



St. Vital, Manitoba.

The place where Gabriel was born on May 22, 1913 and where the family lived when he enlisted on June 26, 1940.

On that day the family consisted of:

His father, (72 years old) five brothers, two of whom had already enlisted and five sisters.

His mother had already died by then, when exactly is not known. She was still present at the 1931 census.

The family was Roman Catholic and belonged to one of the indigenous groups of Canada, namely the Métis.

To clarify:

(The Métis are an indigenous people in Canada and the northern United States. The Métis emerged as a people in the 18th century through a historical and cultural fusion of Native American peoples on the one hand and European, mainly French, fur traders and colonists on the other. The Métis are one of the three officially recognized indigenous groups in Canada, along with the First Nations and the Inuit.)

When Gabriel enlisted, it was noted that he had attended primary school in St. Vital up to and including grade 5.

He also indicated that he spoke both English and French. He had worked as a driver for a market gardener.

His medical report stated that he had brown eyes and black hair, was 1.70 m tall and weighed over 63 kg.



School in 1922

His first introduction to the military world was in Winnipeg for basic training. At that time, he already was assigned to the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. (RWR)

Nicknamed: Little Black Devils.

(His brother Victor had requested a transfer, from Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry to the Royal Winnipeg Rifles to serve with his brother)

Gabriel's further training was at Camp Shilo, Manitoba.

During his stay there, he married on October 12, 1940.

In November 1940 Gabriel qualified as a driver for Class III vehicles, but in the meantime, he had been transferred to Camp Debert in Nova Scotia.

Debert, established in 1940, trained and provided facilities for troops; men who were destined to leave for Europe via Halifax.

Debert is now a museum.

Gabriel would remain there until the summer of 1941. He was given 6 weeks embarkation leave and boarded the ship for Liverpool on August 29, 1941.

He arrived in the United Kingdom on September 13, 1941.

Then his service records make a big step in timekeeping.

Up until January 1944, we only find that he had been granted leave several times.

That Gabriel was allowed to wear the "Good Conduct" badge in June 1942 and that his pay was increased.

Speaking of pay: a copy from his paybook shows that he had a monthly amount transferred to Canada.

In June 1944 Gabriel was confronted with "waiting for..".

Soldier's Signature *E. Lamiand*

Book opens on **1 July 44** Balance Cr. or Dr. \$

Date	Particulars	Credits	Cash Payments and Other Charges	Local Cur- rency	Canada's Cur- rency	Assigned Pay
1944						
1-7-44	Bala. Br'l. Forward					
3-8-44	July Pay	46.50				23.00
8-9-44	Aug Pay	46.50				23.00
8-9-44	100 fr		100 fr	10/3		
8-9-44	Bala. Br'l. Forward	37.67				
11-9-44	Sept Pay	45.00				23.00
16-10-44	Oct Pay	46.50				23.00
3-11-44	Nov Pay	46.50				23.00
20-11-44	Dec Pay	45.00				23.00
22-12-44	Dec Pay	46.50				23.00
	100 fr		100 fr	10/3		
	Totals	108.67	466.00	16/6	37.07	37.07

Balances only will be carried forward

Paymaster's Signature *M. J. Lamiand*

Deferred Pay and/or Restricted Pay	BALANCE		Signature of Paymaster or Other Making Award
	Debit	Credit	
		23.00	<i>M. J. Lamiand</i>
		48.00	<i>M. J. Lamiand</i>
No Entry		41.53	
		79.67	<i>M. J. Lamiand</i>
		101.67	<i>M. J. Lamiand</i>
		125.12	<i>M. J. Lamiand</i>
		114.00	<i>M. J. Lamiand</i>
		104.80	<i>M. J. Lamiand</i>
		126.80	<i>M. J. Lamiand</i>
		150.36	<i>M. J. Lamiand</i>
		133.60	<i>M. J. Lamiand</i>

Already embarked on June 3, 1944, when the message came that the landings had been postponed for a day.

During the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, the RWR's were "front row".

In short:

By midnight on June 6, 1944, 3,200 vehicles had landed on Juno Beach. 90 of the 306 landing crafts had been destroyed or damaged. The 3rd Canadian Infantry Division suffered heavy casualties: 340 killed, 574 wounded and 47 captured. The Queen's Own Rifles suffered the most with 143 casualties (128 for the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, 125 for the North Shore and 108 for the Regina Rifles). This was the highest casualty rate of the three landing beaches intended for Commonwealth troops.

The advance with the RWR regiment was not easy, but Gabriel must have survived it fairly well.

Because the following note in his records indicates that he had 7 days leave in February 1945, he made a trip to Paris.

Well-known places where the RWR's were active: Carpiquet Airfield near Caen; Falaise, Calais; the Leopold Canal in Belgium and the Breskens Pocket, in the southwest of the Netherlands.

After his leave in France, in February 1945, Gabriel and the regiment were also deployed in the Rhineland offensive.

The fighting in the forests near Moyland-Germany was intense for the regiment. In the Netherlands they received Battle Honours for the battles at Emmerik-Hoog Elten and at Deventer.

Gabriel did not get much further than the city of Deventer. The infantry was already on its way north, while Gabriel was still in Wijhe, about 16 km away from there.

His truck was parked on the grounds near a dairy factory, behind the house of the veterinarian, Mr. Brink.

Brink's housekeeper witnessed the incident in which Gabriel lost his life.

A lucky shot from German artillery was fatal.
The grenade hit the truck.
In this car, two Canadians were sleeping: Gabriel Lamirande and Robert Nesbit Adam.

Gabriel was immediately fatally hit, Robert Nesbit was seriously wounded, but died of wounds later.

After being temporarily buried in Raalte, both were later transferred to the CWGC Canadian Cemetery in Holten.

Grave reference for Gabriel Lamirande: 5-B-6.

He was awarded:

1939-1945 Star; France-Germany Star; Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-1945 and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.



The house of the veterinarian at the time

