

CODE, ARCHIBALD JAMES

Private

Calgary Highlanders, R.C.I.C.

B - 148073



Archibald James Code, (Archie), was born 26th October, 1916 in Cobden, Ontario, the son of John and Elizabeth. His father was of Irish descent and his mother Lizzie came from a Danish family. They married on 28 November, 1906. She died 25th January, 1933 when Archie was sixteen years old. His father, a Cobden postman in 1943, reached the great age of 101 when he died 5 April, 1981. The family belonged to the Presbyterian Church.

Archie had two older brothers, George and John Ross and two older married sisters, Christina Barbara Hoye and Irene Lillian (Lilly) McLaren. His brother, John Ross, army no. C100900 was in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps and serving overseas since June 1943.

.The family house in
Cobden



His sister Irene had two children. Her son Jack was born 21 October, 1932; a year later a brother was born but sadly died soon after birth. Jack was Archie's only nephew and he married Janice Grace Orr in 1954; they had four children, Donald Archie, Robert Wayne, Lyle Esten and Judi Irene. As George, John Ross and Christina remained childless, Irene's son and his four children are the only remaining descendants in the family of Private Archie Code.

He did well at school until grade 7, but his marks in grade 8 were low and he left school at the age of 14. Archie had many different jobs between 1930 and 1942. First he worked on the farm of his brothers for two years. Then, leaving the farm and his family behind, he worked in various factories including in one as a steel worker. He also worked in the forest, in a goldmine, on sailing boats and as a barman. He was a fireman and stoker on the ships that transported grain through the Canadian lakes from west to east. Jack Mc Laren remembered hearing of the hard conditions on these boats. In the last year before he joined the army, Archie was an iron worker in the Barber Die Casting Company in Hamilton, Ontario, earning \$50 a week. His employers said that after his time in the army he could return to them as an iron worker. In his free time he sometimes played baseball and ice hockey.

In a letter to his sister Irene, Archie wrote to tell her that he had enlisted in the army in Toronto. This was 10 June, 1943; he was 26 years old, living in Cobden, Ontario at R.R.#26 and a single man.

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION

Archibald
I, ~~James Archibald~~ **CODE**....., do solemnly declare that the above particulars are true, and I hereby engage to serve in any Active Formation or Unit of The Canadian Army so long as an emergency, i.e., war, invasion, riot or insurrection, real or apprehended, exists, and for the period of demobilization after said emergency ceases to exist, and in any event for a period of not less than one year, provided His Majesty should so require my services.

Date **June 10, 1943**..... *A. Code*
(Signature of recruit)

On his application form he was found to be a healthy, alert young man. He did say that he had suffered from palpitations in the last two and a half years. He was 1.75 m tall, weighed 66 kilos and had blue eyes and brown hair. There was a scar in the palm of his left hand. His home situation seemed normal although he had left home when he was 16. His employment record indicated a certain restlessness and he admitted that he liked a drink or two. He said that, like his brother John Ross, he would like to be in the Royal Ordinance Corps. He did not have many interests but he seemed to have an above average intelligence. He said he would like to do something technical but that he had little experience in technical jobs. The duty captain who interviewed him advised that he be placed with the Canadian Armoured Corps (CAC).

Archie stayed in Toronto for his first three weeks in the army. He was transferred 30 June, 1943 to the training centre in Orillia, Ontario where his military training, both physically and psychologically went well. He was good at map reading and organising sports events and excellent on the rifle range.

Two months later, 2 September, he was sent to Camp Borden, one of the biggest Canadian Army training centres in WWII. There he stayed for seven months. He was described as a pleasant, trustworthy and stable person. In his personal report, January, 1944 he was found to have a strong personality and was to be considered for service overseas. Archie had applied to go to the Air Force but this was turned down. He was advised to stay with the land forces and train as a tank mechanic. In Borden he obtained his truck driver's licence and was also trained in the handling of mustard gas attacks.



Camp Borden, 1940

During the Christmas days of 1943 Archie was given five days leave and the family remembered that he came home in his uniform. At the end of January, 1944 he was sent on special leave for eighteen days and when he left again, together with six or eight other men from the area, the whole family was there at the train station to wave farewell.



Archie and his father John



Archie, Christina and George



Irene, Archie and Christina

Archie was then ready to embark for England which he did on 25 March, arriving 1 April. He was then placed with reinforcement troops.

During his stay in England, Archie was placed with the Winnipeg Grenadiers Regiment on 29 September, 1944 as a Private. Five weeks later, 3 November, he boarded ship for the mainland of Europe. Here he was transferred to the Calgary Highlanders on 10th November; this regiment had suffered enormous losses in the previous five weeks at the Battle of the Schelde and was on its way to spend the winter in the surroundings of Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

From 8 February, 1945 onwards, the Calgary Highlanders took part in Operation Veritable in the German Reichswald forest. After continuous heavy fighting it was finally possible to cross the Rhine towards the end of March and a huge troop force could begin on the liberation of the northern and eastern parts of the Netherlands. The Canadians moved via Ulft, Terborg and Gaanderen in the direction of Doetinchem.

On Easter Sunday 1 April they reached Doetinchem via the Terborgseweg where on the eastern side of the town, they were met by members of the Dutch resistance. After a short consultation some continued to the town centre, while a large number moved round the outskirts. In and around the centre, fierce fighting developed.



