

The life story of Cpl J.W. Campbell, liberator of Bathmen

In this article the authors try to tell the life story of Joseph William Campbell, based on information from military archives, intense internet searches and communication with a grand niece of him, with supplementary information from previously published material by Jan Lefeber.

Youth

Nova Scotia (New Scotland) is an island at the east coast of Canada, of which the name already indicates that in the past people from Scotland emigrated to this area. To the north of Nova Scotia is an island called 'Prince Edward Island' (PEI), and to the east is 'New Foundland'.

We start our story at the south coast of Prince Edward Island (PEI) in the township Newport (46.23° N, 62.54° W), an area that is part of Lot 54. About the year 1766 PEI was divided into 67 lots, land areas of 20000 acres each (8000 ha), and three royalties (cities) Summerside, Charlottetown and Georgetown. Lot 54 is described in 1928 as “this is considered an inferior townshi, a large portion of the land being light and swampy. Yet there are many pieces of good land on it.”. In general Lot 54 is describes as being “very far back in agricultural improvement”.

Joseph William Campbell is born in Newport on May 8, 1922 as third child of Jerome Duncan Campbell and Mary Ellen Murphy. His nickname is Joe. His father is a farmer and his mother a farmer and housewife.

The family lives near Cardigan Bay at the mouth of the Seal River, in a house at a side road of Rural Route #1. This side road is now called Farguharson Lane, named after the forefather of the family.

Their house was built in 1889 and until recently was the residence of one of the Campbell family. They are a catholic family and they visit services in a church in St. George, the Saint Georges Church, about 5 kilometers northeast of Newport.

According to church records, Joe is being baptized here on May 14, 1922. Joe goes to school on foot to the Seal River School, a one room school at the other side of the Seal river. In 1937 Joe leaves school, at grade VIII, and starts to work as a farm hand near Cardigan, also situated in Lot 54.



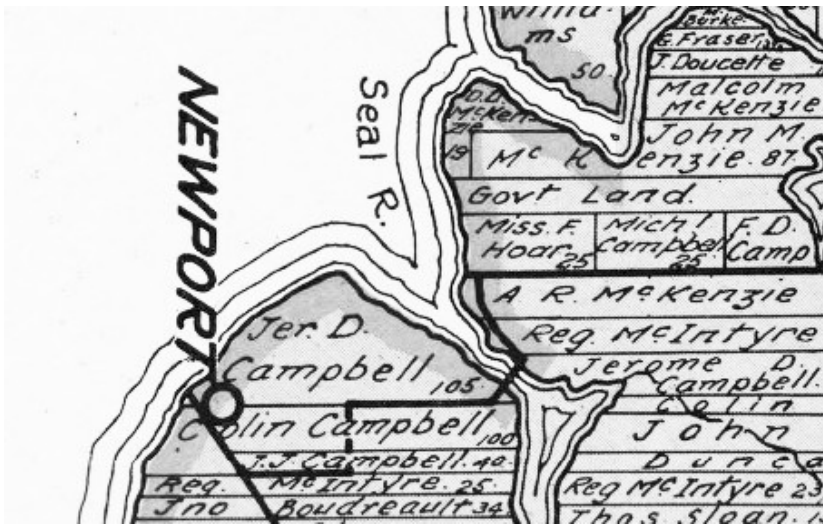
Saint George's Church (Google street view)

Family

The forefather of the Campbell family is Farquahar Campbell, born on the Isle of Mull, at the south west coast of Scotland. His name is already mentioned in 1798 in a tax register as a land owner, because he has fought the Napoleon army and as a reward he gets an area of land “overseas”.

Together with his sons Duncan Farquhan and John he arrives at PEI at the beginning of the year 1800 as one of the Lord Selfkirk Settlers. To the people of Scottish origin, Selfkirk is well known because he sailed to Canada with three ships packed with emigrants.

The first descender of Farquahar is Duncan Farquhan, called “Duncan the soldier”. His son is Farquhar Duncan, called “Farquhar the black” because of his hair color, and the next in line is his son Jerome Duncan Campbell, the father of Joseph William.



Map of Newport (1928) and the land of Jer. D. Campbell. (www.islandimagined.ca)

On October 16, 1918 Jerome Duncan marries to Mary Ellen Murphy in Vernon River. She is Irish and daughter of Jeremiah Murphy and Caroline Finlay. They get nine children.

