



The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada
Profiles of Our Fallen
Part I:
D-Day
6 June 1944

July 2023

Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery



Researched and prepared by Major John M. Stephens, CD (Ret'd), Director of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Museum and Archive in remembrance of the sixty-one riflemen who died on 6 June 1944, one soldier who died on 7 June 1944 of wounds received on D-Day (Rifleman Duncan McInnes.)

Sources for these profiles included the individual Service Records, Veterans Affairs Canada's Canadian Virtual War Memorial, and Ancestry.ca.

Corrections or photographs (for those with grave marker photographs) are welcome and can be sent by email to museum@qormuseum.org

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Facts from the Profiles of D-Day Fallen

- The average age of the fallen was 29.9 years old
- The youngest was 19-year-old Rifleman Russell Adamson of Midland
- The oldest was 40-year-old Corporal Hugh Rocks of Kirkland Lake
- Many of these riflemen left school at aged 14 or 15 – few completed high school
- Many of their fathers had served in the First World War
- Rifleman Calbert's brother was also QOR and was killed in Holland in February 1945.
- Rifleman Corvec was transferred to the QOR from a reinforcement unit on 26 May 1944 – just 12 days before D-Day
- Rifleman Hall served in the 1939-1940 Finnish-Russian War before enlisting with the QOR in England in 1942
- Sergeant "Freddy" Harris was the only Jewish riflemen among the QOR's D-Day fallen.
- Rifleman Lizon has no known grave and is remembered on the Bayeux Memorial however there are several graves in Bény-sur-Mer Cemetery with no known names.
- Rifleman Martin lied about his age in order to join the QOR in Jun 1940. He was two days shy of his 22nd birthday on D-Day
- Riflemen May and McCallum were originally drummers but would serve as stretcher bearers on D-Day
- Lance Corporal McKechnie was married in England on 18 May 1944 – just weeks before D-Day
- Included in this list are two brothers – Gordon and Douglas Reed
- Rifleman Showers was AWOL when his original regiment The Black Watch, left Newfoundland, and on reappearing was posted to the QOR
- Rifleman Stock was an indigenous soldier from Gibson Reserve
- From this list of QOR fallen alone, at least 17 children became fatherless on D-Day
- Rifleman Duncan McInnes died 7 June 1944 from wounds received on D-Day



Introduction

The young men profiled in this document joined at different times and from different places but the regiment was a constant. It has served as a militia unit since April 1860, and an active service battalion was mobilized on 5 June 1940. Training took place in Camp Borden in Ontario, and Camp Sussex in New Brunswick. These were interspersed with an overseas posting to Newfoundland. They would then train in various places in England and Scotland for the next three years. D-Day would be their first and last day in battle.

From the 1960 Regimental History by LCol W.T. Barnard

“The original H hour had been 0745 hrs. Now word was received that H hour would be delayed for at least ten minutes. At that moment the assault craft were only a few hundred yards from shore. The sea was now so rough that the D.D. tanks, designed to swim in with the infantry, were ordered to land in the normal way from their craft. This delay meant that The Queen's Own would have to capture Bernières without tank assistance. The AVREs., (Armoured Vehicles Royal Engineers), landed with the second wave but were held up on the beach until suitable exits could be made.

The supporting fire was now thickened by artillery firing from their craft. Everyone prayed for the order to land. Soon the guns would cease and the men well knew that the longer the elapsed interval between the cessation of fire and the actual attack the greater the enemy's chance of recovery. The fast-rising tide was also hiding the mines and obstacles that the craft would have to sweep through. It was a grim few minutes; the craft circled slowly; an occasional shell whined out from shore; then, at 0805 hrs, came the glad word to go in.

A Company on the right and B Company on the left touched down at 0812 hrs. The line between the companies was the railway station. Several LCAs hit mines on the run in but casualties were light. Nevertheless, of the ten LCAs that carried A and B Company in, only two managed to get off the shore. Strangely enough the battalion lost all its flame-throwers at this point—one by enemy action, the rest by waves soaking the mechanism. The rising tide had now left about two hundred yards or so of beach between the water's edge and the sea-wall. The strip was swept by enemy enfilade fire but, with a rush, A Company, under Major H.E. Dalton, was over; clambered up the sea-wall, and reached the railway line.”



9 Platoon, A Company, was on the extreme right flank of the 8th Brigade attack. Their area of the beach was covered by an 88 mm. gun position which had not shown on the air photos. Before it was silenced this gun caused heavy casualties to the platoon. Lt. P.C. Rea was wounded twice, the F.O.O. (Forward Observation Officer) was wounded, L/Sgt. J.M. Simpson killed and two-thirds of the platoon killed or wounded. Sgt. C.W. Smith, later awarded the Military Medal, gathered together the ten or so men remaining and, although wounded, fought his way through to the railway station. Here he collapsed and a corporal took over. Now house-to-house fighting began. Here the enemy put up a stubborn resistance and numerous casualties resulted; but the attack was pushed relentlessly.

B Company, under Major C.O. Dalton, was even less fortunate. The company had landed directly in front of a concrete strongpoint that was still in action. Almost one half of the company was lost in the initial dash across the beach. A supporting flak ship was wirelessed for support. The flak ship came in so close that it almost ran aground and began firing at point-blank range. Finally, Lt. W.G. Herbert, Cpl. R.J. Tessier and Rfn. W. Chicoski did a very neat job in silencing the strongpoint with grenades and Sten guns. By now Major C.O. Dalton, Lt. J.D. McLean, Lt. W.G. Herbert and CSM W. Wallis were wounded. Sgt. F.B. Harris and Sgt. G.W. Morrison had been killed. Lt. H.C.F. Elliot took over command until relieved by Captain J.I. Mills. Corporals were playing the leading roles; the smashing impetus never faltered.

An initial mischance now turned out to be a determining factor in B Company's success. One L.C.A. had its rudder jammed and ran ashore off course. Here there was no enemy defence. Quickly, Lt. H.C.F. Elliot the platoon commander, seized the opportunity and worked his way inland along the shore. The unexpected flank attack convinced the enemy that they had had enough. It was as well, for by now, the rest of B Company had been practically wiped out.

At 0830 hrs C Company, under Major O.A. Nickson; D. Company, under Major J.N. Gordon, and alternate B.H.Q. (Battalion Headquarters) landed. Half of the L.C.A. had struck mines but, by a miracle, few of the men were wounded and all swam or waded ashore. B Squadron, Fort Garry Horse, had also landed. An exit was breached in the sea-wall and very soon the armour joined the forward companies of The Queen's Own.

C and D Companies immediately pressed forward along the brigade Centre Line: Bernières-sur-Mer, Bény-sur-Mer, Basly, Colomby-sur-Thaon, Anguerny Heights.



Great stress was placed on the capture of the last mentioned which was of great tactical importance to the division. By .0900 hrs Bernières had been cleared, so A Company followed in support of C and D. The few remaining in B Company re-organized and were held back in Bernières until the afternoon. In the original plan B Company were to remain to form a firm base. Now there was no choice.

The brigade reserve, The Regiment de la Chaudière, had landed; so too had The 14th Field Regiment R.C.A. with its S.P. (self-propelled) guns. Their initial progress was held up by an enemy 88 mm. gun on high ground overlooking the town. So deadly was the fire that four Priests (Sherman tanks carrying a 105 mm. gun) were knocked out. Then a detachment of The QOR of C, riding on a tank, outflanked the position and put the quietus on the crew.

Steadily the advance continued down the road forming the Centre Line. The tanks ranged far and wide and did valuable work in locating and destroying pockets of the enemy. It was a tank-infantry fight against scattered nests of enemy resistance and never did the co-operation work more smoothly. Finally, at 1730 hrs, the battalion reached its D-Day objective, Anguemy Heights, and dug in around the village of Anguerny; the Carrier Platoon, under Lt. S.C. Biggs, occupied, after a sharp fight, a prominent local feature-ring contour 70 on the map, but [known as] Big 2 Hill to the carrier platoon. The most forward position was the village of Anisy which had been taken by D Company after a sharp brush with the enemy.

Chester Wilmot remarks in *The Struggle for Europe*: "So fast did The Queen's Own move against this and other positions that when The Regiment de la Chaudière began to land behind them fifteen minutes later, the only fire on the beach was coming from snipers." To merit these words everyone had given to the limit. Never did the rifleman's creed of dash and initiative reap a richer reward. Let the padre be taken as an exemplar. He was everywhere; cheering up the wounded and exhorting the men still fighting. While comforting Sgt. Morrison in his last moments a bullet inflicted a flesh wound in the padre's foot. The next day, when the first opportunity came to take off his boots, as the blood-soaked sock was cut away the bullet fell out!

The Regiment de la Chaudière and The North Shore Regiment had made good progress also so that, by the evening, the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade was loosely conformed into a jutting salient with The QOR at the apex. In error, The Queen's Own first line reinforcement, who were sorely needed by the battalion,



had been sent to The Regiment de la Chaudière. Two or three days elapsed before the mix-up was straightened away.

Napoleon once taunted the British with being a nation of shopkeepers. It would be a little difficult, however, to evince a shopkeeping instinct stronger than that possessed by the owner of an estaminet in Bernières. No sooner had the troops cleared the area round his place than the proprietor popped up from the cellar and, with bullets still flying, started to sell wine. He did no business with The Queen's Own; nevertheless, many factors combine to impede the orderly progress of an attack!

The night of 6-7 June was full of alarms and excursions. Everyone was waiting for the expected counter-attack; but it never came. At 0100 hrs, 7 June, a truck load of Germans drove into Anguemy. All were taken prisoner. Later, an enemy patrol broke into A Company in the rear of B.H.Q. The patrol was fought off and the officer in command captured after being bayoneted by Rfn. Frank Mumberson, 7 Platoon. Throughout the night our patrols brought in prisoners. One was identified as belonging to the 21st S.S. Panzer Division (Hitler Jugend). S.S. is the abbreviation for Schutzstaffeln or Staff Guards. They were all hand-picked, fanatical Nazis."

The Queen's Own Rifles made the farthest advance on D-Day of any Canadian unit.

At the end of 6 June 1944, 61 soldiers of The Queen's Own Rifles were killed in action or had died of wounds. Eighty others were wounded or injured. The dead would be temporarily buried in cemeteries on the beach and further inland. Eventually 60 riflemen would be reburied in a cemetery beyond Bernières-sur-Mer which would be named the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. Further info about the cemetery can be found at the end of this document.

