

**McLenahan Ralph Foster**  
**Trooper**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Hussars, 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment**  
**Royal Canadian**  
**Armoured Corps**  
**K/50728**



CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that No. 303445 (Rank) Gunner  
Name (in full) Hazen Morrison McLenahan enlisted in  
the 4th Siege Battery  
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE at St John NB on the 25th  
day of October 1915  
HE served in Great Britain France & Belgium  
and is now discharged from the service by reason of Demobilization.  
Medical Unfitness

THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS SOLDIER on the DATE below is as follows:—  
Age 25 yrs Marks or Scars  
Height 5' 4 1/2"  
Complexion Fair  
Eyes Brown  
Hair Dark Brown  
Signature of Soldier H M McLenahan

Date of Discharge MAY 10 1919  
Issuing Office DISPERSAL STATION, ST. JOHN, N. B. FOR  
O. C. DISTRICT DEPOT #7  
Rank Private  
Date MAY 10 1919

N.B.—As no duplicate of this Certificate will be issued, any person finding same is requested to forward it in an unstamped envelope to the Secretary, Militia Council, Ottawa, Canada.

Ralph Foster McLenahan was born 6 July 1922 at Stanley, York County near Fredericton, New Brunswick (NB). His father Hazen Morrison McLenahan was of Irish descent and underage when he joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1915. He served as a Gunner with the 4<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery, Canadian Field Artillery and was discharged after World War One ended. Hazen

**McLENAHAN-SANDWITH**  
**Pretty Wedding Yesterday Afternoon**  
**When Miss Alice Sandwith and**  
**Hazen McLenahan Were United in**  
**Marriage.**

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sandwith, Currieburg, was the scene of a pretty but very quiet wedding yesterday afternoon when their daughter, Alice L. Sandwith, became the bride of Hazen McLenahan, son of the late John McLenahan and of Mrs. McLenahan, of this city. The ceremony was performed by Rev. R. A. Robinson in the presence of the immediate relatives of the bride and groom.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and wore an embroidered suit of reindeer tricotine and Hudson seal scarf, black panne velvet hat and carried a sheaf of Ophelia roses. She was unattended. The Bridal Chorus was played by Miss Jessie Sandwith as the bridal party entered the parlor.

At the conclusion of the ceremony a dainty buffet luncheon was served. The bride, who for some time was on the staff of R. L. Black in this city, was one of the most popular young ladies in the city and was the recipient of many beautiful wedding gifts, including silver, linen, cut glass and cheques. She was also the guest at many little social functions.

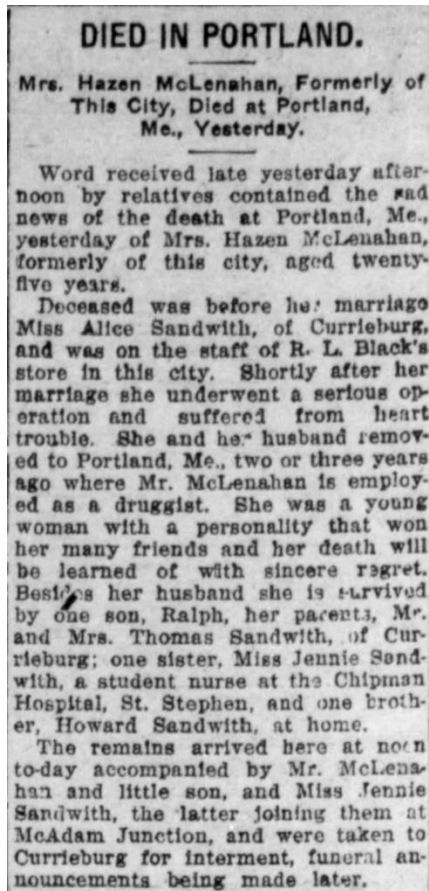
The groom is one of Fredericton's best known and popular young men. He is on the staff of Dibble's Drug Store and a returned soldier, having gone overseas with the 4th Siege Battery from St. John. He is a prominent member of the Damon Club and during the past few days was given a dinner and presentation by a number of his friends.

