

Brown, Ross Mervyn
Trooper
14th Canadian Hussars
8th Reconnaissance Regiment
B 142165



Ross Brown was born on July 4, 1920 in Toronto, Ontario, to Clarence Adrian Brown and Merle Erla Cain. Father and mother married in Toronto in 1913 and they had four children in addition to Ross: brother Walter Adrian, who also enlisted in the army, and three sisters: Grace Eileen, Norma and Isabel. Mother Merle died in 1931, she was only 39 years old. Father Clarence remarried with Emily Maude Brown. The family was a member of the United Church of Canada.



Ross went to school from the age of six to sixteen and had also completed a technical training in the meantime. He gained some experience on a farm and as a pruner. When Ross joined the army, he had been working for a company in Toronto for five years as a mechanic of refrigeration and cars. After his military service, he would have liked to return there.

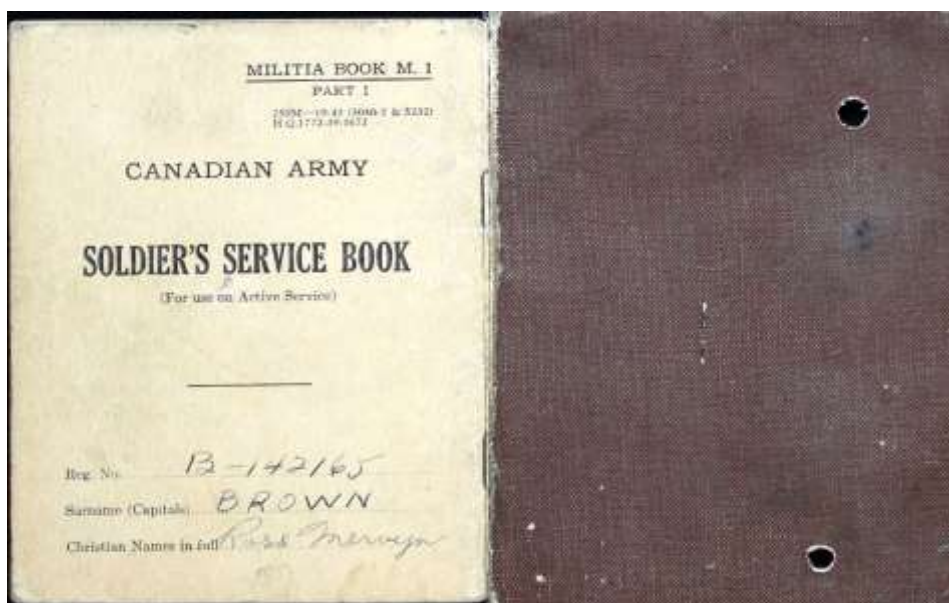
On February 2, 1939, Ross married Elsie May White, born in Toronto in 1917. They had three children in three years' time: James Ross (6-5-1939), Donald Albert (25-9-1940) and Byron Clarence (1-2-19

Ross and his son Donald Photo: Don Brown

Ross reported for military service in Toronto on February 8, 1943 and was assigned to the 14th Canadian Hussars as a Trooper. He was 22 years old and had hazel eyes and brown hair. Ross was a well-built man, he was 5 ft. 6 tall and weighed almost 143 lb. Ross was described as good-looking, well-dressed and had pleasant manners. His younger brother Walter was then with the Tank Corps and they planned to continue together. Ross could learn well above average, was technically skilled, alert, stable and pleasant. He did not have much interest in sports, did not read much, but his main hobby was woodworking. According to the report, Ross was going to be a good soldier and capable of completing his military training.

His military career started from Toronto and, on April 24, 1943 he finished Basic Training at Canadian Army Training Center in Brampton (General Motor Training) and was a Qualified General Operator Group C Class 1. Ross was described by his superior as a pleasant young soldier who was a good learner and had adapted well in the army. He had enjoyed the training and was enthusiastic about the overseas service, which was also recommended. His training continued at Camp Borden Canadian Armored Corps Training Establishment at No. 2 Training Regiment of the Canadian Army Corps, which he completed in December. On June 9, 1943, Ross was promoted to Trooper Class 1 and he completed the technical training in one year. He wanted to do more training and received his Medical Classification A1 and Qualified Gunner Operator in November of that year. That same year, Ross had leave of absence a few times before embarking on December 27, 1943 and departing for the United Kingdom, arriving there on January 3, 1944. In February he took weapons training and in May Ross was added to the 14th Canadian Hussars (8th Recce Regiment). Before departing from the United Kingdom for France on July 5, 1944, Ross was promoted to Lance Corporal. He got injured on October 11, 1944 and was treated at the 4th Canadian Field Dressing Station (First Aid

Post) and 6th Canadian General Hospital for six days. On October 17 he had recovered and was discharged.



