

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada
Profiles of our Fallen
Part III:
The Netherlands





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

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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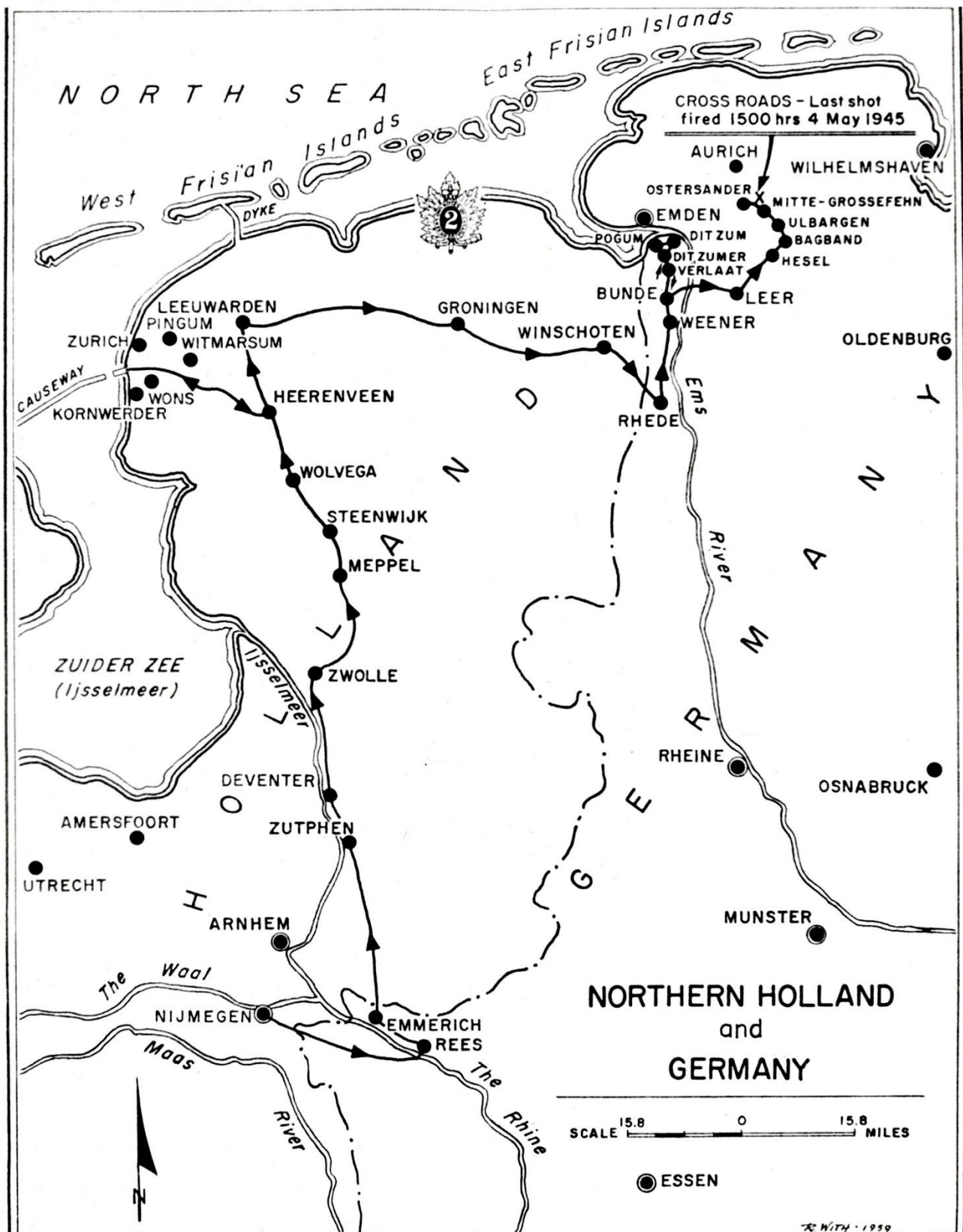
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Map of Northern Holland and Germany



About Bergen-Op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery

Located north of the Scheldt River near the Belgian border, Bergen-op-Zoom contains 968 Canadian graves, including 64 from the RCAF. Most of the soldiers buried at Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery lost their lives in the fighting north of Antwerp during the Battle of the Scheldt, as the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division, with support from the 4th Canadian Armoured Division, worked to clear the right (north) bank of the Scheldt estuary of German forces. Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery contains 1,118 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 31 of which are unidentified. Only one soldier from The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada is buried here: Rifleman Gummow.

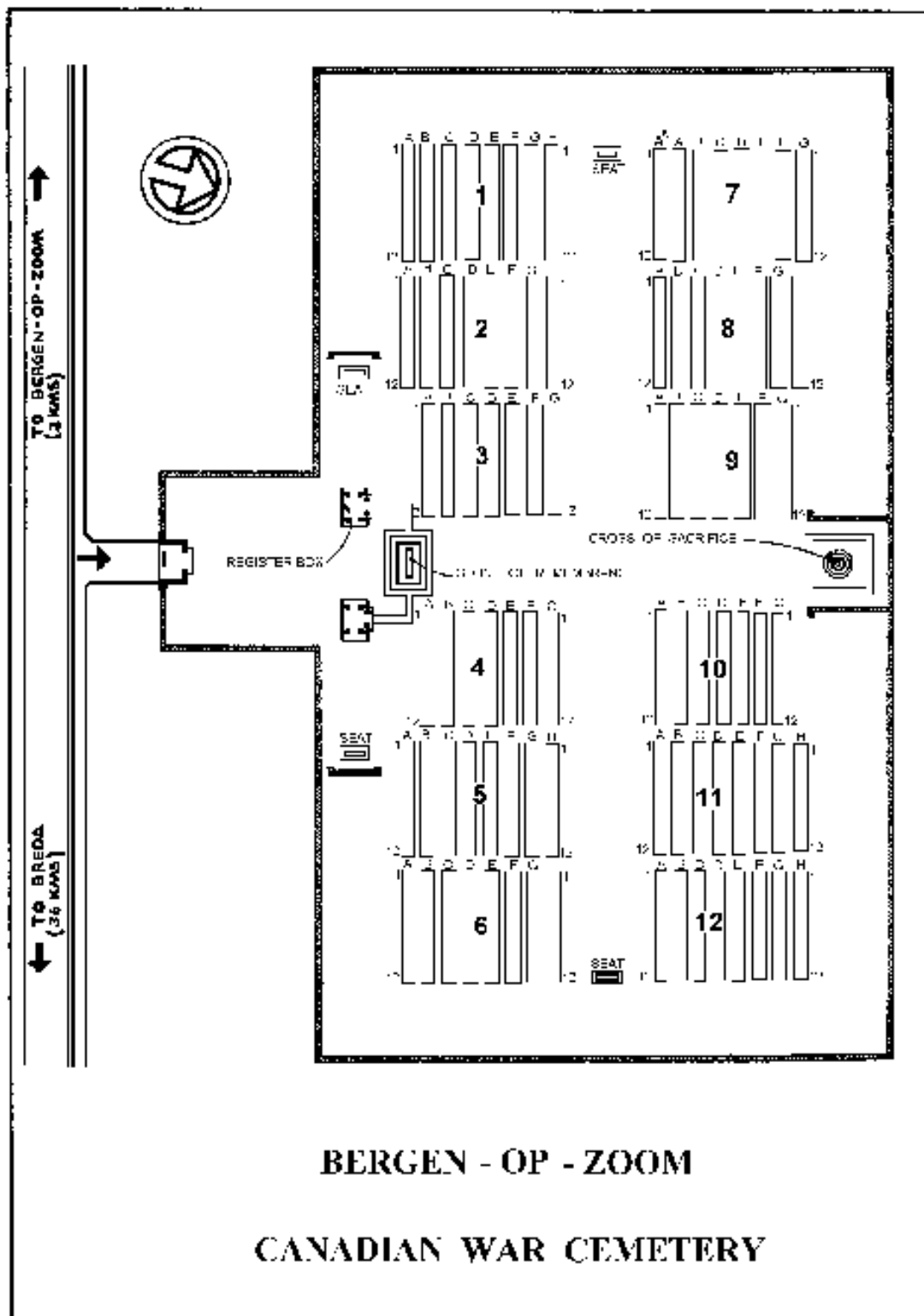
Getting There:

Bergen-Op-Zoom is located 39 Km north west of Antwerp and 19 Km after passing the Border into the Netherlands. The N11 connects Antwerp to Bergen op Zoom via Kapellen, Pulte, Hoogerheide and finally on to Bergen op Zoom.

On reaching Bergen op Zoom railway station turn right onto the Stationsplein and after 200 M turn right onto the Bredastraat. Follow this road for 500 M where it becomes Wouwsestraatweg and carry straight on for 2.5 kilometres. The street name has now changed to the Ruytershoveweg and the BERGEN-OP-ZOOM CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY can be found on the left of this street. Steps into cemetery (not suitable for wheelchairs).



Bergen-Op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery Plan



Rifleman Charles Robert Gummow

B68844 Rifleman Charles Robert Gummow was born in Milestone, Saskatchewan on 6 November 1924, the son of William James Gummow and Margaret Evelyn Hankinson. At 16, he left after two years of high school.

He served in the Algonquin Regiment from April 1941 to 1943.

When Gummow enlisted in the Army at Parry Sound in 1943, he'd worked operating a cordite area for Defense Industries Limited in Noble, Ontario, and previously for eight months on a farm.

After training in Brantford and Camp Borden, Gummow arrived in England in March 1944. After D-Day, he joined the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada as a replacement for Baker Company on 7 July 1944. was wounded on 18 July, wounded again on 29 July, and taken back on strength with the QOR on 4 November 1944.

Rifleman Gummow was seriously wounded on 19 December 1944 in an attack on an isolated house in the Wyler Berg area of Holland. He died four days later of his wounds, aged 20.

He is buried in Bergen-Op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference 5. H. 5. His family had the following epitaph engraved on his marker::

ALL HE HAD, HE GAVE
THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE
IN PEACE
SADLY MISSED AND REMEMBERED



About Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery

Allied forces entered the Netherlands on 12 September 1944. Airborne operations later that month established a bridgehead at Nijmegen and in the following months, coastal areas and ports were cleared and secured, but it was not until the German-initiated offensive in the Ardennes had been repulsed that the drive into Germany could begin.

Most of those buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery were Canadians, many of whom died in the Battle of the Rhineland, when the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions and the 4th Canadian Armoured Division took part in the drive southwards from Nijmegen to clear the territory between the Maas and the Rhine in February and March 1945.

Others buried here died earlier or later in the southern part of the Netherlands and in the Rhineland. The cemetery contains 2,610 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, and nine war graves of other nationalities. Within the cemetery stands the Groesbeek Memorial, which commemorates by name more than 1,000 members of the Commonwealth land forces who died during the campaign in north-west Europe between the time of crossing the Seine at the end of August 1944 and the end of the war in Europe, and whose graves are not known. These include 72 members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

On the Memorial in the Canadian War Cemetery at Groesbeek are inscribed the following words: Pro amicis mortui amicis vivimus – “We live in the hearts of friends for whom we died.”

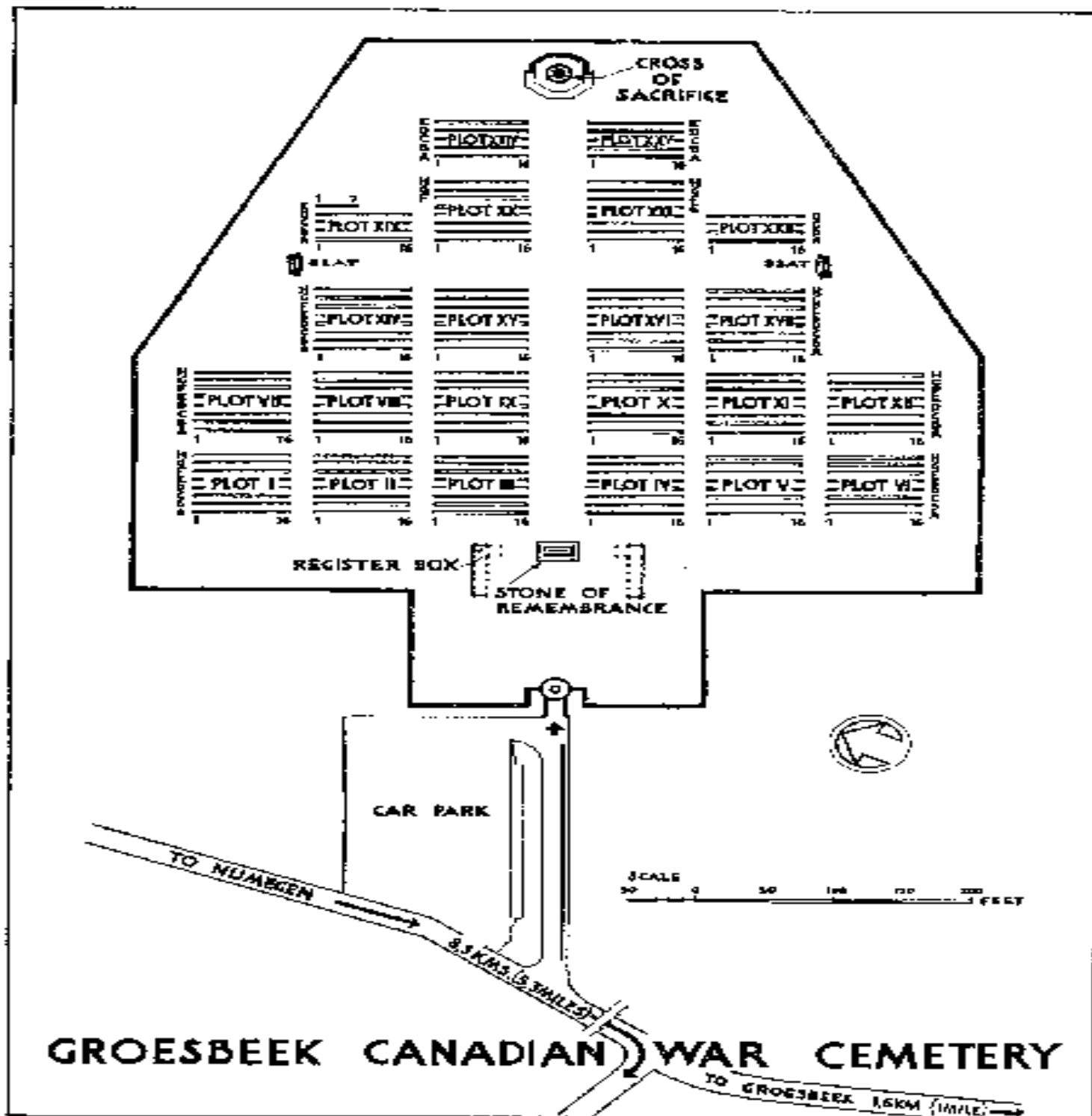
Thirty-four Riflemen, including [Sgt Aubrey Cosens, VC](#), died during the brutal battle on 26 February 1945 that was part of Operation Blockbuster. They, and two more who died of wounds received during the battle, are buried at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.

To read more about the Operation and the days leading up to the battle read the research paper written by former Rifleman and retired U.S. Army Colonel William C. Ball: [The Regiment's “Toughest Scrap” February 26, 1945](#).

Getting There:

Groesbeek is located 10 km south east of the town of Nijmegen and close to the German frontier. The Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery is 3 km north of the village and 1500 metres east of the main road to Nijmegen. On leaving the A73 motorway at the junction Overasselt Mook Groesbeek follow directions to Mook. Follow direction signs towards Mook War cemetery. After passing Mook War cemetery continue to the village of Groesbeek to a set of traffic lights. Turn left at the lights onto Dorpstraat passing through Groesbeek. The road name then changes to Molenweg. A Commonwealth War Graves Commission direction sign indicates the right hand turning from Molenweg onto the Zeven Heuvelenweg. The Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery is located on the right hand side, about 1 km after entering this road.

Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery Plan



Captain

Harvey George Willmott Bean, M.C.

Captain Harvey George Willmott Bean, MC was born in Toronto, Ontario on 30 November 1921, the son of Lieutenant Colonel Harvey B. George (Canadian Army Dental Corps) and Eva Mae Bean. He attended the University of Toronto Schools where he was a School Captain.

He joined The Queen's Own Rifles after his high school matriculation and went overseas at 19. He returned to Canada to take an officer's course and rejoined the QOR in England in 1942.

During the attack on Les Mesnil-Patry on 11 Jun 1944, then Lieutenant Bean was wounded three times. His company commander had been killed and Bean only gave up command of the company when he was rendered unconscious. He was rescued by the seven remaining members of his unit who commandeered a tank. By this time the only person left to command was [Sergeant Samuel Thomas Scrutton](#). Bean was awarded a Military Cross for "gallant and distinguished service in the field" and Scrutton the Distinguished Conduct Medal for this action.



He was killed in a heavy artillery bombardment during the Rhineland campaign on 14 February 1945 and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery grave reference I. D. 5. The epitaph on his grave marker is:

HE GAVE HIS ALL FOR FREEDOM

Service Record

- 29 Feb 1944 – Posted to the QOR from the 4th Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit
- 6 Jun 1944 – Landed on D-Day
- 11 Jun 1944 – Struck off strength to wounded list
- 27 Aug 1944 – Awarded Military Cross
- 28 Sep 1944 – Taken back on strength to QOR
- 28 Sep 1944 – Promoted acting Captain
- 2 Oct 1944 – Attached to Headquarters, 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade
- 25 Oct 1944 – Returned to QOR from 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade HQ
- 29 Dec 1944 – Promoted substantive Captain
- 6-14 Jan 1945 – Proceeded on Snipers Course
- 14 Feb 1945 – Killed in action, aged 23

Rifleman George Armstrong Bell

B157584 Rifleman George Armstrong Bell was born on July 3, 1909, in Hamilton, Ont., to Walter Armstrong Bell and Sarah Jane Berryman. He moved with the family to Round Plains, near Waterford, when he was a boy.

He grew up on a farm and, after leaving school at age 13, worked on the farm, drove a truck on milk collection and eventually took a job at the Steel Company of Canada Limited in Hamilton where he worked for 13 years. He was earning \$12 a day as a “rougher of steel” when he enlisted.

George married Florence Bernice Sovereign on April 2, 1932, in Aldershot, Ont. They owned a house at 127 Fairfield Ave. N. in Hamilton and at the time he enlisted they had four children under the age of 10: Marilyn, 8, Carole, 5, George Jr., 3, and David, 7 months. He also had two sisters, Clara Edythe Smith (Fred), of Vanessa, and Marjorie Alma Smith (Arthur), of Hamilton.

George’s military records show he planned to return to farm work after the war and echoed that wish in a letter home three weeks before his death: “I think before long we will all be back to help with the chores.”

George was eager to serve his country in the Second World War. In 1944, he followed in the footsteps of his brother, Corporal Walter Bell, who was serving overseas in the Royal Canadian Air Force and two brothers-in-law in service. George enlisted on Jan. 5, 1944, in the armoured corps, trained in Brampton and at Camp Borden and went overseas in July 1944. An assessment by his training officer stated:

“This volunteer expressed a desire to join the Armoured Corps. His mechanical aptitude, employment in the steel industry, intelligence, amiability, strength and stamina suggest his suitability for service in that arm.”

He got along well with his fellow servicemen, was a member of two recreational clubs, played in a pipe and drum band, and enjoyed fishing, hunting and sports.

Once overseas, George was transferred to an infantry regiment, The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada.

“Almost exactly three weeks before he died, he talks about killing idle time between battles – of winning a loaf of bread and a can of cheese in a game of checkers. ‘Boy did we ever have a lot of fun. You wouldn’t think you could have fun around here with so many shells flying around. But you get so you never even notice them. When I come home I’ll have to get up in the middle of the night and shoot my shotgun off. So I can sleep. Ha. Ha.’” (Simcoe Reformer)



George played a part in the Battle of the Rhineland, a key offensive effort just over the German border that cleared the territory between the Maas and the Rhine rivers in February and March 1945 and secured the banks of the Rhine River from Strasbourg, France, to Nijmegen, Netherlands. This victory made it easier for future divisions to move forward and capture enemy territory.

The battle stretched on and in February 1945, B and D companies of George's regiment led a series of attacks on German strongholds. They advanced on abandoned German villages, taking cover in barns and damaged houses where Germans had once lived.

Entries in the Queen's Own Rifles' war diaries describe difficult operations at Mooshof, a village in Germany. During Objective Queer, the Canadians were "counter-attacked savagely by enemy paratroops," and although the enemy attack was unsuccessful, "fighting in the darkness was very vicious, and also confusing."

During this hard-won operation, George was wounded, taken to a regimental aid post, tended to by doctors and moved to a field ambulance station where he died the next day, Feb. 26. He died in or near Mooshof (official details are sparse).

A letter to George's widow, Bernice, from Andrew J. Mowatt, honorary Captain and Chaplain of the Queen's Own Rifles, provides this moving account of the early morning attack:



"On Feb. 25th we moved up after dark to a position just a few hundred yards from the enemy. The men took shelter in barns, wrecked houses and dugouts. Shortly after midnight, our artillery fired a very heavy barrage of shells upon the well-dug in German positions. Sharp at 4:30 on the morning of Mon. Feb. 26th our lads attacked across more or less open fields. The enemy reacted much more vigorously than usual since we were fighting on his own soil, in his best-defended area.

They threw back a lot of shells and mortar bombs and actually counter-attacked in some sectors. As they were well entrenched their own artillery was able to fire on their own positions and thus hit a few of their own men while our men had to attack in the open. There were many machine gun nests also, so it was a difficult and dangerous attack.

Our lads captured their objective in a few hours and thus broke the best-held enemy positions. The result was that other battalions raced through and captured important towns and villages with comparative ease. . . . You will know at least that your husband died for his country and in his death made the way easier for others to go through to our final victory."

Thirty-four other men were killed in action in that operation. One of those men, [Sergeant Aubrey Cosens](#), of Latchford, Ont., was

killed by a sniper after killing 20 Germans and capturing 20 others, and awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.

Maj.-General A.E. Walford wrote in a letter to Bernice:

"It was with deep regret that I learned of the death of your husband, B157584, Private George Armstrong Bell, who gave his life in the Service of his Country in the Western European Theatre of War on the 26th day of February 1945. We pay tribute to the sacrifice he so bravely made."

Rifleman Bell was first buried in a grave (931526) in a temporary burial ground in Bedburg, Germany, before being moved to the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, near Nijmegen, Netherlands, grave reference X. H. 16. The epitaph on his grave marker reads:

CHRIST ALSO HATH LOVED US
AND HATH GIVEN HIMSELF
FOR US.

After George's death, Bernice moved the family to Waterford. Daughters Marilyn and Carole helped care for their brother, George Jr., who died of leukemia in 1950.

Bernice died in 2000. Looking back, Carole (now Logan) said life was hard in those days but she remembers being comforted by neighbours offering the family help. Choosing to find the positive in the sacrifice her father made, she said, "We've had a good life."

George's QOR Coin of Remembrance is held by Corporal (Ret'd) Lee Harrison.



Lance Corporal Robert William Blencoe

B63868 Lance Corporal Robert William Blencoe (also Blencowe) was born in Newmarket, Ontario on 25 August 1920, the son of William Albert Blencowe and Edith Sophy Middleton, and had four brothers (3 also served) and three sisters. He left school at 16 having completed public school.

Blencoe was a woodworker for Officer Specialty Manufacturing Company when he enlisted in Toronto on 12 Jun 1940 with The Queen's Own Rifles.

He served in Newfoundland with W Force and on 29 Aug 1941 disembarked in Courock, Scotland. On 26 Jan 1944 Blencoe was appointed Lance Corporal. He landed on Juno Beach on D-Day on 6 Jun 1944 and was wounded on 10 Aug 1944. He returned to the QOR on 20 Oct.

Lance Corporal Blencoe was killed in action in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany on 30 May 1945 and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XX. E. 2.

A letter was written to his parents by the Regimental Chaplain A. J. Mowatt which included the following excerpts:

"Bob was killed after we crossed the Rhine River and started to take out the strong German position of Emmerich and Hoch Elton. A mortar bomb landed near him and killed him instantly. We feel badly about it as his comrades felt his loss keenly. You will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that your son helped break the strong German position and allowed us to break right through and free northern Holland."

"With some of his friends attending, I buried Bob in our temporary Canadian cemetery in Vrsasselt, Germany... I hope you will feel the way that we do who survive. Bob and his comrades have given their lives to clear this world of history's greatest gangsters. After visiting the occupied countries, we firmly believe this. We shall not, with God's help, repeat our mistakes of the pre-war years"



Rifleman Ross Alexander Brown

L91715 Rifleman Ross Alexander Brown was born in Success, Saskatchewan on 22 September 1922, the son of Charles Henderson Brown and Sarah Melissa Stewart. He was the seventh of nine children: six sisters Lucille, Phyllis Elaine, Helen Margaret (Nora), Donalda Susan, Fern, Iris Pearl, and two brothers Clair Charles, and Stuart George.

After Ross left primary education at the age of 13 (Grade VIII), he became a shop assistant at W.W. Cooper Department Store in Swift Current.

Ross married Kathleen Schulz in Medicine Hat, Alberta on 16 May 1942, and they had a son, Douglas Ross.

On May 19, 1942, he signed up with the 22nd Field Company of the Royal Canadian Engineers (RCE) in Regina, Saskatchewan. He took his basic training in Dundurn, Saskatchewan, after which he served at various bases in British Columbia.



On May 26, 1944, Ross Alexander embarked for England, and from there he went to France on July 29, 1944. On August 1, 1944, he was among one of the ten replacement troops that were posted to A Company of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

During the Battle of Caen – Operation Windsor – the QOR, as part of the 8th Infantry Brigade, was ordered to take Carpiquet airfield, which was defended by the 12th SS Panzer Division Hitler Jugend. Then they fought their way along the Normandy coast, after which, in the afternoon of October 4, 1944, they crossed the French-Belgian border in the vicinity of Poperinge.

Ross and twenty-two other soldiers received the Good Conduct Badge on September 18, 1944.

On February 25, 1945, the QOR started preparing for Operation Blockbuster and during heavy fighting in the early morning of February 26, 1945, Rifleman Brown was hit by deadly machine gun fire and killed in action.

He was buried at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. D. 6., where he was reburied on September 10, 1945. On his grave marker, the following words are inscribed:

COME TO ME, ALL YE THAT LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST

His military documents contained a will that stated that he left a plot of land (plot 16) in Swift Current to his sister Iris Pearl and all other possessions to his wife, Kathleen Brown. His wife remarried, became Mrs. Lange and moved to Dallas in Oregon, USA.

From Henk Mostert, Faces to Graves

Rifleman William Robert Brown

B56077 Rifleman William Robert Brown was born on 19 May 1921, in Oshawa, Ontario, the son of Edward Norman Brown and Ernestine Ruby Jeanetta Drinkle. He had two brothers and one sister and left school at age 16 having completed grade 7.

Brown worked as a truck driver when he enlisted on 17 September 1942 with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps.

Brown married Marion Ruth Perry on 22 May 1943.

