

Cameron, Alexander Douglas

Private

North Nova Scotia Highlanders

F – 13142



Alexander Douglas Cameron was born on 19 December, 1919 in Fairmont, Antigonish Co., Nova Scotia, Canada.

He was the third child of John James (Jack) Cameron and Minetta (Mary) Campbell. He had an older brother, Daniel James and an older sister, Margaret Elizabeth but she died in January, 1943. His younger brother, John Clare, was already in military service abroad at the moment that Alexander Douglas enlisted for overseas service. There were twelve more brothers and sisters of which the youngest, Elda Ethel, was eight years old when her brother was sent to Europe. The family is Roman Catholic.

Alexander Douglas attended school from the age of six until he was twelve, reaching grade 7. He reported later that he would have liked to continue in school but that he had to go to work. Until he joined up he worked as a lumberjack in winter and on a farm in summer.

Three months before his twentieth birthday, on 9 September, 1939, he joined the army. He was found to be a healthy young man, 1.69m tall, weighing 61 kilos, with blue eyes, brown hair and good teeth. He was placed with the 86th Heavy Battery as a gunner.

After several years in the 86th, 104th and 108th battalions, he volunteered in August, 1943 for service overseas. Although he had several times been away without leave he was found suitable for service in Europa. He had to be patient for some time, staying in Shelburne with the 108th Battalion. Then on Tuesday, 18 April, 1944 he was transferred to the Windsor Transit Camp, Nova Scotia, spending the summer months in Windsor, Halifax and Debert.



On Friday, 13 October he embarked for England and a month later was sent to the European mainland where he was placed as reinforcement with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders

Alexander Douglas Cameron was killed on Tuesday, 27 February, 1945 at the age of 26, during the Rhineland Offensive in Germany. His parents were informed on 16 March.

It is not known exactly where he died. He was temporarily buried in Bedburg, Germany.

16th March, 1945.

Mr. Jack Cameron,
Fairmont,
Antigonish County, N.S.

Dear Mr. Cameron:

It was with deep regret that I learned of the death of your son, F13142 Private Alexander Douglas Cameron, who gave his life in the Service of his Country in the Western European Theatre of War, on the 27th day of February, 1945.

From official information we have received, your son was killed in action against the enemy. You may be assured that any additional information received will be communicated to you without delay.

The Minister of National Defence and the Members of the Army Council have asked me to express to you and your family their sincere sympathy in your bereavement.

We pay tribute to the sacrifice he so bravely made.

Yours sincerely,

A. E. Walford
Major-General
Adjutant-General

MAR 15 1945

(A. E. Walford),
Major-General,
Adjutant-General.

RFH

Mh

*Mem. x Mocher
22-3-45*

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On 9 July, 1946 his parents heard that he has been reburied at the Canadian Military Cemetery, Groesbeek, plot **IX.C.7.**

He had, in total, served 1998 days in the Canadian Army; he received the following awards:

- 1939 - 45 Star
- France & Germany Star
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp

Text on his headstone:

GONE FROM PARENTS AND FAMILY
BUT WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN
REST IN PEACE



Life story by: Sigrid Norde, Research Team Faces To Graves

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

National Library and Archives Canada

<http://www.canadaatwar.ca/battle/world-war-ii/147/the-hochwald/>

<http://www.canadaatwar.ca/regiment/52/the-north-nova-scotia-highlanders/>