

Harry Henri Davis

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Harry grew up in the First Nations Reservation of Fort Selkirk in the Yukon Territory. The area is located on the Yukon River a few hundred kilometers from the Arctic Circle. Harry was born on December 9, 1921 and was orphaned very young, his father, who was imprisoned at the time, died in 1926 and his mother Grace Davis-Wood died soon after in 1927. His sister Marry, after marrying named Mrs. Marry Van Bibber, and he were the only member of the family.

Harry went to school until he was 16 and graduated 6th grade. He then worked in a cafe in Dawson City, Yukon Territory and the last year before enlistment, Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation. He was also part of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Hän Nation band in Dawson City.

He enlisted in Dawson on February 19, 1942 and then Harry went overseas to the United Kingdom on July 29, 1942. In England his military training was continued and he became a qualified driver. On July 26, 1944 he was deployed to the front in France. He was involved in the advance of his regiment, the Lake Superior Regiment, through France, Belgium and the south of the Netherlands.

In the winter of 44/45, the Lake Superior Regiment, together with other Canadian regiments, was tasked with guarding the northern front line, in this case the Maas River. Patrols were also regularly deployed across the Maas to reconnoitre enemy positions. This often led to violent confrontations with the Germans. During the expedition launched on January 14, 1945, led by Lt. Johnson had crossed the Maas near Kerkdriel, Harry was badly hit and taken prisoner by the Germans. He died from his wounds the next day, Monday, January 15, at the age of 23. The letter from the army command to his sister states that he had been taken prisoner of war on 14 January 1945 and died the next day. His commanding officer is quoted as saying:

"Private Davis received a burst of 9 m.m. automatic fire, which ignited a # 80 smoke Grenade, carried on his belt. I the patrol commander was approximately six feet away from him as at the time. After the explosion I attempted to engage the enemy from the opposite side of the haystack; coming back Lance sergeant Burrison said: Davis is dead, a grenade is burning in his side" As it was an extremely dangerous situation we decided to get out as fast as possible "

It later became clear that Harry was still alive at the time and died the next day as a prisoner of war, badly wounded.

