

NO.	M.8915	Rank	Private	Name	FORBES, Frederick Taylor
Unit	Black Watch (RHR)		Date of death	5th April, 1945	
Died at	Holland				
Cause	Killed in action				
Death occurred on strength of Forces H.Q.	405-F-13,123				
N/K	Mrs. Rita B. Forbes			Relationship	Widow
Address	161 - 5th Street S.E., Medicine Hat, Alberta. 1218 - 3rd Ave. - At South, Lethbridge, Alta.				
Remains buried in	In orchard W side of rd, S end of Cemetery Laren, one house S of 061001 Lochem sh				
Grave location	Holland				

*Bron: Canada, WWII
Service Files of War
Dead, 1939-1947*

Emily Taylor wasn't born for happiness. She was a mother of five, maybe even six children, the archives don't provide clear information. After the Second World War her family had thinned out. Her husband had run away, two sons had died in the army, another son and a daughter were still alive and the whereabouts of two other children have been unknown up to this day. In September 1910, 21-year-old Emily Taylor married William Gray Forbes who was three years her senior. William and Emily had five children, maybe even six.

There is reason to believe Emily already had a baby girl before marrying William. After they got married they had at least three sons (Arthur, William and Fred) and one daughter (Dorothy), according to one source there was a fourth son (James), who died in 1916 at a very young age. The marriage lasted for twenty years. In 1930 William left her and she was left behind with Arthur, who was 19 years old at the time, his 17-year-old brother Fred, 14-year-old William and 11-year-old Dorothy. More and more Arthur would fulfill his father's role in the family. Even though his mother wasn't a widow, she was financially dependent on Arthur, and she was still at the time Arthur joined the Army. Arthur George Forbes joined the Canadian Army in March 1941. Prior to that he had worked in the coalmines in Alberta, just like his brother Fred. In October 1941 he was transferred to the United Kingdom where he enrolled in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps.

On August 13, 1943 – Friday the thirteenth; was it meant to be? – Arthur was busy loading tanks onto railway carriages at the yard near the station of Brandon. On a quiet moment he and his comrade V. Zabarowski were looking for a place to urinate. They found a place between two freight cars, apart by approximately two meters. All of a sudden one of the carriages came in motion. Zabarowski managed to bring himself to safety but Arthur Forbes was less lucky. He got stuck between the buffers of two carriages. He was still conscious when he was taken to the hospital but according to the doctors he was in a very serious condition. He suffered broken ribs and a punctured lung and he had internal haemorrhage. Arthur passed away within five hours. "Deceased. Accidentally injured while on duty", it says in his file.

Arthur's death was fully investigated. Finally the army authorities concluded it had been an accident and that nobody was to be blamed. Being the only heir, Emily Forbes was granted a payment of about 490 dollars.

Whether or not the death of his brother made Fred Forbes decide to join the army remains unclear. Fred did mention though that he wanted to follow in his brother's footsteps. Fred Forbes, born July 27th 1913, had been married to Rita Corbitt for more than seven years when he signed for the army in March 1944. Rita and Fred had three children, three boys. The eldest was Kenneth, born in 1937, and twins Larry and Barry, four years younger than Kenneth. Even though Fred had to take care of his own family, he also contributed to his mother's household with a monthly payment. Soon Fred was shipped to England and in September he went to the front in Western Europe as a soldier for the Black Watch, the Royal Highland Regiment of Canada.

He had to fight hard when his regiment, together with the Regiment de Maisonneuve as well as the Calgary Highlanders, was trying to force a breakthrough from the Sloedam to Walcheren. It was a heavy battle at the cost of many casualties. Black Watch counted 85 wounded and fallen at the end of the day. Fred suffered a foot injury. He was only slightly injured though, in army terms. After a month he was able to return to his regiment. In April of 1945 he got involved in more heavy fights, this time around Laren (Gld). Again the Black Watch and the Maisonneuves suffered terribly. They paid a high price. Fred was hit and mortally wounded. "Killed in Action," it says in his file. His three children would never see him again. His mother had to miss yet a second grown-up son.

Chances are things ultimately turned out for the better between mother Emily and father William since they are buried side by side in Drumheller Cemetery in Alberta. William passed away in 1963, Emily in 1973.

Fred's wife Rita would later find a second love with whom she would share many years. She passed away in 2007.

Fred found a temporary resting place in Laren (Gld.), the day after he fell in battle. Later on he was reburied in Holten Canadian War Cemetery. His grave is in Plot 1, row E, grave number 13.



STAFF SGT. A. G. FORBES
Killed overseas.

Soldier Killed In Train Accident

[By Herald Correspondent]

DRUMHELLER, Aug. 18—Staff Sgt. Arthur G. Forbes of the R.C.O.C., is dead as the result of an accident in England, according to official notification received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Forbes of this city.

He died while on duty, after being caught between two freight cars.

OVERSEAS TWO YEARS

Staff Sgt. Forbes was raised and educated in Drumheller, having resided here for the past 20 years. He served overseas for two years. Prior to his enlistment he was employed by the Red Deer Valley coal mine.

He is survived by his parents here, two brothers, Fred of Redcliff and William of Drumheller, and a sister, Mrs. O. de Grace of Macleod.

His brother Arthur lies buried in England, in the Canadian segment of the military cemetery in Brookwood. He is in plot 45, row E, grave number 4. *Source: Margaret Rose Gaunt*

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