

## Cpl William Mather

**11-A-11**



William was the son of Mabel Mather, of Golden, British Columbia.

### **Family history:**

Thomas and Emma Smith lived in Birmingham England where he owned a dry good store and operated a milk delivery service. They had six children. Two of their sons died when infants and the other two sons died from epidemics as toddlers. Due to Emma's severe asthma condition her doctor advised the family to move to a dryer climate. He suggested either Canada or Australia. Thus, Thomas and Emma with their two teenage daughters, Mabel and Lillian, immigrated to Field, BC in July 1920.

Thomas secured a job in the boiler room at the CPR shops. Lillian married Frank Watson a maintenance man in this shop. They had five children, Noreen, Francis, Rita, Ruby and Arthur. Mabel married William Mather who also worked in the CPR shops' boiler room. Williams's father, also named William, participated in the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898. He returned to England and then he decided to make Canada his homeland. He worked in New Brunswick as a carpenter for eight cents an hour. Later he and his wife moved west to Field BC where he worked as a carpenter for the CPR.

William and Mabel had twins, Gwendoline and William who were born in the Golden Hospital on September 11, 1921. They had three more children: John, James and Joyce. She died of the tender age of three years in 1929 of lockjaw and meningitis. In July 1939 Mabel moved to Donald, she was the post mistress with her four children. Even though they had to fetch their water from a nearby creek, the family was happy living in their log house with their colie Donnie. Emma died of pneumonia in January 1940 when she was sixty years old. Mabel's son, William was killed in action on April 22 1945 and was temporarily buried in Friesoythe (Germany). That same April Mabel moved to Golden.

Gwen married Walter Neale, a resident of nearby Forde. Soon after their wedding on June 4 1941 in the Anglican Church in Golden, Walter enlisted the army. He went overseas in 1942. When Walter returned from Europe

he moved his family to Revelstoke where he was a CPR trainman. They had two children: Mabel and Fred. Mabel taught grades two and three at the Nicholson Elementary School during the 1963-1964 school year. In July 1970 Gwen and Walter moved to Vernon BC where they are presently living. John was a supervisor at the Donald sawmill. He married Mary Drown, daughter of a pioneer Golden family. They lived at Donald for many years. They also lived at Canmore AB where John worked at the local mill before moving to the Golden where John built their new home. Previous to his retirement John was the Golden hospital's maintenance man. They had a family of three girls and two boys: Barbara, William (nicknamed Joe), Sharon, Gordon, and Rhonda reside in Golden. Mary a devoted wife and mother passed away in November 1987. Gordon has followed in his Dad's footsteps and is a millwright at Evans Forest Products.

James married Ruth Magnusson and they had five children: Margaret, Douglas, Ronald, James and Ralph. They spent most of their life in the Okanagan where James followed road construction. He passed away on November 30 1991. Ruth is living with their son Ralph and his wife at the Coast. Mabel Mather remarried Ralph Setter a sawyer from Devon England in November 1958. Ralph spent the remainder of his working years with the department of highways. Friends and family enjoyed their homemade root beer. Mabel spent many hours knitting cherished clothing for her family. In 1960 they retired to Mabel's dream city Vernon BC. Ralph passed away in November 1963 at the age of seventy two and Mabel on September 5 1981 at eighty years old.

