



Maurice Willis Collins was born on November 19, 1920 in Sullivan, Ontario. He grew up in a family of 7 children near Tara, just south of Owen Sound in Ontario. Maurice worked at home on his parents' farm. There wasn't opulence on the farm. Maurice was 83 kg and 1 meter 82 tall when he enlisted for military service at Owen Sound on February 18, 1942. The medical report

says he has brown hair, blue eyes and normal ears. He will be given the registration number B.58490. His brother Erle also goes into military service. Not yet 22 years old, farmer Maurice, as a single, leaves the parental home, into uncertain adventure and danger.

On D-day (June 6, 1944) Maurice was at sea on his way to England and had to wait another ten weeks before being shipped to Normandy as well. On August 12, 1944, he arrives in France and on August 14, 1944, he is added to the Black Watch of Canada.

From Normandy it went slowly northwards, towards Belgium and Zeeland. On September 14, he was wounded by a shrapnel in his face. The war diary says they were then near Dunkirk Fr. (near Bourbourgville) On 10 October he rejoined his unit, which was then in Hoogerheide. (just below Bergen op Zoom) Then it went east and south of Nijmegen the winter '44-'45 was spent. After heavy fighting during the Rhineland Offensive, the Rhine was crossed near Emmerich at the end of March 1945. Then it continued fighting northwards. Via Laren the men reached the Wippert,

Maurice is near the farm of the Kolkman family on the Fliermatenweg on April 8 when he is hit by German bullets. Seriously injured, he is transferred to the farm of Schupperts-Jan-Albert on the Russendijk, where an emergency hospital was set up. There he succumbs to his injuries, 24 years young. "Killed in action", says the telegram that is delivered to his parents in Canada more than a week later. Now Maurice is located at the Canadian cemetery in Holten, plot 01 A 02.



Foto van het definitieve graf van Maurice Collins, nog met het metalen kruis