

Carter, Stewart Musgrave
Captain
South Saskatchewan Regiment
Royal Canadian Infantry Corps
L/51456



Stewart Musgrave Carter, 'Stewie', was born on Wednesday 25 February 1920 in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada. Son of Carey Stewart Carter and Nellie Roberts Carter. The family also consisted of the seven and a half years younger sister Margaret Jean (Peggy), born on August 6, 1927, and the youngest of the family, brother Robert Alexander Carter (Bob), born on May 21, 1929. They lived at the 220-12th Street East, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada. As a religion they belonged to the Baptists, a movement within the Protestant church. Father Carey Stewart was a druggist and worked long hours. Peggy and Bob were very fond of Stewart and followed him whenever they could. Stewart was their great hero.



Mother Nellie took care of the children at home, but she had her papers to work as a tailor. She made sure that the children were well dressed as they grew up and made sure that she was also very neatly dressed herself.

Little 'Stewie'





Father and Mother Carter were both very involved in the Church and had a good relationship with family and friends.

They never had a lot of money, but their house was always full of fun and love and was always open to others.

Parents Nellie Roberts Carter and Carey Stewart Carter

Stewart was educated until Grade 12 and when he was 19 he left school. After graduating from high school, Stewie, as he was also known, went to work for M&C Aviation, which build Tiger Moth biplanes. These were used as training aircraft for the Commonwealth Air Training Plan, which had flight schools across Canada.

Stewart did not have many hobbies other than a small stamp collection. He had many friends, especially four boys and a girl who lived very close to each other and they had been together since kindergarten. There was really no money for hobbies, but they always had fun together. Everyone in the family loved to skate and they spent a lot of time on skating in wintertime. When Stewart grew up and learned to drive, he was always the designated driver because he never drank.

Stewart had dark brown hair and brown eyes, was 6 ft. tall and weighed 131 lb. He had a small scar on his lower back, Stewart was otherwise a very healthy young man and had healthy teeth.

His sister Peggy says about him: *"I'm glad you are following up on Stewart and I will try to fill you in a bit on his early life. He was 7 and a half when I was born and was always very good to me. Because Dad worked such long hours he filled in in some ways and I just loved him. What he said was law and Bob and I were only too happy to follow. I remember him taking me to the arena when I was learning to skate and I*

almost had to run to keep up, and I was so proud. He always made sure we did what Mom asked us to do.

He grew up with about five boys and one girl who all lived near us and they were a great bunch. When we were at the lake with Mom in the summer and he was about 13 Mom would sometimes go with Dad to Prince Albert early Monday morning to do laundry and come back on Tuesday afternoon, but we stayed with Stewart. Of course there were neighbours close by, but we counted on him."



Stewart in the middle with brother Bob and sister Peggy.

Christmas 1943.

Stewart began his military career with the Prince Albert and Battleford Volunteers in 1940 and became a Sergeant. He attended officer training at Gordon Head, British Columbia, and was posted to the Prince Albert Volunteers and stationed in Vernon, British Columbia, to train conscripts. The conscripts did not want to join the army and had no desire to go abroad.

