

ROMEO CICCONI



March 29, 1918 - May 4, 1945

In September, 2010, this

*BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE
OF THE LIFE OF OUR*

UNCLE ROMEO CICCONE

will be added to the permanent archival collections of our
Canadian fallen soldiers from World War II at:

The Information Centre
Holten Canadian Military Cemetery
Holten, Holland.

This collection was contributed by his nieces and cousins:

Madeline Dent (DeLuca/Ciccone)

Irene McCart (DeLuca/Ciccone)

Jennifer DeLuca (Ciccone)

Florence Dunlap (Ciccone)

Eva Difonzo (Mantine/Ciccone)

212 – 8540 182nd Street
Edmonton, Alberta. Canada
T5T 1L9

September 11, 2010

Dear Mr. Gerry Van't Holt,

As promised back in June, 2010, enclosed is the **Album of my Uncle Romeo Ciccone**, who is buried in Holten Cemetery.

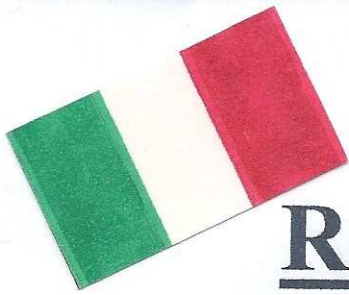
Our family had a huge "Abruzzo Italian Family Reunion Picnic" in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on August 1, 2010 and his Album was on a display table. At that time, his niece, Florence, gave me the original letters that Romeo sent to her father, David. I was so grateful to receive them. I know there are more letters and papers, but it appears another family member who has them is not willing to give them up yet...perhaps one day?

Thank you so much for your most welcomed email back in June. I had almost given up trying to contact someone who could put these personal papers in a permanent place.

