

**Allen, Arnold Howard**

**Private**

**Algonquin Regiment**

**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**

**F78029**



Arnold Howard Allen was born on January 5, 1921, in Lower Ohio, Shelburne County, Nova Scotia. His parents were Everard Grantley Allen and Minnie Elmore Daus who married in Lower Ohio on December 24, 1905. The family members were practising Baptists.



Arnold was the youngest of nine children. He had seven sisters: Mabel, Lillian, Henrietta, Elsie, Evelyn, Laura, and Ivy. Arnold's one brother Edward "Morton" Allen was in the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers serving overseas.

*2<sup>nd</sup> from the right is Arnold with his brother Morton on the left.*

*Morton Arnold*

Arnold went to school until Grade 8 at 16 years old before leaving because he felt that he could be more useful. Arnold was raised on a farm and worked as both a labourer and mechanic before enlisting.



*Arnold as a teenager.*

At the age of 19, Arnold Howard Allen enlisted in the military on April 11, 1941, at the No. 6 District Depot in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The army examiner, Captain A.C O'Grady, assessed that Private Allen had matured well over the years. He was described as adaptable and well-adjusted to service.

VI. Other Personal History and Appraisal

An alert youth of good attitude and normal interests. His pre war experience, was confined to rural occupations, but he has broad interests and fair adaptability. He is single. His parents are living on the farm. 6 sisters, 1 brother in R.C.O.C. Overseas.

This soldier has average ability and a good adjustment to service. He appears to have matured well in recent years and his steady manner indicates suitability for normal combatant service.

His medical examination reported Private Allen as having brown hair, blue eyes, and a dark complexion. He weighed 120 pounds and stood five feet four and a half inches tall.

Prior to his enlistment, he had completed his basic military training at the Second Battalion, The West Nova Scotia Regimental Depot, for the Reserve Force. He trained at the regimental depot from July 27, 1940, until April 11, 1941.

Following the successful completion of his basic training at the No. 6 Depot, Private Allen was transferred to the Canadian Infantry Training Centre Aldershot, Nova Scotia, where he completed advanced training. He was attached to the Pictou Highlanders. This phase of his military education spanned from June 26 to August 29, 1941.



*Morton Allen, Arnold's older brother, enlisted in 1940 and they met at Aldershot in 1941 when the photo was taken.*



*Private Allen in Bermuda*

Private Allen had served as a Rifleman with the Canadian Army's B Force in Bermuda. He was there for two years and returned in early 1944 to Aldershot, Nova Scotia.



During his time in Aldershot, he met Joyce Marie Bent of nearby Kentville in Nova Scotia. They were married on June 2, 1944. They had a child, Johannah Pearl Allen, who was born on February 15, 1945.