One soldier, Corporal Lizon, has no known grave and is memorialized at the Bayeux Memorial, Panel 21, Column 2. There are however seven graves of unknown soldiers in Bény-sur-Mer and its possible that one of those soldiers is Corporal Lizon.

Rifleman Duncan McInnes died on 7 June 1944 from wounds received on D-Day and is also buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery.

"So long as they speak your name, you shall never die."



Rifleman Russell Kenneth Adamson

B138767 Rifleman Russell Kenneth Adamson was born at Wyebridge, Ontario (south of Midland) on August 23, 1924, and grew up in southwestern Ontario. He was the second oldest son of William and Marjory Adamson.

Rifleman Adamson spent only a short stint in high school. In a career change not uncommon in the early 40s, Russell left high school early, preferring to seek active employment with local townspeople.

Perhaps following the example of his elder brother, Russell enlisted to serve with the Canadian Army Overseas forces in January of 1943.

At the time of his enlistment, he was working as a delivery truck driver for Preston's grocery/general store in Midland, Ontario.

Following training in Canada, Adamson joined The Queen's Own Rifles overseas in England. He was killed in action, aged 19, during the D-Day offensive near the French village of Bernières-sur-Mer. He was the youngest QOR soldier to die that day.

Later, his mother received a letter from Rifleman M. L. Gianetto of Midland, saying that her son, Russell, had been killed "in machine gun fire on the beach of Normandy. He died instantly, so there was no pain or suffering".

Rifleman Adamson is buried in the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. G. 3.





Rifleman John Wallace Atchison

C103118 Rifleman John Wallace Atchison was born in Cornwall, Ontario, on 16 July 1919, the son of Robert Atchison and Eva, of Cornwall, Ontario.

He had four brothers, one of whom also served overseas.

Atchison had completed two years of high school and worked as a grocery clerk.

He married Anita Atchison, of Cornwall on 14 April 1940 and they had one son named Terrell Allan.

With no previous militia experience, he enlisted with the active Canadian Army on 18 March 1943 in Ottawa, Ontario.

After training in Canada and England he was transferred as a reinforcement to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 8 October 1943.

Rifleman Atchison landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action on 6 June 1944, aged 24.

He is buried in Bény-Sur-Mer Canadian Cemetery, grave reference VI. D. 2.





Rifleman Donald Robert Bailey

A60002 Rifleman Donald Robert Bailey was born 7 August 1920 in Galt, Ontario, the son of Robert George Bailey and Ada Louise Renwick. (His father and eight uncles served in WWI.)

He attended Victoria School and Galt Collegiate. He was involved with the Scouts and Rovers for 10 years.

Bailey was a weaver by trade and worked at the Stauffer-Dobbie plant before enlisting. He married Violet Jean Croley on 30 August 1940 in Preston, Ontario. They had one son.

Service Record:

- Jul 1940 – Enlisted with the militia battalion of the Highland Light Infantry
- 4 Apr 1942 – Enlisted with the Active battalion of the HLI.
- 14 Jul 1942 – Transferred to 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada
- 1 Jun 1944 – Embarked for France
- 6 Jun 1944 – Disembarked in France (on Juno Beach, D-Day)
- 6 Jun 1944 – Killed in action



Rifleman Bailey is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference: V. A. 15.



Rifleman Donald McKay Barnard

B137985 Rifleman Donald McKay Barnard was born in Toronto on November 27, 1923, the son of Benjamin Frederick Barnard and Janet Murray McKay.

He was a younger brother of Corporal Fred Bernard and his father had enlisted with the 255th Battalion, CEF (perpetuated by The Queen's Own Rifles), and served with the 75th Battalion during the First World War.

He left school at age 15 and was working as a machine operator at Schaffer Pen Company prior to enlistment.

Barnard enlisted on January 6, 1943 in Toronto, Ontario. After doing his basic and advanced training in Canada, he arrived in the United Kingdom on 15 June 1943. On 1 July 1943, he was posted to the Toronto Scottish in a machine gun company. On 10 March 1944 he transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles and was posted to the same company as his brother.

Rifleman Donald was killed in action aged 20, while landing on Juno Beach with his brother, on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Grave Reference: I. A. 4. His brother Fred survived the war.

His military will bequeathed all his estate to his mother. He also had a life insurance policy of \$100 payable to his mother.





Rifleman William John Bolster

C120696 Rifleman William John Bolster was born November 12, 1914, in Cobourg, Ontario, son of Charles and Florence A. Bolster. He was married to Ethel Aurora Bolster however they had no children.

Bolster was living in Peterborough and working as an Assistant Manager of a variety chain store when enlisted as a Gunner in Kingston, Ontario on March 23, 1943. He had previous service in the 22nd Medium Battery based in Cobourg.

He arrived in England on the 20 September 1943 and trained as a clerk. After various postings and courses, he was taken on strength with The Queen's Own Rifles on 14 April 1944.

"On June 6, 1944, on the beaches of Normandy, many gallant Canadians died. But Rifleman William John (Johnny) Bolster didn't reach the beaches and he had no chance to defend himself from enemy fire. The landing barge which carried him as one of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada was blown up, and he escaped to the water only to be shot through the heart. Rifleman Bolster was with "B" Company of the Queen's Own, and at the end of that brutal day, there were a mere handful of the men left.

Mrs. Bolster learned none of these details until the Regiment came home in October 1945, and in conversation with Col. Dalton she discovered not only that her husband died bravely, but that he had gone into danger on his own insistence. He had been working at Army Headquarters in England but when he knew his unit was to move, he begged permission to go with his friends. ...he lived in Brantford for about two years, but during that time he became a part of the community, attending St. Luke's Anglican Church, becoming a member of the Y.M.C.A., and taking an active part in sports."

Bolster was killed in action on 6 June 1944 while landing on Juno Beach. He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference: I.G.4.



Photo courtesy of the 1st Hussars Museum
Photo fournie gracieusement par le musée 1st Hussars



Rifleman Roland Ernest Boucher

B112617 Rifleman Roland Ernest Boucher was born April 12, 1916, in Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan, the son of Aldege Boucher and Gratia Durault.

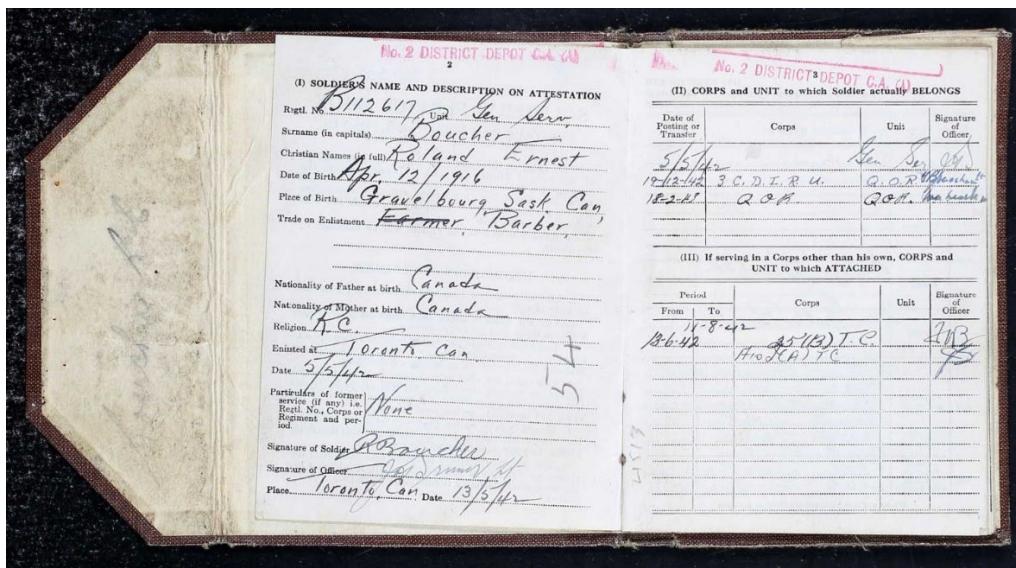
He had several brothers that also served in WWII.

Boucher was working as a barber when he enlisted in the Canadian Army in Toronto on May 5, 1942, with no previous military service.

After various training and postings, he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles on 21 November 1942.

Rifleman Boucher was killed in action while landing with Baker Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944, aged 21.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Grave Reference: I. A. 7.





Rifleman David William Boynton

B64772 Rifleman David William Boynton was born on 6 September 1922 in Collingwood, Ontario, the son of John William and Margaret Boynton.

He had an older half-brother, Clarence James Boyton who was a Sergeant serving in Italy in 1944.

He had left school at age 14 and was a farmer in Collingwood when enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles on 11 September 1941 in Toronto, Ontario.

After training, he arrived in England on 29 March 1942. After 2 more years of training in the United Kingdom, he was in Baker Company on the first wave to land on Juno Beach.

Rifleman Boynton was killed in action, aged 21, on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 10.

His will left all his estate to his mother.





Rifleman Hector Joseph Bruyere

C100258 Rifleman Hector Joseph Bruyere was born on 20 March 1923 in Cornwall, Ontario, the son of Alphonse Bruyere and Dora Legault. He was one of eight children.

He was unmarried and working as a labourer when he enlisted in the Canadian Army on 6 May 1942 in Ottawa, Ontario and was posted to the Royal Canadian Artillery. While training in Canada he was punished at least four times for being absent without leave.

He arrived in England on 20 December 1942. After various training and transfers in the United Kingdom, he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles on 28 January 1944.

Rifleman Bruyere landed with the first wave on Juno Beach in Baker Company and was killed in action on D-Day, 6 June 1944, aged 21.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. G. 5.





Rifleman Robert Graham Burnett

B67918 Rifleman Robert Graham Burnett was born on 31 July 1919, in Algoma, Echo Bay, Ontario, the son of Samuel Ashbury Burnett and Janet Victoria Graham.

He was working as a labourer with no previous military experience when he enlisted with the Royal Regiment of Canada (Active) on July 30, 1940, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. In October 1940 he spent 45 days in a military hospital undergoing treatment.

After some training with the RRC, he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 28 June 1941, then undergoing training in Sussex, New Brunswick.

