

**Boppre, Gerald Martin**

**Sergeant**

**Algonquin Regiment**

**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**

**A58273**



Gerald "Gerry" Martin Boppre was born on July 13, 1920, in Waterloo in Southwestern Ontario. His parents were Emma Margaret Voisin and Leo Ambrose Boppre who were married in Macton, Ontario on June 14, 1910.

His family lived in the city of Waterloo in southwestern Ontario. They belonged to the Roman Catholic Church. Gerald had five sisters: Mary (Dietrich), Margaret (Pickrem), Estelle, Helene, and Marcella as well as two brothers: James Lawrence, and Carl Joseph. His older brother Carl served overseas in The Essex Scottish Regiment. According to Gerry's obituary, he trained with his brother. Carl Boppre was wounded in action in France in August of 1944.

Gerald Boppre attended St. Louis School and later went to St. Jerome's College, a Roman Catholic High School in Waterloo, and Kitchener Waterloo Collegiate. By the time he was done with his education, he did one year Matriculation and one year commercial in typing and bookkeeping.

His occupational records showed that Gerald worked as a clerk at his father's grocery store in Waterloo. He had multiple hobbies such as raising fish and birds, was a show skater and a goalie in hockey.

According to his military documents, Boppre was conscripted by the National Resources Mobilization act and was placed into a basic training camp in Kitchener from October 30 to December 2, 1941.

Private Boppre enlisted into the Canadian Army on December 3, 1941 in the nearby city of Kitchener. On the same day, he went to #10 basic training camp in Kitchener.

His medical examination reported that he stood five foot seven inches tall and weighed 122 pounds. He had a dark complexion. His hair was black, and his eyes were brown. His development was listed as good.

His personnel assessment report stated that Private Boppre had good leadership qualities. He was described as "a smart soldier" who was "quite confident and aggressive."

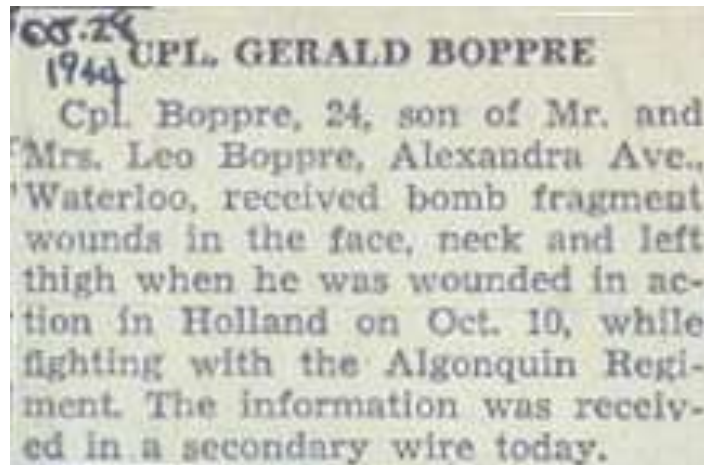
Not long after enlisting, Private Boppre was promoted to Acting Corporal whilst attending #10 training camp in Kitchener on February 10, 1942. Two days later, he was moved to the Active Force basic training camp.

On June 12, 1942, he went to a Canadian Small Arms Training Center in Long Branch, Ontario until July 4. He was promoted to Corporal on October 20. On November 24, 1942, he attended a fireman's course in Listowel, Ontario. He was then sent to Stratford and Camp Ipperwash for escorting duties. From November 27 to December 9, he attended more basic training in both Listowel and Stratford.

Later, on September 6, 1943, he was sent to #1 Transit Camp in Windsor, Nova Scotia. It was from Nova Scotia where he embarked for the United Kingdom on September 13, 1943. Corporal Boppre arrived in the United Kingdom on September 20, 1943.

He was transferred to the Algonquin Regiment on October 8, 1943. The next year, Boppre arrived in France on July 26, 1944. After almost three months

of combat duty, Corporal Boppre was slightly wounded on October 11, 1944. He sustained bomb fragment wounds to his face, neck, and left thigh, and was taken for medical treatment. He was appointed Sergeant on October 27, 1944.

