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## Second World War Service Files: Canadian Armed Forces War Dead

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<b>Name:</b>	WALKER, GORDON VICTOR
<b>Age:</b>	25
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	03 Jan 1920
<b>Date of Death:</b>	25 Apr 1945
<b>Rank:</b>	Warrant Officer
<b>Unit:</b>	Royal Canadian Air Force
<b>Force:</b>	Air
<b>Service Number:</b>	R212817
<b>Reference:</b>	RG 24
<b>Volume:</b>	28878
<b>Extra Information:</b>	Son of Cecil and Annie May Walker, of King City, Ontario, Canada.

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Date Created: 2007-11-09

Date Modified: 2007-10-09

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO  
VITAL STATISTICS ACT  
REGISTRATION OF DEATH

Registration Number  
For use of Registrar General only

702213

1. PLACE OF DEATH  
City, Town or Village of **OVERBRAS (GERMANY)** Street \_\_\_\_\_  
Township of \_\_\_\_\_ County or District of \_\_\_\_\_

2. LENGTH OF STAY In Municipality where death occurred \_\_\_\_\_ In Province \_\_\_\_\_ In Canada (if immigrant) \_\_\_\_\_  
(In years, months and days)

3. PRINT FULL NAME OF DECEASED **WALKER GORDON VICTOR**  
(Surname or last name) (Given or Christian names)

4. PERMANENT RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:  
City, Town or Village of **King** Street \_\_\_\_\_  
Township of \_\_\_\_\_ County or District of \_\_\_\_\_ Province of **Ontario**

5. SEX **Male** 6. CITIZENSHIP **Canadian** 7. RACIAL ORIGIN \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced **Single** 9. BIRTHPLACE (Province or Country) **Ontario**

10. Date of Birth **JANUARY 3rd 1920** 11. AGE **25** Years Months Days If less than one day hrs. or min.

12. (a) Trade, profession, or kind of work as spinner, grader, clerk, etc. **Air Gunner**  
(b) Kind of industry or business, as paper mill, lumber, bank, etc. **R.C.A.F.**  
(If "Labourer" specify kind of work above)

13. Date deceased last worked at this occupation **April 25th 1945** 14. Total years spent in this occupation **Two**

15. If married, widowed or divorced give name of husband or maiden name of wife of deceased \_\_\_\_\_

16. Name of father **Walker Cecil**  
(Surname or last name) (Given or Christian names)

17. Maiden name of mother **Wilson Annie May**  
(Surname or last name) (Given or Christian names)

18. Birthplace: Father **Ontario** Mother **Ontario**  
(Province or Country) (Province or Country)

19. I certify the foregoing to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
Given under my hand at **Ottawa** this **9th** day of **March** 19 **46**  
Signature of informant **[Signature]** Relationship to deceased \_\_\_\_\_  
Address **For (R.C.A.F. Records Officer)**

20. Burial, Cremation or Removal Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_  
Place of Burial \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_  
(Municipality)

Burial Permit was issued by \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

21. Funeral Director: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

22. Marginal notations (Office use only)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

23. DATE OF DEATH **April 25th 19 46**  
(Month by name) (Day) (Year)

24. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_ and last saw h. alive on \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_

I Immediate cause Give disease, injury, or complication which caused death, with the mode of dying, such as heart failure, apoplexy, asthma, etc.	CAUSE OF DEATH	DURATION		
		Yrs.	Mos.	Dys.
(a) due to <b>Previously reported missing after air operations, now for official purposes, presumed dead.</b>				
(b) due to _____				
(c) due to _____				
II Other medical conditions (if important) contributing to death but not causally related to immediate cause.				