Burnett travelled to the UK with the Regiment and they arrived in Gourlock, Scotland on 29 July 1941. In July 1942 he was awarded the Good Conduct Badge.

Rifleman Burnett landed with Baker Company in the first wave of the D-Day landing at Juno beach and was killed in action, aged 24, on 6 June 1944,

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. B. 16.

His family received his war gratuity of \$712.27 which would be about \$12,000 in 2023 dollars.





Rifleman Edgar Dawson Butler

B64737 Rifleman Edgar Dawson Butler the son of James Butler and Annie Theodosis Thornicroft of Arkona, Ontario, was born on May 9, 1918.

He was married to Gertrude Donna Herrington.

He was a farm hand when he enlisted in the Canadian Army (Active) on August 18, 1941 at #2 District Depot Toronto. He arrived in England 24 December 1941.

After his initial and trades training, he was transferred to Charlie Company of The Queen's Own Rifles as a Rifleman. Edgar served in Canada, England and France.



Rifleman Butler was in 14 Platoon of Charlie Company and was killed by mortar fire just outside the village of Bernières-sur-Mer on D-Day 6 June 1944m aged 26.

He is buried at Bény-Sur-Mer Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in France, Grave Reference: X. D. 16.

His medals include the 1939-1945 Star, France and Germany Star, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp and the War Medal 1939-1945.



Rifleman William Cuthbertson Calbert

B66122 Rifleman William Cuthbertson Calbert was born in Toronto on 21 August 1921, son of William Cuthbertson Calbert and Annie Rosina Cruttenden. He had six younger brothers and one sister. One of his brothers, Rifleman Herbert Cuthbertson Calbert also served with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and was killed in action in Holland on 26 February 1945.

He left school at the age of 15.

He enlisted on 17 January 1941 with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, having served since September 1940 with the Queen's York Rangers (Reserve). He landed with the Regiment in Scotland on 29 July 1941.

In February 1942 Calbert qualified and was employed as a driver/mechanic. He was "convicted" of several minor offences which was not unusual for his age and endless training with no end in sight.

Calbert was given permission to marry on 19 January 1944, and he married English girl Mary Alice Little on 29 Jan 1944, at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Haywards Heath, Sussex, England. He assigned her \$25 per month from his pay. (Mary remained in England and remarried in 1951.)

Rifleman Calbert landed with Baker Company on Juno Beach on D-Day in the first wave and was killed in action on 6 June 1944, aged 22.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. B. 11.





Rifleman James Robert Catling

B24397 Rifleman James Robert Catling was born on Cockburn Island, Ontario on June 11, 1918, the son of Charles Richard Catling and Loletta May Mitchell. He had five brothers and five sisters and left school at 14 to work as a farmer and foundry worker.

James married Agnes Margaret McLeod on 23 August 1941 and had one son Clarence in 1942.

He enlisted at Camp Bordon in the Army Provost Corps (military police) on 21 September 1942 although he seems to have served elsewhere from November 1940 to March 1942. He was then posted to No. 32 Provost Company. In August 1943 he was transferred to the infantry and arrived in the United Kingdom on 21

September 1943. (This transfer may have been a result of having been found Absent without Leave which was probably not compatible with being a military policeman.)

On 10 October 1943, he was transferred from the Reinforcement Unit to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Rifleman Catling landed with Baker Company in the first wave and was killed in action on D-Day, June 6, 1944, aged 25. He had received seven medals. He left all his estate to his wife.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference V. B. 11.





Rifleman Walter Chambers

B43115 Rifleman Walter Chambers was born in Trenton, Ontario on 27 April 1919, the son of William and Edna Chambers of Toronto, Ontario. He had two sisters, attended Leslie St Public School, left school at age 15, and worked for the CNR as an "express clerk" before enlisting.

He was married to Mary Thelma Chambers, of Toronto, Ontario and the father of Gary Chambers.

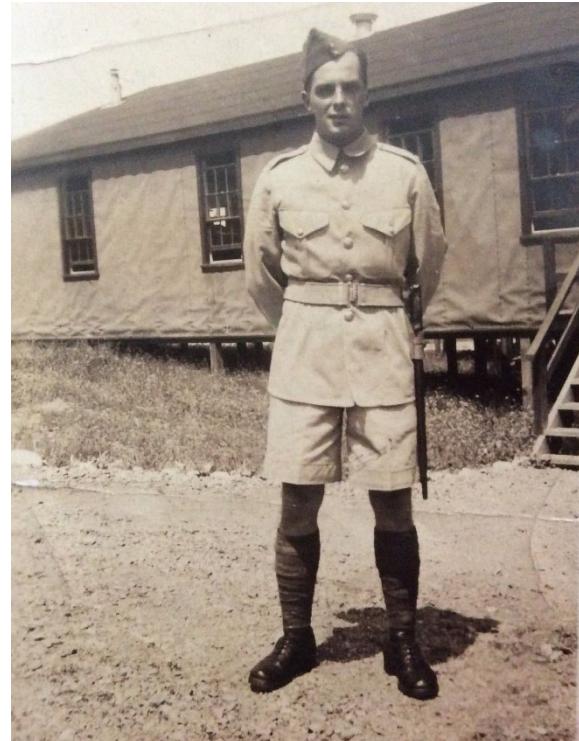
On 9 August 1940, he enlisted with the Dufferin and Halidmand Rifles having no previous military service. He served and trained in Gander, Newfoundland, Nanaimo, British Columbia, and Sussex, New Brunswick before arriving in the United Kingdom on 18 June 1943.

Now a Corporal he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles on 5 August 1943.

Shortly before D-Day Chambers wrote to his wife that "he had reverted to Rifleman from Corporal to be certain he got into the action as soon as possible."

Rifleman Chambers landed on Juno Beach with Baker Company on the first wave of D-Day, 6 June 1944, and was killed in action, aged 25.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 9.





Rifleman George Thomas Clark

B88881 Rifleman George Thomas Clark was born in Toronto on January 5, 1912, the son of Harry Clark and Clara Holding. He had two older brothers.

He married Lillian Suddes, of Toronto, Ontario, on 2 January 1935. In October 1942 a son Gordon Wallace Clark was born.

A daughter (Clara) and son (George) had been born before he enlisted.

Clark was working as a baker at Weston Biscuits when he enlisted with the 48th Highlanders on June 4, 1940, in Toronto, Ontario.

After various training and postings, he arrived in the United Kingdom on 20 September 1943. On 17 December 1943, he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles from a reinforcement unit.

Rifleman Clark landed with Baker Company in the first wave of D-Day, on 6 June 1944, and was killed in action, aged 33.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. C. 9.





Rifleman Harry James Coates

B38171 Rifleman Harry James Coates was born on 15 November 1920 in Melfort, Saskatchewan, the son of James Lewis Coates and Irene Leeter. He had a brother James Lewis who also served overseas in WWII and a sister Eleanor Marie Thomson.

(His father had served in France with the 19th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force during WWI. While on a working party in May 1917, he was partially buried and unconscious for eight hours after a shell exploded. His "mate" was killed. He was eventually discharged as medically unfit – suffering from "shell shock" – what we would call PTSD today. He died in 1922.)

Harry attended St Mary's School, Cathedral High School, and St Vincent's Commercial School. He was working as an orderly at St. Joseph's Hospital when he enlisted.

He enlisted on 1 August 1940, in Hamilton, Ontario at the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Depot. On 8 April 1941, he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles which were training in Sussex, New Brunswick at the time. He travelled with the Regiment to the United Kingdom, arriving in Scotland on 29 July 1941.

On D-Day, 6 June 1944 Coates was with Baker Company in the first wave to land on Juno Beach.

Rifleman Coates was killed in action, aged 25 and is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference T. F. 16.



Rfmn. Coates



Rifleman Medrick Joseph Ernest Andre Corvec

B149958 Rifleman Medrick Joseph Ernest Andre Corvec was born on April 15, 1924, in Sudbury, Ontario, the son of Jean Vincent Corvec and Valentine Bernard.

He had three brothers (two of which served in the RCAF during WWII) and two sisters.

He left school aged 14 having completed grade 7. Before enlistment, he worked as a labourer with the International Nickel Company in Copper Cliff, Ontario.

He enlisted in Brantford on 2 August 1943 and after various training and postings arrived in the United Kingdom on 14 March 1944 and was assigned to a Reinforcement Unit.

He was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles on 26 May 1944.

Rifleman Corvec landed on Juno Beach with Baker Company in the first wave on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, aged 21.

He is buried at Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 12.





Lance Corporal Allan Douglas Coulter

B64471 Lance Corporal Allan Douglas Coulter was born on August 10, 1920, in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Russell Crossley Coulter and Eva Reid. (His father saw service in WWI.)

Coulter attended Fern Ave Public School and Western Technical School.

Having served with The Queen's Own Rifles militia since February 1941, Coulter enlisted in the active service on 24 April 1941, in Toronto, Ontario. He was employed as a shipper and stockkeeper at the time.

After various training and postings, he arrived with the Regiment in Scotland on 29 July 1941.

Lance Corporal Coulter landed on Juno Beach with Baker Company in the first wave of D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, aged 20.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. E. 14.





Lance Corporal Leonard James Craig

B63890 Lance Corporal Leonard James Craig was born on 24 November 1911, in Ayr, Scotland, the son of Margaret Youngson. He had one sister. Little is known about his father except that he was Irish according to his pay book and deceased by the time he enlisted.

Craig married Mary Harvey McCaig on 29 August 1931, in Toronto, Ontario, and had two children: Barbara and Donald. They were both Christian Scientists according to their marriage certificate but by the time of his enlistment, he indicated he was a Baptist.

He was working in advertising when he enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles on 17 June 1940, in Toronto, Ontario, and indicated previous militia service in 1931 with the Royal Grenadiers. After training at Camp Borden and Sussex, New Brunswick, he arrived in the United Kingdom with the Regiment on 29 July 1941. Craig participated in training for the next three years. He was appointed Acting Lance Corporal in January 1944 and Lance Corporal in April.

Lance Corporal Craig landed on Juno Beach with Baker Company on the first wave of D-Day, 6 June 1944, and was killed in action. He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. G. 6. The epitaph chosen by the family reads:

Lovingly remembered by wife Mary
Daughter Barbara
And son Donald





Rifleman Ernest Arnold Cunningham

B64756 Rifleman Ernest Arnold Cunningham was born on January 30, 1923, in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Ernest Carl Cunningham and Grace Gordon "Daisy" Scott.

