

**Alvis, Reginald Samuel**

**Private**

**Royal Regiment of Canada**

**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**

**B 161997**



Reginald Samuel Alvis was born July 27, 1922 in Glasgow, Scotland. Reginald was the only child of George Thomas Alvis and Edith Martha Hull. His father George was a bus driver in Hamilton, Ontario. Reginald was a member of the Church of England.

He had a half brother Geoffrey Bunce who had signed up with the British Royal Navy during the Second World War. Seaman Bunce had been reported missing and presumed dead after his ship, the navy cruiser *Southampton*, was lost at sea. However, the *Vancouver Sun* reported on March 20, 1944, that he had notified his family in Hamilton that he “was alive and well.”

Reginald Alvis attended Hamilton Public School until the age of 13 when “he found it necessary” to go work. For six months he was a waiter and then was a baker’s assistant for a year and a half. Reginald then became a machinist for the Otis Fenson company which made elevators in Hamilton.

Reginald married Phyllis Audrey Hull and they had two children George Aleck Samuel and Thomas Paul Stewart.



*Reginald with his wife Phyllis and their son George.*

Reginald Samuel Alvis enlisted into the army on May 25, 1944 in Toronto, Ontario. He was 22 when he enlisted. He stood 5 feet 7 ¼ inches and weighed 126 pounds. He was described as an athletic young man who was tall, dark, thin. His personnel assessment report stated that he was “a neat, alert young man with a keen eye and direct friendly manner” who seemed “at present worried as his wife was expecting (second) child at time he left home” for training. The report concluded he was a “fair soldier prospect.”

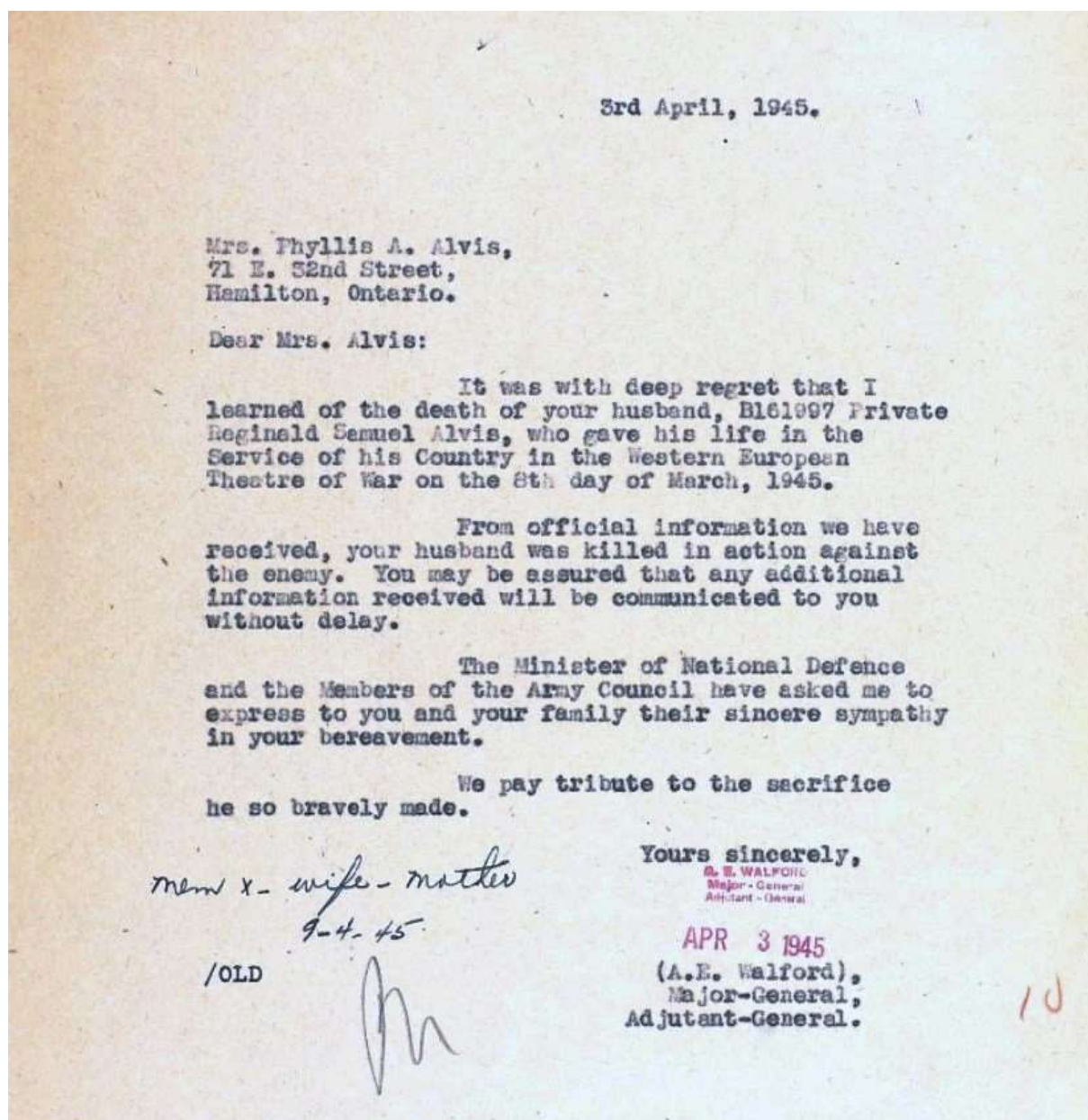
The military record stated that Reginald had “excelled in boxing for a few years.” Reginald said that he wanted to be a cook but was “anxious to be a combatant soldier.”

