

Sergeant WILLIAM HUBERT GRAHAM – Port Dover

19th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery
 Died on February 13, 1945 – age 27.
 A64755

William Hubert Graham

William Hubert Graham was born November 17th, 1917 to Robert and Margaret Graham in Haltwistle Parish, Northumberland, England. . He had a brother, T.E.W Graham and three sisters. The family relocated to Canada and Bill grew up on a farm on R.R.2 Port Dover. Later in life he married Ann Kathleen Belous of Manitoba and together they had a son, Robert William Graham. They were living at R.R.4 Tillsonburg when Bill enlisted, on September 27, 1941, at Canadian Forces Base in London Ontario. Prior to enlistment Hubert had been working on a tobacco farm near Tillsonburg and was also employed with the Michigan Central Railway. Following enlistment, he was assigned to the 55th Field Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery.



Bill went onto do basic training at various centres in Canada, including # 10 Kitchener, # A19 Camp Borden, Canadian Forces Base Shilo in Manitoba, Camp Terrace in British Columbia and # A1 Petawawa. Hubert earned the rank of Lance Bombardier at CFB Shilo in May of 1942 and then confirmed Bombardier in January of 1943. Two months later, he earned the Rank of Lance Sargent. He was attached to the 19th Field Regiment RCA and sent overseas to his birthplace of the United Kingdom on July 28th, 1943. Less than a year later, he on June 6, 1944 he landed on Juno Beach with the 3rd Canadian Division in the first wave of the invasion of France.



The 19th Canadian Army Field Regiment (Self Propelled) Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA) was a Field Artillery regiment in the Canadian Armed Forces during the Second World War. They would see action in France, Belgium, and the Netherlands, before ending the war in Germany. It was commonly referred to as the 19th Field Regiment, The 19th Army Field Regiment, The 19th Field or by the men of the regiment, Hell on Wheels.

The 19th was attached to the 8th brigade and the 12th, 13th, and 14th Field Regiments were also involved bringing a total of 96 M7 Priest guns into action.^[9] Specifically, the 19th was part of the 14th Canadian Field Regiment Artillery Group led by Lt.-Col. H.S. Griffin with each regiment firing towards the beaches from four Landing Craft towards their target of Nan Red beach.

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The Landing Craft carrying the 19th and the other three Field Regiments advanced at about 6:30 a.m. with the 22nd and 30th LCT Flotilla carrying the 24 M7 Priests of the 19th. At 7:39 a.m., Major Peene the Fire Control Officer, gave the order to commence firing when they were 9,000 yards out.^[1] The guns of the 19th were the first Canadian to go into action and began firing towards northern France to signal the imminent invasion of German occupied Europe

The Regimental war diary indicated that on February 11, 1945, they were in the Reichswald Forest advancing towards Kleve, Germany. 0040(am) Location forward elements SD & G 9 CIB - 942580 - taking prisoners there - quite a fight: 0140(am) Line (telephone) to Brigade now in. 0320 Warning of possible counterattack from Southeast on 43 British Division front. On February 13th, 1945, during Operation Veritable near Kleve, Germany, Sgt. Graham and his Gunner Henry Hennings were both killed when the field gun they were using fired prematurely in the breach.

William Hubert Graham was buried in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands. His obituary indicated that he was survived by his father and mother, one brother Private Thomas E. Graham who enlisted with the 42nd Norfolk Battery and has served overseas with the Canadian Army for the past three years; and three sisters. Mrs. Lorne F. Barber of RR 3 Siomcoe; Betsy at home and Mary of Ingersoll.

Bill received the 1939/45 Star, France/Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. In addition, he was awarded the 60-day Service Clasp and Memorial Cross and Bar.



He is Commemorated on Page 519 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance.



Photo: Thomas Graham with his mother on the occasion of his return home after the war. While overseas, Thomas married Dorothy Crane who was from Colchester, Essex, England and the couple settled in Port Dover.

Dorothy "Doll" Graham later moved to Delhi and died January 18, 2018.

Written by Shannon Ringrose with the assistance of Robin Dickson and Bill's nephew, William E. Graham of Delhi.

Norfolk Remembers