

Fretwell, John Arthur

Age: 19

Nationality: Canadian

Rank: AC2

Unit: No. 3 Repair Depot

Occupation:

Service No: R/265801

Birth: 3 September 1924,
Tofield, Lloydminster,
Alberta, Canada

Home Town: Lloydminster, Alberta,
Canada

Death: 6 December 1943

Shaughnessy Hospital,
Vancouver, BC

Burial: Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, Canada



Biography

John Fretwell (Jack) left school with grade 11 in 1940. He worked as a clerk for Lloydminster Co-op for two years and left this for a better job as a telegraph operator at the CP station in Furness, Saskatchewan. From 1942 to 1943, he was a private in Lloydminster B.L.I. Two months after he joined CP Jack was called for the army and decided to apply for the RCAF, which he thought would be more interesting.

Although very youthful in appearance, Jack appeared to be mature in other respects. He was reasonably well informed about the RCAF and applied for aircrew. His initial choice was to be a radio operator, capitalizing on his brief experience at CP which had given him the ability to send messages at 30 words per minute. Jack, whose father was a pilot and a glider enthusiast, was judged to have the aptitude and background ability to train as a pilot and he was urged to change his preference.

Jack enlisted on 14 September 1943 and after a month in Edmonton, was sent to No. 3 Repair Depot in Patricia Bay, BC. Less than two months later, on December 5th, Jack was admitted to Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver with appendicitis. He died the following afternoon.

By 11 to RCAF? Record Office

CANADA.—PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. Form 24.

Registration District of Vancouver B.C. -R265801 AC2 John Arthur Fretwell

Certificate of Registration of Death.

This is to certify that the Death of

JOHN ARTHUR FRETWELL

is registered as having taken place at Shaughnessy Military Hospital, Vancouver

on the 6th day of December, 19 43

Cause of death: 1. Status Thymical Lymphaticus
Acute gangrenous appendicitis

Contributory: 2. Early peritonitis following an
appendectomy under spinal
anaesthesia

Name of Doctor in attendance: Dr. Jno. Whitbread, Coroner

Date of Registration, December 8th, 19 43

H.C.C. Belthune
Deputy Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

2,500 (50)-1041-4883 There is no fee for this Certificate.

FOR PENSIONS PURPOSES ONLY

Jack Fretwell was born in Tofield, Lloydminster, AB, on 3 September 1924 to James Philip Fretwell, born in England, and 16 year old Eva Mary Leighton. He was their only child. Jack assigned a \$10.00/month allowance to his paternal grandmother Isabelle Fretwell, also of Lloydminster.

Lloydminster straddles two provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The family lived on the Alberta side, but the cemetery, where Jack was buried, is on the Saskatchewan side.



