

Avey, Lloyd Glen

Private

Essex Scottish Regiment

Royal Canadian Infantry Corps

A 106267



Lloyd Glen Avey was born in Burford, Ontario, Canada, on 11 January 1919 to John and Ethel Mary Avey.

The family lived on their farm in Woodstock, Ontario and attended the Baptist Church. John and Ether had five children, three sons and two daughters. Lloyd was the eldest, one of his brothers Keith Leroy served with the Canadian Navy at the H.M.C.S. (Her Majesty's Canadian Ship) Swansea.



Lloyd Avey with brother Keith (RCN) 1942 or 1943
© Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Lloyd attended the Public School and finished his education at Grade eight. He then started to work at the family farm for two years and also worked on other farms by riding tractors. Lloyd did this work for three years, but he didn't really liked the farm work and started to work as a truck driver which he did for three years.

In 1938 he married Ethel Agnes and soon after Lloyd changed jobs and went working at the steel tubing company – Standard Tube Co. in

Woodstock as Machine Operator.

Ethel and Lloyd got three children, Larry Glen, John Ivan and Barbara Anne, who was born in August 1944 and never saw her father.

The family lived at 430 Henry Street in Woodstock.

Lloyd was a quiet young man who spent most of his evenings at home where he liked to tinker and fix things. He did some work on his car though his knowledge of it was pretty superficial. Lloyd had a few outside interest such as hunting, fishing and baseball. He accepted his call for military service cheerfully, though he was not anxious to get in before.

On 4 March 1943 when Lloyd enlisted in the Active Force he indicated that his preference was to work as a driver mechanic. He was posted at No 1 District Depot in London, Ontario, as a Private and with the recommendation 'Infantry Automotive group'.

A month later he was sent to, #12 Basic Training Centre in Chatham and after two months to the A29 Basic Training Centre in Ipperwash.

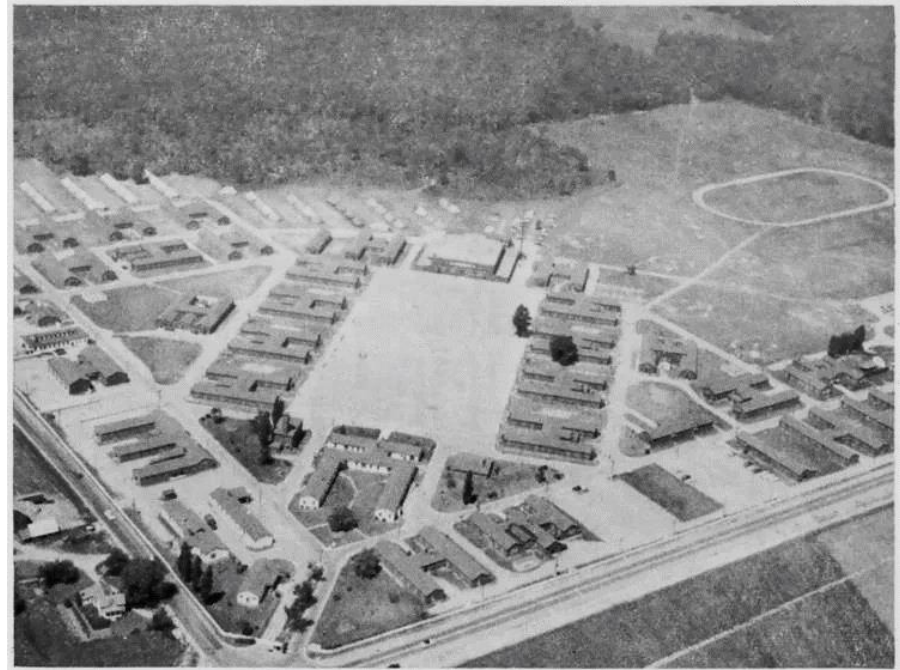
Lloyd was very keen to become a good driver and got permission to do training and courses. The first course he finished in August 1943 and he became a qualified driver IC Class III Wheeled Only.

Then he returned to Woodstock and went to the Canadian Driving and Maintenance School for Phase III in Driver Mechanic in Woodstock. Also this course he completed successfully on 22 October 1943 and Lloyd went back to his unit in Ipperwash. Even then he wanted to learn more so his next training started and he was a qualified driver IC Track Class III. In the last month of 1943 Lloyd was transferred to the Headquarters No 1 Training Brigade Group in Debert, Nova Scotia.

On 12 February 1944 Lloyd joined the Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit and left Canada. Twelve days later they disembarked in the UK and Lloyd was posted to the 3rd Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit.

Camp Ipperwash from 1,000 feet, together with the plan of Camp Ipperwash located at the Gate-house, provide ample evidence of the facilities required to keep over 1400 cadets happy and productive during the seven weeks of training.

