



Nodrick, Alexander

Reg.nr H 95567

Alexander Nodrick was born on August 3, 1918, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He lived there until he enlisted. His parents, Andrew and Valerie Nodrick (59), were from Ukraine. They married on May 21, 1909, in Dvroshowci Bukovina. Alexander speaks English and Ukrainian. His religion is Greek Orthodox.

He has an older sister, Marian Stadrick (31, married, living in Hamilton) and a younger sister, Irene (25). Their ages in January 1945 are shown in parentheses.

When Alexander enlisted in February 1942, his father, Andrew, had been away from the family for three years. His occupation and place of residence are unknown. Alexander supports his mother and younger sister.

Alexander attended one year of high school, grade 9. It is unknown at what age he left school.

He is interested in reading, and he also plays guitar and drums. Alexander plays various sports: skating, ice hockey, soccer, and swimming.

Alexander has four months of farm work experience. In 1940, he worked as a construction worker. From 1940 to 1942, he worked as a truck driver (cold storage) for City Dray in Winnipeg. City Dray's home base is the Frost and Food Warehouse.

In October 1940, Alexander completed a 30-day training course at the 101st Training Center;

from January 8, 1942, to February 8, 1942, he completed training at the 100th Training Center.

On February 14, 1942, Alexander enlisted in the Canadian Army in Winnipeg.

His medical records show he is 1.78 meters tall and weighs 109 kg. That's a lot, but it doesn't seem to be an error; the weight in other forms is also around 240 pounds.

Alexander has brown eyes and black hair. His teeth are bad. He also has a strawberry mark above his left nipple. In 1937, he had an impetigo on his right leg, and in 1941, he underwent appendectomy.

After enlisting in Winnipeg on February 14, 1942, Alexander went to Camp Borden on March 10, 1942, where he joined Unit A9. On May 12, 1942, he arrived in England and was assigned to the 3rd Canadian Army Corps Reinforcement Unit, a reserve unit. On June 3, 1942, he became an A-Corporal there, and on September 1, 1942, a L-Corporal. Due to a transfer to the 10th Armoured Regiment, Fort Garry Horse, on March 11, 1943, he was promoted to trooper. On December 13, 1943, he was a tanker driver/mechanic.

On July 4, 1944, he set foot on French soil. Shortly thereafter, on July 23, 1944, he was promoted to A-Corporal.

Alexander was killed in action on October 9, 1944, at the age of 26. Alexander was given a temporary grave in Kalmthout.

On October 8 and 9, 1944, A and B Squadrons of the 10th Armored Regiment, Fort Garry Horse, were active in the Kalmthout region. The war diary of B Squadron is available from October 21, 1944, and therefore offers no answers to the questions of how and where Alexander died.

The account in A Squadron's war diary describes October 9, 1944, as a rest day. However, this diary does contain an entry from October 8, 1944.

A Squadron was to launch an attack on Zwarteneuvel, a hamlet northwest of Kalmthout, with support from a reconnaissance unit. They were followed by B Squadron and infantry, Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal (FMR), who were to consolidate the captured position. Soon, A-Sqd came under fire from 88mm guns, and the road was discovered to be undermined. It was decided to send the FMR (Foreign Military Regiment) forward, immediately followed by tanks. Since B-Sqd had been assigned to support the infantry, B-Sqd's commander, Captain Bowie, decided that B-Sqd would also go forward.

Meanwhile, A-Sqd fought its way to Noordeinde, north of Kalmthout. The FMR and B-Sqd joined them, and it was decided that they would hold this position while part of A-Sqd and the reconnaissance unit remained on Zwarteneuvel. All this under heavy fire.

Zwarteneuvel proved impossible to hold, and the troops retreated to Noordeinde. They lost two tanks in the process: one's track came off, and the second became stuck in the soft ground.

A-Sqd received news that one of its men had suffered severe burns. Lieutenant Holt went to retrieve this soldier in a jeep. It turned out to be someone from B-Sqd.

The operation ended at 11:00 PM, and the diary mentions no deaths or injuries.

At the Canadian cemetery in Bergen op Zoom, Alexander is the only one from Fort Garry Horse who died on October 8 or 9.

It is likely that Alexander Nodrick was the victim with severe burns and that he ultimately died on October 9.

Alexander was given a temporary grave in Kalmthout, on Kapellensteenweg. He was reinterred in Bergen op Zoom on November 10, 1945. He is buried in Plot 09, row G, grave 11.

Alexander was awarded the 1939-1945 Star, the French-German Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal, and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp. On January 8, 1944, he received a good conduct badge.

Sources:

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2642128/nodrick,-alexander/>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12724692/alexander-nodrick/photo>

[https://www.ancestry.ca/interactive/9145/44485_83024005550_0283-00421?pid=11511&treeid=&personid=&rc=&usePUB=true#?_phcmd=u\('https://www.ancestry.ca/search/categories/39/3Fname%3DAlexander_Nodrick%26death%3D1944-10-9%26count%3D50%26location%3D3243%26priority%3Dcanada%26successSource%3DSearch','successSource'\)&imageId=44485_83024005550_0283-00467](https://www.ancestry.ca/interactive/9145/44485_83024005550_0283-00421?pid=11511&treeid=&personid=&rc=&usePUB=true#?_phcmd=u('https://www.ancestry.ca/search/categories/39/3Fname%3DAlexander_Nodrick%26death%3D1944-10-9%26count%3D50%26location%3D3243%26priority%3Dcanada%26successSource%3DSearch','successSource')&imageId=44485_83024005550_0283-00467)