

## Rifleman Garnet Ewart SCOBIE

**Garnet Ewart SCOBIE**, son of **Alexander SCOBIE** and **Eva Pearl EDMUNDS**, was born on 20 Jun 1918 in Haley Station, Renfrew, Ontario, Canada. He was the 4<sup>th</sup> of 9 children. Both of his parents were born in Ross Township as well. His siblings were Mary McLaughlin, Clifford, Doris Butler, Marguerite Painter, Muriel Walbeck, twins Melville & Merville, and Bertram.<sup>1</sup>

Garnet was described in his attestation papers as 5' 5" tall, weighing 134 pounds with fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. His papers also indicated that he received 3 years of high school education. His occupation was listed as laborer and his church affiliation was the United Church. His beneficiary was listed as his mother, Mrs. Eva P. Scobie, Haley's Station. He served in the Lanark & Renfrew Scottish Regiment (L & R.S.R.) from May 13, 1940 until he was integrated into the regular forces of that regiment as Private, upon enlistment on 15 June 1940 at Renfrew, Ontario.<sup>2</sup>

Pte. Scobie initially served on the Guard Detail at Petawawa Internment Camp until he was deployed to the 1st Midland Regiment in Coburg on Sep 1, 1940. On Oct 23, 1941 Pte. Scobie was transferred to the 1st Battalion, Royal Rifles of Canada. His rank was noted as Rifleman. On October 27, 1941, Rifleman Scobie embarked with his unit, Force C, at Vancouver on route to Hong Kong.<sup>2</sup>

On December 18, the Japanese attacked the British colony of Hong Kong and Rifleman Scobie was killed 5 days later on Dec 23, 1941. His parents received notification in January 1942 that Garnet was missing in action sometime in December 1941 but the circumstances

were not known by the military. Speculation was that he could have been killed in action or taken as a prisoner of war. A number of letters were sent to Garnet's parents reporting that the situation was under investigation however the final official notification of his death did not reach his parents until one year later in January 1943. This must have been a worrisome time for his family. Of the 1,975 Canadians who sailed from Vancouver to Hong Kong in Oct 1941, 557 were killed in battle or died in POW camps; 493 were wounded.<sup>4,5</sup>

Rifleman Garnet Scobie is commemorated on the Sai Wan Memorial, Chai Wan, Hong Kong Island, Hong Kong. It honours over 2,000 men of the land forces of the British Commonwealth and Empire who died in the defence of Hong Kong during the Second World War. It stands at the entrance to Sai Wan Bay War Cemetery, outside Victoria, the capital of Hong Kong. The names are inscribed on panels of Portland stone. The dedicatory inscription reads: "1939 - 1945 The officers and men whose memory is honoured here died in the defence of Hong Kong in December 1941 and in the ensuing years of captivity and have no known grave."



Image 1: Rifleman Garnet Scobie<sup>3</sup>

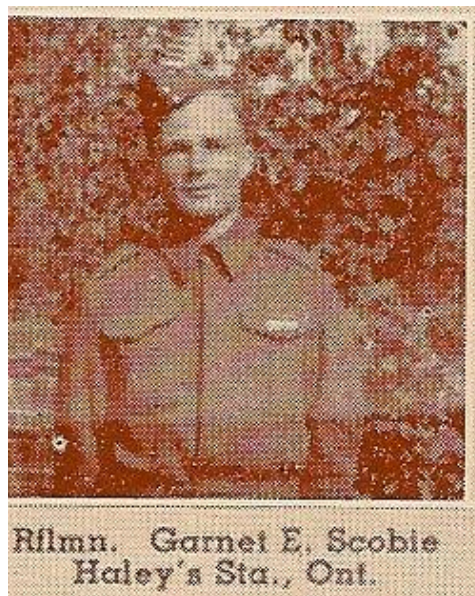


Image 2: Rifleman Garnet Scobie<sup>4</sup>

## WW II Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

Rifleman Garnet Scobie is one of 12 members of the Royal Rifles of Canada, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps who are commemorated on this panel of the Sai Wan Memorial.<sup>2,4,6,7</sup>

A family gravestone at Haley Union Cemetery also notes his name.<sup>8</sup> His name is also listed on the Haley United Church WWII Honor Roll,<sup>11</sup> the Renfrew Collegiate Institute Honor WWII Roll<sup>11</sup> and the Renfrew War Memorial<sup>12</sup>.

Rifleman Scobie was awarded: 1939-45 Star; Pacific Star; War medal; Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp.<sup>2</sup>



Image 3: Haley United Church WWII Honor Roll<sup>10</sup>



Image 4: Scobie family gravestone<sup>8,9</sup>

# WW II Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

In Memory Of  
Rifleman

## GARNET SCOBIE

Service Number: C/41390

Royal Rifles of Canada, R.C.I.C. who died on 23 December 1941 Age 23

Son of Alexander and Eva P. Scobie, of Haley Station, Ontario, Canada.

Remembered with Honour

SAI WAN MEMORIAL

Column 24.



|||||  
COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES  
|||||

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

*Image 5: CWGC<sup>6</sup>*



## WW II Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

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