



Born in Ottawa, Ontario on August 26, 1922.
Son of Ernest Latour and Rosanne Latour, née Deneault.

When he enlisted in Ottawa on July 15, 1942, Jean Paul reported he was a plumber with three years of experience and single.
His religion: Roman Catholic.

He was the youngest of the family, he had 5 older sisters as shown in the 1931 census.
For language skills he stated that he spoke both English and French.

His medical report mentioned that he had a tattoo of a bird on his right forearm, a scar above his left eyebrow and one on the right side of his chest. He was 1.78 m tall and weighed just under 60 kg. Jean Paul had brown hair and eyes.

His first introduction to the army was at the district depot in Ottawa; Jean Paul soon was transferred to the Basic Training Centre No. 33 in Ottawa.

As of October 1, 1942 he was taken on strength by the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa and transferred to the Canadian Machine Gun Training Centre in Trois-Rivières, (3-Rivers).

He enjoyed only a few days leave at the turn of the year 1942/1943.

His pay went up to \$1.50 a day mid-January 1943.

His pay slip shows that he later regularly had money transferred to his mother.

On February 4, 1943 Jean Paul embarked for the United Kingdom, where he arrived on February 13.

Initially assigned to a reinforcement unit, he was assigned again to the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa at the end of March of that year.

The service records then make a big leap in time, although it was noted that he was awarded the medal for voluntary service including the clasp for overseas service.
(CVSM+Clasp)

In April 1944 Jean Paul ended up in the Royal Hampshire County Hospital for more than 3 weeks. The reason for this remains unknown.

After his discharge there on May 5, 1944, Jean Paul was again taken on strength by a reinforcement unit.



On June 12, 1944 Jean Paul landed in France and was immediately posted back to his unit, the Cameron Highlanders of Canada. (C.H. of O)
A so-called "machine gun battalion", also called "Cameron Highlanders Support Battalion" in some reports.

To clarify:

On June 6, 1944, the Camerons were the only unit from Ottawa to land on Juno Beach on D-Day. The 1st Battalion had three machine gun companies and one mortar company. After landing on D-Day, the battalion fought in almost every battle of the Northwest European campaign. However, the battalion units were always attached to other regiments for support. The battalion never fought in its entirety as an independent unit.)

Because the various C.H. or O. units fought in support of other regiments, it is not possible to indicate exactly where Jean Paul saw action. However, if we look at the list of actions in which C.H. or O. was mentioned, it becomes clear that they were present at almost all known operations.

To name a few:

Normandy; Carpiquet airfield, Caen; Falaise; Breskens Pocket, Scheldt; Hochwald; Zutphen, Deventer, Leer.



Action near Caen

The next entry for Jean Paul is from July 15, 1944; from that day on he was allowed to wear the "Good Conduct Badge".

The service records of Jean Paul regularly show 'jumps' in the timeline.

In March 1945 he had added enough "points" to go on leave for 9 days. From March 31 to April 8, 1945. It was not mentioned where he spent those days. Some men went to Paris during that time, others to England.

The C.H. of O. undoubtedly followed the main advance route of the Canadian troops in 1945. According to the war diary of the unit they were:

On April 14, north of Deventer, on April 19, near Leeuwarden, on April 21, they went east, towards Winschoten. On April 28, 1945 they had crossed the German border and were near Leer.

Monday April 30, 1945, the day that Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun took their own lives, fate struck for Jean Paul. During a translocation in the Veenhusen region (NW Germany), the C-company was heavily shelled. Three carriers were lost by shelling with Panzerfausts.

It is likely that Jean Paul Latour was in one of those vehicles.

At Leer, next to the civilian cemetery, on the road to Esklum, he was temporarily buried.

Jean Paul now definitively rests at the CWGC Canadian Cemetery in Holten, reference: 12-A-10.

He was awarded:

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

