



Kenneth Oscar Pedlar was born on October 21, 1914. He was born on border of Newcastle and Bowmanville, but grew up on Corbett Ave, Toronto. His parents were Sidney and Florence Pedlar and his siblings were his one brother, Clarence, and two sisters, Mrs. R. Hunt and Mrs. T. Berry. Kenneth was educated at Burketon public school, Swansen public school and Runnymede high school. After completing his education, he worked as a telephone repairman.

In 1941, Pedlar enlisted with the 1st Hussars, 6th armoured regiment as a trooper. He was trained at Camp Borden in Newmarket, and was sent overseas in November of that year.

On June 11th, the Queen's Own Rifles, along with the tanks of the 1st Hussars, were ordered to take the village of Le Mesnil-Patry, west of Caen. The plan of attack was hastily put together, with no preparatory artillery barrage and minimal communication with nearby regiments. D Company of the QOR would lead the assault, riding on top of the 1st Hussars' tanks. Halfway between the Canadian line and the village of Le Mesnil-Party, the Canadian formation was ambushed by infantry and tanks of the 12th SS Panzer Division "Hitler Youth". Part of the force managed to make it to the village, but was disorganized and was soon forced to withdraw. Of the 105 men of D Company who had been involved in the attack, 96 became casualties, 55 of whom were killed in action, Trooper Pedlar among them. He was 29 years old.



Pedlar (right)



Pedlar is located at the back of this photo third from the left

Trooper Kenneth O. Pedlar is buried today in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, with "He died the helpless to defend a faithful soldier's noble end" encrypted on his grave. The cemetery is the final resting place of 2044 Canadian and 3 British soldiers, as well as 1 member of the French resistance, all of whom made the ultimate sacrifice during the summer of 1944.

