

# Donald Sherwood

## A Westmount Legacy



Plaque: In memory of former pupils of Westmount High School who made the supreme sacrifice

Lieutenant Donald Joseph Sherwood (???- 1944, September 20th)

Canadian Grenadier Guards, R.C.A.C, 22nd Armd. Regt

## Early Life

By: Ngoc Khue Cao, Seakmin Son

Born Donald Joseph Sherwood, he was a former student of Westmount High School.

Presumably born and raised in Montreal, not much information is known about his early life. The lack of records made the researching process very hectic and difficult. There are no known records of date of birth; Therefore, information surrounding his age doesn't exist: his year of graduation, his age when he joined the military and the age that he died. Through intensive search in the school's collection of yearbooks, it is apparent that there were no graduating pictures of him. Based on this information, it is possible that Sherwood dropped out of school and volunteered for the war.

Donald Sherwood's name on Westmount High School memorial plaque

Due to the lack of information on his early life, other than the fact that he was a student of Westmount High School, there was no information regarding his family, both prior and after the war. There was no evidence on his relatives nor where he resided. Like many other former students who sacrificed their lives, it is possible that at the time of his death, he wasn't a day over 30 years old.



## Introduction

Donald Sherwood was one among many Westmount High School students who fought in the Second World War. Like most of the other students, he sacrificed his life during combat. In this digital biography, we, the authors, as current Westmount High students would like to express our gratitude to the fallen soldier. Because of this, we have put a lot of effort into researching the life of Donald Sherwood. We hope by reading this article, one can acquire further knowledge on him. We hope that this digital biography will be informative. May his sacrifice be remembered and honored.

# The Second World War

## Unit and rank

Sherwood was part of the Canadian Grenadier Guards (CGG). Their headquarters is based in Montreal. It can be assumed that he joined the regiment sometime in their recruitment drive of 1939. The CGG is a reserve infantry regiment, which meant that it specialized in military combat on foot. Being part of this unit made Sherwood a member of the 22nd Armoured Regiment and the 4th Canadian Division. The CGG was also part of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets. As part of the CGG, Sherwood embarked for Britain on September 25th, 1942, officially joining the war. The goal of the CGG was “the provision of combat-ready troops in support of Canadian regular infantry”. Sherwood, with his regiment, participated in major battles and operations in WWII. The most notable operation that he was in was the D-Day landing of 1942, also known as “the beginning of the end”. In 1944, the CGG was part of the 4th Canadian Division and fought in many battles on the northwestern front of the war. Among this series of battles is the operation: the Liberation of Belgium with the most notable battle being the Battle of Scheldt.

General Officers	Officers	WOs	NCOs	Men
	Brigadier		Staff Sergeant	
	Colonel		Sergeant	
General	Lieutenant-Colonel	Warrant Officer Class I	Corporal	Private
Lieutenant-General	Major	Warrant Officer Class II	Lance Corporal <sup>1</sup>	
Major-General	Captain	Warrant Officer Class III		
	Lieutenant			
	Second Lieutenant			

1. Not a rank, but an appointment.

Canadian Army Table of Ranks in ww2



Royal Canadian Army Cadets

## Role and Duties

### Lieutenant

 Lieutenant

The Lieutenant is appointed as a Platoon Commander. Most platoon commanders were lieutenants and are commanded by a Captain. The Officers in training were ranked Second Lieutenant and usually promoted to Lieutenant when posted to a field unit.

### World War II

## Battle details

### Liberation of Belgium 1944

Based on his death date and location, we can infer that he died in a battle in Belgium, in 1944. Coincidentally, in September of 1944, Belgium was liberated from Nazi rule. There, the CGG participated in the operation as part of the 4th Armoured Division. Donald Sherwood was probably one of the 800 soldiers who died in this operation. In this operation, the Canadians were tasked with clearing the coastal areas in northern France and to capture the enemies' rocket launching sites. They played a very important role in the Battle of Scheldt, clearing the land of German occupants. Eventually, the mission succeeded but as always, many sacrificed their lives along the way. The operation allowed the Allies to advance one step closer to pushing back Hitler's forces. Since Sherwood was in the CGG, it was highly likely that he lost his life then.

## Legacy after the Liberation of Belgium

Sherwood was one of many Canadians who gave their life for the greater good. They all earned battle honors due to their sacrifices in Belgium. He was a hero, to Belgium, to Canada and even to us, the students of Westmount High School, despite not being known. As a soldier whose efforts helped to liberate Belgium, he was a true hero. However, he was also like many other fallen soldiers, a regular person, who willingly volunteered to go to war despite knowing that he might not return. He volunteered to fight for his country, to stand up for his country, to help those in need and to defeat the terrorism of the Nazis. He will be remembered and honored alongside his fallen comrades by Canada and the students of Westmount High.