After training at Simcoe, Ontario, Camp Borden and Debert, Nova Scotia, and having gone overseas, he was taken on strength with The Queen's Own Rifles on 16 February 1945.



Just ten days later, Rifleman Brown was killed in action in Mooshof, Germany on 26 February 1945, aged 23 and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. D. 9.

His wife received a war gratuity payment of \$341.14 (equivalent to about about \$5,978.21 in 2024.)



Rifleman Herbert Cuthbertson Calbert

B116330 Rifleman Herbert Cuthbertson Calbert was born on 12 March, 1926 in Toronto, the son of William Cuthbertson, and Annie Rosina, both of whom were born in Scotland. William had fought in the First World War and spent five years in the army; he was wounded several times before returning to Canada, where he married in 1919.

Herbert had six brothers, Alfred, [William \(Bill\)](#), Thomas, Robert (Bob), James and Donald; he had one sister, Catherine Margaret (Kay). The family belonged to the United Church.

Herbert was brought up in Locust Hill, York County, Ontario, where his father had a farm. He attended the local school and completed grade 7. He then worked on Roy Carter's farm for two years in Green River, also in the Toronto area. In his army record, he said that he was a farmer but did not want to return to Green River, preferring to settle permanently in Locust Hill.



On 9 September, 1943, at the age of 17, Herbert enlisted in Toronto where he had preliminary interviews and a medical examination. He was 5ft. 5ins. tall and weighed 123 lbs. with blue eyes and brown hair. His health was good and he was rated A1.

After a month he was moved to Brantford and then Borden for infantry training. In January 1944 he was placed with the 1st Battalion of the Midland Regiment. In March he was transferred to Prince Rupert in British Columbia where a few weeks later he was given leave for 21 days. On return, more training followed and on 1 June he was given 16 days of embarkation leave. He sailed to the UK arriving on 8 July and only ten days later he was already in France.

While still in Canada, Herbert had been attached to the Queen's Own Rifles which had taken part in the D-day landings with a heavy loss of life. Herbert probably travelled with a group of reinforcements to join them. The 1st Battalion at this point was involved in the heavy fighting around Caen until at the end of July they were given a short rest period in Fontaine Henry where the 'new boys' were given extra training.

The QOR then continued through northern France to Abbeville and the important ports of Boulogne and Calais which they reached at the end of September. In October, the Battles of the Schelde river took place in Belgium and Zeeuwse Vlanders in the Netherlands in which the QOR was involved.

On 3 November, they went back to Ghent for a week's well-earned rest, receiving a tremendous welcome from the people there. The battalion was then transported some 200 kilometres north-eastwards to the Nijmegen area, situated close to the Dutch-German border. The next three months were a kind of waiting period before the immense Operation Veritable began in February 1945. It

was by no means free of enemy activity but Nijmegen had been liberated and there was more opportunity for the troops to enjoy various activities and have a cleanup when not on duty.

The QOR was stationed at different points near the border, moving every week or ten days. After they arrived in Berg and Dal, they were in Erlecom near the Waal River and Wylerberg, where there was frequent enemy activity with shells and mortar fire, sometimes resulting in casualties. Both sides infiltrated across the lines at times; an enemy prisoner could provide valuable information.

Whenever possible, daily activities could include battle drill training and route marches. It was winter and flooding became a serious problem in low-lying areas, leading to the use of amphibious vehicles and boats. In the first weeks of January, near Groesbeek, the QOR faced increased enemy activity necessitating more patrol duties. In Mook and then Ubbergen, conditions were more congenial and there was time for intensive training. With the massing of equipment and armour in the area, it was becoming obvious that a big operation was imminent.

Operation Veritable began on 8 February, 1945 and the next day, the QOR moved to an assembly area in the shipyards near Millingen, remaining there for ten days. There was severe flooding to a depth of more than two feet because the dikes had been blown up.

Boats had to be used to move around, on 20 February, the battalion moved back to Beek in the amphibious Buffalo vehicles and two days later was transported into Germany, through the Reichswald and Kleve to Bedburg Hau.

On 23 February there was a relaxation period and a chance for a cleanup in preparation for Operation Blockbuster. In the evening of the 25th, the Battalion travelled to an area north of Uedem, preparing for battle in the early morning of 26 February. It was a day of heavy fighting. The Canadians were savagely counter-attacked by enemy paratroopers but the Germans were eventually unsuccessful and suffered hundreds of casualties.

There were around 100 casualties on 26 February in the Queen's Own and one of those killed was Herbert Calbert, two weeks before his 19th birthday. He was buried five days later in Bedburg Hau, near Kleve. On 9 July, 1946 he was reburied in the Canadian Military Cemetery, Groesbeek in the Netherlands. Plot VIII. H. 1.

Herbert's oldest brother, Alfred served in the army in Europe and returned to Canada after the end of the war.

His elder brother, [William Cuthbertson Calbert](#) (Bill), B 66122 also served in the Queen's Own Rifles and was married to Mary Alice of Locust Hill, Ontario. He was killed as he landed on Juno Beach, Normandy on D-day, 6 June, 1944 and buried in the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian Military Cemetery near Revers. William was 22 years old.

An Berben-Schreven of Groesbeek adopted the grave as a young girl.

From Gwyn de Jong, Research Team Faces to Graves

Rifleman Edward Anthony Calnan

B159468 Rifleman Edward Anthony Calnan was born in Cobourg, Ontario on 19 December 1922, the son of Thomas Clement Calnan and Eden Helen Catherine “Nellie” Delanty. He was Roman Catholic and had four brothers and one sister.

Calnan worked as an acetylene welder for Fleet Aircraft in Fort Erie, Ontario, when he enlisted with the Canadian Army on 23 February 1944. After training in Brantford, Camp Borden, and Currie Barracks in Calgary, he arrived overseas on 5 October 1945.

After further training in England, he was posted as a reinforcement to The Queen's Own Rifles on 5 January 1945.

Rifleman Calnan was wounded on 3 March 1945 and died of wounds aged 22 later that same day. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery in The Netherlands, grave reference VII. H. 12

The epitaph on his grave marker reads”

REMEMBERED BY HIS PARENTS
BROTHERS AND SISTER
MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE



Lieutenant Donald David Chadbolt

L57848 Lieutenant Donald David Chadbolt, was born on 29 April 1923, in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, the son of John Walter Chadbolt, and of Anna Marie Duchak.

He was a student when he originally enlisted on 2 June, 1941 as a gunner with the 67th Field Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery, and by the end of the month, he was promoted to Acting Sergeant.

He then proceeded to Petawawa for further training before arriving in England in November 1941.

He was confirmed as a Sergeant in January 1941 but by April he was struck off strength to No. 3 Canadian Army Recruitment Unit (CARU) – a note on his service record says “underage”?

The next several months are a little unclear but he took several different training courses and was identified as a possible candidate for officer training.

He was commissioned in February 1944 but continued on further training while still posted to CARU. On 6 January, 1945, he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles as a reinforcement officer.

Lieutenant Chadbolt was killed in the early hours of 26th February 1945 at the age of 21. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, The Netherlands, grave reference VIII. H. 9.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS
FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED
THE CHILDREN OF GOD



Lieutenant John James Chambers

B64802 Lieutenant John James Chambers, was born in Gateshead-on-Tyne, Durham, England on 29 October 1922, the son of Corporal Edward Septimus Chambers and Anna Winifred Hunter. His father served with the Northumberland Fusiliers in the First World War and with the Veterans Guard during the Second including two years as a prisoner of war guard in Gravenhurst, Ontario. John was a member of St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church in Toronto.

Immediately after graduating from McMurrich Public School, Central Technical School (where he was an Army Cadet), and the Ontario College of Art, he enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (Active Army) on 29 September 1941, having served with the Reserve Battalion as a Rifleman from June to August 1941. He was 5'11 1/2", 152 lbs, with blue eyes, a fair complexion, and brown hair.

Chambers trained in North Bay, Niagara on the Lake, Ontario (with the QOR 3rd Battalion), Debert, Nova Scotia (attached to the Royal Winnipeg Rifles) and was temporarily attached to the British Columbia Regiment before going overseas in 1943.

Toronto Star – Canadian Virtual War Memorial photo Returning to Canada after ten months as a Corporal and then Acting Sergeant, Chambers successfully completed officer training in Brockville, Ontario and was commissioned and promoted to Lieutenant on 11 August 1944. He was a trainer at Barriefield (Kingston, Ontario) for two months and then took further training in Vernon, British Columbia. He sailed again for the United Kingdom on Christmas Day 25 December 1944, and joined The Queen's Own Rifles in Northwest Europe on 31 January 1945.

Lieutenant Chambers, just 22, was killed in action in the early hours of 26th February 1945, aged 22 after only three weeks of active service. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. H. 8. His epitaph reads:

IN LIFE
LOVED AND HONOURED
IN DEATH
REMEMBERED



Rifleman Omar Emerson Clark

B139286 Rifleman Omar Emerson Clark was born in Toronto, Ontario on 21 January 1935, the son of Ernest Louis Clark and Frances Emily Rutter. He had three brothers who also served in WWII and three sisters. He attended Western Technical School for five months,

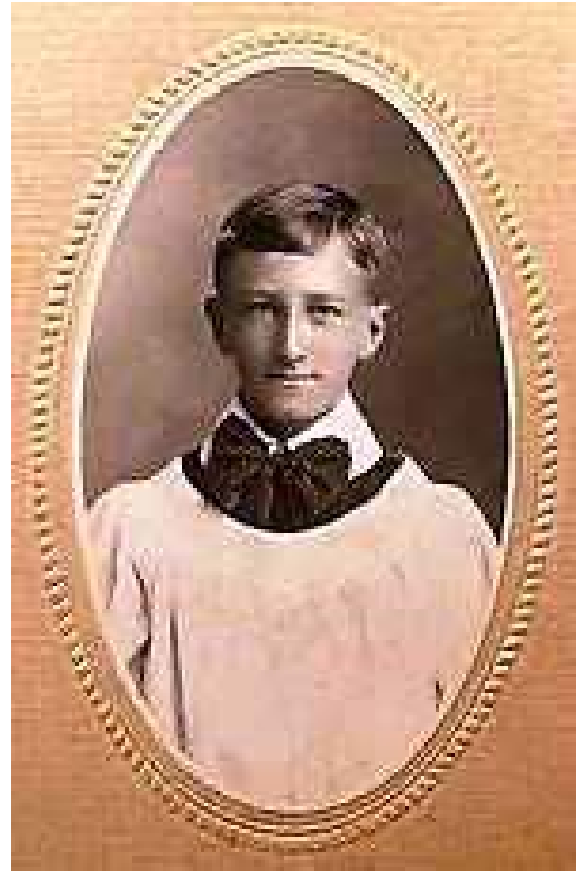
From 1936 to 1939 Clark served in the 9th Field Battery reserve unit in Toronto and in 1940 with the 28th Field Battery.

On 11 September 1943, he married Mary Eve Margaret Pollard. They had one son, Peter, who was born after Omar left for overseas.

He worked as a machine operator when he enlisted with the regular force Royal Canadian Artillery on 26 January 1943. After training in Brampton, Petawawa, Sault-Ste Marie, Owen Sound, Camp Borden and New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, Clark went overseas and was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles on 9 December 1944.

Rifleman Clark was wounded on 15 March 1945, returned to the unit on 1 April, and killed in action on 2 April 1945, aged 20. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XXII. D. 13. The epitaph provided by his family reads:

MAY YOUR REWARD
BE AS GREAT
AS YOUR SACRIFICE



Corporal Harold Bernard Clyne

C64183 Corporal Harold Bernard was born in Perth, Lanark County, Ontario on 23 March 1915, son of James Henry Clyne and Ella Jane Doyle. He had eleven brothers and sisters.

Harold Clyne was raised on the family farm which had been owned by the Clynes for two centuries. The Bathurst Township farm went back to the 1819 military settlement of the Perth area with land grants to former soldiers. His great-great-great-grandfather, Pierre Klein of Flanders had fought in the Napoleonic wars as a Sergeant with the de Meuron's Foot Regiment but upon his capture, he volunteered to serve Britain in the War of 1812 with the United States. He later changed his name to Peter Clyne.

Clyne obtained one year of high school before leaving to work up north at MacLeod-Cockshutt Gold Mine in Geraldton, Ont. When he enlisted on June 20, 1940, he stood five feet ten inches and weighed 146 pounds. He trained in Camp Borden, Ontario and Sussex, New Brunswick. He was shipped out on July 19, 1941 and disembarked at Gourock, Scotland.

He started out with the Queen's Own Rifles Regiment, then transferred to the Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Regiment of Canada before he rejoined the Queen's Own Rifles Regiment. He was appointed an acting Lance-Corporal in March of 1944.

Lance-Corporal Clyne landed on 6 June 1944, in France as part of the D-Day invasion. On 18 July he was wounded in action during the Battle of Normandy and treated for his injuries back in Britain at the Park Prewitt Hospital.

In his published memoirs, the "A" Company Sergeant-Major Charles Martin wrote: *"Harold Clyne was another good, tough, all-round man and a great friend."*

After his convalescence, Clyne was sent back on 31 December 1944, to Northwest Europe and met his death on 26 February 1945, aged 30, near Mooshof in Germany. He was buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. H. 14.

The Queen's Own soldiers were trying to clear the enemy from heavily fortified houses in the hamlet of Mooshof. "The Germans contested every foot. They put up a hell of a fight. They threw everything at us. We did the same to them. For a solid two hours it was sheer madness," stated Major Dick Medland, the A Company's Commander. "No. 7 Platoon encountered fierce fighting losing many men. Lance Sergeant Harold Clyne took over (from a wounded Sergeant) and led two men in a fight for a second building sheltering another 88-millimetre gun. They won the place at 07.30, but Clyne was dead." (Clyne's rank of Sergeant was a field promotion which likely didn't get filed.)



Sergeant Aubrey Cosens, V.C.

Sergeant Aubrey Cosens, VC was born in Latchford, Ontario, on the 21st of May 1921, the son of a First World War Veteran [Charles E. Cosens](#) and Yvonne Cosens. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Porquis Junction, near Iroquois Falls, Ontario and he was educated in the Porquis Junction School. He left school in 1938 to work with his father on the railway as a section hand.

He left Porquis Junction in 1939 to join the Royal Canadian Air Force but his application was rejected. Finally, in 1940, he went to Hamilton, Ontario, and was accepted by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Hamilton) Regiment. He served with them in Canada, Jamaica and England; then transferred to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in the summer of 1944 and was soon promoted from corporal to sergeant.

Sergeant Cosens was 23 years of age when he died and is buried in [Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery \(VIII. H. 2.\)](#), Nijmegen, The Netherlands where a plaque was erected in his memory. On Aug. 29, 1969, a provincial plaque was erected in his memory on Highway 11 near Porquis Junction. A now retired tourist steamer on Lake Temagami was named after him as is the Latchford branch of The Royal Canadian Legion.

The question of naming a bridge in his honour was resolved when 2,500 delegates from the Legion's Ontario Command persuaded the Ontario government to change its mind. In 1986, prominent signs were installed at both ends of the Sgt. Aubrey Cosens VC Memorial Bridge.

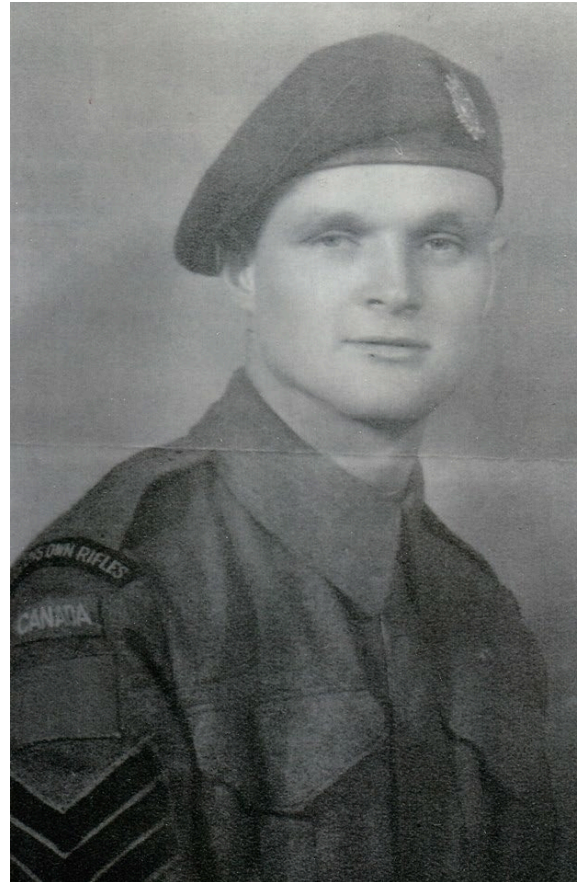
Victoria Cross Citation



"In Holland on the night of 25th-26th February 1945, the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada launched an attack on the hamlet of Mooshof, to capture ground which was considered essential for the development of future operations.*

Sergeant Cosens' platoon, with two tanks in support, attacked enemy strong points in three farm buildings, but were twice beaten back by fanatical enemy resistance and then fiercely counter-attacked, during which time the platoon suffered heavy casualties and the platoon commander was killed.

Sergeant Cosens at once assumed command of the only other four survivors of his platoon, whom he placed in a position to give him covering fire, while he himself ran across open ground under heavy mortar and shell fire to the one remaining tank, where, regardless of the danger, he took up an exposed place in front of the turret and directed his fire.



After a further enemy counter-attack had been repulsed, Sergeant Cosens ordered the tank to attack the farm buildings, while the four survivors of his platoon followed in close support. After the tank had rammed the first building he entered it alone, killing several of the defenders and taking the rest prisoner.

Single-handed he then entered the second and third buildings, and personally killed or captured all the occupants, although under intense machine-gun and small arms fire.

Just after the successful reduction of these important enemy strong points, Sergeant Cosens was shot through the head by an enemy sniper and died almost instantly.

The outstanding gallantry, initiative and determined leadership of this brave N.C.O., who himself killed at least 20 of the enemy and took an equal number of prisoners, resulted in the capture of a position which was vital to the success of the future operations of the Brigade."

London Gazette, May 22nd, 1945

*Note this actually took place in Germany.

[The Regiment's "Toughest Scrap" February 26, 1945](#) Actions on and around the 26 February 1945 for which Sergeant Aubrey Cosens was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. Researched and written by former Queen's Own Rifleman, Colonel (retired) William C. Ball.



Rifleman Alfred Crocker

B117972 Rifleman Alfred Crocker was born in Toronto, Ontario on 12 October 1925, the son of Alfred Crocker and Alice Georgina Tilley. He had one brother and eight sisters and left school at 14 having completed grade 8.

Crocker worked as a “set up man” at York Arsenals, a munitions factory in Toronto when he enlisted with the active army on 12 October 1943.



He trained in Brantford and Toronto but was constantly charged with being absent without leave and once with drunkenness. This might be explained by remarks on his final training report which stated “Not very enthusiastic about army life. Lacks ambition and attentiveness in class. Very poor on parade. Failed gas hut badly. May be able to do much better.”



He arrived in the United Kingdom on 9 December 1944 as he wasn't eligible for overseas service until he was 19, and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles in Europe on 30 Jan 1945.

Rifleman Crocker was killed in action during the battle for Mooshof farm on 26 February 1945. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. D. 5.

His family provided the following epitaph:

DISTANCE WILL NEVER PART US
FROM THE SON
THAT'S ALWAYS IN OUR HEART



Rifleman Glenn Morton Cross

B149901 Rifleman Glenn Morton Cross was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 30 July 1925, the son of William Henry Cross and Sinia Beatrice Kaiser. His father was a veteran of the First World War. Glenn was the youngest of three children: Clifford Donald "Billy" Cross and Betty Yvonne Cross. The family were members of the Church of England.

Glenn attended Gledhill Junior Public School and continued his education for two years at Malvern Collegiate High School in Toronto, Ontario, then joined the Dunlop Tire & Rubber Co., also in Toronto, Ontario, as a machinist (maintenance).

On July 30, 1943, Glenn enlisted in the army in Brantford, Ontario, and was assigned to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (QOR) as a Rifleman. He received his training at Camp Borden and Long Branch, both in Ontario. His physique was described as brown eyes and brown hair, height 1.79 m, and weight 69 kg. He had two small scars on his forehead and a scar on his left shin.



On 29 November 1945, Glenn boarded a ship for departure to England, where a lot of training took place. He was then shipped to Northwest Europe and on 31 January 1945, was attached to A Company of the QOR, located near Ubbergen, the Netherlands, at the time.

The weather conditions were terrible: cold, melting snow, and foggy. On February 3, 1945, Field Marshal Montgomery was spotted in Berg en Dal. The QOR commanders were informed of the upcoming Operation Veritable four days later. This operation was part of an Allied tank movement aimed at driving German troops out of the area between the Rhine and Ruhr rivers.

On the afternoon of February 4, 1945, A-Coy arrived in Millingen. Here, the Germans had blown up dikes, flooding the area. The next day, A-Coy was in nearby Bimmen. From there, the QOR entered Germany via Groesbeek on February 22, 1945, and headed for Bedburg beyond Kleve. The next day, Field Marshal Montgomery visited the area.

Operation Blockbuster started on February 26, 1945, to enable the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division to capture the German town of Udem and clear the way for the 11th Armored Division's advance eastward. To do this, the QOR passed below the hamlet of Louisendorf just south of Kalkar.

The QOR's A-, B-, C-, and D-Coy were under heavy fire in this area, especially by the 116 Panzer-Division and the Panzer-Lehr-Division. During one of the heavy battles there,

Rifleman Cross was killed in action on 26 February 1945, at the age of 19. Glenn was buried on 3 March 1945, at the Canadian Military Cemetery in Bedburg (near Kalkar). He lay in a temporary

grave, plot I, row 15, grave no. 8. Glenn was reburied at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek on September 10, 1945, Grave VIII. D. 3.

His personal belongings included a gold ring with a red stone, miniature wooden clogs, and a red "I" disk. His will stated that these should be transferred to his father.

Two days after Glenn was killed, his brother also died as a result of a tragic airplane accident in April 1944. Billy was a Flight Lieutenant (F/L) and instructor in the RCAF's 411 Squadron, and his aircraft, a Spitfire MJ140, was shot down over the English Channel after an attack on a railway bridge at Granville, France, on 27 April 1944. He was seriously injured, suffered a fractured skull, and broke both legs. A corvette of the English Navy picked him up. After several months in an English hospital, Billy returned to Toronto in the fall, where he committed suicide on 28 February 1945—a gunshot wound to the chest.

From Henk Mostert, Research Team Faces to Graves.



Rifleman Russell David Dafoe

C120291 Rifleman Russell David Dafoe was born on 10 April 1916, in Yarker, northwest of Kingston, Ontario, the son of Agnes Howitt and David Albert Dafoe who worked for the Canadian National Railway. He had thirteen siblings: Margaret, Wallace, Bertha, Myrtle, Ethel, Lenora, Veda, Lena, Raymond, Pearl, Dorothy, Isabella, and Kathleen.

Russell left public school in the 8th grade at the age of 13. He worked many jobs starting at a young age, from doing farm work for 4 years (with various employers), labour jobs for 6 years and for two years until he enlisted, as a buffer at the tannery that produced leather goods for local farmers and independent cobblers. In the 1940s, the tannery in Kingston was operated by A. Davis & Son.

According to his military records, Russell enjoyed hobbies such as dancing, skating, reading pulp magazines, watching movies and listening to the radio. His military records also stated that he was likable and respected by the people around him.



At the time of his military enlistment, Russell was 5' 7" tall and weighed 199 pounds. His complexion was medium, he had gray eyes, his hair was dark brown and he wore glasses.

Russell was a Protestant who attended the United Church in Kingston. He married Loretta Jean Smallwood on 19 October 1940, and they shared a home at 109 York Street in Kingston Ontario.

Russell's basic training began on 21 December 1942 in Peterborough, Ontario, and was completed on 27 March 1943. He then did seven weeks of advanced training at Camp Borden, Ontario, which was completed on May 22, 1943. Private Dafoe then spent the rest of this year in training such as the three-inch mortar course in May, swim training in July as well as qualifying as a driver mechanics class III for track and wheeled vehicles. He added to this long resume of classes with five sessions of rifle training.

Private Dafoe left Canada and embarked on a voyage across the sea on July 16, 1943, to land in Scotland on July 22, 1943. After more infantry training, he was sent to Normandy in France on June 10, 1944, four days after D-Day.

On August 7, 1944, Rifleman Russell Dafoe was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles regiment and served for about five months until his death on December 20, 1944, in Nijmegen, Holland at the age of 28.

The circumstances of his death are unknown, and the place where he was initially buried is not exactly known.

It is known that according to the regimental war diary, the Queen's Own Rifles unit was stationed around the Nijmegen Bridge area and came in contact with German troops and enemy mortar fire. They were also undertaking raids on houses described as strategic points in the operations to drive back the Germans. On December 20, the regiment was in the Wyler Berg area.

He was eventually reburied in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference II. D. 4. On his headstone is inscribed:

ASLEEP IN JESUS FOREVER
EVER REMEMBERED
BY LOVING WIFE JEAN

From James Moffett and Erin Thorburn, students from All Saints High School, Kanata, Canada, made available for Faces To Graves, with courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz teacher at All Saints H.S. Additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.



Rifleman Herbert Edward Davies

B621145 Herbert Edward Davies was born in Toronto, Ontario on 8 April 1916, the son of John Sturton Davies and Rose Ethel Gowin. He had one brother who also served in the army and left school at 16 having completed grade 9.

He worked as a greens keeper at Humber Valley Golf Course when he enlisted under the National Resources Mobilization Act on 2 June 1942. On completing the required four months of training he was posted to the Brockville Rifles and then transferred to the Rocky Mountain Rifles on 14 June 1943. He then proceeded on special duties to Kiska, Alaska for 6 months. On 25 April 1944, he was transferred to the Oxford Rifles.

Davies arrived in the United Kingdom on 10 January 1945 and was posted to a reinforcement unit before being taken on strength with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Rifleman Davies was killed in action on 31 March 1945 in The Netherlands and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XX. B. 6.



Lance Corporal William Alexander Dearness

B36737 Lance Corporal William Alexander

Dearness was born in Hamilton, Ontario on 6 December 1921, the son of William Alexander Dearness and Doris Bella Fletcher. He had two brothers and one sister, and the family was Presbyterian. He left school at age 16.

From 18 August 1940 to 3 January 1941 Dearness served with the 11th Field Battery reserve unit as National Service. Before his enlistment with the active service on 8 January 1941, he worked for three years as a motor mechanic at Fred Kozell in Smithville, Ontario.

During his reserve service, Dearness was highly recommended, however, when he joined the active service some of his discharge pay was clawed back and going forward he appeared to become disillusioned and while training in Canada, had numerous charges for being absent without leave (AWOL) and was twice deemed a deserter and given time in detention barracks.

In October 1941, Dearness married Margaret Alice Irene Toogood in England. They had a daughter, Margaret, and a son, William.

