



## Higney, John James

F/65109

John was born on December 31, 1917 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. His father is John James Higney, 52, his mother is Kathleen Simpson, 49. His father is from Ireland, his mother from Scotland. They were married on 5 May 1917 in Dartmouth. In the family 11 children were born: Maurice Joseph (27), John James (26), William Hugh (24), Robert Bernard (22), Charles Arthur (20), Edward George (18), James Simpson (16), Rosine Mary (14), Elisabeth Tereasa (12), Patrick Laurence (10) and Eric Thomas who was born on 19 April 1937 and died on 21 January 1939. In parentheses are the ages in April 1945. William and Robert then served overseas in the Canadian army, Edward sails in the merchant navy. John leaves school at the age of 16, after 1 year of High School. He gets grade 7.

John is a truck driver and sailor. 1 document states that he was a driver for 3 years and was in the merchant navy for 21/2 years. Another document states that in 1938-1939 he worked as a truck driver for his brother and that from 1939 to February 1942 he worked at the Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission as a sailor in the engine room of a ship (oilman).

John joined the Canadian Army on February 9, 1942, in Halifax. It is mentioned that he served with the 87th Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery in 1937.

John is 1.62 m tall and weighs 56 kg. He has blue eyes and brown hair. On his left hip he has a small black birthmark.

John likes to see roadshows and he swims, plays ice hockey and baseball.

From 9 February 1942 to 20 March 1942 in John at the Depot in Halifax. Then he is transferred to a basic training camp in New Glasgow. On May 21, 1942, he joined A9 Canadian Armed Corps in Borden, after which he was assigned to 28 CAR, British Columbia Regiment, on July 26, 1942.

With this regiment he arrives in England on 22 August 1942. There he follows a training as gunner in May 1943 and on 11 September 1943 he qualifies as gunner/operator, Class C. John is promoted to A/L Corporal on 16 May 1944, on 10 June 1944 he is L/Corporal.

John arrives in France on 24 July 1944.

January 23rd, 1945. In the war diary of the regiment is Udenhout as a place to stay.

Sitting in a garage at 09.00h in the morning. 3 soldiers, in a fire, to clean their handguns. The coat of arms, a Sten, of tpr. Mott is clean, the warehouse has been put back in place.

The weapon is on his lap, the barrel is aimed at John. Mott rubs away some weapon oil near the tractor. The weapon goes off, 4 or 5 bullets hit John in his neck and his head.

John falls unconscious on the ground. Within 3 minutes he dies.

Mott, a friend of John's, is admitted with psychological complaints.

John died, died accidentally, at the age of 27.

John gets a temporary grave at the temporary cemetery in Drunen. On 6 November 1945, a reburial followed at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom. John is buried in plot 7, row F, grave 7.

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





