

Charles William Barker



Service Number: A-19176

Rank: Lance Sergeant

Summary: Charles William Barker was born on August 22, 1916 in Palmerston, Ontario to Matthew John Barker and Margaret Porter Barker. He was the fifth of nine children. His father was a veteran of the Boer War in South Africa.

Charles attended grade school and high school in Palmerston, and for several years, he worked with boats as a stationary engineer. Later, Charles went to Fergus, Ontario and worked for the Beatty Brothers dealing in household appliances. In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting with his friends. He was known for his outgoing personality, and once performed a lively tap dance routine with his brother Jim at the Palmerston town hall auditorium on amateur night.

In 1939, his family moved to London where Charles enlisted with the Canadian Army. In 1943 the Barkers moved from London to Oxford Street in Strathroy.

Four other Barker brothers were also involved in military service. Charles was a lance sergeant in the 7th Field Company of the Royal Canadian Engineers, and his service number was A-19176. He received training in Petawawa, and was overseas by 1941. He

wrote home frequently, and in his letters, he often asked his family to send him more cigarettes. Charles took part in the Dieppe raid on August 19, 1942. He was killed in action on August 26, 1944 during the battle of the Falaise Gap. Charles was 28 years old when he died. He is buried in the Bretteville-Sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery in France.

