

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

Profiles of Our Fallen: Part II

Le Mesnil Patry 11 June 1944

June 2024

Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery



Researched and prepared by Major John M. Stephens, CD (Ret'd), Director and Archivist of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Regimental Museum and Archive in remembrance of the riflemen who died on 11 June 1944 in the battle for Le Mesnil Patry.

Sources for these profiles included the individual Service Records, Veterans Affairs Canada's [Canadian Virtual War Memorial](#), Operation Me, and Ancestry.ca.

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

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Facts from the Profiles of Le Mesnil Patry Fallen

- The nine youngest riflemen to die on 11 June were all 20 years old: Riflemen Crawford, Cresswell, Crocker, Hogan, Jacobs, Macina, Mulhern, Whitehouse and Williams;
- The oldest to die was B65901 Rifleman William Smith who was 46;
- Many left school at age 13, 14, 15 and 16;
- Lieutenant Robert Fleming married in England on 11 May 1944, exactly one month before being killed in action;
- Rifleman Harold Cook was given permission to marry *after* 25 June;
- Lance Corporal Thomas Parks, died on his birthday;
- Brothers Thomas and Albert Westlake were both killed in action on 11 June and are buried side by side. A third brother George was killed on 7 June while serving with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders and is buried a few rows away from his brothers.
- Many of these riflemen had fathers, brothers and even sisters serving in the armed forces in both the First and Second World Wars;
- At least nine children lost their fathers on 11 June.



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 June 6th would be their first and June 11th their last day in battle.

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

LE MESNIL-PATRY

“On 10 June the battalion moved to Neuf Mer and was placed under command of the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade. Orders were received on 11 June, at 1100 hrs, that The Queen's Own would attack and seize the high ground south of Cheux. First, however, it was necessary to capture Le Mesnil-Patry. This was on the front of 7 Canadian Infantry Brigade. The Regina Rifles were to form the firm base for the attack. The attack was timed to go in at 1300 hrs. This, as one company commander put it, was a plan "conceived in sin and born in iniquity". First, no time was allowed for reconnaissance; secondly, no artillery preparation was provided despite the fact that it was known that the place was strongly held; and thirdly, the men were expected to go in riding on tanks through flat wheat fields, thus providing perfect targets for the defenders.

The attack on Le Mesnil-Patry was to be made by D Company under **Major J. N. Gordon**. A Company, under **Major H. E. Dalton**, on the capture of the village, would pass through and secure the road junction half a mile beyond the town. Then B Company and C Company were to be carried on tanks a distance of some five miles from the Start Line to the high ground south of Cheux - a not unambitious programme.

Despite the hurry it was about 1430 hours before D Company, riding on the tanks of B Squadron 1st Hussars, left Norry-en-Bessin. Le Mesnil-Patry was 1,200 yards away. The intervening country was practically all flat fields



of grain. About 300 yards had been covered before the storm broke. In a few minutes half the company and half the tanks had been wiped out. The losses would probably have been worse had not **Lt. B. Dunkelman** detected tank gun fire coming from haycocks. Immediately the mortar platoon rained down bombs and set the haycocks afire. That portion of the enemy fire power did no more damage.

D Company survivors now kept to the ground and crawled doggedly forward. Despite losses the outskirts of Le Mesnil-Patry were reached. Then **Major Gordon** fell wounded. **Lt. R. Fleming** took over the company. C Now, in an attempt to turn the tide, **Lt. H. G. W. Bean**, already wounded in the leg, gathered together **Sgt. S. T. Scrutton**, seven riflemen and two tanks. Working to a flank the little group entered the village at the eastern end. **Lt. Bean** and **Sgt. Scrutton**, covered by the riflemen, directed the fire of the tanks; and, for a time, wreaked havoc. During this interval Lt. Bean had been wounded again. Now the tanks' wireless failed and Lt. Bean fell wounded for the third time. **Sgt. Scrutton** gathered what was left of his, intrepid little party, ordered them on the tanks and, by a miracle, roared back safely. Four returned unscathed, two were killed, one was missing and two were wounded. This action was an epic; spine-tingling in cold courage; brilliant in initiative and execution; a magnificent attempt to resolve a hopeless situation. **Lt. Bean** was awarded the Military Cross and **Sgt. Scrutton** the Military Medal.

D Company by now was thinned to the vanishing point. B Squadron, 1st Hussars, was in the same case. Both were ordered to retire. Then further calamity struck. The Germans managed to get in to our artillery wireless net and put in a call for defensive fire on The Queen's Own area and on The Regina Rifles at Norry-en-Bessin. It was a clever move on the part of the enemy. Immediately heavy fire poured down; some twenty minutes elapsed before Brigade H.Q. could get it stopped. The havoc wrought was dreadful. Not only did The Queen's Own suffer. The forward company of The Regina Rifles was badly shot up; the battalion's reserve ammunition was destroyed, and the 1st Hussars lost many of their reserve tanks positioned in Norry-en-Bessin.

The 1st Hussars, who fought throughout most gallantly, lost eight officers, fifty-two other ranks and nineteen tanks. D Company, QOR of C, went in 135 strong. Initially, eleven came back but during the next twenty-four hours other survivors made their way back to the lines. That day the



battalion lost one officer and fifty-three [actually 49] other ranks killed in action; one other rank died of wounds. Three officers and thirty other ranks were wounded; four other ranks received severe battle injuries. One officer and one other rank received battle injuries but remained on duty. In all eleven men were captured; five were repatriated after the war; the fate of the other six is given below. **Lt. R. Fleming**, the one officer killed, was a young and promising subaltern. He had been married but a month. **C.S.M. J. Forbes** and **Sgt. J. M. Mitchell**, both first-rate soldiers, had fallen. An English newspaper summed up the whole action with the comment, "It was a modern version of The Charge of the Light Brigade".

At first it seemed that little had been accomplished. Later the view was taken that, viewed as a "spoiling attack", an enemy concentration had been completely disorganized and a proposed counter-attack had been brought to naught. The next day, Lieutenant-General G. G. Simonds, G.O.C. Second Canadian Corps; stated: "While the battle yesterday seemed futile, it actually put a Panzer Division attack on skids, thereby saving 7 Canadian Infantry Brigade from being cut off and, in the broader picture, it helped 7 British Armoured Division to advance on our right flank." The sector, previously very troublesome, gave no more bother, and on 16-17 June, after a British advance on the right, the place was occupied without a shot being fired. The British found fourteen knocked-out German tanks and over two thousand Nazi dead in the fields and ditches."

The battle of Le Mesnil-Patry saw the second highest number of Queen's Own killed in action in one day.

At the end of 11 June 1944, 50 soldiers of The Queen's Own Rifles were killed in action. Three officers and thirty other ranks were wounded.

Eventually 48 riflemen would be reburied in a cemetery beyond Bernières-sur-Mer which would be named the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery and two were buried in Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery. Further info about the cemeteries can be found at the end of this document.

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



Rifleman Ernest Patick Benford

C34137 Rifleman Ernest Patrick Benford was born on 14 Nov 1910, in London, England, the son of Charles Patrick Benford and Ethel May. He had at least one brother Charles.

He was an “edgerman” in a sawmill when he enlisted on 19 May 1941 with the Canadian Forestry Corps. He travelled to Scotland on the same ship as The Queen’s Own Rifles arriving in July 1941.

His record shows various charges for refusing to work and being absent without leave for which he was fined, confined to barracks, or sent to detention. (Not everyone adapted easily to military discipline.)

In June 1943 he was transferred to an infantry reinforcement unit and on 5 August 1943 he was posted to The Queen’s Own Rifles. He landed at Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 with D Company.

Rifleman Benford was killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944, aged 34. He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. B. 3.





Rifleman Leonard Richard Cole

B64519 Rifleman Leonard Richard Cole was born on 22 April 1922 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Richard Walter Cole and Amelia Agnes Nye. He had one younger brother. Cole was educated at Rose Avenue and Dufferin schools. He left after two years of high school at age 16.

