

**Arnett, Francis Lewis Joseph**

**Lieutenant**

**Queen's Own Cameron  
Highlanders (CANLOAN)**

**5<sup>th</sup> Division**

**C/20764**



Francis Lewis Joseph Arnett was born on March 14, 1915, in Minneapolis, United States to Leslie Norman Arnett and Anne Culbertson. As a small child, he and his mother later moved to Ottawa, Ontario, where they lived at 225 Kent Street.

Since he was a Roman Catholic, Lewis attended St. Patrick's High School in Ottawa. He played hockey on the high school team. Lewis then took a correspondence radio theory course through the University of Boston. After completing the course, Lewis Arnett worked at the *Ottawa Journal* daily newspaper in a clerical position in the circulation department from 1932 to 1939. In 1937, he visited Mexico for six weeks as a tourist.

Lewis Arnett enlisted as a Private on September 9, 1939, in the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa. He was quickly promoted to acting Lance Corporal a month later. He then completed a regular cadre course from October 30 to November 26, 1939.

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION**

I, **Lewis, Arnett** .....do solemnly declare that the above particulars are true, and I hereby engage to serve in the Canadian Active Service Force so long as an emergency, i.e., war, invasion, riot or insurrection, real or apprehended, exists, and for the period of demobilization after said emergency ceases to exist, and in any event for a period of not less than one year, provided His Majesty should so require my services.

Date **9 SEPT 1939** ..... *Lewis Arnett*  
(Signature of recruit)

According to his military documents, he was five feet eight inches tall and weighed 140 pounds; he had grey eyes and brown hair. While overseas he played on an inter-unit softball team and his hobbies included photography and radio.



Lewis Arnett embarked from Canada for Reykjavik, Iceland, where his regiment, the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa were stationed on garrison duty. On April 27, 1941, he took an anti-gas course. In May of 1941, he was sent to Greenrock, Scotland. While there, he achieved the rank of Sergeant in September of 1941. Lewis returned to Canada in April of 1943.

Lewis Arnett began preparation to become an officer when he was sent to the training centre in Brockville, Ontario, from July to August 1943 and then off to Vernon, British Columbia from November to December 1943 when he qualified for the rank of Lieutenant. He was characterised as *"a keen, conscientious student. He was considered a good leader who had no difficulty in mastering drills and applying them to tactical situations."*

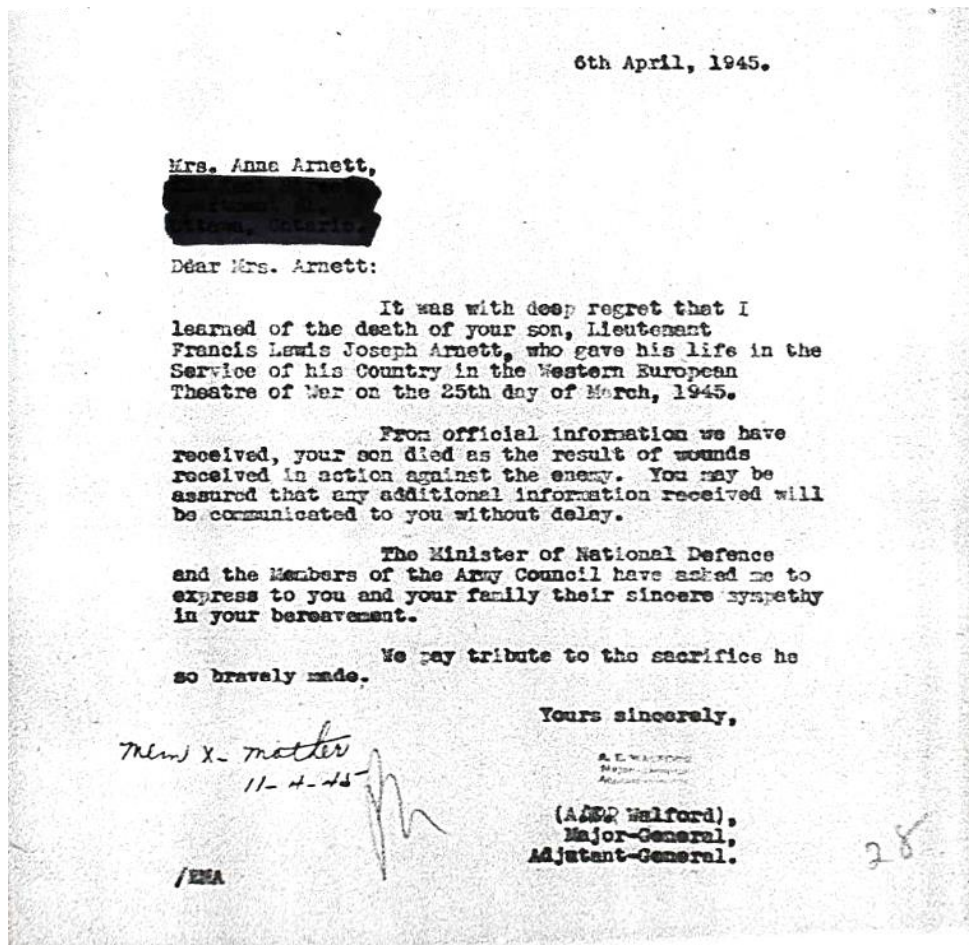
Lieutenant Lewis Arnett was transferred from the Canadian Infantry Corps to the CANLOAN program to serve with the British unit, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. He arrived in the United Kingdom on April 11, 1944 and was then attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> Camerons.

