

Boyd, Victor

Lieutenant

Royal Canadian Engineers

1 Canadian Engineer

Reinforcement Unit

B414914



Victor Boyd was born 9 June 1915 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the son of George Calvert Boyd, a salesman, and Katherine Clarke; they belonged to the United Church. He had two brothers, Alan and James, and a sister, Mary. After primary school, Victor went on to attend High School for three



years. At the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg he studied architecture and obtained a bachelor's degree in 1938 at the age of 23. He was particularly interested in designing theatre sets.

Six students of architecture Victor 2nd from the right

He then worked as an architect for the firm of Albert S. Macduff in Val d'Or, in the province of Quebec for three years, and hoped to return there after the war was over.

On 9 September 1940 Victor married Jessie Gorrie Dangerfield who came from Cornwall, Ontario. They had two daughters: Jessie Katherine was born in June 1940, and June Elinor, born two and a half years later on 2 January 1943 in Kemptville, Ontario. The family lived in the old mining village of Bourlamaque, now part of Val d'Or.



Victor, Katherine with their daughter Jessie

Photo below: Jessie and June



On 15 August 1940. Victor joined the Canadian non-permanent active militia and signed up for three years; he was attached to the 3rd Pioneer Battalion in the Royal Canadian Engineers. He was just over 5ft 11ins tall, weighed 160lbs and had blue eyes and brown hair; his health was good and he was given category A.

DECLARATION TO BE MADE ON ATTESTATION

I, the undersigned Victor Boyd do sincerely and solemnly declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above answers (made by me) to the foregoing questions are true; that I am willing to be attested for the term of three years or until legally discharged, and do understand the nature and terms of this engagement, that I will safeguard all clothing, arms and equipment issued to me and will return same when required, and that I will report any change in address of myself, or my next of kin to my Commanding Officer.

OATH TO BE TAKEN

I, Victor Boyd do sincerely promise and swear (or solemnly declare) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty.

Signature of Witness: [Signature] Signature of Man: Victor Boyd

Dated this 15th day of August 1940 at Bourlamaque, Que.

Two months later in October, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal. He enlisted for active service in Toronto the following year on 3 July 1941 as a 2nd Lieutenant and entered an Officer's Training Centre in Brockville, Ontario. At the end of the year in December, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in Camp Petawawa, Ontario. His wife and daughter moved house and were able to live close by.

For the next three years, Victor remained in Canada as a reinforcement officer for general purposes in the Royal Canadian Engineers. He was known as a kindly officer, always ready to help the men under his command.

In May 1942 he left Petawawa and spent four months in Halifax Nova Scotia before going to British Columbia in September and Camp Nanaimo, where small arms training was given. Nanaimo lies almost 70 miles north of Victoria and the camp housed up to 16 thousand men. In April 1943 Victor went to the Army Administration Centre for a month's course in Kemptonville, Ontario.

Returning to British Columbia, he spent time in Vancouver where he took over temporary command of the 25th Field Company for three weeks in September. Camp Chilliwack was an engineering training centre lying east of Vancouver where Victor was for 6 weeks in November. He was given a few days for embarkation leave with his family in December before going to the Transit Camp in Windsor, Nova Scotia.

He finally sailed for the UK on 16 February 1944, arriving eight days later, Victor spent around 6 months in England - in April he attended an air mapping course and in May, he was involved in railway operations work.

By October he was in the war zone and eventually in the Nijmegen area of the Netherlands, close to the border with Germany.

Between November and February 1945 there was an uneasy situation there; both the Allies and the Germans carried out border patrols and skirmishes were frequent.

During these winter months, there were a number of Royal Canadian Engineer Officers who were attached on three-month tours of duty with I British Corps on the lower Maas. Of the group posted in 1944, two were unfortunately killed in minefield accidents. Lieutenant V. Boyd was with the 294th Field Company of the 49th (West Riding) Division. He was killed near Beuningen west of Nijmegen on 5 December 1944 while defusing a bomb that tragically exploded.

Lieutenant Victor Boyd was 29 years old.

He was first buried in the temporary military cemetery Jonkerbos in Nijmegen and later reburied in the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave reference **III. B. 6.**



Photo June Brown, when the family visited her father's grave in July 2015.

JULY 27 TH , 2015	<i>Be Brown</i> LIEUTENANT CORPS OF ROYAL CANADIAN ENGINEERS	THE BROWN FAMILY, LONDON GRANDCHILDREN + GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN OF LT VICTOR BOYD (RCE)	III, B. 6	"WE WILL REMEMBER HIM"
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Awards:

- 1939-45 Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defense Medal
- War Medal 1939-45
- CVSM and Clasp



Life story: Gwyn de Jong, Research Team Faces to Graves.

Acknowledgements:

Library and Archives, Canada

Wikipedia

Photos: June Brown, Victor Boyd's daughter.



* If you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact info@facestograves.nl