

Kokot, William. Private

01-F-7



William Kokot had come to Canada at the age of 4, with his parents, Adolf and Lydia Kokot.

Born in Warsaw on September 21, 1924. When he enlisted on August 21, 1941, he had pretended to be two years older. It was stated: September 21, 1922.

He had two brothers and four sisters. Because his father was naturalized, William was registered as a Canadian.

He was described as a sporty young man who enjoyed hunting, but also reading.

William left school at the age of 15 and attended high school for one year. He also claimed to have worked on his parents' farm for two years. The latter was probably to "fill in" the two-year age difference.

Posted to Camp Borden at A-9 CACATC. (Canadian Armoured Corps Advanced Training Centre)

He quickly qualified as a Class III driver for wheeled vehicles.

When his real age was discovered, he was assigned to the Home War Establishment (HWE).

The HWE was responsible for the air defence of Canada during the war. It was split into two different commands, Eastern Air Command (EAC) and Western Air Command (WAC).

Based on the applicable Canadian Army Routine Orders (CARO), he was given 2 weeks' leave. At the age of seventeen and a half years, he was able to rejoin the CACATC.

He remained at Camp Borden. In the summer of 1943, he received various training courses, but he was also placed on the staff of CACAT for training and discipline. William seemed to be rather careless in some respects, including his clothing.

He was denied the right to a "Good Conduct" ribbon due to his incorrect age statement at the time.

At the end of 1943 he transferred to Brampton to the CABTC. (Canadian Army Basic Training Center)

Received ORIGINAL DUPLICATE TRIPLICATE
M.D. 2 NOV. ROLL 1942
REG. NO. 1
A.P. 107
S.D. 175-28-1051

(To be completed in triplicate. Copy designations to be shown by striking out terms not applicable.)
Unit # 8 D.S. 488 A9 . C.A.C.T.C. (AF) Regimental Number B-102766

ACTIVE FORMATIONS AND UNITS OF THE CANADIAN ARMY
ATTESTATION PAPER

1. Surname KOKOT
2. Christian Names WILLIAM
3. Present address Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
4. Date of birth 21 st Sept 1922
5. Place of birth Poland (Country or Province) Warsaw (Name of Township)
6. Religion (state denomination) Baptist
7. Trade or Calling Driver
8. Married, Widower or Single Single
9. Name of next of kin Adolph KOKOT
10. Relationship Father
11. Address of next of kin Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
12. Do you belong to, or have you served in a Reserve Formation or Unit of the Canadian Army?
NO

(If Yes, Give Unit and District Number)

WSG COMPLETED

Now fully qualified as a driver, he remained there until June 1944.
Early June he was transferred to Windsor, Nova Scotia prior to the transfer to the United Kingdom.
He arrived there on June 11, 1944.

Assigned to a reinforcement of the Canadian Armoured Corps he also qualified a Class III tank driver.

In September and October of that year he was granted two more weeks of leave.

Apparently a little short, at the end of November his pay was withheld because he had been "AWL", Absent without Leave.

At the end of December 1944, he was shipped to Italy, where he arrived on the 24th.

In January 1945 he was assigned to the Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment. (H&PER)

When the Canadian troops withdrew from Italy in March 1945, the H&PER went to Northwestern Europe via France (arrival 12.03.1945).

With this regiment William Kokot witnessed all actions until April 17, 1944.

The last action he experienced, which led to his death, was at Nieuw Millingen near Apeldoorn.

This is described in a separate document on his personal record.

In addition to Kokot, H&PER suffered six more deaths and four injuries.

He was given a temporary grave in Teuge, a permanent one in Holten.
Grave ref.: 1-F-7.

He was awarded:

1939-45 Star; Italy Star; France-Germany Star; Defense Medal; War Medal 1939-1945 and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.

The Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment was the last unit he served with.

