

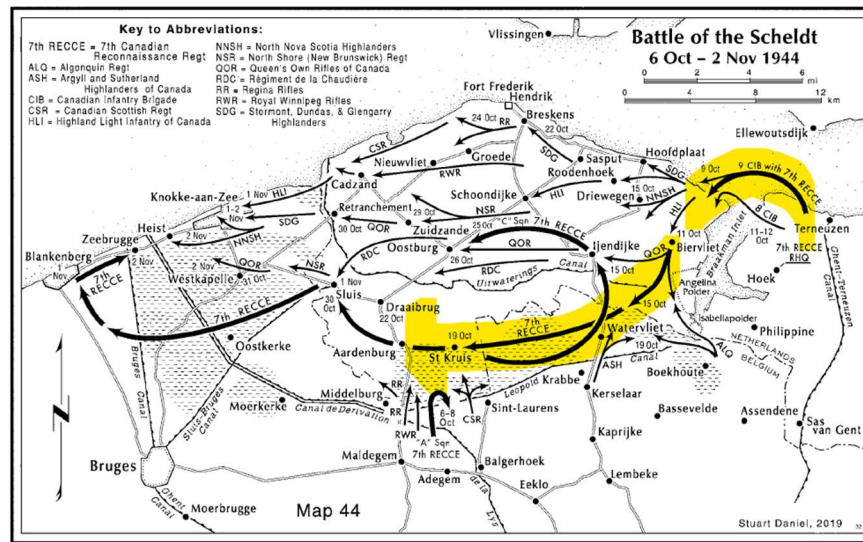
***Meredith, Howard William, Trooper (A-105478)***



- Howard William Meredith was born on 17 March 1922 in Barrie, Ontario. He was 22 years old when he was killed in action on 19 October 1944 in the Netherlands.
- On 7 December 1942, he enlisted at the recruiting depot in London, Ontario. He originally wanted to join the artillery like his brother but was directed to the Armoured Corps to fill a quota. After attending basic training, he was sent to the Canadian Armoured Corps reconnaissance training centre in Dundurn, Saskatchewan, where he qualified as a driver and mechanic for wheeled and tracked vehicles. He was sent to England arriving on 22 July 1943, where he served with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (The Royal Montreal Regiment) where he trained as an anti-tank gunner, the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (14<sup>th</sup> Canadian Hussars) and the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (17<sup>th</sup> Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars). He was transferred to France on 11 June (probably with "B" Squadron) and, on 18 August 1944, possibly started being employed as an anti-tank gunner.
- Howard had no military experience prior to enlisting. He attended school up to grade 8 at the age of 13.
- Prior to enlisting, he was employed for a year and a half as a store clerk and van driver at Bond Home Furnishings in Brantford, Ontario. Before that, he was employed for 2.5 years as a sales clerk in a fruit and groceries business and for 2 years as a sewing machine salesman.
- According to his medical examination, he was 5 foot 7 3/4 inches tall and weighed 136 pounds. He had hazel eyes and brown hair. He was classified as A-2.
- At the time of his enlistment, he lived at 294 Marlboro Street in Brantford, Ontario, possibly near his sister. His parents, William H. (a grist miller) and Minnie Meredith lived in Maxwell, Ontario. They were married in Innisfil Township, Ontario on 15 November 1910. They had three other children, Elmer E. Meredith (31), Emily Marquis (29), and Eva McCleary (33).
- The beneficiary in Howard's will was his mother, who was also listed as his next-of-kin. At death, he owned a 1937 Buick Sedan valued at \$600. He owed \$150 to his brother-in-law that he borrowed to purchase the car.
- His body is buried in the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery, Maldegem, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium. (Ref: IX. D. 6.)(plot, row, grave)

# Honour Roll profiles from the Second World War Members of the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (17<sup>th</sup> Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars)

