

The WWII Soldier Killed in Germany But Buried in Holland

February 22, 2019. Most of the men listed on the Cenotaph outside the Borden-Carleton Legion were unmarried. However, **William Douglas SHERREN**, born November 25, 1914 in Crapaud, son of William Douglas Sherren and Florence Amanda Carrier, was married, to Florence Mead Strickland, and the father of two children, Hubert and Harrison Blair.

An electrician with Palmer Electric in Charlottetown before WW2 broke out, William Douglas enlisted with the First Survey Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery on January 6, 1940, receiving the rank of Lieutenant. He was sent to England and on March 29, 1944 was promoted to Captain. He arrived in France in July 1944, a month after D-Day.



William Douglas Sherren. (Photo courtesy of Holten Canadian War Cemetery in The Netherlands)

On March 17, 1945, he was recognized by King George VI as a Member of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for "*gallant and distinguished services in the field*" in North West Europe. Unfortunately, we don't know the circumstances of him receiving the award. If anyone has more information, please let us know.

NORTH WEST EUROPE DECORATIONS—C. A. S. F.				REG. NO.		NAME		CLASS. UNIT	
SHERREN, William Douglas <i>Decorated 1945</i>				Capt.		<i>1790 A</i>		<i>31/185-5</i>	
MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.				C.G.11		17-3-45		1111	
The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for gallant and distinguished services in the field.				"To be Additional Member of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order."					

Notice of decoration awarded to William Douglas Sherren. (Source: www.ancestry.ca)

On April 25, 1945, just a few days before the end of WWII, he was severely injured when the vehicle he was travelling in drove over a land mine in Germany. According to his service file, William Douglas died of his wounds at 3:30 am on April 28, 1945.

Originally buried in Cloppenburg Hospital Cemetery in Lower Saxony, William Douglas was reburied in Holten Canadian War Cemetery in The Netherlands in 1947. This was one of the cemeteries we visited while in Europe, and of course we placed flags at his grave. (See **On the War Memorial Trail At Holten Canadian War Cemetery**)



Grave of William Douglas Sherren at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. (Photo credit: Pieter Valkenburg)

Death From Wounds Of Capt Sherren

Word has been received that Capt. W. D. Sherren, M.B.E., of Charlottetown, died on April 28 of wounds which he had received three days previously.

Capt. Sherren enlisted on Jan. 5, 1941, as Lieutenant with the First Survey Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. He went to England the same year and landed in France shortly after D-Day. Early this year he was mentioned in dispatches and on March 15, 1945, was awarded the M.B.E.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Florence Sherren and two children, Hubert and Blaine, ages six and four respectively. They live at 14 Spring Park Road, City.

The late Capt. Sherren has six brothers living: Ray, J. S. Sherren, now a chaplain with the Canadian Navy; George, with the Customs Department in Charlottetown; Louis, Fred, Edward, and Reagh, all living at Crapaud. Another brother, Commander P. C. Sherren, was killed in the King's Cup races in England in 1938. He has one sister, Agnes, Mrs. Stuart Dickson, 32 Brighton Road, City.

Captain Sherren was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Sherren of Crapaud. He was 30 years old.

Obituary of William Douglas Sherren. (Source: The Charlottetown Guardian, Friday, May 4, 1945, page 1)

Do you have photos or information to share on William Douglas Sherren, or any of the soldiers discussed in previous blog postings? You can send an email to dariadv@yahoo.ca or comment on this blog.