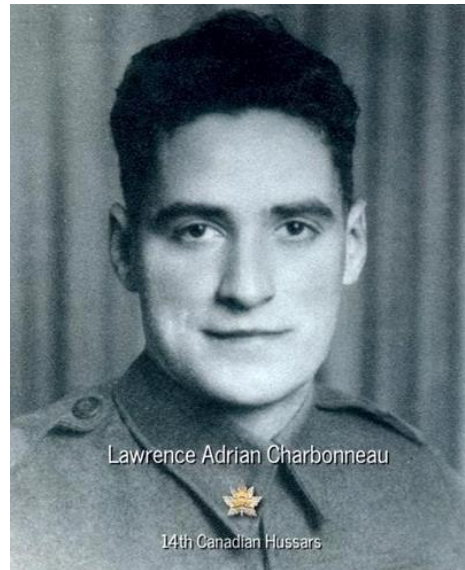


Charbonneau, Lawrence Adrian
Trooper
14th Canadian Hussars
8th Reconnaissance Regiment
L 53542



Lawrence Charbonneau was born on October 7, 1921, in Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada. He was the son of Joseph Telesphore (Teles) Charbonneau and Elize Gagnon. Father was born in Battleford in 1886, he worked in a Mental Hospital and became 95 years old. Mother was from the United States and she died at the age of 41. The family was Roman Catholic and they had a total of fourteen children, three of whom died young: Alfred, Cena and Wilfred. The other eleven in order from oldest to youngest: Alcide, Josephine, Victoria, Eugène, Bernadette, Lawrence, Victor, Emile Paul, Beatrice, Henry and Joseph.



Family Charbonneau

*Photo: Meghan Casey,
Eugene's
granddaughter*

Lawrence spoke English and French and left school when he was 16, trained as a carpenter and worked as a farmhand for R. Caplette in Battleford for six years. After his military service he did not want to return there, but wanted to become a mechanic. He was also at the Canadian Army Rehabilitation Training Center 121 Militia for thirty days, this was a group of civilians that took on (para) military tasks.

(North) Battleford is a town in the western province of Saskatchewan, in southern Canada.

When Lawrence volunteered for service, he was 6 ft.10 tall and weighed 146 lb. He had hazel eyes and brown hair, he was well developed according to his medical report of February 19, 1941.

He was 19 years old when he reported as a Private for service at Saskatoon, 12A District Depot in February 1941. Lawrence was assigned to the 8th Reconnaissance Battalion and went to No. 40 Canadian Army Rehabilitation Training Center at Farnham. From there he went to St. Hyacinthe in Quebec in May, to continue his education. Then he was being prepared for departure overseas to Europe. In August 1941 he left for Jeanne Mance Camp, Fletcher's Field in Montreal and in October of that year as a Trooper to Camp Borden for command and attack training for all targets at the Canadian Armored Corps Training Center. Lawrence had two weeks' leave in October and continued his training in Borden until 28 February 1942, then they left for Halifax and on 1 March embarked for Scotland, where they arrived on 10 March. Lawrence was then at the No. 3rd Reinforcement Unit of the Canadian Armored Corps Active Force. From May 20, he had another week of leave and participated in the Canadian Reinforcement Unit Course until June 6, 1942. After that, the Water Course followed with the Canadian General Reinforcement Unit and in August again with the 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment. In November 1942 and also in February 1943 Lawrence had another week of leave. On May 11 he ended up at the 10th Field Ambulance and on May 19 at the Special Hospital, First Medical Unit (after First Aid) Casual Cleaning Station, where soldiers were treated who had been wounded at the front. Unfortunately, it is not known why Lawrence had been there, but he was in the 1st General Hospital from July 5 to July 28.

On August 25, Lawrence was admitted again, this time in the 17th General Hospital, until September 10, 1943.

On September 30, he rejoined the 8th Reconnaissance Regiment (14th Canadian Hussars).



This regiment was the reconnaissance unit of the Canadian army during the advance from Italy to the Netherlands. The 8th Reconnaissance Regiment (14th Canadian

Hussars) received its training and coastal defense duties in the south of England in the first three years of the war. It was not until July 6, 1944 (one month after D-Day) that the troops landed at Gold Beach in Normandy, France, and then began their task as infantrymen for the first time. The first three deaths were mourned on 13 July.

They pushed back the German troops from Northern France towards Belgium and the Netherlands and they were then used for their actual task: as a reconnaissance unit during the advance of the 1st Canadian Army. They were often far ahead of their troops and were involved in the liberation of important ports such as Dieppe, on 1 September 1944, and Antwerp, the Battle of the Scheldt, the liberation of towns and villages in the Netherlands and the invasion of Germany. In the meantime, fierce fighting had taken place and many people had been killed and injured on both sides.

