

Nixon, William Manley

Age: 24

Nationality: Canadian

Rank: AC2

Unit: No. 13 OTU

Occupation: Driver/
General Duties

Service No: R/114339

Birth: 31 March 1917
Merritton, Ontario
Canada

Home Town: Merritton, Ontario, Canada

Death: 21 March 1942

Patricia Bay Station, BC
Rifle Wound.

Burial: St. Catharines (Victoria Lawn) Cemetery, Ontario, Canada



Biography

William Nixon was the fourth son and fifth child of William Joseph Nixon and Eva Florence (aka Jane) Cunningham. By the time he applied to the RCAF, his father's address was unknown and the brother closest to him in age had died of injuries incurred by falling off a horse during a race.

William had enjoyed little success in his life. He left school in 1931 when he was 14 and for the next four years delivered newspapers. Then, for a couple of years he was a press feeder in a printing company and left this to become a Sales Rep. He was discharged from this job within a year and was unemployed until he found work as a paper bundler and shipper for a paper mill.

The RCAF accepted William for General Duties on 18 July 1941 and posted him to Patricia Bay, BC. In October of that year he became a transport driver and was promoted to AC2.

On 12 March 1942 at 5:00 am William took his service rifle to the boiler room and ended his life with a shot to the head. On his death, his next of kin is no longer his mother but his sister. His mother is known to have died in 1942 and her death is probably the reason he took seven days compassionate leave at the end of January, a little over a month before he died.

William was born in Merritton, a district of St. Catharines, Ontario on 31 March 1917. He was survived by his brothers Thomas and Bergan, and by his sister, Dorothy. He was buried in Victoria Lawn cemetery in St. Catharines, Ontario, and received the memorial cross.

The day before William shot himself, another young airman, Robert Cockcroft, from the RAF, had killed himself in the same manner. These were the only two suicides on the Station during the Second World War.