

CSM John Watson Morrison

3-C-11



John Morrison was born on June 2, 1905 in the city of Glasgow, Scotland and moved to Timmins, Ontario when he was a small child. He grew up in a Presbyterian family as an only child. He left public school at the age of 14 years and completed an apprenticeship as a steel dresser. He worked in the steel trade, making good money for his young wife, Catherine Morris, who he married on February 4, 1939. Sadly, his mother and father passed away when he was a young man.

Morrison enlisted in the military in the city of Timmins in Ontario at the age of 35, 'taken on proof'. When he joined the army, he had his first medical examination and turned out to be very healthy! He was 5'7" tall and weighed 145 pounds (67kg). He had brown eyes with grey-brown hair, a medium complexion and was well developed. When his vision was tested, he scored 20/30 for both his right and left eye. Both ears scored a 20 in the hearing examination. He had an upper denture in result from poor mouth and teeth conditions.

Morrison took his Oath to Be Taken by Man on Attestation and Certificate of Magistrate, Justice of the Peace of Attesting Officer on July 26, 1940. Although he had no previous experience with warfare, he proved to be an asset to his regiment. Regardless of the fact there are no exact records of his training, it is guaranteed that he served in Canada from July 26, 1940 to June 10, 1943. In the middle of June in 1943 he was sent to the UK by boat and traveled for nine days. His was stationed in the UK from June 11, 1943 to July 23, 1944. After, he was called to Northwest Europe on July 24, 1944 until he met his demise.

Before passing away, he advanced in the ranks. He received his first promotion to Corporal on August 1, 1940. His last promotion was on October 1, 1943, whereon he became Company Sergeant Major. On April 5, 1945, after having served in the army for our countries for 1713 days, John Watson Morrison, Company Sergeant Major of the Algonquin Regiment, 4th Canadian Armoured Division was killed in the Netherlands. He was 39 years old. It is assumed that he died in a large massacre in the East of Holland and the records state that he "died in action". Supposedly not many survivors were left to recite the tale of how he fell.

Medals: the France-Germany Star, 1939-45 Star, Defense Medal, War Medal 1939-1945
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal (with clasp)

The majority of his money and all awards were left to his wife from his will.

Dear C.S.M. John Morrison,

We went through many documents about your time in service to your country. You were a young man, with a wife. Maybe you were planning to have children? It is sad that your parents did not have the good fortune to see the fine man who went to fight for his country. We are sad that you were not given the chance to live after the war as a hero. Your five years of service, however, were not in vain. We live in a peaceful society today and we cannot be more thankful.

May you rest in peace.

Written by: Linna Luo, Lester B Pearson High School and Rose Munnik, Gymnasium Apeldoorn