

Campbell, Duncan Archibald

Warrant Officer Class II

**Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
Highlanders**

Royal Canadian Infantry Corps

C/54147



Duncan Archibald Campbell was born on August 29, 1900 in Vankleek Hill, in eastern Ontario. His Scottish parents were John Campbell and Sarah Jean Barton. He had three sisters: Bertha Margret, Sarah Jean and Gladys Margret.

Duncan grew up in Vankleek Hill where he was a member of the United Church. He attended the Vankleek Hill Collegiate institute for two years before dropping out. He also completed an apprenticeship to become a motor mechanic. Before joining the army Duncan worked as a shepherd at the Dominion Experimental Farm which is known today as the Central Experimental farm in Ottawa.

First World War records show that Duncan Campbell enlisted in the Canadian army on September 25, 1915. After training in Canada, he joined the 154th Overseas Battalion and shipped off to England.



An attestation record showed that Private Campbell gave his birthdate as Aug. 26, 1897 so he was underaged when he joined the army.

On November 20, 1916, he was transferred to the 4th Battalion, C.M.R., in France where he remained until his discharge on December 3, 1918 as the war ended.



Duncan Campbell married Jean McShannon on March 12, 1930 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. They had two children named Barbara and Duncan. Barbara was six years old and Duncan was 13 years old when their father was killed in the Second World War.

Duncan Archibald Campbell enlisted into the army joining the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry regiment based in Cornwall, Ontario, on February 7, 1940. According to his military records, he stood five feet nine and a half inches tall, weighed 145 pounds, had a medium complexion, blue eyes and black-grayish hair. During Duncan's service in the Canadian army, the members in his infantry battalion gave him the nickname "Frosty" because his hair had turned snow white.

During his military service in Canada, he received a promotion to Corporal on July 6, 1940, and then rose to the rank of Sergeant on October 7, 1940 during training in Kingston. When he was stationed in Ottawa, he was promoted on January 15, 1941 to the regimental position of Company Quartermaster sergeant. He remained in England for three years with the regiment.

The Allied commanders were planning the Normandy invasion with D-Day on June 6, 1944. The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry regiment had landed on Juno Beach. But Duncan Campbell was still back in England.

According to the "Up the Glens," the regimental history book, Duncan Campbell had been considered "too old" in his mid-40s. He had been assigned to a Holding Unit because he was "unfit for combat." However, he had managed to get over to the war front as a reinforcement soldier by "dyeing his hair" arriving on October 2, 1944.

His regiment had fought through France, Belgium and into the Netherlands where Campbell rejoined his comrades-at-arms on October 19. His commander ignored the military orders recalling Campbell back to England. "So that was the way Frosty Campbell stayed with the Glens," stated the "Up the Glens" book.

In February, 1945, Operation Blockbuster would take the Allied brigades into the Hochwald Forest across the Dutch-German border.

On February 24, Company Sergeant Major Duncan Campbell who was 44 years old was killed when his jeep struck a landmine near Udem, Germany. He had voluntarily taken the task of driving a supply jeep across dangerous terrain so the needed ammunition and food rations could be delivered to Canadian troops on the front line, according to the regiment's history book. "The whole Battalion felt the loss of this indomitable soldier."

He was buried at the Canadian temporary burial grounds in Bedburg Germany.

His remains were later moved to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **IX. F. 13.**

His headstone is inscribed:

EVER LOVINGLY REMEMBERED BY HIS WIFE
JEAN CAMPBELL AND HIS CHILDREN
BARBARA AND DUNCAN

Duncan Archibald Campbell was awarded the:

- 1939-45 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: Danna Bernal and Rowan Kovacs, students from All Saints High School Kanata, Canada for Faces to Graves, courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz teacher at All Saints H.S. Additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.

Sources:
Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Library, and Archives Canada
Canadian Virtual war Memorial
Pictures provided by Kevin Townsend
The 3rd Edition, Up The Glens, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Highlanders, 1868 - 2018 written by Brigadier General (Retired) William J. Patterson, OMM, CD, UE



Duncan Campbell's Great Grandson Duncan Jr at Groesbeek



Duncan Campbell's Great Grandson Kevin Townsend



September, 18, 2018 – 150th anniversary Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Regiment

In memory of
WO II Duncan Archibald Campbell
 C 54147
 Died on 24 February, 1945
 Age 44

Son of John and Sarah J. Campbell;
 husband of Jean Campbell,
 of Ottawa, Ontario.

Remembered with honour
Groesbeek
Canadian War Cemete
 Gelderland, Netherlands

Warrant Officer Class II
Campbell Duncan Archibald

‘GLEN MEMORIAL’