

Brubaker, Roscoe Donald
Private
Royal Hamilton Light Infantry
Royal Canadian Infantry Corps
A 109212



Roscoe Brubaker was born on September 13, 1925, in Hanover, Ontario, the eldest son of Eli (Bowman) Brubaker and Elsie Kobe of Hanover. Father Eli was called Bowman by birth, but Anson Brubaker and Magdalena Bowman adopted him. Eli worked in the Navy and was born in 1898; he died in 1987. Mother Elsie married him in Detroit, Michigan, on February 28, 1922. Elsie was born in 1889 and died in Hanover in 1980. The family was a member of the Evangelical Church and spoke English.



Roscoe had one brother, Lloyd, who was born in Detroit in 1928 and died in Hanover in 2013.

Hanover is a small town in Ontario, southeastern Canada. Around 1920 it was mentioned as the furniture capital of the country.

Roscoe left with his little brother Lloyd

Roscoe was nine months old when the family moved to Detroit, Michigan, because of his father's work in the Navy. They lived there for seven years before returning to Hanover, Ontario. Roscoe lived here until he joined the service.

Up to and including part of grade 9, Roscoe attended Public School in Urban when he was fourteen. Roscoe was described as an average pupil and started training as a cabinetmaker. At the same time, he spent three-and-a-half years at Peppler Bros. Furniture Co. in Hanover. After that, Roscoe trained to become a rubber caster at Dominion Rubber Co., but he was only there for two months and did not want to return after his service. He would like to become a mechanic.

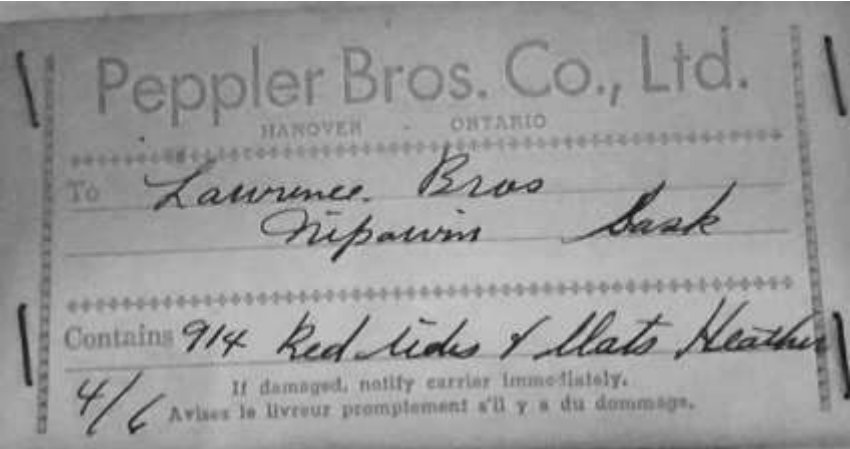


Photo: usedregina.com



Father Eli with his mother-in-law
photo: Gail Pool

Roscoe was eighteen when he reported for duty on January 4, 1944, in London, Ontario. The Jan. 5 inspection report indicated that Roscoe was a healthy young man. He weighed 72.5 kg and was almost 1.71 m tall; he had brown eyes and dark hair. He was a heavy smoker, an average drinker, and sometimes played ice hockey and baseball at school.

Roscoe had owned a 31 Willy since he was fifteen; this was a jeep he maintained and made minor repairs on. He had also owned an old Auburn

(car) for the past couple of years. He occasionally helped a friend in his garage.

Roscoe had a foot problem since one of his flexor tendons had been torn off. He used to be a scouting member and had repeated second grade. In addition to his knowledge and interest in cars, he also understood woodworking. Roscoe was described as an average student with honest and righteous manners. Roscoe's father, Eli, was a former officer in the Royal Navy during the First World War. Father was also active as a

Scoutmaster (Hopman) and had a shop in tanning beds in civilian life. In addition, Eli had been an instructor on a trading ship for the last year. Roscoe was considered suitable as a driver and perhaps more. The advice was to assign him to the Canadian Infantry Corps.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE Canadian Infantry Corps.
 (Army) *Killed*
Personnel Selection Record Trade (If Tradesman or Trade Trainee) Automotive A.
 Work in Area (If Non-Tradesman)

This form will accompany the soldier's regimental documents at all times.

