

Brown, James Christie

Corporal

North Shore Regiment

G50300



Personal Information: James Christie Brown was born on September 30th, 1920 in Kingston, New Brunswick. He was one of seven children born to Thomas and Jean (Christie) Brown. James attended Lakeside School¹ until the fifth grade, when he then had to leave to work on the family farm. James was a strapping young lad, well natured, was 5'9 and a half, weighing 158 pounds. Before he enlisted he used to put baler twine around his biceps and snap the twine.² James' sisters: Jean and Annie used to knit sweaters and send them overseas for the soldiers.³ James also had three brothers: Andrew, Sandy and Tommy who served with the allied forces as well.

James received many medals for his outstanding presence in the Second World War such as the 1939-1945 Star, France & Germany Star, Defense Medal, and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal (CVSM) & Clasp.

Military Movements: James enlisted on December 28th, 1942 in Saint John, New Brunswick. He then commenced his training at Canadian Basic Training Center, No.70 on January 8th, 1943. Brown then transferred to the Canadian Infantry Training Center on the 1st of April, 1943 in Camp Utopia, outside Saint John.

James started earning his first regimental pay on April 28th, 1943, when he received \$1.40 per diem which was his allowance for daily expenses. Three months later his pay was increased by ten cents per diem (July 28th, 1943) when he was sent overseas. When James arrived in Europe, he sent a

cablegram to his father saying "Arrived safely and am well love your son J Brown".⁴ James was struck off strength to the North Shore Regiment in October 1944. The North Shore Regiment landed in France on D-day, June 6th, 1944. James remained a private until October 25th, 1944 when he became a Lance Corporal.

Final Days: As a part of the North Shore Regiment, James' last days (end of January, first of February, 1945) were spent preparing for phase one of Operation Veritable. February came in wet, though mild as the training hardened to overcome the softness of the winter by marching on route. The men cleared the land of the Polder Country and the left flank between Cleve and Reichswald for days before the battle on the 8th. On February 6th, all companies from the North Shore Regiment gathered at the assembly area for the up coming operation.

The battle on the 8th started at 0550 hours with "A" and "B" company arriving first before company "C" and "D", who were marching behind the dyke to keep cover from the enemy across the river. At 1045 hours, orders were given to move back due to the rising water in the river. Small signs of the opposition were reported at 1825 hours, full battle commenced at 1900 hours. Five prisoners were captured; they gave detailed information about the location of the enemy. As the North Shore Regiment closed in on Zandpol, there was little action from the opposition. At some point during this day James Christie Brown became a casualty of war.

Medical Records: James had a marked depression of the right parietal bone due to a wood splitting incident with an axe ten years prior to enlistment and a large scar on the inner aspect of the right knee. On September 18th, 1944, Brown had shrapnel wounds and was admitted to the hospital seven days later on the 25th and discharged October 7th. James was killed in action on the 8th of February, 1945.

Lest We Forget: James was buried in Nijmegen Canadian Military Cemetery, four miles southeast of Nijmegen, Holland where his body was held temporarily; until they moved him to where he now rests in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Gelderland, Netherlands. The cemetery contains 2617 burials from the Second World War. Brown did not have a written will so his belongings went to the next of kin, his father, Thomas Brown. James had received \$388.68 in total from the Department of National Defense. James was 24 years of age when he died.

Video: <http://youtu.be/lrwOsrWvJSE>

Biography by Jasmine Bell (Courtesy of the Lest We Forget remembrance initiative of Belleisle Regional High School).

Bibliography:

Bird, Will R. *North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment*. Fredericton, N.B.: Unipress, 1963

Archival References:

Military Service files of James Christie Brown obtained from Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Internet Sites:

- Second World War Service Files: Canadian Armed Forces War Dead
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/war-dead/001056-100.01-e.php>
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial
<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remember/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem>
- Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groesbeek_Canadian_War_Cemetery

Pictures and documents:

Source: Collection of Jean Scribner, sister of James Christie Brown



Biography made available for Faces To Graves, with courtesy of Belleisle Regional High School.

Footnotes:

¹ Knowledge of the school he attended, told by Jean Scribner, James' sister in a personal interview in 2009.