Cole was single and working as a labourer at the Pure Cold Chocolate Company when he enlisted in Toronto with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 26 May 1941.

After training as a reinforcement in Brantford and Camp Borden, he arrived in England in December 1941 and joined the Regiment where he continued his training.

Rifleman Cole landed with C Company on Juno Beach on D-Day 6 June 1944 but was killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944, aged 22.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference IV. B. 13.

Cole left his estate to his mother which included a \$630 war gratuity.





Rifleman Harold Cook

B64270 Rifleman Harold Cook was born on 14 August 1920 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Percy and Agnes Elizabeth Wassal. He had one sister and two brothers: Douglas, also serving with The Queen's Own Rifles and John serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Cook attended Dufferin School and left aged 14, after finishing public school.

He worked as a truck driver with the Coca-Cola Company (for \$18 weekly) when he enlisted in Toronto with The Queen's On Rifles of Canada on 22 June 1940.



He served on W Force in Newfoundland and trained at Camp Borden and in Sussex, New Brunswick before arriving in Scotland with the Regiment in July 1941. In both Canada and England had several absences without leave.

In March 1944 he requested permission to marry a widow, Mrs. Joan Rousill of London, England, Permission was granted for a marriage after 25 June 1944 (which obviously did not take place.)

Rifleman Cook landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944 but was killed in action in the battle of Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. D. 5.



Rifleman Gerald Armond Crawford

B143830 Rifleman Gerald Armond Crawford was born on 30 January 1924 in Rosseau, Ontario, the son of Alexander Crawford and Eleanor Draycott. He left school at the age of 14. He came from a large family of nine brothers (one served in Italy) and four sisters.

Crawford was working as a farm helper when he enlisted in Parry Sound, Ontario on 9 March 1943, with the Royal Canadian Artillery.

He was training in Petawawa when he was "re-allocated" to the infantry on 28 May 1943. He then trained at Camp Borden and in Aldershot, Nova Scotia before arriving in England in late September 1943. By 9 October he had been posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

In April or May 1944, Crawford applied for permission to marry Miss Peggy Joan Hayes of Bournemouth, England but his service record doesn't indicate that the marriage was ever approved.

Rifleman Crawford landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944 but was killed in action on 11 June 1944 during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, aged 20.

He is buried in the Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. D. 16.





Rifleman Stanley Alfred Cresswell

B133828 Rifleman Stanly Alfred Cresswell was born on 18 June 1923 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Alfred James Cresswell and Sophia Elizabeth Jack.

He completed a year of high school (Harbord Collegiate) and a year and a half of technical school.

Cresswell was employed as a bread salesman for Canada Bread Company and a member of the Yorkville Salvation Army Band when he enlisted in Toronto on the 5 October 1942.

After training in Peterborough, Ontario, Camp Borden, and in the UK, he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifle of Canada on 11 June 1943. He continued training with his new regiment until June 1944.

Rifleman Cresswell landed with D Company on Juno Beach, D-Day 6 June 1944 but was killed in action on 11 June 1944 during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, aged 20.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. F. 13.



S. CRESSWELL



Rifleman Albert Edward Crocker

B79703 Rifleman Albert Edward Crocker was born on 14 January 1924 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, the son of Alfred George Crocker and Agnes Carratt.

His father passed away when he was a year and a half and his mother passed away when he was 4 years old. He was the second youngest of ten children. His brothers and sisters were George, Walter, Lillian, Samuel, Emily, Annie, Gwendolyn, Bessie, and Marian.

Crocker was employed as a labourer for the Sunshine Uniform Supply Company when he enlisted in Toronto on 27 January 1942 with the Irish Regiment of Canada. He trained in North Bay, Newmarket and Camp Borden.

He arrived in England on 7 March 1943 and by June, was transferred to the 4th Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit (CIRU). While there he continued training and taking various courses, then posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 10 September 1943.

Rifleman Crocker landed on Juno Beach with C Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944 but was killed in action on 11 June 1944 during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, aged 20.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference IV. B. 15.



A. E. Crocker



Rifleman George Maurice Cross

C120572 Rifleman George Maurice Cross was born on 22 December 1917 in Picton, Ontario, the son of Leslie Robert Cross and Helen Florence Davis.

He left school aged 14 after completing grade 8. He had a brother who served in the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War and two sisters.

On 6 Oct 1936, he married Hazel Irene Culmer in Belleville, Ontario, and they had three sons: Frederick (died aged 7), Gary (died aged 1) and Jack.

Cross was working for Mr. Edward Carter in Picton drawing (i.e. trucking) coal when he enlisted with the infantry in Kingston on 15 February 1943. He trained in Peterborough and Camp Borden before heading to Aldershot, Nova Scotia prior to embarking for England in September 1943. He was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in October and continued training with the regiment for the next several months.

Rifleman Cross landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944 but was killed in action on 11 June 1944 during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, aged 27.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. B. 1.





Rifleman John Windline Culnan

B135730 Rifleman John Windline Culnan was born in Thamesville, Ontario on 12 December 1922, the son of Daniel John Culnan and Annie M. Schnekenburger. He had two sisters, two half-sisters, and one brother and two half-brothers.

He was a restaurant worker when he enlisted with the Active Service in Hamilton, Ontario on 10 November 1942. He trained in Orillia and Camp Borden before heading overseas in April 1943. On 10 June 1943, he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles and trained with them until the invasion of Normandy.

Rifleman Culnan landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944 however he was killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944, aged 21.

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





Rifleman John Oliver Davis

B114064 Rifleman John Oliver Davis was born on 17 May 1919 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of James William Davis and Rosina Charlotte Warren. His mother died in 1922 and his father remarried in 1926. He attended Runnymede Public School and Western Vocation School.

An older brother William Norman enlisted with the 166th QOR Overseas Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War. A brother Arthur was in training in Canada for overseas duty at the time of John's death. In total, Davis had 4 older brothers, one half-brother, two sisters, and one half-sister.

Davis was working as a stone cutter when he enlisted with the infantry in Toronto on 10 June 1942. He trained in Orillia and Camp Borden. At some point, he went overseas and was eventually posted to The Queen's Own Rifles while in the United Kingdom.

Rifleman Davis landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was initially reported missing but later confirmed killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, on 11 June 1944, aged 25.

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

Davis left half of his estate to his father, and half to one of his sisters.





Rifleman John Hamilton Docking

K68613 Rifleman John “Jack” Hamilton Docking was born on 7 March 1922 in Invermere, British Columbia, the son of Percy Goffe Docking and Nora Eileen Hope. (His mother deserted the family in 1927.)

Davis had one younger sister, Mabel. He left school at age 15 having completed Grade 9.

Davis was a sawmill worker when he enlisted with the Canadian Army Active Service in Vancouver, British Columbia on 17 September 1942.

He trained in Chilliwack and Calgary before heading to the United Kingdom in March 1943 where he continued various training.

On 21 April 1944, he was posted to the Regina Rifles but on 8 June he was transferred to The Queen’s Own Rifles.

Rifleman Docking was killed in action on 11 June 1944 during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, aged 22.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. D. 9. His father received his war service gratuity of \$319.43 – worth about \$5,511.05 in 2023.





Rifleman Ambrose Patrick Doherty

B83617 Rifleman Ambrose Patrick Doherty was born on 18 Feb 1920 in Orillia, Ontario, the son of William Joseph Doherty and Roseanna "Rose" M. Fountain. He came from a large family of 8 siblings and left school at age 14 after completing elementary school.

Doherty was single and working as a labourer for Vilas Enamel when he enlisted in Trois Riviere, Quebec with the Canadian Provost Corps on 16 February 1942 after serving in the militia since October 1941.

He arrived in England on 21 September 1943 and was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles on 6 January 1944.



Rifleman Doherty landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944 but was killed in action on 11 June during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, aged 24.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. B. 2. He is also commemorative on the Town of Orillia Cenotaph.



