

## LADERROUTE, Kenneth A.

Interview with Kenneth's niece Margarit Laderoute Gervais.

What did he do before the war?

*"He was a policeman in Ottawa."*

Did he volunteer or was he called to duty?

*"He was sent to Kingston to train to be a special investigator when they asked him to be a Provost Corp (police in the military)."*

How old was he when he enrolled?

*"He was 21 when he went."*

What was his training like?

*"All I know is he trained to be a special investigator in Kingston."*

How long was he in training?

*"I don't know."*



### Dies of Wounds



L/Cpl. Kenneth Laderoute, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Laderoute, Westmeath, who died of wounds received while serving in Holland.

Announcement of the death of Kenneth Laderoute in the local newspaper.

Was he part of D-Day?

*"No."*

What was his position? Rank? Division?

*"He was a Lieutenant Corporal. I don't know what division he was in."*

How did he get overseas?

*"They went by ship and crossed from Canada to England then crossed the White Cliffs and the English Channel to just north of Dieppe, then in Belgium."*

What was one of his first thoughts that you know of?

*"I don't know his thoughts, but I think he would be nervous but excited. They would probably be scared too."*

Was he ever injured?

*"He was killed November 14, 1944. He died of wounds."*

How long was he there?

*"He wasn't there very long before he was killed, He was only there 7 months."*

What were the living conditions like for him?

*"I can only go by what my Dad told me but I imagine there would be lots of mud and it would be very cold in the winter time. Sometimes he wouldn't have a lot to eat."*

What was his most vivid memory that you know of?

*I can't answer that because I never met him."*



*Kenneth on manoeuvres over in Europe.*



*Kenneth Laderoute with a member of the Canadian Provost Corp.*

Did the war change him in any way?

*"It changed him because it ended his life."*

Do you think school students appreciate what happened then?

*"I think most young people do. I think they understand as much as they can."*

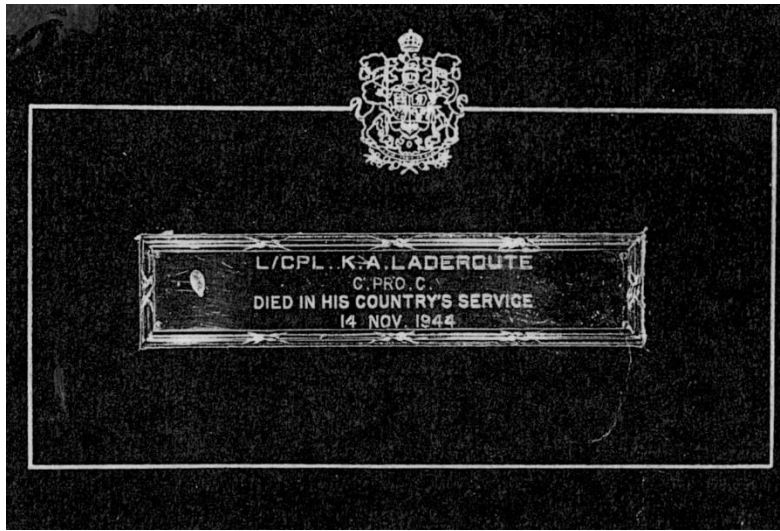
What do you think students need to know about Remembrance Day?

*"I think it is a time for them to reflect or to think about what it means to be a free country. I think we have to keep remembering what they did for us, keep that going."*

Do you have any other memories, stories, or items that you wish to share with me?

*"The only things I know about him are from my Dad but his friend says he was a very, very good policemen and a very good person. He also attended Westmeath Public School. He was responsible for the liberation of France.*

*He was my Dad's little brother, 3 years younger than him and before he left, his Mom said "Take care of your brother" so he always felt responsible for his brother's death."*



*This is the plaque sent by Canadian Military to announce the death.*



*His grave in Holland at the end of World War II.*



*Kenneth Laderoute's grave in Holland in 1990.*

### The Great Uncle I Never Knew Kenneth A. Laderoute.

He was born in 1923 and was raised in Westmeath, Ontario. He spent the younger years of his life working on the family farm just outside Westmeath. For a young boy at that time, he led a fairly normal life. When not attending school, he did chores on the farm and in his free time he went fishing and hunting. But all that changed when the Second World War broke out in 1939 and his life was about to change forever.

Like many young men, when he became of age, he was called to serve his country the time of war. His position was Lieutenant Corporal Kenneth Laderoute of the Canadian Provost Corps (Royal Canadian Military Police).

The majority of his services took place in Holland, and he was part of the Canadian forces responsible for the liberation of France. As the fighting became more intense. He was killed in the line of duty. His obituary in the local newspaper read:

*"L/Cpl. Kenneth Laderoute, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Laderoute, Westmeath, who died of wounds received while serving in Holland."*

His tombstone still lies in one of the graveyards in Holland and it reads:

G. 75970 L.CPL  
K.A. LADEROUTE  
CANADIAN PROVOST CORPS  
14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 1944, AGE 21

SO HE PASSED OVER AND ALL THE TRUMPETS SOUNDED A HERO

He was the only great-uncle that I never knew and although I have never met him, there will always be a special place for him in our hearts.