

Corporal John Allan Sutherland

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Born: July 25, 1916 died: April 27, 1945

John Sutherland was born in New Osgoode, Saskatchewan to David and Ella Sutherland.

David was a locomotive engineer for the Canadian National Railway, working out of Transcona. He had come to Canada from Scotland in 1909. David and Ella married on November 20, 1912 in Transcona. John's brothers, David and Joseph, were born 11 months apart in 1914. The family then moved to New Osgoode, Saskatchewan where John Sutherland was born. By 1918, the family was back in Transcona where John's sister,

Margaret, was born. The family was living at 132 Victoria Avenue in 1921 and in the summer of that year, David and Ella had another girl, Lilian. Sadly, Lilian died just a month later on August 21st. John's father died on August 18, 1929.

John left school in 1932, having completed grade nine. By 1943, the family had dispersed. Margaret had married and was living in Nipawin, Saskatchewan. Ella and Joseph were living with their mother in Ridgedale, Saskatchewan, and John and David were living in Flin Flon, Manitoba. John worked for four months with Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting as a cyanide operator, but by the spring of 1943 he was working as a store clerk.

John had applied to the Royal Canadian Navy on March 11, 1943 but his application was rejected for medical reasons. His rejection states that he either had no right eardrum or it was so badly perforated as to be non-existent.

On May 24, 1943, John applied to the Canadian Army in Flin Flon. His application was accepted and he began basic training on June 18th in Fort Garry. He remained there until September 16th, when he was transferred to the 1st Canadian Armoured Corp Training Regiment in Camp Borden, Ontario.

John was assigned to the Canadian Signal Training Centre in Barriefield, Ontario on December 10th, but this posting was quickly cancelled as there was no place for him. For the rest of December, John was on furlough and then on January 10, 1944, he was again assigned to the Signal Training Centre, where he remained until January 26th. The following day, he was transferred to the Canadian Army Training Centre in Petawawa, Ontario.

On February 7th, John applied for permission to marry his sweetheart, a Transcona girl named Catherine Foster. Catherine lived with her parents at 79 Melrose Avenue in Transcona. Permission was granted on February 19th, and the wedding took place on March 7th.

John returned to his training and qualified as a Driver, 1st Class on April 17th. From May 6th to May 23rd he was on furlough and by May 31st he was at the Canadian Army Training Centre in Hamilton, Ontario. On July 27th, he transferred back to the Training Centre in Petawa and on August 9th qualified as a Driver Mechanic, Group "C."

Now assigned to the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, John embarked for the United Kingdom on October 14, 1944. On arrival, he joined the 1st Canadian Training Regiment. During his stay in England was born on November 30 his daughter Margareth Susan at home in Transcona. On January 1, 1945 he left the UK and landed in northwestern Europe.

By 1945, it was clear that the war in Europe was going well for the Allied forces. The Lincoln and Welland Regiment was involved in many missions liberating towns and villages throughout the region. One of the first efforts John would have been involved with was the Battle of Kapelsche Veer, a small but strategic Dutch harbour.

Although much of this battle did not go as planned, the Canadians were eventually successful, and regained the harbour for the Allies.

Shortly after this battle, John was admitted to Number 15 Canadian Field Ambulance on February 4th with a bad case of enteritis. The following day, he was transferred to Number 7 Canadian General Hospital in the UK, where he remained until February 21st. On release from the hospital, he rejoined his regiment, which was continuing its mission through the Netherlands and Germany.

From February 28th to March 10, 1945, the Lincoln and Welland Regiment participated in the Battle of the Rhineland near the border between Germany and the Netherlands. Between April 2nd and April 4th, they successfully reclaimed the Twente Canal in the Netherlands. The following week the regiment was instrumental in liberating the Dutch town of Delden.

On April 8, 1945 the regiment turned its attention back to Germany, taking Ems by April 10th. On that day, John was promoted to the rank of Corporal. Through the rest of April the regiment took the German towns of Cloppenburg, Friesoythe, and Bad Zwischenahn.

On April 27, 1945, as the regiment entered the German town of Ekern, just south of Bad Zwischenahn, John Sutherland was killed in action. He

was buried the following day in Edewecht, Germany. In July 1946, his remains were exhumed and he was reburied in the Holten Canadian



Military Cemetery in Holten, Netherlands. He is also honoured on the Cenotaph in Memorial Park Circle in Transcona and on the Flin Flon War Memorial in Flin Flon, Manitoba.

John Sutherland's Grave Marker
Maple Leaf Legacy Project

References

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- Winnipeg Tribune, "Army Casualty List Names 19 Manitobans," May 24, 1945, page 3
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- Manitoba Vital Statistics, marriage records, Registration number 1912-004093
- Manitoba Vital Statistics, Death records, Registration number 1929-040051
- Manitoba Vital Statistics, Marriage records, Registration number 1912-004093