

## J. Pomeroy Cavers

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James Pomeroy Cavers, known by his friends as "Roy," was born in Galt, Ontario, on December 29, 1892. When his father, William Cavers, died in November 1898, the family remained in Galt and lived in the care of William's brother James. Roy attended school at the Galt Public School before going to the Galt Collegiate Institute in 1906. He graduated from high school in 1909, went to study briefly at Upper Canada College, and then he was a student in Applied Science department of the University of Toronto from 1910 to 1915.

While at university, he was an avid boxer and was president of the Faculty Athletic executive, as well as a member of the Faculty Rugby team.

In January 1915, at the age of twenty-two, Cavers enlisted with the Eaton Machine Gun Battery. Before going overseas he was promoted to Sergeant, and then reached France by the end of the year. He remained there, fighting in the engagements of St. Eloi and Ypres, until he was wounded in July 1916. After convalescing in England, Cavers transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and was sent to the Balkan front in August 1917, serving with 105 Squadron. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the same squadron.

On September 3, 1918, Cavers was on escort duty, protecting a reconnaissance machine, when he was suddenly attacked by six enemy planes. In order for the slower machine to escape, Cavers fought against the overwhelming odds until his own plane was hit. He fell into Lake Doiran beneath him and began swimming to the shore until he was shot and sank out of sight. Originally reported missing, he was later reported "killed in action" the following month. In February 1919, he was mentioned in dispatches for his exceptional bravery.



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### Sources:

Canadian Virtual War Memorial, accessed April 15, 2016, <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial/detail/1649027?James%20Pomeroy%20Cavers>; Galt Collegiate Institute Honour Roll, Galt Collegiate Institute and Vocational School (GCI Archives), Cambridge; G. Oswald Smith, "James Pomeroy Cavers," *University of Toronto roll of service, 1914-1918* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1921), pp. 23-24; World War I Newspaper Clippings, GCI Archives.

Photograph of Cavers while serving with the Royal Flying Corps (Royal Aero Club).