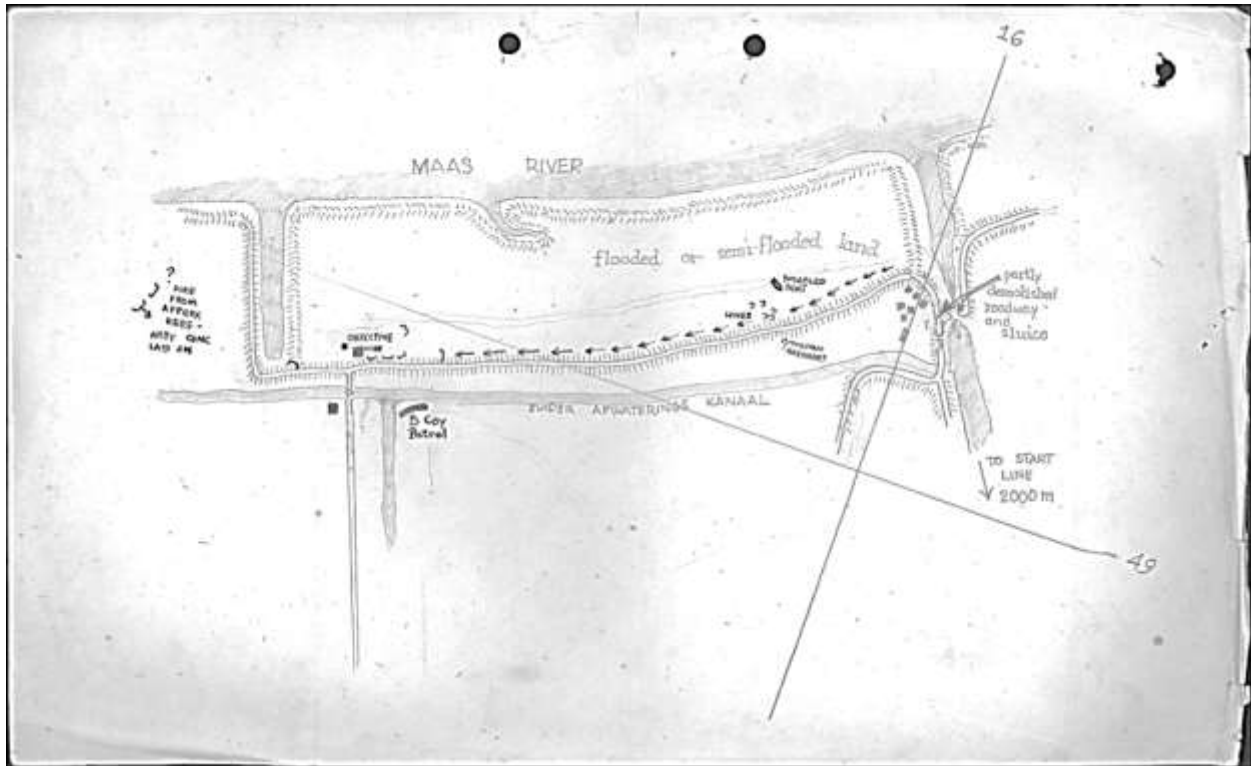


In November of 1944, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Algonquin Regiment was stationed in The Netherlands, patrolling a sector of the Maas River near Waalwijk.

According to the Algonquin Regiment's war diaries, on November 20, two "D" company platoons had a task at night of dislodging an enemy bridgehead south of Maas River near Waalwijk in The Netherlands. The soldiers left early to make a reconnaissance of their objective. Boppre was included within this platoon group. The mission was left uncompleted, and the patrol team returned.

A 30-man platoon was sent out to capture or drive out German troops who had crossed the river. During this fighting patrol, tragedy struck in the early hours of November 21 as the Canadian soldiers stumbled into an enemy mine field.

