

Feschuk, George

Private

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment

Royal Canadian Infantry Corps

M/610661



George Feschuk was born 23 September 1923 at Smoky Lake, Alberta (AB). His Ukrainian parents Alexander ("Alex") Feschuk and Mary Waselenchuk were married at Smoky Lake, AB in 1922. They had seven children: George, Sandra, Peter, Mike, Victor, Darlene and Evaun. The Feschuks had a mixed farm at North Kotzman near Smoky Lake and followed the Greek Orthodox religion.

Alex and Mary Feschuk

George spoke both English and Ukrainian. He completed two years of High School and then went to work on his father's farm full time. He had an old car and was working as a farm hand around Three

Hills, AB when he was called up under the National Resources Mobilization Act (N.R.M.A.) for home defence during WW2.

George had a medical examination done at Smoky Lake before enlisting 8 December 1942 at Edmonton, AB age 19. He



was then 5'5" tall, 137 lbs with blue/grey eyes and mentioned that he had scarlet fever in 1941. George was allocated to the Royal Canadian Artillery



(R.C.A.) and sent to Esquimalt, British Columbia (BC) for basic training 8 January 1943 following his Christmas leave. He was next attached to the 28th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment at Vancouver, BC 1 April 1943 for advanced training as a Gunner.

Anti-Aircraft Gun, Grey Point Battery, Vancouver, BC WW2

Gunner George Feschuk

George was granted 14 days furlough that summer and returned home. His younger brother Victor recalled that while George was back at the family farm, some horses escaped and they went together to find them riding double on one horse. They finally found the horses many miles away and brought them home. George reported to 29th Anti-Aircraft Regiment at Prince Rupert, BC after returning to duty 18 July 1943. He was granted additional furlough time the next summer and passed through other



coastal anti-aircraft defence regiments before being remustered from Artillery to Infantry. George was taken on strength with the St. John's Fusiliers 10 December 1944 at Port Alberni, BC. He proceeded overseas with them, with a brief stop at home on the way. They disembarked in the UK 10 January 1945 where his regiment was disbanded for 1st Canadian Army reinforcements. George joined the Canadian Infantry Training Regiment and received conversion training over the next several weeks.

George disembarked in Northwest Europe 28 March 1945 and was taken on strength with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment (LER) 23 April 1945. The LER, also known as the 'Loyal Eddies' formed part of 2nd Brigade with the Princess

Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. 2nd Brigade and 1st Canadian Infantry Division had served in the Italian campaign since summer 1943 until they were redeployed to Northwest Europe early in 1945.

The LER was based near Amersfoort, Netherlands when George joined them as one of 45 reinforcements and he was assigned to their "D" Company. Their task for 24 April was to attack an enemy held wooded area about three

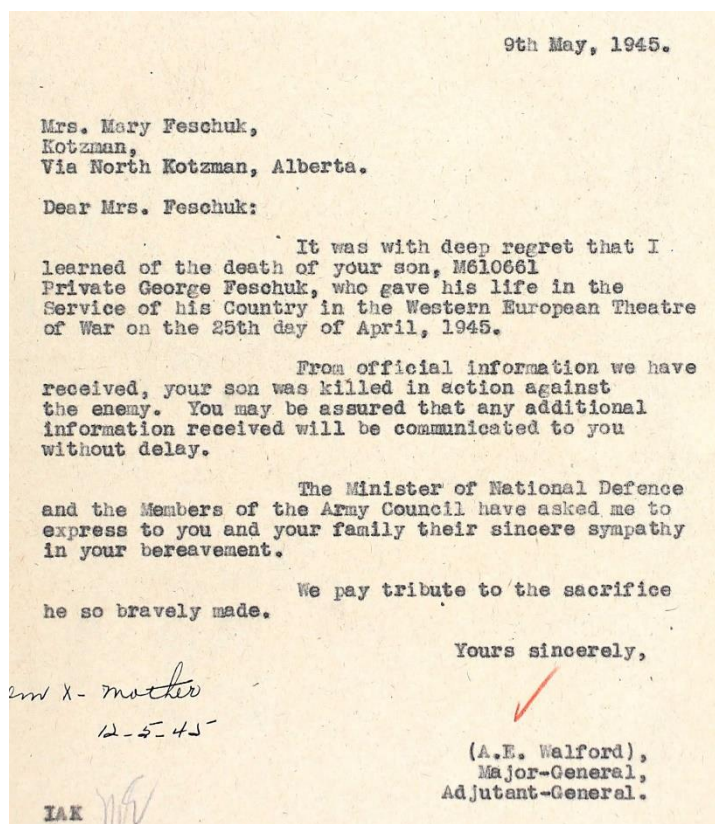


Sketch Map (left, western portion), G.R. Stevens, A City Goes to War, op page 348

kilometres east of Amersfoort. "C" Company swept into its position by 1130 hours and captured 11 German prisoners while only suffering one slight casualty. Late that afternoon, George's "D" Company was moved to an area contiguous to them to have a firm battalion front.

