

## Private 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.

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



### Returned letter from Burdett's sister

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.

## Two Good Men: The Military Lives of HARRY R. HAMILTON & BURDETT LIVELY



Private Burdett Lively

## FULTZ HOUSE MUSEUM



**Harry R. Hamilton**  
**1921-1944**  
**Sackville, Nova Scotia**

Harry Roland Hamilton was born in 1921 to loving parents James and Mary Hamilton in Middle Sackville. The Hamilton family grew to nine people, of which Harry was the second boy born out of five. At the age of seven Harry started attending the little one room schoolhouse, the Middle Sackville School, located on the top of Shay Hill. He did well in his studies, but could not finish school as he and his older brother, Bruce, had to drop out early to become the breadwinners for the family after Harry's father was struck down with the dreaded tuberculosis disease and was rendered unable to work.

As the storm clouds of war gathered over Europe, Harry joined the band of brave men and signed up for the armed forces in 1942 for overseas service. After completing his training in Halifax, Harry was sent to England where he became a Guardsman with the 22nd Canadian Armoured Regiment. In 1944 Major Edward Hamilton (no relation), second in command of the Regiment, and a Captain Ghewy were engaged to look for a new area in

His commanding officer, Major Carlisle, remembered Harry, as did his friends and family, "universally liked by all".

Normandy to move their unit to and Harry was assigned as their driver. While they were on this task, their car ran over a land mine and Captain Ghewy and Guardsman Hamilton were both killed. Major Hamilton was badly wounded in the incident.



Harry R. Hamilton never returned to his beloved Sackville home. He was buried with many of his other Canadian brothers in a gravesite in Brettyville Sur-Laise, France. The Memorial Cross was awarded to Harry's mother, Mary, in appreciation for the sacrifice he made for his King and Country, by the Minister of National Defense, on behalf of the Canadian Government.



Harry's sacrifice for his country was honoured by the Sackville community, who named a school after him, the Harry R. Hamilton Elementary School (seen above), located in Middle Sackville.

**It has been said...Harry was a man of good character and it was said of him by his comrades that he never had a bad thing to say about anyone and no one had a bad thing to say about him.**