

# W. DOUGLAS SMAILL

Born in Winnipeg in 1916 and raised in Montreal, Walter Douglas Smail (Doug) was a kid who, during his school years, just couldn't be kept away from sports all the way up to his graduation in 1936. The young man was on every team possible, from football, to diving, to hockey. (See photo below under the header "Activities")

*"A winner never quits,  
And a quitter never wins."*

**DOUGLAS SMAILL (Doug)**

Fav. Exp.—"Huh?"

Pet Avers.—Robinson, Spinney and LeMaistre.

Pastime—Catching up on lost sleep.

Ambition—To trisect an angle.

Activities—Jun. Football '31-'32; Jun. Basketball (Sect. Champs) '31-'32; Int. Football (Sect. Champs) '32-'33; Sen. Gym Team '31-'32, '32-'33 (City Champs), '33-'34 (City Champs), '34-'35, '35-'36; Int. Basketball '32-'33; Sen. Football '33-'34 (City Champs), '34-'35 (City Champs), Capt. '35-'36 (City Champs); Sen. Basketball '33-'34 (Sect. Champs), Capt. '34-'35, '35-'36; Int. Hockey '33-'34; Sen. Hockey '34-'35 (City Champs), '35-'36; Diving Champ '34-'35.



Interestingly enough, it's quite possible that Doug got his love of sports from his father. After a little digging it was found out that Doug was likely the son of the Great 1910 Stanley Cup winner Walter Sydney Smail. (shown here)



Finding this out was incredible as well as heartbreaking. It paints the picture of a young boy with an awesome father and bright future in sports, just for it all to be taken away by the war. Imagine: If he was allowed to stay at home, little Doug might have been a Cup winner just like his father.



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When in the army, Walter rose to the rank of Lieutenant. While not a foot soldier, the position of Lieutenant was not much more prestigious. They are in fact the second lowest rank of commissioned officer (above the second Lieutenant), though still very respectable.



As a Lieutenant, Smail was likely in charge of a platoon. That is to say a troop of about 25 to 50 men split into two "squads". These squads would have their own leaders and noncommissioned officers. So Walter Smail's war experience likely consisted of him being on the ground ordering his platoon and trying keep himself as well as his men alive and fighting



LIEUT. DOUGLAS SMAILL  
KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
MARCH 1905

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Walter Douglass Smail was officially declared dead Feb. 28, 1945 and was buried in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery located in Gelderland Netherlands. Interestingly enough, this cemetery is relatively close to the small village of Hoogerheide, where the Black Watch mounted an assault during the Battle of Scheldt. This leads one to believe that Smail died during the day known to the Black Watch as Black Friday. On this day the regiment suffered 145 deaths and had 27 men captured. The dates and area line up, The battle took place between Oct. 2 and Nov. 8 1944 and Smail was pronounced dead only 4 months later. The timing, the place and the sheer amount of men dead, all point to this day as being Smail's last.



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