The 8th Reconnaissance Regiment (14th Canadian Hussars).



This regiment was the reconnaissance unit of the Canadian army during the advance from Italy to the Netherlands. The 8th Reconnaissance Regiment (14th Canadian Hussars)

received its training and coastal defense duties in the south of England in the first three years of the war. It was not until July 6, 1944 (1 month after D-Day) that the troops landed at Gold Beach in Normandy, France, and then began their task as infantrymen for the first time. The first three deaths were mourned on 13 July.

They pushed back the German troops from Northern France towards Belgium and the Netherlands and they were then used for their actual task: as a reconnaissance unit during the advance of the 1st Canadian Army. They were often far ahead of their troops and were involved in the liberation of important ports such as Dieppe, on 1 September 1944, and Antwerp, the Battle of the Scheldt, the liberation of towns and villages in fighting had taken place and many people had been killed and injured on both sides.

Extract from a diary of the 8th Reconnaissance Regiment:

- 1 July 1944 in Goodnestone (UK) we start clearing and cleaning the barracks
- 2 July: departure of the crew in their vehicles to the marshalling yard of the ship's cargo and the vehicles are made watertight for the crossing
- 4 July: from London Docks to the ship
- 5 July: in the evening with a tugboat out of the harbour
- 6 July: via the Thames with calm waters across the Channel
- 7 July: just before midnight the ship arrives in Caen in France
- 8 July: landing with LST (Landing Ship Tank) around 6:00 PM, where the vehicles are made roadworthy again and driven to the harbor
- 13 July: the first encounters with the enemy, several bombs thrown and the first fatalities
- 15 July: under shellfire and no communication possible, only via the wireless communication of the Scoutcars
- 9 August: preparations for the classic Recce task
- 31 August: already penetrated far towards Dieppe

Unfortunately, on January 6, 1945, Ross was involved in a collision between two vehicles in the Netherlands and died from his injuries in the 88th British General Hospital: he had extensive and very deep cuts in his thighbone, a fracture on the lower jaw and a rip in the abdominal wall. According to a report, no one was responsible and it was an accident that resulted in serious injuries to Ross Brown and ultimately in his death.



Photo: Liesbeth Huisman



The cemetery as it looked in the first few years. In 1954 the crosses were replaced by headstones and the families were allowed to supply personal texts.

In the first instance, Ross was buried at a temporary cemetery in Nijmegen, plot 2, row 5, grave 1, on January 8.

Trooper Ross Mervyn Brown was reburied at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **III. C. 13.**

In 1996, a lake was named after Ross in Manitoba, south-east of McMillan Lake: Ross Brown Lake (64 N/8).

No doubt Ross Mervyn Brown received military awards for his years of faithful and valiant service, but unfortunately nothing can be found about them.

His wife Elsie lived in various places in Ontario and, according to their son Don, she left the house after being informed about her husband's death. She was not heard of after that. The three boys were taken into their aunt Grace's home and raised by her. She was Ross' sister. Grace and her husband did not have any children of their own.



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek

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

(1) SOLDIER'S NAME AND DESCRIPTION ON ATTESTATION	
Regtl. No.	D-142165
Surname (in capitals)	BROWN
Christian Names (in full)	Ross Mervyn
Date of Birth	4th July 1920
Place of Birth	Toronto Ontario Canada
Citizenship	Canada
Trade on Enlistment	Assembler Shipper
Nationality of Father at Birth	Canadian
Nationality of Mother at Birth	Canadian
Religion	United Church of Canada
Enlisted at	Toronto Ontario Canada
Date	8th February 1943
Particulars of former service (if any) i.e. Regtl. No., Corps or Regiment and period.	Nil
Signature of Soldier	Ross Brown
Signature of Officer	John R. R.
Place	Toronto Ontario Canada
Date	12.2.43

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

War Diaries Canada WW II Project44.ca

Don Brown, photos and information
(Don is Ross' second son)



His name is mentioned on the cenotaph in Neepawa

Cenotaph in Neepawa, erected by its citizens to commemorate the fallen soldiers of World War II. Photo: Canadian Register of Historic Places



Don Brown's granddaughter, Tori, visited her great-grandfather's grave in 2023.

Photo's: Don Brown



Don and his wife Hildegard in Groesbeek, November 1962