

## Pte Harold Stanley Daley (Service # G22937)



Harold Stanley Daley was born on April 15, 1922, in Chatham, Northumberland County, New Brunswick, the son of Stanley Daley and Annie Ethel (Sutton). He had nine brothers Alden, Robert, Don, Burton, Joseph, Kenneth, Ray, Jack, and Billy, and a sister Anne.

Harold and his brothers, Joseph Alden Daley and Francis Robert (Bud) Daley all served with the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment. Burton Daley served with the RCAF in Lachine QC. The family was of Irish descent and was Roman Catholic. Harold attended St. Joseph's School and later St. Thomas College in Chatham. At age 16, Harold left school, and about a year later in September 1939, Canada declared war on Germany.

Harold enlisted with the North Shore (NB) Regiment on June 17, 1940, in Chatham. He trained with the regiment initially at Woodstock and then at the new Canadian Infantry Training Centre (CITC), Camp A-30 at Sussex.

The regiment was given a break for Christmas, 1940, and for the New Year's holidays. The married personnel took the Christmas leave and single personnel were given New Year's. On January 17, the single personnel were returning via the CNR train from Campbellton to Sussex. An accident at the New Mills station held up the train for two hours and soldiers

waiting in stations along the way were then generously supplied with drinks from friends and family. When the train finally rolled out it was without lighting and the water coolers were empty. Complaints turned into arguments and resulted in the confiscation of all liquor. A conductor then stated that an unlit train was good enough for this bunch and added that washrooms were only for officers. These proud and capable men who had volunteered to fight for their country would not be put down. Arguments now turned into fights, then into a brawl, and all control was lost. By the time the train reached Rogersville Station, all of the windows had been smashed out of one of the cars. This was soon followed by the removal and ejection of many of the seats and the toilets.

At Moncton, the train was met with a riot squad composed of all available military and police. The men were soon quiet, water was supplied, and most slept for the remainder of the journey to Camp Sussex. Two or three coaches had been damaged and the interior of one was destroyed. The episode resulted in a Court Martial and heavy fines for all personnel convicted. Unfortunately, Harold was in one of the rail cars. His pay of \$1.50/day was put on hold to pay for damages to CNR property. Details of the story are told in the poem "The North Shore Cannon Ball" written by Arthur Shannon of Jacquet River and recorded by Anne (MacKay) Dickie.

The following summer on July 21, Harold embarked for the UK with the NS(NB)R. They traveled from Halifax on the *SS Duchess of York* and arrived in Liverpool on July 30. The regiment was initially transferred to Aldershot in the south of England but over the next three years trained throughout England and Scotland. Records show that at some time during 1942, the chaplain Rev. R. M. Hickey wrote home to Mrs. Annie Daley assuring her that her boys were attending mass and communion every Sunday.

Harold and Alden were avid sportsmen and, when off duty, played baseball for the North Shore team in the Canadian Army League. Harold played right field and Father Hickey was the team coach. During the summer of 1942, the North Shore team won steadily playing teams from the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Divisions. Finally, late in the summer they defeated the Seaforth Highlanders from Westminster BC, and won the 1942 Canadian Army Baseball Championship. Few that day could have imagined that within four months of the Normandy landing, more than half of that championship team would become casualties (five killed and four wounded).

On D-Day (June 6, 1944) Harold, Bud, and Alden all landed near the village Sant-Aubin-sur-Mer, France with the NS(NB)R. Harold with A Company, Alden with B Company, and Bud as a stretcher-bearer with regiment HQ. A Company suffered heavy casualties on the beach but Harold survived. Cpl Alden Daley received shrapnel wounds to both legs and was evacuated to England. Bud worked tirelessly as a stretcher-bearer with Doctor. J. A. Patterson and Father Hickey to retrieve and treat the wounded. The regiment had made good progress and the war diary records that by 11:15 a.m. they had control of Saint Aubin. LCol Donald Buell now ordered that they push south to capture the village of Tailleville, about 3 km inland.