On their return from a short honeymoon trip, they will reside in Needham street.

worked as a drug clerk and married Alice Lavina Sandwith, of English heritage, at Currieburg, NB in 1921, with the couple residing in Fredericton.

*Fredericton Daily Gleaner 1921*

Ralph's mother had a serious operation after he was born and developed heart trouble. The McLenahans moved to Portland, Maine, USA in 1924 where Alice sadly died two years later. Her sister Jennie Sandwith helped Ralph's father Hazen with arrangements to bring Alice home to New Brunswick for internment.



*Fredericton Daily Gleaner 1926*

Hazen left New Brunswick for Toronto, Ontario (ON) to find employment during the Great Depression. Ralph remained in York County, NB with his Aunt Jennie and her family. During this time he befriended a neighbour named Mrs. Elsie Boulter. Ralph completed grade 8 in public school and went to work full time age fifteen. He was a mixed farm labourer for a few years and became a Merchant Seaman after his aunt Jennie Sandwith married Archie MacKay.

Ralph was employed by Canadian National Steamship as a Marine Fireman early 1941 and was based out of Saint John, NB. He served aboard the *R.J. Cullen*, a steamship originally named the *Eastern Knight*, one of four identical vessels built in 1919. Ralph made several trips as part of a convoy escort between Eastern Canada and the United Kingdom (UK) before his vessel was shipwrecked in a storm off the Hebrides Islands, Scotland in January 1942.

*SS Washingtonian (formerly Eastern Mariner), sister vessel to R.J. Cullen steamship*



Ralph and his crewmen were stuck for two days on their grounded vessel before being rescued by local fishermen – all 47 crew members survived. After returning to Canada Ralph travelled to India working on another of his employer's vessels. He later decided to quit the Merchant Marine and join the Canadian Army, attesting 19 March 1943 at Vancouver, British Columbia (BC) age 20. Ralph was then 5'4" tall, 128 lbs with blue eyes. He wore glasses to correct his short-sighted vision and was sent to Vernon, BC for basic training. Ralph was allocated to the Canadian Armoured Corps (C.A.C.) and posted to the C.A.C. Training Regiment at Camp Borden, ON 30 May 1943 for advanced training. He qualified as Gunner Operator "C" 5 November 1943.





Camp Borden, ON WW2

Ralph was cleared for overseas service and disembarked in the UK 1 December 1943 where he reported to the C.A.C. Reinforcement Unit.

He completed a Gunnery course January 1944 and a Wireless course 14 June 1944, after which he qualified as CAC Operator "C". Ralph was landed in France the next month and taken on strength with the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars, 6 Canadian Armoured Regiment (6CAR) 26 July 1944.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars formed part of 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade along with the Fort Garry Horse (10<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment) and the Sherbrooke Fusiliers (27<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment). 6CAR supported 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade on D-Day to establish a beach head at Courseulles-sur-Mer, France.

Army Form B 197A.

### TRADE TRAINING REPORT FORM.

REPORT ON STUDENT (Strike out two). (a) Entrance. (b) Uncompleted Course. (c) End of Course.

TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT C.A.C. Gunnery Wing No. 3 CACRU

ADDRESS C.A.C.

STUDENT'S REGTL. No. K-50728 RANK Tpr. NAME McLennan, R.F.

ORIGINAL UNIT No. 3 CACRU COURSE (Trade) Gunnery Gunner Op

†TRANSFERRED TO \_\_\_\_\_

Duration of Course From 13 Dec 43. To 18 Jan 44

Strike out words not applicable in following table:—

SUITABILITY FOR TRADE	CONDUCT AND INTEREST	PRACTICAL ABILITY	THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE
Unsuitable.	Poor.	Poor.	Poor.
Doubtful.	Fair.	Fair.	Fair.
Suitable.	Good.	Good.	Good.
Very suitable.	Very good.	Very good.	Very good.

SUMMARY: Passed (1) Basic Training Test (2) Subsequent Training Test (3) Complete Class.....Test } in Army Trade of \_\_\_\_\_

\*Recommended for classification after experience in unit in Army Trade of \_\_\_\_\_

Failed in Army Trade of \_\_\_\_\_

\*Not applicable to Basic Courses. †Delete when not applicable.

