

## **William B. Carr**

**12 C 06**

Trooper  
South Alberta Regiment

Many brave soldiers died during the Second World War and we shall never forget their sacrifice they made to liberate other countries. This documents one of these soldiers who died fighting for their country, and for others. May we forever remember their sacrifice.

### **Personal History**



William B. Carr (pictured left) was born in Halifax Nova Scotia on March 30, 1912 to Charles Guy Carr and Phoebe Alice Hawkins. He was the second youngest of 11 children. He liked baseball, swimming and fishing. Before his enlistment he held several jobs such as an electrician's helper at a dockyard, as a carpenter at a Box and Barrel manufacturer. William had to do all this while taking care of his ageing mother and father. That being said when he was called upon to serve, he answered.

### **Military Training and Service**

William Carr was fairly old when he enlisted, being 31 years of age at the time (the average age of a soldier was 26). His training officer noted that "he was a rather ill-at ease self-conscious type of soldier", but had held a number of different jobs in civilian life, hence he suggested that William be trained as a Tank driver. The officer then suggested to keep an eye on William in case he was not a fit into a tank crew. William was assigned to the South Alberta Regiment in a armoured unit. He became a tank driver in the 29th armoured reconnaissance unit. William was sent over the English Channel on the 24th of August, 1944 and arrived in France the next day. He was involved in the liberation of the Netherlands from German occupation; he along with the Second Canadian Corps advanced into northern Germany.

### **Final Days**

On the 15th of April 1945 Will Carr and his unit were advancing on the town of Cloppenburg (Germany). His commander split the unit to have a three pronged assault. The ensuing fighting lasted well into the next day, but in the end the Canadians were victorious. However during the battle William was killed by the side of the road on the 16th of April 1945.



### **Burial Information**

William Carr was originally buried where he died by the side of the road near Varrelbusch and was re-interred along with more than 1300 other Canadians, at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. This is the second largest remembrance cemetery in the Netherlands; his grave is located at XII. C. 6.

### A Letter to The Fallen

Dear William Borden Carr,

While you were not as young as many of the men who went into that war, you still had many years of life left in you. I don't know your motivations and reasons for going into the Canadian army, but still I thank you. It is in part thanks to you and many others that I can type this now in English and not in German, in freedom and not in chains. While the last seventy years have been rough for our world, they still are much better than the alternative, and that is partly because of you. Wherever you are, I hope that you can see that your sacrifice was worth it.

-A thankful millennial

Written for the Burlington – Apeldoorn exchange by Gavin Smith (Burlington, Canada) and Tim van Aerde (Apeldoorn, The Netherlands)