

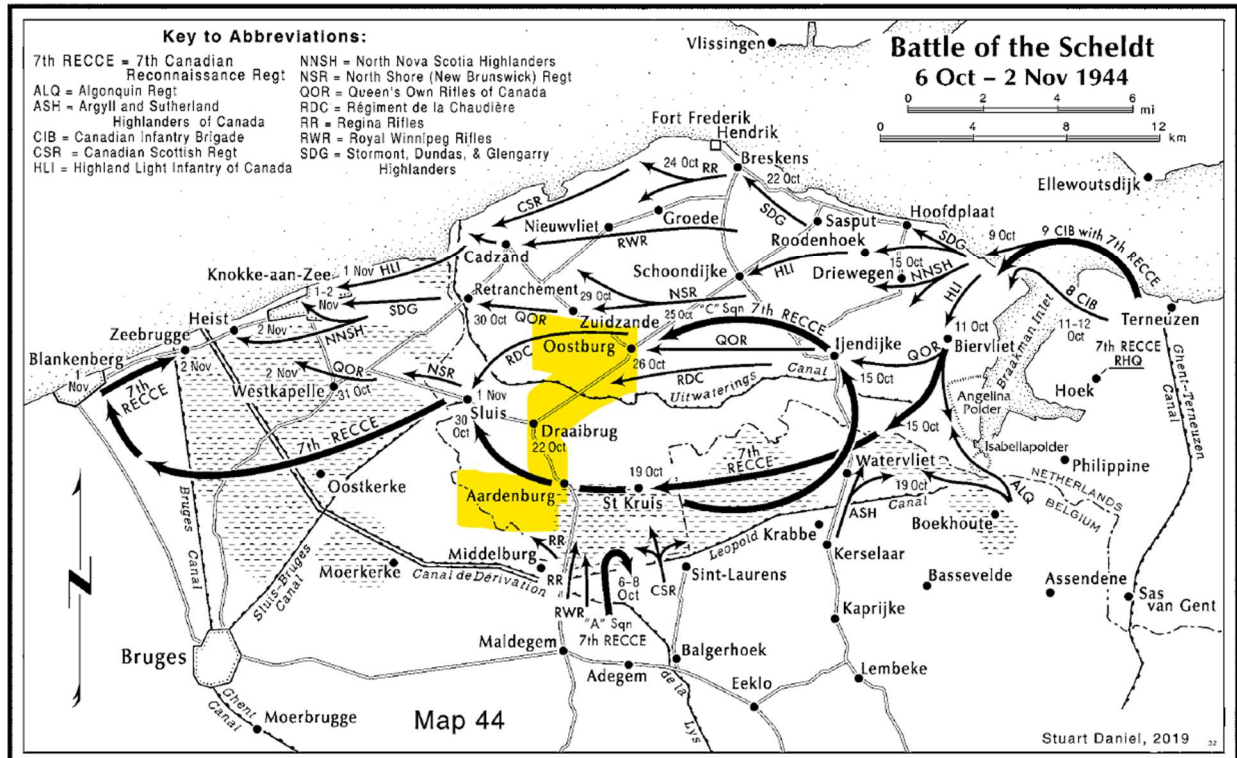
Whittingham, Jesse, Captain



- Jesse Whittingham was born on 24 September 1908 in Frodingham, Lincolnshire, England. He was 36 years old when he was killed in action on 26 October 1944 in the Netherlands.
- On 12 October 1939, he enrolled for active service with the 17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars. On 25 July 1940, he was promoted to lieutenant and appointed as a troop leader in the 3rd Canadian Motorcycle, C.A.S.F. (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars), which trained around Montreal. On 28 February 1941, that unit was redesignated to be the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment and deployed to Camp Debert, Nova Scotia for field training. It then went overseas, arriving in Glasgow on 2 September 1941, and then moving to Aldershot. He was promoted to captain on 2 November 1940. After training in England for several years and serving as the regimental transport officer and then as Quartermaster, he was deployed to France with "B" Squadron on 11 June 1944. On 28 June 1944, in Normandy, he suffered a slight wound on the top of his scalp but stayed in service.
- Prior to volunteering for active service, he had served since 1928 in the militia as a member of the 17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars, where he had attained the rank of warrant officer 2 (Squadron Sergeant-Major).
- He had graduated after completing 5 years of high school and gone on to study bookkeeping and accounting at the O'Sullivan's Business College. He also took night courses at McGill University. Prior to enlisting, he was employed since 1928 as an accountant and travelling auditor for the Sun Life Assurance Company in Montreal.
- According to his medical examination, he was 5 foot 10 3/4 inches tall and weighed 165 pounds. He had blue eyes and brown hair. He was classified as A.
- At the time of his enlistment, he lived at 5220 Queen Mary Road in Montreal, Quebec, with his wife Hazel Edith Skates, who he had married in 1935 at St. Clements Church in Verdun, Quebec. His foster father, James Doulton (a building supervisor) and his mother Rose Doulton lived at 2365 Hampton Ave, in Notre Dame de Grace, Quebec. They had two other children; Rose Caroline Doulton (23), and Charles Doulton (21). Jesse also had two other sisters from his mother's previous marriage; Mrs. Emma Ashton (37), and Mrs. Milley Eaglesham (34). His original parents had married in Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, England in 1906, but had moved to Canada in 1921.
- His body is buried in the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery, Maldegem, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium (Ref: X. B. 2.)(plot, row, grave)

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

Context



