

## **Robert R. BROWN**

Bob Brown was born and educated in Richmond, Ontario. Upon leaving school, he worked for six months in the Treasury Office of Lands, Parks and Forests, Ministry of Mines and Resources.

At 18, he enlisted in the R.C.O.C. (Active Force) on October 21, 1940 and spent two years working in an office at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. On October 21, 1942, he was discharged for the purpose of enlistment into the R.C.A.F. on the same day. (pictured right in 1946)

Bob graduated as a pilot in the R.C.A.F. in February, 1944 and was posted to the United Kingdom where, after a course at an Operational Training Unit, he spent some time training French pilots who had escaped from France.

He was transferred to Transport Command in September, 1944 and was trained to tow gliders and drop paratroopers and supplies. Posted to Southeast Asia Command in November, 1944, he landed at Karachi, India (now Pakistan) and then went to Calcutta, India. He was then posted to 435 Squadron which was based in the Imphal Valley in Burma.

Bob spent the rest of the war until VJ Day transporting and drop-ping gasoline, ammunition and food all the way down Burma to the city of Rangoon, earning an "OPS" wing for completing a tour of operations over enemy territory.

He spent five days, from August 21st to 26th dropping supplies to British gorilla fighters who had been trapped in the Chan Hills trying to get out of Burma. In September, 1945, he flew a DC3 back to England.

Bob signed up to fly in the Berlin Airlift, but it got close to Christmas before that was set up, and since his "REPAT number" had long since passed, he got on a draft and came home in November, 1945.



Discharged in January, 1946, he married his high school sweetheart, Marie Dallaire and worked with his father in their general store until 1950. He was employed by Brewers' Retail in 1950 and worked there until his retirement in 1983. Bob joined the Legion in 1946.

Bob and Marie lived in Richmond until Marie's death on April 23, 2009 in her 88<sup>th</sup> year. Bob moved to Bridlewood Trails in 2012 and passed away on May 9, 2013 in his 91<sup>st</sup> year. They were predeceased by two sons and are survived by their daughter Margaret, sons Gerald, John and Mark as well as 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Bob will be greatly missed.

