

## TONY FRANK DOLL

Regimental # M67418



Tony Doll, son of Frank and Katie Doll, was born on November 17, 1918. He was raised on a farm in an area near Fairview known as Waterhole, AB. As schools were non-existent near Waterhole, the family, which consisted of six sons and two daughters, moved to the Red Star School District in order that the children could attend classes. However, Tony being the oldest in the family, soon found himself in the fields working alongside his father; therefore, he did not complete his elementary education. Tony was very musical and played the violin. He, along with his uncle Johnny who played the guitar, provided the music for many country school dances.

In 1940, Tony was called-up for military training in Grande Prairie for two months followed by another two months of training in 1941. Tony decided to enlist shortly thereafter and was sent to Red Deer for two months of advanced training. On March 5, 1942, he boarded the train for Halifax and then sailed for England. A week later, Tony arrived in Scotland where he boarded a train for Farnborough, England. On June 20th, Tony with the First Ammunition Corps,

began to haul ammunition to different units. He was "on stand" for 72 hours during the Dieppe Raid following which he successfully completed a Driver Mechanic's Course. Soon thereafter, he was deployed as a driver mechanic for the 85<sup>th</sup> Bridge Corps. Tony's unit continued to train until the second front opened in June 1943. On July 5<sup>th</sup>, the unit saw action on enemy soil for the first time. By July 13th, they arrived at Pierrepont, France and then moved on to Saint-Contest. By August 18th, the unit had reached Falaise. Day after day, the unit moved to new locations fighting across unfamiliar territory. On May 18, 1945, the platoon received word that the war was over and everyone celebrated with a cup of tea.

Tony embarked for Canada and arrived in Halifax on October 5<sup>th</sup>. He finally arrived home on October 14 and a month later, Tony was sent to Calgary for his official discharge. Soon thereafter, Tony applied for a loan through the Veteran's Land Act to purchase a ¼ section of land. Part of the loan agreement stipulated that all the farm boys had to undertake a 30-day course on farming methods that was held at Red Deer.

Tony Doll

On October 28, 1947, Tony married Frances Heck at the St. Boniface Church at Friendstal. The following winter, Tony worked at a sawmill where part of his wages were in the form of lumber that he subsequently utilized to build their first home. By 1959, Tony bought the S ½ 3-72-5-W6 in the Twilight area; land that had belonged to Bruce Rome. A new home was built in 1961 to provide more room for their growing family which included nine children; James, Charles, Mary and Marilyn (twins), Bernice, Bill, Ben, Elaine, and David. Not only did Tony farm, he also worked off the farm setting up farm machinery, for Wapiti Sand and Gravel, Cockshutt Equipment and the Plywood Plant in Grande Prairie. Tony and Frances' children all attended the Vocational High School that was later renamed the Composite High School.

Tony passed away in September 1998 at age 79; Frances died in October 2015. Both were buried at the Glen Leslie Cemetery. He was a member of the West Smoky Legion Branch No. 244 for many years.



### **Reference**

Smoky to Grande Prairie History Book

Frances Doll obituary

Interview with Bernice LaValley

Interview with Elaine Cissell

Note – Bernice LaValley thinks he was a Private

Elaine Cissell thinks he was a Private

Tony Doll

**Frances Doll**

**DOLL, Frances** - It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Frances Doll on Saturday, October 10, 2015, at her home in Points West Living, surrounded by her family, at the age of 92 years. Frances was born in Waterhole, AB, and September 28, 1923 to Mari-Eva and Martin Heck. She was the second eldest of 14 children. Frances grew up in a time when hard work and helping others was the norm. She learned skills that would serve her well as a wife and mom and that she would pass on to her children. Frances married Tony Doll on October 28, 1947, and together they raised 9 children. They started married life on a farm in the Friendstal area, just outside of Fairview, AB. In June, 1959, they moved to their own section of land, east of Grande Prairie, which was her home until Dad's passing in 1998. Frances is survived by her children: James (Dorothy) and family, Charles (Eunice) and family, Mary Hansen, Marvin and family, Marilyn (John) and family, Bernice (Grant) LaValley and family, Bill (Janet) and family, Ben (Sherry) and family and Elaine (Lonnie) Cissell and family, David and family; sisters: Catherine Basarab, Dee Hills, and Veronica Bast; sisters-in-law: Marion Doll and Emily Logan. She was predeceased by her husband Tony, her parents and granddaughter Daylene Doll; brothers: George, Harry, Benjamin, David, Billy and Bobby; sisters: Rosemarie, Mary, Magdalena and Margaret. Prayers will be held on Friday, October 16, 2015 at 7:30pm at Oliver's Funeral Home in Grande Prairie (10005 107 Ave). A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 2:00pm at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Grande Prairie (10404 102 St.), with Father Ed Eherer C.S.s.R. presiding. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Canadian National Institute for the Blind (229, 9804 100 Ave, Grande Prairie, AB, T8V 0T8), Grande Prairie Meals on Wheels (102-9905 101 Ave, Grande Prairie, AB, T8V 0X7), or the Disabled Transportation Society (9505 112 St., Grande Prairie, AB, T8V 6H8). Condolences may be sent by visiting [www.oliversfuneralhome.com](http://www.oliversfuneralhome.com)<sup>129</sup>