

**Brereton, George Stanley**  
**Lieutenant**  
**Canadian Grenadier Guards**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Regiment**  
**Royal Canadian Armoured Corps**



George Stanley Brereton, who went by his middle name, was born 14 June 1915 at Montreal, Quebec (QC). His English father Samuel James Brereton immigrated to Canada around 1904 and married Josephine Quinlan, of Irish heritage. The Protestant couple had three children: Dorothy, Stanley and later Frank, who sadly died as an infant. Samuel worked as an academic attendant in the 1920s and became a pensioner following his retirement.



Stanley enjoyed sports as a boy and was an honour student at Guy Drummond School. He attended four years of High School at Sir George Williams College in Montreal and completed his Junior Matriculation. He found summer work as a clerk with Canada Envelope in 1930, then gained longer term employment as a Book Keeper with Howard Smith Paper Mills in Beauharnois (now part of Montreal) and was a bowler in the Paper Bowling League.

Stanley had received cadet training while in school and joined the Non Permanent Active Militia with the 17<sup>th</sup> Duke of York (7<sup>th</sup> Recce Regiment) July 1940. He was in charge of Accounts Payable with his employer when he decided to go active, attesting at Montreal 27 April 1942 age 26. Stanley was then 6' tall and 174 lbs. He was sent to Huntington, QC for basic training and allocated to the Canadian Armoured Corps (C.A.C.). Stanley was assigned to the C.A.C. Training Centre at Camp Borden, Ontario (ON) 11 June 1942 as a Trooper.



*Camp Borden, ON Armoured Training WW2*

Stanley was enrolled in the Cadet Officer School at Borden 13 November 1942 and made 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant 13 February 1943 upon successful program completion. He remained at Camp Borden and qualified as Driver Class III (Wheeled) 10 March 1943 and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant three days later. After returning to Borden from his leave time, Stanley was further qualified on tracked vehicles 2 October 1943.

Stanley passed through the Transit Camp at Windsor, Nova Scotia the following spring and disembarked in the UK 8 April 1944 where he reported to the C.A.C. Reinforcement Unit. He successfully completed a Wireless/Gun Operator course in May plus received refresher driving and tactics training in the UK. Stanley disembarked in Northwest Europe 12 November 1944 and was taken on strength with the Canadian Grenadier Guards (CGG), 22<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Regiment, eight days later.

