



Naam: Lucie, Benjamin (Ben)

Reg.nr: L74257

Ben was born on March 2, 1922 in Kinistino, Saskatchewan. Kinistino is located in the Kinistin First Nations Reserve established in 1900 (a clerical error changed the name to Kinistino), it is the territory of the Kinistin Saulteaux Nation. The mailing address is the store in Glen Mary. On 28 July 1945, his sister Mary Rose filled in an information list, the parents could not read or write:

His father is Marcel, his mother is Virgina. They were married on August 1, 1910 in Glen Mary.

Ben has 2 brothers, Mack Basil (serves overseas) and Alex Lucia († 2 years old in 1919) and 2 half-brothers with the surname Deschambeault: John Adam and Louis Nedrick.

Ben has 4 sisters: Mary Rose, Alma, Isabella (born † May 25, 1938) and Sarah Victoria. He also has 2 half-sisters with the surname Umpherville: Catherine and Elisabeth (born July 4, 1931 †).

The family is originally French-speaking, they also speak English. Father is a farmer and forest worker.

Ben went to school until 1932. He is then 10 years old and has grade 4. Between 1936 and 1942, Ben worked on John Johnson's farm. He drove a tractor for 2 years and did repairs on top of that. In the winters from 1939 to 1941 he worked as a lumberjack for Oscar Thornton. His father is ill, Ben partly supports his mother.

From 1940 until his enlistment, Ben was a member of the Prince Albert Volunteers. He participated in the Dundurn camps in 1940 and 1941.

On 14 January 1942 he enlisted in Prince Albert for the Canadian army: "To see what it is like". After his military service, he would like to become a carpenter.

Ben is 1.72 m tall and weighs 68 kg. He has brown eyes and black hair. As a 14-year-old, he had pneumonia.

Ben fishes and plays guitar.

On January 14, 1942, Ben was first assigned to #12 District Depot in Prince Albert. On February 4, he will head to #2 CABTC, a base training camp in Lansdowne Park, Ottawa. On April 22, 1942, Ben is posted to #22 CAEBT, an engineering training camp, in North Bay, Ontario.

He became a gunner on 26 August 1942 at A1 CATC, an artillery training centre, in Petawawa, Ontario. He has a conversation there (October 6, 1942) and the report states that Ben is a young man who has spent most of his life in the wilderness. He wants to go overseas with his brother, Mack.

On 19 October 1942 he obtained his driver's license, Driver I/C, class III wheeled.

He was then sent to England, where he reported to 1 CARU, a reserve unit of the artillery, on 19 December 1942. ON January 6, 1943, he had another interview. It is noted: a quiet, slow to answer boy. Medium intelligence. He wants to go to his brother who is with the Genie.

On 29 January 1943, Ben became a sapper in the Engineers, first with 1 CERU (reserve unit), later with 3 CREC.

On October 4, 1944, the justice of the peace of the county court of County Borough of South Shield issued a ruling. Madeline Ivy Miller Turner claims that Ben is the father of her child, born on May 26, 1944. The judge agreed with her and Ben was ordered to pay 10 shillings a week for the maintenance and education of the child until he was 15 years of age, 10 shillings for the expenses incurred at birth, 25 shillings for court costs and £2 and 8 shillings which he received to appear before the court on the day of the hearing (4 August 1944). Ben didn't show up. The chaplain notes on the paper of the verdict that Ben was killed on October 1.

He remained in the Engineers until August 12, 1944, when Ben was assigned to the Rocky Mountain Rangers, infantry, where he received a retraining course. His passport states that he has not yet completed the course on August 29, but that he is reasonably trained.

On 1 September 1944 Ben arrived in France, on 5 September 1944 he was assigned to the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada.

On 1 October 1944, the 5th Infantry Brigade fought to expand the bridgehead over the Antwerp-Turnhout canal. This happened at St. Leenaarts with an attack on Brecht and Eindhoven (a small town in Belgium on the canal). The Calgary Highlanders started the attack towards Brecht. They took care of the starting position of the Black Watch, who took over the attack towards Brecht. The Calgary's would then advance towards Eindhoven. If Brecht and Eindhoven were captured, the 6th Infantry Brigade would break out of the bridgehead, capture Lichtenberg on 2 October 1944 and then advance to Brasschaat to make contact with the 4th Infantry Brigade, which would take Merksem and the northern port area of Antwerp.

This operation with 3 Brigades of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division was a necessary preparation for the attack on Zuid-Beveland.

The Black Watch started at 8.00 am. the attack on Brecht. Prior to the attack, the artillery shelled every possible defended position. During the capture of the remains of the city, there was heavy fighting. Around noon, Brecht was in the hands of the Black Watch. After that, Brecht was shot at by the Germans and what remained of Brecht was a ruin where snipers roamed. The Black Watch had 119 casualties on October 1, including 26 deaths. As a result, the battalion reached a critical lower limit in terms of strength in view of upcoming attacks.

From the Black Watch's war diary:

October 1st, Sunday.

Weather - cloudy with occasional showers. Early this morning, the regiment began the attack to capture and evacuate the town of Brecht with tanks and artillery in support. The attack was well planned and went through the forward positions of the Calgary Highlanders at 08:00. The area where the attack took place had been carefully checked the previous evening and everyone was at all times fully aware of the plan, the objectives, and what the flanks were doing. The success of the attack had been assured in advance because the unit had had plenty of time to plan and execute a careful attack. The enemy put up a determined resistance in the city, but the artillery and mortars had a tremendous effect on him even before we entered the city. The accuracy of the barrage was so great that then gunners reached the point where the enemy mortars were located.

All six mortars were out of service, and the area contained more than forty craters from medium and field artillery shells. By the middle of the day, the regiment was in well-defended positions and Colonel Ritchie went to an O Group (ed.: court-martial) at regimental headquarters. Mortars and shelling were very heavy throughout the day, and many snipers were active in the outskirts of the city. The Scouts, on patrol, discovered the enemy on the southwestern side of the town, so Company C was sent to clear them and the other companies cleared the houses around the centre of town. The enemy had withdrawn to all his positions, obviously in great haste, as he had left behind piles of ammunition. For the rest of the day and night, the Germans contented themselves with convulsive shelling and mortars.

Ben was killed this day, 22 years old, DOW (died of wounds), severely wounded in the right hip and left foot by shrapnel. Ben is taken to the 18th Field Ambulance. There he is given morphine at 09.00 am. He died at 11:00 a.m.

Ben is given a temporary grave in the RK cemetery of Westmalle. On 21 June 1945, a reburial followed at the Canadian cemetery in Bergen op Zoom. Ben is in plot 5, row E, grave 12.

Ben 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.



Bronvermelding:

[Casualty Details | CWGC](#)

[Private Benjamin Lucie \(Onbekend-1944\) - Find a Grave-gedenkplek](#)

[Ancestry.com - Canada, World War II Records and Service Files of War Dead, 1939-1947](#)

http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/laird.niven/public_html/oct_44.htm

De Eerste Dam, De gevechten voor de toegang tot Zeeland van Merksem naar Woensdrecht, pagina 351. Auteur Robert Catsburg.

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