

WILLIAM VERGETTE, M.M**Lance Sergeant B/37091****Age 33****1st Battalion, The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry**

Killed in Action at Rocrenil, during the battle for Caen, 12 July 1944

Buried: Beny-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Reviers, France, and commemorated on Harthill War Memorial

Son of Frederick William and Frances Vergette of Peterborough, Husband of Frances Mary Vergette, of 39 Hillside Harthill, Yorkshire, and Father of William Anthony Vergette.

William Vergette emigrated to Canada in the 1930's, and when the Second World War commenced he joined the 1st Battalion, The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. The regiment embarked for Britain on 22 July 1940.

On 21 April 1941 William married Frances Mary Clarke of Harthill age 24, at All Hallows Church, Harthill.



On 19 August 1942, William took part in the catastrophic raid on Dieppe and was awarded the Military Medal for his actions during the raid.

His citation read:

'Private Vergette was a Rifleman in Number 20 Platoon, "B" Company, the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. During the assault on the Casino in the Dieppe operation, and the further advance towards the town, Private Vergette displayed great initiative and leadership in that after all the Non-Commissioned Officers of his platoon were killed or wounded he assumed command and led his men in a very gallant fashion throughout the remainder of the operation despite the fact that he himself was wounded. Through his efforts and leadership about twenty-five of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry succeeded in penetrating to the park on the south side of the Casino.'

On 25 July 1943, their Son, William Anthony Vergette, was baptised at All Hallows Church, Harthill.

In 1944, William was a Lance-Sergeant, with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, and landed in France on 5 July 1944, as part of the 4th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division.

He died during the Battle for Caen on 12 July 1944. He was originally buried at Rocrenil, near where he fell. On 19 March 1945, his body was transferred and re-buried in the Beny-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Reviers, France.

The Battle for Caen:

On D-Day (5th June 1944), Caen was an important Allied objective as it was an essential road hub, strategically astride the Orne River and Caen Canal. The Germans defended this stronghold with all their power. It took the British and Canadian forces six battles over forty-two days—from 6 June to 18 July to capture all of Caen. By 17 July, British and Canadian losses were 37,563.