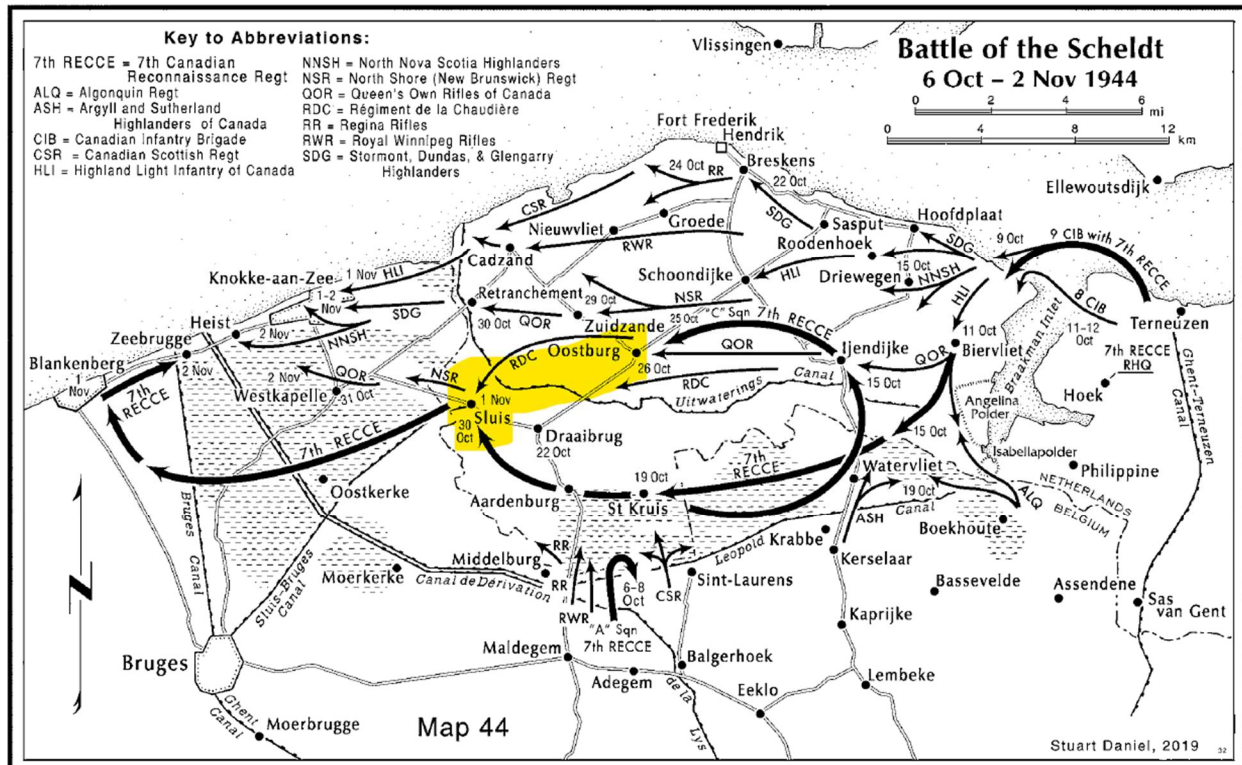


Wilson, James Hinan, Trooper (D-131349)



- James Hinan Wilson was born on 19 October 1923 in Montreal, Quebec. He was 21 years old when he was killed in action on 29 October 1944 in the Netherlands.
- On 27 May 1942, he enlisted with the 4th Canadian Reconnaissance Battalion (4 Princess Louise's Dragoon Guards) in Ottawa and was posted to "A" Squadron of that unit. He served with the unit for 3 months and attended a summer camp. He was attending high school at St. Patrick's College in Ottawa East when he enlisted. He completed high school when he was 19. He had served with a cadet corps prior to enlisting, but, as prior employment, had only worked on a farm during the summers.
- On 18 November 1942, he enlisted for active service at the Montreal South District and was sent to Huntingdon for basic military training and then, he was sent to the Canadian Armoured Corps reconnaissance training centre in Dundurn, Saskatchewan, where he qualified as a Wireless Operator. He was sent overseas in December 1943 and posted to the 1st Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit. On 28 April 1944, he was posted to the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars) and on 11 June 1944, he embarked for France, probably with "B" Squadron.
- According to his medical examination, he was 6 foot and ½ inch tall and weighed 165 pounds. He had fair hair and blue eyes. He was found fit for category A.
- His father, James Thomas Wilson, and mother Florence Elanor Hinan lived at 4254 Beaconsfield Drive, in Notre Dame de Grace, Montreal, Quebec. James was an only child.
- At the time of his death, he was a bachelor and had no children.
- The sole beneficiary of James' will was his mother.
- His body is buried in the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery, Maldegem, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium (Ref IX. F. 10.) (plot, row, grave)

Context



- On 27 October, once the bridge was built opening a logistics road between Aardenburg and Oostburg, and "A" Squadron was well positioned to protect it, "B" and "C" Squadrons were ordered to proceed through the dikes in a westerly direction from Oostburg. Enemy opposition was heavy and very determined. The squadrons could not use their vehicles because the enemy was dug in all along the dykes. Nevertheless, as they advanced on foot, they knocked out two 40 mm and one 37 mm guns and captured 80 prisoners.
- On 28 October, "B" and "C" squadrons continued their push west. Again, strong and determined opposition was met throughout the day and the previous day's objectives were finally achieved in the late afternoon. Late at night, "C" Squadron sent out a troop to link up with "A" Squadron, which was still guarding the bridge, and one of the troop's heavy armoured cars was blown up by a mine. The total number of prisoners taken for the day was 120. The unit's casualties were 1 killed (Trooper James Wilson) and 1 wounded. One flame-throwing carrier was blown up by a mine.
- On 29 October, "B" and "C" squadrons again continued to push west, aiming to get as far as the Uitwateringskanaal. "C" Squadron, on the right flank, met heavy resistance and could only advance slowly, so "B" Squadron slowed its advance as well.
- On 30 October, the main objective was to capture Sluis. "A" Squadron, reinforced with the "C" Squadron's assault troop, the entire Regimental support group, and a troop of self-propelled guns, was given the task. Each of the squadron's attempts to enter the town was met with fierce resistance. Here, Corporal MacKenzie was killed by a sniper. "B" Squadron, which was able to get across the Uitwateringskanaal and approach Sluis from the north east, was also met with

fierce resistance. So, the squadrons assumed holding positions and reported that a larger force was needed to overcome the enemy.

- On 31 October, as the Régiment de la Chaudière arrived to assault the town, and the 7th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment was pulled out of the line and sent further west to assume positions near Blankenberg then held by a British reconnaissance regiment.



Tpr. J. McD. Carter **Tpr. James H. Wilson**

KILLED: Two local soldiers reported killed in action on the Western Front are shown above.

Trooper Carter, 23, joined up in 1939 and was associated with the Sherbrooke Fusiliers until attached to headquarters of the 4th Canadian Division. The son of Mrs. Charles Carter, of Verdun, and the late Mr. Carter, he attended St. Willibrord's School. Before enlisting he was employed at the Montreal Dry Docks. He had been overseas since 1940.

Trooper Wilson, 21, was reported killed on his birthday. The son of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Wilson, of 4254 Beaconsfield avenue, he attended Daniel O'Connell School and St. Patrick's College, Ottawa, where he played football and was in the boxing team. He enlisted in 1942 and went overseas in December, 1943, and was serving with a reconnaissance regiment when fatally wounded.