

Bartholomew, Edward Charles
Private
Essex Scottish Regiment
Royal Canadian Infantry Corps
A 106827



Edward (Ted) Bartholomew was born on October 15, 1918, in Port Stanley, Ontario, Canada. He was the youngest child in a family of four children. Father Frederick Charles was a station agent at the L&PS Depot; he was born in 1882 and died in 1968. Mother Bessie Annette Robinson was also born in 1882 and passed in 1962. The couple married in 1905 in Carlisle, England, and were members of the Church of England. The eldest of the four children was sister Hilda, who was born in England and later married Cunningham; she died in 1992. The family emigrated from Northern England to Canada, leaving behind a successful food business.

After Hilda followed older brother John Cecil. The youngest in the family was sister Bessy; she was born in 1919 and died in 2003. Bessy was married to Douglas Baker. The family then lived in Sydenham Street before moving into a large house, the Presbyterian Manse, on the west side of the Roman Catholic Church on George Street. The family lived here for seventy years.

Ted attended school for thirteen years, four of which were at High School in St. Thomas, after which he attended the Special Commercial Course for one year. He was a skilled and successful athlete, even playing on the local ice hockey championship team. Other sports he liked to play were baseball and tennis. He also won a regional badminton tournament. Ted

was a good leader of his teams, and everyone in Port Stanley liked him. They saw him dancing in the Pavilion, playing table tennis with his uncle, or playing pool in Bill Young's Poolroom.

Ted had blue eyes and blond hair and was single. In the thirties, there was a dance craze in which Ted liked to participate. His sister Hilda married Archie Cunningham, one of the best saxophone players in the area, who played in various bands. Sister Betty also married a musician, Doug Baker, who played the trombone and was a bandleader. Thus, Ted was surrounded by excitement and glitter and enjoyed it.

When Ted volunteered for duty, he had been unemployed for one month. Before that, he worked at Windsor's Ford Motor Company office. His first job was at the Canadian Steamship Lines office, the Century Coal Company. This company arranged the transport of hundreds of thousands of tons of coal in the port every year. Together with several fellow citizens, Ted decided to report to the army. After his shift, he aimed to do administrative work again, but with different tasks and more physical work.

4		(IV) NEXT OF KIN		5	
Any change becoming known is to be duly noted with date of		NOTE.—No entry in these pages has any legal		NOW LIVING such change and reported by O.C. Unit to the Officer i/e Records. effect as a WILL (see pages 20 to 23)	
Nearest degree of relationship		Names		Latest known Address in full	
1st	Wife				
	Children				
	Father	MR. FREDERICK CHARLES BARTHOLOMEW		P.O. PORT STANLEY, ONT., CAN.	
2nd	Mother	MRS. BESSIE ANNETTE BARTHOLOMEW		P.O. PORT STANLEY, ONT., CAN.	
	OLDER *Brothers and Sisters	MR. JOHN CECIL BARTHOLOMEW		P.O. DRILLIA, ONT., CAN.	
3rd		MRS. HILDA CUNNINGHAM		P.O. PORT STANLEY, ONT., CAN.	
		MRS. BESSIE BAKER		P.O. PORT STANLEY, ONT., CAN.	
	Other Relations (stating relationship)				
4th					

*State whether brothers are older or younger.

Page in his soldier's Service book

In May 1940, Ted enlisted voluntarily with the Elgin Regiment, where he obtained the papers for Sergeant in June 1941. From March 12 to May 12, 1943, Ted joined the Essex Scottish Regiment at Windsor. He loved the army and indicated that he wanted to become an active soldier, not an administrative one. Ted was proud of his ESR uniform.