- 19 Apr 1941 – Arrived in Scotland
- 25 Aug 1944 – Transferred to Winnipeg Grenadiers
- Numerous charges for AWOL
- 29 Sep 1944 – Arrives in France and posted to reinforcement unit
- 10 Oct 1944 – Taken on Strength by QOR
- 18 Nov 1944 – Appointed Lance Corporal
- 17 Dec 1944 to 7 Jan 1945 – Attached to 3rd Canadian Infantry Division Training School
- 5 Feb 1945 – Another AWOL charge
-

Lance Corporal Dearness was wounded on 26 February 1945 but died of his wounds on 27 February, aged 23 and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XVI. H. 1. His family provided the following epitaph for his grave marker:

THERE IS A LINE
DEATH CANNOT SEVER
LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE
LAST FOREVER



Rifleman Delmar Marvin Dowling

C9916 Rifleman Delmar Marvin Dowling was born in Everett, Ontario on 9 May 1924, the son of John Hames Dowling and Edith Matilda Harris. He had three brothers: Norman Edward, Hilliard John, and Frank Albert (RCAMC) and three sisters: Lillian Lorraine, Margaret May, Edith Mary Ellen and half-sister Matilda Emma. He left school at 16. His family were members of the Church of England.

He worked as a truck driver when he first enlisted.

- 25 Oct 1941- 1st Light Anti-Aircraft, Ottawa & 6th Lt AA Regiment (RCA(A))
- 7 Mar 1942 – Discharged as underage
- 29 May 1942 – Re-enlisted active service in Toronto, Ontario – Attached Armoured Corps
- Trains in Camp Borden
- 24 Jun 1943 – Arrives overseas
- 15 Jul 1943 – Posted to 21 Armoured Regiment
- 7 Apr 1944 – Transferred from Armoured to Infantry Corps
- 13 Jun 1944 – Arrived in France
- 20 Jun 1944 – Transferred to Queen's Own Rifles
- 14 Aug 1944 – Slightly wounded when half track rolled over.



Rifleman Dowling was killed in action on 3 March 1945 in Germany and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. F. 15.

His family provided the following epitaph for his grave marker:

THE BLESSINGS
OF HIS QUIET LIFE
FELL ROUND US LIKE THE DEW



Rifleman Gaston Duguay

B24480 Rifleman Gaston Duguay was born in Gogama, Sudbury, Ontario on 1 March 1924, the son of Eugene Gabriel Duguay and Berthe Marie Ladurantaye and had two brothers and three sisters. His family were Roman Catholic.

Duguay completed grade 7 and 10 months of grade 8 before leaving school at 16 to work. He was active in hockey, softball, swimming, hunting, fishing and snowshoeing. His first language was French but he could read and speak passable English.

Duguay worked as a driver for Plineland Lumber Company when he enlisted in Toronto on 17 Jan 1944. He trained in Brantford, Camp Borden and Woodstock and reported for duty in the United Kingdom on 10 December 1944. Duguay arrived in Northwest Europe on 23 January 1945 and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles as a reinforcement on 30 January.

Rifleman Duguay was killed in action in Germany on 3 March 1945, aged 20, and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference IX. C. 5.

His family provided the following epitaph for his grave marker:

OUR DEAR SON
WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN
SADLY MISSED
BY MOTHER AND FAMILY



Rifleman John Dyck

B24429 Rifleman John Dyck was born in Kitzkos Saporoshkago, Okrug, USSR (now in Ukraine) on 5 Oct 1922, the son of Isaac Dyck and Maria Rempel. He had four brothers and sisters: Molly, Marina, Isaac, and Private Jake Dyck. They lived in Russia (1922-1930), Saskatchewan (1930-1936) and Ontario (1936-1943) and left Hanley School in Saskatchewan aged 14. His family were members of the Church of England.

Dyck served under the National Resources Mobilization Act from 15 March 1943 to 19 September 1943.

Dyck worked as a roofer when he enlisted in Toronto, Ontario with the active service army on 20 September 1943. After training in Brantford, Camp Borden and Debert, Nova Scotia he arrived in the United Kingdom on 14 March 1944 and was assigned to a reinforcement unit. Dyck transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles on 20 June 1944. He was injured accidentally by a gunshot wound to the left wrist on 29 Aug 1944 and sent to hospital in England but returned to the QOR on 8 November 1944.

Rifleman Dyck was killed in action in Germany on 3 March 1945, aged 22. His severely decomposed body was recovered in a German trench by the Regimental Chaplain on 23 April and was only identified by his identify tags. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XXI. D. 2.



His family provided the following epitaph for engraving on his grave marker:

YOUR PRESENCE EVER
NEAR, YOUR LOVE
REMAINS WITH US YET.
SADLY MISSED BY THE FAMILY

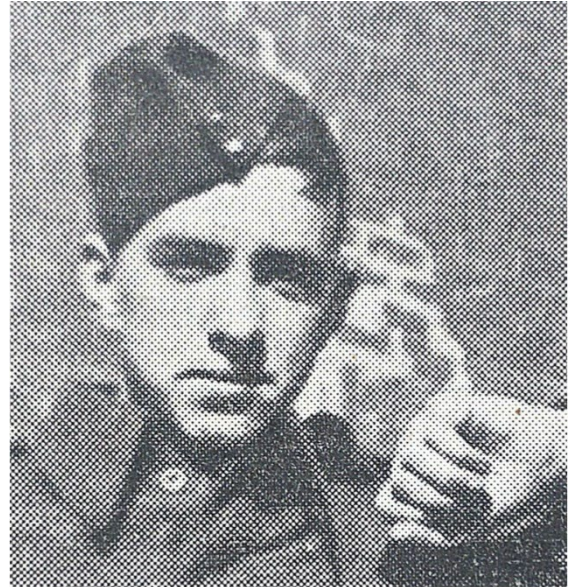


Rifleman Richard Isaac Dyson

B44572 Rifleman Richard Isaac Dyson was born in Guelph, Ontario on July 19, 1923. His parents were Thomas Reginald Dyson, a truck driver, and Mary Ellen McKinnon. They had three sons, Richard, Thomas, and William as well as two daughters, Ruth and Nancy. Dyson's family often attended St. James Anglican Church.

Richard's two younger brothers also served in the Second World War. Private Thomas Dyson was with the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps while Seaman William Dyson served in the Canadian Merchant Navy.

When Richard enlisted, he was living with his parents at 78 Kathleen Street in Guelph. He attended Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute for two years. Richard enjoyed the hobbies of chemistry and photography.



After high school, Dyson was employed by the Biltmore Hat Company. He then worked for W.C. Woods, as a machinist apprentice, a company involved in war production. According to his occupational history form, he hoped to focus on diesel engineering after the war,

Dyson enlisted in the army on October 15, 1942, in Owen Sound, Ontario. He had just turned 19 years old. Starting on March 29, 1940, he had served in the reserves as a gunner with the 2nd Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery reserves. According to Dyson's medical records at enlistment, he was described as standing five feet eight and a half inches and weighing 116 pounds. Dyson had brown eyes and dark brown hair.

Dyson started training in Toronto, Ontario, on October 22, 1942. He was then transferred to Camrose, Alberta, to train there on November 23, 1942. He was transferred one more time to Elkins Barracks in Nova Scotia on March 2, 1943. Dyson completed eight weeks of basic training and five and a half weeks of light anti-aircraft training.

Dyson left Windsor, Nova Scotia on June 10, 1943 to travel to the United Kingdom. He arrived there on June 18, 1943. While there, he completed two more weeks of basic training in February 1944.

After being assigned to the 4th Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit, he was transferred to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on June 5, 1944. Rifleman Richard Dyson was sent to France, arriving on June 11, 1944, which was only five days after the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

He saw action through summer, fall and winter over eight months as the Queen's Own Rifles regiment fought across France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

His military records showed that on January 10, 1945, in the Netherlands, Rifleman Dyson was injured while cleaning ice from a recovered German weapon. It discharged with the muzzle pointed to the floor. Pieces of cement flew into the air, injuring Dyson in the face and another soldier. After his

injury had healed at the hospital, Dyson went back to the battlefield on January 15, 1945, only a few days after the accident.

The Rhineland campaign in February 1945, was kicked off with Operation Veritable and Operation Blockbuster. It was at Mooshof, a tiny farming hamlet where the Queen's Own Rifles (QOR) fought the "toughest scrap" in its journey across Northwest Europe, [according to Col. William C. Ball](#) in a QOR Museum posting.

Mooshof is also remembered as the battle where Sergeant Aubrey Cosen of D Company of the Queen's Own, earned the Victoria Cross for his bravery in the action against the enemy. Brutal barrages from mortars and artillery devastated the ranks of D company which was repelling a counterattack by German paratroopers. Snipers also had a deadly effect in targeting soldiers, such as Sgt. Cosen, who died on the battlefield. The Queen's Own Rifles lost 34 men in this engagement on February 26/27, 1945.

"Richard Dyson was also shot by a sniper maybe a few hours before Sergeant Cosens was killed," said Jim Dyson of Peterborough, Ontario. His own father Bill Dyson had been told this information when he met with a comrade-at-arms who had been present with Rifleman Dyson at his death on February 26, 1945. He was 21 years old.

On the headstone are the words inscribed

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING
YOU WILL ALWAYS
BE REMEMBERED

Many decades after the war ended, an interesting artifact from the Battle of Normandy was discovered on the Cardonville Farm in Bretteville-L'Orgueilleuse. A brick from a farm wall showed the name – "R Dyson" but an extensive investigation over the years confirmed it was carved by Rifleman Richard Dyson when his regiment, the Queen's Own Rifles, was dug in there during the Battle for Normandy which ran from June 6 to July 2, 1944.



Tjarko Pot, a Dutch re-enactor with the Queen's Own Rifles Association in the Netherlands, and Celine Garbay of the Canadian Battlefields Foundation learned about this artifact in 2002 and worked together to find a way to preserve it. The farm landowner, CMEG, a local building company, wanted to "find an appropriate home in Canada where it could be given a place of honour," stated Ms. Garbay.

Bill Dyson, a nephew of Rifleman Dyson, and his wife, Patti Dyson, travelled to Europe in May, 2005, for the 60th Anniversary celebrations of the Liberation of the Netherlands. The couple visited France, the Netherlands and Germany.

At the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery where Rifleman Dyson is buried, the Queen's Own Rifles re-enactors presented the brick to the Dyson couple at a special ceremony in 2005.

In December 2006, the couple donated the brick to the Queen's Own Rifles Museum in Toronto, where it is now displayed.

Many members of the Dyson family have made pilgrimages to the Netherlands over the decades. In 2001, his sister-in-law Orma, took her children, Jim, Bill and Ted, on a trip to pay respects at the grave in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. Bill and his wife, Patricia, had gone over twice, too, while Jim went on a day tour of the route which uncle, Rifleman Dyson, took to Mooshof, Germany.

Life Story was written by Daniel Covelli, and Kyle Cregan, students from All Saints H.S., Kanata, [Canada for Faces to Graves](#) courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz, a teacher at All Saints H.S. Additional research and editing were provided by Kurt Johnson.



Rifleman John Evendon Ellwood

B126474 Rifleman John “Jack” Everdon Ellwood was born in Toronto, Ontario on 15 September 1913, the son of John William Ellwood and Susan Amelia Evendon. He had one brother and three sisters. Ellwood attended Earl Grey Public School, attended Danforth Technical Institute for two years and was a member of the Church of England.

He married Lillian Ellen Harris in Toronto on 28 June 1941.

Ellwood served in the Reserve Artillery from 28 July 1942 to 25 November 1943 before joining the active service on 7 January 1944. He worked as a Salesman for a men's wear company.

In February he was re-allocated to the Canadian Armoured Corps and trained in Brampton and Aldershot, New Brunswick. On 16 May he was transferred to the Infantry Corps and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 22 August 1944 and continued with them through Northwest Europe.

Rifleman Ellwood was killed in action in Germany on 3 March 1945, aged 31 and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. H. 9. His family submitted the following for the epitaph on his grave marker:

TO THOSE THAT KNEW
AND LOVED HIM
HIS MEMORY
WILL NEVER GROW COLD



Corporal Jack Milton Fidge

B145438 Corporal John “Jack” Milton Fidge was born in Toronto on 18 March 1925, the son of Leonard Milton Fidge and Madeline Maud Parnell. His father had served in the First World War with the 48th Highlanders Regiment in France. had one brother Leonard Ralph and a sister, Judith Anna.

He went to Forest Hill Village School until he left school at the age of 16 after completing grade 10.

Fidge worked as a machinist with a jewelry supply company when he enlisted in the Canadian Army active service on 5 April 1943 in Toronto. He'd previously been an Irish Regiment army cadet and may or may not have served in the Irish Regiment.

He trained in Borden (where he was thrice charged with significant absences without leave, and Debert, Nova Scotia before being transferred to Vancouver, British Columbia, where he was posted to the Pacific Command Divisional Signals.

He arrived in England in April 1944 and was posted to a reinforcement unit. He went to France in October 1944 and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on the 10th. A month later he was appointed a Lance Corporal and in January 1945 promoted to Corporal.

In the last days before Fidge's death, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada launched an attack on the hamlet of Mooshof in Germany. The regiment was tasked to capture ground which was considered essential for the development of future operations.

Corporal Fidge was killed in Germany in the early hours of 26 February 1945 at age 20.

He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, The Netherlands, grave reference VIII. H. 3.

On Fidge's headstone, his family had engraved:

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF ONE WHO GAVE HIS LIFE
THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE
IN FREEDOM



Lance Corporal Edward William Fraser

G53534 Lance Corporal Edward William Fraser was born in Saint John, New Brunswick on 3 January 1923, the son of John Donald Fraser and Mary Madeline Elward. He left at age 14 after completing 7 years of public school. He had two brothers and two sisters and was Roman Catholic.

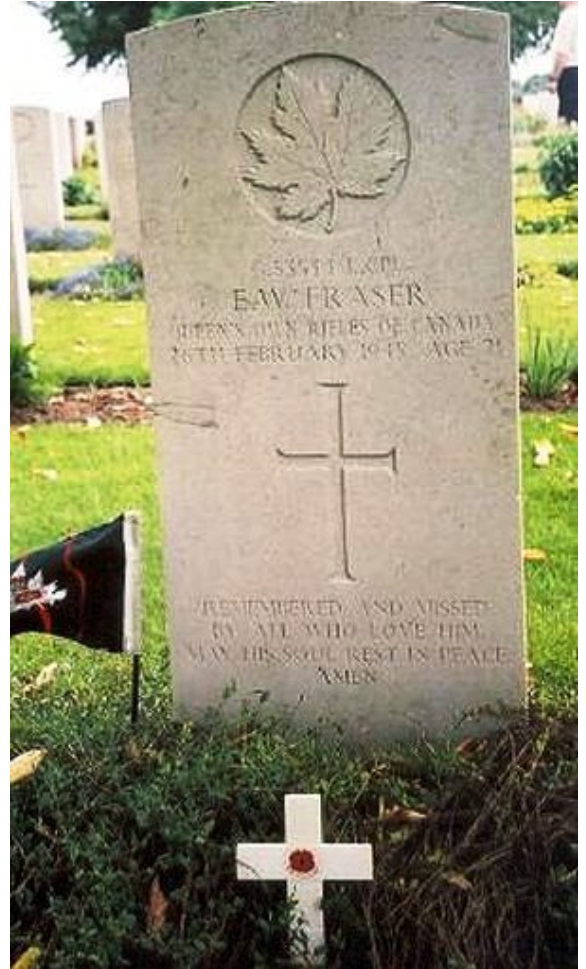
He worked as a pin boy at St Peter's Bowling Alley for 2 years before enlisting on 7 January 1942. Fraser trained in Fredericton New Brunswick, Petawawa Ontario, Debert Nova Scotia, and Gander Newfoundland.

On 3 July 1944, he arrived in the United Kingdom. He arrived in France on 18 July 1944 and was posted to the QOR on the 20th and served with them through Northwest Europe.

Lance Corporal Fraser was killed in action during Operation Blockbuster, on 26 February 1945 aged 21. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. B. 11.

His family provided the following epitaph for his grave marker:

REMEMBERED AND MISSED
BY ALL WHO LOVE HIM
MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE
AMEN



Rifleman Samuel Joseph Gagne

B155379 Rifleman Samuel Joseph Gagne was born in Bonfield, Quebec on 21 September 1918, the son of Thomas and Clara Gagne. He had four older brothers and one younger sister. He left school at 15 having completed grade eight, and was a Roman Catholic.

Gagne worked as a diamond driller at the Chesterville Mine in Larder Lake, Ontario when he enlisted for his 30-day National Resources Mobilization Act, (NRMA), training with the Algonquin Regiment (Reserves) on 9 October 1940. On 4 December 1941, he re-enrolled and was transferred to the Canadian Fusiliers on 19 February 1945. He trained in Vancouver and Nanaimo, British Columbia, followed by various short-term training and attachments.

From 12 July 1943 to 4 January 1944, Gagne was on "Special Duty" in Kiska, Alaska, along with American troops. He joined the active service army on 17 April 1944, underwent additional training in Debert, Nova Scotia, and arrived in the United Kingdom on 27 July 1944. On 17 August he arrived in France and five days later was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles, fighting with them through North West Europe.

Rifleman Gagne was killed in action on 17 December 1944, aged 25 and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference IV. E. 1. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

I GAVE MY LIFE
FOR MY GOD
AND FOR MY COUNTRY



Harold Francis Goldsmith

B46911 Rifleman Harold Francis Goldsmith was born on 20 February 1923 in Clarksburg, Ontario. His Irish father Leonard Roy Goldsmith married his English mother Violet Alice Knibbs at Clarksburg, Ontario in 1915 after she came from the USA to Canada. The couple moved to the Oshawa area where Leonard farmed and they had seven children, of whom Harold was the middle one. Eldest was his only brother Cline, plus five sisters Evelyn, Olive, Ruth, Eileen and Mary.

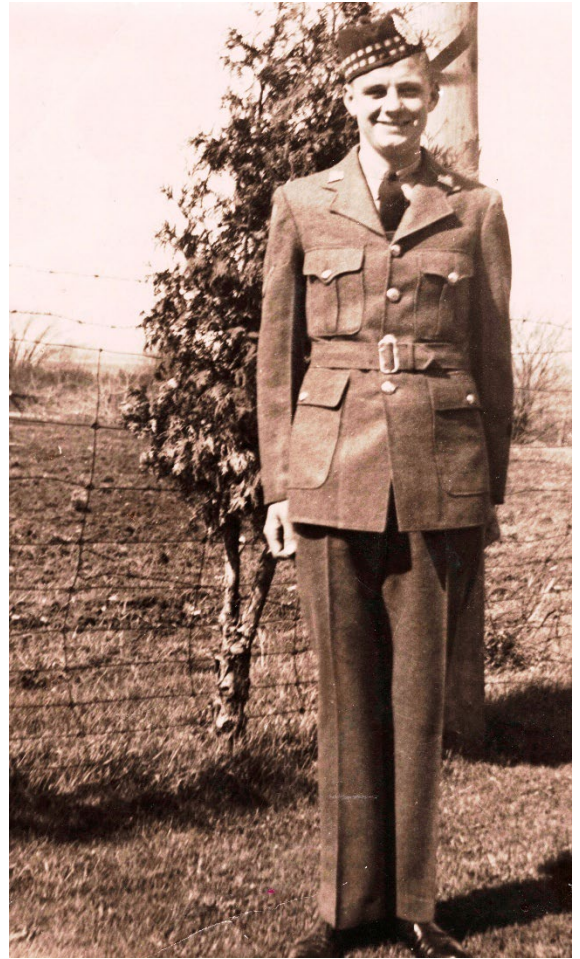
Harold did not receive much in the way of formal education and was partly illiterate. He was working in the tool room at the General Motors plant in Oshawa, Ontario and described his trade as being a truck driver when he joined the army.

Harold enlisted in Toronto, Ontario 6 May 1942, at age 19. His medical examiner noted him as having blond hair, and blue eyes, being 6 feet tall and underweight at 135 lbs. He also commented that Harold had an "indifferent education". Harold undertook his basic training at Brantford, Ontario where he spent four days in hospital for pharyngitis in June.

Harold was assigned to a Defence Platoon at Niagara in July, where he quickly distinguished himself and was appointed Lance Corporal on 1 August 1942. He was attached to the 17th Canadian Infantry Brigade at Sussex, New Brunswick in September and remained there for a few months.

Harold's lack of literacy became apparent and his rank was reduced to Private in January 1943, followed by a transfer to the Canadian Army Educational Basic Training Centre at Fort Chippewa Barracks near North Bay, Ontario 11 February 1943. There he and other soldiers received classroom instruction that most never had at school, and Harold was re-appointed Lance Corporal the next month.

Following nine months at Fort Chippewa, Harold returned to Sussex in October 1943 and was re-evaluated. The Army Examiner wrote on Harold's personnel record: "His educational and military instructors stated that he was nervously quick, lacked power of concentration, but is very aggressive and over-willing. On numerous occasions he has volunteered for extra duties which he performed in a very cheerful manner. This recruit is friendly, very polite and always well-groomed... Goldsmith has no health complaints but admits being somewhat restless and experiences difficulty in learning educational subjects". Harold again reverted rank to Private, this time at his own request, and was stationed at Camp Utopia, New Brunswick.





Harold served as an officer's batman at Utopia, with Captain H. T. Douglass making an entry on his personnel record on 7 July 1944: "This man has been very satisfactory as a batman. He is outstanding in bearing, appearance and cleanliness. In view of very excellent reports of his company officers and his eagerness to serve O/S (overseas), he was referred to the psychiatrist for up-grading. He has now been graded M-2 and is being released to the reinforcement stream". Captain Douglass made another entry in Harold's file on 17 August 1944: "Training progress is good. Leadership is good but handicapped by illiteracy; steady, well disciplined. Attitude is very good. Stamina and energy are good, no complaints. Very neat and clean. One of the best soldiers in his platoon".

Harold was sent to Camp Debert, Nova Scotia in October 1944 in preparation for overseas deployment, disembarking in the U.K. on 28 November where he was assigned to the Canadian Infantry Training Regiment. However, Harold was involved in an incident on the

journey across the Atlantic that landed him at 22 Canadian General Hospital in the U.K. on 29 November 1944, where he remained for the next 45 days.

Harold had been standing in a lineup for a meal aboard the ship when the soldier in front of him was jostled by someone else. He turned around and punched Harold in the face, breaking his jaw. A subsequent Court of Inquiry cleared Harold of any "improper conduct". Harold was finally discharged from hospital on 12 January 1945 and sent across the English Channel that spring to Northwest Europe, where he was taken on strength by the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (QOR) on 31 March 1945.

The QOR was part of the 8th Brigade, along with Le Regiment de la Chaudière and the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment, 3rd Canadian Division. They had been among the Commonwealth units attacking Normandy beaches in France on D-Day, 6 June 1944. They helped drive the Germans out of Normandy and clear the Channel ports before engaging in the Battle of the Scheldt at Breskens Pocket in Belgium. 8th Brigade was then stationed near Nijmegen, Netherlands for static operations in November.

After wintering around Nijmegen, 3rd Canadian Division was on the move in February 1945 as part of the Allied Operation VERITABLE. 8th Brigade was held in reserve around Cleve, Germany for the first and second phases of the Rhineland offensive, before crossing the Rhine on a pontoon bridge in late March. The QOR and 8th Brigade were involved in mop-up operations following 7th Brigade's capture of Emmerich, Germany when Harold joined them as a replacement Rifleman. The battalion participated in the liberation of Bergh on 1 April and after fighting at Wehl the next day, was given some rest time in Laag-Keppel in the afternoon of 3 April. The next day the order came to liberate the hamlets west of Steenderen, a region enclosed on three sides by the IJssel River.

Spread over a broad front, the QOR entered the area and encountered strong German resistance at Rha. Heavy fighting occurred over the next two days, 5 and 6 April. As "A" Company approached Rha from the north side late at night, Harold was hit in the abdomen by several machine gun bullets. He was bandaged, given a morphine injection and taken to the Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in the Patersklooster at s'Heerenberg. He was operated on 7 April but did not survive long after, dying in the early morning of 8 April 1945 at age 22.

Rifleman H.F. Goldsmith was temporarily buried at s'Heerenberg Cemetery and later relocated to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery near Nijmegen, Netherlands, grave reference XVII. F. 2. His epitaph reads:

GREATER LOVE
HATH NO MAN THAN THIS
THAT A MAN LAY DOWN
HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS

From biography by Jim Little, Research Team Faces to Graves.



Lieutenant Edward Leslie Nicholas Grant

K46136 Lieutenant Edward Leslie Nicholas Grant was born on 18 Apr 1922 in London, England, the son of William Leslie Grant and Katerina Zagrebelia. He had one brother George.

Grant was living in Vancouver, BC where he worked as an aircraft engineer for Canadian Pacific Airline when he enlisted with the Canadian Army (Active) on 11 June 1942. He had two months of previous service with the 58th Battery Reserve in 1938.

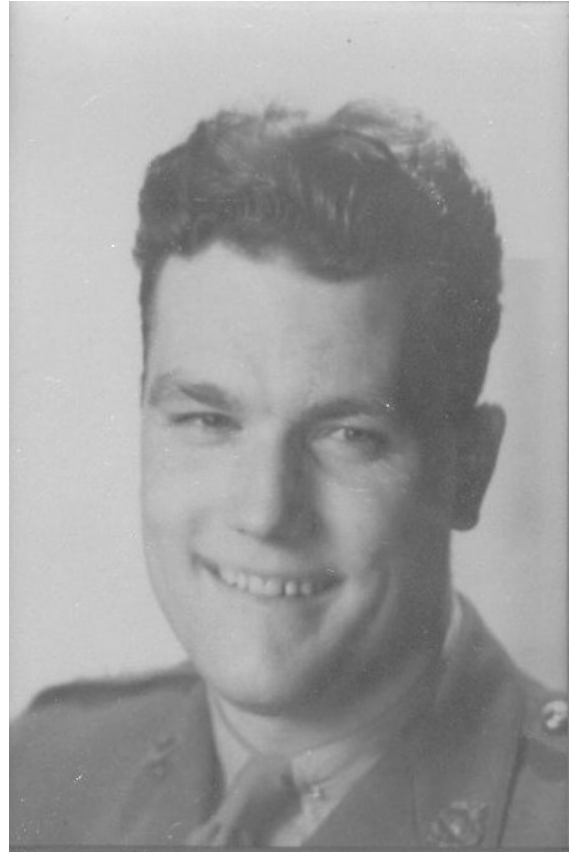
He trained in Vernon, BC, Suffield, Alberta, and Borden, Ontario and was promoted to Acting Sergeant. He then did officer training in Gordon Head, BC and Borden and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 13 March 1943 and promoted to Lieutenant on 12 August 1943.

On 8 May 1943 Grant married Evelyne Hunter Cameron at St Clair Avenue United Church in Toronto. They had a daughter Judy.

He continued his training in Canada until disembarking in England on 7 May 1944 where he further continued his training and served several temporary postings. He arrived in Europe on 30 December 1944 and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 6 January 1945.

Lieutenant Grant was killed in the early hours of 26 February 1945, at Mooshof, Germany. This was the same engagement where [Sergeant Aubrey Cosens](#), VC was killed and earned his Victoria Cross.

He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. H. 10.



