

Sapper Andrew Ford survived the hell of the Raid on Dieppe in 1942, but was yet killed in action on April 7 1945 while crossing the little river the Schipbeek near Holten.



Andrew Ford was born on March 10 1919 in Corinth, ON. When he enlisted on February 8 1940 he lived in St Thomas, ON. with his mother Hazel O. Ford and his two younger brothers Donald Eugene and John Mills Ford. Where his father Earl Ford then was is unknown. The religion of the family was the Latter Day Saints Church. Andrew left school at the age of 15 after his "grade 8". He had after school various jobs and it was not clear for him what he wanted to do after he war.

He liked boxing and rugby. Besides that he did like to play trumpet for others. Andrew had an education from 1936 till 1939 in a machine shop in St Thomas.

After a training of a half year in Canada he was already embarked for a training in the UK on August 22 1940 where he disembarked on September 5. He was one of the about 1700 soldiers who could return to England after the failed operation of the Raid on Dieppe. About 6000 soldiers and most of them Canadian soldiers had to fight on August 18 and 19 1942 during this attack and yet 30 percent could hardly get away of the coast of Dieppe due to bitter fights.

Andrew followed after this operation a new training in England and he went finally overseas to France on July 6 July 1944, a month after D Day, to support the allied advance in Western Europe.

This advance was almost completely finished in the beginning of April 1945, the Canadian Army had reached the middle of Holland and Andrew was with his unit in the neighbourhood of Holten, there they had to cross a heavily by Germans defended, little river the Schipbeek. Because the Germans had blown up the bridge, the first liberators used little boats to cross, and Andrew was killed there in action on April 7 1945 by a hit. He was temporarily buried the next day at about 100 metres of the Schipbeek together with yet 10 army mates. He was one of the first Canadian soldiers reburied definitively on December 16 1945 at the Canadian cemetery Holten. Andrew lays in the first row in the seventh grave at this field of honour.

His medals: 1939-45 Star, France Germany Medal, Defence Medal, War Medal, CVSM & Clasp

