

Beeby, Thomas Sydney

Private

**Royal Canadian Army Service
Corps**

**Attached to the Lake Superior
Regiment (Motor)**

B/111374



Thomas Sydney Beeby was born on October 29, 1918, in Chingford, Essex, England, Chingford is a town in East London. His parents were George Beeby, who was a veteran of the First World War, and Eunice Elizabeth Lane.

When Thomas was only three years old, he came with the family who moved to Canada. They lived at 651 Bedford Park, Toronto, Ontario. Thomas had a younger sister Elizabeth. The Beebys belonged to the St. Timothy's Anglican Church where Tthomas was a boy scouts member and he was active in the Anglican Young People's Association.

Thomas went to high school until Grade 11. He also completed a woodworking and motor mechanics course from 1938-1940. Thomas worked as an invoice clerk for 10 months and then worked for the civil service as a mail carrier. Thomas enjoyed the sport of playing rugby.

Thomas Sydney Beeby and Elizabeth Frances were married on November 11, 1939. A son, Thomas Robert, was born on May 1, 1940.

Thomas enlisted in the Canadian army on active service on April 14, 1942, in Toronto at the age of 23. He already had militia training from September 1937 to June 1941 with the 48th Highlanders regiment in nearby Newmarket, Ontario.



His medical records show that he stood five feet seven and a half inches and weighed 153 pounds. He had brown hair and brown eyes.

He became a qualified driver. While in Camp Borden in January of 1943 qualified as a driver class 3 wheel. He became an Acting Corporal while employed as an instructor. He also qualified for a QII regular weapons training course and as a driver of a diesel vehicle.

He left Canada from Windsor, Nova Scotia on September 14, 1943 arriving in the United Kingdom. He chose to revert to the rank of Private upon reporting for duty. He was awarded a good conduct badge in April of 1944.



Private Beeby was shipped over to France on July 28, 1944 with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. On January 21, 1945, he was attached to the Lake Superior Regiment (Motor).

He died on that date at the age of 26 when he was killed from a shrapnel wound. A mortar bomb exploded near him. According to the regiment's war diary, the Lake Superior unit was continuously mortared during the day at Fort Crèvecoeur, the Netherlands.

According to his son Bob Beeby, once Thomas arrived in the Netherlands, he was billeted on the Van Den Hout family farm in Oisterwijk. In 1953 his mother, Eunice Beeby, and his sister, Elizabeth, visited the 'van den Hout' family and the grave in



Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. Over time, a close bond developed between the families in Canada and the Netherlands which still stands to this day.



He was temporarily buried at the Roman Catholic cemetery, called Orthen, in 's-Hertogenbosch.

Photo courtesy of Frank Swaans



Orthen cemetery, later called Groenendaal – photo: Bob van Boekel

Private Thomas Sydney Beeby was later re-interred in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **XVI. C. 12.**

The grave as it was in those first days, in 1954 the crosses were replaced to headstones





The headstone reads:
ON MEMORY OF A LOVING SON,
HUSBAND AND FATHER

He was awarded the:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France-Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp

The Toronto Star March 6, 1945, page 4

L. CPL THOMAS SYDNEY BEEBY, 26, was killed in action in Holland Jan. 31, according to word reaching his widow, formerly Beth Percod Toronto, who now lives on Melrose Ave. North York. He enlisted in April 1942 and after training at Camp Borden, went overseas as a transport driver with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps in August 1943. Born in Essex Eng. he came to Canada with his parents while a child. Surviving besides his widow is a son, Robert. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Beeby, and a sister live at Bedford Park Ave. North York township.



T. S. BEEBY
North York
Killed



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek

Life story written by Rowen Correia and Austin Burrill, students from All Saints H.S in Kanata, Canada for Faces to Graves courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz, teacher at All Saints H.S.


Additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial
- Library and Archives Canada
- The Toronto Star
- Project '44
- Pictures and information provided by Thomas Robert Beeby's son Robert Beeby

* Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact info@facestograves.nl

Pte. Thomas Sydney Beeby, 26, RCASC, was killed by shrapnel when a mortar bomb exploded near him in Holland on Jan. 26, according to word received by his wife, the former Mrs. Bess Presdock of 440 Melrose Ave. Born in England, Pte. Beeby came to Toronto at the age of 13. He was a member of St. Timothy's Anglican Church, North Toronto, where he was active in Boy Scout and A.Y.P.A. work. Pte. Beeby enlisted in the army in April, 1942, trained at Newmarket and Camp Borden, going overseas in August of the following year. He went to France in July, 1944. He is also survived by a 4-year-old son, Bobby. Pte. Beeby's



Pte. Beeby