

**Bressette, Ross Bernard**  
**Rifleman**  
**Regina Rifle Regiment**  
**Royal Canadian Infantry Corps**  
**B. 137917**



Ross Bernard Bressette was born in Port Severn, Ontario on 29 December 1924, the son of Norman and Violet, both of whom were born in Canada. Norman worked as a laborer in the small township of Port Severn, situated in the south central area of Ontario; it lies some 130 kilometers north of Toronto. Ross had a brother, Dave, fourteen years younger than he, and a sister, Berniece Filipchuk.

He completed grade school around 1939 and went to work at the Honey Harbor Boat Company, ten kilometers away from Port Severn. When war began the company was making wooden Fairmile boats, loosely based on a small destroyer design and used for patrols and special operations.



*Photo: Gilbert Milne /  
Department of National  
Defence*

*[www.junobeach.org/canada-in-wwii](http://www.junobeach.org/canada-in-wwii)*

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION**

I, Ross Bernard BRESSETTE, do solemnly declare that the above particulars are true, and I hereby engage to serve in any Active Formation or Unit of The Canadian Army so long as an emergency, i.e., war, invasion, riot or insurrection, real or apprehended, exists, and for the period of demobilization after said emergency ceases to exist, and in any event for a period of not less than one year, provided His Majesty should so require my services.

Date: 5th January 1943. Ross Bressette  
(Signature of recruit)

In January 1943, Ross joined the army, enlisting in Toronto, where he had been living at 98 Booth Avenue. He was a little over 5ft3ins tall and was found to be underweight; he had dark brown hair and brown eyes. He was to receive infantry training in Canada for the next 18 months; his basic training was completed in Brantford, Ontario in March and the advanced course in June. First placed with the Queen's Own Rifles and then the Dufferin and Haldiman Rifles Regiment, he was stationed in various Oratorio Camps until January 1944; at this time he spent six weeks in the Niagara Military Hospital. In July he boarded ship and nine days later disembarked in England; after only a month he arrived in France, on 13 August, and was immediately placed with the Regina Rifle Regiment as a Rifleman.



*Photo by courtesy of Berniece Filipchuk*

The Regina Rifles had landed in France on D-Day, 6 June, and were at once involved in heavy fighting in the battle of Normandy; this was to continue for the next three months until the end of August. On 15 August, the War Diary recorded in Estrees-la-Compagne: 'New reinforcements received today are two officers and 30 O(ther) R(ank)s.' Ross was one of this group but he was wounded the very next day and eventually was taken back to hospital in England, where he remained for more than two months. He rejoined the Regina Rifles on 4 November in Ghent in Belgium; the Regiment had been in continuous action since early

June and was now enjoying a well-earned rest and recreation period, receiving a tremendous welcome from the people of Ghent.

On 11 November, many regiments, including the Regina Rifles were transported 200 kms. in a north-easterly direction to the Nijmegen area in the Netherlands. Here they were to spend three months, preparing for the next offensive. During these months there were further periods of training but there was also also time for some recreation. Regular patrol duties had to be carried out as the German border was close by and there was constant enemy activity.

In December the war diary says: ' the unit has been employed in a static role. this type of warfare is quite different from that experienced since "D" Day, and although not as strenuous, it is ... a strain on the nerves. ...Fitness has been well looked after by a very complete sports programme. ... Extras over the festive season were ...enjoyed by all.'

Throughout January, the weather was wintry with snow and icy roads. The Regiment was billeted near Nijmegen in Groesbeek for two weeks, living in the basements of ruined houses, ' where they were able to keep warm to some extent from Holland's winter blast.' (War Diary) They moved on to Beek, where they lived in much more comfort. Reconnaissance patrols were sent out; one of the aims was to take an enemy prisoner in order to get information on movement and numbers.

At the beginning of February, the weather had changed, the snow had melted and there was constant rain. The Rhine overflowed and all the flat land near it was flooded, sometimes to a depth of three feet. The massive Operation Veritable was launched on 8 February; Germany was invaded with the intention of clearing the enemy from all the territory between the rivers Rhine and Maas, before crossing the Rhine near Wesel and striking north. At this point the Regina Rifles were still stationed in Beek and began to move into Germany on 12 February in the direction of Kleve, which had been devastated in the air bombardment. Heavy fighting broke out on 16 February in the thickly wooded area near Bedburg and Moyland and there were many casualties on both sides. Ross Morgan Bressette was killed in this area on 19 February.

OFFICIAL CANADIAN ARMY OVERSEAS CASUALTY NOTIFICATION			
NUMBER	E-137917	RANK	Rifleman
NAME	BRESSETTE, Ross Bernard		SERVICE UNIT The Regina Rifle Regiment (C.A.)
DATE OF BIRTH	29th	MONTH	December
DAY		YEAR	1924
MARITAL STATUS	Single		Date Enlisted: 5-1-43
RELIGION	Roman Catholic		
NEXT OF KIN AS SHOWN ON M.F.M. 1, 2 & 3 RELATIONSHIP	Mother	NAME	Mrs. Violet Bressette,
ADDRESS	Port Severn, Ontario.		ADDRESS
ADDITIONAL PERSON TO BE NOTIFIED	ADDRESS		
PARENTS NAME	ADDRESS		
(IF SEVERAL)	(MARRIED OVERSEAS)		
AUTHORITY, C.A. 565, NO.	Canrecords - 0567A	HR 405-B-31382	DATE 19-2-45
CASUALTY DETAILS	Killed in action		
WESTERN EUROPEAN THEATRE OF WAR			
LAST WILL ATTACHED TO NOTIFICATION TO A. OF LT	YES/NO	M.F.M.S. ATTACHED TO NOTIFICATION TO A. OF LT	YES/NO
	1/1	5/1 4272	DATE 8-3-45
		0/3 with 2 C.I.R.U.	<i>M. Straatman</i> OFFICER I/C RECORDS
COPY FOR C.R. FILE			

Ross was first buried in the temporary military cemetery in Bedburg Hau near Kleve.



He was later reburied in the Canadian War Cemetery, Groesbeek, near Nijmegen in the Netherlands. Grave reference **X. F. 12.**

*Photo Marian Straatman, May 2021*

Ross Bernard Bressette's awards:

- 1939-45 Star
- France Germany Star
- War Medal
- CVSM and Clasp



Life story: Gwyn de Jong, member Research Team Faces to Graves.

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

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives, Canada

War Diaries: Regina Rifle Regiment

Christine Sallows, niece

Photos Berniece thanks to Bill McVean

Wikipedia



*Photo courtesy of Donna Maxwell*