

**Brown, Max Bradie**  
**Private**  
**Canadian Scottish Regiment**  
**(Princess Mary's)**  
**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**  
**L/66655**



Deas Gu Cath {"Ready for Battle"}



Max Bradie Brown was born on Wednesday, July 21, 1920 on a farm in Innes, Saskatchewan, Canada. Son of Randolph James Brown and Bessie White Leesley (Brown) from Oto, Iowa, USA. They got married on September 10, 1908 in Washta, Iowa, USA. The family consisted of five children: Wesley James, Radie Jefferson, Max Bradie and daughters Fern Clara and the youngest of the family Ida Max Brown. Father Randolph had a farm with various animals that they used to earn their money. By faith they belonged to the United Church. Max was educated at the Dunreath School in Innes. At the age of 15 (Grade 6) he left school to work on the farm with his father. He found school difficult and tried Grade 5 twice, he had a hard time reading. At his father's farm he worked with horses and tractors. He did minor repairs to the tractors himself and helped out in the shop on the farm. He also had knowledge of iron forging. Father Randolph James and mother Bessie White Leesley saw their marriage fail and got divorced.

Max was known as a friendly, gentle guy who was good humoured and kind to children. He adored his 2-year-old niece and playfully threatened to kidnap his niece in a duffel bag.

One of Max's dreams was to go to British Columbia, so his father bought a ten-acre orchard near Port Alberni. Max hoped to return there after the

war. He had blue eyes and dark brown hair. He weighed 125 lb. and was 5 ft.5 tall. Max had a rough complexion and wore glasses because of Astigmatism, which was a cylindrical deformity. If you had astigmatism, you had problems with both far and near vision. This is because the cornea is not round, but oval. On his left arm he had a scar from a vaccination and on his right hand he had a scar on his little finger. Furthermore, Max had a hammer toe, the little toe of his right foot.

Max could drive a car and fix a motorcycle, but he could not cook. He played softball and ice hockey as his hobby, was not musical, but did attend shows. Max rarely smoked and drank.

His brother Wesley James Brown enlisted in the US Navy on August 22, 1939. There he served as a stoker first class on the USS Oklahoma, which was launched on March 23, 1914. He was one of many casualties when Japan destroyed the US naval base Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.