Rifleman William Charles Drohan

B75430 Rifleman William "Bill" Charles Drohan was born on 6 June 1924 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of George William and Elsie May Drohan. He had two younger sisters and a brother who died in 1941.

He attended Withrow Public School but left school after finishing one year of high school.

Drohan had worked as an auto mechanic helper for the Toronto Daily Star when he enlisted on 2 July 1942 with the 48th Highlanders. He'd spend a month serving with the Irish Regiment militia battalion. Drohan was treated for severe appendicitis in September 1942.

In February 1943 he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles and continued his training in Camp Borden and New Brunswick. He was promoted to Corporal on 1 March 1943 however in March 1944 he reverted to Rifleman at his own request. He travelled to the UK in September 1943 and continued his training.

Rifleman Drohan landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944 but was killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944.

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



W. C. DROHAN
Killed



Rifleman William John Falls

C102755 Rifleman William John Falls was born on 7 September 1917 in Carp, Ontario, the son of William John Falls and Louisa May Armstrong. He had one brother and three sisters (one who died young.)

He married Dorothy Hoppen on 17 August 1942 in Ottawa, Ontario.

Falls was working as a labourer at the Dominion Experimental Farm in Ottawa when he enlisted with the Canadian Army infantry in Ottawa on 4 February 1944. He then trained in Cornwall, Camp Borden, and Aldershot, Nova Scotia before arriving in England in September 1943.

He was taken on strength with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 3 December 1943 and continued to train with them.

Rifleman Falls landed Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. During the battle for Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944 he was reported missing before being confirmed as killed in action, age 26.

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





Lieutenant Robert Fleming

Lieutenant Robert Fleming was born in Toronto, Ontario on 31 October 1921, the son of Robert Fleming and Elizabeth Sinclair Patten. He had one brother and one sister.

He attended Upper Canada College from the age of 8 where he would later become active in rugby, hockey and track, and a Sergeant of the UCC Cadet Corps. After matriculation, he was enrolled at the University of Toronto.

Fleming joined the Canadian Officers' Training Corps at the University of Toronto on 16 January 1940. He enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles Militia Regiment where he served as a Second Lieutenant for several months before joining the active service battalion on 3 June 1941. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 13 December 1941 and continued his officer training at Brockville and Borden before arriving in England on 9 March 1942.



Fleming continued his training and was also assigned postings to various higher headquarters. On 11 May 1944, he also married Miss Sheila Hiller who was serving as in the WRCNS. The wedding took place in Chilworth, Sussex, England and the bride was given away by then Major Neil Gordon who was Fleming's Company Commander and her brother-in-law.

Lieutenant Fleming landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944 however, he was first reported missing but then confirmed as killed while commanding his platoon during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944, age 22.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. B. 4. He is also commemorated on a stained-glass window in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (along with QOR Acting Captain W.D. Stewart who was killed in July.)



Warrant Officer Class II John Forbes

B63618 Warrant Officer Class II John “Jack” Forbes was born in Toronto, Ontario on 13 August 1917, the son of Thomas Patrick Forbes and Annie Tate. He had one sister and three brothers – one, Sergeant William Forbes, was also serving with The Queen’s Own Rifles. Another brother Tom was with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment and served in Italy. Forbes attended Dovercourt Road School and Western Technical School and was a member of the Church of St Mary the Virgin.

He married Miss Vera Hackett on 12 April 1941. According to a 1946 letter by his parents to DND, Vera remarried after his death.

Forbes enlisted in The Queen’s Own Rifles (Militia) on 11 March 1940 and exactly three months later, he joined the QOR active service battalion. He was promoted to Acting Corporal in October and then proceeded to Newfoundland with the regiment as W Force.



After further training in Canada, he landed with the Regiment in Scotland in July 1941 and was quickly appointed to Lance Sergeant, then Acting Sergeant, and finally confirmed Sergeant on 23 January 1942. He was appointed Acting CSM in August 1943 and confirmed as a Warrant Officer 2nd Class (WOII) in the following November.

As Company Sergeant Major of D Company, WOII Forbes landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 5 June 1944 but was killed on 11 June 1944 during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, age 26.

Initially reported as missing, it is believed that he was first taken prisoner but was one of several QOR POWs murdered by members of the 12th SS Panzer Division (Hitler Youth.) In his service file is a December 1945 letter from the Canadian Director of Records to his widow, noting that Forbes’ name was likely to come up during an upcoming war crimes trial and giving her a heads up that there would probably be some press reporting this. District Chaplains were also requested to make personal visits to the relevant next of kin.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. H. 2. His name is also commemorated on a family grave marker in Park Lawn Cemetery in Toronto.



Lance Corporal John Raymond Grant

B134354 Lance Corporal John Raymond Grant was born in Toronto on 1 December 1922. He was the foster son of Frances A. Nixon and attended Dovercourt Public School but left high school at age 16.

Grant was working as a shipping clerk for Sinclair & Valentine, a printer's ink company when he enlisted in the Active Service of the Canadian Army on 14 October 1944.

After training in Camp Borden, he arrived in England as a reinforcement on 4 April 1943 and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 10 June that year. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on 2 March 1944.

Lance Corporal Grant landed with D Company on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 but was killed in action on 11 June 1944 during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, age 21.

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



J. R. GRANT
Killed



Rifleman Frederick Taylor Hamilton

B134001 Rifleman Frederick Taylor Hamilton was born in Glen Huron, Ontario on 15 August 1922, the son of Joseph Clarence Hamilton and Margaret Hewson. He had three brothers and three sisters.

He graduated from Collingwood Collegiate (matriculation) where he received the IODE Prize for History, and where he was a cadet for five years.

He studied medicine at the University of Toronto in 1940-1941. During his summer vacations, he worked at home on the family farm. He played hockey and football "moderately".

In March 1941 he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was undertaking training as a student pilot but was discharged on 25 Sep 1942 due to colour blindness after 25 hours of flying time completed. Hamilton enlisted in the Canadian Army on 7 Oct 1942. His "Personnel Selection Record" includes the appraisal that he:

"Seems to be a modest fine type of chap with a fair stability considering his youth. He is very keen on joining the Paratroops and should do well in any non-technical job he is assigned to."

Despite his hopes of becoming a paratrooper, he was transferred to the QOR from a reinforcement unit on 11 Jun 1943.

Rifleman Hamilton survived landing with D Company in the second wave on D-Day but was killed in action on 11 June 1944 during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry. He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. E. 7. His name is also on a family grave marker in Duntroon Church of the Redeemer Cemetery.

[Note: Both the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Canadian Virtual War Memorial have recorded his death as 12 June 1944 and that is what is carved on his tombstone, however, every document in his service file which records his death, indicates he actually died on 11 June 1944.]





Rifleman John Richard Hastie

B65578 Rifleman John “Jack” Richard Hastie was born on Manitoulin Island on 4 January 1925, the son of Colonel William John Argyle Hastie, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (who also served overseas during WWII in the Headquarters of the 1st Canadian Army) and Marion Arliss Thompson.

He had two sisters, attended Runnymede Public School and Central Technical School, and was a member of St John’s Anglican Church in West Toronto.

Hastie served two months with The Queen’s Own Rifles reserve battalion before enlisting with the active service battalion on 22 May 1942. He trained in Camp Niagara, Camp Borden, and Debert and served several temporary attachments.

Rifleman Hastie landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944, but was first reported missing and later confirmed as killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944.

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





Rifleman Gordon Joseph Hogan

B134998 Rifleman Gordon Joseph Hogan was born in North Bay, Ontario on 22 August 1924, the son of John P. and Mary A. Hogan. He had one brother, Sergeant L.M. Hogan who was serving overseas with the Royal Canadian Airforce.

He attended St. Mary's Separate School in North Bay, St. Jean de Brebeuf School in Widdifield, and Collegiate Institute and Vocational School.

Hogan was working as a motor mechanic for Canadian Pacific Railway when he enlisted in the Canadian Army active service on 30 October 1942.

