

***McLelland, John Thomas, Trooper (D95623)***

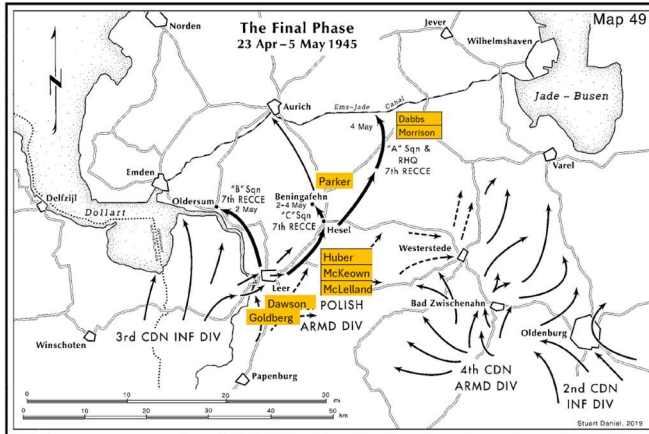


- John Thomas McLelland was born on 20 July 1918 in Montreal, Quebec. He was 26 years old when he died of wounds on 12 May 1945 in Germany.
- On 11 May 1940, he enlisted at the District depot in Montreal South, Quebec and joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Motorcycle Regiment (17<sup>th</sup> Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars). On the 26 February he was transferred to Camp Debert, Nova Scotia, with his unit which was redesignated the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment. On 23 August 1941, he and the Regiment were sent overseas to England and deployed in southern England. In 1943, he was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit. On 26 April 1945, he returned to his unit.
- He had served in two militia units prior to enlisting for active service overseas. First, the 66<sup>th</sup> Battery, RCA, and then the 6<sup>th</sup> Field ambulance.
- Prior to enlisting, he was employed for fourteen months as an orderly labourer at the Montreal General Hospital.
- He left school at the age of 16 after completing 7 years of public school.
- According to his medical examination, he was 6 foot 2 inches tall and weighed 203 pounds. He had blue eyes and brown hair. He was found fit for category A.
- He was the son of William (deceased in 1943) and Margaret McLelland; the latter lived at 7481 Bloomfield Avenue, Montreal, Quebec. He had three siblings; James (34), Florence (32), and Lillian (29).
- He was the husband of Eileen Ethel Carter, of Brighton, Sussex, England. They were married on 8 January 1944 in Brighton. After John's death, Eileen cancelled her plans to emigrate to Canada as she was pregnant and did not want to be alone with a small baby.
- The sole beneficiary of John's will was his mother, but his wife was granted half his estate per community of property.
- His body is buried in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands (Ref: VII. F. 2.)(plot, row, grave)

Context

- After liberating the northern part of the Netherlands, the Regiment and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division were ordered to cross into Germany and start clearing the Rheider peninsula.

The first elements of the Regiment entered Germany during the second half of April 1945. Unlike the Netherlands, where the enemy was withdrawing using delaying tactics, the German forces were determined to fight. They had prepared their defences and laid thousands of mines and were much more aggressive. Further, the local population had no incentive to help the Allied Forces, and the ground was soft and boggy making it more difficult to manoeuvre. These factors combined to increase the number of casualties.



- According to the War Diary: At 08:00 hours on 5 May 1945, the “CEASE FIRE” order became effective. On 6 May 1945, the Regiment received orders to move to the AURICHE area. On 9 May 1945, each squadron was attached to one of the Division’s brigades until the sweeps of their respective areas were completed. On 11 May 1945, a very unfortunate accident took place at 1400 hours when a carrier from Nine Troop “C” Squadron ran over a mine near LEER. The crew of six were evacuated to the Hospital where D3831 Corporal McKeown, B.J., L84635 Trooper Huber W.L., and D95623 Trooper McLelland, J.T. succumbed to their wounds.

## **Tpr. J. McLelland Fatally Wounded**

Tpr. John T. McLelland, 26, of the 7th Recon Regiment (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars) has

been reported to have died of wounds received in action. A member of the non-permanent active militia before the war, he served with the 66th Field Battery, R.C.A. He went on active service in May, 1940, with the 14th General Hospital,



**Tpr. J. T.  
McLelland**

R.C.A.M.C., and transferred to the Hussars the same year, going overseas in July, 1941.

The son of Mrs. William McLelland, of 7481 Bloomfield avenue, and the late Mr. McLelland, Trooper McLelland was married in England. Also surviving are a brother, James, formerly a sergeant in the R.C.A.S.C., and two sisters, Florence and Lillian, living with their mother.