

Brunette, Jack (Junior)

Lieutenant

1st Canadian Parachute Battalion

Royal Canadian Infantry Brigade

C57646



Jack (Junior) Brunette was born on November 20, 1922, in Windsor, Ontario. Private Brunette was the son of John Brunette and Emma Mae Brunette. Private Brunette grew up in 305 Cheapside St., London, Ontario. He belonged to the Church of England.

During the First World War, his father enlisted in the Canadian army, he fought in battles in France, attaining the rank of Sergeant. When World War Two broke out, he enlisted with the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, becoming a Captain. He was an instructor for training troops at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa. He became a Major at war's end.

Jack Brunette grew up in Windsor. He went to high school in Cornwall beginning in 1937 and then in the spring of 1941 he attended St. Patrick's College in Ottawa. and He also served in the army reserves. He was studied chemistry at the University of Western Ontario for four months. Private Jack Brunette was an athlete playing many sports such as lacrosse, football, hockey, baseball, hunting, and fishing. He had been a star on the hockey team for St. Patrick's and Western University.

St. Pat's Will Leave Tomorrow For Toronto Memorial Cup Game

Coach Alex Connell Leads Celts Against O.H.A. Winners in Opening Clash of Best-of-five Series Monday. Second Game Here on Wednesday Night.

Alex Connell will lead his St. Patrick's College team out of the Capital tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock for Toronto where the Celts are scheduled to open a best-of-five Memorial Cup playdown series with Oshawa Generals or Guelph Biltmores on Monday. The teams come here for the second game next Wednesday and the third will be played in Toronto a week from today.

Sixteen players, Coach Connell, Rev. Father Maurice Peake, director of athletics, J. Neville, assistant director of athletics, Jimmy O'Brien, trainer, and T. Quinn, manager, will be included in the official party.

Benoit Plourde will be in goal for St. Pat's in Monday's game with Gordie Gosselin and Paddy French on defence. The starting forward line will be Billy Munro, center, and Howard "Rip" Riopelle and Johnny Dennison on the wings.

Complete Player Party.

Goalie: Danny Quinn, Defencemen:

Jack Doyle, Clayton Kavanagh and Del Brown, and Forwards George Pope, Frank Dunlap, Emile Dagenals, Berk Kidd, Jack Brunette and Rocque Robillard, complete the player party.

Riopelle and French, both nursing knee injuries recently, are in top condition again and will be ready for anything their O.H.A. opponents will throw at them.

This is the first time a schoolboy team has represented Ottawa in Memorial Cup playdowns and the Celts, who have been bidding for the honor for six years, have high hopes of making a good impression.

Main Hopes.

The Riopelle-Munro-Dennison and Pope-Dagenals-Dunlap forward lines are St. Pat's main hopes with Robillard also slated to see plenty of action. Gosselin heads the defence patrol while Plourde should perform capably in goal. A former University of Ottawa net-minder, he was picked up recently as a military replacement.

The Ottawa Citizen May 21, 1942

At the age of 20, Jack Junior Brunette enlisted in the army on January 15, 1943, in Kingston, Ontario.

According to his military records, Private Brunette was described as standing five foot and 10 inches tall and weighing 174 pounds with a medium complexion, grey eyes, and light brown hair. His personnel assessment reported described called him as "a young man of pleasant personality, very good manners, appears alert and stable but very ambitious". He was recognized as being of "potential officer material."

His officer training was completed in Brockville, Ontario. On April 17, 1943, Private Brunette was commissioned to the rank of Second Lieutenant. He was sent for further training at Camp Borden and became a full Lieutenant on May 22, 1943. Lieutenant Brunette then underwent advanced training as a parachutist in Winnipeg and Shilo, both in Manitoba.

After extensive training, Lieutenant Brunette left Canada on April 19, 1944, for the United Kingdom. During Lieutenant Brunette's time in the United Kingdom, he attended the Airborne Depot and School from April 30, 1944, to May 9, 1944. On December 25, 1944, Lieutenant Brunette left the United Kingdom to go to Belgium arriving on the following day. He was assigned to the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion.

On March 24, 1945, his battalion participated in Operation Varsity, a large airborne assault across the Rhine River. More than 16,000 American, British, and Canadian paratroopers were dropped into Nazi Germany to help secure the eastern side of the crossing sites over the river.

According to the war diaries for that date, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion regiment stated that: *"The flight from England to dropzone in Germany lasted approximately two hours and ten minutes. Unit jumped at 0955 hours and was widely spread due to the high speed of the aircraft when crossing the dropzone. On landing, most of the Battalion encountered severe machine gun and sniper fire, which accounted for most of the casualties."*

It was on this day that Lieutenant Brunette was killed. He was 22 years old. He was "shot in the air." His death came "while he parachuted over Germany to attack an enemy gun position", according to *The Patrician*, an In Memoriam publication for St. Patrick's College in Ottawa.

