Williams, John Douglas
Lieutenant
Essex Scottish Regiment
Royal Canadian Infantry Corps
B/23605





John Douglas (Jack) Williams was born on 13 May 1918 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, but his nationality was British. His parents were John Victor and Dorothy Evelyn Williams. Father Victor was Lieutenant Colonel in the Canadian Army, stationed in Whitehall. John had a twin brother James Judson (Jim). John and his family were members of the Church of England.

Jack and Jim signed up for the Canadian Army on 10 April 1942. Before that, Jack worked as a production and distribution employee at Canadian General Electric Company, 214 King Street, Ontario. For that same company he worked as a bookkeeper in the last nine months before he joined the army. John had already served before from 1932 until 1937 with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Battery, Canadian Field Artillery in Kingston.

John's was 5.9 ¼ ft. tall, had fair hair and blue eyes. He had a birthmark on his left thigh. John was single.

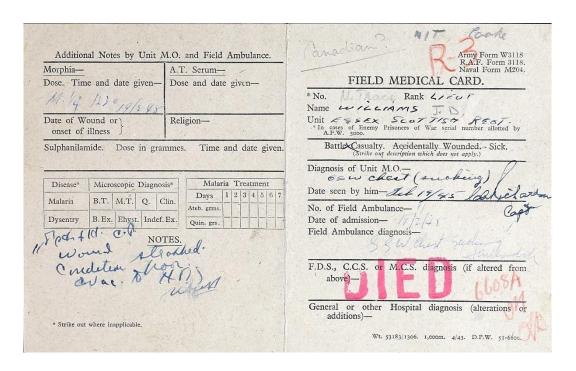
John got his driver's licence for cars and motor vehicles in the Army on  $11^{th}$  of November 1942. On  $13^{th}$  of February 1943 John was promoted to the rank of a Second Lieutenant of the  $26^{th}$  Field Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery and on 8th of September 1943 to the rank of Lieutenant.

At this appointment the officer of training stated that John was intelligent and came across as confident. He slowly comes to a decision, but he researched all possibilities thoroughly. John will be a good infantry officer.

Before Jack and Jim go overseas with the army, they visit their mother's cousin and his family. Daughter Susan is then four years old and remembers two tall, handsome boys in uniform. That makes a deep impression on her at that moment.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1944, John and his regiment left Canada by ship to arrive in England on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1944. John landed in North-West Europe on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1944. He was added to the Essex Scottish Regiment on November 8.

During the battles in Nijmegen John got shot and had a serious wound in his chest of which he died in the field ambulance on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 1945.



He was temporarily buried in Marienboom in Nijmegen. In 1946 he was reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave reference **XI. D. 15.** 

Awards: Memorial Cross, 1939-1945 Star, French Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.



Life story Marian Straatman, Research Team Faces to Graves.

## Sources:

Paul Falvo and his mother Susan Commonwealth War Graves Commission Library and Archives Canada



Visit Susan, her son Paul and granddaughter Juniper 23th of March 2019.



Christmas Eve 24th December 2018.

Photo: Diana Venis-Kerkhoven,