



Frank was born on February 1, 1923 in Halifax Nova Scotia to Frank A. Munroe (died September 10, 1943) and Mary Gertrude Munroe of Halifax. They were married on February 28, 1916 in Halifax. Frank had three brothers, two were also in the liberation army. His youngest brother, Douglas, was still at home with his mother. He also had three sisters. Another brother, Eric Stewart, had died as a baby in 1931. The Munroe family was Roman Catholic.

*Frank with sister Dorothy*

Frank left school at the age of 16 to work at the shipyards in Halifax, at the time of enlisting in the army he was a ironworker at one of the shipyards there.

On 13 December 13, 1943 he enlisted in Halifax, Nova Scotia and after a period of training he went overseas to the UK on July 27, 1944. Soon after this he was sent to the front in France on August 17 and was assigned to the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders regiment (the Glens). He was involved in the further advance of his regiment through Northwest Europe.

At the end of April 1945, the Canadian troops stood just across the Dutch-German border in East Friesland in front of the river Ems. The town of Leer lies on the other side of this river on the route to Emden in northwestern Germany. Surrounded by difficult lowlands in the north and with the rivers Ems and Leda in the west and south, Leer was a well-defensible port city and therefore difficult to take. All access bridges over the Ems and Leda had been blown up by the Germans. The Canadians had no choice but to try to reach the city by water. The men of the SD&G Highlanders regiment were ordered on April 28, 1945 to cross the Ems west of Leer with storm boats.

This was a dramatic journey, the boats proved difficult to withstand the rough waters of the Ems, some had malfunctioning engines and the shelling from the German side was heavy. A number of boats sank on the spot and 19 "Glens" drowned or were fatally wounded.

One of those who lost their lives in the water of the Ems on that day, Saturday April 28, 1945, was Frank Munroe. He is then 22 years old,

although missing at first, his body is found that same day and temporarily buried in Bingum. Northwest Germany.

On March 26, 1946, Frank was reburied at the Canadian Field of Honor in Holten in plot 11, row D grave 9.

As mentioned, 19 members of the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders regiment died that day, some were found immediately, for others it took months or even years before their remains could be recovered. Private Earl H. Jospin was only found in 1967 and he was buried on May 23, 1967 in the Jonkerbos War Cemetery in Nijmegen, all other 18 victims are in Holten.

Frank's grave was adopted after the war by Mr. A.J. Markerink from Almelo.

His mother was awarded The Memorial Bar on June 28, 1945.

For further information, see the chapter "Drama on the Eems" in the book Holtense Canadezen written by Jan Braakman.