

Goodchild, William Stanley
Corporal
Argyll and Sutherland
Highlanders of Canada
(Princess Louise's)
Royal Canadian Infantry Corps
H/16838



William Stanley Goodchild, called Stanley, was born on Thursday, January 3, 1918 in Oxbow, Saskatchewan, Canada. He was the eldest child of George Frederick Goodchild and Leila Ida Goodchild-Moore, who got married on January 31, 1917 in Oxbow, Saskatchewan, Canada.



Father George immigrated from England to Canada in 1905. The family consisted of nine children: six daughters: Marion Phyllis Mabel Mary, Edna May Margaret, Myrtle Greta, Gladys Ruth, Bernice Eva and Martha Evelyn, and three sons: William Stanley, Walter George, twins, and another son born lifeless. The family belonged to the United Church. George and Ida owned a farm near Oxbow. In 1919 they moved to the Lonely Lake District in Manitoba where they had a home.

They stayed there only for a few years: in 1926 they returned to Oxbow, where the family rented a number of Goodchild farms.

They started with the Winteringham farm on the hill, then they moved to the Sair farm, then to a farm in the valley and finally to the Simpson farm.

Mother Ida knitted and made clothes for the family and sewed quilts to keep the family warm at night. For this Ida used cotton bags, in which 15 stone of flour went, she dyed and made dresses for the girls. Ida's quilting was impressive; her hand stitches were tight and small. Many of her quilts have remained family heirlooms and have been passed on to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Stanley as a little boy.



On a walk George met an orphaned fawn and carried it home to take care of the animal. It was fed with milk from a bottle and with Ida's oatmeal cookies and bread. Over time, the fawn became tame and the family called her Beauty. She left in the fall, but returned in the spring for more cookies and to show off her baby. She remained tame, but protected her fawn and did not let anyone get near it.

Stanley with fawn "Beauty"

After his primary education and a year of High School, William Stanley left school at the age of 17. He started to work for Dawson Road Dairy Farm, Manitoba and Bellots Dairy Farm in Saint Boniface, Manitoba, and became a truck driver for six years. He had blue eyes and brown hair, was 5 ft. 8 tall and weighed 144 pounds. In 1928, William Stanley underwent blind bowel surgery and was otherwise a healthy young man. He was good with his hands, liked to hammer, and played baseball, football and softball. He skated on frozen ponds and rivers in winter.



*Stanley with his bike,
photo Shaun Hobson.*

On January 29, 1940 William Stanley Goodchild enlisted in the Canadian Army and was posted in Winnipeg, Manitoba, to the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry Corps, named after Princess Patricia of Connaught, daughter of the then Governor General of Canada. He indicated that he had served in the 2nd Armored Car Regiment from October 1, 1939 to January 28, 1940 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He said that after the war he wanted a job as a mechanic in civilian life.

He stayed in hospital from February 19 to February 27 with a sinus infection. On May 25, 1940 he took a Drive Course at the Canadian Armored Fighting Vehicles Training Center at Camp Borden. Here he became a qualified Driver Wheels and Track Class II, Driving Instructor and Driver Mechanic Group C. On July 28, 1940 he returned to Winnipeg, and was given leave shortly thereafter on August 1 to August 15, and went to his parents in Oxbow.

He continued his military training at Camp Borden, after which he was assigned to go overseas to England. He arrived in England on October 8, 1941 and was assigned to the Canadian Base Transit Depot and was promoted to Lance Corporal on November 27, 1941.

He was a mechanic-instructor, motorcycle courier until he had a motorcycle accident on September 10, 1943 during a convoy of his unit. He was thrown off his motorcycle and suffered a head injury, a fracture to the left cheekbone and his jawbone. Stanley remained in hospital until October 12, 1943.

The Canadian army wanted to send him home because of his injuries. But Stanley disagreed, saying he had joined the army to fight for his country, so he had another medical and was transferred to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's) Regiment in the rank of Corporal. It was part of the 10th Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Armored Division. On November 17, 1944 he went overseas to northwest Europe. After the Battle of the River Scheldt, his unit was deployed in the battle for the Kapelsche Veer south of the Bergsche Maas, near the North Brabant village of Capelle in the harsh winter of 1944/1945.

On Saturday November 18, 1944 William Stanley arrived in the Brabant town of Drunen at the Argylls and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's). The next day, the Germans fired mortar rounds that fell close to their position, but there was no damage and there were no injuries, this even before the church service was over. In the afternoon, the mortar shelling intensified and a Bailey Bridge which connected their position to the Algonquin Regiment, was hit and damaged.

The battle lasted five weeks and was characterized by bloody combat actions under harsh winter conditions. The first two attacks by the 1st Polish Armored Division were during the night of December 30 and New Year's Eve, December 31, 1944, and the night of January 6 to 7, 1945. The next attack by British and Norwegian commando troops was in the night of 13-14 January 1945 and also failed. The fourth attack was launched by the 4th Canadian Armored Division from January 26 to January 31, 1945 and was successful: on January 31, 1945, the Germans withdrew. It took a total of 5 weeks and there were many casualties.

On February 18, 1944, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's), which had been stationed in Waalwijk since the beginning of February, were relieved by the Lincoln and Welland Regiment.

They went to Boxtel which was their last stop before they went to Germany. The Argylls were heading for Nijmegen to support Operation Veritable, which started on February 8, in order to move towards the River Rhine at Emmerich, Rees and Xanten. On Thursday, February 22, the regiment arrived in the German town of Hau, a village in the municipality of Bedburg-Hau near Kleve located on a ridge.

They were deployed during Operation Blockbuster and on February 26, 1945 they were to take over a high-altitude area between Kalkar and Uedem. Kalkar - Keppeln - Uedem was reached in the late evening and Uedem was entered in the early morning on Tuesday 27 February.

Then they went to Keppeln and at 5:00 pm the A Company was ordered to move into the Hochwald Gap with the B Company a few hundred yards behind it, followed by the D Company, and the C Company, which remained as a reserve. The forward positions were under heavy mortar and artillery fire. There were many injuries and casualties. One of those people injured was William Stanley Goodchild. On March 3, 1945, he died of his injuries at the age of 27.



*Temporary grave Stanley Goodchild,
photo Shaun Hobson.*

The next day he was buried in Bedburg, Germany, and on September 7, 1945 reburied in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **IX. A. 2.**

The inscription on the headstone reads:

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD
I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER

Awards Corporal William Stanley Goodchild:

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

In 1975 a lake was named after him in tribute, the Goodchild Lake (64 J / 4), southwest of Tadoule Lake. His sisters Edna and Myrtle served in Hamilton, Ontario, with the Royal Canadian Air Force in the Second World War.



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

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves
- Library and Archives Canada
- Wikipedia
- Special thanks to Shaun Hobson



The parents of William Stanley Goodchild: George en Leila Goodchild.

Photos Shaun Hobson.



The Goodchild family.