<https://alchetron.com/Camp-Ipperwash>



Reinforcement Units

While the field units had their own problems, the Reinforcement Units had it even worse. Not only did they have lower priority when it came to access to weapons and equipment, their training was interrupted more often as senior commanders could not resist using them as a source of general labour. Further, the Canadian Army was growing more quickly than Canada's budding war economy could supply it. Thus, new active units and training centres at home all had to compete for uniforms, weapons, equipment, and accommodations. The result was that reinforcements often arrived in the United Kingdom with a conspicuously low training standard.

The idea behind fielding special reinforcement units was that once Canadian field units began to suffer casualties in battle, men from holding units would immediately take their place. Hence, they were supposed to be depots for field units' "first reinforcements," the authorized increments of men who would replace a battalion's first battle casualties.

In England Lloyd followed the Canadian Military Headquarters Course and continued to increase his technical knowledge. Again he succeeded and qualified as driver mechanic. In March he was posted to the 2nd Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit.

On 8 October 1944 he left with his unit England and next day disembarked in France. On disembarking he was placed at 10th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry Corps, driver/mechanic as Private.



A week later he was transferred to the 13th Battalion of the Essex Scottish Regiment (ESR) as a reclassified Driver/Mechanic Motor Vehicle 'C'.

At the time Lloyd was transferred to the ESR, the regiment was involved in the Battle of the Scheldt.

On 14 October the ESR was ordered to move to Hoogerheide, two days later the attack on Woensdrecht started and lasted till 24 October.

The ESR was given a few days rest to regain strength in preparation for the

push through to Zuid-Beveland.

The Germans had prepared themselves for the attack by flooding many polders, the only available route was via a railroad dike along the road. The ESR was ordered to advance along that side, via Rilland-Bath the ESR pushed through to Gawege and when they reached Krabbendijke on 26 October, the troops were exhausted after 48 hours of uninterrupted fighting.

The regiment was taken by truck to Kruiningen and from there across the canal to Kapelle. On 30 October ESR moved on foot eighteen km further to Nieuwdorp west of the Sloedam.

A patrol action here was ESR's last deployment during this phase of the campaign. By 31 October, the last Germans had been driven from South Beveland and Walcheren and the goal of 'clearing the Scheldt estuary' so that the port of Antwerp was free again had been achieved.

ESR was able to catch its breath in the village of Bonheiden near Mechelen (Belgium). All ranks were given the opportunity to catch their breath and make visits to Brussels, Antwerp and Mechelen.

On November 6, new orders came in for advancing into the Nijmegen area. In the night of 8 to 9 November the ESR arrived in the area and went on foot to Groesbeek. For ESR now followed a period of patrolling and waiting. Two weeks later they moved to Mook, here their daily schedule was filled with training, reorganizing and relaxing. They did not stay in air-raid shelters and could go wherever they wanted, so November was the easiest month for ESR in the war.

On 1 December the ESR moved again and the men were given less comfortable quarters, sitting in foxholes while it was freezing cold and muddy. They stayed there for a fortnight before returning to Mook.

Concern about German advances in the Ardennes and indications of increasing enemy activity on the Nijmegen front caused ESR to return to the front position near Groesbeek. For the time being, the tasks appeared to be mainly limited to guard duty and reconnaissance patrols.

Christmas was celebrated and on 26 December a reconnaissance was carried out in the area around 's-Hertogenbosch in preparation for a move to this area. Three days later the ESR moved to Boxtel and celebrated the last day of the year with a church service dedicated by Chaplain Joe Cardy.



Essex Scottish Regiment around Groesbeek

On January 5, the ESR left for Vught, but two days later they must return to Nijmegen and the reconnaissance patrols and guard duty began again.

In January the Allied launched a new plan: the Rhineland Offensive. The Rhineland Offensive consisted of several large-scale offensives designed to break through the German defence line in Western Europe. Operation Veritable was an important part of this because of the famous 'pincer movement' which aimed to drive the German forces out of the area between the Maas and the Rhine, a front only twelve kilometres wide.

After a force of over 500,000 soldiers had been assembled in the east, around Groesbeek and Nijmegen, including the First Canadian Army under General Crerar and the British 30th

Army Corps under Lieutenant General Horrocks, Operation Veritable began on 8 February 1945. The British and Canadian forces were to advance from the north, while the American Allies were to close the gap from the south, closing in on the Germans.