On June 23, 1944, Lieutenant Lewis Arnett had been wounded in action with an abdominal wound and recuperated for five months in several Canadian hospitals in Britain. After recovering from those battle injuries, he returned to duty on March 10, 1945 with the 5<sup>th</sup> Camerons in Northwest Europe.

As part of the Allied Forces in Operation Plunder, the 5<sup>th</sup> Camerons crossed the Rhine River in storm boats. Heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire rained on the crossing. The 5<sup>th</sup> Camerons were pressing the German defenders at the large brickworks of Mittelburg on the main road leading north from Rees.

On March 25, 1945 Lewis received shrapnel wounds to his abdomen from a shell and succumbed to his injuries. He was 29 years old.

On the 6th of April his mother received the message that her son got killed.



For his bravery on the battlefield, Lieutenant Arnett was awarded the 'Mentions in Despatches'.

25M-5-40 (5073)  
H.Q. 1772-45-8

DECORATIONS—C. A. S. F.

*C 119*

ARNETT, Francis Lewis Joseph		Lieut.	FILE NO. <i>332-43-236</i>
<i>Died of Wounds 25-3-45</i>		<i>01</i>	Can. Loan C.I.C. <i>60007</i>
SURNAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS) CHRISTIAN NAMES		REG. NO.	RANK
			C. A. S. F. UNIT
AWARD	L.G. AUTHORITY	DATE	PAGE
<u>MENTION IN DESPATCHES</u>	C.G 15 37040	14-4-45 19-4-45	1592
DEED OF ACTION OR CITATION (USE REVERSE SIDE)			
The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of Mentions in Despatches, in recognition of gallant and distinguished services, to:			

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70 MID

Lewis Arnett was awarded the:

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



**LT. F. J. L. ARNETT**, son of Mrs. A. Arnett, of 225 Kent street, Ottawa, who died of wounds March 25, has been awarded a Mention in Despatches for gallantry.

## Heroic Ottawa Man Wins Award

Awards of Mentions in Despatches to Gen. H. D. G. Crerar, commander-in-chief of the 1st Canadian Army, and to Lt. Francis Joseph Lewis Arnett, son of Mrs. A. Arnett of 225 Kent street, Ottawa, who died of wounds on March 25, are included in a list of 14 awards announced today by the Defence Department.

Lt. Arnett was one of the original force of Cameron Highlanders to go overseas, enlisting in September, 1939.



**LT. LEWIS J. ARNETT**, 29-year-old son of Mrs. A. Arnett, 225 Kent street, Ottawa, who died as a result of wounds suffered on the Western Front on March 25.

Lt. Lewis J. Arnett, 29-year-old son of Mrs. A. Arnett, 225 Kent street, Ottawa, died on March 25 as a result of wounds suffered in action on the Western Front, his mother has been notified.

Lt. Arnett had just returned to action after recovering from wounds suffered last June during the invasion of France. He was one of the original force of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa to go overseas, enlisting in September, 1939. He went to Iceland and later served in Britain for two years.

Then he was sent back to Canada, completing an officer's training course at Brockville. He went back overseas and was posted to a British Army unit.

After being wounded in Normandy he was in hospital for many months and only recently was posted back to action. Military headquarters notified his mother he died as a result of injuries inflicted by shell fragments.

Lt. Arnett was born in Minneapolis and came to Ottawa with his mother 28 years ago. He attended St. Patrick's School and later was employed by the Ottawa Newspaper Subscription Bureau. He was engaged to Miss Dorothy McCarthy, of Eccles street.

He is survived by his mother, his aunt, Mrs. G. Grace, and a cousin, Norma Grace, all of Ottawa.

