

**Berube, Aurèle Zénon**

**Private**

**Carleton and York Regiment**

**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**

**G/18381**



Aurèle was born on February 24, 1911 in Mont-Joli, Quebec P., as the son of Zénon Berube and Marie Lavoie. His father died on December 6, 1936 at the age of 60 and his mother on June 23, 1923 at the age of 42. His father was a well-known conductor.

Aurèle had five brothers, six sisters, two half-brothers and three half-sisters. Three of his brothers also served in the military: André Albert (1915) was assigned to the Canadian Air Force and was on active duty as a Corporal in India; Charles William (1918) was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, was slightly wounded in Italy in March 1945 and as part of Operation Cannonshot he fought against the Germans between 11 and 18 April 1945 in the battle of Apeldoorn; his brother Jean Camille (1921) was assigned to the Royal Canadian Regiment, and was seriously wounded in Sicily in 1943 and therefore returned to Canada in 1944, after which he was discharged from military service in Montreal.

After the Public Primary School, Aurèle spent another 6 years at the High School until he was 18. He spoke and wrote English and French. He was unmarried and, until military service, he was a bricklayer at A. Tondeau's masonry company in Bathurst, New Brunswick.

Aurèle was Roman Catholic.

When Aurèle enlisted voluntarily at the Carleton and York Regimental Depot in Woodstock (or Bathurst), New Brunswick, on April 1, 1940, he was in good health (A) and 5 ft.5½ tall. He weighed 150 lb., had brown eyes, brown hair and a dark complexion.

For his basic training he was transferred to the A14 Canadian Infantry Training Center at Camp Aldershot, Nova Scotia on April 19, 1940.

On July 15, 1940, he departed by ship from the port of Halifax to the United Kingdom to be further trained as an infantryman for the fight against the Germans in Italy and northwestern Europe. After arriving in Glasgow on August 1, 1940, Aurèle was assigned to the No. 2 Canadian Infantry Unit at Camp Bordon in Hampshire.

Aurèle was admitted to the Connaught Hospital in Bramshott (North Camp/Aldershot), Hampshire on August 16, 1940. Two days later, he was transferred to General Hospital in Southampton, Hampshire. He was discharged after 76 days on October 31, 1940. He did not receive any pay during his hospital stay.

On April 28, 1941, he was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Company (Royal Canadian Engineers) at Camp Witley. There he received basic engineering training until 28 May 1941.

From June 28 to October 7, 1941, Aurèle received advanced engineering training with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Park Company (Royal Canadian Engineers) in Headley, East Hampshire, after which he returned to the Carleton and York Regiment in Camp Witley on October 17, 1941.

From January 23 to January 31, 1942 Aurèle was admitted to the aid station of the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Field Ambulance. He was re-admitted to the relief post of the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Field Ambulance on May 4, 1942 and transferred to the relief post of the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Field Ambulance on the same day. On 8 May 1942 he left the hospital.

From 18 to 25 June 1943 he was on paid leave. After more than 3 years of intensive training for combat on the continent, Aurèle left for Sicily on August 15, 1943, where he arrived on August 27, 1943. By then Sicily had already been liberated and on September 3, 1943, he continued with the Carleton and York Regiment to the mainland of Italy.

Military discipline was very hard for Aurèle. On 15 September 1943, for example, he had to appear before a field court martial near the southern Italian city of Potenza for various offenses. He was eventually placed in detention for 90 days.

After his detention, Aurèle was assigned to No. 5 (Reserve) Battalion, where he was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp on January 10, 1944. On January 19, 1944, he rejoined the Carleton and York Regiment. At Christmas 1944, Aurèle sent a Christmas card from Italy to his sister Rose Delina and her husband Leonard Roy in Montreal. Aurèle was transferred to the headquarters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade on January 15, 1945.

As part of Operation Goldflake, Aurèle left Leghorn, the port of the Italian city of Livorno, for France, where he arrived in the port of Marseille on 18 March 1945. On April 7, 1945, he was transferred back to the Carleton and York Regiment. This regiment departed from Marseille in convoys and travelled in five days through France and Belgium to Germany and The Netherlands for the final campaign against Nazi Germany.

Aurèle walked into a Shü landmine in Overzeldert in Hoogland during a patrol with the B-Company on 25 April 1945. Being seriously injured he was initially taken in a jeep ambulance to the regimental hospital in the (old) furniture factory of Tijsseling on the Wallersteeg in Nijkerk. Due to the seriousness of his injuries he was transferred to the emergency hospital "De Schaffelaar" in Barneveld. That same day, one third of his left lower leg was amputated there. However, he was so badly injured that the amputation was of no avail.

Aurèle died of his wounds on 2 May 1945.

