

**Hubbard, Duane Morris**

**Corporal**

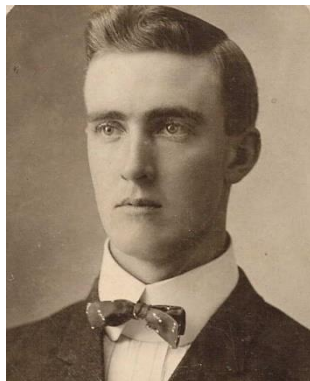
**The Loyal Edmonton Regiment**

**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**

**M/105703**

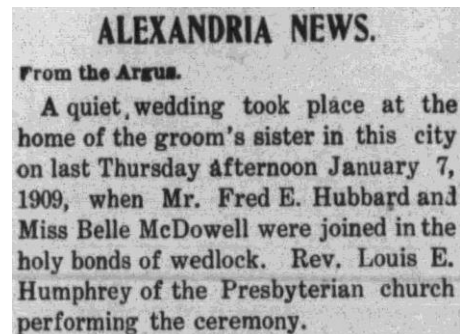


Duane Morris Hubbard was born 20 August 1909 at Alexandria, Thayer County, Nebraska (NE), USA. His German American father Frederick



("Fred") Edison Hubbard and Scottish American mother Belle Beatrice McDowell were married at Alexandria, NE early in 1909, with their first child Duane born later that year.

*Fred Hubbard*



*Fairbury News 1909*



Fred was a hardware salesman and then tried his hand at farming. The Hubbard family, who followed Belle's Presbyterian religion, moved to Canada in 1914 to farm west of Edmonton, Alberta (AB). Their second son Freel was born there the next year.

*Belle and Duane Hubbard*

Belle and Fred were separated by the early 1920s. She ran a boarding house in Edmonton and later became a Practical Nurse.

Belle and Fred were divorced in 1928 and she moved back home to Nebraska with her youngest son Freel by 1930. Duane completed 8 years of Public School and 3 years of High School in Alberta, quitting age seventeen to work full time. He gained employment with Northern Alberta Railways in Edmonton as a bridgeman and carpenter, eventually becoming a foreman.

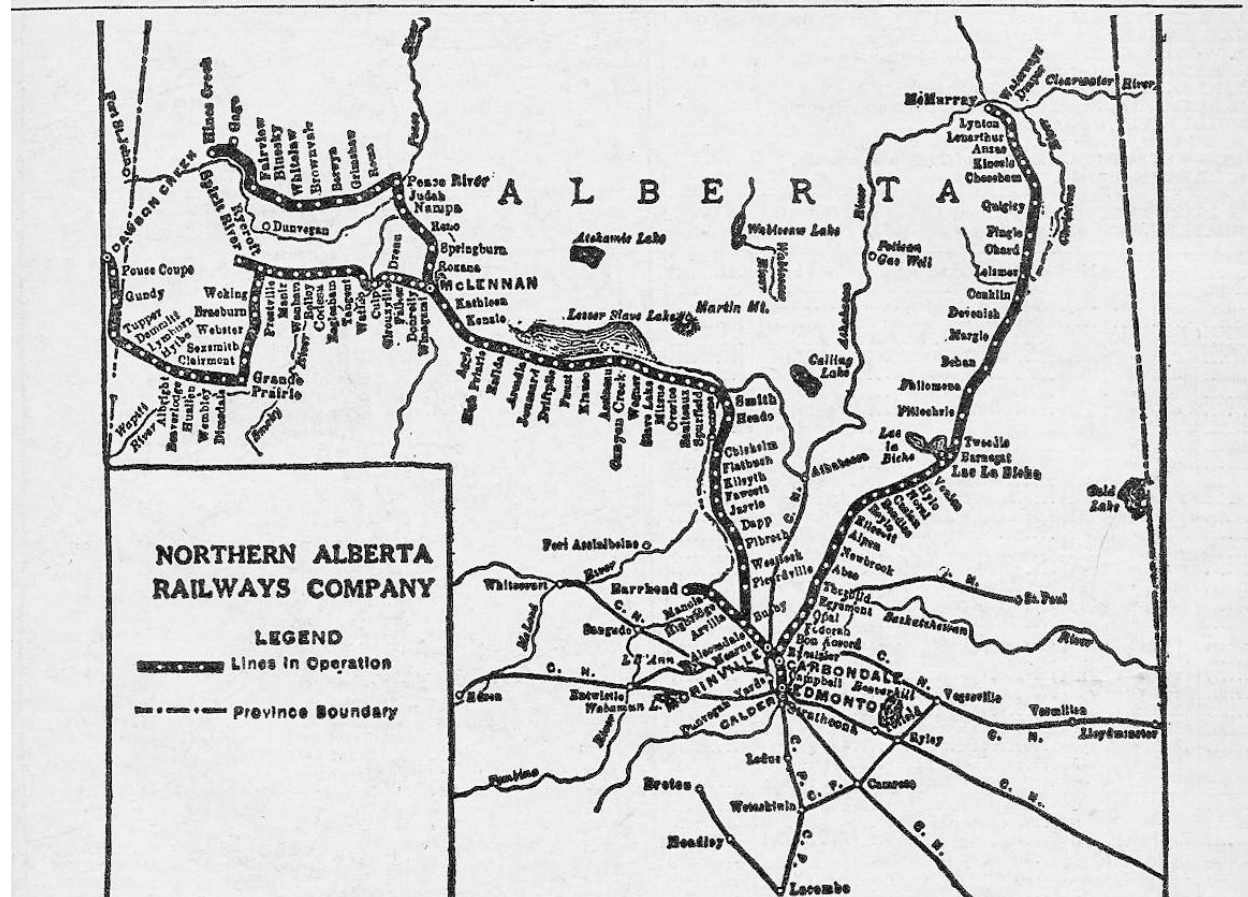
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GENERAL OFFICES—10012 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. Telex 037-2744.



