

## Lieutenant Roger Francis Cauley (1915-1945)



Roger was born on November 7th, 1915 to Thomas Joseph Cauley, a farmer, and his wife Anna in Toledo Ontario. In 1936 he graduated from the University of Ontario with a B.A.(Sc.) and in 1938 received his M.A. in English and History. While finishing his M.A. he worked in the Post Office in Ottawa. His hobbies included chemistry and photography and he could speak both French and English.

After completing his Masters degree he worked as a miner in the Buffalo-Ankerite Mine in South Porcupine. A few months later he was hired as a mining engineer (surveyor) by the Hollinger Gold Mines in Timmins Ontario. He worked there until January 1942 when he joined the Canadian Army as an Engineer officer.

He completed his basic officer training in April and was transferred to the Engineer training centre in Pettawawa Ontario. On June 20th 1942 he married Madeline Eleanor MacNamara of Timmins Ontario and shortly after that was promoted to Lieutenant.

He remained in Canada for the next 6 months and went overseas on December 29th 1942. On his arrival in England he first went to the CERU and it was there in April of 1943 he learnt of the birth of his son Roger in Kingston Ontario. He remained with the CERU until June when he was transferred to 18 Field Coy R.C.E.. He stayed with them until October 22nd 1943 when he transferred to 6 Field Company.

He landed on the Normandy beaches on June 6th 1944 and served with the 6th in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. On February 8th 1945 Operation Veritable began. No. 2 Platoon moved forward to build a 50-ft SS Bailey bridge over a road washout near the village of Zyfflich. It was an overcast day. The infantry had been through earlier and it was thought the area was clear of Germans. However a few snipers had remained hidden and been missed. Lieutenant Roger Cauley and Spr Arthur Buck were shot in the back and killed instantly. The infantry then killed the sniper.

They were buried in the Nijmegen Canadian Military Cemetery in Holland. Roger Cauley was a well liked and respected officer. After the war the Hollinger Gold Mines had promised to hire him back and he was thinking about becoming a math teacher. He never lived to see his son.