

L/Sgt John Smith McCombie

3-D-7



John was born on December 17, 1920 in Runciman Saskatchewan as son of Robert Durward McCombie (Scots) and Isabella Margaret McCombie from Runciman. They were married on January 19, 1921 in Gainsborough Saskatchewan. John married Lenore Myrtle McKibbin also from Runciman on 20 September 1941 in Tisdale Saskatchewan. His brothers were Alexandra Davidson and William Wardrobe McCombie and his sisters were Isabelle Hunter, Loreen Margarete and Jean Kathleen McCombie.

John's family was a member of The United Church.

John took service in Regina Saskatchewan on 29 June 1940, after he had worked in agriculture for 6 years, after his service he wanted to get back to work on a mixed farm. His inspection report states that it is expected to become a great military. A month after his marriage on November 22, 1941, John Overzee is sent to Gorock Scotland. To continue his military training there. He disembarked in France on 1 September 1944 to be deployed in the liberation struggle on the European mainland.

John died on Monday, April 9, 1945 at the age of 24 during the battle for Haarle. He was then temporarily buried in Haarle before he was reburied on 4 February 1946 in the Canadian Cemetery in Holten. The other fallen members of his regiment that day are Pte Allan H. Rathwell, age 21 years, grave 3-D-10, Pte Logan E. Leslie, age 19 years grave 3-D-8, Pte Seth E. Murray, age 22 years grave 3-D-6 and Pte Joseph D. Comeau, age 21 years grave 3-D-9.

On his tombstone: Greater Love Hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends

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

His mother and widow were distinguished on May 18, 1945 with The Memorial Cross.

John is mentioned on the monument in Haarle together with the other 9 - fallen Canadian soldiers.

He served with The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

