

Ogg, Alfred William

Private

The Calgary Highlanders, R.C.I.C.

K-51187



Alfred William Ogg was born 29 March, 1924 in Rossland, British Columbia, Canada, the son of Alfred William Ogg and Mary Margaret Ife. He had two sisters, Mary Margaret and Doris Louise and one brother, Percy Robert. His father worked as a car mechanic. The family attended the United Church.

When Alfred William was three years old, his sister Mary Margaret died of polio and then his father died when he was ten. The next year his mother remarried Jack Bradley on 2 July, 1935; Jack was an iron smelter.

Alfred William attended Rossland High School and reached grade X where his favourite subjects were physics and maths; he liked playing softball and hockey. He left school at 17 without a diploma.

In the two years between leaving school and joining the army he worked in the mines and as a carpenter's assistant but mostly he was a milkman, bringing milk round to people's houses. He could drive a car and small pickup truck and he could carry out small repairs on them.

In his free time he liked to hunt and swim; he listened to music but did not care for dancing. He smoked but did not drink. Magazines about planes and cars interested him and he used to build model planes.

IN THE MILITARY

On 28 April, 1943 Alfred William Ogg joined the army in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Until then he had been living with his mother as a single man.

At his medical examination, he was found to be well developed, 1.78m tall, weighing 65 kilos, with brown eyes and hair; he had good eyesight and well-maintained teeth. He had never been seriously ill but the service doctor was concerned about his color blindness.

Alfred William spoke English and no other language. In his personal file he was described as mature for his age, quiet, stable and ambitious; he was cheerful and wanted to do his best in the army. A trustworthy, creative and dutiful young man. He stated that he would like to be trained as a mechanic and that after the war, he wanted to become an electrician.

After his enlistment, Alfred William remained in Vancouver for the preliminary three weeks training; then on 14 May his training continued in Wetaskiwin. On 10 July, he was once again transferred to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he followed a course to become a car mechanic. He received his diploma on 4 December, 1943 and was sent on leave to his home in Rossland where he spent the Christmas days.

After two more months in Halifax, he was stationed in Windsor, Petawawa, Ontario and Delbert, Nova Scotia. In 1944 he went on leave for some days in May and again in August.

On 14 October, 1944, Alfred William boarded the ship which would bring him to England and he landed there six days later. After two months, he was sent by ship to mainland Europe, arriving 30 December.

From his service files, it is not clear with which regiment he was placed at first but by 23 February, 1945 he was detailed to the Calgary Highlanders. The Regiment was at this time involved in the Reichswald battle, in Germany, close to the Dutch border at Groesbeek. This was part of Operation Veritable.

At the end of March it was finally possible to cross the Rhine and with an enormous number of troops, begin to liberate the eastern and northern part of the Netherlands. The Canadians moved through Ulft, Terborg and Gaanderen in the direction of Doetinchem. On Easter Sunday, 1 April they reached the outskirts of the town via the

Terborgseweg; it was the

intention to break through to the

northern area on the same day, but the Germans however offered a lot of resistance and there was heavy fighting. The town centre was sealed off by trams filled with concrete. The next day, 2 April, the town was taken by the Calgary Highlanders.

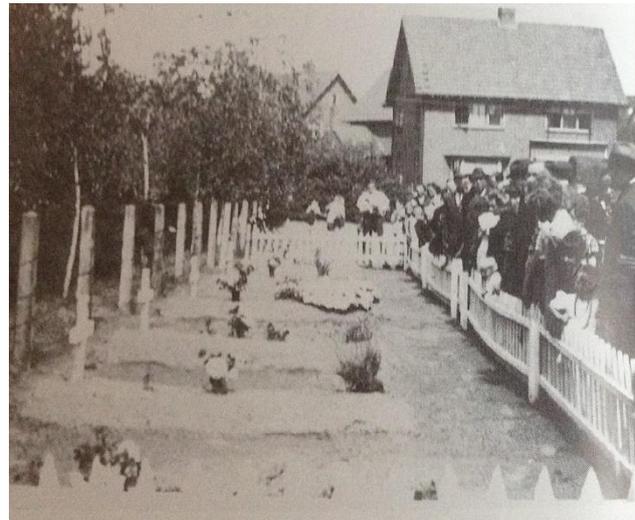


Canadian troops at the Terborgseweg, 1 April 1945
(Photo: Hans Hendriksen ©)

Alfred William was responsible for the fuel provision for the army vehicles at a field workshop. He was killed here on 1 April, 1945 two days after his 21st birthday. He did not live to see Doetinchem finally liberated.

He was buried temporarily near the Oosseld school at the Dennenweg in Doetinchem.

Eighteen months later his body was moved to the Canadian Military Cemetery in Groesbeek. Plot **XIX.D.1.**



ANOTHER CITY YOUTH GIVES LIFE TO CAUSE

Mrs. Jack Bradley was advised Tuesday that her son, Pte. Alfred William (Freddie) Ogg had been killed in action.

Born in Rossland March 29, 1924, Jack had just attained his 21 birthday. He attended school at Tadanac and Rossland, and upon leaving school was employed for a short time with the Valley Dairy. He enlisted in March 1943 and went overseas in December 1944.

Besides his mother he is survived by a sister, Doris, and brother, Percy at home, also his grandmother, Mrs. Christina Ife.

About a week after he died, his mother, Mary received a telegram on 9 April, telling her that her son had died in the war violence. His obituary appeared 12 April in the local newspaper, Rossland Miner.

In total, Alfred William Ogg served 700 days in the Canadian Army and received the following awards for this:

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



Monument in the Mark Tennant Plantsoen, Doetinchem



Remembrance Day, Rossland, November 2017

FOR KING AND COUNTRY



Life story by Sigrid Norde, Research Team Faces To Graves

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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