

2.1: Personal background Walter Westwood



Walter Allan Westwood was born on April 23, 1920 in Regina. He is son of Mrs. and Mr. Westwood. Walter was their only child and both parents had died before 1945. He was affiliated with the Church of England. He completed grade 12 as his highest education, which means that he probably went to school until he was 17 or 18. He then worked for a few years as an accountant at a steel company in Montreal. There it turned out that he was diligent, which turned out later, because the company promised him that he could come back when he got out of the army. He also liked it there, because he wanted to go back when his period in the army was over. On May 17, 1940, Walter Westwood joined the army. He was then 20 years old. At the medical examination, he was described as a healthy, strong man. He had blond hair and blue eyes. He once wore glasses, but no longer at the time of the inspection. Walter Westwood was said during training that he was a good leader, showed initiative, but also that he was prone to think he knew everything. His hobbies were swimming, golf, journalism and music that he wanted to study when he came back from the army, which unfortunately never happened. While serving in the military, he married Miss Patricia May Ferguson on February 26, 1944. On March 3, 1945, while Walter was engaged in the Rhineland offensive, his son Barry Lee was born in Canada.

2.2: Walter Westwood's Military Career During the Canadian Liberation of Europe in World War II

On May 17, 1940, Walter Westwood joined the Canadian Army. He ended up in the regiment 'The Black Watch'. As mentioned before, he had been declared healthy and had passed the training and combat exercises. He started out as a private, which is the lowest rank in the military. He was soon promoted to corporal on March 6, 1942. From August 31 to September 19, 1942 he had a training. He succeeded. He has had several ranks. These are not very clearly described in the file, because he has been demoted again several times. Walter left for England on 17 February

1941. What exactly he did there is unknown. It is clear, however, that he also followed various training courses there and was promoted to lieutenant. But to be confirmed as a lieutenant, he had to return to Canada. On 11 August 1944 he was definitively promoted to lieutenant. An officer there writes about him that he is an excellent officer. He was afraid to go back to England where he would fight before the war is over. He also trained in Canada. There he was praised; he was in good physical shape, he was interested in his work and had a lot of general knowledge. He could react well in difficult situations, had a lot of knowledge of weapons and was enthusiastic. In doing so, he encouraged other soldiers. During his period in Canada he was also married to Patricia Mae Ferguson. Westwood returned to England on December 26, 1944, on February 13, 1945, he left for Northwest Europe. According to the War Diaries, his regiment was near Nijmegen at that time, so it is likely that Westwood also went there. From that moment on, he has been part of the battle in the Netherlands and Northwest Germany. Walter Allan Westwood has received several awards for his actions in the military:

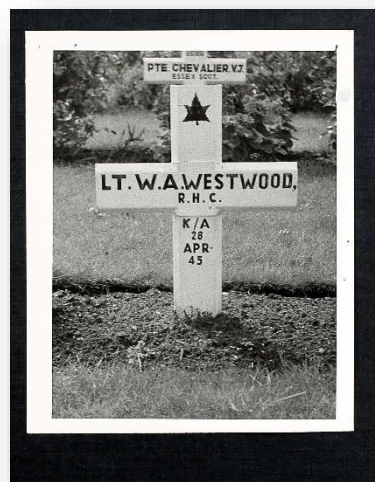
- 1939 – 45 star
- France-Germany star
- Defense Medal
- War Medal 1939-45
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.

2.3: The circumstances under which Walter Westwood was killed during the Canadian liberation of the Netherlands and Northwest Germany in World War II

On April 28, 1945, The Black Watch was fighting in northwestern Germany, in the town of Kirchhatten. The soldiers were divided into several platoons, in order to conquer Kirchhatten. Walter Westwood was in charge of one such platoon. During the day the army advanced further and further and captured more and more Germans. By 2 o'clock in the afternoon another target had been captured. Westwood and some of his scouts went out to collect the prisoners, who had been captured a few hundred yards away. As Walter Westwood searched their clothing, a sniper shot him through the head with a single shot. He died almost immediately... His death was described in the service files as K.i.A. (killed in action). His scouts placed their immensely popular young officer in a narrow trench so they could bury him later. They buried him in Hude, D. On March 16, 1946 Walter Allan Westwood was transported to the Canadian Cemetery in Holten, where he is now buried. He is buried in Plot

9, Row D, Grave 9. On his tombstone is written: 'All the world – until tomorrow. The whole world, see you tomorrow. A radical text, something to think about... A noteworthy fact is that Walter Westwood's tombstone and various documents state that he died at the age of 23. After further investigation, it appears that these data are incorrect and that he died at the age of 25

A family from Deventer decided in 1948 to adopt the grave of Lieutenant Westwood. They have sent a letter to the director of the Department of National Defense in order to get in touch with the relatives of Walter Westwood.



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