

Buck, Arthur Ormond

Sapper

Royal Canadian Engineers

6th Field Company

K-68580



Arthur Ormond Buck was born to Henry and Martha Buck on 9 July 1915 in Onoway, Alberta. He had two brothers: Francis and Henry, and four sisters: Elsie, Myrtle, Eve, and Helen. His brother Francis was a Stoker on HMCS Prince David and Henry was a Signaller with 11 Company, Royal Canadian Signals Company in Victoria, British Columbia.

Arthur completed Grade XI in Alberta and, at age 22, he moved to Vancouver, British Columbia where he worked as a hard rock miner and later as a shipyard worker. His occupation before joining the army on 15 September 1942 was frame building for the Hamilton Bridge Company. He was single.

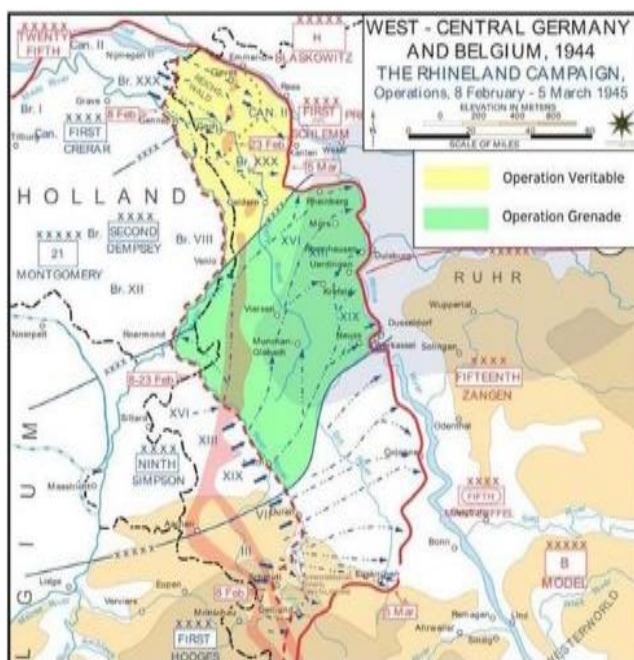
After enlisting, Arthur spent the next two months in the 112 Canadian Army Basic Training Center in Chilliwack, British Columbia followed by eight months at the A6 Canadian Engineer Training Center that was also located in Chilliwack. Here he qualified in the trade of Miner. After completing the Junior Non-Commissioned Officer course, he was appointed to the rank of Lance Corporal on 29 May 1943. Arthur reverted to the rank of Sapper at his own request on 3 March 1944 after returning from a furlough.



Arthur was next transferred to Delbert, Nova Scotia on 7 March 1944 to join the Training Brigade Group Serial 1135 that was in its final stage of training before being shipped to England. He left Canada for the United Kingdom on 10 April 1944. Upon arrival in England on 19 April, Arthur was held on the strength of 1 Canadian Engineer Reinforcement Unit and landed in France on D-Day as part of the replacement element. Arthur joined 6th Field Company R.C.E on 8 June 1944 and was reclassified as a Pioneer on 30 June. He was awarded the Good Conduct Badge on 16 September and was promoted once again to Lance Corporal. On 17 December 1944, once more at his own request, he reverted to the rank of Sapper.



After the Battle of Normandy, 6th Field Company supported the advance of the Allies through France and forward onto Belgium and Holland. The unit was involved in major engagements in Caen, Bourguebus Ridge, Falais, Boulogne, Calais, and Breskens Pocket.



During the final stages of the war, 6th Field Company participated in Operation VERITABLE (also known as the Battle of the Reichswald) that was the northern part of an Allied pincer movement to break out of a salient in the Nijmegen region of Holland. On 8 February, 6th Field Company was tasked with route maintenance. The weather was heavy rain and many of the areas were flooded and roads were washed out near Zylflich.

Sapper Buck was part of a group of sappers from No. 2 Platoon of 6th Field Company that moved forward to build a 50-ft Single-Single Bailey Bridge over a road washout.

Unfortunately, the infantry who were clearing away any enemy resistance before the engineers arrived, had failed to find a small group of Germans that included a sniper. Sapper Buck and Lieutenant Roger Cauley from 6th Field Company were shot and killed by a German sniper.

Sapper Arthur Ormond Buck was Killed in Action on 8 February 1945 at the age of 28.

He was given a temporary burial in the Temporary Military Cemetery at Nijmegen.

Arthur was later given his permanent burial in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **II. D. 12.**



The grave as it was in those first days; in 1954 the crosses were replaced by headstones. The family could add a personal message.

Inscription on his headstone:

HE GAVE HIS ALL



For his service to Canada, Sapper Buck was awarded the:

- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp
- France and Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- 1939-1945 Star
- 1939-1945 War Medal



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek

Biography by Robert Swingle for Faces to Graves.

References:

War Service Record. Library and Archives Canada

6th Field Company War Diary

39 Combat Engineer Regiment Museum archives. <http://39cer-museum.net>

The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

The History of the Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers: Volume II by Kerry and McDill

No.	K.68580	Rank	Sapper	Name	402147 BUCK, Arthur Ormond	B-200
Unit	R.C.E.		Date of death	8th Feb., 1945		
Died at	Holland					
Cause	Killed in action					
Death occurred on strength of Forces.H.Q.	405-B-27,611					
N/K	Mrs. Martha P. Buck,		Relationship	Mother		
Address	1154 Comox St., 1088 - 38th Avenue East, Vancouver, B.C.					
Remains buried in	Holland Nijmegen Cdn Temp Cem			Cemetery		
	E690595 sh 5 12 NW plot 1 Row 4, Gr. 16					
Grave location	CHIK ✓					

OVER ✓