The family of Jerome Duncan (Duncan) Campbell and Mary Ellen (Ella) consists of the following persons:

[Mary Bridget, * 8-7-1919 Newport, still alive in 2011.



She is first married to Claude Henry, then becomes Mary Walker; she lives in Vernon Bridge.

[Peter Farquhar, * 10-12-1920 Newport, † 25-11-2005, Montague



Peter was married to Stella Ruth MacDonald (1922-2009). Peter served in the army with the 2nd Canadian Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment (F77145). He served in Canada, England, France, Belgium and The Netherlands. Peter died in Kings County Memorial Hospital in Montague on 25-11-2005, at the age of 84. He is buried at the Saint George's Parish graveyard, near Newport.

[Joseph William (Joe), * 8-5-1922 Newport, † 8-4-1945, Bathmen, The Netherlands.



At first Joe served the Prince Edward Island Highlanders, from January 1945 onwards he served the North Nova Scotia Highlanders.

[Vernon Francis, *4-10-1923 Newport, † 8-8-1944, Bretteville sur Laize, France.



Vernon served with the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment (F82667). On June 6, 1944 (D-Day) they landed at Juno Beach near a town called Saint Aubin sur Mer. The North Shore that day lost 125 men.

Vernon died in Normandy when US bombers mistakenly bombed the North Shore regiment:

Pte Vernon Francis Campbell, the fourth child of Mary Ellen Campbell (nee Murphy) and Duncan Farquhar Campbell of Newport, Prince Edward Island. Just 20 years old, Vernon was killed on August 8, 1944. On that date U.S. Bombers mistakenly bombed the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment. At least 30 were killed and many others wounded. Buried at Bretteville-sur-Laize, Canadian war Cemetery, Calvados, France.” (www.islandregister.com).

[Jerome D. * approx. 1925 Newport, he is still alive in 2011. He is married to Harriet.

[Bibiana May (Bea), * 25-4-1927 Newport, † 1-10-2011 Charlottetown, buried in Vernon River. Married to Frank Murphy († 1992). They lived in Alexandra.

[Gerald, * approx. 1929 Newport, he is still alive in 2011. Unmarried. Farmer, but also 'tile maker, fish cutter, horse trainer'. In 2011 still lives in his parents' home.

[Leo, * 1931 Newport, † 1931 Newport.

[Margaret E. * approx. 1933 Newport, she is still alive in 2011. Unmarried or widow.

To get more details about the time Joe served the army Gerard Gervedink Nijhuis contacts the Library and Archives Canada (LAC). Although all files are open to the public, the files will be digitized only when someone is willing to pay for the information. For Gerard it is a big surprise, when he receives more than 300 pages of information of which he has made a selection.

Military service

Loyal to the nation and surely also lack of money moves Joe to join the Canadian army in 1940 as a volunteer. Problem for him is, that just a year ago the law was changed and volunteers need to be 19 years of age to be able to join the army. Joe is just 18, so too young to join. No problem, as he indicated to be a year older (born on May 8, 1921) and the army is in need of young men so the year of birth is not checked.

He gets his medical examination on July 10, 1940. He is healthy and weights 138 pounds (about 62.5 kilo) is 5 ft 8 ½ inches tall (1.73 m), has blue eyes, brown hair, a well developed body and fair teeth.

He joins the army on August 15, 1940 to serve the Prince Edward Island Highlanders (PEIH) in Charlottetown as a rifleman, Service number F/60646.

He earns money now, \$1.50 per day, and starting in 1941 he sends \$20 a month to his mother. He receives part of his military training in Hallifax Fortress and Camp Valcarlier, Province of Quebec, for instance courses about how to use small arms: rifle and LMG [light machine-gun].

From July 11, 1941 he is stationed on Newfoundland to defend the island, as a member of 'Force W'. At that time, Newfoundland is still part of the United Kingdom, but for Canada and USA a perfect coastal defense is crucial.



Source: Susan Zwicker, Charlottetown, PE

Pte Joe Campbell in Newfoundland
(www.veterans.gc.ca)

During his stay on Newfoundland he receives additional training, for example a winter training and a 'battle drill' training (combat exercises with large groups).

