

Lt Edwin Owen Copas

9-B-6



Edwin was born on July 18, 1920 in Port Alberni, British Columbia to Edwin O. and Florence A. Copas, of Vancouver. Mother Florence is not mentioned in his military file, but his stepmother Margaret Copas is.

He was still a student and gave up his profession as a lumbertrimmer when he enlisted in the Army at the age of 19. Edwin was a member of the Church of England. He spoke and wrote English and he could write a little French.

From June 1, 1937, Edwin had already served with the 58th Field Battery RCA or The Non-Permanent Active Militia of Canada in Vancouver. He enlisted in the army in Vancouver on September 24, 1939 and then went overseas to Glasgow Scotland on September 2, 1941. He disembarked on March 31, 1945 in NW Europe. Edwin was very successful during his military training: in 1941 he was made a sergeant and in 1943 he became a lieutenant.

Edwin was killed on Thursday 26 April 1945 at the age of 24 during the battle for the hamlet Gröppenbühren in the municipality of Ganderkesee in Germany. He was then temporarily buried at the Caspari Barracks in Delmenhorst in Germany. On March 14, 1946 he was reburied in Holten. The other fallen soldiers of this action in Gröppenbühren of this regiment and also temporarily buried at the Caspari Barracks in Delmenhorst were: Pte Jacob G.E. Enns, age 26 years in grave 10-B-6, Pte Alfred D. Gorzitza age 21 years in grave 9-B-8, Pte Amil A. Larson age 26 years in grave 9-B-7, Sgt John P. Stirling, age 22 years in grave 9-B-15 and L/Sgt William H. Webb, age 24 years in grave 9-B-3.

On his tombstone: DEAR BRAVE LAD, TO GOD AND THY MOTHER I COMMEND THEE. DAD

His grave, together with Pte Amil Larson and Pte Alfred Gorzitza, was adopted after the war by the Metzger family from Holten from the hotel "het Losse Hoes" near the cemetery.

His medals were: 1939-45 Star; France & Germany Star; Defense Medal; war medal; CVSM & Clasp.

He served with the Calgary Highlanders.

