

Beers, Lloyd Ernest

Private

Royal Hamilton Light Infantry

2nd Canadian Infantry Division

G-2678



Lloyd Ernest Beers was born on 8 May 1925, in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. Lloyd grew up in a religious family who attended the Church of England.

He was the son of Thomas James. His mom's name is unknown, she died when Lloyd was eleven years old. He had six brothers, two died at a very early age, and four sisters, also two sisters died at an early age. His brother Warren also served in the Canadian Army. After his mother died, his father remarried Stella Beers. Lloyd himself never got married and didn't have any children.

Lloyd was sixteen years old when he left school after graduating Grade 7. He started working as a mixer at the Marvens Biscuit company in



Moncton, New Brunswick. The Marvens Biscuit company was very popular among the residents of Moncton. They even shipped their products to other places. Lloyd worked for two years at the Marvens Company.

When he was eighteen years old on 5 January 1944, Lloyd enlisted for active service in the Canadian army in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He was posted to the No 7 District Depot as a Private.

After the registration he went through a medical examination which showed he was perfectly healthy and strong. Lloyd was 5 feet and 7 inches tall and weighed 138 pounds. He had sharp blue eyes and ginger hair. He had a scar at the top of his left thumb.

He did his two months' training in the Basic Training Centre in Fredericton and completed it successfully. He then started at the Advanced Training Centre in Utopia, New Brunswick. Lloyd completed this training successfully in three months.

On 25 June 25 1944, Lloyd and his military unit went overseas from Canada to Europe.



They arrived in Europe on 3 July and Lloyd joined the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI).

The RHLI arrived in France a month after D-Day and in September they already reached Belgium and they liberated the city's Bruges and Antwerp.

On 7 October they entered in the South-West part of The Netherlands. After a month, on 8 November, they moved to Nijmegen and stayed here

for several months. It took a long time for new orders to come and the RHLI submitted a request to the officers for more recreation and entertainment to keep morale high among the unit. This would significantly improve their combat qualities.

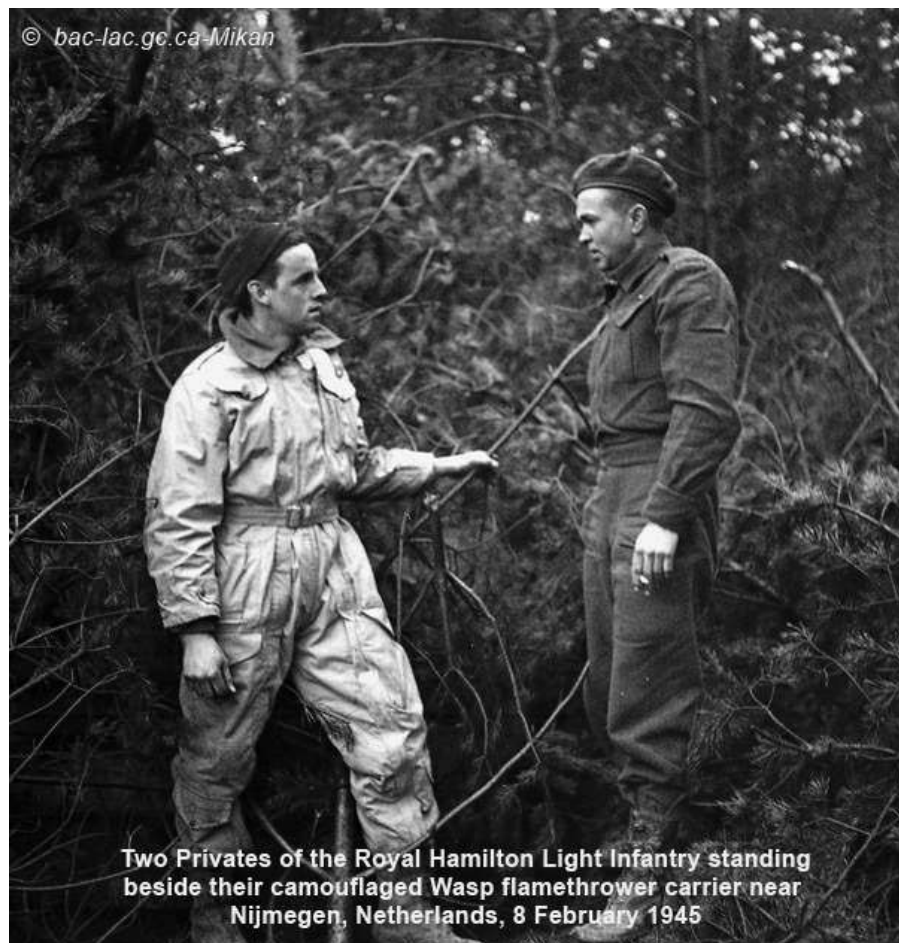
On 29 December, orders followed to go to Boxtel where they arrived at 11.30pm. The Essex Scottish Regiment held a parade with their bagpipe band to celebrate the new year 1945. Spaces for reading and watching films were enjoyed these first days of the new year. The condition of the troops was also maintained and the training of those who arrived for reinforcement was being completed.

