

Pte Lévi Joseph Landry (Service # G51472)



Lévi Joseph Landry was born July 23, 1921, near Upper Sackville, Westmoreland County, New Brunswick, the son of Alexander Landry and Delphine (Petitpas). Their marriage certificate states that Alex was a farmer. Lévi was one of ten children. Two of his siblings had died as infants, Anna at three days and Adolos at six months. His older brother Denis would also serve overseas with the Black Watch of Canada in WW2. Lévi left school at age fifteen. He went to work on the farm and also found employment in the lumber business. Records show that he spoke both English and French fluently.

On January 7, 1943, Lévi enlisted with the Canadian Army at Fredericton. The next six months were spent in training at Camp No.70 at Fredericton and Camp A30 at Utopia. In late July 1943, Lévi was sent overseas and in September he was placed with the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment. The regiment spent the following eight months in intensive training and rehearsing beach landings in England and Scotland. Records show that at some point Levi purchased a \$1000 life insurance policy and that he was also sending \$20/mo. home to his mother.

On D-Day (June 6, 1944), Lévi landed in Normandy near Saint Aubin-sur-Mer with D Company under the command of Major Ernie Anderson. A and B Companies were the first units to come ashore. At about 8 a.m. their landing craft doors opened and the men poured out under heavy fire from artillery, mortars, and machine guns. They scrambled over barriers and mines and ran for the security of the seawall.

B Company made it to the wall with few casualties, but they now stalled and soon D Company was coming in behind them. Using explosives and wire cutters, B Company cut a path into the village. They now pushed into the streets with orders to eliminate a large defensive strong point that included 75 mm guns as well as mortars and machine guns. All were firing on the beach and landing craft. German snipers were everywhere and using a network of trenches and tunnels, they would escape and reposition themselves.

D Company orders were to follow and pass through B Company and then move to the southeast section of the village and capture the railway station. Despite snipers, mines, and machine guns, D Company, with help from the Carrier platoon, made their way to the rear of the town, captured the station, and established a defense position along the rail line. They now began the task of clearing houses and streets with grenades and flamethrowers. The War Diary records that by 11:15 a.m., the German defenses had been eliminated, Hitler's Atlantic Wall had been broken, and the NS(NB)R was in control of Saint Aubin.

Historian Marc Milner wrote that with many fluently bilingual New Brunswickers around, communication with the French civilians was easy. The elderly and teenagers poured out of the buildings weeping and declaring the Canadians their liberators. Major Anderson was deeply moved by their efforts to tend to the Canadian wounded and put out fires. The cost to the North Shore (NB) Regiment on D-Day was 34 dead and 90 wounded. Included in the fatal casualties was Pte Lévi Joseph Landry. Records indicate that he was killed in the village. He was twenty-two years of age. The following November, his parents received notification that his brother Denis had also been killed in action in the Netherlands during the Battle of Scheldt.

For his service to Canada, Pte Lévi Joseph Landry was awarded the following medals; the 1939-45 Star, the France and Germany Star, the Defense Medal, the War Medal 1939 -1945, and the

Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp. Pte Lévi Joseph Landry is buried in the Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in Calvados, France, Plot I. H. 16. His name is also engraved on one of the monuments that stand along the seawall in Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer.



Top: The North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment landing on Juno Beach, D-Day (June 6, 1944).

Bottom: The Railway Station in Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer, captured by D Company on the morning of June 6, 1944.