

**Cadman, Alfred**

**Lance Sergeant**

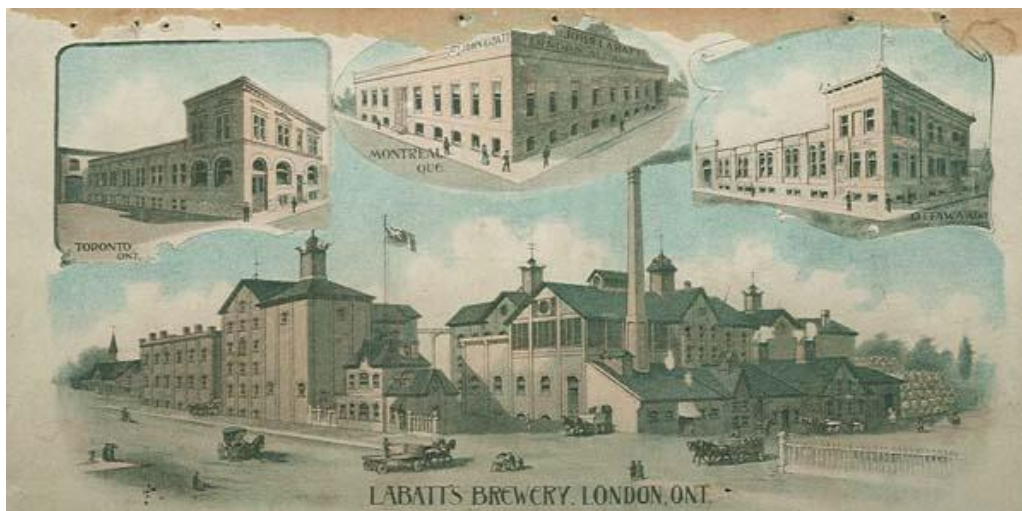
**Essex Scottish Regiment**

**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**

**A108869**



Alfred Cadman was born in Manchester, UK, on 1 November 1915 to Alfred and Eliza Cadman. The family moved to Canada when Alfred was nine years old, they lived at 97 High St., London, Ontario; Alfred was only child. Alfred went to school until the age of fifteen after completing grade 8 and then started to work. First he worked two years as a gardener, then seven years as clerk and stock keeper in a grocery store. After changing jobs quite often he started working at the Labatt's Ltd brewery and worked here for 3,5 years before enlisting.



In 1938 he married Marion Constance and in 1940 they got a son, Gerald William, they lived at 6 Beverly St, London, Ontario.

On 6 November 1943 Alfred enlisted as a Private and was posted to 1<sup>st</sup> District Depot Active Force in London. He was interviewed and had a medical test, in his report was written:

*"blue eyes, brown hair, 5'10,25" weight 198. Came to Canada at 9 years of age. Father is a stationary Engineer. Is only child. Married – one child – rents a house in London, Ont. Wife in good health.*

*Sports: baseball, hockey and boxing. Plays piano. Does a lot of reading, fiction and mechanical books. No other hobbies. Attends RC church regular. Drinks and smokes moderately.*

*A tall, heavily built man with an arched nose and unusual looking eyes. Has high average learning ability. Wanted to go into Provost Corps (military police corps of the Canadian Army) but no vacancy could be found for him. Has carried some responsibility at work, directing four other men. Would like to try infantry since he thinks there are more chances for getting ahead.*

*Recommendation Infantry, suitable for enriched training during Basic Training".*

On 10 December Alfred was transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Basic Training Centre of the Canadian Infantry Corps in Chatham.

At the beginning of 1944 he got another interview and in his personal report was written:

*"Cadman is a bit slow but a hard worker. Very quiet man, lots of stamina. Seems to be ambitious and should qualify and be a satisfactory soldier. Has no difficulty in any phase of the training, concentrates on his work, is above average.*

*Suitable for overseas duties in Royal Canadian Infantry Corps".*

On 13 February 1944 he was transferred to the C Company in Ottawa and one month later to the 5<sup>th</sup> Company of the Canadian Infantry Training Centre # 12 in Ipperwash. Three months later he was posted to the Transition Camp in Windsor and a week later he embarked for the UK where he arrived on 10 June 1944 with with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry einforcement Unit.