Extract from a diary of the 8th Reconnaissance Regiment:

- 1 July 1944 in Goodnestone (UK) we start clearing and cleaning the barracks
- 2 July: departure of the crew in their vehicles to the marshalling yard of the ship's cargo and the vehicles were made watertight for the crossing
- 4 July: from London Docks to the ship
- 5 July: in the evening with a tugboat out of the harbour
- 6 July: via the Thames with calm waters across the Channel
- 7 July: just before midnight the ship arrives in Caen in France
- 8 July: landing with LST (Landing Ship Tank) around 6:00 PM, where the vehicles were made roadworthy again and driven to the harbor
- 13 July: the first encounters with the enemy, several bombs thrown and the first fatalities
- 15 July: under shellfire and no communication possible, only via the wireless communication of the Scoutcars
- 9 August: preparations for the classic Recce task
- 31 August: already penetrated far towards Dieppe

On October 1, 1943, Lawrence was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp. He also followed the Driver Mechanic For Truck and Wheel courses and the Waterproofing Course For All Purposes and the 1st Special Drivers School.

Yet over the years, Lawrence regularly struggled with the strict rules as a soldier, he received multiple penalties for, among other things, being absent without permission, having destroyed an important paper in a drunken stupor, not making his bed correctly and talking during a parade. As a result he received no wages for a few days and had to stay in the barracks.

In September 1944 Lawrence was a Lance-Corporal, but from October 3 a Trooper again.

It was not clear what Lawrence did during the period from October 1944 to January 1945, the day he died at the age of 23. He had been overseas for almost three years when he was killed in combat with the enemy on January 29, 1945 near Nijmegen.

First, Lawrence was buried in the military cemetery in Jonkerbosch, Nijmegen on January 30, and on August 1, 1945 reburied in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **I. E. 15**.




Photo: Liesbeth Huisman

Brother Eugène also volunteered for service, but he was declared unfit after three months. Younger brother Victor also enlisted in 1941, because he wanted to see brother Lawrence and quite coincidentally they met in a cabin somewhere and could spend 48 hours together. Victor went home again in 1946.

The Memorial Cross was sent to Lawrence's mother after the war, but she had already died by then.

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Full-Rate Message	
Day Letter	D L
Night Message	N M
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a full-rate message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.



CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAM

W. M. ARMSTRONG, GENERAL MANAGER, TORONTO, ONT.

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STANDARD TIME

59UT 56 2 Extra GB DL Via Saskatoon
Ottawa Ont. 711 PM Feb. 5th. 1945
report delivery

Mr. T Elias Charbonneau
Battleford Sask.

33204 regret deeply 1 53542 Trooper Lawrence Adrian Charbonneau has been officially reported killed in action twenty ninth January 1945 stop you should receive further details by mail direct from the unit in the theatre of war stop to prevent possible aid to our enemies do not divulge date of casualty or name of unit.

Director of Records
9.12

Lawrence received the following awards:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France & Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp



Life story: Liesbeth Huisman-Arts, Research Team Faces to Graves.

*Note: If you have any information about this soldier, please contact us: info@facestograves.nl

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Library and Archives Canada

<https://www.fn1.nl/de-weg-naar-de-bevrijding-in-13-verhalen.html>

War Diaries Canada WW2

<https://www.project44.ca>

STATEMENT of the Names, Ages and Addresses or Dates of Death, of all the relatives that the deceased ever had in each of the degrees specified below:

Degrees of Relationship	RELATIVES required to be accounted for	INFORMANT'S STATEMENT		
		NAME IN FULL of any Relative, if any, in each degree specified	Age	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving Relative, opposite his or her name, and date of death of each deceased relative
1	Widow of the Deceased			
2	Children of the Deceased and dates of their Births			
3	Father of the Deceased	TELES ^{PHORE} CHARBONNEAU	59	Battleford Sask
4	Mother of the Deceased	ELISE CHARBONNEAU		Died 15 th of April 1932
5	Brothers of the Deceased	Full Blood	ALCIDE CHARBONNEAU 22 EUGENE CHARBONNEAU 27 VICTOR CHARBONNEAU 22 EMILE CHARBONNEAU 20 HENRY CHARBONNEAU 18 JOSEPH CHARBONNEAU 17 ALFRED CHARBONNEAU WILFRED CHARBONNEAU	Battleford Sask Battleford Sask Widow 53 years in year 1916 1908 - 1916 Battleford Sask Battleford Sask 32 St James College Battleford Died in year 1916 Died in year 1930
		Half Blood		
6	Sisters of the Deceased	Full Blood	JOSEPHINE DUHAIME 30 VICTORIA KOOTINGS 28 BERNADETTE CHARBONNEAU 24 BEATRICE CHARBONNEAU 19 THERESE CHARBONNEAU 12 CENA CHARBONNEAU	Battleford Sask Battleford Sask Battleford Sask Battleford Sask Battleford Sask Died in year 1919
		Half Blood		
7	Names of brothers or sisters (whether of the full or the half blood) of the Deceased, who are dead, and date of death of each.	Names and ages of their children (if any)		Address of their children
	ALFRED CHARBONNEAU WILFRED CHARBONNEAU CENA CHARBONNEAU	Died in year 1916 Died in year 1930 Died in year 1919		



