

**Alguire, Wesley Oscar**

**Private**

**Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry  
Highlanders**

**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**

**9<sup>th</sup> Battalion**

**C/54127**



Wesley Oscar Alguire was born October 18, 1905 at Eamer's Corners in Cornwall Township, in Eastern Ontario. He was the son of Christy Anne (Clarke) and Harmonious Alguire. Wesley's two brothers were Russell and Reubin Cain while his four sisters were Pearl (Coleman), Ida (Clark), Stella (Boal) and Mahlon (Kyer). While growing up in Cornwall township, he attended Eamer's Corners school, Cornwall public school and Cornwall collegiate and vocational school. After his schooling, he became a truck driver and then worked on the family farm for 18 years.



Wesley married Ida Pearl McNamara of Finch on May 16th, 1925 at St. John Presbyterian Church in Cornwall, Ontario. The couple had eight children whose names were Iris, Arlen, Lois, Keith, Susie, Kenneth, Katheryne and Claude. At the time of his enlistment, the family lived at 442-3rd St. East, Cornwall, Ontario.

*1925 May 16, wedding Wesley and Ida*



*Wesley and Ida and the two oldest children, Iris and Arlen-1928*



*Private Alguire's wife Ida and their eight children between the ages of two to 16 years.*

*Iris and her Dad before he went overseas.*

On July 6, 1940. Wesley enlisted in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders regiment in the nearby town of Cornwall. According to his military records, he stood five foot seven inches and weighed 143 pounds with fair skin, blue eyes and red hair. He trained in Ottawa until December of 1940



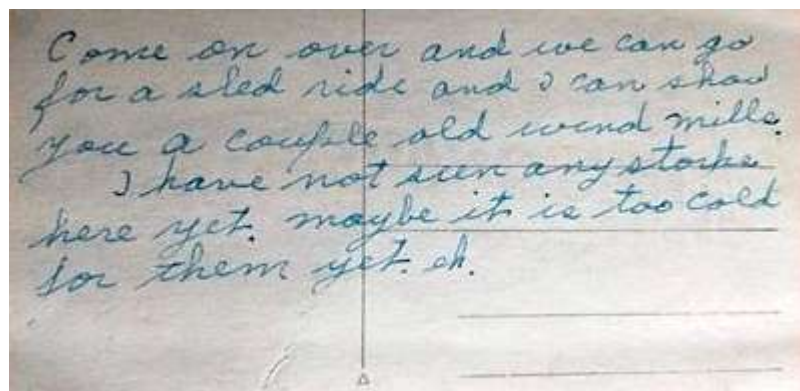
as well as in Cornwall, Kingston both in Ontario, and Debert in Nova Scotia. He then embarked to the United Kingdom arriving on July 31, 1941 at Avonmouth, England.

Initially, Private Alguire was sent to a RAF station for a month. Wesley qualified as a driver and was awarded a good conduct badge. He then qualified as a driver mechanic for group C. He remained in England until June 13 1944 when he left for France.



Throughout the next eight months, Private Alguire travelled across Northwest Europe with his regiment as the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders fought through France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

*Postcard he did send to his daughter Iris*




On February 24, 1945, Private Alguire died in Germany from the wounds he received in the battle, near Udem. He was 39 years old. The soldier was placed in a temporary burial ground at Bedburg, Germany, but was later moved to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.



Colonel Rowley returned to the Battalion from a press conference in Paris on the 22nd February and a series of meetings took place with regard to Operation Blockbuster. Roads were still flooded and many of them were mined, so the daily despatch of supplies of food and ammunition to the companies was attended by both difficulty and danger; the drivers took tremendous risks. C.S.M. "Frosty" Campbell, who had voluntarily assumed the task of driving a supply jeep through the dangerous terrain was killed by a mine near Udem at 14.00 hours on the 24th February. The whole Battalion felt the loss of this indomitable soldier. Other grievous losses at this period were Privates H. O. Berry, W. O. Alguire and K. Barr.



