

Bynski Charles

07-A-09



English researcher Ian Seccombe posed a unique question. When he walks through the woods near his home in Sussex, he sees an engraving on an old beech tree.

It reads: "C. Bynski Kenora, ONT. CAN." Seccombe added that the inscription was among a group that had been created in 1944.

Through his own efforts, he was able to find a Charles Bynski had served with the Lake Superior Regiment as part of the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps.

Unfortunately, he was also listed as killed in action in Holland on 17 April 1945, and he now lies in the Holten Canadian War

Cemetery near Overijssel, Netherlands.

Delving a bit further, Seccombe also found a birth date, Oct. 24, 1922. Still, he wondered if any readers of the Daily Miner and News would know whether this was the same man who had carved his name on the tree?



Was there a Charles Bynski from Kenora, who was in the Lake Superior Regiment and posted to Sussex, England in May 1944?

"I'm planning some new guided walks in the nature reserve, and I would love to show visitors the trees and tell them something about the men who passed through here. I would appreciate any information that your readers might provide me via your offices," he wrote.

Tom Bynski's still listed in the Kenora phone book, and his wife Arta offered a referral to a Transcona number. At the other end of the line was Charlie Bynski, the vet's nephew and namesake.

Yes, indeed, Uncle Charles had served in the war. Although born in Beausejour in eastern Manitoba, the family had moved to Kenora.

Charles' father worked on the railroad, and after the family moved Charles had enlisted.

The regiment he joined was indeed the Lake Superior Regiment based out of Thunder Bay. According to the history posted by the museum in Thunder Bay, there was considerable delay before the regiment finally arrived in England in August 1942.

Many infantry and artillery units, including Canadians, were deployed in the south of England on training and home defence during this time. There were also air force bases that played key roles.

The white cliffs of Dover, which are at the Southern tip of Sussex on the English Channel, were an indelible image from Vera Lynn's war-time classic, We'll Meet Again.

The Lake Superior Regiment stayed in England until the Normandy invasion, shipping to France on July 20, 1944. From there, the record shows Charles Bynski fought for the liberation of the Netherlands, where he died in Holland in 1945, just two weeks before victory in Europe was declared.

An image of his grave marker, along with the beech tree engraving, are both available on the internet.

Private Bynski's sacrifice is recorded on the Memorial Park cenotaph in Kenora, as well as at Lakewood School and the Royal Canadian Legion. Since he was born in Beausejour, he is on the honour roll at the legion there as well.

