

**Cameron, Gordon Philip**

**Private**

**North Nova Scotia Highlanders**

**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**

**F77567**



Gordon Philip Cameron was born in Springhill, Nova Scotia, October 18, 1923. He was the son of Herbert Luther and Elizabeth Maude (Harvey) Cameron. He had two brothers, Ralph (RCAF) and John (West Nova Scotia Highlanders), as well as one sister, Hellen Cameron (Lemoine).

Gordon enlisted on March 13, 1941 in New Glasgow and went overseas in June 1944 with the Tank Corps. He was later transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Reinforcement Unit.

He was described as: brown hair, blue eyes, height 5 ft 5½ in, weight 165 pounds. He had a birth mark on his lower hip. Before he enlisted he worked in the coal mines, he was single and his religion was Church of England.

In October of 1944, he was assigned to the North Nova Scotia Highlanders. Gordon had seen considerable action, and was noted for his bravery under fire. His commanding officer said that he was "in a class by himself as far as sheer daring was concerned.

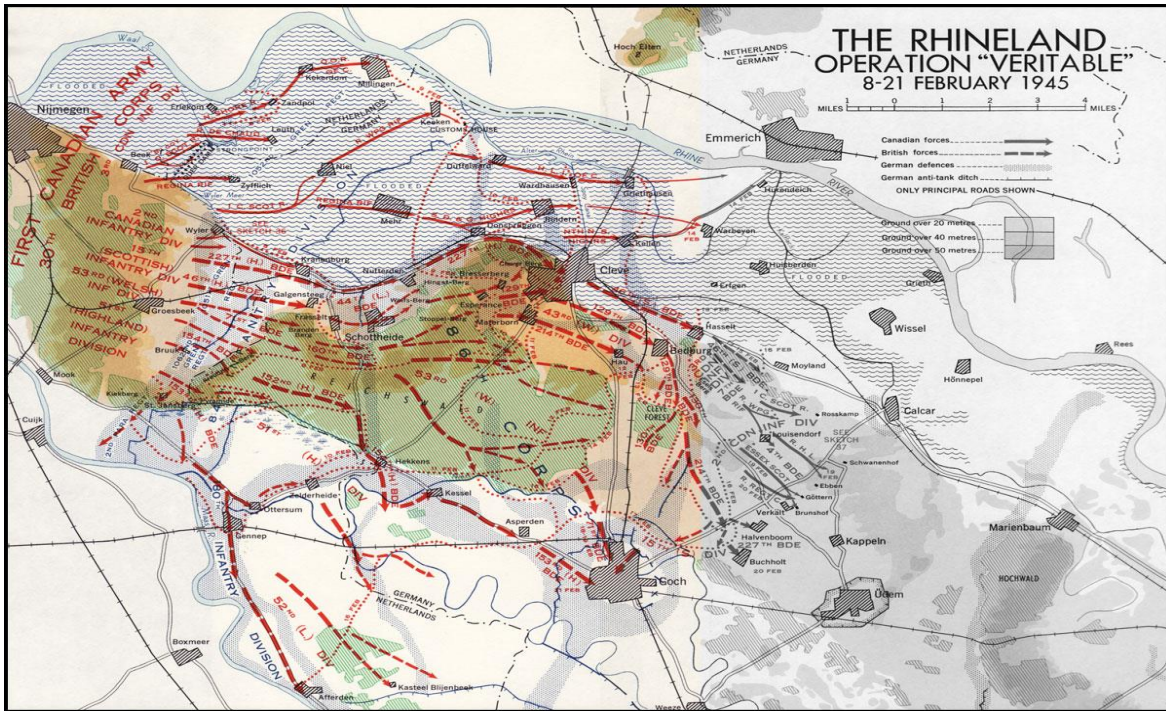


*Gordon and his friends, from left to right  
Glen Thompson, Kennie Hannah and  
Gordon*

More than once he saved the day for his companions by acts of personal bravery: on one occasion he forced approximately fifty German soldiers to abandon their trenches and surrender by a bold and persistent use of a machine gun which proved, too much for them to bear and he practically blasted them out single handed.”