I. Personal Data
 Regt. No. Pte. **BRUBAKER, Roscoe Donald** A 18.4
 Rank **Pte.** Name (Surname First) A or B Age Med. Cat.
 English Main Language No. 1 D.D. London, Ont. 5 Jan 44
 Other Language(s) Place (Date) Interviewed Date Interviewed

II. Revised Examination "M"
 (B) X93480 London, Ont. 4 Jan 44 Brown.
 Place Tested Date Tested By Whom
 147 III Subtests 15 14 10 22 27 11 17 31 Subtotals 39 49 59
 Total Group 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
 Other Tests **Y O B I P U L H E M S**
 25 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

III. Educational Background
 Completed Grade VIII and attended Grade IX until April at 14 (Urban, Ont.). Feels he was an average student.

IV. Occupational Background
 (1) 3 1/2 years -- apprentice and cabinet maker -- Peppler Bros. Furniture Co. -- Hanover, Ont. Left because of N.S.S. regulations to work in rubber plant.
 (2) 2 months -- moulder finisher -- Dominion Rubber Co. Machine Shop -- Kitchener, Ont. Average weekly salary \$32.00.

V. Military Background
 No previous military training.
 Enlisted A.F. 4 Jan 44.

VI. Other Personal History and Appraisal
 Height: 5' 7 1/2" Weight: 160 lbs.
 Right handed. Born 13 Sept 25.
 Claims his health is good. Tends to be a heavy smoker but drinks moderately.
 Played some hockey and baseball while he was at school but it was for the most part unorganized. Owns a 31 Willys and has been driving since he was 15. Likes doing his own maintenance on his car and has carried out minor repairs and some major ones. Did a complete engine overhaul on an old Auburn he used to own last year, and put in new rings and ground the valves.
 Father was an officer in the R.N. in last war, was Scoutmaster and foreman of tanning shop in civilian life and for last year has been instructing in the Merchant Marine on seamanship, including semaphore, knots, lashings, etc. This lad was in the Scouts and passed his second class. Was a patrol second. Has one brother going to school (2nd Form High School).
 A well-built, dark-haired young lad whose interests are predominantly mechanical. Has fair knowledge of woodwork and of engine repair. Average learning ability and an honest, straightforward manner. Used to assist a friend of his in a garage in his spare time. Should be suitable for driver and may possibly be upgraded, depending on training progress.

VII. Recommendations
 Canadian Infantry Corps. Automotive A.
 Suitable for enriched training during B.T.

(Signed) *W. G. Scott* Lieut.
 (W. G. Scott) *Army Recruiter*

M.F.M. 100
 1002-4-42(107)
 100-1113/36,1016

See reverse side for further information and follow-up

On January 13, 1944, Roscoe was transferred to Chatham, Ontario's 12th Basic Training Center. As of February 25, he was a blood donor. The next training place was Ipperwash, Ontario, the A29 Canadian Infantry Training Centre Camp. An evaluation followed in April, and it turned out that Roscoe loved the infantry. No problems occurred, and he was considered suitable as a driver. They called him calm and strong but sometimes lazy, and he needed discipline and guidance.

In May 1944, Roscoe took a few weeks off and then reported to the Canadian Small Arms School on June 6 in Nanaimo, British Columbia. Here he was promoted to Lance Corporal. However, on September 8, he received a change of address from his father to Hubbards, Nova Scotia. As a result, Roscoe received two days of special leave on 22 and 23 September 1944.

From September 24, 1944, he returned to the Training Brigade Group in Debert, Nova Scotia, as a Private. Here was Roscoe until November 19, with a mid-term review: Roscoe could learn well and had pleasant manners. Then, he was hospitalized for eight days for a sprained ankle and flu. On September 13, he turned nineteen and was now considered fit to go overseas to Europe. It's what he wanted.

The day soon approached; on November 21, 1944, Roscoe departed by ship from Canada and arrived in the United Kingdom on November 28. His service overseas began on 29 November with the 3rd Canadian Infantry Training Regiment. His new regiment would be the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, as a Private. Roscoe departed for northwest Europe by plane on February 12, 1945.

This originally English regiment was founded on December 11, 1862; from 1867, it belonged to Canada. The regiment has its badge and belongs to the light infantry. The regiment's nickname is the Rileys, and the motto is Semper Paratus (always ready).

In Hamilton, there is a museum dedicated to the R.H.L.I.

