

Hutchins, Douglas Lloyd
Private
G/19566
Essex Scottish Regiment
Royal Canadian Infantry Corps



Personal Information: Douglas Lloyd Hutchins was born on the 17th of September, 1922. Douglas was born in Riverbank, Kings County, New Brunswick. Douglas was the son of Mr. John Lorne & Mrs. Margaret Isabella Hutchins. He was the second youngest among three sisters and two brothers, one of whom passed away when Douglas was 11 years of age. Douglas attended school at Head of Millstream and Newtown. He completed eight years of public schooling . Douglas, as a single young man, worked as a truck driver and lived at home with his parents. In April, 1942 he enlisted. He was 5 feet and 6 inches tall and weighed 153 pounds.

Military Movements: After enlistment in Saint John, NB, Hutchins was sent to Fredericton for basic training. After two months, he was sent to Halifax where he became a gunner with the 107th Battery Force "W" eventually gaining the rank of Lance Bombardier. He continually took on new trades. On June 25th, 1944, Douglas was struck off strength from the Canadian Army in preparation for his embarkation to the United Kingdom. He arrived in England on July 3, 1944 as a private. He would perform his duties and train in England until October of 1944. By October 17, 1944 he was in Belgium and was taken on strength by the Essex Scottish on November 1. He would fight with this regiment until his death in the field on March 2, 1945.

Final Days: Douglas would have taken part in Operation Veritable and Operation Blockbuster.

The objective of these two operations was to eliminate the last German soldiers west of the Rhine. It would take one month for the allied forces to clear the remaining German units from this area. For the first time Canadians would be fighting on German soil. The German resistance would be fierce. There would be violent attacks and counterattacks. Douglas Hutchins died in the field near Xanten, Germany on March 2, 1945.

Lest We Forget: Douglas Lloyd Hutchins was originally buried in Germany but was later moved to Grosebeek Canadian War Cemetery in Holland. Grosebeek now contains 2,331 Canadian soldiers from the Second World War. Hutchins left everything to his mother. His mother was left with his: France and Germany Star , War Medal, CVSM & CLASP and the 1939-45 Star. He left his \$1000.00 of life insurance to his grieving mother.

The Essex Scottish lost approximately 550 men by the war's end. They had more casualties than any unit from the Canadian Army in the Second World War. Douglas Lloyd Hutchins was one of those men.

Douglas Lloyd Hutchins was pronounced dead on March 2nd, 1945. He was 22 years of age when he died. He was first buried in Marienbaum, near Xanten in Germany. Later he was reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave reference **XXI. E. 6.**

Douglas Lloyd Hutchins

"He gave his life that we might live"

Lest We Forget

Biography courtesy of the Lest We Forget initiative of Belleisle Regional High School, Springfield, NB.

Video by a student at Belleisle Regional High School as part of the school's Lest We Forget initiative: <http://youtu.be/HPmgcLuTH3E>



Biography made available for Faces To Graves, with courtesy of Stephen Wilson, Belleisle Regional High School.

Archival Reference:

Military service files Library and Archives Canada

Internet Sites:

<http://wwii.ca/memorial/world-war-ii/150694/private-douglas-lloyd-hutchins/>

<http://wwii.ca/regiment/4/the-essex-scottish-regiment/>

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem/Detail&casualty=266360>

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/content/collections/virtualmem/photoview.cfm?casualty=2663607&photo=2897>

http://www.cwgc.org/search/casualty_details.aspx?casualty=2663607

http://battlefieldsww2.50megs.com/groesbeek_war_cemetery.htm



KILLED IN ACTION—Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Hutchins, Newtown, Kings County, have been officially informed that their son, Pte. Douglas Lloyd Hutchins (above), has been killed in action on March 2 during the fighting on the Western front. Pte. Hutchins was born at Riverbank, Kings County, Sept. 17, 1922. He attended school at Head of Millstream and Newtown. In April, 1942, he joined the Canadian Army and after training at Fredericton served in Newfoundland for two years with the R.C.A. He proceeded overseas in June, 1944 and since November had been in combat duty in Holland.

Kings County Record clipping from the collection of Connie Cripps.