

**Goodhew, Francis Anthony**  
**Corporal**  
**Calgary Highlanders**  
**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**  
**F- 9016**



Frank Goodhew was born on 11 November, 1917 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. His parents, William and Alice were both born in Canada. His father William died in 1932. Frank had an older brother, William and two younger brothers, Richard (Ralph) and Walter. He also had an older sister, Mary Agnes Kennedy and a younger sister, Anne Elizabeth Birch. The family attended the Roman Catholic church. On 12 June, 1944 Frank married Mary Joyce Loretta Westhaver.

At the age of sixteen, in 1933, Frank left school after completing grade 8 and went out to work. A year before he joined the army, he worked for the Nova Scotia Light and Power Company as a meter reader and hoped to return there after the war.

In 1940 the National Resources Mobilization Act was passed in Canada; this required all available young men to register for army service, initially, for the defence of the homeland. Later, the men were also required for service overseas and one of these was Frank Goodhew. On 15 May, 1942, the 24 year old Frank registered for military service and was given his army number: F-601226. At that time he was living with his mother at 49, North Park Street, in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

After joining up, Frank remained in the Yarmouth training centre for five days and was then transferred to the Aldershot camp, both in Nova Scotia. On 9 June, 1942 he was stationed in Shelburne NS as a member of the Home Defense. Eight months later, in February, 1943 Frank was absent without leave for almost three months and was given 120 days detention in the Sussex custody barracks in Nova Scotia.

The reason for his absence was not reported but he probably had good grounds for it. When he was released, he was then stationed in Gaspé, Quebec and while there, he volunteered for active service on 8 October, 1943.

**ITEMS 17, 18 AND 19 WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNLESS A MAN ENLISTS FOR GENERAL SERVICE ANYWHERE.**

17. DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION

I, Frank-Anthony Goodhew., 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 8th. Oct. 1943.

*Frank Anthony Goodhew*  
(Signature of Recruit)

Frank was medically examined and was found to be in good health: 1.67m. tall, weighing 66 kilos, with blue eyes, brown hair and a scar above one eyebrow. It was reported that he broke his left wrist when he was five years old but it healed well. He was then given a new service number: F-9016.

He stayed in Gaspé for the first four months and afterwards continued his training in Windsor, Yarmouth and Aldershot. He was described as healthy, interested and suitable for training and was placed with the Infantry.

From 10-23 June 1944 Frank was given leave so that he could get married to Mary Joyce Loretta Westhaver. Exactly one month after their wedding, he boarded the ship that took him to England; his service overseas had begun.



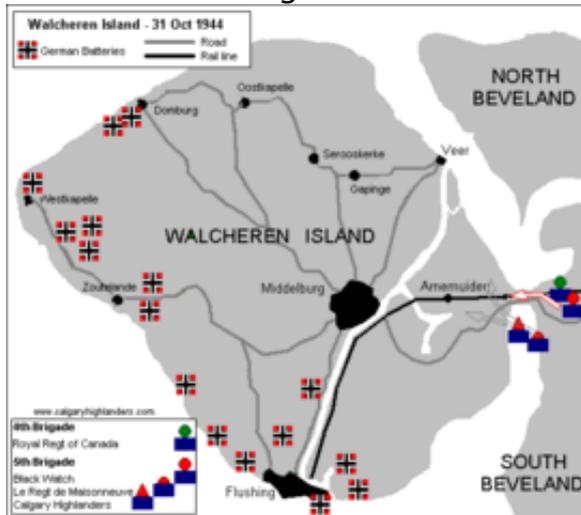
*Frank with a comrade (date not known)*

His training time in England was relatively short and on 1 September he boarded ship again, this time for France. Ten days after his arrival there, Private Goodhew joined the Calgary Highlanders, He was one of the 180 reinforcement soldiers for the Calgary Highlanders, which had suffered heavy losses in battle. From Loon Plage in Normandy they tried to take Dunkirk but the whole area was heavily defended by the Germans. Within sight of Dunkirk, they fought from farm to farm under constant artillery fire but were unable to take the town. (Dunkirk remained in German hands until the end of the war).

On 18 September the troops left Loon Plage in trucks and travelled to Antwerp which had fallen into British hands two weeks before. They

passed the fields round Ypres where evidence of WWI activity was clearly visible.

Frank with his regiment was on the way to take part in the Battle of the



Schelde after first being given three days' rest. From Antwerp, the Calgary Highlanders fought their way across the Albert Canal at the beginning of the battle and then to the Turnhout Canal in Belgium where they stayed until 3 October. Via Lichtenberg and Brasschaat, the Regiment was deployed in Hoogerheide at the Battle of Woensdrecht; after seventy two hours of severe fighting, Frank had lost thirty of his comrades.

The Battle of the Schelde raged on via Ossendrecht, Kruiningen and Schore to the Battle of Sloedam on 31 October. The Black Watch Regiment made the first attack on the dam but suffered so many casualties that, on the following day, the Calgary Highlanders had to make a second attempt but they only reached halfway. The fighting took place so close to the enemy that hand grenades could be thrown back across the line at the Highlanders before they finally exploded.

At last, on the morning of November 1, the Highlanders were successful and able to make the dam safe, but the next day they were only able to reach the bridgehead on Walcheren. Later, the British commandos landed on Walcheren and drove the Germans out, making the action of the Calgary Highlanders unnecessary. But it had cost the lives of 107 of their soldiers.