Photo: Canadian Army Show Juno Beach/ Road to liberation

<p>PTE. L. CHARBONNEAU</p>	<p>PTE. G. M. LEDOUX</p>
<p>two Battleford men who were recently killed in action, were honored in memory at a service held in St. Vital's Church Monday morning, February 12, Rev. Father E. Denomme conducting the Requiem High Mass and the Absolution ceremony. Father Denomme said: "They are gone, but not forgotten." The choir was directed by Rev. Father F. Nadeau of St. Thomas College, the choral part of the service including an impressive rendition of a hymn for the protection of the armed forces and vocal solos by Paul Prince and Rev. Father Nadeau. Rev. Sister Leopold was organist. Dick Nelson, president of the Battleford Legion conducted the Legion ceremony. About 50 army cadets and members of the Battleford Light Infantry were present from St. Thomas College, with their chaplain, Hon. Capt. Rev. Father L. Engel. Others representing the B.L.I. were Hon. Capt. Rev. T. Currant, Lieut. W. D. Sutherland and Sgt.-Maj. E. Hobbs Mrs. C. E. Light, president of the women's auxiliary of the Legion, and other officers and members were present. The "Last Post" was sounded by a cadet bugler, followed by the National Anthem.</p>	
<p>Pte. Laurence Charbonneau, son of Teles Charbonneau, and the late Mrs. Charbonneau of Battleford was born in Battleford 23 years ago and attended St. Vital's School. Before enlisting in 1940, for two years he was a member of the Battleford Light Infantry. He went overseas in March, 1942. Victor, a 21-year-old brother, is serving in Italy. The latter's ambition when he went overseas last summer was to see Laurence, and by a strange but happy coincidence, he found himself in the same hut one day and they enjoyed each others company for 48 hours. Eugene, an older brother, served in the army for three months and was discharged on medical grounds, Pte Gilbert M. Ledoux, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Ledoux of Battleford was born at Richard on March 9, 1922, and spent all his life at Mayfair before enlisting. He was educated at Mestun Public School and assisted his father on the farm before enlisting in November, 1942. His parents moved to Battleford at that time.</p>	



Photo: remembrance bench WW2 in Battleford

Instructions regarding preparation of War Diaries (which will be kept from first day of mobilization, creation or embodiment), are contained in F.S. Regs. Vol. 1.

M.F.M. 11
45/P 2 6/37 (3072)

WAR DIARY
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required)

B CANADIAN RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT (14 CH)

Original, duplicate and triplicate to be forwarded to O. i/c 2nd Echelon for disposal.

Title pages will be prepared.

PAGE X			Summary of Events and Information	Remarks, references to Appendices and initials
Place	Date	Hour		
HAPS Holland MR 705451	29 Jan 45	Cont'd	<p>looked the ground over in our area and Lieut Howard took him over to C Sqn, to have a look at Gemep from an O.P. Tpr Charbonneau of B Sqn was killed while lifting an A.P. mine. Lieut Ward of C Sqn was wounded (badly) a few hours later, while he was engaged in a similar task. Show for to-night "Standing Room Only", starring Fred McMurray and Paulette Goddard</p> <p>Weather: Cold and cloudy, followed by sleet rain and snow. followed by sleet rain and snow. In the morning Lieut Howard took Capt Robertsons jeep and picked up a Lt.-Col. and tow Majors at Grave barracks, and drove them to Nijmegen, and south east through the Delden Wald to Groesbeek. A recon was made of the area, and then we returned to Grave barracks, arriving there at 1445 hrs. At 1300 hrs Lieut Ledoux and Sjt McCormell picked up a Lt.-Col. and a Major at the same place and showed them the area where the RHLL is at present. In the evening several RASC convoys came through our areas. 6 of their trucks slipped into the ditch, and so did the break down lorry that went to get them out. The 8th Recon went to the aid, and soon had them moving again. Lieut Billingsley's night patrol was cancelled due to the weather.</p>	<p>30</p>
HAPS Holland MR 705451	31 Jan 45		<p>Weather: Weather: Mild with rain. A quiet day, and no enemy activity. In the evening Lieut Billingsley and Sjt Harbor took their patrol school class on a patrol out to Gemep bridge, and then proceeded north a short distance from the shore and investigated the boat houses at MR 769459. They found some old foot prints in the part melted snow, but found or heard no enemy. They returned by a route close by the north side of the railway track.</p>	<p>J. J. Mangan Major</p>