Duane married divorcee Maria Krawchuk at Edmonton, AB in 1938. After 14 years working for Northern Alberta Railways he decided to join the Canadian Army. Duane attested 6 January 1943 at Edmonton, age 33. He was then 5'10" tall, 142 lbs with blue eyes. He was sent to Camrose, AB for basic training and spent 3 days hospitalized there. Duane was promoted to acting Lance Corporal 16 February 1943 and taken on strength by the Home War

Establishment 2 April 1943. He was promoted again to acting Corporal 1 September 1943 and relinquished that rank to Private when he was transferred to the Infantry Reinforcement stream December 1943.



*Lance Corporal Duane Hubbard*

Duane completed advanced infantry training at Calgary, AB during winter 1944 and joined the Training Brigade Group at Camp Debert, Nova Scotia in April where he was reappointed acting Corporal. He was separated from his wife Maria by then and changed his next of kin to his mother Belle in Nebraska with his brother Freel named as his Executor. Duane's divorce decree was issued around the time that he disembarked in the

UK 24 June 1944 where he reported to the Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit with his rank reduced to Private again.

Duane was selected for duty as a replacement soldier with 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Division which was engaged in the Italian campaign. He disembarked in Italy 29 July 1944 and was taken on strength by the Loyal Edmonton Regiment (LER) a month later.

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. Duane was promoted to Lance Corporal with the LER 14 October 1944.

Following a rest period at the town of Riccione near Rimini, 1CID was given the job of breaking through a succession of closely spaced rivers and canals including the Lamone and Senio Rivers in early December 1944. They forced the Germans back beyond the Naviglio Canal where the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment were hanging on to a foothold they had gained. On 13 December the LER "C" and "D" Companies moved up with some tanks from the British Columbia Dragoons to reinforce them. After two more days, the Germans gave up and retreated to the Senio River line under pressure of



an attack by all three battalions of 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. By Christmas Allied Command decided that no further efforts would be made to break through the German lines for the rest of the winter. The enemy kept up an aggressive program of raiding and patrolling through January and February.

The LER and 1CID were redeployed to Northwest Europe early in 1945 under Operation GOLDFLAKE .

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



Duane disembarked with his regiment at Marseilles, France 15 March 1945 and travelled in convoy with 1CID to Belgium. He was promoted to acting Corporal 2 April 1945.



The Loyal Eddies and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade crossed the Ijssel River between Zutphen and Deventer in the Netherlands 11 April 1945 to support 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division.

