



Gerald was born on June 20, 1907 in Essex, Ontario to Dennis James Sovie (change of the Sauvie family name) and Bridget Adaline Sauve (née Damm) Sovie (deceased in May 1928) of Kingsville Ontario. They were married on December 23, 1896 in Essex, Ontario. The family were a member of the Baptist Church.

Gerald married Ona Nevedna Manery Sauve on January 8, 1940 in Windsor, Ontario. At that time they already had a son, James Garfield Sovie (born in 1938). Gerald had five brothers; Ercell Neil, Everett Armon and Clarence Dennis (both also in the army overseas), Russell Herbert and Howard Rodney. He had three sisters; Edith Minnie Sovie, Mrs. Margaret Alice Sherman and Mrs. Emily Lorraine Kenyon who had passed away in 1937.

After leaving public school he worked at the Heinz Company in his home town of Leamington. Later Gerald worked as a truck driver.

He enlisted quite early in the war on September 12, 1939 in Windsor, Ontario and soon went overseas to Europe where he arrived on August 2, 1940 in Gourock, Scotland.

He became the batman for Lt Col K. Jasperson. On August 19, 1942 he was one of the many Canadians who were involved in the Raid on Dieppe.

*The Raid on Dieppe or Operation Jubilee, was an Allied attack on the German-occupied port city of Dieppe, located on the French canal coast.*

*On August 19, 1942, more than 6,000 infantry soldiers, mainly Canadians, landed, supported by the British Navy and Air Force. The purpose of the operation was to capture and occupy an important harbour for a longer period of time, to prove that this was possible and to obtain information and see how the Germans would react. The attack was also intended to involve the Luftwaffe in a larger battle.*

*The attack was generally considered a tactical disaster, with none of the main objectives achieved. 4,384 of the total 6,086 men who came to the shore were killed, wounded, or captured. The Royal Air Force and the RCAF lost 119 aircraft, while the Royal Navy counted 555 victims. The catastrophe in Dieppe probably affected later Allied preparations for Operation Torch and D-Day.*

*More than 900 Canadians were killed instantly during the fighting. About 2000 Canadians were taken prisoner of war in this operation. Many of the prisoners of war were later in the camps in Germany. A number of Canadian soldiers who were taken prisoner of war in the attack on Dieppe and later died in German camps are buried in the Canadian cemetery in Holten.*

Among the seriously wounded was Gerald Sauve. He was taken prisoner by the Germans and was transported to the POW Camp Stalag IX-C in Meiningen, Germany.

He succumbed to these wounds on Thursday October 1, 1942 age 35. He was temporarily buried then at the Berlin (Heerstrasse) British Military Cemetery before being reburied on June 4, 1948 in Holten.

His grave was adopted after the war by Mr. H. Bax of Almelo, Holland.

His medals were: 1939-45 Star; Defence Medal; War Medal; CVSM & Clasp.

His widow was awarded on April 15 1943 The Memorial Cross in Leamington and also on November 29 1949 The Memorial Bar in Windsor.

He served with the Essex Scottish Regiment.

