

## **Charlton, Norman Elton**

**Private**

**Royal Hamilton Light Infantry**

**C/36690**



Norman Elton Charlton was born on September 5, 1914 in Kingston, Ontario. His parents got married in Harrowsmith, Ontario 1901 and moved to Kingston where they raised their family of nine children. His father, Ernest Arthur Charlton, a carpenter and mother, Francis "Frankie" Pearl Lee. The children were Lena, Helen, Archie, Ernest, Thomas, Norman, Mostyn, Jean. and Reginald.

Norman started school at grade 8 at Frontenac Public School and at the age of 16 he stopped because he wanted to work. He worked as a truck driver for nine years, machine hand at an aluminum plant for two months, odd jobs for one year. Before the war he wanted to become a driver mechanic.

Norman Elton Charlton enlisted in the Canadian army on January 5, 1942. In his military medical records he is described as having brown hair and brown eyes, standing five foot eight inches and weighing 139 pounds.

Private Charlton was transferred from an infantry unit to the Royal Canadian Artillery regiment. He was sent to Camp Petawawa in Eastern Ontario to attend courses at the Canadian Artillery Training Centre. On July 2, 1942, He became a gunner when he was stationed in St. John's, Newfoundland with the 25<sup>th</sup> Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, part of the Royal Canadian Artillery unit. He remained on coastal protection with the 103<sup>rd</sup> Coast Battery at this major shipping harbor from July 2, 1942 to June 17, 1944.



*Photo of Norman Charlton (right)  
with a friend*

When he was on duty in Newfoundland, Norman's mother, Frankie Charlton, passed away on September 21, 1942, at his hometown of Kingston, Ontario.

With the Allied invasion of France, he was then shipped overseas to the United Kingdom arriving on July 20, 1944.

Private Norman Charlton transferred to the Canadian infantry in Belgium on October 15. Once there, he joined the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry on October 18.

On March 8, 1945, Norman Charlton was killed in action at the age of 30 in Germany. According to this military unit's diary, the troopers were fighting in the town of Xanten, Germany. On the day of his death, his unit was planning an infantry attack and laid down a barrage with artillery.

He was temporarily buried in Xanten, Germany.

Later he was reburied in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **VII. E. 12.**

His headstone inscribed:

SADLY MISSED

ALWAYS REMEMBERED

Private Norman Charlton was awarded:

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



Biography: Yumna Fazal and Miguel Gabua, students from All Saints H.S, Kanata, Canada for Faces to Graves, with courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz, All Saints H.S. Additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

Project '44

Virtual War memorial

Photos provided by his niece Dayle Storms



*Photo Frans van Cappellen*



**WORD HAS** just recently been received by E. Charlton, 90 Quebec Street, of the death of his son, Pte. Norman Elton Charlton, 30, who was killed while in action on the Western Front. Surviving are his father, five brothers and three sisters.