

Barnabe, Jean-Paul

Private

Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal

Royal Canadian Infantry Corps

C/116015



Jean-Paul Barnabe was born to Arthur Edmond Barnabe and Elmee Fortier on January 22, 1920, in Ottawa where they lived at 27 Douglas Street. His father was a streetcar driver for the Ottawa Electric Railway Company for 28 years.

Jean-Paul had three sisters: Jeannette (Bourcier), Rita (Sarault), Lucile (who died at the age of 9) and Madeleine as well as four brothers: Eugene, Rheol, Gerald and Marcel. Gerald died in a car accident in 1940. The oldest brother, Eugene Barnabe, served overseas as a sergeant in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps while Leading Aircraftman Rheol Barnabe of the Royal Canadian Air Force also served overseas during the Second World War.

The Barnabe family was Roman-Catholic. Jean-Paul spoke both English and French. He completed Grade 7 at St. Charles school but he left school at the age of 16 once his father became ill. Jean-Paul caddied every summer from the age of 11 to 18. "As a teen during the Depression years, Jean-Paul helped his family with bills by getting a job at a local golf course where he was a caddie," stated his niece Denise Clark of Cleveland, Ohio.

Jean-Paul's occupations included a truck driver for Forberts Fuel for two and a half years; a transport driver for Taggart Service for six months and then a truck driver for Bruce Coal for two months. Jean-Paul enjoyed his time as a transport driver the best.

Prior to enlisting on January 11, 1943, Barnabe spent two years and five months of military training with the reserve regiment, the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa.

According to his enlistment documents, he was five feet three inches tall and weighed 130 pounds. Jean-Paul had brown eyes and brown hair and he had a scar on his forehead.

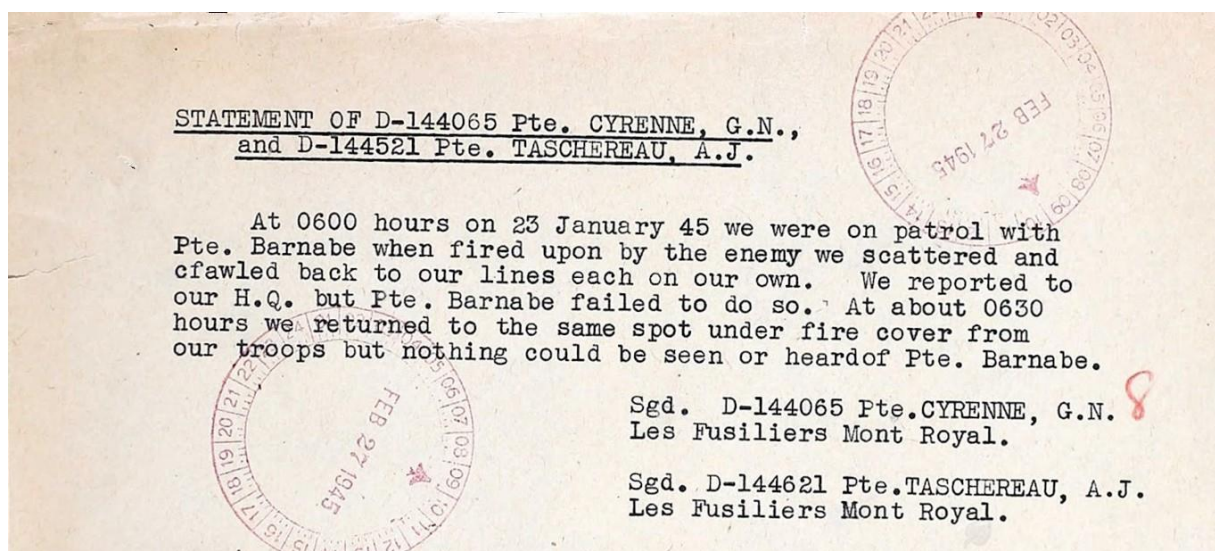
His Personnel Selection Record described him as "willing and cooperative", had a pleasant manner, active and wiry and seemed alert, keen and stable. He told the interviewer that he "was too shy to dance" and his hobby was playing hockey.

He did eight weeks of basic training with the Royal Rifles Regiment of Canada. He completed his basic training in Vancouver, British Columbia.

On September 28, 1944, he was recommended for a motorcycle course but then asked for his course to be canceled so he "would like to proceed overseas with his friends who are actually on embarkment leave." He shipped out shortly afterwards.

Private Jean-Paul Barnabe arrived in the United Kingdom on November 28, 1944. He was sent over to Northwest Europe on December 16, 1944. On December 23, he was assigned to the ranks of Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal regiment.

On January 23, 1945, just one day after his 22nd birthday, Private Barnabe was sent out on a scouting mission around the enemy lines at Gennep, Middelaar, the Netherlands. He and two other soldiers, Private A. J. Taschereau and Private G. N. Cyrenne was fired upon by a Schmeizer machine gun from 15 feet away. Barnabe and the two others scattered in a hedgerow. The two others escaped, but Barnabe did not.



Initially, the Canadian army reported him officially as being missing in February but much later confirmed as killed in action. Jean-Paul was 22 years old.

However, the military's letter on March 9, 1945, to his father, Arthur Barnabe in Ottawa, had indicated "there was a good possibility of your son now being a prisoner of war." However, weeks and then months passed by, with no official word being received so his father wrote to the army several times.

H.Q.405-B-32,115
DR2(b)

9th March, 1945.

Mr. Arthur Barnabe,
27 Douglas Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Barnabe:


Further to our telegram of 6th February, in which your son, C-116015, Private Jean Paul Barnabe, was reported missing in action, I am to advise that the following information has been received from his Unit in the Field.

