



Name: Bisson, Lawrence Joseph

Reg.nr: M109548

Lawrence was born on February 25, 1923 in Three Hills, Alberta.

His father is Joseph Norman (49), his mother is Adrienne Marie. They were married in Wainwright, Alberta. Around 1934, the family moved to Drumheller, Alberta. Father was a butcher.

Lawrence is the eldest of 4 children: Lawrence Joseph (21), Lorraine Mary (21), Joseph Norman (18) and Estelle Doreen (12). There is another child, Gordon Joseph who died on March 31, 1926, at the age of 3 weeks.

Lorraine is probably a twin sister.

Lawrence goes to school in Drumheller. He leaves school at the age of 14, grade 8. He felt that he was not progressing at school and his parents could not afford for him to go to school any longer.

He has had several professions: farmhand, working at the grain elevator, handyman at a grocer, railway worker. Before his service, he worked for 3 1/2 to 4 years, together with his father at John Olson, a butcher. Father was a butcher there for 22 years and took Lawrence for a job. Lawrence helped with the slaughter but was usually in the store, cutting and boning. He made sausages, hamburgers, etc.

On October 28, 1942, he enlisted in Calgary for the Canadian Army. Lawrence is 1,70m. long and weighs 55 kg. He has blue eyes and brown hair. His teeth need maintenance. In 1931 he was successfully operated on his ears because of deafness. He has scars from burns, which he suffered at a young age, on his tongue and his right lower abdomen. He is further described as a nice boy with low intelligence. He means well and is reliable. Lawrence does ice hockey and a bit of baseball.

On November 26, 1942, Lawrence arrives in Elkins Barracks, British Columbia, at a training center. From there he went to Aldershot on 1 April 1943 where he received a chef's training at the infantry training centre. He moved to Bedford, Nova Scotia, where he reported on 30 April 1943 as a butcher, group B, trade II. He is then in the unit A-23. In Bedford on 5 May 1943 he was attached to the artillery reinforcement camp at the ration&quarters department.

On June 24, 1943, Lawrence arrives in England where he is successively assigned to 3 CACRU and 1 CASCRU, reserve units. On March 11, 1944, he became butcher C.

On August 26, he joins the Rocky Mountain Rangers.

Not long, on 5 October he arrives on the list of the Canadian Infantry Corps and a day later, on 6 October 1944, he arrives in France.

On October 13, 1944, Lawrence was transferred to the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (RHLI), part of the 4th Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division which was again part of the 1st Canadian Army.

In early October 1944, the army advanced from Antwerp towards Korteven and Zuid-Beveland, to the woensdrecht / Hoogerheide area. The Canadian army then faces a number of problems.

- War supplies still went to Montgomery's troops.
- How could they get enough troops in the area in a short time? There was a great shortage of infantry, 2 artillery units were disbanded and deployed as infantry and anti-tank units. Tanks and armoured vehicles had to drive

back and forth along the right flank as much as possible to give the impression that a strong Canadian force was ready.

Although Canada had conscription in World War II, no conscripts were sent to Europe against their will. It was not until the end of 1944, when there were too few volunteers to replace the fallen or waved-off soldiers, that the Canadian government decided to send conscripts to Europe despite heavy political opposition, without them having volunteered.

The RHLI's war diary states on 17 October 1944 that the majority of the men in the battalion had not received much infantry training at this time, but had been transformed from other branches of the service.

On 16 October 1944 the attack started on the woensdrecht heights. Lawrence was probably in the A-company (the #9 platoon of Lawrence belongs to this) which reached a forward position at the intersection Bossestraat/Steenstraat. At 10.00h. the Germans launched a counteroffensive. The 6th Parachute Division, specially trained infantrymen with the reputation of a hard-fighting elite attacks the position of the A-company.

Pte Costello declares on December 6, 1944: Bisson is a courier between the platoon and the regimental headquarters. Costello saw him around 10:00. Lawrence had to help defend the position of the #9 peloton. During the counterattack, the platoon was overrun and cut off from the others.

Captain Armstrong declares on August 19, 1945: Bisson was with me on the morning of October 16, together in a forward position. He had a machine gun, I had a PIAT (anti-tank weapon for the infantry). It was the 1st attack he experienced. He was unsure what to do after I shot my PIAT. I asked him to give cover fire forward but we were also attacked from both sides. I stood with my back to him and when I turned around he fell down and said he was paralyzed. When I looked at him, I estimated

that he was turned off. I called for a stretcher. Then I also knew that he would die within 5 minutes. After I had shot up the ammunition I went to the house to get help but when I got there I saw that we were surrounded and cut off from the rest.

After the Germans took over, I said that my comrade needed medical help. Then they left and when they returned they said he was kaput. That was after about 4 minutes. When I left him, blood came out of his mouth and I saw blood in his eyes. He was quiet. I did not see the Germans burying him. On August 8, 1945, J. Campbell declares: Bisson joined my platoon on the 14th or 15th.

On October 16, during an enemy attack, Bisson was at sgt. Strong's section and was seriously wounded or killed by gunfire. Maybe that pte. Burgess or pte. Newton know more. I didn't see him after that.

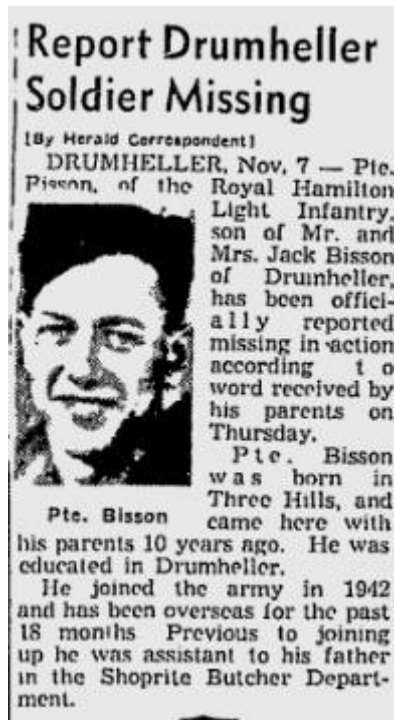
At first, Lawrence is reported missing. On October 1, 1945, it was officially changed to killed in action.

Lawrence was found on 8 September in the court of a farm at Hooghuis in Woensdrecht. A reburial follows on 13 November 1945 at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom. Lawrence is buried on plot 5, row H, grave 12.

Lawrence Bissot has been awarded the 1939-1945 Star, the French-German Star, the Defence Medal, the War Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp.







Citation:

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<https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/2641481/bisson,-lawrence-joseph/>

<https://nl.findagrave.com/memorial/12724044/lawrence-joseph-bisson>

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