

Rose, Raymond John
Corporal
Governor General's Foot Guards
C58338



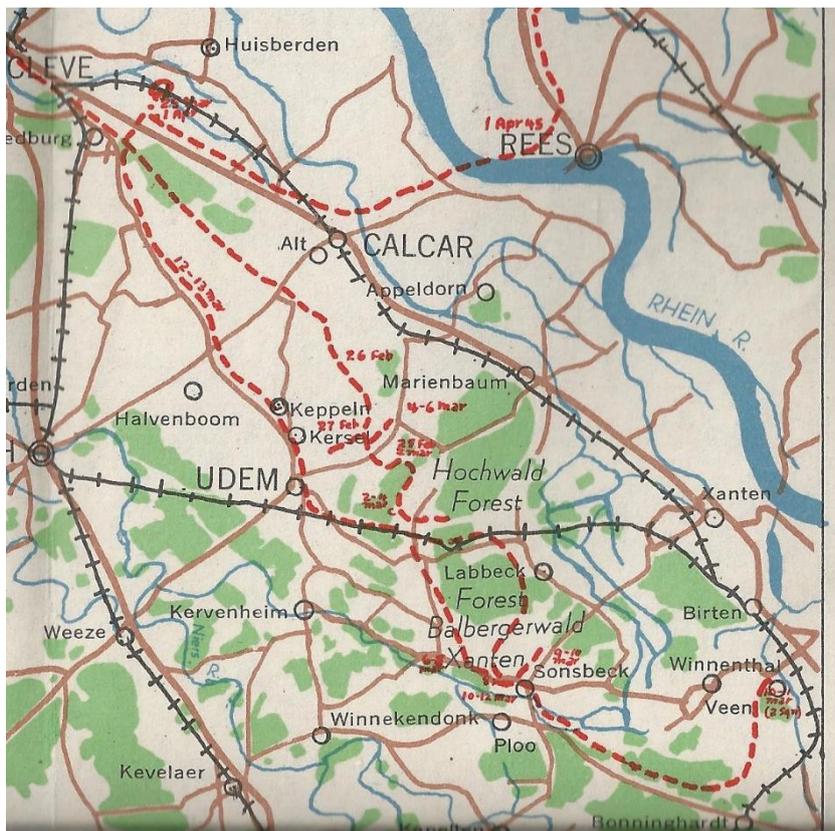
Raymond John Rose was born in Bridgend, Wales, UK on Oct. 24, 1919 to parents, John Rose (1880-1941) and Ada Robinson (1881-1961). The whole family including children, Dorothy Enid, age 15; Raymond, age 10 and Mervyn, eight, had immigrated to Canada in April, 1929, aboard the steamship, SS Montrose. Mr. Rose was sponsored by a George Hall of Renfrew as his gardener but the father later became a railroad employee.

Raymond Rose acquired 11 years of public education before he went to work as a weaver at the Renfrew Woollen Mills for seven years. At enlistment on July 3, 1940 with the Governor General's Foot Guards Regiment (his service number was C58338), he stood five foot seven inches and weighed 136 pounds. Raymond obtained military training at Camp Borden in Ontario, Sussex Camp in New Brunswick, and Debert, Nova Scotia.

Sadly, his father died of cerebral thrombosis on May 3, 1941 the year before Raymond shipped out to the United Kingdom on Sept. 24, 1942. He served in the U.K. as a tank driver for nearly two years until July 22, 1944 when he was sent to the Normandy beachhead. His younger brother, Mervyn "Bill" Rose also served overseas in the Canadian Army.

Arriving on the beaches of Normandy on July 22, 1944, Guardsman Raymond Rose was a gun operator with the Governor General's Foot Guards (GGFG) regiment. This tank regiment was part of the Canadian Armoured Brigade that fought for seven months through France, Belgium, the Netherlands and finally into Germany. His service record showed that on Nov. 7, 1944, Rose was promoted to the rank of corporal and he became a crew commander.

It was the first day of Operation Blockbuster when British and Canadian armoured forces had launched a major tank-infantry assault into Germany. The enemy was waiting with formidable defences of anti-tank guns and mortars as the Allied forces proceeded along the Calcar ridge north-east of Udem.



Map from The Regimental History of the Governor General's Foot Guards.

On that day, Corporal Raymond Rose commanded a Sherman tank as part of the "Smith force" which was a sub-group of Tiger Group and composed of the 21st Armoured Regiment (Governor General's Foot Guards) and the Lake Superior Regiment (L.S.R.) troops. As soon as they

engaged the enemy near Keppeln, "all the L.S.R. [infantry's] carriers and seven out of eight of the tanks were soon hit and destroyed," according to the official Regimental History of the Governor General's Foot Guards (GGFG).



Map from The Official History of the Canadian Army, The Victory Campaign.

The tank crews took to the ground and set up defences from the vicious counterattacks. It was then that "Cpl. Rose, commander of one of the knocked-out tanks, very courageously dismounted a Browning [machine gun] from his tank, but while setting it up was killed by a sniper," stated the GGFG historian in the book.

On February 26, 1945, Corporal Raymond Rose, 26, of Renfrew, Ontario, was killed by a sniper in a firefight during the Battle of the Hochwald Forest in Germany.

The official army report on his death stated that Cpl. Rose's body was "buried by the side of the road in common gr [grave] together with several Armd [Armoured] Corps men" in Keppeln, near Calcar, Germany.

His remains were re-interred in 1946 in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery near Nijmegen, the Netherlands. His burial reference is grave **XII. C. 24.**



Initially simple crosses marked the graves in early years at Groesbeek war cemetery.

Upon his death, the Canadian military sent to his mother, Ada Rose, the Memorial Cross as well as his campaign medals: the 1939-45 Star, France-Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal and Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp. In his hometown of Renfrew Ontario, the name, Raymond Rose, is etched on the giant granite cenotaph in front of the Town Hall where Remembrance Day ceremonies are held every Nov. 11.

Biography Kurt Johnson

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives of Canada



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*Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek*

Biography made available for Faces To Graves, with courtesy of Kurt Johnson.