

Frank Sekulich wanted to become a paratrooper.

**SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM**  
Part I (For all ranks)

Unit: **No. XI DISTRICT DEPOT C.A.** Regimental Number: **K-50835**

1. Surname: **SEKULICH** (17) Regiment or Corps: **C.A.** Unit (Battn., etc):  
2. Christian Name: **Frank Nicholas** (18) Medical: **119 C.A. (B.T.E. VERNON, B.C.)**

3. \*Substantive Rank and Appointment: **Cpl** \*Acting Temporary or Local Rank: **9 Feb 43**

4. Place of birth: **Kenaston Saskatchewan Canada.** (18) Medical: **Category: A-1 Date: 29-3-43 Authority: MFM 2 Page 3**

5. Date of birth as declared on attestation: **March 3rd 1918**

6. Date of enlistment: **March 29th 1943**

7. Place of enlistment: **Vancouver B.C. Canada.**

8. Residence at time of enlistment: **Powell River B.C. Canada.**

9. (B) Special conditions (if any) of enlistment or rate of pay.

10. (C) Any subsequent variations of conditions of service.

11. Religion: **Roman Catholic**

12. If married, state date.

13. Trade on enlistment: **Farmer & Mill Worker**

14. Corps, trade and grade.

15. (D) Qualifications.

16. (E) Miscellaneous entries.

(19) Next of kin (entries to be made in pencil): **Father: Matt Sekulich, Kenaston Sask. Canada**

(20) E  
(21) E  
(22) E

*Bron: Canada, WWII Service Files of War Dead, 1939-1947*

When he registered with the Canadian army at the end of March 1943, he let know that his heart was there.

Those who had to judge him fit for the army had their doubts.

Was he healthy enough? Had he got the mental resistance required? Frank knew he had. He had climbed the highest towers, no vertigo.

So why wouldn't he be able to jump out of a plane?

Frank Sekulich was the seventh child of a family of eleven in Kenaston, in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. His parents had a farm, but when Frank joined the army, his father had already stopped farming. Two of his seven brothers worked on the farm, two served in the Canadian army. Two brothers were married and worked on the farm. Two of his brothers worked in naturalized Canadians in the twenties of the last century. At home, the mother tongue was spoken, that's why Frank spoke Croatian besides English, but could not read or write it.

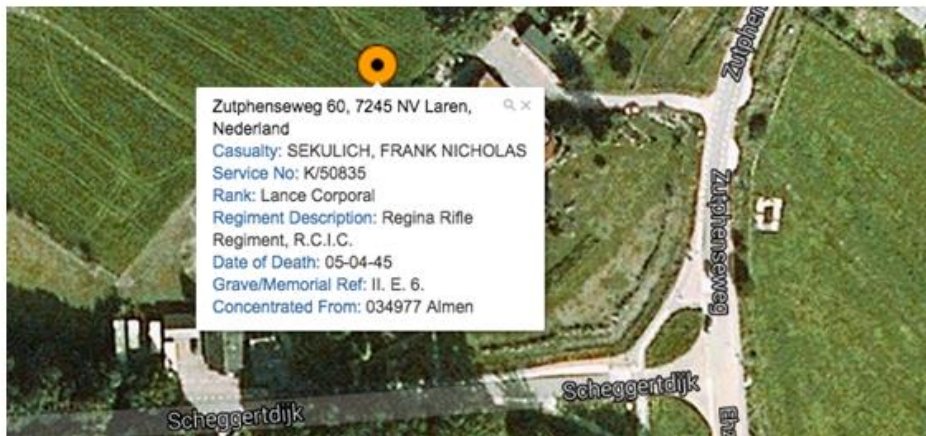
"A well-built, sturdy young man, a positive personality" judged by Captain A. Mc Kie about Frank. Frank had black hair, brown eyes and weighed 68 kilos. At the age of fifteen he stopped school and started to work on the farm. He did this for almost ten years and especially working with horses appealed to him.

Because he had lung problems at a young age, the army doctors did not see him suited to be a paratrooper. Mentally he was strong enough and motivation lacked neither, said the army psychiatrist. "It is worth the try" he decided.

In the end his wish was not granted. He was placed in the Regina Rifles Regiment, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War known as "The Johns", because all the boys named John in it.

He followed a driver's training and on the 30<sup>th</sup> August he was shipped to England. A week before, he had to give two days wage, because he had taken two days leave, without permission. Instead of four day's leave, he took six.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> , Frank was taken on land, where he fought the turmoil of battle. In February 1945, Frank fought at Kalkar in Germany with his mates. Frank was injured on his right thigh. After recovering he re-joined his mates. In the beginning of April he crossed the Twentekanaal at Almen in Gelderland. His regiment went in northern and western direction. The regiment was fired at by enemy mortars from the crossroad in Joppe, "Out of range at our arty" was noted in the intelligence log of the regiment. If Frank was hit by enemy fire, or by something else, the archives let our imagination work. The fact is that Frank was killed on April 5<sup>th</sup> 1945, exactly two years after recruiting. One day later on April 6<sup>th</sup> he was buried near a farm on the road from Almen to Laren (Zutphenseweg) between the damaged Ehzerbrug over the Twentekanaal and the station.



Frank's temporary grave.

Later he was buried at the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten. He lies in plot II, row E, grave number 6.