On 22 July he left for France and two days later was posted to the Essex Scottish Regiment. In November he was promoted to A Lance Sergeant and in February 1945 to Lance Sergeant.

The Essex Scottish Regiment suffered heavy casualties in the first three weeks of July 1944 and new men were posted to the regiment including Lance Sergeant Cadman.

The regiment fought its way through France, were involved in many battles, i.e. battles of Falaise Gap, Seine and reached Belgium by September.

In October 1944 the Essex Scottish Regiment was involved in the liberation of Zuid-Beveland.

On 8 November 1944 the regiment set up camp in Groesbeek (near Nijmegen) and stayed here until 8 February 1945 when Operation

Veritable started. During this time the regiment went on several patrols to Mook, Boxtel, Vught.

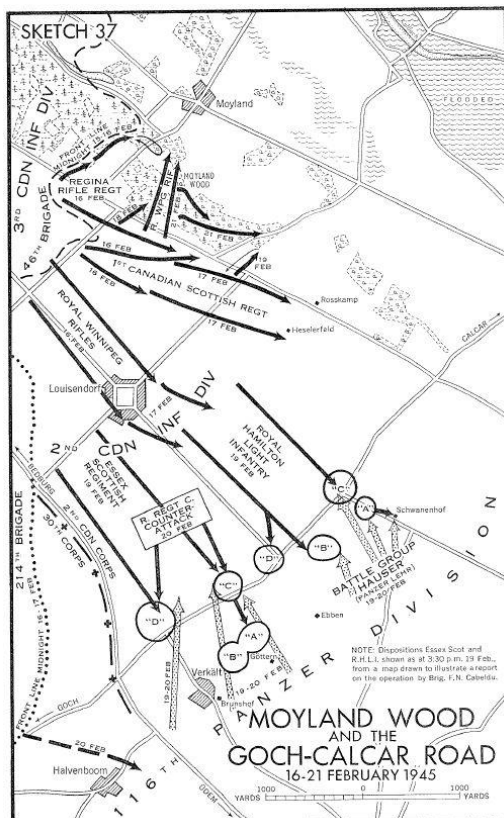
When Operation Veritable started the Essex Scottish Regiment was stationed around Wyler and awaiting further orders.

On 14 February they were called up, they had to advance from Nijmegen via Mook-Gennep-Hekkens through the Reichswald to Cleve and Calcar and with the support of Kangaroos (tanks) they were steadily successful.

On 18 February they were around Calcar and were ordered to start the attack on



3-inch Mortar, Essex Scottish Regiment, Groesbeek, Netherlands, 24 Jan 1945.  
(Library and Archives Canada Photo, MIKAN No. 3524605)



Moyland. During the night of 18 to 19 February heavenly rain started, the Essex Scottish Regiment was ordered to capture buildings in Gottern and Brunshof, the mud played tricks on the tanks and they progressed very slowly during the day.

On 19 February at 2.15 pm, the Germans launched a violent counterattack. The Essex Scottish Regiment were under heavy fire from the "Goch Kalkar" road. A fierce battle ensued, at 4.30 pm they were within 200 yard of their goal when German reinforcements. The German Pantzer Corps was doubled and at 8.00 p.m. the Germans launched the attack, 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 violent attack and they were overrun by the Germans beyond their Head Quarter.

Staff and survivors retreated to the basement of a farm. During the night reinforcements arrived, the counterattack was launched and they succeeded in driving the Germans back. Eventually they got hold of the Calcar Road.

The battle on 19th February was the bloodiest of the entire Operation Veritable, the Essex Scottish Regiment left 51 dead (out of a total of 400

dead on 19th and 20th February), 99 wounded and 54 became prisoners of war.

The regiment advanced further and on 21 February Moyland was captured. Operation Veritable was going slowly and HQ decided to plan and launch a separate operation (Blockbuster). The intention was to break the enemy's strong Hochwald defences and to eliminate any German soldiers west of the Rhine.