On April 27, 1943, Ted was approved for service in London, Ontario. He was then twenty-four years old, a well-developed, athletic young man. He was 5 ft 7 tall and weighed 138 lbs. He was in good health, energetic and cheerful. There was a stable financial situation at home, and Ted was also very attached to his family. He was confident and capable as an NCO

(Non-Commissioned Officer) in the infantry. Ted started with the Elgin Regiment and, in May 1943, received special training with the St. Thomas Cadets in Chatham. On November 25 of that year, he completed his training as an Instructor Assistant at Camp Ipperwash. He was promoted to Acting Lance Corporal and earned his "C" Wing in Long Branch. He also volunteered for the Canadian Parachute Troop but did not make it through the selection.

Relief

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE (Army) INFANTRY (OTHER)
Arm or Corps

Personnel Selection Record

Trade (if Tradesman or Trade Trainee)
Work in Arm (if Non-Tradesman)

This form will accompany the soldier's regimental documents at all times.

Sept 5

I. A-106827 Pte. BARTHOLOMEW E. C. AF 24
Regt. No. Rank Name (surname first) A or R Age Med. Cat.

English No. 1 D.D. London, Ont. 17 May 43.
Main Language Other Language(s) Place (Unit) Interviewed Date Interviewed

II. Revised Examination "M" C-26921 London, Ont. 27 Apr. 43. J.B. Boyd
Place Tested Date Tested By Whom

138	III	Subtests	13	15	6	16	22	14	22	30	Subtotals	34	38	66	English
Total	Group		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1-3	4-5	6-8	English or French	

Other Tests 17-Nov.-43-- 23 Aug. 44.
PULHEMS PULHEMS
18-1111211- 18 1111111 *6 Sept 44*

III. Educational Background
Grade XII Jr. Matric. and 1 year Spec. Commercial course in Ontario. 13 years schooling - left at age 19.

IV. Occupational Background
(1) 3 yrs. - Canada Steamship Lines - assistant agent - earned \$120 mo.
(2) 5 mos. - Subsidiary of above - coal office - office manager -- over earned \$150 month. 2 clerks
(3) 8 mos. Ford Motor, Windsor - Personnel Office - earned \$140 month.
(4) Unemployed a month before joining Army. (Unable to get a job without blue rejection slip).
Likes clerical work if it includes sufficient physical activity. Has moderate degree of ambition; apparently is capable of some responsibility.

V. Military Background St. Thomas Cadets.
(1) 2/Elgin Regt. (R) May 1940 until June 41. Has qualified Sgt.'s papers and held this rank for 6 mos.
(2) 2/Essex Scottish (R) Windsor Mar. 12, 43 until present date.
(3) Enlisted in AF 12 May 43. Keen on the army and wants really active soldiering.

VI. Other Personal History and Appraisal Height 5'1-7" Weight 138 lbs.
Very active in sports and quite successful. In local hockey league was on a championship team; also plays baseball, tennis. Won local badminton tournament. He is apparently well liked and a good mixer. Frequently chosen for some position of leadership, e.g. secretary of the hockey team, previously scout patrol leader.
He is in vigorous health, apparently. Feels energetic and generally cheerful.
He has grown up in a financially sound home with good standards of conduct but without repressive discipline. He is quite strongly attached to his home.
A clean attractive appearing lad with a likeable personality. He is self-assured without any sign of boastfulness. Keen, alert attitude. Apparently responsible. His ability is average and he has good leadership qualities within the limits of that ability.

VII. Recommendations
INFANTRY (OTHER) Good N.C.O. prospect

(Signed) *J.B. Boyd* Capt.
(J.B. Boyd) Army Examiner

M.F.M. 196
1000-2-49 (5847)

