

PROFILE - Part 2 - 14 Mar 2020 - Additional details,

Gunner John Gibson M.3633, 2nd Survey Regiment, Royal Cdn Artillery

Further comments and information gathered from John's service records from Library and Archives Canada and other references listed in **Part 1** of Profile. Also see, pictures (with captions) taken in the UK, Belgium, Holland and in the field in North West Germany. And his parent's grave site in Evarts, AB. to be found in PROFILE - Part 2.a. & Part 2.b. - 17 Mar 2020 - Gunner John Gibson, M.3633.

a. Still TOS 2nd Survey Regiment and attached to HQ 2nd Cdn Corps Signals to the end. Gunner John Gibson's service was multitasking – a motorcyclist / despatch rider / messenger, with gunlayer training (including map skills / artillery position coordinates), artillery transport driver, postal orderly, guide and signage placement for vehicle and equipment routing, and water duties (potable water supply sourcing for HQ and associated units).

b. Technically, John may have participated in Operation "Duck" the crossing of the Ems River but missed the final phase of capturing Leer and Oldenburg. He was awarded privileged leave (PL) to the UK 24 Apr 1945, returning for duty with the CAOF / 2nd Cdn Corps HQ in Bad Zwischenahn, Germany, 7 May 1945. Quite possibly, he had celebrated the defeat of Nazi Germany in the UK with two of his older brothers.

c. At the court inquiry of John's death, an opinion presented by the 2nd Cdn Corps AA & QMG suggested that "*the 15 Cwt vehicle driver was negligent in that he was traveling at an excessive rate of speed and attempted to pass bicyclists on a slippery road surface knowing that there was a despatch rider approaching from the opposite direction*". Did the 15 Cwt vehicle driver truly know this? Possibly, but may be not. It was a rainy day, possibly with periods of poor visibility. Just a fateful circumstance for John of "being in the wrong place at the right time". Need to move on! (EEG Jr.)

d. John's protective leather riding vest was monogrammed with M.3633 & "Johnnie". He rode a motorcycle model number 45 M..... with the distinct formation insignia (*a gold maple leaf on the blue 2nd Corps*

diamond formation patch with red and white horizontal bar stripes in background) on the gas tank identifying, 2nd Cdn Corps vehicles. See photo 4./ included in Profile Part 2.a.

e. John had several medical issues, injuries, bruises and (may be even some MP) scrapes during his time in the UK, while training and preparing for the push back across the Channel. He received more than enough entries on his record of AWL, CB, and Forfeits of Pay. Then on being TOS to 2nd Survey Regiment RCA and attached to HQ 2nd Cdn Corps, he seemed to get serious and mostly settled down.

f. John's older brother - Thomas Arthur Gibson, (M.16849) Canadian Army, Royal Cdn. Elec & Mech Engrs (RCEME) Edmonton, Alberta served in Europe, Believed to be with the 2nd Canadian Corp Troops Workshop. See photo 3./ of Belgium (Antwerp) family hosting dinner. Thomas on the left in uniform; next to him, John with all the hair and wearing a tie.

g. Detailed family information;

John Gibson's parents, siblings and himself (the youngest) emigrated from Durham, England; departing Liverpool, England, 13 May 1927 on the Canadian Pacific Line "S/S Montrose (2)" and landing in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Parents:

- **mother** - Elizabeth (nee Nettleship) Gibson, born 16 Aug 1885 in Comondale, North Yorkshire, England. Married 19 Aug 1905. Housewife / mother. (Bore 11 children, seven survived.) She died 20 Oct 1930 age 45 at Evarts (near Sylvan Lake), Alberta, Canada. Buried at the Diamond Valley Cemetery / Medicine Valley, (Rge Rd 33 & Twp 382) near the Evarts community, west and south of Sylvan Lake, Alberta. See pictures of grave markers and location attached.

- **father** - Thomas Frederick G., born 21 Jan 1882 in South Church, County Durham, England, Coal miner. He served in WW1. (S/N 56198 Sgt, 2nd Battalion, King's Liverpool Regiment., BEF). Emigrated to Canada with his wife and children in mid May 1927. Settled and farmed (dairy) in Evarts, Alberta. Died 9 Nov 1939 age 57. Buried next to his wife Elizabeth.

John's **Siblings**: - all born in County Durham, England.

- **Joseph William** Gibson, born 30 May 1907. Migrated to Canada with family and returned to England at 19. Settled in Yorkshire. He married Ethel May Ramsden Sep 1942. Ethel May, born 1 May 1906, died Jun 1980. Joe died Mar 1996, all in Bradford, West Yorkshire, England. Three children, a daughter Arvil, sons Arthur and Roger. One (a Don); taught at an English University.

- **Mary Jane** (nee Gibson) McCurdy, born 11 Jul 1909. Married Joseph McCurdy, 1936 at Knox United Church in Calgary. Lived in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer, Alberta. Died 9 Oct 1955 at age 46 in Calgary, Alberta. Buried Queens Park C & M. One child, a son James (Jim) McCurdy.

- **Ernest Edward** Gibson, Sr., born 2 Mar 1911 and died 14 Apr 1989 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. He married Marion (Marian) Regina Watson in 1937. She was born 2 Jun 1915 and died 18 Jun 2005 in Vancouver, B.C., age 90. Two children; Ernest E. Jr. born 23 Feb 1938 and Patricia born 31 Aug 1939. Patricia (nee Smith) died 6 Feb 2018.

- **Doris** Gibson, born 12 Sep 1912. Married William Walter Linn, 6 Apr 1932 in Calgary. Lived in Calgary. Divorced Linn, Aug 1943 and married Warren Herbert Kirk, 27 Oct 1943. Lived in Vancouver, B.C. during late 40s and 50s. Died 26 Jun 1989 in Calgary, Alberta. Warren born about 1916, died 1 May 1976 in Richmond, B.C. Two daughters; Doris Audrey and Joyce, one by each marriage.

- **Thomas Arthur** Gibson, born Jul 28, 1914. Enlisted (M.16849) in the Canadian Army, Royal Cdn. Elec & Mech Engrs (RCEME) Edmonton, AB shortly after his father died 1939. He married Bessie Rhone, 29 Jul 1942 in Edinburgh, Scotland. They relocated to Vancouver after WW2, then to Kitimat and retired in Nanaimo, B.C. He died 3 Aug 1993 in Nanaimo at age 79. (*Bessie died 6 Nov 2013 at age 99 yrs 8 mos in Nanaimo.*) One daughter Linda (nee Gibson) Gammie; she had two children and then married to Darryl Smith. She died 7 Feb 2020, Victoria, B.C.

- **Elizabeth 'Peggy'** Gibson, born 28 Feb 1917. Moved to Calgary area,

married Herman E. S. Balkwill, one daughter Elizabeth Gail Balkwill (married Frank Cullen, Nov 8 1958). Herman died in Calgary 1965. Later, Elizabeth "aka Peggy" married Lt. Frederick (Fred) William Foulston in Calgary (born abt 1915 in Medicine Hat). Peggy died 22 Jan 2004 and * Fred died 21 Jan 1980, both in Calgary, Alberta.

Abbreviations:

AA QMG – Assistant Adjutant & Quartermaster General; a staff officer position, usually held by a Lt. Colonel.

aka – also know as.

AWL – away without leave.

CB – confined to barracks.

PL – privileged leave.

TOS - taken on strength (to a unit or regiment)

MP - Military Police

Note: (*) Lt. Frederick William "Fred" Foulston is buried at Queens Park Cemetery and Mausoleum Calgary, Calgary Census Division, Alberta, Canada
PLOT Field of Honour; Section P-15-59
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