



Peter Allister Cavanagh was born on May 29, 1915 in Barney's River, Nova Scotia. He was the son of James William Cavanagh and Isabell Jane Stalker. In addition to Peter James and Isabell had seven children, three of whom died at a young age. The siblings of Peter were Elizabeth 1905-1920, Rennie 1908-?, Margaret 1910-1991, William 'Bill' 1913-1993, Janet 1916-1917, Chisholm 1919-1968 en Robert 1923-1925.

Peter has been up to the 10th grade at school and left school at age 17.

At the outbreak of World War II Peter still lived at home with his parents, along with his brothers Bill and Chisholm. It was expected that someone from the family would be serving in the Canadian Army. Peter volunteered to go into the army, so Bill could stay at home and could help on the farm. Chisholm was certainly not eligible for military service, as he had Down syndrome. Brother Rennie, who was now married, had a shop and Peter felt he had to keep up his shop.

In July 1940 Peter Allister Cavanagh enlisted in the Canadian Army. He was 25 years old, single and worked as a lumberjack and carpenter. His favorite hobby was skiing and he loved listening to old time music and big bands.

The first three years of his service, he worked as a clerk in the Canadian Army. The majority of his time was spent on military bases in Gander, Newfoundland. During his period of service on the base in Gander he suffered from scarlet fever. Scarlet fever may mean that you are experiencing sudden sore throat, fever and sore neck glands. These symptoms often go along with a red raw rash on the chest. As a result, he was admitted 30 days to the hospital.

In 1943 Peters mother, Isabell died. After the death of his mother, Peter decided to sign up for the parachute school. The reason he had not previously signed up here was, that his mother was against it, but now his mother was deceased, Allister could join. He made a request if he could register as a paratrooper. He was at Shilo, Manitoba sent for training. During a training Peter got injured after a jump. During his convalescence he had to stop his training as a parachutist. In 1944 he gets repetitive exercises for the infantry, and in the summer of 1944 he went to a base in Nova Scotia. In the fall of 1944 Peter was told that he would be sent overseas. He took the opportunity to a final visit home, before going to

Europe. Not knowing that this would be his last visit, Peter went to Europe, where he arrived in October 1944. Upon his arrival in Europe, he was added to the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment. In April 1945, together with his regiment, he would participate in the operation Cannon Shot in the area of Zutphen, where he was killed in action on April 6 1945.

Peter Allister Cavanagh has been first buried in a temporary cemetery on the outskirts of Almen. Along with 29 other Canadian soldiers. In 1946 his remains transferred to the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten, where he had got his final resting place. Peter was 29 years old.

