



## **Pte Wallace Harold Linkie, 7-D-15**

### **The Algonquin Regiment,**

Wallace Harold Linkie came out of the Province of Ontario. He was born on June 28 1923 in the little village of Maynooth near Lake Ontario as the son of Amel William and Ethel Mayme Linkie. The landscape of Maynooth is still covered nowadays with woods and lakes, the nearest biggest town is about more than some hundred kilometres away.

He was the eldest one of together 6 children and he already left school at grade 8 at the age of fifteen years. He followed thereafter his father Amel, who was a lumber jack in the wood-industry and he worked for two years at a sawmill in Lake St. Peter, Ontario.

He enlisted on June 12 1942 at the age of 18 in Ottawa. His attestation form gave no special qualifications and skills after his school time, but just mentioned his two weeks time before this enlistment with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment.

After he finished his basic training he was sent on October 30 1942 overseas to the UK. He was before placed with the Algonquin Regiment of the 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade.

His regiment landed on July 25 1944 in France and he was immediately involved in the horror of the war during the battle of the Falaise Pocket from August 14 till August 21 1944 against the German army and very fanatic SS-Divisions. The regiment was involved during the advance later with further fights during the Battle of the Scheldt in Belgium and Holland. The liberation of Holland was on May 5 1945 after five terrible years of the occupation by the Germans. The Algonquin Regiment went before that finally to North West Germany and succeeded in to push despite the heavy resistance of the German soldiers them back to the Küstenkanal and to Bad Zwischenahn.



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Wallace was fighting too with his army mates in the three days of the Battle of Friesoythe. After the battle of Sögel it appeared later the heaviest fight of the Canadian army in North West Germany. The Canadians could push back

together the enemy troops to the Küstenkanal, the last big defense barrier of the Germans. They could use the ruins of the town of Friesoythe to repair the 8 kilometres long road to the Küstenkanal for the heavy trucks and tanks etc.. The German troops had exploded on April 15 1945 before the bridge of Edewechterdamm to prevent the advance of the

Canadian soldiers. The regiment of Wallace succeeded in to establish a bridgehead during the night of April 17 1945 to cross the Küstenkanal.

Wallace Harold Linkie was killed in action unfortunatley on Wednesday April 18 1945 near the Küstenkanal. He was 21 years and left behind his mourning parents and his five little siblings.

He was temporarily buried together with other fallen Canadians at a little place at the shore of the river Soeste in Friesoythe. At this little place that early belonged to the family Heinrich von Garrel is now a petrol station at the crossing of the Ellerbrocker Straße/Thüler Straße. He was on November 30 1946 reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten.

At his headstone: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD I SHALL NOT WANT

During his army time he was awarded:: The 1939 – 1945 Star; The France and German Star; The Defence Medal; The War Medal 1939 – 1945 and The CVSM & Clasp.

Between the documents in his army file is a letter after his death which his mother Ethel Mame Linkie wrote on February 28 1946 to the headquarters of the Canadian Army in Ottawa:

*Dear Sirs,*

*I am leaving this letter attached to the receipt for cheque, which you have asked for signature.*

*Now I do hope that I can have his gratuities as I am a poor woman, doing sewing & washing and looking after the remaining family.*

*My home I cannot call my own as it will soon be sold for arrears in taxes. I do not ask it for others just myself & children.*

*Look into the matters and oblige please.*

*Mrs. Ethel Linkie*



The loss of Wallace Harold Linkie was a big gap in the life of the family. In this above letter it became very clear that the whole family was without financial income by the death of him. Without his army and sawmill income which Wallace gave to his mother every time they were too poor to keep the house and to live on and they expected that Wallace would continue that after the war.

Written by Jann Reiners student Gymnasiun Friesoythe, Germany, October 2020