

Moore, William Robert

Rifleman

The Regina Rifle Regiment

Royal Canadian Infantry Corps

K/48851



William Robert ("Bob") Moore was born 25 April 1923 at Albion near Bolton in Peel County, now part of Caledon, Ontario (ON) in the Greater Toronto



Area. Both his parents were of Irish heritage. Bob's father Wilford Laurie Moore was from Ontario and his mother Caroline ("Carrie") Pitman Purchase came from Newfoundland. The couple married at Peel County, ON in 1916 and had six children: Joy, Howard, Bob, Grant, Blain and Yvonne. They owned a 300 acre mixed farm near Albion and were United Church members.

The sports Bob enjoyed as a boy were baseball, hockey and hunting. He was musically inclined and played the guitar. Bob remained in school until completing grade 8, quitting age fourteen to work full time on his father's farm. He learned to operate tractors and drive trucks, hauling livestock and gravel. Bob wanted to become a truck driver and headed west to British Columbia following the fall harvest in 1942. He went to work for Johnston National Storage in Vancouver as a swamper (labourer) for six weeks before deciding to join the Canadian Army.



Bob attested 16 December 1942 at Vancouver, BC age 19. He was then 5'8" tall, 159 lbs with blue eyes. His medical examination indicated Bob had an appendectomy November 1941. The Army Examiner described Bob as having: "Good appearance, rather quiet but attractive personality. Appears to be adequately stable." Given Bob's driving and mechanical experience he




was allocated to the Canadian Armoured Corps (C.A.C.) and sent to Camp Vernon, BC for basic training. Bob was then assigned to the C.A.C. Training Regiment at Camp Borden, ON 9 March 1943. He qualified as Driver Class III for Wheeled and Tracked by 10 May 1943.

Camp Borden Armoured Training WW2

Bob's elder brother Howard had been rejected by the Military for medical reasons and was helping their father work the family farm. The Township of Albion sent a letter of support to the Commanding Officer at Camp Borden in their request for compassionate farm leave for Bob. That was granted 19 May and extended several times, with Bob finally returning to duty 31 October 1943. Bob was soon cleared for overseas service, disembarking in the UK 23 February 1944 where he reported to the C.A.C. Reinforcement Unit. He was remustered to Infantry that spring and posted to the Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit 6 April.

W.A. IRWIN, CLERK



TOWNSHIP OF ALBION

PALSSAYE, ONTARIO

Bolton, Ont.
April 14, 1943

To the Commanding Officer
Camp Borden.

Dear Sir,

Realizing as I am sure we all do the necessity of increased production of foodstuffs which must come primarily from the farms of our country, I write to place before you a condition that exists on a farm of 300 acres in the Township of Albion near Bolton Ont.

On this farm at present the total male help is the father, (who is not in the best of health and who some time previous to now suffered a heart attack which caused his wife and family very deep concern) and one boy 22 years of age who was rejected for military service. His other son Tpr. Moore V.R. K.48651 Reception Wing, A-9 C.A.C. (A) L.C. now stationed at Camp Borden. Robert went west last year after harvest here and while there received his military call and enlisted in December.

This farm has been a heavy producer in the past, but will be compelled to reduce production unless help is available. On this farm at present are 6 horses, 15 milch cows, 27 year cattle, 21 yearlings, 15 calves, 5 brood sows, 30 shoats, 20 ewes and 28 lambs besides poultry. Also there is now in the ground 30 acres of fall wheat and 70 acres of spring crop to put in. About 50 acres of hay will have to be taken off. Robert has been the tractor man and filled a very important place in this farms program. We are well aware that the military requirements must be supplied, but we are also aware that our boys must be fed as well as thousands of suffering humanity. I am therefore asking you to consider this case on its merits and I feel confident that when you have done so you will allow Robert Moore leave of absence to help his father carry on the important job of producing foodstuffs.

Apr 14/43
I declare the above statements to be correct
H. H. H. H. H.
a & P Co. Ltd

Yours truly,
D. H. Downey
Acting Clerk
Albion Township,
Peel County,
Ontario.

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Bob was taken on strength by The Regina Rifle Regiment (RRR) 21 April 1944 in the UK. The RRR, also known as the 'Farmer Johns' or Reginas were

combined with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and Canadian Scottish to form 7th Brigade, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. Bob was assigned to the RRR "A" Company as a Rifleman, embarking with them from the UK 3 June and disembarking in France 6 June 1944.



The Reginas along with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles (RWR) were among the first Commonwealth infantry units to land at the Normandy beaches and suffered heavy D-Day losses. Bob's "A" Company had only 28 personnel still with them by the end of that day from the 119 that were in the first landing wave.

