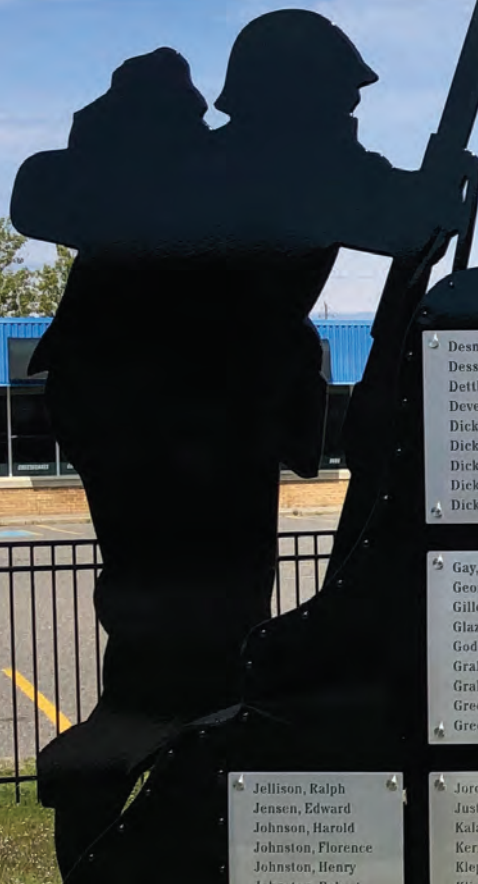




Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario Command



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Aschim, Joan

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In Service to Canada

Military Service Recognition Book

Volume 12

Lest We Forget

**Thank you Veterans,
for your service,
sacrifice and bravery.**



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A Message from the President



This year 2021 is an important year of Remembrance for all Canadians. July 5, 2021, marks the 100th anniversary of the Remembrance Poppy in Canada.

We recognize those who served and still serving their country where many Veterans paid the supreme sacrifice to defend our freedoms. The Legion has a duty to keep their memories alive. It gives me great pleasure to bring you the 12th edition of the Military Service Recognition Book.

The Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command would like to Thank all those that submitted information for the 12th edition. Also, the support of advertisers and donors who made this publication possible.

Proceeds from this publication are used to assist various Legion programs.

Jerry Lava
President
The Royal Canadian Legion
Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Command





Front Cover Photo

Marathon Veterans Square

On the north shore of Lake Superior in Marathon, ON, you will find this memorial to the town's pioneers who served in the Canadian Armed Forces in WWII. The memorial is part of Veterans Square, a community partnership of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 183, the LAV III committee and the town of Marathon. Aside from this memorial, there is a Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV III) once used in Afghanistan and a plaque honouring local citizens who served in the forces and as civilians in the conflict. The area has been landscaped, fenced and made an ideal spot for quiet remembrance.

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The collage features several scenes of emergency response:

- Top left: A white boat on a river.
- Top center: Two firefighters in yellow gear in a yellow inflatable boat.
- Top right: A white hazardous materials response unit with a red fire department emblem.
- Middle left: A white hazardous materials response unit with yellow and blue protective gear.
- Middle center: A large circular logo for the United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg Local 867 UFFW. The logo is black with a white border, featuring a red and yellow flame design and a black silhouette of a firefighter's head and shoulders. The text "UNITED FIRE FIGHTERS OF WINNIPEG" is in a white arc above the silhouette, "LOCAL 867" is in yellow below it, and "UFFW" is in large white letters at the bottom.
- Middle right: A white boat on a river.
- Bottom left: A firefighter climbing a ladder next to a fire truck.
- Bottom center: A fire truck with the number "911" on its side.
- Bottom right: A firefighter in full gear.



Municipality of Neebing

Lest We Forget

Bravely Met

It began at dawn with weapons drawn,
as battles often do.

A tot of rum, the prayers done,
it's time to see it through.

The whistles blow and off they go,
hoping to fight well.

Side by side with fear and pride
they charged out into Hell.

It's quiet now among the crosses
in pristine rows that mark our losses.

Belying the horror
of that long past dawn,
Where they stood with weapons drawn.

Past whispers of the silent prayers
of all our soldiers everywhere,
ask only that we not forget
the battles past, so bravely met.

H.A. SANDE



A Message from the Publisher

Fenety Marketing is very proud of its participation in the publication of **The Royal Canadian Legion – Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command’s Annual Military Service Recognition Book**. This is the 12th edition in the series devoted to recognizing Military and RCMP Members throughout Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.

It is an honour to work with The Royal Canadian Legion on this historic series of books of remembrance, which commemorate the brave and faithful service of our Veterans, our heroes. We honour them all for their contributions and sacrifices which have shaped our great country.

I would like to thank the citizens and business owners of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario who have supported this very worthwhile project of The Royal Canadian Legion, as it is their support that makes this legacy of The Royal Canadian Legion possible.

“Lest We Forget”

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Mark T. Fenety".

Mark T. Fenety
President
Fenety Marketing Services





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ABERCROMBIE, William C.

WWII

Bill was born on December 3, 1902, in Scotland and came to Canada in April 1928 and joined the Army at Grandview in April 1941. He was stationed at Shilo, Manitoba and served in Canada, England, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany. Unable to meet the required military physical standards because of sickness, he was airlifted back to Winnipeg, Manitoba. On June 15, 1945, Bill was given an honourable discharge from the service and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Grandview Branch 14 for forty years. He passed away on August 14, 1986 and is buried in the Grandview Cemetery.

ADAIR, William T.

WWII

William was born in Oxbow, Saskatchewan, in 1918 and enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Regina, Saskatchewan, and served in Canada, England, India and Burma. He passed away in 2001 and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Souris Branch 60.



