

Lavigne, Rodger. Private

11-B-15



Rodger Lavigne was not the only child of Ernest and Mary Lavigne.

He was born on July 8, 1922 Timmins, Ontario.

Father and mother Lavigne had a total of 10 children. Rodger had 3 brothers and six sisters.

When he enlisted, the family lived in St. Catharines, Ontario.



Saw mill Timmins

Rodger enlisted on April 27, 1943.

He indicated that he was Roman Catholic, spoke English and French and had worked at a saw mill for about a year and a half.

In addition to his normal school education, he had also followed a correspondence course for a number of months at the Senior Fourth Public School for detectives.

The medical examination did not mention any details. He was of average height, brown hair and brown height. Rodger was declared "fit for service".

He began his service at the district depot in Toronto. Then a follow-up at the Basic Training Center in Cornwall-Ontario.

From mid-July 1943 until almost the end of September he was further trained in Valcartier-Quebec at the Canadian Infantry Training Center (CITC) A13.

After that, Rodger was transferred to the United Kingdom.

Embarkation on August 25, disembarkation in England on September 1, 1943.

As usual, at first Rodger was attached to a "Reinforcement Unit".

Soon he was posted to the unit with which he would remain for the rest of his service: Les Fusiliers Mon-Royal, a French-speaking regiment.

Rodger landed in France in July 1944. He landed there on the 8th and was wounded on the 21st. The nature of the injuries are unclear. Serious enough to transfer him to the Canadian General Hospital in England.

Rodger was treated there for about 3 weeks and he stayed in England a few weeks more to recover outside the hospital.

On September 3, 1944 he arrived in France for the second time

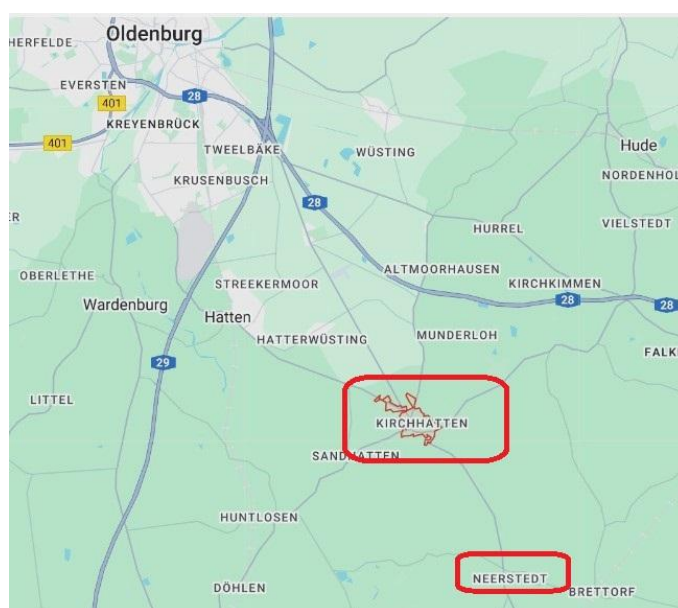
First of all, he was attached to the 1st Canadian MIC Unit.
(Medical Instructions Camp)

Just after Christmas 1944 he was added to the FMR's reinforcements list and on January 7, 1945 he was officially taken on strength again into the Fusiliers Mont-Royal again.

He would join the FMR until his death on April 24, 1945.
Although the FMR's War Diary is rather vague about enemy activities that day, Rodger was killed. The only one one that day.

HOLLAND SHEET M-3 BREMEN AREA 8645	22 Apr 45	Weather fair with local showers. Visibility good. At 1100 hrs an "O" group was held for all offfrs to discuss future operations. At 1230 hrs Battalion moves north west and reach NEERSTEDT area 8645 M-3 withouth opposition except for numerous mines and road blocks. Polish, Yougoslaves, French forced labourers who had been employed on farms in this area express their joy on being liberated.	OR
	23 Apr 45	Weather: cloudy with intermittent rain. Visibility poor. <i>ccg</i> Companies move up to area KIRCHHATTEN MR 9141 sheet M-1 Nothing to report.	OR
	24 Apr 45	Weather fine. Visibility good. Some enemy snipers firing in our company areas. Mortars soon dispersed them. Moving north west battalion occupy area 9242 M-1. Recece patrols sent out at night - enemy built up defenses met north of our FDL's Lieut P Girard is taken on strength. 9 Other ranks arrive as reinforcements.	Appx II
	25 Apr 45	Weather: nice and warm. Visibility good. Col JA Dextraze DSO visits his companies. All is quiet.	OR

Probably during the advance of the regiment from Neerstedt to Kirchhatten in the direction of Oldenburg in Lower Saxony-Germany.
Sniper-activity was reported and reconnaissance patrols reported that the enemy was building up a defense north of the Fusiliers Mont-Royal sector.



His temporary grave was in Dötlingen, he was finally laid to rest in Holten plot 11 row B grave 15.

He was awarded:
1939-1945 Star; France-Germany Star; Defense Medal; War Medal 1939-1945 and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.