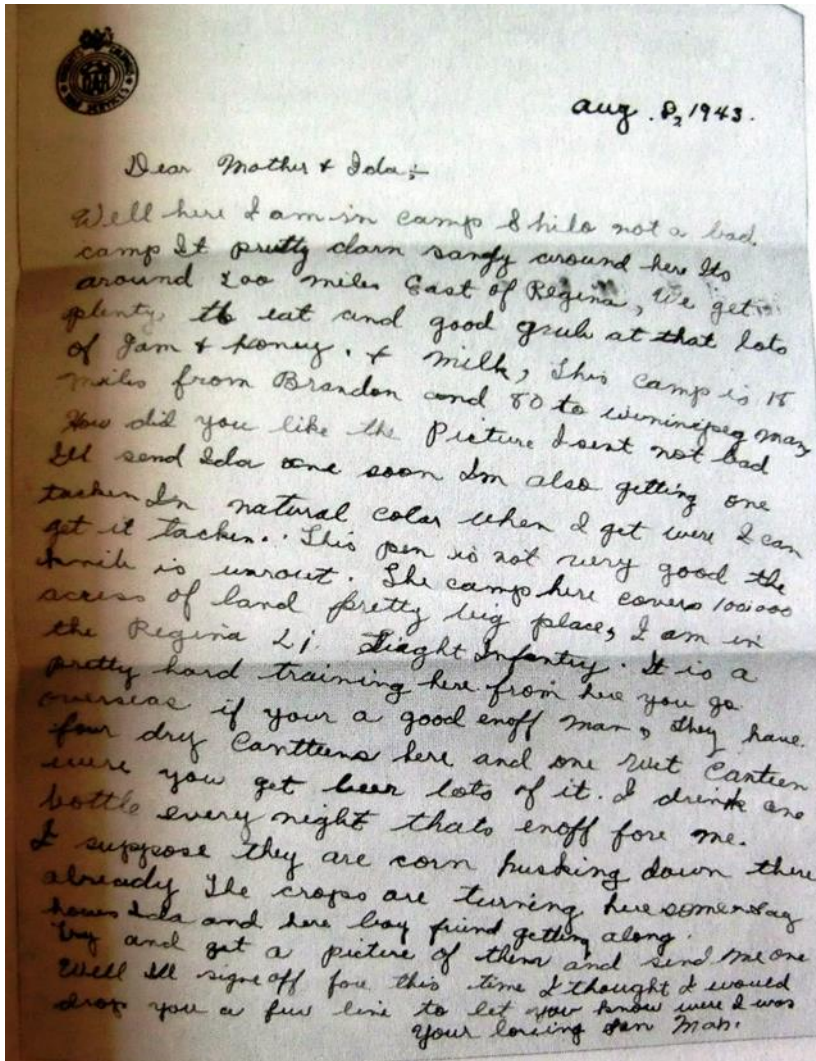
*Wesley James Brown*

That was one of the reasons Max enlisted in the Canadian Army in Regina, Saskatchewan at the #12 District Depot at the age of 21 on December 16, 1942. Soon he got Christmas leave for five days on December 26. On January 9, 1943, Max was assigned to the #12 National Resources Mobilization Act Depot. He was then assigned to the #120 Canadian Armoured Basic Training Center, also in Regina. He was hospitalized on May 3, 1943, where he stayed until May 28 with scarlet fever. Max was named as a candidate for the Canadian Parachute Battalion, but was not considered suitable.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Max Brown" and is written on a piece of paper with a horizontal dotted line.

Max followed further training at Camp Shilo, Manitoba, at the A15 Canadian Infantry Training Center, from August 5, 1943.

In one of his letters he wrote: 'we get enough to eat, good food with lots of jam and honey', furthermore he wrote: 'it is pretty hard training here, and from here you go overseas if', as he puts it, 'you're a Good Enough man.'



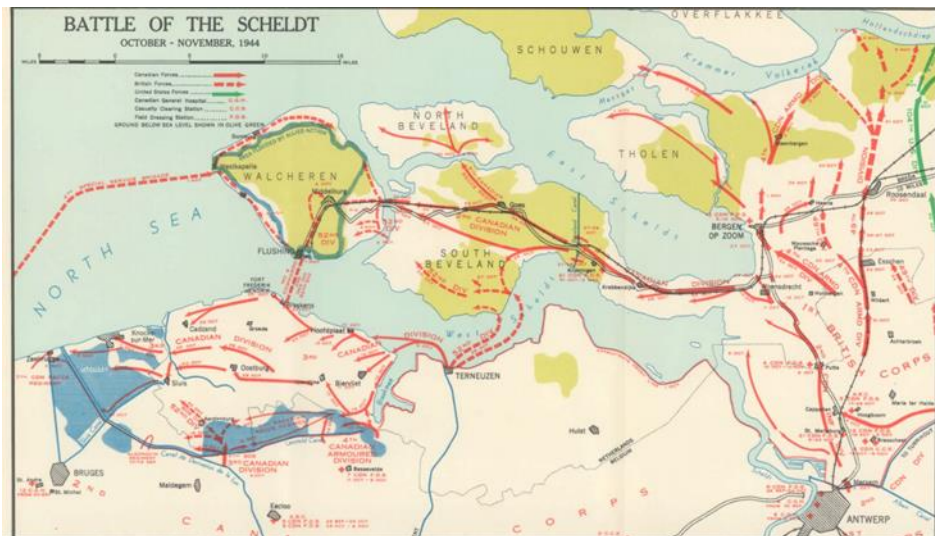
On December 8, placement in Debart with the #1 Training Brigade followed and he prepared to go overseas to England. On December 31, he still enjoyed three days of leave before making the crossing. Before he left Canada, he said to his family, 'I don't think I'll be coming back'. On February 17, 1944, Max went overseas to England, where he landed on February 25. His family only heard from him again when he was in England and asked his father for money to buy a kilt. In England he

followed further training and was assigned to the #1 Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit.

Assignment followed on April 4, 1944 at the South Saskatchewan Regiment. But that was only for a short time and on May 31, 1944, he was assigned to the Canadian Scottish Regiment. Max then went to France as reinforcements on 6 June for the D-Day landings. He was wounded in the thigh by a machine-gun bullet near Cussy, France, on July 8, and was then taken to a hospital in England. He recovered from his injury and on September 29th Max left England again, to go overseas again to Northwest Europe, where he arrived October 1st.

The Canadian Scottish Regiment was currently taking part in the Battle of the Scheldt and was located in Belgium in the village of Kleit, south of the

town of Maldegem. On the night of 5 to 6 October, the men marched to the assembly point.