25. If a woman, was the death associated with pregnancy? \_\_\_\_\_ Duration \_\_\_\_\_ weeks. Was there a delivery? \_\_\_\_\_

26. Was there a surgical operation? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of operation \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_

State findings \_\_\_\_\_ Was there an autopsy? \_\_\_\_\_

27. If death was due to external cause (violence) fill in also the following—

Accident, suicide or homicide **Accident** Date of injury **April 25th 19 46**

Manner of injury **Presumed killed during air operations**

Nature of injury \_\_\_\_\_ (How sustained)

Specify whether injury occurred in INDUSTRY, in HOME, or in PUBLIC PLACE **public place**

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_ Designation \_\_\_\_\_ M.D., Coroner, etc.

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_

Division Registrar's Record No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Registration \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_ (Signature of Division Registrar)

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING. WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK. THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD.

CITIZENSHIP (NATIONALITY) is defined in terms of the country to which the person owes allegiance. The term "Canadian" should be used as descriptive of a person who was born in Canada or who has rights of Citizenship in Canada, unless he or she has subsequently become the citizen of another country. RACIAL ORIGIN is defined in terms of the people or race to which the person—traced through the father—belongs, whether English, Irish, Scottish, French, German, Russian, Ukrainian, etc. The terms "Canadian" or "American" should not be used for RACIAL ORIGIN, as they express CITIZENSHIP (NATIONALITY).

All cases of death must be reported to the Registrar within the time specified in the regulations.

S.A.A.F. 34 Sqdn. 25th March, 1945. Coll. grave 7. D. 1-13.

VLOK, Lt. (Nav./Bomber) T. V., 542885V. S.A.A.F. 37 Sqdn. 7th July, 1944. Age 22. Son of Louis A. and Ellen Vlok, of Piketberg, Cape Province, South Africa. Joint grave 4. C. 6-7.

VOKES, Flt. Sgt. WALTER RICHARD, 417537. R.A.A.F. 6th July, 1944. Age 20. Son of Robert and May Vokes, of Goodwood, South Australia. Coll. grave 8. A. 9-10.

WAGHORN, Dvr. ARTHUR WILLIAM, T/14525028. R.A.S.C. 15th March, 1946. Age 22. Son of Arthur Edward and Dorothey Waghorn, of Plumstead, London. 4. E. 8.

WALKER, Sgt. (Pilot) COLIN, 553859. R.A.F. 112 Sqdn. 3rd April, 1945. Age 22. Son of Robert H. and Mary A. Walker, of Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham. 5. F. 8.

WALKER, Wt. Offr. II. (Air Gnr.) GORDON VICTOR, R/212817. R.C.A.F. 619 (R.A.F.) Sqdn. 25th April, 1945. Age 25. Son of Cecil and Annie May Walker, of King City, Ontario, Canada. 8. B. 8.

WARD, Gnr. GEORGE, 11400534. 250 Bty., 80 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery. 22nd July, 1945. Age 38. 1. D. 9.

WARD, Dvr. L., T/14485880. R.A.S.C. 30th November, 1946. Age 20. Son of Ivy Ward, and stepson of Mr. E. Hammond, of Burton-on-Trent. 7. A. 1.

WARNOCK, Pte. D., 3318287. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. 20th June, 1946. Age 27. Son of William and Agnes McColmbe Warnock, of Glasgow; husband of Bette Gillies Warnock, of Glasgow. 6. E. 19.

WARREN, Spr. HARLOCK GEORGE, 2020776. Royal Engineers. 13th October, 1941. Age 26. Son of Walter Charles and May Warren, of Burwell, Cambridgeshire. 6. D. 13.

WARRINGTON, Flying Offr. (Air Bomber) ROBERT, 164321. R.A.F. (V.R.). 34 Sqdn. 25th March, 1945. Age 30. Son of James and Elizabeth Warrington; husband of Margaretta Warrington, of Edinburgh. 1. C. 3.

WATTS, Lt. M., 360740. The Royal Hampshire Regt. 16th March, 1947. 7. B. 3.

