



Victor Lloyd Carpenter was born on September 14, 1922 in Vassar, in the southeast of Manitoba. He will be the last child of Delore and Dianna Carpenter. Delore or Adelard Charpentier, married Dianna as a widower in 1920. He was 58 when his son was born. Victor has one brother Percy and from two previous marriages of Delore three half-brothers and five half-sisters. They are a lot older than Percy and Victor. They are a Roman Catholic family. Unfortunately, his mother died of hemorrhage during pregnancy on May 3, 1926, when Victor is only 3 years old.

Victor went to school until Grade 10 and can speak and write English and French.

In early 1941, Victor worked in Fort Frances, Ontario in the pulp and paper industry as a gardener and owned his own home. However, his ambition was to become an electrician after the war.

On October 11, 1941, he married Cecile Margaret Pattison. In 1942 they had a son, Leroy Lloyd.

Times were very rough back then, there was widespread poverty and even famine in some places. To escape this, many volunteers signed up with the Canadian army. So did the youngest Carpenter brothers. Percy and Victor went by train in a boxcar to the recruitment agency in Winnipeg. On June 11, 1943, they enlisted in the Canadian army.

At the medical inspection, Victor is 175cm tall and weighs 67.5 kg. He has blue eyes and brown hair and has a scar on his right cheek. "Feet are somewhat flat but functions good".

What follows is a long period of military training in a number of training camps in Canada. In September 1943, Victor is one day is absent without leave, for which he is fined 7 days pay. During his service he will accumulate a total of 28 days absent without leave.

He was treated twice in a military hospital. In August 1943 for a skin disease. Soldiers came into contact frequently with chemicals, fuels, oils, soap residues, or plants that caused skin reactions. "Dermatitis venenata" was therefore a common medical diagnosis in Allied armies. It was successfully treated with a lotion. In November, he was hospitalised for two weeks with bronchitis from which he recovered.

In 1944 he was trained in Fort Garry as a Gunner Operator C. That is an gunner with a specific function as an operator of communication or targeting equipment, at skill level C.

Quite a few positive remarks are made about him. He is being described as a "steady, reliable, good practical Gunner Operator" and "possible n.c.o. material". It is clear that Victor has passed his training with flying colours.

From there, he is transferred to a transit camp in Windsor, Nova Scotia. Closer to Europe. Preparations are underway there for the invasion of Normandy. He arrives in the United Kingdom on April 30, 1944.

Almost three months after D-Day, he was finally sent to France and in October 1944 he was assigned to the 29th Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment (South Alberta Regiment) as Gunner Op C. They are part of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division.

The regiment participates in larger and smaller battles such as Falaise Gap, Battle of the Scheldt, Kapelsche Veer.

After the failure of Operation Market Garden, a huge Canadian/British force of about 400,000 men and about 35,000 vehicles was built up in the winter of 1944/1945 in and around Nijmegen/groesbeek area, close to the German border. A similar American force gathered near Roermond. The goal is to push the German units back behind the Rhine. Victor's regiment joined in from February 22, 1945.

After this fierce battle in Germany, the regiment was granted two weeks of rest in Brabant from March 12, 1945. On March 31, 1945, they crossed the Rhine. Via Terborg, Lochem, Diepenheim, Wierden, Meppen, the regiment moves through the Eastern Netherlands to the Emsland area in Germany. The Germans are still putting up fierce resistance on their own territory. The Canadians are shot at several times but it is not an organised resistance. They are gaining ground despite delay due to landmines and blocked roads and blown up bridges.

On April 27, 1945, it was cloudy but warm. It will be Victor Lloyd Carpenter's last day. He died at the age of 22. In the Carpenter family, the story goes that he was killed by a German sniper while he was in a foxhole. The War Diary of the regiment of that day recorded "No. 2 Troop was fired on ... but they gave



Sherman tanks of the South Alberta Regiment in recently liberated Bergen op Zoom, 29 October 1944

the wood a treatment and killed a sniper and followed up by shelling a mortar position”.

No Canadian casualties by enemy fire are mentioned.

Victor's body, along with two other Canadians, was buried a few kilometres further south in a temporary cemetery, called Evergreen Copse, near Bissel, Germany.

On March 18, 1946, his remains are reburied at the Canadian Cemetery in Holten, where he rests in grave 11 C 16.

Victor's brother Percy survived the war. He was injured by a hot caseshell which landed on his chest and was admitted to a military hospital in London (UK).

On August 31, 2025, Victor’s grave and the information centre were visited by Rob and Diane Carpenter from Edmonton, Alberta. Rob is the grandson of Percy, Victor's brother. Rob and Diane had brought flags with their names and those of their children and they put them by the grave. A beautiful tribute. He has given us information that has been used in this story. Victor's son, grandson & great grandson (3 generations) visited the grave in year 2010.

Awards: 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, War Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp

SjB v1.1, dec 2025

sources:

ancestry.ca

Wikipedia

<https://www.cwgc.org>

<https://map.project44.ca/>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/library-archives.html>

5/7B CFA 187
20/23/2180 (8080)
(Pads of 100)

CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

**ESTATES BRANCH
INVENTORY**

*of personal effects received by
Casualty Section, No. 1 CKSD*

No., RANK and NAME ... H-10276. Tpr. Carpenter. V. L. Rec'd.....

RECEIVED FROM Cdn. 2nd. Reg. 21. Army Group

CHECKED BY B-81758. Sgt. Graves. J. G. DATE 28. May. 45

AND H-195540. Pte. MacKinnon. A. E.

1	Folder of Snapshots
5	Letters.
2	Rosaries.
3	Pens (Melzer, Artus, Eversharp).
3	Pencils (Artus, Red?Blue).
6	Coins 2.85 Cldrs.
1	HUCKLEBERRY Hat Badge.
1	Leather Purse.
1	Lock Of Hair.
1	Souvenir Pin (Westturn Nagerdogg).
2	Rings (1 Gold, 1 Silver).
2	Souvenir Pins (German).

Inventory of personal effects found on Victor’s body