It was believed that a German command center that was controlling artillery fire on the beach was located at Tailleville. As they moved south, they encountered snipers hidden in the woods and grain fields and were targeted by artillery fire. The advance was led by C Company who came under heavy machine-gun fire. The North Shore responded with mortars and eliminated a machine-gun nest. C Company then sent patrols into the village to clear buildings and soon reported that its objectives were achieved. The firing on the beach had not stopped, however,

and because of tunnels and trenches connecting the buildings, many Germans escaped and repositioned themselves. LCol Buell now ordered that the clearing of Tailleville be repeated until the German artillery fire on the beach had ceased.

Shortly after giving these orders LCol Buell and Major Archie MacNaughton led an A Company HQ party, that included Harold Daley, into the village via a cluster of farm buildings. As they reached the farm entrance, they saw three Germans hitching a horse. A moment later, a machine gun in the loft of a barn opened fire, and all dove to the ground. They tried to run for safety under cover of a smoke grenade but another burst of machine-gun fire instantly killed Archie MacNaughton, Harold Daley, and Arthur Strang. Harold was 22 years of age.

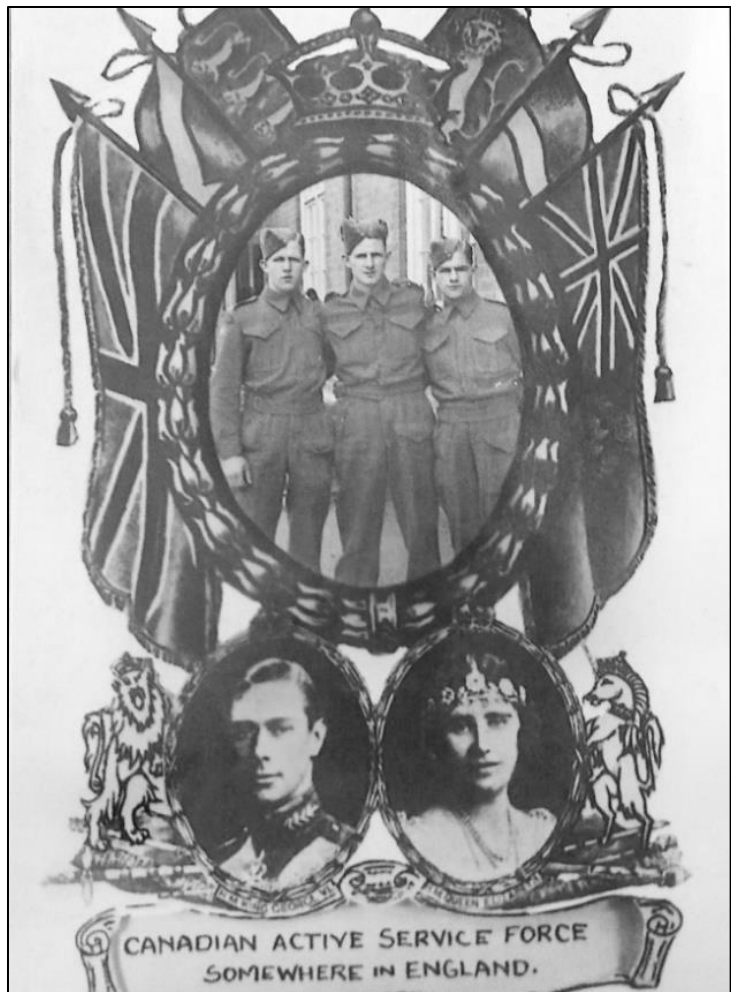
Shortly afterward, the tanks of the Fort Garry Horse smashed their way into the farm compound. At about the same time a C company platoon led by Major Daughney, attacked from a different direction and eliminated the machine gun. The fighting continued, however, with grenades, flame throwers, and hand-to-hand combat, and it was 9:00 p.m. when the North Shore finally had control of Tailleville.

For his service to Canada, Pte Harold Stanley Daley was awarded the following medals: 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defense Medal, War Medal 1939 -1945, and Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp.

Pte Harold Stanley Daley, Maj John Archibald MacNaughton, and Pte Arthur William Strang are buried side by side in Beny-Sur Mer, Canadian War Cemetery, in France. Pte Harold Stanley Daley lies in plot I. G. 7. His name is also engraved on one of the D-Day monuments that stand along the seawall in Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer.



Burton Daley who served with the  
Royal Canadian Air Force



The Three NS(NB)R Daley brothers  
Harold, Alden & Bud