

Laughington, Harry Pvt 04 G 08



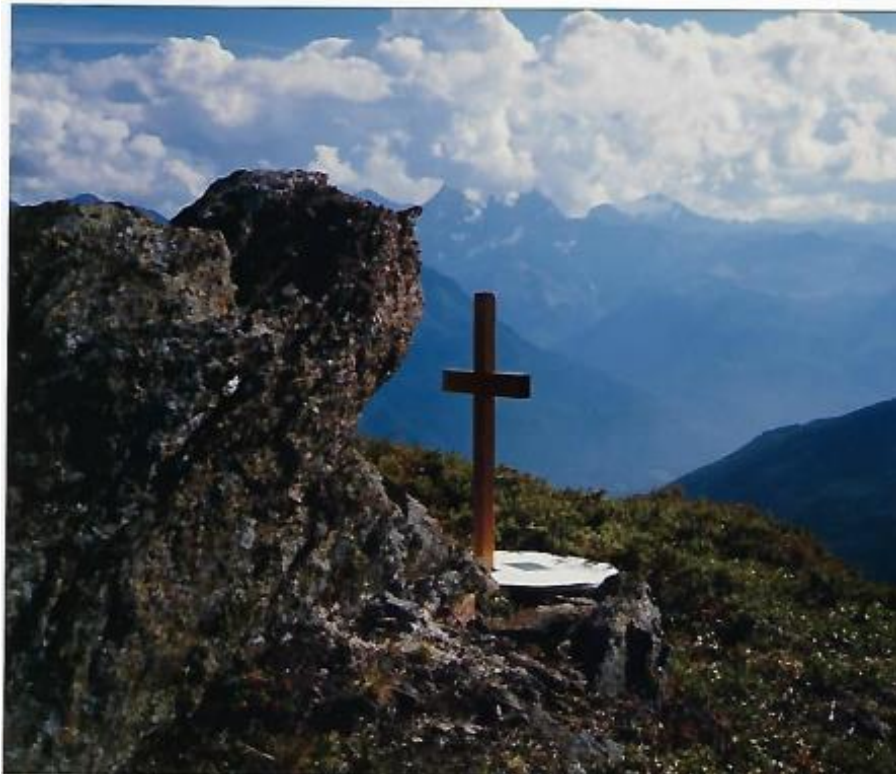
Harry was born on September 30 1925 (according to family member) [1], in his official army forms it is recorded as September 20 1924 in the community Semans. Saskatchewan. He was the firstborn of a family with two younger sisters. His father was a farmer, during the crisis in the thirties the family relocated to Agassiz, British Columbia and after his elementary schooldays he started working on the farm, later he was self-employed as a truck driver. He was 5'11", fair haired and had blue eyes. He enlisted in Vancouver in the Canadian army on September 22 1943. He was training to be a paratrooper but did not fulfill the criteria and was reassigned to the army as an infantry private.

On August 5 1944 he embarked to the UK where he disembarked on the 11th of that month. On the 29th he sailed to France and the next day he arrived there.

On August 31 he was assigned to the Calgary Highlanders. He was involved with the freeing of the North of France (Dieppe and the channel ports) and Belgium (crossing of the Albert canal). After the fiasco of Market Garden in september 1944, the port of Antwerp was captured but the Scheldt estuary was still in German hands and thus unavailable for use by the allies. A large offensive was called for and, among others, the Calgary Highlanders were called upon to force the Germans out. In the initial battle in the vicinity of Hoogerheide, The Netherlands, Harry was killed in action on October 9th 1944.

His death was not reported until a tally was made after the battle. His family was informed by telegram on November 30th. An apology letter for the delay and an explanation followed. He was temporarily laid to rest in Brabant and reinterred in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Holten in 1946. His grave is plot 04 row G grave 08.

In his honor is a cross on Mount Laughington is dedicated in 1956 [1].



Harry Laughington's medals:
1939-45 Star
France-Germany Star
War medal
Canadian Volunteer Service medal with clasp

[1] letter D'Arcy Morrow