On 1 March ESR endured a heavy fight in the Hochwald Gap, the assault started at 07.45 a.m. The fighting was the fiercest on the left where the regiment had to cross 500 yards of open ground and ten feet of barbed wire to reach the foremost trenches. But they managed to clear the trenches even though the Germans launched a counter-attack. By nightfall the ESR were still firmly holding their position. The day's fighting had cost the regiment 31 killed and 77 wounded, amongst them Lance Sergeant Alfred Cadman.

Chaplain Capt. Joseph Cardy reported officially his death on 2 March and Cadman was buried in Xanten, Germany. Later reburied to the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave reference **XXI. C. 16.**

The inscription of his grave marker reads:

TO LIVE IN HEARTS  
WE LEAVE BEHIND  
IS NOT TO DIE  
CAMPBELL



Medals:

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

In the final days of Operation Market Garden, Sergeant Alfred Cadman and his comrade Sergeant Elmer Norton were billeted with Ger Otten's parents-in-law. Elmer Norton was wounded in Hochwald, but survives the war and returned to Nijmegen in 1970, looking for the family again. Together, they visited the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek and only there Norton found out that his comrade Alfred Cadman had been killed.

Ger Otten made a video about the relationship between Norton and his family: a Personal Tribute:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQztBq4JFKQ>

Norton died in 2004 and ever since Ger Otten and his family each year put flowers on the grave of Cadman and in this way they remember Cadman and Norton.



Life story Else Schaberg, Research Team Faces To Graves.

References:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Library and Archives Canada
- The Essex Scottish Regiment, C. van Beek, Putte, 2004, special uitgave Tijding, periodiek Heemkundekring het Zuidkwartier
- Official History of the Canadian Army in the Second World War, Vol III The Victory Campaign: The Operations in Northwest Europe, 1944-45, Publisher Queen's Printer, Ottawa, Author: Stacey, C.P.



Sgt. Alfred Cadman, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cadman, 97 High street, who was reported killed in action March 1, according to information received yesterday by his wife, Marion (Clarke) Cadman, 24 Raywood avenue, Sgt. Cadman was born in Manchester, England. He attended Tecumseh School and the H. B. Seal Technical School. He was a member of St. Martins Church. He enlisted in London, November, 1942, and went overseas in May 1944 and saw action in France, Belgium and Holland where he was wounded twice previously and in Germany. He was employed at John Labatt's Ltd. before he enlisted. One son Gerald survives besides his wife and parents.

405-C-27076

FIELD SERVICE

In lieu of Army Form B. 2090A

REPORT of Death of an Officer or a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least delay after receipt of notification of death. See Table II, Appendix III, Field Service Regulations, Vol I.

AMENDED

REGIMENT Essex Scottish Regt Squadron, Troop \_\_\_\_\_  
 OR CORPS \_\_\_\_\_ Battery or Company \_\_\_\_\_

Officer's Personal No (if known) A 208869 Rank A/Sgt  
 Soldier's Army No \_\_\_\_\_

Surname GADMAN Christian Names A.

Date 1 Mar 45 Place Germany

Died Cause of Death <sup>X</sup> Killed

Nature and Date of Report 3011c/195 5 Mar 45

By whom made Essex Scottish Regt

<sup>X</sup> Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

Place Germany Unit Plot 1/25 000 Xanten 0325/4330 P"1" R"1" Date 2 Mar 45

Burial Grave 3

By whom reported H/Capt J. Cardy

(a) in Army Book, 64 \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

State whether he leaves a Will or not

(b) as a separate document Not Rec'd

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as A.B. 64, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office.

Any report received as to verbal expressions by deceased officer or soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be forwarded to the War Office at once, supported by a certified statement of the person who actually received the information.

In the case of a soldier a duplicate of this report is to be sent to the Paymaster at the Base, together with the deceased's A.B. 64 (after withdrawal of any will from the latter), for transmission to the Paymaster who compiles the soldier's account.

Station and Belgium Signature of Officer Ernest Roberts  
 Date 3 Apr 45 in charge of Section \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adjutant-General's Office at the Base for Officer i/c  
 Cdn Sec 2nd Ech HQ 21 A Gp



**Essex Scottish Regiment:  
 Chaplain Captain Joseph Cardy**