

Trooper George Edward Wallace 12-F-9

George (Ted) was the son of William John Arthur and Ellen Elizabeth Alice Wallace, of Barrie Ontario. He had two brothers: Jack and the youngest Douglas.

On joining the Army, Ted trained at Camp Borden and later was commissioned as a lieutenant and served in Camp Borden for one year. In August of 1944 he reverted to the rank of trooper in order to get overseas. Ted went overseas in October of 1944 and was in England for five months. He went to Holland along with two of his buddies who also were at the Barrie School.

George was sitting in his tank on the of April 13 1945. The tank was placed at the back of a small farm on the outskirts of Apeldoorn. It was owned by Johannes van der Zande and his wife Wilhelmina van der Zande -Groenink. They were my grandparents. Hendrik had a brother who lived some 200 meters further along the road. Behind the house that my grandfather's brother lived stood a German tank. Both tanks got into a fight and the German tank hit the Canadian tank. The four boys that were inside got out of the tank, and one of them, George was seriously injured. His fellow soldiers dragged him into the small farm and left him behind with my grandmother. She tried to help him the best she could. But, as you may well know, the resources at that time were minimal. My grandmother often told the story of the boy that was so far away from home crying for his mother... It had made a huge impression on her, for she was a mother of four children herself. This is the short version of the story told by my grandmother. Later I found out that George Wallace was placed in an improvised hospital at the Joseph foundation a few kilometres away. After some intensive surgery he died 2 days later.

For my family and myself it would be so special to let the remaining family of George know that he thought of them during his last few days.

George was killed in action on April 13 1945 at the age of 22, 1945 near Apeldoorn and is temporarily buried first in Apeldoorn near the Joseph Foundation and later in Gorssel.
Written by Hans van der Zande

Unit: 1st Hussars, R.C.A.C.

