

Donald Clifford Chadwick was born in Toronto on March 24, 1923, he was a Canadian citizen. His parents were John Aloysious and Emily Chadwick. Donald had a brother John William, and later a sister, Norma Ruth. However, the girl died at the age of 2, in 1928. John would later also join the army. The family was Roman Catholic.

When Donald was 16 years old, he left school. He had then completed 9 years of Public School. He spoke no language other than English. He had various (short) jobs, he was a varnish maker at a paint factory for 6 months and a ship's helper for 6 months. When he enlisted in the army in October 1942, he had worked for 2 months at the Anaconda Brass Company in Toronto, where he polished copper and made casting moulds, among other things. The company had promised to keep a place available for him if he returned after the war. Donald would prefer not to return to his old position, but to do something with technology (mechanics).

Donald was sporty, he played ice hockey and basketball, and enjoyed skating. The army's assessment of him was that he was a pleasant young man, perhaps slightly less intelligent than the army average, but who would make a good soldier.

During his medical examination (12-10-'42) it turned out that he had poor vision at night. He also had a strange birthmark on his right loin and a varicose vein in the scrotum (varicocele). Furthermore, he was 1.75 m tall and weighed 74 kg. He had blue eyes and brown hair.

Before he entered the army, Donald had trained as a truck driver. In the army, he was given permission to drive certain army vehicles in July 1944.

His army file contains a few comments about his unauthorized absence (AWOL, absent without leave). He received a fine for that. On June 14, 1943 he was embarked for the UK, where he left again on June 13, 1944. He was in France on June 14th.

In the Netherlands he and his regiment (RCASC, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps) were involved in the liberation of Walcheren. He worked as a driver for the 17th Light Field Ambulance Company. While setting up a medical aid post near Westkapelle, he was hit by a grenade during a grenade attack on November 2, 1944, and died that same day. Donald was temporarily buried in the Zoutelande cemetery. Later his remains were transferred to the Canadian Military Cemetery in Holten, where he rests in plot 4, row G, grave 6.

Donald Clifford Chadwick has been awarded the following awards: the 1939-45 Star, the France-Germany Star, the Defense Medal, the War Medal and the CVSM & Clasp.

