



Gordon Delaney was born in Quebec City on April 11, 1925. On April 12, he was baptized and given the following names: Gordon Gerard Forsythe. He was the son of Gerard and Dora Delaney. According to the 1931 census, Gordon had one older brother, Herbert, and one younger brother, Forsette. French was the primary language, but Gordon reported that he also spoke English.

He attended St. Patrick's School in Quebec City for seven years.

As for work experience, Gordon reported that he had worked for two and a half years in an office at Dominion Arsenal in Quebec.

This company was heavily involved in the war industry, producing artillery shells.



Dominion Arsenal 1940

Gordon enlisted relatively late in the war on February 1, 1944, and was assigned to the District Depot in Lauzon, Quebec.

Prior to enlisting, Gordon had already served as a reservist with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals (RCCS) from June 1942 to February 1944.

His medical report was unremarkable. Gordon had brown hair and brown eyes, was 5'5" tall, and weighed 154 lbs.

He was single when he enlisted. The photo of a young woman in his service & pay book will remain a mystery.

On March 1, 1944, Gordon was transferred to the A1 Canadian Artillery Training Centre in Petawawa, Ontario, for further training.

He soon received a slightly higher pay, which increased to \$1.40 per day on June 1, 1944.

In July 1944, Gordon was granted a few days' embarkation leave. Starting July 18, 1944, he was drafted into the troops that would cross to the United Kingdom.

This crossing took place via the so-called HX convoys.

To clarify:

HX convoys were transatlantic convoys in the North Atlantic Ocean, sailing east from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, to Liverpool and other ports in Great Britain during World War II. The HX series consisted of 377 convoys, with 17,744 ships. Thirty-eight convoys were attacked (approximately 10 percent), resulting in a total loss of 206 ships, or about 1 percent of the total.

Gordon's ship arrived safely on July 27, 1944, and he was assigned to an artillery Reinforcement Unit.

Gordon remained in England serving in that unit until November 1944.

On the third of that month, he embarked for deployment with troops in the Northwest Europe Theater of War.

He was taken on strength by the Lincoln & Welland Regiment (L&W), with this regiment Gordon entered the harsh winter of 1944/45.

The winter months were spent watching, observing, and patrolling.

The conditions during the winter months apparently played havoc with Gordon; in February 1945, he ended up in the hospital for a few weeks because he was suffering from "trench feet."

He was discharged from hospital on February 17, 1945.

By then, the Rhineland Offensive had already begun, Operation Veritable was the first phase.

To clarify:

After the largely unsuccessful Operation Market-Garden, a massive Canadian-British force was built up in the Nijmegen region during the winter of 1944/1945: approximately 400,000 men and approximately 35,000 vehicles. The goal: to push back the German units behind the Rhine. On February 8, the Canadians and British launched their attack on the Rhineland with Operation Veritable. They encountered fierce resistance in the Reichswald. By March 10, the western bank of the Rhine was almost completely cleared of German troops. During the night of March 23 and 24, the Allies crossed the Rhine at Wesel. By March 29, the Rhine crossing was complete, and the Rhineland was in Allied hands. The Rhineland offensive claimed 25,000 Allied casualties and over 60,000 German ones.

After fierce fighting's in the Rhineland, the Canadian troops crossed the Rhine and were tasked with liberating the eastern and northern part of the Netherlands.

In early April 1945, Gordon marched with the L&W Regiment through the eastern region of the Netherlands not far from the German border. They advanced north towards the city of Lochem and the Twente Canal.

However, orders changed, and the regiment turned east towards Delden.

The L&W Regiment was ordered to launch an attack to cross the Twente Canal south of the city of Delden.

On April 3rd, they succeeded. After a fierce battle, a bridgehead was established.

By April 4th, a bridge was already established across the canal.



Delden

The L&W Regiment, with Gordon in its ranks, continued the advance and entered Germany with its ultimate objective:

Cloppenburg.

They made rapidly progress: Meppen, April 8th; Sogel, April 9th; Werlte, April 10th 1945.

The price for the liberation of Werlte came at the cost of 36 men dead or wounded for the L&W Regiment.

The advance continued towards Cloppenburg.

Gordon's regiment operated on the south and southeast sides of Friesoythe.

The L&W's diary reveals that they advanced from April 16 to 18, 1945, via Kronsberg, Bösel, and Osterloh.

In these three days, the L&W's lost another 20 men.

One of these casualties was Private Gordon Delaney, he was killed in action on April 16, 1945.

He was given a temporary grave at a school in Bösel, east of Friesoythe.

His final resting place is the CWGC Canadian War Cemetery Holten.

Grave reference: Plot 7, Row C, Grave 5.

He was awarded:

the 1939-1945 Star; the France-Germany Star; the 1939-1945 War Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.