Reginald left Canada just before the birth of his second son Thomas Paul Stewart on December 15, 1945. He arrived in the United Kingdom on November 27, 1944 and he was transferred to the Royal Regiment of Canada. Reginald Alvis deplaned in North West Europe on February 10, 1945 but 29 days later he was killed in Germany on March 8, 1945. He was buried in a temporary burial ground in Xanten, Germany.

*Old grave marker.*



*His wife received this letter, which changed her life forever...*



Private Reginald Samuel Alvis was awarded with four medals:

- The 1939-1945 Star
- France-Germany Star
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.

Reginald Samuel Alvis was reburied at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery Netherlands, grave reference **III. D. 16.**

His headstone is inscribed:  
"In loving memory of my husband  
who gave his life so that others might live".



Biography: William Bower, student 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  
Library and Archives Canada  
Virtual War Memorial



*February 2019 – photo Alice van Bekkum*



*Reginald with his wife Phyllis and their son George and George's grandparents.*

*Hamilton Spectator*

After but nine months' service with the Canadian army, Pte. Reginald S. Alvis, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Alvis, and wife and two children reside at 16 Nightingale street, has been killed in action. Pte. Alvis was employed by the Otis-Fensom Elevator Company before his enlistment.



OTTAWA, 19th May, 1950.

DVA-A.108854 (R.4B)

Mrs. Audrey Amey,  
68 Fullarton Street,  
London, Ontario.

A.108854, Trooper Harvey H. AMEY

Dear Mrs. Amey:

This will acknowledge your letter of May 16th in which you say you are planning on going to Europe this summer and would like to visit your late husband's grave in Holland.


As you know, his remains are interred in plot 21, row B, grave 15, Nijmegen Canadian Cemetery, which is actually situated at Groesbeek, some five miles South-East of Nijmegen, almost on the border of Germany. It is understood that from Groesbeek there is a splendid view of the Reichs Wald Forest in the distance where Trooper Amey met his death.

There is really very little this Department can do to assist you on your journey abroad. You will, of course, have to make your own travel arrangements and any reliable travel agent will be able to give you all the details of what will be required. There are no restrictions on relatives visiting the resting places of their loved ones in war cemeteries overseas nor are any special permits required for entry to the cemeteries. You should have no difficulty finding your husband's grave once the burial ground has been reached as it is plainly marked and the plots and rows are clearly indicated.

As you are going to England first, it is suggested that you call at the office of the Imperial War Graves Commission, 32 Grosvenor Gardens, London S.W. 1. The officials there will, I feel sure, be glad to place at your disposal any relevant information which would be of interest and assistance. You could, too, call in at the office of the High Commissioner for Canada, Canada House, Trafalgar Square, London S.W. 1, where latest advice as to the best and most economical method of travel to Holland can be made available to you.

I might suggest further that before leaving you get in touch with the Secretary of the Netherlands War Graves Committee, 442 Keizersgracht, Amsterdam, Holland, as it is possible that that organization would welcome you as a guest, for a limited time, and make some accommodation arrangements for you.

Yours faithfully,

  
H.M. Jackson,  
Director,  
War Service Records.