RRR & RWR soldiers watching tanks unload Juno Beach D-Day

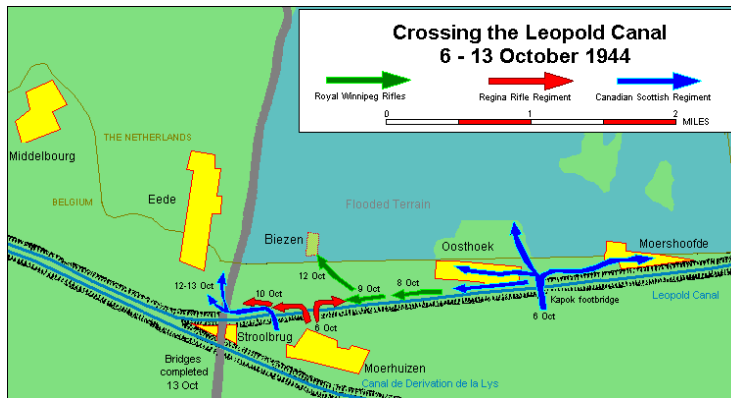
Following a rest period at Bray, the RRR was on the line again 29 June 1944, taking up positions along the Caen-Bayeux Road to counter the threat from German armour in yet another counterattack. On 4 July Operation WINDSOR was launched as a prelude to the Allied attack on Caen. The Reginas provided fire support to the Winnipeg Rifles when they stormed Carpiquet and took it. They moved onward towards Caen where a three division assault on that city was launched 7 July, Operation CHARNWOOD. Ardennes Abbey was used by the 12th SS Panzer Regiment as a headquarters and was heavily defended with mortars, machine guns and 75mm guns, On 8 July the Regina Rifles were ordered to capture it.

After a fierce firefight the Abbey was secured and the Germans driven out. The Reginas suffered 216 casualties that day, 36 of them fatal with another missing in action. This had been the worst fighting for the Battalion since D-Day. The capture of the Abbey by the RRR helped pierce the ring of defences around Caen, which finally fell to the Allies 19 July 1944.



RRR soldiers holding position Caen, France 10 July 1944

The Reginas battled their way through Normandy by the end of summer and helped liberate Channel ports in September. The RRR and 7th Brigade then



participated in the Battle of the Scheldt with another tough fight at Leopold Canal along the Belgium and Netherlands border as part of Operation SWITCHBACK.

Flamethrowers (Wasps) were fired across the narrow Canal to force the enemy back.

Bob's "A" Company was ferried across and established a bridgehead, but the Germans still had pill boxes with machine guns that were left intact. The Reginas were pinned down along the bank and unable to advance after landing. Eventually two other RRR Companies were ferried over to another location creating a second narrow bridgehead. "For five days the Reginas were pinned down to the Canal bank, separated in places by only ten yards from the enemy. It became almost a grenade war, with each rifleman throwing as many as twenty-five No. 36 grenades every night. The Germans replied in kind."

Bob became a casualty on 9 October 1944 when his right foot was wounded by a bomb fragment. He was admitted to 12 Canadian General Hospital for treatment and rejoined his regiment 2 November. He was posted to "B" Company 18 November as a Driver. The RRR were tasked with static operations around Nijmegen, Netherlands for the next three months, patrolling and sniping against a well entrenched enemy.

CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS		DAY LETTER <input type="checkbox"/>	NIGHT LETTER <input type="checkbox"/>
M.F.M. 208 SOM-4-44 (4188) H.Q. 1072-26-01	JC	H. . 405-4-22,411.	
CASUALTY (REPORT DELIVERY)		OTTAWA 29TH OCTOBER 1944	
TO:- MR WILFORD LAURIE MOORE ALBION QNT			
19153 MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE WISHES TO INFORM YOU THAT K48851 RIFLEMAN WILLIAM ROBERT MOORE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED IN ACTION NATURE OF WOUNDS NOW REPORTED SLIGHT BOMB FRAGMENT WOUND RIGHT FOOT STOP IF ANY FURTHER INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE IT WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS RECEIVED			
PREPAID	DIRECTOR OF RECORDS 36		

They finally moved out with their 7th Brigade and 3rd Infantry Division 8 February 1945 as part of the First Canadian Army under Operation VERITABLE. They advanced through bombed out Cleve, Germany mounted on Kangaroo armoured personnel carriers and spent five days clearing the Germans from Moyland Wood 16-21 February 1945. First the Regina Rifles and then The Canadian Scottish had attacked but were stalemated and repulsed by determined German paratroopers. It fell to the Royal Winnipeg



Personnel of the Regina Rifles preparing to attack enemy in Moyland Wood near Calcar, Germany, 16 February 1945.

