



Lance Corporal Romeo CICCONE

L/Cpl Romeo Ciccone was born in a large Italian family on March 29, 1918 in Vancouver, where all his family, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends lived. Not much is known about Romeo through his teenage years. He left school at age 17, having completed Grade 7. Romeo entered a trade apprenticeship as a plumber for four months, but did not complete the program. At the time of his enlistment, he had been working at Sterling's Sawmill in Vancouver for seven years. Although Sterling's promised re-employment on discharge, Romeo had plans to take a Fitters Course and then find work in a car factory.

Romeo had served in a Reserve Formation of the Canadian Army from October 1940, until February 1942 before actually enlisting in the Active Unit of the Canadian Army. Romeo signed his recruiting papers on February 24, 1942. Romeo was based at many military training bases in British Columbia and later in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Romeo left Canada for overseas with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's) on July 1944. He landed in the UK where he stayed until November 20, 1944 where he was training in preparation for his disembarking in North-West Europe on November 21, 1944. Romeo must have been in Holland, because he sent a pair of little wooden shoes to his sister Stella. The last battle of the war for the Argylls was fought at and around a town and a lake:

Bad Zwischenahn, Germany. On May 3rd they advanced towards the village of Spohle. The advance was slow due to heavy enemy fire. By 8.40 PM word was received that the Germans in Holland and Western Germany had surrendered. The trouble was that the German troops in the local area did not know this. The Argylls fell back some distance to minimise the likelihood of engaging the enemy. wounded. When the battle ended on May 4th , the Argylls had the distinction of being the last unit in the 21st Army Group of the 1st Canadian Army to face opposition. In this last fight 4 soldiers of the Argylls died. One of them was Romeo Ciccone.....

