

WW II Enlisted Men & Women of Whitewater Region Project

Private Wesley Clayton Davidson

Pte. Wesley Clayton DAVIDSON, son of **Robert Henry DAVIDSON** and **Sarah Isabella MARTIN**, was born on 21 Mar 1908 in Westmeath Twp., Renfrew, Ontario, Canada, and was christened on 26 Jan 1910 in Westmeath Twp., Renfrew, Ontario, Canada. He was the third born of six children. His father was the 3rd generation of his family in Beachburg. His mother was born in Beachburg.¹ According to his attestation papers, Wesley attended up to Grade 8 in public school. He worked as labourer on his mother's farm, construction gang, lumber camps in winter, and hard rock mining for 6 months. He also listed teamster of up to 6 horses as one of his skills. He enjoyed fishing and hunting. His religion was listed as United Church of Canada.²

Wesley Davidson entered into Basic Training at North Bay on Nov 26, 1940. He was 32 ½ years of age, was 5'8" and 135lbs., with blue eyes, fair complexion and fair hair. He then enlisted and was transferred to Camp Shilo in Manitoba with the Algonquin Regiment, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps (R.C.I.C.).² He was also located at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, serving in Canada from Nov 1940 - Jun 1943.⁴ Pte. Davidson disembarked in the UK on June 11, 1943 and arrived in the Western European Theatre of War in France on July 22, 1944.²

During the Battle of Normandy, the Algonquin Regiment, moving within the Fourth CAD, were tasked with filling the gap to the south at Hill 240, fighting alongside the 1st Polish Armoured Division.⁵ Pte. Wesley Davidson was struck by a shell fragment in the chest. He was removed to the local field ambulance but died of his wounds that day – Aug 21, 1944, only one month in active combat. He was 36 years of age.²

Initially Pte. Davidson was buried in a temporary grave at Montreuil-la-Cambe, Department of Calvados, France (which would have been close to where he died), described as "100 yds from brick Barn, SE side and 25 yards from Rd."² He was later interred at Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian Military Cemetery, Cintheaux, Departement du Calvados, Basse-Normandie, France.^{2,6,7,8}

Driver (Pte.) Wesley Clayton Davidson is commemorated on the family gravestone at Beachburg Union Cemetery.⁹ His name is also engraved on the Westmeath¹⁰, Beachburg¹¹ and Pembroke War Memorials¹².

Pte. Davidson was awarded the following service medals: 1939-45 Star; France and Germany Star; Defense Medal; War Medal; C.V.S.M & Clasp.²



Image 1: Pte. Wesley Davidson³

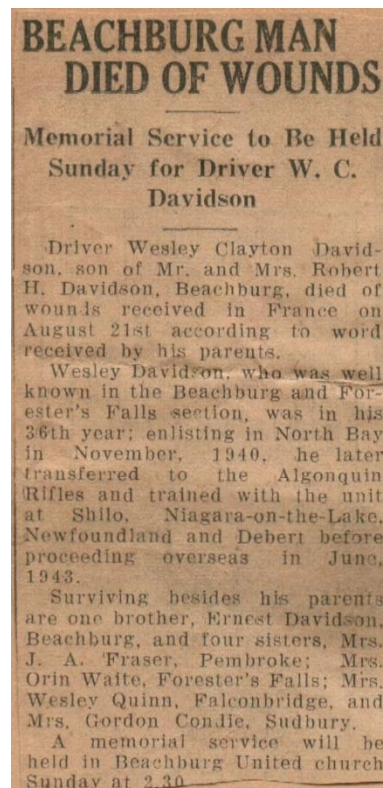


Image 2: Newspaper clipping reporting death⁴

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Hold Memorial Service
 Largely attended by friends and relatives, a memorial service was held Sunday at 2.30 p.m. in St. Andrew's United church for Driver Wesley Clayton Davidson, who died of wounds received in France on August 21. Rev. H. S. Cooke conducted the service and the choir under the direction of Miss Clara Hazelton sang "Good Night Here and Good Morning Up There." Wesley Davidson was the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Davidson of Beachburg and Foresters Falls and was well known throughout this district where he spent most of his life prior to his enlistment in the army. In November, 1940, he enlisted at North Bay and went overseas with the Algonquin Rifles in June, 1943. He is survived by his parents, four sisters, Mrs. J. A. Fraser, Pembroke; Mrs. Orin Waite, Foresters Falls; Mrs. Wesley Quinn, Falconbridge, and Mrs. Gordon Condie, Sudbury, and one brother, Ernest Davidson, Beachburg. Friends from a distance attending the service were Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Quinn, Falconbridge; Mr. and Mrs. Orin Waite and family, Foresters Falls, and Cpl. and Mrs. John Fraser and daughter, Fay, Pembroke.

Image 3: Memorial Service¹⁴



Photo courtesy of Marg Liessens
 Photo fournie gracieusement par Marg Liessens

Image 4: Grave marker⁶



Image 5: Beachburg War Memorial¹¹

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Sources:

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4. "Beachburg Man Died of Wounds", Newspaper article, from Scrapbook 1939-46 donated to Ross Museum
5. *Algonquin Regiment (Northern Pioneers)*. (2023, March 13). Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algonquin_Regiment_\(Northern_Pioneers\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algonquin_Regiment_(Northern_Pioneers))
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8. *Private Wesley Clayton Davidson (?-1944) - Find a Grave Memorial*. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56155967/wesley-clayton-davidson>
9. *Wesley C. Davidson (1908-1944) – Find a Grave Memorial*. Beachburg Union Cemetery <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/240822734/wesley-c-davidson>
10. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Westmeath War Memorial*. Westmeath, Ontario. November 2022.
11. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Beachburg War Memorial*. Beachburg, Ontario. November 2022.
12. Bennett, Fay. *Photograph of The Pembroke War Memorial*. Beachburg, Ontario. November 2022.
13. Book of Remembrance, Veterans Affairs Canada <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/books/page?page=287&book=2&sort=pageAsc>
14. "Hold Memorial Service", Newspaper Article, from Scrapbook 1939-46 donated to Ross Museum