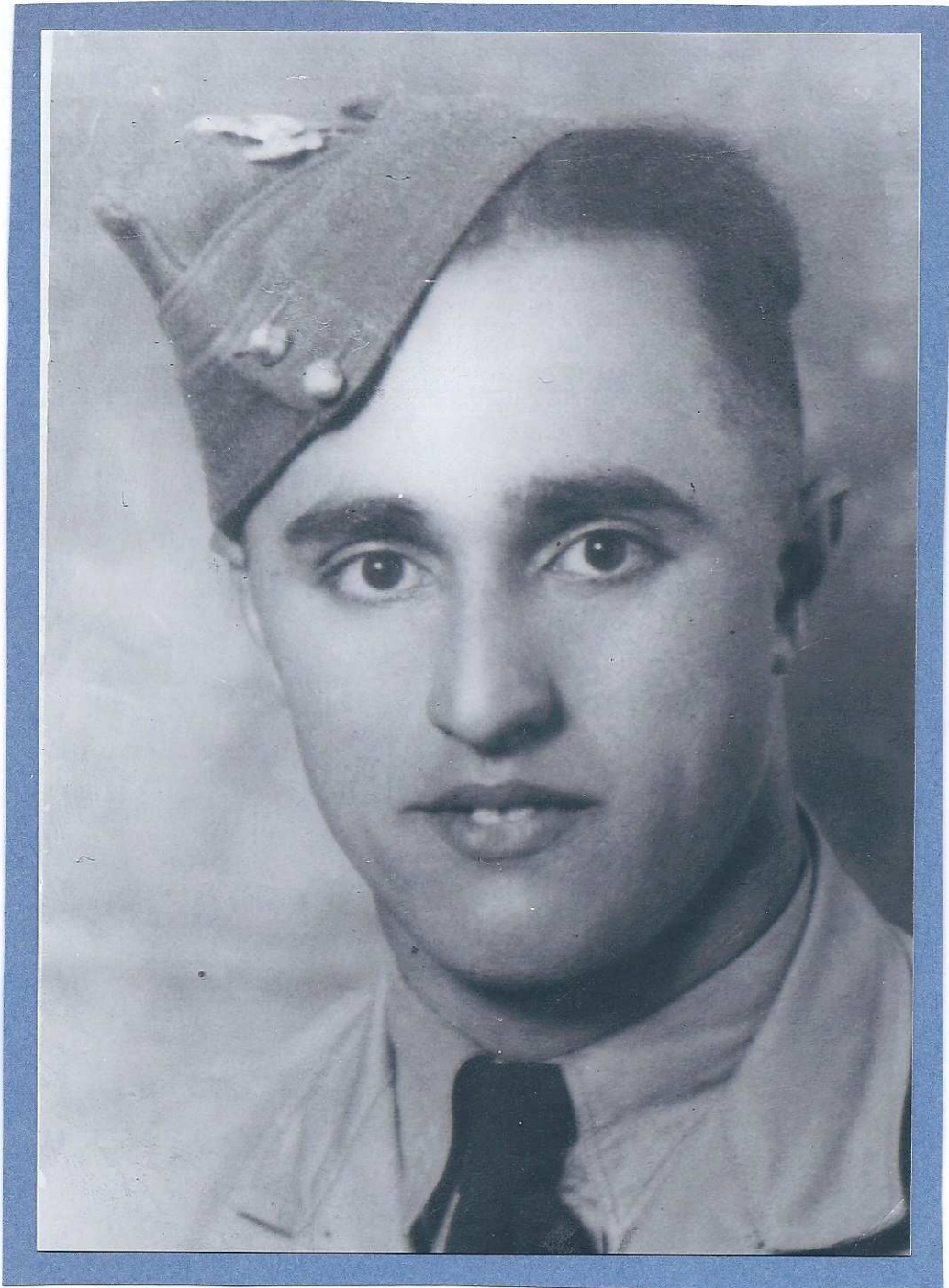
Con affetto,

Madeline Dent (DeLuca/Ciccone)





ROMEO CICCONE



March 29, 1918 - May 4, 1945

In Loving Memory

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An Album to Remember Uncle Romeo

Because I was so young, I have no recollection of my Uncle Romeo's physical presence while he was growing up as a member of our Ciccone Family. What I do recall is how much he was loved by his sister, Stella DeLuca, and his Aunt Orienda Mantine.

He was a young man who loved his family and faithfully wrote letters back home after he joined the military.

I do remember his generosity and that he never forgot a birthday or to say, "thank you" and to send mementos to those he loved back home in Canada.

Romeo's images in the photos have forever captured his essence. The words in his letters he wrote to his "Aunt Orienda" give us a picture of his sensitivity as he poured out his private thoughts.

Discovering each nugget of information about Romeo's life was like looking for treasure and to finally unearth it from its hiding place was a spiritual experience!

Even with his last legacy, he remembered his step-brother, Fred, and his nieces, Margaret-Anne and myself.

My thanks to: Pearl Nino for sharing Romeo's letters to her mother, Orienda;
Juanita Madill for looking through the Mantine Family Archives;
The photos are from my mother, Stella's, albums;
My sisters, Irene and Jennifer for their help and encouragement as I sought out bits and pieces of information about Romeo's life;
Eva DiFonzo for her letter;
The University of Alberta Library and Archives;
The National Archives of Canada.



We Remember His Life.....

Madeline Dent (DeLuca)

GENEALOGY

&

FAMILY

CANADA

Romeo Ciccone was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Except for a short visit to Victoria on Vancouver Island, and his military training, he seems to have spent most of his life in Vancouver. Of course, Vancouver was where his roots were, where his family and all his aunts, uncles, cousins and friends lived.

I could tell from his letters that he was interested in the many different places in the world where he trained for the military. In particular, he tells about the family of his sister-in-law who lived in Scotland and how much he enjoyed visiting them while stationed there. One of his letters appeared to indicate that he would like to return there following the War.