He trained with the 3rd Battalion QOR in Brantford, Borden, Debert, and Aldershot, NS, and arrived overseas on 1 September 1943. After further training in the UK, he was posted to the 1st Battalion, QOR in March 1944.

Rifleman Hogan landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

He was initially reported missing but later confirmed killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, on 11 June 1944, aged 20.

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





Rifleman Charles Stewart Hood

B134331 Rifleman Charles Stewart Hood was born in Calgary, Alberta on 9 May 1912, the son of Thomas Hood and Agnes Russell Robertson (who both pre-deceased him.)

He attended the Sunalta and Central High Schools in Calgary which Hood left at age 17 after completing junior matriculation. He had four sisters and four brothers.

Hood worked for 14 years as a teletype operator and editor with the Canadian Press in Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Toronto.

He enlisted in Toronto on 13 October 1942 having served the previous 2 months with the Canadian Army Service Corps (Reserves) in Edmonton. Hood trained in Camp Borden and arrived in the United Kingdom on 4 April 1943 where he was posted as a reinforcement to The Queen's Own Rifles.

Rifleman Hood landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was initially reported missing but later confirmed killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, on 11 June 1944, aged 32.

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





Rifleman Jack Silas Jacobs

B135693 Rifleman Jack Silas Jacobs was born in Eden (Woodville), Ontario on 28 July 1923, the son of Frank Marmen Jacobs and Hannah May Arksey.

He attended Eden United Church and was active in skating and skiing groups. He had two sisters and three brothers – one sister was Airwoman Merle Jacobs, Royal Canadian Airforce station in Dunnville, Ontario.

Jacobs was working as a farmer when he enlisted with the Canadian Army infantry on 7 November 1942. He trained at Orillia and Camp Borden before arriving in the UK on 6 April 1943. He was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles in June and continued his training with the Regiment.



Rifleman Jacob landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was initially reported missing but later confirmed killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, on 11 June 1944, aged 20.

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



Rifleman Charles Melville Jacobson

C65208 Rifleman Charles Melville Jacobson was born on 8 September 1919 in Cobourg, Ontario, the son of George Jacobson and Ella Mary Freeman. He had five brothers – one who also served during WWII in the artillery and one in the navy, and two sisters.

Jacobson was working as a labourer at H. W. Cooley Machine & Arms Company when he enlisted in Cobourg, Ontario with the 1st Midland Regiment on 30 July 1940. He trained in Ottawa, St John, Allanburg, Niagara and Prince Rupert.

He arrived in the UK on 1 April 1943 and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 11 June 1943. He had many charges of being absent without leave both in Canada and in the UK.

Rifleman Jacobson landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was initially reported missing but later confirmed killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, on 11 June 1944, aged 24.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VI. H. 12.





Rifleman John Sprott Lusty

B77250 Rifleman John Sprott Lusty was born in Shelburne, Ontario on 29 September 1922, the son of Charles Ethelbert "Bert" Lusty and Victoria Ellen Dynes.

His father served briefly in Canada during the First World War. He had one younger brother Gordon, and one younger sister Mary, and was a member of the United Church of Canada.

Lusty enlisted in May 1941, the day he matriculated from high school having served with the Toronto Scottish Regiment for a few months. After some training in Canada, he arrived in England on 9 December 1941 and continued training and had several temporary postings and attachments. In August 1943 he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles and was placed in D Company.



Rifleman Lusty landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was initially reported missing but later confirmed killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, on 11 June 1944, aged 21.

He is buried in Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. B. 8. He is also commemorated on a family marker in Parkview Cemetery in Waterloo, Ontario.

The inscription on his grave marker below reads:

He Liveth Twice
Who Lives His First Life Well
Father and Mother



Rifleman John Joseph Macina

B135770 Rifleman John Joseph Macina was born in Naples, Italy on 2 August 1923, the son of Gaetano Macina and Lucy Waina Cossettino.

He came to Canada as a child and attended St Mary's School in Toronto. He was active in sports including hockey, baseball, rugby, bowling and boxing, and had four brothers and six sisters.

Macina enlisted on 10 November 1942 with the Canadian Infantry. He trained in Orillia and Borden before arriving in the UK on 4 April 1943.

On 11 June 1943, he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles and continued his training for another year.

Rifleman Macina landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

He was initially reported missing but later confirmed killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, on 11 June 1944, aged 20.

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





Rifleman Leslie Donald McEachern

B134432 Rifleman Leslie Donald McEachern was born on 25 December 1918 in Bracebridge, Ontario, the son of Donald Archibald McEachern and Mildred Stella Norton. He had one younger brother Murray.

He married Dorothy Ann Findlay before his enlistment.

McEachern was working as a lumberman when he enlisted with the Canadian Infantry on 19 October 1942 having served in the Algonquin Regiment in North Bay since January 1940.



He trained in Simcoe and Camp Borden before arriving in the United Kingdom on 4 April 1943 and was assigned to a reinforcement unit. He was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles in June 1943 and continued his training with them.

Rifleman McEachern landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was initially reported missing but later confirmed killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, on 11 June 1944, aged 25.

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

He is also commemorated on a family marker in Paint Lake Cemetery, Dorset, Ontario.



Lance Corporal James Bowler McEvoy

B65738 Lance Corporal James Bowler McEvoy was born on 30 March 1922 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of John and Catherine McEvoy.

He attended Morris Street Public School and Eastern High School of Commerce. A brother, Sergeant John I. McEvoy also served overseas during the Second World War.

McEvoy worked as a clerk and typist when he enlisted with the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles (Active Service) on 29 June 1942. He trained in Niagara on the Lake and Debert, New Brunswick before arriving in the United Kingdom on 30 December 1942. He assigned \$20 per month of his pay to his mother.

McEvoy served in the 4th Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit until he was posted to the 1st Battalion QOR in July 1943. He was promoted to Acting Lance Corporal on 28 May 1944 and Acting Corporal on 10 June 1944.

Lance Corporal McEvoy landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was initially reported missing but later confirmed killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, on 11 June 1944, aged 22.

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



J. B. McEVOY
Killed



Sergeant Jack McKenzie Mitchell

B65549 Sergeant Jack McKenzie Mitchell was born in Toronto, Ontario on 27 February 1920, the son of Robert John and Catherine Mitchell. His father had served with The Queen's Own Rifles, then during WWI with the 19th Battalion CEF in France. Jack also had a brother serving overseas during WWII and two sisters. Growing up he was active in hockey and tennis.

Mitchell was an office clerk at the T. Eaton Company when he joined the 2nd Battalion (Militia) The Queen's Own Rifles in July 1940 and then with the 3rd Battalion (Active Service) on 22 May 1942. He was immediately promoted to Acting Sergeant followed the next month to Acting Company Sergeant Major. He trained at Camp Niagara, Camp Bordon, and Debert Camp in Nova Scotia.

In November 1942, he was confirmed in the rank of CSM and attached to the Battle Drill School in Vernon, British Columbia. In February 1943, he reverts to the rank of Sergeant at his own request and a few days later embarks for England. He was posted to the 1st Battalion QOR in June 1943 where he continued training with the regiment and be active in athletics.

Sergeant Mitchell landed with D Company on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 but was first reported as missing before being confirmed as killed in action during the 11 June 1944 battle for Le Mesnil Patry, aged 24.

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





Corporal James David More

B64502 Corporal James Davie More was born in Paisley, Scotland on 15 May 1913, the son of James D. More and Susan Storrie. He came to Canada in 1920 and attended Central School and Guelph Collegiate. He had a sister Anne and a brother Charles who also served as a Company Sergeant Major with the QOR in France. More was also a member of Mt Dennis Presbyterian Church in Toronto.

On 3 June 1939, he married Dorothy Patricia (Bland or Poland) and had a son Charles.

When he enlisted, he worked as a set-up operator at a John Inglis munitions factory. More had enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles militia in July 1940 and on 17 May 1941 transferred to the active service 1st Battalion. In September he was transferred to the Perth Regiment and in June 1942 was posted back to the 1st Battalion, QOR at his request to be able to serve with his older brother. On 5 August 1943, he was promoted to Corporal.

