



Naam: Desnomie, Joseph Noel Reg.nr: L106928

Joseph was born on July 20, 1925, on the Peepeekisis Cree Nation Reservation, Lorie, Saskatchewan.

His father, Joseph Alexander (48) and his mother, Marguerita, have a farm there. They were married in Lebret, Saskatchewan.

Joseph has 6 brothers: Joseph Francis (24), John Louis (23), Victor George (14), James Hobart (8), Paul (died at the age of 3, February 12, 1944), David Lionel (1).

He has 4 sisters Edna (22), Theresa (17), Caroline Helen (12) and Marina Dorothy (10).

Joseph Francis continues to work on the farm, John Louis is a supervisor at the Indian School. The children all live at home.

In brackets are the ages as on 5 December 1944.

Joseph speaks only English.

From the age of 7 to 16, Joseph attended the Labret School (Indian) in Fort Qu'Appelle. He didn't make it to grade 9. Joseph leaves school to help his father on the farm.

Joseph has been working with his father on the farm for 3 years.

On September 13, 1943, Joseph signed up for the Canadian Army in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Joseph is 1,68m. long and weighs 69kg. He has brown eyes and dark brown hair. He is dark, tanned and his physique is good. He wears glasses for reading.

Joseph plays ice hockey and baseball. In addition, cattle roping (part of a rodeo where a calf is caught/tied with a lasso), hunting and tracking.

Joseph says he is quite musical, he can play any instrument in a band. He loves country radio, going to shows and dance halls. He smokes and drinks moderately. Joseph collects horse bits.

Abilities are average, a pleasant person, cooperative.

Joseph first enters #12 District Depot in Regina. On 3 October 1943, he began basic training at #60 Training Camp in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. On 8 December 1943 he volunteered for the paratroopers. His reviews are

positive: very athletic, combative, interested, motivated. He claims never to have been ill or injured, except that he was thrown off a horse's back. There are 2 cousins who serve with the paratroopers. He receives a positive recommendation.

Joseph moves to #10 District Depot in Winnipeg, Manitoba. On 15 December 1943 he arrived at Shilo Camp, Manitoba at the A35, para-training camp.

After 2 days of training, he gets 7 days of Christmas leave. In addition, his mother is ill (asthma). When he returns, he wants to stop para-training. His mother is very much against it, he is only 18 and the training is dangerous. He also fears that he will not be able to finish the training: his ankles are not strong enough, 2 years ago he suffered an injury when a horse fell on him.

Assessment by the psychiatrist: due to immaturity and worried parents (- Indian-) he wants to stop. He doesn't know what he wants. It's somewhat unstable.

Conclusion: placement in the infantry, A15 training camp in Shilo, age checking.

Joseph is dissatisfied. Upon registration, he was promised a place in the artillery. He claims to be a Treaty Indian (with French blood). (Treaty-Indian: Registered Indians registered under the Indian Act of Canada. Treaty Indians are persons who belong to a First Nation band that has signed a treaty with the Crown. That would give him a status apart). He states that he did not have to enlist and now feels badly treated.

On January 5, 1944, Joseph is back at #10 District Depot in Winnipeg. He stays there for a month and is given leave to go home because of the death of his brother Paul.

He will then be posted to A15 infantry training camp in Shilo. He seems to have lost his self-confidence. In May 1944 he was imprisoned for unauthorised absence.

On 14 August 1944 he was deemed suitable for overseas. He embarked on 28 August and reported back to England on 6 July for duty with 2 CIRU, a reserve unit of the infantry. On 16 September 1944, Joseph arrived in France. On 27 September 1944 he was assigned to the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada.

At the end of September, beginning of October 1944, the 5th Infantry Brigade fought to expand the bridgehead over the Antwerp-Turnhout canal and to liberate Brecht and Eindhoven (a small town in Belgium on the canal). To do so, St. Leenarts had to be conquered.

Once Brecht and Eindhoven had been captured, the 6th Infantry Brigade was able to break out of the bridgehead, capture Lochtenberg on 2 October 1944 and then advance to Brasschaat to make contact with the 4th Infantry Brigade, which would take Merksem and the northern port area of Antwerp.

