

**Pappelbaum, Sydney Sol**  
**Captain**  
**Royal Canadian Artillery**  
**14 Field Regt**



Sydney Sol Pappelbaum was born on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1919 in St. Jerome, Quebec, Canada as the youngest of four children. His parents, Leon and Martha Pappelbaum, raised their children according to Jewish tradition.



*Family photos.*

Syndney had a brother called Ernest Israel (who married Sarah Surkes) and two sisters; Edyth Pappelbaum (who married Irving Bucovetsky) and Sylvia Pappelbaum (who married Abe/Abraham Ofshitzer).



Sydney attended Willingdon Elementary Primary School. After that he studied Commerce at the McGill University for 3,5 years, for which he wins an award in 1942.



Sydney already joined the McGill University Contingent Canadian Officers' Training Corps (C.O.T.C.) on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1938.

He spoke English, French and Hebrew. In addition to his studies Sydney worked for his father as packer, salesman and shipper. He was a brilliant student and he got his Bachelor in Commerce, after which he wanted to be an accountant.



*McGill University*



He enlisted in the army on May 12th, 1942 in Montreal.

According to his military records, Sydney was 1.63 meters (5 foot 4) tall, had brown hair and hazel eyes.



Sydney's father Leon wanted to make sure he didn't join the army and remitted his registration. But Sydney did want to join the army to fight in the war with his friends and reregistered.

He went to the Officers Training Centre (O.T.C.) in Brockville, Ontario for basic training.

Sydney was promoted to 2nd Luitenant on August 8th, 1942 and he was promoted to 1st Luitenant on October 21st, 1942.

On December 13th, 1942, Sydney left for the UK with the 14th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA). In London, England, he stayed with a landlady called Gerie Bloom, who wrote Sydney's parents a letter to thank them for the financial contribution they gave her for this. *(letter at the bottom of this story)*

On August 25th, 1944, Sydney joined the 12<sup>th</sup> Batallion – Canadian Base Reinforcement Group (C.B.R.G.) and with this group he landed in France on August 26th, 1944.

On February 26th, 1945, Sydney was promoted to Captain with the 14th Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery (R.C.A.).

After the success of the airborne operation Varsity – the largest to ever occur in one single day – to secure the crossings over the river Rhine, the battle for the Rhine was continued. While delivering fire support to the battles at Rees in Germany, Sydney was hit by a shrapnel and died on the 29th of March 1945.

**CAPTAIN  
SYDNEY SOL PAPPELBAUM**

CAPTAIN SYDNEY SOL PAPPELBAUM, Royal Canadian Artillery, of Montreal, was killed in action on March 27, 1945, according to an official announcement. He was killed during the Rhine offensive and was buried in the Canadian Military Cemetery at Nijmegen, Holland.

Captain Pappelbaum first trained with the McGill University Canadian Officers Training Corps. He enlisted in the army in May, 1942, qualified for his commission at Brockville and Petawawa and went overseas in December, 1942, with the 14th Royal Canadian Regiment. He was promoted to captain shortly before he met his death.

Born in St Jerome, Que., on June 2, 1919, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Pappelbaum of 4855 Queen Mary Road. He graduated from West Hill High School and won a prize on his graduation from the school of commerce at McGill University before entering the army in 1942.



Sydney Pappelbaum

A newspaper article from April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1945 states that the family receives, only a few days before the announcement of Sydney's death that he was promoted to Captain. A Jewish memorial service was held for him at Sydney's parents' home.

Sydney was initially buried at the temporary cemetery at Rosau Farm near Bienen.

*Temporary grave in Bienen.*



On the 26th of August 1945, Sydney was reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave **XVII.H.14**.

Inscribed on his headstone: 'In loving memory of Sydney – His name liveth for ever'.

Inscribed in the star on his headstone: **ת ה ב צ נ ת** which is an abbreviation of a verse from the Bible, the first book of Samuel, 25:29, "May his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life."