AIKENHEAD, Lloyd

WWII

Lloyd was born on December 23, 1916, at Wellwood, Manitoba, and was schooled at Wellwood and Altamont from 1920 to 1927, and Neelin from 1927 to 1939. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1941 as a Navigator-Gunner-Observer-Pilot. In 1942, while in Holland on patrol over the North Sea, he was shot down in waters near Den-Helder and all four crew perished. His body was later found washed up on the shore. Lloyd is buried at Delfzijl, Netherlands. He was married to Muriel Bell of Baldur, Manitoba, who passed away in 2009. Lloyd never saw his son Larry. Lloyd and his brothers, Wayne and Allan, were also pilots in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II.

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In honour of the 101st Anniversary of Remembrance Day, the TCRC Div. 583 is proud to support The Royal Canadian Legion in their Military Service Recognition Book.



Lest We Forget



ALCOCK, Arthur A. A.

WWII

Arthur was born in Souris, Manitoba, in 1918. He was killed in action on June 17, 1942, at the age of 22. He was with #24 Operational Training Unit (Cum Labore Adjuvantes). His Whitlux Aircraft crashed while landing at Honeybourne, England. Six members of the crew were killed (not Canadians). Sergeant Wireless Operator Air Gunner Alcock is buried in the Evesham Cemetery in Worcestershire, England. Alcock Lake in Northern Manitoba is named after him.

ALVIS, John Clifford

WWI

John was born in Wick Berkeley, Gloucester, England, RSD, in 1887. He joined the 79th Battalion Expeditionary Forces and transferred to the 1st Canadian Rifles serving in France and Flanders. John won a Military Medal for bravery at Vimy Ridge. He passed away in 1965.



AMY, Thomas C.

WWII

Thomas was born in R.M. of Rockwood in 1918. He joined the Picton Highlanders serving in Canada and Bermuda with the rank of Corporal. He took his basic training in Portage la Prairie before being assigned to the Highlanders in the Maritimes and stationed in Bermuda. Taking advantage of the opportunity to upgrade himself through courses offered to servicemen, Tom received diplomas in Horticulture and Agriculture. Upon his discharge, Tom and his wife, Eleanor, purchased their farm through the VLA. He was a successful farmer for many years and was offered a position as Head Gardener for the base in Winnipeg after his retirement. Tom passed away in 2001 and was a Life Member of Brant-Argyle Branch 222 of The Royal Canadian Legion for 53 years and served his community proudly, as he did his country.



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ANDERSON, Edwin A.

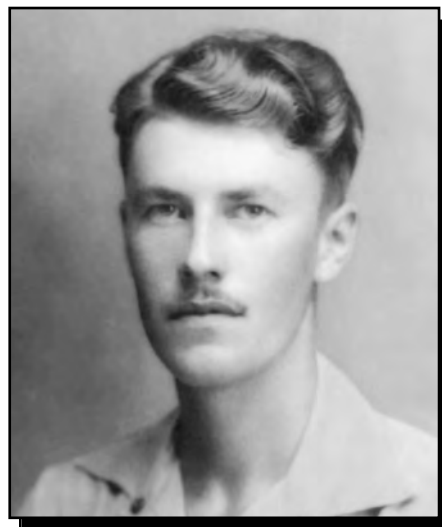
WWI

Edwin was born in Deloraine, Manitoba, in 1888. He went overseas with the 79th Battalion and into battle with the 85th Nova Scotia Highlanders. He slept in the Vimy Ridge tunnel on his way to Passchendaele where he was wounded. He served in England, France, Belgium and Passchendaele. On a return visit to Vimy Ridge area in 1968, he was deeply touched on entering the tunnel. Edwin was a member of the Prince Edward Branch 81 of The Royal Canadian Legion before he passed away in 1977.

ANDREWS, Francis J. W.

WWII

Francis was born in Shoal Lake, Manitoba, in 1920. He joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers serving in Jamaica, Bermuda and Hong Kong. Francis was a Prisoner of War at the Battle of Hong Kong on December 25, 1941, and placed in Camp North Point Kowloon, China, and later moved to Fukuoka, Japan, Camp Omine. He was liberated by American Forces on August 28, 1945. Francis passed away in 2000 and had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Birtle Branch 55 for over fifty years.



ARCHIBALD, Edward James "Ted"

WWII

Edward Archibald (known as Ted and Archy) was born on May 4, 1908, in Brandon, Manitoba and grew up on a farm nearby in Forrest. Soon after war was declared, Ted was one of the first to enlist in Brandon. He trained in Camp Shilo in the Artillery, and went overseas in 1940, with the 8th Field Regiment R.C.A. In England, he married Sheila Handley, from Chertsey in Surrey on October 25, 1941. Their first daughter was born in Surrey in 1943, shortly before Ted was deployed to Italy. During Army of occupation Germany, he was billeted in Belgium. Ted arrived home in 1946, being honoured by his home community of Forrest on January 11. He received three medals, Victory Europe, Volunteer Service, and Defence, and two stars, Italy, and 1939-1945 WWII. With VLA he bought a farm near Lenore, Manitoba, and raised a family of three daughters and three sons. He enjoyed curling and his Imperial Order of Foresters, until his death in 1978.



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BACK, Lawrence

WWII

Lawrence Back enlisted in the Army in 1941 with the Winnipeg Grenadiers. He transferred to the American Special Service and was taken Prisoner of War. He received his discharge in 1945.

BAKER, Brien J.

PEACETIME

Having many friends that were being drafted for the Vietnam War from the U.S. border town of Oroville, Washington, Brien decided that joining the Canadian Armed Forces would be the thing to do. An outdoor boy from small town Oliver, British Columbia, he joined up on his seventeenth birthday, seeking adventure and wanting to contribute in some small way. The five months of Boot Camp at CFB Shilo was not exactly what he had in mind but that was the Army, and he adjusted.

