

A clever man who had problems with reading.

Add Non-qualifying Service		7
Total Service		378

EMBARKATION DETAILS: 703-0/5. 15 Oct 44 ✓

1. Date S.O.S. Overseas 5 Apr 45 ✓ 2. Date S.O.S. Overseas

REMARKS:

Computer's Signature: R. W. Jones Sgt

Checker's Signature: [Signature]

Date Computed: 1 Aug 45

KILLED IN ACTION

5 Apr 45 ✓

CERTIFIED that entitlement to benefits under the War Service Grants Act, 1944, has been established, based on service shown herein.

[Signature] C. L. LAURIN, Colonel, Director of Branch

500M-11-44 (6012)

Bron: Service Files of the Second World War – War dead, 1939-1947, Library and Archives Canada Ottawa

Leslie Williams (born 21st September 1911 in London) was no longer British when he joined the army in March 1944. He emigrated to Canada in 1925 at the age of 13 and since then had a career as a farm hand. He did not finish primary school; due to illness, he said on joining the army. As a twelve year old he had chronic rheumatism. An intelligence test showed a low score, but that was more to do with intelligence than reading problems.

Due to little education he had problems with both reading and writing. Written test were moderate but he was cleverer in oral questions or explanations.

He tried his best to compensate for his limitations, becoming clear whilst taking part in exercise.

Lieutenant R. E. Story saw Williams as a smart, friendly adult recruit, muscular built and an average weight (68 kilo's) and height (1.76 m).

He had blue eyes and brown hair and two tattoos on both arms.

Williams was used to working outside and looking healthy. He wanted to serve in the army, did his utmost best and adapted well, wrote Army inspector Howard Small when Williams had been in the army for some time.

Leslie was married to Alice Maude Williams. They had a son: James Leslie. His family in Canada was further an aunt, Clara Williams, she lived in Blackwater, Ontario, just like Leslie and Alice.

Leslie went in October 1944, seven months after he had gone into the army, to Europe. He stayed a month in England, before he was transferred to the European Theater of War on November 18, 1944. He was assigned to the Black Watch, Royal Highland Regiment of Canada. A month before, the regiment had suffered heavy losses in the battle of the Coedam, designed to liberate Walcheren. Canadian troops failed to arrive on the island over the Coedam. Eventually the island was liberated by British commandos coming from the sea.

In early April Williams withdrew with his buddies northward in the eastern Netherlands. In early April they traveled over the Twentekanaal in Almen, Gelderland. (between Zutphen and Lochem). In the following days was a hard fight around the village of Laren. As Williams was killed. He had served 378 days of which 173 are in Europe. He found a temporary cemetery in Laren, near the Zutphenseweg. Later, he was reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten: Plot I, Row E, Grave No. 14.