

Pte Philip Hubert Long

3-F-8



Philip was born on May 29 1921 in Springville, Pictou Co, Nova Scotia as the son of Philip Neil Long and Elizabeth MacPherson Long of Thorburn Pictou Co. They were married on July 24 1908 in Stellarton Pictou Co. His brother was Harold Chrisholm Long and sister Mrs. Jessie May Kinley nee Long (his next of kin) and his half-sister was Phyllis Christene Long.

He was a labourer and member of the Presbyterian Church.

Following the illness and death in 1925 of his mother from tuberculosis, Philip, at three years old, went to live with his aunt Mary and uncle James MacLean on a small farm in Island East River Nova Scotia, not too far from where Philip Sr. had moved the family to the village of Thorburn to work as a coal miner. During their childhood, his brother Harold spent most summers with Philip at the farm and, as they grew older, helped with the chores and enjoyed the adventures offered by life in the country. Phil liked working with the animals and, following graduation from school, stayed on at the farm where he had his dog and team of horses. Although he was exempt from military duty due to an injury to his leg when a boy, Philip enlisted with the Cape Breton Highlanders in October 1943 at the age of twenty-two. He was called up for duty and sailed for England on December 24 1944. His plan was to return to Canada when the war was over and buy then a small farm of his own.

In his first letter to Jessie after arriving in London England dated January 5, 1945, Phil wrote that he had located his brother Harold in London and they had just returned from an evening out to dinner and a show. Harold had gone overseas earlier and had joined as a captain the British army as a CanLoan officer. He had been injured in action in Holland and was just completing his convalescence period in England when Phil arrived in London. While Phil and Harold were both in the London area, they were able to get together on several occasions for some relaxation before they were both sent to Holland. He just went on April 14 1945 to NW Europe.

Phil wrote his last letter to Jessie on April 18 from Belgium as his unit was en route to Holland. Shortly after that, Jessie and their father were notified that Philip had been killed in action in Northern Holland on Monday April 30, 1945 age 23 during the battle of the Delfzijl Pocket. And he was temporarily buried then in Wirdum, Groningen and he was reburied thereafter on February 16 1946 in Holten.

At his headstone: THO' YOU REST BEYOND THE SEA ONES THAT LOVED
YOU BEST AT HOME WILL NOT FORGET

His medals were: 1939-45 Star; France Germany Star; War medal; CVSM
& Clasp.

He served with the Cape Breton Highlanders.