**Eamer's Corners Boy**



**WESLEY O. ALGUIRE**  
 Pte. Wesley Oscar Alguire, youngest son of Harmonious Alguire, and the late Mrs. Alguire, was born at Eamer's Corners on October 18, 1905, and educated at Eamer's Corners School, Cornwall Public School and the C.C.V.S. during the time he resided in Cornwall with his parents. He was engaged at farm work when he enlisted in the S.D. and G. Highlanders on July 6, 1940, training in Cornwall, Kingston, Ottawa and Debert, N.S., before he proceeded to the eastern coast and overseas the latter part of August, 1941. Pte. Alguire has spent four Christmas seasons away from his wife and family. His first army Christmas he spent in the Military Hospital, Ottawa, and the last three "Somewhere in England." His wife, the former Miss Ida McNamara, of Finch, and their eight children, four boys and four girls, are now residing at 442 Third Street East, Cornwall.  
 Pte. Alguire is now in R.C.O.C. overseas. In recent letters he reports he is well and healthy, and always asks in his letters about all his Cornwall and vicinity friends. Pte. Alguire sent his thanks to the S.D. and G., Ladies' Auxiliary for parcels and also all other clubs and individuals who have sent him parcels and letters. He would like more letters from his friends here at home. He sent special thanks to Rev. G. S. Lloyd and Dr. and Mrs. Claude M. Hall.

Both of his parents had died in Canada when Private Alguire was serving overseas. His mother Christy died in May of 1943 while father, Harmonious, died in April 1944.

The family of Wesley Alguire received his war medals:

- 1939-45 Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp

Private Wesley Oscar Alguire is buried at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **X. G. 13**.

Inscribed on his gravestone is:

HE SAVED OTHERS  
 HIMSELF HE COULD NOT SAVE  
 EVER REMEMBERED  
 BY HIS WIFE AND FAMILY

## Cornwall Church Honors War Dead

CORNWALL, Nov. 9.—(Special) —In the presence of a large congregation an impressive ceremony was carried out this morning in St. John's Presbyterian church when the unveiling and dedication of three memorial windows took place.

These windows were arranged for by members of the congregation as a memorial to those who made the supreme sacrifice in the two great wars—eight in the 1914-1918 conflict and 17 in the recent war, 1939-1945.

The impressive service was conducted by Rev. G. S. Lloyd; the Old Testament lesson was read by Lieut. Col. George D. Gillie, M.C., a veteran of the First World War and the New Testament lesson by Flying Officer Cecil W. Moore, both members of St. John's Church.

The unveiling was carried out by Lieut.-Col. G. Neil Phillips and Bernard Grant, both of whom lost sons in the recent war.

A lament was played by pipe Major Albert G. Sutherland, while the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by bugler Ian D. McLaren.

A sermon appropriate to the solemn occasion was delivered by Rev. Mr. Lloyd.

Names of those who made the supreme sacrifice during the 1914-18 conflict are: Murdoch John Munroe; Donald Malcolm Munroe; David MacFarlane Moore; William Arthur Stoddart; William Wallace Watson; Hugh James M. Campbell; William Russell; Clifford A. Grant.

Those in 1939-45 are: James Hermon Shaver; John Bernie Dougall; Gordon MacLean Phil-

of Ottawa's corners and by others selling wreaths and poppies in government and other buildings before Saturday. Receipts from the sale of wreaths and from some store booths have yet to be included in this figure.

Tag Day officials last night extended thanks to the taggers for their efforts and good spirit. "They carried on in dreadful weather," a Canadian Legion representative said.

In addition to the 1,200 taggers, whose ages ranged from 13 to 18 years, the officials' thanks were address to the Overseas Wives Group which manned the corner of Bank and Queen streets, the Boy Scouts and the school teachers who supervised the depots set up in local stores.

Poppies will be on sale again Tuesday at the National Remembrance service on Parliament Hill.

Funds derived from the poppy sale are distributed to the welfare funds of local Legion branches.