He was temporarily buried at the General Cemetery in Barneveld on 2 May 1945, and on 2 October 1945 reburied at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **XIV. G. 7.**

On his tombstone is the personal inscription:

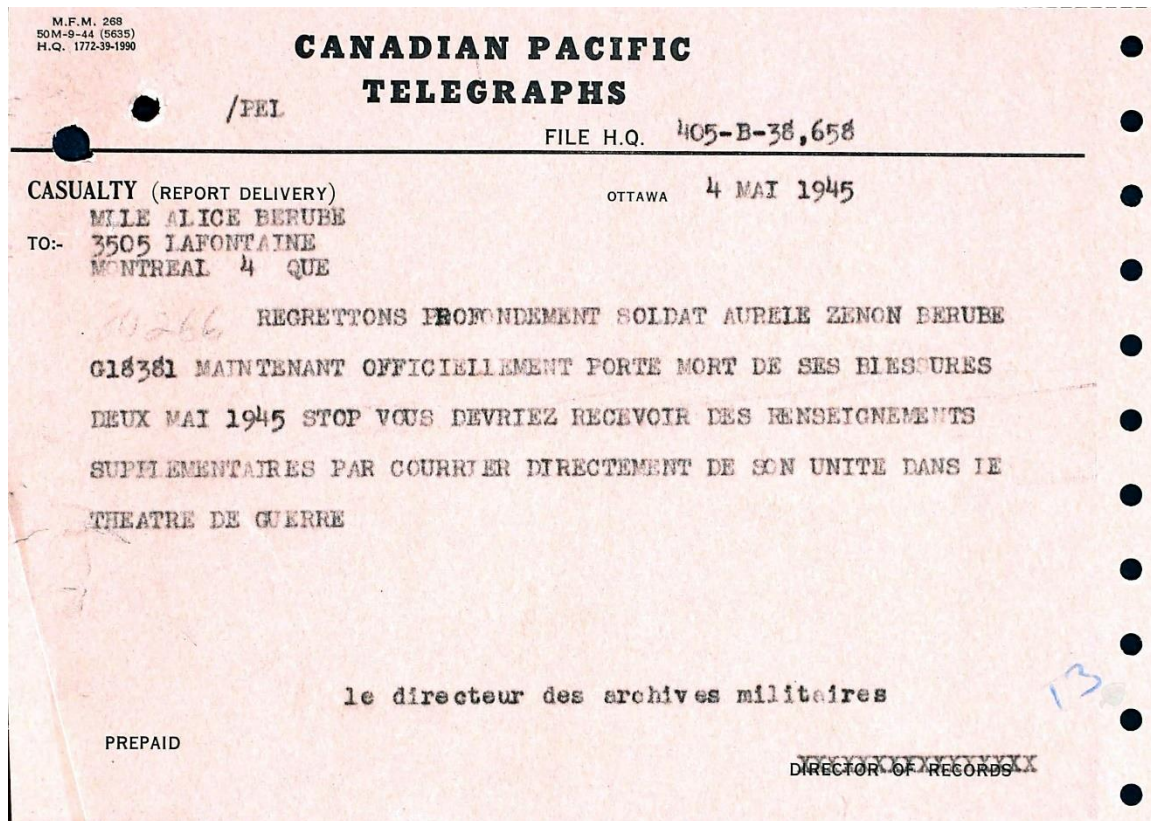
IN MEMORY  
OF YOUR BELOVED BROTHER  
WHO DIED FOR HONOR AND FREEDOM

Aurèle received the following awards:

- 1939-1945 Star
- Italy Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defense Medal
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp

These awards were sent to his brother Alfred Napoleon in East Bathurst, New Brunswick on October 18, 1949.

On 4 May 1945 his sister Alice Berube received a telegram informing her of Aurèle's death.



On May 17, 1945, she received a letter from Major-General Alfred Ernest Walford with the official confirmation that her brother Aurèle gave his life on May 2, 1945 in the fight against the Germans in Europe in the service of his country. On behalf of the Minister of National Defense and the members of the army council, he expressed their sincere condolences for this loss. And he paid tribute to Aurèle for the sacrifice he had made.

His personal belongings, including two letters, a wristwatch "Birks", six religious medals, seven souvenir coins, photographs, three purses, two souvenir German banknotes, one fountain pen, one souvenir ring, two small religious statues and four religious cards, were sent to his sister Alice in Montreal, P. Quebec on June 19, 1945.