The Allies decided to seize two crossings over the Rhine River with the main effort in the north in the Emmerich-Wesel sector for Operation PLUNDER. The Reginas were on the move the evening of 27 March, crossing the Rhine by means of a pontoon bridge that the engineers had constructed.

Rifles to finish the job. In summarizing events for February, the Regina's War Diarist commented that in addition to a number of casualties, they also experienced a high percentage of Battle Exhaustion cases. The RRR and 7th Brigade were out of action during the next phase of the Rhine offensive, Operation BLOCKBUSTER.



Rhine River pontoon bridge 1945



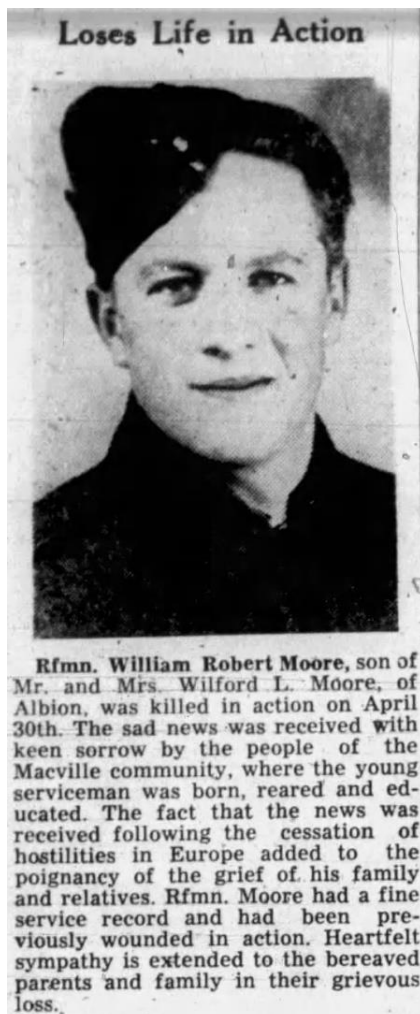
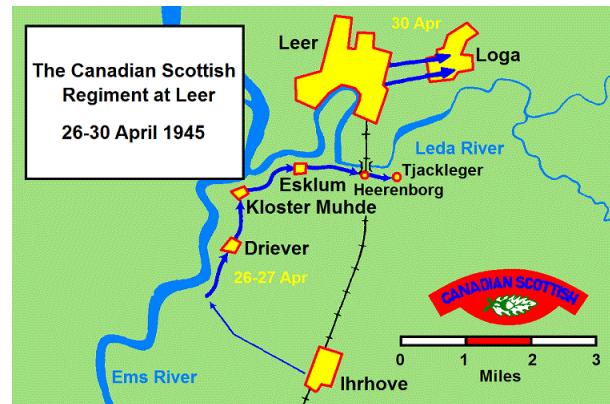
Following a tough battle to take Emmerich, Germany, the RRR and 7th Brigade headed north to help liberate towns in the Netherlands including Zutphen and Deventer.

Final Phase Northwest Europe April 1945

They then headed back into Germany towards Oldenburg with the enemy fighting delaying actions. 3rd Canadian Division was selected for an attack on Leer, Germany commencing 28 April 1945 named Operation DUCK. Leer was a small sea-going vessel port at the junction

of the Ems and Leda Rivers, defended in part by naval replacements.

7th Brigade was tasked with clearing the north bank of the Leda River as far as Loga, two miles east, establishing a base from which a drive north to Emden and Aurich could be established. The Canadian Scottish Regiment crossed the river on assault boats and fierce street fighting took place in town. 7th Brigade completed the capture of Leer by 30 April, with the Reginas crossing the railway to the east against little opposition, then swinging down the right bank of the Leda, clearing out a German naval barracks. The Winnipeg Rifles attended to Julianen Park and Loga fell to the Canadian Scottish. Bob Moore was killed in action at Leer 30 April 1945, age 22. He was running across broken field to assist wounded or fallen comrades, according to a later news article about him.