Canadian forces arriving at Terborgseweg, 1 April 1945 (Photo: Hans Hendriksen ©)

The Germans had blocked the roads with trams filled with concrete. Amongst other weapons, the Canadians used flamethrowers to try and disable the enemy. Dozens of Germans were killed and many buildings burned out. Nine Canadians were also killed. Not until the following afternoon, Easter Monday, 2 April was Doetinchem liberated.

One of the nine Canadians killed was Archibald James Code. He was seriously wounded on the streets of Doetinchem with a bullet wound that passed through his right shoulder and neck. He was taken by ambulance to the field hospital in Bedburg Hau in Germany. He died there of his wounds on 1 April, exactly a year after his arrival in England. He was temporarily buried in Bedburg Hau the next day and later his body was transferred to the Canadian Military Cemetery, Groesbeek, plot **XIV. A. 10.**

For the 656 days he served, he received the following awards:

- 1939 – 45 Star
- France & Germany Star
- War medal
- Defence Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp

Monument in the 'Mark Tennantplantsoen' in Doetinchem



BELOVED SON OF ELIZABETH ROSS & JOHN CODE
COBDEN, ONTARIO, CANADA
"ETERNAL REST"



Life story: Sigrid Nord, e Research Team Faces To Graves.

We would like to thank Jack and Lyle McLaren and Fay Bennett, who works at the Ross Museum, for sharing stories and photos with us.

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
National Library and Archives Canada

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2662952>

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<http://www.rossmuseum.ca/>

<https://mijngelderland.nl/inhoud/canons/doetinchem/doetinchem-in-de-tweede-wereldoorlog>

<https://www.hummelo.nl/geschiedenis-hummelo/tweede-wereldoorlog/547-de-bevrijding-van-hummelo-2-april-1945.html>

<http://www.hanshendriksen.net/>

In 1980 Jack McLaren and his wife Janice visited Archie's grave in Groesbeek. Their children, Donald and Lyle (Archie's great nephews) with their wives, were in Groesbeek in 1989. They were all very impressed by the Canadian Military Cemetery and extremely grateful.

Archie is remembered in Canada on the gravestone of his sister Christina.



A memorial plaque and copy of a memorial stone from Juno Beach can be seen in the office of Lyle McLaren.



Ross Code watches looks through the window of the house in which he was born as workers dismantle the building for re-location to Forester's Falls as the new Ross Township Historical Society museum. Workers, from left, are Doug Patterson, Mac Coughlin, and Bill Oates.

Log house will have new life as home for Ross Township's history

By Marie Zettler
Sun Editor

The shell for Ross Township's new museum could be up by the end of August.

Work began last week to dismantle a log house which has been donated to the Ross Township Historical Society by Jack and Janice McLaren. The house will be re-located to Forester's Falls on land donated by Roy and Bette Anne Dittburner.

The museum is expected to be ready for opening in 1996.

The house stands on the farm which was originally settled in 1831 by the man for whom Ross Township was named. James Ross, who was born at the Parish of Tarbot, Arill Farm, Rossshire, Scotland, and his wife Elizabeth Galley and their four children, settled there. Seven more children were born to the couple there.

Local lore has it that Mr. Ross paid off the price of his farm to the government sooner than he was obliged to, and asked for a partial refund. He was told that such a transaction might be illegal.

He was offered the alterna-

tive of naming the township. He accepted, and named it after himself.

In 1887, the youngest Ross son, Thomas, inherited the farm after the death of James.

Thomas Ross and his wife, Christina McCulloch, had two daughters. Elizabeth Jane married John Code, who lived to the age of 101. A daughter of Elizabeth Jane and John, Irene, married Clifford McLaren. Irene and Clifford were the parents of the present owner of the property, Jack McLaren.

The house has been empty since 1988. The last people to live in it were George Code, a brother of Irene McLaren, and his wife, Christina.

Volunteers from the Ross Township Historical Society are dismantling and re-building the structure. However, the society is hoping to raise \$5,000 for building materials such as lumber, cement, gravel, cedar shingles, nails, windows, etc.

A Ross Township resident, Ralph Broome, has donated pine logs which have been sawed into approximately 1,300 board feet of lumber to

be used in the building's restoration.

A fund raising campaign is underway. Donors can sponsor a log for \$100, a large bundle of shingles for \$50, a small bundle for \$25, or a single shingle for \$5. Donors will have the opportunity to have their name printed on shingles being installed on the roof.

A plaque and list of donors will be placed permanently in the restored building as a record of community support.

Donations can also be made in memory of deceased family members whose names will also be recorded with those of the donors.

Members of the society will be conducting a limited telephone canvass for funds.

"But we don't have time to contact everyone," said Ross Township Historical Society president Murray Dittburner. "So we're hoping that people will come forward on their own to donate."

Cheques can be made to the Ross Township Historical Society, and can either be mailed c/o Dixie Dittburner at R. R. 2, Forester's Falls, or dropped off at the Ross Township municipal office.



Ross Code, left, is now the only surviving person who lived in the house that will be Ross Township's new museum. Mr. Code was born there 82 years ago. With him in the photo are his nephew, Jack McLaren, and Jack's wife, Janice. The McLarens now own the property and donated the house to the historical society.

The family home in Cobden has been moved to Forrester Falls and houses the Ross Museum and the Whitewater Historical Society.



TV broadcast 'omroep Gelderland':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3ODSqrWgf4&list=PLEVaKKTgLrZubXqi26RmrCxWCBuHcNArx&index=31&t=0s>