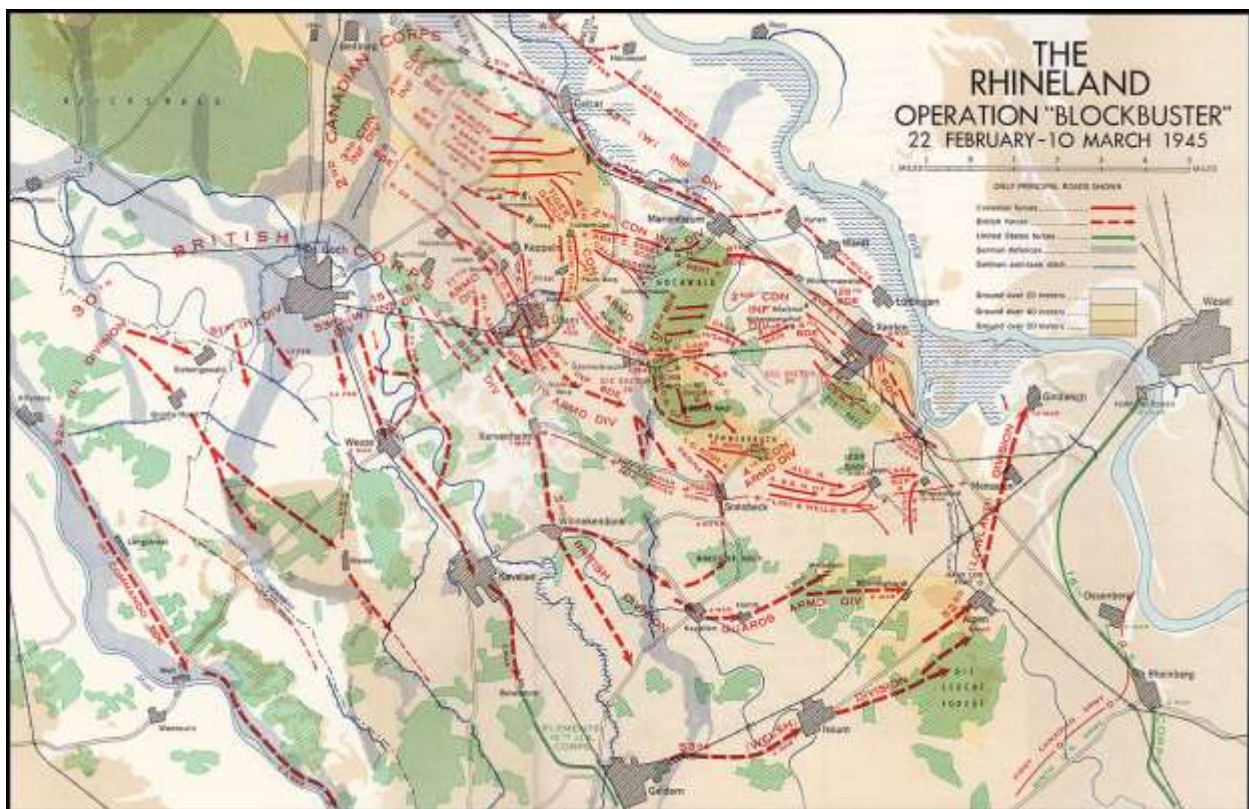
The CGG were part of 4<sup>th</sup> Armoured Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Armoured Division. Their division was unique in that it also included 10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, allowing them to develop ongoing working relationships between individual armoured regiments and infantry battalions. 4<sup>th</sup> Division landed in France at the end of July 1944 and battled their way through Normandy that summer. In the fall they were involved in the Battle of the Scheldt to open of the shipping lanes to Antwerp, Belgium.



*Canadians at Bergen op Zoom  
November 1944*

4<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division was among the first Canadians to arrive in Bergen op Zoom, Netherlands.

Following a mostly static period during the winter months around Nijmegen, Netherlands, the Allies launched Operation VERITABLE 8 February 1945. After gaining a good foothold in Germany, Operation BLOCKBUSTER commenced 26 February 1945. The CGG and 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade's Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were paired up as part of a larger attack group tasked with taking the northern half of the Calcar-Udem ridge. The CGG's tanks were "belly deep in wet clay" when forming up according to their War Diary on that date, with instructions to pick out different routes to avoid bogging down in the mud.



According to the War Diary, 'We had gone a short distance and two tanks on our left went up on mines. Several tanks bogged down but the remainder pushed forward... We rolled by another 400 yards and as we swung by a farm yard, a hidden Tiger (German tank) and an 88mm (self-propelled anti-tank gun) far to the right opened up simultaneously. We could see nothing of either of them but Lt. Chalmers and Sgt. Blais' tanks on the right flanks were knocked out, Sgt. Blais' tank brewing (on fire) and most of the crew casualties... At the same time Lt. Stan Brereton and Cpl Schnare's tanks were brewed up by a gun to the front.'

4<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division achieved their objectives that day while capturing 350 German prisoners. The Argyll and Sutherlands suffered the highest casualties with 53 killed and wounded. Stanley Brereton was one of several CGG casualties, dying of his wounds 26 February 1945 age 29.



