

# Boyd, Jamie Ralph

**Age:** 18

**Nationality:** Canadian

**Rank:** AC2

**Unit:** No. 4 SFTS

**Occupation:** General Duties

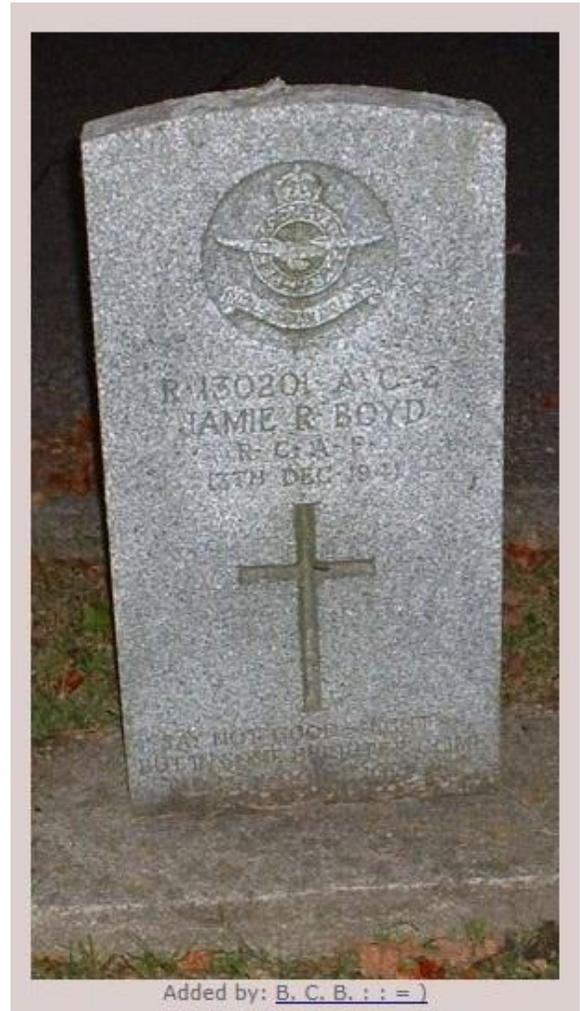
**Service No:** R130201

**Birth:** 30 May 1923  
Eady, Ontario, Canada

**Home Town:** Goldlands, Ontario,  
Canada

**Death:** 13 December 1941  
Accident at Mills Road sand pit  
near Patricia Bay, BC

**Burial:** St. Andrews and St. James Cemetery,  
Orillia, Ontario, Canada



## Biography

Jamie Boyd was a farm boy from somewhere North of Orillia, in Ontario, Canada. His family's address is given as 'Goldlands', which no longer exists as a community. He was born in Eady, West of Arnprior, and his parents were born in Coldwater, which lies between Orillia and Georgian Bay. As well as farming, his father worked as a diesel mechanic in Northern camps.

Jamie left school when he was 16, with a grade 8 education. Before he applied to join the RCAF he worked primarily on his father's farm, but also, in the winter of 39/40, as a cook at a camp, possibly for Abitibi Paper and Power, and for a brief period in 1941 as a labourer or a carpenter's helper for a construction company.

When he applied to the RCAF, in North Bay, Ontario, on 30 August 1941, Jamie was a skinny 5'5". His application form is written in childish printing with some parts completed in a different, mature, hand. He applied for the duration for 'General Duties' and is accepted as an AC2.

Jamie was transferred to Patricia Bay on 10 December 1941. Three days later he was assigned to a work party of 35 to fill sandbags for station defence at a sand pit on Mills Road near the station. The bank where he was working collapsed, completely burying him and partially burying three other men. He died 30 minutes after being dug out, without regaining consciousness, of crushing injuries to the chest, abdomen and lungs. No-one else was killed in the accident.

Jamie was born 30 May 1923 in Eady, Ontario, to William Thornton Boyd and Janet Florence Walker. They already had one three year old son, Arnold, who later served with the Canadian Army overseas, and a daughter, Helen, was born in 1925.



## Details of Accident

A court of inquiry was convened after the accident. It concluded that Jamie was working on legitimate Air Force duties and was in no way to blame for the accident.

Eleven witnesses were called: Sergeant W.A. Taylor, of the Security Guard, in charge of the work party, F/O T.H. Fuge, officer commanding the Security Force, F/O D. B. Ryall, Medical officer and eight AC2's working at the pit with Jamie Boyd.

The AC2's all gave fairly consistent testimony that they were working at a bank about ten feet high, with four feet of sand topped by clay and shrubbery. They had dug about four feet into the bank forming an overhang. It looked a bit dangerous but none of them were really scared and it was easy to dig the sand out from there. The Sergeant in control occasionally came by and never ordered the boys away, nor were they ever ordered to work at this particular spot.

Sergeant W.A. Taylor is reported as saying

*"... yesterday afternoon, my first day in camp, I was detailed to take a party of men to the sand pit to fill sand bags. I don't know very much about the accident, the boys were over digging in the corner. Suddenly I heard a rumbling noise and some yelling and I at once ran to the point where the bank had caved in."*

He claimed he had warned the party to look out for the walls but was not so scared of the side that caved in as of the other side and warned them to stay clear of that.

F/O T. H. Fuge, the officer commanding the Security Force, had visited the pit earlier in the day. He thought it looked alright and the walls did not look too dangerous. A party of Indians had been digging there and the boys continued in the same areas.

Both the sergeant and the Flying Officer gave the opinion that the accident was caused by the weakening of the upper strata due to a water crack, with the undermining as a contributory factor.

The Medical Officer arrived before all the men were dug out. Jamie Boyd was

unconscious, seriously injured and lying on the ground. Artificial respiration was tried but he went from bad to worse. An ambulance arrived and an oxygen inhalator was brought but could not be used. He was taken to the station hospital but was determined to be dead before he arrived.