² Knowledge about his activities toward the twine, told by Jean Scribner, James' sister in a personal interview in 2009.

³ Knowledge about Jean and Annie knitting sweaters told by Jean Scribner, James' sister in a personal interview in 2009.

⁴ Letter sent to his father, Thomas Brown, from the collection of Jean Scribner.



James Christie Brown

From the collection of Jean Scribner, sister of James Christie Brown.



James sent a telegram to his father once he arrived safely in England. From the collection of Jean Scribner.



The original grave marker of James Christie Brown in Holland.
From the collection of Jean Scribner.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
 NAVY ARMY AIR FORCE
 STATEMENT OF WAR SERVICE GRATUITY

DECEASED MEMBER'S NAME: James Christie (CHRISTIAN NAME) BRODY (SURNAME)
 PAYEE: Director of Estates
 ADDRESS: _____
 REGISTER NO.: D-22088
 FILE NO.: 405-B-32370
 DATE: 13-5-46
 SERVICE NO.: G-50300
 FINAL RANK OR RATING: Cpl
 DATE OF DISCHARGE: 8-2-45

DATE OF TERMINATION OF OVERSEAS SERVICE		8-2-45	DATE OF DISCHARGE	8-2-45	
A. TOTAL QUALIFYING SERVICE					
NO. OF DAYS		774	EQUAL TO	25	COMPLETE PERIODS AT \$7.50
Death					\$ 187.50
B. QUALIFYING OVERSEAS SERVICE					
NO. OF DAYS		271	LESS	24	INELIGIBLE DAYS, EQUAL TO 547 DAYS @ 25c PER DAY
SEE MAR. 1 OVERLEAF FOR EXPLANATION					\$ 136.75
C. SUPPLEMENT FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE					
DAILY RATES AT DISCHARGE					
PAY		\$ 1.70			
SUSTINENCE OR LODGING AND PROVISION ALLOWANCE		\$ 1.25			
ADDITIONAL PAY		\$			
DEPENDENTS' ALLOWANCE 1/50 OF \$		\$			
TOTAL		\$ 2.95	X#	20.65	
NO. OF DAYS		571	X#	20.65	
					\$ 64.43
D. WAR SERVICE GRATUITY					\$ 388.68
E. DEDUCTIONS					
OVERPAYMENT OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES		\$			
DEPENDENTS' ALLOWANCE AND ASSIGNED PAY		\$			
OTHER DEDUCTIONS		\$			
F. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE					\$ 388.68
G. YOUR PORTION OF GRATUITY IS—					100%

DEPENDENTS' ALLOWANCE IN ISSUE TO YOU \$ _____ OF \$ _____ = \$ _____
 TOTAL DEPENDENTS' ALLOWANCE IN ISSUE \$ _____

SEE REVERSE SIDE
 FOR EXPLANATION
 OF ITEMS A, B & C

Statement of War Service Gratuity
 From the collection of Jean Scribner



FORM NO. HQ 405-B-32,370 FD 303

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
ARMY

OTTAWA, CANADA.

17 June, 1946

Mr Thomas Brown,
R.R. # 2.,
Hampton,
King's Co., N.B.

EROW, James C. Cpl. (Deceased)
G.50300 C.A.

Dear Mr Brown:

In accordance with the provisions of the War Service Grants Act, the War Service Gratuity due to your son is now available for distribution as part of his Service estate. This amount has been computed as outlined in the enclosed award form.

Since your son died without leaving a Will, his Gratuity is to be distributed in accordance with the Intestacy Laws of his Province of domicile and will be paid to you as Next-of-Kin entitled.

A cheque has been requisitioned from Treasury payable to your order and upon receipt of same you kindly sign the enclosed form of acknowledgment and return it to this Branch.

May we take this opportunity to express once more our sincere sympathy for your irreparable loss.

Yours faithfully,

T. J. K. Gillis, Capt
(L.V. Firth) Colonel,
Director of Estates

TJWG/IDS
Encl.2.

A letter received by James' father sixteen months after his death.
From the collection of Jean Scribner.