

## Leonard Oliver Connelly

1 C 13

Leonard was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on August 25, 1924, to James Frederick and Louise Mary Connelly, according to military records. It is striking that his mother indicates in a document drawn up in May 1945 that he was born in 1926, while all military documents mention August 25, 1924. He may have lied about his age to join the army. Leonard had 2 older brothers and 2 younger brothers as well as 4 younger sisters. The family was RK.

Leonard went to school until he was 16 and achieved "grade IV". He then worked at a sawmill for 2 years until he enlisted in the army.

He enlisted in the army on August 26, 1942 in Sudbury, Ontario, where the family then lived. The inspection report states that he has an average physique, looks good and with his average intelligence he can be trained to be a good soldier. Some comments are made about his youthful appearance!!

Leonard lists his hobbies as: hockey, baseball and photography.

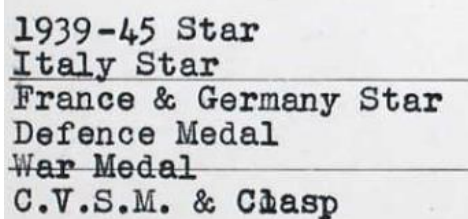
After initial training in Canada, Leonard went to the United Kingdom for further training on July 22, 1943. He is assigned to the 48th Highlanders of Canada Regiment. He went to the front in Italy with his regiment in February 1944. After the battle was over there, Leonard came to the Netherlands on March 12, 1945 to drive out the Nazis here too.

On April 11, he crosses the IJssel with his regiment south of Deventer, during operation CannonsHOT. During the advance to Apeldoorn there were fierce confrontations with the enemy. On April 13, 1945, Leonard was fatally shot near Twello and was temporarily buried in Wilp. In December 1945 he was given his final resting place in Holten. His grave is number 13, row C in plot 1 . This grave was adopted after the war by the Müller family from Holten.

Connelly Leonard O.

*Rank:* Pte *service number:* B/131969 *regiment:* The 48th Highlanders of Canada *date of death:* 13-4-1945 *age:* 18? *Place of residence:* Sudbury, Ontario *grave number:* 01 C 13 *presumed place of death:* Twello *temporary burial site:* 917035 Wilp Temp. Cem

Awards:



1939-45 Star  
Italy Star  
France & Germany Star  
Defence Medal  
War Medal  
C.V.S.M. & Clasp