



NAME: Harley W Collings S/Sgt SG8828

BRANCH OF SERVICE: Infantry (Airborne)

SERVED FROM: 14 APR 1943 TO: 1 Sept 1955

MILITIA: 14 Apr. 43-16 Mar 45. ACTIVE SERVICE: 17 Mar. 45- 1 Sept 55

Born 10 Mar 27

I joined active service @ N° 7 P.D., Fredericton NB, & was immediately dispatched to Camp Borden Ont for Basic Training @ N° 11 C.I.T.C., after which we took Advanced Training in Meaford Trg. Centre. After completing Advanced Training, my father informed them I was 16 years old. This delayed my Army career somewhat! I was kept as a L/Cpl Instructor on .303 Vickers Machine Gun, stayed at N° 10 C.I.T.C. for a period of time, pending my investigation of having false Birth Certificate! I was one of many apparently!

I was finally posted to 1Bn RCR in Brockville Ont as a L/Cpl Instructor. I was posted to Able Co., and subsequently became a Dispatch Rider, with a new "Snortin Norton" bike. I found my Regt was going on a scheme, and I was lucky enough to be riding a bike, everyone else was marching!! I learned how to remedy Norton faults, of which they have many. I pushed my "Snortin Norton" for many of our long marches. So much for volunteering – never again!

I eventually was to become an Air Portability Instructor and was dispatched to Rivers Manitoba Training Centre. I don't think I ever walked or marched anywhere I went again for the next year! Run, Run, double time, but we sure lost weight! I went from 180 lbs down to 148 lbs in no time, and loved it. One year in Rivers, then back to Brockville Ont and more training. We found out we were all going to belong to the 23 Bgde and it was going to be Airborne.

1947 was posted to Camp Borden at the School of Infantry, as a Sgt Instructor, to teach Officer Cadets the facts of becoming a gentleman cadet. This lasted about a year or more. I was getting restless and wanted to go to the Far East (Korea). I seen Col P.R. Bingham, Camp Commander, and advised him of my wishes. Seems he was trying to go to Korea as Commander of his own Regiment (The R.C.R.). After all, he had enlisted as a Boy Bugler in 1937!

To make a long story longer, we both ended up in Japan & Korea. I stayed for two terms and ended up coming home in 1953 and was posted to DND in Ottawa as a Research & Development Team Member on new weapons and tactics. I was promoted to Staff/Sgt and remained there until I was honourably discharged at Kingston, Sept 1955

Harley COLLINGS

COLLINGS, Harley - (Resident of R. R. #1 Kirkfield, Ontario). Peacefully at Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay on Tuesday evening, April 13, 2010 in his 84th year. Beloved husband of Carolyn MacDonald - Collings (nee Stewart). Loving father of Roy (Susan) of Newmarket and Arlene Collings of Scotland, Terri-Ann Archer (Greg) of Woodville and Stewart MacDonald of Kirkfield. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Hailey, Samantha, Madison, Avery, Hallie and Austin. Dear brother of Dale (Audrey) of Vancouver, B.C. Predeceased by his wife Helen Collings (nee Wallace) and his sister Deedee. Also lovingly remembered many nieces and nephews. Interment later Kinmount Cemetery.



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