



PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES



Pte. H.P. McIntee and Pte. C. Morningstar serving with the Royal Canadian Regiment National Defence Photo
<http://rcrassociationniagara.smffor-free.com/index.php/topic,106.0.html>

One Who Did Not Come Home: Private Clayton Morningstar

The article “Veteran died in action 54 years ago. For his family, the wound is still fresh” was written for the *Niagara Falls Review* by John Robbins in 2008.

“His name was Clayton, but friends and family called him Donny. And like the other Morningstar boys from Chrysler Avenue, he was well built but not overly tall. A quiet young

man, with a square jaw and a handsome smile, Donny always seemed mature for his age. Even more so when he came home on his first leave from the army wearing the crisp new uniform of a private of the 3rd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment. The whole family was proud, if somewhat apprehensive about what lay in store for him and the other young men of his outfit. When he shipped out to Korea, his mother, Mildred, would pen long letters filled with all sorts of ordinary details about life back home in Niagara Falls. One can only imagine Donny sitting on the edge of his bunk all those thousands of miles away, his eyes hungrily scanning the precious lines of Mildred’s elegant, cursive script. Mildred was glad to get Donny’s letters, too, since it was proof that her first-born son had survived yet another week in the Land of the Morning Calm. She could never know for certain, though, because of the time it took for mail to reach the front-line troops. In fact, what turned out to be Mildred’s last letter was slowly making its way across the vast width of the Pacific Ocean just about the time when Donny’s outfit was mauled by a strong force of the Chinese infantry. By the time Mildred’s letter made it to the front, the critically wounded 22-year-old had been shipped out to a mobile army surgical hospital behind the lines. Donny died of his wound a few days later on Mothers’ Day, May 10, 1953, just three days shy of

his 23rd birthday.”

Clayton died a week after being shot five times at short range at the height of fighting for Hill 187. He is interned in Busan, South Korea among 377 other Canadians. There are 2,267 servicemen buried in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in land granted by the Republic of Korea in tribute to all those who laid down their lives in combating aggression and in upholding peace and freedom.

<http://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?archive=true&e=770848>