

Private Harold Wilbert ROSZELL 03-H-05



Pte. Harold Wilbert Roszell was the son of Irene Roszell and the late Walbert Roszell of Toronto Ontario. Harold W. Roszell served at the end of the war the Royal Canadian Infantry Corps and was killed in action on April 16 during the liberation of Groningen. He was just 21 years old.

Harold was born in Hamilton Ontario. He worked after school for the J. and W.R. Scott Ltd.

In March 1941 he enlisted the 1st battalion of the Dufferin and Haldimand Regiment, and got a two years training at Vancouver Island and went overseas in April 1943. Harold's father, who was a veteran from WW1, had a bad condition due to chronic lung diseases which has been caused by chlorine gas attacks at the battle of Ieper and died in March 1942. Harold has been trained in South England for a year before the battle in NW Europe. On June 7 1944 the war starts really for Harold with the landing on Juno Beach, Normandy. In the meantime he was transferred to the headquarters of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, which had heavy fights at Caen. He is then a batman, servant of one of the captains. Harold often wrote home and tells then about the war. In the letters of autumn 1944, to his mother and sister he did

not tell anything about the heavy fights at the battle of the Scheldt. Albert Roszell, the brother of Harold, is also serving the Canadian army during the liberation of North West Europe and Harold tried to get in touch with him several times but without success. In April was Harold with his unit in the north of Holland and on April 14 he is near Groningen.

Two days later on the evening of April 16, just before the German commander wants to surrender, a sniper shot him deadly and the next day he has been temporarily buried in Eelderwolde. Harold leaves behind his brother Cpl Albert Roszell, who served the R.C.A.S.C. (Royal Canadian Army Service Corps), and three sisters.

