

Corporal Leslie George Thomas Hornsey

We recently watched the movie "A Bridge Too Far". This was about "Operation Market Garden" which was a failed World War II military operation fought in the Netherlands from 17 to 25 September 1944. It was the brainchild of Field Marshal Montgomery and strongly supported by Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt. It was the Allied Forces strategic plan to speed up the end of the war.

Corporal Hornsey, aged 28, was in the 1st Bn. Rifle Brigade who were part of the follow up forces in Holland during October and November 1944 after the failure of "Operation Market Garden".

On 3rd November 1944 he was located near a farm in a cul-de-sac named Willem Van Oranjestraat in Geertruidenburg close to the River Donge. Two other soldiers from his unit and a Dutch translator were waiting for the Canadians to move through Geertruidenburg to join them. They were standing around their half-track when artillery shells started to land. Corporal Hornsey was killed instantly from a wound to the head.

He is buried in Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery in Holland

The facts of these events were passed to the family of Celia Clark by the Dutch interpreter Mr John Stolk in December 1984.

Leslie was Celia's uncle from her mother's side.

Corporal Hornsey on the right of the picture

