

Tennant, Aubrey Edward
Guardsman
Governor General's Foot Guards
21st Armoured Regiment
K/15793



Aubrey Tennant was a native son of Vancouver, BC. He was the eldest of three children, born August 13, 1906, to Albert (Bert) Tennant, a 1924 Olympian, and his wife, Edna May Amos. He had a sister named Margaret Joyce his younger brother Alfred Clare died in 1920 at the age of four. The family were members of the Church of England.



Aubrey and Nancy on the beach.

In 1942, 7 October he married his long-time girlfriend, Nancy Hunter Scouse. They were only together for a short time, before he was deployed overseas.

Aubrey was described as a well-developed man with hazel coloured eyes and brown hair. A popular and well-known Vancouver Lacrosse and Rugby star, he travelled with the New Westminster Salmonbelly Lacrosse Team in the Mann Cup series of 1934. He was employed by Spaldings and Mainland Transfer working as a freight agent for the company.

In October 1942 he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army Anti-Aircraft division, but later transferred to the Canadian Armoured Corp (CAC) in order to go overseas more quickly. After completing his training as a CAC operator at Camp Borden on May 5, 1944, he was deployed overseas and joined the Governor General Foot Guards for service in Belgium and Holland.



Aubrey.

In February, 1945, Guardsman Tennant took part in Operation Blockbuster, the final phase in the battle for the Rhineland. A Unit of 'Smith Force' the Governor General Foot Guards were an armoured Division of 'Tiger' under Brigadier R.W. Moncel.

On February, 26, 1945 Aubrey was killed in action on the 'High Ground', north-east of Udem, Germany, one of the many men who gave their lives that day.

He was temporarily buried in Bedburg, Germany, and later reburied to the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave reference **VIII. B. 4.**

Inscription on his grave:

" To live in the hearts of those we love is not to die. "

After the death of her husband, his wife, wrote a letter to Governor General A.E. Walford, Adjutant-General in Ottawa. She stated:

“Although Canada does not know it yet, she lost one of her most loyal and faithful citizens when he died. There was no one more conscientious and sincere than he. No duty would ever be shirked by him and all commands carried out of the best of his ability with everything he had in him. Of that, I am justly proud.

Of his death , I can only feel deep and infinite sorrow.”

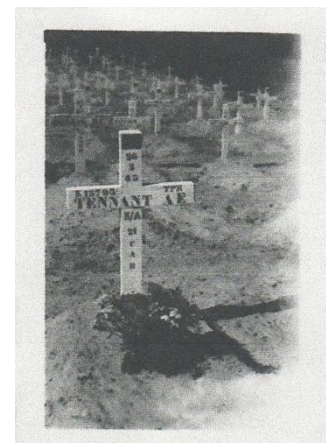
Agnes (Nancy) Tennant

Nancy Tennant always appreciated how important it was to the Dutch people to honour and respect our Canadian soldiers buried in Holland. In 1962 she made a trip to the Netherlands to see her husband’s grave. She met and stayed with the Dutch family who attended to it and was forever grateful.

Lifestory: Vicki Scouse-Kosterewa, niece of Aubrey Tennant.



Biography made available for Faces To Graves, with courtesy of Vicki Scouse-Kosterewa.



Old grave marker.

When Aubrey Tennant was killed in action in Germany, the newspaper headlines read:

"Aub Tennan war casualty"

"Noted Vancouver athlete killed during fighting overseas."

And fittingly 'The last Goal'.

TENNANT — Killed on active service overseas, on Feb. 26, 1945, GDSM. Aubrey Edward Tennant, 21st C.A.R., only son of Mrs. Edna M. Tennant and the late A. E. "Bert" Tennant; also survived by his ever loving wife, Nancy, at 7625 Osler Ave., Vancouver, and one sister, Joyce, 1203 James, Seattle, Wash.

Noted Vancouver Athlete Killed

TENNANT—In loving memory of my very dear husband, Gdsm. Aubrey Edward Tennant, 21st C.A.R. (G.G.F.G.), killed in action at Udem, Germany, Feb. 26, 1945. And in memory of his friend, Cpl. Hugh Edgar (M.M.), who also gave his life in action in Germany. We think of his sayings and treasure his smile.
We know he's not lost, only gone for awhile.
We keep in our memory the love of the past
For deep in our heart, it was planted to last.
—Nancy Scouse Tennant.