FL Vickers, Allan Jerry RCAF  
 Pte Vickers, Frank William RHC  
 PO Vickers, Clifford Howard RCAF  
 Pte Vincent, James Henry RCASC  
 Art Vincent, Omer RCA  
 Pte Vincent, Roger Joseph RHC  
 Sgt Vincent, Thomas Alexander RCAF  
 Pte Visser, Gaele ALR  
 Sgt Voakes, Frederick John RCIC  
 Pte Vogel, John Phillip Scaforth of C  
 PO Vogt, Jack Albert RCAF  
 Gnr Vogt, Norman RCA  
 Sgt Volks, Douglas James IrRC  
 Pte Vollett, Frederick Leslie AssHof C  
 Pte Vondette, Emile Lawrence  
 Lines & Willd R  
 Pte Von Eschen, George Ove  
 Scaforth of C  
 Pte Voshell, Earl Joseph CScot R  
 Pte Votary, George Francis  
 Scaforth of C  
 Pte Votour, Everett John CBHighrs  
 Lt **W**addell, Robert Reginald  
 Camerons of C  
 FO Wade, Donald Allan RCAF  
 Pte Wade, John Robert Lans Ren Scot  
 Gnr Wadsworth, William Frederick  
 RCA  
 Tpr Wagar, Arthur Thomas  
 Elgin Regt  
 Pte Wagg, Maxwell Douglas RCOC  
 Pte Wagner, Bruce Howard AssHof C  
 Cpl Wagner, Edwin 1H  
 LAC Wagner, Erhardt George RCAF  
 Pte Wagner, Ernest CaltHighrs  
 PO Wagner, William Wallace RCAF  
 Pte Wainman, Willard Pearson  
 RCASC  
 Sgmn-Waites, John Patrick Kenneth  
 RCSigs  
 Cpl (WD) Wakefield, Dorothy Maria  
 RCAF  
 Gdsm Wakegijig, Clarence Wilfred  
 CGG  
 Pte Wakely, George Sidney SD & Highrs  
 Pte Wakula, John Westm R

FO Walford, Clarence RCAF  
 Pte Walford, James Walter Sask LI  
 PO Walker, Andrew Morrison Orr  
 RCAF  
 EL Walker, Clifford Arthur RCAF  
 Cpl Walker, Donald Cecil William  
 HLI of C  
 Pte Walker, Ernest Andrew Esson Scot  
 WO2 Walker, Gordon Victor RCAF  
 FL Walker, Ian Paris RCAF  
 PO Walker, James Dickson RCAF  
 Gdsm Walker, John Langford GFG  
 Ptlm-Walker, Merrill Davidson  
 RCNVR  
 Spr Walker, Ralph RCE  
 Pte Walker, Robert RHC  
 Pte Walker, Robert Bruce GenList  
 Pte Walker, Thomas Laurie  
 CaltHighrs  
 Pte Walker, Wilford Russell  
 Lines & Willd R  
 LAC Walker, William Gordon RCAF  
 Gdsm Wall, Douglas Stanley GFG  
 Pte Wallace, Charles Henry  
 Nth NS Highrs  
 Rfn Wallace, Fraser Findlay William  
 RWps Rif  
 Tpr Wallace, George Edward 1H  
 Pte Wallace, Hudson William  
 CScot R  
 FO Wallace, Ivan James Vincent  
 RCAF  
 Tpr Wallace, John Burpee SNBH  
 Pte Wallace, John Lewis  
 Nth NS Highrs  
 PO Wallace, John Mackay RCAF  
 Pte Wallace, Robert Renwick Regt C  
 LAC Wallbridge, Harold Robert RCAF  
 Pte Wallingford, Charles Melvin RCR  
 L Cpl Wallis, Peter SSask R  
 FO Wallis, Richard MacMillan RCAF  
 Lt Walmsley, Raymond BCR  
 Lt Walsh, Frederick Ernest RWps Rif  
 Pte Walsh, John Albert RCANIC  
 FO Walsh, John Wallace Richard  
 RCAF  
 L Sge Walsh, John Wilbert QOR of C  
 Lt Walsh, Louis Joseph NShort R

## UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921 and 1939-1947

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Name: **Gordon Victor Walker**

Age: 25

Birth Date: abt 1920

Death Date: 25 Apr 1945

Cemetery: Klagenfurt War Cemetery

Father: Cecil Walker

Mother: Annie May Walker

Service Number: R/212817

Region or  
Memorial: Austria, Switzerland



## Veterans Affairs Canada

[Home](#) > [Records & Collections](#) > [The Canadian Virtual War Memorial \(CVWM\)](#) > Gordon Victor Walker

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### Canadian Virtual War Memorial

In memory of  
Warrant Officer  
*Gordon Victor Walker*  
who died on April 25, 1945

#### Military Service:

**Service Number:** R/212817

**Age:** 25

**Force:** Air Force

**Unit:** Royal Canadian Air Force

**Division:** 619 (R.A.F.) Sqdn

#### Additional Information:

Son of Cecil and Annie May Walker, of King City, Ontario, Canada.

**Cemetery:** KLAGENFURT WAR CEMETERY, Austria

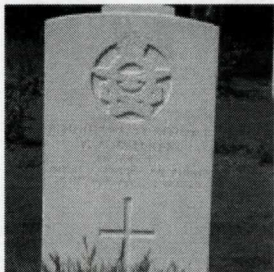
**Grave Reference:** 8. B. 8.

Commemorated on [Page 573](#) of the Second World War Book of Remembrance.

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#### Digital Collection

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WOLFGANG AUER

Wilfred "Foxy" DeMarco, the pilot of a Second World War Lancaster bomber, crashed on April 25, 1945, near the town of Adnet, Austria, where a memorial is now planned.

## 69 years after their Lancaster crashed, crew to be memorialized in Austria

# HAP'S LAMENT



JOE O'CONNOR

**H**ap DeMarco is 87 years old and feeling it, physically, and facing another surgery in the not so far off future to get his bum ankle fused while worrying about his kid brother, Mickey, his only surviving sibling, whose heart is acting up.

There is a lot on his mind, a lot of stuff pressing down, in the present. So answering the phone and finding a reporter on the line hoping to talk about the past, about April 25, 1945, the day his eldest brother, Wilfred — though everybody called him Foxy because he was so smart and handsome — was blasted out of the skies over Austria, sends an old man's memories reeling back to a moment he made peace with a long time ago because making peace was the only way to go on without being swallowed by grief.

"You can't ever truly put that one to bed, Joe," Mr. DeMarco tells me, from his home in Niagara Falls, Ont. "If you were to come into my bedroom I have a picture of my mother and father, with my older brother sitting in my mother's lap. Maybe he is 10 months old.

"Next to that I have a picture of my brother in his air force uniform with a smile on his face that could melt your heart. He was so handsome. His picture looks at me every day. I think about him all the time. I shake my head.

"He was fantastic, one of the smartest around in Timmins. An all-around athlete and good looking and, boy, that helps. He played hockey. And he was killed right on the button, right at the end of the war.

"My parents were devastated. We all were. It was indescribable, and I hate to have to think about losing him, all over again, because I already put it to bed, years ago. It is difficult to relive the thing. Even talking about it with you, 69 years later, gives my heart a twinge."

Wilfred Tarquinas DeMarco, Lancaster bomber pilot, Northern Ontario boy, Italian-Canadian, gold miner, hockey star, prankster, big brother, has been dead for almost 70 years. But his ghost is stirring, now, thanks to the mayor of an Austrian mountain village where the handsome Canadian pilot's stricken bomber crashed with three other men aboard.

Burgomaster Wolfgang Auer begins our conversation by apologizing for his "bad" English, which isn't too bad at all, and by telling me that the day the bomber went down in Adnet was *The Event* of the Second World War in the village.

