

***MackKay, William Ian, Lance/Sergeant (D-3555)***



- William Ian MacKay was born on 9 October 1915 in Paisley, Scotland. He was 29 years old when he was killed in action on 11 or 12 October 1944 during the Battle of the Scheldt.
- Before the war, he worked at Canadian Vickers Limited, in Montreal, in the production of aircraft, possibly in the stores, or in the blueprint department. He had completed high school and taken one year of business college before entering the work force.
- William's mother passed away when he was still a child. His father, Neil T. MacKay, lived with William and others at 4976 Adam Street, Montreal 4, Quebec (near the present-day Olympic Stadium), and worked as a hospital orderly. Shortly after William's death, his father returned to Scotland with Mrs. Betty Dougan, who was William's sister. In March 1946, his address as next-of-kin on William's service file was changed to: Mr. Neil MacKay, c/o Mrs. Betty Dougan, 59 Old Sneddon Street, Paisley, Scotland. Another address for William's father, Neil MacKay, was later added to William's service file: 1471429 Pte MacKay, N.T., 399 S.L.R.A., Bromley, Kent, England.
- When he was killed, William was a bachelor and had no children.
- The sole beneficiary of William's will, dated 15 June 1944, was his cousin Lillian Gouldstone, who also lived with the MacKay's in Montreal. She eventually married Daniel Black, after which the couple resided at the same address where Lillian lived with the MacKay's. Lillian died on 14 June 1982. As a commemorative act, William's name was inscribed on Lillian's gravestone in the Mount Royal Cemetery in Montreal.
- His body is buried in the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery, Maldegem, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium. (Ref. V. F. 11.) (plot, row, grave).

<p>MackKay's grave at Adegem</p>	<p>Gouldstone's grave at Mount Royal Cemetery</p>	<p>Grave of unknown Senegalese soldier at Adegem</p>

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)

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*Pictures from Camp Debert, Nova Scotia, 1941*

On 11 October, near Biervliet, Netherlands, the Germans moved up a 20-mm gun to the top of a dike and used it to shoot up the general area. The 20-mm gun was withdrawn the following morning, and that afternoon "C" Squadron attacked the position where it had been. The attack was successful, but Lance Sergeant Bill MacKay and another man were killed as they attempted to take some prisoners. The other man was apparently a French Senegalese soldier whom MacKay had befriended in France. It seems the soldier had been taken prisoner early in the war by the Germans. He had somehow escaped and, by the time William met him, he had been hiding and working on a French farm since about 1940. He spoke only French, took a great liking to William, and wanted to join in fighting the Germans. So, William invited him to come along. At the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery, there is a grave of an unidentified soldier who apparently died 11 October 1944 who could be this soldier. (According to his personnel file, MacKay's date of death was 12 October, but according to the war diary his death occurred on 11 October 1944).