In Gander city he faces a big problem, when on the first day of Christmas he gets drunk and meets with an unknown girl in Bishops Falls and then gets a sexual disease. He will need treatment for more than a year to recover. In January 1943 he gets mumps and is treated for two weeks in the RCAF Hospital Gander (air force).

He serves on Newfoundland till February 3, 1943 and then moves to Camp Sussex in New Brunswick. In an extensive test on March 24, 1943 his scores are above average. He is described as: alert, friendly, above average learning skills, normal social behavior and stable. He indicates that he loves reading adventure stories. He indicates to be enthusiastic about the army and likes to be sent "overseas" (Europe).

His superiors conclude that he could qualify for a higher rank and they advise to monitor his further progress. Joe is approved for services 'overseas' and to serve with the 'PEIH Overseas Reinforcement'.

In May 1943 he is sent to the Lancaster Military Hospital because of an acute appendicitis and after surgery he gets 3 weeks furlough. Starting in July, he is trained at the Infantry Training Center at Aldershot, Kentville, Nova Scotia.

On August 27th Joe departs for England and disembarks there on September first. All Canadian troops are sent to Aldershot (same place name as in Canada) and from there to other locations 'in the field', with no further details to not inform the enemy. He joins the 7th Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit and starting December 1, 1943 the 2nd Canadian Corps Defense Company (Prince Edward Island Light Horse). Just like all Canadian soldiers who serve as a volunteer for more than 18 months Joe receives the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and for serving 'overseas' for 60 days also a 'clasp'. Apparently Joe improves himself as expected as he is promoted to Corporal starting January 31, 1944 and therefor he earns more money, \$1.70 a day.

The liberation of Europe starts when allied troops disembark in Normandy France on June 6, 1944. Joe leaves England a month later and disembarks in Normandy on July 4th. After a severe battle the Canadian Army conquers Caen city on July 18.

When Normandy is liberated by the allied troops, they move north. The Canadian Army is ordered to liberate the French and Belgian coastal area.

It is a swift approach: at the beginning of September Dieppe is liberated and mid September they liberate Oostende, Brugge and Gent. British troops have already liberated Antwerp, but because of German troops alongside the Scheldt they can not use the Antwerp harbor for good supplies.

The battle of the Scheldt lasts for a month (October) and on November 6th Middelburg, the last German bastion is captured. Also on November 6th 'in the field' Joe gets second degree burning wounds caused by petrol and he is moved to the 18th field hospital by ambulance. Maybe he is wounded near Middelburg, but probably the field hospital is located behind the front line, more towards Antwerp. The Canadian Army is now ordered to defend the frontline from Dunkirk till Nimwegen. Because of winter season the next three month are relatively calm.



Approach of Canadian army (www.canadaatwar.ca)

On December 12, 1944 Joe becomes a private again after being a Corporal, without any trace of misconduct. Maybe he deliberately organizes this, as it is easier to join another unit as a private than as a corporal. On December 30 Joe joins the North Nova Scotia Highlanders (NNSH) and soon after that he is promoted to Corporal again. The North Nova Scotia Highlanders is an infantry regiment that originates in 1941, with has as its motto “No retreating footsteps” [we will never retreat].



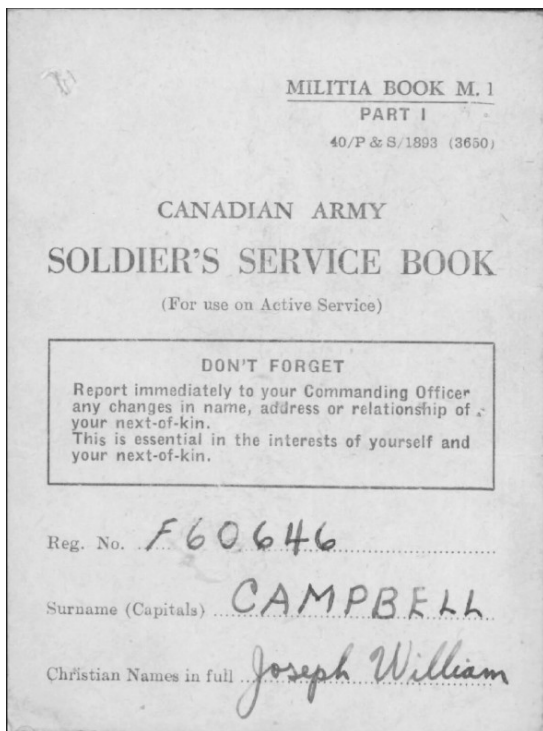
Badge of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders (nshighlanders.fav.cc)

