

Beazley, Richard Paul

Private

**North Shore (New Brunswick)
Regiment**

Royal Canadian Infantry Corps

F/36676



Richard (Dick) Beazley was born in Hantsport, Nova Scotia, Canada on June 19, 1911. He was the fifth child of Gabriel Clarence and Blanche Gertrude (Wamboldt) Beazley. He started school at age 5 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, where his parents had moved the family so that Gabriel could join his brother in the Beazley Brothers' Chocolates business. Both men were confectioners. The family stayed in Winnipeg until 1918 and then returned to Hantsport where Dick grew up with his siblings Thelma, Fred, Annie, and Mona.

Dick's schooling ended in 1925 with a Grade 8 certificate when he was 14 years old, likely because he was able to get paid work. He was always willing and able to do odd and varied jobs after he left school. At age 16 he became an active member of St. James United Church in Hantsport. Throughout his youth and into adulthood, he was engaged in part-time jobs and organizations such as Boy Scouts, Tuxis (another youth organization for boys), and dabbled in sports like basketball, baseball, and boxing. Dick was also interested in social activities; was renowned for the pranks he pulled on his family members, friends, and workmates; and was a popular community member.



Dick in 1927, age 16.

A claim to fame: Dick was one of the best distance runners in the Maritime Provinces of Canada from the late 1920s into the early 1940s. He was a consistent winner and high-place finisher in short and even more so in longer races, including the marathon. He placed 40th in a field of 180 international runners in the 1938 Boston Marathon.



Dick, far right.



A sports writer noted that Dick was a hometown favorite who gained widespread popularity with Nova Scotian sports writers and fans of "the running game." This was the era when newspapers stoked interest in road racing, radio stations broadcast the racers' progress during the races, and over 20,000 fans would line the streets of Halifax, Nova Scotia's capital city, to cheer on the runners. Dick was posthumously inducted into the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame in 2002.

In 1935, on his 24th birthday, Dick married Mary Elizabeth Benedict (aged 18), also from Hantsport. They had three sons, Leslie Donald (born 1936), Richard Paul (born 1939), and Wayne Gabriel (born 1943) Beazley.



Richard, Mary, Dick, Leslie.



Mary, Dick and baby Wayne.

Hantsport is a port on the Avon River which empties into the famous Bay of Fundy, and in Dick's lifetime it was a mill town with a lumber company, a pulp mill, a paper products mill, an apple juice factory, a candy making factory, and a gypsum shipping outlet. For young people periodic work included loading pulp boats, making strawberry boxes, making Christmas candy, cutting pulp wood, picking apples, etc., and for adults fulltime employment opportunities were abundant. At the time Dick joined the Canadian Army he had been employed for a few years at Murray's Lumber Mill and for 10 years at the Minas Basin Pulp and Power Company's Pulp Mill where he was a shift foreman.



Dick, aged 32, five-feet-five-inches tall, weighing 123 pounds, enlisted in the Canadian Army on January 31, 1944, in Kentville, Nova Scotia, Canada. He volunteered late in the war effort, when men of his advanced age were acceptable, and trained in Brampton, Ontario, Canada for two months, and Camp Aldershot, Kentville, Nova Scotia, for six months.

He awaited overseas embarkation in Debert, Nova Scotia, for two months; embarked for overseas from Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia on October 14, 1944; disembarked in England on October 20, 1945; reported for duty on October 21, 1944; embarked for Continental Europe in January 1945 as a member of the New Brunswick North Shore Regiment; and was killed-in-action on February 26, 1945 in the Western Theatre of War at Keppeln, Germany. He was the only resident of Hantsport killed-in-action in the Second World War.

For his short service, Dick received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, France German Star War Medal, The 1939-1945 Star War Medal, and The 1939-1945 George VI Medal. Both his wife and mother received the Memorial, or Silver, Cross from the Government of Canada "in memory of one who died in the service of his country."