More landed with D Company at Juno Beach, Normandy on D-Day 6 June 1944.

On 11 June 1944, Corporal More was killed in action during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry at age 31. He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. F. 15.

His wife was given his War Service Gratuity of \$693.81 – worth about \$12,000 in 2023.

There are several copies of correspondence in his service file regarding a request from an English woman indicating that More had fathered a child with her. She eventually remarried a returning sailor who was willing to adopt the child but Veterans Affairs provided her a one-time payment of £3 from their distress fund (worth about £160 in 2023.)





Rifleman Earl Vernon Mulhern

K51677 Rifleman Earl Vernon Mulhern was born in Mossbank, Saskatchewan, on 29 June 1923, the son of Herbert Henry Mulhern.

His mother died when he was 2 1/2 and he had three sisters, one of whom served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps. He left school at age 16 having completed part of grade 10.

Mulhern worked as a mill worker when he enlisted on 5 June 1943 in Vancouver. He requested to join the paratroops but was deemed unsuitable.

He trained in Suffield before arriving in the UK on 12 April 1944. He was first posted to the Royal Regina Rifles before being transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles on 8 June 1944.

Rifleman Mulhern was killed in action during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry, age 20.

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





Rifleman John “Jack” Walter Newman

B135597 Rifleman John “Jack” Walter Newman was born in Humberstone, Ontario (Port Colborne) on 4 September 1923, the son of John Francis Newman and Cora Dickhout.

He had three brothers (one in the Royal Canadian Air Force) and four sisters.

Newman was employed as an office clerk when he enlisted with the active service army on 4 November 1942.

After training at Camp Borden, he was posted as a reinforcement to The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada on 25 March 1943 and reported for duty in the UK on 5 April.

After another year’s training, he was with D Company in the second wave to land on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

Rifleman Newman was killed in action during the battle of the village of Le Mesnil Patry and is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. F. 16.





Lance Corporal Thomas Parks

B66085 Lance Corporal Thomas Parks was born in Toronto on 11 June 1903, the son of Robert Thomas Parks and Catherine Larkin. He had three sisters and four brothers.

Two brothers fought in the First World War: one died of wounds while serving in France with the 58th Battalion, CEF, and the other was recruited to the 255th Battalion and served in France with the 75th Battalion.

He left school at 17 having completed one year of technical school. When he enlisted Parks was employed as a steward at the Cliffside Golf Club.



He served in The Queen's Own Rifles militia battalion from July to November 1940 then transferred to the 1st Battalion Active Service on 16 January 1941. He arrived in the UK on 29 July 1941 and was appointed Lance Corporal in May 1943.

Lance Corporal Parks landed on Juno Beach in the second wave with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. On 10 June he was promoted Acting Corporal however on 11 June (his birthday) he was killed in action at age 41, during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

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



Rifleman John Walter Petraites

B138353 Rifleman John Walter Petraites was born in Toronto on 9 December 1923, the son of Joseph and Katherine Petraites. He had two older sisters and left school at 12 years old.

Petraites was employed as a freight hand for the Canadian Pacific Railway when he enlisted in the Canadian Army on 12 January 1943. He trained at Camp Borden until being posted overseas in June 1943 as a reinforcement.

He was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 5 August 1943 and continued to train with them until D-Day.

Rifleman Petraites landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944 but was killed in action aged 20, on 11 June 1944 during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference II. G. 14.





Rifleman Phillipe Plant

C101266 Rifleman Phillipe Plante was born in Quebec City on 9 September 1921, the son of Alphonse Plante. He had four brothers, and five sisters, and completed six years of public school before leaving at the age of 15.

He married Orray Morris and they had a daughter Madeleine born in April 1942.

After working as a truck driver and painter and six months of reserve service, Plante enlisted in Ottawa with the active service army on 26 August 1942.

He trained in Cornwall and Camp Borden before being sent to the UK as a reinforcement to The Queen's Own Rifles, reporting for duty on 5 April 1943.

Rifleman Plante landed in the second wave on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

Plante was 22 years old when he was killed in action on 11 June 1944 during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry. He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. F. 10.





Rifleman William Potapchuk

B132218 Rifleman William Potapchuk was born in Cochrane, Ontario on 18 August 1922, the son of Ivan Maksimovich and Fedora Potapchuk. He spoke English and Russian, left school at 15, and belonged to the Russian-Greek Church.

He had three sisters and three brothers. The oldest brother John was a corporal in the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment and a German prisoner of war by August 1944.

He was working for Sterling Construction when enlisted with the active service army in Timmins, Ontario on 1 September 1942. He trained at Camp Borden before being sent overseas to join The Queen's Own Rifles on 18 March 1943.

Rifleman Potapchuk landed with D Company on Juno Beach with the second wave on D-Day, 6 June 1944 however he was killed in action aged 21, during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. F. 8.





Rifleman Augustine Patrick Pumphrey

B143050 Rifleman Augustine Patrick Pumphrey was born in Bishop Falls, Newfoundland on 28 March 1918, the son of Thomas Anthony Pumphrey and Blanche McDonald.

He had seven brothers. One, Daniel served in the Royal Navy and another Gerald, served with the Royal Air Force.

Pumphrey left school after completing junior matriculation.

He worked as a truck driver with a contracting company when he enlisted with the Canadian Active Army on 21 Feb 1943 and after training at Camp Borden, arrived in the UK in July, and was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles in September.

Rifleman Pumphrey landed with D Company on D-Day 6 June 1944 but was killed in action on 11 June 1944 during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry, aged 26.



Source: Pumphrey Family, Corner Brook, Newfoundland
Source: Famille Pumphrey, Corner Brook, Terre-Neuve



Corporal Maurice James Quinlan

B65507 Corporal Maurice James Quinlan was born in Belleville, Ontario on 3 July 1917, the son of Edward Thomas Quinlan and Ellen Kathleen Breen.

He had three sisters and three younger brothers. One brother William E., served in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

After moving to Toronto Quinlan attended St Clare's Separate School, De La Salle College, Oaklands and Vaughan Road Collegiates. He was a member of St Clare's Roman Catholic Church. He married Eleanor Myrtle Potts in April 1941.

Quinlan served with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada militia battalion from July 1940 until he transferred to active service on 21 May 1942. At this time he was with General Steel Wares Ltd as an enameller. He was quickly promoted to Acting Corporal and this promotion was confirmed on 23 November 1942. He trained at Camp Niagara and Camp Debert in New Brunswick with the 3rd Battalion QOR.

He arrived in the UK in January 1943 and after further training was posted to the 1st Battalion QOR on 27 May 1943, and continued training with the Regiment until D-Day.

Rifleman Quinlan landed with the second wave on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944 but was killed in action on 11 June aged 26, during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III.B.12. Quinlan is also memorialized on the Vaughan Collegiate Second World War memorial.



MAURICE QUINLAN



Rifleman Awrey Henry Renwick

C101873 Rifleman Awrey Henry Renwick was born on 29 Jan 1923 in Vankleek Hill, Ontario, the son of Frederick William Renwick and Mary Harriet Nicholson.

He had five older sisters and four brothers, the youngest of whom, John James, was serving in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps.

Renwick left school at age 17.

He was living in Brockville, Ontario and working as a machinist apprentice at Smart's Foundry, when he enlisted in Ottawa on 12 November 1942.

Renwick trained at Camp Borden before being posted to the UK as a reinforcement for the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles, to which he reported for duty on 5 April 1943. He continued to train with the Regiment until D-Day.

Rifleman Renwick landed safely with D Company (second wave) on Juno Beach, D-Day, 5 June 1944. However, he was killed in action on 11 June aged 21, during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

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





Rifleman Gordon Howard Rollins

C101579 Rifleman Gordon Howard Rollins was born on 3 April 1918 in Beachburg, Ontario, the son of Robert Rollins and Sarah "Sadie" Jane Kilmartin. He had two sisters and two brothers and left school and briefly apprenticed as a motor mechanic.