Completing his trade training in December 1967, Gunner Baker was posted to 3 RCHA in Winnipeg. There, he was employed as plotting technician in the Battery Command Post. In the summer of 1968, his Battery was sent to Belgium on a NATO competition. This was Gunner Baker's first taste of adventure and German beer. In the fall of 1968, Brien was posted to Germany with the SSM Battery (Surface to Surface Missile). Baker was employed as Arming Specialist on the 'Honest John Missile' until the Minister of Defence decided the Honest John was an ineffective weapon in this modern age of arms and disbanded the outfit. He remained in Europe with 1 RCHA as driver of a L-109 Howitzer, and radio operator until the summer of 1970, when a posting came in for Shilo, Canada.



Gunner Baker was released from the Armed Forces in May 1971, on completion of his five years of duty. He surpassed his goal of adventure and settled down to married life. Brien and his wife Lynda of Fisher Branch had two children, Darren and Christopher. Darren joined the Engineering Corps of the Armed Forces in 1988 and was posted to CFB Shilo. His youngest son, Chris, was killed in a traffic accident in 1989.

Brien re-enlisted in the Reserves and received his Queen's commission in the Armed Forces in 1987. He attained the rank of Lt. and was the CO of 158 RCACS. Brien farmed in the Hodgson area.

MÉTIS VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

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MÉTIS NATION

COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

The sacrifices and contributions made by WWII Métis Veterans to ensure peace and prosperity for Canada and its allies remain largely unknown. Métis soldiers returned from the war without compensation or recognition.

As part of the Métis Veterans Legacy Program, the Commemorative Program will honour, respect, and preserve the legacy of WWII Métis Veterans by supporting and fostering awareness of their contributions across the Métis Nation with the Canadian public.



David Chartrand, Spokesperson and Vice President,
Métis National Council and President, Manitoba
Metis Federation

Those eligible to apply for funding include:

- Métis Nation citizens,
- Recognized Métis Nation governments, organizations, and institutes,
- Recognized Canadian organizations and institutes.

These commemorative projects will support the efforts of Métis communities to honour Métis Veterans. Projects will aim to create public spaces with monuments to gather and honour Veterans; host ceremonies; or create education initiatives. The goal is to support the many ways Métis people honour and celebrate in their communities.

The Métis Nation invites Métis communities and individuals to learn more and become active supporters and participants in building a legacy to honour our Métis Nation WWII Veterans.

For more information please contact:

www.metisveterans.ca

or call 1-800-532-1993



BARR (THOMAS), Joyce

WWII

Joyce (Thomas) Barr, daughter of Bill and Lillian (Hamrlik) Thomas of Hodgson, Manitoba.

She joined the Navy in February 1952 at HMCS Chippawa in Winnipeg. A long train ride took them to Nova Scotia to the new entry base at Cornwallis. Basic training took only six weeks, but most of them thought they would not outlast the rigors and hardships, as they considered them at the time. Everyone finished their training in a lot better shape that they were when they started. That was followed by a four-month course in Communications.

Next came postings, which everyone was dreading. Joyce was sent with a small group to HMCS Coverdale, outside of Moncton, New Brunswick. She liked it there as the seashore was near and they rented a cottage at the beach. They familiarized themselves with

seafood which was new to those who were from central Canada. This lasted only one year until July 1953, at which time a few of them were sent to Ottawa. They were at HMCS Bytown which was at the National Defence Headquarters. That life was different as there were no more barracks, so they had to get their own apartments. They worked among civilian there and it was a pleasant place. She stayed there for three and a half years until February 1957 when she took her discharge.

They were not required to do anything drastic, being the peacetime Navy, but they did work hard and had a lot of good fun. She kept in touch with some of the friends she made in service. One of the friends she made in Ottawa was a tall Navy man named Hugh and they were married in 1958. They lived in the Ottawa area and had three children.

BLACK, Neil A.

WWI

Neil was born in Oak River, Manitoba in 1897. He enlisted in the Army and served in World War I with the 90th Rifle. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Flin Flon Branch 73.



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BLAIR, Herbert Harold

WWII

Herbert was born in Miami, Manitoba, in 1920. He joined the Air Force and served in Canada, the United Kingdom, and Continental Europe. He passed away in 2004.

BOCKMAN, Frank W. P.

WWII

Frank served in the Air Force in Canada and overseas during World War II. He was discharged from service on December 7, 1945.



BODNARUK, Nestor

WWII

Nestor served in the Army in Canada, the United Kingdom and Continental Europe during World War II. He was discharged from service on September 10, 1945.

In Loving Memory of

Ralph Ernest Traill and Stuart Traill

L/Cpl. Ralph Ernest Traill was born in Sebekka, Minnesota, USA in 1897. He served in the Army with the 1st Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles in France and in Belgium during World War I. Ralph passed away in 1965.

L/Cpl. Stuart Traill was born in Sebekka, Minnesota, USA in 1894. He served in the Army with the 1st Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles in France and in Belgium during World War I. Stuart passed away in 1972.

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Thank you Veterans

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BODRUG, Evan Wesley

WWII

Evan served in the Air Force in Canada during World War II. He was discharged from service on September 3, 1945.

BOLTER, John L.

WWII

John was born in Neepawa, Manitoba, in 1917. He joined the Army in the spring of 1942 and went directly to Kingston, Ontario, where he was in the Ordnance Corps. By the fall, he was in Ottawa where he joined the Canadian Army Band until the summer of 1945. John was discharged due to medical reasons. In November 1945, he married Alice Stoughton and had two children, Jack and Gail. He passed away in 1962 and had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Birtle Branch 55 for ten years.