Joe is section commander in the C company of the North Nova Scotia Highlanders infantry, part of the 9th Infantry Brigade, that consists of:

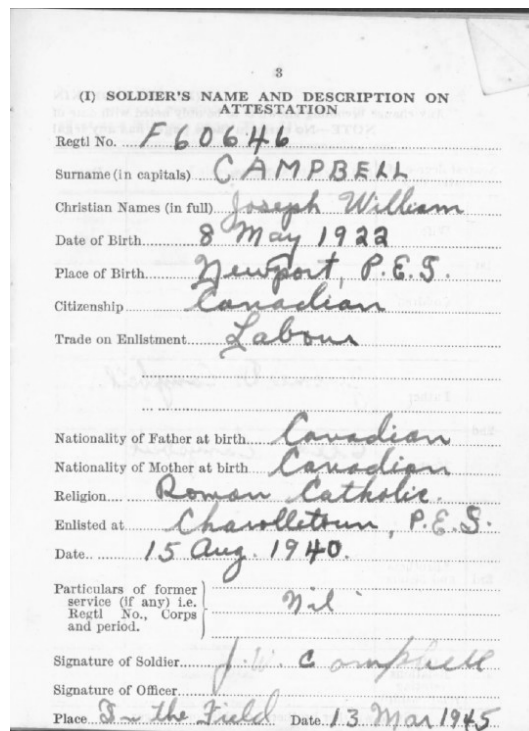
- The Highland Light Infantry of Canada
- The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders
- The North Nova Scotia Highlanders.

From Bienen (Germany) they move into the “Achterhoek” [eastern part of the Netherlands, province of Gelderland].

When liberating towns like Vierakker, Warken and Warnsveld (near Zutphen), the NNSH loose eight men.



Joe's last Service book (LAC)



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Joe killed in action

According to his military records, he went on furlough from 22 till 30 March, just one week before he was killed in action near the Schipbeek! After his furlough he will have been actively involved in the liberation of Zutphen at the beginning of April, but participation of individual soldiers is not recorded in military files.

To prevent the retreat of the German army from the west of the Netherlands into Germany, the 3th Canadian Infantry Division, including the 7th and 9th Infantry Brigade, are ordered to move north alongside the east border of the IJssel river, and to reach Harlingen as soon as possible. The 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade is to liberate Deventer. The 9th Infantry Brigade should not wait, but to pass east of Deventer and move ahead to Zwolle.

In his book "Bathmen 1940-1945" Jan Lefeber describes how Canadian troops move towards Bathmen:

