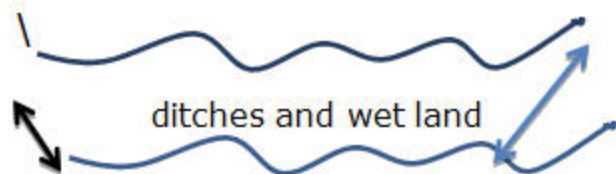




Corporal Alfred FRENCH

Treed Area Hiding Germans

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Patrol to outflank Germans



Story by Howard N. Petersen.

Germans reported in a grove of trees. The Commanding Officer sent out volunteer patrol of three carriers and one Seaforth Highlanders carrier. Vickers machine gun on carrier. Eleven personell in total. O group deciding how to attack concealed enemy. After O group returning to carriers, Lt. Frankie Perret commanding patrol hit with machine gun burst. Evacuated immediately by one of the carriers. A Seaforth Highlander gunner spotted flash of machine gun fire from the wood area, jumped up his carrier and aimed a long burst of machinegun fire in area he had seen flash. No more fire from the enemy until we started on our attack decided on in previous O group. SH machineguns to give covering fire. Carrying our rifles, Don MacNeil, Alfie French and myself started on our patrol to the right. We probably hadn't gone more than 200 feet when one shot from enemy fired, and Alfie

French was hit. Don and I, trying to keep low, picked up Alfie and, by dragging and carrying his body, plus rifles, etc, we got far enough back and with some cove from enemy laid Alfie down and tried to give first aid. Couldn't find a sign of life. Checked pulse, lips, but no signs. No sign of blood---must have been shot in the heart. Probably ten minutes from the time Alfie was hit until we had to abandon his body and then by staying under as much as possible got back to our carriers and abandoned original attack plans and reported back to BH.

Next day, April 25th 1945 a larger patrol with tank support was sent out to clear the wooded area of enemy.