

Vibert, Milton Sumner

Corporal

**North Shore (New Brunswick)
Regiment**

Royal Canadian Infantry Corps

G23221



Milton Sumner Vibert was born on Miscou Island, Gloucester Co. NB. He was the son of William Sumner Vibert and Katie Jannetta Brune. William was a farmer and fisherman and served with the Canadian Army in WWI, Service # 218209 EC. Milton was one of ten children. He had four brothers Merle, Donald, Lewis and Lyman, and five sisters Eula, Verna, Betty, Myrele and Alma. Myrele died in 1927 and Alma in 1933. The family attended the Presbyterian Church. Records show that Milton was fluent in both French and English and after completing grade eight he left school and went to work on the family farm. Over the next three years Milton also worked as a lobster fisherman for the nearby Windsor Company and at times as a carpenter.

On June 5, 1941, Milton enlisted in the Canadian Army at Bathurst. On the enlistment documents, Milton stated his date of birth as August 24, 1922. Documents provided by his mother, including her marriage certificate state, that she was married on January 1st, 1924 and Milton was born February 25th, 1925. Milton's Baptism Certificate also states his birth date as Feb. 25th, 1925. These records confirm that Milton was actually sixteen at the time he enlisted. Changing birth dates was a common occurrence with young men wanting to enlist.

Milton completed basic training at Camp No.70 near Fredericton. In late August he was transferred to the Canadian Infantry Training Centre (CITC), Camp A-14, at Aldershot NS where he completed training that included qualification as a Class III Driver and Class III Motorcyclist.

On Feb. 28, 1942, Milton embarked for overseas and arrived in the UK ten days later. He was assigned to the Canadian Divisional Infantry Reinforcement Unit (CDIRU) and on April 1st was promoted to Lance Corporal. Milton served as a Carrier driver for eight months in the UK and continued training with a focus on diesel engineering. He also qualified and served as an instructor of gas attack defense and battle drill procedures. Milton was awarded the Good Conduct Badge on June 5, 1943, and again on February 21, 1944.

From Feb. to Aug. 1944, Milton was charged twice with being AWOL. Documents show that there was no record of drunkenness associated with the offenses and in both cases, a fine was deducted from his pay. Additional documents reveal that he had met a girl by the name of Joyce Betty Jones who lived with her mother at 9 Loubet St., Tooting, London, England. After dating for a year and a half, Milton had proposed marriage and Joyce accepted. On Aug. 25, 1944, Milton submitted an application, required by the army, to marry Joyce Betty Jones. As Joyce was under the age of twenty-one, the application required the written consent of her mother. The application was approved on September 6th by the army as well as by Joyce's mother but now a two-month waiting period was required before it could be made effective. Unfortunately, on Sept. 8th, Milton was transferred from the reinforcement unit and transported across the Channel to France. On September 19th he was placed with the North Shore (NB) Regiment. Milton would have fought with the regiment at Calais in September and in the Battle of The Scheldt in October. In November the regiment moved to Nijmegen, the Netherlands to prepare for the spring offensives.

In January 1945, in preparation for the push into Germany, the Nijmegen area of Netherlands became wildly busy. It resembled England before D-Day with the buildup of troops and tons of supplies. Before launching the offensive, however, Allied headquarters wanted to know exactly where the German army was, its strength and its plans. As a result, there was a constant demand for more information and German prisoners to interrogate. The North Shore, like all regiments, made regular dangerous patrols into enemy territory to obtain both. Lt. Col. Rowley ordered one such patrol on January 8th at 4 pm, in broad daylight. The target was a nearby enemy trench near Wyler Germany on the Dutch-German border.

Major D. L. Corbett with flame-throwing WASPS and a D Company Carrier platoon under Sergeant Horace Boulay charged across the snow-covered, mined, terrain wearing white snowsuits. The Germans were caught by surprise but reacted swiftly with heavy fire. One of the WASPS

was destroyed by a mine, another was hit by a German shell and a troop carrier lost one of its tracks, but D company kept advancing. Sergeant Boulay leapt from the carrier and charged straight into a German dugout. Three shocked Germans immediately surrendered and were pushed into the carrier that sped back to the North Shore line. The mission was accomplished and it was all over in twenty minutes, but the cost was high. Nine North Shore soldiers were killed and eight wounded.

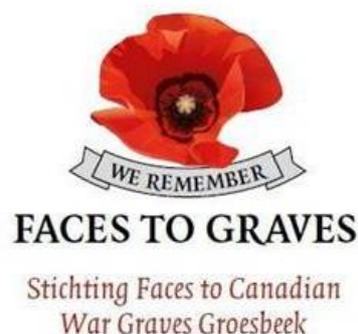
One of the fatal casualties of the Raid on Wyler Meer was Corporal Milton Sumner Vibert. Milton was originally listed as missing in action but was found dead later that same day. He was 19 years of age.

For his service to Canada, Cpl. Milton Sumner Vibert was awarded the following medals; the 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, Defense Medal, War Medal 1939-45 and CVSM with Clasp.

Cpl. Milton Sumner Vibert is buried at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, the Netherlands Plot **I. B. 16**.

Estate documents indicate that Milton and Joyce Betty Jones were never able to marry.

Biography by Bruce Morton, brucehmorton@gmail.com



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

Source:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada



*Corporal Milton Vibert – Aldershot, UK.
Photo Canadian Virtual War Memorial.*