

Sigley, Vincent Job
Lance Corporal
17th Duke of York's
Royal Canadian Hussars
C Squadron-1st Troop
7th Reconnaissance Regiment
D/3833



honi soit qui mal y pense - Woe to those who think evil of it

Vincent Job Sigley was born on Friday June 15, 1917 at the Bushwick Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, USA, as the son of English parents, Job Sigley and Nora Nield Sigley. They got married in August 1905 in Compstall, Cheshire, in the north west of England. He had a sister, Viola, and a brother, George, who died in England in 1930. The family lived in Brooklyn, 8801 Share Road, New York, USA. As a creed they belonged to the Presbyterian Church. Mother Nora died in Brooklyn, New York, in March 1918, at the age of 34. His father took care of the family alone and because of the lack of their mother, the children did not have an easy childhood. Vincent Job attended seven years of public primary school and four years of High School.

He became a truck driver, employed by Bross of Blackwell in New York where he earned \$ 25 a week. Later he went to work as a lumberjack at the Department of Interior of USA, Washington State. Vincent had brown eyes and black hair, weighed 154 lb. and was 6 ft. tall. He had a vaccination scar on his left arm and good teeth. As a hobby he liked to write and as a sport he practiced boxing, baseball and football.

Vincent served in the United States Army Officers Training Corps from 1938 to 1940. The United States were not yet involved in World War II, which started after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Vincent Job enlisted in the Canadian Army on April 7, 1941 at the age of 23, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, at the No 4 District Depot. Vincent indicated that he had a preference for the Royal Canadian Airforce or that he wanted to be a Bren Gunner with the Canadian Armoured Corps. He also indicated that he wanted to join the commando troops. He enrolled in the army out of idealism. They saw a role for him primarily as a driver, mechanic or infantryman. On April 14, he was posted to Huntingdon, Quebec, Canada, at the Canadian Army Rehabilitation Training Center. The city was located 20 miles southwest of Montreal and 9 miles from the border with the state of New York. On April 27, he was assigned to the 17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars, 7th Reconnaissance Regiment at Debert Camp. On May 13, he was qualified as a Driver Class III.

On August 23, Vincent Job was transferred to Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, to go overseas to England. With the 17th Duke of York's, Royal Canadian Hussars, 7th Reconnaissance Regiment, Vincent Job arrived in Glasgow and was given a five-day leave. On September 8, he went to Aldershot for further training. During World War II, approximately 330,000 Canadian troops of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigades went to Aldershot, Hampshire, for training before deployment

Source : Stichting Tremele Dreumel



He was promoted to A/Corporal on September 25th. Later from December 29th, 1942 to January 8th, 1943 Vincent Job participated in a garrison boxing competition, participated in various training courses such as Driver / Mechanic C, and was eventually promoted to Corporal. But he himself asked to be given the rank of Trooper again on January 8, 1944. He was known as a brave and intelligent man.

On July 15, 1944 he made the crossing to France with the regiment. He was wounded on 16 August 1944, around 4.30 pm a shrapnel hit him in the back. After a stay of several days in the hospital, he was allowed to leave on August 21 and returned to his regiment. Via Caen, Falaise, Le Havre, Cap Gris-Nez, Boulogne and Calais, where they encountered major problems, they went to Belgium to take part in the Battle of the Scheldt and to conquer Antwerp. Antwerp became the port of supply for the Allies and the Germans bombarded the port with V1 and fourteen meter long V2 rockets. Vincent Job was promoted to Lance Corporal on September 11, 1944.



On November 1, 1944 the regiment relieved a squadron of the British 52nd Reconnaissance Regiment in Lissewege, Belgium. Their task was to control the western part of the Scheldt Pocket. Two days later they left for Blankenberge, where they set up their headquarters. They continued via Ghent to Deinze, which was situated on the river Leie. There, on November 10, two film screenings were organized for the regiment, one in the afternoon and one in the evening.

Vincent Job Sigley, on the left, and his good friend Alan Notman.

There were orders to continue and at two o'clock in the night there was reveille, the convoy went to the Dutch border towards Nijmegen. The A

Squadron resided north of the river Waal. The B Squadron moved into the houses and C Squadron resided south of the bridge across the Waal. The Germans shelled the city and the area around the bridge, but fortunately there were no casualties.

Their position remained unchanged and on November 18 there was a party at the headquarters with several Dutch people who were invited. There was beer and music from a Dutch band, the evening ended with coffee and sandwiches.

