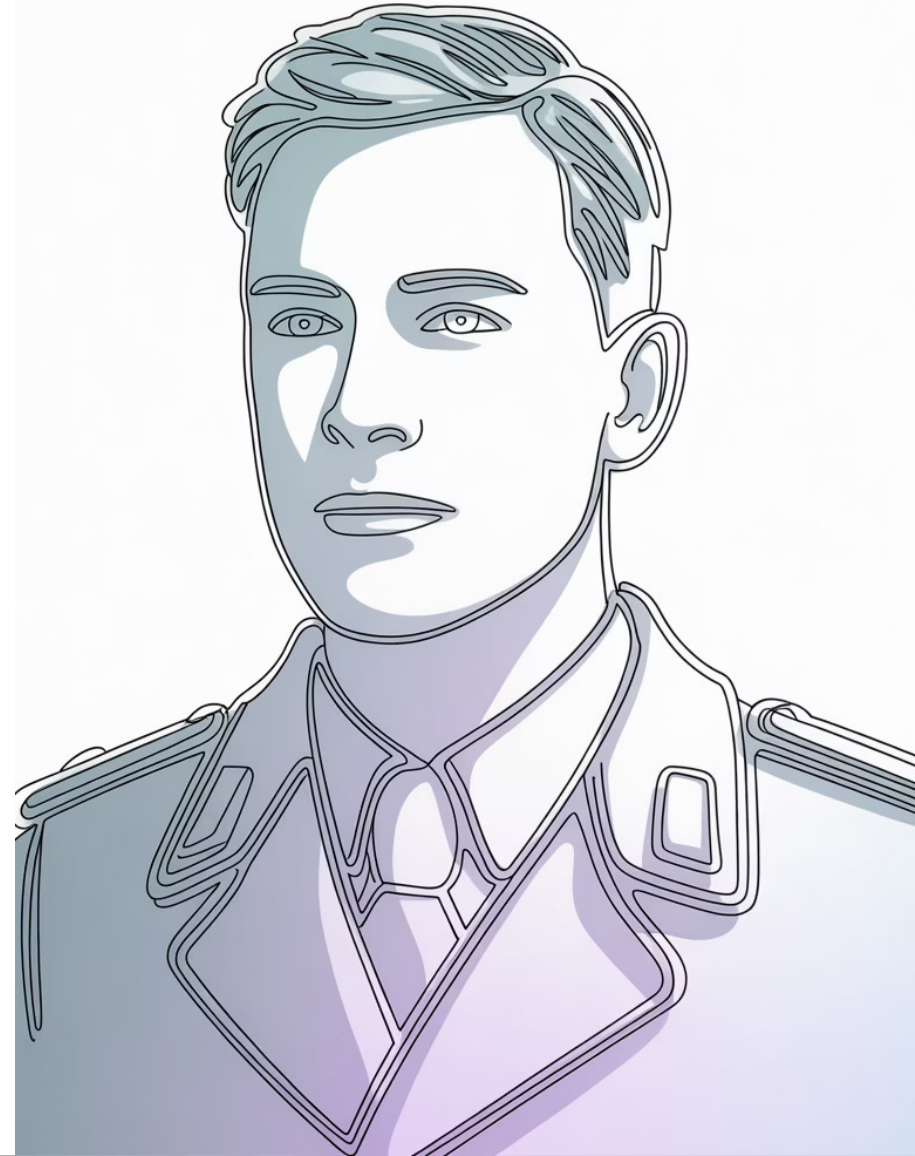


Alfred Leon Carroll

A Soldier's Journey

From enlistment to engineer: The remarkable story of service, sacrifice, and transformation



Overview

01

Enlistment

September 2, 1939 - A young student joins the war effort

03

Return

October 18, 1945 - Discharge and new beginnings

02

Service

6 years, 47 days across multiple theaters of war

04

Transformation

From soldier to chemical engineer

Identity and Origins

Personal Details

Full Name: Alfred Leon Carroll

Regimental Number: F.34844

Date of Birth: November 10, 1921

Place of Birth: Norwich, Connecticut, U.S.A.

Citizenship: Canadian

Religion: Roman Catholic

Pre-War Life

Status: Student, Single

Education: Completed Grade XI (left school in 1939 at age 17)

Next of Kin: Mother, Mrs. Lucy Ann Carroll

Address: 880 1/2 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S.

Distinguishing Mark: Scar on back of right neck



The Call to Arms



September 2, 1939

Enlistment date into the Canadian
Active Service Force (CASF)



**Princess Louise
Fusiliers**

Enlisted with the Princess Louise
Fusiliers (Motor) (P.L. Fus. (M.G.))
C.A.S.F.



