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GIVES ASTOUNDING DISPLAY OF HEROISM IN HOCHWALD BATTLE

Soldier Is Shot By Nazi Sniper After Exploits

(By Ross Munro, Canadian Press War Correspondent)

With 1st Canadian Army in Germany, March 13.—(CP Cable) — Sergeant Aubrey Cosens of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, a Toronto unit, was killed on the grim battlefield at Keppeln, 1 1/4 miles north of Uedem, in front of the Hochwald line. The story of his heroism is one of the finest in the numerous infantry exploits in that struggle, as savage as anything the Canadians have known on the western front.

From Latchford, Ont.

The sergeant came from Latchford, Ont., and had also worked in Timmins, Ont., before joining the army. He was made a sergeant with the Queen's Own and before dawn of February 26 he moved forward over flat farmland with a platoon of D Company, which was the battalion spearhead, to capture ground east of German-held Keppeln.

Six tanks of the 1st Hussars, of London, Ont., were operating with the infantry. The platoon reached its first objective through withering machine-gun fire but casualties were suffered. The platoon officer was severely wounded and Cosens took over immediately, reorganizing the men in a covering fire group.

He knew the position had to be held at all costs and that Germans in three houses nearby must be driven out. So he ran 25 yards across the flat ground under intense fire and climbed on top of a 1st Hussars tank. Sitting at the front of the turret he directed the tanks' fire against enemy positions he had spotted.

The Germans, who were tough paratroopers, formed up for a

counter-attack but the gallant sergeant was still riding. The Sherman tank, its guns blazing, was directed into the middle of the Germans. Those who survived fled.

Kills Six Nazis

Then Cosens, perched on the tank, took on three two-storey houses. He ordered the tank commander to ram the first house, which drove the enemy into the open, where they were shot up. He leaped from the turret and ordered the tank to follow him to the next house where the Sherman again smashed down the wall and the sergeant plunged into the building to kill six paratroopers there. The third and last building also was rammed by the tank and Cosens raced into the wreckage alone to clear that house.

Four of his men then came up to hold the ground won and the heroic Sgt. Cosens began to move back to report to the company commander. He had not gone 50 yards when a sniper hit him in the head. He died a few minutes later on the smoking, roaring battlefield of Keppeln.

He had killed at least 20 Germans himself and taken as many prisoners. His name is listed among the great of the Queen's Own Rifles, which has produced many heroes since it landed in Normandy on D-day last June.

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