Rollins worked as a switcher at the International Nickel mine in Sudbury when he enlisted in Ottawa with the active service army on 12 October 1942 having served one month of training in the militia.

He trained in Cornwall and Camp Borden, arrived in the UK on 4 April 1943, was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 9 July 1943, and trained with them for the next eleven months.

Rifleman Rollins landed on Juno Beach with D Company in the second wave on D-Day, 6 June 1944 but was killed on 11 June, aged 23 during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. H. 4.





Rifleman William “Bill” Smith

B65901 Rifleman William “Bill” Smith was born in Wyebridge, Ontario on 16 May 1908, the son of Sydney Smith and Sarah MacIntyre. He had two sisters and four brothers and left school at 16.

Smith was working for a building contractor in Sundridge, Ontario when he enlisted in Toronto with the 3rd Battalion, The Queen’s Own Rifles on 9 September 1942 and then trained at Camp Niagara and Debert, Nova Scotia. He appears to have lied about his age on attestation papers showing his birthdate as 1910 perhaps to avoid being considered too old to enlist.

Smith arrived in the United Kingdom on 20 September 1943 and was posted to the 1st Battalion QOR on 16 December 1943. He continued to train with the Regiment until D-Day.

Rifleman Smith landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day 5 June 1944. He was killed in action aged 46 on 11 June during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. B. 5.





Lance Corporal William Allan Smith

B63650 Lance Corporal William Allan Smith was born on 8 Nov 1919 in New Toronto, Ontario, the son of William and Mary Smith. His father may have served with The Queen's Own Rifles for 32 years.

L/Cpl Smith had two sisters and left school at 18 after attending Leslie Street School and having completed 4 years at Eastern High School of Commerce.

He had a half-brother who was killed while serving with the Royal Canadian Air Force over Berlin in 1941



Smith had joined The Queen's Own Rifles militia in January 1937 and was working as a messenger at the City Hall branch of the Dominion Bank when he enlisted in the active service battalion on 12 June 1940.

He served in Newfoundland with "W" Force, trained in Sussex, New Brunswick, and then landed in Scotland with the Regiment on 29 July 1941. He trained as a clerk and was appointed Lance Corporal on 23 December 1942. On 23 June 1943, he was given permission to marry Miss Mary Collins of Wrexham, Wales but not before 24 August 1943, however, his service record indicates this was later cancelled. It's not clear if this was the permission or the request but either way, no marriage seems to have taken place.

Rifleman Smith landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. However, he was killed in action during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944, aged 25.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. C. 7.



Rifleman Vincent Anthony Soublière

C110071 Rifleman Vincent Anthony Soublière was born on 20 Aug 1923 in Ottawa, Ontario, the son of Emile Soublière and Aurore Proux. He had one sister, left school at 18 after three years of high school and spoke English and French.

Soublière had done 4 years of army cadets at Academy de-le-Salle, 2 years with the Cameron Highlanders and was working for his father as a cake baker when he enlisted on 3 November 1942 in Ottawa.

He trained at Camp Borden before joining The Queen's Own Rifles in the UK on 5 April 1943. He continued to train with them until D-Day.

Rifleman Soublière landed with D Company on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was killed in action, aged 22, on 11 June during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

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





Lance Corporal Gordon Patrick Sullivan

B63852 Lance Corporal Gordon Patrick Sullivan was born on 4 August 1921 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Herbert and Evelyn Sullivan, and stepson of Frederick Thomas.

He had a sister and three brothers – one of whom served overseas with the Royal Canadian Artillery. He attended Our Lady of Lourdes School and left at age 16 having completed one year of high school.

Sullivan enlisted in the active army service on 17 June 1940, then participated in “W” Force in Newfoundland before further training in Sussex, New Brunswick and crossing to the UK with the Regiment in July 1941. He trained as a mortar man and was appointed Lance Corporal in July 1942, Corporal in April 1943, and Lance Sergeant in July 1943. However, by August he reverted to Rifleman for “resisting an escort whose duty it was to apprehend him.” On 11 June 1944, he was once more appointed Lance Corporal.



Rifleman Sullivan landed on Juno Beach with Support Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was killed on 11 June 1944, at age 23, during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry. He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference II. G. 7.

His mother received his war service gratuity of \$714.27 (worth about \$12,300 in 2023.)



Corporal John Tod

B66003 Corporal John Tod was born on 23 August 1916 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Oswald Alexander Tod and Ethel Dennison. His father died while on active service with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps at Camp Borden in October 1942. A brother served in active service with the 48th Highlanders. Tod also had a sister Betty. At age 16 he left after completing grade 8 at Hillcrest Public School.

Tod was a member of St Jude's Anglican Church and married Florence MacDonald on 26 March 1941 while on leave from training in Sussex, New Brunswick.

Tod was employed by A & P Tea Company as a butcher before enlisting. He joined The Queen's Own Rifles militia battalion on 16 July 1940 however by September he had transferred to the Active Service army. After serving with "W" Force in Newfoundland and training in Sussex, New Brunswick, he arrived in Scotland with the Regiment in July 1941.

While in the UK he trained with the Regiment as well as undertaking army cooking and butchering courses. Appointed Lance Corporal on 25 September 1943, Acting Corporal in January 1944, and confirmed as a Corporal in April 1944.

Corporal Tod landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was killed in action on 11 June 1944, aged 26 during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference IV. G. 12.





Rifleman James Henry Welch

B135616 Rifleman James Henry Welch was born on 29 Apr 1910 in Sundridge, Parry Sound, Ontario, the son of Charles Alexander (Alex) Welch and Alice Russell. He had two younger brothers and three sisters.

He married first Louis Bell Brace (d.1932) on 28 August 1930 and had one daughter. In 1935 he married Julia Elizabeth (Hope) Raaflaub and had two sons and two daughters.

Welch worked as an assayer for a mining company when he enlisted with the militia in Kirkland Lake on 10 July 1942 and with the active service army on 4 November 1942.

He trained in Orillia and Camp Borden and arrived in the UK on 4 April 1943. He was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles on 11 June 1943 and continued training with them until D-Day.

Rifleman Welch landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was killed in action aged 34, on 11 June during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. H. 2.





Rifleman Albert Norman Westlake

B68737 Rifleman Albert Norman Westlake was born on 17 March 1919 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Robert Robson Westlake and Esther "Etta" Lee. Robert had died in 1936 and Etta was institutionalized with mental health issues. Albert left school at 16 having completed Grade 8.

Albert was the brother of Private George Westlake, who died while serving with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders and of Rifleman Thomas Westlake, who served with Albert in The Queens Own Rifles of Canada and died on the same day, in the same battle. (He also had two other living brothers and three more had died in infancy.)

Albert was working as a labourer at Canada Packers Inc. when he enlisted in Toronto with the active service army on 30 April 1943, having served a compulsory 30 days of training in Nov/Dec 1940. He trained at Camp Borden until arriving in the United Kingdom on 4 January 1944. He trained in various reinforcement units until being posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in April.

Rifleman Westlake landed with D Company on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was killed in action aged 26, on 11 June during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

Thomas (III. D. 7) and Albert (III. D. 8.) are buried next to each other in the Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. Their brother George died seven days before them and is also buried there.

The Westlake brothers are also commemorated with a plaque in a Toronto park near their home which was renamed in their honour on 9 June 1996.





Rifleman Thomas Lee Westlake

B131131 Rifleman Thomas Lee Westlake was born on 13 February 1915 in Toronto, Ontario, the son of Robert Robson Westlake and Esther "Etta" Lee. Robert had died in 1936 and Etta was institutionalized with mental health issues. He left school at 16 having completed Grade 8.

Thomas was the brother of Private George Westlake, who died while serving with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders and of Rifleman Albert Westlake, who served with Thomas in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and died on the same day, in the same battle. (He also had two other living brothers and three more had died in infancy.)