He had two brothers (who would join the RAF Ferry Command) and three sisters.

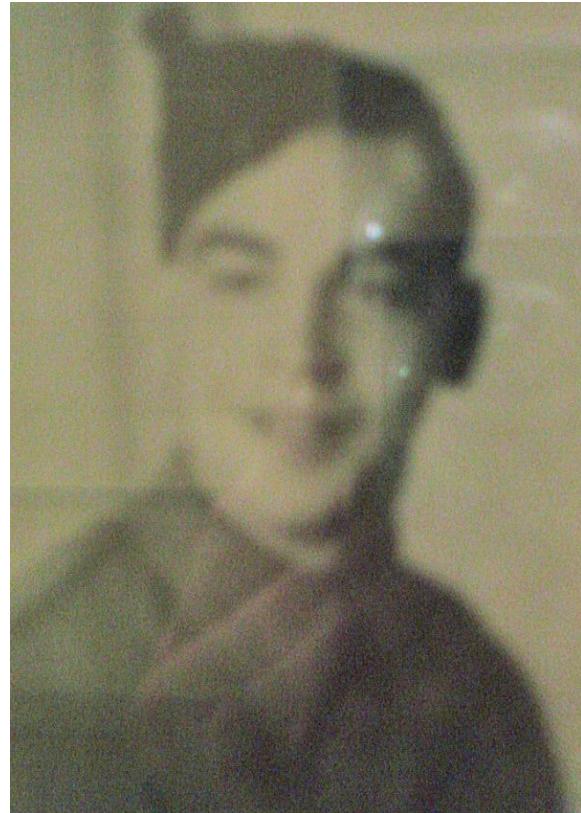
He attended Carlton Public School, and Western School of Commerce and was a member of High Park United Church.

Cunningham was working as a shipper at Ramsay Business Systems when he enlisted in the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 4 June 1941 and the 1st Battalion (Active) in September 1941. He trained in Brantford, Borden and Kingston.

He arrived in England on 11 June 1942 where he undertook further training before being posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 6 Nov 1942.

Rifleman Cunningham was in Able Company and died of wounds on D-Day, 6 June 1944 at Juno Beach, Bernières-sur-Mer.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference V. C. 3.





Corporal John William Dainty

B63746 Corporal John William "Bill" Dainty was born on 7 January 1918, in Barnsley, Yorkshire, England, United Kingdom, the son of John William Dainty and Sarah Stevens.

He came to Canada with his mother and sister in 1919, and his father arrived later with another sister. It seems his parents may never have been married and they separated in Canada in 1921 or 1922. Both subsequently married (other people) and had large numbers of children that were Bill's half-siblings.



Dainty left school at the age of 12 and had worked as a butcher for about 8 years with Canada Packers, when he enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 13 June 1940 in Toronto, Ontario. He trained in Toronto, Camp Borden and Sussex, New Brunswick, and served with W Force in Newfoundland.

- 29 July 1941 – Arrived in Scotland with QOR
- 19 Nov 1942 – Appointed Acting Lance Corporal
- 20 Feb 1943 – Appointed Lance Corporal
- 5 Apr 1943 – Appointed Acting Corporal
- 21 May 1943 – Promoted Corporal

Corporal Dainty landed on Juno Beach with Baker Company in the first wave on D-Day, 6 June 1944, and was killed in action, aged 25.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. C. 8.



Lance Corporal George Edward Dalzell

B66059 Lance Corporal George Edward Dalzell was born on 14 November 1905 in Halifax, United Kingdom, the son of Arthur George Dalzell and Eleanor Cain.

He had two sisters and was educated in Vancouver, BC and at Central Technical School in Toronto.

He was working as an accountant in the head office of the Royal Bank of Canada when enlisted on 19 September 1940 having served one month in the QOR (Reserve) Battalion. After training in Canada, he arrived in Scotland with the QOR on 20 July 1941.



On 13 March 1942, he was promoted to Acting Lance Corporal, and Lance Corporal on 12 August 1942.

Lance Corporal Dalzell was Company clerk of Able Company and elected to land with the first wave of assault boats on Juno Beach, D-Day, 6 June 1944, and was killed in action, aged 38.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. E. 15.



Corporal Samuel Davidson

B65612 Corporal Samuel Davidson was born 15 December 1913 in Belfast, Ireland, the son of William and Mary Davidson.

He and his wife Annie lived on Seaton St, Toronto.

Despite losing a finger while working at a munitions plant, he enlisted in the Army in June 1942 at the age of 28. He joined the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Queen's Own Rifles and proceeded overseas in December of that year.

Upon arrival in England, he was assigned to Charlie Company 1st (Overseas) Battalion QOR. After many months of rigorous training with the QOR in England, he landed with the regiment as part of the first wave at Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

After surviving the landing, Corporal Davidson was killed in action that day, aged 30, between Bernières-sur-Mer and Hill 80 (Anguerny).

He is buried at the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in France, grave reference VI. D. 3.

His Coin of Remembrance is held by Master Corporal (Ret'd) Rob Grieve.





Corporal Clifford Robert Drew

B64119 Corporal Clifford Robert Drew was born on, 7 February 1915 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Major Charles William Drew and Catherine Isabella Hazlett.

He had five brothers and three sisters, attended Fern Ave Public School and was a Church of the Epiphany member.

He married Verna Evelyn Burns on 10 Dec 1935 in Toronto, and they had two children: Jimmy and Evelyn.

He was employed as a plumber when on 20 June 1940, Drew enlisted with The Queens Owns Rifles of Canada (Active). He served in Newfoundland and Sussex, New Brunswick, and then for three years in England during which he spent some time as a gas warfare instructor.

He was promoted to the rank of Corporal on 19 August 1943. (His brother Jack, also served with the Canadian Army.)

Corporal Drew landed on D-Day, 6 June 1944 with Charlie Company and was killed in action near Anguery.

He is buried at Bény-Sur-Mer Canadian Military Cemetery, Bény-Sur-Mer, France. Grave 1, row D, Plot 6.





Rifleman Fred Earl Eaman

C102988 Rifleman Fred Earl Eaman was born 4 May 1912 in Wales, Ontario, the son of Oscar Fulton Eaman and of Laura Ethel Moss. He had one sister and two brothers. His older brother was Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Eaman who served at National Defence Headquarters during the Second World War.

Eaman was educated at Wales schools and Cornwall Collegiate (leaving at age 15) but graduated from Kemptville Agricultural school with high honours. He then engaged in farming as a truck and tractor driver.

A member of St. David's Anglican Church, Wales. a past master of Wales Masonic Lodge. A.F. and A.M., he also took an active part in eastern Ontario agricultural organizations.

Enlisting in March 1943, Eaman trained in Ottawa and Camp Borden before proceeding overseas in September. He was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 10 October 1943.

On D-Day, 6 June 1944 Rifleman Eaman landed on Juno Beach and was killed in action, aged 32.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 3. He is also remembered on his parent's grave marker in Saint Lawrence Valley Cemetery, Osnabruck, Ontario.



Fred A. Eaman



Rifleman Edward Kirk Garrett

B112706 Rifleman Edward Kirk Garrett was born on 11 May 1916, in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Herbert Stammers Garrett and May Evelyn McNeely.

He attended 4 years of technical high school in Toronto.

He joined The Queen's Own Rifles (Reserves) in July of 1940 and was working as a service station attendant when he enlisted in the Active Force on 6 May 1942.

Rifleman Garrett landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, aged 28.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. G. 2.

His grave marker is engraved with:

IN REMEMBRANCE
TIL LIFE DEPARTS
YOU LIVE FOREVER
IN OUR HEARTS MOM AND DAD





Corporal John Cecil Gibson

B63615 Corporal John Cecil Gibson was born on 8 April 1913 in Lindsay, Ontario, the son of Willard Peter Gibson and Annie Mary Crane.

At age 14 he left school after completing elementary school and had been working for 10 years as a butcher at Brown Bros. Ltd. when he enlisted.

He married Mildred E. Busby on 12 May 1937 in Toronto, Ontario and they had one son Gerald John Gibson.

Gibson enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles on 11 June 1940, served in Newfoundland, training at Camp Borden, and arrived in Gourlock, Scotland with the Regiment on 19 August 1941. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 16 January 1943, and as Corporal on 19 August 1943.

He seems to have had a rough time with army life in 1940 and 1941 with numerous charges of being absent without leave or showing up on parade with a dirty rifle or shoes, however he seems to have grown into it.

In October 1943 Gibson completed a correspondence course called Intro to Mathematics at Battersea Polytechnic with first-class honours. He fractured his ankle getting into a truck in December 1943.

Corporal Gibson landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, aged 31. He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. C. 7.



Cpl. J. C. Gibson
Toronto
(killed)



Lance Corporal Donald Ferguson Gourlay

B64462 Lance Corporal Donald Ferguson Gourlay was born on 10 October 1921 in Inglewood, Ontario, the son of David and Mary Gourlay. His father served in WWI with the 75th Battalion, CEF.

The Gourlay family moved to Toronto when Donald was two, and he attended Rose Avenue School and Jarvis Collegiate which he left after two years at age 16. He had worked for three years as an "examiner" at Parkers Cleaners and Dyers when he joined the active service.

He joined The Queen's Own Rifles (Reserve) in August 1940 and while living at 595 Church St, enlisted on 26 April 1941 in Toronto with the QOR Active Service battalion.

He trained in North Bay before joining the regiment in Halifax and disembarking in Gourock, Scotland on 29 July 1941. He was appointed Acting Lance Corporal on 18 May 1943, and confirmed as a Lance Corporal on 19 August 1943.

Lance Corporal Gourlay landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 when he was first reported missing and then confirmed as killed in action, aged 22.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 15.

QOR Fallen: D-Day





Rifleman Samuel John Hall

U1844 Rifleman Samuel John Hall was born on 5 July 1915 in Preston, Ontario, the son of Alfred Hall and Elizabeth C. Waddell.

He had two sisters and two brothers, and spoke English, Finnish and Swedish.

Hall served with The Queen's Own Rifles militia for three years from 1932 to 1935, and then perhaps sometime in the Irish Regiment starting in 1938.

