Northwest Europe, 1944-5. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1960

Warren, Arnold. Wait for the Wagon. Canada: McClelland and Stewart Limited, 1961

Internet Sites

<http://www.canadiansoldiers.com/organization/fieldforces/casf/2nddivision.htm>

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/war-dead/001056-119.01-e.php?&id_nbr=26891&interval=20&&PHPSESSID=99vkbeti6lrt7gt3oiorc8f784

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Archival Reference

Military service files of Lance Corporal Talmage Alfred Northrup obtained from Library and Archives Canada.