

## **Albert J. Cote Pte B/54540 The Algonquin Regiment 04 E 04**

Albert Joseph was born on July 12, 1920 to the Roman Catholic family of Augustin and Flora Cote from North Bay, Ontario. Albert was the second youngest of the children. When Albert signed up for the army in July 1940, his father had already died. The family had been through a lot in the years before: In addition to the premature death of the father, 6 of ten children had died at a young age. His younger brother Ernest, who still lived with the mother, and two sisters were still there. Albert completed 3 years of high school (grade 11) and then worked as a clerk at a large drugstore in North Bay until his enlistment.

He entered service on July 27, 1940 and was assigned to the Algonquin Regiment. Albert Cote underwent his military training in Canada until June 1943. He was sporty, smoked and drank moderately and was not very ambitious in his "personal selection record". On June 10, 1943, he went by ship to the United Kingdom for further military training. More than a year later, on July 20, 1944, he was shipped to France to be deployed at the front.

After the liberation of Antwerp, the regiment moved towards the Scheldt estuary. The battle for the Leopold Canal in the northwest of Flanders was fierce. During a confrontation near Moerkerke (B), the Algonquin Regiment was forced to withdraw from a threatened position. Albert had volunteered to stay behind with the seriously injured, who could not be transported. While he was treating one of the wounded, he himself was hit by a grenade that had struck his aid station. He was seriously injured and captured by the enemy. The Canadian army reported him missing on September 14, 1944. The Germans transferred Albert to the prisoner of war camp Stalagkamp 11B in Fallingbomel near Bremen, where he died of his wounds three weeks later on October 5, 1944 at the age of 24 in the army lazaret Oerbke.

Albert Joseph Cote was first temporarily buried there, then reburied in Soltau (D) and finally found his final resting place in March 1948 at the Canadian cemetery in Holten plot 4 row E grave number 4