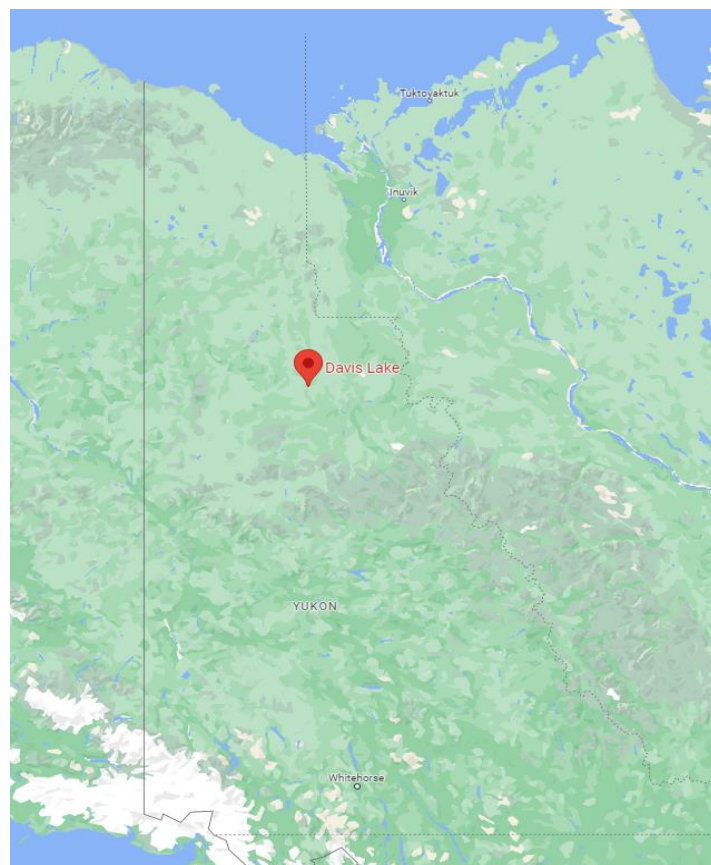
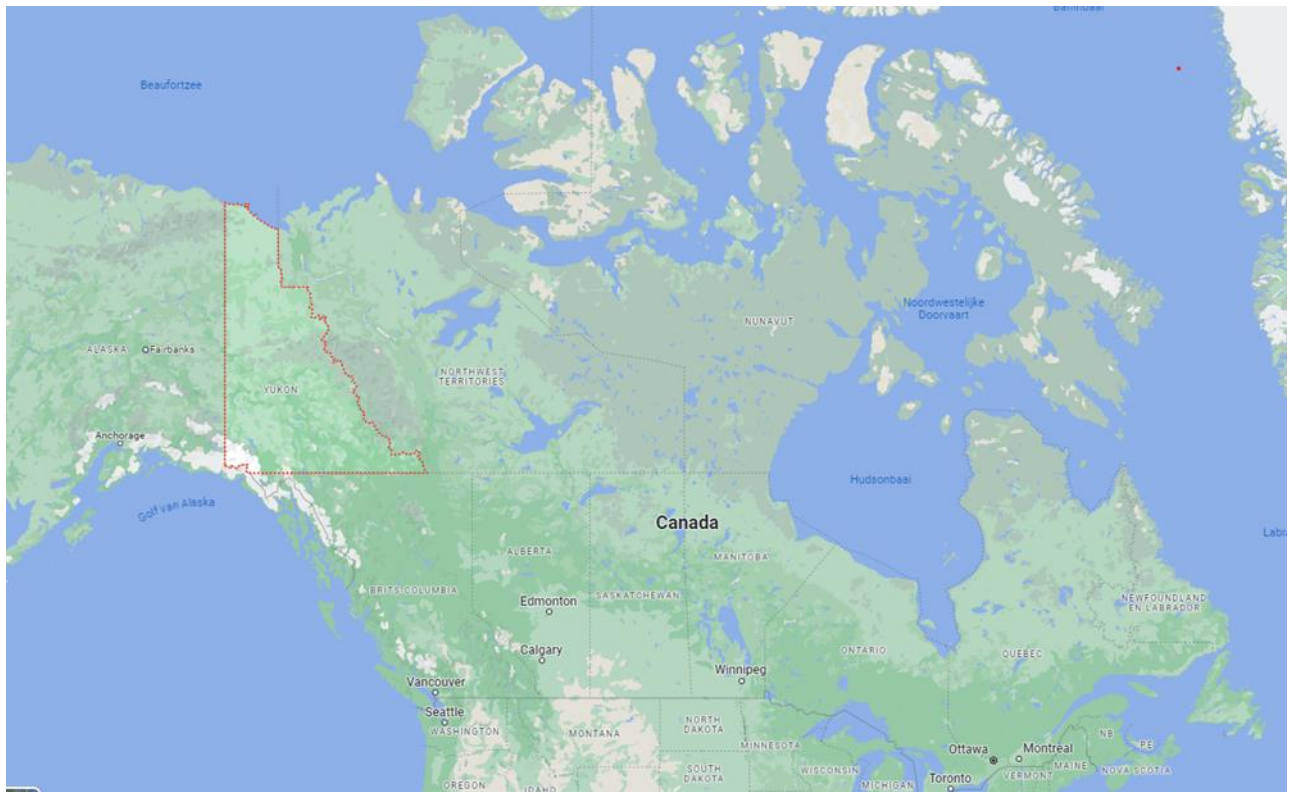
He was temporarily buried in Kerkdriel before being reburied on August 2, 1946 in Holten,

The medals he received for his efforts in the liberation campaigns are: 1939-45 Star; France Germany Star; Defense Medal; War Medal 1939-45; CVSM & Clasp.

Harry is honored by linking his name to a lake in the Yukon Territory: Davis Lake.

Harry Davis is the only Yukon Territory soldier buried in Holten, which is not surprising when you realize that although the Yukon Territory is about the size of Spain in terms of area, it had none yet 10,000 inhabitants in 1945.





DAVIS LAKE Yukon Territory

Latitude
66.17694° or 66° 10' 37" north

Longitude
-136.41583° or 136° 24' 57" west