

# Armand Tétreault, Traumatized Soldier

Pierrette Brière



Armand Tétreault was born on May 4, 1919 in Kedgwick, New Brunswick. His parents were Wilfrid and Georgiana Houle, both from the Province of Québec.



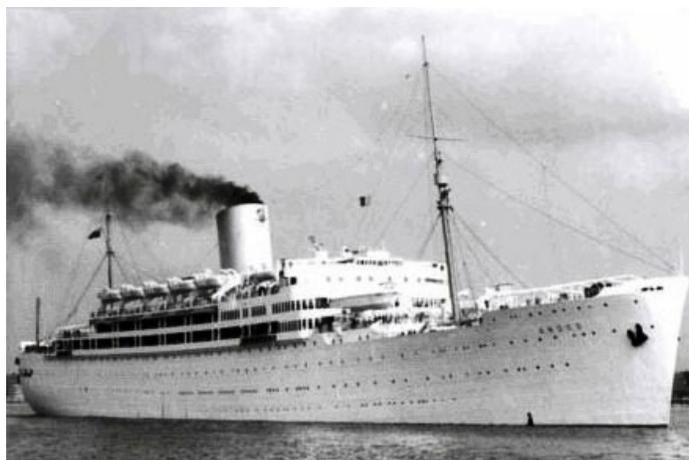
On August 27, 1941, in Edmundston, Armand was drafted in accord with the law mobilizing national resources. To a question about his interest in the infantry, he indicated "not interested". Nevertheless, on October 20, having completed 33 days of basic training, he joined the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps where he was enlisted as G56310. At the age of 22, the dark-haired, blue-eyed young man declared himself to be a farmer and mentioned that his favorite hobby was sports. Since he had never been to school, he signed his enlistment documents with an X.

On the following November 11, he boarded the *HMT Andes* headed for England. Fourteen days later, he landed in this faraway country, never to return.

The circumstances of his death during the winter of 1943 are somewhat

clouded. When they were notified of Armand's death, the family believed he had been killed on the battlefield. However, his recently reviewed military record reveals some surprising and particularly troubling information.

It was discovered that Armand was troubled, believing that the English speakers were conspiring against him. Yet, according to his colleagues, he was well appreciated by all his comrades in arms and he was doing good work. He was very nervous and expressed fear of being tortured or killed. He was perturbed to the point where the doctor prescribed him sedatives. He had also suffered insomnia and headaches, but these problems seemed to have been treated successfully with medication.



*HMT Andes*

On New Year's day 1943, just before dinner, his comrade Joseph-Alexander Caron helped Armand move to a new room. Once the move was completed, the men stretched out on their beds. Suddenly, Armand got up to go fetch a box of cocoa that had been forgotten upstairs. As Armand had not returned by dinner time, his friend went to look for him and found him unconscious, sprawled out on the floor in a pool of blood with a service weapon next to his left hand.

The doctor was called immediately to the Manor Haremere Hall and Armand was transported to the Kent and Sussex Hospital at Turnbridge Wells, England, where he was declared dead.

Two wounds to the head were found, corresponding to the entry and exit of a bullet. An investigation was conducted, witnesses were interviewed, and the report indicated "suicide resulting from a troubled mind." Notwithstanding the circumstances, the authorities considered his death as being service related. However, after reading the report, doubt remains in the minds of his nephews André Thétreault and Michel Tétreault. Was it a suicide or an assassination?



*Manor Haremere Hall*



*Brookwood Military Cemetery, England*

Armand Tétreault's remains were buried on January 8 at the Brookwood Military Cemetery, the most important one in the United Kingdom, west of London. (Canadian lot, section 39, row D, #3). His mother's request to repatriate his remains was denied, but his military decorations recognizing his service were returned, as was the custom.

An inquiry with Michel "Mitch" Caron from Alberta, one of Joseph-Alexander Caron's six children, indicates that the latter had never spoken about the drama to his family. The Caron family, surprised by this story, realized that such a sad experience could explain their father's heavy use of alcohol.

The memory of Armand Tétreault remains vivid in the hearts of his family. Let us not forget Armand and all those who,

like him, suffered and died "in combat" both at home and abroad. The struggle for mental health is at times as difficult as the struggle for peace and freedom.



### 350 years ago...

We mentioned some of the events from 1666 in the life of Louis and Noëlle in our article on early census data, so we will continue this feature in later Newsletters.

**TITLE OF DESCENT**  
**ARMAND TÉTREAULT**

Mathurin Tetreau et Marie Bernard  
 Tessonnière, département des Deux-Sèvres, France, le 29 juillet 1620

**Louis Tetreau**

Noëlle Landeau (*Jean et Marie Aubert*)  
 Trois-Rivières, le 9 juin 1663

**Joseph-Marie Tétreau dit Ducharme**

Anne Jarret dit Beauregard (*André et Marguerite Anthiaume*)  
 Montréal (Notre-Dame), le 12 juin 1700

**Louis Tétreau**

Anne-Marguerite Fontaine dit Bienvenue (*Pierre et Marguerite Gentes*)  
 Contrecoeur, le 23 février 1721

**Michel Tétreau**

Louise Bleau (*Laurent et Louise Gervaise*)  
 Rivière-des-Prairies (Saint-Joseph), le 25 février 1748

**François-Xavier Tétreau**

Marie-Antoine Leduc (*Joseph et Madeleine Ledoux*)  
 Saint-Charles-sur-Richelieu, le 29 janvier 1781

**Dominique Tétreau**

Marie Jacob dit Langlais (*Alexis et Joseph Drogue dit Lajoie*)  
 Saint-Jean-Baptiste-de-Rouville, le 7 septembre 1812

**Alexis Tétreau**

Sophonie Chicoine (*Louis et Françoise Pinelle*)  
 Saint-Jean-Baptiste-de-Rouville, le 7 octobre 1845

**Israël Tétreault**

Julie Langelier (*François et Émilie Martin*)  
 Saint-Liboire, le 3 novembre 1880

**Wilfrid Tétreault**

Georgiana Houle (*Onésime et Marie Lacharité*)  
 Saint-Léonard-d'Aston, le 21 juillet 1903

**Armand Tétreault**