

# Robert James Adair



**Service Number:** A-21239

**Rank:** Corporal

**Summary:** There were four Adair brothers: Frederick, Robert, Kenneth, and Charles. They lived on North Street with their parents Frank Roy Adair and Dorothy Irene Pinkham Adair\*. Frank was employed by the Canadian National Railway. He was a veteran of the Great War. The boys attended school in Strathroy, and were very well known throughout the Town. All four brothers enlisted for service overseas. Frederick, Robert and Kenneth joined the Canadian Army and Charles joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. Frederick Wilfred Allan Adair, enlisted with the First Hussars in London, Ontario in 1939.

He was later transferred to the Perth Regiment. Fred served overseas as a private for three years and was the only Adair boy to return home. Robert James Adair (above), born in London, Ontario, worked as a truck driver in Windsor (Adelaide Twp History says he worked for Wilfred Down as a farmer) before he joined the Essex Scottish Regiment in May of 1938. He was later transferred to the Perth Regiment.

His service number was A-21239, and he served as a Corporal for the Perth Regiment.



He married a British girl, Pauline Patricia Saxby, on May 1, 1943 in Crayford, Kent, England. He was killed in action on May 26, 1944 during fierce fighting for Cassino, a key position on the Italian front. The Perth Regiment suffered heavy losses that day including 10 dead and 30 wounded. At 23 years of age, Robert was the first casualty of the Adair family. He is buried in the Cassino War Cemetery in Italy. Adair Boulevard in Strathroy is named after the four brothers.

\* Dorothy Irene Pinkham Adair was actually the Adair brother's step mother. Apparently their birth mother left the family when they were very young and moved to Windsor. Charles and Robert were sent to live with their Grandmother.