According to the Toronto Telegram, he fought in the Finnish-Russian War (1939-1940) and escaped Finland to England with six others in 1941.

On 26 January 1942, he enlisted in London, England with the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles (Active).

Brother Alfred served with the Prince Edward Island Highlanders, and another A.S. William, with the Royal Canadian Volunteer Naval Reserve.

Rifleman Hall landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 where he died of wounds, aged 28.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference V. B. 10.





Sergeant Frederick Bernard Harris

B63616 Sergeant Frederick "Freddy" Bernard Harris was born 31 December 1920 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Dr. William Harris and Tillie Harris, of Toronto, Ontario. He attended Orde Street School, Jarvis Collegiate and Holy Blossom religious school in Toronto.

He died shortly after landing on Juno Beach on D- Day at the age of 23. He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference: I. C. 4.

A scholarship was created by his aunt and other relatives to be awarded at Orde St School. The first recipient was Marian Albin.

Partial Service Record:

- 1939 March – Enlists with QOR Militia Battalion
- 1940 Jun 11 – Enlists with 1st Battalion QOR active
- 1940 Jul 18 – Promoted acting Corporal and proceed to Physical Training Instructors Course in Ottawa
- 1940 Oct 18 – Sent to Newfoundland with QOR as part of "W" Force and retained acting rank of Corporal
- 1941 Jan 18- Rank of Corporal Confirmed
- 1941 Jun 17 – Grant sick furlough for 14 days
- 1941 Jul 29- Disembarked in Gourock, Scotland
- 1941 – Attended various courses
- 1943 Jun 24 – Appointed Acting Lance Sergeant
- 1943 Jun 3 – To be Acting Staff Sergeant
- 1944 Jan 5 – Reverted to Sergeant and struck off strength to 4 Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit
- 1944 Jan 14 – Transferred back to QOR
- 1944 Jun 6 – Disembarked in France and killed in action on Juno Beach





Rifleman Charles Edward Higgins

B112940 Rifleman Charles Edward Higgins was born on May 13, 1924, in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Thomas Joseph Higgins and Bertha Nellie Grace.

He had four brothers and three sisters. Three of his brothers also served during WWII.

In order to work, Higgins left St. Basil's School at 15, having completed grade 7. He held several jobs but when enlisting he was a plater with the American Electro Plating Company.

He enlisted on 14 May 1942, in Toronto with the 48th Highlanders, trained in Guelph and Camp Borden, and was charged with being absent without leave on several occasions.

On 6 August 1943, he transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles, however, he was charged twice more with being AWOL, given detention and docked significant pay.

Rifleman Higgins landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, aged 20.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 13.





Rifleman Albert Edward Hildreth

B66008 Rifleman Albert Edward Hildreth was born on 11 March 1921, in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Henry Charles Hildreth and Ida May Cole. His father died in 1930 and his mother remarried Roy Cole.

At the time of his death, he had a brother Henry James Hildreth who was serving with the Royal Canadian Navy, a half-brother Elmer Nelson Cole who also served in The Queen's Own Rifles, and a half-sister.

He left school at the age of 15 having completed two years of high school. On enlistment, he was working for Arlington Hat Company as a labourer.

Hildreth enlisted on 28 July 1940 with The Queen's Own Rifles (Militia) and transferred to the 1st Battalion (Active Service) on 10 September 1940.



He was posted to Newfoundland with the Regiment in late 1940 and trained in Sussex, New Brunswick in 1941. He then traveled to Gourlock, Scotland, arriving on 29 July 1941.

He continued training for the next 3 years. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 19 August 1943 but reverted to Rifleman at his own request on 2 October 1943.

Rifleman Hildreth landed with C Company on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, at age of 23. He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Grave Reference: I. C. 13.



Rifleman John William Hodge

B64477 Rifleman John William Hodge was born on 25 November 1916 in Orangeville, Ontario, the son of Frederick Hodge and Margaret Elizabeth Flood. He had two sisters and two brothers.

Hodge enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles militia in March 1941 but transferred to the active service battalion on 28 April 1941.

He trained in North Bay, Ontario and Sussex, New Brunswick before embarking with the regiment for the UK, arriving in Gourock, Scotland on 29 July 1941.

On 3 August 1942, with permission, he married Miss Margaret Paterson Hunter in Edinburgh, Scotland. It appears that he had a son and grandson both named John William Hodges.

Rifleman Hodge landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, aged 27.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference: I. C. 11.



John W. Hodge



Rifleman Frank Holmes

B66008 Rifleman Frank Holmes was born on 29 December 1912, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the son of Frank Holmes and Ethel Morton. He had two sisters.

He left school at age 16 and was working as a farmhand when he enlisted.

Holmes enlisted with "B" Squadron 2/10th, Dragoons on 2 July 1940 and indicated previous service with them.

On 7 April 1941 he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and after training in Sussex, New Brunswick, embarked with them on the HMT Strathmore, arriving in Gourock, Scotland on 29 July 1941.

He trained with the QOR in England and was briefly posted to the Headquarters of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade in April 1943.

Rifleman Holmes landed with Baker Company on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, aged 31.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 2.



**Rfmn. Frank Holmes
Townsend**



Lance Corporal Clifford Irwin Jackson

B63608 Lance Corporal Clifford Irwin Jackson was born on 14 February 1921 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Claude William Jackson and Eva Norine Gearing.

He had one brother Edgar who served in the Royal Canadian Navy during WWII and a sister. His father served in France during WWI.



Jackson attended Wilkinson School and one year of high school as well as St David's Anglican Church Sunday School. He was working as a carpenter when he enlisted.

He joined The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada militia battalion on 9 May 1937 and transferred to the QOR Active Service Force on 11 June 1940 in Toronto.

Jackson served in Newfoundland, and trained at Camp Borden and Camp Debert in New Brunswick, before departing Halifax on the HMT Strathmore and arriving in Gourock, Scotland on 29 July 1941. He suffered sprained ligaments in his right shoulder during training in April 1943. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on 21 May 1943.

Lance Corporal Jackson landed with Baker Company on Juno Beach, D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was first reported missing and later confirmed as killed in action, aged 23.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 11.



Rifleman Albert Wilson Kennedy

B112565 Rifleman Albert Wilson Kennedy was born on 31 July 1923 in Greenock, Scotland, the son of William Kennedy and Matilda Wilson, and came to Canada at nine months of age.

He had four brothers and three sisters and attended Mimico High School.

He enlisted 11 May 1942, in Toronto. He trained at Simcoe (including 21 days in detention for being AWOL for 10 days) and Camp Borden before going overseas in January 1943.

His mother died in 1943 while he was in England.

Rifleman Kennedy landed on Juno Beach, D-Day 6 June 1944 and was originally reported missing but later confirmed as killed in action, aged 20.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. D. 7.





Rifleman William George Kennedy

B64926 Rifleman William George Kennedy was born on 8 August 1920 in Craigmont, Ontario, the son of George Kennedy and Janet "Nettie" Stewart Wilson.

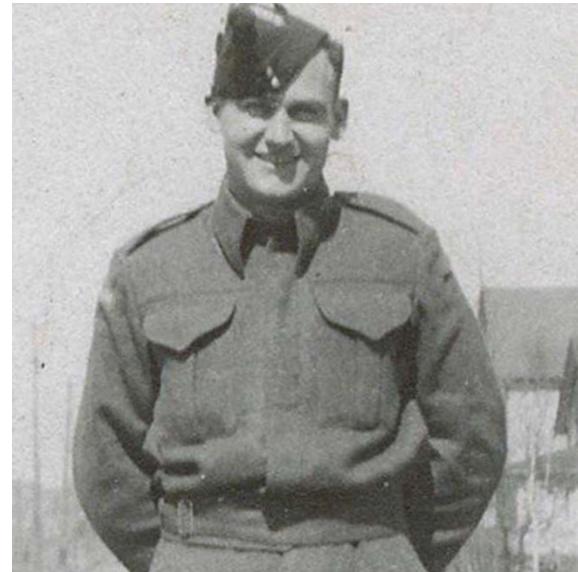
He completed Grade 8 and left school at age 14. Kennedy was the second oldest of 10 sisters and three brothers. One brother Cecil also served overseas in the army and another Gordon, with the Navy.

He had been working as a freight handler with the Canadian Pacific Railroad when he enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 2 June 1942.

He trained in Guelph and Camp Borden before joining the Regiment in England on 21 August 1942 and continuing two more years of training.

Rifleman Kennedy landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference II. F. 7.





Rifleman John Frederick Belton Kirkland

B64008 Rifleman John Frederick Belton Kirkland was born on 20 December 1921 in Ottawa, Ontario, the son of John Harold and Nora Lucy Grieve Kirkland.

He attended Earl Beatty School in Toronto. He had a brother Harold who would train during WWII with Canadian paratroopers and a sister Joan who served with the air force.



After serving with The Queen's Own Rifles (Militia) from 1938-1940 he enlisted with the Active Service battalion on 19 June 1940. He served with the regiment in Newfoundland and trained at Camp Borden and Sussex, New Brunswick, before heading overseas in July 1941.

During the next three years in England, he was charged with various minor offences such as being improperly dressed, late for parades, unshaven, etc.

Rifleman Kirkland landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, aged 22.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. F. 10.



Rifleman Clarke Lynson Lawson

C65492 Rifleman Clarke Lynson Lawson was born 8 May 1905 in Brighton, Ontario, son of George Lynson Lawson and Sarah Elizabeth Maybee.

Clarke was educated at the Lawson Settlement School and Brighton High School and later attended Kingston Dairy School. Following this, he took a radio course by correspondence and held a radiotrician diploma. Clarke's main interest was in his purebred cattle.



Clarke was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved the outdoors and worked as a farmer. His bright and sunny disposition attracted all who came in contact with him.

On 12 August 1936, he married Stella Peters at Wicklow, Ontario and later had a daughter named Helen Marie.

Clarke enlisted with the Midland Regiment on 15 November 1940 in Coburg, Ontario. He went overseas on 22 March 1943 where he was posted to the Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit and then transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 11 June 1943.

Rifleman Clarke survived the landing on Juno beach on 6 June 1944 but died later in the day while liberating the village of Anisy – the final objective for The Queen's Own Rifles on D-Day. He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. F. 4.

