



Gunner Thomas Edwin Brydges

1918 - 1945

SECOND WORLD WAR

Army: Royal Canadian Artillery, 4th Field Regiment

Thomas was born in Sarnia in 1918, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Brydges. Thomas and Elizabeth had twelve children together. After leaving school at age 13, Thomas worked both as a farmer and as a driver. In January 1941, twenty-three years old and single, Thomas enlisted in the Canadian Army in London and planned to become an electrician when he returned home. After his artillery training in Woodstock, he embarked overseas and arrived in England in April 1941. Two months later, he became a member of the Royal Canadian Artillery (RCA), 4th Field Regiment. He remained in the U.K., serving with that unit for approximately three years, before arriving in France in early July 1944, during the Battle of Normandy.

Gunner Brydges of the 4th Field Regiment, RCA, served with the Canadian troops as they advanced across Normandy. He survived the "Long Left Flank", and the Scheldt Campaign, the Allied operations through France and Belgium, before the troops arrived in the Netherlands to oust the Germans. Three of Thomas' brothers also served with the Canadian Army, and all four of the Brydges boys would serve in Holland. After almost four years overseas, on March 12, 1945, Thomas was killed instantly in action when he encountered a mine in the Reichwald Forest, Germany.

Thomas Brydges, 27, is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands. He was described by his comrades as a "faithful diligent member of the crew" and "the best gunner in our troop".



THE SARNIA
WAR REMEMBRANCE
PROJECT

by Tom Slater and Editor Tom St. Amand