



Name: Frank, Joseph George

Reg.nr: M38836

Joseph was born on February 15, 1915 in Castor, Alberta. His parents are Jacob (born 1891 in Hungary, died in 1946, aged 55) and Anna Frank-Hausherr (born in Germany on February 17, 1895, died on March 12, 1929, aged 34). Joseph is the eldest child. He has 1 sister, Helen Maria, born February 19, 1917, died November 7, 2003, aged 86). And 2 brothers: John (born September 11, 1922, died August 4, 1973, aged 50) and Jacob (born December 23, 1924, died January 20, 2007, aged 82).

The family lives on a farm in Castor, 73 ha of pasture, 101 ha of grain.

Brother John also served overseas in the Canadian Army.

Joseph speaks English and German.

Joseph left school in the spring of 1930, when he was 15 and was in grade 8.

Joseph has 17 years of experience working on the farm. Sometimes, while traveling from home, he works temporarily in other places. In the last year

at home he works 2 months with a seismograph, he helps 1 season with a sounding car, using explosives (dynamite) and 3 months underground as a miner. This at Sid Show's Mine in Castor.

On December 11, 1942, he enlists, National Resources Mobilization Act of 1940, in Calgary, Alberta.

Joseph is 1.72 m tall and weighs 71 kg. He has brown eyes and brown hair.

No data was found about hobbies, sports, or interests.

Joseph arrives in Calgary at #13 District Depot until December 30, 1942.

Then he goes to A16 CITC, the infantry training camp in Calgary. On February 5, 1943, he goes to the Edmonton Fusiliers in Prince George, British Columbia (B.C.). There he received a non-commissioned officer course and a coaching course. On May 4, 1943, he was promoted to L/Corporal.

From May 29 to July 9, 1943, Joseph is given leave to help his father during the sowing season.

Then on June 27, 1943, he was transferred to the Oxford Rifles in Courtenay, B.C. There he received an advanced infantry course from September 9, 1943. He remained with this regiment until April 6, 1944. He was moved to Nanaimo, Victoria Island and Prince George. On January 6, 1944, he becomes private again after being fined for 2 days of unauthorized absence.

On April 6, 1944, he signs up for active duty in Prince George and then joins the Canadian Fusiliers.

On May 5, 1944, he left Vernon, B.C., to Debert, Nova Scotia, awaiting transfer to England. He embarks on 25 May and disembarks on 2 June 1944. Ij is assigned to the Lincoln and Welland regiment on 20 July 1944. On July 25, 1944, Joseph arrives in France. On July 28, he is assigned to the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment of Canada).

On September 16, 1944, he was promoted to L/Corporal again

October 13, 1944 is known as "Black Friday". Lieutenant Colonel Withaker calls it in his book (see source) "the day of the betrayal of the "civilian in uniform", the young volunteer of the Black Watch who had volunteered for the Canadian army with great enthusiasm".

The Black Watch had already suffered heavy losses. The 1st Battalion suffered more casualties than any other Canadian infantry battalion in northwestern Europe. Disasters seemed to follow the Regiment almost with every battle.

During the Battle of Verrières Ridge on July 25, 1944, there were 97% casualties. Of the 325 men who left the starting line, only 15 came back into their own lines. The others were killed or wounded, and a company of 90 men had only four survivors.

Another 40% were killed 10 days later in Operation Totalize.

A month before Operation Angus, they lost 60 men in 36 hours from September 12-14. In October, the Regiment expected to be fully staffed and resupplied, but that was not to be. The regiment that had lost many trained men in recent months was replenished with inexperienced infantrymen and was still below original strength.

The order for the attack was given by Major General Foulkes, commander of the 2nd Canadian Army Corps, who was aware of the Black Watch's situation. Lieutenant Colonel Ritchie, commander of the Black Watch of Canada, and Brigade Commander Megill, commander of the 5th Canadian Infantry Brigade, had their doubts about Angus' success, but the order was given.

The attack turned into a major drama. The intelligence was not good, the Germans in the area were well organised, were offensively minded, well entrenched and belonged to elite troops. The Black Watch was ill-prepared. The attack was during the day, in an area where the beet foliage provided the only cover. Support from tanks etc. was not possible because of the swampy ground.

In the morning hours, the B and C companies attacked the Germans. The starting point was the Grindweg in Woensdrecht, the goal was the railway embankment on the Kreekrakdam. The attack started at 6.15 am. Within a short time the attack was halted by heavy casualties. The men fell like pins on a bowling alley. A smoke screen could not improve the situation. A

number of C Company men managed to reach the railway embankment, they were captured.

25 men from C company returned, from B company 41. Normally a company consists of 130 men.

The companies lost many executives.

At 5 pm the attack was resumed by A Company, supported from the flank by D Company and the remainder of B Company. In one hour the A company lost almost 70 men, 9 men returned unharmed. D Company also lost a few dozen soldiers. The Black Watch ran out of company commanders. The losses of the Black Watch are the highest losses in 1 day of the battle of the Canadians in the Netherlands. The Black Watch of Canada counted 145 casualties, 56 killed, 62 wounded and 27 POWs.

Joseph belonged to A Company that day. He was killed in action on October 13, 1944, killed in action, aged 29. Initially, he is on the missing person list.

Joseph was temporarily buried on October 27, 1944 in Ossendrecht at the temporary cemetery on the current Burgemeester Voetenweg, near the war memorial of Ossendrecht, plot 2, row 1, grave 43. A reburial follows on May 16, 1945. Joseph is buried at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, plot 4, row A, grave 10.

In December 1944, the next of kin received a thank you from B&W van Ossendrecht on behalf of the population.

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/42127\\_83024005508\\_0487-00453?treeid=&personid=&rc=&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=rBz1&\\_phstart=successSource&pld=57970](https://www.ancestry.ca/imageviewer/collections/9145/images/42127_83024005508_0487-00453?treeid=&personid=&rc=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=rBz1&_phstart=successSource&pld=57970)

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/2641713>

<https://nl.findagrave.com/memorial/12724276/joseph-george-frank>  
<https://nl.findagrave.com/memorial/130031685/jacob-frank>  
<https://nl.findagrave.com/memorial/141207663/anna-frank>  
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[https://web.archive.org/web/20010709165059/http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/laird.niven/public\\_html/oct\\_44.htm#burial](https://web.archive.org/web/20010709165059/http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/laird.niven/public_html/oct_44.htm#burial)