Two years after Clarke's death, his wife Stella was once again met with tragedy as her daughter was killed at the age of seven in a shooting accident.

In 2017 in the presence of members of the regiment, the Village of Anisy named a new street in his honour: Rue Clark Lawson (see photo above.)



Rifleman John Lizon

B143299 Rifleman John Lizon was born on 6 June 1914 in Ottawa, Ontario, the son of Alexander and Pauline Lizon.

He attended St Clair Ave. Public School in Toronto and left school at 16 after three years at Humberside Collegiate.

He spoke English and Ukrainian fluently and had a brother Peter who would also serve overseas.



He was working as a shipper with Canadian Imperial Oil when he enlisted on 25 Feb 1943 with the Royal Canadian Artillery. He trained in Orillia before transferring to the infantry in June 1943 and posted to the Lorne Scots.

In England, he was transferred to the Cape Breton Highlanders before being transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles in December 1943.

Rifleman Lizon landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, on his 30th birthday.

He has no known grave and is memorialized at the Bayeux Memorial, Panel 21, Column 2.



Rifleman John Gordon Martin

B64089 Rifleman John Gordon Martin was born on 8 June 1923 in Brighton, Ontario, the son of George Arthur Martin and Cora Martin and brother of Helen and Mary Martin.

He left school to enlist at age 17 after completing two years of high school.

He enlisted in Toronto with The Queen's Own Rifles on 20 June 1940. He apparently lied on his attestation papers to show his birthdate as 1921.



Martin served in W Force in Newfoundland and trained in Camp Borden and Sussex, New Brunswick before preceding overseas with the regiment and arriving in Scotland on 29 July 1941.

He continued to train with the QOR in the United Kingdom and his records show charges for being absent without leave and various other minor charges such as failing to salute an officer.

Rifleman Martin landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944, and was killed in action, aged 21.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 14.



Rifleman William Gilbert May

B64328 Rifleman William Gilbert May was born on 19 February 1922 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of William May and of Ellen Bertram.

He had three sisters and attended Pape Ave and Morse St Public Schools, and Danforth Technical School.

He left tech school at age 16 after 1 1/2 years and was employed by Percy Hermant (Imperial Optical) as a lens grinder when he enlisted.

“Gil” May enlisted in The Queen’s Own Rifles on 22 June 1940 in the Band as a drummer. He served with the Regiment in Newfoundland, New Brunswick and England. When the Band was broken up, he became a stretcher-bearer.



On 1 May 1943, May married (with army permission) Miss Margaret-Ellen Cushion at St Pancras, London, England. A daughter Gillian was born in October 1944, four months after William’s death. It appears his wife emigrated to Canada to stay with her mother-in-law in September 1945, until she eventually remarried.

Rifleman May landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, at aged 22.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference V. A. 16.



Rifleman Russell George McCallum

B66119 Rifleman Russell George McCallum was born in Toronto on 17 September 1921, the son of Fredrick Lee McCallum and Mildred Alma Pratt although by the time he enlisted his parents had separated and he was living with his mother at 57 St Anne's Road, Toronto.

McCallum attended Brock Ave Public School, Toronto; Central Technical School, Toronto (for two years); and St Andrew's College (Aurora) for one year. After this, he worked at the Hamilton Gear & Machine Company as a mechanic. After the war, he wanted to become a musician.

McCallum enlisted in the band of the Toronto Scottish Regiment, serving from February through September 1939 but was underage and discharged when the regiment went overseas.

"Junior" McCallum then joined The Queen's Own Rifles in November 1940 as a teenage drummer in the Band. He enlisted in the active army on 13 January 1941 and though still underage when the Regiment sailed for England, he was taken along.

He was one of the youngest QOR riflemen and was killed landing on D-Day at Juno Beach, aged 20.

Rifleman McCallum is buried in Bény-Sur-Mer Canadian Cemetery, grave reference I. B. 4.





Lance Corporal Edelore Graham Dennis McGuey

B65040 Lance Corporal Edelore Graham Dennis McGuey was born on 8 January 1921 in Whitney, Ontario, the son of William McGuey and Caroline Minnie Elie.

He attended public school in Whitney and was working as a truck driver in Toronto when he enlisted.

McGuey married Agnes Muriel Jean ? on 15 May 1942 and two months later left for England.

He enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles active service battalion on 17 March 1942 in Toronto and trained at Camp Borden before arriving in England as a reinforcement in July 1942. On 21 May 1943 he was appointed Lance Corporal.

Lance Corporal McGuey landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944, aged 23.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VI. D. 4.





Lance Corporal Hamilton Arthur McKechnie

B63677 Lance Corporal Hamilton Arthur McKechnie was born on 3 July 1917 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Alexander McKechnie and Mary McCann. He had five sisters (although two died young) and two brothers and attended Queen Alexandra Public School. He left school at age 16 and was working as a solderer for the Toronto Art Lamp Co. in 1940.

He had served in The Queen's Own Rifles militia since September 1936 when he enlisted with the active service Battalion on 12 June 1940 in Toronto.

McKechnie served in Newfoundland with "W" force and trained in Camp Borden and Sussex, New Brunswick before arriving in Scotland with the QOR in July 1941.

He was promoted to Corporal in September 1940 before reverting to Rifleman after being absent without leave. In England, he was appointed Acting Lance Corporal in May 1943 and Lance Corporal in August 1943.

While in England he married Dorothy Kathleen Smithers of Teddington, Middlesex, England on 18 May 1944 – only weeks before D-Day. She would move to Toronto in July 1946 and be living with Hamilton's mother but seems to have returned to England and remarried by 1947.

Lance Corporal McKechnie landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, aged 26. He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference V. B. 13.

QOR Fallen: D-Day



H. A. McKECHNIE
Killed



Lance Sergeant George Wilfred Morrison

B64213 Lance Sergeant George Wilfred Morrison was born on 21 July 1916 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Henry "Harry" Charles Morrison and Emma Selina "Lena" Clark. His father served in the Boer War and the First World War (75th Battalion CEF.)

He had four sisters and two brothers. His brother Herbert who had also served for six months with The Queen's Own Rifles 1939-1940, enlisted with the Royal Regiment of Canada and was killed in action at the Battle of Dieppe in August 1942.

Morrison attended Cottingham St Public School but left school at age 15. He was employed as a bicycle mechanic at the G. Elliot Hotel when he enlisted.

He enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles active service battalion on 21 June 1940 in Toronto. He trained at Camp Borden and Sussex, New Brunswick and served on "W" Force in Newfoundland (where he was treated for scabies), before arriving in Scotland with the Regiment in July 1941.

On 11 January 1941, Morrison married Miss Opal Arlene Robinson.

He was appointed Lance Corporal and Acting Corporal in January 1942, confirmed as Corporal in June of the same year, and appointed Acting Lance Sergeant in September 1943 and Lance Sergeant in November.

Lance Sergeant Morrison landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, at age 27. He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. C. 10.





Rifleman Charles George Newman

B110149 Rifleman Charles George Newman was born on 25 March 1919 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of William Henry Newman and Evelyn Mary Murphy.

He had one brother and two sisters. His brother Gordon also served in the Canadian army in WWII.

He attended St Peter's Separate School and left school at age 17 after two years of high school at Central Commerce. He'd spent 6 months workings as a store clerk at Loblaws before he enlisted.

Newman spent 30 days in the Royal Regiment of Canada's militia battalion before he enlisted in the active service army on 11 March 1942 in Toronto.

He trained in Simcoe (where he was hospitalized for 4 days with influenza) and Camp Borden and was confirmed in the rank of Corporal in August 1943 and arrived in England with a reinforcement unit in September 1943.

He was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 20 November 1943 and reverted to Rifleman on 26 February 1944 at his own request.

Rifleman Newman landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, at age 25.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 8.





Rifleman Gordon Newton

B64006 Rifleman Gordon Newton was born on 6 January 1913 in Sunderland, United Kingdom, the son of Albert Francis Newton and Anna Jane Gordon.

He had two brothers and four sisters.

At 15 years old he left Liverpool, England (with several other teenage boys) on the Minnedosa, arriving in St John, New Brunswick on 26 January 1929.

Newton enlisted in The Queen's Own Rifles active service battalion on 19 June 1940 when the Regiment was mobilized. He served in Newfoundland with "W" Force, New Brunswick and England.

Rifleman Newton landed with Baker Company, one of the first wave assault companies, on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, at age 31.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 6.





Rifleman Robert Pearson Papple

B147464 Rifleman Robert Pearson Papple was born on 2 March 1914 in Tuckersmith, Huron, Ontario, the son of David Gordon Papple and Isabella Monk.

He was from a large family of six sisters and four brothers. He left school at age 13 having completed Grade 7.

Papple worked as a general factory labourer for a shell casings factory when he enlisted on 27 May 1943.

He trained in Brantford and Camp Borden before arriving overseas as a reinforcement on 11 March 1944.

He was taken on strength with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 26 May 1944 – just 11 days before the invasion of Normandy.

Rifleman Papple landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, at age 30.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. F. 5.





Rifleman Donald Ross Pethick

B64225 Rifleman Donald Ross Pethick was born on 28 October 1919 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Arthur Norman Pethick and Charlotte Milicent Macdonald.

He had a sister and two brothers one of which, Roger served in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve.

Pethick left Bloor Street Collegiate at 17 years old after 3 years, and attended Carman United Church. He spent several summers in Penetanguishene where he was active in baseball.

He'd been working for one year as a roofer for William Campbell Roofer when he enlisted on 21 June 1940 in Toronto with The Queen's Own Rifles active service battalion. He served with "W" Force in Newfoundland and trained at Camp Borden and in Sussex, New Brunswick before arriving in Scotland with the QOR in July 1941.

He continued to train in England and was appointed Lance Corporal on 21 May 1943 and Acting Corporal on 27 August 1943 before reverting to Rifleman at his own request on 4 October of the same year.

Rifleman Pethick landed with Baker Company on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, at age 24.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. G. 1.





Rifleman Thomas Joseph Pierce

B134577 Rifleman Thomas Joseph Pierce was born on 21 Nov 1921 in Toronto, Ontario, the adopted son of Thomas and Mary Pierce.

He attended public school but not high school.

Although living in Toronto at the time Pierce recorded his occupation as a farmer when he enlisted with the Toronto Scottish Regiment on 26 October 1942 in Toronto. He trained in Orillia, Trois Riviere and Aldershot, Nova Scotia before going to England.