- Once the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment had reached Aardenburg and the focus of its advance had turned north, and The Queen's Own Rifles had captured the town of Oostburg, the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment was tasked with clearing the road between the two locations so that it could be opened to logistical traffic. This meant passing through numerous minefields and having the engineers build a new bridge. "A" Squadron, using its Assault Troop was to proceed from the south from Aardenburg towards Oostburg, whereas "B" Squadron was to send two troops in a southwesterly direction from Oostburg and join up with "A" Squadron. "A" Squadron was able to complete their task without too much difficulty and soon reached the site where the bridge was to be erected. "B" Squadron on the other hand had to cross a river over a footbridge and continue to "C" Squadron where they borrowed vehicles to enable them to maintain communications. One of their first jobs was to remove a road block. As it was being removed, Captain Whittingham's vehicle, a light scout car, ran over a mine and he was blasted completely out of the car. A second mine exploded and turned the car over on him. He was killed instantly.
- After this incident, "B" Squadron continued advancing south meeting heavy opposition in the form of mines, roadblocks, mortars, and shelling. It took until last light before the squadron was able to clear the road, taking 22 prisoners. During the night, the Engineers were able to come forward and lay down the bridge under the protection of the regiment.



KILLED IN ACTION: Capt. Jesse Whittingham, who had served 14 years with the 7th Rec'ce Regiment (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars), has been killed in action. He had been overseas since August, 1941. Besides his parents Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Doulton, of 672 First avenue, Verdun, he is survived by his wife, the former Hazel Skates; three sisters, Mrs. N. B. Ashton, Mrs. R. Eaglesham and Miss Peggie Doulton, of Verdun; and a brother, Lieut. C. W. Doulton, also serving in the Hussars overseas. Before going on active service, he was on the staff of the Sun Life Assurance Company, of Canada.



CAPT. JESSE WHITTINGHAM, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Doulton, of 672 First avenue, Verdun, who was reported killed in action in Holland on October 26, according to word received here by his wife, the former Hazel Skates. Joining the 17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars on October 29, 1931, he mobilized with that regiment and went overseas with the 7th Reconnaissance Regiment in August, 1941. Before the war he was with the Sun Life Assurance Co., having joined the staff in 1928. Besides his wife and parents, he is survived by three sisters, Mrs. N. B. Ashton, Mrs. R. Eaglesham and Miss Peggy Doulton, of Verdun; and a brother, Lt. C. W. Doulton, who is serving overseas with the 7th Recce. Regiment.