Rifleman Allan Francis Gray

B160788 Rifleman Allan Francis Gray was born in Hamilton, Ontario on 26 October 1925, the son of Frank Osborne Gray and Ethel Goatley.

He had one younger brother and attended King George School and one year at Frank R. Close Technical Institute in Hamilton, Ontario, leaving at age 16. Gray was Presbyterian.

He worked as a general labourer with the Steel Company of Canada when he enlisted in the active service army in Hamilton on 13 April 1944.

He trained at Brantford and Camp Borden before reporting for duty in the United Kingdom on 10 December 1944. Gray arrived in Northwest Europe on 23 Jan 1945 and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on the 31st.

Rifleman Gray was killed in action on 5 March 1945 aged 19. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. F. 16.

His family had the following engraved on his grave marker:

"IF GOD BE FOR US,
WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?"
ROMANS VIII.31
MOTHER



Rifleman Vincent Alfred Hearty

B52460 Rifleman Vincent Alfred Hearty was born in Pembroke, Ontario on 16 November 1911, the son of Joseph Hearty and Catherine Stafford and had two older brothers Lawrence and Sylvester. He attended St Vincent de Paul and St Helen's schools, leaving at 16.

On 7 August 1937, he married Grace Alvona Wilburn in Toronto.

Hearty worked as a truck driver when he enlisted with the Lorne Scots. He trained at Camp Borden and arrived in the United Kingdom on 10 July 1942. He undertook various training and attachments and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 2 October 1942. He was appointed Acting Lance Corporal on 1 Aug 1943 and Lance Corporal on 2 November.

Hearty landed with B Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944 and on the 10th was appointed Acting Corporal. Eleven days later he was injured, returned to England, and reverted to Rifleman. He rejoined the QOR on 8 November 1944.

Rifleman Hearty was killed in action on 19 December 1944 and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference II. D. 6.

The family had the following engraved on his marker:

A FINE CANADIAN SON.
MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE



Corporal Harold Jamieson

B158378 Corporal Harold Jamieson was born 19 February 1919 in Brantford, Ontario, son of Chris and Mari Jamieson and a member of the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation. He studied at Major Ballachey School and afterwards earned his living as a transport driver. He was a devout member of the Latter Day Saints Church.

On November 21, 1940, Harold entered a training program with the Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada. This lasted until December 12, 1940. He successfully completed his training.

Later he worked as a driver for the company Martin Transport in Brantford until the day of his enlistment with the army active service on 21 January 1944. By signing up, he hoped to be able to support his mother, who had been widowed since 11 August 1943.



He left for Camp Borden and subsequently set sail for England where he arrived on July 12, 1944. He remained there until July 16 to be landed in France. Via France, Caen, Belgium and the Netherlands, Harold was deployed in the Rhineland offensive with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

This offensive started on 8 February 1945, to break the German defences at Emmerich and Elten, to grant free passage to other Canadian units that were on their way to liberate the east of the Netherlands (Achterhoek). On March 4, 1945, Harold Jamieson was promoted to corporal by Lieutenant R. Gauthier.

On 2 April 1945, Corporal Jamieson was killed in action while fighting around the village of Eldrik near the Wehlse Beek.

Shortly after his platoon commander, Lieutenant R. Gauthier wrote to his mother:

"If I had a platoon of men as brave as your son, we could win the war by ourselves. You may well be proud of him."

Jamieson was temporarily buried at the Guild Tent in Beek, a few kilometres north of Emmerich and later reburied in Grosbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands, Grave Reference: XXII. D. 12.



Corporal Frank Lewis Jones

B155174 Corporal Frank Lewis Jones was born in Hamilton, Ontario on 20 April 1921, the son of Clifford and Susan Jones. He had a brother Private Edward Clifford Jones who also served overseas and two sisters. He left school after completing grade 7 at Oteora Public School in Hamilton.

Jones worked as a carpenter with Alan MacMillan Contractors when he enlisted in the reserves on 12 May 1942 and on 9 June 1943 transferred to the Sault Ste Marie and Sudbury Regiment Canadian Fusiliers. On 4 April 1944, he transferred to the active service army and trained in Debert, Nova Scotia before arriving in the United Kingdom on 2 June 1944.

Eight days later he arrived in France and on 20 July 1944, Jones was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles. He rose quickly through the NCO ranks:

- 2 October Lance Corporal,
- 22 October Acting Corporal
- 18 November Lance Sergeant



He was wounded on 23 December, 1944 and returned to the QOR as an Acting Corporal on 2 March 1945.

Corporal Jones was killed in action on 31 March 1945 aged 28 and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XX. E. 6.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF OUR DEAR SON FRANK.
MOTHER, DAD,
SISTERS & BROTHER



Rifleman William Kachafanas

B162294 Rifleman William Kachafanas was born in Campbellford, Ontario, on 20 February 1922. He was the son of Demitri James W. Kachafanas (a veteran of WWI) and Vasiliki Chrisovergis, both of whom were born in Greece. He had one younger brother and one younger sister. He belonged to the Greek Orthodox church and spoke and read English and Greek.

Kachafanas completed elementary and high school in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, and then attended Mount Alison University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. While at Mount A, he served in the Canadian Officer Training Corps from 20 September 1940 to 1 September 1943.

He worked briefly as a Meteorologist's Assistant with the Canadian Department of Transport when he enlisted in Toronto on 14 June 1944 and trained in Brantford and Camp Borden.

He reported for duty in the United Kingdom on 10 December 1944, arrived in North West Europe on 25 Jan 1945 and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 1 February 1945.

Rifleman Kachafanas was killed during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945 aged 23. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. D. 7. His mother received his war gratuity pay of \$88.86 (worth approximately \$1,562.78 in 2024.)

His family had the following epitaph added to his grave marker:

HIS FOES WERE THINE
HE KEPT US FREE
MAY GOD MAKE HIM WELCOME
THIS IS HE



Rifleman William Churchman Keith

B159825 Rifleman William Churchman Keith was born in Hamilton, Ontario on 3 May 1945, the son of George Donaldson Keith and Margaret Duthie. He had an older brother who lost a leg while serving in Italy and an older sister. He left high school after completing one year.

Keith worked at a textile factory in Hamilton when he enlisted on 7 March 1944 in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. He trained in Peterborough, Camp Borden and Debert before reporting for duty in the United Kingdom on 16 October 1944.

On 3 November he was transferred to the Infantry Corps and for two weeks was posted to the Winnipeg Grenadiers. After returning to a reinforcement list he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 6 January 1945.

Rifleman Keith was killed in action during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. H. 7. He is also commemorated with a plaque in the Church of the Ascension in Hamilton, Ontario.

His family had the following engraved as his epitaph:

GREATER LOVE
HATH NO MAN THAN THIS
THAT A MAN LAY DOWN
HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS



Rifleman John Klacza

B103245 Rifleman John Klacza, was born in Bolesew, Poland 26 March 1925, the son of Frank Klacza and Wilhelmina Lempka, of Toronto, Ontario who came to Canada c. 1936. Klacza had a sister and younger brother and attended Niagara Street School in Toronto. His family were Roman Catholic. He left school at age 16 but spoke both English and Polish.

Klacza was a naturalized citizen and worked as a labourer for the Dominion Bridge Company Limited (doing “war work”) when he enlisted in the Army in Brantford on 27 January 1944.

He was 18 years old and had brown eyes, and dark brown hair, was 5’7” tall and weighed 141 pounds. He trained at Brantford and Camp Borden. (Because of his place of birth, he was able to serve anywhere in the Active Service Army with “*the exception of the most secret assignments.*”)

Klacza arrived in the United Kingdom on 19 July 1944 and posted to a reinforcement unit until taken on strength by The Queen’s Own Rifles on 22 August 1944.

Klacza was wounded (both legs, buttock and left arm) on 30 October 1944 after stepping on a mine while in action in Holland. He returned to the QOR on 28 November 1944

Rifleman Klacza was killed in action in the early hours of 26 February 1945, aged 20 and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. H. 15. His epitaph reads:

DIED FOR FREEDOM OF CANADA
UMARL ZA, WOLNOSC POLSKI
[Translation “He died for the freedom of Poland”]



Rifleman Kenneth John La Rose

B79266 Rifleman Kenneth John La Rose was born on 30 July 1920, in St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada. His father Valmas Homer La Rose was French and was a World War I veteran. His mother Violet Mary Middleton was English. Ken had an older brother Walter Homer La Rose. The family were members of the Anglican Church (Church of England).

According to the papers, his father died shortly after the birth of Kenneth, in 1921. Later, however, his mother Violet indicated that he had left the family. Ken was four months old then. She had no idea where her husband was.

Kenneth didn't think school was that interesting; he preferred to work. He underwent an appendectomy at the age of 12, and from the age of 15, he was active as a farmer on a mixed farm in Lincoln County. At sixteen he underwent inguinal hernia surgery.

On July 1, 1940, Ken reported for military service in Toronto. He was then a healthy 19-year-old bachelor. He had a curved, cut scar of about two inches from the base of his left thumb to his wrist. He had blue eyes and brown hair, was over 6 ft. tall and weighed 161 pounds.

Ken loved ice hockey, according to his registration form. The Lieutenant who interviewed him noted that Ken had a good learning ability. He considered him suitable as a shooter. Almost a year later, in April 1941, Ken indicated that he had ten years of experience as a farmer and that he wanted to go back to work on the farm after his military service.

Family members describe Ken as a kind, caring person with a sense of humour. He was "a bit of a clown". In any case, he was quite disobedient in the army. He was late regularly, did not dress properly or his clothes were dirty. He was also regularly absent without permission, did not clean up his berth properly, was unshaven or showed insufficient military discipline in any other way. He lost things or did not put them in the right order. He also refused to move his bed once when told to do so.

On October 28, 1942, Kenneth left with his regiment for England, where he remained until June 5, 1944. He landed with C Company at Bernieres-sur-Mer at 08.12 am during the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944. The fighting took them through Normandy to Northern France. They fought their way north, entered Belgium and liberated crucial seaports.

At the beginning of October 1944, the regiment entered the Netherlands. The struggle was not easy. In February 1945 the Rifles finally crossed the border into Germany on their way to the Hochwald. In the Hochwald and the Balbergerwald, they were fired at by tanks, hidden cannons and snipers.





As a Sapper, Ken did his share in breaking through or demolishing fortifications, building bridges and roads, laying or clearing minefields and preparing field defences. Saturday, March 3, 1945, was a cold and cloudy day when Kenneth was killed while on his Sapper duties in the Pioneer Platoon. He was 24 years old.

He was buried in the Canadian military cemetery near Bedburg on March 7, 1945. His will stated that he bequeathed all his possessions to his mother.

Kenneth was later reburied at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. E. 13. The text on his gravestone:

WHO GAVE ALL
FOR THOSE HE LOVED

Postscript:

His elder brother Walter was a Sergeant with the Royal Canadian Air Force. After the war, he settled on the family's 80-hectare farm near Wellandport in Ontario. His

daughter Dora was born there.

Dora and her husband Bill Bean visited Kenneth's grave on Sunday, September 24, 2017. On the gravestone, Dora put a picture of her Uncle Ken, a few Canadian flags, and a piece of brick from the farm where Ken had lived with his mother and brother before he enlisted in the army and went abroad.

From Tefke van Dijk, Research Team Faces to Graves.



Rifleman Robert Lawson

B124032 Rifleman Robert Lawson was born in Sturgeon Bay, Ontario on 7 October 1912, the son of Thomas Henry Lawson and Jannett Elizabeth Cameron. He had five brothers and one sister and left school at 14 having completed grade 7.

Lawson worked as a farmer for 15 years and served under the National Resources Mobilization Act from 21 October 1943 until he enlisted in the active service on 21 September 1943. He trained in Simcoe, Ipperwash and Debert.

He arrived in the United Kingdom on 8 May 1944 and in France on 3 July. After some brief service with the North Shore Regiment, he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles on 17 July 1944 and fought with them throughout North West Europe.

Rifleman Lawson was killed in action during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945 aged 32. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. B. 14.

His family provided the following to be engraved on his marker:

IN LIFE LOVED AND HONORED
IN DEATH REMEMBERED



Rifleman Merrill Perez Lloyd

F7471 Rifleman Merrill Perez Lloyd was born in South Waterville, Nova Scotia on 14 November 1920, the son of Perez Merrill Lloyd and Eva Verba McDow. He had three sisters and two brothers and belonged to the Church of England.

On 17 November 1939, he married Lenora Blanch Schofield and had two children.

Lloyd was a farmer and miller when he enlisted in Yarmouth under the National Resources Mobilization Act on 26 November 1943. After completing the required one-month training, he transferred to the active service army and trained in Yarmouth and Aldershot, Nova Scotia.

He arrived overseas on 13 July 1944 and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles from a reinforcement unit on 15 August. He was placed on the wounded/sick/injured list on 9 September although nothing in his records indicates the specifics. However, he returned to the QOR on 10 October 1944 and served with them throughout North West Europe.

Rifleman Lloyd was killed in action during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. H. 6.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

MAY THE ANGELS WATCH OVER
AND KEEP YOU SAFE.
TILL WE MEET AGAIN



Rifleman Ronald Macara

B162039 Ronald Macara was born on 18 July 1918 in Durham, Gateshead-on-Tyne, England. His Scottish father William Horsfall Macara married his English mother Gertrude Lingworth there in 1917. William emigrated to Canada in 1923, a few months ahead of his wife and son. He found work and prepaid their passage on the vessel Montrose, arriving in their new country when Ronald was five years old. They first lived in Orillia, Ontario and then moved to Toronto. Their next child Edna was born soon after landing in Canada, and their second son James came along almost a decade later in 1932.

The Presbyterian family attended the College Street United Church in Toronto. Ronald attended the nearby King Edward School and learned to play the piano well. He developed a photography hobby and completed three years of a Commercial Arts program at Central Technical School in Toronto. Ronald's first job as a drug store delivery boy paid \$5 weekly.

Ronald worked for two years clerking at the Adelaide Flower Shop before finding employment with Robert Elder Carriage Works in Toronto. He was a motor truck body builder in the woodworking section. After World War II broke out, Ronald enlisted with the Non-Permanent Active Militia in October 1940 and completed 30 days of training at Long Branch near Toronto. He was posted to the Royal Regiment of Canada and remained in their home-based reserve unit. Ronald had been working for seven years at Robert Elder Carriage and was earning \$25 weekly when he was called up for active duty.

Ronald attested for active service on 1 Jun 1944 at Toronto, age 25. His medical examination recorded him as being a short man at 5'3" tall, weighing 134 lbs. Ronald had a fallen arch on his right foot which gave him trouble on long marches. His interviewing officer remarked of Ronald: "*He impresses with his intelligence and alertness. These qualities plus high M score indicate good N.C.O. (Non-Commissioned Officer) material*". Ronald was sent to Brantford for basic training and given embarkation leave in August before being sent to the transit station in Windsor, Nova Scotia.

Ronald disembarked in the U.K. on 7 September 1944 and was assigned to the Canadian Infantry Training Regiment. He had acquired his Ontario Chauffeurs driving licence in 1943 and qualified as an Infantry Carrier (tracked vehicle) Driver on 28 October 1944 while in the U.K. Ronald crossed the English Channel three months later, disembarking in Northwest Europe 31 January 1945 and was taken on strength as a replacement Rifleman by the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, (QOR), 2 February 1945.



R. MACARA
Died of Wounds

The QOR was part of the 8th Brigade, along with Le Regiment de la Chaudière and the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment, 3rd Canadian Division. They had been among the Commonwealth units attacking Normandy beaches in France on D-Day, 6 June 1944. They helped drive the Germans out of Normandy and clear the Channel ports before engaging in the Battle of the Scheldt at Breskens Pocket in Belgium. 8th Brigade was then stationed near Nijmegen, Netherlands for static operations in November.

After wintering around Nijmegen, the 3rd Canadian Division was on the move in February 1945 as part of the Allied Operation VERITABLE. 8th Brigade was held in reserve around Cleve, Germany for the first and second phases of the Rhineland offensive. Shortly before going into battle, Ronald signed an affidavit on 26 March 1945 while in Germany giving Power of Attorney over his affairs to his father William, having already named his mother Gertrude as his next of kin and estate beneficiary.

The QOR and 8th Brigade crossed the Rhine on a pontoon bridge in late March 1945 and were involved in mop-up operations following the 7th Brigade's capture of Emmerich, Germany. Their advance began on the night of 30-31 March with little opposition beyond the few surviving German mortar and artillery pieces.

The QOR participated in the liberation of Bergh on 1 April 1945, and during the fighting at Wehl the next day, Ronald Macara received a grievous chest wound. He was evacuated to a Military Hospital in s'Heerenberg and died of his wound two days later on 4 April 1945, at age 26.

Rifleman Macara was temporarily buried at s'Heerenberg Cemetery and later relocated to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery near Nijmegen, Netherlands, grave reference XVII. F. 3.

His epitaph reads:

MAY THE JOYS
YOU MISSED IN LIFE'S HIGHWAY
BE FOUND
IN GOD'S GARDEN OF REST

From biography by Jim Little, Research Team Faces to Graves.

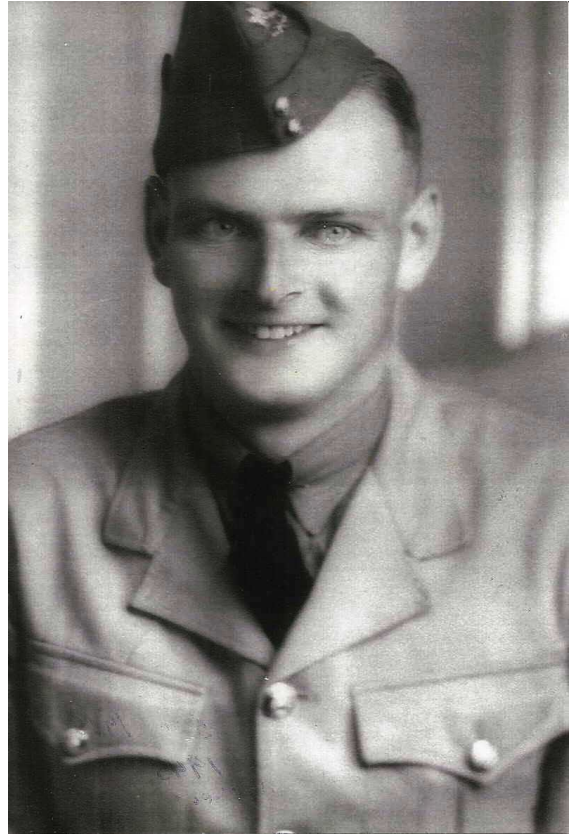


Rifleman Robert James McDonald

H69947 Rifleman Robert “Bob” James McDonald was born on a farm in Lakeland, Manitoba, Canada on Thursday, February 28, 1918. He was the son of James McDonald and Lilian Laura McDonald-Bourdell. They got married in Westbourne, Manitoba on November 30, 1904. He had six sisters: Helen, Sadie, Viola, Ruby, Verna, and Bertha. James had two sons from a previous marriage: Bert (who died in World War I) and George. The family belonged to the Church of England.

Bob, as he was known among his friends and neighbours, was very quiet by nature, willing and kind, easy-going and a good-natured man.

He went to North Lakeland School #754, which was a school which had one classroom, built in 1910, for grades 1 to 8 and with only one teacher. It was the community artery, a place of entertainment after the lessons. The annual picnic was a highlight. Races, baseball matches and tug-of-war events were held there and a lot of food was served and a lot of entertainment. Dance parties with local musicians were common.



In winter the nearby lake would freeze, so that skating and ice-hockey events could take place there, but also on the nearby water holes. At weekends a lot of dance evenings for the community were held there.

At the end of the school year a sports day used to be held in Langruth or another town where remote schools were competing in marching and sports matches. Each school made their own banner with their school's name on it.

Bob stayed at North Lakeland School up to Grade 7 and left school at the age of 14 because he had to help on his father's farm. They had horses, but also kept other animals.

Robert James 'Bob' had blue eyes and light-brown hair, weighed 172 lbs and was 5 ft 10.5 tall. He had a wart on his left shoulder and had suffered from rheumatism in his knees, which kept him from working for a week.

In 1940 there was a mobilization in Canada and from January 10 until February 8, 1941, Robert James 'Bob' McDonald had thirty days of military training with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, in the 100th Canadian Army Basic Training Centre in Portage La Prairie,

Manitoba. On June 10, 1942, he signed up in Winnipeg with No. 10 District Depot and was assigned to the Royal Canadian Artillery in Fort William, Ontario, on June 25, 1942, in the rank of Gunner.

Here he had his basic eight-week training. On August 24 he took additional training with the 24th Royal Canadian Artillery Field Regiment at Camp Shilo, situated on the western border of Spruce Woods Provincial Forest in Manitoba, 120 miles west of Winnipeg and 16 miles east of Brandon. He remained in hospital for forty-one days, from May 26 until July 6, 1943.

From July 7 until September 1, 1943, he stayed with the 24th Royal Canadian Artillery Field Regiment in Kiska which belongs to the Aleutian Islands, a chain of small islands together forming an Arc of islands, which stretched out for a distance of nearly 1,200 miles from Alaska Peninsula as far as the Kamchatka Peninsula. These islands were secured with the help of American troops after the Japanese had occupied them and left them on July 28. The Japanese Empire occupied Kiska and nearby Attu to protect the northern flank of the Japanese Empire. In Alaska Robert James 'Bob' was again admitted to an American military hospital from August 1 to 7, 1943.

During an interview, he indicated that he did not speak French and that he had great difficulty understanding commands in the French language. He very much wanted to join an English-speaking unit. Robert James 'Bob' was a 'batman', which meant he was an orderly or personal assistant to a commissioned officer. It was the Batman's duty to maintain his officer's equipment, clothes, quarters and sometimes even furniture. In combat he also served as the officer's runner or messenger.

He also indicated that he had had little training at the Artillery, so he went to No 11 District Depot for further training in December 1943. From December 19 until 27 he enjoyed Christmas leave. On April 10, 1944, Bob was assigned to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada, Canadian Infantry Corps. On May 13, he was given ten days of leave before embarking on May 25 for his voyage overseas to England, where he set foot ashore on June 2, 1944.

On July 27, 1944, he was assigned to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, a regiment that at that time was located in Bourguébus in the vicinity of Caen, Normandy, France.

During the night he experienced the atrocities of war and at 00.30 hours it was reported that *'Something must have upset 'Jerry', as they are firing a heavy barrage of shells at precisely the positions of BHQ and 'C' Company, which has led to a few casualties.'*

They continued to fight through Northern France Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. During the night of March 5, 1945, heavy enemy shelling on their positions took place. In the morning these kept going on when the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada were ordered to go to the Bogel area. During this shelling, Robert James 'Bob' McDonald was killed at the age of 27 – the same day that his father had died in Portage Hospital.

Rifleman Robert James 'Bob' McDonald was buried at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. H. 1.

[McDonald Island \(64 H/4\) in Gauer Lake, Manitoba](#), was named after him in 1995.

From Gijs Krist – Research Team Faces To Graves.

Rifleman John Mearns

D114787 Rifleman John Mearns was born in Greenfield Park, Quebec on 25 June 1912, the son of John Mearns and Jean Boag. He left school at age 14 after completing grade 7, enjoyed hockey and baseball, and listed his religion as Church of England.

Mearns had a sister Helen and one brother, Quartermaster Sergeant Alex Mearns, who served with the Royal Canadian Artillery. He worked in various places, including New York and California, and his jobs included fruit packer, truck driver, and ride supervisor for a travelling amusement show.

Mearns served in the military on and off before the Second World War. In March 1933, he enlisted with the 4th Divisional Signals militia based in Montreal, Quebec, and served until 12 March 1934. In January 1938, he enlisted with the British Columbia Regiment militia and served for four months.

On 30 September 1940, a few weeks after Canada declared war against Germany, Mearns enlisted in Montreal with the active service army in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. However, on 8 December 1940, he transferred to the Royal Canadian Artillery, trained in Debert, Nova Scotia, and on 18 December qualified as a driver.

He arrived in the United Kingdom on 19 April 1941 and for the next three years undertook various training courses and attachments. On 29 September 1944, he arrived in France, was transferred to the Canadian Infantry Corps, and posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 10 October 1944. He served with them through France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany.

Rifleman Mearns was killed in action in Germany on 30 March 1945, aged 30 and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XX. A. 9. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



Rifleman Earl James Elliot Messing

B63407 Rifleman Earl James Elliot was born in Niagara Falls, Ontario on 17 June 1922, the son of Emil Edward Messing and Anna Ida Gress. He had three brothers and six sisters and was a member of the Church of England. He left school at age 14 having completed grade VIII and took 1 1/2 years of night school in carpentry work.

Messing worked as a rigger's assistant for Ontario Hydro Electric Power at Niagara Falls when he enlisted in Hamilton in the active service Canadian Armoured Corps on 20 August 1942. For the next nine months, he trained in Toronto and Camp Borden and reported for duty in the United Kingdom on 23 May 1943.

He continued various training and postings and fractured his left hand in April 1944. Messing was transferred to the Infantry Corps on 13 October 1944 and posted to the Winnipeg Grenadiers for a month before being posted to a general reinforcement list.

On 11 November 1944, he married Mary Agnes Hamilton in Stockport, Cheshire, England despite receiving permission to marry on or after 20 November likely because that was the date he was scheduled to arrive in Europe.

On 20 November 1944, he arrived in North West Europe and on 30 December was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles.

Rifleman Messing was killed in action during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945, aged 22. He is buried in Groesbeek Canada War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. D. 8.

His wife remained in England and received his war service gratuity of \$483.22 (worth almost \$8,500 in 2024). She had the following engraved on his marker:

MY DEAR HUSBAND EARL
MY GREATEST POSSESSIONS
MEMORIES OF YOU
LOVING WIFE MARY



Rifleman Charles Nahwegezhic MM

B52575 Rifleman Charles Nahwegezhik*, MM was born on 27 June 1918 in Sheguindah, Ontario, son of Charles Nahwegezhik and Nellie Misinishkotewe, of Sheguindah First Nation (on Manitoulin Island, Ontario). He left school at 15 having almost completed Grade 8.

He had two sisters and two brothers: Ernest, and Private Roland Nahwegezhik, of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, who was killed in action on 12 October 1944. Two other siblings died young.

Before enlisting, he worked four years on a farm in the summer and in the bush in winter, and had worked for one year as a taxi driver.

Nahwegezhik initially joined the Sault Ste Marie and Sudbury Regiment militia on 22 November 1940 (serving for 30 days of training) and on 10 June 1941 enlisted in the Active Service Army. He then trained in Toronto and Hamilton and arrived in the UK on 21 September 1943 where he continued various training and undertook various duties.

On 26 August 1944, he was posted to the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He was wounded in November 1944 and January 1945 but returned to the unit each time.

Rifleman Nahwegezhik was wounded by a gunshot to the head in Roland, Germany on 26 February 1945 during Operation Blockbuster and died of wounds on 28 February, aged 26. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XVI. G. 13.

He was posthumously awarded the Military Medal for the final action in which he was wounded.

