



On January 20 1923 George Edward Bonnell was born in Toronto (Ontario, Canada). He was the third child in the Bonnell family. The British couple Ernest Elmer (aged 50 in 1945) and Helen Marguerita (47 in 1945) Bonnell got married on April 10 1918 in Toronto. They had 5 children: Betty (G.R.) Lauder-Bonnell (24 in 1945), Danny James Bonnell (24 in 1945), George Edward Bonnell, Robert Ernest Bonnell (19 in 1945) and Mary Hellen Coney-Bonnell (16 in 1945). The family lived in Toronto (48 August Avenue, Toronto 13 Ontario) and was part of the Baptist religion.

On the 19th of October 1942, at the age of 19, George enlisted for the Canadian army, because of his sense of duty. When he was 15 he quit school to work, because of financial reasons. First he had some 'odd jobs, some market gardening' (as an examiner would later write in his service files). Later he worked at WP Hibbit in Toronto, as a truck driver. He hoped to return to this job after the war.

When he enlisted he was described as: "A young man of good stability and above average learning ability. He is clean and neat. Plays hockey and baseball but is not musical. Hobby is mechanical work on cars. He is interested in driving". He was 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighed 139,5 pounds. He had brown eyes and brown hair.

In August 1943 the following was written about him: "Average intelligence and stability. Mild nature. Well adjusted to army life. Well employed. Athletic neat physical appearance"

On June 13 1944 George came to France from the United Kingdom and from there to the Netherlands. He was probably part of the liberation there. Yet he never came home to Toronto. Private George Edward Bonnell passed away on May 11, 1945, at the age of 22. His file states: "Pte. Bonnell was wounded and subsequently died from a wound inflicted by his own sten gun. There is insufficient evidence to show whether it was accidental or intentional."

For his service in the war, George was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the France & Germany Star, the Defense Medal, the War Medal and the CVSM with clasp. He was temporarily buried in the cemetery in Winschoten, together with other Canadian soldiers who died in that area. Their names are mentioned on a monument in Winschoten. However, here his name is written as Bonnell, G. C. instead of G. E. as he was called. The memorial also reads: "In April/May 1945 twenty-two Canadian soldiers were fatally wounded or killed in action during heavy fighting in and around the "pocket Delfzijl". Their bodies found a temporary resting place here. In 1946 they were taken to their memorial cemetery at Holterberg." George Edward Bonnell found his latest resting place at Holten Canadian Cemetery, Plot XII, Row G, Grave 5.

A niece of him wrote (2022) that George was her dad's protector and hero. He was the peacekeeper in the family.

