

Private Cyrille Giguère

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Cyrille Giguère was born in 1917 as the son of Leon and Marie Anne Giguère of Sainte-Aurélie, he was husband of Simone Giguère, of Quebec City.

When his mother died, the young Cyril was only 6 years old. He comes out of a big family because his father had some children with his first wife and also some with his second wife and those that she had had with her first husband , you can say that Cyrille comes from a large family, which had no less than 21 children.

Cyrille left school at the age of 12, which was considered normal at that time. He became an apprentice barber

at the age of 15, and exercised this profession for 7 years. He will leave this job September 12, 1939, and a few days later, he enlisted in the Voltigeurs de Québec Detachment Valcartier. He completed his training and had to be hospitalized several times in different hospitals, following various health problems.

On December 27, 1943, after being courted for 6 months Simone Côté, daughter of Thomas Side of St. Romuald, he decided to marry her. From their union was born a girl named Marie Lise Yolanda, who was only 11 months old when her father died. When Cyrille Giguère was transferred to England on August 29, 1944 , he joined le Régiment de Maisonneuve.

On February 9, 1945, Cyrille Giguère had to be hospitalized after being wounded in the hand by shrapnel. The attack began to take on Holten on Sunday, April 8, 1945 at 9:30 am. The Germans then put up a stiff resistance and our troops were not able to reach the center of town as quickly as expected.

Among the regiments that fought to free the small village of Holten there was le régiment de Maisonneuve, which included Cyril Giguère, who had joined his comrades on the ground. The Canadians were thrust into the fighting from house to house. Among these further, the Calgary Highlanders, the Black Watch of Canada and the Fort Garry Horse Regiment. As early as 8pm on the same night, victory was gained, and the Canadians continued fighting their way to Groningen to liberate this town located 121 kilometers from Holten. Unfortunately, their soldier companion Cyril Giguère was not there, because he died the day after the attack during liberating the village of Holten.

Military Archives of that time are assessing the loss on 8 April to 18 soldiers, including two deaths. We can therefore assume that Cyril Giguère was injured during the clash and died the next day, April 9, 1945. Another hypothesis would lead us to think that he could have been mortally wounded by a sniper April 9, 1945, when his regiment was marching towards the town of Groningen. The body of soldier Cyril Giguère, who had intentionally chosen a career in the Armed Forces of his country, now rests in Holten. In recognition for having sacrificed his life in the name of Liberty, Cyrille Giguère was posthumously awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, the Star of 39-45 War, France and Germany Star and the Medal War of 39-45. (Biography of Yvon Thibodeau in collaboration with Patrice Côté and Bernard Pépin.)

