

In Memory of Rifleman Charles Byers Leroy

1915 - 1944

(The Royal Regina Rifles, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps)

Age: 29

Parents: John Leroy & Eliza Byers

Conflict: World War II

Country Enlisted In: Canada

Country of Death: France

Relation: Maternal 2nd Cousin 1X Removed



Charles Byers Leroy was born in 1915 in Callander, Ontario. His early life was marked by hard physical work and self-reliance. After completing Grade 8, he left school, later explaining that he was tired of it, and entered the workforce. Before the war, he worked as an operator and mechanic on boats, and during the winter months laboured in the northern woods cutting pulp, sometimes walking up to thirty-five miles a day in demanding conditions.

Immediately prior to enlistment, he was employed as a police guard with Defence Industries Limited at Nobel, Ontario, a manufacturer of high explosives—an occupation directly tied to Canada's wartime industrial effort.

He enlisted in the Canadian Army at Toronto on 8 January 1942, and was posted to the Royal Regina Rifles, a regiment that would earn a distinguished and costly record in Northwest Europe. After training and overseas service, he took part in the Allied advance following the Normandy landings.

In August 1944, Rifleman Leroy was engaged in operations during the Battle of the Falaise Pocket, one of the decisive engagements of the Normandy campaign, as Canadian forces fought to close the encirclement of German armies retreating from Caen.

On 12 August 1944, Rifleman Leroy died of wounds received in action against the enemy. He was twenty-nine years old. He was initially reported missing, reflecting the confusion and intensity of the fighting during this phase of the battle.



Rifleman

Royal Regina Rifles, Canada

Rifleman Leroy was originally buried near where he fell. After the war, his remains were exhumed and reinterred at the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery, where many Canadian soldiers of the Normandy campaign now rest together.

Rifleman Charles Byers Leroy did not return. He is remembered as a working man, a soldier of the Royal Regina Rifles, and one of those who fell in the closing battles that helped bring the Normandy campaign to its conclusion.



*Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery
Cintheaux, Basse-Normandie, France*

