

Halifax Chronicle Herald, published Friday the 21st of April 2006

Welcome tribute

Peter Duffy's 8 April "Veteran's Story" was a welcome tribute to Ray Tanner as one of Canada's oldest surviving World War 2 Veterans and possibly the oldest surviving member of his old regiment the Halifax Rifles which he joined in 1939 after being told he was too short to go overseas with the West Nova Scotia Regiment.

He proved to be the right size for tank-crew when the Halifax Rifles was converted to a tank regiment. After arriving in England in 1943, it, with the other regiments in the Brigade, was disbanded to provide reinforcements for the regiments fighting in Italy and those regiments in England preparing for the invasion of Normandy.

It is little known in Nova Scotia that Tanner with 134 other Halifax Rifles soldiers landed in Normandy on D-Day as members of the Sherbrooke Fusilier Regiment from Quebec and their Commanding Officer, Lt. Col Ray Colwell, also landed on D-Day as Commanding Officer of the First Hussars from London Ontario.

The total former Halifax Rifles soldiers who fought in Normandy increased to 323 when later 189 arrived as members of the Canadian Grenadier Guards also from Quebec.

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