BOLTON, Norman E. J.

WWII

Norman enlisted in the Navy and served with the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve on HMCS Stadacona during World War II.



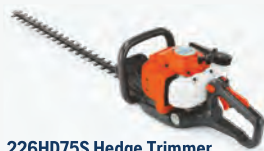
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BOOTE, Leonard

WWI

Leonard joined the 43rd Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and served in France. He was killed in action in 1918.

BOOTH, Alan Stewart

WWII

Alan served in the Navy in Canada and on the High Seas during World War II. He was discharged on November 16, 1945.



CAMERON, Jack

WWII

Jack was born in Boissevain, Manitoba, in 1919. He joined the 12th Manitoba Dragoons training firstly at Portage, then at Shilo and from there to Camp Borden, Ontario, serving in Canada, England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Jack passed away in 2002 and had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Boissevain Branch 10 for over fifty years.



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- To liaison with police and city emergency responders



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CAMPBELL, John Dixon “Jack”

WWII

John Campbell, also known as Jack, was born in Verity, Manitoba, a rural community near Kenton, Manitoba, in 1927. He grew up on the family farm, then went to work in the mines very young, and enlisted in 1942 in the army as a fifteen-year-old for World War II. His short-termed enlistment was in Manitoba, probably signing up in Flin Flon. He contracted Scarlet Fever, was hospitalized, and was discharged for medical reasons, as well as his true age was discovered. Jack married Betty McGinnis from The Pas, Manitoba. They raised a family of four sons and one daughter. Jack was killed in a mine at Esterhazy, Saskatchewan in 1966. Jack's older brother Bill served with the artillery through Canada and Europe.

CAMPBELL, John S.

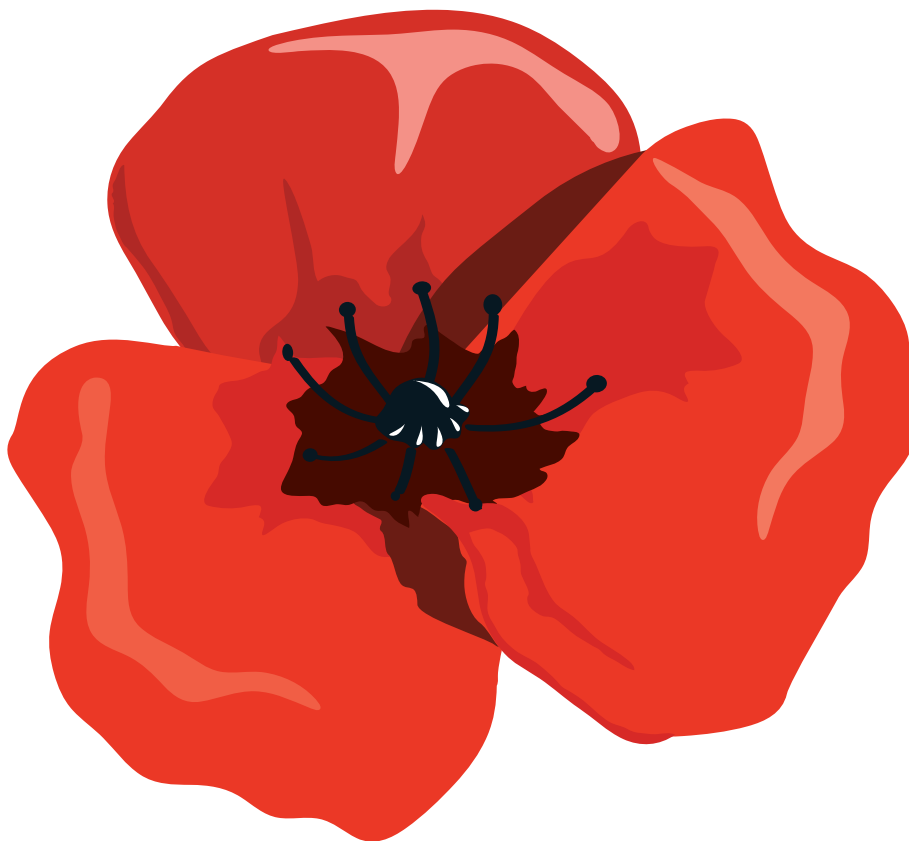
John was born in Inverness, Scotland on October 4, 1894. He served in Canada with the Veterans Guard of Canada being discharged on July 10, 1946.



CAMPBELL, John T.

WWII

John was born in 1920 in The Pas, Manitoba, and enlisted in the Air Force in 1941 taking his pilot training in Regina, Saskatchewan, and Lethbridge, Alberta. He went overseas in 1941 and was based in England with the British Squadron #405. He was a pilot of a Halifax aircraft and his crew was made up of three British and five Canadians. They flew 25 successful operations, most were bombing raids over Dusseldorf, Essen, and Saarbrücken and other German cities. John was shot down over Germany on October 1, 1942, and it is believed that he was flying with another crew whose pilot had been killed. John is buried in the Kiel War Cemetery in Germany. His parents, Jack and Elsie, never did visit his grave. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion The Pas Branch 19.



Thank You.

We are proud to support and honour
the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Veterans
who serve our country.





CAMPBELL, Lewis Vernon

WWII

Lewis served in Canada and overseas with the Army in World War II. No further information is known at this time. If you know this Veteran and have more information, please contact us at 1-877-211-6434.