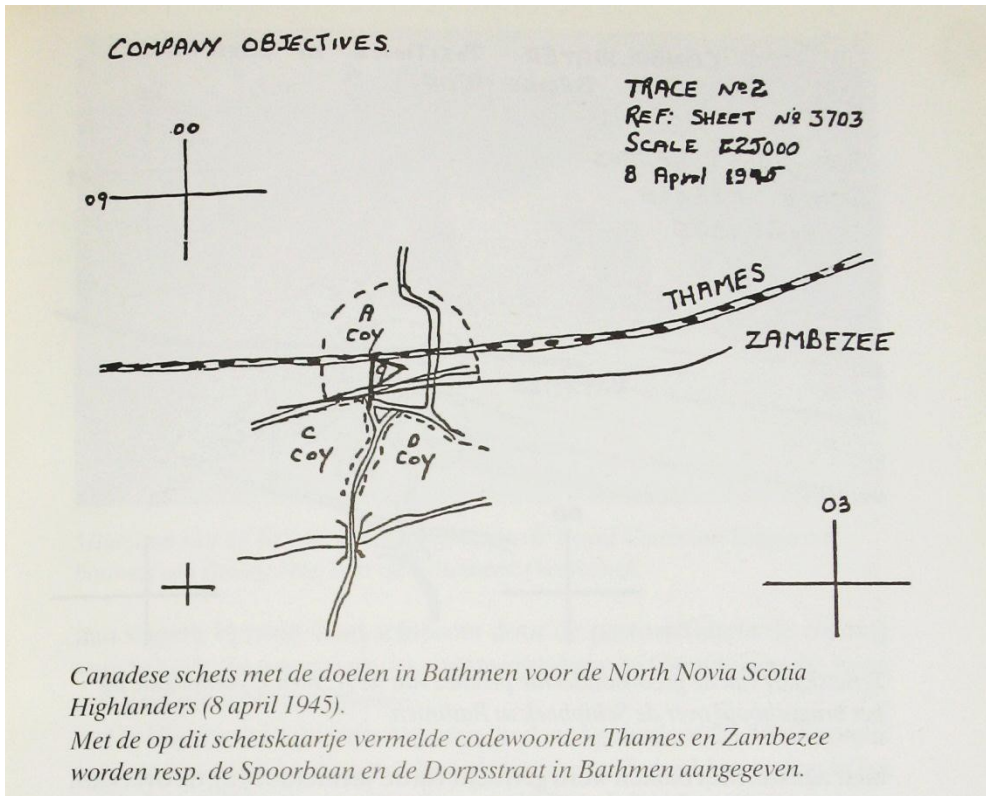
The previous day, Saturday April 7, the Highland Light Infantry and the North Nova Scotia Highlanders (NNSH) of the 9th brigade, were withdrawn from Zutphen and moved to the area alongside the Dortherdijk, just north of Eefde. The third regiment of the 9th brigade, the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders stayed in Zutphen to break the last German resistance.

At noon (April 8) the NNSH left Eefde in their trucks and went to Kring van Dorth, to the crossing of the Bathmenseweg and the Kasteelweg. They were ordered to create a bridgehead near Bathmen crossing the Schipbeek near the Koersenbrug, to allow engineers to build a Bailey bridge.

At 13.15 h. the battalion commander and the commander of the C and D company went to the area of attack to get more information about the situation. Two sections of carriers, that accompanied them, were posted near the house with address Koersenweg 1 (called the Elshof) and near the former meat factory of Koersen.

Just then, the Germans started to shoot from the other side of the Schipbeek.

In the mean time the battalion troops had reached the crossing Gorsselseweg – Oxersteeg by foot. The C company had to cross the destroyed bridge "Koersenbrug" over the Schipbeek and move to the Zambeze, codename for Dorpsstraat [a street in the center of Bathmen].



The first attempt to cross the Schipbeek was stopped by German machine gun and mortar fire coming from farmhouses at the left side. The proceeding tanks were asked to give support and to hit the farmhouses near the Woertmansweg and the surroundings. Several farmhouses got on fire. After the shooting mortars were used to create a dense smoke screen and subsequently the 'C' company could pass the heavy damaged bridge and reach the opposite side. Soon thereafter they reached the borders of the village. At 6 P.M. the C company reported they had reached the Dorpsstraat.

During this attack Joe Campbell is killed in action which is reported as follows:

During the advance of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade into the north of the Netherlands to cut off the German forces in the west, the NNSH were ordered to secure a bridgehead over the Schipbeek at Bathmen, the Netherlands.

'C' company was given the task of making the initial assault crossing. At the starting point the company came under heavy machine gun- and mortar fire. They also found that the approaches to the demolished bridge were heavily mined. Corporal Campbell resolutely leading his men right to the edge of the Schipbeek, with utter disregard for his personal safety, kept them steady by moving from one to the other with words of encouragement.

When the signal was given for the leading section to rush across Corporal Campbell (with outstanding coolness and courage) led his man across the wreckage of the blown bridge. A smoke screen hid his movement from the enemy, positioned at a distance from the canal, but Cpl Campbell soon found that there were two machine gun posts dug right into the opposite bank. In spite of the deadly cross-fire which suddenly came at him from close range, hitting two of his men, Cpl



Corporal Joseph William Campbell of NNSH
(www.verterans.gc.ca)

Campbell led the remainder of his section in a swift attack on the opposite dyke. Using his sten gun with great effectiveness he personally dealt with one of the enemy machine gun posts. He then placed his Bren gun in position to cover him, and led his riflemen in a bayonet assault on the other spandau [a German machine gun post].

