

# VETERAN OF THE WEEK

10-16 September, 2023

**L53533 Corporal William Richard La Hue**

8th Recce (14<sup>th</sup> Canadian Hussars)

Canadian Armoured Corps

Second World War



William Richard La Hue was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1917 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Before the war he worked as a tractor and truck driver on his father's farm and for Imperial Oil. He also spent time running a trap line and working as a sawyer at a small sawmill near Battleford, Saskatchewan. William enlisted in the Canadian Army on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 1941 at the No. 12 District Depot in Saskatoon. He was 24 years old. He would undergo his basic training at Farnham, Quebec and later at St. Hyacinthe. Richard sailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Gurroch, Scotland on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1941 and arrived in the U.K. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1941. Upon arrival in the U.K., he was taken on strength of the Canadian Armoured Corps Holding Unit (posted to No. 3 Company). In late July William was transferred to the 8<sup>th</sup> Recce (14<sup>th</sup> CH). On the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 1942, he was injured while participating in physical training. He fell on an iron rod and suffered a penetrative wound to his left thigh.

He would spend eight days in hospital receiving treatment for his wound. William arrived in Normandy, France on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1944 alongside his comrades in the 8<sup>th</sup> Recce and the rest of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division. He would go on to serve through the North West Europe Campaign. Throughout his service in the army, William was a qualified Driver in Charge (both wheeled and tracked vehicles) and a qualified driver mechanic. He would serve on occupation duties after the war and would return to Canada in late 1945. He was hospitalized at the Victoria Military Hospital in Victoria, B.C. in early 1946 with tonsillitis and had to undergo a tonsillectomy. The day after being discharged from the hospital (1946-01-23), he was discharged from the Canadian Army via demobilization at the No. 11 District Depot in Vancouver, B.C.