



Private Mervyn John Hurst

Born: Dec. 25, 1919 - Wilmer, BC

Enlistment: Sept. 1939 - Invermere, BC

Deceased: Jan. 12, 2002 - Saanich, BC

Military Service:

Army, Motor Corps,
Westminster Regiment,
New Westminster, BC



Mervyn enlisted in Sept 1939, came home on a short leave once, was stationed in Vancouver, England, North Africa, Italy, France, Belgium and during the liberation of Holland

He was honourably discharged from the army in 1946.

Biography:

Mervyn's Uncle and great Uncle on his Mother's side both served Canada in the 1st World War. Mervyn enlisted to help support Canada's war effort as well as to help support his mother who had 6 children. He lost his own dad at 6 years old and when his stepdad could no longer support the family, Mervyn became the primary family protector at 13 years old. He took his duty very seriously. He could turn his hand at anything and often had to, for the family to survive, including hunting, fishing, and working where and when he could. During the depression, he knew his army pay would help support his family.

After he returned home from the war in 1946, he worked building roads throughout BC. He then used his army benefits to help purchase an apple orchard on Vancouver Island. He became an excellent cook and his family remembers with great fondness his wonderfully delicious apple pies.

Born on Christmas Day and brought up in the family's Catholic faith gave him a special kinship with Christ and his teachings. He worked hard all his life, was independent, honest and a dutiful son. He loved his family and his Mom very much. He did not have an easy life, he never married, and he did not talk much about his war experiences. He often came across as tough, but he trusted people and always believed the very best of them. He was capable and skilled and had a huge workshop where he frequently fixed things for others. He maintained a large beautiful garden throughout his life, full of vegetables, flowers and fruit trees.

Mervyn's siblings know they would probably not have survived without him all those years ago. He is remembered and missed for the strong resilient man that he was. We are proud to be able to say that one of the 117,000 trees that will be planted as part of the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute will be in honour and remembrance of Mervyn John Hurst and his effort to serve and protect Canada.

