

Herb Danter, Royal Canadian Artillery

Herbert A. Danter, (Herb), was born on December 27, 1920 in Mimico, Ontario, the fifth of seven children of Walter and Emma Mary Danter both of whom emigrated from England in 1911. Mr. Danter Sr. was an accountant for the Central Region of the CNR. Herb's three brothers also served in WWII, brother Walter in the Navy, brother Percy in the RCAF and younger brother Dan also in the Army. Herb's uncle Percy was with the 18th Battalion (Western Ontario Regiment) in WWI.

Herb Danter joined the 2nd Battalion, Toronto Scottish Regiment (MG) in July, 1940 and remained with them until re-enlisting in July 1942 in the newly recruited 117th Field Battery RCA hoping to get a higher medical category which was required for overseas service. His new Battery was sent to Camp Petawawa for basic training, the second time for Herb.

In October of 1942, Herb was transferred to the 23rd Field Regiment RCA (sometimes know as "Landersw Lilies" after a certain CO's keenness on whitening all cap and rank badges) in Sussex, New Brunswick. The 23rd went overseas as part of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division in July, 1943 and was stationed in Eastbourne in the south of England.

Herb was subsequently attached to the Royal Artillery (for discipline and rations) and was sent to the Royal Artillery where he was "fine-tuned" in gunnery and specialty training as an OP Ack and GPO Ack. After graduating from the RA School in the "Gospel According To Larkhill", he returned to his Regiment and practiced his skills from Normandy until War's end in Germany.

As part of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division, the 23rd Fd Regt (SP) arrived in Normandy in July 1944 and relieved a Field Regt. Of the 7th (UK) Armoured Division (The Desert Rats) at Caen. At the breakout of the British and Canadians at Caen in early August 1944, the intent was to advance to Falaise to the south and there meet the Americans and thus set a trap for the German Army in France.

For the next 10 months, Herb Danter was either at the OP or out on recce ahead of the fast moving guns as the 23rd Field Regiment (SP) gave close artillery support for the infantry and the armoured units of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division as they fought through the rest of France into Belgium, Holland and finally into Germany. The 23rd Field Regiment (SP) ended the war not far from Wilhelmshaven, Germany on 4 May 1945. For a short time after that, Herb was given the job in the orderly room near Amersfoort, Holland processing returning home-ward bound troops until his turn came for repatriation.

After his discharge from the Canadian Army in 1946, Herb became involved in furniture manufacturing and sales in Toronto until he retired. Herb is a widower and has two daughters and a granddaughter.

He is presently enjoying being the co-Chairman and Secretary of the Limber Gunners Association which is affiliated with the 7th Toronto Regiment RCA stationed in Moss Park Armoury, Toronto.