

Private Benjamin Roy Ashkewe

The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada

Family Life

Benjamin Roy Ashkewe was born in Neyaashiinigmiing on April 21, 1922, to Bert and Ida Ashkewe. He had two brothers, Nelson (who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force) and Percy, and three sisters, Helda, Bessie, and Ella. Benjamin was predeceased by siblings Beatrice, Laura, and Nettie Audrey. His mother passed away in 1939.

Before the war, he worked as a fisherman, making \$12 per week, and supplemented his income by hunting occasionally. He included snowshoeing, fishing, and hunting as his hobbies on his Attestation Paper.



Decorations

- 1939-1945 Star
- France-Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp

Military Service

Private Benjamin Ashkewe joined the military in 1941, at the age of 19, noting that he signed up because his brother did. He trained as a rifleman with the Perth Regiment at Camp Borden, before being assigned to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

During training, he was awarded the Good Conduct Badge on June 13, 1943.

After three years in Canada and England, Ashkewe was sent to France in September 1944.

Private Benjamin Roy Ashkewe was killed in action on November 29, 1944, and is buried at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, the Netherlands.

As part of the 6th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada had seen much action during the Second World War including the Dieppe Raid and more recently, the Battle of the Scheldt. Like other frontline rifle regiments they experienced severe casualties. Private Ashkewe joined the Highlanders on November 1, 1944. Tragically, he was killed in action within the month.