



Gus was born August 5, 1916 in Florence, Nova Scotia, the son of Murdock and Mary Jane MacLean of Florence. Gus's parents were married on September 9, 1907 in Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA. Gus married Margaret J. MacLean of Florence on April 3, 1940 in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Gus brother, Norman MacLean, also served overseas with the RCE. He had one married and one still unmarried sister. Four children in their family died in infancy. Gus' family was members of the Presbyterian Church.

Gus enlisted in Sydney Nova Scotia on October 14, 1939, he was temporarily unemployed at the time. He received his military training in Sydney, Nova Scotia and Camp Borden. On Oct. 20, 1941, Gus went overseas to the United Kingdom. There his military training continued. On Nov. 10, 1943, Gus was sent to Italy to be deployed with his regiment, the Cape Breton Highlanders in the liberation operations in Italy. When the Nazis were largely pushed back to the North, he was transported to Marseilles, France, on Feb. 21, 1945, to advance from there to Belgium. Gus then participated in the continued Allied advance toward the North with fierce fighting in the "Rhineland Offensive" and later in Eastern and Northern Netherlands. In the last weeks before the capitulation of the Germans, the Cape Breton Highlanders Regiment still fought fiercely in the Delfzijl Pocket.

Gus died on Tuesday, May 1, 1945 at the age of 28 during that battle around Delfzijl. He was then temporarily buried in Wirdum before being reburied in Holten on February 16, 1946.

On his tombstone: DEPARTED FROM US BUT FOR AWHILE TO SLEEP IN PEACE WITH JESUS

His medals: 1939-45 Star; Italy Star; France Germany Star; Defense Medal; War Medal 1939-45; CVSM & Clasp.

His widow and mother were awarded the Memorial Bar on June 9, 1945.

His name appears on the plaque in the church of Holwierde.



Plaquette met namen van gesneuvelde Canadese militairen in de Stefanuskerk te Holwierde

