



CHENEY, STANLEY J.

05-B-16

Stanley, born July 11, 1922 in Sheffield England, was the second son of Selena (Lena) and Joseph (Joe) Cheney. Joe immigrated to Canada in the early 1920s then found work managing a dairy farm near Chesterville Ontario.

Lena with their three boys was to depart from Liverpool, however the youngest son an infant died from pneumonia, was buried in Liverpool. Lena and the two older boys Edward (Ted) and Stanley arrived in 1924.

A year later a sister, Grace, was born and later twins (Dorothy and Donald) and another brother (John). The two brothers grew up learning the routine on the farm. Stanley and Ted had a passion for the Toronto Maple Leaf hockey team, collecting many souvenirs. They won a prize for a weekend in Toronto and tickets to a Maple Leaf game. The highlight of their youth!

When the war was declared in 1939, father Joe, a veteran of WWI, enlisted in the Canadian Army then and was posted for the duration of the war to the Induction Centre at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa. Soon after, Stanley and Ted joined the Royal Canadian Engineers. They were sent to Camp Petawawa for training before being sent overseas.

Having served in Sicily, through Italy, France, Belgium and into Holland, Stanley was granted leave in April 1945 to England. There, he met up with his sister Grace Towns, a 'Canadian war bride' whose husband FO George Towns (RAF) had been killed flying a mission over the Zuiderzee. They holidayed at an aunt's home in Liverpool. Stanley accompanied Grace back to London where they had a tearful departure. Stanley had had enough of the war and wanted to return to Canada rather than go back to Holland.

Grace returned to work in London at the Canadian Legion Educational Services and Stanley returned to Holland. On May 2 Stanley and a number of other truck drivers drove to the field to pick up members of the RCE who were working on bridges. They left their trucks to check on their passengers when one of their members stepped on a land mine. It exploded and six of them were killed. Ted had the unfortunate task of identifying his brother.

Back in Canada in early May 1945, Sgt. Joseph Cheney, father of Stanley and Ted, was tidying up the chapel in the Cow Barn, Lansdowne Park after a service of celebration of the end of WWII when the base chaplain tapped him on the shoulder. The chaplain advised him that his wife had called and he was urgently needed at

home. While being driven home by the chaplain in a staff car Joe was told his wife had been informed their son Stanley had been killed on May 2. Grace received this news in London by letter from her father some two weeks later.