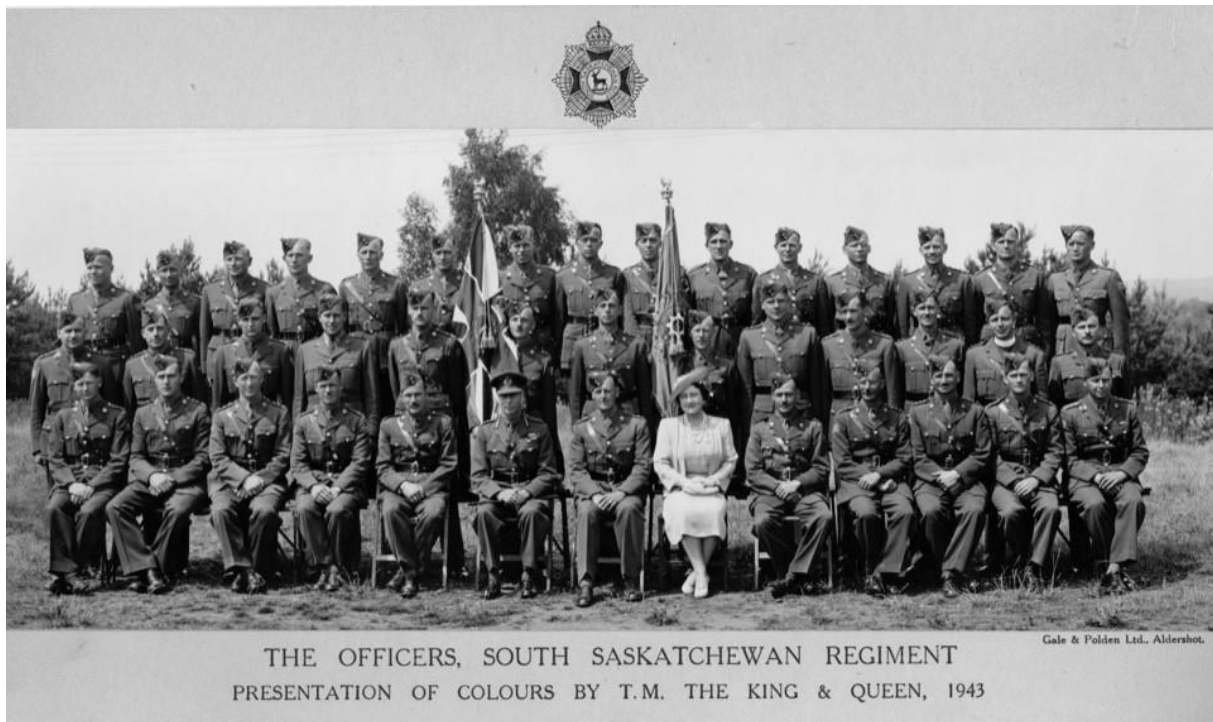
Stewart hated working with them and wanted to contribute to the war effort in a more meaningful way. He reported to the #12 District Depot in Regina, the capital of the Canadian province of Saskatchewan, on December 3, 1941.

On December 12, 1941, he was posted to the Officers Training Center in Victoria, Western Canada. He successfully completed the training and on April 10, 1942 Stewart was promoted to second Lieutenant.

He was then posted to the A15 Canadian Infantry Training Center at Shilo Camp, Manitoba, where he was promoted to Lieutenant on June 12, 1942. From



1 to 22 August 1942 Stewart followed a course. He then returned to the Prince Albert Volunteers in Vernon on 22 August 1942. Stewart enjoyed his leave from August 31 to September 14, 1942 and returned home to Prince Albert. He then rejoined his regiment to prepare to go overseas to England. On December 29, 1942, he moved again from Vernon to the #12 District Depot in Regina. Stewart was embarked and sailed to England on February 3, 1943, arriving on February 12, and two days later Stewart was "Ready for Duty".



The officers of the South Saskatchewan Regiment with the King and Queen in 1943. Stewart is 7th from the right, row at the top.

Stewart was assigned to the South Saskatchewan Regiment as a Lieutenant via the #2 Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit on April 2. The men were boarded on the USS Wm A. Jones and on July 8, 1944 they arrived in France.

After arriving at Courseulles Beach, on the dividing line between Juno Beach and Gold, they gathered in the Transit Zone where they were served tea and biscuits. The next day they moved into France and conducted a continuous series of battles across northern France, including in Caen. Stewart was wounded on August 29, 1944 in the battle of Forêt de la Londe. It was a brutal battle and only 16 members of his company walked away from the battlefield that day. Captain Nevil Hughes Hadley, a close family friend and schoolmate of Stewart, was killed that day. He was buried in Bretteville-Sur-Laize, Canadian War Cemetery in Calvados, France.

Stewart was evacuated to England to recover from injuries and returned to mainland Europe on November 8 and had since been promoted to A/Captain.

Via France the regiment went to towns in Belgium, including Dieppe, Nieuwpoort, Brasschaat, Brecht. They also took part in the Battle of the Scheldt and then they received orders to head towards Nijmegen. On November 9 they arrived in the Molenhoek area, including Stewart Musgrave Carter who was back with the regiment.

They arrived in Molenhoek, and the men went to sleep. Breakfast was at 09:30 a.m. and at 10:00 a.m. the platoon commanders were taken to the new areas by their company commanders. This front was known as the Reichswald front, just 2 miles from their positions. From December 1, 1944 they were in the vicinity of Mook and Malden and on December 8 they left for Groesbeek.

