



Basil was born in Halifax on March 19 1922 to Thomas Nunn and Agnes May (Gill) Nunn. Basil Nunn was married with Yvonne Tobin of Toronto.

A star athlete throughout his youth, he already belonged to the St. Pat's High School cadets when he joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battery (Militia) at age 16 in May 1938 and attained the rank of Lance Bombardier. When war broke out, at age 17, he entered St. Mary's College for pre-engineering, to follow in the

footsteps of his father, a civil engineer in charge of key Nova Scotia projects. Basil joined the Officer Training programme on January 30 1942 and was recommended for a commission about the time of his graduation from Nova Scotia Technical College as a civil engineer in May 1942. He joined the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE) on July 10 1942, and undertook extensive training over the next year. He was promoted to full Lieutenant on April 17 1943. In July, the padre at Camp Petawawa officiated at the marriage of Basil Nunn and Yvonne Tobin, of Toronto, whom he had met while in Ontario. Basil belonged to the Engineering Reinforcement Unit when he arrived in England on September 2 1943, for another year training; he had yet to see action. When he call came from the Italian front for more Canadian infantry officers, Basil transferred from the RCE to a Nova Scotia Regiment from what had been his ancestral homelands before his father moved to Halifax, the Cape Breton Highlanders.



Lt Basil Andrew Nunn was killed during well-armed fortified positions at Delfzijl in northeast Holland early in the morning of May 1 1945. This young Canadian soldier's heroism brought his company of the Cape Breton Highlanders into position for a final successful attack. His sacrifice cost a promising life as a civil engineer and broke the hearts of his family back in Halifax, Nova Scotia, but immediately saved a life too. A member of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, he was awarded, posthumously, the Silver Star of the USA, then the third highest in the US medal for bravery. His story is outlined here from family memory, Library and Archives Canada records, recollection of a fellow officer- whom he replaced the day he was killed- and on the regimental history of the Cape Breton Highlanders, 'the Breed of Manly Men' by Alex Morrison and Ted Slaney.