In addition, during that initial jump, the battalion lost its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Jeff Nick who was killed by enemy troops on landing in a wooded area.

Initially, Lieutenant Brunette was listed as missing in action over Germany. But in May, 1945, the military officially listed him as an "Overseas casualty killed in action in the field."

Lieutenant Brunette was temporarily buried in Essen, Germany.

Lieutenant Jack Junior Brunette is buried in Groesbeek Canadian war cemetery, grave reference **XXII. C. 2.**



Inscribed on his headstone are the words:

I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT,
I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE,
I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH II TIM.IV.7

The Ottawa Citizen, May 2, 1945

Lieut. Jack Brunette Is Killed Overseas

Lt. Jack Junior Brunette who is the son of Mrs. Emma Brunette of 112½ Lisgar street has been reported killed in action in the latest casualty list released last night by the Department of National Defence for Army. This list also contains the names of three other officers and four from the ranks, three of whom are listed as severely wounded, one previously prisoner of war now safe and wounded, one slightly wounded, and two officers previously reported prisoners of war now safe.

Three enlisted men reported as severely wounded are, Rfn. James Robert White son of Mrs. Eudora White of 604 Albert street; Rfn. Douglas White husband of Mrs. Dora V. White of Metcalfe, Ont.; and Tpr. Richard Adolore Welsh whose wife Mrs. Marie D. Welsh lives at Cornwall, Ont.

Previously reported prisoner of war now safe and wounded is Lt. Frank Frederick Palen son of Mrs. Constance Eleanor Palen of 56 Fourth avenue. Rfn. Hubert Rosslyn Hill son of Mrs. Gladys I. Hill of Smiths Falls, Ont., is listed as slightly wounded.

Two officers who were previously reported as prisoners of war are now listed as safe. They are Major Edmund Thomas Munro who is the husband of Mrs. Barbara Graham Munro of Kingston, Ont.; and Lt. Donald Arthur Cameron son of Mrs. Luella Cameron of Cornwall, Ont.

Lieutenant JACK J. BRUNETTE



Born in Windsor, Ontario, in 1923, Jack Brunette arrived at St. Pat's in the spring of 1941. During the following year he showed keen interest in athletics, developing into an excellent hockiest. Jack played right wing on Alex Connell's Eastern Canadian Memorial Cup semi-finalist squad in '42, perhaps the greatest schoolboy team in interscholastic history. Enlisting in the Army he became Lieutenant Brunette of the 1st. Canadian Paratroop Battalion. Death came in the line of duty May 24, 1945, while he parachuted down over Germany to attack an enemy gun position. He was shot while still in the air.

Article from the Patrician, "In Memoriam" November 1945. The date of his death is incorrect as May 24 for it was March 24, 1945

The Ottawa Citizen May 22, 1948

Jack Davis Outstanding Student At St. Patrick's

Resident Students' Day at St. Patrick's College on Saturday was climaxed by the presentation to Jack Davis of Val D'Or, Que., of the Lt. John Brunette Memorial Trophy, as the most outstanding student member of the year.

The presentation took place at the "At Home" in the evening. It was made by Maj. John Brunette, father of the late Lt. John Brunette, a Canadian paratroop officer, in World War II, who was killed in action over the Rhine in March, 1945. The handsome trophy, which will perpetuate the name of the paratroop officer who was a former St. Patrick's College student, becomes the permanent possession of the student who wins it, and a new trophy is donated by the Brunette family each year. This is the first year it has been presented.

Runners-up for the award were Gerry Hunt of Timmins, Ont., and Don Schellert of Gatineau, Que.

Resident Students' Day began with solemn high mass at 8.30 o'clock. It was celebrated by Rev. Father P. E. Miller, O.M.I., director of the resident students, with Very Rev. L. K. Poupore, O.M.I., M.A., the rector, as preacher. Following the mass the students gathered for breakfast.

Rev. Father Thomas Murphy, O.M.I., was the principal speaker at the luncheon in the college dining room. Guests-of-honor were the donors of the Brunette Memorial Trophy, Maj. and Mrs. John Brunette of Barma, and the parents of the winner of the trophy, Mr. and Mrs. James Davis of Val D'Or. Robert Soutar of Galt was master-of-ceremonies, with the rector, Very Rev. L. K. Poupore, as chairman.

Present Trophy

"Open House" prevailed during the afternoon throughout the college, and in the evening an "At Home" was held when several members of the Ladies Auxiliary were hostesses at a buffet dinner. Donald Schellert was master-of-ceremonies, and introduced Maj. Brunette who made the presentation of the trophy to John Davis.

