

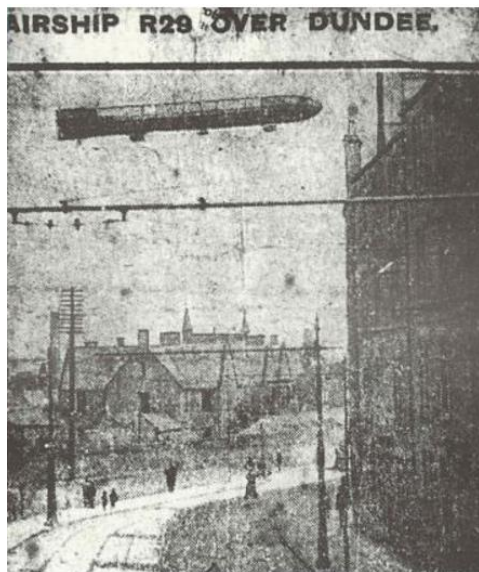
**Adamson, Alfred**

**Private**

**The Loyal Edmonton Regiment**

**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**

**B/147699**



*Dundee poorhouse, 1913  
© Dundee City Council.*

Alfred Adamson was born 29 July 1908 at Dundee, Scotland. His parents David Adamson and Elizabeth Duffus were married at Dundee in 1898. The Presbyterian couple had two children: Alice and Alfred. David died in 1909 age 40 and Alice died the next year as a young child.

Elizabeth and Alfred emigrated from Scotland to Canada in 1920, settling in Toronto,

Ontario (ON) where Elizabeth found work. Alfred was active with the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) gymnastics program, plus played handball and basketball. He was in his second year of High School when he quit to work full time age fifteen, beginning as a parceller with T. Eaton Company for eight months.

*King and Bay Street Toronto, ON circa 1940*



Alfred then gained long term occupation with the National Trust Company on King Street in Toronto. He progressed from an entry level clerk position to bookkeeping and on to handling stock and bond investment transactions. Alfred took up golf and was an executive with a business men's club. He provided the sole support for his mother Elizabeth starting in 1939 and had been with National Trust for 19 years when he decided to join the Army.



Alfred attested 2 June 1943 at Toronto age 34. He was a big man at 6 feet tall, 191 lbs and had blue eyes. Alfred completed his basic training at Brantford, ON and was sent to Camp Borden, ON for advanced infantry training 3 September 1943. He became exceptionally skilled with the 6 pounder anti-tank (A/T) gun and was employed as an instructor at the Meaford Armoured Fighting Vehicle Range for ten months.

Canadians soldiers with 6 pounder A/T gun WW2

Alfred was interviewed at Borden 30 August 1944 with the Army Examiner remarking about him: "He has a pleasant, co-operative manner with superior learning ability and should merit promotion overseas. Training reports show him a good soldier with very good leadership ability".

Alfred was cleared for overseas service and passed through Camp Debert, Nova Scotia that October. He disembarked in the UK 28 November 1944 and reported to the Canadian Infantry Training Regiment. He was selected for duty as a replacement soldier in the

Name <b>ADAMSON, Alfred</b>		AT No. ....		Serial No. <b>2945</b>		Trade .....						
No <b>B147699</b>		Rank <b>Pte</b>		Education <b>IX</b>								
<b>Canadian Infantry Corps (Rifle and Motor) Individual Training Record</b> <b>6474</b> DATE <b>14-9-43</b> SIGNATURE OF C.F.R. <i>Completed M.</i>												
Date of Birth <b>29/08</b>		P U L H E M S <b>1 1 1 1 1 1</b>		Book-keeper		Night Vision Test .....						
Part I Trg <b>1 Sep 43</b>		Part II Trg <b>28 Sep 43</b>		CIRU .....								
PART I			PART II			ENGLISH SPEAKING FRENCH SPEAKING		STANDARD ON ARRIVAL CIRU		STANDARD ON COMPLETION CIRU		
Date	Grade	Init	Date	Grade	Init	Subject	Date	Grade	Init	Date	Grade	Init
27-7-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	Drill						
27-7-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	PT and Obstacle Course						
27-7-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	Marching						
27-7-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	Rifle						
27-7-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	Aircraft and AFV Recog.						
27-7-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	AA-Rifle and LMG						
27-7-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	Bayonet						
26-9-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	LMG						
			14-9-43	VS	VB	A/Tk (PIAT)						
			14-9-43	VS	VB	Machine Carbine (Sten)						
9-5-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	Grenades						
27-7-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	Anti-Gas						
27-7-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	Map Using						
			3-10-43	VS	VB	Fundamental Trg						
			3-10-43	VS	VB	Security						
27-7-43	VS	MRO	3-10-43	VS	VB	Fdcraft and Pers Cam						
			7-5-44	VS	VB	VT-JD-FCO						
			14-9-43	VS	VB	Field Works						
			14-9-43	VS	VB	Mines and Booby Traps						
27-7-43	VS	MRO	14-9-43	VS	VB	Battle First Aid						
			14-9-43	VS	VB	2-in Mortar						
			14-9-43	VS	VB	Cooking in the Field						
			14-9-43	VS	VB	Field Training						
			14-9-43	VS	VB	Thompson MC						
			14-9-43	VS	VB	Night Vision Trg						
			14-9-43	VS	VB	Night Trg						
Not incl in trg in Canada												
Certified by <i>Ed. Mitchell</i>												
REMARKS						REMARKS						
Qualified 6 Fr. A/T Gun Number.												
Date <b>13 Oct 44</b> AE Canada						Date SPO CIRU						
REMARKS <i>Efficient, Good Conduct. Passed T.O.T., with some definite leadership qualities.</i>						REMARKS <i>Efficient - Good. Should be good officer.</i>						
Date <b>27 Aug 43</b> Comd CI(B)TC						Date <b>25.9.43</b> Comd CIC (Sp Tps) TC						
M.F.M. 105E-50M-5-44 (4536) H.Q. 1772-39-2053												

