

Cameron, Conrad Verdun

Corporal

The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry

Royal Canadian Infantry Corps

A117594



Conrad Verdun Cameron was born on December 10, 1917 in Toronto, Ontario. Before he was born, his parents Alfred Crawford Cameron (also known as Frederick Matthew Haines) and Mary Mildred Maude Thomas were married in November of 1916 in Montreal, Quebec.

According to his military files, Conrad grew up in Bothwell, Ontario and then moved to Windsor around the age of 12. He lived with his uncle Fred Newman while he resided in this city in southwestern Ontario.

Conrad belonged to the Presbyterian faith. Conrad was in public school for eight years; he left school when he was 15. He then worked as a labourer on

the automotive assembly line for Ford Motor Company in Windsor for two and a half years.

Conrad married Ruth Marie Marentette on November 20, 1937 in Windsor and they had one child Raymond Joseph Cameron. After their 1942 divorce, he then married Alice Marie Chartier in Windsor May 15, 1943. They had two children: Henrietta Marie and Conrad Vern. This son Conrad died at the age of eight in 1951.

On March 9, 1943, Private Conrad Verdun Cameron enlisted with the Canadian Army, and he was allocated to the Royal Canadian Artillery for

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION

I, **CONRAD VERDUN CAMERON**, do solemnly declare that the above particulars are true, and I hereby engage to serve in any Active Formation or Unit of The Canadian Army so long as an emergency, i.e., war, invasion, riot or insurrection, real or apprehended, exists, and for the period of demobilization after said emergency ceases to exist, and in any event for a period of not less than one year, provided His Majesty should so require my services.

Date: **MARCH 9 1943** *Conrad Verdun Cameron*
(Signature of recruit)

extensive training. After basic training in Chatham, Ontario, he then went to Halifax and Bedford in Nova Scotia where he qualified as a Light Anti-Aircraft Gunner with the Light Anti-Aircraft Gunnery School.

According to his military documents, Gunner Cameron was described as having grey eyes, a medium complexion and black-brown hair. He stood five foot 11 inches and weighed 172 pounds.

Gunner Cameron left Canada on August 27, 1943, and arrived in the United Kingdom on September 1, 1943. He was admitted to a British isolation hospital on April 13, 1944, and was discharged on April 23.

Private Cameron was shipped overseas from the United Kingdom and arrived on October 15, 1944. He was transferred from the Royal Canadian Artillery

to the Infantry Corps, transported to France through as a replacement soldier, and posted to The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI).

The RHLI first saw action in World War Two on 19 August 1942 at the disastrous raid at Dieppe, France. The Regiment later landed in France on 5 July 1944 almost one month after the infamous D-Day landings in Normandy. The RHLI fought through France and Belgium, distinguishing themselves at the battles of Falaise, The Scheldt, and Woensdrecht amongst others. They were in the process of liberating the southwest of The Netherlands when Private Cameron joined the Regiment. Shortly thereafter, he was promoted to Lance-Corporal on November 15, 1944, and then acting Corporal on January 1, 1945.

In the spring of 1945 on the days leading up to his death, the Second Canadian Division was planning to capture Xanten, Germany. On Thursday, March 8, 1945 at 0530 hours a very effective preparatory artillery barrage was fired onto the German lines surrounding the city by the Canadian Artillery. After fifteen minutes of intense fire, the RHLI began its attack at 0545 hours. Due to very low visibility, they were forced to use only a compass for navigation as they made their way through heavy machine gun fire from the Germans. At approximately 0930 hours the Canadians gained their objective, but realized there were only 28 soldiers left to consolidate and hold their position. Among the casualties was Corporal Cameron. But thanks to the sacrifice of him and men like him, the Second Canadian Division was able to capture Xanten at about 2300 hours that day.

Corporal Conrad Verdun Cameron died in action near Xanten, Germany at the age of only 27 years old. After his death he was buried with religious

M.F.M. 267
DOM-9-44 (5634)
H.Q. 1772-33-1939

**CANADIAN NATIONAL
TELEGRAPHS**

TELE

FILE H.Q. 405-C-15,621

CASUALTY (REPORT DELIVERY)

OTTAWA 16 MARCH 1945

TO:
MRS ALICE M CAMERON
429 GLENGARRY AVE
WINDSOR ONT

65478 REGRET DEEPLY A117594 CORPORAL CONRAD VERDUN
CAMERON 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

DIRECTOR OF RECORDS

rites by Captain H.H. Johnson at a temporary burial site near where he died, in Xanten.