"My father was only six years old and he remembers it," Mr. Auer says. "The older people always talked about the plane when I was growing up."

Adnet is about 15 kilometres from Berchtesgaden, Austria, home to Hitler's Eagle's Nest, a stone chalet with spectacular views and a warren of tunnels beneath it.

It was the scene of opulent Nazi weddings, an architectural feat protected by the SS, a powerful Nazi symbol perched on a ridge 1,800 metres above sea level. Near the end days of the war, Allied commanders feared that it could prove a formidable last redoubt for Nazi true believers.

So they sent over 300 aircraft to bomb it on April 25, 1945, two weeks before Germany surrendered.

Two aircraft were lost, the final casualties of the air war over Europe. One crash-landed safely. Flight Officer DeMarco crashed into a mountain.

"There are parts of the plane all over our mountain," Mr. Auer says.

By 1945, the villagers were desperately poor, lacking in basic materials. People scavenged the plane wreckage, peeling off bits of aluminum to patch leaky roofs, fashion makeshift sinks and other assorted gizmos.

"People made all sorts of crazy stuff with it," the mayor says. "The plane was totally recycled."

Mr. Auer began collecting parts about 25 years ago. He has engine

covers, a door, the landing gear and an ambitious plan to erect a memorial on the crash site honouring the four men — Wilfred T. DeMarco, Timmins, Ont.; Norman H. Johnston, Calgary, Alta.; Edward W. Norman, Boston, Lincolnshire, U.K.; Gordon V. Walker, King City, Ont. — who died on the mountain plus the three that parachuted to safety and were captured — Freddy Cole and Art Sherman, both Brits, and Jack Speers from Barrie, Ont.

The memorial will incorporate plane wreckage with the marble the village has been famous for since Austria was part of the Roman Empire. A local trades school is working on the project. The dedication date is April 25, 2015, the 70th anniversary of the crash. All seven airmen are gone now, and so the mayor's final wish is to extend an invitation to their living relatives to attend the unveiling.

"I want to give the men a proper ending," he says.

It is a desire that has revived the memory of Foxy DeMarco. David Young is a retired lorry builder in Stoke-on-Trent, U.K., and a volunteer researcher for 619 Squadron, a Facebook page where history buffs and descendants of Second World War flyers share old family photos and war stories.

Mr. Auer contacted Mr. Young through a third party seeking help in his hunt for the bomber crew's relatives. Most were easy to find, except for the pilot from Timmins and Gordon Walker, the rear gunner from King City. (The search for Mr. Walker's descendants is ongoing).

"All I had on DeMarco was that he was from Timmins," Mr. Young says.

The researcher sent out several

emails, including one to the *Timmins Press* requesting "information or addresses" connected to the DeMarco family. The note appeared on the paper's "Letters and feedback" webpage on Jan. 11, which is where I saw it.

When I found Hap DeMarco in Niagara Falls he told me his family left Timmins 50 years ago. He said in 1939, when the war first broke out, his hometown wasn't the greatest place to be Italian no matter how Canadian you were.

Italy's Mussolini sided with Hitler. Timmins' Italian population, which worked in the mines, were targeted with racial slurs and labelled as "traitors." There were fist fights. And job firings. Prominent community members were sent to internment camps while a generation of Italian-Canadian sons, men like Foxy DeMarco and his brother, Blackie, enlisted, partly to prove their patriotism but mostly to get out of Timmins to see the world. (Hap DeMarco spent six months in the army in 1945, but never left Toronto).

Mr. DeMarco remembers meeting a man at a house on Davenport Avenue in Toronto after the war. The man said he had some information about his brother and the attack on Berchtesgaden.

"He told me they weren't even supposed to go out — that there was another crew already on board that Lancaster," he says. "But they were ordered to stand down and my brother's crew was ordered to take the plane.

