

Richardson, Waldo LeRoy

Private

North Shore (New Brunswick)

Regiment

Royal Canadian Infantry Corps

G57143



Waldo LeRoy Richardson was born March 29, 1921, in Millville, York Co. NB the son of Arnold Coleman Richardson and Verna Genevieve Estey. Arnold worked for CP Rail and also in the lumber business. Waldo was the second youngest of four children. He had two brothers Claire and Paul and a sister Helen. Both brothers served in the Canadian Army, Claire in England and Paul in Italy. The family attended the Baptist Church. At age sixteen after completing grade eight Waldo left school and worked for several years for Walter Estey on his farm near Millville. Records show that he also worked in the logging business and had a driver's license. When not working, fishing, swimming, hunting and going to the movies to see westerns were his favorite activities.

On July 11, 1942, Waldo married Mary Izetta Lindsay from Maplewood, York Co. The marriage certificate states that they were married in Sommerville, Carleton Co. and that they were both Baptists.

A month later, Waldo was drafted into the Militia for home defense duty under the new National Resources Mobilization Act (NRMA) that came into effect in 1940. He enlisted with Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) at recruiting depot No. 7 in Fredericton and was assigned to the 18th Anti-Aircraft Battery with Militia Service # G601934. Waldo completed basic training at Aldershot, NS in August and continued training with the RCA until late November 1943. Izetta and Waldo's first child, Gordon Claire Richardson was born Feb. 19, 1943.

In January 1944 Waldo changed his status by enlisting for active duty wherever he was needed and was given a new service # G57143. He was transferred to the Canadian Infantry Corps (CIC) in Fredericton and in the spring trained with the infantry at Camp A-30 near Utopia. Records show that Waldo's younger brother Paul was training at Utopia as well and his older brother Claire was already overseas. Waldo now expressed his desire to go overseas.

The following June Waldo was recommended for overseas service and a month later he embarked for the UK. Upon arrival in England, he was placed with the Canadian Infantry Reserve Unit (CIRU). On August 5th he was transferred across the channel to France and placed with the North Shore (NB) Regiment.

Arriving when he did, Waldo would have been with the NSR during on August 8th at Cormelles when US bombers mistook the NSR for the enemy. Within minutes 37 North Shore soldiers had been killed and 78 wounded. He would have participated in the deadly battle of Quesnay on August 10th.

Historian C. P. Stacey wrote that on August 26th, General Montgomery assigned the Canadians the task of capturing all ports and destroying all German forces along the English Channel between Le Havre and Bruges.

On August 31st the NSR moved north, crossed the River Seine and continued north towards the channel. Two of their targets, Boulogne, and Calais, in northern France, were extremely well-fortified ports that formed part of the German Atlantic Wall.

These ports were needed to accelerate the movement of men and supplies to the front lines. The Germans were also using the coast to fire shells and launch V1 & V2 rockets across the channel into England. Boulogne itself was assigned to the 9th Brigade and the 8th Brigade was assigned the four fortresses to the north. Three of these; Wimereux, La Trésorerie, and Wimille became objectives for the NSR.

On Sept. 17th, North Shore companies A & B, led by Lt. Col. Anderson left a start line just north of Maninghen-Henne and advanced west up the heavily mined slopes towards La Trésorerie. They advanced through minefields covered with barbed wire barricades and by day's end, the Germans were driven out of some of their hillside defenses. "A" and "B" Companies suffered many casualties and dug in on the hill for the night. The following morning, September 18th, the Germans at La Trésorerie unexpectedly surrendered with little effort and by September 22nd, all three NSR objectives were achieved. Twenty-one NSR soldiers were fatal casualties and many were wounded in the fighting. Pte. Waldo Leroy Richardson was one of those wounded on September 18th.

Waldo was evacuated and transferred to the Horton Emergency Hospital in Epsom, Surrey, England. After seven weeks in recovery, Waldo was transferred back to the NSR who were now near Nijmegen, the Netherlands. The winter was spent preparing for the invasion of Germany. During this time Waldo received word that Izetta had given birth to their daughter Georgie Paulette Richardson.

On Feb. 8th, 1945, the Canadians crossed the border into Germany and were now clearing the Rhineland (western Germany south of the Rhine River). One of the deadliest battles in the Rhineland was fought for the capture of the village of Keppeln. Allied intelligence had reported that there was no significant enemy activity at Keppeln and the assistance of tanks would not be required. On February 26th Lt. Col. Rowley received orders to advance and sent the North Shore's "B" & "C" Companies across a thousand yards of open farmland to seize Keppeln. Intelligence was wrong. The Germans waited until the North Shores were 150 yards from the German line and then opened fire. Everywhere North Shore men were falling dead or wounded. There was nowhere to hide. "A" & "D" Companies were at least a mile behind when news of the slaughter arrived. The North Shore would need armoured support. A plan was created in which Lt. Harry Nutter of "A" Company would lead an attack with 42 North Shore soldiers mounted, exposed, on top of a squadron of tanks of the 1st Hussars Regiment. Pte. Waldo Richardson was chosen as one these soldiers to charge unprotected straight into the fire of the enemy guns. As the tanks approached the village the men were shooting like mad into the enemy trenches. Some of the tanks hit mines and blew up, some were destroyed by artillery and others got stuck in the mud. Only six of the fourteen tanks survived.

In Will Bird's book, North Shore (NB) Regiment P. 510, Lt. Harry Nutter wrote that Pte. Waldo LeRoy Richardson was killed on his tank during the attack on Feb. 26th. He was twenty-three years of age. Despite heavy losses the NSR advance succeeded. Fighting continued house by house and by evening Keppeln belonged to the North Shore. The cost was 28 North Shore soldiers killed in action and 56 wounded.

For his service to Canada, Pte. Waldo LeRoy Richardson was awarded the following medals; 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, War Medal 1939-1945 and CVSM with Clasp.

Waldo LeRoy Richardson is buried in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands; plot **X. A.14.**

Biography by Bruce Morton, brucehmorton@gmail.com



Biography made available for Faces To Graves, with courtesy of Bruce Morton.



Waldo Richardson

Photos courtesy of son Gordon Richardson.



Izetta, Waldo and son Gordon



*Izetta Richardson with daughter
Paulette and son Gordon*

Waldo never met his daughter...

Killed in Action



WALDO L. RICHARDSON

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Richardson, Millville, who was killed in action Feb. 25, 1945. He was 23 years of age and enlisted in August, 1942, with the North Shore Regiment and went overseas in July, 1944. He leaves his wife, who was Miss Izetta Mary Lindsay, of Maplewood, two small children and his parents.

Millville Boy Is Killed in Germany

Pte. Waldo L. Richardson Killed in Action While Serving with North Shore Regiment

Word has been received by Mrs. Izetta Richardson of Millville, York County, that her husband, Pte. Waldo L. Richardson has been killed in action.

Pte. Richardson enlisted in Frederickton, August, 1942. He went overseas with the North Shore (NB) Regt. in July 1944. He was wounded Sept. 18, while serving in France. He was later sent to Holland and then to Germany where he paid the Supreme Sacrifice on February 26. Pte Richardson was born in Millville on March 29, 1921.

Besides his wife, who was Miss Izetta Lindsay of Maplewood, and two small children, Gordon Clair and Georgie Paulette he is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson of Millville, a sister, Miss Helen Richardson at home, two brothers, L.A.C. Claire H., in England and Pte. Paul B., serving in Italy.