

## **Burdett Lively**

When World War II began, Beaver Bank's Burdett Lively volunteered to join the forces, like most Canadians who fought in World War II since conscription was not imposed until the later stages. He enlisted in the army and was assigned to the South Saskatchewan Regiment RCIC.



**Private Burdett Lively in his uniform.**

The Regiment fought in many battles during World War II, including the battle of Dieppe, Bourguebus Ridge, St. André sur Orne, and the Falaise Pocket.

The last attack Burdett was to fight for his country, was the battle of Falaise, also referred to as Falaise Pocket, after the corridor of land in Europe which the Germans sought to maintain in order to allow an escape. The battle began on August 12 and lasted until the 21<sup>st</sup>, in 1944. It was a decisive engagement of the battle of Normandy. The Canadian troops were assigned the objective of driving south to Falaise where they could meet up with the American forces and cut off a large German pocket.

An innovative plan for conducting a night attack was developed. The plan called for a heavy bomb attack on the German forces by U.S. bombers and utilizing searchlights, tracer bullets and radio beams to guide Canadian forces through the darkness to specific points of attack.

The execution of the plan led to some confusion. Confusion on the battle field increased and an incident of accidental friendly fire by the American B-17 bombers mistakenly dropped their pay load on the Canadian and Polish troops, killing and wounding over 300 troops. Among those troops was the South Saskatchewan Regiment.

By August 30<sup>th</sup>, the Allies had made the last German remnants retreat across the Seine, effectively ending the battle of Normandy. It essentially laid the framework for continued operations in Europe, helping the Allies win the War.

Tragically, many men and women lost their lives in the effort for this great victory to be achieved. Many Canadians died, including Private Burdett Lively, during the night attacks. Burdett's death impacted many people's lives, including his mother and father, his eight siblings with their families, and his wife and son.



**Returned letter from Burdett's sister.**