Italian campaign, landing in Italy 7 February 1945 and was taken on strength by the Loyal Edmonton Regiment (LER) 16 February 1945.

The LER, also known as the 'Loyal Eddies' formed part of 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade and 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Division (1CID) had served in the Italian campaign since summer 1943. When Alfred joined them they were in the process of being redeployed to Northwest Europe under Operation GOLDFLAKE.



*Allied ship loaded with vehicles and supplies entering Marseilles, France Harbour 1945 during Operation GOLDFLAKE*

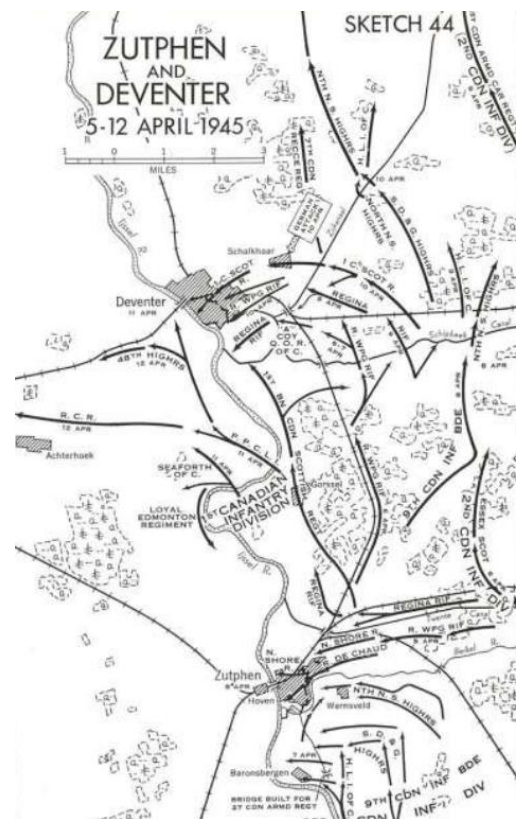
Alfred disembarked with his regiment at Marseilles, France 16 March 1945 and travelled in convoy with 1CID to Belgium. The Loyal Eddies and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade crossed the Ijssel River in the Netherlands 11 April 1945 and supported 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade of 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division in liberating Deventer, Netherlands.

The LER then advanced toward Amersfoort and the Grebbe Line beyond which Allied offensive operations were suspended 19 April 1945.



Sketch Map (left, western portion), G.R. Stevens, A City Goes to War, op page 348

The LER was based near Amersfoort, Netherlands on 24 April 1945. Their task that day was to attack an enemy held



wooded area about three kilometres east of Amersfoort. "C" Company swept into its position by 1130 hours and captured 11 German prisoners while only suffering one casualty. Late that afternoon, "D" Company was moved to an area contiguous to them to have a firm battalion front. Alfred was wounded and went missing that day. It was later learned that he was

FORM NO. CAS 3  
(10M-4-34 (1193)  
H.Q. 1772-39-1985-1990

### OVERSEAS CASUALTY REPORT

CABLE NUMBER 9429A PAGE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 22-5-45

REG. NUMBER 13316725 B-147699 RANK Pte.

NAME ADAMSON Alfred  
(SURNAME) (CHRISTIAN NAMES)

SERVICE UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

Cable Abstract OUR 9316A AND 9426A 02E ADVISE "HEREWITH EXTRACT OF LETTER DATED 13 MAY ORIGINATED BY REAR (WR) INF DIV" REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THIS HQ AND IS FORWARDED FOR INFORMATION THAT B 147699 PTE ADAMSON ALFRED OF TORONTO SERVING WITH 1 CDN INF DIV WAS TAKEN PRISONER AND ADMITTED TO THE GERMAN MILITARY HOSP HILGERSUM ON 25 APRIL WITH TWO PERF WOUNDS OF BOWEL LARGE AND SMALL HE DIED THE SAME DAY 4 HOURS AFTER OPERATION" THE REPORT HAS BEEN VERIFIED BY 160 BRITISH PD AMB

INTERPRETATION OF ABOVE FOR NOTIFICATION OF NEXT-OF-KIN

taken prisoner by the Germans and operated on at a German Military Hospital in Hilversum, Netherlands for perforations to his bowel on 25 April 1945, dying soon afterward age 36.

