

Sergeant Henry (Harry) Cecil Davis

Canadian Armed Forces

Family Life:

Harry Cecil Davis was born in January, 1922, to Cecil and Clara Davis (nee Young), of Tobermory, Ontario.

Harry attended Tobermory SS#2 St. Edmunds for grades one through eight. He was a farmer in the early 1930s and then worked as a commercial fisherman from 1935 until 1939.

On August 20, 1943, Harry married Mary Ferris Doak in Glasgow, Scotland. They had three children, Norman Russell in 1946, Norma Jean in 1949 and Henry Robert in 1950.

After his military service Harry apprenticed as a bricklayer in London, Ontario and also worked as a general labourer. He served as the postmaster of Tobermory from 1948 until 1966 and postmaster of Dutton from 1966 until 1977.

Harry returned to Tobermory in 1977 and retired as a ticket agent in 1985.

Military Service:

Sergeant Davis enlisted on June 10, 1940, in Galt, Ontario, with the Highland Light Infantry of Canada.



Decorations:

Good Conduct Badge July 1942
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal
and Clasp, January 1944
1939–45 Star
France and Germany Star
Defense Medal
War Medal 1939-45

Military Service:

Sergeant Davis completed his basic training in Galt and Stratford. He then transferred to Cove Field Barracks, Quebec City, for infantry weapons training in late 1940.

Sergeant Davis was at Camp Debert, Nova Scotia, until July 21, 1941. From there he embarked for the United Kingdom, landing at Gourock, Scotland. Davis was a mortar specialist who was promoted to Lance Corporal in February, 1943. He became a Corporal in July 1944 and was promoted to Lance Sergeant the following October. In December he attained the rank of full Sergeant.

The Highland Light Infantry (HLI) Battalion was attached to the 9th Brigade of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. Sergeant Davis landed in Normandy on D-Day at Bernières-sur-Mer as the HLI fought through Caen, Buron, the Bourguébus Ridge, Falaise, Chambois, Boulogne and Calais in 1944. He also participated in the Battle of the Scheldt and the Battles of the Rhineland in late 1944 and early 1945.

Most important to Sergeant Davis through his experience of war was meeting his wife and lifelong partner Mary. He was discharged on October 9, 1945.

Lessons Learned:

While proud of his military service, like many returning soldiers, Harry never spoke of the hardships of war. He did mention the enduring friendships he made and the tremendous feeling of gratitude they received from the people of the towns and villages they liberated.