Private Richard Paul Beazley (F/36676) is buried in Grave **IX. H. 5.** at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, which is located in The Netherlands. His wife Mary, all three of his sons, several other family members, and friends have visited his gravesite over the years.

On July 1, 1947, veterans who were members of Hantsport's Lucknow Branch No. 109 of the Royal Canadian Legion inaugurated the Dick Beazley Memorial Six-Mile Race. It has been run every year since and is the second-longest annually-run road race in Nova Scotia. Dick's three sons and their family members annually have and still do support the race by running in and sometimes winning it, or helping to plan, organize, and conduct it. The race is a Hantsport and family celebration of his short life and ultimate sacrifice.

In the introduction to a Tribute to Richard Paul Beazley ... 60 years after his death in 1945 during World War II, written and compiled by Grace M. Beazley (11 November 2015), she wrote to Dick's family: "Most people who read this tribute will not have met 'the man,' nor have I. He died in 1945 when some of us were very young and before others of us were born. Even so, I feel I know 'the man'. Perhaps you do too. For me the feeling has grown ever since I married into the Beazley family in 1962 because this man is especially remembered every 01 July and every 11 November through the memorial road race named in his honor and the Remembrance Day service, both held in his hometown of Hantsport, Nova Scotia. Moreover, each of these annual events included a family get-together, initially at the home built by Dick and Mary, [later at the home of their oldest son, and even later at the home of one of their grandsons].

As Mary wished, the following quote
from Laurence Binyon's poem "For the Fallen,"
often referred to as the "Ode to Remembrance,"
with the last word "them" changed to him,
was inscribed on the headstone of
Richard (Dick) Paul Beazley
*At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember him.*

Dick's sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and extended family members remember him with pride and with gratitude for giving his life so that other peoples' lives could be free from tyranny.



Biography made available for Faces To Graves, with courtesy of Les, Richard, and Wayne Beazley.



Mary and her sons and Dick in their thoughts.

Camp Runners Capture Dartmouth Road Race

Sgt. Doiron Adds Another Race To His Record

Members of the Camp Cross Country team distinguished themselves again at the Natal Day celebrations in Dartmouth, N. S., where they stole the show in the six-mile road race. A four man team, headed by Sgt. L. G. Doiron, M.D. 6 three-mile champ, and consisting of himself, Sgt. S. N. MacMillan, L/Cpl. J. W. Bates and Pte. Dick Beazley, our boys went out and captured no less than ten prizes in all and made a remarkable team showing.

The race was won by Sgt. Doiron in the very good time of 33.24 and he was chased to the finish line by Beazley, a veteran of the longer runs in Nova Scotia for many years. Doiron made a spectacular sprint at the end of the race and won going away but Beazley was still quite strong at the finish. In third place came another veteran of the road racing game, Silas MacLellan, Noel, N. S., and close behind him was L/Cpl. Bates who finished fourth.

Sgt. MacMillan, who has been out of competition most of the summer due to hospitalization and a lame arm, showed lots of grit to place eighth

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and give our lads the team prize with the very low score of 15 points. Their score couldn't have been beaten had all the other entrants in the race combined against them which they tried to do before the race started.

The boys ran a lovely team race and kept well together for the first four miles with MacLellan running by their side. MacMillan and Bates ran into a little trouble at this stage and found the going a bit tough with MacMillan's arm giving him some pain and Bates was having a little trouble with his wind, unusual for him, but blamed on the extremely hot day. Doiron and Beazley and MacLellan started to pull away from the other two and kept out in front from there to the finish line. MacMillan took a cramp later but recovered to improve his position in the last mile.

Each of the boys won individual prizes for their position of finish while Sgt. Doiron in addition to winning

first prize, also receives a shield to hold for one year and won the special prize for the first service man to finish. All four members of the team received individual prizes for winning the team prize, making a total of ten prizes in all. Nice going, lads.

Dartmouth Natal Day 6-Mile Road Race
[Aldershot News, August 1944, pp. 1, 7]