## Listed Dead Of Wounds While Prisoner Of War

The friends of Pte. Alfred Adamson, recently reported wounded and believed to be a prisoner of war, were shocked to hear of his death from wounds on April 25th while a prisoner of war.

Alf. Adamson was a favorite at National Trust Company Ltd. where he was employed since 1924. He arrived in Belgium in March, 1945, from Italy. He was the only child of Mrs. Adamson, Wychwood ave., and the late David Adamson.

Toronto Telegram May 1945

26th May, 1945.

Mrs. Elizabeth Adamson,  
157 Wychwood Avenue,  
Toronto 10, Ontario.

Dear Mrs. Adamson:

It was with deep regret that I learned of the death of your son, B147699 Private Alfred Adamson, who gave his life in the Service of his Country in the Western European Theatre of War on the 25th day of April, 1945.

From official information we have received, your son died as the result of wounds received in action against the enemy. You may be assured that any additional information received will be communicated to you without delay.

The Minister of National Defence and the Members of the Army Council have asked me to express to you and your family their sincere sympathy in your bereavement.

We pay tribute to the sacrifice he so bravely made.

Yours sincerely,

(A.E. Walford),  
Major-General,  
Adjutant-General.

*m x - mother*  
*29.5.45*

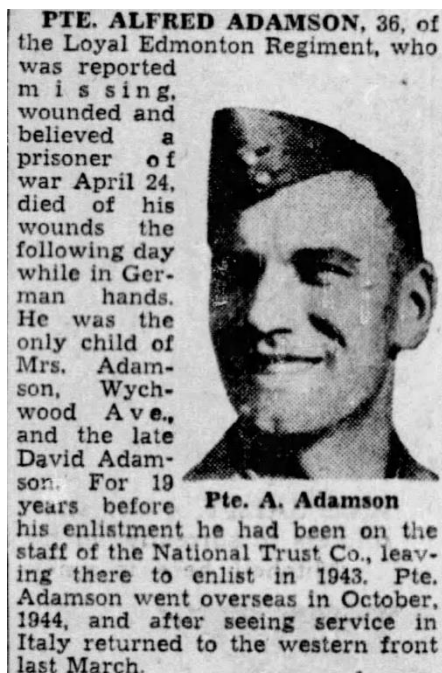
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Private A. Adamson was temporarily buried at Hilversum, Netherlands and later relocated to Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **IX. F. 1.**

*Photo Credit lestweforget1945.com*

The inscription on his headstone:

AT THE GOING DOWN  
OF THE SUN  
AND IN THE MORNING  
I WILL REMEMBER HIM



Alfred Adamson's campaign medals:

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

*Toronto Star May 1945*



Biography by Jim Little, Research Team Faces to Graves.

Sources Consulted:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

Veteran Affairs Canada – Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Ancestry public trees

Newspapers.com

Dundee, Scotland picture <https://www.workhouses.org.uk/Dundee/>

Toronto, ON King and Bay Street photo

<https://torontoguardian.com/2019/04/vintage-photographs-king-street-toronto/>

6 Pounder anti-tank WW2 picture [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordnance\\_QF\\_6-pounder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordnance_QF_6-pounder)

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment cap badge picture

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-national-defence/services/military-history/history-heritage/official-military-history-lineages/lineages/infantry-regiments/loyal-edmonton.html>

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Military Museum

<https://www.lermuseum.org/news/72-world-war-2-remembered-loyal-edmonton-regiment-1945-q2>

Operation GOLDFLAKES information and photo

<https://www.silverhawkauthor.com/post/operation-goldflake-i-canadian-corps-move-from-italy-to-northwest-europe-1945>

\* Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact [info@facestograves.nl](mailto:info@facestograves.nl)

A 1948 letter from A. Suyderhoud who had adopted Alfred Adamson's Holten grave was forwarded to his mother Elizabeth.

The Hague, 6-3-'48

DEPARTMENT OF  
 VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
 MAR 12 1948  
 WAR SERVICE RECORD  
 OTTAWA - CANADA

Dear Sir,

Herewith I beg to inform you,  
 that I adopted the grave of:  
 Private A. Adamson, B 147699  
 Royal Edmonton Regiment, who was killed  
 the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1945, and is buried on the  
 Canadian Cemetery in Holten (Netherlands)  
 Plot 9, Row F, grave I

I should be very obliged if you would  
 take the trouble of sending the enclosed  
 letter to the last recorded next of kin.

Thanking you in advance,  
 I remain yours truly

A. Suyderhoud  
 Waalsdorperweg 267  
 Den Haag  
 Holland.

*A. Suyderhoud*  
 Letter forwarded  
 to mother 12<sup>3</sup>48  
 A.4(b)

**ADAMSON, Elizabeth Duffus**—On Saturday, October 3, 1964, at Toronto, Elizabeth Duffus, beloved wife of the late David Adamson, aunt of Norman Duffus, and Mrs. Susan Baird, Detroit. Mother of the late Alice and Pte. Alfred Adamson. At the Funeral Chapel of A. W. Miles, 30 St. Clair Avenue West. Service on Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Toronto Star 1964