Military Medal Citation

"On 26 February 1945, number 7 Platoon 'A' Company, 1st Battalion, the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, attacked a strongly held enemy position over flat open ground . . . The platoon suffered heavy casualties including the Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant. Rifleman Nahwegezhic was seriously wounded in the head but kept advancing. Finally, the platoon had to withdraw. Rifleman Nahwegezhic refused to go back and stayed behind with his Bren gun to cover the withdrawal. His accurate and determined fire enabled the balance of his platoon to pull back and reorganize for a further successful attack. In displaying this supreme courage and devotion to duty Rifleman Nahwegezhic was in large measure responsible for the capture of the platoon objective."

Service Record:

- 10 Jun 1941 – Enlisted with the Active Service Army
- 26 Aug 1944 – Taken on strength of QOR from reinforcement list
- 5 Nov 1944 – Wounded and sent back for treatment



- 5 Dec 1944 – Returned to QOR
- 4 Jan 1945 – Wounded again
- 26 Jan 1945 – Returned to QOR
- 26 Feb 1945 – Wounded in the head
- 28 Feb 1945 – Died of wounds
- 15 Jun 1945 – Posthumously awarded the Military Medal

His service file indicates his father wrote to John Diefenbaker, MP that he had not received his son's war gratuity and final pay. The correspondence from the Director of Estates indicates that the money had been sent to the Superintendent of Reserves and Trusts in the Indian Affairs Branch because Charles was an "Indian" from a reserve. It is a reflection of the days when Indian Affairs micromanaged Indigenous peoples living on reserves. The file doesn't indicate whether his father ever received the funds which amounted to \$1,064.19.

*Also spelled ***Nahwegezhic***

.



Rifleman Lawrence Cornelius O'Farrell

B158610 Rifleman Lawrence (Larry) Cornelius

O'Farrell was born in Harrisons Corners, South Stormont, Ontario, on 16 November 1924. His father, Patrick, came from the USA and his mother, Mary Margaret Moloney, was a Canadian. They married on 11 June 1905. Eleven children were born to this Roman Catholic family with Irish roots. Larry was the tenth child with five older brothers: Francis, Jerry, Patrick, Vincent, and John. His brother, Anthony, was two years younger. He had four older sisters: Mary, Loretta, Helena and Sheila. One sister died when she was three months old and a brother was stillborn.

When he was seven years old, Larry went to St Andrew's school in Stormont County. He left school when he was fifteen to help his parents on the family farm. He worked there for three years. His father died in 1941 and one of his brothers took the farm over. Larry worked in building construction for a year and then became a miner at the International Nickel Company in Sudbury, Ontario.



He was keen on sports and joined the miners' athletic club, playing basketball, baseball and hockey. He was social and made friends easily.



School photo: Lawrence is in the top row, fourth from left (first from left row below is his younger brother Anthony). Photo via Helen (O'Farrell) Sloan.

On 25 January 1944, after three and a half months in Sudbury, Larry joined the army in Toronto, a single man, nineteen years old. He was 5 ft. 7in. tall, weighed 154 pounds, and had hazelnut brown

eyes. Asked about future plans, he said he would like to work as a mechanic after the war; apparently, he was not happy working on a farm and made it clear that he did not want to return there. Two of his brothers, Patrick and Vincent also served in the army. Patrick wanted to join the Air Force but was turned down because he had once suffered rheumatic fever. For the same reason, the navy would also not accept him.

Larry was healthy and never sick. In his assessment report, he was thought to be emotionally stable with social skills, enabling him to become a good soldier. During his basic training, he had problems firing his rifle because he could not keep his left eye shut, however, he was found to be a suitable driver or mechanic. Despite this advice, he was placed with The Queen's Own Rifle Regiment of Canada and sent overseas. He left for the UK on 19 July 1944 with the Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit. Not a month later, on 11 August, Larry was sent to the European mainland, where he joined his regiment soon after.

At this point, The Queen's Own Rifles, which had landed in France on D-Day, 6 June, were involved in the fighting to the south of Caen in Normandy. Constantly in combat with the enemy, they moved slowly eastwards and reached the Abbeville region at the beginning of September. Their goal was to free the channel port of Boulogne, which was heavily defended by the Germans.

At the beginning of October, they reached Belgium, where they took part in the month-long Battle of the Scheldt. Rifleman R.C. (Bob) Montgomery "Monty" was his best friend at the time.

On 12 October, the Regiment crossed the Scheldt River to the Netherlands, in amphibious Buffalo vehicles. The journey took forty-five minutes and as they arrived they were fired on. Hostilities finally ceased early in November and after a rest period of a few days, many regiments, including The Queen's Own Rifles were transported ninety miles eastward to Nijmegen, in the Netherlands. The QOR convoy set off from Antwerp, late in the evening of 11 November, travelling via Tilburg and 's-Hertogenbosch, reaching Nijmegen the next day.

There followed three relatively quiet months until Operation Veritable was launched on 8 February 1945. This massive operation would clear the area to the south and force the enemy to the eastern side of the Rhine. Nijmegen is situated close to the German border and there were armed skirmishes and frequent shelling in this 'quiet' period. The QOR took its turn carrying out regular guard duties. A considerable amount of training took place during these months but there was also time for entertainment and relaxation. The weather was bad, with so much rainfall, that serious flooding occurred on the flat land leading to the river. Then there was snowfall, necessitating white camouflage over the uniforms when the men were on duty.

A massive bombardment on Kleve, 16 miles away in Germany on 7 February preceded the opening of Operation Veritable. The QOR moved in the direction of Millingen on the 9th and stayed in this badly flooded area on the border for some two weeks. Then they moved some ten miles through the Reichswald forest and Kleve to the Bedburg Hau region and prepared for the next Operation, Blockbuster. The city of Xanten, twenty miles to the south, is overlooked by the Hochwald forest ridge.

Slowly, The Queen's Own Rifles, under constant attack, reached the area near Uedem; their task on 3-4 March was to clear the Balberger Wald part of the Hochwald. They were fiercely attacked by tanks, hidden canons and snipers.

On 5 March, Lawrence O'Farrell and his comrades came under enemy fire in a field near the forest. The officer was killed, his comrades wounded, and Lawrence lost his life. He was twenty years old. At that moment he was carrying a wallet, a bible and some photos. He had served 406 days in the army, of which 230 in Europe.

In a letter to his mother on 15 February, Larry had written that the weather was bad – no snow but a lot of rain, and that he hoped to be home soon because the Russians were near Berlin. On the night he died, his mother in Canada was looking out of the window towards the south; she saw a round light coming up the road which stopped by the house. She felt that it was the soul of her son, coming home for the last time.

When the Pastor from St Andrews West arrived at the farm a day or so later, his sad news was no surprise to her. The official telegram arrived on 9 March, telling her of the death of her son. She wrote to Bob Montgomery, a friend of Larry, asking for more exact details, but he was unable to tell her much more.

Lawrence was buried on 7 March in the Military Cemetery, Bedburg Hau. Later he was reburied at the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. F. 13.

Two nephews were named after Lawrence. Larry, born 29 May 1937, is the son of his sister Mary and her husband Ivan McDermid. The second Larry, born 30 May 1945, is the son of his brother Patrick, and his wife Evelyn.

In a letter from Bob Montgomery to Larry's mother, written in Amersfoort, Holland, on 13 June 1945, after the war ended. He writes here about a comrade, [Rifleman John \(Jack\) Klacza](#), who died on 26 February 1945 and is buried near Larry, grave VIII. H. 15.

Life story researched by: Tefke van Dijk, Research Team Faces To Graves.



Rifleman John Kenneth Ostrom

B155267 Rifleman John Kenneth Ostrom was born in Sudbury, Ontario, on 9 May 1920. The son of John Burleigh Ostrom and Annie Rhoda Davidson-Curry, he had one brother LAC Jimmy Ostrom. At age 18 he left high school, and was a member of the United Church of Canada. He enjoyed skating and skiing.

Ostrom worked various jobs before enlisting, including: a furniture store clerk, a butcher shop clerk, and a truck driver for a hardware store.

On 2 October 1941, Ostrom enlisted with the Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury Regiment and trained in North Bay, Camp Borden, Camp Niagara and Nanaimo, BC. In April 1942, he injured his knee during training and spent time in and out of military hospitals until 10 March 1943. On 1 August 1942, he was appointed Acting Lance Corporal, on 19 November to Acting Corporal, and on 1 May 1943 to Corporal. From 12 July 1943 to January 1944, he was on special duty in Kiska, Alaska, which had previously been occupied by the Japanese army.

Ostrom was transferred to the 1st Canadian Fusiliers (Active Army) on 15 June 1944 and disembarked in the United Kingdom on 2 June 1944. He arrived in France on 30 July, was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 14 August, and reverted to Rifleman at his own request. He served with them through France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

Rifleman Ostrom died of wounds in Germany on 1 March 1945, aged 24. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XXIV. D. 1. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

"BECAUSE I LIVE
YE SHALL LIVE ALSO"
ST. JOHN XIV.19
LOVED ONES REMEMBER ALWAYS



Lance Sergeant Marc Joseph Paradis

L154271 Lance Sergeant Marc Joseph Paradis was born in Baldwinton, Saskatchewan, on 20 December 1916, the son of Emilien Paradis and Marie Dorilda St. Amand. He came from a large Roman Catholic family of eight brothers (two of whom also served overseas) and five sisters. He spoke both English and French and left school at 15 having completed Grade 8.

Paradis worked as a farm labourer when he enlisted in Vernon, British Columbia, on 11 December 1942 and was posted to the 3rd Battalion Regina Rifles on 17 January 1943. From 12 July 1943 to 18 January 1944 he was on special duty (of 5,300 Canadians) in Kiska, Alaska which had been occupied by the Japanese army.

On 3 April 1944, he attested in the active service army and 10 days later was appointed Lance Corporal. Paradis arrived in the United Kingdom on 21 July 1944, in France on 17 August and posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 22 August.

He was wounded or injured and sent to a hospital in the UK on 20 September but returned to Europe on 28 October and to the QOR on 5 November. He fought with the QOR through France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. On 2 March 1945, he was promoted to Corporal and appointed Acting Lance Sergeant.

Lance Sergeant Paradis was killed in action in Germany on 3 March 1945, aged 28. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. H. 2.



Rifleman Donald Norman Patience

B116298 Rifleman Donald Norman Patience was born in Weston (Toronto), Ontario, on 20 November 1918, the son of Andrew Patience and Louise Helena Hansen. His Baptist family included two sisters. He attended Humber Heights Consolidated School, completing Grade 9 and part of Grade 10 before leaving at age 16 to earn his own living.

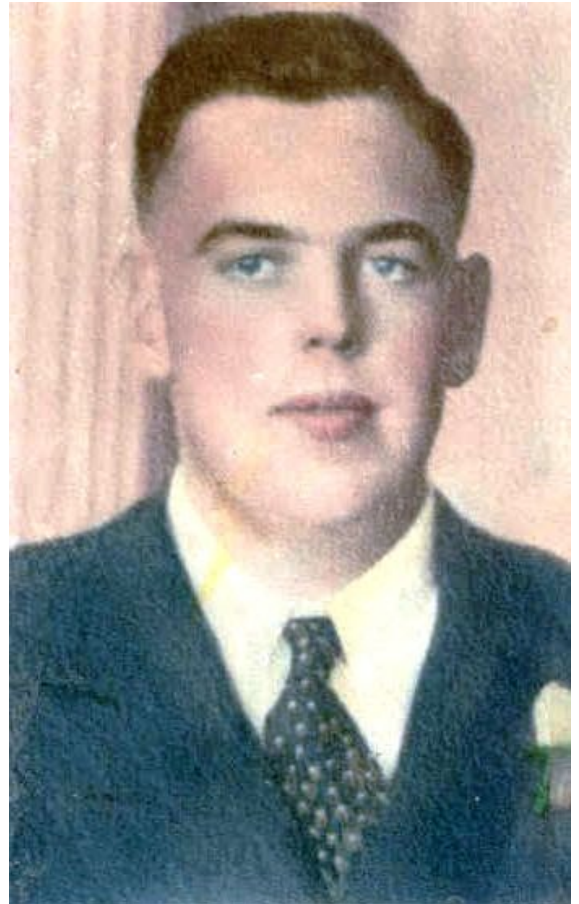
Patience completed his 30-day compulsory training with the Lorne Scots in October 1940 and a further month with the Canadian Army Service Corps (Militia) in August/September 1941.

He held various jobs after leaving school but worked as a sparr mill operator for Victory Aircraft when he enlisted with the active service army on 8 September 1943. He trained in Simcoe, Ipperwash and Debert before he arrived in the United Kingdom on 11 June 1944 and was posted to 3 Canadian Reinforcement Unit.

On 2 December 1944, he arrived in Northwest Europe and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 30 December 1944. He was temporarily attached to 3 Canadian Infantry Division headquarters on 26 January 1945 but returned to the QOR on 23 March.

Rifleman Hansen died of wounds received from a mortar shell fragment in Germany on 6 April 1945. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference V. E. II. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

THEY HAVE NOT DIED
WHO DIE IN CHRIST
BUT ONLY GONE BEFORE



Corporal Jack Harry Patrick

D139783 Corporal Jack Harry Patrick was born in Montreal, Quebec, on 24 March 1916, the son of Richard George Patrick and Kate Lang. He was a Presbyterian and had one older brother Richard Whitfield Patrick. He completed two years at Westhill High School, Montreal, and left at 17. He enjoyed swimming and softball.

Patrick worked as a warehouse clerk at Sterling Teas and Coffee Limited when he enlisted in Montreal with the active service army on 10 March 1943. He trained in Huntington and Farnham, Quebec, and qualified as a driver of wheeled vehicles. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 17 June but reverts to Private three weeks later on a temporary attachment.

On 1 December 1943, Patrick arrived in the United Kingdom and was posted to a reinforcement unit. He landed in France on D-Day, 6 June 1944, with the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders but on 9 June is posted to The Queen's Own Rifles.

He was appointed Lance Corporal on 11 September and Acting Corporal on 15 October. He received a mortar fragment in his right arm on 15 December and was admitted to hospital, was promoted to Corporal on 16 January 1945, and returned to the QOR on 6 March.

Corporal Patrick was killed in action in Germany on 31 March 1945 and is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XX. A. 7. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

SON, HUSBAND AND BROTHER.
BELOVED AND WITH US FOR EVER
IN OUR HEARTS



Corporal Edward St Julian Patterson

B36812 Corporal Edward “Ted” St Julian Patterson was born in Hamilton, Ontario, on 21 April 1920. The son of William George Patterson and Elizabeth Penman, he had two brothers, Thomas and John. A younger brother William George had predeceased him. He attended Gibson Avenue School and Frank E. Close Technical School in Hamilton and left at aged 16. He declared his religion as Presbyterian.

Patterson worked as a proofreader for American Sales Book when he enlisted with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry on 2 September 1939. He would eventually be posted to The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada.

Patterson seems to have had a challenging relationship with the army, highlighted by his numerous violations of regulations. His many absences without leave included three-plus months in mid-1942 and five weeks in September and October 1944.

He survived the D-Day landing with B Company on 6 June 1944 and was wounded with a shell fragment on 18 July that same year. Despite a chequered army record, he was promoted to Corporal one week before his death, suggesting he had developed *some* leadership skills.



Cpl. Patterson

Service Record:

- 2 Sep 1939 – Enlisted with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry
- Served and trained in Hamilton and Camp Borden
- 19 Sep 1940 – Posted to W Force in Newfoundland and posted to Queen’s Own Rifles
- 21 Dec 1941 – Furlough from QOR in Sussex, New Brunswick
- 10 Feb 1941 – Struck off Strength as a deserter
- 20 Feb 1941 – Surrendered and taken back on strength with QOR
- 20 Jul 1941 – Posted to #2 District Depot in Toronto
- 1 Oct 1941 – Posted to A-11 I.(A) T.C.
- 2 Feb 1942 – Awarded 24 hours detention – forfeits 62 days pay and allowance for absence without leave.
- 16 Mar 1942 – Appointed Lance Corporal
- 1 May 1942 – Reverts to Private for absence without leave
- 9 May 1942 – Transfers as a reinforcement to QOR
- 13 Jul 1942 – Declared illegally absent – forfeits 26 days pay
- 29 Oct 1942 – Taken back on strength from illegal absence
- 18 Nov 1942 – Award 8 days detention – forfeits 20 days pay

- 22 Jan 1943 – Forfeits 4 days pay for 3+ days absence without leave
- 1 Mar 1943 – Appointed Lance Corporal
- 18 Mar 1943 – Reports for duty in the United Kingdom
- 21 May 1943 – Posted to Queen's Own Rifles
- 15 Jun 1943 – 7 days confined to barracks and forfeit 7 days pay
- 29 Jun 1943 – 10 days confined to barracks and forfeits 4 days pay
- 29 Dec 1943 – Reverts to Rifleman
- 15 Jan 1944 – 7 days confined to barracks and forfeit 5 days pay
- 25 Apr 1945 – 5 days confined to barracks and forfeits 13 days pay
- 6 Jun 1944 – Lands in France on D-Day
- 15 Jul 1944 – Appointed Lance Corporal
- 18 Jul 1944 – Wounded with shell fragment in his right calf
- 18 Jul 1944 – Reverts to Rifleman while recovering
- 30 Jul 1944 – Back to QOR as Lance Corporal
- 2 Sep 1944 – Reprimanded and forfeits 9 days pay
- 14 Aug 1944 – Transferred to hospital
- 24 Sep 1944 – Returns to QOR
- 24 Sep 1944 – Absent without leave
- 12 Oct 1944 – Apprehended from absence without leave and forfeits 28 days pay
- 2 Nov 1944 – Transferred to reinforcement list
- 4 Nov 1944 – Arrives back in North West Europe
- 7 Nov 1944 – Posted to Queen's Own Rifles
- 9 Nov 1944 – Appointed Lance Corporal
- 18 Nov 1944 – Appointed Acting Corporal
- 19 Feb 1945 – Promoted to Corporal
- 26 Feb 1945 – Killed in Action

Corporal Patterson was killed in action during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945, aged 23. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. D. 10. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

BELOVED SON OF
W.G. & E. PATTERSON.
HE GAVE HIS LIFE
IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM



Sergeant Harold Payne

B64479 Sergeant Harold Payne was born in Sittingbourne, Kent, England, on 31 October 1902, the son of William Benjamin Payne and Rosa Louise Howard. This Church of England family arrived in Canada on 1 September 1910 and included a brother Walter, who also served in WWII, four other brothers and one sister. He left school at age 13.

Payne served for one month in September 1939 with the Royal Canadian Engineers and was discharged for “lack of teeth.” He then trained for four weeks in April 1941 with the 2nd Battalion, The Queen’s Own Rifles (reserves). He worked as a truck driver for Consumer Gas Company when he enlisted in the active service army on 28 April 1941. He was appointed Acting Lance Corporal on 17 June 1941, trained in North Bay, and reverted to Rifleman when he was posted to the 1st Battalion QOR (Active Service) in Sussex, New Brunswick.

Payne arrived in Scotland with the regiment on 29 July 1941 where he then undertook various training and attachments. He was appointed Acting Lance Corporal on 1 August 1943, Acting Corporal on 1 September, and Corporal on 2 November. Payne landed in France on 4 July 1944 and was appointed Acting Sergeant on 22 October and confirmed as Sergeant on 24 January 1945.

Sergeant Payne was killed in action by a shell splinter on 12 February 1945, aged 43. He was buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. B. 13.



Rifleman Dalton Clair Burns Pocock

B157996 Rifleman Dalton Clair Burns was born in Detroit, Michigan, on 6 January 1925, the son of Charles Burns Pocock and Ada Minnie Tracey. He had two younger sisters and left school at age 15 having completed Grade 8.

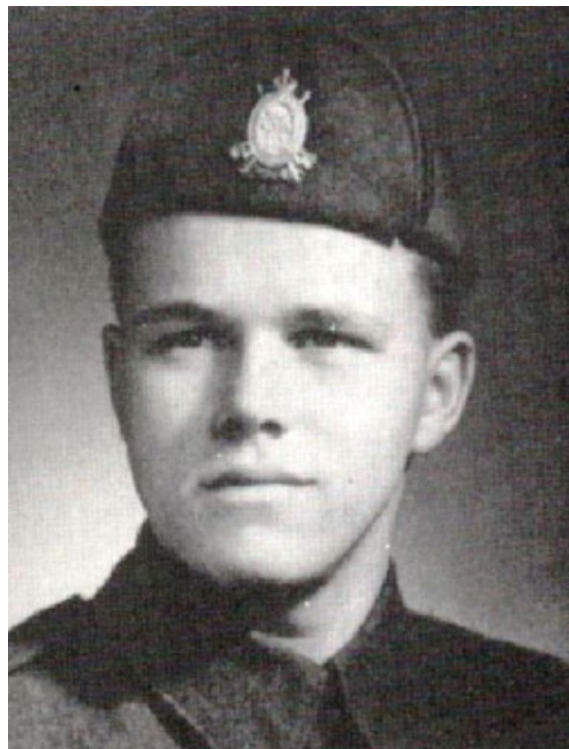
Pocock worked as a labourer at the Robertson Bush Company when he enlisted in the active service army on 13 January 1944 at age 19. He trained at Brantford and Camp Borden and arrived in the United Kingdom on 27 July 1944 where he was assigned to a reinforcement unit.

On 17 August 1944, he arrived in France and, eight days later, was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He served with them across North West Europe, with the exception of November, when he was seconded to the Headquarters of 3 Canadian Infantry Division.

Rifleman Pocock was killed in action in Germany during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945, aged 20. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. B. 13.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

I OFTEN THINK I SEE
HIS SMILING FACE
AS HE BADE
HIS LAST GOOD-BYE



Rifleman Melville Emerson Prentice

B17334 Rifleman Melville Emerson Prentice was born in Greenview, Ontario, on 11 October 1918, the son of George Samuel Prentice and Mary Etta Lavoy. He had four sisters and three younger brothers; the family were members of the United Church of Canada. He enjoyed baseball, softball, swimming and track and field, and completed part of Grade 8 before leaving to help on the home farm.

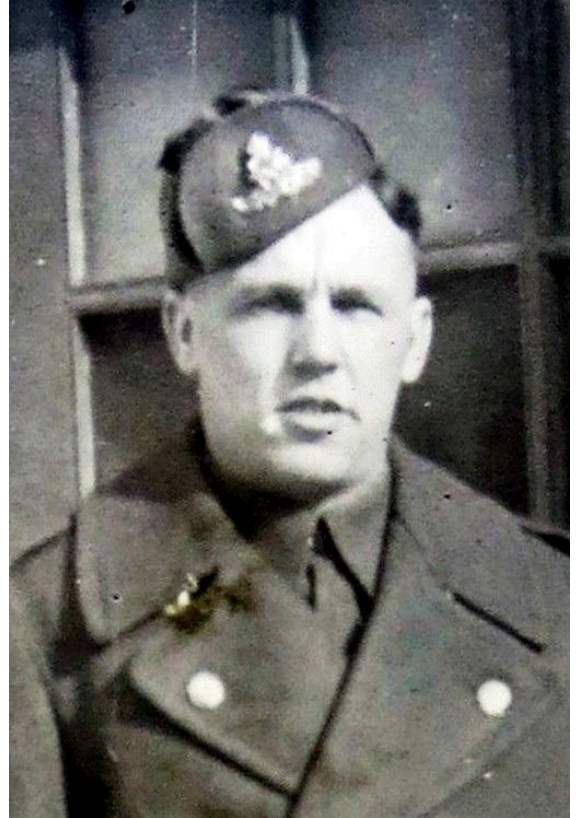
Prentice had previously farmed and done construction work but was employed as a bus driver when he enrolled in North Bay for his compulsory training on 20 March 1941. He trained at Camp Borden before being attached to various anti-aircraft batteries.

On 6 March 1942, he transferred to the active service army and qualified as a driver for wheeled vehicles on 4 April. He continued training and various attachments in Halifax, Nova Scotia. On 20 September 1943, he reported for duty in the United Kingdom and was remustered to the Infantry Corps. He landed on D-Day, 6 June 1944, with the Canadian Scottish Regiment and two days later he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. Prentice received a shrapnel wound and fracture in his hand on the next day and was sent back to a hospital in the UK.

On 16 September 1944, he returned to France and by 8 November was back with the QOR. Over the next several months he was sent on various attachments before returning once again to the QOR on 21 March 1945.

Rifleman Prentice was killed in action in the Netherlands on 2 April 1945, aged 26. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XXII. D. 1. His family had the following engraved on his marker"

WE CANNOT, LORD,
THY PURPOSE
SEE BUT ALL IS WELL
THAT'S DONE BY THEE



Lieutenant Amos Ragen

Lieutenant Amos Ragen was born in Toronto, Ontario on 8 October 1918, the son of John and Ellen Ragen, and husband of Shirley Elizabeth Jane Week.

He attended Winchester Public School, Jarvis Collegiate and graduated in Arts from University of Toronto in June 1940.

He was associated with the University of Toronto Canadian Officer Training Corps (COTC) since 1937 and had served as Assistant Adjutant.

Going overseas in December 1944, Ragen was attached to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 18 February 1945.

A week later, Lieutenant Ragen was killed in action at Mooshof, Germany, in the early hours of 26 February 1945, aged 26.

He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. H. 12. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

AND GIVE UNTO THEM
ETERNAL LIFE
AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH
ST. JOHN X.28.

On the day of his death, his wife Shirley Weeks, gave birth to their only son, Murray Amos.



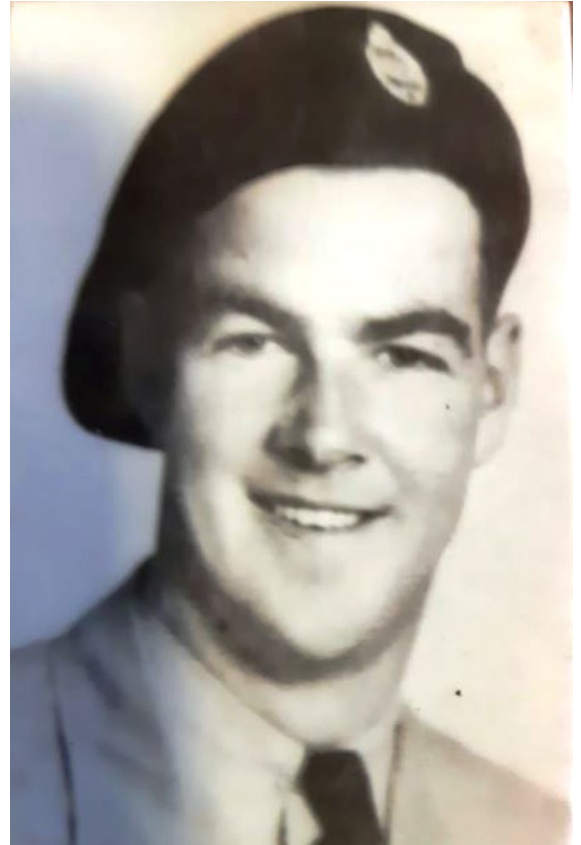
Rifleman Douglas Walter Reid

B157100 Rifleman Douglas Walter Reid was born in Penetanguishene, Ontario, on 11 July 1924, the son of Ernest Clarence Reid and Olive Annie McDonald. Olive was from Uptergrove where Olive and Ernest were married.

