

**Shaughnessy, William D'Arcy**

**Trooper**

**1<sup>st</sup> Hussars, 6<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment**

**Royal Canadian**

**Armoured Corps**

**B/148771**



**CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**  
**DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that No. 766701 (Rank) Pte.  
Name (in full) William D'Arcy Shaughnessy enlisted in  
the 123rd Pioneer Battalion  
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE at Toronto on the 15  
day of Dec 1915  
HE served in England CASE  
and is now discharged from the service by reason of Demobilization  
Medical Unfitness.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS SOLDIER on the DATE below is as follows:  
Age 31.11.15 Marks or Scars Scar on right  
Height 5' 7 1/2" eyelid and on forehead  
Complexion fair and on right cheek,  
Eyes hazel and on right ear  
Hair brunet Note on back of left  
side. Scar right elbow.

Signature of Soldier W.D. Shaughnessy  
Date of Discharge JUN 12 1919  
Issuing Officer FOR  
O.C. No. 2 District Depot.  
Rank Private  
Date JUN 12 1919 1919

N.B.—As no duplicate of this Certificate will be issued, any person finding same is requested to forward it in an unstamped envelope to the Secretary, Militia Council, Ottawa, Canada.

William D'Arcy (who went by his middle name) Shaughnessy was born 13 May 1924 at Toronto, Ontario (ON). His parents William D'Arcy Shaughnessy Senior and Margaret ("Madge") Mary Beatrice O'Leary were both from Ontario of Irish heritage. His father joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force 123<sup>rd</sup> Pioneer Battalion at Toronto in 1915 and served overseas until World War One ended. D'Arcy Senior became a cartage agent (later owned a gas station) and married Madge at Toronto in 1921.

*De La Salle College, Toronto, ON*

The Roman Catholic couple had three children: Catharine Mary, D'Arcy Junior and Louis Joseph. They settled in the Toronto community of Lansing and worshipped at St. Edwards Church. D'Arcy attended St. Edwards public school nearby. He had a modest interest in sports as a boy, including baseball, hockey, tennis and golf. D'Arcy studied at De La Salle College in Toronto for five years, winning school honors.





#### WINS SCHOOL HONORS

D'Arcy Shaughnessy, Jr., 16-year-old matriculant student of De La Salle "Oaklands," who won honors in nine subjects and ranked first for two of the senior awards at the school's annual commencement.

*Toronto Star November 1941*

D'Arcy Junior (Jr.) became Secretary of the Lansing Branch Catholic Youth Organization. He completed his Senior Matriculation (Grade 13) age seventeen and wanted to earn a University Degree in Civil Engineering. A lack of finances required him to find employment, working 8 weeks as a farm labourer and then 5 months at De Havilland Aircraft as a stock chaser in the production of war materials.



*De Havilland Aircraft, Downsview, ON WW2*

D'Arcy then became an office clerk for Retail Credit Company in Toronto, earning \$70 monthly. He had taken three years of cadet training while in High School and after fifteen months with Retail Credit decided to join the Canadian Army. D'Arcy attested 30 June 1943 at Toronto, age 19. He was then 5'9" tall, 143 lbs with blue eyes. His Army Examiner remarked about D'Arcy: "A quiet spoken, pleasant mannered youth of neat appearance, slim build and fair development, this recruit is A-1 category and has well-above-average intelligence... He is keen to take the Canadian Army University Course (C.A.U.C.)".

D'Arcy completed his basic training at Brampton, ON and was sent to #2 Vocational Training School at the University of Toronto 13 September 1943. He was hospitalized ten days for influenza that November and failed to pass all the required tests for C.A.U.C. entry. D'Arcy had some driving experience



and requested reallocation to the Canadian Armoured Corps (C.A.C.). He joined the C.A.C. Training Regiment at Camp Borden, ON 18 January 1944 and qualified as Gunner Operator "C" 17 June 1944.

*Camp Borden, ON WW2*

D'Arcy was cleared for overseas service and disembarked in the UK 27 July 1944 where he reported to the C.A.C. Reinforcement Unit. He was landed in Northwest Europe 12 November 1944 and taken on strength with the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars, 6 Canadian Armoured Regiment (6CAR) 7 January 1945.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars formed part of 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade along with the Fort Garry Horse (10<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment) and the Sherbrooke Fusiliers (27<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment). 6CAR supported 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade on D-Day to establish a beach head at Courseulles-sur-Mer, France.



LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA  
Troops from the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and Regina Rifles watch as tanks of the 1st Hussars land near Courseulles-sur-Mer, France, on D-Day in

6CAR participated in the capture of Caen in July, followed by the Battle of Verrières Ridge. The Allies forced the Germans retreat from Normandy that summer and the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars helped clear Channel ports in September. 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade had limited involvement in the Battle of the Scheldt that fall due to the wet ground conditions in Belgium and the Netherlands. First Canadian Army took up static positions around Nijmegen, Netherlands in November 1944 against a well entrenched enemy.

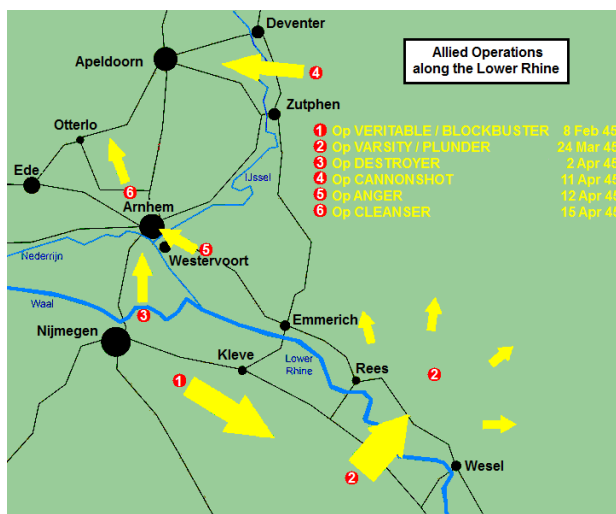
The Allies Operation VERITABLE offensive was launched 8 February 1945, with 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade advancing into Cleve, Germany. The second phase of the Allied offensive was Operation BLOCKBUSTER, which began with their attempts to drive the Germans out of the Hochwald Forest. The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars "A" Squadron was assigned to the Black Watch of 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade while "B" and "C" Squadrons were supporting 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade



during their attack on Keppeln, Germany 26 February 1945. 6CAR "C" Squadron was initially assigned to the Queens Own Rifles (QOR). Sergeant Aubrey Cosens of the QOR received a posthumous Victoria Cross for his heroic actions that day involving the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars.

They then joined the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment (NSR) with the 13 surviving tanks of "C" Squadron. The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars tanks picked up a platoon of the NSR "A" Company around 1400 hours and dashed towards Keppeln, followed by "B" and "C" Companies on foot plus the battalion's Wasps (flamethrowers) and carriers, ready to engage opposing anti-tank weapons. Enemy tanks on the outskirts of the village knocked out three of 6CAR's Sherman tanks and were in turn set on fire by the Wasps. In the face of heavy machine-gun fire the infantry platoon dismounted and made its way into Keppeln, soon to be joined by the rest of "A" Company plus "D" Company brought up from reserve. The tanks moved in, and by 1700 hours all objectives had been taken. The North Shores suffered 81 casualties that day, 28 of them fatal. The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars lost nine tanks to enemy action, besides four bogged down and suffered several casualties 26 February 1945.

Following BLOCKBUSTER, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Armoured Brigade withdrew to the Nijmegen area while the Allies worked towards building bridges to cross the Rhine River with the Germans defending from the other side. The 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars came under the command of 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Division 6 April 1945, which had been redeployed from Italy to Northwest Europe. They crossed the Ijssel River between Deventer and Zutphen, Netherlands 12 April 1945 while supporting 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade.



6CAR's next assignment was to support 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigades at Apeldoorn, Netherlands.

*Allied Operations Apeldoorn Area April 1945*

Lieutenant Edward Brock, a platoon leader with the 48<sup>th</sup> Highlanders, recalled the battle that commenced 13 April 1945 in his memoir: "The battle for Apeldoorn started with an amazing amount of support for we PBI (poor bloody infantry) – more

artillery, tank and air support than we had ever seen before... We had the 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars for tank support with their versatile Shermans and, all we need do was indicate points of resistance with our tracer fire and they would hit the spot with those devastating 17 pounders. They were the most willing tank

support I ever saw and as long as we could protect them against anti-tank fire, they would assist us in our attack."