CAMPBELL, Wilfred James "Bill"

WWII

Wilfred Campbell, Bill, was born in 1919 in Pen Dennis, near Bradwardine, Manitoba. He grew up on the family farm, then enlisted in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, in 1942 with the Army, training in Portage and Camp Shilo, before serving with the artillery on Canada's west coast. Bill, with the Queen's Own Highlanders and Princess Patricia's, went overseas in 1944, fought through Europe and stayed with the army of occupation of Germany in 1945. Discharged in 1946, Bill returned to Kenton, Manitoba, bought a farm through VLA, married Pauline Lonsdale of Kenton, and raised a family of three daughters and one son. Bill received the 1939-1945 Star and the Victory Europe Medal. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 118 in Kenton, Manitoba for 65 years, passing away in 2012.



CANADA, Moise

WWII

Moise was born in Cumberland in April 1906. He enlisted on July 19, 1943 in Flin Flon. He served in World War II with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Canada and overseas. Moise was married to Christina.

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Master Bombardier Shastan Beaumont-Smith

Shastan was born in Winnipeg in 1991. She served with the 26 Field Regiment in Canada during Peacetime.

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CARTER (TORRANCE), Janet Wilson Murdoch WWII

Janet Wilson Murdoch (Torrance) Carter was born on December 16, 1911 in Griswold, Manitoba. The youngest of four siblings, she stayed home, helped her parents on the farm, and worked at the General Store in Griswold. Janet enlisted in the CWAC in 1943, serving at the Minto Armoury, becoming Corporal. In 1944, she married Robert Carter of Harding, Manitoba, himself in the Army, having met at a dance. She discharged in 1945, had one son and one daughter, as they lived south of Harding. In 1954, Janet bought a farm near Kenton, Manitoba through VLA. In retirement, Janet gave the farm to the two children, and worked in Kenton Co-op as bookkeeper for many years. She passed in 1990, predeceasing Robert by five years, both due to cancer. They are buried at United Church site, Shiloh Cemetery, south of Kenton. Their son Torrance, Tory, still farms the home farm, while daughter Jeanette Routledge lives in Virden, Manitoba.

CARTER, Percy James

Percy served in Canada and overseas with the Army. No further information is known at this time. If you know this Veteran and have more information, please contact us at 1-877-211-6434.



CARTER, Robert Cyril "Bob" WWII

Robert Cyril "Bob" Carter, was born on January 27, 1917 on the family farm south of Harding, Manitoba. He was the oldest of six siblings. Bob went to school at Education Point rural school, then farmed with his parents. He drove a truck for a living which became Carter's Transfer. Bob enlisted in the Army, trained in Manitoba, then got sick when it was time to go overseas. He remained in Canada, and in 1944 married Janet Torrance of Griswold, Manitoba, herself in CWAC. On discharge, they lived south of Harding, having a son Torrance (Tory), and daughter Jeanette, now Routledge, of Virden, Manitoba, before moving to Janet's own VLA farm in 1954. They retired, stayed on the farm, left to their children, working part time, until Janet in 1990 and Bob in 1995, both passed from cancer. Tory and Jeanette are both retired. Tory carries on living and working on the family farm, and Jeanette in Virden nearby.



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CHABOYER, Alex

WWI

Alex was born in St. Laurent on December 20, 1895. He enlisted in the Army in The Pas in June 1916. He served in World War I in France and was discharged in Winnipeg in August 1919. Alex received a Service Medal and Victory Medal. He and his wife had seven children: Ray, Irene, Madeline, Henry, Hans, Warren and Myrtle.

CHAMBERS, Thomas R.

WWII

Thomas was born in Boissevain, Manitoba, in 1919. He joined the Royal Canadian Army Service Corp/Medical Corps serving in Canada, England, France, Germany and Holland. Thomas was a member of the Medical Corps involved in removing Jewish inmates from Dachau Concentration Camp at the end of World War II. He had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Boissevain Branch 10 for 25 years before he passed away in 1990.



CHAMPAGNE, Norman

WWII

Norman enlisted in the Royal Canadian Medium Artillery in Winnipeg, Manitoba on April 11, 1941. He took his basic training in Vernon, British Columbia, then advance training in Brandon, Manitoba. Norman went overseas to England on the Monarch of Bermuda in October 1941. He spent the next four years going through Sicily and Italy, France, Belgium and Holland, then volunteered to go to the Pacific Front. He returned home on the "Ile de France" in October 1945 but did not go to the Pacific.



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CHARTRAND, Wilfred

WWII

Wilfred Chartrand joined up in August 1940, at Fort Osborne Barracks. He was with 6th Field Regiment, RCA, 13th Field Battery, 2nd Division. From there he went on to Portage la Prairie to take his basic training. His next move was to Camp Shilo for advance training. Not the barracks of today, for those boys it was under canvas with little red snakes in their blankets for sleeping company.

In August 1943, he was shipped east to #1 Transit Camp in Nova Scotia to await a draft for overseas. From Halifax he sailed aboard the Queen Mary to Greenock, Scotland. Then it was south to Aldershot for a while, on to Worthing and finally to Dover just before D-Day. Two weeks later he landed in France and was wounded along with two others at Caen when the 25-pounder gun blew up and he was hit in the face. He was sent to the back of the lines and then flown to Number 11 General Hospital on Lady Astor's estate. He was blind because of the explosion, but thanks to the skillful surgery performed by Major Hill

he regained the sight in his right eye after being blind for six weeks, but there was no such luck with his left eye. All but one piece of shrapnel was removed (that one was impossible to remove). He spent the rest of his recuperation time at Number 11 General Hospital.

After this, he was drafted to a holding unit in Aldershot where he thought he was going to return to Canada, but no such luck. He became part of the Occupational Force was drafted to Latham, Ghent in Belgium and then on Amersfoort in Holland. By this time, he was attached to the 91st Field Battery, RCA. He stayed in Holland until a few days before Christmas in 1945, when he returned to England to get married on the January 4, 1946.

