

Ernest Raymond. Taylor

08 A 10



Harriet Taylor vividly remembers the day her husband Frank, youngest son Frankie and family friend Rivers MacDonald arrived with the news Ernest was dead. Harriet was staying in Price Settlement, a tiny hamlet in Tabusintac, taking care of her ill mother, Isabelle Price. Her husband learned of his son's fate from the undertaker from Maher's Funeral Home, 8 days after his killing. Frank was at their home in New Settlement on the Winston Road in Oak point. Home at the time with him were three of his nine children, Frankie and the daughters Marjorie and Rita. They were getting firewood ready for coming winter. Stunned, Frank left his home to deliver the devastating news to his wife. Harriet said when she saw them coming in the lane, she knew something was wrong.

Three of Harriet's daughters also recalled where they were when they learned of their oldest brother's death.

- Annie was at work at Jim Sullivan's when she was told.
- Wilda was at home with her family when she received the telephone call to tell her the news.
- Ella remembers being in Newcastle celebrating the end of the war.

Ernest was 22 when he joined the army in August 1941. He was quickly sent overseas as a signaller with the Royal Canadian Signal Corps Troop F. He married an English woman, Patricia King, in February 1943. He had a three year old son named Raymond and his war bride was three months pregnant with their daughter Wilda, when he died. Family and friends remember him as being a very likeable man, Sisters Ella and Wilda remember their brother as an outgoing and jolly person.

A war comrade, Ron Cornell of Fredericton, was with Taylor when he died. He said "We connected because we both from New Brunswick".

Cornell said Ernest and the other men in the troop were 'line reccing' the day he killed. Line reccing involved laying line for communication. Taylor was shot in the stomach. Taylor was buried in the ditch where he was killed in Edewecht Germany. His remains were later moved to a war cemetery in Holten, Holland.

Walter Taylor, who passed away in 1998 told his niece Sheila Doiron of a meeting his brother once when they were both overseas. After he learned of his older brother's death, Walter borrowed his lieutenant motorcycle and went to the location where he had been killed.

Walter returned to Canada suffering from a broken ankle at the end of the war aboard a hospital ship. He wasn't the only one to cross the Atlantic eager to meet family. Ernest had made arrangements for his wife and family to go to Canada. Patricia was preparing to leave when she learned of her husband's death. After the war ended the Taylors encouraged Patricia and her two children to live with them in Canada. She agreed. Harriet said she opened her home to her sons family because that was all she had left of him. Grammie always told it was hard not to see Ernest again, but at least she got to know his wife and two children. The family arrived in Oak Point in 1946 and stayed with the Taylors for four years. Eventually, Patricia remarried. She now lives in Montreal, she had ten more children with her second husband. But Patricia and her children stayed in contact with the Taylors family.

Granddaughter and niece Sheila Doiron