A total of nine men were killed, including Sgt. Boppre. The other soldiers included L-Cpl. B.A. Asplund, Pte. Samuel Clark, Pte. J. B. Carruthers, Cpl. R.T. Creelman, Pte. R.J. Erison, Pte. Jack Gauthier Pte. F.W. Jackman and Pte. R. N. Poole. There were another 12 soldiers who were injured.



*Appendix 11 Map Nov 44 Diary 1Bn the Algonquin Regiment*

Sergeant Gerald Boppre was killed in action on November 21, at 24 years old. Like the others, he was buried in a temporary cemetery near the Maas River.

After the war ended, the soldiers were moved to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. Sergeant Boppre's grave references are **XX. C. 2.**

The inscription on Sergeant Boppre's headstone reads:

BELOVED SON  
OF LEO AND EMMA BOPPRE,  
WATERLOO, ONTARIO, CANADA.  
"TO DIE WAS AN HONOR"



Sergeant Bopppe was awarded the:

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



**CPL. GERALD BOPPRE**

Oct. 18, 1944  
Cpl. Gerald Bopppe, 24, who when last heard from was serving in Holland with the Algonquin Regiment, was slightly wounded on Oct. 10, according to a cable received yesterday by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Bopppe, Alexandra Ave., Waterloo.

His brother, Lance-Cpl. Carl, is in a convalescent home in France, recovering from a bullet wound in the heel received on Aug. 28.

Cpl. Gerald enlisted in Kitchener about three years ago and trained at No. 10 Training Centre here, Listowel and Stratford. He has been overseas slightly over a year. Born in Kitchener, he attended St. Louis School and St. Jerome's College, and was a member of St. Louis R.C. Church. Before enlistment he worked in his father's grocery store.

**SGT. GERALD BOPPRE**  
Sgt. Gerald Bopppe, 24-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Bopppe, 72 Alexandra Ave., Waterloo, was killed in action Nov. 21, his parents have been informed. Serving with the Algonquin Regiment, it is not known where the fatality took place. A letter was received from him yesterday, written from Holland.  
Sgt. Bopppe was previously wounded in October, when he sustained bomb fragment wounds in the face, neck and left thigh.  
A brother, Cpl. Carl Bopppe, also serving overseas, was wounded in action in France on Aug. 28.  
Born in Waterloo Sgt. Bopppe attended St. Louis School, St. Jerome's College and the K-W Collegiate. Prior to enlisting in 1940 he trained at the former No. 10 Military Camp here, at Listowel and Stratford. He went overseas in September, 1943. In civilian life he worked in his father's grocery store.  
Surviving, in addition to his parents and brother Carl, are five sisters and one brother: Mrs. Alex Dietrich of Kitchener, Mrs. Clifford Pickren of North Bay, Stella of Ottawa, Helen, Marcy and Larry at home.

Sergeant Boppre's picture hangs on the Memorial Wall in the City Hall of Waterloo, Ontario. His name is listed on the Roll of Honour which is on the Algonquin Regiment Memorial in Parry Sound, Ontario.



*The Algonquin  
Regiment's Memorial,  
Parry Sound, Ontario*



## **FACES TO GRAVES**

Stichting Faces to Canadian  
War Graves Groesbeek

Life story written by *Asya Kabemba and Haze Adcock*, students from All Saints H.S., Kanata, Canada for Faces to Graves courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz, teacher at All Saints H.S.

### Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial

- Library and Archives Canada
- Project '44
- Kitchener Public Library provided newspaper articles.
- Gerald M. Boppre's nephew Gerry Boppre and niece Debbie Lorentz provided a photo and information.
- [www.ww2talk.com](http://www.ww2talk.com)
- [www.liberationroute.com](http://www.liberationroute.com)
- <http://lestweforget1945.org/FotoOverzicht/Zoeken/boppre/>

\* If you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact [info@facestograves.nl](mailto:info@facestograves.nl)