

Boyce, Ralph

City man reunited with brother after being apart for 60 years

Intell Aug 30/85 *Cal - Boyce - B*
VANCOUVER (CP) — When Ralph Boyce left an Ontario farm and headed west in 1925, he never dreamed it would be 60 years before he would see his brother, Walter, again.

And each assumed the other had died in the Second World War until Tuesday, when Walter's wife, Barbara, tracked Ralph down.

Walter, now 77, and Ralph, 75, arrived in Canada from England in 1920 via Dr. Barnardo's Homes, an organization that placed British orphans on Ontario farms. There they lived on separate farms until Ralph came west.

"They just stood staring at each other for 20 minutes," Ralph's son,

David, said Wednesday after the reunion.

Ralph, who lives in suburban Richmond, B.C., said that seeing his brother after so long was "quite a feeling."

"I had it in my mind that Walter was one of the unlucky guys in the war. And he thought that of me, too."

He said he knew Walter was his brother because of a scar on his left cheek from a childhood accident.

Walter and his wife, who live in Belleville, arrived in Vancouver on a bus tour of North America that they took in hopes of finding Ralph.

Barbara was determined to call every Ralph Boyce in the phone book.

"I saw one Ralph Boyce in the book and he was the one," she said. "I've been looking all over for this man. I'm a very curious person."

After he left Ontario, Ralph sold fish and vegetables in Vancouver and worked in construction. He eventually built his own trucking firm.

Walter, who fought in North Africa and Italy during the war, worked as a lineman for Ontario Hydro until retirement.

Both brothers had little education and said their lack of writing skills made it difficult to stay in touch.

They had two other brothers who had stayed in England. One was killed in India but they don't know what happened to the other.

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