# Painter, Herbert Frederick Private Essex Scottish Regiment Royal Canadian Infantry Corps L 61816





Herbert Frederick was born on 19 March 1923 in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Canada to Frederick Painter (born in 1895) and Lily Painter (born in 1898).



His father worked as a railway hostler by the time Herbert was born.

His parents got four children, three boys and a daughter.

Herbert Frederick was the eldest, second eldest son Keith Painter also joined the Canadian Navy.
The family lived in Yorkton, 148
Ontario Ave, and in 1944 Herbert's military record mentioned a move to 322 Victoria Street, Yorkton.
They were members of the Church of England.

Herbert Frederick didn't enjoyed school and left when he reached his ninth grade.

He had several jobs, as an airport construction labourer at Pool Construction Co. Regina and as a labourer on a farm with farmer Wishloff in Canora. His wished to become a mechanic.

When enlisting in his medical report was written: 'Lenght 5ft 5,75inch, weight 128,5 pounds, brown eyes, dark brown hair, healthy good appearance. He likes sporting, swimming, skating, teamsport baseball. He wants to join the army because he is tired of looking for a job'.

Herbert Frederick en listed in November 1941 and was posted to the Light Anti-Aircraft Battery Royal Canadian Artillery in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, Canada as a Gunner.

He completed his Basic Training Gun Drill also in Moosomin.

He is transferred to Sussex, New Brunswick on 9 March 9, 1942 and completed his General Training.

Before embarking to England he was given two more leave, in May 1942 he was given 13 days leave and in July 10 more days.

On 8 August 1942 he left for England and arrived on 19 August in England.

He successfully completed the Bofors Gun Training and was posted to the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery on 5 November 1943. After the completion he received his badge for good conduct.

On 21 July 1944 he embarked for France with the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Light Anti-Aircraft. He stayed for a short while in France and on 23 October he returned to England.

Back in England he was posted to the Canadian Reception Depot and the next day to the Rocky Mountain Rangers.

During November he attended training at the Canadian Infantry Training Regiment as a Private.

On 15 December 1944 he left for France and was posted to the Essex Scottish Regiment.

This regiment set up camp in Groesbeek (near Nijmegen) and stayed here until 8 February 1945 when Operation Veritable started. During this time the regiment went on several patrols to Mook, Boxtel, Vught.

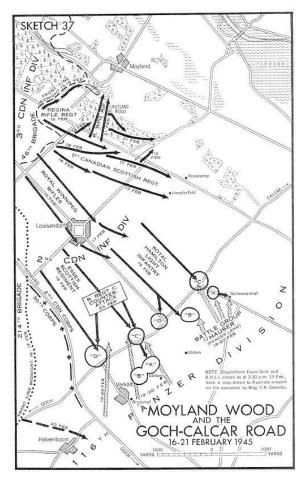


Het onderkomen van de Essex Scottish in het winters landschap rond Groesbeek.

When Operation Veritable started the Essex Scottish Regiment was stationed around Wyler and awaiting further orders.

On 14 February they were called up, they had to advance from Nijmegen via Mook-Gennep-Hekkens through the Reichswald to Cleve and Calcar and with the support of Kangaroos (tanks) they were steadily successful.

On 18 February they were around Calcar and were ordered to start the attack on Moyland.



During the night of 18 to 19
February heavenly rain started, the Essex Scottish Regiment was ordered to capture buildings in Gottern and Brunshof, the mud played tricks on the tanks and they progressed very slowly during the day.

On 19 February at 2.15 pm, the Germans launched a violent counterattack. The Essex Scottish Regiment were under heavy fire from the "Goch Kalkar" road. A fierce battle ensued, at 4.30 pm they were within 200 yard of their goal when German reinforcements. Their Pantzer Corps was doubled and at 8 p.m. the Germans launched the attack, just as the Essex Scottish Regiment was out of tanks as they were being withdrawn to be re-manned and refueled. The Essex Scottish Regiment could

not withstand this violent attack and they were overrun by the Germans beyond their Head Quarter.

Staff and survivors retreated to the basement of a farm. During the night reinforcements arrived, the counterattack was launched and they succeeded in driving the Germans back. Eventually they got hold of the Calcar Road.

The battle on 19th February was the bloodiest of the entire Operation Veritable, the Essex Scottish Regiment left 51 dead (out of a total of 400 dead on 19th and 20th February), 99 wounded and 54 became prisoners of war.

Private Herbert Frederick Painter was killed in action on 19 February 1945 and was buried in Bedburg, Germany.

On 21 March 1945 his mother received a letter from the army stating her son was killed in action.

Herbert Frederick Pater was later reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery Groesbeek, grave reference **V. A. 10.** 

## Awards:

1939-45 Star
France & Germany Star
Defence Medal
War Medal 1939-1945
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp





Herbert Frederick Painter's name is mentioned in the Saskatchewan Virtual War Memorial. This project commemorates Saskatchewan's war dead, those men and women who perished in service to their country for the high ideals of peace and freedom. They are honoured by a geographic location.

The location for Herbert Frederick: Painter Creek, bij het Hayman Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada



## Stichting Faces to Canadian War Graves Groesbeek

Life story by Else Schaberg, Research Team Faces To Graves.

### References:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

Veterans Affairs Canada - Second World War Book of Remembrance

https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=552&book=2&sort=pageAsc

The Essex Scottish Regiment, C. van Beek, Putte, 2004, speciale uitgave Tijding, periodiek Heemkundekring Het Zuidkwartier

Casualty Official History of the Canadian Army in the Second World War, Vol III The Victory Campaign: The Operations in Northwest Europe, 1944-45, publisher Queen's Printer, Ottawa, Author: Stacey, C.P.

Saskatchewan Virtual War Memorial Saskatchewan Geo-Memorial Project – http://www.sasksearch.com/maps/remembrance.php

Operation Picture Me (OPM)

Picture - Britanny Johnson, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 77, Yorkton,

Saskatchewan, Canada Operation Picture Me (OPM)

## HERB PAINTER GIVES LIFE FOR KING & COUNTRY

Son of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Painter Killed.

Official word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Painter that their son, Pte. Herbert Frederick Painter, L-61816, previously reported missing is now presumed to have been killed in action on March 9th, 1945.

"Herbie" as he was known, was born in Yorkton May 19, 1923 and is the 47th Yorkton lad to make the supreme sacrifice in World War II. He attended Burke and Victoria public school and the Yorkton Collegiate Institute.

In addition to his parents he is survived by one sister June, and two brothers. Clarence at home and Keith serving overseas with the R.C.N.V.R.

