

Mr. Joe Ryan

1920 - 2009



JOSEPH A. RYAN

THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA

JOSEPH RYAN WAS BORN IN MONTREAL, QUEBEC ON THE 2ND OF JANUARY 1920 AND MOVED TO PORT ARTHUR, NOW THUNDER BAY, ONE YEAR LATER. HE ATTENDED ST. ANDREWS SCHOOL AND PORT ARTHUR COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE. HE ALSO COMPLETED A COURSE IN MARINE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS AT THE PORT ARTHUR TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK UP AN APPRENTICESHIP TO BECOME A DENTAL TECHNICIAN.

AT THE END OF 1936, HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR REGIMENT, A MILITIA REGIMENT IN PORT ARTHUR, WAS PART OF THE ROYAL GUARD FOR KING GEORGE VI AND QUEEN ELIZABETH ON THE FIRST VISIT OF A REIGNING MONARCH TO CANADA IN MAY 1939. IN JUNE 1939, HE MOVED TO TORONTO AND TRANSFERRED TO THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA.

WHEN WWII BROKE OUT IN SEPTEMBER 1939, JOSEPH RYAN ENLISTED FOR WARTIME SERVICE AND SERVED IN CANADA UNTIL THE END OF MAY 1940 WHEN HE WAS SHIPPED OFF TO ICELAND. HE FROM THERE WAS SHIPPED OFF TO ENGLAND TO REJOIN THE CANADIAN 2ND DIVISION IN NOVEMBER 1940. DURING THE TRIP FROM ICELAND, HE HAD THE HONOUR OF BEING CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE SIGNALERS ON THE BRIDGE OF THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA. UPON ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND, HE WAS POSTED TO CHANNEL COASTAL DEFENCE AND WAS PROMOTED TO LANCE CORPORAL. BETWEEN COASTAL DEFENCE AND TRAINING PERIODS, HE ATTENDED THE LARGEST SIGNAL SCHOOL IN THE COMMONWEALTH AT THE CATTERICK SCHOOL OF SIGNALS IN YORKSHIRE IN JANUARY 1941, WHERE HE RECEIVED HIS INSTRUCTOR'S GOLD FLAGS. LATER IN THE YEAR HE ATTENDED AT THE BATTLE DRILL SCHOOL WHERE HE QUALIFIED AS AN INSTRUCTOR. AT THE BEGINNING OF 1942, HE ATTENDED THE COMMANDO SCHOOL AND QUALIFIED AS AN INSTRUCTOR. IN MAY 1942, HIS REGIMENT WAS SENT TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT OFF PORTSMOUTH TO TRAIN AS A COMMANDO REGIMENT, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS COMBINED OPERATIONS.

ON 19TH AUGUST 1942, THE REGIMENT LANDED AT PUYS, AS ONE OF THE LEAD REGIMENTS AT THE BATTLE OF DIEPPE. HE WAS CAPTURED, MADE A PRISONER OF WAR AND WAS INTERNED AT STALAG 8B AT Breslau NEAR THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN BORDER FOR 2 YEARS AND 9 MONTHS. AFTER AN EXTREMELY LONG TREK ACROSS WESTERN EUROPE WITH HIS CAPTORS, HE WAS LIBERATED ON 25TH APRIL 1945. HE SHIPPED BACK TO ENGLAND TO RECOUP IN HOSPITAL AND SUBSEQUENTLY HOME TO CANADA ON THE RMS QUEEN MARY, VIA NEW YORK. IN SEPTEMBER 1945, HE RETURNED TO CIVILIAN LIFE.

JOSEPH RYAN HELD A REGISTERED DENTAL TECHNICIAN LICENCE AND OPERATED DENTAL LABORATORIES IN TORONTO AND MISSISSAUGA. HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE FORMATION AND LICENSING OF THE DENTURIST ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO WHERE HE SERVED AS DIRECTOR, SECRETARY, VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT, A POSITION HE HELD FOR FOUR YEARS. HE ALSO COMPLETED HIS DENTURIST EXAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DENTAL SCHOOL AND GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE IN 1974 AND 1975. HE RETIRED IN 1987.

JOSEPH RYAN WAS A LIFE AND GOLD CARD MEMBER, AS WELL AS A TRUSTEE OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA FOUNDATION, LIFE MEMBER AND HOLDER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS BAHM AWARD, HONORARY MASTER WARRANT OFFICER OF THE SERGEANTS MESS, LIFE MEMBER OF THE OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION AND LIFE MEMBER OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA ASSOCIATION AND 5 YEARS A PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA ASSOCIATION. HE ALSO SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF THE DIEPPE VETERANS AND PRISONER OF WAR ASSOCIATION AS WELL AS LIAISON OFFICER FOR THE ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADET LEAGUE, ONTARIO. HE WAS THE LEAGUE LIAISON OFFICER FOR THE 2824 ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS (CADET ORGANIZATION POLICE SCHOOL), THE 2736 ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS (ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA), 440 ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS, (ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA) AND 105 ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADET CORPS (7TH REGIMENT ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY).

JOSEPH RYAN ORGANIZED, RAISED FUNDS FOR AND DESIGNED A MEMORIAL PLAQUE THAT WAS PLACED IN THE FORT YORK ARMOURY HONOURING ALL THOSE WHO HAD PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN DIEPPE. THIS PLAQUE WAS UNVEILED IN 1992 BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CHARLES, THE PRINCE OF WALES, COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA FOUNDATION, HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN RAISING FUNDS TO SEND 26 DIEPPE VETERANS BACK TO FRANCE FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE. ALONG WITH HIS WARTIME MEDALS, HE WAS THE RECIPIENT OF THE DIEPPE MEDAL, THE DIEPPE COMBAT RECOGNITION CITATION (THE ONLY COMBAT CITATION GIVEN TO CANADIAN FORCES IN WWII), THE CANADA 125 MEDAL, THE QUEENS GOLDEN JUBILEE MEDAL AND THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY DIEPPE MEDALLION. HE WAS ALSO AWARDED THE FOUNDERS AWARD, THE HIGHEST AWARD GIVEN BY THE ROYAL ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA.

AT 89 YEARS OF AGE, JOSEPH RYAN COMPLETED 73 YEARS WITH THE MILITARY, WITH 70 OF THOSE YEARS WITH THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA FAMILY.

HE WAS MARRIED IN 1939 AND WAS PREDECEASED BY HIS WIFE IN JULY 2002.

JOSEPH RYAN PASSED AWAY ON SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2009 AT THE TRILLIUM HOSPITAL IN MISSISSAUGA.