Rank: Fusilier

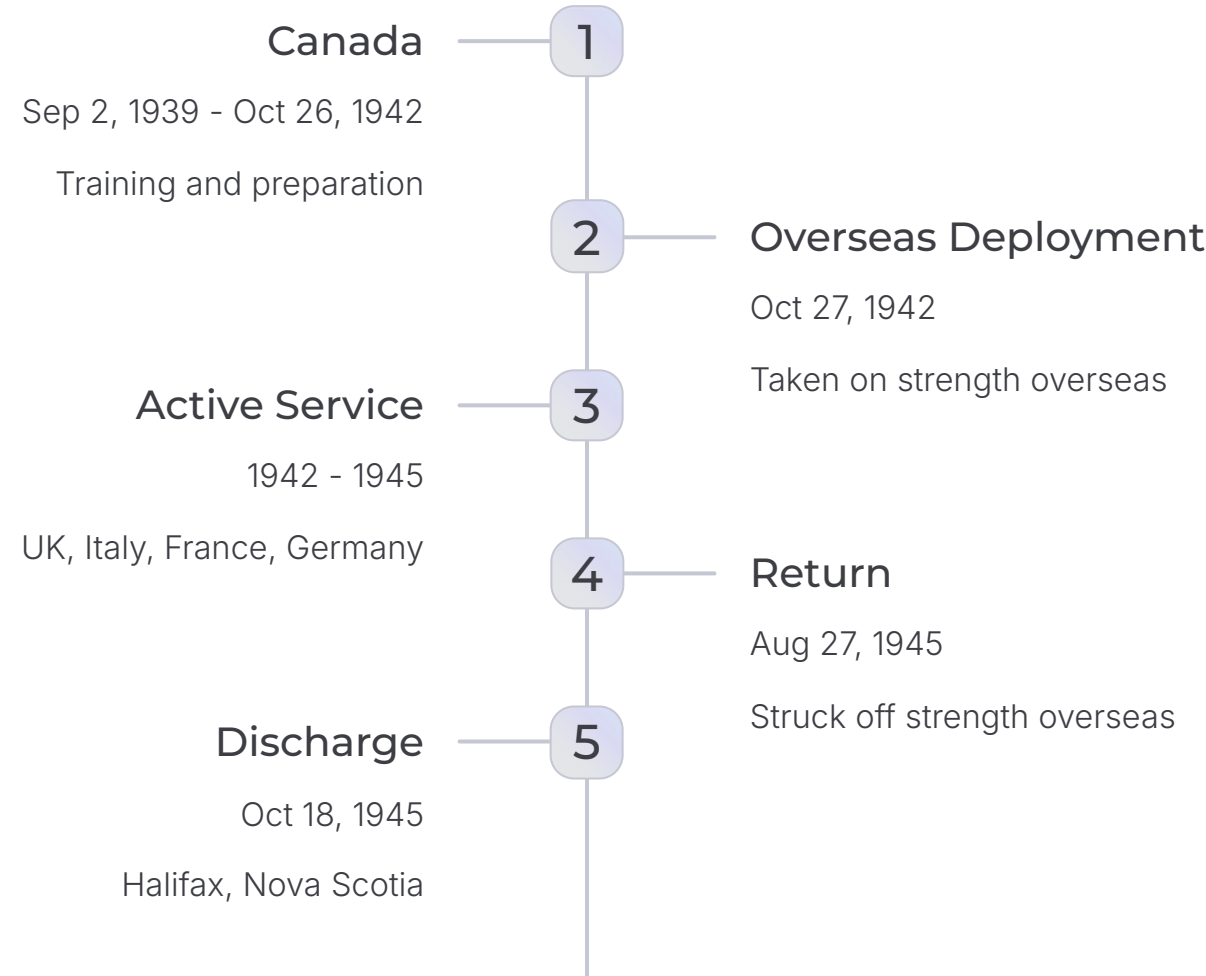
Began military service at the rank of Fusilier (Fus.)

Six Years of Service

6 Years, 47 Days

Alfred Leon Carroll dedicated over six years of his life to military service, spanning from his enlistment in September 1939 to his discharge in October 1945. This period encompassed training in Canada, deployment overseas, and active service across multiple theaters of World War II.

Service Timeline



Training and Specialization

Carroll's military career was marked by extensive training and specialization in critical technical roles. His aptitude for communications and mechanical operations led to significant responsibilities throughout his service.

Infantry Corps

Primary training in infantry operations and tactics

Signalman

32 months of service in communications roles

Driver Operator

3 years (36 months) operating military vehicles

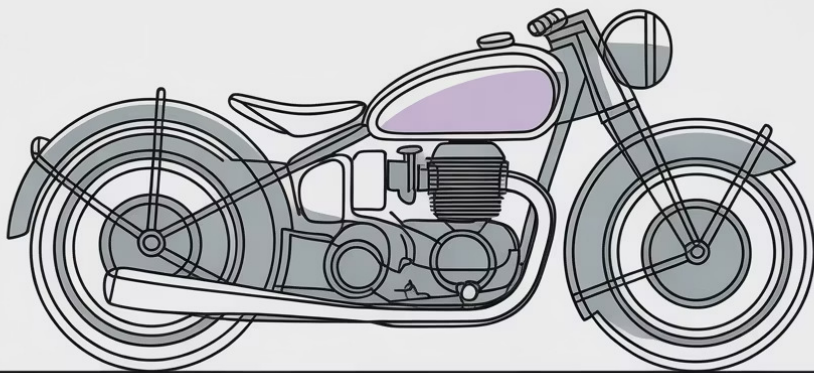
Wireless Operator

Service Trade categorized as Wireless Op. (Group/Rating C)

