

## **Trooper Frederick F. Dalgity**

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*Royal Canadian Dragoons, R.C.A.C. 1 st Armoured Car Regiment*



The fourth of five children of Lizzie Mason Houston and John Watt Dalgity, Frederick Forbes Dalgity was born on September 26, 1921, in Pitlochry Scotland. Departing from Glasgow, Scotland on the S.S. Letitia, 8-year-old Frederick, along with his mother and siblings, arrived in Montreal Quebec on August 30th, 1930, and settled in Carp Ontario. After completing grade 8, he left school and worked as a shoemaker for 2 years. Realizing that shoemaking was not his true calling, Dalgity left his job and tried his hand at farming for a year. Still not content with his work, he got a job at Clark Flour Mills

in Carp Ontario. Initially his job was running a grinder, but later changed to driving trucks.

In his occupational history form, Frederick stated that he wished to eventually become an automobile mechanic. On June 12, 1941, at age 19, Frederick went to Ottawa to enlist in the army. His certificate of Medical Examination states he was 5'3" tall and 123 pounds, with good muscular development. He had blue eyes, brown hair and fair skin. Fredericks hearing and vision were perfect, and his reflexes were found to be normal. He had a birthmark on his right abdomen and right flank, a mole on the back of his neck and a scar on the outside of his left knee. He listed his mother, Mrs. Lizzie Dalgity as his next of kin on his Attestation Papers. However, when he married Louise Spinks of Almonte on November 3, 1941, his wife became his next of kin. Upon enlistment, Fred was posted to No. 31 Basic Training Centre Cornwall and attached to C.A.C Armoured Regiment Reinforcement. On August 7th, he was transferred to A8 Camp Borden for advanced training. Dalgity was taken on Strength (TOS) to the 1st Armoured Car Regiment of the Royal Canadian Dragoons on October 29th 1941. Arriving in the United Kingdom on November 14th, 1941, Fred remained there for two years until October 24, 1943. He then served in Italy for a year, before serving in Northwest Europe. Dalgity was qualified for Driver Operator Group "C" in 1942 and then for Gunner Operator Group "C" in August 1943. These qualifications granted him trades pay. On May 4th, 1945, Dalgity and three of his comrades were killed in action Germany. Travelling in an armoured car (Staghound), they hit a mine that had been hidden under a bridge, and all the men in the vehicle were killed

instantly. The men died only 4 days before the ceasefire was called in Europe. He was 22 years old at the time of his death.

Frederick Dalgity served a total of 1423 days in the armed forces, with 1270 days being served overseas. For his service he received the 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp and the War Medal. His wife Louise Dalgity and mother Lizzie Dalgity each received a Memorial Cross.

Because he did not leave a will, his wife received all of his belongings and the money for his service. This included a War Service Gratuity of \$872.73, along with a Last Pay Certificate of \$114.35. A list of his possessions included a leather wallet, leather change purse, German belt, souvenir coins, 2 RCD Corps badges, photographs, 6 German banknotes, and a key ring. He was reburied in March 14 1946, and now lies in the Holten Canadian Military Cemetery in Overijssel, Netherlands.



Staghound after being hit by a mine



Temporary Graves in Germany