

28 Company Canadian Forestry Corps



WWII (1939-1945) brought many devastating Canadian deaths of young men. These Canadian soldiers were sons, brothers and some even husbands. The First Canadian Army played a major role in the liberation of the Dutch people who had suffered terrible hunger and hardship under the increasingly desperate German occupiers. We must remember these brave soldiers sacrificed their young lives for the freedom of others.

Personal Information

Richard Earl Cross was born on August 13, 1921 in Conquerall Mills, Lunenburg Co., Nova Scotia, Canada. His parents were Estelle Rosamund Bailey-Cross (1891-1977) and Otto Bordman Cross (1885-1962). They were married on December 21, 1918 in Bridgewater, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. Richard had an older sister Margaret and three younger brothers. He practiced the religion of Lutheran. His marital status was single and his trade was that of a Woodsman.



OTTO BORDMAN CROSS



ESTELLE ROSAMUND CROSS



THE CROSS CHILDREN



THE CROSS HOUSE IN MIDVILLE



Richard bought a bicycle which he shared with his brothers pictured left with his sister. Also in the fall of 1941 he purchased an old car (a Whippet) which required lots of repairs, pictured right

Military Movements

His father Otto was a woodsman and Richard, who grew up in rural Nova Scotia, worked at a young age along side with his father and brother in the lumber camps. He did this to help his family financially. This is likely why he enrolled in the forestry corps. With no Military training and three months shy of his 21st birthday Richard Earl Cross enlisted in the military May 8th.

Final Day

Richard survived all the horrors of the war and then sadly died at the age of 24 as the war ended. He was driving a water truck in the Hartz Mountain in Germany. The truck he was driving skidded on a wet road and overturned on October 27, 1945. Medical aid was immediately attempted but M.O. reported he was killed instantly. His companion, Pte William Wright escaped without injuries. The irreparable loss to the family was keenly felt as he was expected home very soon. In a letter to his parents the Commanding officer spoke highly of his qualities as an N.C.O. and a friend of his comrades.

Burial Information

His body was buried in Germany temporarily and several months later moved to The Holton Cemetery in the Netherlands, after the end of hostilities.

1394 people are buried at The Holton cemetery, these 1394 people gave their lives in order for us to live in a country without war. No medals or awards were found for Richard Cross. The soldiers buried here have given their lives to liberate a country from 5 years of brutal oppression. The Holten Canadian War Cemetery is the second largest remembrance cemetery in the Netherlands. Richard is buried in IV.E.6., which is shown below.



To Lance Corporal Richard Earl Cross

We want to give thanks to you and what you have done. You made the ultimate sacrifice at such a young age. We recognize you as a brave soldier fighting for his country, so the people of today can live in peace and harmony. Thank you for service, you and your comrades are forever in our thoughts.

Gratefully,

Joel & Thomas

Gratitudes

We would like to give a special thank you to Donna Cooper for the memories and photos she provided us of her Uncle Richard. These memories and photographs were shared with her from Richard's sister (her mother) and his brothers. Unfortunately Donna was born while her uncle was overseas and she never had the good fortune to meet him.

We would also like to acknowledge the DesBrisay Museum, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia for the obituary, photo of gravestone and contacting the family. This project could not have been completed without either of them.

POEM BY THE YOUNG RICHARD CROSS

After Richards's sister Margaret's death, the family found a carefully folded paper in her bible. Richard wrote this poem at the age of 12 and his sister treasured it and kept it for 80 years.

October leaves

"October leaves are falling fast,"
I hear the people say;
The autumn winds are tossing them
They must be swept away.

But I know they are fairy folks
These leaves so gold and red,
Just having one last frolic
Before they go to bed.

Richard Cross
Grade VII