Technical Qualifications

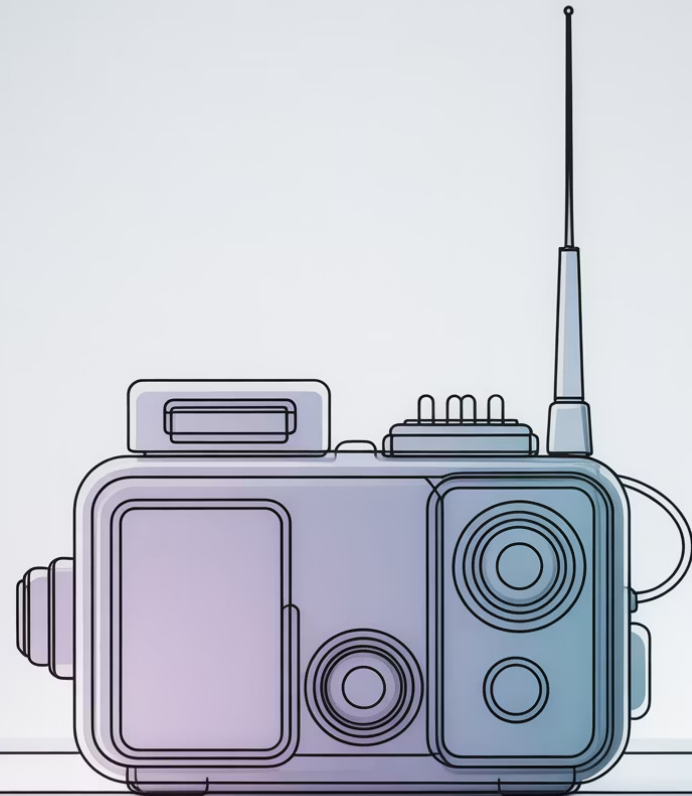
Vehicle Operations

- **Motorcyclist Class III** - Qualified November 6, 1940
- **Driver (i/c) (Wheeled) Class III** - Effective June 27, 1942



Communications

- **Wireless Instruction Course** - March 30 to May 8, 1942
- **Unit Instructor, Class I** - Qualified May 14, 1942





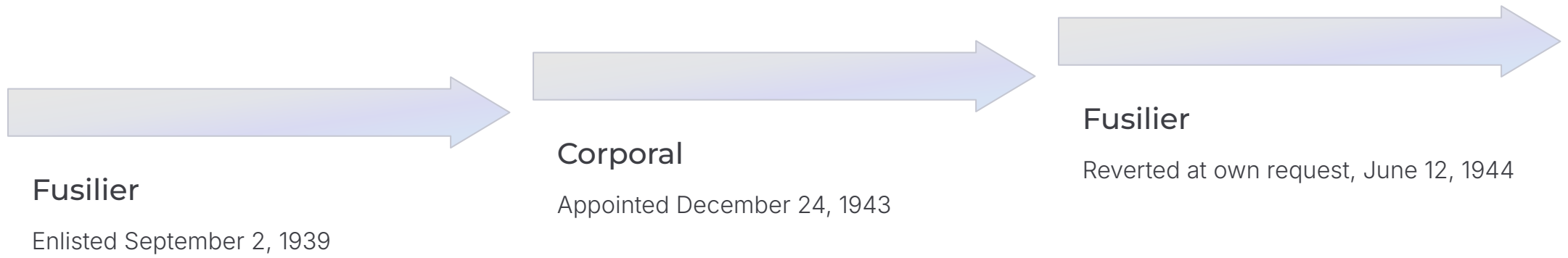
An Exceptional Instructor

"Exceedingly clever and good lecturer"

— Wing Commander's assessment, May 1942

Carroll's abilities as an instructor were formally recognized when he qualified as a Unit Instructor, Class I on May 14, 1942. His Wing Commander's glowing assessment highlighted not only his technical competence but his exceptional ability to communicate and teach complex wireless operations to fellow soldiers.

Rank and Promotion



In a notable decision, Carroll voluntarily reverted from Corporal to Fusilier on June 12, 1944, at his own request. This unusual choice suggests a preference for frontline service or technical roles over leadership responsibilities during a critical period of the war.