On January 20, 1946, a convoy of Canadians went south to Southampton to board the Ile de France bound for Canada. They arrived in Halifax on the January 28, 1946 and headed for Hamilton. From there he travelled on to Winnipeg and arrived there on the February 6. He went home for a month and then was given an honourable discharge on March 15, 1946.

CHESTER, Edward Albert

WWII

Edward was born in England on March 17, 1915. He enlisted in the Army on January 8, 1943 and served with the Fort Garry Horse. He was discharged on November 8, 1945. Edward was married to Madeline.



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CHILDREN, George Alexander

WWI

George was born in England on June 27, 1889. He enlisted in the Army Winnipeg on October 14, 1914. He served with the 27th Battalion, CEF in France during World War I. George was discharged in Winnipeg in 1919 and received a Service Medal. He and his wife Ella had a daughter Sheila. George was a Barrister at Law.

COATES, Frank W.

WWII

Frank was born in Morris, Manitoba, in 1909. He joined the Unit 1 CASC Reinforcement Unit Ca 60, serving in England and France. He passed away in May 1973 and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Morris Branch 111.



COCHRANE, Ralph B.

WWII

Ralph was born in Harriston, Ontario, in 1906. He enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Winnipeg in May 1941 and sailed from Halifax to the United Kingdom in August that year, where he furthered his training as a wireless mechanic and served on several stations in England. He arrived in North Africa in May 1943, and in August, he was diagnosed with Malaria Fever, severe pain with one arm and both legs in casts. He returned to the UK on November 11, 1943, for further hospitalization. He repatriated to Canada, arriving in Montreal in March 1944, and spent his remaining war years serving in Winnipeg and Rivers, Manitoba. Ralph received his discharge in July 1945. Birtle remained Ralph's home until his death in 1998. He had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Birtle Branch 55 for 45 years.

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COLETTE, Arthur Joseph

WWI

Arthur was born in Poona, India on April 7, 1888. He enlisted in the Army in The Pas on August 20, 1915 and served with 31st BN in France during World War I. He was discharged in Winnipeg on March 1, 1917 with a Service Medal. Arthur and his wife, Colette, had three children: Ronald, Doris and Maurice. Arthur passed away by drowning on September 2, 1942 and is buried in Flin Flon.

COLLENS, Milton Otto

WWII

Milton was born in Bowsman, Manitoba on November 2, 1922, his mother was Helen. He enlisted in the Army on May 4, 1942 and served in Canada and overseas during World War II. He was discharged on January 24, 1946 and received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. Milton was married with four children: Mari, Carol, Leo and Rob.



COLLEY, Norman

WWII

Norman served in World War II in Canada and the United Kingdom with the Air Force. He was discharged on March 20, 1946.

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COLLINS, Brian

Brian was born on September 18, 1938. He enlisted in 1961, serving with the Royal Rhodesia Regiment in Rhodesia. He was discharged in 1963.

COLLINS, Franklin Kay

WWII

Franklin was born in Inwood, Manitoba on June 17, 1917. He enlisted in Winnipeg on January 3, 1941. He served in Europe with the Air Force and was discharged on January 11, 1945. He received a Service Medal. Franklin had one son Richard.



COLLINSON, Allan C.

PEACETIME

Allan was born in Souris, Manitoba, in 1937. He joined the 12th Manitoba Dragoons in 1952, serving in Canada. He was discharged in June 1957, with the rank of Trooper. Allan's father, Robert F. Collinson, was overseas in World War I and served in Winnipeg during World War II. His brother, Glen, also served in World War II and was wounded in England, and his sisters, Barb and Madolyn, also served. Allan passed away in 2009 and had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Souris Branch 60 for 33 years.

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COOKE, Arthur William George

WWII

Arthur was born in Dauphin, Manitoba, in 1918. He joined the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Division in 1941 and served in Europe from 1943 to 1945. Upon his return to Dauphin, Arthur worked as an electrician and in 1969, with his son, Douglas, they formed the electric company, ACE Electric. Arthur and his wife, Elsie Robinson, raised a family of one daughter and two sons. Arthur passed away from cancer in 1976 and had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Dauphin Branch 20.

CORBETT, Stewart Albert

WWII

Stewart was born in Winnipeg on July 20. He enlisted in the Navy in Winnipeg on April 21, 1942. He served on the Atlantic during World War II. He was discharged in Winnipeg on October 30, 1945. Stewart and his wife Vivian Anne had two children, Gay and Stewart.



CORMACK, Cecil John

WWII

Cecil was born in Kenton, Manitoba, in 1917. He joined the #10 District Depot Artillery Section in 1941 and after completing his basic training in Shilo, he was sent to England. While there, the 7th Anti-Tank Corps was formed, and Cecil took an artificer course in rebuilding guns. Subsequently, the convoy was shipped to the Mediterranean and lost a boat filled with nursing sisters off the coast of Algiers. The convoy moved on to Sicily and then conquered Rome. After Germany fell, he was sent to Hilversum, Holland, to guard German prisoners. Cecil was a very private man and did not talk very much about his experiences while serving overseas, just the good, fun times. He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, the Defence Medal, the 1939-1945 Star, the Italy Star and the France and Germany Star. Cecil passed away in 1988 and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Brandon Branch 3 for seven years.



