

Corporal Albert Joseph Savoy (Service # G22044)



Albert Joseph Savoy was born on January 10, 1917, in Chatham, Northumberland County, New Brunswick, to Adolphe Savoy and Marie Pélagie (Cormier). He was one of twelve children. A brother Stanley would also serve overseas with the Canadian Army in WW2. At age sixteen, Albert left school and went to work as a grocery clerk for William Groat in Chatham. He worked at the store for seven years and during this time completed an apprenticeship program as a butcher.

On June 28, 1938, Albert enlisted with the Non-Permanent Active Militia of the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment. The militia was composed of volunteer soldiers who trained on weeknights, weekends, and at summer camps. They were paid and could be called upon for home defense. War broke out in September 1939 and the following June, Albert changed his status and enlisted with the NS(NB)R for active duty wherever he was needed. Training continued at Woodstock and Camp

A30 near Sussex.

At some point, Albert met a young woman by the name of Pearl Lloyd and they decided to get married. Albert requested permission from the army, as required, and permission was granted. They were married on July 14, 1940, in Baie Sainte-Anne. The following year on May 2, a son, Lloyd Albert Savoy was born.

On July 21, 1941, the regiment sailed for Liverpool, England, on the *Duchess of York*. They now spent almost three years in intensive physical training and rehearsing beach landings throughout England and Scotland. In August 1941 Albert was promoted to the rank of Corporal. Records then show that he returned to Canada in April 1942. He spent a year training at Camp No.71 in Edmundston and was also able to spend time with his family. In March 1943 Albert returned to England and the NS(NB)R, and was now trained to deactivate mines and booby-traps.

On D-Day (June 6, 1944), Albert landed in Normandy near Saint Aubin-sur-Mer with A Company under the command of Major Archie MacNaughton. A and B Companies were the first units to come ashore. At about 8 a.m. their landing craft doors opened and the men poured out under heavy fire. They scrambled over barriers, mines, and boobytraps and ran for the security of the seawall. A Company now made its way to a gap in the wall. They had already suffered heavy casualties. Using explosives, they blasted a path through the bales of barbed wire covering the gap and were into the village and fighting house to house. It was now discovered that the houses were protected with mines and snipers were everywhere. In addition, many of the buildings were connected by tunnels or trenches allowing the Germans to escape and reposition themselves. But with repeated efforts using grenades and flamethrowers, they cleared the houses and the streets. The War Diary records that by 11:15 a.m. the German defenses had been eliminated, all Company objectives had been achieved, and the NS(NB)R was in control of Saint-Aubin. Historian Will Bird wrote that A Company had suffered twenty-nine casualties securing the beach and clearing the town. Bird also wrote that Lt Merle Keith had led his No. 3 platoon across the beach to the seawall and that a mine exploded killing Cpl Albert Savoy and two others. Shortly afterward Lt Keith was badly wounded and later that same day Maj MacNaughton was killed at Tailleville. Cpl Albert Savoy was twenty-seven years of age. His son Lloyd was three.

For his service to Canada Cpl Albert Joseph Savoy was awarded the following medals; 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defense Medal, War Medal 1939-45, and Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp. Cpl Albert Joseph Savoy is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in France. Plot I. D. 5. His name is also engraved on one of the monuments to the Canadians killed on D-Day, which stands along the seawall in Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer.



Top: A photo of the NS(NB)R landing in Normandy near Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The location is a section of the beach where both A and C Companies landed.

Bottom: The village of Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer, captured by the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment on the morning of June 6, 1944, and near where Cpl Albert Savoy was killed.