Rev. Father Miller, who instituted Resident Students' Day,

paid tribute to the late Lt. Brunette, who had been one of his students.

The John Quilty Cup, awarded by John Quilty, a former resident student, now with the Boston Bruins hockey team, was presented to Raymond Larocque of Allred, Ont., by the Bruins' player.

The rector's trophy for hockey was presented by the rector to Ormond Stanton.

Joe Hillier was presented with a special hockey award donated by his team mates. He received it from the hands of Jack Davis.

Awards for outstanding merit, in addition to the Brunette Trophy, were won by Don Schellert, Hubert O'Connor, Clarence McCaffrey and Arthur Derochers.

Hockey Trophies

The following awards were presented to the winners by Jack Davis. The metal trophies in the senior hockey championships: Capt. R. Larocque, C. McCaffrey, G. Hunt, C. Masson, H. Desjardins, D. Laisane, H. Carriere, B. Elzing, B. Hillier, D. Cameron and G. Gormis; junior hockey champions: Capt. B. Gossau, A. Forcet, H. Sinnott, M. Cadieux, A. Smith, D. Dockrill, M. Gailbean, S. Holmes, H. Moore and H. Hearty, and the coach of the teams, B. Leeder.

Jack Davis also presented credits

SUMMER SCHOOL

DEPT. OF EDUCATION NORMAL SCHOOL

ELGIN ST. AT KING ST.

Some sessions in the following

(1) 4 year side (2) 3 year side

Classes—

(3) 2 year side without kindergarten experience

(4) 2 year side with kindergarten experience

(5) 1 year side

All Classes 8.30 to 11.30 a.m.

JULY 27th TO AUG. 6th

Telephone 2-9027

Capt. Eddie Friel Returns Home With High Praise For Red Cross

"You could always count on the Red Cross to make life more cheerful on the other side."

This is the tribute paid the Red Cross by Capt. Eddie Friel, member of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, and well known local athlete, who returned home yesterday evening after more than two years overseas service.

Eddie, son of Eddie Friel, Sr., employed at Lansdowne Park, and Mrs. Friel, spent some time as instructor in ordnance training at Kingston and went overseas after joining the paratroopers.

"It's great to be home again, but getting back to the Red Cross," said Eddie, "we liberated many prisoners of war, and their first words were ones of praise for the Red Cross. "These prisoners were emphatic

that life in the camps would have been unbearable without parcels and encouragement from this wonderful organization."

Eddie played football and baseball among other sports in Ottawa but got a taste of English rugby and soccer on the other side.

"Soccer is a great conditioner," he admits, "while rugby is a rough, tough game. I enjoyed them both."

Eddie played some softball against American servicemen.

He spoke highly of Lt. Jack Brunette of Cornwall, who was killed in action with the paratroopers in March. The pair were close friends. Lieut. Brunette played football with St. Patrick's College here at one time and later performed with the gridiron team at University of Western Ontario.

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Delicious

Ottawa Citizen, June 23, 1945, where close friend Eddie Friel mentioned Jack Brunette

John Davis to Get Award As Top Student at St. Pat's

John Davis, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Davis of Val d'Or, Que., has been voted the outstanding resident student at St. Patrick's College this year in ballots cast by all the resident students.

He becomes the first winner of the Brunette Memorial Trophy, which is being donated each year by Major and Mrs. John Brunette, with other relatives, in honor of their son, Lieut. John Brunette, who was killed over the Rhine in March, 1945, during the first Canadian Paratroop attack.

Lieut. Brunette attended St. Patrick's College for three years, later going on to McMaster University, Hamilton, Ont. He enlisted in the Canadian Army and received his commission. On his transfer to the First Canadian Paratroop Group he continued his commission. As a student and athlete Lieut. Brunette left a cherished memory at St. Patrick's, which his parents and relatives have been eager to perpetuate through the memorial trophy.

The trophy is nearly three feet high, with a male figure in bronze standing on a bronze shaft and holding aloft a symbol of victory, the shaft stemming from a mahogany base. Each year an exact duplicate of the trophy will be awarded. The trophy was designed by another friend of the

boys of St. Patrick's College, Fred Wilson of Ottawa.

The resident students, in casting their votes, each received an individual ballot in which each pledged to vote for the resident student who best qualified in four phases of school work, given as follows in order of importance:

(1) Good example throughout the year; (2) leadership in activities that are for the welfare and happiness of boarders; (3) serious attention to class work and study; (4) participation in one major sport, hockey, basketball, softball.

