



Clement Joseph Laliberte was born in 1923 to Leon and Evelina Laliberte of Raith in Northern Ontario, into a family of 4 brothers and 6 sisters. He was schooled at home through Grade 12, writing his departmental exams at Port Arthur Collegiate.



*Clement with (from left) his sister Jeanne, cousin Laurette and Laurette's parents, Georges and Laura Godbout, and her brother Leo.*



Having completed grade 13 at St Patrick's College in Ottawa, he subsequently voluntarily joined the Canadian Army in 1944 and was stationed at Elkins Barracks, Halifax N.S. His Army designation was 121733 Gnr Laliberte C.J. A23 LAA "D" Battery Troop 3 MPO613.

He was sent overseas. In due time, he was working in a Medical hospital at Neufchâtel-en-Bray. He was tasked to be paymaster to the civilian employees there. In the course of these duties he came to know a Mr Lefebvre at the bank.



*The Lefebvre family.*

A friendship was formed and Clement became familiar with his family, being invited for a meal which he much enjoyed.



It was through this friendship that he was invited to attend and later to be asked to be sponsor at the christening of a young boy Patrick Hurt whose parents had fled the country because of their affiliation with the Resistance Movement.

This child had been left with an elderly friend.

*Patrick Hurt with guardian and a friend.*

Since the Nazis at that time were concentrating on the Eastern Front (Russia) that part of France had fewer Nazi troops and it was thought to be safe to have a celebration. It was held at a chateau near the City I believe. Clement was amazed at how everyone attending had been able to supply all kinds of foodstuff that had not been seen for ages.

It was at this celebration that he met a young lady, Jacqueline Voineau, who was the female sponsor at the christening.



*Patrick Hurt with Jacqueline and Clement.*

He and Jacqueline became close friends and met often for a time, but it was not fated to be, as Clement was ordered to go on leave before his transfer to a German Hospital.

62 45-

**CANADA CLUB**  
(Hotel Palais d'Orsay)  
Quai d'Orsay, PARIS  
Tel. LITRE 59 64 16 51-08

Room No. \_\_\_\_\_

Surname. LALIBEXTE

Christian Names. CLEMENT

Reg No. & Rank. C121733 1st

Unit. CLM

Date of arrival. **MAY 20 1945**

Date of departure. **MAY 29 1945**

Please retain this card as it is your pass into the Hotel and also into the Dining Room.

E F I							RATIONED CANTEEN SUPPLIES		CANADIAN LEGION						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5	6	7

*A page of Clement's leave document.*

He was in Paris from May 20 to 29 1945 with a stay at the Canada Club, Palais d'Orsay.

At FredericksHAVN Hospital (Denmark) his duties were to ferry patients who were Displaced Persons to various centers where they would be returned eventually to their home countries. The driving was shared with a companion soldier. It was on one of these trips that, on the return journey, the

companion driver at the wheel fell asleep and ran into a bomb crater. Clement was seriously injured and rushed to the nearest Hospital at Sögel, Germany where he died.

He was temporarily buried in that city and later transferred to Holten in Holland. A wonderful Dutch couple adopted his grave and sent us photos of the flowers they brought to it for many years.

An interesting side issue is that Clement's younger brother Raoul (Ralph) Charles Laliberte (born Sept. 1925 at Raith ON) was brought into the war as conscription took effect. He was sent to England where he was introduced to the Canadian Army Signal Corps and sent to Germany. Eventually he got word to Brother Clement and they planned to meet at some time. Unaware that Clement had died, his activities in the signal corps were halted when he contacted Hepatitis C and was taken to Sögel Hospital. A nurse who had been at Frederickshavn and had met Clement recognized the name as she knew his sister Margot. This nurse was present at Clement's death. She later was transferred to Sögel Hospital where she met Raoul and she had to inform him of his brother's death.



Another interesting coincidence occurred at Sögel Hospital (*photo, right*) when Raoul was being treated there.

A soldier in the same room noticed a letter from Gravenhurst Ontario lying on the table. He recognized the name on the return address: Raoul's youngest sister Berthe Rodger (nee Laliberte). He had been at a farewell party with Berthe and her husband Archie, only a few weeks earlier in Gravenhurst.

