

J. Marshall Light

James Marshall Light, son of Frank and Margaret Light, was born in Galt, Ontario, on May 15, 1924. As a boy he attended Central Public School and the Galt Collegiate Institute from 1938 to 1942. While at school, he took part in the cadet corps, where he undertook sergeant's duties. He then went to work for a time as a salesman in the north works office of the Babcock-Wilcox & Goldie-McCulloch company. He left his job after six months because he didn't receive an increase in his pay, and then worked part-time as a truck driver for a meat company, expecting to eventually join the staff of his father's insurance company. Instead, he joined the Highland Light Infantry of Canada reserve army in May 1942, from which unit he enlisted for overseas service in June 1943.



Light was interested in athletic activities, including skiing, swimming and golfing, and although he played team games he preferred individual sports. His examiner noted in June 1943 that he was "very sociable and likes to be with the crowd," and that he had two very close friends and steady girlfriend. The examiner added: "A fine appearing lad of average ability and very likeable personality. He has a self-confident manner, is well liked and given a bit to leadership."

Light died of wounds received on July 29, 1944 in France while attached to the Essex Scottish Regiment. It was believed that he was shot by a sniper. He was 20 years old.

Sources:

Canadian Virtual War Memorial, accessed April 15, 2016, <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/23333775?James%20Marshall%20Light>; Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa; World War II Newspaper Clippings, Galt Collegiate Institute and Vocational School Archives (GCI Archives); World War II Service Cards, GCI Archives.

Photograph of Pte. J. Marshall Light, c. 1944 (Canadian Virtual War Memorial).