Medals:

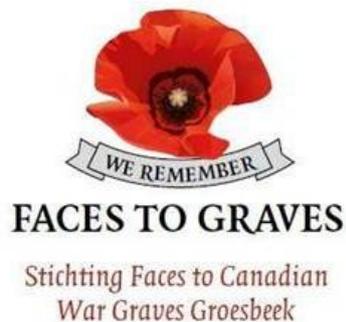
1939-1945 Star

French Germany Star

War Medal 1939-1945

Defence Medal

Canadian Volunteer Service War Medal with clasp



Life story Marian Straatman and Hennie Koster, Research Team Faces To Graves.



Source:

With appreciation to Sydney Sol Bucovetsky and the Elzas family for the information and photos. Commonwealth War Graves Commission Library and Archives Canada

*Photo Diana Venis-Kerkhoven*

44 Hove Manor  
Hove St  
Hove, Sussex

~~The Grange,~~  
~~6. Rinderry Road,~~  
~~Stamham Hill~~  
~~S.M.S.~~

4/12/44

Dear Mrs Ofshitzes, I was delighted to hear from you & think it extremely nice of you to bother to write. It gave us great pleasure to have Sydney any time he wishes to visit us he is more than welcome, he is so interesting to talk to, & is no bother to entertain, & we have always looked forward to his visits. I am sure you all miss him very much & I am sure he does, his family; We have seen you all in photographs he is very proud of his 'mom & dad' we saw a delightful photo of them I believe in Florida & another of the family out at dinner. I certainly am jealous of your type written letters, my writing is terrible but I had

not the patience <sup>2</sup> to learn to type, so  
I rarely write at all especially if the  
telephone is at hand; but you are  
just a little too far away to telephone.  
As you will see by the heading of my  
letter; (oh by the way excuse the crossed  
out address that was pre-war;) but the  
~~written address, you had the wrong~~  
number & the town is Hove.

You write that you have sent a parcel,  
I am sure it is very kind of you to do  
so, but you shouldn't do these things  
your letter was more than enough.

I have notified the sorting office of  
the wrong address as I presume the  
parcel carried the same address as the  
letter.

Nevertheless let me thank you Parents  
& yourself for the very kind thought;  
& by the way I promised my daughter to  
tell you she is not so small she is  
quite 11 years 6 months old, or should I have  
said almost twelve years old. She is  
having her tonsils out next week, so is  
feeling rather sorry for herself.

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I am not quite sure whether you are the sister with a small child or not, but I know I have seen some snaps of a little boy, I believe Sydney said it was his sister's little boy? Anyway if I wish the entire family well, I shall not be amiss, my husband joins me in wishing Sydney a speedy return to you all & when this beastly war is over we may have the pleasure of meeting you all  
With my best Regards  
Esterie Bloom

Years later Sydney's family received a letter from Mr. I. Elzas from Zutphen. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1947, Mr. Elzas wrote, via the army, that he had adopted Sydney's grave in Groesbeek. In those days he didn't get any response. However, after 74 years, Sydney Pappelbaums nephew and namesake managed to get in touch with I. Elzas' grandchildren via Faces to Graves.



I. ELZAS

ZUTPHEN, 12th. Febr. 1947  
Lange Hostraat 12 e  
(Holland)

To the relatives of Capt.  
S.S. Pappelbaum

Dear family,

I kindly beg to inform you  
that I adopted the grave of  
Capt. Pappelbaum at Groesbeek  
near Nymegen (Holland) and  
should be glad to receive the  
address of his family.  
Awaiting the favour of your  
early reply, I am

Yours faithfully  
I. Elzas

On Sunday the 21st of July 2019 at noon Sydney Bucovetsky and his wife Barbara came to visit the grave of Sydney's uncle Captain Sydney Sol Pappelbaum at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek. At their request Rabbi Levine from the Jewish Community in Nijmegen held a Jewish Remembrance Ceremony. Further present were 3 grandchildren of Mr. I. Elzas and some members of Faces to Graves. It was a memorable and special gathering for Captain Pappelbaum, who, together with so many others, gave his life for our freedom. May he rest in peace.



Sydney and Barbara Bucovetsky.



*Far left: Marian Straatman during memorial service.*



*Namesake Sydney.*