At point blank range the enemy weapon opened up on him. Corporal Campbell was killed a few seconds before his men, whom he had inspired by his leadership, jumped into the enemy trench and 'finished his job'. The dyke was cleared and the remainder of his company immediately moved across the Schipbeek and into the town of Bathmen. Corporal Campbell's outstanding bravery in this action, enabled his battalion to continue its swift advance into Northern Holland without giving the Germans the delay they wanted. He gave his life in a manner that was beyond praise.

On the 16th of April a telegram with the following message is sent to his mother:

“Regret deeply F60646 Corporal Joseph William Campbell has been officially reported killed in action eight April 1945”. What will have gone through her mind as again she lost a son during the liberation of Europe?

M. P. M. 287
2500-3-44 (1234)
H. Q. 8720-8-1945

**CANADIAN NATIONAL
TELEGRAPHS**

FILE H.Q. 405-0-16,000

CASUALTY (REPORT DELIVERY) OTTAWA 16 APRIL 1945

TO:- MRS ELLA CAMPBELL
R R # 1 NEWPORT PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

73268 REGRET DEEPLY F60646 CORPORAL JOSEPH WILLIAM
CAMPBELL HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION EIGHTH
APRIL 1945 STOP YOU SHOULD RECEIVE FURTHER DETAILS BY MAIL
DIRECT FROM THE UNIT IN THE THEATRE OF WAR STOP TO PREVENT
POSSIBLE AID TO OUR ENEMIES DO NOT DIVULGE DATE OF CASUALTY
OR NAME OF UNIT

PREPAID DIRECTOR OF RECORDS

Telegram stating Joe is killed in action (LAC)

At that time in Canada it is common to hand over the Memorial Bar and the Memorial Cross to the relatives of killed soldiers. Joe's parents are awarded accordingly on May 17, 1945. In October they finally receive some personal belongings of Joe, including a pocket watch, two rosaries, some pictures, and a few souvenirs.

Joe and the other three NNSH soldiers, all killed in action, are buried during a religious ceremony in Warnsveld, in a field opposite the manor 'Waliën', located near the road from Warnsveld to Lochem. Mr. Ant. Denkers from Warnsveld describes his memory of a similar funeral ceremony for other Canadian soldiers (web.omroep gelderland.nl):

At that moment a car arrives. They bring their own tools to make a last place to rest for their fellow combatants who were killed in action. Then the deceased fellows are carried and lined-up. All are wrapped in blankets. Some of the soldiers show their tears, me doing the same, when their fellow combatants are gently let down in the graves. The captain opens his Bible, after a short reading and a prayer the graves are closed. All are silent, and it is felt that all suffer from the loss of their comrades.

One can imagine that the NNSH soldiers who were killed in action near Bathmen are buried near 'Waliën' in the same way.

NO. F.60646 Rank Corporal Name CAMPBELL, Joseph William
Unit North N.S. Highrs. Date of death 8th April, 1945.
Died at Holland
Cause Killed in action.
Death occurred on strength of Forces H.Q. 405-C-15363
N/K Mrs. Ella Campbell, Relationship Mother
Address R. R. #1, Newport, P.E.I.
Remains buried in Holland, Cdn. Mil. Cem. MR 016947 Pl. 1 Cemetery
R.1 G. 8
Grave location OVER

Record card about temporary cemetery (LAC)

In March 1946 his mortal remains are transferred to the official Canadian Cemetery in Holten, where he is reburied in plot 1, row H, grave number 12. Joe's family is informed on this.



Grave at Canadian War Cemetery Holten, 1948 (LAC)



Present grave of Cpl. J.W. Campbell Canadian Cemetery Holten (LAC)

Willemsorde

For his brave activities Joe is nominated for the Dutch 'Willemsorde' ((RIDDER der 4^e klasse der MILITAIRE WILLEMSORDE = Knight 4th class of Military Willemsorde).

The proposal for this nomination is made by Lt.Col. F.A. Sparks, Commander of the NNSH, on the 28th September 1945 and signed by him and his superiors. On December 8, 1945 the highest Dutch military award, the Militaire Willemsorde, is awarded posthumous to Cpl. J.W. Campbell by her majesty Queen Wilhelmina.

