

## William Edward Callin

12 A 01

*Gunner of the 5th Field Regt.*

The Second World War (1939-1945) was a tragic war in which millions of brave men lost their lives, many of them young Canadian soldiers. These soldiers fought for the freedom of the occupied countries, together with other Allied countries. All these young men had a family and loved ones they cared for, but they found the courage to give their lives for the freedom of others. It is important to remember these brave men and their deeds during this horrible war.

### Personal Information

William Edward Callin, also known as Bill Callin, was born on November 29th 1919 in Stalwart, Saskatchewan Canada. He was the son of Edward Lorne Callin and Emma Sophia Callin. He had a sister named Margaret Etta Boucher who passed away in February 1981. Callin enlisted in the War to help support his family, as his father had recently passed away. He had been previously been working as a lumber and mill labourer. He married Edna Rose Allen



Callin (Mann) in Brighton, England. (Pictured on the right) The two wrote each other almost every day while Bill was at war, and cared deeply for each other. He would do his best to sneak money into his letters to support Edna, and their hopes for a life in Canada. His wife later remarried after he had passed away, and had four children, James, Glenn, David, and Jennifer.

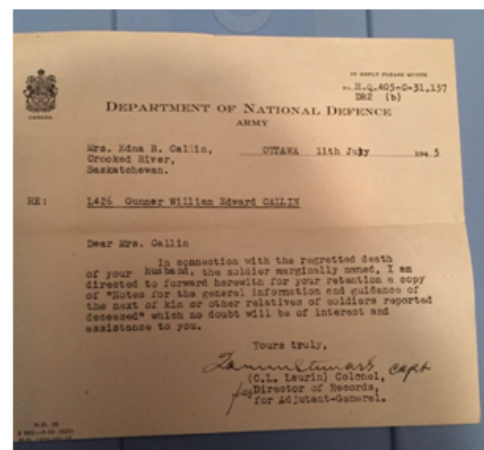
### Military Information

William E. Callin was part of the Royal Canadian Artillery, the 5th field regiment. He enlisted on the second of September, 1941 in Brandon, Manitoba.. He was part of the Gun Detachment, which operates on the Gun line applying shooting data from the command post and providing fire support.

His service number when enlisted was L/426.

### Final Days

Callin was killed at the young age of 25, on July 4th 1945. He was killed in a motorcycle crash in Oldenburg, Germany. He was a motorcycle messenger during the war, and known to be incredibly reliable. He was described by colleges as being able to "do the job properly" and "get an answer" when delivering messages.



Callin was driving back after finishing his usual five o'clock rounds, when he crashed into an ambulance. Both were believed to be travelling at a rather fast speed. Ironically, it was this ambulance that took him to the hospital. He was later pronounced dead, doctors say he was killed by severe burns and trauma to the skull. Edna was heartbroken when she found out. His death occurred two months after the Netherlands had been liberated, and the war was over. Many were in celebration, making his death all the more tragic.

### **Burial Information**

William E. Callin was originally buried in Germany on July 5th 1945, where he died. However, later his remains were transferred to the Holten Canadian War Cemetery in The Netherlands. In total, 1394 soldiers have found their final resting place here, of which 1380 identified. The cemetery was expanded later for more soldiers who were found later. The first official memorial ceremony took place on the 5th of May 1948, when the cemetery was completed. The Holten Canadian War Cemetery is the second largest remembrance cemetery in the Netherlands. William's grave reference is XII A 1, which is shown on the right.

### **To William E. Callin**

Dear Mr. Callin,

We want to thank you for your sacrifice and your bravery. You were gone too soon, and you were so young when you made this ultimate sacrifice. However, it is thanks to you men like you, who served in the war, that we are able to live in freedom and peace today. We are so fortunate to live in countries without the fear and horrors that come hand in hand with war. They have become countries that you would be happy to live in, and hopefully proud to have died for.

Gratefully,

Kaylie and Katja

### **Gratitudes**

We would like to give a special thank you to Jennifer Maureen Allen, Sarah Louise Brierley, Sylvia Boucher, and Glenn Allen for their help during our research. They were all extremely knowledgeable and willing to provide helpful information surrounding the late William Callin. This project could not have been completed without them, and their willingness to share their stories of the past was incredibly appreciated.



Bill, Edna, and Edna's Sister



Bill and Edna playing a round of golf