

## Pte Thomas Irvine Earle

1-H-15



Thomas was born on July 19, 1924 in Sydney, Nova Scotia to Thomas Livingstone and Margaret Jennette Earle of Sydney. Thomas's parents were married on 12 June 1913 in St John New, Brunswick. His brother was Gordon George Earle (RCAF overseas) and his sisters were Dorothey Margaret Fergusson, Jean Agnes Stewart and Martha Isabelle Earle. The Earle family were members of the United Church of Canada.

Thomas went to school until he was 17 and achieved grade VIII. He then went to work as a car mechanic. He played ice hockey in various school teams, and he also enjoyed fishing and hunting. But collecting "recordings" was his main hobby.

Thomas enlisted in Halifax, Nova Scotia on November 2, 1943 and after military training at Camp Bordon, he went overseas to the United Kingdom more than six months later on July 2, 1944. On September 29, 1944 he was sent to the front in northern France. From that moment on, he took part with his regiment, the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, in the further advance and fierce fighting in Belgium, the Battle of the Scheldt and in the Rhineland offensive. At the beginning of April 1945, Thomas arrived in the Achterhoek with his unit to expel the Nazis from Eastern Netherlands.

Thomas was killed on Sunday, April 8, 1945 at the age of 20 during the liberation of the village of Bathmen. During the crossing of the Schipbeek, a fierce confrontation took place in which 4 men from his regiment were killed instantly, a fifth North Shore soldier was seriously injured and died in the emergency hospital in 's-Heerenberg. Thomas was temporarily buried in Almen before finding his final resting place in Holten on January 30, 1946.

His medals were: 1939-45 Star; France Germany Star; War Medal; CVSM & Clasp.

His mother was awarded The Memorial Bar on May 21, 1945.