14 March 1945

## Lt. Stanley Brereton Is Dead From Wounds

Many friends in this city will learn with deep regret that Lt. Stanley Brereton of Montreal has died of wounds. A message to this effect was received on Wednesday morning by Mrs. S. H. Pearce of this city. Lt. Brereton was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Brereton of Montreal and prior to joining the Army was employed by the Howard Smith Paper Co. in that city. He trained at Camp Borden with the Canadian Grenadier Guards and it was while stationed there that he made many friends in Owen Sound. Earlier word had been received that he had been wounded while serving with this Montreal tank regiment in the bitter fighting for the Hochwald line.

**WOUNDS FATAL:** Lieut. G. Stanley Brereton, 29, of the 22nd Armored Regiment (Canadian Grenadier Guards), who is reported to have died of wounds received in action on the Western Front. The son of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Brereton, of 616 1/2 Sherbrooke street west, he received his initial training with the 7th (R) Rec'ce Regiment (17th D.Y.R.C.H.) and the McGill University Contingent of the C.O.T.C. He received his commission on graduating at Camp Borden O.T.C., and went overseas in April, 1944. Besides his parents, he is survived by a sister, Miss Dorothy Brereton.

Owen Sound Sun, 14 March 1945

Lieutenant G.S. Brereton was temporarily buried at Bedburg, Germany and later relocated to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands, grave reference **X. H. 15.**

Photo credit [www.lestweforget1945.org](http://www.lestweforget1945.org)

The inscription on his headstone:

HE HAD A KINDLY WORD  
FOR EACH  
AND DIED BELOVED BY ALL



Stanley Brereton's campaign medals:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France-Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp



**FACES TO GRAVES**

Stichting Faces to Canadian  
War Graves Groesbeek

Biography by Jim Little, Research Team Faces to Graves.

Sources Consulted:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

Veteran Affairs Canada – Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Ancestry public trees

Newspapers.com

Howard Smith Paper Mills picture -

<https://acanadianfamily.wordpress.com/2009/07/15/vintage-postcard-beauharnois-quebec/>

Camp Borden, ON Canadian Armoured Corps training picture ww2

[https://www.aviaeology.com/store/p157/Camp-Borden\\_A-Century-of-Service.html#/](https://www.aviaeology.com/store/p157/Camp-Borden_A-Century-of-Service.html#/)

Canadian Grenadier Guards cap badge and information -

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian\\_Grenadier\\_Guards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Grenadier_Guards)

4th Canadian Armoured Division information and photo

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4th\\_Canadian\\_Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4th_Canadian_Division)

Operation BLOCKBUSTER information and map

<https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/Canada/CA/Victory/Victory-19.html>

\* If you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact [info@facestograves.nl](mailto:info@facestograves.nl)

**BRERETON.**—In Montreal, on January 15th, 1953, Samuel James Brereton, beloved husband of Josephine Quillan, father of Dorothy and the late Stanley. Resting at Thos. Kane Chapel, 5301 Decarie Boulevard. Funeral service at 3 p.m. Saturday, January 17th, thence to Montreal Memorial Park.

*Montreal Gazette Jan 1953*

*Montreal Gazette Mar 1957*

**BRERETON.** — On March 15th, 1957, at her residence, Josephine Quinlan, widow of Samuel James Brereton, and dear mother of Dorothy and the late Stanley. Resting at the Clarke Funeral Home, 5580 Sherbrooke St., W. Requiem Mass in St. Augustine of Canterbury Church, on Mon., March 18th at 9.00 a.m. Interment Cote des Neiges Cemetery.

**McKENZIE, Margaret Dorothy.** At the Montreal General Hospital on July 2, 1986. Margaret Dorothy Brereton, beloved wife of Ronald McKenzie. Daughter of the late Samuel and Johanna Brereton. Dear aunt of Neil McKenzie and Delores Squires. Resting at the Kane and Fetterly Funeral Home, 5301 Decarie Blvd. (corner Isabella), on Friday, 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral mass at St. Malachy's Church, on Saturday, July 5, at 10 a.m., thence to Notre Dame des Neiges Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be gratefully appreciated.

*Montreal Gazette Jul 1986*