

## CORPORAL FRANK GIESBRECHT

### Royal Winnipeg Rifles

Frank was born July 20, 1918 at his family's farm near Steinbach, Manitoba, Canada.

He was the youngest of five children and his four older sisters would pretend that he was their "baby" when they played with him. He grew into a friendly, jovial, young man, who felt it was his duty to enlist in the army and fight for European freedom.

Frank could speak "Low Dutch" due to his Mennonite background. When his division arrived in Holland, he was often called on as an interpreter, because the languages were similar. He rode a motorcycle or drove a truck, to deliver messages. He died on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1945, after the Canadian Army over-ran the German lines. In the battle that followed, his truck was hit by a shell, fired by a German 88 cannon.

His parents and sisters were devastated by his death. Especially so, when it occurred so near the end of the war. They also had heard he was engaged to be married to a girl from Holland, as soon as the war ended, but this was not to be.

His family keep his medals and photograph on display. His death is recorded in the Canadian Book of Remembrance of the Second World War, situated in the Memorial Chamber of the Parliament of Canada. The Province of Manitoba has named a lake in his honour.

This photograph and biography have been prepared by his nephew, Robert James Isaacs, from Winnipeg, Manitoba. In Remembrance.