

## LANGILLE IRA CHARLES

11-D-06



Ira Charles Langille, beloved husband and father, was born on May 7th, 1912 in Cherryfield, Nova Scotia, to Elsie Acker and Charles Langille. After losing his mother at a young age, he was raised by his grandfather, William Acker. At age fourteen he started working beside his grandfather, in the woods, on a cross cut saw. He met the love of his life, Viola Stella Morash, at a picnic and on September 23rd, 1935 they were married in Caledonia, Nova Scotia. As Ira and Viola built their life together, he supported their household through factory work in South Brookfield, Nova Scotia. Ira and Viola were devoted church members, active in their community, and busy raising their growing family. Ira played the accordion, loved to sing and was a member of the church choir.

Ira and Viola had three children and another one on the way when he enlisted in the army in 1941 to join the war effort. He was a member of the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders and was stationed in Petawawa, Ontario for basic training, then onto Sherbrook, Quebec, before setting out to proudly serve his country. He sailed out of Halifax, Nova Scotia, en route to England. In addition to fighting, he was a baker during the war and served as batman to his commander. He fought in Europe where his life was lost while crossing the River Ems to take the town of Leer, Germany, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1945. His storm boat was under heavy machine gun and rifle fire, leading to the sinking of the boat and the deaths of ten members, including Ira. Ira's body wasn't found until months after and was buried in Germany. He was later exhumed and buried in his final resting place at the Holten Canadian War Cemetery in Holland.

The war ended a couple of days before Ira would have turned 33. He was one of the oldest members of the regiment. Left behind were his widow and four children, three girls, the oldest who was eight and the youngest only three, and a boy, four and half years old. As of 2014, Ira's legacy lives on through Viola, his children, grandchildren and great and great-great grandchildren, most living in Western Canada.

The family wishes to extend its heartfelt gratitude to the residents of Holten, Holland, for the respect and remembrance they afford the soldiers, husbands, fathers, grandfathers, and brothers in their care. We are forever grateful.