During the morning of 25 April 1945, patrols from B, C and D Companies were sent out to the area west of the battalion lines. Two of the

patrols returned late in the morning with nothing to report, but at 1300 hours "D" Company reported that their patrol had been pinned down by enemy Machine Gun fire about 4 kilometres northeast of Amersfoort. They requested a platoon be sent out to relieve the patrol. Since they were still unable to evacuate two hours later, 3-inch mortar smoke was laid on the area and the patrol finally withdrew, leaving behind one dead and one seriously injured man. The man killed was Private George Feschuk, age 21, the last soldier of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment to be killed in the war. He was also



the first and only N.R.M.A. soldier to be killed as a member of the Loyal Eddies.

Feschuk, George, Pte.; Mrs. Mary Feschuk (mother), Kotzman, via North Kotzman, Alta.

Edmonton Journal May 1945

Private G. Feschuk was temporarily buried at Gorssel, Netherlands and later relocated to Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **II. C. 2.**

Photo Credit lestweforget1945.com

George Feschuk's campaign medals:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France-Germany Star
- War Medal



Pte. George Feschuk

M 610661
Loyal Edmonton Regiment
Died April 25, 1945
The last of his regiment to give
his life for our country in WWII.



Edmonton Journal 11 November 2005



Biography by Jim Little, Research Team Faces to Graves.

Sources Consulted:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

Veteran Affairs Canada – Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Ancestry public trees

Newspapers.com

Gerald Feschuk, nephew of George Feschuk, son of Victor Feschuk

Ukrainian Bookstore Smoky Lake, AB picture <http://www.prairie-towns.com/smokylake-images.html>

Grey Point Battery, Vancouver, BC picture
<https://vancouvertraces.weebly.com/point-atkinson-battery.html>

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment cap badge picture
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/official-military-history-lineages/lineages/infantry-regiments/loyal-edmonton.html>

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum
<https://www.lermuseum.org/news/72-world-war-2-remembered-loyal-edmonton-regiment-1945-q2>

* Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact info@facestograves.nl

Gerald Feschuk remembered his father Victor telling him about George:

'Mom took the news of George's death very hard. With Victory in Europe already declared, the family thought he'd be on his way home soon. His death, so near to the end of combat operations, came as a shock. As time went on, living at the homestead became impossible for mom. She kept seeing George walking up the road, coming home. The family ended up relocating from the original homestead north of Smoky Lake, to a farm near Waskatenau, to help ease mom's burden.'

OTTAWA, 20th October, 1947.

H.Q. 869-F-3351
R. 4 (B)

Mrs. Ilie Feschuk,
Waskatenau, Alberta.

M.610661, Private George FESCHUK

Dear Mrs. Feschuk:

I am directed to forward to you the enclosed letter which has been received from Mr. S. Pool, John Nlietstraat 74, Haarlem, The Netherlands, in connection with the grave of your late son, the marginally named, in Holten Canadian Military Cemetery, Holland. Mr. Pool wishes to get in touch with you but as regulations will not permit the Department to furnish him with your name and address it would be appreciated if you will kindly communicate with him direct.

Yours faithfully,

for *msk*
A/Director,
War Service Records.

Haarlem 11 October 1947

The Director of Records

We request you kindly to send on the enclosed letter to, the last Record next of kin of Private G. Feschuk M.610661 died on 25-4-'45 and buried in Ind. Mil. Cemetery at Holten Netherlands Plot 2. Row C, Grave 2. Loyal Edmonton Regt.

This grave is adopted by me and I have planted already more than a year plants on the grave. I should be very glad to correspond with the surviving family for contingent special data for flowers, and to send a photo of the grave and the Cemetery.

*In advance
politely thanking
esteeming*

*S. Pool
John N. Nlietstraat 74
Haarlem
Netherlands*

5A
DEC 20 1954
89-F-3351
00411

42967 Cpl. Feschuk P.
c/o Postmaster,
C.A.P.O. 5052,
Montreal, Canada.

12 Dec 54

Referred to ...

DEC 17 1954

The Dep't of National Defence,
Record of Service,
Ottawa, Canada.

Sirs,

I am at the present time with the R.C.A.F. on an overseas tour of duty and would like to get some information regarding the location of Canadian military cemeteries in Holland. As there is no organization here which can give me this information, could you advise me as to where I can make further inquiries, or assist me in some in locating the burial place of the undermentioned soldier:

Name: FESCHUK George
Rank: M610661 (Private)
Relationship: Brother
Date of Birth: 1923
Next of kin: Mrs. Mary Feschuk, Smoky Lake, Alberta.
Date of casualty: 25 April 45
Place of casualty: Voorst, Holland

The above information is all I have at the present. Trusting that it is sufficient and that I will hear from you in the near future, I remain,

Yours truly,
V. Feschuk. (Brother)



Mary, Victor and his wife Natalka Feschuk visited George Feschuk's grave at Holten Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands 1989



Collage about George Feschuk made by Gerald's daughters for their Gedo, Victor Feschuk



Gerald's brother Darrell Feschuk with headstone rubbing of their Uncle George from 2011 Ponoka Composite High School trip to Holten Canadian War Cemetery