Doug lived in an area of Midland, Ontario, (near Georgian Bay) known as "Sunnyside" all his life with his parents and siblings: Mary, Rachel, Jessie, Florence, Clarence, Edward (Ted), Eva and Neil (Neil is the father of Garnet who provided the personal memories of Doug. Neil was only about 5 years old when Doug was killed). Doug was one of the older sons of Ernest and Olive. The Reid family was Presbyterian.

He went to "Sixth Street" School in Midland, Ontario. It is not likely he attended high school, as Doug decided to work on the Great Lakes ships at approximately 16 years old. He became a deckhand employed by Sarnia Steamship Company (a transport line) in Port Colborne.

Doug was described as polite, strong, healthy, determined, adventurous, strong-willed, feisty, and an individual with a great work ethic. He was a single man, was never married and did not have any children.



Doug enlisted on 9 December 1943 at #2 District Depot in Toronto, Ontario. Doug was a young man with blue eyes and brown hair. During his medical examination, he was about 5ft. 9/12 inches tall and weighed around 161 pounds. He had a mole on his left jaw, which was noted as an identification mark.

Christmas 1944 in the Netherlands. Douglas is kneeling (in the centre).

His psychological results in the examination report: *"Intelligence high average. Sailor tried to join the navy and was turned down temporarily due to oversupply he says. Stutters when excited. Diagnosis: Accept and recheck for instability."*

Doug passed all the tests and was taken on board as a Trooper in the Canadian Army Corps with Regimental Number B157100. At that time, he was 19 years old. After Doug was granted enlistment and Christmas leave, he started his army training at the basic training center No. 23 in Newmarket on 1 January 1944.

On 29 February, he continued his training at the Canadian Armored Corps Training Regiment in Borden. He managed to get himself qualified as driver I/C Class III on 21 April, as driver I/C Class III (T) about three weeks later and another 6 weeks later he qualified as driver/mechanic Group "C" (tank).

Doug was added to the Transport Special Reserve group in Borden and embarked on 3 August to the United Kingdom where he arrived on 10 August 1944. He reported himself as a Trooper for duty at the No. 2 Canadian Armored Corps Reinforcement Unit.

On 16 October 1944, Doug embarked again, to arrive in Belgium on 17 October. Even though he had received armoured training, he was taken on strength on 25 October as a Rifleman with the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (QOR.) The Queen's Own Rifles were positioned in the village of IJzendijke in the Netherlands at that time.

In November and December 1944 and in January 1945 Doug and The Queen's Own Rifles were fighting the enemy in the areas around Berg en Dal, Groesbeek and Millingen, still in the Netherlands. Around 23 February, the German border was crossed somewhere around the German town of Kranenburg and Doug moved to Bedburg-Hau via the little town of Kleve.

On 26 February, at the start of Operation Blockbuster, Doug was killed in action, aged 20. Apparently, he was hit by shrapnel above the heart which fatally wounded him. His 1st Battalion received approximately 100 casualties in the action but left in its wake, the fields littered with German dead.

His parents received a letter from Captain Chaplain A. J. Mowatt, dated 14 March 1945, in which he tells how their son was killed in the early morning during the fierce battle.

Rifleman Reid was first buried in the temporary cemetery of Bedburg/Kalkar. In 1946 he was exhumed and reburied in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. D. 4. His headstone bears the inscription:

THERE SHALL BE A NEW HEAVEN
AND A NEW EARTH
THEN SHALL THERE BE
NO MORE WAR

Note: There is some conflicting information about the actual date of death. In Douglas's military records, various dates are mentioned. On the Graves Registration Information Card (dated 10 September 1945) the date 26 February 1945 is assigned as the date of death for Douglas Walter Reid. His headstone bears this date as well, therefore this date is used in the profile as the correct date.

From Kim Huvenaars, Research Team Faces To Graves.



Rifleman Arthur Raymond Rielly

B145134 Rifleman Arthur Raymond Rielly was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 26 September 1923, the son of Raymond Rielly (WWI veteran with the Seaforth Highlanders) and Eva May Duck, and had four sisters and a brother. He attended the Riverdale Presbyterian Church.

Rielly served with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders militia from 1937 to 1938.

He worked as a Grinder at Wright Industries Ltd in Toronto when he enlisted in the active service of the Armoured Corps on 23 March 1943. He trained in Brantford and Camp Borden before heading to the United Kingdom and eventually joining The Queen's Own Rifles in North West Europe. In late 1944 and early 1945, he had several increasingly long absences without leave.

Service Record:

- 1937-1938 – Militia with Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders
- 23 Mar 1943 – Enlisted with Active Service Army in Armoured Corps
- Trained in Brampton and Camp Borden
- 18 Feb 1944 – Arrives in the United Kingdom
- 23 Feb 1944 – Admitted to hospital HMCS Niobe
- 5 Mar 1944 – Released from the hospital and posted to reinforcement list
- 23 Jun 1944 – Arrived in France
- 26 July 1944 – Posted to QOR from reinforcement list
- 17 Sep 1944 – Returns to reinforcement list
- 17 Sep 1944 – Wounded near Boulogne with a bullet to the side of the head.
- 25 Sep 1944 – Discharged from hospital
- 26 Sep 1944 – Posted to reinforcement list
- 11 Nov 1944 – Returned to QOR
- 27 Nov 1944 – Absent without leave 2 days
- 12 Dec 1944 – Absent without leave 8 days
- 14 Jan 1945 – Absent without leave 14 days



Rielly was killed in action in Germany during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945, aged 21. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. D. 1.

Rifleman David Morty Russman

D135305 Rifleman David Russman was born in Pinsk, Brest, Belarus (formerly Poland) on 10 December 1945, the son of Jacob Russman and Ida. He came from a large Jewish family of 5 brothers (two also served in WWII) and two sisters. He attended Commercial High School in Montreal, Quebec, and spoke Hebrew and English.

Russman worked as a typographer for Printer & Engravers Limited in Montreal when he enlisted for his compulsory service with the Canadian Artillery on 9 April 1942. He trained in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and continued beyond his 30 days with various postings to different artillery units – primarily anti-aircraft batteries. On 11 November 1943, he was appointed Lance Bombardier.

On 6 December 1943, he transferred to active service with a note on his attestation form in red that he was “Restricted to non-sensitive units, Service anywhere including overseas”, presumably because he’d been born in what was now part of the USSR. He reverted to the rank of gunner on 22 April 1944.

Russman arrived overseas on 29 August 1944, in France on 1 October, remustered to the Infantry on 5 October and was posted to The Queen’s Own Rifles 5 days later. He would serve with them through France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

Rifleman Russman was killed in action on 3 March 1945, aged 24. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. H. 4. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

HERE WE CRY
WITH HEART'S ENDEAVOUR,
GRANT HIM REST
THAT IS FOR EVER



Rifleman Joseph Arnold Sereres

B157668 Rifleman Joseph Arnold Sereres was born in Deer Lake, Haliburton, Ontario, on 21 January 1925, the son of Jacob Sereres and Wilhelmina Sophana Rausch, and had four brothers and three sisters. One brother, Jake, was serving in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps and died in England in June 1941.

Sereres left school at 14 having completed Grade 7, and was a Lutheran.

He worked as a general labourer for Herman Stockman (a farmer and lumberman) when he enlisted in Toronto with the active service army on 8 January 1944 with no previous military experience. Sereres trained at Brantford and Camp Borden and arrived in the United Kingdom on 19 July 1944.

He was posted to a reinforcement unit and on 17 August 1944 he arrived in France. On 22 August 1944, he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles and fought with them through North West Europe.

Rifleman Sereres was killed in action in Germany during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945, aged 20. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. B. 12.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

THERE
AT MY SAVIOUR'S SIDE
HEAVEN IS MY HOME
I SHALL BE GLORIFIED



Rifleman William Henry Shilson

B68048 Rifleman William Henry Shilson was born on 17 September 1917, in Toronto, Ontario, the son of William Henry Shilson and Agnes Flossie Shilson.

His father had been a sapper with the Canadian Railway Troops during the First World War. William had one sister Elsie Lillian and five brothers Albert (a private with the 48th Highlanders of Canada who was badly injured in the battle of Ortona in Italy in 1944), Edward, Frederick, Robert and Donald.

William attended Charles G. Fraser and Ryerson public schools and was a member of St. George's Anglican Church.

William was a truck driver for Mac's Cartage of Toronto from 1938 until June 1940. Previously, he had worked for the Empress shoe factory from June 1937 to October 1938 doing general duties.

William lived at 95 Perth Avenue, Toronto, Canada, at the time of his enlistment. He married Patricia Alice Ann McCarthy on 6 May 1939 and they had a daughter Deanna Marelynn on 21 May 1940.

William Shilson enlisted in the Canadian Infantry Corps on 1 October 1940, after spending three months with the 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment. He stood five foot three and a half inches tall and weighed 124 pounds. He had blue eyes, and brown hair, was left-handed, and was considered a healthy man.

According to his military records, he enjoyed boxing, swimming and skating. He played left wing when he played hockey, shortstop when he played softball and inside line when he played rugby.

His basic training was taken at Camp Borden in Ontario in early 1941. He was attached on 27 June 1941, as a rifleman to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. He was stationed in Sussex, New Brunswick. He was shipped overseas to the United Kingdom arriving at Gourock, Scotland, on 29 July 1941.

William remained in the U.K. for the rest of 1941 through 1942 and 1943 until 6 June 1944, when he participated in the first assault wave during the D-Day invasion of France. Rifleman Shilson received a shotgun wound in the left leg that required hospitalization. Once he recovered from his injury, he was sent back to France to rejoin his infantry unit on 12 August 1944.

Rifleman William Shilson, aged 26, died on 22 December 1944, after action against the enemy at Nijmegen in the Netherlands. The battle of December 19-20 resulted in many casualties for his regiment. He likely died of his wounds two days later.



He was initially buried in a temporary cemetery called the Jonkerbosch War Cemetery, in Nijmegen, Netherlands, but was later reburied in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference: II. B. 16. The inscription on his headstone reads:

OUR LOSS IS HEAVEN'S GAIN
BUT YOU LIVE IN OUR MEMORY
WIFE AND DAUGHTER

Tim and Sonja Loen's family from Nijmegen have looked after his grave since he died.

From Matthew Mogilnicki, a student from All Saints H.S., Kanata, Canada for Faces to Graves courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz, teacher at All Saints H.S. Additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.



Rifleman James Harold Steffler

A104737 Rifleman James Harold Steffler was born in Cargill, Ontario, on 11 September 1917. The son of Leo Alexander Steffler and Johanna Catherine Massel, he had three brothers and four sisters and left school at 13 having completed Grade 7. He was a Roman Catholic.

Steffler worked as a farm hand for Mr. Harold Young when he enlisted on 5 October 1942 in London, Ontario, with the active service army. He trained in Listowel and Camp Borden before arriving in the United Kingdom on 28 March 1943 and posted to the 21st Armoured Regiment.

Seven months later he was in an infantry reinforcement unit and after arriving in France on 3 July 1944 was posted to the North Shore – New Brunswick Regiment. On 17 July, Steffler transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles, the next day was wounded, and by the end of the month was back with the QOR. He returned to the UK on 13 September (perhaps wounded again) but returned to France on 8 October and returned to the QOR on 25 October. He continued to fight through North West Europe with them.



Source: Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 102, by courtesy of Clarence Kieffer
Filiale 102 de la Légion royale canadienne, avec la permission de Clarence Kieffer

Rifleman Steffler was killed in the early hours of 26 February 1945 in Mooshof, Germany, aged 27. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands, grave reference VIII. H. 13.

His epitaph reads:

WE HAVE LOVED HIM IN LIFE
LET US NOT FORGET HIM
IN DEATH



Corporal Peter Joseph Stewart

B66123 Corporal Peter Joseph Stewart was born in Vegreville, Alberta, on 20 Jan 1916, the son of Joseph Stewart and Eva Fedun. He came from a large Roman Catholic family having two brothers and four sisters, left school at 18, and spoke English and Ukrainian.

Stewart worked as a mechanic's helper at a garage when he enlisted with The Queen's Own Rifles active service battalion on 17 January 1941. He arrived in Scotland with the Regiment on 29 July 1941 and for the next three years undertook various training and attachments.

Stewart landed on Juno Beach with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was appointed Acting Corporal on 25 July and confirmed as a Corporal on 26 October, and served with the QOR through France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Corporal Stewart was killed in action on 19 December 1944, aged 28. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference II. D. 5.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

HONORABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS,
LOYAL TO THE END OF HIS DAYS.
THE FAMILY



Rifleman Stephen Struk

B112352 Rifleman Stephen Struk was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 13 April 1923, the son of Michael Struk and Frances "Fanny" Zawadowski. He had one younger brother William and a younger sister Helen. Another sister had died young. He attended Hester How Public School and two years at Central Technical, leaving at 17. His family was of Polish or Ukrainian descent, Roman Catholic, and members of Toronto's St Patrick's Parish.

Struk enjoyed boxing, golf, swimming, fishing, handball, baseball, hockey, and guitar playing. He spoke both English and Ukrainian although he only read English.

He had some experience with farming in the Niagara area but was working as a machinist for a photo engraving company when he enlisted in Toronto on 4 May 1942. Struk trained at Camp Borden and on 8 October arrived for duty in the United Kingdom as a reinforcement. For the next three months, he continued with various training and became driver-qualified.

On 19 February 1943, he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (QOR) and continued to train with the Regiment until 6 June 1944 when he landed with C Company on Juno Beach on D-Day.

Struk was wounded on 21 July 1944 and evacuated to No. 11 Canadian General Hospital in England, discharged on 12 July, and transferred to a reinforcement unit. He undertook various duties and attachments in the UK until he arrived back in France on 4 Sep and rejoined the QOR on 2 October 1944. He fought with them through France, the Netherlands and Germany.

QOR advance from Kirsell, Germany from 3-5 March 1945.

Rifleman Struk was killed in action during Operation Blockbuster on [3 March 1945](#), seven weeks short of his 22nd birthday. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. E. 14.

His war service gratuity of \$567.20 and final pay of \$104.56 (together worth approximately \$11,814 in 2024) was assigned to his mother's estate (his father was the Executor) as she had died on 14 May 1945.



Rifleman Eugene Robert Thomas

D142366 Rifleman Eugene Robert Thomas was born in Oakville, Ontario, on 28 February 1925, the son of Godfrey Albert Thomas and Theresa Mitchell. When he was very young his mother divorced his father and remarried. He left school at 16 having completed Grade 7.

His family were members of the United Church of Canada and he had one brother Vincent who also served overseas, and two sisters. He spoke and read English and Spanish.

Mitchell worked as a clerk in a Dominion grocery store when he enlisted in Montreal, Quebec, on 1 September 1943. He then trained at St Jean and Farnham, Quebec, and Debert, Nova Scotia.

He arrived in the United Kingdom on 12 April 1944 and in France on 13 June 1944. A week later he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and fought with them through France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

Rifleman Mitchell was killed in action in Germany on 3 March 1945. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. H. 3. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

IN THE VALLEY OF REST.
SOMEDAY, SOMETIME,
WE WILL MEET
OUR LOVED ONES THERE



Rifleman Ole Herman Thorell

K46678 Rifleman Ole Herman Thorell was born in Wadema, Saskatchewan, on 12 January 1920. He was the son of Harold Thorell and Ida Maria Nordstrom, and had three brothers (one in the RCAF and one in the army) and two sisters.

He worked as a miner with Brittania Mines Ltd. when he first enlisted for training under the National Resources Mobilization Act (NRMA) on 2 December 1942 and was attached to the Irish Fusiliers militia battalion for this purpose.

After various training and appointments, he was posted to the Prince of Wales Rangers before arriving overseas on 26 May 1944. After arriving in France, he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 2 August 1944 and fought with them throughout North West Europe.

On three occasions he was appointed or promoted to Lance Corporal or Corporal but reverts to private/rifleman at his own request.



Service Record:

- 2 Dec 1942 – Posted to National Resources Mobilization Act (NRMA) Clearing Depot
- 4 Dec 1942 – Attached to Irish Fusiliers (3rd Battalion)
- Trained in Vernon, BC, Port Alberni, Debert, Nova Scotia
- 16 Feb 1943 – Appointed Lance Corporal
- 18 Mar 1943 – Appointed Acting Corporal
- 17 Jun 1943 – Confirmed in rank of Corporal
- 10 Aug 1943 – Posted to Prince of Wales Rangers
- 7 Apr 1944 – Enlisted in Terrace, British Columbia, with active service army
- 26 May 1944 – Arrives in the United Kingdom
- 11 Apr 1944 – Posted to 1st Battalion Canadian Fusiliers
- 10 Apr 1944 – Reverts to Private at own request
- 1 May 1944 – Appointed Acting Corporal
- 26 Jul 1944 – Reverts to Fusilier at own request
- 30 Jul 1944 – Arrives in France
- 7 Aug 1944 – Transferred to QOR reinforcement list
- 2 Aug 1944 – Taken on strength with The Queen's Own Rifles
- 14 Sep 1944 – Appointed Lance Corporal
- 14 Oct 1944 – Reverts to Rifleman at own request
- 4 Oct 1944 – Attached to Headquarters of 3 Canadian Infantry Division
- 25 Oct 1944 – He ceases attachment to HQ 3 CID

Rifleman Thorell was killed in action in Germany during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945, aged 24. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. D. 2.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

LOVING MEMORIES
OF OUR DEAR SON AND BROTHER
WHO GAVE HIS LIFE
FOR FREEDOM



Rifleman Chester Clinton Tuttle

K76048 Rifleman Chester Clinton Tuttle was born on 27 May 1909 to his parents Charles Allen Tuttle and Mabel "Nettie" Tuttle of Victoria, British Columbia. He had three siblings: Gilbert, Edythe and Gertrude.

Rifleman Tuttle was killed in action on the 26 February 1945. He was 35 years old. Tuttle took part in the Mooshof action with [Sergeant Aubrey Cosens](#). He is listed among the 34 QOR soldiers who were killed in action on the 26th and 27th of February 1945 at Mooshof, near Uedem, Germany.

There is an entry from the War Diary of The Queen's Own Rifles that describes some of the actions that occurred on the day of Rfn Tuttle's death:

"During the attack enemy mortar and arty fire was very intense, and owing to darkness, house clearing was very difficult. Two Stretcher Bearers from "C" Coy were taken prisoner and were not released for four hrs. Until a friendly tank forced their captors to relinquish hold on them. Bn received approx 100 casualties in the action but left in its wake, fields littered with German dead."

Rfn Tuttle is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. H. 11. His inscription reads:

IN MEMORY OF MY SON
GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
BY HIS MOTHER,
SISTERS AND BROTHERS

With research by Rfn Chris Gondos who carries Rfn Tuttle's [Coin of Remembrance](#).



Lance Sergeant John Wilbur Walsh

B117669 Lance Sergeant John Wilbert Walsh was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 29 January 1918, the son of John Walsh and Zilla May Wallis. He completed Grade 8 before he left school at age 16.

His mother remarried after his father died and he had a younger half-brother Walter Ross Long and half-sister Norma May Long.

Walsh served with The Queen's Own Rifles from 1935 to 1937.

On 14 February 1941, he married Bernice Etoile Campbell. They had a daughter, Georgina Enns Campbell born on 11 January 1942 and a daughter Norma Zella born on 6 Feb 1944.

Walsh was employed as a Fireman by the Canadian Pacific Railway when he enlisted with the Active Service Army on 6 October 1943. After training at Camp Borden and in Debert, New Brunswick, he landed in England on 9 May 1944 and in France on 3 July 1944. He was posted to the QOR 2 days later.

Walsh was appointed Lance Corporal in November 1944, and Acting Lance Sergeant in February 1945.

Lance Sergeant Walsh was killed in action in Germany on 3 March 1945, aged 27 and was later re-buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. F. 14.



Rifleman Leonard Joseph Warner

B119318 Rifleman Leonard Joseph Warner was born in Karin Centre, Ontario, on 12 July 1915, the son of Allen and Mary Warner. He left school at age 14 having finished Grade 6, and enjoyed skating and skiing. He married Rita in 1937 and they had two daughters, Dianne and Patricia.

Warner had extensive previous experience as a truck driver but worked as a painter at McIntyre Porcupine Mines Ltd. when he enlisted with the 2nd Battalion Essex Scottish (Reserve) on 21 August 1942 and served with them for one year. On 17 November 1943, he enlisted in Toronto with the active army and trained in Brantford and Camp Borden.

Warner was absent without leave for 18 days beginning on 24 January 1944 before being apprehended by the military police in Windsor, Ontario. His service records state that he attributed his absence to his mother's and grandmother's illnesses and his wife's miscarriage. He had four more AWOL charges over the next four months—mostly for short periods. Despite this, his training officers gave him generally good reports. Warner arrived in the United Kingdom on 19 July 1944, in France on 4 September and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 23 September. He was wounded or injured on 25 January 1945 and eventually returned to the QOR on 9 April.

Rifleman Warner was initially reported missing but later confirmed killed in, Holland on 11 April 1945, aged 30. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XI. D. 3.

Excerpt of a letter from Director of Records 21 May 1946:

"Your late husband was last seen in the vicinity of the town of Snijpling at about 5"30 am on the 11th April, 1945. Rifleman Warner went forward with a message to another platoon and was not seen again. It was found later that this forward platoon had been surrounded by the enemy and no further word was received concerning the fate of your husband until an official communication was received from Canadian Military Headquarters, London, England on the 5th January, 1946, that he had now been officially reported killed in action."

A body was later exhumed from a single burial site, identified as Warner, and reburied in Groesbeek Cemetery. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

MAY HE REST IN PEACE.
SADLY MISSED.
WIFE RITA & DAUGHTERS
PATRICIA ANN, DIANE ELAINE



Lance Corporal Clarence West Watson

B157616 Lance Corporal Clarence West Watson was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 11 February 1925. He was the son of Neil Butchart Watson (who served in the 23rd Battery, CFA in WWI) and Isabella Mowatt Christie, and had one sister, Margaret.

He left school at age 15 having completed Grade 7, and attended Riverdale Presbyterian Church.

Watson was a ladder maker with McFarlane-Gendron Company when he enlisted with the 2nd Battalion (Reserve) of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada on 21 April 1943. That summer he spent two weeks training at the annual Niagara Camp.

On 6 January 1944, he transferred to the active service army and trained at Brantford and Camp Borden. On 19 July, he arrived in the United Kingdom and a month later in France. On 22 August, he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles but on 16 October he was wounded with a bullet to his left arm.

He returned to the QOR on 21 November but was injured again with badly burned hands caused by a grenade in mid-December 1944. At some point, he was appointed Lance Corporal and returned to the QOR on 26 January 1945.

Lance Corporal Watson was killed in action in Germany during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945, aged 20. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. D. 11. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

HE DIED
THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE



Company Quartermaster Sergeant Charles Robert Webber

B63924 Company Quartermaster Sergeant Charles Robert Webber was born in Guelph, Ontario, the son of Sidney Charles Webber and Ada Turner. He had brothers Art and Bill (who served in the RCAF) and sisters Hazel, Dora and Mary. He was educated in Fergus, Ontario, and attended St John's Anglican Church in West Toronto.

Webber married Kathleen Wright on 4 June 1935 and they had one daughter, Margaret Lois.

He served three years (1925-1928) in the militia with the Wellington Rifles. On 18 June 1940, he enlisted with the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles (Active Service) and served with them on "W" Force in Newfoundland. After returning to Canada, he trained in Camp Borden and Sussex, New Brunswick. Webber arrived in Scotland with the Regiment on 29 July 1941 and rose through the ranks while in the United Kingdom:

- 17 November 1941 – Appointed Acting Corporal
- 1 April 1942 – Appointed Acting Lance Sergeant
- 18 February 1942 – Confirmed in rank as Corporal
- 2 July 1942 – Appointed Lance Sergeant
- 10 August 1942 – Appointed Acting Sergeant
- 11 November 1942 – Confirmed as Sergeant

Webber landed with A or B Company on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944, and was wounded on 18 July and sent to hospital in England. He returned to France on 8 October, rejoined the QOR on 21 October, and served with them through France, Belgium and the Netherlands. On 22 January 1945, he was appointed Acting Company Quartermaster Sergeant.

CQMS Webber was killed in action in the Netherlands on 12 February 1945, aged 35. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference I. D. 1. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

THERE IS A LINK
DEATH CANNOT SEVER
LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE
LAST FOR EVER



Sgt. C. R. Webber
Toronto

Rifleman James Clinton Wheeler

B149466 Rifleman James Clinton Wheeler was born on 14 November 1923, in El Centro, Columbia, in South America. He was the son of Orby Clinton Wheeler (Chief Geologist for Imperial Oil) and Katherine Riggs, and had two younger brothers, Joseph and Charles. He belonged to the United Church.

He came to Toronto with his parents in 1930 and attended Whitney and Forest Hill Public schools before completing a year at McGill University towards a Bachelor of Arts.

He then completed the Canadian Army University Course, enlisted with the Canadian Army active force on 19 July 1943, and after further training travelled overseas in October 1944. He was taken on strength with The Queen's Own Rifles on 10 November 1944 and fought with them through Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

Rifleman Wheeler was killed in action (possibly by a sniper) in Germany during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945, aged 21. He was reburied in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. B. 9.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

AN AMERICAN.
BELOVED SON OF O.C. & KATHERINE R. WHEELER,
BROTHER OF JOE & CHAS.



Rifleman Hector William Wilson

B131997 Rifleman Hector William Wilson was born on 19 July 1924 in Renfrew, Ontario, the son of Liford William Wilson and Annie Mae McNevin. His father, a farmer, served in the Veterans Guards in Canada during the Second World War. Liford Wilson also served in World War One with the 148th Battalion. He participated in Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, Mons and Ypres. He was wounded on two occasions and gassed once. The family consisted of Betty Mae, Christina Evelyn and Glen Duncan.

In his hometown, Hector attended public school until Grade 7 when he quit to work at the O'Brien Woollen Mill in Renfrew and help the family. He was accepted for military service on 3 July 1939, close to his 15th birthday, with the Lanark and Renfrew Scottish Regiment in its pipe band. In his paybook, he listed service in the "42nd Black Watch" Regiment from "1938-1940".

With the war declared in September, he attended annual training in August 1940. But military authorities discovered he was "underage" and discharged him from the army on 19 June 1941. Hector worked as a steelworker for United Steel Company in Welland, Ontario, when he enlisted on 27 August 1942 in Hamilton. His enlistment document described him "as being "young and immature".

During his basic training at the Niagara Camp in Ontario, Hector married Helen Martha Grey Selkirk on 30 April 1943. They had dated for the previous 11 months when she lived in Brantford, Ontario. During this period, he also was treated for tonsillitis and mumps and recovered in military hospitals in Hamilton and Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario.

In a military assessment in November 1943, he was reported to be a "first-class shot, suitable for sniper." He arrived in the United Kingdom on 24 February 1944. Initially, and assigned to the Highland Light Infantry Regiment but he was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles after arriving in Normandy, France, on 7 July 1944. This regiment fought from France, Belgium, the Netherlands and then Germany.