See reverse side for further information and follow-up

A 106 B 27

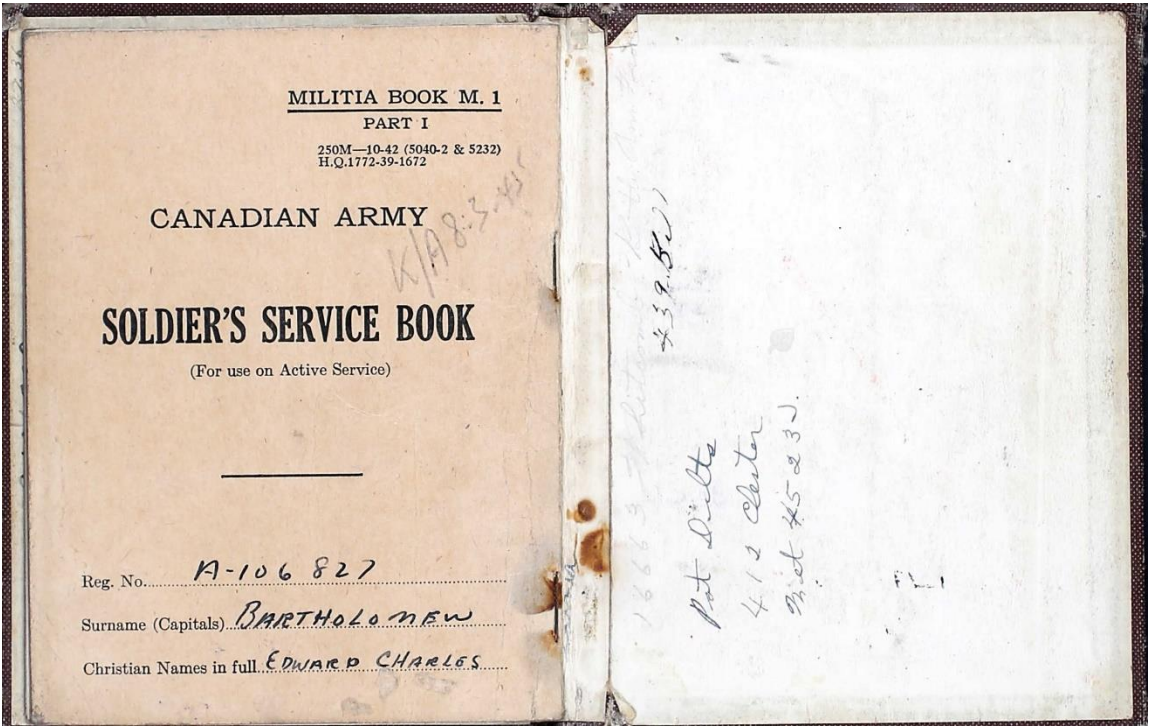
Ted was ready to go overseas to the war in Europe; that was his great wish. Still, he had to wait a few months; Ted received the No 923 "D" Wing Physical Training course at Camp Ipperwash and qualified as "Q.II." He was reassigned to Acting Corporal in April and then attended the "C" Wing Chemical Warfare Course at Long Branch in June.

The time had finally come, and after a week of embarkation leave, Ted made the final preparations for his departure. On October 11, 1944, he left by ship for the United Kingdom, arriving on October 21. Ted was then assigned to the 2nd Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit. From Mid-November to the end of December, he was at the 18th Canadian General Hospital for his tonsils. He then joined the 2nd Canadian Infantry Training Regiment.

On February 10, 1945, Ted departed from the United Kingdom by plane to northwestern Europe, where he was assigned to the Essex Scottish Regiment on February 21.

On February 14, 1945, the Essex was called up to the eastern Netherlands: they had to advance from Nijmegen via Mook-Gennep-Hekkens through the Reichswald to Kleve and Kalkar in Germany, and with the support of Kangaroos (tanks), they advanced steadily. On February 18, they were near Kalkar and were ordered to attack Moyland.

It rained heavily on the night of February 18 to 19; the Essex Scottish Regiment aimed to capture buildings in Göttern and Brunshof. The mud played tricks on the tanks, and they progressed very slowly during the day.



On February 19, 1945, the Germans launched a fierce counter-attack at 2:15 pm. The Essex Scottish Regiment came under heavy fire from the road between Goch and Kalkar. A fierce battle ensued; at 4.30 pm, they had almost reached their goal (still about 180 m) when reinforcements arrived for the Germans.

