

## L/Cpl Paul Vincent O'Donnell

8-F-6



Paul was born on July 19 1925 in Kenilworth, Ontario as the son of Joseph and Rose O'Donnell, of Kenilworth. His parents were married on January 20 1913 in Arthur Ontario. His brothers were Sgt Joseph P. , James, Patrick , Francis and Robert O'Donnell. And his sisters were Mrs. Garfield Teeter (Cecelia), Mrs. Edward Crowley (Helen), and Mrs. Joseph O'Connor (Louise). Note His brother Austin Michael O'Donnell was also killed in action on Tuesday August 31 1944 in Italy and he was buried at the Montecchio War Cemetery grave 1-A-14.

He was a farmer and member of the Roman Catholic Church.

He enlisted on November 22 1943 in Toronto and went overseas to the UK on September 5 1944 and he went thereafter to France on October 2.

Paul was one of 10th and was raised on the family farm just outside the hamlet of Kenilworth. His surviving brother, Robert (he is 85 now), was 9 years younger but vividly remembers that Paul had a beautiful singing voice. He worked at the steel plant in Hamilton Ontario and the story goes that he was standing on the steps of the recruitment office on the day of his 18th birthday. He remembers the embarkation party that was held for Paul and Patrick (my dad). While Paul was on the boat over to England word was received that Austin Michael, his older brother, had been killed, in action, in Italy (see above). Paul was very close to Austin, despite being 9 years younger and knew he wanted to follow him to war. My dad, Patrick, who was in the Royal Canadian Air Force, only got as far as Halifax, Nova Scotia and never made it across to England. Paul trained at Base Borden, Angus Ontario and Uncle Bert thinks he went from there to Halifax where he shipped out for England. There was another brother Joseph who spent his time in British Columbia and never made it to England either. Uncle Bert does recall that Paul rode a motorcycle while in the service.'

Paul was killed in action on Friday April 13 1945 near Friesoythe (NW Germany) age 19 and he was temporarily buried in Neuvrees (NW Germany) and he was reburied on March 12 1946 in Holten.

At is headstone: DIED FOR KING AND COUNTRY. MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

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

He served with the Lake Superior Regiment.

Family story above was written by Maureen Dineen nee O'Donnell (niece)  
November 4 2020.