Rifleman Wilson was killed on 26 February 1945, age 20, in Germany as the Army launched Operation Blockbuster. He was buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. B. 16. His epitaph reads:

WE REST IN PEACE
EVER REMEMBERED BY FRIENDS
IN RENFREW & KINGSTON
ONTARIO



Rifleman Rollo Charles Wilson

K15645 Rifleman Rollo Charles Wilson was born in Pringle, California, on 27 January 1922, the son of Charles Herbert and Wilimena Wilson. He moved to Canada with his parents and sister in 1932 and attended Cedar Valley Public School in Mission, British Columbia, completing Grade 8 and leaving at age 15.

Wilson worked as a truck driver for a contractor when he enlisted with the active service artillery on 4 September 1942 in which he undertook various training and postings.

On 1 July 1943, he transferred to the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and 11 days later was posted to the 25 Field Ambulance. He then proceeded on special duty to Kiska, Alaska, from 12 July 1943 to 25 January 1944.

After further training in Debert, Nova Scotia, he reported for duty with a reinforcement unit in the United Kingdom on 13 June 1944.

With a need to replace losses in Europe, he was transferred to the Infantry Corps and arrived in North West Europe on 4 November 1944, and a week later posted to The Queen's Own Rifles. He fought with them through France, the Netherlands and Germany.

Rifleman Wilson was killed in action in Germany during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945, aged 23. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. B. 15.



Rifleman Norman Victor Woodley

B9251 Rifleman Norman Victor Woodley was born in Swansea (later part of Toronto), Ontario, on 17 November 1918, the son of Marquis Lorne Woodley and Edith May Brooks. He had two sisters and one brother and attended Runnymede Baptist Church. Woodley attended Swansea Public School and Runnymede Collegiate and left school at the age of 16.

On 26 April 1941, he married Doris Ellen Bignall.

In November-December 1940 he served his mandatory 30 days training with the Royal Regiment of Canada. Woodley worked as a shipper at Canadian General Electric Co. Ltd. when he enlisted in Toronto in the active service army in the Ordnance Corps on 9 April 1942.

He trained in Newmarket and Camp Borden and arrived in the United Kingdom by January 1943. Woodley had numerous training and duty postings in the UK and arrived in North West Europe on 20 November 1944 and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 30 December.

Rifleman Woodley was killed in action in Germany during Operation Blockbuster on 26 February 1945, aged 27. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. F. 16.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD
WHICH DIE IN THE LORD
AND THEIR WORKS
DO FOLLOW THEM



Rifleman James Alfred Woods

B37706 Rifleman James Alfred Woods was born in Belleville, Ontario, on 16 September 1919, the son of Joseph Edward Woods and Sarah Mason. He had a brother Harold who also served overseas in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps. He attended Kimberly Public School in Toronto and belonged to the Presbyterian Church.

Woods worked as a clerk when he enlisted with the Hamilton militia on 9 February 1940 but was struck off strength on 8 April for non-attendance. On 4 June he enlisted in the active service army with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Depot and was sent to Camp Borden and Sussex, New Brunswick for training.

On 24 March 1941, he married factory worker Miss Gladys Hazel Clayton, daughter of George Clayton and Stella Graham in Toronto.

Woods arrived in Scotland on 29 July 1941 and participated in various training and attachments. He returned to The Queen's Own Rifles on 26 June 1942 and continued training with the Regiment.

He landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944 with either A or B Company. On 4 October he qualified as a cook and was transferred to the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps but remained posted to The Queen's Own Rifles. He served with them as they fought through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

Rifleman Woods became seriously ill on 7 June 1945, was admitted to hospital, and died in the Netherlands on 9 June of a subarachnoid hemorrhage i.e. bleeding around the brain. He is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XXII. D. 15.



About Holten Canadian War Cemetery

The Netherlands fell to the Germans in May 1940 and was not re-entered by Allied forces until September 1944. The great majority of those buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery died during the last stages of the war in Holland, during the advance of the Canadian 2nd Corps into northern Germany, and across the Ems in April and the first days of May 1945.

After the end of hostilities, the remains of over 1,300 Canadian soldiers were brought together into this cemetery including 72 members of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Getting There:

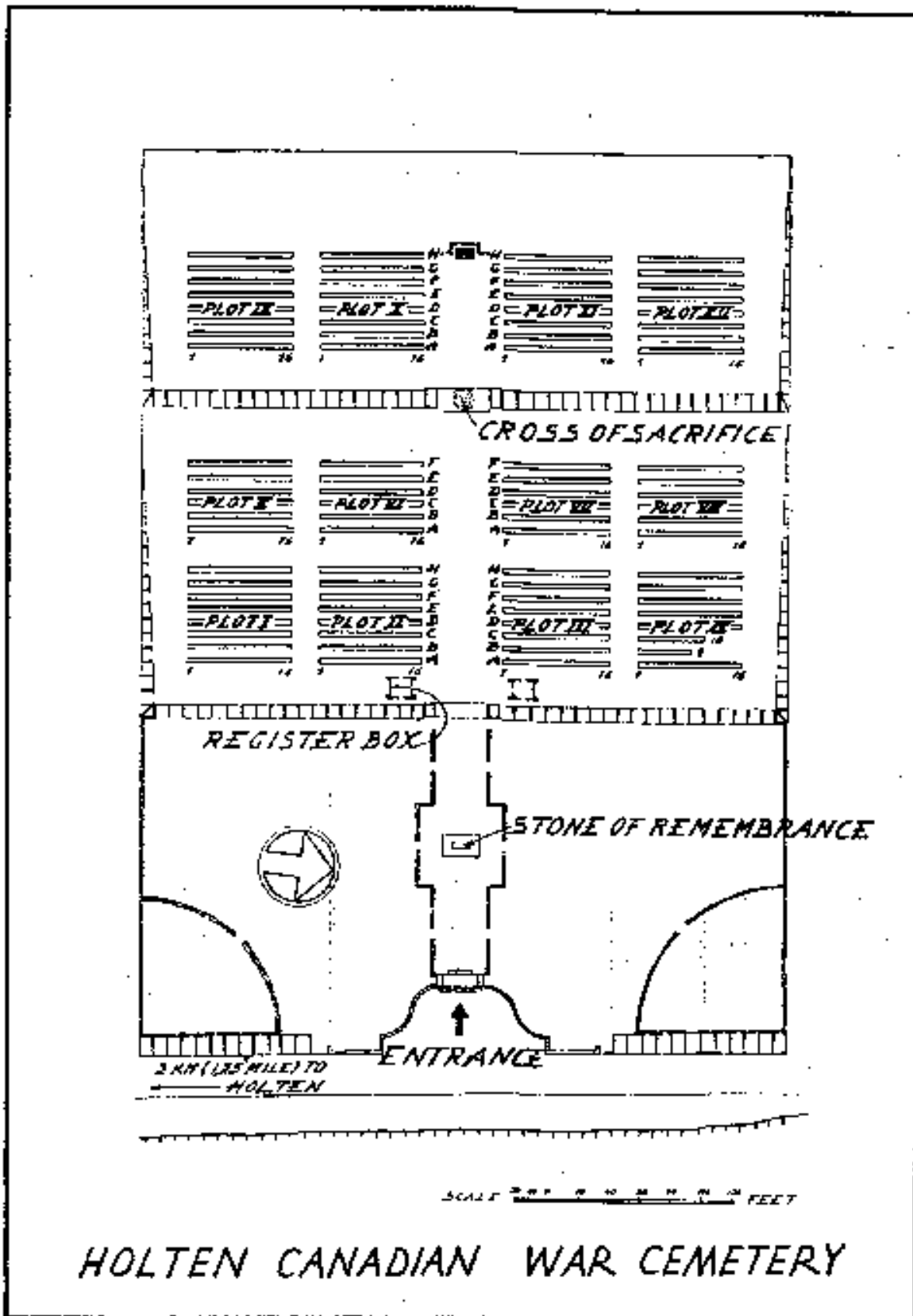
Holten is a village 20 kilometres east of the town of Deventer, on the main A1 motorway from Amsterdam to Bremen in Germany. Following the A1 motorway, turn off at exit 26 and follow the N332 in the direction of Holten.

Follow the N332 until reaching a signpost for Holterberg. Turn right onto the N344 in the direction of Holten, then at the T junction turn left towards Holten and follow this road to the roundabout. Take second exit then turn first right towards Holterberg.

Follow this road uphill until you see a green Commission sign pointing to the right. Turn right down the track and follow to the end. Turn left and the cemetery lies along here on the left hand side.



Holten Canadian War Cemetery Plan



Rifleman James Earl Aiken

B119116 Rifleman James Earl Aiken was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 9 November 1925, the son of John Basil Erie Aiken and Alice Annie Powell. He had one brother, Lionel, and attended Lansdowne and Howard Park schools in Toronto. He was a Presbyterian.

Aiken worked as a labourer for Active Screw and Gear Company Limited when he enlisted with the 7th Canadian Field Ambulance (Reserve) on 9 November 1943. On 11 January 1944, he transferred to the Active Army and trained in Toronto and Brantford.

He reported for duty in England on 31 December and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles in Europe. He was charged with multiple instances of absence without leave in both Canada and the United Kingdom.

Rifleman Aiken was originally reported as missing in action but later confirmed as killed in action near Rha in the Netherlands on 6 April 1945, aged 19.

He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XI. F. 15. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

YOU LINGER
WHERE THE TULIPS GROW,
NOT DEAD BUT JUST AWAY



Rifleman

Burgess Douglas Eavers Archer

B138327 Rifleman Burgess Douglas Eavers

Archer was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 1 November 1924, the son of John Archer and Rebecca Louise.

His family included brothers Alfred, who served with the Salvation Army Auxiliary Corps; Gunner George Archer, with the Royal Canadian Light Infantry; Sergeant William Archer, with the Highland Light Infantry; Edwin; and sister Helen.

He completed grade 8 at Essex Street Public School and attended St. Cyprian's Anglican Church.

Archer did factory work for Roofers Supply Company Limited when he joined the Governor General's Horse Guards (Reserves) in November 1941.

On 11 January 1943, he enlisted with the Princess Louise Dragoons (Active Army), trained at Camp Borden, Ontario, and arrived overseas on 2 April 1944.

On 8 May he was transferred to the Infantry Corps and on 22 June arrived in Italy and was posted to the the 48th Highlanders. Archer was wounded on 12 December and returned to England.

In March 1945, he was sent to France, posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 24 April, and served with them in the final weeks of the war.

Having survived the war, Rifleman Archer died in a drowning accident in Amsterdam on 7 August 1945 and is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XII. E. 15.



Rifleman Elmer Harold Atkinson

B131294 Rifleman Elmer Harold Atkinson was born in Port Elgin, Ontario, on 24 June 1921, the son of Edwin George Atkinson and Nellie Louisa Hodge and had two sisters.

He attended Roseland and Weston Vocational schools.

Atkinson worked as a car repairman in a railway yard when he enlisted with the active service army in August 1942 and trained in Brampton and Camp Ipperwash.

He arrived in the United Kingdom on 11 August 1943, and then in France on 26 August 1944 where he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles.

While serving in the Netherlands in December 1944, he was wounded in the eyes. After recovering in a hospital in England, he returned to the QOR on 21 March 1945.

Rifleman Atkinson was killed in action in the Netherlands on 10 April 1945, aged 24. He is buried in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference II. A. 3.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

LOVINGLY REMEMBERED
BY MOTHER AND FATHER,
ALDYTH AND AUDREY



Rifleman Robert Earl Clayton Beatty

B63322 Rifleman Robert Earl Clayton Beatty was born in Beeton, Ontario, on 29 November 1910, the son of Leamon Eslyon Lerain Beattie and Mary Mound "Molly" Fenn, and had one sister and four brothers.

He completed seven years of public school and was a member of the United Church of Canada.

Beatty worked as a farmer, a labourer and was a shopkeeper at Massey Ferguson when he enlisted on 13 August 1942.

He trained in Brampton and Hamilton and served in Italy before being posted to the 4th Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles, Canadian Army of Occupation Force, on 19 June 1945. He was twice ill or injured for short periods in July and September.

Rifleman Beatty died of injuries received in a road accident in Holland on 7 March 1946, aged 35.

He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VIII. B. 16.



Rifleman William Burns

B146999 Rifleman William Burns was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 16 April 1914, the son of Samuel Burns and Jane "Jennie" Donaldson. He had a half-brother Staff Sergeant Joseph Burns who served with the RCAMC, a brother Corporal Edward Burns who served with the RCAF, and two sisters.

He attended Silverthorn and Fairbank public schools and was a United Church of Canada member.

Burns had previous service with the RCAMC 7th Field Calvary (1931-1933) and worked in the shipping department at Schlegel Textile Company, Toronto, when he enlisted with the Canadian Armoured Corps on 18 May 1943.

He trained at Camp Borden and once overseas, was transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles. He arrived in Belgium on 17 October 1944 and was twice wounded in Holland.

Rifleman Burns, aged 20, was killed in action in the Netherlands on 10 April 1945 and is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference II. A. 11.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

FATHER
IN THY GRACIOUS KEEPING
LEAVE WE NOW
OUR LOVED ONE SLEEPING



Lance Corporal Irvin Cholette

B68757 Lance Corporal Irvin Cholette was born in North Temiskaming, Quebec, on 6 August 1924, the son of Olivier Cholette and Mary Louise McBride and came from a large family with four brothers and six sisters. He completed grade 3, left school at 11, and was Roman Catholic.

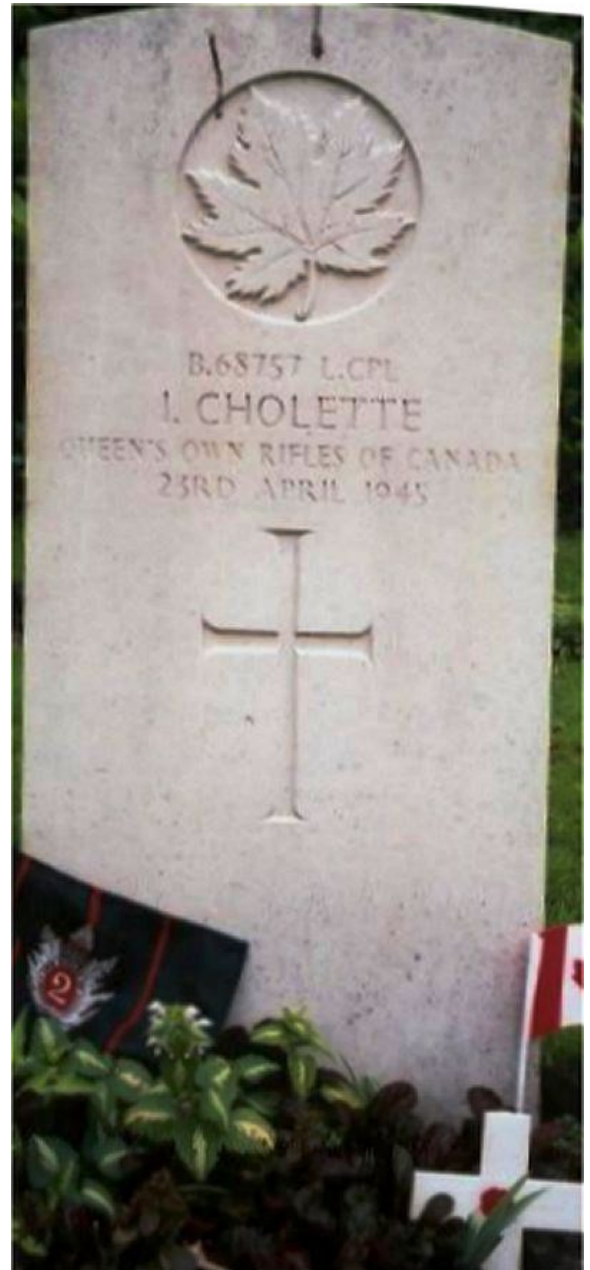
Cholette worked as a miner when he enlisted in Noranda, Quebec, with the active service army on 29 April 1943 at age 19. He trained briefly in Brantford before arriving in the United Kingdom on 20 September and posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 9 October 1943.

In February 1944, he spent two weeks in hospital and on D-Day 6 June 1944, landed in the second wave with C Company on Juno Beach.

He served with the QOR through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, and on 3 April 1945 was appointed to Lance Corporal.

Lance Corporal Cholette, aged 20, was killed in action in the Netherlands on 23 April 1945. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XI. G. 9.

In 1948, a letter was received from Mrs. K.W. Pots-Veenigen, Comschate, Deventer, Holland, stating that she had "adopted" his grave.



Corporal Alexander Cockburn

B64220 Corporal Alexander Cockburn was born in Dundee, Scotland, on 14 September 1914, the son of James Cockburn and Agnes Thorburn.

He had three sisters and two brothers. Corporal James Cockburn was killed in Sicily with the 48th Highlanders in July 1943. He belonged to the Church of England.

Cockburn worked as a truck driver with Canada Coal Limited when he enlisted with the QOR on 21 June 1940. He trained with the Regiment in Newfoundland, New Brunswick and England.

He was in the Support Company, Carrier Platoon, and went through Normandy (including landing with the second wave on D-Day), the Scheldt and the Rhineland campaigns with the QOR.

Rifleman Cockburn, 30, was killed in action in northern Holland near the town of Sneek when an anti-tank shell hit his carrier along with four others in carriers ([Jackson](#), [Ouderkirk](#), [Pennell](#) and [White](#)) on 16 April 1945. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XII. D. 14.

The family had the following engraved on his marker:

IN LIFE, LOVED AND HONORED
IN DEATH, ALWAYS REMEMBERED



Rifleman

Thomas Edward Cornelius Crawford

B117602 Rifleman Thomas Edward "Ted" Cornelius Crawford was born on 18 January 1914 in Espanola, Ontario, the son of Thomas Aloysius Crawford and Eleanor (Nellie) Helena Dwyer. He came from a large Roman Catholic family with six sisters and three brothers (one of whom also served overseas). He completed grade five and left school at 11. Crawford enjoyed hockey, baseball, hunting and played the sousaphone in the Kapuskasing Band.

On 27 July 1936, he married Marie Edmee Crawford, of Kapuskasing, Ontario. They had a son, Robert J., and a daughter, Joan.

He worked as a sulphite tester at Spruce Falls Pulp and Paper Company in Kapuskasing when he joined the Royal Canadian Army on 5 October 1943, and after training at Camp Borden was assigned to the Canadian Armoured Corps.



He arrived in the United Kingdom on 29 November 1944, and a few days later was transferred to the Infantry. On 9 February 1945, he arrived in Europe and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, A Company in Holland on 2 March.

Rifleman Crawford was first reported missing but later confirmed as killed in action on 6 April 1945 in Holland, aged 31. He is buried in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery in Holland, grave reference XI. F. 14. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

ONE OF THE BEST
THIS WORLD CONTAINED
EVER REMEMBERED
BY EDMEE, JOAN AND BOBBY

He was awarded the Medal of Remembrance posthumously for the Liberation of Holland and the Canada Medal for the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland.



Rifleman Leonard Desjardins

B138786 Rifleman Leonard Desjardin was born in Midland, Ontario, on 5 November 1924, the son of Xavier Joseph Desjardins and Ozelina Desroches and had one brother and three sisters. He spoke French at home and had challenges with English. He completed grade 8, left school at 16, and played hockey.

Before Leonard joined the Army he worked 6 months as a Machine Operator in a box factory, 8 months as a Deckhand & Watchman on a Great Lakes Freighter, and 5 months as a Moulder at Canada Metals.

Desjardin enlisted on 18 January 1943 and trained in Newmarket, Camp Borden and Toronto. Perhaps army life was not what he expected as he was struck off strength as a deserter on 13 January 1944. A month later he turned himself in and was awarded 20 days in military detention. On 14 March 1944, he arrived in the United Kingdom and three months later arrived in France and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles as a reinforcement.



He accidentally shot himself in the foot on 12 August 1944 and caused a minor injury deemed “not related to his duties”. Desjardin also had three additional charges for being Absent Without Leave in previous months. He returned to the QOR on 27 October 1944 and continued to serve with them in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

Rifleman Desjardin was killed in action on 25 April 1945, aged 20. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XII. E. 5.



Rifleman George Ewoniuk

B163666 Rifleman George Ewoniuk was born in Garson, Sudbury, Ontario, on 10 October 1925. The son of George Joseph Ewoniuk and Anne, he had one younger sister Helen. His family were Greek Orthodox and he completed grade 12.

Before his enlistment, Ewoniuk spent a total of almost 1 1/2 years in jail for theft of money and a car. He was released on 23 July 1944 and a week later enlisted in the active service army.

He trained in Brantford, Camp Borden and Debert, Nova Scotia, and reported for duty in the United Kingdom on 1 January 1945. He arrived in Europe on 10 February and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 2 March.

Rifleman Ewoniuk was killed in action on 10 April 1945, aged 19. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference II. A. 7. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

OUR DEAREST SON AND BROTHER
EVER LOVINGLY REMEMBERED
BY MOTHER AND HELEN

For many years his grave was cared for by Mr. W. De Groot.



Rifleman George Albert Fryday

B136751 Rifleman George Albert Fryday was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 11 November 1925, the son of Thomas Smithwick Fryday and Corporal Millicent Frances Ida Payton, who served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps, and brother Thomas William. They were members of the Church of England (i.e. Anglicans). Fryday attended Memorial and Jesse Ketchum public schools and completed one year of technical school.

Fryday joined the merchant marine at the age of 15. From April 1942 to September 1942, he served in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve until he was discovered underage (only 16) and subsequently discharged.

On 11 January 1943, Fryday enlisted in the active service army and after eleven months of training, reported for duty in the United Kingdom on 10 December 1944. He was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 31 January 1945, wounded on 2 April, and rejoined the QOR on 25 April.

Rifleman Fryday was killed in action in Holland on 4 May 1945, aged 20. He and [Rifleman Melvin Smith](#) were the last two QOR soldiers killed during the Second World War. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. F. 12.



His family had the following engraved on his marker:

A HELPING HAND TO ALL
HE WAS SO KIND, SO TRUE
HE NOBLY DID HIS BEST
GRANT HIM LORD, HEAVENLY REST



Rifleman Walter Leslie Jackson

B95983 Rifleman Walter Leslie Jackson was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 28 August 1921, the son of Jonathan Jackson (enlisted in WWI with 201st Bn CEF, and WWII with the QOR) and Margaret Jane Bell, and had four brothers and three sisters. He attended Roden and Leslie public schools and was employed as a pump press operator for an electrical appliances manufacturer. He enjoyed golf, horseback riding, hockey, softball and soccer.

On 24 March 1941, Jackson enlisted in the Medical Corps with his older brother Gordon Allen Jackson (died of wounds 22 July 1944) but soon transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada to join their father Jonathan Jackson.

Walter Jackson arrived in Scotland with the Regiment on 29 July 1941 and after various training and attachments, landed on Juno Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He served in the Carrier Platoon of Support Company in England, Normandy, the Scheldt, the Rhineland and Holland.

Rifleman Jackson was killed on 16 April 1945 along with several others in Bren carriers when they were hit by German anti-tank fire outside the town of Sneek in Friesland. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XII. D. 9.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

AT THE GOING DOWN
OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER OUR SON



Sergeant Howard Arnold Jones

B149153 Sergeant Howard Arnold Jones was born in Cape Croker, Ontario, on 25 December 1923. Of Métis descent, Jones was the son of John Chechok Jones and Lizette Ada Sadie Tobias and had one surviving brother and three sisters. His maternal grandfather, Walter Alexander Tobias, died in Ypres, Belgium, in 1917 during the First World War.

He spoke Ojibway and English, completed grade 8, and was a United Church of Canada member.

Jones worked as a truck driver and plasterer when he enlisted in the active army on 7 July 1943. He trained in Canada and arrived in the United Kingdom on 25 February 1944.

Jones was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles and arrived in France on 10 June, appointed acting Corporal on 14 July, Acting Lance Sergeant on 20 July, and wounded (shrapnel) and reverted to Acting Corporal on 29 July. He returned to the QOR on 2 October, was confirmed as Corporal 15 October, promoted Lance Sergeant 9 November, appointed Acting Sergeant 15 December, and confirmed as Sergeant 14 March 1945.

Sergeant Jones was killed in action on 25 April 1945 in Emden, Germany, aged 21. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XI. E. 7. He is also commemorated on the Cape Crocker Cenotaph.

His family had the following engraved on his grave marker:

IN LIFE, LOVED AND HONOURED
IN DEATH, PRECIOUS MEMORIES
LEFT BEHIND



Rifleman Nicholas John Luscombe

B163524 Rifleman Nicholas John Luscombe was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 28 September 1923, the son of Edward Luscombe and Annie O'Donnell. He had one sister and one brother and was a member of the Anglican Church.

He graduated from East York Collegiate Institute and completed two years at the University of Toronto, where he was a Canadian Officer Training Corps member.

Luscombe enlisted in the Tank Corps in July 1944 and after training in Petawawa and Debert, Nova Scotia, went overseas in January 1944. He was later transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Rifleman Luscombe, 21, was killed in the late hours of 25 April 1945. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XI. E. 4.

His family had the following epitaph added to his grave marker:

IN LIFE, LOVED AND HONOURED
IN DEATH, REMEMBERED



Rifleman Wilbert Charles McCombs

B68360 Rifleman Wilbert Charles McCombs was born in Paris, Ontario, on 29 September 1923, the son of Wilbert Charles McComb and Viola Gertrude Reynolds. He had one sister, a half-sister, and a half-brother.

On 3 July 1940, McCombs enlisted with the 2nd/10th Dragoons reserve battalion in Brantford, Ontario, but was discharged as medically unfit on 21 August. On 9 December 1941, he successfully enlisted with the Royal Regiment of Canada's active service battalion. McCombs trained at Camp Borden and in February 1942 was hospitalized for two weeks with influenza and complications.

In May 1942, he married Hilda Jean Thomson and they had a son Wilbert David born in December.

He arrived in the United Kingdom on 21 September 1943 and undertook further training and attachments. He arrived in Europe on 17 February 1945, three weeks later was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles, and admitted to hospital for a short stay on 23 March.

Rifleman McComb, 21, was killed in action in Holland on 23 April 1945. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XI. G. 12.



Rifleman Michael Joseph McKenna

F9280 Rifleman Michael Joseph McKenna was born in Greenfield, Prince Edward Island, on 23 August 1917, the son of Patrick Joseph McKenna and Laura Josephine. A Roman Catholic, he had two brothers (one in the navy) and four sisters. He completed grade 8 and left school at 16 to help his father with the family farm.

On 10 January 1940, he started his 30-day compulsory training with the reserves, re-enlisted on 28 August 1942 with the reserves in Charlottetown, then transferred to the active service in the 22nd Anti-Aircraft Battery on 28 November 1942. He trained at Aldershot, Yarmouth and Debert, Nova Scotia before reporting for duty in the United Kingdom on 21 Oct 1944 and being transferred to the infantry corps.

On 24 November 1944, McKenna arrived in Northwest Europe and was attached to the Headquarters of the 8 Canadian Infantry Brigade. On 15 March he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles.

