EMIL VICTOR HENRY MURDOCK

Photo: Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Emil is born June 16, 1922, son of Nicholas and Annie Murdock, residing at 71 Muriel Street. He has two sisters, Mary Kathleen and Mary Hildred. He attends Glashan and Ottawa Technical Schools, graduating in 1936 with his Junior Matriculation (seems to also get training as a mechanic apprentice). He works as a deliveryman at Lessons Drug Store for 9 months in 1939/40.

He enlists in the Militia and serves a full year of continuous duty from July 1940 to August, 1941.

On August 14, 1941, Emile (# C58 853) enlists in the Governor General's Foot Guards, 21st Canadian Armoured Regiment and sent to Sussex, New Brunswick with the rank of Guardsman on September 9, 1941.

In March 1942, his unit is now based at Canadian Army base in Debert, Nova Scotia, near Truro.

At 00:15 hrs on Wednesday, April 1, 1942, the body of Guardsman Emil 'Hank' Murdock, 19 years young, was found in the trainyards of Truro where he was accidentally struck by a westbound freight train and killed.

His body was returned to Ottawa and he was given a full military funeral on Saturday April 4, 1942,with all honours. Guardsman Emil victor henry Murdock of the Governor General's Foot Guards, 21st Canadian Armoured Regiment of the Royal Canadian Army Corps, is buried at Beechwood cemetery alongside 210 other servicemen from Canada and the Commonwealth from both World Wars.

Like so many other families who could never forget the loss of their son, his parents kept posting annual memorials in the Ottawa Journal even into the late 1950's. "As long the life our hearts will hold, the memory ever dear, and o'er thy grave in loving grief, shall fall a silent tear."

He rests at Beechwood cemetery today.