

Lieutenant John Edward Rogers (Jerry) Wood M.C. (1906-1973)



Jerry was born in Fernie British Columbia. He attended Upper Canada College, was at RMC from 1922 to 1927 and graduated from the University of Toronto as a Mining Engineer in 1930.

He went back to British Columbia and in 1939 married Margaret Isabel Frazee and moved into a house on the edge of Stanley Park in Vancouver. He was tall, over 6 feet, had a fair complexion and blue eyes.

Jerry enlisted on 7 November 1940. By then the 6th was in Debert. He was made a 2nd Lieutenant and sent to Nova Scotia to join the 6th. He stayed with the unit until 6 November 1941 when he was transferred to the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division.

On 19 August 1942 he went ashore during the Dieppe raid from L.C.T. 3. He was trapped on the beaches when the L.C.T. was damaged and unable to get away. Of the 5000 Canadian soldiers on the raid 3,367 were killed, wounded or taken prisoner. He was a prisoner.

After escaping with 64 others from the Eichstatt POW Camp, he was captured and sent to Oflag IVC (Colditz Castle). The Germans thought it escape proof. There they kept the escapers, generals and important prisoners.

At Colditz a fellow prisoner Capt G.M. Pemberton of the British Army said *"Jerry never let up in Germany and in a most extraordinary way mixed studying with escaping. Jerry was often to be seen disappearing into a tunnel with tools in one hand, a German grammar in the other. An inveterate attender of lectures on any subject whatsoever, he was always to be seen well to the fore, notebook in hand.... Jerry is a great character and one of the most popular personalities in the camp."*

After the American capture of Colditz Castle in 1945 he returned to England and took it upon himself to edit and publish a collection of articles, stories, drawings and portraits by the prisoners. After some false starts "Detour "was published in May 1946. In March 1946 he was awarded the Military Cross for bravery.

He then returned to Vancouver and mining. He became the director and manager for several mines including the Jogran Mines. He died suddenly from heart failure on Christmas Eve 1973. He was survived by his wife Margaret, his two sons and his daughter