Lane, Edward Charles Private 10-F-5



Edward was born on November 27, 1922 in Montreal as the son of Harry Aubry Lane and Annie Lane (officially divorced) from Montréal. They were married on September 27, 1920 in Montréal. He had two brothers; Lawrence and Gordon and a sister; Margaret Agnes. She served in the war at the C.W.A.C. Canadian Women's Army Corps).

He delivered messages and he was a member of the Church of England. He completed seven years at Public School.

Edward enlisted voluntarily in the Canadian Army in Montréal on September 20, 1941. After basic military training, he was put on a troop ship to the United Kingdom, where he arrived on March 23, 1942. Further military training followed. In December 1942, he was assigned to the 8CIB Coy. That is a logistics company of the 8th Infantry Brigade of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. This unit was directly responsible for transporting fuel, ammunition, rations and equipment for the combat units of that brigade (such as The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, Le Régiment de la Chaudière and the North Shore Regiment).

On June 17, 1944, eleven days after the D-Day landings on Juno Beach, Edward also sets foot in Normandy. His military record does not give any details until his death. The advance route of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division led from Normandy, along the Channel Coast to Flanders. From November 1944, they, along with hundreds of thousands of other Canadian soldiers, were at Groesbeek, where they prepared for the advance to Germany. After fierce fighting in the Hochwald, Germany they crossed the Rhine and the border with the Netherlands to move north via Wehl to Zutphen, Zwolle, Heerenveen and Bolsward. Then they went east to Germany where the war for them ends near Leer.

After the end of the war on May 8, 1945, the Canadians were deployed to distribute food, fuel and relief supplies to the Dutch population. They also provided transportation in support of Canadian troops overseeing the disarmament and repatriation of German troops. Finally, they helped prepare the demobilization of the Canadian soldiers for their eventual return to Canada.

From the war diary of the 8CIB on May 26, 1945: "Preparations are being made for an Officers dance tomorrow night. Recreational trips have been laid on to AMSTERDAM and to the HAGUE for sight-seeing and a nightly trip to UTRECT."

Amsterdam, Kostverlorenkade/Baarsjesweg, 2 a.m. on July 4, 1945; witnesses hear someone who had fallen into the water call for help three times. The summoned police and firefighters dredge for a body without result. It is not until July 8 that a local resident sees a body floating in the water. Because of the uniform, it is immediately clear to the alerted ambulance brothers that it is a Canadian soldier and they bring the body to 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, a field hospital.

The body is soon identifeid as that 22-year-old Edward Charles Lane. An inquiery into the circumstances of his death is started. How he got into the water and under what circumstances has not become clear. No evidence of inefordable things is found and the conclusion is that it was an accidental drowning.



Pte. Edward Lane Drowns in England

Pte. Edward Charles Lane, R.C.A.S.C., son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lane, of 6032 Fifth avenue, Rosemount, who is reported to have been accidentally drowned while on leave in England from Holland. He was a former pupil of Rosemount School. A sister, Margaret is serving in the C.W.A.C., while a brother, John, was recently discharge from the Canadian Dental Corps. Two other brothers are at home. Private Lane enlisted in September, 1941, and went overseas a year later.

Pte. E. C. Lane

The Montreal Star of July 17, 1945 reports his death falsely in England.

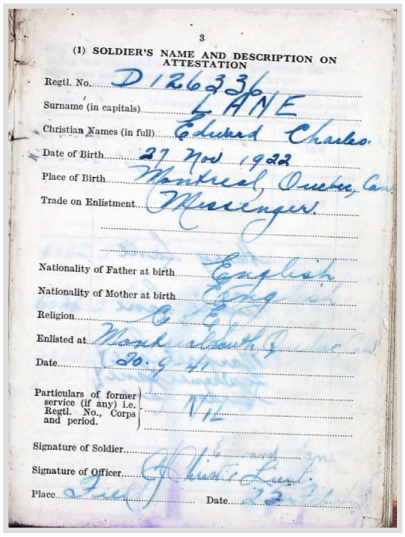
Edward Charles Lane was buried in Hilversum on July 10, 1945 before being re-interred in teh Canadian War Cemetery in Holten on March 29, 1946. There he rests in grave 10.F.5.

His headstone reads:

THE STRIFE IS O'ER THE BATTLE WON AND HE IS CROWNED AT LAST. "REST IN PEACE".

He was awarded: 1939-45 Star; France Germany Star; Defence Medal; War Medal; CVSM & Clasp.

His mother was awarded The Memorial Cross and The Memorial Bar on July 30, 1945.



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(1) SOLDIER'S NAME AND DESCRIPTION ON ATTESTATION

Regtl. No. D126336

Surname (in capitals) LANE

Christian Names (in full) Edward Charles

Date of Birth 27 Nov 1922

Place of Birth Montreal, Quebec, Can

Trade on Enlistment Messenger

Nationality of Father at birth English

Nationality of Mother at birth English

Religion C. E.

Enlisted at Montreal South Quebec

Date 20.9.41

Particulars of former service (if any) i.e. Regtl. No., Corps and period. NIL

Signature of Soldier

Signature of Officer

Place Fiel Date 22



Page from Edward Lane's soldier's book with water stains.

Bas Sjoerts, Edwin van der Wolf, oktober 2026

Sources:
ancestry.ca, Wikipedia, Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Library and Archives Canada