Apeldoorn was still occupied by Dutch citizens so the Canadians could not bomb it. By midnight 13 April 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade had closed up to the Apeldoorn Canal and the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) was running patrols in the suburbs. That night a squadron of 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars and a company of RCR tried to cross the canal but were rebuffed with the loss of two tanks.

6CAR "C" Squadron was still supporting the RCR on 14 April 1945. Their plan of attack to take the bridge crossing the Appeldoorn Canal was not successful due to their two leading tanks being stopped at a road block near the bridge. This resulted in one tank being hit by a German anti-tank gun and 'brewed up' (burning) with casualties. The other tank returned to 6CAR Squadron Command with casualties and also caught on fire. D'Arcy Shaughnessy was one of the 6CAR casualties that day, killed in action, age 20.

14 Apr 45.

The plan adopted to take the bridge was as follows:  
Two tks were to follow a 5 minute Arty concentration and move across the bridge. On a code word from the leading tks, 8 more tks, loaded with infantry were to move forward, consolidate and mop up. This attack was not successful due to the leading tks hitting a rd block 50x from bridge, causing one tk to be bazookoed, brew up and have casualties; the other tk to return to Sqn Comd, with casualties and then brew up. The rest of the day, 3 Troops and HQF were concentrated in area 804040, 2 Troops remaining forward on outskirts of town with infantry. At 1800 hrs an O Gp was held by infantry and Sqn suffered casualties. Extent: 1 Officer killed and 1 wounded. Infantry lost 1 Officer killed and 1 wounded. Remainder of night, the 2 Coys of infantry tried to move forward without armour, but made no gains and suffered casualties. Four 75mm tks were standing by all night to assist infantry but were not used.

#### SQN LOSSES

- 2 - Tanks Brewed.
- 1 - Officer and 3 ORs killed.
- 3 - Officers & 4 ORs wounded.
- 3 - Missing.

*6CAR War Diary "C" Squadron Supplement 14 April 1945*

**CANADIAN NATIONAL  
TELEGRAPHS**

JJ FILE H.Q.405-8-23,143

CASUALTY (REPORT DELIVERY)

OTTAWA

TO:-

20 APRIL 1945



MRS MARGARET B SHAUGHNESSY  
9 BALES AVENUE  
LANSING ONT

75077 REGRET DEEPLY B148771 TROOPER WILLIAM DARCY SHAUGHNESSY  
JUNIOR HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION FOURTEENTH  
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

**SHAUGHNESSY, Trooper W. D'Arcy—**  
Killed in action, in his 21st year. Trooper  
W. D'Arcy Shaughnessy, beloved elder son  
of Mr. and Mrs. D'Arcy Shaughnessy of  
9 Bales Ave., Lansing, dear brother of  
Catherine and Louis. Requiem mass at  
St. Edward's church, Lansing, Tuesday,  
April 24, at 9 a.m.

*Toronto Star April 1945*



**W. D. SHAUGHNESSY**  
Lansing  
Killed

**TPR. WILLIAM D' A R C Y**  
**SHAUGHNESSY, 20,** was killed in  
action in Holland on April 14, ac-  
cording to word reaching his par-  
ents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shaugh-  
nessy, Harlandale Ave., Lansing. He  
enlisted in June, 1943, and went  
overseas in July, 1944. After spend-  
ing three and a half months in Eng-  
land, he proceeded to Belgium and  
Holland. Born in Toronto, he at-  
tended St. Edwards school, Lansing,  
and De La Salle college, Oaklands  
Surviving besides his parents is a  
brother, Louis, and a sister, Cath-  
arine, at home.

