

Morrison, Donald, Corporal (F2828)

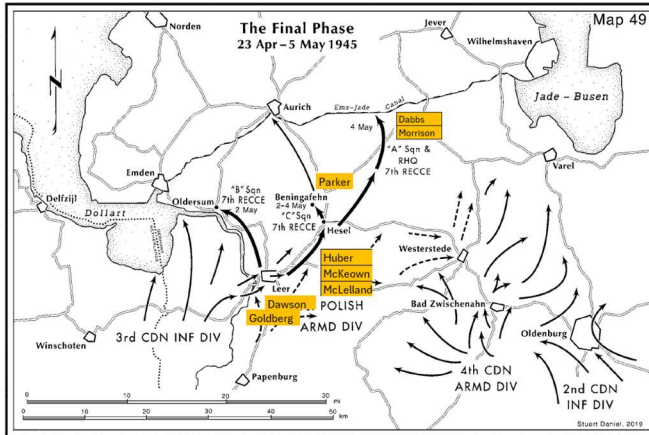


- Donald Morrison was born on 5 October 1920 in Sydney, Nova Scotia. He was 24 years old when he was killed in action on 4 May 1945 in Germany.
- On 12 March 1942, he enlisted at the District depot in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was immediately sent for basic training in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. He was then sent to Camp Borden, Ontario for driver training (wheeled and tracked). In July 1942, he was sent overseas to England where he trained notably to become a motor mechanic with the 1st Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit until 28 March 1943, when he was transferred to the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment. On 17 June 1944, he was deployed to France.
- He had no military experience, other than working six months in the merchant marine.
- Prior to enlisting, he worked as refrigeration service man.
- He completed grade 9 in high school then followed a correspondence course on refrigeration.
- According to his medical examination, he was 6 foot tall and weighed 160 pounds. He had brown eyes and blond. He was found fit for category A.
- He was the son of Norman (a coal trimmer) and Margaret Morrison who lived at 243 Robert Street, Sydney, Nova Scotia. He had three siblings; Ella, Norena and Gus (Angus)
- He was the husband of Agnes Edward Fyffe Swinton (a typist in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force) of Carntyne, Glasgow, Scotland, who he married with permission on 23 March 1944.
- The co-beneficiaries of Donald's will were his wife and his mother.
- His body is buried in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery, Overijssel, Netherlands (Ref: XII. A. 2.)(plot, row, grave)

Context

- After liberating the northern part of the Netherlands, the Regiment and the 3rd 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 for 4 May 1945: ““A” Squadron continued clearing area as given up to the line of the Canal. At 1030 hours HOLTROOP MR 889374 was reported clear. By noon one Troop had taken WEISMOOR MR 9935 with twenty Prisoners of War. On their way to WIESMOOR they captured intact a large power plant for NORTH-WEST GERMANY at MR 9935. Other elements had reached MR 9039 taking 26 Prisoners and areas MRs 9339 and 9638. As a patrol approached the bridge at MR 998410 it was blown and the enemy opened fire from across the EMS-JADE Canal. Thirty-seven Prisoners of War came across the canal at MR 8839 and gave themselves up to another patrol. In this skirmish Cpl Morrison was killed [in action] and later Sgt Dabbs later died of wounds received. By 1430 hours the Squadron had cleared area NORTH and EAST to Canal EMS-JADE MRs 8839 to 9480 to 0033 and at this hour an envoy under a flag of truce, purporting to be from the garrison com'd at AURICH, was conducted to 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade Headquarters. The Squadron was ordered not to cross the Canal.”

