



Lance Bombardier Edwin ZEER

L.Bdr Edwin Zeer had several reasons to be happy on April 20, 1945. It was a fine spring day in Germany. The war in Europe was in its closing days and it was his 25th birthday. It was also the day that the Alberta farm boy died.

"When Eddie was a boy he always says he wanted to see the world", his younger brother Ike says, "and he made a pretty good step at it, he was overseas for five years." Eddie Zeer was born on the family's successful sheep and cattle farm near the tiny community of Wardlow near Brooks, Alberta. "He was five year older than I was, but we were very close", Ike says, "we use to ski and ride and we worked together quit a bit." Their father, Mohammed Zeer had immigrated to Canada from the USA in the early years of the century. Though he was a devoted Moslim, originally from the area what is now called Syria, his wife was an Anglican and the children were raised in her church. Mohammed was killed in an accident in 1935, leaving Edwin as the oldest made to operate the ranch with his mother. In the days before conscription, he wasn't required to go to war, but in the fall of 1939 he enlisted in the 6th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery and within a year was stationed in England, never see Canada or his girlfriend again. By the time Zeer was in France in 1944 he transferred to the 5th. Field Regiment. Fighting with 25 pounder guns he was a part of the battle to secure the Caen

area. Zeer 6th would have taken part in the liberation of France and The Netherlands.

On the morning of the day he turned 25, Zeer was taken part in the push to take Bremen. He was assigned to drive a jeep as a reconnaissance mission. The jeep drove on a landmine and both occupants were killed. One of them was Edwin Zeer. His buddy Keith William Mountford is buried in Holten next to him: Plot 4-Row G-grave 15.