TENNANT—In loving memory of our brother-in-law and uncle, Gdsma. Aubrey E. Tennant, killed in action overseas with the 21st C.A.R., February 26, 1945.
There is a link death can not sever.
Love and remembrance last forever.
—Ever remembered by Hugh, Ella, Gail and Lynne.



LAST GOAL—Aub Tennant, local lacrosse and Canadian grid star, who was reported killed in action with the Canadian Army, February 26. (See story below).

Aub Tennant War Casualty

Guardman Aubrey "Aub" Tennant, one of Vancouver's first boxla players and a star on the local gridiron, has been killed in action overseas according to word received by his brother-in-law, Hughie Scouse.

Aub, who worked for Spaldings and Mainland Transfer before joining the Army in 1942, played lacrosse when the boxed game was first introduced here in the early '30's, performing for Maple Leafs, St. Helen's, Richmond and Salmonbellies.

He played for the Army team at Centre Park in the summer of 1943, the last time he was seen on a local sports field before going overseas in the spring of 1944.

He started his grid career with Hyacks and Native Sons and then played for VAC in the Big Four.

He was the son of Bert Tennant, one of Vancouver's leading sports officials for many years, who died a few years ago.

Canadians Bore Brunt Of Offensive

(By Canadian Press)

PARIS, March 17. — Operations by the 1st Canadian Army during Gen. Crerar's advance from the Maas to the Rhine were made over "appalling ground conditions" of flood and mud.

A special Allied supreme headquarters release commented on the 21st Army group's recent operations.

Troops of the Canadian Army—dubbed "water rats" by those who saw them sloshing into action aboard amphibious craft such as "ducks" and "buffaloes," or wading through the muck sometimes waist-deep—advanced through territory where "mud and widespread flooding prevented a movement of normal tracked and wheeled vehicles off the roads."

ROADS BROKE UP.

Roads and tracks, too, were soon broken up by the armored advance. Only use of "large numbers of latest types of amphibious vehicles" enabled Crerar's men to maintain the momentum of their offensive.

Because a U.S. 9th Army advance, originally planned to jump off shortly after the British-Canadian thrust, was delayed when the Germans smashed the Roer dams before Lt. Gen. Simpson's men, the Canadians bore the brunt of the 21st Army Group operation several days longer than had been intended.

ADVANTAGEOUS DELAY.

But the delay proved advantageous in the long run, for American troops, facing an enemy whose ranks had been depleted to reinforce the front against the 1st Army advance, were able to advance rapidly once they got into action.

Total enemy casualties for the operation were 52,000 captured and "at least" 60,000 killed and wounded, while Allied losses for the period were "less than one-fifth of the enemy's total."

Such enemy formations as managed to withdraw across the Rhine before the operation closed with the elimination of the Wesel pocket last Saturday "lost the bulk of their material and were in a badly-battered condition."



A. J. Lemaitre

Records

*In action plus
Appreciation*



A. E. WALFORD
Major - General
Adjutant - General

APR 26 1945

7625 Osler Ave.,
Vancouver,
B.C.
April 20, 1945.

To Major-General A. E. Walford,
Adjutant-General,
Ottawa.

A. E. WALFORD
Major - General
Adjutant - General

APR 26 1945

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter expressing sympathy regarding the death of my husband, Gdsm. Aubrey Edward Tennant, K15793, killed in action on Feb. 26, 1945.

Although Canada does not know it yet, she lost one of her most loyal and faithful citizens when he died. There was no one more conscientious and sincere than he. No duty would ever be shirked by him and all commands carried out to the best of his ability with everything

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he had in him. Of that, I am
justly proud. Of his death, I can
still only feel deep & infinite sorrow.

You assured me that any
additional information received by
your office would be sent on
to me. If you would please let
me have even the smallest details
I would appreciate it deeply as it
means so much to me.

I wonder if you could
supply me with the name of the
Padre of that regiment, as I
wish, very sincerely, to write to
him. My husband's regiment
was the 21st Cdn. Armd. Regt.
(Governor-General's Foot Guards) and
his officer commanding was
Lt. Col. E. M. Smith.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) Agnes H. Tennant.

