

## Fraser James Austin

03-G-02



James was the son of Peter and Flora Fraser of Auburnville Bay du Vin Northumberland Co. New Brunswick. Though his first name is James he most of the time went by his middle name which was Austin.

Before the war he had worked as a hunting guide with his father. They guided for lots of different American tourists. He made connections through them and ended up going to school in Boston. This was very exciting at the time because his family didn't have much money and not many people in the community at this time actually went to school.

Austin was the oldest of 12 children. He was apparently a great big brother and loved his younger siblings very much. He would take them swimming and loved to play with them. He loved being around kids in general and was very funny and friendly so all the kids in the community loved him too.

He loved the outdoors and spent lots of time outside in the woods, this is why he was a hunting guide. He hunted and fished for hobbies as well.

He enlisted on The Canadian Ordnance Corps on September 24, 1942 in Fredericton. He was promoted to corporal in August 1943 and transferred to The Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 11<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde. He was reverted to the rank of craftsman. He arrived in Italy in Nov. 1943. Late February, 1945 he arrived in France. He survived the Italian and NW European campaigns and lived to see the surrender of Germany. Craftsman Fraser (38) fell into a canal and drowned in the night of 21 May 1945 in Groningen.

During the war he had 3 younger brothers also in Europe. They all kept in touch by letters and had met up a few times when they were able to. His father who had also served in the Netherlands went to go see Austin for his birthday and eventually went home as the Germans had recently surrendered. When his father arrived where Austin was he found out that he had died a few days before. He was the only one in the family who didn't make it home.

At his headstone : *In loving memory of a dear son and brother.*