The family of Romeo's father, Domenico Ciccone

THE CICCONE-MARINI FAMILY



*Back: Carmine Ciccone, Domenico Mid: Orienda, David, Maria Nunzia (Marini)
Front: Amos
ca 1906 **

Carmine and Maria owned a store for many years at 1904 Grant Street (corner of Grant & Victoria Drive) in Vancouver. They later bought five vacant lots on the north side of the 2600 block Charles Street. Carmine built his home on the fourth lot from the corner of Clinton Street (later renamed Penticton). When Orienda married, her family built on the corner lot at 2603 Charles Street and her daughter, Pearl Nino's house at 2609 Charles Street was built on the second lot in the early 1940's. When the five lots were originally purchased Charles Street was only a couple of wooden planks. Maria Nunzia lived in her house on Charles Street until her death in 1950.

** means circa or about*

ANNA CICCONE (MORETTI)

(Romeo's Mother)



ANNA CICCONE (MORETTI)
1893 - 1918

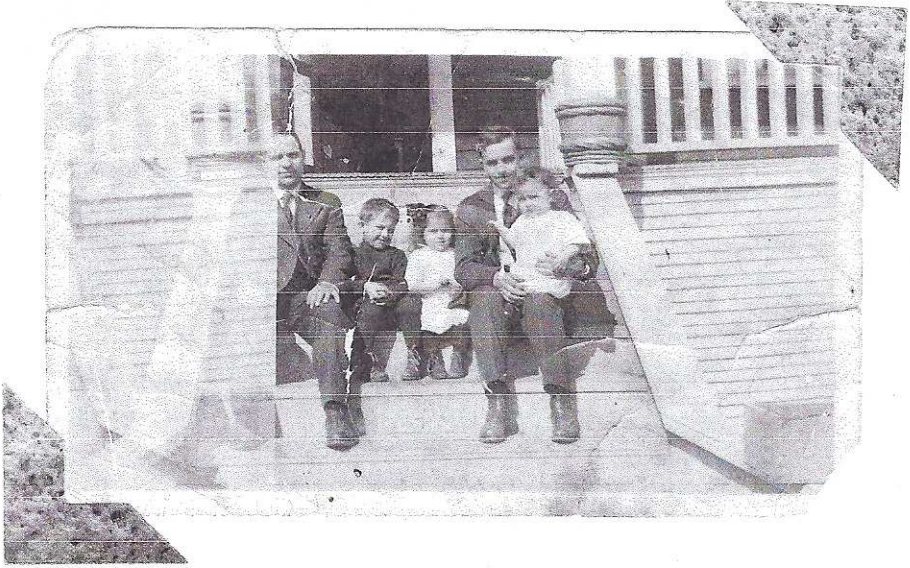


Anna Moretti was the first wife of **Domenico Ciccone**. She was born in Carrufo in the Province of Abruzzo, Italy. Her father was **Sabotino Moretti**. At the age of 19, she immigrated to Canada in November, 1912. Anna travelled alone and entered at the Port of New York. She was co-sponsored by her brother, **George Moretti** and her future husband Domenico Ciccone. Anna was described by her brother, George, as being about 5'2" tall with brown curly hair and brown eyes. She married Domenico in the month of May, 1913. Anna had three children **Carmen**, **Stella** and **Romeo**. Seven months after Romeo was born, she died on November 6, 1918 at the age of 24 during the height of the Influenza Epidemic. Hospital records indicate she died at the Vancouver General Hospital in the King Edward Annex (a temporary Emergency Ward set up across the street from the main hospital.) At the time of her death, the family was living at 1572 East 13th Avenue, Vancouver, BC



At the time of his mother's death, **Romeo** was still breast-feeding. If it wasn't for the intervention of Domenico's sister, **Orienda Mantine**, Romeo may not have survived. Orienda was able to get a wet-nurse to feed baby Romeo until his tiny body could tolerate whole food.

This photo was found amongst many family photos at my sister, Irene's, house. She wondered who the people in the photo were and what the writing on the back said as it was very poorly hand-written in pencil. I asked my friend, Grazia Poretti to translate the back. Grazia was able to translate it quite quickly. She thought it said the word "Giorgio" and mentioned the address. I was very puzzled about it for quite awhile. Then one afternoon, while riding the bus, I had a sudden insight that Giorgio meant "George". As far as I am aware at this time, this is one of the earliest photos we have showing the family between the time Anna Moretti died and Domenico's second marriage to Anna Corradi two years later.