Then after having been stationed in Cuijk, on Rural Estate de Driehuizen, and in Nijmegen, the regiment arrived back in the vicinity of Mook on January 10, 1945. Many patrols were carried out by the regiment and on January 13 the Bren machine guns were tested again because of the cold. There were few enemy activities, but snipers were active, resulting in two casualties. The next day, two soldiers of the regiment, taking advantage of the thick fog, went on a reconnaissance. They saw a broken Sherman tank, they also saw several German soldiers but they decided not to fire because there were only the two of them.



Stewart with a friend in a jolly mood

At 9 p.m. on January 15, the D Company reported that a German patrol was attempting to enter their area. Orders were given to cut them off. The next day, at half past one in the morning, the patrol returned and indicated that there was a lot of barbed wire in the area where the Germans were. This prevented them from getting closer to the enemy. Two soldiers were reported missing and one soldier had a bullet in his arm. On January 17, a patrol set out and saw two bodies, one in the enemy's area and one belonging to a soldier from The Calgary

Highlanders. He had been missing in this area for two weeks. On January 18, two Canadian regimental snipers were reported to have killed five German soldiers and seriously injured three, possibly killed them. That evening many German snipers were active and phosphorus shells were being fired at the regiment, they thought. Some soldiers were hit and had received pieces on their clothing. Stewart was promoted to Captain on January 21, 1945.

Stewart and Lieutenant Ross Bertrand spent most of the winter billeted with a family in Nijmegen. The woman's name was Bettie Huisman and she had a daughter called Lilian. Stewart was commander at the time and when Operation Veritable started on February 8, the war flared up again. On February 17, the regiment started moving at 11:20 a.m. and orders were to move west of the train track in Bedburg. Two days later they took over the position of the Royal Regiment of Canada in Honingberg.

Operation Blockbuster started on February 24 and the regiment moved to the vicinity of Kalkar, Kirsell and Xanten.

Stewart was transferred to the A Company, one of the artillery companies. On March 3, the regiment attacked the Hochwald, the last belt of the Siegfried Line. They were fired at with mortars and grenades, Stewart was injured in the spine and was evacuated when another mortar shell killed him and the two stretcher bearers. Stewart Musgrave Carter died at the age of 25 and was temporarily buried in Uedem, Germany.

On February 26, 1946 he was reburied at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **XXI. F. 9**.

The inscription on his tombstone reads:

"THY WILL BE DONE"

Stewart Musgrave Carter's Awards:

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



Photo project 'The Faces of Groesbeek', May 2021. Photo: Else Schaberg

His sister Peggy says: "You mentioned Holland. He was billeted with Betty's family and went from there when Operation Veritable started. He was killed on March 3, 1945. Betty was the one who had to pack his trunk to be sent back home. I remember when it arrived. It wasn't easy and the dog remembered Stewart's scent and nearly went crazy."

Mom and I went to Holland in the early 60s with the War Graves Commission. We were billeted with a welcoming couple and when we had a day off he said he would take us anywhere. We told him about Betty's family and that we were sure her parents would have died and that they used to have a butcher's shop. He found the shop and found out that Betty's dad had died, but that her mother was living with Betty and her husband. He took us there and we met them. Her mother did not speak English but she and Mom just held each other and cried. They had really loved Stewart. They said he had been just so different from some of the other men they had had".

Stewart has been listed in the Book of Remembrance, page 502. The Book of Remembrance is on display in the Parliament Building in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.



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

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves

Library and Archives Canada

Calvin Stewart Carter

Margaret Jean 'Peggy' Anderson-Carter

Carter Bay was named in his memory by the province of Saskatchewan in 1951, and the family visited the lake in 1973 and placed a memorial on the shoreline.



54°57' N, 102°41' W

Carter Bay

Corneille Lake

Named in Memory of

Stewart Musgrave Carter

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Captain
South Saskatchewan Regiment

On Active Service To His Country
Killed in Action
March 3, 1945
Age 25
Buried at
Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery
Nijmegen, Holland





Stewart with his mother Nellie and his sister Peggy

From left to right sister Peggy, aunt Jean and brother Bob and Stewart.



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