

Lieutenant-General Geoffrey WALSH, CBE, DSO, CD
Chief of the General Staff – Canadian Army
October 1961 to 1964

Born:	19/08/1909	Brantford, Ontario	
Married:	1937	Gwynn Abigail Currie	
Son:	07/03/1939	Major Robert Geoffrey (' <u>Geoff</u> ') Walsh, CD	RMC #4808
Died:	03/04/1999	Ottawa, Ontario	

Honours

23/12/1944	CBE	Commander – Order of the British Empire	Brigadier
25/09/1943	DSO	Distinguished Service Order	LCol
23/06/1945	MID	Mentioned-in-Despatches	Brigadier
09/03/1946	MID	Mentioned-in-Despatches	Brigadier
31/03/1947	Commander	Order of Orange Nassau with Swords	Netherlands
30/06/1946	Commander	Legion of Merit	USA
LG 04/04/1946+	MID	Mentioned-in-Despatches	Brigadier
1952	CD	Canadian Forces Decoration	Brigadier

Military

1922	Army Cadet	St. Catherine's Collegiate Institute Cadet Corps
1924	Private	Lincoln Regiment
1926	Officer Cadet	Royal Military College
1930	2nd Lieutenant	Royal Canadian Engineers
1934	Captain	Adjutant – Royal Canadian Engineers
1937	Captain	Staff – Royal Military College
1940	Major	CO – 3rd Field Column Royal Canadian Engineers Overseas
1941	Major	CO – 3rd F.C., RCE, Spitzbergen Expedition
01/04/1942	Lieutenant-Colonel	Commander – Royal Engineers, 1 Canadian Division (Sicily & Italy)
01/1944	Lieutenant-Colonel	Commander – Royal Engineers – 5 th Cdn Armoured Division
13/02/1944	Brigadier	Chief Engineer – 2nd Canadian Corp, 1st Canadian Army, Normandy
02/09/1944	Brigadier	Chief Engineer – 1st Canadian Army
20/07/1945	Brigadier	Chief Engineer – Canadian Army of Occupation
1946	Brigadier	Commander – Northwest Highway System (Alaska Highway)
1948	Brigadier	Commander – Eastern Ontario Military District (Kingston)
1951	Brigadier	Commander -27th Infantry Brigade Europe
1952	Brigadier	Director-General of Military Training, and
09/1955	Major-General	Quartermaster-General – Canadian Army
07/1959	Major-General	GOC – Western Command
10/1961	Lieutenant-General	Chief of the General Staff – Canadian Army
1964	Lieutenant-General	Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff
10/1965	Lieutenant-General	Start Retirement
07/1966	Lieutenant-General	Retire
1970	Colonel Commandant	Royal Canadian Army Cadet and the Cadet Services of Canada



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Citations

WALSH, Geoffrey, Lieutenant-Colonel - Distinguished Service Order - Engineers - awarded as per Canada Gazette dated 25 September 1943 and CARO/3791 dated 6 November 1943. Educated at Royal Military College; served in Canadian Army until 1964. His postings included command of the Northwest Highway System in 1946, command of 27th Infantry Brigade in Europe (1951) and last Chief of the General Staff with rank of Lieutenant-General. Died in Ottawa, 3 April 1999, aged 90. Recommended for immediate award by Major-General G.G. Simonds, General Officer Commanding, 1 Canadian Infantry Division, on or about 24 July 1943; document with Headquarters, 30 Corps, 30 July to 1 August 1943 (supported by Lieutenant-General O.W.H. Leese); with Headquarters, Eighth Army, 3-6 August 1943 (supported by General B.L. Montgomery); with Headquarters, 15 Army Group, 7 August to 9 September 1943 (approved by General Harold R. Alexander).

During the assault of 2 Canadian Infantry Brigade on Leonforte, 21/22 July 1943, it was essential that an enemy demolition be bridged in order that supporting arms for the brigade could be moved forward. The bridging site at the time was under heavy enemy machine gun and mortar fire. The operation was done in the dark by 3 Canadian Field Company, but owing to the vital importance of this bridge, Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh as Commander Royal Engineers personally supervised the effort. Some 40 Germans and three German tanks were within 50 yards of the bridging site rendering it almost impossible for infantry to secure covering positions. Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh ignored the incessant small arms fire which ricocheted off the bridge members, rushed through the construction, and as a result the bridge was open for traffic at 0210 hours, well in advance of schedule, enabling the necessary supporting arms to cross and conclude the successful drive on Leonforte.

WALSH, Geoffrey, Brigadier, DSO - Commander, Order of the British Empire - awarded as per Canada Gazette dated 23 December 1944 and CARO/5235 dated 3 January 1945.

In training prior to operations in France, in the planning stage and in the execution of the engineer work within 2 Canadian Corps, Brigadier Walsh has shown exceptional ability and assiduous application to his duties. The successful bridging of the River Orne in front of Caen and the opening of roads through the town was very largely attributable to the organizational ability and personal supervision of Brigadier Walsh. His work has been very much above the average of what might have been expected of his post.

WALSH, Geoffrey, Brigadier, DSO - Mention in Dispatches - awarded as per Canada Gazette and CARO/5801, both dated 23 June 1945.

WALSH, Geoffrey, Brigadier, CBE, DSO - Mention in Dispatches - awarded as per Canada Gazette dated 9 March 1946 and CARO/6431 dated 8 March 1946.

WALSH, Geoffrey, Brigadier, DSO - Legion of Merit, Degree of Commander (United States) - awarded as per Canada Gazette dated 30 March 1946 and CARO/6478 dated 1 April 1946. Recommended by Brigadier J.F.A. Lister (Chief of Staff, Deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster-General, First Canadian Army); document at Headquarters, First Canadian Army, 15-21 July 1945 when signed off by General H.D.G. Crerar.

Brigadier Walsh served as Chief Engineer, 2 Canadian Corps from July [1944] when it was first committed in the Northwest European theatre of operations until early in September when he was appointed Chief Engineer, First Canadian Army. He has served in the latter capacity through the balance of the campaign.

The role of the Engineers during these operations was one of great importance. Due in large part to this officer's unusual organizing and executive ability, however, this arm of the service successfully met all the varied demands which were made upon it. Under his leadership and example, moreover, its personnel displayed in the execution of their tasks the greatest gallantry, initiative and resource. This officer has throughout the campaign distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services.

WALSH, Geoffrey, Brigadier, CBE, DSO - Commander, Order of Orange-Nassau with Swords (Netherlands) - awarded as per Canada Gazette dated 22 March 1947 and Canadian Army Order 12/47 dated 31 March 1947.