

Arden Leroy Payne



Service Number: A-108608

Rank: Private

Summary: Arden Leroy Payne was born on February 20th, 1925 in Strathroy, Ontario to Jethro Chestle Payne, and Ivah Tuttle Payne. He had blonde hair and blue eyes. He was the second youngest of six children. The family lived in an apartment on Frank Street. Arden attended Colborne Street School, and later, Strathroy Collegiate Institute.

He worked briefly at the Somerville plant in Strathroy. He had a quiet and unassuming personality. Arden will be remembered always for his kindness and thoughtfulness. Arden was not married. His brothers, Ray and Chestle, were the first to enlist with the Royal Canadian Engineers. Arden joined the same regiment about 1943. He spent 14 months overseas where he served in Holland, Belgium, France and Germany before the war in Europe ended.

After V-E Day, Arden volunteered for service in the Pacific. He arrived in Strathroy at the end of June for a 30 day repatriation leave before heading off to fight again. He was posted to Camp Petawawa to await further instructions. When he enlisted, Arden had a medical condition known as Bright's disease, which he acquired as a child. In Petawawa his health declined and he discovered that his condition had deteriorated severely while overseas.

He was immediately admitted to the camp hospital and his family was notified. By the time his father arrived, Arden had slipped into a coma. He never regained consciousness. Jethro remained with his son until his death. Arden died, at the age of 20, on September 27, 1945, thus becoming a casualty of war. His funeral service was held on Sunday, September 30, 1945 at the Denning Brothers Funeral Home. He was buried with full military honours in the Strathroy Cemetery.



Military Funeral For Arden Payne

Spr. Arden Leroy Payne, 21 year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jethro Payne of Strathroy, whose death occurred on Thursday, Sept. 27 in hospital at Petawawa Military Camp, was buried with full military honours in Strathroy Cemetery on Sunday afternoon. The service was held at 3:30 o'clock at Denning Bros. Funeral Home with Rev. G. F. Smith of the Baptist Church officiating, assisted by Rev. William Raithby, of the Strathroy branch of the Legion, a former Canadian Army padre.

The deceased was ill for only a short time before his death. He had not been feeling well and was persuaded by a chum to see a medical officer. It was found he was suffering from a kidney ailment and he was immediately placed in hospital. Almost from the first his condition was serious and the family notified. Mr. Payne, father of the boy went at once to Petawawa and remained near his son until the end. The young man was unconscious when the father arrived and did not regain consciousness before the end.

In addition to his parents the deceased is survived by three brothers and two sisters, Raymond and Chester, serving overseas, Calvin at home, Mrs. John Smith of Camlachie and Audrey at home.

Accompanied By Officer

The body was accompanied back to Strathroy by Capt. L. A. Kay of the Canadian Engineers, one of the officers in the unit to which young Payne belonged, and by Spr. Jack Alderton of Petrolia, a close friend of the deceased.

The young man had been in the army for more than two years and had spent 14 months overseas, having served in Holland, Belgium, France and Germany. He had volunteered for service in the Pacific and had arrived home about the end of June. After 30 days repatriation leave he was posted to Petawawa.

The military arrangements were under the direction of Major Vern Walters of No. 1 Depot, London. The firing party and bugler were supplied from the Depot and the guard of honor was provided by the local company of the Middlesex and Huron Regiment under command of Capt. Neil Olde, of Melbourne.

Many Attend Burial

Hundreds of sympathetic citizens thronged the Funeral Home and the Cemetery for the first military funeral held here during this war. The floral tributes were many and beautiful, conveying the regard in which the young man and his family are held in the community.

Following the religious service at the graveside the customary three volleys were fired over the flag-draped casket on which reposed the deceased military hat. This was followed by the sounding of the last post and then members of the local branch of the Legion, who attended in a body, filed past the casket to deposit poppies.

The pallbearers were all young friends of the deceased, including Tpr. Alderton who accompanied the body from Petawawa. The others were: Wilfred Benstead, G. Mitchell, G. Collins, W. Wilson and D. Wilson.

Military Funeral For Arden Payne — Age Dispatch Oct. 4 1945

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