

Private Winifred Lilian Brewster

10-H-7



Winifred was born on 8 August 1925 in Canada as the daughter of Harcourt James William and Lilian Wright, of Lower Edmonton, Middlesex, England. She was the wife of Craftsman Edward John Brewster, R.C.E.M.E.

Harcourt and Lilian decided to emigrate to Canada in 1912, with their two sons John and Felix. They settled in Sandwich, Ontario. Winifred was born in 1925 in Windsor, Ontario and thus had Canadian citizenship. John died in November 1927 following an industrial accident.

Harcourt returned to UK in 1929. Lilian and Winifred returned in 1932, Felix remained in Canada. The family settled at 76 Felixroad, Lower Edmonton, London.

Winifred was a well-spoken, pleasing manner, intelligent woman. She enjoyed baseball, dancing, reading historical novels for fun and school up until the age of 17 in England. Like many young women, Winifred had dreams of her own. She planned to move to Toronto with her husband after her discharge. She decided at the young age of 18 to enlist the military and on November 25 1943 became because of her Canadian nationality part of the Canadian Women's Army Corps in London. When the war was finally ended in 1945 Winifred was still among the action of helping Holland recover and providing care for the injured soldiers.

In England she met Edward Brewster late 1943/early 1944, fell in love and 18 months later in June 1945 requested permission to marry, this was granted in November 1945. They decided to marry on Saturday January 26 1946 at All Saints Parish Church in Lower Edmonton (North London, England) where the parents and family of Lilian were living. Winifred was with the Canadian Women's Army Corps and served too in the occupational force.

After their wedding, they returned to their unit in mainland Europe. A few months later they went by an army jeep with Edward as the driver on April 14 1946 to an aunt of Winifred in Meldorf near Hamburg Germany and on the return journey on April 15 1945 got a terrible accident with a parked DUKW with no lights. They were declared dead later that night at the 94 British General Hospital in Hamburg and Lian was together with her husband already buried the next day at the Canadian cemetery in Holten. She was just as even her husband 20 years old. She is the only Canadian female soldier buried in Holland.

Medals: Defense medal 1339-1945



Wedding photo Edward and Winifred Brewster-Wright.