(\*22782) Wt.33714/176 100,000 10/42 A. & E.W.Ltd. Gp.698 P.T.O.  
(24374) Wt.13154/384 70,000 5/43 " " " " " "



LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA  
Troops from the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and Regina Rifles watch as tanks of the 1st Hussars land near Courseulles-sur-Mer, France, on D-Day in

6CAR suffered 38 casualties on D-Day and continued to support 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division as they moved inland against the Germans, facing stiff resistance when they were counterattacked. On 11 June 1944 the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars "B" Squadron was decimated during an abortive attack on the village of Le Mesnil Patry, northwest of Caen, France. 6CAR participated in the capture of Caen in July, followed by the Battle of Verrières Ridge. The Allies forced the Germans retreat from Normandy that summer.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars helped clear Channel ports in September. 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade had limited involvement in the Battle of the Scheldt that fall due to the wet ground conditions in Belgium and the Netherlands. First Canadian Army took up static positions around Nijmegen, Netherlands in November against a well entrenched enemy.

The Allies Operation VERITABLE offensive was launched 8 February 1945, with 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade advancing into Cleve, Germany. The second phase of the Allied offensive was Operation BLOCKBUSTER, which began with their attempts to drive the Germans out of the Hochwald Forest. The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars "A" Squadron was assigned to the Black Watch of 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade while "B" and "C" Squadrons were supporting 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade during their attack on Keppeln, Germany 26 February 1945. 6CAR "C" Squadron was initially assigned to the Queens Own Rifles (QOR). Sergeant Aubrey Cosens of the QOR received a posthumous Victoria Cross for his heroic actions that day involving the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars.

They then joined the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment (NSR) with the 13 surviving tanks of "C" Squadron. The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars tanks picked up a platoon of the NSR "A" Company around 1400 hours and dashed towards Keppeln, followed by "B" and "C" Companies on foot plus the battalion's Wasps (flamethrowers) and carriers, ready to engage opposing anti-tank weapons. Enemy tanks on the outskirts of the village knocked out three of 6CAR's Sherman tanks and were in turn set on fire by the Wasps. In the face of heavy machine-gun fire the infantry platoon dismounted and made its way into Keppeln, soon to be joined by the rest of "A" Company plus "D" Company brought up from reserve. The tanks moved in, and by 1700 hours all objectives had been taken. The North Shores suffered 81 casualties that day, 28 of them fatal. The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars lost nine tanks to enemy action, besides four bogged down and suffered several casualties 26 February 1945.

Following BLOCKBUSTER, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade withdrew to the Nijmegen area while the Allies worked towards building bridges to cross the Rhine River with the Germans defending from the other side. Ralph had been attached to 25 Canadian Armoured Delivery Regiment's "C" Squadron in January and again in March 1945. His aunt Jennie MacKay contacted the



Salvation Army in Fredericton to inquire about his well-being and whereabouts, with the Canadian Army replying back to them.

*25 Canadian Armoured Delivery Regiment – Sherman tank WW2*

H.Q. 405-16-46468  
(D.R. 5(A))

2 Apr 45.

Brigadier Ernest H. Green,  
The Salvation Army,  
Divisional Headquarters,  
50 Princess Street,  
Saint John, N. B.

K-50728, Tpr. McLENAHAN, Ralph Foster  
X-4 List (Section C, Sqn. 25, Cdn. Armoured Delivery Regt.), C.A.C.

Sir:

Reference your letter 9 Mar 45 regarding the marginally named, it is desired to inform you his name has not appeared on any official casualty list received at National Defence Headquarters.

So far as records indicate, he is in good health and serving with the Unit, as noted, Overseas. No explanation, therefore, can be offered why his aunt has not periodically received mail from him during the period stated in your letter under reply.

His present address is as shown hereunder:

K-50728, Tpr. Ralph Foster McLenahan,  
X-4 List (Section C, Sqn. 25, Cdn. Armoured Delivery Regiment), C.A.C.,  
21st Army Group,  
Canadian Army Overseas.

Yours truly,

(C.L. Laurin) Colonel,  
Director of Records,  
for Adjutant-General.

