

Bouley, Raymond. Lance/Corporal.

8-E-16



Raymond Bouley was born on September 3, 1925, in Norwich, Connecticut, USA.

It is unclear when Raymond moved to Canada.

His mother is Yvette Bouley, née Bréton.

His father is mentioned in Yvette's obituary (1982?), but his name is written as "Boulay."

In his service/pay book, Raymond himself notes that his mother is a widow.

He also mentions that he has an older sister, Louise. An uncle, René Bréton, is mentioned as "other family member".

His place of residence is listed as Loretteville, Quebec.

Raymond enlisted for active duty in the Canadian Army on July 17, 1944.

It is recorded that he is bilingual, English and French. He attended school in Quebec City and completed ten years. He worked in a hotel as a "commis d'hotel," a kind of junior position, and as a waiter.

His medical report lists only the standard information: 5'4½" tall, weighing 130 lbs; brown eyes and brown hair.

Other details: none. Fit for active service.

Raymond began his military service at the district depot in Lauzon, Quebec.

After a few weeks in Lauzon, Raymond was transferred to the basic training in Montmagny, Quebec. There he received two months of infantry training.

He continued this training in Valcartier, Quebec, where he was taken on strength September 30, 1944.



Inspection troops Valcartier

Raymond was granted leave from December 9 to 12, 1944. Upon his return, he was assigned to the 1st TRG (Training) Brigade and had to report to Camp Debert, Nova Scotia. This was the main staging area for troops crossing to the United Kingdom. Raymond reported there on December 22, 1944.

Camp Debert was the final staging area for units embarking from Halifax and was the location where the majority of troops received and trained with their personal weapons. For these purposes a large ammunition depot was built as well as extensive firing ranges.

Component units arrived at Camp Debert from across Canada and were organized into larger formations before being carried by trains to troopships at Halifax, usually at night in black-out conditions.



Camp Debert in the winter

During Christmas 1944, Raymond and the rest of the contingent, were on a troopship bound for the United Kingdom, arriving there on December 31, 1944.

In the UK, like many others, he was assigned to a reinforcement battalion.

In 1945, only a few entries were made in Raymond's file.

In mid-January 1945, Raymond was included in the list of reserve personnel for the regiment Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal. (FMR)

He made the crossing to the mainland of Western Europe on February 10, 1945.

Raymond's file reads that he travelled by plane.

The FMR war diary lists February 15, 1945, as the day he arrived at the regiment "in the field." It is striking that his army number is incorrect. It is listed as E-102064, which should actually be E-102164.

A-16510	Pte	ALLEN	G	A Coy
B-13079	Pte	ADAMS	J A P	A Coy
C-124339	Pte	BROWN	R J A	A Coy
C-124636	Pte	BROWN	R R	A Coy
J-132252	Pte	BELAND	G	A Coy
D-143458	Pte	BELIEVE	R	A Coy
C-124934	Pte	BENSON	P P P	A Coy
D-144826	Pte	BENTIN	C	A Coy
A-19089	Pte	BOWLES	R	A Coy
E-102064	Pte	BOULEY	R	A Coy
L-102115	Pte	BOUPIN	J L C	A Coy

On April 7, 1945, he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

The fateful day for Raymond was April 29, 1945: "Killed in Action."

That day was fatal for six more men of the regiment.

The war diary records:

29 Apr 45 Weather: cloudy in the afternoon with rain at night. Visibility good.
At 0900 hrs battalion with 1 troop of tanks, 1 troop of tank flame throwers and tank mine sweeper started operation to clear the village of MUNDERLOH, MR 4295 sheet M-2 guarding the approaches of the city of OLDENBURG.
Many snipers encountered but the flame throwers soon immobilized them. The operation was completed by 0700 hrs and 8 Recce regt took over while our men came back to their original positions.

On that day, the FMR had to clear the town of Munderloh, west of Delmenhorst (D), to secure the access road to Oldenburg on the southeast side.

Lance/Corporal Raymond Bouley was believed to be one of the seven casualties of enemy sniper fire.

He was given a temporary grave near Kirchhatten.



(Library and Archives Canada Photo, MIKAN No. 3228083)

Sherman tanks of "C" Squadron, The Fort Garry Horse, passing infantrymen of Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal, Munderloh, Germany, 29 April 1945.

On March 12, 1946, he was laid to rest in Holten at the CWGC Canadian War Cemetery.

The grave reference is 8-D-16.

He was awarded:

the 1939-1945 Star; the France-Germany Star; the 1939-1945 War Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp.

His family had his gravestone inscribed with the following text:

Il est ne d'une race fiere,
beni fut son berceau.
Le ciel a marqué sa carrière
dans un monde nouveau.
Ou se repose notre héro.



One striking appendix remains in Raymond's file: a report to the American Consulate in Ottawa that an American citizen had been killed in Canadian service.

Raymond Bouley will, most likely, never have been naturalized as a Canadian

Sources:

www.cwgc.org; www.ancestry.com; www.canada.ca/library-archives; project '44.