At some point before March 1944, he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Rifleman Pierce landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action at the age of 23.

This was likely on the far side of Bernières-sur-Mer as he was originally buried in a temporary cemetery south of the town and not in the beach cemetery.

He was re-buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference V. C. 1.





Rifleman Douglas Philip Reed

B66090 Rifleman Douglas Philip Reed (on right in photo) was born on 21 February 1918 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Private Philip George Reed and Flora Edna Smith.

He attended Dewson St Public School and two and a half years at Central Tech, and was a member of West United Church.

Reed had three sisters and two brothers – Gordon who also served in The Queen's Own Rifles, and Ross who served in the Ordnance Corps. Their father served in WWII with the Toronto Scottish Regiment.

After joining the militia battalion of the QOR in July 1940, he enlisted with the active service battalion on 4 November 1940 in Toronto. Although the detailed records are missing from his service record, it is likely he served with "W" Force in Newfoundland and trained at Camp Borden and Sussex, New Brunswick before accompanying the regiment to the United Kingdom in July 1941.

Rifleman Reed landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action at age 26, as was his younger brother Gordon.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. C. 12. just two rows from his brother.





Lance Corporal Gordon Reed

B79124 Lance Corporal Gordon Reed (on left in photo) was born on 21 May 1921 in Acton, Ontario, the son of Private Philip George Reed and Flora Edna Smith.

He attended Dewson St Public School and left school at age 15 after two years at Central Tech. He was a member of West United Church.

Reed had three sisters and two brothers – Douglas who also served in The Queen's Own Rifles, and Ross who served in the Ordnance Corps. Their father served in WWII with the Toronto Scottish Regiment.

Reed was working as a clerk in Adamson's retail store when he enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles on 25 June 1940 in Toronto. He trained in Camp Borden and Sussex, New Brunswick and arrived in the United Kingdom with the regiment in July 1941. He was appointed Acting Lance Corporal on 18 May 1944.

He was engaged to be married to Lieutenant Margaret Ellen Gilbert who was serving with the Red Cross, permission being granted by the army on 31 May 1944.

Rifleman Reed landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action at age 23, as was his older brother Douglas.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 16. just two rows from his brother.





Corporal Hugh McCallum Rocks

B74554 Corporal Hugh McCallum Rocks was born on 13 May 1904 in Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland, the son of Charles Rocks and Elizabeth McCallum.

He had five sisters and three brothers – two of which served in the British Army. He arrived in Canada from Scotland on 15 April 1929 after a 13-day voyage aboard the *Melita*.

On 15 November 1932 in Kirkland Lake, Ontario, Rocks married Elsie Lillian Timmins and they had two children: Charles George and Marion Elsie.

He was working as a miner when he enlisted with the Algonquin Regiment on 1 July 1940 in Kirkland Lake, Ontario. He trained at Camp Borden and was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles on 18 July 1941 – the day before the regiment sailed for Scotland.

He continued to train with the QOR in England and had various short-term postings. He was appointed Acting Lance Corporal on 15 July 1942, Lance Corporal on 16 October 1942 and Acting Corporal on 6 April 1944.

Corporal Rocks landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action at age 40.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. F. 9.





Rifleman Sidney Stephen Ryan

B64309 Rifleman Sidney Stephen Ryan was born on 28 April 1917, in Toronto, Ontario, the son of William Ryan and Agnes Edna Pearl Huffman. He had a brother that died young and a sister.

Ryan attended Howard Park School and Western Technical School in Toronto and was a member of High Park Baptist church.

Ryan was working as a mechanic for Dominion Stores Ltd when he enlisted on 22 June 1940 in Toronto with The Queen's Own Rifles active service battalion. He served in "W" Force in Newfoundland and trained in Camp Borden and Sussex, New Brunswick before arriving with the Regiment in Scotland in July 1941 where he continued training for the next 3 years.

On July 1943 he married (with permission of the army) Priscilla Elsie Grant of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. They may have had a son.

Rifleman Ryan landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was originally reported as missing but later confirmed as killed in action at age 27.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. C. 6.





Rifleman John “Jack” Showers

D81532 Rifleman John “Jack” Showers was born on 24 June 1917 in Montréal, Quebec, the son of Joseph Anthony Showers and Mary Elizabeth Bathurst. He had three sisters, four brothers, and a half-brother.

On 14 September 1939, he married Albeana Margaret Blackman in Montreal at the Pentecostal Papineau-Laurier church and they had one daughter Patricia Evelyn Showers. He was employed as a mechanic before enlisting.

Showers initially enlisted in The Black Watch in September of 1939. He served with that Regiment in Newfoundland but did not depart with it in July 1940. He was seconded to The Queen’s Own Rifles and served with the Regiment in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and then England.

From the QOR Regimental History by Lieutenant Colonel Barnard:

“An interesting event occurred on 12 August when two errant members of The Black Watch came out of the woods. They had apparently been on a spree at some lumber camp and didn’t even know that their unit had left. Their remorse was pitiful to behold. As The QOR was then officially known as Force W and was controlled directly by Ottawa, the suggestion was made to NDHQ that the two men be sent to rejoin their unit now in Canada. This was refused but no other instructions were sent. Finally, after two or three weeks, The Queen’s Own were ordered to take them on strength. This was done and the two finally went overseas with the battalion.”

Rifleman Showers landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was initially reported wounded and missing but later confirmed died of wounds received in action at age 26. He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. E. 3.





Lance Sergeant John Montgomery Simpson

B63935 Lance Sergeant John "Jack"

Montgomery Simpson was born December 9, 1920, the son of William John and Helen May Ormenta Lumley, of Toronto, Ontario. Shortly before going overseas, he married Mary Jean Davey, of Toronto.

His younger brother William Jr also served with The Queen's Own Rifles and landed on D-Day. He survived to become a firefighter but later died while in the line of duty. Before the war, Jack was working as a jewelry polisher.



He joined the Canadian active Army on 18th June 1940. Serving with the Regiment up until his death on D-Day. L/Sgt Simpson was serving with Able Company on D-Day.

"A" company CSM, WO2 CSM Charlie Martin wrote in "Battle Diary":

"The order rang out: "Down ramp." The moment the ramp came down, heavy machine-gun fire broke out from somewhere back of the seawall. Mortars were dropping all over the beach. Possibly No. 1 boat on the right took more fire.

The men rose, starboard line turning right, port turning left. I said to Jack, across from me, and to everyone; "Move! Fast! Don't stop for anything. Go! Go! Go!" We raced down the ramp, Jack and I side by side, the men closely following. We fanned out as fast as we could, heading for the sea wall.....

Of the men from our boat, Jack Simpson was killed on the beach and Jack Culbertson was wounded. Jamie McKechnie, who only hours earlier had helped grab me into the LCA and doubtless saved my life, was killed and so was Ernie Cunningham and Sammy Hall."

Lance Sergeant Simpson is buried at Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference V. B. 15.

His Coin of Remembrance is held by Warrant Officer Graham Humphrey.



Rifleman Herman Stock

B64652 Rifleman Herman Stock was born on the Gibson Reserve in Sahanation, Ontario on 14 April 1920, son of Robert and Mary Stock.

He worked as a labourer and was a member of the United Church.

He enlisted in The Queen's Own Rifles in July 1941 at 19 with no previous military service, and served with the Regiment for three years before D-Day.

Rifleman Stock was killed on D-Day with Able Company of the QOR at Bernières-sur-Mer (Juno Beach), aged 23.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference: V. B. 14.



HERMAN STOCK

He is also remembered on a monument at lot 12, Concession 6, Muskoka Road 38, Wahta Mohawk Reserve, ON.





Rifleman Albert Edward Sturrock

B64929 Rifleman Albert Edward Sturrock was born on 21 September 1919 in Erskine, Alberta, the son of George Sturrock Jnr and Mary Rose 'Mae' Yates.

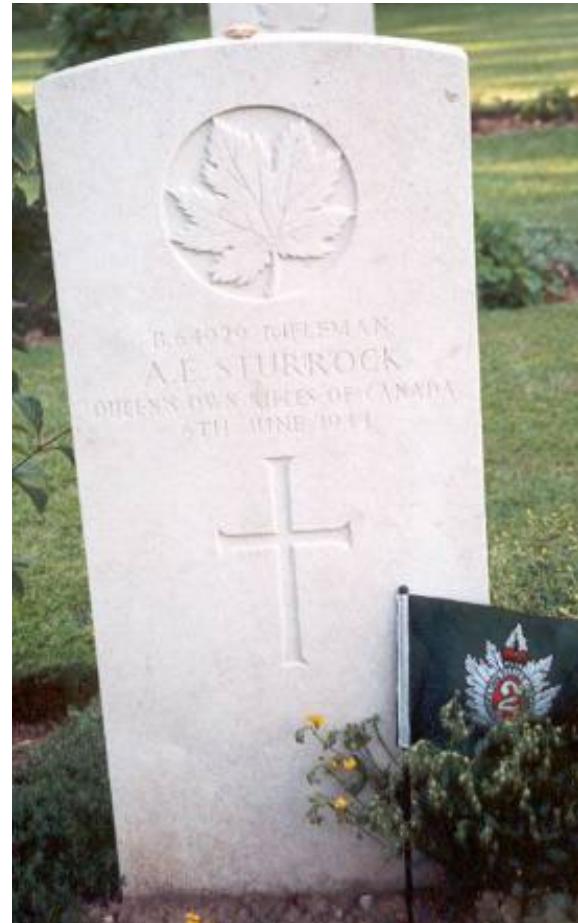
He had three brothers and three sisters.

He attended schools at Merton and Bronte, Alberta before moving to Toronto with his family.

Sturrock enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles on 6 January 1942. He trained in Guelph, Brampton and Camp Borden, before arriving in the United Kingdom on 31 August 1941. He was posted from the reinforcement unit to the QOR on 27 November 1942.

Rifleman Sturrock landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, aged 24. He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. C. 5.

A sad postscript: His parents had separated and his will left everything to his father who by the time of his son's death, had already died. The father's estate went to his common-law wife so she received Albert's war gratuity. Albert's mother was very distressed by this and wrote letters to Prime Minister King, Governor General Viscount Alexander, Field Marshal Montgomery, and finally to His Majesty King George – a copy of this last is in his service file. There is no record in his file however to indicate any success from these many pleas.





