

Fryday, George Albert, Private

7-F-12



George was born Nov. 1, 1925, in Toronto, son of Thomas Fryday (Irish and deceased) and Frances Millicent I. Fryday-Cross (English and serving in the army). She lived in Toronto. She later remarried as Mrs. Wright and lived in Newmarket Ontario.

George's brother, Thomas William Fryday had died by 1937.

George was the grandson of Frances Millicent Payton of Toronto and she became his foster mother and first next of kin. She took in and raised George when his mother left the parental home to marry Mr. Wright.

George worked in a machine parts store and he was a member of the Church of England. Before George enlisted on Jan. 11, 1943 in Toronto, he had been active in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve from April 1942 to September 1942. The portrait photo above is from that time.

Because he was not yet 18 years old, he was first assigned to the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps.

As of March 20, 1943, he was placed with the Hamilton Branch of the "Vocational Training School" in Toronto for general duties.

Per May 1, 1943, when he was seventeen and a half years old, he was scaled up from "Boy" to "Private" and his pay was increased to \$1.50 per day.

As of June 16, 1944, he was placed at the Canadian Army Trades School in Hamilton.

A transfer to the infantry followed and as of Sept. 19, 1944, after a stopover in Brantford, he was enrolled at the Camp Borden training center.

In November 1944, he enjoyed a few more days of leave before embarking for England on Nov. 29.

Here he arrived on December 9, 1944.

On January 23, 1945, he made his entrance to the mainland and was taken on strength in the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada as of Jan. 31, 1945.

On April 2, 1945, he was lightly wounded by shrapnel to the left hip. Because he had been in a wet slit trench for an extended period of time, there were a few complications for which he was treated.

After being discharged from sickbay, he rejoined his unit on April 25, 1945.

While advancing into northwest Germany he was overtaken by fate. The QOR's war diary reported the following about this:

May 4 1945 – MITTE GROSSEFEHN 889335

0600 Reveille – Fine and clear.

0100 At 0100 D Coy had crossed the canal without further opposition and were now at 889340. B Coy went on before first light and passed through D Coy at 0310 hrs. and went out to OSTERSANDER 855363.

0630 OSTERSANDER was cleared without opposition. 14 POW's were taken.

1200 C Coy moved out to attack X-rds. 873369.

1330 C Coy was pinned down by S.A. Fire just short of objective.

Supporting arms went into action and cleared a way for the Coy.

Two of our men were killed [Riflemen George Albert Fryday and Melvin Charles Smith were the last QOR soldiers to be killed in action] and one was wounded.

1500 C Coy were all on their objective. This is believed to be the last attack in N.W. GERMANY. Shortly after C Coy took the X-rds

LCol Haurumz of the WEHRMACHT came in with a white flag to negotiate surrender and he was followed a few minutes later by the Burgomaster of AURICH.



How deeply sad, being killed between 2:30 and 3 in the afternoon while shortly thereafter the enemy "hoisted" the white flag.

George Albert Fryday was given a provisional grave at Ihrhove near Leer (D).

His final resting place became the CWGC Canadian Cemetery in Holten on March 12, 1946. Ref. 7-F-12.

His headstone bears the text:

A HELPING HAND TO ALL HE WAS SO KIND, SO TRUE HE NOBLY DID HIS BEST GRANT HIM LORD, HEAVENLY REST.

Awarded to him were:

the 1939-45 Star; France Germany Star; War Medal; CVSM & Clasp.

In his will, George had stipulated that his assets to be divided equally between his mother and his grandmother.

His medals and the Memorial (Silver) Cross were sent to his mother.

