

Sergeant Major William Alexander Spears

The Perth Regiment

Family Life

William (Bill) Alexander Spears was born on September 28, 1911. He grew up in Tobermory, attending school there until grade eight. His father, William Spears Sr. was the lighthouse keeper on Flowerpot Island. When his father died in 1937, William became the interim lighthouse keeper. He married Dora Pettigrew on May 20, 1939. Together, they had three children: Ila Marie, born 1940, Linda, born 1946, and Bill, born 1948.

When William returned from military service, he took up a job as the lighthouse keeper for Cove Island. William retired in September, 1976, and passed away on April 18, 1995.



Decorations

- Italy Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defence Medal with Bar
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Bar
- War Medal 1939-1945

Military Service

Sergeant Major Spears joined the army on September 22, 1939, just twelve days after Canada declared war on Germany. He enlisted with The Perth Regiment in Stratford, Ontario, part of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division.

Throughout the rest of 1939 and into 1941, William trained in various locations across Ontario, including Niagara-on-the-Lake, Hamilton, and Camp Borden. In the Autumn of 1941, he embarked overseas, arriving in England on October 17.

During his service, William Spears worked as a driver and wireless operator. He served in Italy, France, Belgium, and Holland before the end of the war. In July 1945, he was discharged as a Sergeant Major.

Personal Story

At the end of the war, William Spears used some of his savings to buy a 36-foot boat with a cabin, and he became a tour and fishing guide in addition to maintaining his duties as a lighthouse keeper.