Theaters of War

United Kingdom
Initial overseas deployment and training

Holland
Continental Europe campaign



Italy
Central Mediterranean Area operations

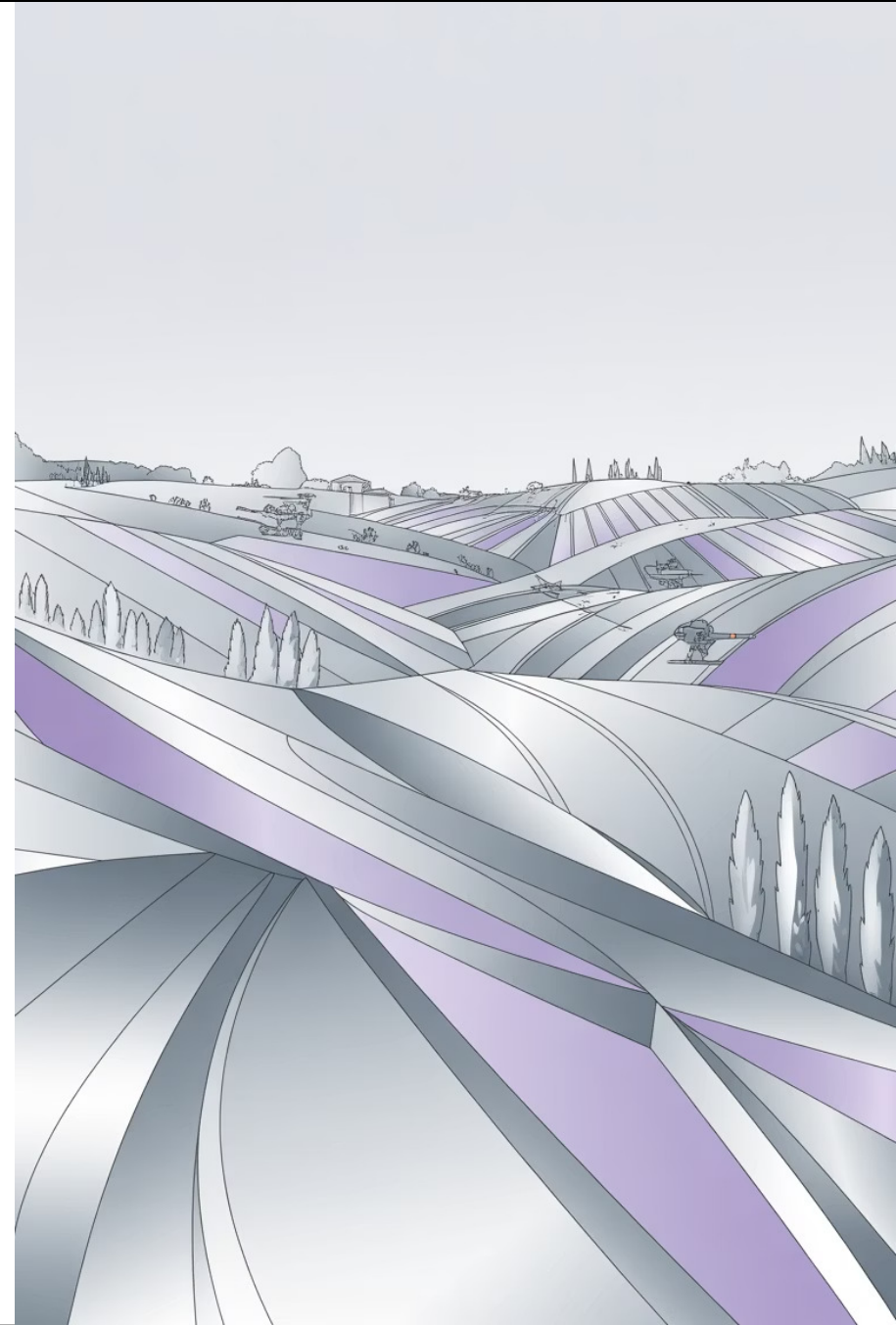
France
Disembarked May 2, 1945

Germany
Final theater of operations

The Italian Campaign

Carroll served with the Canadian Mediterranean Force (C.M.F.) during the grueling Italian Campaign. He was confirmed in the rank of Corporal while serving in this theater, participating in some of the war's most challenging operations.

The Italian Campaign was marked by difficult terrain, fierce resistance, and harsh conditions. Carroll's service in this theater would later be recognized with the Italy Star.



Movement Through Europe



Embarked Italy

Departure from Italian theater



Disembarked France

May 2, 1945



New Posting

11 Independent M.G. Coy (P.L.F.) - May 3, 1945

By May 1945, as the war in Europe neared its conclusion, Carroll was transferred from Italy to France and posted to the 11 Independent Machine Gun Company (Princess Louise Fusiliers) on May 3, 1945.

Medals and Decorations

Alfred Leon Carroll's service was recognized with six medals and decorations, reflecting his extensive overseas service across multiple theaters of World War II.



1939-1945 Star

General service medal



Italy Star

Italian Campaign service



France-Germany Star

Northwest Europe operations

Additional Honors



Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp

Awarded effective January 10, 1944, recognizing voluntary service and overseas deployment



Defence Medal

Awarded for service in defense of the realm during the war



War Medal, 1939-1945

General service medal for participation in World War II

Medical Challenges

Like many soldiers, Carroll faced health challenges during his service. His medical record documents several significant incidents that tested his resilience.

January 1940 - Influenza

Hospitalized at Camp Hill Hospital, Halifax, N.S., from January 16-22, 1940

Treatment

Treated with Quinine and Mepacrine, discharged August 7, 1944

July 1944 - Malaria

Admitted July 26 with Fever N.Y.D., diagnosed as Malaria B.T. (Benign Tertian)

August 1945 - Final Board

Certified fit for heavy manual labor despite chronic cold since 1940

Malaria in Italy

The Diagnosis

On July 26, 1944, while serving in Italy, Carroll was admitted to medical care with a fever of unknown origin. He was subsequently diagnosed with **Malaria B.T. (Benign Tertian)**, a common affliction among troops serving in the Mediterranean theater.

Treatment consisted of Quinine and Mepacrine, the standard antimalarial medications of the era. After nearly two weeks of treatment, he was discharged on August 7, 1944, and returned to duty.



Malaria in WWII

Malaria was a significant health threat to Allied forces in Italy, affecting thousands of soldiers and impacting military operations throughout the campaign.

Final Medical Assessment

At his final medical board in August 1945, Carroll complained of a chronic cold with nasal discharge that had persisted since 1940. Despite this ongoing condition, medical officers found **no disability** and certified him as **fit for heavy manual labor**.

This assessment cleared the way for his discharge and return to civilian life, confirming that his wartime service had not left him with any lasting physical disabilities that would impair his ability to work.

Discipline Record

Carroll's service record shows two disciplinary incidents during his six years of military service, both relatively minor in nature.

June 1941

Penalty: Forfeited 2 days pay

Early in his service, while still training in Canada, Carroll received a minor financial penalty.

These incidents represent minor infractions in an otherwise exemplary service record spanning over six years.

June 19, 1945

Penalty: 14 days Confinement to Barracks (C.B.)

Offense under Army Act, Section 40. This period was classified as non-qualifying overseas service.

Service Statistics

2231

Total Qualifying Days

Over six years of recognized
military service

1022

Overseas Qualifying
Days

Nearly three years of service in
combat theaters

32

Months as Signaller

Specialized communications role

36

Months as Driver
Operator

Three years in vehicle operations



The Journey Home

After nearly three years overseas, Carroll was struck off strength overseas on August 27, 1945. He returned to Canada and was discharged on October 18, 1945, at Halifax, Nova Scotia, Military District No. 6.

