

Lieutenant Herbert Patrick CROOME

09-B-04

2 Anti-Tank Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery.

Lt. Croome died on May 1st 1945. He was the son of Randolph G. and Etta Croome and husband of Elva L. Croome of Toronto, Ontario.

His vehicle hit a mine and the crew were killed. Earlier he had earned the Military Cross in Groningen while trying to force a crossing of het Verbindingskanaal when he was able to crawl back under fire and bring up a 17 pounder after his 6 pounder anti-tank gun was destroyed. He was able to destroy a German 20 mm. As described by a member of the 4 RCA Forward Observation Officer team: *Now a 17 pounder is brought up and is positioned to shoot up the street. We, on the other side of the canal, don't realize it can lay on its target - a nearby 5 foot high stone wall running along the canal, has to be shot away with high explosive shells. The double, almost instantaneous smashes of sound - first the muzzle blast of the gun and then the shattering roar of the shell exploding only 25 yards in front of its muzzle -*



make us dive for cover, and cause near panic among the civilians in the houses around there, especially the children as the tiles from the roofs in the vicinity lift and slide to the ground like snow. Once the German gun is visible the 17 pounder makes short work of it and we are able to move up to the railway station.

