

# Sergeant Wallace Sprung

## The Canadian Armoured Corps

### Family Life:

Wallace Charles (Squee) Sprung was born in Derby Township on June 2, 1921, to Emma Laverne (nee Lorenz) and Andrew James. He attended Rockview School achieving a Grade 8 Education. In 1946, Wallace married Betty Eleanor Bishop. The couple were blessed with two children, Diane and Richard.

Before the Second World War, Wallace worked for the Hamilton - Owen Sound Transportation Company as a truck driver and representative. Upon his return from war, he continued working in this business.

Wallace was later employed by E.C. King's, Carr's Bus Lines and Taggart Transport where he was appointed District Manager. He retired from the company at age 65, in 1986. This gave an opportunity for Betty and Wallace to spend time in Florida during the winters. Wallace passed away on January 3, 1998.



### Service History:

Sergeant Sprung enlisted for military service at Owen Sound, on September 22, 1942. He completed his basic training in Newmarket and was transferred to Base Borden with the Canadian Armoured Corps where he qualified as a driver and dispatch rider.

Sergeant Sprung requested a transfer to the 26 Army Tank Regiment (Grey & Simcoe Foresters) in April 1943. In July 1943, the unit was disbanded and he was transferred to holding units of the Canadian Armoured Corps. Sergeant Sprung was attached to the Allied Armies in Italy and in March 1945 transferred to the Netherlands with 1st Canadian Corps. This included service with the Ontario Regiment.

After the Second World War, Sergeant Sprung returned home and continued his military service with the 13th Medical Company of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.

### Decorations:

- 1939-45 Star
- Italy Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp
- War Medal 1939-45

**Interesting Stories:** After the 26th Army Tank Regiment was disbanded in July 1943, Wallace was transferred to a Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit. He left the United Kingdom to join 1st Canadian Corps in Italy. He would have witnessed fighting in the Liri Valley, the breaching of the Gothic Line and the Rivers Campaign in Northeast Italy. During this time Wallace suffered injuries from an explosion which caused damage to his face and sinuses. His face was partially rebuilt and he required periodic surgery for the rest of his life. In March of 1945, 1st Canadian Corps joined First Canadian Army in Northwest Europe and was given the task of liberating the Netherlands.

Wallace and Betty travelled to the Netherlands for the 45th Anniversary of the Liberation and billeted with a Dutch family in the Village of Lettele. They became very good friends and communicated many times over the years. They travelled with a Legion contingent for the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation and Wallace was very proud to participate in the Apeldoorn Parade. Subsequently, they returned for the 55th Anniversary and hosted the Dutch family during a visit to Canada.