Rifleman McKenna was first reported missing but later confirmed as killed in action on 6 April 1945, aged 27. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XII. F. 10. His family had the following engraved on his marker:

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF ONE WE SHALL NEVER FORGET,
MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE



Rifleman Allan Robert Lawson Mylles

B118080 Rifleman Allan Robert Lawson Mylles was born in Trenton, Ontario, the son of David Campbell Mylles and Mildred Marguerite Cox. His Presbyterian family included two younger brothers and a sister. He completed grade eight and then left school to help support his family.

Mylles enjoyed hunting, baseball, hockey and swimming. He spent one year as an operator's helper in a silver plating plant, a year and a half as a machine operator in a shoe factory, and on enlistment, as a sailor and watchman, on Great Lakes freighters.

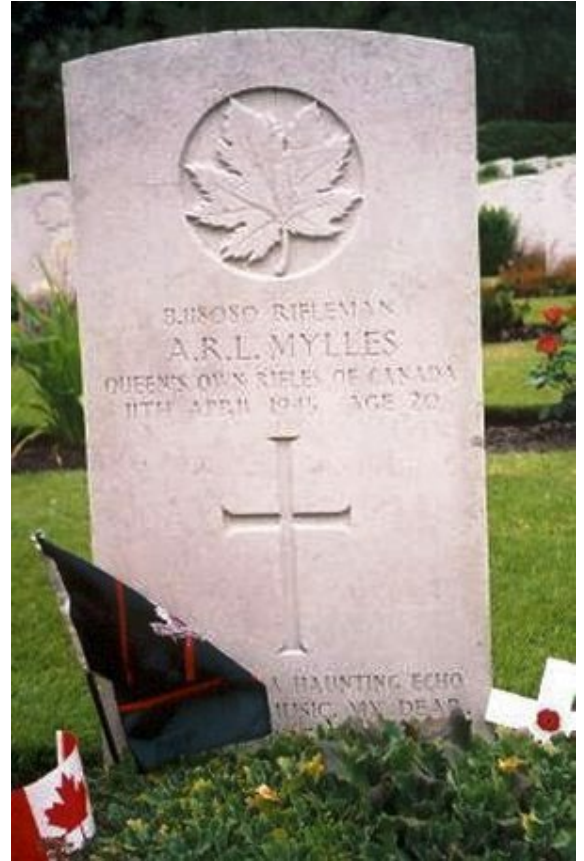
On 15 October 1943, Mylles enlisted in Toronto with the active army and trained in Brantford and Camp Borden. He arrived in the United Kingdom and was posted to 3 Canadian Reinforcement Unit on 9 May 1944 and a month later to The Queen's Own Rifles reinforcement unit. On 13 June, he arrived in France and was posted to the QOR two weeks later.

Mylles was reported missing but later confirmed wounded on 18 July. After returning to the QOR he was admitted to Canadian General Hospital for 71 days with illness. After discharge, he was posted to various reinforcement units before returning to the QOR on 7 April 1945.

Rifleman Mylles was wounded in action on 9 April and died of these wounds on 11 April 1945, aged 20. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference III. B. 9.

His family had the following inscribed on his grave marker:

YOU'RE LIKE A HAUNTING ECHO
OF SWEET MUSIC, MY DEAR,
FAR AWAY BUT EVER NEAR



Rifleman Gordon William Ouderkirk

B143209 Rifleman Gordon William Ouderkirk was born in Orville, Ontario, on 7 February 1917, the son of William Henry Ouderkirk and Minnie Dora Barager. His Presbyterian family included four sisters and two brothers. He enjoyed softball and completed grade 8, leaving school at 16.

He married Carrie Farrell on 19 January 1938 and had one son, Gordon John, who died young.

Ouderkirk worked as an electrical plater when he enlisted on 25 February 1943. He trained in Brantford and Camp Borden before arriving in the United Kingdom on 1 September and was posted to the Royal Regiment of Canada on 26 November 1943.

On 21 June 1944, Ouderkirk was appointed a Lance Corporal and arrived in France on 6 July. One week later, he was wounded and returned to the UK. After being charged with absence without leave, he reverted to Private. On 16 October, he arrived in Belgium and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles. He served in Support Company in the Carrier Platoon through Belgium, Holland and Germany.

Rifleman Ouderkirk was killed in action on 16 April 1945, aged 28, along with four others in carriers ([Cockburn](#), [Jackson](#), [Pennell](#) and [White](#)) near Sneek, Holland. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XII. D. 12. His family had the following inscribed on his marker:

THE LORD GIVETH
AND THE LORD TAKETH AWAY
BLESSED
BE THE NAME OF THE LORD



Rifleman Gordon Walter Parsons

B126697 Rifleman Gordon Walter Parson was born in Toronto, Ontario on 27 April 1923, the son of Samuel James Parson and Clara Jemmett. He was educated at King George Public School and Runnymede Collegiate but left at age 15 after 3 years of high school. He had one brother Norman James.

He married Josephine Annie on 7 November 1942.

Parson worked as a baker for the George Weston Bakery when enlisted for his compulsory service on 26 November 1942. After initial training in Toronto and Simcoe, he was posted to the Queen's York Rangers on 3 February 1943 and continued training in Debert, Nova Scotia. On 16 October he was transferred to the Pictou Highlanders. On 21 February 1944, he re-enlisted in the Active Service Army.

Parson went overseas in July 1944, arrived in France in mid-August and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 23 August 1944. He was wounded in the right buttocks on 17 September 1944 but after recovering rejoined the Regiment in November and served in France, Holland and Germany.

Rifleman Parson was killed in the late hours of 25 April 1945 and is buried in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery grave reference XII. E. 4.

His family provided the following epitaph for his grave marker:

FAITHFUL HUSBAND
ONE OF THE BEST
MAY GOD GRANT HIM
ETERNAL REST



Rifleman Harry Horace Pennell

B42738 Rifleman Harry Horace Pennell was born in Toronto, Ontario on 23 Jun 1921, the son of Obidiah Pennell and Abigail Amanda Scobie. He had three brothers and one sister and completed grade 7.

Pennell worked as a labourer when he enlisted in North Bay on 1 August 1940 and was taken on strength by the 1st Battalion Dufferin and Haldimand Regiment. He trained in Niagara and Nanaimo, British Columbia and received several charges for being absent without leave and drunkenness through 1942.

On 14 August 1942, he was posted to the Headquarters of 17 Infantry Brigade for general duties. He went overseas and arrived in the United Kingdom on 4 April 1943.

On 20 August 1943, Pennell transferred to The Queen's Own Rifles, landed with D Company on D-Day, 6 Jun 1944, and fought through France, Holland and Germany.

Rifleman Pennell was killed in action on 16 April 1945 along with four others in carriers ([Cockburn](#), [Jackson](#), [Ouderkirk](#) and [White](#)) near Sneek, Hollandand. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XII. D. 15.



Rifleman Albert Joseph Reichelt

B166052 Rifleman Albert Joseph Reichelt was born in Buffalo, New York, USA, on 6 March 1926, the son of Arthur Raymond Reichelt and Florence Tisdall. His United Church family included three older brothers (all serving – one wounded), two younger brothers, two younger half-brothers (one who died young), and one sister. He left school at 16 after completing grade 8.

Reichelt worked as a labourer at Fleet Aircraft Limited, Fort Erie, Ontario.

Enlisting in Toronto, Ontario, after turning 18 on 11 October 1944, he trained at Brantford, Chatham and Ipperwash. He wished to get into the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps but wound up in training for the Canadian Infantry Corps as the casualties overseas required replacements. Posted to the United Kingdom in the spring of 1945, he was posted in a large draught to the 48th Highlanders of Canada in Holland just days after VJ Day. He seems to have considered volunteering for the Japan force (with the 48th?) but hesitated and/or his application was rejected.

Obviously a “low points man”, he was struck off strength of the 48th upon their preparation to return to Canada and posted to the recently formed 4th Battalion, The Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada, in June 1945 for occupational service in Germany. As they prepared to return to Canada in the spring of 1946, he was taken on strength with the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps in April. Their duties appear to have been cleaning, preparing and trucking equipment to Antwerp for transport to Canada.

Rifleman Reichelt was killed while a passenger in a jeep that collided with a Dutch semi-trailer on 19 July 1946, shortly after turning 20. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XI. H. 2.



Corporal Walter Oscar Rintala

B119439 Corporal Walter Oscar Rintala was born in Garson Village, Ontario, on 3 August 1913. The son of Oskari Rintala and Anna Niemi, he had one brother and two sisters. He spoke English and Finnish and left school at age 15 after completing grade 8.

On 9 December 1936, Rintala married Ida Aileen Nikumaa in Timmins, Ontario, and they had one daughter Eileen.

Rintala was a salesman at Timmins Bottling Works when he enlisted on 16 November 1943 and trained in Brantford and Camp Borden. On 11 June 1944, he arrived in the United Kingdom. Five weeks later he arrived in France and within days was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles. On 19 August 1944, he was wounded but returned to the QOR on 16 September.

On 22 September, Rintala was appointed Lance Corporal and on 5 February 1945 appointed Acting Corporal. On 25 April 1945, he received serious shrapnel wounds.

Corporal Rintala died in Germany on 26 April 1945 of wounds received in action, aged 32. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference X. D. 1. His family had the following inscribed on his marker:

SLEEP PEACEFULLY, DEAR DADDY



Corporal Frederick Richard Shepherd

C102756 Corporal Frederick Richard Shepherd was born in Ottawa, Ontario, on 26 January 1924, the son of Corporal Wilfred Richard Shepherd (Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps) and Florence Mabel Volker.

He had two brothers (one also in the Canadian Army) and two sisters, Dorothy and June, and completed 2 1/2 years of high school. He was a member of the Church of England and enjoyed softball, hockey, singing and playing guitar.

Shepherd worked as a labourer for a livestock dealer in Erkin, Alberta, when he enlisted in Ottawa with the active service on 4 February 1943 and trained in Cornwall, Camp Borden and Debert, Nova Scotia.

On 29 March 1943, he was transferred to the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps at his request. On 1 June, he was appointed acting Lance Corporal, and on 14 November, he reverted to the rank of Private. He arrived in the United Kingdom on 12 April 1944 and was transferred to an infantry reinforcement unit, and three weeks later, was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles.



Shepherd landed with D Company on D-Day, 6 June 1944. Five days later he was wounded and returned to England. After recovering, he returned to the QOR on 27 October, attached to the Headquarters of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division on 29 November, appointed Lance Corporal on 2 December, and appointed Acting Corporal on 28 February 1945.

Corporal Shepherd, aged 21, was killed in action in Holland on 17 April 1945. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XII. D. 13. His family had the following inscribed on his marker:

SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS



Rifleman Melvin Charles Smith

K75883 Rifleman Melvin Charles Smith was born on 22 January 1922 in McCreary, Manitoba, the son of Raymond Francis Smith and Ada Pearl Bonney. He had 10 siblings and half-siblings and left school after grade VII.

He farmed for a few years but worked as a mechanic's helper when he enlisted at age 19 on 8 July 1941 in Trail, British Columbia. He trained in Vancouver and Vernon, British Columbia and Calgary Alberta. In April 1942 Smith was posted on "Special Duty" to the 1st Battalion of the Canadian Scottish Regiment.

On 12 May 1942, he arrived in the United Kingdom and after further training and duties, was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles in Northwest Europe on 10 November 1944. Smith was wounded twice – once in February and again in April.

Rifleman Smith was killed in action at age 23 on 4 May 1945. He is buried in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference VII. F. 9.

Smith and Rifleman Fryday, were the last two QOR soldiers killed in action during the Second World War.



Lance Sergeant Leonard Howard Taylor

B70183 Lance Sergeant Leonard Howard Taylor was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 2 August 1914, son of James Howard Taylor and Lydia Adams. His Church of England family included two sisters. He left school at 16 after completing part of grade 10, enjoyed fishing, baseball and hockey, and was a member of the Independent Order of Forresters.

Taylor married Barbara Jane (Jennie) Elliott on 14 November 1936, and they had one daughter, Lenore.

He worked as a paper maker for Hinds and Dauche Paper Company in Toronto when he enlisted with the Queen's York Rangers (active service) on 21 March 1942 after serving for 1 year and 9 months with the QYR militia. He trained at Camp Borden and Chippawa, was promoted to Lance Corporal on 16 July, appointed Acting Corporal on 16 October and confirmed as Corporal on 16 November.



On 17 June 1943, Taylor was transferred to the Royal Regiment of Canada and on 20 December 1943, promoted to Acting Sergeant.

Taylor reported for duty in the United Kingdom on 4 January 1944, reverted to Corporal, and two weeks later was posted to a reinforcement unit and promoted to Acting Sergeant. On 1 October 1944, he again reverted to Corporal and arrived in France the next day. Eight days later, he was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles and served with them through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was promoted to Lance Sergeant on 24 March 1945.

Lance Sergeant Taylor, aged 30, died on 20 April 1945 of wounds received in action on the 17th. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference IX. E. 16. His family had the following inscribed on his marker:

TOO DEARLY LOVED
TO EVER BE FORGOTTEN.
JENNIE, LENORE, MUM AND DAD
EVELYN AND OLIVE



Rifleman Lewis Morley Wheeler

B119538 Rifleman Lewis Morley Wheeler was born in Hamilton, Ontario on 6 September 1924, the son of Lorne Wheeler and Nellie Faye Sovereign.

He attended George Armstrong School and Central Collegiate in Hamilton, and was later employed in the purchasing department of the Norman Slater Company, Ltd. He was also an assistant Scoutmaster of Coalmore Troop.

Wheeler enlisted in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in November 1943 serving in the Signal Platoon, of Headquarters Company.

Rifleman Wheeler, 19, was killed on 25 April 1945 and is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference: XI. E. 2.

His family chose the traditional remembrance phrase to include on his grave marker:

AT THE GOING DOWN
OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING

RIFLEMAN LISTED KILLED IN ACTION IN REICH BATTLE

Lewis M. Wheeler Attended
Central Collegiate—Dundas
Trooper Presumed Dead



Rfmn. Wheeler

Three Men in List

In a casualty list released to-day for this city and district, one Hamilton soldier has been killed in action, Rfmn. Lewis Wheeler; one soldier is presumed dead, and another has been severely wounded.

Rfmn. Lewis Morley Wheeler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Wheeler, of 37 Kipling road, has been killed in action on the western front. Rfmn. Wheeler was 20 years of age and enlisted in November, 1943, with the Queen's Own Rifles. He had served in the Signal Platoon, headquarters company.

Rfmn. Wheeler attended George Armstrong School and Central Collegiate and was employed in the purchasing department of the Norman Slater Company, Ltd., before enlisting. He was assistant scoutmaster of Chalmers Troop.

He leaves his parents and a sister, Mrs. Robert Dobbie, of Hamilton, to survive him.



Rifleman Walter Samuel White

B64238 Rifleman Walter Samuel White was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 29 April 1912, the son of Walter George White and Nellie Rose Snoxell. His Anglican family included two sisters and three brothers. He left school to support his family at 14 having completed grade 8.

On 14 December 1935, White married Marjorie Lillian Ward in Toronto. They had one daughter, Lynn, and one son, William.

White had previously worked as a plasterer but worked as a lens grinder when he enlisted with the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles (Active Service) on 21 June 1940.

Starting in August, he spent four months with the Regiment in Newfoundland as part of "W" Force and on 24 April 1941 he transferred back to the QOR Depot in Toronto. A week later, he was transferred to the Canadian Army Trades School in Hamilton and qualified as a Driver Mechanic in September.

On 22 April 1942, he was appointed Acting Corporal and on 28 July 1942, he attended a Parachute concentration in Ottawa where he failed to qualify and returned to the Trades School on 6 August where he continued training. He reverted to Private on 18 June 1943, but on 1 September was appointed Lance Corporal on completion of a coaching course.

On 10 August 1944, White arrived in the United Kingdom and was transferred to the Winnipeg Grenadiers on 1 September. He arrived in Belgium on 17 October, a week later was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles and served with them through Belgium, Germany and Holland.

Rifleman White was killed in action on 16 April 1945 along with four others in carriers ([Cockburn](#), [Jackson](#), [Ouderkirk](#) and [Pennell](#)) near Sneek, Holland, aged 32. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XII. D. 11.



Rifleman George Clifford Woodruff

B160815 Rifleman George Clifford Woodruff was born in Cobourg, Ontario, on 31 January 1922, the son of George B. Woodruff and Jane Rowe.

He had four brothers and three sisters, and attended Trafalgar Hughes Public School, Woodville High School and Oakwood Collegiate.

Woodruff worked as a yardman at Henderson Coal Company Ltd when he enlisted on 15 April 1944, and trained in Brantford, Camp Borden, and Debert, Nova Scotia.

He arrived in the United Kingdom on 31 December 1944, and after further training, arrived in Northwest Europe on 17 February 1945, and was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles on 5 April.

Rifleman Woodruff, aged 23, was killed in action in Germany on 8 April 1944. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference XI. F. 13. His family had the following inscribed on his marker:

WE THINK OF YOU EACH DAY
DEAR CLIFFORD
AND TRUST OUR LOSS
WILL BE YOUR GAIN



Rifleman Mervin Henry York

B115539 Rifleman Mervin Henry York was born in Meaford, Ontario, on 29 September 1917, the son of Harmon York and Maud Lousia Wilson. He had two brothers who also served in the army, a third brother and four sisters.

On 19 July 1941, he married Shirley Ann Hanson.

York worked as a precision cutter and grinder at the John Inglis Company when he enlisted in Toronto with the Canadian Army on 20 August 1943. He trained in Orillia and Camp Borden and on 3 April 1944, reported for duty in the United Kingdom. Just six days later, he arrived in France and by 28 June, was posted to The Queen's Own Rifles as a reinforcement.

York was admitted to 22 Field Ambulance on 5 July 1944, to the 11 General Hospital on 8 July, and to 18 General Hospital on 13 July, finally being discharged on 25 July.

York went briefly absent without leave on 30/31 July, returned to France on 4 September and rejoined the QOR on 20 September. He then fought with them through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

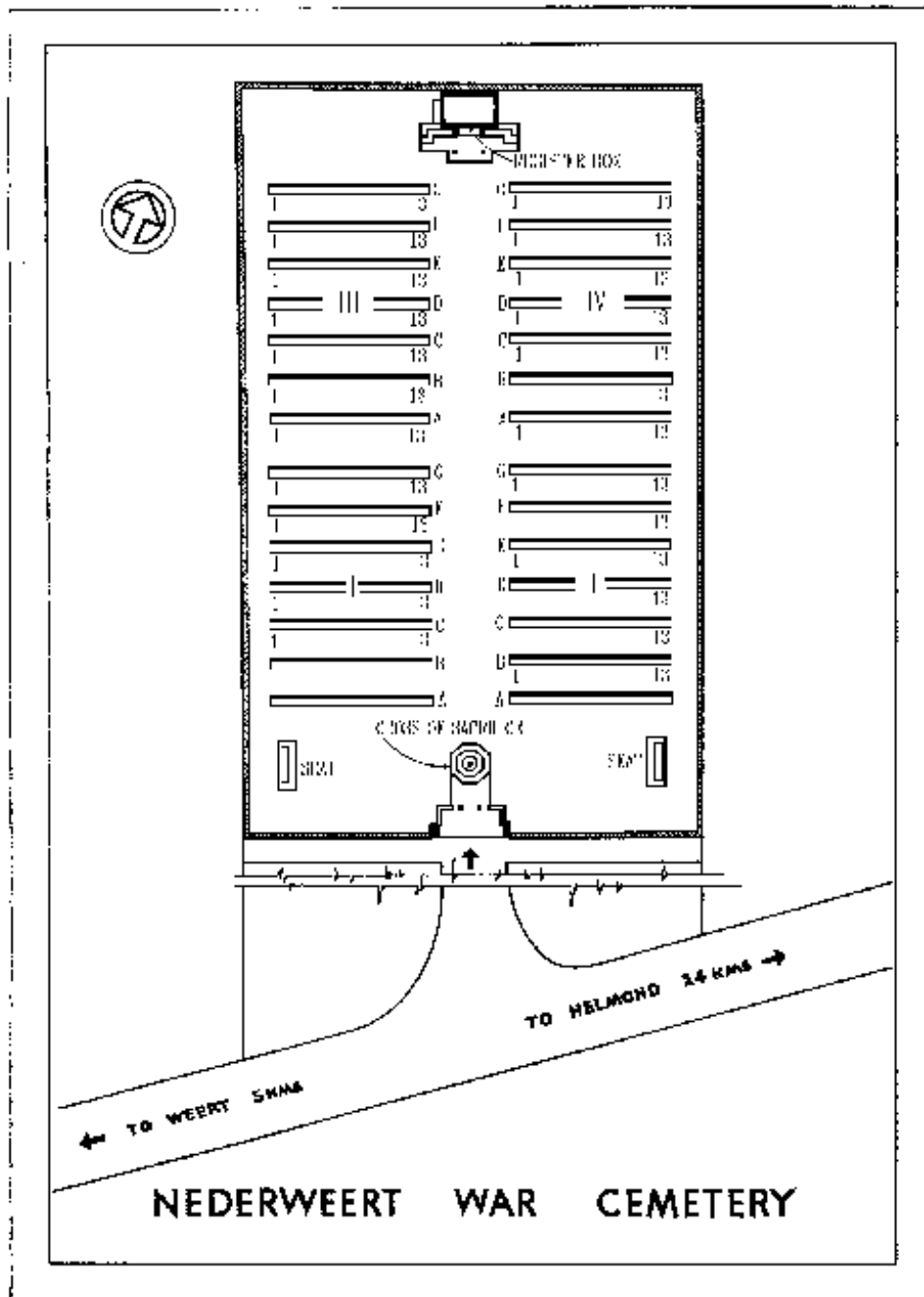
Rifleman York, aged 28, was killed in action in Holland on 10 April 1945. He is buried in Holten Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference II. A. 14.



About Nederweert War Cemetery

Nederweert is a village 38 km north west of Roermond, 21 km south east of Eindhoven and 5 km north east of Weert. The NEDERWEERT WAR CEMETERY is 150 metres west of the church and the same distance east of the road from Weert to Helmond. The entrance to the cemetery is closed to vehicles and visitors must walk the 50 metres to the Commission plot.

The NEDERWEERT WAR CEMETERY is signposted on the N266 Nederweert - Helmond road. The N266 is indicated from the Nederweert exit on the A2 Motorway Eindhoven Maastricht.



Major Archer Jack Greathed

Major Archer Jack Greathed was born in Herefordshire, England on 28 August 1900, the son of Edward Archer Greathed and Jane Geogina Croft. A brother was Rear Admiral Bernard Wilberforce Greathed with the Royal Navy. He completed high school and two years at Leeds University where he studied for his Bachelor of Science. He spoke English, French and Spanish and was a member of the Anglican Church.

From September 1918 to June 1919 he was 14078 Private Greathed with the British Inns of Court Officer Training Corps. He served with the 2nd Battalion Queen's Own Rifles (Reserve) from October 1939 to June 1940 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 15 October 1939.

Greathed worked as an accountant, a stockbroker in Vancouver (1928-1932) and a salesman for Termco Manufacturers Company Limited in Leaside, Toronto. He also worked at various times in London, England (1921-1922) and Venezuela (1922-1927.)

Greathed joined the QOR active service on 19 July 1940, on 3 August was promoted to Lieutenant, and started service in Newfoundland with "W" Force on 10 August. He continued training until arriving in Scotland with the Regiment and then continued various postings and attachments through late 1941 and early 1943.

On 26 November 1943, Greathed was promoted to Captain and on 11 April 1944 he was posted to the 1st Civilian Affairs Pool. He arrived in France on 1 July and was promoted to Acting Major "while specially employed" on 30 September.

Major Greathed died on 21 January 1945 of wounds received in action in The Netherlands. He is buried in Nederweert War Cemetery in The Netherlands, grave reference III. B. 4.

His family had the following engraved on his marker:

EVER REMEMBERED



Steenderen General Cemetery

There are three Canadians buried here: two Royal Canadian Air Force members whose plane crashed nearby and one member of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, Lieutenant John Gordon Kavanagh. His body lay under an "unknown" grave marker until 2019 when his identification was confirmed by the Casualty Identification Review Board and a new marker was installed.

Steenderen is a village about 10 kilometres south of Zutphen and 4 kilometres east of the main Arnhem-Zutphen road. The STEENDEREN GENERAL CEMETERY is about 225 metres north-west of the village centre, in a small lane on the western side of the road to Brummen. The graves are close to the entrance, on the western side of the main path.

Background:

21 Army Group, commanded by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, launched Operation Plunder on 23 March 1945 to cross the Rhine River. 2nd Canadian Corps of First Canadian Army played a significant part in this operation, crossing the Rhine at Emmerich, Germany. The task of the Queen's Own, along with the rest of 8th Brigade, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, was to clear the area from Emmerich to Hochelten, territory the enemy did not give up without a fight.

By 1 April 1945, with Allied Forces securely across the Rhine, the liberation of Northern Holland began in full force. On 2 April 1945, the Queen's Own crossed the Oude IJssel (river) near Laag-Keppel, Netherlands. Though expecting a fight, none came. On 4 April, the Regiment continued its push forward with A Company (Coy) capturing Eekhorn, B Coy capturing Zwaarte Schaar, C Coy capturing Rodenburg, and D Coy capturing Hoefken, then Emmer.

Though there had been casualties during these battles, they were few and moving forward was rather easy. The situation changed on 5 April when it became apparent that a sizeable number of German soldiers were holding the village of Rha. The 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, CASF was ordered to clean up the area and capture the village.



Lieutenant John Gordon Kavanagh

Lieutenant John Gordon Kavanagh was born in Toronto, Ontario on 20 October 1921, son of Mrs. Cora Kavanagh of Toronto. Kavanagh attended Riverdale Collegiate Institute in Toronto, Ontario where he was very strong in athletics. He worked as office clerk to the manager of the Athletics Department at the T. Eaton Co Ltd. in Toronto before joining the service. He was a member of Woodgreen United Church.

Kavanagh first joined The Queen's Own Rifles militia 18 September 1939 and then joined The Queen's Own Rifles (Active Service) battalion as a rifleman 13 June 1940.

In Kensington, England in June 1943, Kavanagh married Jean Hadderton of Toronto, who went overseas with the Red Cross.

He served with the Regiment until October 1943 when he returned to Canada for his officer training. Kavanagh was commissioned at Brockville in 1944 and rejoined the Regiment on the 18 March 1945. He was killed in action by artillery fire at Pipelure (near Rha on the IJssel River) while leading his platoon of Baker Company, 6 April 1945 – aged 23.

His body was not identified at the time and so he was remembered on the memorial at Groesbeek, The Netherlands (Panel 10.) However in February 2020, the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces announced they had "identified Lieutenant John Gordon Kavanagh, a Canadian soldier of the Second World War who was buried as an unknown soldier in 1947 in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's section of the Steenderen General Cemetery in the Netherlands." (Grave 1) A headstone re-dedication ceremony was attended by a detachment of serving QOR soldiers.

He was survived by his wife, two brothers, and a sister Mabel.



LT. J.G. KAVANAGH
K/A 6 APR. 45.
IJSEL RIVER.



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.