Originated 26 Aug 45

40/P & B/1420 (5518) CFA 1

Date recommendation passed forward

Received 25 Aug 45 Passed 29 Aug 45

9 Cdn Inf Brigade 3 Cdn Inf Division 1 Cdn Corps

Schedule No. (to be left blank) Unit North Nova Scotia Highlanders Division 10 Aug 45 4 Sep 45

Army No. and Rank F60646 Acting Corporal Corps

Army 5 Sep 45

Name Joseph William CAMPBELL (Christian names must be stated)

Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
<p>F60646 A/Cpl Joseph William CAMPBELL was a section commander in "C" Company, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, from the NIJMEGEN breakout until the 8th April 1945. On that date, during the advance of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade into the North of Holland to cut off the enemy forces in the West, the North Nova Scotia Highlanders were ordered to secure a bridgehead over the canal at BATHMEN, Holland. "C" Company was given the task of making the initial assault crossing. At the F.U.P. the company came under heavy machine gun and mortar fire and also found that the approaches to the bridge were heavily mined. Cpl CAMPBELL resolutely leading his men right to the edge of the canal, with utter disregard for his personal safety, kept them steady by moving from one to the other with words of encouragement. When the signal was given for the leading section to rush across, Cpl CAMPBELL (with outstanding coolness and courage) led his men across the wreckage of the blown bridge. A smoke screen hid his movement from the enemy, positioned at a</p>	<p>F. A. Sparks Comd Nth NS Highrs</p>	<p>NETHERLANDS AWARD "Militaire Willems-Orde", degree of Knight (N M Gemell) Lt-Col of the 4th Comd 9 Cdn Inf Bde Class.</p>	

(RH Keefler) Maj-Gen
9003 3 Cdn Inf Div Cdn

(G G Simonds) Lt Gen
9003 Cdn Forces in the Netherlands

PTO

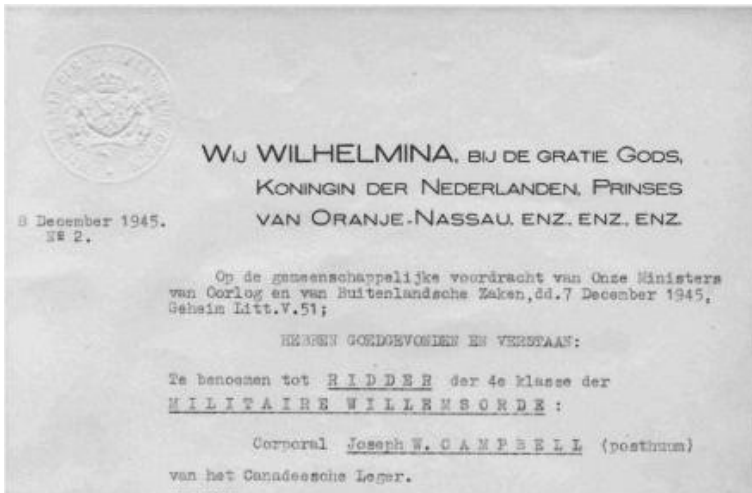
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If a casualty as under, fill in date

Nature of Casualty	Date
Killed in action	8 Apr 45
Died of Wounds	
Died	
Missing	
Prisoner of War	

Proposal for an award. (<http://www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca>)



Granting the Militaire Willemsorde (first part) by Queen Wilhelmina. (www.veterans.gc.ca)



Willemsorde

The explanation for this award reads:

During the battle to liberate occupied Dutch territory Corporal Campbell has shown excellent acts of bravery, decision making and trust. He repeatedly has shown extraordinary duty and great perseverance and in all respects has been, by his commendable example, an inspiration for all in those glorious days, where he himself lost his life.

It is planned that the 'Willemsorde' will be given to the family in 1947 by the Dutch Ambassador in Canada Dr. Van Roijen. Unfortunately the Canadian army is unable to trace his relatives, and the 'Willemsorde' (Cross and document) is kept safely by brigadier D.R. Agnew. He stores it so well he forgets all about it.