The photo was most likely taken in the Spring or Summer of 1919 on the steps at the home of **Giorgio (George) Moretti**, Domenico's brother-in-law and Anna's brother. The back of the photo reads "**Giorgio - 407 Prior Street**."

From left to right: **Domenico Ciccone**, next Domenico's children, **Carmen**, **Stella** and baby **Romeo Ciccone** sitting on the lap of **George Moretti**. The children are wearing light clothing and have bare arms which makes me think it's Spring or Summer. Baby Romeo is wearing a jump suit of some kind. Stella has a large bow in her hair. Carmen is grinning or squinting from the sun, as all little boys do at that age!

This is a very precious photo and when Irene and I found it, it was like discovering a treasure from the past!

Madeline Dent (DeLuca),
Daughter of Stella DeLuca (Ciccone)

In 1920, **Domenico Ciccone** married his second wife, **Anna Corradi**, who emigrated from Ofena, Abruzzo, Italy. There were three children from Domenico's first marriage to **Anna Moretti: Carmen, Stella and Romeo** and another four children by Anna Corradi: **Robert, John, Jeannie and Fred**.

The photo below was taken about 1926. By this time, the family was living in the house at **2527 Turner Street in Vancouver, BC**; a home which Anna continued to live in until her death in 1998.



Top Row: L to R: Carmen, Alfred Corradi (Anna's Brother);
Mid Row: L to R: Domenico, Romeo, Anna Corradi with baby Jeannie, Stella;
Frt Row : L to R: John at his father's knee and Robert in the chair;
(Fred missing in this photo was born later in 1938)

Domenico died in 1940, two years after Fred's birth. Anna passed away in 1998.

MILITARY ENLISTMENT

ROMEO IN VICTORIA, BC

This photo was most likely taken during Romeo's recruitment into Active Service with the Canada Army. He enlisted in February, 1942. It was taken in Victoria in the Inner Harbour with the Empress Hotel in the background. Romeo is pictured with an unidentified friend on the left; Romeo on the right. He was about 24 years old.

Not much is known about Romeo through his teenage years. An Occupational History Form completed when he enlisted in the Armed Forces indicated that he left school at age 15 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.

Other records indicate that 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.



The clothes worn by Romeo fascinated me so I did some research on the Internet. His shoes known as Wingtip Oxfords (also Spectator or Tuxedo Oxfords) were popular at that time. Even today, they are sold on-line with prices ranging from \$59.95 to \$310.00, mostly made by Italian shoe manufacturers. Well-known golfers still wear them.

The fuzzy two-toned mohair sweater looks like it had a zipper, with a tight dark waistband and matching wristbands.

Compared to his friend, Romeo appears comfortable and looks quite dressed up in his fashionable garb while touring around Victoria, BC. in 1942!

-Madeline Dent (DeLuca)

CAK 46502

M.F.M. 103
200M-5-41 (442) (971)
H.Q. 1772-39-1828

MILITIA ACT

DUPLICATE

THE NATIONAL RESOURCES MOBILIZATION ACT, 1940

N.R.M.A. PERSONNEL

ENROLMENT FORM

N.R.M.A. Serial Number of Notice of Call **K 5890** Regimental Number **K 573898** *K-46502*

1. Taken on Strength of No. **11** N.R.M.A. Clearing Depot **Vancouver B.C.** *Vancouver B.C.*
110 C.A. (B) T.C. Vernon, B.C.