There they were taken by guides to the attack point, an area near the Leopold Canal between the main road from Maldegem to Aardenburg. The plan was to penetrate the half-flooded area near Aardenburg with the Canadian Scottish on the right flank via the Oosthoek and Moershoofde districts. In the early morning of October 6, the so-called Wasps bombarded the German positions and the attack was launched. They stormed over the dike with their assault boats and had to put up a fierce battle to make their plan succeed, which eventually succeeded.

With heavy artillery and hand-to-hand fighting, the Oosthoek and Moershoofde districts were taken.

Unfortunately, they could not advance to Aardenburg, because the Germans were targeting the Canadians with machine guns. The three days that followed the Germans attacked with all their might to push the Canadians back. In the morning of October 9, the Canadians crossed the mouth of the Braakman and managed to build a bridgehead. The enemy was totally taken by surprise and could not counterattack. On October 10, Max Bradie Brown was assigned to the Canadian Scottish Regiment and he took over Biervliet together with the regiment. The Germans were losing more and more ground, but it was still a long time before they stopped fighting. On October 22, Breskens definitively fell into Canadian hands.

The Canadian Scottish Regiment was in Cadzand on November 1 and had 34 officers and 716 other soldiers. After the victory of the Battle of the Scheldt, the regiment was allowed to go to the Belgian town of Ghent on November 3 for their 'destination for pleasure' and a few days of well-deserved rest.

On November 8, the men went to the town of Bottelaere, southeast of Ghent. Reinforcements were coming again and in addition to 34 officers, the regiment now had 820 soldiers.

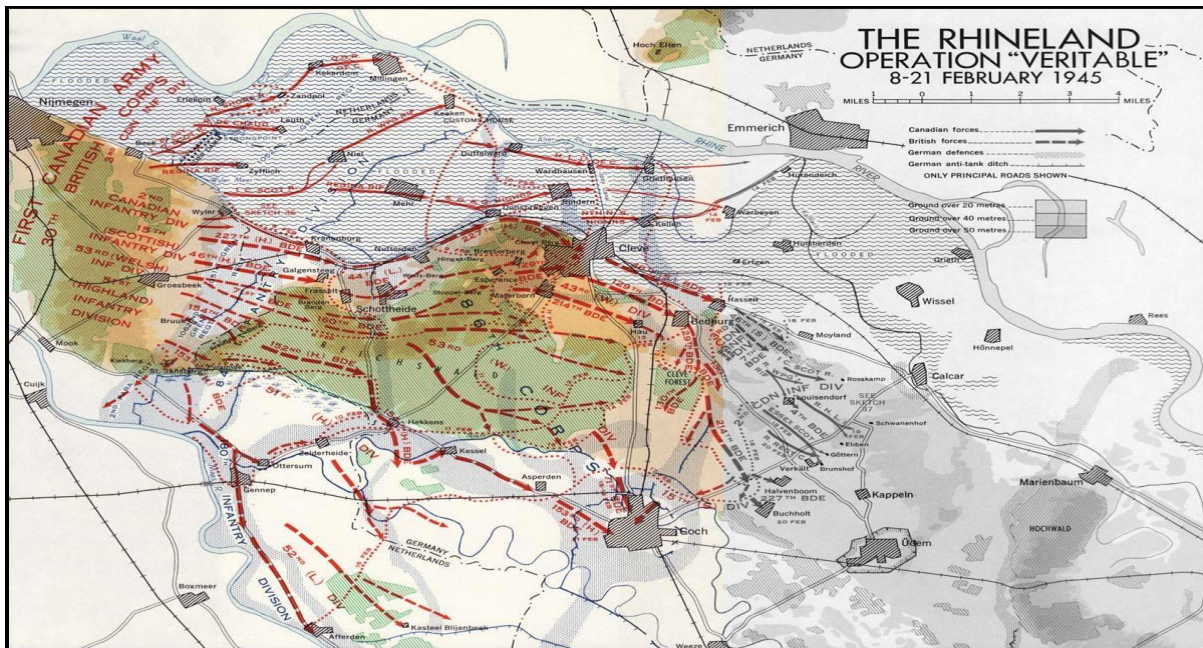
On 11 November they were ordered to go to the Nijmegen area. Via Turnhout they went to Eindhoven, Vught, and at 9.30 pm they stopped in 's Hertogenbosch and slept in their vehicles. The next morning they woke up stiff and with aching muscles. After a good breakfast the men resumed their way to the surroundings of Nijmegen. At 2 pm they arrived in Groesbeek and in the woods they relieved American Airborne soldiers. During the month of November they remained in the area, and were regularly attacked with mortar shells, machine guns and snipers, regularly causing casualties. On November 30, they received orders to go to Driehuizen and were less affected by hostilities there. On December 7, they received orders to go to Nijmegen and regular patrols were held by bicycle or on foot. On December 24, all weapons were checked by the soldiers, the rumors were looked at, but the news did not get through from the American front. On Christmas Day they enjoyed a performance by the Pipe Band and in the afternoon a delicious Christmas dinner.