*Christmas card he sent to Rose Delina and her husband in 1944.*

In his letter of July 16, 1946, Colonel C.L. Laurin informed Alice Berube, that her brother Aurèle was reburied with military honours at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery and that this grave was temporarily marked with a white cross. In this letter she was invited to send a short personal message that then could be engraved on the final tombstone. She took advantage of that. On December 3, 1947, Alice Berube received a photo of Aurèle's grave in Groesbeek.

le 17 mai 1945.

Chère mademoiselle,

C'est avec un profond regret que j'ai appris le décès de votre frère, le soldat Aurèle Zénon BERUBE, matricule G-18381, qui a donné sa vie au service de sa patrie sur le théâtre de guerre de l'Europe occidentale le 2 mai 1945.

D'après les renseignements officiels que nous avons reçus, votre frère est mort à la suite de blessures qu'il a reçues au combat contre l'ennemi. Vous pouvez compter que sur réception de détails supplémentaires, nous vous en aviserons sans délai.

Le Ministre de la Défense nationale et les membres du Conseil de l'Armée me chargent de vous offrir, à vous même et à votre famille, leurs sincères condoléances dans votre deuil.

Nous rendons hommage au soldat Bérubé pour son vaillant sacrifice.

Votre bien dévoué,  
l'adjudant général,

(A.E. Walford)  
major général.

Mlle Alice Bérubé,  
3505, rue Lafontaine,  
Montréal, 4, Qué.



*Memo. T. Nil.*  
*21.5-45*  
*17*



*In 1954 the old crosses were replaced by headstones. Photo Frans van Cappellen.*



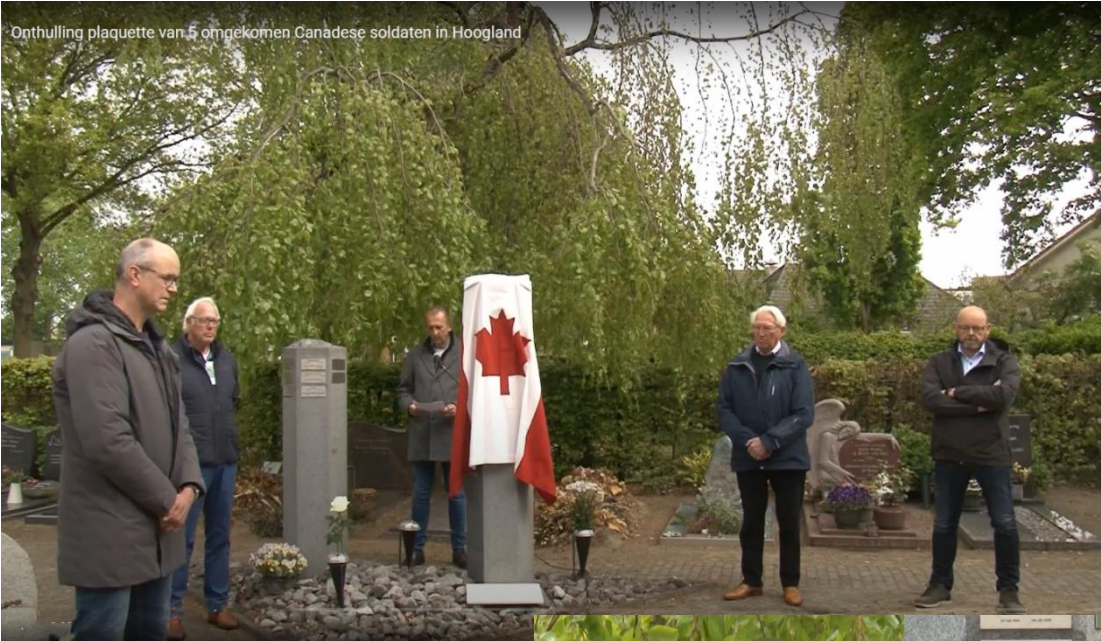
Life story: Piet Smink for Research Team Faces To Graves.

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

On May 5, 2020, a plaque was unveiled in Hoogland with the names of the soldiers killed during the liberation of Hoogland.



TER HERINNERING AAN DE VIJF CANADESE  
SOLDATEN DIE VOOR ONZE VRIJHEID  
ZIJN GESNEUVELD IN HOOGLAND

William James Mennie (CYR)	
09-02-1920	20-04-1945
Edmond Lévesque (CYR)	
22-04-1924	22-04-1945
James Jamieson (CYR)	
18-05-1918	22-04-1945
Lawrence Howard Thompson (CYR)	
03-02-1918	24-04-1945
Francis Joseph Burke Fitzgerald (WNSR)	
24-09-1922	28-04-1945



*William Hartman, chairman Oranjecomité Hoogland.*

Later it turns out that Aurèle Zénon Berube also died during the liberation of Hoogland and a plaque with his name was added and unveiled on May 4, 2021. on May 4, 2021