*Toronto Star June 1945*



Trooper W.D. Shaughnessy was temporarily buried at Apeldoorn, Netherlands and later relocated to Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **II. D. 14.**

*Photo Credit lestweforget1945.com*

The inscription on his headstone:

SACRED HEART OF JESUS  
HAVE MERCY ON OUR SON.  
HIS LOVING PARENTS  
D'ARCY AND MADGE SHAUGHNESSY

D'Arcy Shaughnessy's campaign medals:

- 1939-45 Star
- France-Germany Star
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal/Clasp



*D'Arcy Shaughnessy's name is listed among their WW2 fallen on the De La Salle College War Memorial Plaque in Toronto, ON*

*Courtesy Canadian Virtual War Memorial*



Biography by Jim Little, Research Team Faces to Graves.

Sources Consulted:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

Veteran Affairs Canada – Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Ancestry public trees

Newspapers.com

De La Salle College, Toronto, ON picture

<https://digitalarchive.tpl.ca/objects/235491/de-la-salle-college-yonge-street-west-side-aurora-ontari>

De Havilland Aircraft Downsview, ON WW2 picture <https://dehavilland.com/about/>

Camp Borden, ON tank picture <https://www.ontrmuseum.ca/tankmuseum/blog-post/ontr-tanks-of-second-world-war/>

1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Regimental information and photos <https://sharrob56.wixsite.com/first-hussars-wwii/blank-1>

1<sup>st</sup> Hussars cap badge picture <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/official-military-history-lineages/lineages/armour-regiments/1st-hussars.html>

1<sup>st</sup> Hussars battle information [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st\\_Hussars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Hussars)

Julian Matheson, 1<sup>st</sup> Hussars Museum <https://www.first-hussars.ca/>

Operation Blockbuster information

<https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/Canada/CA/Victory/Victory-19.html>

Adams, Sharon. 2021. Canadian Summer in Apeldoorn. Legion Magazine.

<https://legionmagazine.com/en/2021/04/canadian-summer-in-apeldoorn/>

Brock, Edward (Memoir). My Last Battle.

<https://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-17852>

Allied operations map Apeldoorn area and battle details

<https://www.canadiansoldiers.com/history/battlehonours/northwesteurope/apeldoorn.htm>

\* Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact [info@facestograves.nl](mailto:info@facestograves.nl)





**BEVERLEY FRANCES WICKENS** and Louis Joseph Shaughnessy wed in Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic church. Bride is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Wickens

*Toronto Star 1999*



**SHAUGHNESSY, Louis Joseph (Lou)** — Passed away peacefully at South Muskoka Memorial Hospital, Bracebridge after a brief but courageous battle against cancer on Wednesday, April 14, 1999, Lou Shaughnessy, in his 74th year, beloved husband of Beverly (Bev), Frances (nee Wickens); loving father of Margaret (Karl) Mund of Whitby, Louise (Stephen) Thompson of Kitchener, Paul (Jackie) Shaughnessy and Ted (Sylvia) Shaughnessy, all of Bracebridge. Cherished grandfather of D'Arcy and Katrina Mund; Shawna, Amber, Kailey and Steven Thompson; Patrick and Matthew Shaughnessy and Dana and Katie Shaughnessy. Brother of Katherine (Kit) Hart and her husband Bill of Toronto. He will be lovingly remembered by his nieces, nephews, many friends and business associates.

Lou was predeceased by his parents, William D'Arcy Shaughnessy and the former Margaret Mary O'Leary and his brother, D'Arcy.

Lou was born in Toronto where he began his life long career as a Chartered Accountant. Due to the nature of his profession, Lou often filled the role of Treasurer in his many charitable activities. Lou will be remembered by many as "Lion Lou", having spent most of his adult life holding various positions and helping others through this amazing organization, both in Toronto and Bracebridge. Lou will also be remembered for his many charitable works through his parishes, St. Gabriel's and St. Joseph's. Lou was proud to sit on the Board of Directors of Santa's Village. He spent many happy hours playing golf, bridge, poker, reading or enjoying a game of pool.

Friends will be received at the Reynolds Funeral Home, Bracebridge, on Thursday, April 15 from 7-9 p.m. and Friday, April 16 from 2:30 to 4 and 7-9 p.m. Parish prayers will be said at the Funeral Home Friday evening at 8 p.m. The Funeral Mass will be said at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Bracebridge on Saturday, April 17 at 11 a.m., with Father Joe Moran officiating. Interment at St. Joseph's Cemetery.