

## Leonard Gordon Davies

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Leonard Gordon Davies was born on September 23, 1910, in the small prairie town of Springside, Saskatchewan. He was the third son of Frank Louis and Eunice Eleanor Davies, later a brother and 2 sisters were born.

Unfortunately, 2 of the Davies children died at the age of 7 and 9. Mother Eunice carried the grief of this loss with her for the rest of her life.

After school, Leonard was able to work for the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. During that time he also met his great love Jennie Olice Voge, who worked as a school teacher in Springside. In the years of great depression, work on the railroads

ceased and Leonard earned his living as a milkman for the Yorktown dairy. Although the Depression years were far from over, Leonard and Jennie married in 1933, the marriage remained childless. In 1934, the couple moved to Tate, Saskatchewan and started a grocery store there. In 1939 economic times improved and Leonard, like his father, was employed as a grain buyer by Parris & Heimbecker in Winnipeg.

Leonard loved the simple things in life, playing curling, reading detective novels and loving his pets. Also, as a member of the United Church, he regularly attended church services in Tate and Semans, Saskatchewan where they lived after 1939.

When the war started, Leonard's brother Leslie enlisted in the Canadian Army. However, Leslie became seriously ill and died in January 1941 at the age of 27. His younger brother's death motivated Leonard to enlist himself. On February 12, 1941 he enlisted and was assigned to the 14th Canadian Hussars Regiment. After training in Sherbrook, Quebec, he joined the 8th Reconnaissance Regiment. In June he went by ship to Aldershot, England for further training. During the biennial training there, Leonard was promoted to corporal.



In October 1943 he was ordered to escort a group of prisoners to Canada and was thus able to be close to his beloved Jennie again until August 1944 in Canada. However, the war losses on the Canadian side were great and reinforcements were needed. So Leonard was flown back to England to be deployed in September 1944 for the liberation of our country.

As he corresponded regularly with Jennie and relatives, it becomes clear that he longed to return to Canada. He also wrote that he is quartered with a Dutch family and that he teaches them English, while they teach him Dutch

With his reconnaissance unit, Leonard took an active part in the Battle of the Scheldt and the Rhineland Offensive. At the beginning of April 1945, the 8th Reconnaissance Regiment was ordered to advance from the Achterhoek to the North for a final offensive. Unfortunately, the Nazis offered stubborn resistance and many confrontations followed.

On April 9, just after the liberation of Holten, the Canadian liberators encountered fierce resistance near Haarle. That day 10 liberators died in the fighting, including Leonard Gordon Davies, who was 34 years old.

They were temporarily buried on the spot and reburied more than a year later at the Canadian Cemetery in Holten. The local people of Haarlem have erected a permanent monument at the church to show their gratitude for the sacrifice made and to never forget the memory of these ten heroes. It was unveiled in 1947.