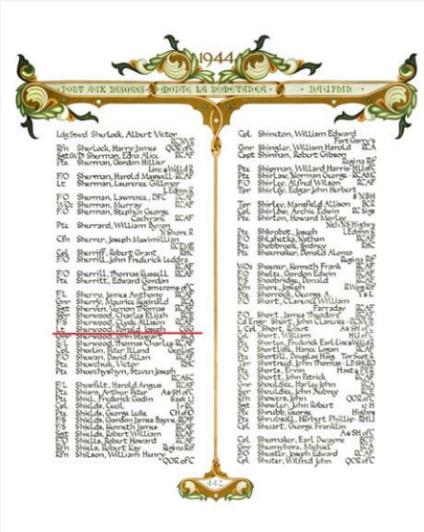
Vehicles of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division moving through Bockhoute, Belgium. October 18, 1944.

# Burial

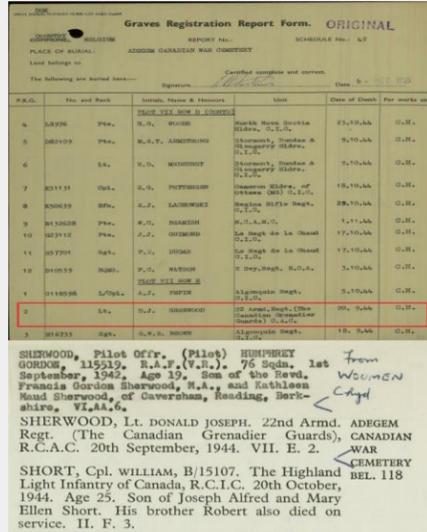
Donald Sherwood died in Belgium on September 20th, 1944. He was buried in the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery in Belgium. His grave reference number is VII. E. 2.

Most of the men buried in the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery lost their lives fighting in the Battle of Scheldt or elsewhere in Belgium.

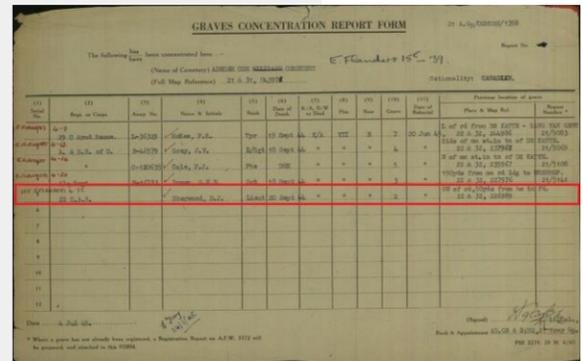
The soldiers who lost their lives in Belgium are also commemorated in the Book of Commemoration which is on display in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa. Due to their achievements, their regiment also received battle honors.



Book page of commemoration



grave registration(2)



Grave registration report



Entrance to the Adegem cemetery



Cross of Sacrifice



His Grave marker

## Sources

Veterans Affairs Canada. "The Liberation of Belgium and the Battle of the Scheldt." *Health and Well Being - Services - Veterans Affairs Canada*, 23 Oct. 2014, [www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/second-world-war/liberation-belgium-battle-scheldt](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/second-world-war/liberation-belgium-battle-scheldt).

Veterans Affairs Canada. "Page 442 from Book: Second World War." *Health and Well Being - Services - Veterans Affairs Canada*, 18 Jan. 2018, [www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=442&book=2&so%2Brt=pageAsc](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=442&book=2&so%2Brt=pageAsc).

The Canadian Grenadier Guards. *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 10 Feb. 2019, [http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Canadian\\_Grenadier\\_Guards](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Canadian_Grenadier_Guards).

Table of Ranks and Responsibilities. *www.canadiansoldiers.com*, [www.canadiansoldiers.com/ranks/tableofranksandresponsibilities.htm](http://www.canadiansoldiers.com/ranks/tableofranksandresponsibilities.htm).

Archives Canada. "Item: DONALD JOSEPH SHERWOOD." *Library and Archives Canada*, 10 Nov. 2017, [www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/second-world-war/second-world-war-dead-1939-1947/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=41988&](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/second-world-war/second-world-war-dead-1939-1947/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=41988&).

Casualty, [www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2106904/sherwood-donald-joseph/](http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2106904/sherwood-donald-joseph/).

Liberation of Belgium. *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 20 Jan. 2019, [http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberation\\_of\\_Belgium](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberation_of_Belgium).

Veterans Affairs Canada. "The Liberation of Belgium." *Health and Well Being - Services - Veterans Affairs Canada*, 27 Nov. 2017, [www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/historical-sheets/belgium](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/historical-sheets/belgium).