

VETERAN OF THE WEEK

5 – 11 October, 2025

L104951 Private Jacob Phillip Gattinger

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI)

Second World War



Photo: Private Jacob P. Gattinger, PPCLI. Courtesy of Tim Treen.

Jacob Philip Gattinger, or commonly known by his family members as, “Jake” was born in Bateman, Saskatchewan 17 September 1920. In February of 1943 he enlisted as a private in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) to fight in the Second World War. Pte. Gattinger and the PPCLI finally arrived in Italy 1 September 1943. By 23 May 1944 the Canadians launched their attack on the German position in the Liri Valley, which was called the Hitler Line. The Seaforth Highlander tank regiment escorted the PPCLI. With the Loyal Edmonton Rifles they faced machine gun, artillery, mines, and small arms fire. The Germans outnumbered the Canadians in an ambush at an objective called February. Many PPCLI died and went missing. The Germans took many of them as prisoners despite a Canadian victory of the Hitler Line. Pte. Gattinger was reported, “Missing in Action,” (MIA), after the combat. In August 1944 his family received notice that he died in combat. It is speculated that the SS captured him and took him with them. Pte. Gattinger later died of unknown reasons, but he is pronounced, “Killed in Action,” (KIA) in his records. He is buried in Bolsana War Cemetery at the age of 23. He is one of two Canadians who are buried in that place of internment. Far from his comrades and far from his family. With his story now known though and his gravesite marked, his family and community are at peace with his passing. Lest we forget.