Open New House Pl...

Private Wesley Alguire's name appeared on the memorial window for a Cornwall Presbyterian Church.



A picture of Silver Cross Mothers who donated a chair to the General hospital, Cornwall. Wesley's wife Ida is seen second from the right.



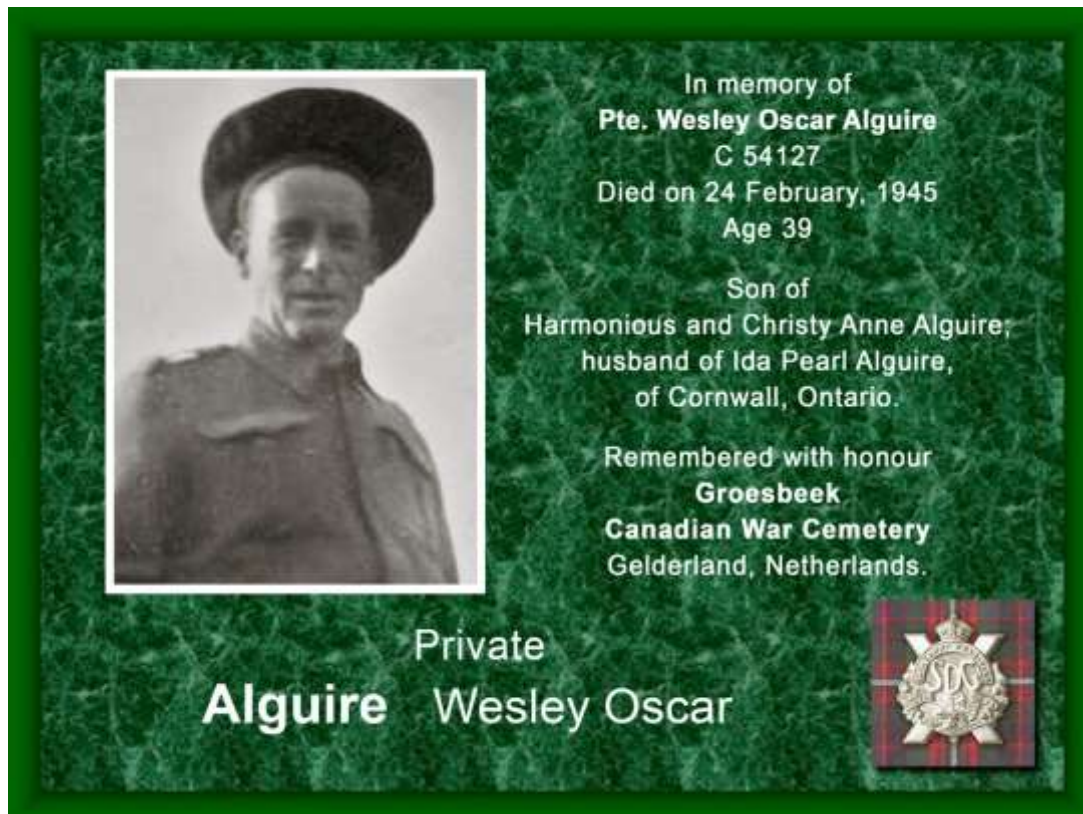
Ida Alguire with the Memorial Cross.



Biography: Mackenzie Gilmour and Sasha Ackehurst, students from All Saints High School, Kanata, Canada for Faces to Graves, courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz teacher at All Saints H.S., additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.

