

**Boutin, Paul Henri**

**Lieutenant**

**Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal**

**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**



Paul Henri Boutin was born on March 27, 1921 in Lauzon, Quebec, the son of Pierre Alexandre and Juliette Boutin. It was unknown whether there were more children in the family. The family resided at 178 Rue St. Josef, Lauzon, Levis County, Quebec. They belonged to the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1938 at the age of 17, he graduated from the College of Montreal. He wanted to continue his studies and applied to Laval University. At the same time, he was active as a reservist with the Regiment de Levis, an infantry regiment of the Canadian army.

On March 5, 1942 he interrupted his studies and enlisted in the army at Fort Martinière in Lauzon, he had not yet obtained his degree.

He was transferred to Petawaww on August 14, 1942 and quickly made a career as he was promoted to Lieutenant on November 14. During that time, he was qualified as a "class III" motorcyclist. He was assigned to the 59<sup>th</sup> Coast Battery, Royal Canadian Army.

Boutin was a sporty guy, blue-eyed, brown-haired with a height of 5.9 ft. and he weighed 165 lbs. He liked swimming, mountain climbing, skiing and bridge. One of the officers who assessed him in 1943 described Boutin as cheerful, energetic, with good general knowledge and versatile: *"This officer has ability and should make a good officer with more training"*.

Boutin turned 24 on March 27, 1945 and on that day he was assigned to the Regiment les Fusiliers Mont-Royal. The Roman Catholic student from Lauzon, in the Canadian province of Quebec, entered active service more than three years earlier, on March 5, 1942.

In October 1944 Boutin was assessed again. He got a positive report, although his self-confidence could be a bit better. He had a tendency to seek agreement in conflict situations, while a commanding officer in war situations would have to make quick decisions. To strengthen his confidence, it was advised to add him to a French-speaking regiment.

On June 4, 1944 he was embarked for departure to the United Kingdom. Shortly after arrival there, he was injured in front of a closing door on June 30, 1944. His foot was trapped and he was admitted to the military hospital. At 11 p.m. he was taken to the OR where he was treated for the injury on the heel of his right foot. He was discharged after two weeks: heel healing well, but was not yet suitable for wearing boots. Was advised to use a soft shoe for walking.

He was not shipped to mainland Europe until February 15, 1945 and was killed on April 7.

Paul Henri Boutin was fired at by a sniper near the river Schipbeek between Laren and Holten.

The same thing happened to an infantry soldier of the South Saskatchewan Regiment. He got injured and was being treated in this picture.



*Photo Daniel Guravich/ Library and Archives Canada.*

Lieutenant Paul Henri Boutin of the Regiment les Fusiliers Mont-Royal did probably not notice much when he was killed. Boutin was hit by a bullet from a German sniper and was fatally wounded in the head. "Deceased, killed in action", was stated on his "Service and Casualty Form".

Boutin died on April 7, 1945 when crossing the river Schipbeek on the border of the then municipalities of Laren, Gorssel and Holten. The South Saskatchewan Regiment took the lead in that crossing. They had to take care of the bridgehead on Holten's territory. One of the allied goals was to gain control of both the road connection and the railway connection between Deventer and Holten (and further east).

The war diary of Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal mentions that on April 7, 1945, the unit met little resistance. Fourteen Germans were taken prisoner, including an officer. A patrol passing by the river Schipbeek was caught by surprise by enemy fire. "*Enemy has dug in defenses along the north bank of the canal and intends to hold our track northwards for a while*", the records in the war diary state. It ends with the statement: "*Lieut PH Boutin was killed by a sniper during the day*".

Lieutenant Paul Henri Boutin was temporarily buried at a sentry post / signal box (no 9) along the Zutphen-Hengelo railway line near the Rossweg in Laren (Gld).



He was later reburied at the Groesbeek Canadian Military Cemetery, grave reference **X. H. 1.**

The text on his gravestone reads:  
IL VA VU VENIR LA MORT  
AVEC LE CALME AND LE COURAGE  
QUE DONNE LA FOI

(He will face death, calm and courageous, which faith gives)

Photo: [lestweforget1945.org](http://lestweforget1945.org)

Lieutenant Paul Henri Boutin's Awards:

- 1939-1045 Star
- France & Germany Star
- Defense Medal
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & clasp

## Lieut. Paul Boutin Killed in Action

Word has been received here that Lieut. Paul Boutin, 23, of the Fusiliers Mont-Royal, has been killed in action on the Western front.

A son of Mr. and Mrs. Pierre A. Boutin, of Lauzon and Quebec, Lieutenant Boutin, joined the Regiment de Levis at the outbreak of war while a student at Levis College. In 1942 he was posted to the Royal Canadian Artillery and served for over a year on the Atlantic Coast. He went overseas in June last. In September he was transferred to the Canadian infantry and was posted to the Fusiliers Mont-Royal.

Surviving besides his parents are one brother, Lieut. J. Pierre Boutin, who has been in the R.C.N.V.R. since the beginning of the war and three sisters, Mrs. Jean Sirois, Mrs. Yzes Roy and Miss Marguerite Boutin, all of Quebec.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday at Lauzon Church at 9.30 a.m.



## FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian  
War Graves Groesbeek

Life story: Alice van Bekkum, Research Team Faces to Graves.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- Library and Archives Canada
- With gratitude to Jan Braakman for permission to use information from his book "Verhalen van het Slagveld" (Stories of the Battlefield)
- Newspaper clipping: Operation Picture Me

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