At 20:00, the Germans attacked just as the Essex Scottish Regiment was out of tanks, as they were being withdrawn to be re-manned and refueled.

The Essex Scottish Regiment could not withstand this fierce attack, and the Germans overran them beyond their Head Quarters. Staff and survivors retreated to a farmhouse basement. Reinforcements arrived in the night, the counter-attack was launched, and they successfully drove the Germans back. Eventually, they got their hands on the road from Kleve to Kalkar (currently Kalkar Strasse).

That battle on February 19 was the bloodiest of Operation Veritable; the Essex Scottish Regiment counted 51 killed (out of a total of 400 killed on February 19 and 20), 99 wounded, and 54 prisoners of war.

The regiment advanced further, and on 21 February, Moyland was captured. But the whole operation was moving too slowly and Head Quarters decided to tie it into a new process, Operation Blockbuster. Blockbuster started on February 26, 1945. This operation aimed to break through the enemy's strong Hochwald defenses and thus capture Xanten, Wesel, and the surrounding area.

The first breakthrough in the German defenses was on the night of March 3 to 4, and on March 5, the ESR approached Xanten within five kilometers. The regiment was ordered, among other things, to conquer and hold Xanten together with the British.

On March 8, the attack began while it was pouring rain; the first objective was to capture the western part of the city. At 05:10 am, all companies were in position, and at 05:30 am, the German positions came under an artillery barrage.

At 06:45 am, the leading companies advanced, and fifteen minutes later, they were combing the farms between the railway lines. They were held up because the Germans had fortified a castle; they repeatedly attacked the building, which was repulsed, and the companies suffered heavy losses.

The Crocodile tanks arrived, and their fire helped drive off the Germans. By noon, they had reached the town's outskirts, and all their targets were secured. However, they were under continuous German mortar and machine gun fire throughout the attack and fired upon by enemy heavy

artillery from across the Rhine. The ESR reached the city around noon, and the fighting ended around midnight.

But the fierce battle took many lives, and many were injured. Ted Bartholomew also died on the eighth of March. He expired immediately and was temporarily buried with his comrades on March 10, 1945, in Xanten, Germany. The Essex Pipe Band played at the ceremony.

Edward Charles Bartholomew was reburied on 21 August 1945 at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave reference **III. H. 2.**

He was only twenty-six years old.

Text on his tombstone:

TED, HOW WE MISS YOU
MOURNED BY HIS PARENTS,
BROTHER, SISTERS AND FRIENDS



Photo: Liesbeth Huisman

Ted received the following awards:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France and Germany Star
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp

The Memorial Cross was sent to his mother, Bessie.

M.F.M. 268
50 M-9-44 (5635)
H.Q. 1772-39-1990

**CANADIAN PACIFIC
TELEGRAPHS**

EAVM FILE H.Q. 405-B-22, 945

CASUALTY (REPORT DELIVERY) OTTAWA 19 MARCH 1945

TO:- MRS BESSIE A BARTHOLOMEW
PORT STANLEY ONT

15859 REGRET DEEPLY A106827 PRIVATE EDWARD CHARLES
BARTHOLOMEW HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION EIGHTH
MARCH 1945 STOP YOU SHOULD RECEIVE FURTHER DETAILS BY MAIL DIRECT
FROM THE UNIT IN THE THEATRE OF WAR STOP TO PREVENT POSSIBLE AID TO
OUR ENEMIES DO NOT DIVULGE DATE OF CASUALTY OR NAME OF UNIT

PREPAID *MB* DIRECTOR OF RECORDS 9

After his death, Sister Betty said of her brother: "I remember Ted as a sweet and precious brother, who voluntarily gave his life on a dangerous mission for his regiment and country. I am proud of brother Ted".



Life story: Liesbeth Huisman-Arts, Research Team Faces to Graves.

Consulted sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Library and Archives Canada
Essex Scottish Regiment
Canadian Research and Mapping ass.
Traces of War
Frank and Nancy Prothero

*Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information, please contact info@facestograves.nl