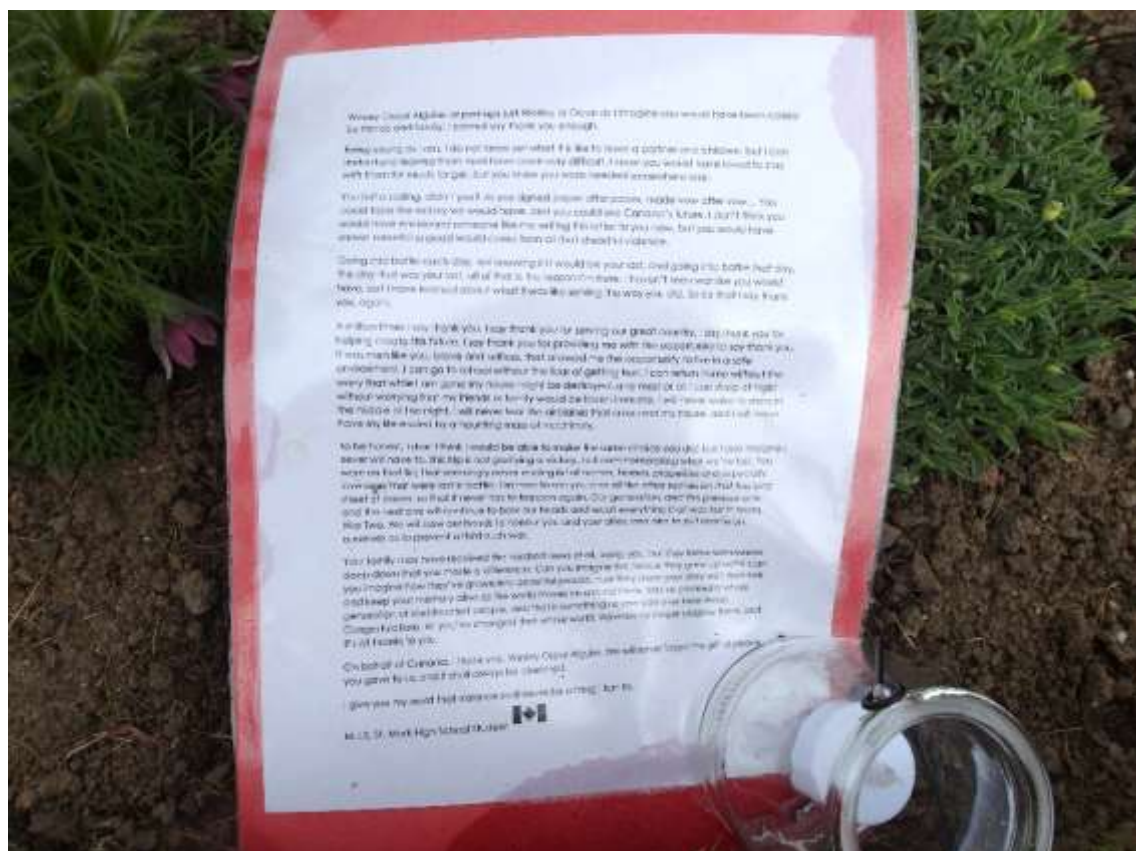
Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Library, and Archives Canada
- Canadian Virtual war Memorial
- Pictures provided by Gregory Pollard and Bonnie Champagne
- Ottawa Citizen
- CBC
- With contribution Wigger van der Horst – Dutch Glen Historian



GLEN MEMORIAL





*Cemetery find – photo Alice van Bekkum*

## City Soldier Dies Of Wounds

Mrs. Alguire, who resides at 442 First street East, has been notified that her husband, Pte. Wesley Alguire, had been reported wounded in action on the Western front and died the same day from the effects of the wound. He went overseas with the S., D. & G. Highlanders, of Cornwall, in August, 1941.

Pte. Wesley Oscar Alguire was born at Eamer's Corners on October 18, 1905, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harmonious Alguire. He was educated at Eamer's Corners School, Cornwall Public School and Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational



PTE. WESLEY ALGUIRE

School during the time he resided in Cornwall with his parents. He was engaged in farm work when he enlisted in the S., D. & G. Highlanders on July 6, 1940, training in Cornwall, Kingston, Ottawa and Debert, N.S., before he proceeded to the eastern coast and overseas the latter part of August, 1941.