Rifleman Thomas Willis Underwood

B110630 Rifleman Thomas Willis Underwood was born on 10 November 1922 in Cedar Grove, Ontario, the son of Robert Walter Underwood and Della Jarvis.

He came from a large family of 4 sisters and 8 brothers – one of which served in the Navy.

He left school at age 14 and when he enlisted, had been working as a factory hand at Farrington Manufacturers for five years.

Underwood enlisted as a reinforcement on 2 April 1942 in Toronto. He trained in St Johns and Camp Borden before arriving in the United Kingdom on 7 October 1942 and being posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 4 December 1942. He continued various individual and regimental training for the next year and a half.

Rifleman Underwood landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 Jun 1944 and died of wounds received in action, aged 22.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference X. D. 14.





Rifleman Edward Westerby

B63753 Rifleman Edward Westerby was born on 30 June 1913, in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Thomas Frederick Westerby and Emma Jane Booth.

He had three sisters and four brothers including Jack who was a gunner with the Royal Canadian Artillery during the war.

He attended Palmerston Public School and St Alban's Sunday School and sang in St Alban's choir. He left school at age 16 after three years at technical school and had been employed as a master cleaner at "Clean-it-eria."

Westerby had previous militia service with the Army Service Corps when he enlisted in The Queen's Own Rifles on 13 June 1940 when the QOR was mobilized for overseas service. He served with the Regiment in Newfoundland with "W" Force, New Brunswick and in England.

Rifleman Westerby was with Baker Company, one of the hardest hit QOR sub-units, when he landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and was killed in action, aged 30.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. A. 5.





Rifleman Frederick William Worthington

B63938 Rifleman Frederick William Worthington was born in Toronto on 6 July 1908, the son of William Worthington and Louisa Matilda Jarrett.

He attended Carleton Public School and Davenport United Church. He left school at the age of 14, and before enlisting he worked as a driver with Roselawn Dairy.

On 21 Sep 1929, he married Alice Barbara Teeter, in Toronto. They had two children: Kenneth and Barbara.

Worthington enlisted in Toronto on 18 June 1940 with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He was with the Battalion in Newfoundland and during training in New Brunswick. He arrived in Scotland on 29 August 1941. He had a number of minor hospital stays while training in the United Kingdom.

Rifleman Worthington landed with Baker Company in the first wave of D-Day landings and died of wounds on 6 June 1944.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. H. 6.





Rifleman Duncan McInnes

B64594 Rifleman Duncan McInnes was born on 21 July 1919 in Osprey, Ontario, the son of Hector McInnes and Mabel Moore. He was educated in McIntyre and was a member of the United Church of Canada.

He had four sisters and four brothers, one of whom served in the Royal Canadian Army during the war.

He was working as a labourer in Toronto when he enlisted in Kitchener, Ontario with The Queen's Own Rifles on 6 June 1941. He did basic training in Kitchener and Camp Borden before joining the regiment on 11 July 1941 at Camp Sussex in New Brunswick and arriving in Scotland with them later that month.

Rifleman McInnes was severely wounded after landing with Charlie Company on Juno Beach, D-Day, 6 June 1944 and died of those wounds on the 7th, aged 23.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference V. B. 1. He is also remembered on a family monument in the McIntyre Pioneer Cemetery in Grey County, Ontario.

As the beneficiary of his estate, his mother received his war service gratuity of \$643.37 – worth about \$10,710 in 2023 plus \$298.60 in outstanding pay.





About Bayeux Memorial



There was little actual fighting in Bayeux although it was the first French town of importance to be liberated. Bayeux War Cemetery is the largest Commonwealth cemetery of the Second World War in France and contains burials brought in from the surrounding districts and from hospitals that were located nearby.

The Bayeux Memorial stands opposite the Bayeux War Cemetery and bears the names of more than 1,800 men of the Commonwealth land forces (including QOR Rifleman John Lizon) who died in the early stages of the campaign and have no known grave.

They died during the landings in Normandy, during the intense fighting in Normandy itself, and during the advance to the River Seine in August.



About Bény-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery

Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery is about 1 kilometre east of the village of Reviers, on the Creully-Tailleville-Ouistreham road (D.35). Reviers is a village and commune in the Department of the Calvados. It is located 15 kilometres north-west of Caen and 18 kilometres east of Bayeux and 3.5 kilometres south of Courseulles-sur-Mer, a village on the sea coast. The village of Bény-sur-Mer is some 2 kilometres south-east of the cemetery.

The bus service between Caen and Arromanches (via Reviers and Ver-sur-Mer) passes the cemetery.

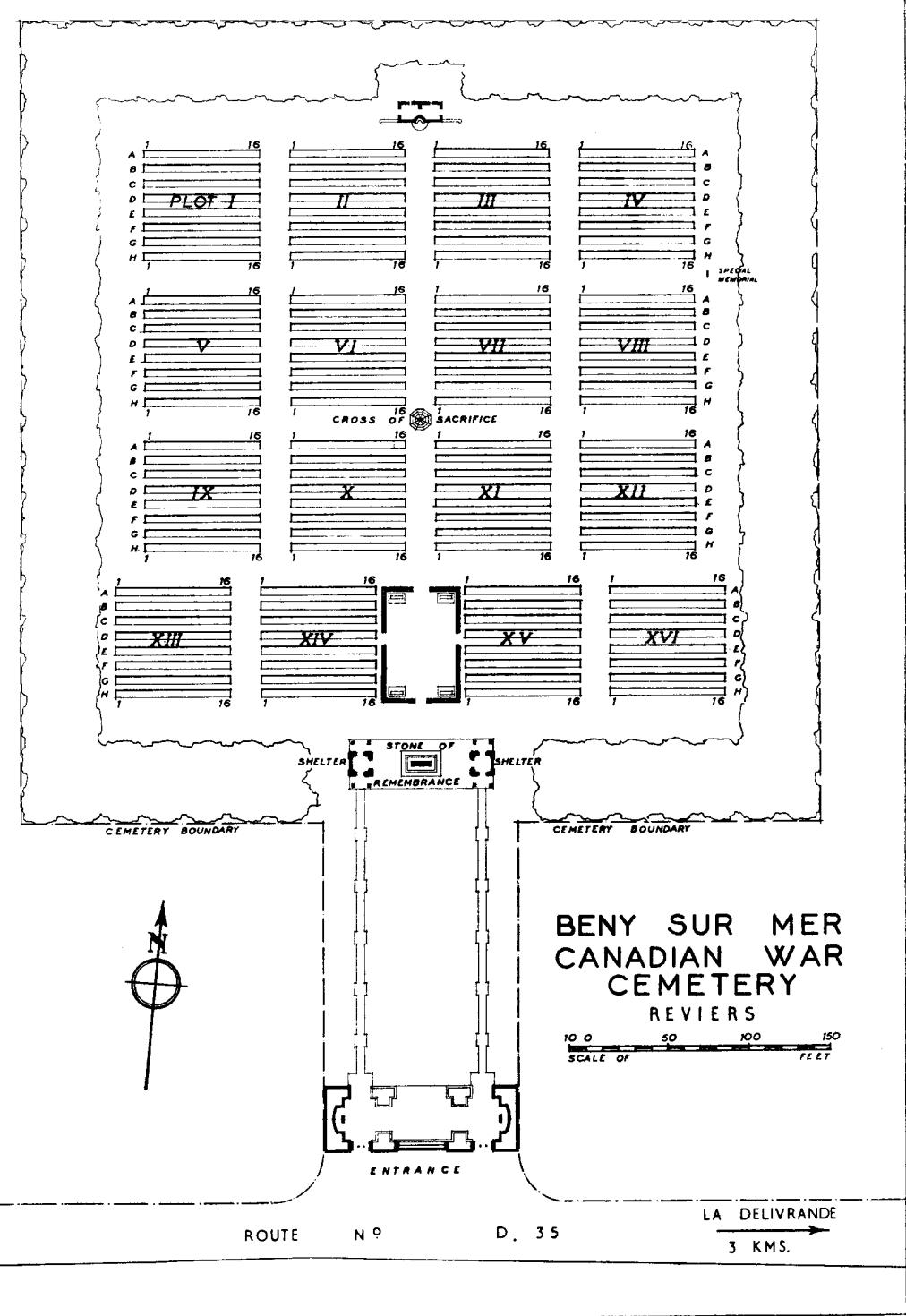
It was on the coast just to the north that the 3rd Canadian Division landed on 6th June 1944; on that day, 335 officers and men of that division were killed in action or died of wounds. In this cemetery are the graves of Canadians who gave their lives in the landings in Normandy and in the earlier stages of the subsequent campaign. Canadians who died during the final stages of the fighting in Normandy are buried in Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery.

There are a total of 2,048 burials in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. There is also one special memorial erected to a soldier of the Canadian Infantry Corps who is known to have been buried in this cemetery, but the exact site of whose grave could not be located.

*“At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
we will remember them.”*



Bény-sur-Mer Cemetery Plan





The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Museum and Archives

Mandate

The Museum was established in 1956 under the authority of the Regimental Executive Committee with the following mandate:

“to encourage the study of Canadian military history and in particular the history of The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada, to rescue from oblivion the memories of its members, to obtain and preserve narratives in print, manuscript or otherwise of their travels, adventures, labours and observations, to secure and preserve objects illustrative of the civil, literary and military history of the Regiment, and to maintain a museum and a library.”

The museum's interest includes First World War CEF Battalions perpetuated by the Queen's Own Rifles: 3rd Battalion, 83rd Battalion, 95th Battalion, 166th Battalion, 198th Battalion, 255th Battalion

Mission

Permanently housed within Casa Loma, which was built by former Commanding Officer Sir Henry Pellatt, the QOR Museum and Archives will preserve the records, photographs, and artefacts of the Regiment, and present the story of Canada's oldest continuously serving infantry regiment, its association with Casa Loma, the City of Toronto, and to the public, in a modern and engaging manner.

Vision

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Museum and Archives will be a modern, historical, educational and rewarding experience to “all” who visit Casa Loma, and continue to be known by peers as the best example of a volunteer organized and managed “specialized” museum and archival collection.

Visit our website at www.qormuseum.org for more information.