

Janicki, David
Sergeant
Canadian Scottish Regiment
Royal Canadian Infantry Corps
1st Battalion
K/46092



David Janicki was born on October 18, 1920 in Yale, British Columbia. Son of George and Paraska 'Pearl' Janicki. Brother of Nick, Frederick Alex, Tony Walter, Verna Irene and Mary, who died as a baby.

He attended school in Boston Bar, BC, and a High School in Chilliwack, BC, then moved to Vernon BC in February 1937 and continued his education there. Later he was employed as a waiter by the National Cafe in Vernon.

David spent his years in the Fraser River Canyon as an outdoors person, he loved playing baseball, skiing, hiking and mountain climbing with his buddies Earl and Gus.

David enlisted in the Canadian Army in April 1942 together with his brother Nick, both went to different training camps. Dave went to the main training camp in Sooke, Otter Point.



This was one of the military training grounds for D-day.

Otter Point, Sooke.

<https://www.sookenewsmirror.com/>

Nick shared a meeting: *"I saw this man walk by and it was my brother Dave. I stepped over the line and said, "Dave, Dave"! And he hesitated a little like he heard me. Then there was a Sergeant Major and he said, "Get back in line!" And he said, "You will see him abroad. Go back again. Stand in line. Do not break the line." And I said, "Well, it's my brother, he's going abroad."*

Nick never saw his brother again...



David.



David went overseas as reinforcement to the Canadian Scottish Regiment in May 1943 and landed in Normandy in 1944 as a Private with the Canadian Scottish Regiment on D-Day. His leadership was rapidly recognized and he quickly rose to the rank of Sergeant.

Citations by:

Chaplain Captain Seaborn: *"The B-Company had the job of assaulting a strongly held position, its capture was essential if the present large offensive was to go forward at all. It was leading his platoon into what proved to be the final attack, and that was when he was hit by enemy machine gun fire. During the two previous attacks he encouraged and inspired his men by his coolness and complete disregard for his own safety. Ever since landing in France on D-Day he had proven himself to be a brave and fearless soldier, he had taken part in every attack the battalion had been in and was always as cool and brave as ever."*

Lt David Bell wrote: *"David was the best liked sergeant in all the company and certainly a friend of everyone. He was leading his platoon like the able leader he was at the time he got it. No one could have died doing more for his country than he. May God see that he is properly awarded for his heroic part played here."*

On Thursday 08 February 1945 in the early morning, Operation Veritable started in the Nijmegen area with a huge artillery barrage. At 10:30 am the first allied troops could cross the start line. For the Canadian Scottish Regiment this moment was at 5 pm. The B-Company crossed the line at 18:35, they reached their objective 'Little Tobruk' after midnight. Sgt D.Janicki and his No. 12 Platoon worked their way down the dyke which met the Querdamm at 'Little Tobruk'.

Three German officers and 61 soldiers were captured during this phase of the action, but during the roundup of the German prisoners a sniper killed Sergeant David Janicki, 24 years old, he died near Leuth, the Netherlands.

He was first buried at the Nijmegen Canadian Temporary Burial Ground, later he was reburied to the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **IV. E. 2.**



The inscription on his headstone reads:

HALLOWED BE THE NAME OF HIM
WHO RESTS IN ETERNAL PEACE
IN THIS DISTANT LAND

His awards:

- 1939-45 Star
- France Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal
- CVSM & Clasp

On 13 July 1995 a mountain west of Vernon BC was named 'Mount Janicki' in honour and remembrance of 'Sergeant David Janicki'.



Life story: Bernard Deeterink for Faces To Graves.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Library and Archives Canada
- Royal BC Museum
- Canadian Scottish Regimental Museum
- Wouter Veldhoen
- Nick Janicki

Sluggin Jerry left and right
having lots of fun
till one night we caught him right
now he is on the run

We licked you on the beaches
chased you through the towns
you're not safe if we reach you
so lay that Luger down

We will push you across the rivers
and through the fields of grain
you will wish you never heard of
the Normandy campaign

We will blast you in the day time
and mess you up at night
when we get through with you
you'll be an awful sight

Lay that Luger down kid
lay that Luger down
Luger lugging Ludwig
lay that Luger down

Lay that Luger down kid
You haven't got a chance
Luger lugging Ludwig
you're all washed up in France

David Janicki, 1944

These lyrics, adapted from the original, were written by Sergeant Dave Janicki when he was overseas. It is an adaptation of the popular 1943 song 'Pistol Packin' Mama' by American country musician Al Dexter. It was a hit in 1944 and one of the most popular songs during WWII. (From Dave's diary and letters)



David Janicki.

The Vancouver Sun – 1 March 1945.

Vernon Soldier Killed in Action

Special to The Vancouver Sun

VERNON, March 1.—Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Janicki of Vernon that their eldest son, Sgt. **David Janicki**, 24, of the Canadian Scottish, was killed in action on the Western Front on Feb. 9.

Sgt. **Janicki** took part in D-Day operations as an infantry private, and was promoted in quick succession on the battle fronts leading to Berlin. He worked at the National Cafe Limited before enlisting in April, 1942, and went overseas in May, 1943. He was born at Yale and educated at Boston Bar, Chilliwack and Vernon.





On May 4, 2023, 99-year-old veteran Nick Janicki, David's younger brother, visited his brother's grave with his son Bob.

Nick received word of his brother's death from the pastor and said his first thought was, "What does this mean for my parents?"

Nick himself was with the Canadian Scottish and involved in the liberation of Deventer, Emmerich and Wagenborgen.



In the summer of 2024, Nick Janicki unexpectedly received an invitation from the Commander of the Land Forces to be present as a Guest of Honour at the commemorations on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Operation Market Garden. Together with his grandson, Logan White, he had come over to the Netherlands.

They visited various places, such as the Airborne Landings on Ginkelse Heide, the commemorations at the Maczek Memorial in Breda, and he was made an Honorary Citizen of Deventer. This is what he said about this appointment:

'During my entire life I have never thought that this Deventer honour would be bestowed upon me.'

On September 16, 2024 they visited Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. In an interview there he said:

My name is Nick Janicki.

And, during World War II, I was in the 3rd Division of the Canadian Scottish Regiment.

It is always wonderful to be here, but at the same time it is hard. So many fond memories of my brother, this is not easy. Being able to visit his grave and to know where he is feels good. The cemetery is maintained with great care and attention, and it feels good to know that he is safe here.

He was in B-Company and I was placed in the same company, which was actually nice, as everyone knew my brother. So they gave me the feeling that I was part of the group, and I think that this is what kept me going during the war.

And the people here in the Netherlands are so, I'm so immensely grateful, they have treated me like real family.....A fantastic bunch of people.

