



The family of George and Marcella Dautremont was expanded on June 20, 1920 with the arrival of Louis Silverius. George and Marcella were from Riverside Iowa (USA) and married there in 1909. After their marriage, they had come to the Alida farming community, a stretch of barren prairie in Saskatchewan, to start a farming business there. When baby Louis arrived, there were already two brothers Hugh (9) and René (2) and three sisters Elaine (11) Alice (6) and Grace (4). The youngest brothers René and Louis spent a lot of time together. René started working as a teacher and Louis worked at home on the farm. Life on the farm was hard and unruly, with

sometimes good years with sufficient yields, but also bad times such as in the dry years during the economic crisis in the early 1930s.



Mother, father, Elaine *above*  
*below* Louis, Rene, Grace, Alice and Hugh

*Top row: Mother Marcella, father George and Elaine*

*Bottom row: Louis, René, Grace, Alice and Hugh*

In 1942 both brothers were drafted into the army. First Louis served in Halifax later in Victoria & Prince Rupert. Life in the Army pleased Louis, he had no desire to return to the farm. In late 1943 he was transferred to a training camp in Orillia, Ontario and in

January 1944 to Camp Borden. From April 22 to October 8, he was given leave to help on the farm at home, although he had to prepare for deployment to Europe.



*Louis in Orillia*

That transfer was a fact on 24 November 1944. Louis arrived in the United Kingdom on December 5, 1944 and was assigned to D Company of the Canadian Scottish Regiment. On February 12, 1945, Louis came to the front during the fighting in the Rhineland Offensive. After the Germans were forced back behind the Rhine at the end of March, Louis and his regiment were ordered to advance to the north of the Netherlands. The regiment was among others active in the liberation of Deventer.

On April 15, the regiment took over the task of a Polish army unit in Northeast Groningen. One of the first actions there was the expulsion of an unknown number of German combat units that were stationed near the village of Wagenborgen. It was difficult terrain to attack. The whole area surrounding the village was flat and open. It also took the Canadians a lot of effort to achieve success, with retreating movements the Germans were always given the opportunity to reinforce. When the village was finally liberated on April 23, it turned out that 23 Canadian liberators had been killed. One of them was Louis Silverius Dautremont. Louis was killed in action on April 21 at the age of 24.

He was temporarily buried in Siddeburen and reburied on February 15, 1946 at the Canadian Cemetery in Holten. His brother René did return home and although he was not diagnosed as such, he suffered from PTSD for the rest of his life.