AWD/GT

George E. Carpenter  
General

Benjamin Ormes  
Commissioner

Telephone  
3-3814

**The Salvation Army**  
(William Booth, Founder)

DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
NEW BRUNSWICK AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND  
50 PRINCESS STREET  
SAINT JOHN, N. B.  
Mar. 9, 1945

CENTRAL REGISTRY Army  
PERS. SEC.  
Reg-19-8694  
MAR 23 1945

Colonel R. T. E. Hicks-Lyne,  
Acting Director of Records,  
National Defence Headqtrs.,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Re Ralph McLenahan K502728

I have received the following letter from Adjutant J. Monk, who is in charge of our work at Fredericton, N.B. Any information you can give me will be deeply appreciated by all concerned:-

"An Aunt of the above young man has called on us to see if we could assist her in any way to ascertain if her nephew is still living or if by any chance he was ill or wounded.

The last letter was received from him a year ago last Christmas, his address at that time was, -  
Spr. McLenahan, B. Squadron, No. 1 Right, Anti-Tank Brigade, C.A.C. Camp Borden.

He was at that time leaving for Halifax to go Overseas. Letters have been written and boxes sent but relatives have received no acknowledgment of same.

The boy's father lives somewhere in Toronto, and the Aunt thought if anything had happened to the boy, the father would have been notified as next of kin. They have no communication with the father.

Could you please advise in this matter"

Thanking you:

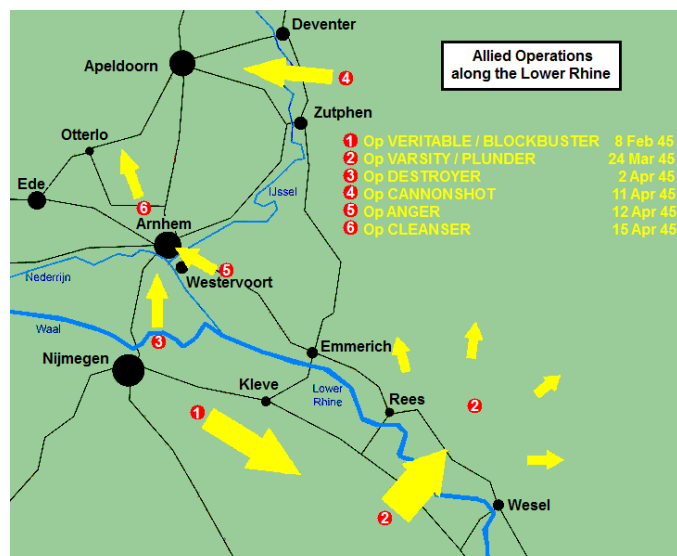
Yours sincerely,  
Ernest H. Green  
(Ernest H. Green)  
Brigadier

BRG/CV

The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars came under the command of 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Division 6 April 1945, which had been redeployed from Italy to Northwest Europe. They crossed the IJssel River between Deventer and Zutphen, Netherlands 12 April 1945 while supporting 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade.

6CAR's next assignment was to support 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigades at Apeldoorn, Netherlands.

*Allied Operations Apeldoorn Area April 1945*





Lieutenant Edward Brock, a platoon leader with the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders, recalled the battle that commenced 13 April 1945 in his memoir: "The battle for Apeldoorn started with an amazing amount of support for we PBI (poor bloody infantry) – more artillery, tank and air support than we had ever seen before... We had the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars for tank support with their versatile Shermans and, all we need do was indicate points of resistance with our tracer fire and they would hit the spot with those devastating 17 pounders. They were the most willing tank support I ever saw and as long as we could protect them against anti-tank fire, they would assist us in our attack."

Apeldoorn was still occupied by Dutch citizens so the Canadians could not bomb it. By midnight 13 April 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade had closed up to the Apeldoorn Canal and the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) was running patrols in the suburbs. That night a squadron of 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars and a company of RCR tried to cross the canal but were rebuffed with the loss of two tanks.