*PPCLI preparing to cross Ijssel River 11 April 1945*

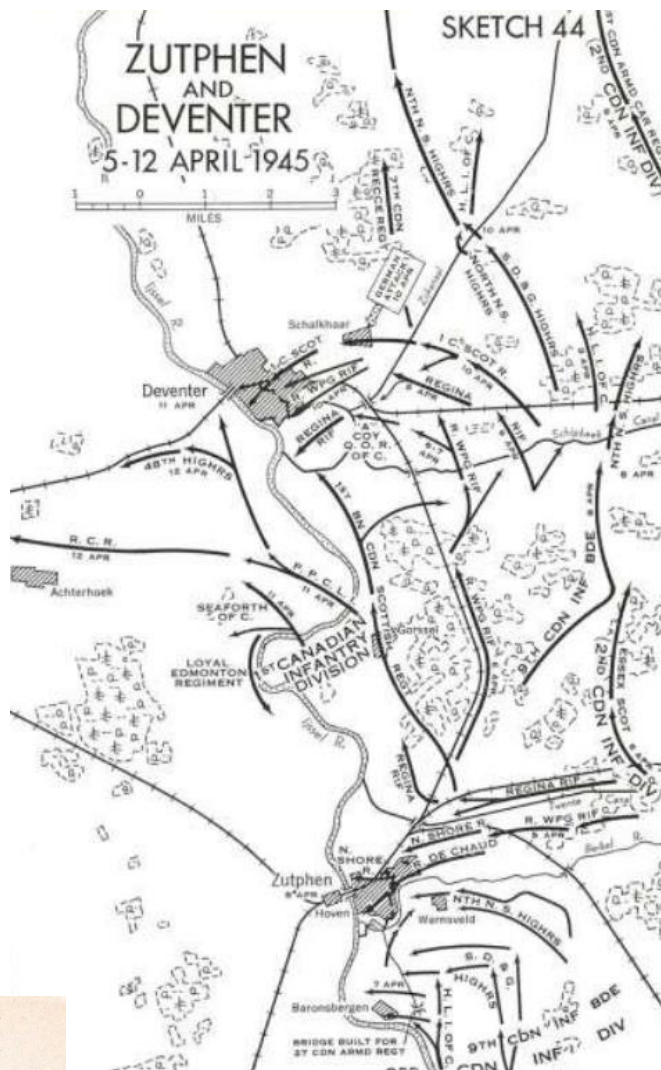
They deployed into position as a bridgehead on the left flank of the Seaforths on the west side of the Ijssel by 0145 hours 12 April. "C" Company then relieved a company of Seaforths. A pontoon bridge was rapidly constructed and all necessary battalion vehicles were able to cross by 0315 hours.

The LER "A" Company advanced south at 1430 hours 12 April 1945, supported by artillery fire and a troop of tanks to attack the enemy positioned at a dyke wall west of the river. They captured 13 prisoners. "D" Company made a similar advance, using mortars and flame throwers. "B" Company then made their advance and by 1715 hours were firm on their objectives. Duane Hubbard was one of several LER casualties that day, dying of wounds age 35. His mother Belle received a letter from the Army stating his cause of death was fatal wounding from a bomb fragment (enemy mortar) resulting in a traumatic amputation of Duane's left leg. He died at 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station.



**DIES OF WOUNDS.** — Cpl. Duanne M. Hubbard, The Loyal Edmonton Regiment, son of Mrs. B. Hubbard, Nebraska, U.S.A., who has died of wounds received in action. Prior to enlisting in January, 1943, he was employed by the Northern Alberta Railways. He went overseas in June 1944.

*Edmonton  
Bulletin  
April 1945*



H.Q. 405-H-17, 680  
D.R. 2B

30 April 1945

Mrs. Belle Hubbard,  
c/o Dr. Reeds' Hospital,  
Deshler, Nebraska, U.S.A.

Dear Mrs. Hubbard:

Further to this Headquarters' telegram of the 17th of April 1945, informing you of the regretted death of your son, M-105703, Lance Corporal Duane Morris Hubbard, in keeping with the policy of the Canadian Army of informing the next-of-kin of all details of battle casualties, the following paragraph informs you of the wounds sustained by Lance Corporal Hubbard.

According to information obtained by this Headquarters from Canadian Army Medical authorities, your late son died as a result of a bomb fragment wound with a traumatic amputation of the left leg.

Please accept my sincere and heartfelt sympathy for the irreparable loss you have suffered.

Yours sincerely,

*Wm L. Mather*  
5-5-45  
ND/2CH

(C.L. Laurin) Colonel,  
Director of Records,  
For Adjutant-General.

Mrs. Belle Hubbard of Hebron, nurse at the Reed hospital in Deshler, received a telegram from the War Department informing her of the death of her son, Cpl. Duane Morris Hubbard. Cpl. Hubbard, who was with the Canadian Army Air Force and was transferred from Italy to Belgium only last month, was wounded in action which resulted in his death on April 12.

*Hebron Journal Register April 1945*



Corporal D.M. Hubbard was temporarily buried near Zutphen, Netherlands and later relocated to Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **II. H. 11.**

*Photo Credit lestweforget1945.com*

The inscription on his headstone:

BORN AT ALEXANDRIA  
NEBRASKA U.S.A.  
DEAR SON  
OF F.E. AND B.B. HUBBARD



Cpl. Duane M. Hubbard, formerly of Edmonton, who is reported to have died of wounds while on active service with the Canadian army overseas. His mother, Mrs. B. Hubbard, lives at Hebron, Neb. Before he joined the army, Cpl. Hubbard was employed by the N.A.R.