His wife received the sad message by telegram

Corporal Cameron had received the:

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

These awards were then sent to his family after his death.

Corporal Conrad Verdun Cameron is buried at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **VI. E. 13**.

His gravestone is inscribed with the following message:

BEAUTIFULL MEMORIES
TREASURED EVER,

OF THE DAYS
WHEN WE
TOGETHER



WERE ALL



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek

Life story written by Jacob Brown and Ash Chernega, students from All Saints H.S., Kanata, Canada for Faces to Graves courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz, teacher at All Saints H.S. Research also provided by Cristina Muro-Lavado.

Additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.

Sources:

Ancestry.ca
CanadianWarGravesCommision.org
Veterans.gc.ca
Project '44
Newspapers.com
Lest We Forget

* If you have a photo of this soldier or additional information? Please contact info@facestograves.nl

(I) SOLDIER'S NAME AND DESCRIPTION ON ATTESTATION

Regtl. No. A-117594

Surname (in capitals) CAMERON

Christian Names (in full) CONRAD VERDUN

Date of Birth DECEMBER 10, 1917

Place of Birth TORONTO, ONTARIO CANADA

Citizenship CANADIAN

Trade on Enlistment F.M.C. "Assembly line" Ford Motor Co. Windsor Ontario

Nationality of Father at Birth American

Nationality of Mother at Birth American

Religion Presbyterian

Enlisted at Windsor Ontario Canada

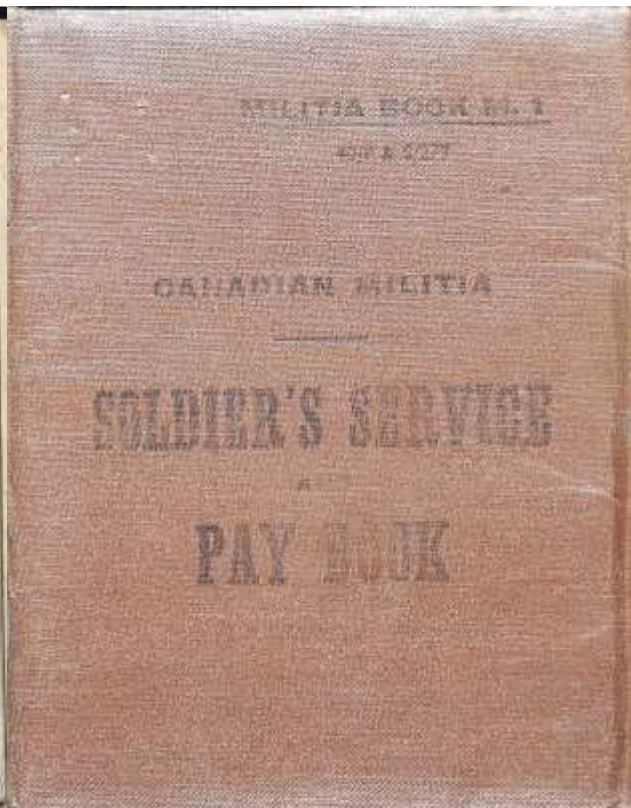
Date MARCH 9, 1943

Particulars of former service (if any) i.e. Regtl. No., Corps or Regiment and period. N/A

Signature of Soldier Conrad Verdun Cameron

Signature of Officer [Signature]

Place WINDSOR, ONT. Date 9 MARCH-1943



(IV) NEXT OF KIN

Any change becoming known is to be duly noted with date of NOTE.—No entry in these pages has any legal effect.

Nearest degree of relationship	Names	Date
Wife	<u>ALICE MARIE CAMERON</u>	
1st Children	<u>CONRAD VERN CAMERON</u>	
	<u>HENRIETTA MARIE CAMERON</u>	
2nd Father	<u>Mathew Joe Smith</u>	<u>7-3-43</u>
	<u>Mrs. Marie Smith</u>	<u>9-3-43</u>
3rd *Brothers and Sisters	<u>Alice Marie Wendell</u>	<u>9-3-43</u>
4th Other Relations (state relationship)	<u>Alice Marie Wendell</u>	<u>9-3-43</u>

*State whether brothers are older or younger.

5

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)

Latest known Address in full

429 GLENGARRY AVE.
WINDSOR, ONTARIO
429 Glengarry Avenue
Windsor, Ontario

1100 Eastlawn Ave, Detroit, Mich.
U.S.A.

1100 Eastlawn Ave. Detroit Mich.
U.S.A.

429 Glengarry Windsor Ont.
Can.

429 Glengarry Ave. Windsor Ont