

Pte Rene Fortunat Morin

3-A-13



Rene Fortunat was born on April 28, 1924, in Edmundston, New Brunswick, the son of Denis E. and Marthe/Mattie Morin, both from Edmundston East. He was the brother of Lewis, Regis, Rini, George Emile, and Leopold Morin, and his sisters were Germaine, Marthe, and Annette Morin. René was the second oldest of the bunch. The French-speaking family was Roman Catholic.

René attended school until he was 16 and then went to work as a warehouse clerk.

He enlisted in the Canadian Army in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on June 7, 1943, and served at Clearing Depot No. 7 of the N.R.M.A. He was then sent overseas to the United Kingdom in January 1945. René did not go to NW Europe until March 25, 1945, where he was assigned to the Royal 22nd Regiment, R.C.I.C., the van Doos. With that regiment, he took part in the further advance and the fierce fighting in the east of the Netherlands.

René was killed on Saturday, April 14, 1945, at the age of 20, during the Canadian advance to Apeldoorn. On April 11, 1945, René crossed the IJssel River during Operation Cannonshot. The Germans put up fierce resistance to prevent the Canadians from advancing to Apeldoorn. René lost his life during the fighting in the Woudhuis in the Apeldoornse Bosch. He was temporarily buried in Wilp/Achterhoek near Deventer before being reburied in Holten on January 24, 1946.

On his gravestone: IL A DONNE SA VIE POUR LES SIENS, SEIGNEUR
DONNEZ LUI LA VIE ETERNELLE

His medals were: 1939-45 Star; France Germany Star; War Medal 1939-45;

His mother was awarded The Memorial Bar on May 23, 1945.

