



WWII Casualty Biography

Private Harold Kvam L/12881 South Saskatchewan Regiment, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps

Harold Kvam was born on the 22nd December 1907 in Byafossen, Nord-Trondelag, Norway. He was the son of Einar Ragnval and Olaug Marie Kvam both living in his native village at the time of his attestation.

According to Canadian Immigration records Harold arrived in Canada aged 19 on the 25th March 1927. He arrived aboard the Bergensfjord sailing from Oslo, Norway and arriving at Halifax, Nova Scotia. With him was his brother Jonas aged 21.

At the time of his attestation at Weyburn, Saskatchewan, into the South Saskatchewan Regiment of the Canadian Active Service Force on the 13th April 1940 he was resident at Swift Current Saskatchewan, Canada, a single man and working as a truck driver. He was a member of the Lutheran Church. He had never served as part of the military before his attestation. Harold had no formal education beyond grade 8 (Canada) but spoke English and Norwegian fluently and could read both languages well. A full medical was taken on the 13th April 1940 and he answered no to all medical conditions put before him.

A physical description was recorded as:-

Height - 5 feet 9½ inches.

Weight - 158 pounds

Complexion - Dark

Eyes - Brown

Development - Good

Hair - Black

Chest Measurement (Expanded) - 38½ inches Range of Expansion 2½inches

Vision in both eyes - 20/20

Hearing in both ears - WV/20

Condition of mouth and teeth - Upper Plate, Partial Lower Plate

There were no congenital or pathological abnormalities recorded

Harold set sail for the UK from Halifax, Nova Scotia on the 16th December 1940 landing at Gourrock, Renfrewshire, Scotland on the 25th December 1940.

On the 25th October 1942 Harold was granted military permission to marry Beatrice Mathilda Katherine Martin. Beatrice was born in Ogbourne St. Andrew on 9th February 1907. Her next of kin was given as Mr. W. Martin, Clark's Farm Cottage, Farley Hill, Berkshire. Harold declared on his request to marry form that he had known Beatrice for 1 year. The form also made provision for \$10 per month be retained from his monthly pay to be put aside for passage to Canada for his wife and any children they may have. He also declared that he had \$380 of deferred pay at he time of his marriage.

The couple married on 31st October 1942 in the Marlborough Registration District. Beatrice was recorded as resident at Kennet House, Ramsbury.

Harold was promoted to Acting Corporal on the 11th December 1942. On the 9th February 1943 Harold reverted to the rank of Private at his own request.

Harold wrote out a Will on the 14th January 1943 as follows:-

In the event of my death, I give the whole of my property to my wife, Mrs. Beatrice Mathilda Kathleen Kvam, Kennet House, Ramsbury, Wilts., England.

On 15th January 1944 Harold was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. Also by this time his wife had moved to 28 Council House, Ramsbury. He embarked from England on 5th July 1944 and landed in France on 8th June 1944. Harold was reported as missing in action on 20th July 1944 later he was reported as having been killed in action on that day.

Harold is buried at Bretteville-Sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery, Calvados, France - Grave/Memorial Reference:- I. D. 10. He is also Commemorated on the Ramsbury War Memorial and named on a private headstone in St. Michael Churchyard, Aldbourne where his wife is buried.

On 18th April 1945 Beatrice received notification of her husbands' total pay entitlement amounting to \$931.20.

Besides the medal already awarded and mentioned above Harold was entitles to the 1939-1945 Star; France and Germany Star; Defence Medal; War Medal. Both his wife and mother were entitle to receive a memorial cross.

Canadian Service records for Harold are available online via Ancestry. A subscription to view these records is required.