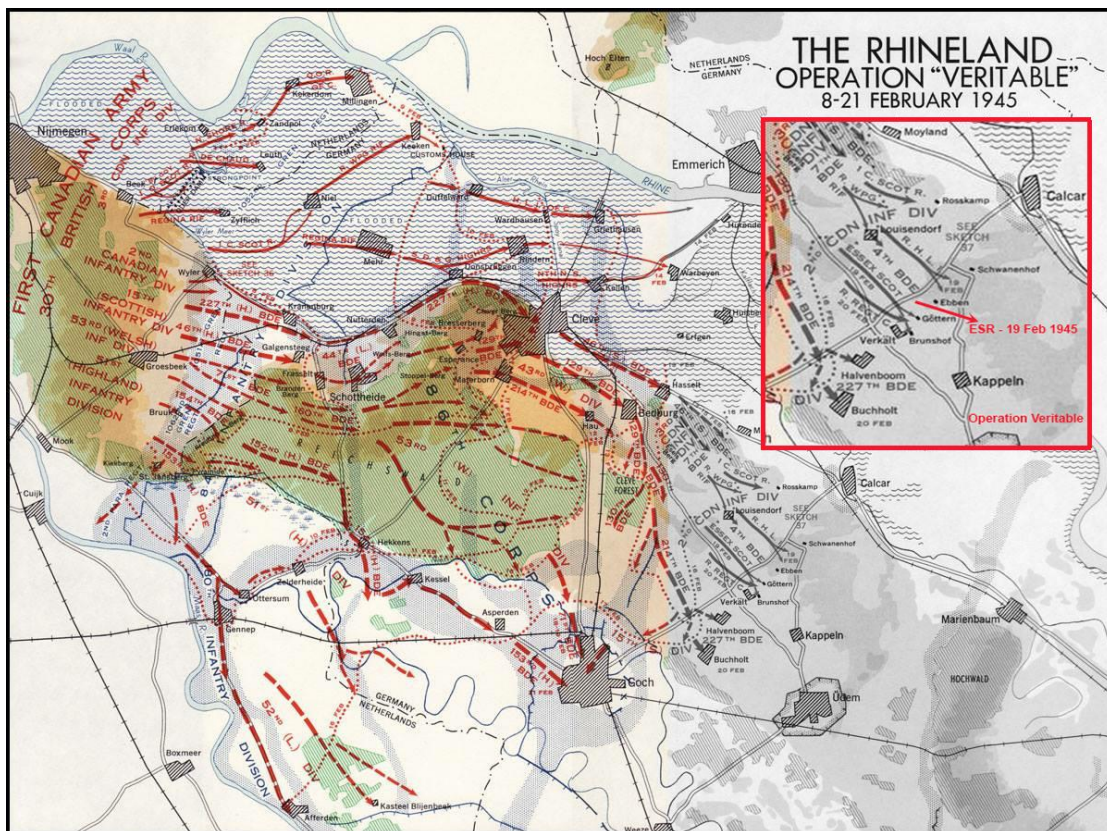


When Operation Veritable started the Essex Scottish Regiment was stationed around Wyler and awaiting further orders. The soldiers were eager to go to Germany, finally beat the enemy in their own country!

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 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 arrived. Their Pantzer Corps was doubled and at 8 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 19 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.

Also Private Lloyd Glen Avey died on 19 February 1945 and was buried in Bedburg, Germany. Later he was reburied at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **X. B. 11**.

Text on his headstone:

HE DIED AT HIS POST OF DUTY
A SOLDIER OF THE LAND

Awards:

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



FACES TO GRAVES

*Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek*

Life story: Else Schaberg, Research Team Faces To Graves.

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

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Library and Archives Canada
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial
- The Essex Scottish Regiment, C. van Beek, Putte, 2004, speciale uitgave Tijding, periodiek Heemkundekring Het Zuidkwartier
- Horrall, Andrew "An "Eternal Memorial for Canadian Heroes": The Dutch Town of Putte Commemorates the Essex Scottish Regiment." Canadian Military History 20, 3 (2011)



PTE. L. G. AVEY

Pte. Lloyd G. Avey Killed in Action Wife is Informed

Word has been received by Mrs. L. G. Avey, 430 Henry street, Woodstock, from the Department of National Defence that her husband, Pte. Lloyd Glen Avey, 26, has lost his life in front line fighting overseas.

Pte. Avey, besides his wife and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Avey, 68 Chapel street, Woodstock, is survived by two sons, Jack, age 6, and Larry, age 3, and by one daughter he has never seen, Barbara Ann, 6 months of age.

He has a brother, Keith, serving with the Canadian Navy, and one married sister, Mrs. E. Case, living with his parents. Another younger sister, Verna, and a younger brother, Donald, also reside with his parents.

Pte. Avey was born in Burford township, where he attended school at S.S. No. 10. Before enlisting he worked on a farm and at the Standard Tube here in Woodstock.

He enlisted with the Army in March, 1940 and went overseas in February, 1944. He trained at London, Chatham, Ipperwash, Debert and the C.D. and M.S.



Lloyd's grave marker taken November 14 2007 by his nephew Daniel Lloyd Avey. A stone photo of Lloyd was left there.