

Cahill, Henry Thomas

Staff Sergeant Machinist

**Royal Canadian Army Service
Corps**

D/91601



Henry Thomas Cahill was born on June 16, 1911 in L'Ardoise, Cape Breton Island, part of Nova Scotia. Henry's parents, William Henry Cahill and Julia Sampson were married in Waltham, Massachusetts and had returned to both of their birthplace, L'Ardoise, to raise their family. Henry was their first of 11 children. They were Henry Joseph, Joseph Ambrose, Bridget Anne (MacEachern), Patrick Michael, Mary Elizabeth (Beames), James Harold, Beulah Marie (Middleton), Catherine Jane (Hill), Alice Josephine (Measor), Margaret Theresa (Petrie) and William Lester.

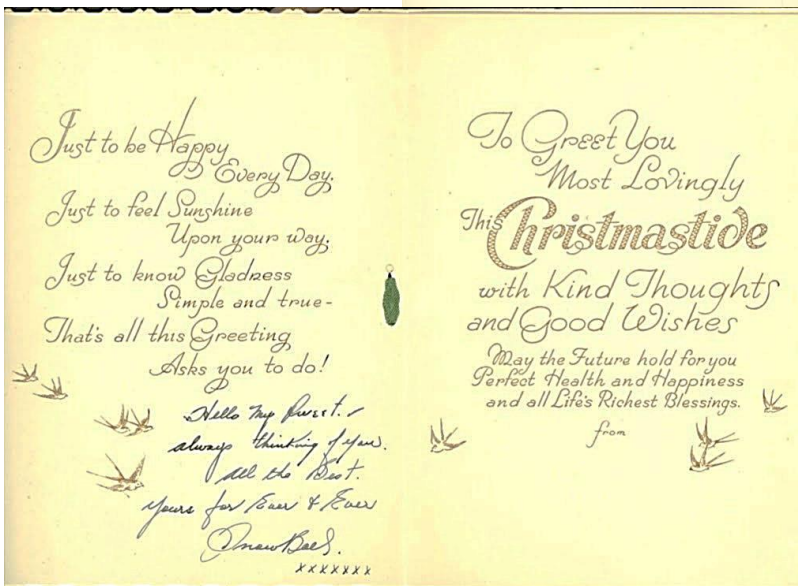
Henry was a Roman Catholic and was baptized at Holy Guardian Angels Church in L'Ardoise. He attended the local school until grade 9 and then had completed grade 10 at St. Peter's. Afterward, he lived in Halifax and then moved to Montreal. He became an electrician, working for Betco Electric until he enlisted in the army.

Two other brothers also served in the Second World War. Patrick Michael, who signed up with the Cape Breton Highlanders, was killed in action May 25, 1944 crossing the Melfa river in Italy. Another brother, James Harold had joined the Royal Canadian Air Force, and was stationed in Newfoundland, then a British colony, for the duration of the Second World War.

Henry married Josephine Kate Anne Major on September 5, 1934 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Montreal. They did not have any children.



Henry and Josephine's wedding photograph which was taken at Famous Studio at 67 St. Catherine St in Montreal, Quebec.



Christmas Card received by Josephine from Henry: "Hello, my dearest. Always thinking of you. All the best. Yours for Ever & Ever"