*Edmonton Journal May 1945*

Duane Hubbard's campaign medals:

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



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

Newspapers.com

Ancestry.com

Northern Alberta Railways system map <https://www.american-rails.com/alberta.html>

Camrose, AB Canadian Army Training Centre WW2 photo  
<https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/archive/Canadian-Army-Basic-Training-Centre--131--Camrose--Alberta--2R3BF1SI175R.html>


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.lemuseum.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)

Hebron, Nebr.  
May 18, 1945



Director of Estates,  
Department of National Defense,  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Dear Sirs;

Am writing for information concerning the personal effects and uniforms of my son who was killed overseas on April 12, 1945.

My son was Cpl. Duane M. Hubbard M 105703 and the reference number to his case as per your letter is 405-H-880. 405-H-17-2

I would like to have his personal things as well as his uniforms that he wore. He was especially proud of his Montgomery Tam and if it is at all possible I would like to have it.

I realize that it is a great deal of work caring for all of these things but when you have the opportunity I will certainly appreciate any of his things that you can send me.

Thanking you in advance, I remain

Yours very truly,  
*Mrs Belle Hubbard*  
MRS. BELLE HUBBARD (mother)  
535 LINCOLN AVE,  
HEBRON, NEBRASKA.

Duane's brother Freel Hubbard was a Sergeant with the US Marine Corps and had a son named after him, Duane Lee. He corresponded with the Canadian Army to obtain his brother's service medals for their mother Belle.

Seattle, Washington  
24 April 1947

Officer i/e Awards (Army)  
Dept. of National Defence  
Ottawa, Canada.

Re: L/Cpl Hubbard, D.M.  
# M.105703, Deceased.  
C.A.

Dear Sir;

I am writing to your office in hopes that you are the proper officer to contact in making the following request.

My brother L/Cpl. Duane M. Hubbard served with the Loyal Edmonton Regiment thru most of the Italian Campaign and then was sent into the Battle of the Bulge where he was killed in action. If I'm not mistaken he was still attached to the same Edmonton Regiment at the time of his death.

Shortly after his death, my mother received a cross from the Canadian Army, a medal hung by a solid blue ribbon, as I remember it.

She has since asked me to see if it is possible to obtain from the Canadian Army any campaign medals or ribbons that my brother would have been entitled to. She would like these to put with the very few things of his that were sent to her of his personal effects.

I have tried unsuccessfully to get any articles of his that would help my mother preserve his army memories and am in hopes that if there were any such ribbons or medals issued by the Canadian Army that I may be able to get them for her. If there is any charge for these things, mailing, looking up of records I shall be more than glad to forward it to you.

Respectfully yours,  
*Freel Hubbard*  
F.W. Hubbard  
4252 Winalow Place  
Seattle 3, Washington.



*Freel and first wife Kay Hubbard with son Duane Lee*



*Fairbury Journal News 1961*

### **FREEL W. HUBBARD**

Freel W. Hubbard, 70, of Camano Island, died Tuesday, June 25 in a Mount Vernon hospital.

He was born May 7, 1915 in Canada. He came to the Camano Island area from Seattle in 1978 after retiring from N.O.A.A. in 1977, after 34 years.

He leaves his wife Edna of Camano Island; one son, Duane L. Hubbard of Hebron, Nebraska; one grandson; three nieces, Danita Erickson of Camano Island, Tanya Gunerius of Long Beach, California and Pamala Breese of Mount Vernon; also two nephews, Jason Lewis and Brandon Woods.

Private graveside services were held Friday, June 28 at the Camano Lutheran Cemetery, Camano Island, Washington. Memorials may be made to the Heart Fund or to the Lung Association. Arrangements under the direction of Gilbertson Funeral Home, Stanwood.

### **Mrs. Bell B. Hubbard Dies**

Mrs. Bell B. Hubbard, former resident of Alexandria and nurse at Hebron, died after a long illness March 11, 1961 in Seattle, Wash. Funeral services and burial were at Seattle.

Born at Beatrice, Neb. Oct. 16, 1884, she attended school at Alexandria, where in 1908 she married F. E. Hubbard. To them two sons were born. One son, Duane, was a victim of World War II in April, 1945.

Mrs. Hubbard followed a nursing career for over 30 years, for many years was on the staff of the Blue Valley hospital, Hebron, and the last few years of her career were spent nursing at the Lutheran Home in Hebron. In 1953 she went to make her home with her son, Fred.

Surviving are her son, Fred W. Hubbard of Seattle, Wash., a grandson, Duane L. Hubbard of Lincoln and a brother, Fred McDowell of Lynnwood, Wash.

*Freel Hubbard 1985 obituary*

*Courtesy Findagrave.com*