



Private John Gerard SPICER

05-D-04

John Gerard Spicer was born on 16 October 1923 as son of Usher Cecil and Dorothy Catherine Spicer from Hamilton, Ontario. He was the 2nd child of 5, 2 boys and 3 girls. He got his education for 1 year High School and was employed as General Labourer for Wiring Manufacturing Co. most recently as fitter at Hamilton Bridge Co.

John Gerard enlisted on 3 May 1944 with the 1st Battalion Victoria Rifles at Niagara-on-the-Lake. He went to Europe with the Irish Regiment of Canada on 21 November 1944. John saw action in Italy from 24 January 1945 to 3 March 1945 and went then to the North West European Front on 4 March 1945.

Details of his death: 'B'Company was on 2 May 1945 proceeding into the outskirts of the heavily defended naval base. John was walking alongside his buddy Sam Doggart, fingers on the trigger of their .303 Enfield's, safeties off, when the early dawn erupted with heavy automatic weapons fire from a German bunker hidden behind a farmhouse. John caught the brunt of the burst and fell dead. Sam Doggart was wounded in the arm. It is said that John last Irish casualty due to enemy fire. John was 21 years old.

Notes from the interviewer:

John Spicer did not take part in active sports. He has no entertainment ability. Above average intelligence, recruit is of medium build, appears strong and healthy and has been accustomed to heavy work. He is alert, frank and responsive and is eager to develop in the army. His general attitude is cooperative; he has good stability and is suitable for complete military training. He hasn't a trade, but would like to be trained as a driver mechanic. His experience is very limited and if he shows good results in training, he might be given a chance at trade training, as he has good mechanical Aptitude. He has no preference, but thinks he would like to become a driver in the Infantry. He states that his habits are generally temperate, but he likes to go on occasional spree.