He was buried in a Canadian cemetery at Boetzelaer near Appeldorn, Germany. He was later moved to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **XVII. D. 3.**

This inscription is on his headstone:

MY SON, SERVED 5 YEARS 7 MONTHS

"WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR" MOTHER

As a Canadian officer on loan to the British Forces, Lewis Arnett's name can be found on the CANLOAN Memorial which is beside the Ottawa River, by Sussex Drive and Stanley Avenue in Ottawa, Ontario.





*Photo Alice van Bekkum*



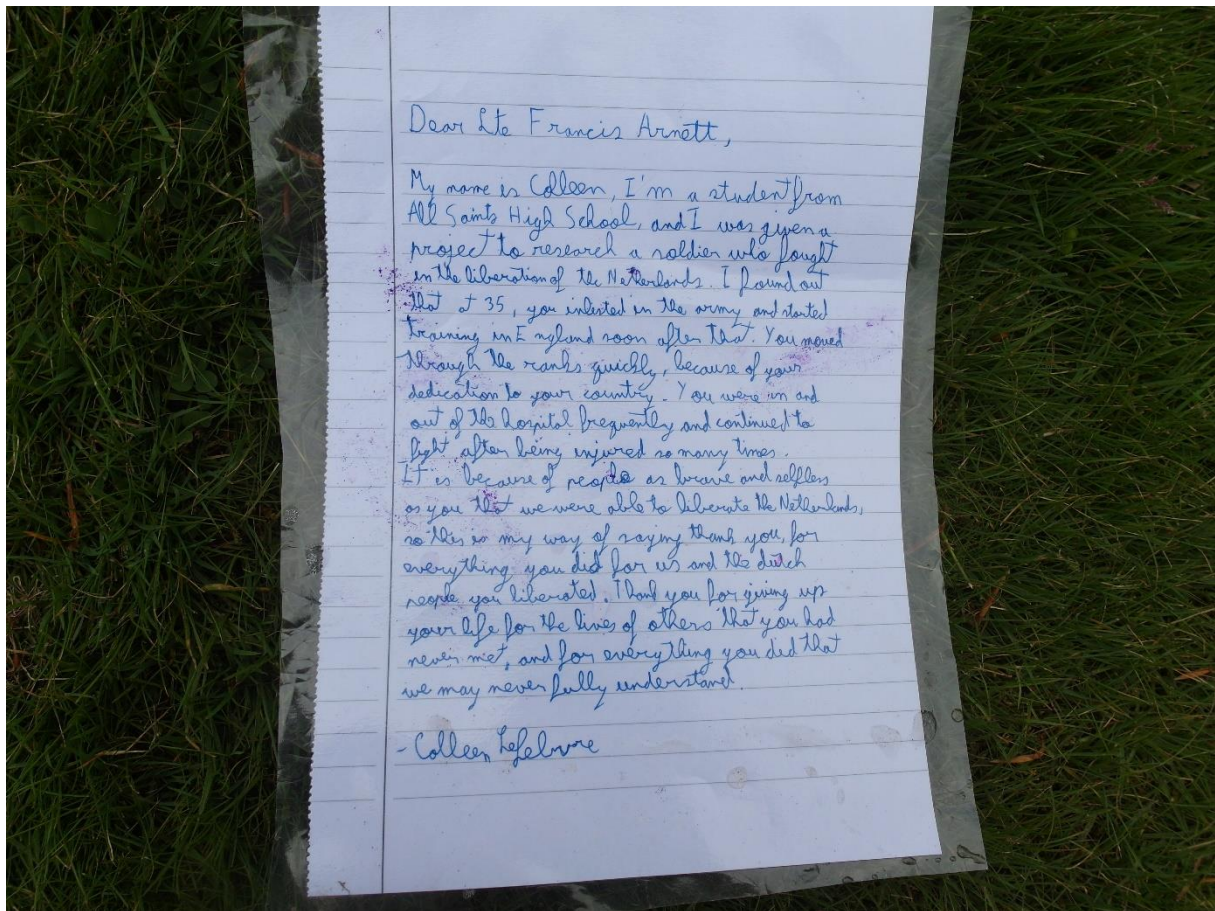
Biography: Beth Wallace, student from Notre Dame H.S., Ottawa, Canada for Faces to Graves courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz, teacher at All Saints High School.

Additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Library and Archives Canada
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial
- Newspaper articles from the Ottawa Journal
- <http://ontariowarmemorials.blogspot.com/2019/04/ottawa-canloan-memorial.html>
- <http://ww2talk.com/index.php?threads/rhine-crossing-1945-the-rees-bridgehead-30-corps-in-operation-turnscrew.50742/>

\* Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact [info@facestograves.nl](mailto:info@facestograves.nl)



A student from All Saints High School left this when they visited Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.