6CAR "C" Squadron was still supporting the RCR on 14 April 1945. Their plan of attack to take the bridge crossing the Appeldoorn Canal was not successful due to their two leading tanks being stopped at a road block near the bridge. This resulted in one tank being hit by a German anti-tank gun and 'brewed up' (burning) with casualties. The other tank returned to 6CAR Squadron Command with casualties and also caught fire. Ralph McLenahan was one of the 6CAR casualties that day, originally reported missing and then confirmed killed in action 15 April 1945, age 22.

14 Apr 45.

The plan adopted to take the bridge was as follows:  
Two tks were to follow a 5 minute Arty concentration and move across the bridge. On a code word from the leading tks, 8 more tks, loaded with infantry were to move forward, consolidate and mop up. This attack was not successful due to the leading tks hitting a rd block 50x from bridge, causing one tk to be bazookoed, brew up and have casualties; the other tk to return to Sqn Comd, with casualties and then brew up. The rest of the day, 3 Troops and HQF were concentrated in area 804040, 2 Troops remaining forward on outskirts of town with infantry. At 1800 hrs an O Cp was held by infantry and Sqn suffered casualties. Extent: 1 Officer killed and 1 wounded. Infantry lost 1 Officer killed and 1 wounded. Remainder of night, the 2 Coys of infantry tried to move forward without armour, but made no gains and suffered casualties. Four 75mm tks were standing by all night to assist infantry but were not used.

SQN LOSSES

- 2 - Tanks Brewed.
- 1 - Officer and 3 ORs killed.
- 3 - Officers & 4 ORs wounded.
- 3 - Missing.

*6CAR War Diary "C" Squadron Supplement 14 April 1945*

# TPR. R. F. M'LENAHAN KILLED IN ACTION

Born in Fredericton 23 Years Ago—Was in Merchant Marine Before Joining Army.

Tpr. Ralph Foster McLenahan, age 23 years, formerly of Currieburg, York County, N. B., was born in Fredericton, son of Hazen and the late Mrs. McLenahan.

He joined the Merchant Marines early in 1941 making several trips to British ports. The "R. J. Cullen" was shipwrecked on the Hebrides Islands in February and he was rescued and taken to Scotland. Returning to Canada still enthused over his work as merchant seaman, he went to In-



TPR. R. F. McLENAHAN.

dia and returned safely. He joined the army in March of 1943 in Vernon, B. C., training some months in Camp Borden and going overseas in December of the same year. His death is mourned by many relatives and friends.

A letter has been received from Rev. G. A. Adams, Chaplain for the 6th Canadian Armored Regiment. Overseas, telling of the burial service conducted on April 5th for Tpr. Ralph McLenahan and others of his regiment, who had taken part in a courageous dash to secure a bridge over a canal which barred the advance of the Allies to Appeldoorn. His dead body was found the following day and was later interred in St. Jostegicht Cemetery, a few miles east of Appeldoorn. The burial service included reading of Psalm 23 and Rev. 21, 1-7, and prayers for those who mourn.

Fredericton Daily Gleaner May 1945

Ralph had identified his friend Elsie Boulter as his next of kin when he enlisted and she received the notification of his death.

M.F.M. 267  
SOM-9-24 (5834)  
H.Q. 1772-35-1889

## CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

JTB FILE H.Q. 405-M-46,468

CASUALTY (REPORT DELIVERY) OTTAWA 30 APRIL 1945

TO:- MRS ELSIE C BOULTER  
KINGHURST FARM  
ROTHESAY N B

78671 DEEPLY REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT K50728 TROOPER  
RALPH FOSTER McLENAHAN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING NOW OFFICIALLY REPORTED  
KILLED IN ACTION FIFTEENTH APRIL 1945 STOP WHEN FURTHER INFORMATION BECOMES  
AVAILABLE IT WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS RECEIVED

PREPAID DIRECTOR OF RECORDS 12

**Tpr. Ralph Foster McLenahan,**  
whose official next-of-kin is Mrs.  
Elsie C. Boulter, Kinghurst  
Farm, Rothesay, N.B.

The Province May 1945

Trooper R.F. McLenahan was temporarily buried at Apeldoorn, Netherlands and later relocated to Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **I. E. 1.**

*Photo Credit lestweforget1945.com*

The inscription on his headstone:

"BEHOLD. I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW"

REV. XXI. 5

Ralph McLenahan's campaign medals:

- 1939-45 Star
- France-Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal/Clasp



Biography by Jim Little, Research Team Faces to Graves.

