



Gustof (sometimes also written as Gustaf in the documents) was born on April 6, 1917 in Hedenaset, Norrbottenslän, Sweden, the son of Gustaf Helmer Winsa and Jenny Winsa-Isakson. His mother died in 1923. His father had emigrated to Canada before then, planning to bring his family over as soon as he had found permanent work as a carpenter. Gustof came to Canada alone as a 12-year old boy in 1929. He had been educated in Sweden for 5 years and also went to school in Canada for 3 years. He got "grade" 7 and partly "grade" 8. Then Gustof went to work and had all kinds of jobs in the ten years before he

signed up for the army. In the last year he was a truck driver.

On October 19, 1943, Gustof married Rita Alma Young from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Their son Daniel Terrance Winsa was born in September 1944, when Gustof was a soldier in England. Gustof had three brothers and a sister who lived in Sweden.

Gustof was a member of the Lutheran Church and spoke and read English, Finnish and Swedish. He was a sporty type and especially enjoyed swimming and fishing.

On February 23, 1942, Gustof enlisted in Cochrane, Ontario. Gustof received his military training in Halifax and in Simcoe, Ontario. He went overseas to the United Kingdom on July 12, 1944. From August to early January 1945 he stayed in a hospital there to heal from a number of fractures. Gustof was then sent to the Netherlands on March 26, 1945 to strengthen the ranks of the Lincoln & Welland Regiment. After the fierce fighting in the Rhineland offensive, that regiment prepared to advance towards Bremen and Hamburg through the Achterhoek and Twente. On April 3 and 4, the battle at the crossing of the Twente Canal cost the lives of 10 soldiers from his regiment. The subsequent battle on German soil also claimed many victims, including Gustof's life.

Gustof/Gustaf was killed on Tuesday April 10, 1945 at the age of 28, 4 days after his 28th birthday during the battle of Werlte in Germany. He was also temporarily buried there before being reburied in Holten on March 12, 1946.

His medals were: the Good Conduct Badge; 1939-45 Star; France Germany Star; Defense Medal; War Medal; CVSM & Clasp.

His widow Rita was awarded the Memorial Cross on May 21, 1945. She remarried in April 1954 to James E. Donaldson.