The ballot pledges were in English, French and Spanish, as students attending St. Patrick's College this year include not only English and French language students from all parts of Canada and the United States but also students from Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela.

Runners-up to John Davis in this year's award were Gerry Hunt of Timmins, Ont., and Don Schelletter of Gatineau, Que.

To commemorate the establishment of this trophy and to mark the occasion of its presentation, the college authorities have instituted a "Boarders' Day". This year it will be June 5, and Major and Mrs. Brunette will come from Sarnia to present the trophy. Winners will be guests of honor during that day.

The day will open with solemn high mass, with a banquet at noon and an "At Home" in the evening.




WINS BRUNETTE TROPHY AS OUTSTANDING RESIDENT STUDENT AT ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE—John Davis, of Val d'Or, Que., shown with Memorial Trophy and picture of Lt. Jack Brunette, former St. Patrick's College student whose memory the trophy perpetuates. Trophy is awarded each year to outstanding resident student at St. Patrick's College in memory of Lt. Brunette who was killed in action in World War II.—(Photo by Little.)

The Ottawa Citizen June 7, 1948

In September 1971, the parents of 'Jacki' (as they called him) visited their son's grave; they stayed with the Van Kampen family in Groesbeek. They then keep in touch with each other by writing letters.

On September 4, 1979, the van Kampen family received a last letter from Mrs. Brunette on September 4, 1979, in which she said that her health was very poor and she talked about the stained glass window that she had built in the church in Sarnia in memory of her husband Major Jack Brunette and had her son Lieutenant Jacki Brunette.


The image below is a page from the photo album of the van Kampen family, which shows the parents of Jacki at their visit in 1971 and that letter and photo of the glass window. With courtesy of their son Jan van Kampen.



Hier het echtpaar Brunette bij het graf van hun zoon
BRUNETTE, Lieutenant, JACK,
 24th March 1945. Age 21.
 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, R.C.I.C.
 Son of John and Emma Mae Brunette,
 of Sarnia, Ontario.
 XXII. C. 2.

Lieutenant Jack :
 sneuvelde tijdens de
 Operatie Veritable
 bij aanvallen op over
 de Rijn te kussen bij
 het plaatsje Hönnepel
 zuidin tegenover Rees.

253 Chapel St., Apt. 106,
 Sarnia, Ontario, Canada,
 Sept. 4th, 1979



**Iets over een
 Canadese familie.**

Major Jack Brunette
 was in de
 Eerste Wereldoorlog
 met het Canadese
 Leger in Frankrijk.
 Ook in de Tweede was
 hij weer in Europa
 doch diende nu
 meer achter de linies
 gezien zijn leeftijd.
 Mr en Mrs Brunette
 logeerden bij de
 familie van Kampen
 Nolenweg 12 van
 21 sept./m 29 sept.
 1971

Dear Mr. & Mrs. van Kampen.

As you will see, I am
 enclosing a picture of the window I had placed in our
 church in memory of my husband, Jack, & of our son, Jacki
 whose grave is in your beautiful country, Holland.

The past year has been a very difficult
 one for me as my health has been very poor, and, in fact,
 I feel that my life is drawing to it's close. When this
 time comes in anyone's life, we feel privileged to have
 had friends like you and your family and this letter
 is to thank you for that joy & to send you a copy of
 the memorial window as I feel sure that Jack would have
 wished it as much as I do.

Thank you for all your kindnesses as
 well as for the happiness it has given us to have met
 such fine Christian people like you.

May God continue to bless you, always.

Sincerely,
 Emma Brunette.

P.S. Mrs. Brunette is too ill to write this herself,
 but was most anxious that it be done so asked me to do
 it for her while she is still alive.
 Mrs. A. King.

Ter nagedachtenis aan haar man Major Jack Brunette en
 haar zoon Lieutenant Jacki Brunette heeft Emma Brunette
 de echtgenoot van Major Jack, dit glas in lood raam
 laten plaatsen in een kerk in Sarnia, Sarnia Ontario Canada.
 De tekst is uit Mattheus 4:19. En hij sprak hen aan:
 "Komen jullie achter mij aan ik zal
 jullie vissers van mensen maken"

In the text is said that Jack was killed in a village called Hönnepel opposite Rees, Germany



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
 War Graves Groesbeek

Life story written by Jayla Matty and Christopher Abraham, students from All Saints H.S., Kanata, Canada for Faces to Graves courtesy of Vanessa Kirts, teacher at All Saints H.S.

Additional research and editing by Kurt Johnson.

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Library and Archives Canada

St. Patrick's high school provided newspaper articles and a few photos of - Jack

<https://thehub.ca/2022-03-24/canada-should-embrace-our-heroes-not-forget-them/>

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