

WILLIAM EDWARD RALSTON

By: Gavin MacNeil & Tahmidul Haque



1920 - 1944

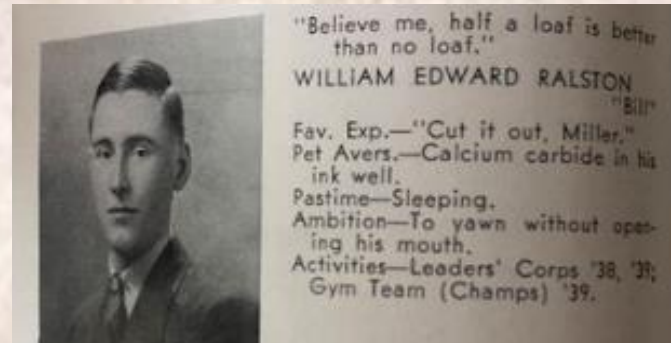
Family life before the war

On August 25th, 1920, William Edward Ralston was born in Montreal, Quebec and lived in the town of Dorval with his parents and his younger brother. His father's name was William Amos Ralston, her mother: Hazel Jerrine Wartman Ralston and his brother: Herbert James Ralston.

Both brothers graduated from Westmount High school as William graduated in 1938 and his brother Herbert, in 1940. In his yearbook, William Edward Ralston mentions that his pastimes were spent "sleeping", and that he has participated in The Leader's Corps gym team. After graduation, he was awarded by the McGill University Committee on Scholarships and Student Aid.

Life during the war

In William's second year of studying architecture at McGill University, he was enlisted into the Royal Canadian Armored Corps (R.C.A.C) military unit and joined Lord Strathcona's Horse army. He also received a commission at Camp Borden, Ontario in January 1943. William Edward Ralston was ranked as a lieutenant, which is a naval officer of high rank. In particular, he was a commissioned officer in the Navy or coast guard ranking above lieutenant junior grade, and below lieutenant commander. As a part of the 2nd armed regiment, he went overseas to Italy. However, on September 23rd, 1944, William Edward Ralston was killed in action, during the war of Ijsselmeer (1944 - 1945). And his brother Herbert James Ralston, a pilot in the R.C.A.F, was killed overseas in 1942.



Cemetery

He was buried in Cesena War Cemetery in Italy. It is located in the Commune of Cesena within the province of Forli and is situated one-kilometer north-east of Cesena railway station on the provincial road of Cervia. He is remembered on a family monument at Cemitière Mont-Royal, Montreal



The army and its legacy

As it is one of the three regular armoured regiments in the Canadian army, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)(R.C.A.C) was established in 1900 during the Boer War,[the Second South African War between Great Britain and the Afrikaner republics of Transvaal 1899 - 1902]. Since then, the regiment has fought in every Canadian war and has also, negotiated in many peace support operations.

The regiment has been based in Alberta since 1970 and is a part of the first Canadian mechanized brigade.



Bibliography (click me)

WILLIAM E. RALSTON