

Stroulger, Edward McBain, Trooper (C70534)



- Edward McBain Stroulger was born on 23 December 1916, in Ottawa, Ontario. He was 28 years old when he was killed in action on 21 January 1945 in the Netherlands.
- On 25 April 1941, he enlisted for active service with the 4th Canadian Reconnaissance Battalion (4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards) in Ottawa, Ontario. After enlisting, he was sent to basic training at 40 Canadian Army (Reserve) Training Centre in Camp Farnham, Quebec and several other small camps in Quebec. In June 1941, he was transferred to England, where he was posted to the 1 Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit for the next three years, where he eventually became a sergeant-instructor. In November, he reverted to Trooper and, the next day, was sent to North-west Europe as a reinforcement to the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars), where he was assigned to the position of gunner-operator in "C" Squadron.
- Prior to enlisting, he served several with the 4th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards in Ottawa from 26 July 1940 until 25 April 1941.
- He left Lisgar Collegiate Institute at the age of 20 after having earned his junior matriculation.
- Prior to enlisting, he was employed in Ottawa for four years by the General Supply Company, as a clerk.
- According to his medical examination, he was 5 foot 10.5 inches tall and weighed 140 pounds. He had light brown hair and blue eyes. He was found fit for category A.
- Edward was the son of George Francis and Sarah Isobelle Stroulger, who lived at 56 Frank Street in Ottawa, Ontario. He had two brothers, Kenneth Charles (32) and George Lucas (29), who both served overseas.
- Edward was a bachelor and had no children.
- The sole beneficiary of Edward's will was his mother.
- His body is buried in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Groesbeek, Netherlands (Ref I. B. 15.) (plot, row, grave)

Context

- By the time Stroulger arrived at the unit, it had already advanced through France and Belgium into the central part of the Netherlands. There the Allied Forces paused their advance, notably, to reconfigure their supply lines through the recently captured Port of Antwerp and build up their supplies of ammunition, fuel, and other essential elements, in anticipation of a thrust into northern Germany. While this was going on, the River Waal in Central Netherlands became

the frontline. Starting in October 1944, different British, Canadian, Belgian, and Dutch regiments rotated through a line of fortified outposts along the Allied side of the river. From 17 December 1944 to 3 February 1945, the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars) took over the positions near Dreumel, a small community about 35 kilometers west of Nijmegen. The troops manned observation and listening posts along the dykes overlooking the river. Apart from the shelling, which was intermittent, things tended to be quiet during the day but would heat up at night, with enemy patrols, shelling, outbursts of small arms fire, flares, and signal lights. In his book entitled "An Historical Account," Lieutenant Walter Pavey, a troop officer at the time, described the "amazingly wide frontage and the responsibilities handled by the individuals of the Regiment. As the darkness increased, each section became a tiny seven- or eight-man isolated stronghold, with nothing between it and the next 'fortress' but some two hundred yards of eerie, windswept dike."

- The war diaries for January 21, 1945, state that: "A party of Germans were reported leaving the factory and going back to the Winter Dyke via the white house at MR 438685. The squadrons were intermittently machine-gunned and mortared. Between 0200 and 0400 hours, the machine-gun fire increased, and it was noted that it came from the summer Dyke. Troopers Stroulger and Edward McBain were killed when the Observation Post he was in received a direct mortar hit."



TROOPER EDWARD (TED) McBAIN STROULGER, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Stroulger, 56 Frank street, who was killed in action on the Western Front recently, according to word received by his parents Sunday morning.

Ted Stroulger Killed in Action

Trooper Edward (Ted) McBain Stroulger, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. George F. Stroulger, 56 Frank street, was killed in action on the western front recently, according to word received by his parents Sunday morning. He was 27.

Born in Ottawa, Tpr. Stroulger was a graduate of Lisgar Collegiate. Prior to his enlistment in 1940, he was employed in Ottawa with the General Supply Company of Canada. He attended Chalmers United Church.

Tpr. Stroulger's last letter, written on Christmas Day, told of the wonderful Christmas Eve he had spent "over there" in a long and pleasant chat with his two brothers, Lieut. Kenneth Stroulger R.C.A., and QMS. Angus Stroulger, Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa.

Surviving, besides his parents, are his two brothers who are still overseas.