

Bernier, Armand Corporal Plot 1 row G Grave 5

Armand Bernier, a French-Canadian, was born on October 29, 1919, in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario. He grew up in the catholic family of Francois and Sarah Bernier. He had one brother (Anicet) and three sisters (Jeanne Aimée, Germaine and Reina). He left the local agricultural school at the age of 17. He first was a woodcutter, fisherman and day laborer. Until his time in the army he worked as a laborer for the International Paper Cooperation in Gaspé for three years.

On February 5, 1942, Armand (unmarried) was conscripted for the Home Defence in Canada. He joined the regiment Les Fusiliers de Sherbrook on March 1943. On April ,1944, he switched to active service with the Régiment de Hull. He left Canada on May 27, 1944, and arrived in England on June 2, 1944. On the 21st of the same month he was transferred to Le Régiment de la Chaudiere and he crossed the Channel to the Eurpean mainland. He was officially reported missing in action after heavy battles on October 19, 1944. It was not before October 27 that his parents learnt of this (through a telegram from the army). On November 20 the happy news came that he was safe, and back with his regiment. A Canadian newspaper even published an article in which it was said he was “sound and safe”.

The Régiment de la Chaudiere went on with their efforts to liberate eastern Holland. On February 17, 1945, Armand was promoted to the rank of corporal. The fierce battle with the Germans in the Zutphen area had a dramatic ending for Armand; he was killed on April 7, 1945. His parents were informed about his death one week later, on April 14, by a telegram from the army high command. Armand first was laid in a provisional grave in Almen, and later transferred to the Canadian cemetery in Holten. He was 26 years old.

Armand was posthumously awarded these medals: the 1939-1945 Star, the France & Germany Star, the War Medal, and the CVS Medal & Clasp.