



Emile Joseph Arseneault was born October 14, 1921 in Amherst, Cumberland Co. NS, to Napoleon Arseneault and Elizabeth Gallant. While Emile was his Christian name, family and friends called him Sam. Sam had four siblings Dora, Madeline, Rita and Albertine. The family moved periodically when he was young but usually made their home in Westmoreland Co. NB. Sam's father Napoleon drove a truck for Leger Hardware. At about age eleven, in 1932, Sam's father died in a car accident. Albertine was in the car but not injured. Afterwards the family moved to Rogersville. Elizabeth went to work at the wool mill in Humphreys Mills near Moncton. Humphreys Mills is about a hundred km south of Rogersville, so Elizabeth would stay in Humphreys Mills during the week and take the train home on the weekends. Sam and his sisters also spent time in both communities and Madeline, Dora and Sam worked at the

mill for a period of time. Sam completed grade eight in Humphreys Mills and then left school at age 14. Afterwards he was employed steadily. Sam worked as a weaver in the mill, as a labourer in the construction business, and later as an electrician's helper for Carter and Hall, electrical contractors in Ontario. Documents show that he wanted to become a machinist and was employed and living in Lewisville NB at the time he enlisted. He spoke both English and French and could read and write in English.

Sam enlisted with the NB Rangers (Tank Regiment) in June 1939 and trained with them until the following September. Records show that In May 1942 he was hospitalized for 10 days with tonsillitis. Basic training was completed at camp #70 BTC in Fredericton in June 1942 and advanced training in July 1942. An NCO (non-commissioned officer) course was completed in April 1943 and Sam was promoted to Corporal in November. He chose, however, to revert to the rank of Private. In April of 1944 Sam was transferred to the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) at Camp Borden, Ontario for training that included clerical skills. He completed the training in June and remained in Ontario until August. In Moncton Sam met a girl by the name of Lorraine and they became engaged. Unfortunately, in September 1944, before they could marry, Sam was transferred overseas. He arrived in the UK on October 5th and trained with the Canadian General Reinforcement Unit (CGRU). On January 23, 1945, Sam landed in Europe. He joined up with the North Shore (NB) Regiment on Feb. 6th and fought during the invasion of Germany, the crossing of the Rhine and the liberation of Netherlands.

On April 21st, 1945, while in Netherlands, the regiment was ordered to quickly advance 100 miles east into Germany and relieve a Polish Armored Division. They traveled from Sneek, through Leeuwarden, Groningen, Winschoten and then crossed the border. Now in Germany, the regiment received orders to capture the town Weener. The town was taken with little difficulty and 100 Germans were taken prisoner. On the evening of April 23rd, a patrol was sent to investigate a farm about one mile north of Weener. They discovered and captured a German prison farm holding about 350 slave laborers, Polish, Russians, French, and Lithuanians. Prisoners, some seventy years of age, were packed into an old mill in horrible condition and the stench was unforgettable. The commander was captured and a request for aid was sent to higher authorities.

On April 24th "A" and "C" Companies proceeded further northeast, with troop carriers and a section of the anti-tank platoon with orders to capture the bridge over the Ems River at Leer. One of the troop carriers hit a mine and all on board were casualties. German 88 artillery guns then opened up at point blank range and a second carrier took a direct hit with ten casualties. Anti-tank guns knocked out one of the German 88s but then ran out of ammunition.

"A" Company radioed for help and eventually Typhoon fighter planes arrived and took out most of the German artillery. It then became evident that their mission to capture the Leer bridge was a waste of manpower and resources. It had been destroyed a couple of days earlier. This information could have been communicated by the regular air surveillance and would have saved lives. Pte. Emile Joseph Arseneault was killed in action in Germany on April 24th. He was 23 years of age. On April 26th, the regiment moved back to Moh Leaward and rested for three days.

For his service to Canada Pte. Emile Joseph Arseneault was awarded the following medals; 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, War Medal 1939-45 and CVSM with Clasp. Pte Emile Arseneault is buried in Holten, Canadian War Cemetery in Netherlands, Plot X11. E. 2.

Sam's girlfriend Lorraine.

They became engaged
but did not marry

