

Richard Conroy Wykes

Gunner

3-H-9



Richard was born on December 19, 1919 in Wollaston, Northamptonshire, England, to Charles Samuel and Frances Maude Wykes (both English) from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. They were married on October 4, 1918 in Wollaston, England.

On January 18, 1943, he married Violet Lucy Wykes-Ansell of Southwater, Horsham, England. They had five children together; Richard Charles (born October 9, 1944), Jack Clifford, Charles Robert, Kenneth George and Betty Wykes.

He worked as a pasteurizer at a dairy factory and was a member of the Church of England.

He attended the Public School until VIII Grade and left school at the age of 15.

He volunteered in the Canadian army in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on September 15, 1939. Soon after the start of the war, September 1940, he was shipped to the United Kingdom along with more Canadian troops to receive further military training. First stop was Gourock, Scotland. Several years of training in England followed and it was waiting for deployment at the front on the continent. It was not until July 6, 1944 that his regiment, the Royal Canadian Artillery, was moved to France.

He then took part in the further advance of his regiment during the fierce fighting through France, Belgium and the Netherlands. After a nine-day leave he had spent in England, he returned on April 8, 1945, after which he was seriously injured during fighting on April 13, 1945.

Richard died of these injuries on Thursday, April 19 at the age of 25 during the battle of Groningen. He was then temporarily buried in Eelderwolde before being reburied at the Canadian cemetery in Holten on February 14, 1946.

He was awarded: the 1939-45 Star; France-Germany Star; Defence Medal; War Medal 1939-45; CVSM & Clasp.

His widow was honoured with The Memorial Bar on June 6, 1945, and his mother was also honoured with The Memorial Cross on the same date.