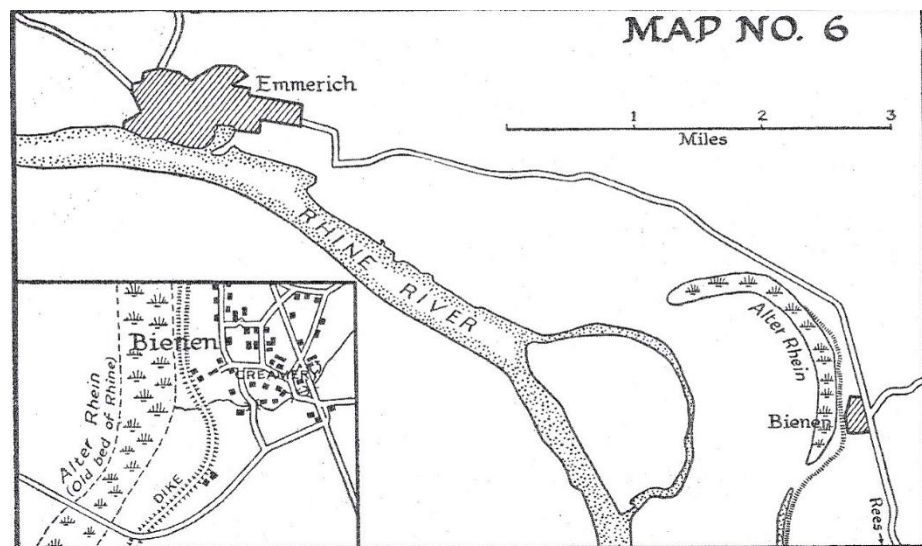
After Gordon joined the North Nova’s, this Regiment took part in the Battle of the Scheldt in Belgium and the Netherlands and was then stationed in the Nijmegen area for three months.

After this Gordon was involved in Operation Veritable, which began on 8 February; it aimed to clear the enemy out of the region between the Maas and Rhine rivers. British and Canadian troops attacked from the north and American troops from the south. The Germans hindered progress from the north by opening dams on the Roer river and flooding the area.



In the heaviest air bombardment of WWII, the town of Kleve was devastated. In the Reichswald forest, a battle of attrition was taking place. After wintry conditions, a thaw set in and together with heavy rain, the ground became a sea of mud. When the water finally receded, the operation was successful.

Operation Plunder began in the night of 23/24 March, the Rhine was crossed near Wesel and the troops moved further into Germany.



Source : No Retreating Footsteps

The North Nova Scotia Highlanders were ordered to go in the direction of the village of Bienen. It was strongly defended by a large number of machine guns. Without the possibility of using tanks and other vehicles in the narrow streets, the Canadians were an easy target for the anti-tank guns and panzers.

On March 24, 1944 at the Battle of Bienen, Gordon attacked a German machine gun nest, was wounded in the chest and the abdomen and died in hospital on March 26, 1945. He was temporarily buried in Bedburg, Germany.

Gordon's mother and father were informed of his death on Good Friday, March 30, 1945. The following is an excerpt of the letter received by his parents informing them of the circumstances of his death.

Germany, March 28, 1945

My Dear Mrs. Cameron:

Your boy, Gordie, was a member of the platoon commanded for several months in the field. I knew him well, am very sorry indeed to have to write to you on the occasion of his death, which was one of the bravest death I have heard of. You will be glad to know, in spite of your sadness, to realize that Gord proved himself to be a hero far and away beyond the abilities of the average or even really good, soldier. He was practically in a class by himself as far as sheer daring was concerned. More than once he saved the day for his companions by acts of personal bravery; on one occasion he forced approximately fifty German soldiers to abandon their trenches in surrender by bold and persistent use of machine gun which proved too much for them to bear, for he practically blasted them out single-handed. The other day, in the very difficult attack on the German held town of Bienen, east of the Rhine, our platoon (of 28 men) became hopelessly pinned down by German fire power. Our casualties were mounting. Gordie leapt in and went forward to the German trenches put two hand grenades into their midst which caused the death of four and the wounding of three other Germans, each having an automatic weapon. This enabled us to complete our attack which would perhaps have failed otherwise. On the way back to join his platoon Gord was wounded; but he didn't want the stretcher bearer to tend to him first and asked them to look after the others! However, he was immediately evacuated to the medical officers and seemed all smiles, especially when he was told that he would not die. He suffered a sudden reverse a few days later, however, and passed away quickly and without pain in the hospital.

The battalion is proud of your boy. We are going to decorate him with a high honour not easily won. I know you are very sad but I know too, you must be proud of such a fearless son. May God bless you now and in the future and give you peace of mind. That's what Gordie would want I'm sure.

Sincerely, D R Penicott

Later he was reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave reference **V. H. 12.**

Inscription on his headstone:

HE GAVE HIS ALL FOR OTHERS  
IN GOD'S CARE, MY SON  
WE LEAVE THEE SLEEPING

Private Gordon Philip Cameron awards:

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



Biography: Darcy Johns and Hope Lemoine for Faces To Graves.



Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Library and Archives Canada  
The Nova Scotia Highlander Regimental Museum  
nshmuseum@eastlink.ca  
Private family letters



*Photo Alice van Bekkum*