

Beatty, Robert Earl Clayton. Rifleman.

8-B-16



Beeton, Ontario, is where Robert Earl Clayton Beatty, nicknamed Bob, was born on November 29, 1910.

He is the son of Leamon Eslyon Lerain Beatty and Mary Mound Beatty, née Fenn.

The family includes four other sons and a daughter. English is spoken at home. Bob later reveals that he is a Methodist.

Bob attended school for seven years and then, at the age of 13, started working.

From what we can tell, Bob became independent quite quickly. The Beatty family officially left for the United States in 1920. However, they remained in the same region.

According to the 1930 US census, they were living in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. This is just across the St. May River, opposite the town of the same name in Canada.

Bob enlisted in the army in Toronto on August 13, 1942. At the time he was living in Willowdale, Ontario and was a boarder at Mrs. Ada May Waters home. He also lists her name as a next of kin. It is unclear whether she is a blood relative or a relative by marriage.

Overlijden

7 Mar 1946 • Overijssel, Netherlands

Bob died on the 7th of March and my brother Paul Robert was born on March 16th so my mother named him after Bob. Bob had been a boarder at my Grandmother's home when he enlisted and went overseas and so she was listed as his next of kin.

3 bronnen

Statement of a grandson/granddaughter of Mrs. Ada May Waters about the death of Bob Beatty

He had already worked for fifteen years on farms and three years in forestry. Shortly before enlisting, he worked for a while for the Massey-Harris factory.

In the 1940s, the company was known as Massey-Harris (before it merged with Ferguson in 1953).

It was a dominant player in Canadian agricultural production, with major facilities in Toronto. The company played a crucial role in the war effort.



Massey-Harris Toronto

The medical examiners recorded the following about Bob:

5'6" tall, weighed 147 lbs. He has blue eyes, and brown hair. The scar from an appendectomy was noted as a characteristic.

He is interested in hockey. He indicates that he would prefer to be assigned to a reconnaissance unit in an armoured unit.

Bob spends the first few weeks of his training at the district depot in Toronto before being transferred to Orillia, Ontario, for basic infantry training.

Followed by a few months best described as "hospital in, hospital out."

September 1942: hospitalized for a hernia, October/November 1942: venereal disease, January/February 1943: bronchitis.

After his recovery, Bob is initially transferred to Brampton, Ontario, and in the summer of 1943, sent to reconnaissance training in Dundurn, Saskatchewan. He performs very well there, as evidenced by an assessment report. Within a few months, Bob qualifies as a driver for both wheeled and tracked vehicles. After successfully completing the advanced "Reconnaissance" training and also graduating as an "Anti-Tank" gunner in early 1944, Bob is assigned to a unit of the Canadian Mediterranean Force (CMF).

Via the United Kingdom, where he arrives in February 1944, Bob is transferred to Italy, arriving there on May 16, 1944. He is assigned to the Canadian Corps Defence Company (CCDC) and deployed for headquarters security duties and patrolling. Bob is taken on strength by the Lorne Scots.

Bob spends approximately nine months on the Southern European front. The Canadian troops depart in February 1945. His file states that he arrives in France on February 24, 1945.

More than 93,000 Canadians served in the Italian Campaign during the Second World War, between July 1943 and February 1945.

Total casualties: More than 26,000 (including wounded, missing, and prisoners of war). Nearly 6,000 Canadians were killed in action during the Italian Campaign. More than 350 were killed from other causes. More than 1,000 were taken prisoner of war.

Further entries in Bob's file from 1945 are sparse. He is shuffled around until June 1945.

Then he is taken on strength by the 4th Battalion of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (QOR), part of the Canadian Occupation Force in Germany.

Bob is twice listed as either ill or slightly wounded. A separate record for this is not included in his file.

While serving in Germany, Bob dies on March 7, 1946, due to an accident on the road between Oldenburg and Rastede. When he attempts to overtake a lorry, the jeep he is driving overturned. He is taken to the hospital in Oldenburg, but help was of no avail.

He was given a temporary grave at the garrison in Germany.

His final resting place is the CWGC Canadian Cemetery in Holten; he is buried in plot 8, row B, grave 16.

He was awarded the following:

1939-1945 Star, Italy Star; Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-1945; and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp.

Sources:

www.cwgc.org; www.ancestry.com; www.canada.ca/library-archives; Wikipedia, Project '44, diaries of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