The official reason for discharge: "To Return to Civil Life, 'On Demobilization'"

War Service Gratuity

\$882.54

Upon discharge, Carroll received a War Service Gratuity totaling **\$882.54**. This payment was calculated based on his 2,231 total qualifying days of service, including 1,022 days of overseas qualifying service.

This gratuity represented the government's financial recognition of his years of service and sacrifice, providing crucial support as he transitioned back to civilian life.



A New Beginning

From Soldier to Student

At age 23, having spent his late teens and early twenties in military service, Alfred Leon Carroll faced the challenge of rebuilding his life. His wartime experiences had interrupted his education, but they had also revealed his exceptional intelligence and learning ability.

The question now was: what would he do with the rest of his life?

Counsellor's Assessment

"A quiet, pleasant appearing soldier who seems mature and highly intelligent"

— Rehabilitation Counsellor, 1945

Demeanor

Quiet and pleasant, with a mature bearing beyond his years

Intelligence

Highly intelligent with very high learning ability

Potential

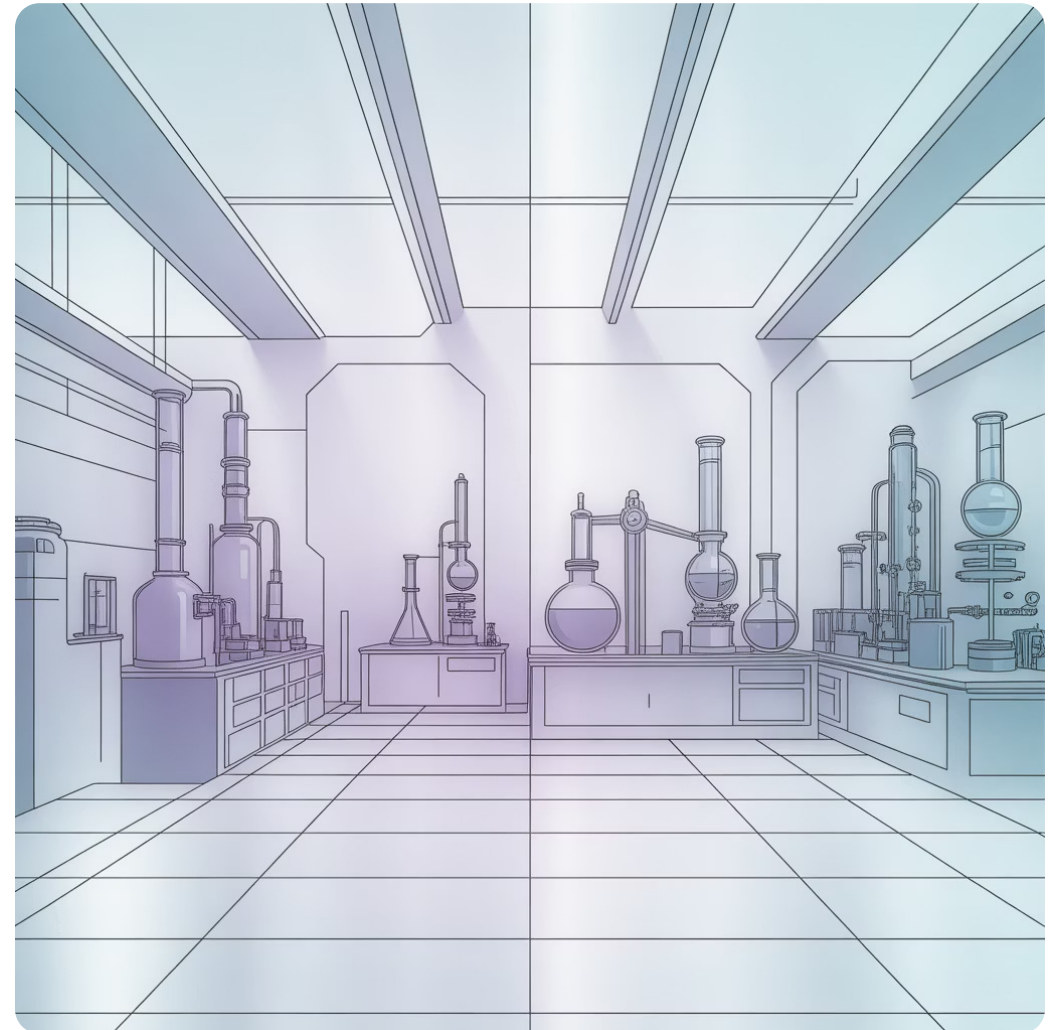
Excellent prospects for advanced education and professional career

The Dream: Chemical Engineering

Carroll's post-war goal was ambitious but achievable: to complete his education and pursue a University degree in **Chemical Engineering**. This field represented the cutting edge of industrial development in the post-war era.

Why Chemical Engineering?

- Excellent career outlook in post-war economy
- Growing plastics industry offered opportunities
- Combined his technical aptitude with scientific interest
- Promised stable, professional employment



The Education Plan

01

Junior Matriculation

Complete high school equivalency requirements

03

Chemical Engineering

McGill University - specialized degree program

02

Pre-Engineering

Dalhousie University - foundational courses

04

Graduation

Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical)

Approved Training Period: 40 months, starting January 7, 1946

Dalhousie University

Carroll began his academic journey at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he completed his pre-engineering requirements. This brought him full circle, studying in the same city where he had enlisted six years earlier.

