



Sergeant Earl Herbert CARLBOM 11-H-07

On August 25, 1945 Herman and Emmaline Carlbom from Sioux Lookout, Ontario, were finally told that one of their sons would not return from the war. Earl Carlbom was 27 when he was fatal injured on February 15, 1945. Carlbom was part of the Lake Superior Regiment and was stationed in Bokhoven. Together with Lt. Calvin Banks and Sergeant Fred Boomhower he decided again to cross the river the Meuse to seek Harold Hilderley, Arthur Vanance and Walter Lahoda. These three guys were just before shot during a patrol. The search and rescue mission was a disaster. Both Banks and Carlbom were seriously injured. Banks survived the war and wrote the Carlbom family in June 1945 a letter from a British military hospital what happened.

"We were both shot our leg when we tried to find the wounded. Immediately there were the Germans, who took us apart. I knew Earl was in bad shape. We met about two hours later at the hospital in Zaltbommel, but we could not talk. Earl was at three o'clock in the afternoon surgery and I have not seen him. The next day they told me that his leg was amputated and that around midnight he was deceased. "

Chester Earl's younger brother served in the Lord Strathcona's Horse, an armored unit, which marched from Italy to the Netherlands. The Lake Superior Regiment was landed in Normandy in July 1944. Chester

was hit in April 1945 in the Netherlands and injured when his tank was shot, but survived the war.

Earl Carlbom was temporarily buried in the German "Heldenfriedhof" in Zaltbommel. He lay there between seventy German soldiers. Later Earl Carlbom is reburied in Holten. Beside him rests Harold Hilderley, (11-H-06) one of the boys they had tried to save. Harold was 19 years.