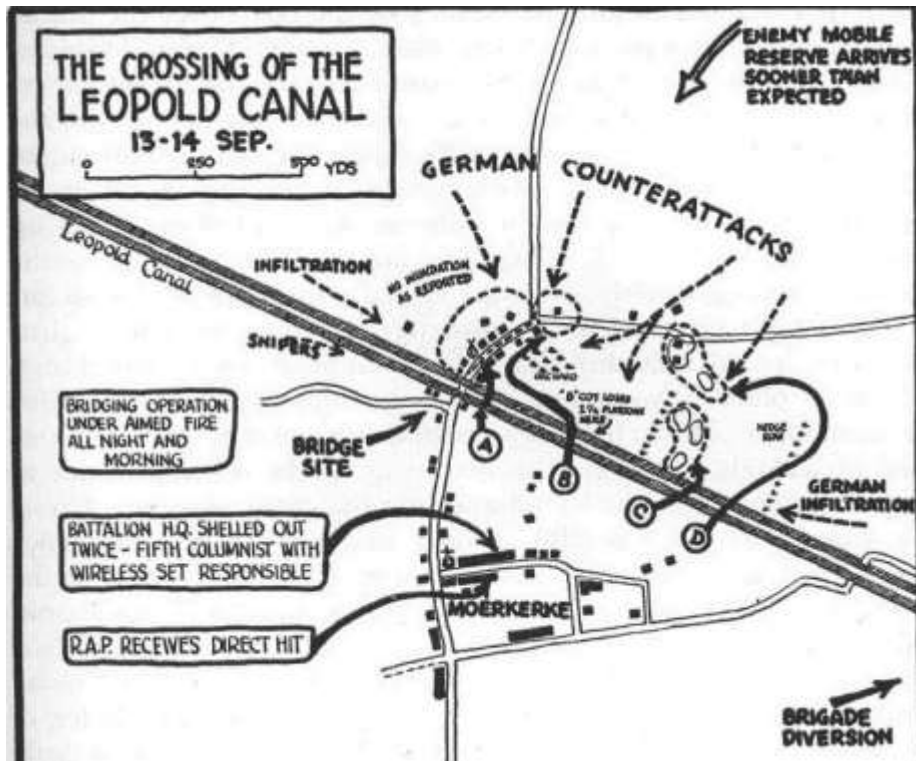
*Arnold and his wife Joyce Marie Bent*

On July 21, 1944, Private Allen embarked from Halifax, Canada for the United Kingdom. He arrived in the United Kingdom on July 27, 1944, and reported for duty as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit.

On August 24, 1944 Private Allen left the United Kingdom and arrived in France the next day. Private Allen joined the Algonquin Regiment on September 1, 1944.

In Northern Belgium, the Algonquin Regiment participated in the Battle of the Leopold Canal on September 13 and 14, 1944, as part of the battles leading up to the Battle of the Scheldt. The objective was to establish a defensive perimeter around an old bridge site to allow the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division soldiers to build a new bridge and advance towards enemy strongholds at Sluis and Aardenburg.

However, the military operation ran into difficulties and ultimately failed, according to a Canadian Department of National Defence website. The Algonquin Regiment was forced to move heavy assault boats across the canal while under heavy fire. The Algonquin soldiers ran low on ammunition and were overrun by German soldiers at Moerkerke. Many men were taken prisoner.



Map from Maj G. L. Cassidy's *Warpath*, The Ryerson Press, 1948, p. 141.

*A current photo of the Leopold Canal*



Private Arnold Allen was officially reported missing in action on September 14, 1944.

According to a Canadian newspaper story years later, the Algonquin Regiment had lost 29 men, with another 58 wounded and a whopping 66 taken prisoner. The Battle of Leopold Canal would prove to be the greatest loss of men the regiment suffered in any one-day period during the war.

On January 3, 1945, the Canadian military reported him as a Prisoner of War (POW) and he was imprisoned in Stalag 12A in Limburg, Germany. His own brother, Morton Allen recalled that his brother had written about being forced to work in a mill while being imprisoned.

However, on February 27, 1945, Private Arnold Allen was held in another German prison camp in Leipzig located 400 kilometres away. He was killed with other POWs and civilians in an Allied air raid on German aircraft factories in Leipzig. He was 24. Unfortunately, his death came a month after the birth of his daughter, Johannah Pearl Allen, on January 22, 1945.

DIED WHILE PRISONER OF WAR  
 Regiment de Quebec  
 CAYOUILLE, Adrien, Pte., Bonaventure, Que.  
 Nova Scotia and P.E.I. Regiment  
 ALLEN, Arnold Howard, Pte., Shelburne, N.S.  
 CONN, Elmer Eugene, Pte., Dutch

