

JAMES MARSHALL HEPBURN, LT. COLONEL
1903-1963

James Marshall Hepburn II was born August 1903 at **Middlepath Street, Belfast, Ireland** above his grandfather **James Nixon's** poultry shop. He was the second child to **James Marshall Hepburn I** and **Elizabeth Kain**.



In July 1906, three year-old James immigrated with his family to Bartlett Avenue in the Dovercourt District of Toronto, Canada.

In 1910 when James M. was about eight years old, he travelled with his family to the Hepburn grandparents in Castlefin, Ireland for a number of months. During his stay, the Hepburn cottage in **Sessiagh Allison** was rebuilt by the adult Hepburn brothers. While he was there, his father bought him and his brother a small donkey to ride. He also was shown how to hunt for rabbits along hedgerows.

In 1912 he was back in Canada with his family living at 368 Delaware Avenue and was active in the **Dovercourt Citadel Salvation Army** as a member of the **Young People's Corps**.

In 1916 James M's father had relocated to Akron, Ohio and sent for the rest of his family in October of that year. By 1918 they were living at **39 North Maple Street in Akron**.

James Marshall Hepburn II became a soldier and bandsman in the **Akron, Ohio Salvation Army Corps** and the entire family were active members under the ministry of **Adjutants Jennie (nee Buchan) & Joseph Hughes**. Two daughters of the Hughes', **Rose Evangeline and Lily Jean Munroe**, eventually married the two sons of James Sr. & Elizabeth, **Samuel Hepburn and James Marshall Hepburn II**, respectively.

James M. is found on the 1920 Federal Census for Akron, Ohio living on North Maple Street as an 18 year old electrician. Also living with the family is his unmarried uncle **John Hepburn**, a 51 year old brick layer.

In 1923, at age 20, James M. submitted his **Declaration of Intention for US Citizenship** at the **Akron, Ohio Common Pleas Court**. He was described as 5 foot 7 1/2 inches, 185 lbs with brown eyes and brown hair.

In September 1924 he entered the Salvation Army ministry from Akron. He was enrolled in the **"Invincibles"**, the same session as his sister **Nellie Hepburn** and wife-to-be **Lily Jean Munroe Hughes** and graduated from the Salvation Army Training College on Tremont Avenue, Bronx, New York in 1925.

His first appointments were as Probationary Lieutenant at Norwalk, Warren and Alliance, Ohio. In 1926 he was promoted to Captain and married **Lily Jean Munroe Hughes** at the Salvation Army's Cleveland Citadel and appointed to Massillon, Ohio. Their only son **James Hughes Hepburn** was born in 1927.

On the 10th April 1928 his mother **Elizabeth Kain Hepburn** died in Akron, Ohio at 52 years of age.

For the next number of years, James M. was appointed to the Youngstown, Ohio Corps at the peak of the Great Depression where he oversaw the work of caring for 500 homeless men and operating a soup kitchen. Under the supervision of the **Federal Emergency Relief Administration**, Captain James M. Hepburn was director of the Federal Transit Bureau and opened a lodge at 122 W. Wood St. to feed and house homeless men.

In 1936 he gained Citizenship to the United States and moved on in the Salvation Army from field

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appointments to divisional work in 1942 with an assignment as **Divisional and YP Secretary for Northern New England**. In 1947 he assumed responsibility of **Provincial Secretary for the Northern New England Province** and in 1948 he became **Divisional Commander for Northeastern Pennsylvania**. Many young people were influenced under his administration to follow the Salvation Army road of service. Seventy cadets went to the Training College over a ten-year period. In 1958 he became **Divisional Commander for the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Division** and was promoted to **Lt. Colonel**.

During summer months he and Lily stayed at the Divisional Commander's quarters at the **Salvation Army Camp Wonderland** sometimes in the company of their two young grandsons, **James Marshall Hepburn III** and **Bradley Jackson Sherwood Hepburn**.

James M. died in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts USA on the 31st of January 1963. His funeral was conducted by **Commissioner Holland French** at the Salvation Army Boston Central Corps, after which he was buried in the Salvation Army plot in **Forest Hills Cemetery**, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

Issue:

1. James Hughes 1927

Sources:

1. Irish General Records Office birth registration
2. Medical certificate of vaccination 1903
3. Passenger list: SS VIRGINIAN 1906
4. Passenger list: February 1911 SS CORSICAN
5. Dovercourt Y. P. Corps Library card 1913
6. Canadian Border Crossing 1916
7. Federal census 1920 & 1930
8. U.S. Declaration of Intent 1923
9. Salvation Army Training College Commissioning program 1925
10. U.S. Naturalization 1936
11. Salvation Army Career Sheet
12. The War Cry, Feb. 1963
13. Funeral programme 1963
14. Mass. Death Certificate 1963
15. Lily Jean Hughes Archives
16. Hepburn Photo and Audio Archives
17. Family Letter: "Dear father" Samuel Hepburn, Commissioner
18. Communications:
 - a. Lily Jean Munro Hughes Hepburn, Mrs. Lt. Col. (dec)
 - b. James Hughes Hepburn of Rockland, Mass. USA