He moves to Cambridge in England and many years later in the summer of 1965 he between other stuff retrieves the 'Willemsorde'. He reports his find to the Canadian army commander, and this time they succeed to trace his parents. Subsequently the 'Willemsorde' is handed over at last, in September 1965, almost 20 years after the posthumous award!

Commemorate

In 1995 in Bathmen a memorial stone was placed in memory of all Canadian soldiers killed in action.



Memorial stone in Bathmen for all Canadian victims in World War II



Memorial column for Cpl. J.W. Campbell in Bathmen

At that time Jan Lefeber from Bathmen is in contact with Peter Campbell, a brother of Joe. It was known that Joe was awarded the Military Willemsorde. One of the members of the committee to welcome Canadian veterans in the Netherlands, Henk Dykman, suggests the idea to create a lasting memory for Joe, but follow-up is lacking. In 2006 several documents about J.W. Campbell appear on the website of Veterans Affairs Canada, which is noticed by Huub van Sabben an expert in the history of Deventer during WWII and he informs us. Together with Huub plans are made to erect a memorial. Due to lack of time, many people have to be consulted, and a lack of funding no further action occurs. In the mean time Piet Rademakers from Bathmen gets e-mail contact with Veteran Affairs Canada in particular with the person behind the internet documents, it turns out to be a grand-niece of Joe Campbell !

Subsequently the local historical association (Oudheidkundige Kring Bathmen) decides to aim at a modest memorial (“if we don’t do it now, it probably will not occur any more”). Together with the local “Oranjeverenigingen” [committees organizing celebrations in honor of a member of the House of Orange] the idea is described, and financial support is provided by inhabitants of Bathmen and the community council of Deventer (‘wijkaanpak’).

The memorial's design and material selection is made by Piet Rademakers. The information plaque designed in consultation with Hans Dokter is made from stainless steel. Conversations with Jan Jaap Lems have resulted in an basalt column, cut and polished by the Deventer Steenhouwerij [stonecutter]. As the delivery of the column is delayed, an temporary column (replica) is used for the 2010 memorial service. After half a year the replica is replaced by the final memorial.

During the liberation festivities in 2010 a parade of decorated wagons goes through Bathmen, include a wagon in memory of Joe Campbell, showing the bridge (Bathmense brug) and Joe’s photo. The official newspaper the Royal Gazette of Prince Edward Island pays a lot of attention to this event, thanks to the e-mail conversation between Piet and the grand-niece of Joe.

The Guardian

In his honour

Published on November 11th, 2010
Mary MacKay

The Dutch town of Bathmen pays tribute to Joseph Campbell of Newport, P.E.I., and other Canadian soldiers for their sacrifices during the Second World War

Topics:
North Nova Scotia Highlanders , Department of Veterans Affairs , Bathmen , Newport , Netherlands

The memory of Second World War soldier Joseph William Campbell of Newport has never wavered in the hearts and minds of his family back home in Prince Edward Island.

This 22-year-old section commander in “C” Company, North Nova Scotia Highlanders infantry was killed on April 8, 1945, during a fierce battle to secure a bridgehead over a canal in Bathmen in the Netherlands.

“(The memory of Joe) is just the same. For the family, it has never stopped. You remember it all the time when you hear his name somewhere,” says his eldest sister, Mary Walker, of Vernon Bridge.



Submitted photo
During liberation day celebrations in Bathmen in Holland a float with the photograph of the late Cpl. Joseph Campbell of Newport was a focal point

First part of the article in The Guardian (www.theguardian.pe.ca)

In the information centre near the Canadian War Cemetery at Holten visitors are invited to view a film about the history of the cemetery, and special backgrounds of some who were killed in action are told, including Joe Campbell’s story.

It is obvious that his parents never have forgotten Joe. They are buried on the St. George's Cemetery and on the backside of their tombstone, in memoriam to their at that time already passed away sons, the names of Joseph, Vernon, and Leo are written. For Joe it states: “Joseph Campbell, 1922-1945, killed in action in Belgium”. [almost correct, should have been The Netherlands]. The front shows the grave motto: “While we have time, let us do good”. This last phrase certainly applies to Joseph William Campbell, being one of the liberators of Bathmen.

Gerard Gervedink Nijhuis, Piet Rademakers, and Jan Lefeber.

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