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CORNEY, Charles “Leslie”

WWII

Charles Corney, Leslie, was born January 21, 1921, on family farm near Harding, Manitoba. There were three boys and three girls. All schooled in Harding, then Leslie, and his two brothers, Maurice, and Dennis enlisted. Leslie served in the Army Artillery through Italy, France, and into Holland. At War's end, Leslie was back in France guarding prisoners. With ceasefire, the prisoners were released and walked away. He received Volunteer, Defence, and the War medals, plus Stars for WWII, Italy, and France and Germany. He returned to Canada, married, and had two children, and lived in Vancouver, BC. Leslie, and all siblings but one, Elizabeth (Betty) Golding of Brandon, Manitoba, are deceased, Leslie passing in 2000.

CORNEY, Dennis Orville

WWII

Dennis Orville Corney was born on October 10, 1926 on the family farm near Harding, Manitoba. He was one of three brothers, three sisters. After growing on the farm, and schooling in Harding, he and two brothers, Maurice and Charles (Leslie) all enlisted. Dennis served in the Royal Canadian Navy in the Atlantic on the Corvette Napanee. He received Volunteer Service, Defence, and the War Medal, and the 1939-45 WWII star. After discharge, he married Fay Brough. Their son Wayne served in the Army reserves. Dennis was killed in the mines near Flin Flon in 1992. Fay has since passed, with the only remaining Corney sibling being Betty Golding of Brandon, Manitoba.



CORNEY, Maurice Julian

WWII

Maurice Julian Corney was born on March 13, 1922. He was one of three brothers, and three sisters, all schooled in Harding, Manitoba near their family farm. He and his two brothers, Dennis and Leslie, all enlisted, Maurice in the RCAF. He wanted to be a pilot, denied for physical reasons, he became an Air Craft mechanic. Maurice spent a good part of the war in California. Upon discharge, Maurice farmed in the Harding district. He married Irma Foster of Birch Hill, Saskatchewan in 1948. They had four children, Philip, Donna, Ronald, and Marie. Maurice retired from farming then worked in the Co-op store and then the Credit Unions, becoming Manager of the Oakburn, Manitoba branch. Both Irma and Maurice are deceased, Maurice passing in 1999. The only remaining Corney sibling is Elizabeth (Betty) Golding of Brandon, Manitoba.

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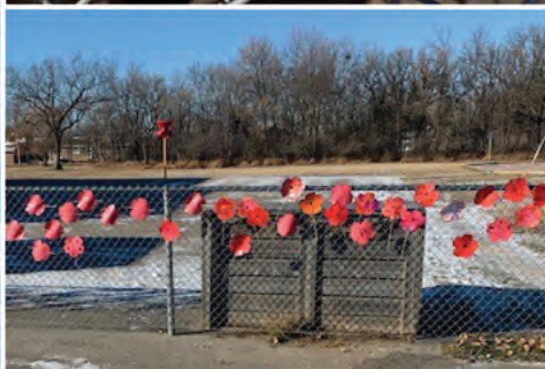
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COULSON, Lewis Raymond

WWII

Lewis was born in 1914 and joined the Royal Canadian Army Service Corp serving in England and Germany. He passed away in 1973 and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 99.

COULTHARD, Godfrey Arthur

WWII

Godfrey was born in Dauphin on July 21, 1909. He enlisted in the Army in Dauphin on June 26, 1940. He served overseas as a Rifleman with RWR until his discharge in Winnipeg on September 29, 1945. Godfrey received a Service Medal.



COUTTS, Richard Augustus

WWII

Richard enlisted in the Army in Winnipeg on April 17, 1943. He served as a Corporal in World War II with the CAC. Richard was married to Emma.



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COVERLEY, John Edward

WWI

John was born in Nottingham, England on November 12, 1881. He enlisted in Cardiff in January 1916 and served in France. He was discharged in Manchester in January 1919. John received a Military Medal.

COX, Andrew James

WWII

Andrew was born in Swan River on October 23, 1904. He had two sisters, Edith and Alice. Andrew enlisted in the Army in Winnipeg on January 11, 1943 and served as a Corporal with the Paratroops in Canada during World War II. He was discharged in Winnipeg on February 20, 1946.



CROSS, Alexander

WWII

Alexander was born in Scotland in 1904. He joined the 5th Field Hygiene Section, Medical Corps serving in Canada, England, Italy, Holland and Belgium. He passed away in 1993 and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion General Sir Sam Steele Branch for 46 years.

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CROWE, James

WWII

James was born in London, England on April 4, 1901. He enlisted in the Army in Montreal, Quebec on December 3, 1939. He served as a Gunner in England and Holland during World War II. James was discharged in Toronto, Ontario on October 6, 1945. He and his wife had one son James Joseph.

CROZIER, Gordon William

WWII

Gordon was born on May 5, 1922. He enlisted in the Army in Winnipeg, Manitoba on October 17, 1942 and served overseas with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles during World War II. He was discharged in Winnipeg on March 17, 1946.



CRUICKSHANK, David Ray

David served in Canada with the Army. No further information is known at this time. If you know this Veteran and have more information, please contact us at 1-877-211-6434.



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CUMMER, Gordon W.

WWII

Gordon was born in Carman, Manitoba, in 1922. He joined the PPCLI as a Private, serving in the United Kingdom. He received the France and Germany Star. Gordon passed away in 1988 and had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Carman Branch 18 for nine years.

CURTIS, G. Annie “Nancy” “Nan”

WWII

G. Annie Curtis, born in Birch River, Manitoba on September 2, 1923, was one of six brothers and six sisters, of George B. Curtis, World War I Veteran, and Gertie Sirett, war bride from Uxbridge, near London, England. Nancy was schooled in Kenton, Manitoba before enlisting in the CWAC in 1944. Her brother Ronald was killed in action that year. She served in Ottawa in office support, transport, and ordnance. Returning to Winnipeg, she met John Roseveare, a Veteran, from Sperling. They married in 1948 and moved from Winnipeg soon after first son of four and one daughter was born. Until 1957, John worked for Lyle Lee of Waskada, before buying his own farm near Kenton through VLA. They raised their family, while Nan had time for Women's Auxiliary Legion including president, and much church and community work. Nan passed in 2013, predeceased by her daughter, followed by John in 2020. John and Nan Roseveare are buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Kenton, Manitoba.