"This guy told me the anti-aircraft fire was ferocious. They got hit. My brother ordered everyone to bail out, saying he was going to try and get the

plane back to England. And as they parachuted down, looking up, they saw the plane being blown to pieces."

*Flying into Hell*, a book by Mel Rolfe published in 2001, provides an eyewitness account of Flight Officer DeMarco's final mission. The writer interviewed the three survivors. Freddy Cole, the flight engineer, describes "Wilf" DeMarco as "a brilliant pilot ... with a terrific sense of humour."

He was an outsized personality, a sucker for a good gag, who would hand the controls over to Mr. Cole and walk to the rear of the bomber pretending to the rest of the crew that no one was flying the plane. On his leaves he headed to Liverpool to coach and play hockey.

To prove his strength he would scoop up a crewmen beneath each arm and heave them around like laundry sacks.

Jack Speers, the wireless operator, recalled tapping the pilot's knee on April 25, 1945 — standard procedure to alert him that the rest of the crew were bailing out — and getting no response.

Maybe Foxy DeMarco was already dead. Maybe he was unconscious. Maybe he just wanted to get that plane home to England. There was a withering crossfire. Explosions everywhere. A crash.

"I shall never forget the loss of those boys whom I look back on as brothers," Mr. Speers said in the Rolfe book.

For Hap DeMarco, Foxy really was a brother, his big brother, the best looking, the best of them all. He shares a headstone in Timmins Memorial Cemetery with his father, Rocco.

"All we had to bury was a memory," Mr. DeMarco says.

It is getting late. We've been talking for close to an hour. Mr. DeMarco has to go. But not before saying that his brother loved to fly. Truly loved it, and he would have come home from that war and probably been a pilot for Air Canada, married a pretty girl and had a mess of kids.

It is burying that image — the imagined life of a brother who never had a chance to live it — that could break a man apart, if a man let it, so better just to let it be.

"My brother died in another war to end all wars," Mr. DeMarco says. "Now you tell me how many wars there have been since then?"

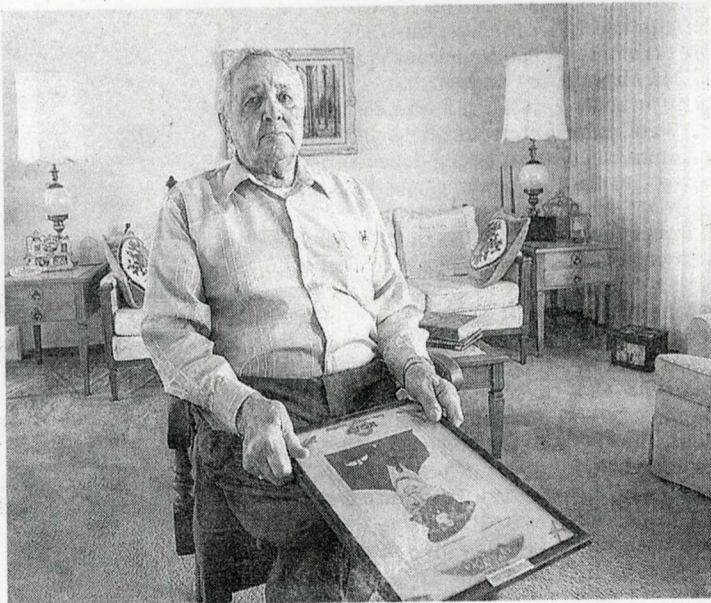
"I look at my brother's picture; he is so alive, so beautiful. Why would I want to stir up the ashes? No, I won't be going to Austria.

"But you can tell that mayor he can send me a picture."

National Post

joconnor@nationalpost.com  
Twitter.com/oconnorwrites

Jan 18, 2014



Hap DeMarco, 87, sits in his Niagara Falls home holding a portrait of his older brother Wilfred DeMarco, right, a Second World War RCAF bomber pilot who was shot down in one of the war's last raids.



GLENN LOWSON FOR NATIONAL POST