

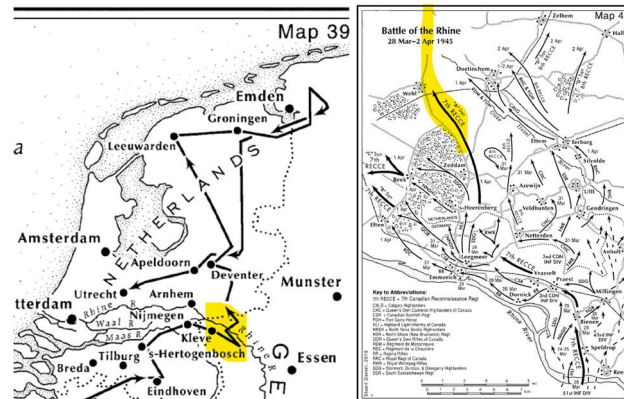
**Pullen, Earl Joseph, Trooper (H-63786)**



- Earl Joseph Pullen was born on 1 May 1922 in Port Arthur, Ontario. He was 22 years old when he was killed in action on 1 April 1945 near Kilder in the Netherlands.
- On 26 August 1941, Earl enlisted with No. 10 District Depot in Port Arthur (later Thunder Bay). He was then sent to the A-8 Canadian Armoured Corps Training Centre at Camp Borden, Ontario where qualified as a Class III wheeled driver. He was deployed to England arriving on 30 June 1942 and was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Armoured Corps replacement unit. On 2 April 1943, he was posted to the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (17<sup>th</sup> Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars) and qualified as a gunner-operator on 28 October 1943. After his marriage and a bout in hospital, he was posted back to the reinforcement unit on the 'X' list (ready to deploy to the front lines). The reinforcement unit moved to France on 25 August 1944. On 4 November 1944, he was transferred back to the 7<sup>th</sup> Recce and was wounded in the knee on 26 January 1945 during an encounter with a German patrol.
- He had no military experience prior to enlisting.
- He attended public school until he was 16, completing grade eight.
- Prior to enlisting, he was employed from 1937 to 1941 as an ambulance driver for M. Jenkins in Fort William. Concurrently, he had worked as a mortician's assistant. He had also worked as a salesperson in a jewellery / photo shop.
- According to his medical examination, he was 5 foot 10 inches tall and weighed 150 pounds. He had light brown hair and green eyes. He had scars from an earlier appendectomy. He was found fit for category A. While at Camp Borden he was hospitalized for ten days due to Pneumonia.
- Earl was the son of Archiebald et Maria Pullen, who lived at 65 North Empire Avenue, Port Arthur, Ontario. They had married in Port Arthur on 6 March 1916. He had one brother and three sisters at the time of his death: Fredrick Charles (26), Viola Maria (28), Adeline (20), and Yvonne (15). Another brother Clarence had died in 1927.
- On 14 March 1944, Earl married Catherine Gilligan of 225 Newlands Road, Glasgow, Scotland. After Earl was deployed to the continent in the summer of 1944, Catherine moved to Canada and took up residence with Earl's parents. They never had any children.
- The sole beneficiary of Earl's will was his wife.
- His body is buried in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Groesbeeck, Netherlands (Ref XVII. F. 16.) (plot, row, grave)

Context

- In 1945, as winter was ending and sufficient supplies had been accumulated, the Allied Forces resumed their drive forward. In hard fighting, they cleared a portion of Germany that is west of the River Rhine. Then, in a significant move, they established two crossings over the River Rhine, one in the north and one in the south. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Corps, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division, only played a limited role in the assault across the river, but then it was ordered over the northern crossing, then turn north into the Netherlands and attack the defences of the River IJssel from the east, capture Deventer and Zutphen, seize the high ground between Apeldoorn and Arnhem, and bridge the lower Rhine at Arnhem. The River IJssel was a considerable obstacle, varying in width from 100 to 180 metres, with high flood banks.
- On 28 March 1945, the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment crossed the River Rhine on a Bailey bridge near Bienen, about ten kilometres southeast of Emmerich, Germany. It then moved north toward Emmerich, the first major town on the eastern bank of the river. "C" Squadron was placed under the command of the 9<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade and was ordered to provide protection for the northern flank of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division, which moved in a westerly direction along the east bank of the River Rhine to capture Emmerich. The Germans fought fiercely to retain Emmerich, but the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade finally captured the town on 30 March. The high ground at Hoch Elten, north-west of Emmerich, was captured by the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade on 31 March. The way was now clear for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division to leave the Rhine and advance northwards towards the sea along the eastern bank of the River IJssel.



- The three fighting squadrons of the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment moved under command, or in support, of the three infantry brigades of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division. "A" Squadron, generally came under command of the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade. Occasionally squadrons got too far ahead of the infantry to maintain wireless communication and were forced to wait for the infantry to catch up.
- On 31 March, "A" Squadron was placed under command of the 9<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade and spent the afternoon probing to the front and the right flanks of the brigade. The squadron got off to an early start the following morning, moving up the road from Heerenberg (just outside Emmerich) to Wehl. On 1 April 1945, it began to bump the enemy in numbers, and, on the outskirts of Kilder, about ten kilometres north of Emmerich, the second Daimler Armoured

Car in Lieutenant Smith's troop was knocked out by an 88 mm anti-tank gun in an ambush. Two of its crew – Sergeant William Duggan and Trooper Earl Pullen - were killed instantly.