


## Private Arnold Peter DONALD

### 12-B-15



Arthur Peter Donald was born on 10 June 1904 to Arthur Peter Donald and Catherine Devon in Motherwell, Scotland. Arthur was their fifth child, however two

of his older siblings died as toddlers prior to his birth. Arthur grew up in the home in which he was born, leaving school at age 14, not uncommon in those times for large families of modest income. In 1929, just before his 25th birthday, Arthur sailed to Canada on the "Antonia" from Greenock Port with his sister Peggy, who was just 18 years old. His plan was to work at farming upon his arrival in Canada, which he did for the next ten years in Hastings County in southwestern Ontario. In 1939 Arthur married his wife Olga and the next year they had a daughter, Katherin Devon Donald. In August 1940, at the age of 36, Arthur volunteered to join the Canadian Army in service with The Algonquin Regiment. His enlistment record indicates that he was a small man. He was of dark complexion with hazel eyes and blackish grey hair. His eyesight, hearing and overall health was good. Arthur served in Canada for two years, in the UK for nineteen months and then in November 1944 his unit was sent to join the Western Front. Sadly by the evening of 4 May 1945, very close to the end of the war, Arthur Donald was killed in action near Rastede, Germany, in the age of 40 years. While people around the world were beginning to celebrate the end of WWII, some troops

were still in the field. Arthur would have been one of the last Canadian casualties of the war. May 4th was described as a cold and rainy day, for the most part. Arthur's unit had advanced into Rastede and were searching for "enemy stragglers" and picking up prisoners of war. Around 20.00 hrs, while clearing a wood, they ran into some opposition and Arthur Donald was killed. It is interesting, but very sad, the war diaries report that 30 minutes after Arthur's death, the enemy front agreed to surrender unconditionally. And two hours later, the message was sent to all coys "all offensive wil cease until further order". On 5 May 1945 the surviving members of the Algonquin Regiment marched with orders in a parade in Rastede, Germany, to celebrate the capitulation of Germany.

Arthur Peter Donald received following war medals: Canadian Volunteer Service Medal; the 1939-1945 Star, The France & German Star, the Defence Medal and the War Medal.