Thomas worked as a labourer for Moffatt's Co. when he enlisted with the Active Service Army in Toronto on 12 August 1942 and trained in Cornwall and Camp Borden before arriving in the United Kingdom on 4 April 1943. He was taken on strength with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 11 June 1943.

Rifleman Westlake landed with D Company on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was killed in action aged 29, on 11 June during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

Thomas (III. D. 7) and Albert (III. D. 8.) are buried next to each other in the Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. Their brother George died seven days before them and is also buried there.

The Westlake brothers are also commemorated with a plaque in a Toronto park near their home which was renamed in their honour on 9 June 1996.





Rifleman Edwin Andrew Whitehouse

B64022 Rifleman Edwin Andrew Whitehouse was born on 18 June 1923 in Brampton, Ontario, the son of Samuel Henry Whitehouse (d.1927) and Margaret Millicent Cuthbert. He had three older sisters and one older brother. He left school at age 13.

Whitehouse joined the Lorne Scot's militia battalion in January 1940 and worked as a storekeeper at William's Shoe Company when he enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada's active service battalion on 19 June.

He trained in Camp Borden, served with "W" Force in Newfoundland, trained in Sussex, New Brunswick, and qualified as a Regimental signaller. He landed in Scotland with the Queen's Own on 29 July 1941. He continued to train with the Regiment and individually (wireless set operator) until D-Day, was appointed Acting Lance Corporal on 24 June 1943 but reverted to Rifleman at his own request in December.

Rifleman Whitehouse landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was killed in action on 11 June 1944, aged 20, during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry. He is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. F. 12.

Lieutenant Colonel Spragge wrote to his mother:

"A counter-attack was being formed up against a thinly held point in the line which, if broken, would have allowed the enemy to break through to the beaches. Although his company was well supported by tanks, casualties were heavy. Through the actions of your son this operation was a success"





Rifleman Arthur Orville Vickery Williams

C26365 Rifleman Arthur Orville Vickery Williams was born on 14 January 1919 in Lindsay, Ontario, the son of Alfred Stanley Williams and Neta Lillian Vickery. He had three sisters, was educated at Lindsay public schools and was a member of Queen St United Church in Lindsay where his father was the Sunday School Superintendent.

Williams was delivering for a grocery store when enlisted with the 45th Field Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery in Lindsay on 29 November 1939 which became the 12th Field Battery. He trained in Tracadie, New Brunswick and had bouts of hospitalization. He disembarked in the UK on 22 November 1941 and was transferred to the 7th Artillery Field Regiment. During the next few years, he qualified as a regimental signalman (artillery) and was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 5 August 1943. He was again in and out of hospital for the next several months. On 15 April 1944 he was granted permission to marry (as soon as possible) however this was cancelled on 6 June.



He landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was killed in action on 11 June aged 25, during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

Unlike all but one of his comrades who fell that day, he is buried at Bretteville-Sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery (south of Caen), grave reference XII. G. 6.



Rifleman Donald Alexander Wilson

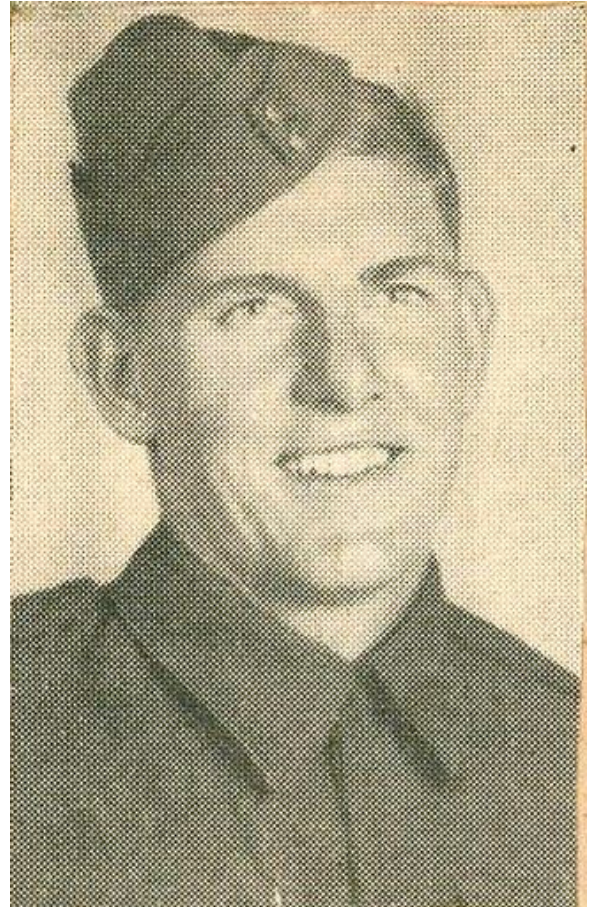
B145892 Rifleman Donald Alexander Wilson was born on 2 January 1924 in Milton, Ontario, the son of David Wilson and Daisy Rose.

He had four sisters and one brother. He completed Grade 10 and left school at 17.

Wilson was working as a slotter machine operator for P.L. Robertson when he enlisted on 9 April 1943 and trained at Camp Borden, Ontario.

He arrived in the UK on 2 December 1943 and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 20 January 1944.

He was killed on 11 June aged 20 during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry and is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. B. 14.





Rifleman William Ernest Woodhouse

B65622 Rifleman William Ernest Woodhouse was born on 29 July 1922 in Oshawa, Ontario, the son of Ernest Woodhouse and Agnes Dagleish. He had a younger brother Albert and a sister Gladys. Woodhouse left school at the age of 16.

He married June Anne Clement of Oshawa on 22 August 1942 in Oshawa, Ontario.

Woodhouse worked as a paint mixer at General Motors before he enlisted in Toronto with the 3rd Battalion of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 6 June 1942. He had been serving with the 11th Reserve Tank Battalion since 1937.

He trained at Camp Niagara in Ontario, Debert Camp in New Brunswick, and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

He arrived in the United Kingdom on 20 September 1943 and was posted to the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles on 30 October 1943. He embarked on a ship for France on 3 June 1944.

Woodhouse was killed in action during the battle for Le Mesnil Patry on 11 June 1944, aged 22 and is buried in Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. B. 13.





Rifleman Mervyn Herbert Young

B135536 Rifleman Mervyn Herbert Young was born on 20 February 1923 in McCool, Ontario, the 6th of 10 children (6 brothers and 3 sisters) to Thomas Erwin Young and Susan "Verda" Armitage. The family moved to Kirkland Lake in 1926 where Mervyn attended elementary school, then 3 years of high school at Kirkland Lake Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

Young had worked as a truck driver and munitions worker when he enlisted on 3 November 1942 for active service at No. 2 Depot in Toronto. He arrived in the United Kingdom on 4 Apr 1943 and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 10 June 1943.

Rifleman Young landed with D Company on the Normandy beaches on D-Day 6 June 1944. Five days later, he was killed in action on 11 June during the battle for the village of Le Mesnil Patry.

He is one of two soldiers killed that day who is buried in Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery (south of Caen), grave reference XVI. A. 1.

The inscription on his grave marker reads:

TO THE WORLD HE WAS ONLY ONE
TO US HE WAS ALL THE WORLD
MOTHER
BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Like many other young soldiers, he left his estate to his mother which included a \$500 life insurance policy.





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.

