

# Memories: A Photo Feature

*Canadian Military History* is pleased to introduce a new feature that will showcase never-before-seen photos. This issue presents photos from the wartime scrapbook of Doug McIntyre, who served in the Essex Scottish Regiment during the Second World War.

On 10 September [1944] the Battalion moved a battlegroup of two companies and supporting arms out to reduce an enemy coastal gun position in the sand dunes near Westende [Belgium]. Siege was laid to the position, which consisted of strong concrete dugouts and emplacements under the sand, and which included several good sized guns. Two days of active patrolling and accurate, observed shooting with mortars, anti-tank, bofors and field guns proved to be enough for the defenders, and at a quarter-past twelve on 12 September the appearance of white flags opened the way to a

complete surrender. Prisoners captured totalled 316, including nine officers, and great stocks of weapons and equipment were taken. The gratitude of the civil populace reached amazing heights, and the burgomaster promised to name the street to the fort "Essex Scottish Laan."

On Sunday, 10 June [1945], a detachment from the Regiment attended a formal ceremony at Westende, Belgium, where the street leading to the fort captured in September was named "Essex Scottish Laan." The civic reception for the Battalion was an overwhelming one.

*(Excerpts from Essex Scottish Regimental History)*



*Essex-ScottishLaan  
Plaque unveiled to the regiment  
in Westende, Belgium.*



*Westende citizens hold parade during street naming ceremony, mocking Germans by dressing up in captured uniforms. On the float is a German V-1 "Buzz Bomb."*



**Top left:** The Mayor of Westende makes a formal address during the dedication ceremony. To his left stands Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Bennett, Commanding Officer of the Essex Scottish during the assault, Major Doug McIntyre and Major Si Steele. Behind the Mayor stands Lieutenant-Colonel K.W. MacIntyre, the current CO of the Essex Scots.



**Top right:** Lieutenant-Colonel Bennett speaks to the Belgian crowd during the ceremony.

**Right:** Corporal Tommy Childs pays last tribute to troops killed during the fighting at Westende.



**Below:** Officers of the Essex Scottish celebrate Christmas at Horsham, England, 1943. (Left to right): Si Steele, Art Zaldon and Bob Morgan.



### Send us your photos!!

We would like to continue "Memories" as a regular feature, but we need your help to make it work. Send us your old photos – maybe you served during the Second World War, maybe your father or grandfather did. Maybe it was Korea, the Congo, the Golan Heights or Kuwait. We are looking for personal photos of Canadians' military experience. Send as much caption information as possible. All photos will be returned in the same condition they arrived.