M.F.M. 268
SOM-9-41 (5633)
H.Q. 1772-55-1990

**CANADIAN PACIFIC
TELEGRAPHS**

JJ FILE H.Q. 405-M-22,411

CASUALTY (REPORT DELIVERY) OTTAWA

TO:- 7 MAY 1945

MR WILFORD LAURIE MOORE
ALBION ONT

80661 REGRET DEEPLY K48851 RIFLEMAN WILLIAM ROBERT MOORE
HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION THIRTIETH APRIL
1945 STOP YOU SHOULD RECEIVE FURTHER DETAILS BY MAIL DIRECT FROM
THE UNIT IN THE THEATRE OF WAR

PREPAID 11561 DIRECTOR OF RECORDS 4

Orangeville Banner May 1945

Rifleman W.R. Moore was temporarily buried at Ihrhove near Leer, Germany and later relocated to Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **VIII. E. 11.**

Photo courtesy lestweforget1945.org

The inscription on his gravestone:

THOUGH YOUR NATIVE LAND
NO MORE WILL YOU TREAD
TO ME, O SON BELOVED
YOU WILL NEVER DIE

Bob Moore's campaign medals:

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



East Caledon, ON War Memorial

Robert Moore is listed on the East Caledon, ON War Memorial as one of their local WW2 fallen.



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

Camp Bolton, ON picture <https://boltonhistory.com/bolton-camp/>

Johnston National Storage, Vancouver, BC picture
<https://searcharchives.vancouver.ca/johnson-national-storage-exterior>

Camp Borden Ontario Canadian Armoured Corps training picture ww2
https://www.aviaeology.com/store/p157/Camp-Borden_A-Century-of-Service.html#/

Kevin Lambie, Regina Rifles WWII <http://www.reginarifles.ca/index.htm>

Reid, Brian (2010). Named by the Enemy - A History of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles

Regina Rifles D-Day and Normandy information <https://warchronicle.com/the-story-of-the-royal-regina-rifles/#:~:text=The%20Landing,on%20the%20Isle%20of%20Thanet.>

Regina and Winnipeg Rifles watching tanks unload on D-Day picture
<https://www.cBoltoanadashistory.ca/explore/military-war/d-day-memories>

Leopold Canal battle map and information
<https://www.canadiansoldiers.com/history/battlehonours/northwesteurope/leopoldcanal.htm>

Regina Rifles Moyland Wood picture and War Diary
<https://www.junobeach.org/canada-in-wwii/articles/liberation-of-the-netherlands-and-capitulation-of-germany/regina-rifle-regiment-war-diary-16-18-february-1945/>

Final Phase, Leer, Germany information and maps
<https://www.canadiansoldiers.com/history/battlehonours/northwesteurope/leer.htm>

East Caledon, ON War Memorial picture
<https://ontariowarmemorials.blogspot.com/2017/06/location-peel-region-n-43-52.html>

Memorial Service For William Robert Moore

A memorial service was held on Sunday, May 27th, in Macville church for William Robert Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Moore, of Albion Township, who was instantly killed in action April 30th, near the village of Leer, Germany, while running across broken field to the assistance of wounded or fallen comrades.

The church was crowded to overflowing, even with the addition of one hundred chairs. Service consisted of the singing of "For all the Saints who from their labours rest" and "O Valiant Hearts, who to your glory came," and the Last Post and Reveille, accompanied by the lowering and raising of the flag, the former by Bernard Clowes and the latter by Sadie Strong. Rev. George Purchase, of Tottenham, uncle of Bobbie, read the Scripture and led in prayer, while Rev. J. S. Veals spoke from the fourteenth chapter of Romans, verse seven. Mrs. J. S. Veals and Mrs. F. Strong sang a duet, "Some Day."

Flags were in evidence in the interior of the church, also floral tributes sent by different persons and officials. Mr. Moore has sent a Memorial plaque to be placed in the church.

A letter from Bobbie's padre, recently received, told of his courage and popularity with the men.

Orangeville Banner Jun 1945

In loving memory of our dear son and brother, K-48851, William Robert Moore, of the Regina Rifle Regt., killed on April 30th, 1945.

To Our Beloved Son and Brother, Bob
Far away in Lhrhove, Germany, you lie at rest,

Another quiet hero, quite unsung,
You gave your all and nothing but the best,

No sacrifice it seemed, to you who were so young.

To die so young, could this have been your choice,

And leave behind no record of the race?

But honour called to you with stirring voice

And you answered with a smile upon your face.

At dawn you faced your final tilt with death,

The morning sun had tinged the sky with gold,

You voiced a prayer to Him with your last breath,

Then stepped within the portals of God's fold.

There is a white cross standing at your head,

But German is the land wherein you lie,

And though your native land no more you'll tread,

To us, beloved son, you'll never die.

—Lovingly remembered by Mom and Dad, Brothers and Sister.

Orangeville Banner Apr 1946