Dalhousie provided the foundational mathematics, physics, and chemistry courses necessary for advanced engineering study.





McGill University

For his specialized chemical engineering education, Carroll attended McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, one of Canada's most prestigious institutions and home to a renowned engineering faculty.

McGill's chemical engineering program was recognized internationally for its rigor and excellence, preparing graduates for leadership roles in industry and research.

The Student Veteran

Veterans on Campus

Carroll was part of a wave of veterans who transformed Canadian universities in the late 1940s, bringing maturity, discipline, and determination to their studies.

At 24 years old when he began his studies, Carroll was older than most of his classmates. His military experience had given him discipline, focus, and a clear sense of purpose that served him well in the demanding engineering curriculum.

His wartime technical training as a wireless operator and instructor provided a foundation for understanding complex systems and communicating technical concepts.

Progress and Performance



Training Completion

Successfully completed 40-month program

Throughout his training period from January 1946 to May 1950, Carroll's performance was consistently rated as **"Satisfactory"**. This steady progress through a challenging curriculum demonstrated the same reliability and competence he had shown during his military service.

Training officially ceased on May 22, 1950, upon his graduation.

Graduation

B. Eng. (Chem)

In 1950, Alfred Leon Carroll achieved his goal, graduating with a **Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) Degree** from McGill University. This accomplishment represented the culmination of four years of intensive study and marked his successful transformation from soldier to engineer.



The Plastics Industry

Carroll's timing was perfect. The post-war era saw explosive growth in the plastics industry, which was revolutionizing manufacturing and consumer products. Chemical engineers with expertise in polymer chemistry and processing were in high demand.

Post-War Boom

Rapid industrial expansion created numerous opportunities

New Materials

Development of synthetic polymers and plastics

Growing Demand

Chemical engineers needed across multiple industries

First Professional Position

Canadian Resins and Chemicals Ltd.

In November 1950, shortly after graduation, Carroll secured employment as a **Chemical Engineer** with Canadian Resins and Chemicals Ltd. in Shawinigan Falls, Quebec, Canada.

The Company

Canadian Resins and Chemicals Ltd. was a significant player in the Canadian chemical industry, specializing in resins and chemical products for industrial applications.

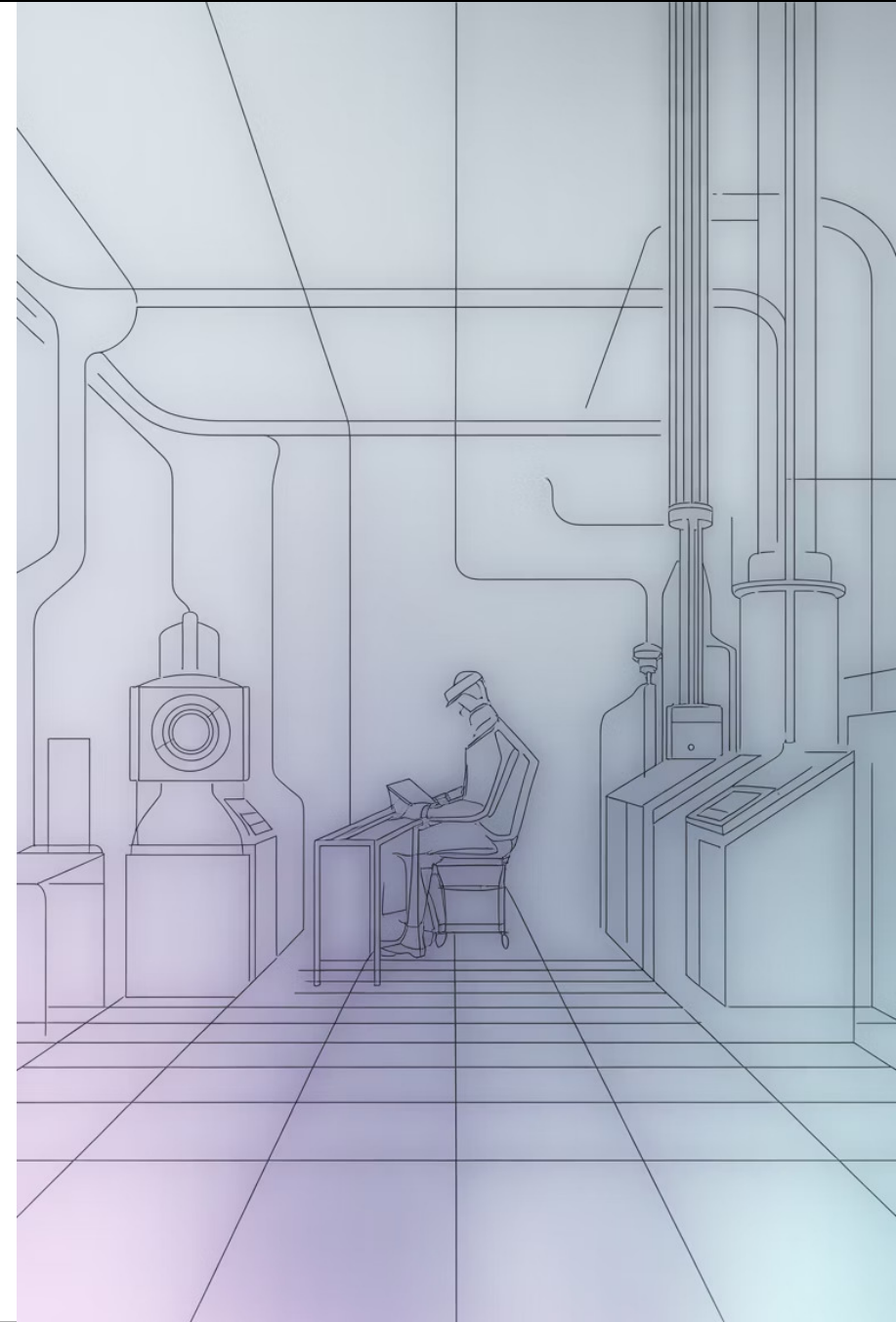
The Location

Shawinigan Falls, Quebec, was an industrial center known for its hydroelectric power and chemical manufacturing facilities.