2. Surname (Block Letters) **CICCONE,**

3. Christian Names (in full) **ROMEO**

4. Present Address **2527 Turner St., VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada.**

5. Place of Birth **CANADA** **BRITISH COLUMBIA** **VANCOUVER**
(Country) (County or Province) (Town or Township)

6. Date of Birth **29th March 1918** 7. Religion— **UNITED CHURCH**
Denomination

8. Physical Description: Height Weight **145** Eyes **BROWN** Hair **BLACK**
 Complexion **DARK** Identification marks **LEFT FIRST FINGER**

9. Married, Single, Widower? **SINGLE**

10. Next-of-Kin **Anna Ciccone,** Relationship **Stepmother**
(Name)
2527 Turner St., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
(Address)

11. Trade or Occupation **MILLHAND**

12. Previous Naval, Military or Air Service **1 month's Basic Training under N.R.M.A.**
(State Units and Dates of Service)
October 1940, at Gordon Head, V.I., (2nd Bn. Beauforts of Canada RF)

13. Preference, if any, for, R.C.N.? **NO** Army? **YES** R.C.A.F.? **NO**
(Arm of Service)

14. Employment in War Industry, if any **NO**

Romeo Ciccone
(Signature of Man)

J. Ross Lieut.
ASST. ADJT. CA (RF) TC No. 110
(Signature and Rank of Enrolment Officer)

28th August 194**1**
(Date of Signature)

TRAINING CENTRE PARTICULARS

A. Attached to Basic T.C. No. **110** at **Vernon B.C.** Date **28-8-41**

Completed **S. who** Days Basic Training
OCT 27 1941
(Date, Signature, and Rank of Recording Officer)

B. Attached to Advanced T.C. No. **A4** at **Brandon Man** Date **28-10-41**

Completed **S. who** Days Advanced Training
 Qualities of Leadership, Positive Becoming Evident? Dormant? **Yes**

Transferred to **Special Section "D"** Date **23-1-42**
(R.C.N., formation or unit of the C.A., R.C.A.F.)
23-1-42 R/Pottle Capt. R.C.A.
(Date, Signature and Rank of Recording Officer)

C. Medical Category on acceptance at Basic Training Centre **"B1"**

AM

TRAINING

IN

CANADA

ROMEO IN MILITARY TRAINING

Romeo was based at many military training bases in British Columbia and later in Ontario and Nova Scotia.

In British Columbia,
Gordon Head, Vanc. Island, 1940
Vernon, Okanagan, 1941
Vancouver, 1942
Esqimalt, Vanc. Island
Port Alberni, Vanc. Island
Bella Bella
Uclulet
Port Hardy
Chilliwack

CANADA



These photos were most likely taken very early in his training at the same military base.



These two photos could have been taken the same day as the car looks the same. The car has a B.C. license plate.

The fellow in the photo on the right is the same person pictured on the previous page.



The fellow pictured with Romeo appears to be a person of Military Rank. They are both shown appearing very casual. Perhaps they were invited out for a Sunday supper off the Base.

These photos appear to be taken at a later time in Romeo's training

at other Canadian Military Bases

perhaps

Petawawa, Ontario

or

Debert, Nova Scotia



LETTERS HOME

LETTERS HOME

Dear Aunty Orienda....



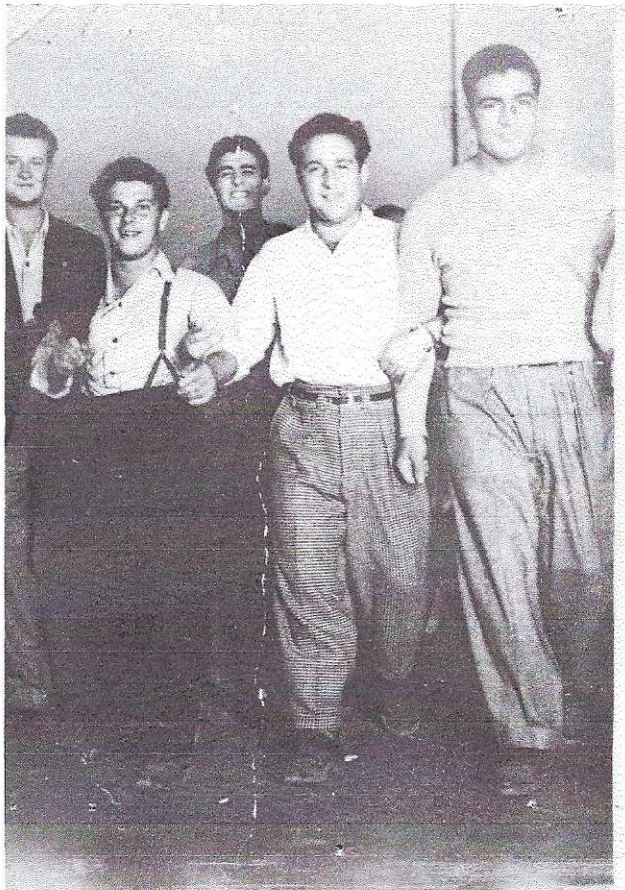
Orianda Mantine (Ciccone)'s Children
Fathers: Domenico Mantini and Zopito (Pete) Mantine

