Corporal Verne Hillier REID

06-F-15

Verne Hillier Reid was born on his grandfather's farm in Wheatly, Ontario as son of Glen H. Reid and Aleathea Reid (nee Loveless). Military records indicate he was born on 5 August 1917, although family records say it was 17 August 1915. Reid went to school in Wheatly and graduated from high school at the age of 18. He and his brother sold papers for 6 years while attending school and during the holidays, as well as doing other work. He works with a contractor for one year and then went to work for Dr. Wilson, Wheatly's veterinarian, in 1937. He then went to Veterinary College and graduated 4 years later. He settled in Leamington where he had an office for a couple of years. He closed his office when he joined the Kent and Essex Infantry in Chatham. In the meantime, he had sent in an application for civil service and when it came through he went to the Abattoir in Toronto. In March 1943 he was transferred to Moncton, New Brunswick, and in December of that year joined The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada in London. Despite pleas from Mersea council, area dairy farmers and other local officials for his discharge in order to take over 80-year-old Dr. Wilson's veterinary practice, he was denied. He went overseas in September 1944 and was involved in the bitter fall and winter fighting that drove the Germany army out of Holland and liberated that starving country. The Argylls then advanced into

northern Germany and crossed the Ems River in April. It was during this period that Cpl. Verne Hillier Reid was killed on 18 April 1945, according the Field Service Report, at Friesoythe, Germany, on the right side of a road before crossing the bridge into town. He had been overseas about 9 months and was leader of a platoon.

Verne Hillier Reid was 27 years old.