Adrien Cayouette



Adrien Cayouette was born on March 3, 1923 in Restigouche, St Quentin, Canada. He was a son of Honore Cayouette and Marie Anne Cayouette. The Roman Catholic French-speaking family had a total of 5 children: 3 boys (Ernest, Nicolas and Adrien) and 2 girls (Bernadette and Alice). All three boys went into service. Although Adrien lived on the farm just 5 kilometers from a school, he never went to school. He helped his father on the farm and in the woods. Later he was a day laborer. It was only during his military service that he was taught to read and write.

Adrien enlisted in the army on June 1, 1943. He was about 6 feet tall, weighed 140 pounds, had blue eyes, light brown hair and was very healthy at inspection. Reports from his training days describe him as friendly, with good manners, and a neat appearance. Even though he had never done sports, he is strong and sporty. He is an easy and intelligent speaker. Although he has no education, he is considered capable of much more. He knows how the army works and has a good military attitude. He is popular and has natural leadership. But he also has little self-discipline, is restless and talks a lot. He says he likes to go out and is also a big drinker, which he attributes to the presence of older soldiers around him. He faces disciplinary punishment multiple times during his training. He is in good physical condition and would like to serve in a French-speaking regiment. It eventually became the Regiment Fusiliers Mont-Royal.

On July 19, 1944 he left for England where he arrived on July 17. On August 12, 1944 he arrived in France, initially with the Black Watch, but on September 15 he went to his beloved Regiment Fusiliers Mont-Royal. As early as September 24, he was reported missing during fighting. He appears to have been taken prisoner of war and is officially registered as such (P.O.W. no. 14255). He was imprisoned in Leipzig, but unfortunately died there in an Allied air bombardment on February 27, 1945 and was buried there. On March 31, 1945, his parents received this terrible news via telegram. Immediately after the war, his body was initially reburied in the British cemetery in Berlin and on February 14, 1949 he was given his final resting place at the Canadian cemetery in Holten.

His parents later received his medals, namely the 1939-1945 Star, the France-Germany Star, and the CVSM with clasp. A very poor consolation!