



Roland Vernon Ploughman

Canadian Army

**Guardsman, Canadian Army Special
Forces**

Service No: F30866

World War II

Born: 1921

Died: 15 Aug 1989

Place of Birth: Coley's Point, Bay Roberts,
Newfoundland

Parents: John (Jack) Douglas and Addie
(nee Hedges) Ploughman

Born Roland Vernon, he preferred to and went by his second name, Vernon, for most of his adult life.

Vernon's father, a teacher by occupation, was a World War I veteran of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and this fact must have influenced his sons, since three (3) of

them, Reuben, Vernon and Gerald would enlist and serve during World War II.

The 1935 Newfoundland general census shows Vernon at age 12, living at home with his parents, John, and Addie, at Coley's Point, Bay Roberts, Newfoundland.

It seems that Vernon was more than willing and anxious to serve. He enlisted in the RAF (Royal Air Force) like his older brother Reuben but was turned down. He went to Nova Scotia and tried to enlist in the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force) and once again was denied. Then in June 1942, he joined the Halifax Rifles of the 23rd Army Tank Regiment and went overseas in June 1943. Apparently, his earlier attempts to enlist were denied because he was underage.

Vernon would marry a lady named Lillian and together they made a home in Greenwood, Ontario.

Records indicated that the couple were in residence at Greenwood in 1957 and in 1965.

Vernon would pass way in August 1989 at the age of sixty-six. He is buried at Mount Pleasant Cemetery at St. John's, Newfoundland. Lillian would live to be ninety-three before passing in 2019.

From Bay Roberts
Guardian 16 Sep 1944

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Mr. and Mrs. John Ploughman this week received a letter from their son, Vern, of the Canadian Grenadier Guards Tank Regiment, who is now convalescing in hospital in England, due to be being severely wounded in the battle of Normandy. In giving a little description of the engagement in which he was wounded, Vern states that two direct hits were scored on his tank killing out right the driver and co-driver and badly wounding the loader-operator and himself; the tank commander escaped without injuries. After crawling from their wrecked tank, the survivors were caught in a hail of German cross-fire before being rescued by another tank with Jack Gourley of St. John's as a member of the crew. One of Vern's wounds necessitated 25 stitches. He is now getting along fine and expects to be

returning to Canada about
the end of October.

From Bay Roberts Guardian
02 Dec 1944

GDSM. VERN PLOUGHMAN NOW IN CANADA

F/O Gerald Ploughman Transferred to Middle East

Word was received by his parents here last week that Gdsm. Vern Ploughman of the Canadian Grenadier Guards Tank Regt., who was wounded in action on Aug. 10th near Falaise, France, and had since been convalescing in hospital in England, recently arrived in Canada to undergo further treatment, and is now in Christie St. Hospital, Toronto. On his arrival at Toronto he was greeted by his sister Gertrude who had recently arrived there. Already Vern has had nine operations, and an X-ray taken this week showed that too much bone had been shot from his leg, that it will make a grafting operation necessary. He expects to be in hospital there for 8 to 12 months.

Word was also received last week that his brother, Flying Officer Gerald Ploughman, R. A.F., has now been promoted to Flight Lieut., and will shortly be proceeded from England to the Middle East on Administration duties.

From Bay Roberts Guardian 30 Jun 1945

VERN PLOUGHMAN HOME

Gdsm. Vern Ploughman of the Canadian Grenadier Guards Tank Regiment, arrived home on Saturday last from Canada. It will be remembered that on August 10th last year during the battle Falaise in Northern France, Vern was seriously wounded when his tank was destroyed resulting in the death of a crew member and serious injuries to the other personnel. He was invalided to England where he spent some months in hospital, and then to Canada where he has been undergoing treatment. He has had, so far, twelve operations, and is still showing the effects of his ordeal. His many friends here and elsewhere will be glad to know that Vern is making steady progress toward recovery, and hope that he will soon be restored to his former vigor. The Guardian joins with the rest of the community in saying, Welcome home, Guardsman Vern Ploughman. R.C.A.!

From Bay Roberts Guardian 25 Aug 1945

Gdsm. Vern Ploughman of the Canadian Grenadier Guards, who was spending hospital leave here from Canada, left on Thursday, Aug. 9 by plane for Toronto, and spent that week-end at Niagara Falls. He entered Christie Street Hospital the following Monday, and is now spending a month at Malton Convalescent Hospital.