

Bachelder, Lewis Arthur

Corporal

**Black Watch
(Royal Highland Regiment
of Canada)**

D/82397



Lewis Arthur Bachelder was born in LaTuque, in northern Québec on December 3, 1920 CHK, to George Whitfield Bachelder and Margaret Gauley. The family included his brothers: Frederick, Walter, Jethro "Buddy", Robert and Edward. He also had three surviving sisters, Doris (Petersen), Carol (Munger) and Joan (Dingle) as well as another sister Marietta who died at age two in 1914. The family were members of the Church of England (Anglican).

The family moved across Canada to many locations such as London, Ontario; Bashaw, Alberta; Vancouver, British Columbia and La Tuque, Quebec.



George Whitfield Bachelder
La Tuque P.Q. 1940

When Lewis was a small child, the family moved to La Tuque in Northern Quebec where his father, George Bachelder was a railroad engineer.

Family photo of siblings



Lewis went to high school as far as Grade 10 before he went out to work. He was an apprentice cabinet maker. In his occupation file, he stated he wanted to get into house contracting after the war.

Lewis Bachelder enlisted in Montreal, Quebec, on June 26, 1940. He was described in his military document as being five feet six inches tall and weighed 117 pounds; he had blue eyes and fair hair. He took his basic infantry training in Canada before he shipped out to the United Kingdom arriving on June 20, 1941.



For several years, he underwent training at Camp Whitley such as a light machine gun course. Lewis Bachelder married Miss Mary Stirrat from Fauldhouse, New Lothian, Scotland, on January 3, 1944. They had known each other for two years. After the war ended, she was identified in his military documents as Mary Whyte McLeod Bachelder of Avonmore, Ontario.

On July 7 ,1944, Private Bachelder shipped over to France as the Allied forces launched the Battle of Normandy. During the war campaigns throughout Northwest Europe, Lewis Bachelder was promoted from a Private to a Lance-Corporal on September 8, 1944, and within a few days later to Acting Corporal.

Lewis was wounded on October 10, 1944 with shrapnel wounds to his right chest and left forearm. He was treated in a field hospital and discharged on November 11 when he reported back to duty with the Black Watch Regiment.

The major Operation Veritable began 8 February, preceded by the mass bombing of Kleve and Kranenburg in the night. The weather was milder, thawing conditions adding to the considerable flooding; vehicles, often stranded in the mud on higher ground had to be freed.

In the middle of February, the Black Watch battalion enjoyed a rest of three days in Nijmegen, staying in the Prince Hendrik barracks. On 18 February, they started to take part in Operation Veritable, entering Germany in the evening at 20.15, passing through the Reichswald forest and reaching Bedburg Hau at midnight. The next day they were in the battle zone near Kalkar (Calcar). After a few days involved in heavy fighting, the war diary relates that on 24 February, in the woods near Moyland, dugouts were made and 'the boys had their first full night's sleep since entering Germany...

On February 26, 1945, Corporal Lewis A. Bachelder was killed in action during Operation Blockbuster into Germany. He was temporarily buried a few miles south of a small town, Calcar, at the Canadian military cemetery in Germany.

He is reburied at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **XXIV. B. 13.**

Engraved on his gravestone were the words:

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



Corporal Bachelder awards:

- 1939-45 Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp.

Lewis was awarded a good conduct badge on June 26, 1942.

*Lewis grave in Groesbeek
Photo Alice van Bekkum*

Jethro Bachelder named his daughter Bonnie Louise Bachelder, who was born a few months after Lewis was killed, in his memory.



His name is engraved on La Tuque war memorial



FACES TO GRAVES

*Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek*

Biography: Matsuru Hoshi, student from St. Mother Teresa High School, Nepean, Ontario for Faces to Graves courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz teacher at All Saints High School.

Additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

Veterans Affairs Canada

<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~bachelder/genealogy/geogewhitfield.htm>

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/national-inventory-canadian-memorials/details/5949>

* Do you have additional information of this soldier please contact info@facestograves.nl