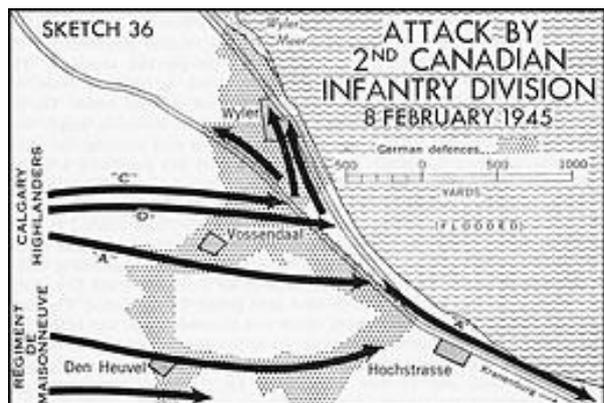


Frank, after this terrible experience, ended up with the regiment near Nijmegen in the Netherlands. At first, from 10 November onwards, the

men of the Calgary Highlanders were billeted in houses along the road between Nijmegen and Malden. Their task was to guard the bridges between Malden and Grave. They were given some rest days and they were trained to use the new WASP which was a flame-thrower. During the winter the Regiment had also to help with guarding the border at Groesbeek, two weeks at a time, with one week free in between. Frank was promoted to the rank of Corporal.

As Christmas approached it began to snow.. The men had only their dark uniforms and for camouflage during patrols in the white landscape, they put articles of underwear over their uniforms and draped white towels over their helmets. On Christmas Eve the Germans could be heard singing carols; the Canadians responded with gunshots, grenades and mortars, The next day, the Canadians brought two bagpipers on patrol to play for the Germans. On 31 December, exactly at midnight, there was considerable heavy enemy gunfire. According to eyewitnesses, there was so much light created that one could read a newspaper. After five minutes, the gunfire ceased and Germans could be heard calling 'Happy New Year, Canada'. On 10 January the Calgary Highlanders left the front line for a week's rest in Nijmegen.

Preparation for Operation Veritable began for Frank and his regiment on 1 February, 1945. They left Berg and Dal in the direction of the border and stayed in the woods about five kilometers from Wyler in Germany. On 8 February at 5am, Wyler was attacked and the battle lasted for eight hours; thirteen Calgary Highlanders were killed.



The Regiment stayed in the ruins of Wyler for two more days and then went back to Berg and Dal and Nijmegen.



Wyler

On 18 February the Regiment travelled deeper into Germany in the direction of the Moyland woods. In the middle of the night they took up their positions and patrolled there for the next forty-eight hours; there was some skirmishing with enemy soldiers and shooting at the Moyland castle.

From here they were to go in the direction of the Hochwald. A densely wooded area with danger of ambush from the lurking enemy. Operation Blockbuster was about to begin and the Calgary Highlanders were told to take the west side of the northern edge of the woods. Just after midnight on 27 February, they were on the move; it was a cloudy, dark night and the farmhouses they passed seemed deserted. Only in the light of dawn did they first experience any enemy resistance but they reached their goal, struggling through mud and snow. At half past ten in the evening, they were able to enjoy their first warm meal in twenty four hours. Two hundred German soldiers were taken prisoner and twelve Calgary Highlanders were killed that day in the Hochwald. After days of patrolling, the Regiment went over the Hochwald Gap on 4 March, in the direction of the Seelenhof to Birten, two kilometers southeast of Xanten. On 9 March they aimed to reach a point along the railway line, two kilometers southeast of Birten. They started out at four in the morning with heavy fighting along the way and landmines, an additional hazard. Birten itself was unreachable so they diverted to a place where four bridges crossed the Winnenthaler canal. One bridge was undamaged. In the middle of the night, 9/10 March, around 3.40am, the Calgary Highlanders crossed the bridge in the direction of the Old Rhine.

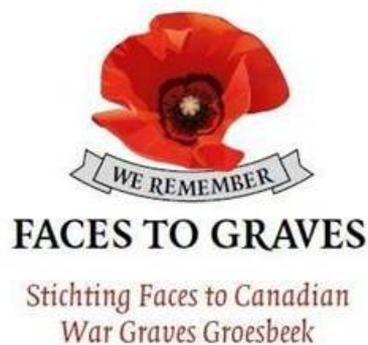
Frank was no longer there. He was killed on 9 March, near Birten, by two pieces of shrapnel, one in his left thigh and one in his right arm. He was temporarily buried in Bedburg Hau, Germany. On 18 July, 1946, his wife received a letter saying that he had been reburied in the Canadian Military Cemetery, Groesbeek, in the Netherlands, plot **VIII.E.10**.

For the 519 days of active service, he received the following awards:

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

Inscription on Frank's gravestone:

Deep in our hearts  
Your memory is kept  
We smile with the world  
But never forget



Life Story by Sigrid Norde – Researcher Faces To Graves

We thank the Kennedy family for sharing their photos.

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

David J. Bercuson, Battalion of Heroes – The Calgary Highlanders in World War II, The Calgary Highlanders Regimental Foundation, 1994

<https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/Canada/CA/Victory/Victory-18.html>

<https://www.zeeuwseankers.nl/verhaal/zeeland-herdenkt-de-slag-om-de-schelde-in-1944>

[https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slag\\_om\\_de\\_Sloedam](https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slag_om_de_Sloedam)