From: thespec.com/news/hamilton/region

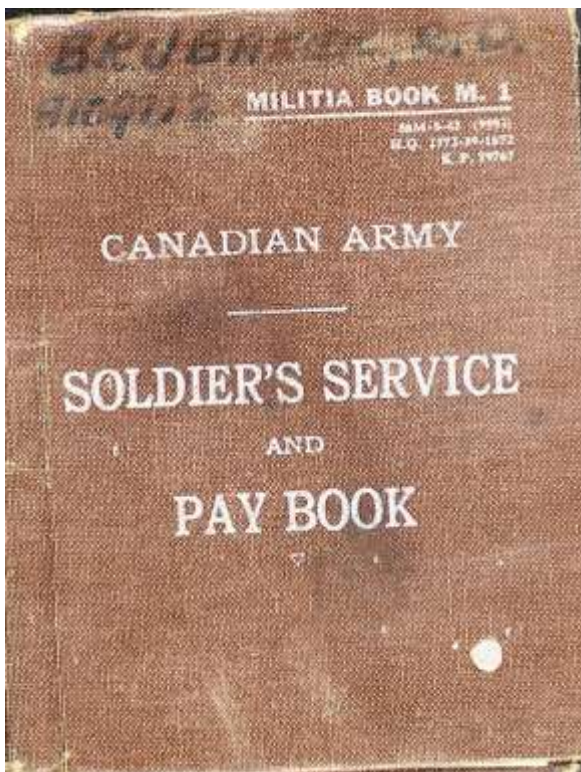




The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry was ordered to cross the border from the Netherlands to Germany on 14 February 1945 in the direction of Kalkar and Xanten, Germany. The regiment progressed slowly along the road between Goch and Kalkar because the streets were often flooded due to dike breaches. The route also runs along the Hochwald, where heavy fighting took place. Nevertheless, they managed to capture a high point along the road near

Louisendorf and repel several German troops' attacks.

On the morning of February 20, the situation became critical by another attack, but helped by the tanks of the Fort Garry Horse, they managed to stabilize the situation the next day. The RHLI suffered no fewer than 125 casualties. Nevertheless, they moved on towards Xanten to further push the enemy back. On March 8, 1945, the Canadian troops captured Xanten in West Germany after dropping many bombs. Many civilians also died in



3

(1) SOLDIER'S NAME AND DESCRIPTION ON ATTESTATION

Regtl. No. A119212
 Surname (in capitals) BRUBAKER
 Christian Names (in full) ROSCOE DONALD
 Date of Birth 13 SEP 25
 Place of Birth HANOVER ONT CAN
 Citizenship CANADIAN
 Trade on Enlistment MOULD-FINISHER

Nationality of Father at Birth BRITISH
 Nationality of Mother at Birth U
 Religion EVANGELICAL
 Enlisted at LONDON, ONT
 Date 4 JAN 44

Particulars of former service (if any) i.e. Regtl. No., Corps or Regiment and period. NIL

Signature of Soldier Roscoe Brubaker
 Signature of Officer Chas. Stur. Capt.
 Place LONDON, ONT Date 4 JAN 44

the process. The beautiful cathedral was severely damaged. The Allies lost 400 soldiers, among others by defending paratroopers commanded by Eugen Meindl. Of the city, 85% was destroyed, and the population was evacuated to Bedburg-Hau, partly because of the preparations for crossing the Rhine at Wesel.

Among the dead and wounded on March 8, 1945, was Private Roscoe Brubaker, who was only nineteen years old. He was killed in action.

Roscoe was buried in a temporary cemetery in Xanten and reburied on 21 August 1945 at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, near Nijmegen, the Netherlands, grave **III. F. 13**.

Text on his tombstone:

THERE IS A LINK
DEATH CANNOT SEVER
LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE
LAST FOR EVER

The decorations and Memorial Cross of Private Roscoe Donald Brubaker were sent to his mother, Elsie, in Hanover after the war.



Photo: project The faces To Groesbeek



Life story: Liesbeth Huisman-Arts, Research Team Faces To Graves.

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

Sources:

Canadian War Graves Commission

Library and Archives, Canada

Gail R. Pool and David Martens,

info, photos, and newspaper clippings. (Roscoe is a cousin of David's wife, Alice)

en.findagrave.com

War Diaries Royal Hamilton Light Infantry



From: nlfindagrave.com

Children of Eli Brubaker and Elsie Kobe are:

- 79 i. Roscoe Donald Grover¹⁰ Brubaker, born September 13, 1925 in Hanover, Ontario, Canada; died March 08, 1945 in Xanen, Germany.

More About Roscoe Donald Grover Brubaker:
Cemetery: Buried in Holland. Killed in action Germany

- + 80 ii. Lloyd Byron Brubaker, born May 11, 1928 in Detroit, Michigan, USA.



Roscoe Brubaker



Left to Right: Roscoe and Lloyd Brubaker

Page from the family book, courtesy of David Martens/Gail Pool



Photo: Findagrave.com: Joint grave in Hanover, Ontario.