Career Launch

Carroll's position at Canadian Resins and Chemicals represented the successful launch of his professional career. His military discipline, technical training, and engineering education converged to make him a valuable asset to the company.

The counsellor's 1945 prediction of "very good" career prospects in chemical engineering, particularly in the plastics industry, had proven accurate.



A Life Transformed

1939: Student

17-year-old with Grade XI education, uncertain future

1945: Veteran

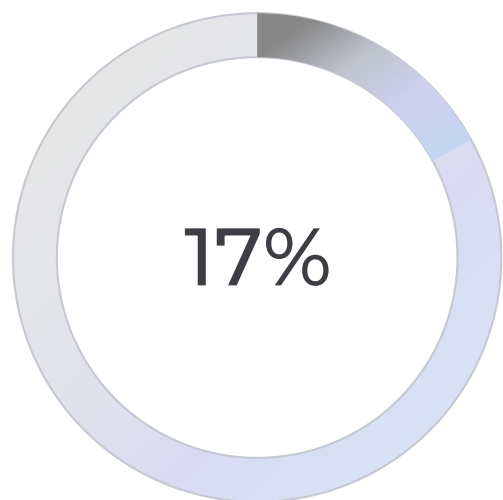
23-year-old with six years military service, multiple decorations

1950: Engineer

28-year-old university graduate with professional career

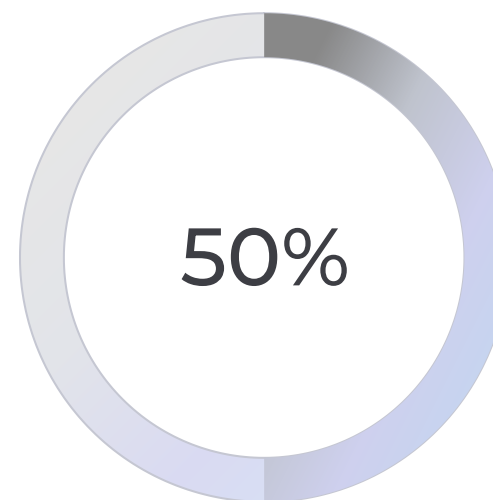
The Cost of Service

Carroll's military service came at a significant personal cost. Six years of his youth were spent in uniform, including nearly three years overseas in combat zones. He faced disease, danger, and the daily hardships of military life.



Of His Life

Six years from age 17 to 23



Overseas

Nearly half his service in combat theaters

Yet he emerged with his health largely intact, his intelligence recognized, and his future secured through educational opportunities.

The Value of Education

The rehabilitation program that supported Carroll's education represented a crucial investment in veterans' futures. By enabling him to complete his degree, the program transformed a young soldier into a skilled professional who could contribute to Canada's post-war industrial development.

This investment paid dividends not only for Carroll personally but for Canadian society as a whole, as educated veterans became leaders in business, industry, and the professions.

Skills Transferred

From Military to Engineering



Technical Aptitude

Wireless operations translated to engineering systems thinking



Communication

Instructor experience enhanced professional collaboration



Discipline

Military training instilled work ethic and perseverance

The Instructor's Legacy

Carroll's qualification as a Unit Instructor, Class I, and his Wing Commander's praise as an "exceedingly clever and good lecturer" foreshadowed his success in professional life. The ability to understand complex technical material and communicate it clearly to others is invaluable in engineering.

These teaching skills likely served him well throughout his career, whether training junior engineers, presenting to management, or collaborating with colleagues.



The Voluntary Demotion

One of the most intriguing aspects of Carroll's service record is his voluntary reversion from Corporal to Fusilier in June 1944, during the Italian Campaign. This decision reveals something important about his character and priorities.

Possible Reasons

- Preference for technical work over leadership
- Desire to serve with specific unit or comrades
- Focus on specialized wireless operations
- Personal conviction about where he could contribute most

A Telling Choice

This decision suggests a man who valued meaningful contribution over rank or status—a quality that likely served him well in his engineering career.

Resilience Through Adversity

Carroll's ability to overcome malaria in Italy and continue serving, despite a chronic cold that persisted from 1940 onward, demonstrates remarkable resilience. These health challenges did not prevent him from completing his service or pursuing his educational goals.