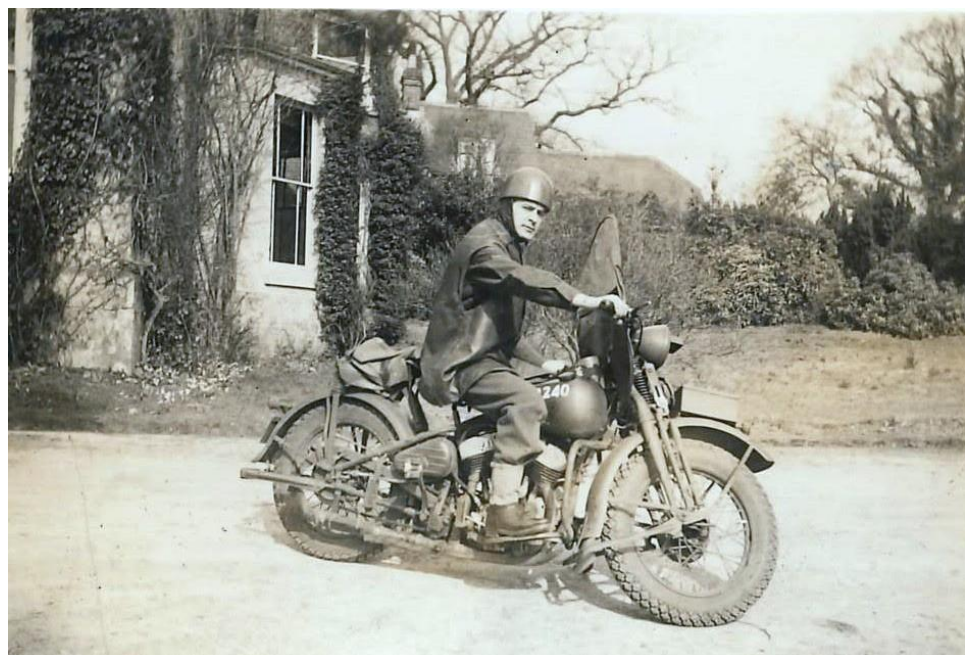
Henry was an electrician for British Electrical Products Limited when he enlisted in the army on September 19, 1939 in Montreal, Québec. His unit was the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. According to his military records, he was described as being five foot seven inches tall, weighing 131 pounds, and having a fair complexion, hazel eyes, and brown hair.

His training was received at Camp Borden in Ontario throughout 1940. On August 23, 1940 he was promoted to Lance-Corporal. In December 1940, he was shipped overseas arriving in Gourock, Scotland on December 24, 1940.



On January 17, 1941, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal. He trained in Scotland from January 20 to May 30, 1941. In June, he was stationed in England where he was promoted to Machinist Staff Sergeant on January 26, 1943.

Crowel, McManus, Turpin, Henry - March '41





Henry on the left

After, he embarked to France on July 7th, 1944. His regiment, the Canadian Army Service Corps, fought through France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

