

George Douglas Aldred was born on May 10, 1906, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He was the son of an English father and a Canadian mother, and grew up in a Reformed (Protestant-Presbyterian) family. George was an intelligent and studious boy with a wide range of interests — not only in numbers and administration, but also in technology and mechanics. Before joining the military, George worked as an accountant at The Canadian Countryman in Toronto. Despite his administrative work, he remained fascinated by technology. He had a remarkable understanding of mechanical principles and firearms — a skill that would later prove useful in his military life.

### **Personal life**

George married young, but that marriage ended after a few years. In January 1943, he was officially divorced. He supported his mother financially and described himself as an individualist, but also as a cheerful and cooperative man who enjoyed working with others and was helpful. On September 4, 1943, shortly after enlisting, he remarried Elsie Grant Ross. The wedding took place during a short five-day leave, which he was granted specifically to get married. George and Elsie had no children.

### **Enlistment and military career**

When George volunteered for military service on August 25, 1943, he was 37 years old—older than most recruits, but determined to contribute to the war effort. His motivation was clear: he wanted to play an active role and explicitly stated that he did not want to do office work.

At his medical examination, George was described as a man of average height (5'9"), with gray eyes and light blond hair. He was obese, weighing about 227 pounds, and had an irregular scar on his right foot. Although he had a history of asthma, ear infections, and surgery for intestinal fistulas in 1940, he was declared fit for service in category B-i—limited fitness due to obesity, but with the expectation that military training would significantly improve his condition.

His test results were impressive: the M11 test showed above-average intelligence, with perfect scores in mechanical aptitude and aptitude. This technical aptitude, combined with his enthusiasm, made him a valuable asset to the army.

George completed his basic training in New Glasgow from September 16 to September 18, 1943. He was then transferred to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Training

Center, where he received further training. At Christmas 1943, he was granted a short leave to spend the holidays at home.

In December 1944, he was shipped to Europe, where he served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division. Although he enlisted relatively late in the war, he contributed to the liberation campaign in Western Europe as part of the 13<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery. For his service, he received several awards, including the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, France and Germany Star, and an additional service badge.

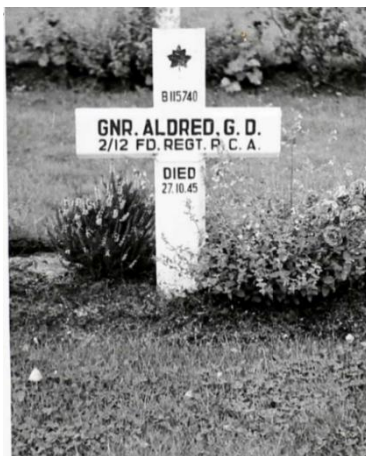
## Death

After the war, George remained in Europe for some time in the service of the Canadian Armed Forces. On the evening of October 27, 1945, he suddenly experienced severe chest pains. In the early morning, he was found lifeless.

The autopsy revealed that George had died of acute heart cramps caused by severe arteriosclerosis of the coronary arteries. In addition, thrombosis was found in his left coronary artery, which had severely impeded the blood supply to the heart tissue. Although his other organs were in good condition, the fatty tissue around his heart was substantial — an indication that his previous struggle with obesity had taken a heavy toll on his health.

George Douglas Aldred was 39 years old. He left behind his wife, Elsie Grant Ross, and his mother.

George was first buried near Edewecht (Niedersachsen, Germany) and then, in March 1946, reburied at the Canadian Cemetery in Holten (6 E 12)



*Grafkruis op de Canadese begraafplaats te Holten*

*Plot 6 rij E grafnummer 6 (1949)*