"Pte. Barnabe was last seen by the other members of a fighting patrol, of which he was a part, then engaged in scouting for the enemy. Suddenly they were fired on at a distance of approximately 15 feet by the enemy, and this patrol of three men scattered for cover in a hedge-row. The two other soldiers escaped, but Pte. Barnabe has not been seen since. About thirty minutes later the other two members of the patrol returned to the same spot under fire cover from our own troops, but nothing was seen or heard of Pte. Barnabe."

In view of the above it would appear that there is a good possibility of your son now being a prisoner of war; however, this must be regarded as unofficial.

It is regretted that further definite information is not available at the present time, but as it is the policy of this Office to forward any details received regarding Missing Personnel to their next of kin, you may rest assured that you will be advised immediately upon receipt of same.

Yours truly,


(R.T.E. Hicks-Lyne) Colonel,
Acting Director of Records,
for Adjutant-General. 10

WHA/SD

The sad news which many families would receive during the war was that Private Jean-Paul Barnabe was dead. The letter was dated August 9, 1945.

Ottawa, Canada,

9th August, 1945.

Dear Mr. Barnabe:

It was with deep regret that I learned of the death of your son, O116015 Private Jean Paul Barnabe, who gave his life in the Service of his Country in the Western European Theatre of War on the 23rd day of January, 1945.

From official information we have received, your son was killed in action against the enemy. You may be assured that any additional information received will be communicated to you without delay.

The Minister of National Defence and the Members of the Army Council have asked me to express to you and your family their sincere sympathy in your bereavement.

We pay tribute to the sacrifice he so bravely made.

Yours sincerely,

(A.E. Walford),
Major-General,
Adjutant-General.

*Mem x Mother
11-8-45*
PA
Mr. Arthur Barnabe,
27 Douglas Avenue,
Ottawa, Ontario.

/EMA

Private Jean-Paul Barnabe was buried in the Canadian temporary burial ground at Nijmegen.

He was then carefully exhumed from the original place of interment and reverently reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, grave references **V. E. 13.**



Photo Frans van Cappellen

Written on his gravestone are the words:

IN FOND AND LOVING MEMORY OF
OUR BELOVED SON JEAN PAUL.

Jean-Paul Barnabe was awarded the:

- 1939-45 star
- France-Germany Star
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp

Pte. J. P. Barnabe Reported Killed

Pte. J. P. Barnabe, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Barnabe of 27 Douglas avenue, has been officially reported killed in action on January 23, 1945, according to word received by his parents yesterday. He had been previously listed as missing after action in Holland.

Born in Ottawa, he received his education at St. Charles' School, and before his enlistment in November 1940 was employed by the Bruce Coal Co. He celebrated his 22nd birthday the day before he was reported missing. He was serving with the Mount Royal Fusiliers.

Besides his parents, he is survived by three brothers, LAC. G. A. R. Barnabe, with the R.C.A.F. occupation group in Germany, Sgt. E. A. Barnabe in England, and Marcel, at home; and three sisters, Mrs. Louis Bourcier and Misses Rita and Madeleine Barnabe, all of Ottawa.

names of one Ottawa man and four district soldiers appeared.

Pte. Jean Paul Barnabe, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Barnabe, 27 Douglas avenue, Ottawa, was reported missing. He enlisted in 1942 and went overseas last November. He was reported missing in Holland the day after his 22nd birthday. Pte. Barnabe attended St. Charles School and previous to his enlistment was employed at the Bruce Coal Company. Two brothers are serving overseas, Sgt. Eugene Barnabe, in Holland, and LAC. Leo Barnabe, in France.

Capt. Charles Mark Robinson,



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek

Life story written by Jake Appleby, student from St. Mother Teresa H.S., Canada for Faces to Graves courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz, teacher at All Saints H.S. Additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.

* Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact info@facetograves.nl

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Library and Archives Canada.
- Virtual War Memorial
- Additional information provided by Denise Clark, Jean Paul's grand-niece
- Newspaper articles from the Ottawa Journal

A Man Who Had Not Yet Gotten The Chance To Live His Life.

Here lies another casualty among hundreds. Many of these soldiers have no one to remember them. No one can look back at their sacrifices or his achievements, except us. Only the children of today and the generations after us can hold up these soldiers torch and shine a light on their stories, one man at a time.

This is Jean Paul Barnabe, a loving son who lived in 27 Douglas Ave. Ottawa Ontario Canada. He was a French Canadian but was bilingual in both English and French. Jean Paul Barnabe did not live a comfy life, his father was a bus driver, but with three brothers and three sisters Jean Paul Barnabe was loved by many. Jean Paul Barnabe started school when he was seven and dropped out in grade seven to work because his father was ill. Jean Paul Barnabe did reserve training for 2 years and five months with the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, where he was "too shy to dance" said his army examiner D. J. Hynes after Jean Paul Barnabe joined the army in 1943. Jean Paul fought in world war two from 1943 to 1945 and was awarded the 1939-1945 star, the France-Germany star CUSM and clasp.

There is so much I could say about this young man. I could talk about how he was missing without leave twice, once to skip a parade. Once on January 23 1945, only a day after his Birthday, and the last time he did not come back alive. But there is only so much paperwork and references can tell you. Jean Paul Barnabe's own home, which housed all nine members in his family, has long since been renovated; no longer do its occupants remember its history. As the up and coming generation it is our duty to remember our past and the people who made it possible. This is Jean Paul Barnabe, may history never forget him.

May 2015 left at his grave - photo Alice van Bekkum