This operation with 3 Brigades of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division was a necessary preparation for the attack on Zuid-Beveland.

Friday, Sept. 29 1944.
St. Leenarts

Weather - clear, turning into showers. Supported by tanks from Fort Garry Horse, at midnight A and C Companies advanced along a road leading directly to the center of St. Leenarts. These companies were caught in heavy barrage, but despite this they penetrated to the outskirts of the city and managed to settle in a large corner house opposite the church, where they controlled the main road in the center of the city. The Germans repeatedly attacked the positions, even pushing a 7.5 cm anti-tank gun around the corner of the church onto the lawn in front of the large house they were occupying, in full view of the Canadians. However, all Germans were killed before they had a chance to shoot.

The night battle was very chaotic. Both parties did not know who was where. A German officer walked down the street with his briefcase, as if he were on his way to a late-night staff meeting. Lieutenant Clements called on him to stop. He did so and received the full brunt of a Sten gun, leaving (war diary) "one less German officer to prepare for the next war." Meanwhile, B Company had come from the north, but they could not break through to A and C Companies. The wireless set was turned off. Major Slater, in charge of B Company, managed to courier messages back and forth to battalion headquarters and give a summary of the situation. D Company, which was advancing south of the city, was also unable to make contact with A and C companies, but managed to hold its own along the Antwerp-Turnhout canal.

There was heavy fighting all night around the church square and just before sunrise, around 06.00h. the Germans shifted their attention to D Company. A fierce attack with mortars and machine guns caused heavy casualties and all officers were either killed, wounded or taken prisoner. Captain Chapman hurried from the battalion headquarters to take command and gradually restore the situation.

Ondanks ondersteuning van de tanks bleef de druk op de Black Watch groot. Luitenant-kolonel Ritchie, commandant van de Black Watch, gaf opdracht aan het Bren-carrier-peloton om de weg die tussen de D-compagnie en C-compagnie lag te veroveren. Kapitein Steward leidde de carriers naar voren en heel moedig en briljant werd de opdracht uitgevoerd. De Carriers raceten door de straat en vuurden met hun machinegeweren op alle posities, en mogelijke posities, waar de vijand zich kon bevinden. De vijand in de hoofd- en zijstraten, gewapend met bazooka's (Panzerschreck), werd uitgeschakeld voordat ze veel schade kon aanrichten. De jongens gingen met zoveel verve de stad binnen dat de Duitsers zich aangevallen voelde door een veel grotere kracht dan die werkelijk werd ingezet. Een van de carriers is uitgeschakeld door een bazooka, maar er zijn geen slachtoffers. The remainder of the day was spent clearing the city and repelling various enemy counterattacks and infiltration attempts from the west of the city. During the night fighting, five 7.5 cm. anti-tank guns knocked out and D Company switched a 40

mm. mechanized artillery (half-track) using a PIAT (infantry anti-tank weapon)

On this day, 96 reinforcements arrived for the Brigade, all for general duties, although 55 cooks, masons, gunners, mechanics, pioneers, etc., were among them.

Joseph was killed in action on 29 September 1944, killed in action, aged 19. It is not found in the documents to which company Joseph belonged. The Black Watch counted 18 dead and 43 wounded on this day.

Joseph was temporarily buried on 30 September 1944 on the north side of the road Rijkevorsel – St Leenarts, east of the church. On 20 June 1945, a reburial followed at the Canadian cemetery in Bergen op Zoom. Joseph is buried in Plot 5, Row D, Grave 10.

Joseph has been awarded the 1939-1945 Star, the French-German Star, the War Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.



Bronvermelding:

https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/9145/images/44485_273022002859_0048-00001?treeid=&personid=&rc=&usePUB=true&phsrc=Cby1&phstart=successSource&pld=33056

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2641642>

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De Eerste Dam, De gevechten voor de toegang tot Zeeland van Merksem naar Woensdrecht, pagina 351. Auteur Robert Catsburg

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