

**Gammer, Alfred Davidson**  
**Private**  
**Westminster Regiment (Motors)**  
**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**  
**K45881**



Born on August 15, 1914, in Fraserburg, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. He immigrated to Canada with his parents and siblings in 1918. He grew up in at 5253 Sherbrooke St. Vancouver British Columbia, attended McBride Public School until grade 7 school.

Alfred joined the Canadian Armed Forces on May 16, 1942. He was 27 years, weighed 127 lbs, and was 5 ft 5 inches tall, and he wore glasses. He was working as a plumber for 4 years prior to his enlistment.

Alfred was sent to Vernon B.C. for basic training on June 14, 1942

He was transferred to Chilliwack B.C. for training on August 12, 1942. He belonged to the Royal Canadian Engineers Training Center "A6" unit.

Dec 13, 1942 embarked for the UK and he was attached to the ERU unit, then the 18th Field Company. Later the 11 and 33rd field companies.

Dec.12, 1944 He disembarked in Italy. He fought with the Westminster Motors.

Feb 28, 1945 disembarked in France. He continued to serve with the Westminster Motors.

On Sunday April 15, 1945 at 1045 hours Alfred died of chest wounds during Operation "Cleanser" in Holland. The attack started at 600 hours in the morning. Their objective was to take the high ground near the town of

Terlet, near Arnhem. The advance was difficult due to sandhills, thick forest, road blocks, rain, cloud cover, and poor communications.

Alfred was first buried in Arnhem, later reburied to the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave reference **VIII. A. 5.**

#### Medals

Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp

1939-45 Italy Star

France and Germany Star

His mother received the Memorial Cross

He was survived by his parents Abram and Christina Gammer; brothers Abram, Victor, Charles, George, John, Arthur; sisters Christina and Catherine.



#### Source:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Library and Archives Canada

<https://slagomotterlo.nl>

## De slag om Otterlo – On to Victory

### **The tanks and infantry via Deelen, Kruller Muller Museum to Otterlo**

Having broken free of the woods, the two tank squadrons with accompanying Westminster companies raced into the open. Seeing that Deelen airfield's hangars and other Buildings had "been reinforced until they amounted to fortresses. The Hussars swept past on either flank and left the Westminster's 'B' Company to root the Germans out. "We went hell-bent-for-election, all-out," one Hussar recalled. "We were under fire all the way but we didn't stop for anything. We left a lot of Germans on the airport. They were in and around the various buildings. But killing Germans wasn't our primary objective this time: it was to [reach] those hills beyond." The Westminsters turned to the task of killing in the midmorning and carried on until "darkness fell on a lurid scene of flame and smoke from fires started during the day by flamethrowers." Westminster casualties were considered light. The anti-tank platoon's commander, Lieutenant John A. Cambridge, died, as did 'B' Company's Corporal Angus Arthur St. Cyr and Privat Theodor Huth. Two other privates, Alfred Gammer and Stewart Arthur Mackinlay, died later from wounds.

The reason for the fierce defence at Deelen became evident when it developed that the airfield had served as 858 Grenadier Regiment's headquarters. Included among the prisoners were all this headquarters' staff and its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Otto Lais, who "admitted to having been completely taken by surprise, both as to the direction of our attack and its [strength]. Caught off balance, LXXX Corps broke, only scattered resistance, which barely slowed the tanks, being offered.