Sources Consulted:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada



Veteran Affairs Canada – Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Ancestry public trees

Newspapers.com

*R.J. Cullen* shipwreck information and photo <https://www.scottishshipwrecks.com/r-j-cullen/>

Camp Borden, ON tank picture <https://www.ontrmuseum.ca/tankmuseum/blog-post/ontr-tanks-of-second-world-war/>

1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Regimental information and photos <https://sharrob56.wixsite.com/first-hussars-wwii/blank-1>

1<sup>st</sup> Hussars cap badge picture <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/official-military-history-lineages/lineages/armour-regiments/1st-hussars.html>

1<sup>st</sup> Hussars battle information [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st\\_Hussars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Hussars)

Julian Matheson, 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Museum <https://www.first-hussars.ca/>

Operation Blockbuster information

<https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/Canada/CA/Victory/Victory-19.html>

25 Canadian Armoured Delivery Regiment photo

<https://www.silverhawkauthor.com/post/25th-armoured-delivery-regiment-the-elgin-regiment-and-1st-armoured-personnel-carrier-regiment-1944-1945>

Adams, Sharon. 2021. Canadian Summer in Apeldoorn. Legion Magazine. <https://legionmagazine.com/en/2021/04/canadian-summer-in-apeldoorn/>

Brock, Edward (Memoir). My Last Battle.

<https://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-17852>

Allied operations map Apeldoorn area and battle details

<https://www.canadiansoldiers.com/history/battlehonours/northwesteurope/apeldoorn.htm>

\* Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact [info@facestograves.nl](mailto:info@facestograves.nl)

H.Q. 405-M-46468  
D.R. 2(b)

12th July, 1945.

Dear Mrs. MacKay:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of recent date, in which you made enquiries regarding your late nephew, K.50728 Trooper Ralph Foster McLenahan.

In reply I beg to advise Mrs. Elsie G. Boulter, Kinghurst Farm, Rothesay, N.B. is listed in his documents as the next-of-kin.

In view of the above all correspondence relative to the regretted death of your nephew has been despatched to Mrs. Boulter in accordance with the policy of the Canadian Army.

For your information, the only <sup>details</sup> information at hand indicates Trooper McLenahan was killed in action the 15th of April, 1945, while serving with the 6th Armoured Regiment (1st Hussars) in the Western European theatre of war.

Details regarding fatal casualties, other than the above, are not made known to this Office, however, they are contained in a letter which is despatched direct to the next-of-kin from the Unit in the theatre of operations.

I sincerely trust the above will clarify the matter at hand.

Yours sincerely,

*G.L. Laurin*

(G.L. Laurin) Colonel,  
Director of Records,  
for Adjutant-General.

Mrs. Archie MacKay,  
378 Saunders St.  
Fredericton, N.B.  
FDB/RC

*Glotten 1<sup>st</sup> May 1948*

To the Director of Records.  
Department of National Defence (Army)  
No. 8, Temporary Building  
Ottawa  
405-M-46468  
MAY 19 1948  
Canada

Dear Sir,

Please, if it is possible will you send included letter to the next of kin of:

Trooper R.F. Mac Kenahan, Number:  
K 50728, 6th Armoured Regiment,  
Died on: 14th April 1945, Buried on  
the Canadian Cemetery at Glotten,  
Plot 1, Row E, Grave 1.

We adopted this grave and should like it to have some contact with the family of this soldier.

We thank you very much for the taken pains.

Address:

P.A. Miller  
A 145<sup>a</sup>  
Holtan.

HOLLAND

*Left forwarded to friend 26/5/48  
B.H.K.*

Yours sincerely,  
*P.A. Miller*

**McLENAHAN, Hazen, Morrison—** After a lengthy illness at Sunnybrook Hospital on Friday, July 25, 1969, Hazen Morrison McLenahan, Reg. No. 300445, Gunner, CFA, Formerly of New Brunswick, Son of the late John and Jemima McLenahan. Funeral service was held at the Trull Funeral Home, 2704 Yonge Street on Saturday morning. Interment York Cemetery.

Toronto Star 1969