

Martin, Frank Lachlan. Sergeant

10-B-13



Francis Lachlan Martin was born in Blantyre, Lanarkshire, Schotland on the 26th of August 1910.

With his parents and younger sister Catherine (11 months), he arrived in St. Johns, Newfoundland, aged 3 years.

The final destination was stated to be Cranbrook B.C.

From that moment on, "Francis" became "Frank".

The only information of his school days is that he attended Cranbrook school.

There is also little information available about his further education and work. The only thing: before he enlisted on June 22, 1940, he had worked for about four years at Cranbrook Foundry. His job: a machinist. He must have had some technical training.



He was married on May 16, 1936 to Lillian Campbell Lewis. At the time of his employment they had a son, Richard Lachlan and a daughter, Jean Lorraine.

Frank had his basic training in Vancouver with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada.

On November 1, 1940 he was posted to the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps in Esquimalt B.C.

The unit that was responsible for all the material goods an army needs, from weapons to clothing to transport.

Food, medical supplies and fuel were outside their scope.

He was on leave from December 12, 1940 to January 10, 1941.

Upon his return, he was transferred from the general warehouse to the weapons department.

Position: Armourer Private.

Task: maintenance and repair of weapons.

In July 1941 he was briefly hospitalized due to illness.

He briefly was attached to an infantry battalion in Nanaimo, Vancouver Island. Upon his return he got further general training and was appointed acting Armourer Corporal.

At the turn of the year he was given leave again.

In 1942 he was then transferred to England, where he arrived on March 23, and stayed for the next 3 years.

He was assigned to a reinforcement unit.

Certainly until the end of 1943 he worked what you could call an "easy shift". Several periods of leave were reported.

In May 1944, still in England, he was transferred to a newly formed corps: RCEME, the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The increase and modernization of trucks, armoured vehicles, weapons and communications equipment required specialists, one corps for service and maintenance.

For Frank Martin, given his training and experience, the ideal unit.

Meanwhile promoted to acting Armoured Sergeant, he was transferred to the mainland of Europe, arriving March 22, 1945.

Shortly afterwards a very special transition:

With barely any infantry training and certainly no experience, Frank was posted to a combat unit on April 20, 1945: Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal.

His function there cannot be explained.

Armourer Sergeant? Not impossible, but very unlikely.

On April 28, 1945, it was the end of the line for Frank Lachlan Martin, husband and father.

He was killed near Hatten, south of Oldenburg-Germany and temporarily buried in Kirchhatten.

It is remarkable that the war diaries of the FMR reported little or no hostilities around that day.

His final resting place: Canadian War Cemetery Holten, Ref. 10-B-13.

He was awarded:

1939-45 Star; France-Germany Star; Defense Medal; War Medal 1939-45 and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.

