

***Sigley, Vincent Job, Lance Corporal (D3833)***



- Vincent Job Sigley was born on 15 January 1917 in Brooklyn, New York. He was 27 years old when he was killed in action on 18 December 1944 in the Netherlands.
- On 11 May 1941, he enlisted at the No. 4 District Depot in Montreal South and was sent for his basic training at 41 Canadian Army (Basic) Training Center in Huntingdon, Quebec. On the 27 April 1941, he was sent to Camp Debert, Nova Scotia to join the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (17<sup>th</sup> Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars) and continue his training. On 13 May 1945 received his driver class III and on 24 August 1941, he embarked with his unit for England. In England, he qualified as a driver/mechanic, and he attended a boxing course. After being promoted to the rank of Corporal on 25 December 1942, he was reverted to Trooper on 8 March 1944, at his own request. On 15 July 1944, he was deployed to France with his unit. He received a shrapnel wound on 17 August 1944 but returned to service.
- He had no military experience in Canada prior to enlisting, but he did attend U.S. Army Officers training from 1938 to 1940.
- He attended four years of secondary education and received his junior matriculation.
- Prior to enlisting, he was employed for one year by a food manufacturer, Cross and Blackwell of New York City, as an accounting clerk and truck driver. Prior to that, he had worked for a year as a logger for the US Department of the Interior in Washington State.
- According to his medical examination, he was 6 foot tall and weighed 174 pounds. He had brown eyes and black hair. He was found fit for category A.
- Son of Job and Nora Sigley, of Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A.
- His father, Job Sigley, lived at 8801 Shore Road, Brooklyn, New York. His mother, Norah Neild Sigley, died in March 1918, when he was one year old. His parents had married in August 1905, in Cheshire England. He had an older brother, George Sigley who died in England in 1930. He also had an older sister, Viola Sigley Ashton who lived in Manchester, England.
- Vincent was a bachelor and had no children. He was an American from Brooklyn, New York.
- The sole beneficiary of Vincent's will was his father.
- His body is buried in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Groesbeek, Netherlands (Ref I. H. 1.) (plot, row, grave)

**Context**

- On 25 July, Vincent Job Sigley and "C" Squadron was sent to France, where it took part in the battles of Caen, the River Laison and the Falaise Gap. After the decisive Battle of the Falaise Gap,

(17-21 August 1944) the Regiment then pursued the retreating German Forces through France, eventually helping to encircle and obtain the surrender of the large fortified German garrisons at Boulogne, Cap Gris Nez, and Calais along the English Channel. It then moved into Belgium to the Netherlands, where it participated in the battle of the Scheldt, and helped clear the enemy from the Breskens Pocket, the low-lying land south of the Scheldt Estuary. This important operation was necessary to shorten the overextended supply lines from Normandy, and it gave the Allied Forces unrestricted access to the Port of Antwerp.

- After the Battle of the Scheldt, the advance of the Allied forces stalled for the winter of 1944-45 notably while they redirected their supply lines through the Port of Antwerp and built up their supplies of ammunition, fuel, and other essential elements, in anticipation of a thrust into northern Germany. While this was going on, the River Waal in Central Netherlands became the frontline. Starting in October 1944, different British, Canadian, Belgian, and Dutch regiments rotated through a line of fortified outposts along the Allied side of the river. From 17 December 1944 to 3 February 1945, the 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment took over the positions near Dreumel, a small community about 35 kilometers west of Nijmegen.
- The troops manned observation and listening posts along the dykes overlooking the river. Apart from the shelling, which was intermittent, things tended to be quiet during the day but would heat up at night, with enemy patrols, shelling, outbursts of small arms fire, flares, and signal lights. In his book entitled "An Historical Account," Lieutenant Walter Pavey, a troop officer at the time, described the "amazingly wide frontage and the responsibilities handled by the individuals of the Regiment. As the darkness increased, each section became a tiny seven- or eight-man isolated stronghold, with nothing between it and the next 'fortress' but some two hundred yards of eerie, windswept dike."



Watercolour by Captain Alex Colville, "The Watch on the Dyke," 17 November 1944. It depicts two soldiers of "B" Squadron, 7th Reconnaissance Regiment manning a position on a dyke in the Nijmegen area. (Susan Ross: Beaverbrook Collection of War Art: CWM. 19710261-2127)

- On the night of 18 December 1944, a German patrol from the Fallschirmjaeger (Paratrooper), stationed in Tiel, raided the billets of a post manned by No. 9 Troop, "C" Squadron. There were two men on duty in a slit trench on the Waal winter dyke, while the other 11 men were sleeping

Honour Roll profiles from the Second World War  
 Members of the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (17<sup>th</sup> Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars)

in two empty houses to the rear. The enemy slipped into the house owned by the Bouman family, kicked the sleeping men awake, and shot three of them. Trooper George Arthur Sharpe was wounded and brought to the field dressing station, but he died at 09:05 the next morning. Victor Job Sigley and George Francis Moncrief died immediately.



3/19A

**WAR DIARY**  
OR  
**INTELLIGENCE-SUMMARY**  
(When leading not required)

Original, duplicate and if forwarded to GIC that date

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Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries (which will be kept from time of submission, unless or otherwise) are contained in PB Regs Vol 1.  
This page will be prepared  
NOVEMBER 1944

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks
	18		<p>"A" Squadron. V-1s continued to come over at the same rate. There were numerous flares and a little small-arms fire. In the early morning vehicle movement was heard in TREN.</p> <p>"B" Squadron. Many V-1s were seen during the past 24 hours. At 2230 and 0220 hours heavy explosions were heard from the Observation Post at IR 400629. The bearing was 220°. Many flares and signal lights were seen.</p> <p>"C" Squadron. At 0115 hours Sgt McAloed, D L, who was in command of 9 Troop section post, reported that a German patrol had raided the post's billets killing two men, seriously wounding a third and taking one prisoner. The layout of the post was as follows: A slit trench on the Dyke was manned by two men and the remainder of the section was in two houses immediately behind the slit trench.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>The German patrol entered the western billet from the rear, went through the</p>	

In this aerial photo the demolished house of Bouman on the Polstreet. (Red Circle) The white dot indicates the location of the monument. Source Tremele foundation Dreumel.



Vincent Job Sigley, on the left, and his good friend Allan Notman.