The Five Sisters:

From left to right: Edith (Edie), Jean, Norma, Pearl, Eva



And one Brother Frank – second from the left with some of his young friends



OVERSEAS

(SCOTLAND - HOLLAND)

**ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA
(PRINCESS LOUISE'S)**



LANCE CORPORAL ROMEO CICCONE
(on the right)



**The photo was taken at a photographer's studio at
426 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, Scotland
1943**

Scotland



ROMEO GOES OVERSEAS

Romeo left Canada for Overseas on July 26, 1944. Records show that he landed in the United Kingdom where he stayed until November 20, 1944. During this time, he was attached to the R.M. Rangers Unit. There is no mention of where he was during these months, but it's presumed that he continued training in preparation for his disembarking in N.W. Europe on November 21, 1944.

My mother, Stella, thought that the photo below could have been taken in Northern Scotland as many Canadian troops were trained in that region.



On a trip I made to England & Scotland in 2005, the Tour Guide told us that many Canadian troops trained in that northern Scottish region. He also mentioned that the region got a lot of snow and many roads are not passable during the winter months.

*As our bus tour continued through that country, I imagined Romeo's Unit training in preparation for his military tour through N.W. Europe.
(Madeline Dent (DeLuca))*

Holland

ROMEO IN HOLLAND



There is no mention of where Romeo was stationed in Holland during the War. However, he did send this photo to my mother, Stella. From her comments on the back of the photo, she thinks he could have been visiting a family there.



While he was in Holland, he sent a pair of little wooden shoes, which are pictured in the page that follows with some comments from my sister, Irene.

My Mom treasured those little wooden shoes sent by her brother, Romeo. They were tenderly placed in the China Cabinet in her Dining Room where they remained until her death in 1982. After that, they travelled to Victoria, BC where they are currently being looked after by my sister.

Wooden Shoes from Holland



When I was very little, Uncle Romeo sent some wooden shoes to my mother, Stella DeLuca, from Holland. I have kept the shoes these many years and look at them often ... one of the reasons I look at them is that they used to fit me when I was a little girl! How sad is that?



Irene McCart (DeLuca)

THE LAST BATTLE

(GERMANY)

Germany

March 7, 1945

Infantrymen of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada cooking a meal and warming themselves around a fire in a barnyard near Veen, Germany.



From: "Jennifer" <jadl@shaw.ca>
To: "Madeline Dent" <Madeline_Dent@telus.net>
Sent: June 17, 2007 7:04 PM
Subject: romeo

Did you find this article

Is it at <http://www.ashofc.ca/ASHFRAME.htm>

If you read it to the end... you will see that there this battle was the last one fought by the regiment and it had the distinction of being the last unit to face opposition. It said 4 soldiers died on May 4th. One of them was Romeo.

BAD ZWISCHENAHN

BAD ZWISCHENAHN - BACKGROUND

The last battle of the war for the Argylls was fought at and around a town and a lake of the same name: BAD ZWISCHENAHN. When the battle ended on the 4th of May 1945, the Argylls had the distinction of being the last unit in the 21st Army Group (consisting of the 2nd British Army and the 1st Canadian Army) to face opposition.

