

## Private Peter HARASYMCHUK

06 D 16



The father of Peter came from the Ukraine to Canada when he was 17 years old. He was settling in Inwood, Manitoba. There he met Maria (Mary) Holowaty. Their friendship grew and strengthened and they were married in 1910. Peter was born on April 1921, ninth in birth order of what would eventually be a family of eleven

children. Sadly the Harasymchuks lost four of their children to the Spanish 'flu' in 1919.

In 1924 the family moved to Saskatchewan. They farmed there for 13 years, before moving to Spallumcheen BC in 1937, where they settled on a farm. Pete had completed grade 7, but did not continue with school in Armstrong. As in so many families during the depression years, the children were needed to help with work. In Pete's case their acreage was heavily wooded and there was much hard work to do to clear it. In addition to working on the family farm, Peter also worked driving trucks for the L&A Ranch for a year. Peter and his brothers Mike and Sam, together with their good friend Nick Oberle, had a band called "The Smoky Mountains Boys", which played for local dances. Mike played the fiddle while the others filled in with guitars. Peter enlisted in the Rocky Mountain Rangers for home defence in 1942.

After about a year of various postings on Vancouver Island, he spent seven months at Kiska, Alaska, from July 1943 to January 1944. On his return he was

stationed in Terrace, B.C., until October 1944, when he volunteered for service overseas.

Peter travelled to Debert N.S. and arrived in the UK on December 6, 1944. He was posted to the Canadian Scottish Regiment a 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Regiment that had assaulted Juno Beach on D-Day and since then had fought its way across France, Belgium and Holland. Peter joining the Canadian Scottish in February 1945, just in time for the bitter fighting in the Hochwald Forest in Germany. De Canadian assignment after the crossing of the Rhine was to swing northward and liberate Holland. On April 22, 1945 the regiment assaulted the village of Wagenborgen, Groningen and it was liberated by April 24.

At some point on April 23 Peter was killed in the fierce urban fighting. He was temporarily buried in Siddeburen. Peter died on his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Just after 12 day there was a complete cease-fire and the war was over.