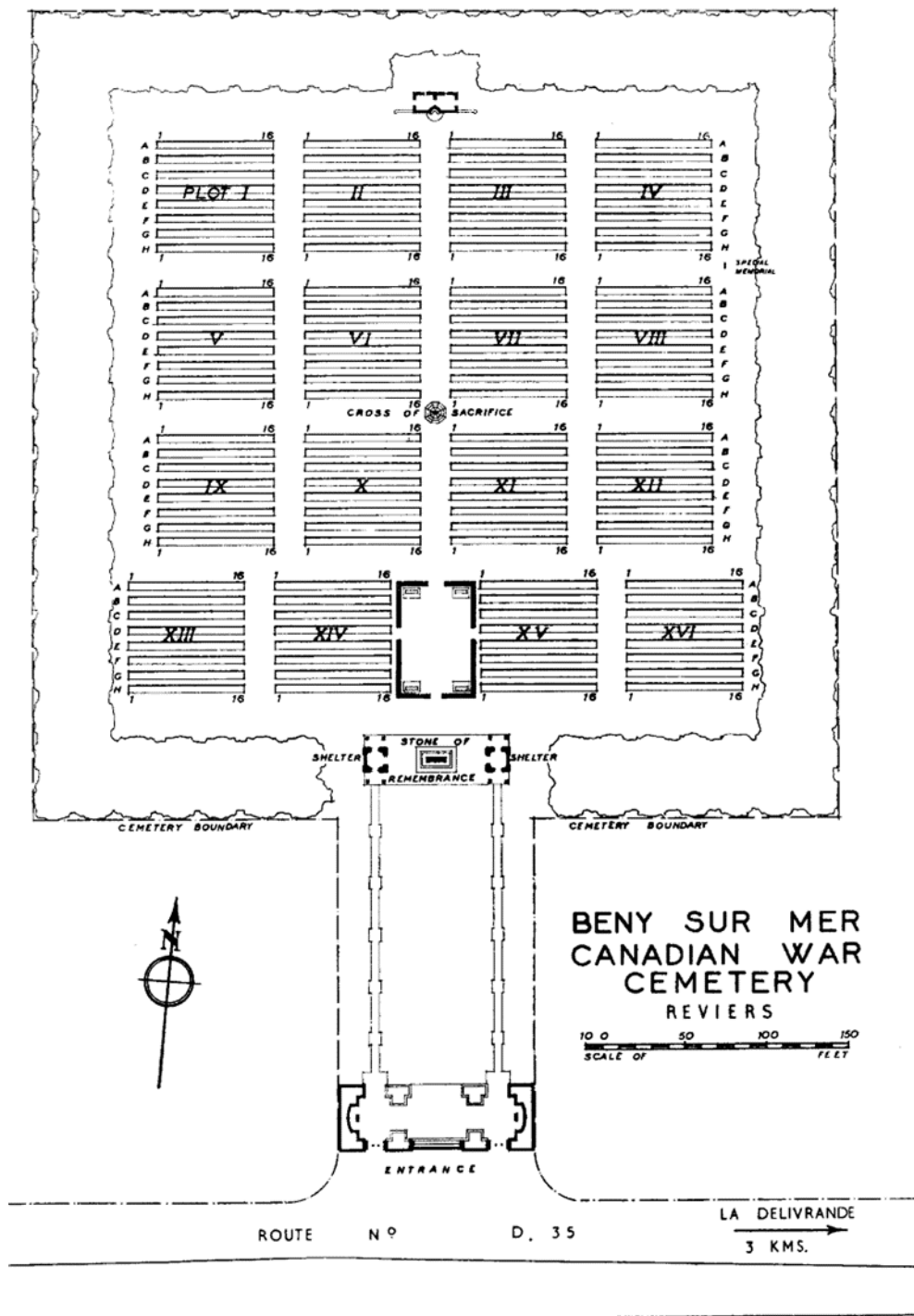
The bus service between Caen and Arromanches (via Reviers and Ver-sur-Mer) passes the cemetery.

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.



Bény-sur-Mer Cemetery Plan





About Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery

This cemetery lies on the west side of the main road from Caen to Falaise (route N158) and just north of the village of Cintheaux.

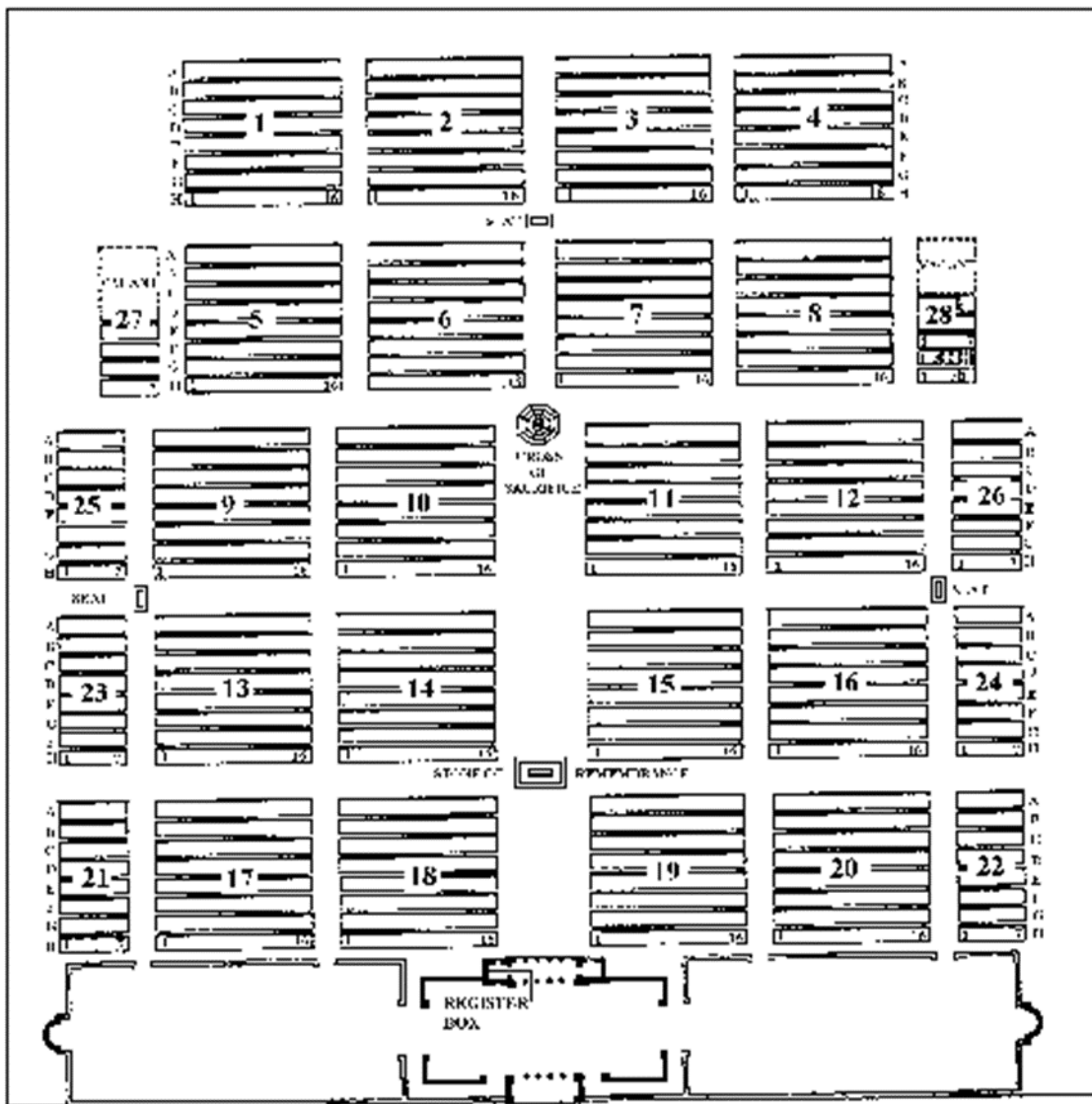
Bretteville-sur-Laize is a village and commune in the department of the Calvados, some 16 kilometres south of Caen. The village of Bretteville lies 3 kilometres south-west of the Cemetery.

Buried here are those who died during the later stages of the battle of Normandy, the capture of Caen and the thrust southwards (led initially by the 4th Canadian and 1st Polish Armoured Divisions), to close the Falaise Gap, and thus seal off the German divisions fighting desperately to escape being trapped west of the Seine.

Almost every unit of Canadian 2nd Corps is represented in the Cemetery. There are about 3,000 allied forces casualties of the Second World War commemorated in this site including 37 who served with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.



Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery Plan



BRETTEVILLE - SUR - LAIZE CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY



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.