Besides his wife, the former Miss Ida McNamara, of Finch, he leaves eight children—Yvonne, Arlen, Lois, Keith, Susie, Kenneth, Claude and Kathryn Alguire.

He also leaves four sisters and a brother—Mrs. Ida Clark and Mrs. Stella Boal, Cornwall; Mrs. Pearl Coleman, Toronto; Mrs. Mahlon Kyer, St. Andrews; Russell Alguire, St. Charles, Manitoba.

## Impressive Memorial Service Held For Pte. W. O. Alguire

In the presence of members of the John McMartin Memorial Branch 297, Canadian Legion B.E.S.L., a detachment of the 2nd Battalion (R.) Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, members of his family, other relatives and friends, tribute was paid the memory of Pte. Wesley Oscar Alguire, at a memorial service in St. John's Presbyterian Church yesterday morning. Pte. Alguire died recently from wounds suffered in action on the Western Front.

Relatives, friends, the Legion and Highlanders occupied reserved pews at the front of the church. The service was conducted by Rev. G. S. Lloyd, M.A., B.D., minister, who made feeling reference to the brave young soldier and referred to letters which he had sent home and to his minister, in all of which he displayed a cheerful spirit and a devotion

whole peoples, he staked his life and gave it freely.

"Today we stand in silent awe of the sacrifice he and many others had made," said Mr. Lloyd. "We extend our deepest sympathy to his loved ones, whose lives will never be quite the same again; we pay tribute to his bravery and unselfishness."

Rev. Mr. Lloyd wore the uniform of the 2nd Battalion of the S., D. and G. Highlanders, of which he is Protestant Chaplain, adding a further military aspect to the solemn service.

During the service, the choir rendered the anthem, "Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs," from Handel's "The Messiah." Miss Truda Spencer sang as a solo "The Lord's My Shepherd," Kenneth R. Cunningham, organist, and choir director, presided at the piano.

Rev. Mr. Lloyd, continuing the regular morning service, preached an eloquent sermon from the text, "He Saved others, Himself He Could Not Save"—Matthews 27:42.

Hymns sung were "I Waited for the Lord My God," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

At the evening service the choir rendered the anthem "Fling Wide The Gates," Stainer's "The Crucifixion." Miss Truda Spencer sang "The Palms," yesterday being Palm Sunday.

### Born At Eamer's Corners

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PTE. WESLEY ALGUIRE

to duty. He was a fine young man and his death will be a loss to the community.

Warrant Officer 2 Osborne Delisle, Sgt. Douglas Eemon, and Gunner Milton MacDonald, three members of St. John's Church now home on leave from duties overseas, spread the Union Jack on the table in front of the pulpit and on it placed a large photo of Pte. Wesley Oscar Alguire, in full view of the congregation.

In opening, Mr. Lloyd read an extract from a letter sent by an American mother to the United States Navy, in which she asked that the authorities stop sending the finest youth to be murdered at places like Iwo Jima. "It is too much for boys to stand, too much for mothers and homes to take," wrote this mother. "It is driving some mothers crazy," she continued, "and why can't objectives be accomplished in some other way? It is most inhuman and awful—stop, stop!"

Navy Secretary James Vincent Forrestal, who had seen the first awful days of Iwo himself, sat down and wrote the following reply:—

"The Axis confronted us with a simple choice—fight or be overrun. There was then, and is now, no other possibility."

"Having chosen to fight, we had then, and have now, no final means of winning battles except through the valor of the Marine or Navy soldier who, with rifle and grenades, storms every position, takes them and holds them. There is no short cut or easy way. I wish there were."

### Fought For Freedom

Rev. Mr. Lloyd said that was what Pte. Wesley Oscar Alguire had done—enlisted, trained and went overseas to fight that we at home might have a better place in which to live. It was not that he had any desire to kill his fellow men. The lust for blood was far from his nature. He wanted to live and let live; to enjoy life with his wife and family and let others enjoy life. To help save his loved ones, their friends and the world from Nazi criminals, mass murderers, barbarous enslavers of