

**Lt Romeo Sabourin 4086 Canadian
Intelligence Corps
AKA - Guy Robert Desjardins
Code Name - Sorcerer; Leonard
Radio Callsign - Pullover**

Romeo was born on 31 December 1922 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, the son of Eugene Antoine Sabourin and Flore Sabourin nee Desjardins.

Receiving a limited education, Romeo left school aged 13 and worked as a machine operator in a shoe manufacturing factory. In April 1940, whilst underage, Romeo enlisted in Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal, Canadian Infantry, and was sent with his unit to the Canadian Garrison in Iceland. Romeo's mother notified the authorities of his age; however, by the time his unit was informed he was of age to serve.

Moving to the UK in Spring 1940, in April 1942 Romeo completed a Signallers Course and this qualification, together with his fluency in French, brought him to the attention of the SOE. In August 1943 Romeo was transferred to the Canadian Intelligence Corps, and in November was granted a commission. In early 1944 Romeo completed his training as a SOE wireless operator and awaited his mission.



At 20:57 on 2 March 1944 Romeo and his team leader, together with another wireless operator, departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in 161 Sqn Halifax V LL388 MA-W, his mission to operate as the wireless operator of the new "Bargee" network. Successfully dropped at a site near Valenciennes, the Gestapo were waiting. The operation and reception on the drop zone had been arranged by the Germans as part of their "*Funkspiel*", using the captured radio set and codes of the "Archdeacon" and "Musician" circuits.

Following a brief firefight, Romeo was wounded and, unable to continue his escape, he was taken to Gestapo HQ at 84 Avenue Foch, Paris for interrogation. After interrogation, Romeo was imprisoned at Fresnes Prison, Val-de-Marne, Paris, before transferring to Buchenwald Concentration Camp, Weimer, Germany, via the Neue Bremm transit camp at Saarbrücken.

After orders were received from Berlin for the execution of the SOE agents held at Buchenwald, on 14 September 1944 Romeo was executed, alongside 38 other SOE operatives, and his body cremated.

Also killed : Capt Adolphe Rabinovitch; PO George Basil McBain

Romeo has no known grave and is commemorated on the Groesbeek Memorial, Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands

Romeo is commemorated on Wall Panel (NYE)

Photo Source: Findagrave