On 6 January, they left for the vicinity of Driehuizen, to the area where they had previously been.

The time was used to regain strength for Operation Veritable, which erupted on 8 February with massive artillery fire. It was the largest attack ever made from Dutch territory. Operation Veritable was part of a larger plan, the Rhineland Offensive, to capture the left flank of the Rhine, cross the Rhine and move further into Germany.

The regiment moved towards Nijmegen on 12 February.

On 14 February, orders followed to cross the border and move towards Kalkar and Xanten. Rising water and shell and mortar fire delayed the regiment's next operation, on 17 February 17, for 48 hours to clear the forest of the enemy at Goch/Kalkar.



On 19 February at 11 am the attack was launched with the A and B Companies, on Kangaroos, the C and D Companies following on foot and a platoon of Carriers supporting the flanks with Bren machine guns and flamethrowers.

The attack was successful despite the loss of a number of officers and soldiers, who were buried in the Bedburg cemetery.

On 20 February 1945, it was a very damp and cold day. The day started with a very heavy counterattack by the Germans on their positions in Calcar. The RHLI fought the Germans all day long, with tanks and mortars. Several counterattacks were successfully defended. Lloyd's Company suffered many casualties on the German side.

In the evening the area was under control and stable.

Private Lloyd Ernest Beers was killed in action on 20 February 1945 when he was only nineteen years old. He was buried south of Louisendorf in Germany. Later he was reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave **XX. D. 08**.

Lloyd was honoured with four military medals:

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





The France and Germany Star was an award given for involvement in combat in Western Europe in 1944 and 1945. To qualify for this star, a soldier had to have spent one day on land or at sea in the war zone.

The War Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp was awarded to persons in the Armed Forces, Navy or Air Force of Canada. Who voluntarily served on active duty between September 3, 1939, and March 1, 1947.

The 1939–1945 Star was awarded for specified periods of operational service overseas between 3 September 1939 and either 8 May 1945 in Europe or 2 September 1945 in the Far East theatre

The War Medal 1939-45 was awarded for 28 days full-time service in the Armed Forces between 3 September 1939 and 2 September 1945. Operational and non-operational service may be counted, providing that it was of 28 days or more duration.

The name of Lloyd Ernest Beers is mentioned on the Moncton Cenotaph in Moncton.



Life story written by: Sem Krasenberg and Iruña Kempen Huici, Canisius College, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

Supported by Else Schaberg – Research Team Faces To Graves

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

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Library And Archives Canada
- Lestweforget1945.org
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Volunteer_Service_Medal
- <http://www.defence.gov.au/medals/imperial/WWII/France-Germany-Star.asp> (The France and Germany Star)
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/moncton-famous-cookie-company-marven-1.5392072> (Marvens Biscuit Company)
- Bridget A Murphy – Collections & Research Library Coordinator, Resurgo Place



(Engraved by The Moncton Engraving Co.)

PTE. LLOYD E. BEERS

Above is pictured Pte. Lloyd Ernest Beers, son of Thomas J. Beers, 59 Cornhill street, who has been killed in action in Holland, serving with the Canadian Army. Pte. Beers would have celebrated his 20th birthday in May. He went overseas in July 1944. Surviving besides his father are his step-mother and five brothers, Warren, with the Canadian Army in Italy, Edward, R.C.N.V.R., Carmen, with the Merchant Marine, and James and Everett at home. A sister, Mrs. Herbert Blakney, resides in Coverdale and another sister, Dorothy, lives at home.



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Moncton Cenotaph



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