## Context



- On 10 October the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment was ferried across the Braakman Inlet to reinforce the 9<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, which had outflanked the German Forces in the Breskens pocket. The regiment then helped clear out the area immediately south of the landing zone, advancing down to a line between Biervliet and the Braakman Inlet.
- From 16 to 19 October 1944, under command of the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, the Regiment moved west from Biervliet to clear the large, flooded area north of the Leopold Canal. During these four days, it rained constantly. Starting on 16 October, on the left flank, “C” Squadron, with 2 troops from “A” squadron, proceeded on foot, encountering waist deep water. On the right flank, “B” Squadron, on higher ground, advanced in vehicles and kept in contact with the Régiment de la Chaudière. Both squadrons quickly ran into trouble. The southernmost troop (11 Troop) encountered friendly fire from south of the Canal. 10 Troop encountered heavy flooding. 9 Troop, which was mounted, had to clear a roadblock of fallen trees. Then, a German 88 mm gun knocked out the lead vehicle and continued to engage the troop. The troop responded with all available weapons and sent out a foot patrol, which silenced the 88 with a Piat. At 0730 hours 9 and 11 Troops, resumed their advance but were stopped by heavy machine gun and mortar fire from the area below Waterland Oudeman Canal. Civilians reported the town of Oudeman was held by about 100 Germans. The squadrons deployed immediately, and patrols were sent ahead. At 1230 hours these patrols withdrew to allow for an artillery barrage, and, around 1430 hours, 11 Troop captured the position.
- On 17 October 1944, the Regiment continued its westward advance with the objective of linking up with the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade. By 0730 hours, 12 Troop reported enemy positions in Waterland Oudeman, but civilians reported that the town had been evacuated by the Germans at 0200 hours. This was confirmed by 9 and 12 Troops. However, many mines and obstacles were placed in and around the town, so a detachment of Engineers was called to clear it. By 0830 hours, 10 Troop had advanced its position to a line from Waterland Oudeman, south to the Leopold Canal.

- On 18 October 1944, the Regiment continued its westward advance with three Squadrons up. "A" Squadron made little progress due to the difficult ground it had to cross, but "C" Squadron had patrols out as far as St Marguerite.
- On 19 October 1944, the Squadrons again continued their advances. "A" Squadron received some Buffalos in late afternoon, too late to be of any use that day. However, three troops had proceeded on foot along the Leopold Canal and got as far as Moershoofde. There, they contacted patrols of the 52<sup>nd</sup> British Reconnaissance Regiment just west of the town. "B" Squadron managed to get as far west as St. Jores - Het Eiland (Free translation The Island) Dam area, and late in the afternoon "C" Squadron managed to push on to Aardenburg. Here the lead troop met elements of the 157 British Brigade.
- On 20 October 1944, having cleared the southern portion of what is referred to as the "Breskens Pocket" and linked up at Aardenburg with Allied troops coming from the south, the Regiment was then redirected towards the north.
- Howard William Meredith appears to have been killed on 19 October 1944, the last day of this 4-day clearing operation.

## FORMER THORNTON SOLDIER KILLED IN HOLLAND

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Meredith of Maxwell, Ont. (near Flesherton), and formerly of Thornton, have been notified that their son Howard had been killed in action. The official notice from the Director of Records, Ottawa, received by his mother was as follows:

"Minister of National Defence sincerely regrets to inform you that A165478 Tpr. Howard William Meredith has been officially reported killed in action, 19th October, 1944. If any further information becomes available it will be forwarded as soon as received."

Howard Meredith, who is 21 years old, was born in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie, when the family resided at Thornton. He attended school there and was actively interested in the work of the Young People's Society. Three years ago, when the family left Thornton for Maxwell, he took a position in Bond's furniture store, Brantford, and was there employed when he enlisted with the Royal Canadian Reconnaissance Corps at London, Ontario, on Dec. 7, 1942. His basic training was taken at Listowel, Ont., and his advanced training in Dundurn, Sask. He

training in Dundurn, Sask. He went overseas July 14, 1943, completed his training in England, and went across to France on D-Day with a Montreal Reconnaissance Corps. Later he was transferred to the Duke of York Royal Canadian Seventeenth Hussars, which was attached to the Third Division where he served as a Bren gun carrier driver.

Two letters were received from him last week on the same day as the report of his death. He described his own condition as "feeling fine." It is thought from references in his letters that the action in which he fell was in Holland.

He is survived by his parents, two sisters, Mrs. Jos. Marquis (Ethel) of Pickering and Mrs. Fred McCleary (Eva) of Brantford, and an elder brother, L/Bombardier Elmer Meredith, now in Vancouver, who has been with the Royal Canadian Artillery over three years.