Physical Challenges

Overcame influenza, malaria, and chronic respiratory issues



Mental Fortitude

Maintained focus and performance despite hardships



Goal Orientation

Never lost sight of post-war educational and career objectives



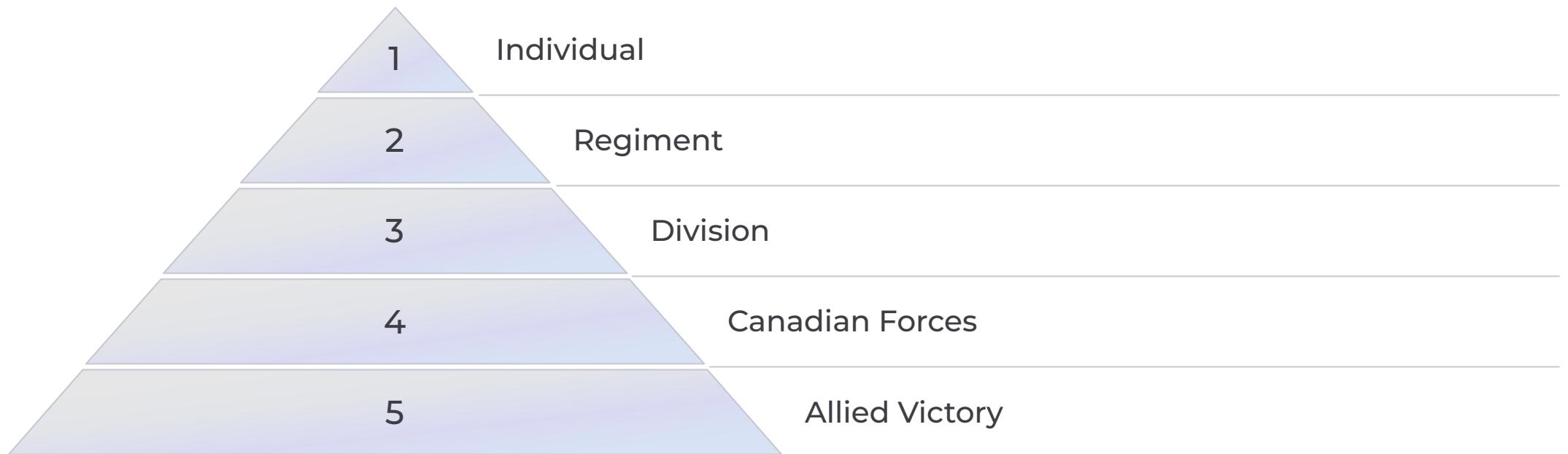
The Mother's Sacrifice

Behind every soldier's story stands a family's sacrifice. Mrs. Lucy Ann Carroll, Alfred's mother, watched her son leave for war at age 17 and waited six years for his return. She lived at 880 1/2 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S., likely following news of the war with both pride and anxiety.

The documentary record lists her as next of kin, but cannot capture her worry, her prayers, or her relief when he finally came home.

A Generation's Story

Alfred Leon Carroll's journey from student to soldier to engineer mirrors the experience of thousands of young Canadians who served in World War II. His story is both unique and representative—individual in its details, universal in its themes of service, sacrifice, and transformation.



The Documentary Record

This narrative is built entirely from official military and rehabilitation documents: enlistment papers, medical records, training certificates, discharge papers, and educational records. Each document provides a piece of the puzzle, together revealing a life shaped by war and rebuilt through education.

- **Service records document military career**

Enlistment, training, postings, and discharge

- **Rehabilitation records track education**

Counseling, training approval, and progress reports

- **Medical files reveal health challenges**

Influenza, malaria, and chronic conditions

- **Employment records confirm career launch**

Professional position and successful transition

What the Records Don't Tell

For all their detail, official documents cannot capture the full human experience. They record facts but not feelings, events but not emotions, outcomes but not inner struggles.

Unknown Stories

- Friendships forged in service
- Moments of fear or courage
- Letters home to his mother
- Dreams and doubts during long nights
- The weight of combat experiences
- Joy of returning home



Legacy of Service

Carroll's six medals represent more than personal achievement—they symbolize Canada's contribution to Allied victory and the sacrifice of a generation. Each medal tells part of the story:

-  **1939-1945 Star**
The war years
-  **Italy Star**
Mediterranean campaign
-  **France-Germany Star**
Liberation of Europe
-  **CVSM & Clasp**
Voluntary service
-  **Defence Medal**
Home defense
-  **War Medal**
Victory achieved

From War to Peace

Education Interrupted

Left school at 17 in 1939



Military Service

Six years in uniform



Education Resumed

University degree earned



Career Launched

Professional engineer



The cycle from student to soldier and back to student, finally emerging as a professional engineer, represents the successful rehabilitation of a veteran and the fulfillment of post-war promise.

The Measure of Success

How do we measure the success of Alfred Leon Carroll's life journey? By multiple metrics, his story represents triumph over adversity and the realization of potential.

6

Years of Service

Dedication to country and duty

6

Medals Earned

Recognition of sacrifice and
achievement

4

Years of Study

Commitment to education and
growth

1

Degree Earned

Professional qualification
achieved

A Life Rebuilt

By November 1950, Alfred Leon Carroll had successfully rebuilt his life. The 17-year-old student who enlisted in 1939 had become a 28-year-old chemical engineer with a promising career ahead. The war had interrupted his education but not derailed his ambitions. The rehabilitation system had worked as intended, transforming a veteran into a productive professional.

His story embodies the promise of post-war Canada: that service would be honored, sacrifice recognized, and opportunity provided to those who had defended their country.



Remembering Alfred Leon Carroll

F.34844

This regimental number represents one man's journey through war and peace, sacrifice and achievement, challenge and triumph. Behind the documents and dates stands a real person who served his country, overcame adversity, pursued education, and built a professional career.

Alfred Leon Carroll's story reminds us that every veteran's service record represents a human life—with all its complexity, courage, and potential. His successful transition from soldier to engineer demonstrates the resilience of the human spirit and the value of supporting veterans in their return to civilian life.