At 5.15 pm all companies were back in position and waiting for what was to come. The night was quiet, except for a passing V2 rocket, and the next day the B Company found an interesting document about the German army. After a quiet afternoon and evening, two German planes flew by low and one of them was shot down. New Year's Eve and Day were celebrated peacefully, people were looking to make it special but they could not find much. At midnight, the Canadian Artillery of the Second Infantry Division fired their shells at their targets in Germany. Thinking it was a congratulation for the New Year, the soldiers of the regiment fired their rifles in the air and thought of the better days to come.



*Canadian Buffaloes  
in the Rhineland.*

They were engaged in weapons training and in patrols to determine the position of the enemy. On February 4 there was a church service in Beek for all available troops and then they prepared for the upcoming operation: an attack on the Rhineland, an area in Germany on the west bank of the River Rhine, then crossing the river and entering Germany. The next day at 10:00 am there was a briefing for the battalion officers on Operation Veritable. When they went back to their men, they were also told the plans in great secrecy.



On February 6, the military could still go to a movie with a few performances per day. When the regiment woke up the next day, February 7, the waters of the Rhine had overflowed and what was dry land yesterday was now flooded. The water was still rising and there was no sign of it stopping any time soon. Buffaloes and Weasels and Dukw vehicles were called in since that was the only means of transportation for the operation.

On February 8, Operation Veritable kicked off with a massive artillery bombardment lasting five and a half hours, and the largest in the battle in northwest Europe. The operation took place under very difficult conditions: rain, mud and water, because the Germans had blown up dams in the Ruhr. At 1 pm the first casualties were caused by shrapnel from enemy artillery. At 3:30 pm, the code word 'Idiot plus 60' was used for the Canadian Scottish Regiment and they invaded Germany. The long wait of watching and preparing was over. The A and D Company were the first to step into the Buffaloes towards Niel, a village in the German municipality of Kranenburg.

The road to Zyfflich had been cleared of mines and if the situation stayed that way, supplies could be taken to the companies.

On February 9, just after midnight, the C Company reported that they were having one problem after the other.

Nothing was heard from the A Company and the B Company had meanwhile conquered a dike. Just after midnight, at 12:15 am, the remaining soldiers got into two Buffaloes and headed towards Niel. Lieutenant-Colonel Desmond Crofton sat in the front Buffalo and saw two buildings ahead that were separated from Niel by the high water level. When the vehicle in front drove past the buildings, around 06:00 am, it was hit by a Panzerfaust. The Buffalo caught fire and the explosion killed the British driver, Major Morrison, Private Bernard Merlyn Krislock and Private Max Bradie Brown.

Max was killed on Friday February 9, 1945 at the age of 24, he was temporarily buried at the Jonkerbosch cemetery in Nijmegen, and on July 26, 1945 Max was reburied at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **IV. A. 4.**



*Photo Gijs Krist*

The inscription on his tombstone reads:

I LOVE THE LORD  
BECAUSE HE HATH  
HEARD MY VOICE  
AND MY SUPPLICATIONS

Awards Max Bradie Brown:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France & Germany Star
- Defense Medal
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp



Life story: Gijs Krist, Research Team Faces to Graves.

- Sources:
- Commonwealth War Graves
- Library and Archives Canada
- Canadiansoldiers.com
- Information supplied by Project '44 – The road to Liberation

\* Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information, please contact [info@facestograves.nl](mailto:info@facestograves.nl)





In honour of Max Bradie Brown, a lake in Canada was named after him, the Brown Lake, situated one hundred miles east of La Ronge and north of the Wintigo Lake.



*The grave as it looked the first time, in 1954 the metal crosses were replaced through the tombstones.*