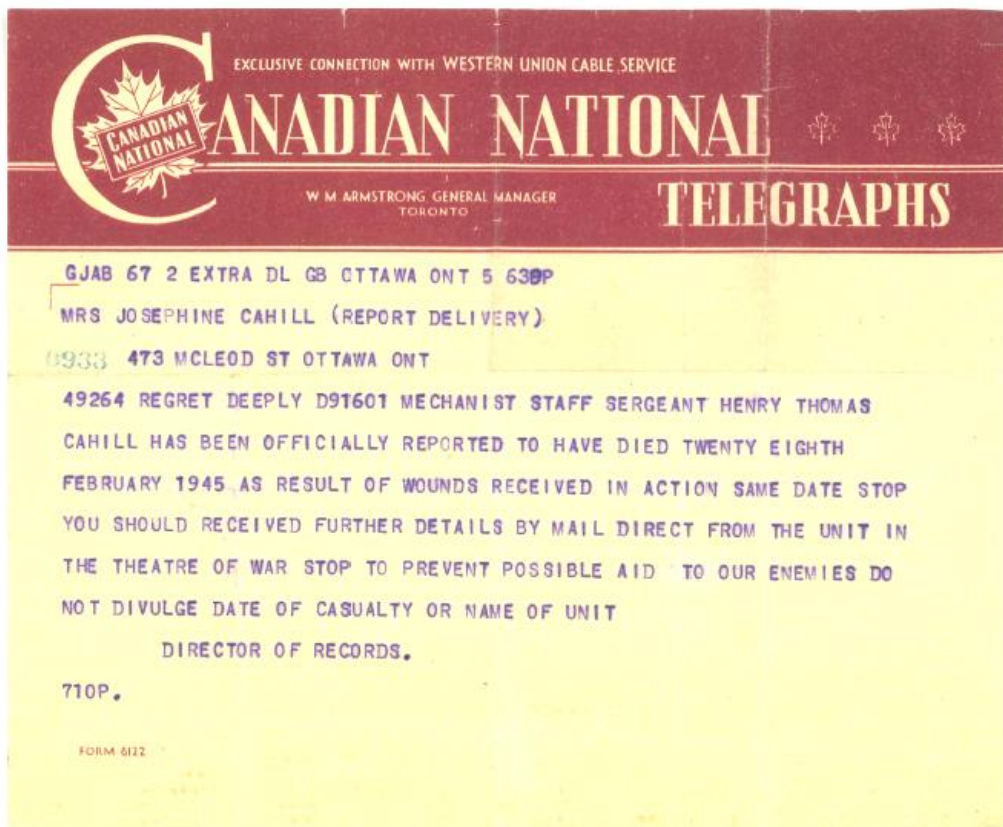


On February 1, 1945, he was in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. On February 22, 1945, his regiment was in Kranenburg, Germany.

Days later on February 28, Staff Sergeant Henry Cahill 33, died of his wounds from shrapnel during a battle.

He was temporarily buried in a Canadian army temporary burial ground in Bedburg, Germany.

A telegram was sent to his wife Josephine with the sad news...



Machinist Staff Sergeant Henry Thomas Cahill was awarded with:

- 1939-45 Star
- France-Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp.

Henry Thomas Cahill was later buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery Netherlands. Graves references are **X. G. 5.**

His headstone is inscribed:

RESTING WHERE NO SHADOWS FALL,
IN PERFECT PEACE HE AWAITS US ALL.



Henry's (on the left) and his brother Patrick's medals



Staff Sgt.
Henry T. Cahill

KILLED IN ACTION: Staff Sergeant Cahill, whose wife lives in Ottawa, has been reported killed on the Western Front while serving with the R.C.A.S.C. He formerly lived at 1806 Dorchester street, and has a sister, Mrs. A. McEachren, living at 1025 Valiquette avenue, Verdun. The eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Cahill, of L'Ardoise, Cape Breton, he enlisted in September, 1939, and went overseas in December, 1940. A younger brother, Cpl. Patrick Cahill, was killed in action in Italy; and another brother, LAC James Cahill, R.C.A.F., is stationed in Newfoundland.



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek

Biography: Beauty Barnes and Lucus Heydarynejad, students from All Saints H.S., Kanata, Canada for Faces to Graves, courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz teacher at All Saints High School. Additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Library

Canadian Virtual war Memorial and Archives Canada

Ancestry Archive

Pictures and letters provided by Carmen Cahill (niece of Henry Cahill)

His sister Margaret and Henry's wife Josephine visited his grave at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.



Henry's wife Josephine



A letter to his sister Mary:

(England) 24 Oct. 43.

Dear Mary,

Yours of Sept. 12 recd. some days ago.
I would have ansd. sooner. But the shocks
are rather a severe strain on my nerves.
But am slowly coming round.
Any way I feel quite capable
So will endeavour to write a few lines.
Your remark about receiving a card last
week I wrote you after returning from
Ireland. But apparently you did not receive
it. Well enough of that I guess.

Have been very busy lately. Graham is
at the R.A. He has been re-boarded out of
field medically unfit. Suppose he will soon be
in Canada also ehery. I have met them
both at Haslemere on several occasions
also Pat visits very frequently I mean at
Aunties in Haslemere. I expect to proceed
on Purling's leave in a few days time.

By the way I haven't heard from your
hearth throbs. as yet. But Pat wrote me
saying he had a card from him
What kind of a duck is he? I hear from
Dor quite often. I really miss her a lot
How are aun & Allen? I haven't heard
from Dad. since he went west.

I am rather worried, as I should
have heard by this time. I see by
your letter that you had quite a time
in Case Breton on holidays.

Well Mary will have to say so Berni

See you in the Funnies

Sincerely yours,

Brother Hank.