BAD ZWISCHENAHN - THE BATTLE

The plan of attack on BAD ZWISCHENAHN called for The Lincoln and Welland Regiment to take the eastern approaches to the town, the Argylls to take the western approaches and The Lake Superior Regiment to pass through and take the town once the supporting units had consolidated.

On the 30th of April 1945, the advance began after a night of suffering German mortar and shell fire. "B" Company lead off at first light and took its objective after which "C" Company passed through and took its objective as well. "D" Company reached the southern end of BAD ZWISCHENAHN airfield by 1615 hours (4:15 PM). The Commanding Officer pulled all the companies back slightly before nightfall as they were spread very thin on the ground. Total casualties for the day were nine wounded.

On 01 May 1945, with the town cut off on all sides, the Canadian forces extended the offer to the town and its garrison to surrender; a move that would have been unthinkable only a few weeks prior. Mercifully, the offer was accepted.

Later that day, "D" Company continued its advance across the airfield meeting slight opposition. The enemy reacted late in the day by shelling the airfield. On the 1st, one Argyll was killed and four wounded.

On the 2nd of May 1945, operations continued to clear the local area. The little town of ELMENDORF was captured. Three Argylls were killed and eight wounded.

On the 3rd of May 1945, the battalion was moved to the town of GRIESTEDE, arriving at last light. They advanced toward their new objective of WIEFELSTEDE, facing sporadic small arms fire along the way. WIEFELSTEDE was taken by 2200 hours (10:00 PM) but enemy snipers remained active all night and shelling continued. The engineers began repairing the road between GRISTEDE and WIEFELSTEDE as it was impassable to wheeled vehicles.

On the 04th of May 1945, the Argylls continued their advance toward the new objective of SPOHLE. The advance was slow due to heavy enemy fire. By 2040 hours (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. Four Argylls were killed that day and nine wounded. Of the 11 Germans captured, four volunteered to walk over to their lines and spread word of the surrender.

BAD ZWISCHENAHN - THE END

On the 05th of May 1945, the four POWs and two Argylls walked over to the German lines finding that they too had fallen back during the night. In the area of DRINGENBERG, they found 34 Germans and 68 French POWs.

The road between WIEFELSTEDE and SPOHLE was clear of enemy. For the Argylls, the war was over.

IN LOVING MEMORY

LANCE CORPORAL ROMEO CICCONE

Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada

Killed in action on May 4, 1945, only hours before cease-fire proclaimed. Initially buried in churchyard cemetery in Wiefelstede, Germany.



Reburial

Holten Canadian Military Cemetery, Holten, Holland
Grove 10, Row B, Plot 10



Wielsteede

Holeen

CITATIONS:

1939-1945 STAR

FRENCH AND GERMANY STAR

WAR MEDAL

**CANADIAN VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL
with CLASP.**



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**In memory of
Lance Corporal
ROMEO CICCONE**
who died on May 4, 1945
Overseas, Western Europe,

Military Service:

Service Number: K/46502
Age: 27
Force: Army
Unit: Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's)
Citation: 1939-1945 Star, French and Germany Star, War Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp.

Additional Information:

Date of Birth: March 29, 1918
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Date of Enlistment: February 24, 1942
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Son of the late Domenico and late Anna Ciccone. Brother of Carmen and Stella, and half brother of Alfred, Robert, John and Jeanie.

Commemorated on Page 503 of the
Second World War Book of Remembrance.
[\[CLICK HERE FOR AN IMAGE OF THIS PAGE\]](#)
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There is a digital photo collection relating to
ROMEO CICCONE.

[\[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PHOTOS\]](#)
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Burial Information:

Cemetery:
HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY
Netherlands

405-C-31374
D.R. 2 (D)

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that according to information received at the Department of National Defence from the overseas authorities, No. K.46502, Lance Corporal Romeo CICCONE, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's), Canadian Army, was killed in action on the 4th of May, 1945.

C.L.
(C.L. Laurin) Colonel,
Director of Records.

Officer authorized to sign certificates of death and/or presumption of death for the Canadian Army.

h
Department of National Defence,
Ottawa, Canada.
May 29th, 1945.