

Brockbank, Harold Matthew
Private
South Saskatchewan Regiment
Royal Canadian Infantry Corps
L/103925



Harold Matthew Brockbank was born on July 8, 1914 in Conquest, near Outlook, Saskatchewan. He was the only son of Stephen and Margaret Brockbank, both immigrants from Hawkshead, Lancastershire in England. He had four sisters, Margaret, Elise, Winni and Shirley, they were born in Outlook. The family were members of the United Church of England.

He grew up and attended public school in Outlook. After 8th grade, he worked with his father in the dray business, where his strength and agility were much to his advantage.

Harold had surgery for ruptured appendix at home in 1927, Dr. Drinnan assisted by Dr. Morris and nurse Jean McMillan, performed the surgery. He recovered from resulting infection after weeks of diligent care by his mother.

He shared his father's love of sports and animals and spent many happy hours on the farms of his friends. He was an avid curler and delighted in delivering a fast rock which scrambled a house full of rocks. It was said by fellow curlers, ' no need to sweep when Harold throws a beaner.

Just before he enlisted, he was the proud owner of a Chevrolet coupe and had plans to switch trucks for the dray business upon his return from the war. He made many friends while training in Calgary.

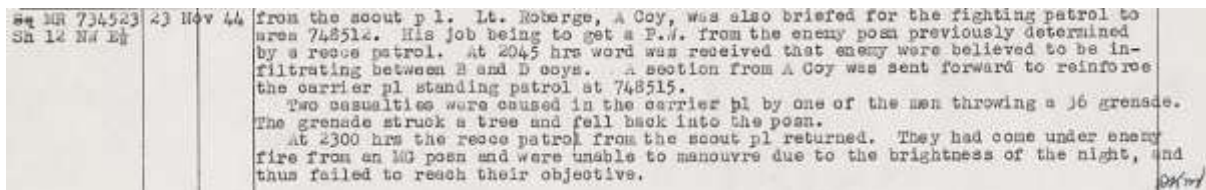
On January 9, 1943 Harold signed up voluntarily for the Canadian Army. He was with the South Saskatchewan Regiment, and the troops going into Belgium in the critical winter of 1944.

He arrived in the United Kingdom on 06 September 1944 and transferred to the SSR on 20th October 1944 at that moment the SSR was in the vicinity of Ossendrecht.

On 08th November they took over the positions of the Somerset Light Infantry (UK) near Mook. 15 November 1944 the area Mook, Jansberg was completely handed over to the 2nd Canadian Division. This area was already a long time occupied by the Germans and daily mortar fire still ongoing on the Canadian positions.

On 23 November the SSR got a briefing to conduct a fighting patrol to the Kiekberg, all Companies were involved in this task, a heavy fight with machine gun fire and hand grenades.

As one of the grenades struck in a tree and fell back in their own positions it caused two casualties, most probably Harold died because of this.



748515 = coordinates Kiekberg

Harold died on 23 November 1944, 30 years young.

He was temporarily buried at the Military Cemetery Jonkerbosch in Nijmegen.

On August 25, 1945 he was reburied at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery grave reference **II. E. 14.**

The inscription on his heastones reads:

THY PURPOSE, LORD,
WE CANNOT SEE
BUT ALL IS WELL
THAT'S DONE BY THEE





PTE. H. M. BROCKBANK

son of Mr and Mrs. Brockbank of Outlook was killed in action during the recent fight in Holland, his parents have been informed.

Harold Matthew Brockbank was born and lived in Outlook until his enlistment in December, 1942. He went overseas in August, 1944.

Surviving are his parents, four sisters, Shirley at home, Mrs. Herbert Arthur, Mrs. Rudolph Larson, and Mrs Erling Preus.

He received the following awards:

- 1939-45 Star
- France Germany Star
- War Medal 1939 – 1945
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medall & Clasp



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek

Life story: Fred Hulsman, Research Team Faces to Graves.
Additional information Bernhard Deeterink.

Sources:

Library and Archives Canada

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Saskatchewan military museum

Canadian Virtual War Memorial

University of Calgary Digital collections

Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Memorial park, Outlook

On 4th June 2022, the Royal Canadian Legion, branch 262, established a Memorial park, Outlook, Saskatchewan, a monument of remembrance to honour Harold and other Canadian soldiers from Outlook.



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