LISTE  
 Auf dem Friedhof begrabene Angehörige  
 GEBORNE

S. 14/v  
 S. 14/v

Nr.	Name	Wohnort	geboren	gestorb.	Grabstelle	beerdigt
1.	Book, John Kppl. 1st. Bn., 83/51 Hial. IV G	Bas. Las. I, Dunsmuir Str.	15.12.35	17.2.45 Scharlach	X 9 0 1	22.2.45
2.	Allen, Arnold 14156 III A	H. 21, Theatrstr. I	5.1.21	Terrorangriff 27.2.45	X 9 0 14	8.3.45
3.	Akinood, Gordon 23000	Bas. Las. Sp.-Kolon	?	15.10.44 Erschlagung	X 9 0 2	21.10.44
4.	Baker, Frank 146251 IV/B Schmitz	H. 21, Theatrstr. I	25.8.21	27.2.45 Terrorangriff	X 9 0 6	8.3.45
5.	Baker, James 18066 III/A Elektro-Lehrling	H. 21, Theatrstr. I	13.10.25	27.2.45 Terrorangriff	X 9 0 10	8.3.45
6.	Berebok, William Stalag IV B Vergas	H. 21, Theatrstr. I	23.12.19	24.3.44 Flussflieber	X 3 0 1	30.3.44
7.	Bosley, Neville 20908 III Baler	H. 21, Theatrstr. I	in Blanken- pool	27.2.45 Terrorangriff	X 9 0 17	27.2.45
8.	Clarke, Cecil Mrs. Kathress Clarke, 13, Chase Gullford Park, Barry	?	17.6.20	25.4.45 Billforth Geraubmittelschlagung	X 9 0 15	7.5.45
9.	Dalloy, Robert D. Hauptmann Hilke Dalloy geb. Mrs. F Smith Clipsman, Oakim Notland (England)	Bas. Las. Sp.-Kolon 22057 IV/B	25.10.16	30.8.44 Gruftbau Lobengruft- einma, Herra- schichte	X 9 0 2	1.9.44
10.	Davy, Edward Hauptmann Eline Davy, 55a St. Ann Hill Walsworth-London	Bas. Las. Sp.-Kolon 27061 IV/B	13.12.17	11.1.45 Walsworth Geraubmittelschlagung Herra-schichte	X 9 0 3	15.1.45
11.	Dawson, McMill	Engl. Flieger abgeschossen	?	20.2.44	X 3 0 12	1.3.44
12.	Dawkins, Alfred 21913 III/A Maschinenhilfs	H. 21, Theatrstr. I	15.7.10	27.2.45 Terrorangriff	X 9 0 9	8.3.45

He was temporarily buried at the East Cemetery in Leipzig, Germany.

After the war, Private Arnold Howard Allen was reburied at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **I. D. 12.**

The inscription of his headstone reads:  
"SOME DAY, PERHAPS  
WE'LL UNDERSTAND.  
WHEN, WE MEET AGAIN.  
IN THAT BETTER LAND."



Private Allen received the following medals:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France & Germany Star
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp

Private Arnold is honoured in the Shelburne Second World War Memorial Bench in this Nova Scotia community as well as The Algonquin Regiment Memorial in Parry Sound, Ontario.

Memorials with Private Arnold Allen mentioned:



*Shelburne Second World War Memorial Bench*



*The Algonquin Regiment Memorial in Parry Sound, Ontario*



**FACES TO GRAVES**

Stichting Faces to Canadian  
War Graves Groesbeek

Life story written by *Soha Hajare and Sophie Thomas*, students from All Saints H.S., 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
- Canadian Virtual war Memorial
- Library and Archives Canada
- Project '44
- [http://lestweforget1945.org/FotoOverzicht/Zoeken/arnold\\_h\\_allen/](http://lestweforget1945.org/FotoOverzicht/Zoeken/arnold_h_allen/)
- Government of Canada: The Battle of the Leopold Canal
- [https://www.muskokaregion.com/opinion/columnists/algonquin-regiment-battle-relics-unearthed-after-60-years/article\\_7401143d-b44b-55f8-ac49-9c946821d305.html](https://www.muskokaregion.com/opinion/columnists/algonquin-regiment-battle-relics-unearthed-after-60-years/article_7401143d-b44b-55f8-ac49-9c946821d305.html)
- Wikipedia: Image of Leopold Canal Currently
- Photos provided by Private Allen's granddaughter Chris Allen

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