On November 24, orders were issued to move to Druten. The A Squadron advanced in the area and took refuge in farms south of the dike, the B Squadron in Boven / Beneden Leeuwen with the C Squadron as a reserve in Puiflijk. The headquarters were housed in Puiflijk and the men in the Sint Joseph School in Druten, there was little hostile activity at night. Some mortar rounds were dropping and gunshots sometimes sounded in the sections of the A and B Squadrons. The next day V2 rockets flew over and at 9 pm a loud explosion was heard. The headquarters reported that the waters of the Waal was rising. Just after midnight, a Dutch observation post reported that the summer dyke had been blown up by the Germans. The water continued to rise and the regiment was ordered to evacuate and they started looking for drier, higher ground. They moved into the church of Puiflijk. On November 28, the water had risen by a few centimeters, but appeared to be stabilizing.

The regiment remained in the vicinity of Puiflijk and was conducting patrols in the region in early December. From an observation post in Dreumel it could be seen that Ophemert would come under fire on December 7. The regiment's observation post fired in the direction of the enemy fire, to which the Germans responded with mortar rounds. In the days that followed, the Canadians and the Germans kept a close eye on each other, firing at each other with mortar shells. On December 17th, the Royal Canadian Hussars 7th Reconnaissance Regiment took over from the 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment. A number of soldiers were on guard, while other soldiers were looking for a well-deserved night's rest. Four of them found shelter in an empty house belonging to the Bouman family, close to the Waaldijk. A German patrol of the 6th Fallschirmjäger, coming from Tiel, surprised four Canadians of the 9th Troop, 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment in their sleep this night. They entered the house through the backdoor, entered the room where the four soldiers were sleeping. They were kicked in the ribs and Lance Corporal Vincent Job Sigley, Trooper George Francis Moncrief and Trooper George Arthur Sharpe were shot at. The latter was transferred to No 5 Field Dressing Station, but died at 09.05 in the morning.

George Francis Moncrief and Vincent Job died immediately because of their injuries, Vincent Job, 27 years old. All three were temporarily buried at Jonkerbos War Cemetery.

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries (which will be kept from first view of mobilization, creation or embodiment) are contained in FS Regs Vol 1.

Title pages will be prepared.
DECEMBER 1944

WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required)

3/19A 40

Original, duplicate and triplicate forwarded to OIC 2nd Echelon

Page 19

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks to Appendix
CRSSEN R 535644 East 5 SE	18		<p>"A" Squadron. V-1s continued to come over at the same rate. There were numerous flares and a little small-arms fire. In the early morning vehicle movement was heard in TIDL.</p> <p>"B" Squadron. Many V-1s were seen during the past 24 hours. At 2230 and 0220 hours heavy explosions were heard from the Observation Post at HR 400629. The bearing was 220°. Many flares and signal lights were seen.</p> <p>"C" Squadron. At 0115 hours Sgt McLeod, D L, who was in command of 9 Troop section post, reported that a German patrol had raided the posts' billets killing two men, seriously wounding a third and taking one prisoner. The layout of the post was as follows: A slit trench on the Dyke was manned by two men and the remainder of the section was in two house immediately behind the slit trench.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>The German patrol entered the western billet from the rear, went through the</p>	

August 7, 1945 Vincent Job Sigley was reburied at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **I. H. 1.**

The inscription on his gravestone reads:

"TO BE CHERISHED EVERLOVING
MEMORY OF OUR DEAREST ONE
WHO GAVE HIS ALL"



Photo Gijs Krist.

Awards Vincent Job Sigley:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France and Germany Star
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Defence Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp



Life story: Gijs Krist, Research Team Faces to Graves.

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves

Library and Archives Canada

Wikipedia

Special thanks to the Tremele Foundation - Dreumel

In Dreumel, on the dike, is a monument to the killed soldiers, realized by volunteers from Dreumel in collaboration with some veterans of the 17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars.

The fourth Canadian, Trooper Francis John (Frank) Bradwell, was taken to Tiel as a prisoner of war by the Germans. He was the only prisoner of war in this regiment. The Canadians were so furious about this action that they tore the house down to the ground out of sheer frustration. In this harsh winter, the wood was used to heat the stoves.



Francis John (Frank) Bradwell--photo Stichting Tremele.

Francis John was born in Saskatchewan in 1924 and joined the army at Regina on September 15, 1943. He went for training to England and then to northwestern Europe. He was imprisoned as a prisoner of war in Stalag XI POW camp until liberation on April 27, 1945 and lost almost 35 lb. After some time in hospital, he returned home to Macklin. He worked on the

farm but could not find peace. He moved to Exshaw and worked for Canada Cement until his retirement in 1983. He moved with his wife to Campbell River to fish and play golf until his death on May 15, 2014. He never spoke about his time in the war, but did say that the winters in Germany were very mild. He was a member of Alberta's Exshaw Legion Branch 179.



The monument to the killed soldiers on the Waaldijk in Dreumel-Photo Gijs Krist