CURTIS, George Bradford

WWI

George Bradford Curtis was born in Ontario on January 5, 1888, then moved to Forrest near Brandon, Manitoba. He trained horses with the Royal Northwest Mounted Police before enlisting in the Artillery, RCHA at the start of World War I. He fought in western Europe, and married Gertie Sirett of Uxbridge near London. She was a munitions factory supervisor in charge of nearly twenty women. One son was born before returning in 1919. They had six sons, and six daughters, Ron and Nancy serving in World War II. The family was raised in Birch River, and eventually settling in Kenton, Manitoba. George suffered from cancer, passing in 1942. George had received three medals from World War I. He, and Gertie, born 1894, deceased 1999, are buried at Greenwood Cemetery, near Kenton, Manitoba.

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CURTIS, Ronald Cecil

WWII

Ronald Cecil Curtis was born on October 26, 1920 in Birch River, Manitoba. He was the third child of six boys and six daughters of George B. Curtis, World War I Veteran, and Gertie, née Sirett, war bride, and World War I munitions factory supervisor, from Uxbridge, England. Ron grew up in Kenton, Manitoba, then signed up with the infantry for World War II. Ron's sister G. Annie served in the CWAC. With the Essex Scottish Regiment, he fought at Dieppe, then was early into France after D-Day. Ronald was killed near Caen on July 21, 1944 and is commemorated at Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery between Caen and Falaise in Normandy, France. The Essex Scottish, with 550 dead and 2500 casualties were the most of any Canadian Army unit. Ronald was awarded three medals, Volunteer Service, Defence, and Victory Europe, and two stars, WWII 1939-1945, and France and Germany. Curtis Island in Blackfish Lake northern Manitoba was named after him in 1975.

CUSSON, Fred

WWII

Fred was born in Somerset, Manitoba, in 1923. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force LAC in 1941 and went overseas on February 12, 1943. He celebrated his twentieth birthday in Great Britain shortly after arriving there. He passed away in 1981.



DANIEL, James "Jim"

WWII

James Daniel (Jim) was born in Kenton, Manitoba, the son of John and Isabella Daniel. Raised on the family farm and schooling in Kenton, Jim enlisted with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps as a Trooper in January 1942. He served in Canada and England, then was injured in England and did not see action. Demobilizing in 1946, he returned to Canada and worked the rest of his life on his own farm south of Kenton. For his service, he received the Volunteer, Defence, and War Medals, and WWII 1939-45 Star. Jim is deceased. His wife, herself a Veteran, Jean Daniel, née Houston, with her four brothers, served in the CWAC. All five Houstons returned from war. Jean resides in senior care, Birch Lodge, Hamiota, Manitoba. They raised two sons and two daughters.

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DANIEL (HOUSTON), Jean A.

WWII

Jean A. Daniel, was one of three sisters, four brothers, from St. Francis, Manitoba. They moved to Kenton, Manitoba. Her parents were William S. and Janet B. Houston. Jean's father was a butcher. With war, Jean, and four of her brothers enlisted, Jean with the Canadian Women's Army Corps, private, in April 1943. Areas of operation were Fort Osborne, Winnipeg, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and Kitchener, Ontario. She demobilized in March 1946, returned to Kenton, and married Jim Daniel, an Army Veteran. They had two sons and two daughters, raised on their farm near Kenton. The sons still farm near Kenton, and the daughters live in Hamiota nearby. Jim is deceased, while Jean resides in Hamiota in Birch Lodge Senior Care Home.

DAVIE, Isaac Leslie

WWI

Isaac was born in Scotland on December 20, 1898. He enlisted in Aberdeen on July 30, 1915 and served as a Corporal in World War I with the Gordon Highlanders in France and Belgium. He was discharged in Kinross on March 31, 1919 and received the Military Medal, General Service Medal and the Victory Medal. Isaac and his wife Margaret had one daughter Joyce.



DAVIES, W.M. John

WWI & WWII

W.M. John Davies was born in South Wales in 1896. During World War I, he served with the Royal Welsh in France and during World War II, with # 12 District Depot Canada. He received a Service Medal. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Flin Flon Branch 73.

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DAVIS, Kenneth L.

WWII

Kenneth was born in Ophir, Utah in 1924. He served with the 7th Air Force, AAF during World War II. Kenneth was a member of The Royal Canadian Flin Flon Branch 73.

DAWSON, Douglas K.

Douglas was born in St. Boniface, Manitoba in 1926. He enlisted in the Army and served as a Private with the CIC in Canada. Douglas was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Flin Flon Branch 73.



DELGATY, Thomas Neil "Tom"

WWII

Tom was born on March 9, 1922, in Turtleford, Saskatchewan, a family with his two sisters and three brothers, to James, a school teacher, and Edna Delgaty. Soon transferring to Rathwell, Manitoba, Tom finished school, enlisted in the RCAF, abandoning a career at the Bank of Commerce in Saskatchewan. He became a mechanic tech and married Evelyn Jury of Minnedosa before deployment with 420 Squadron to England, Scotland, North Africa, back to England. The 420 was vital to air control over Mediterranean, and protection of Suez Canal, as well as supporting Italian and European campaigns. His medals include War/Victory, Volunteer Service, Defence, and stars WWII, Africa, and France and Germany. Returning home, he farmed with VLA help in Minnedosa, Manitoba, then became a United Church minister for over ten years in Oak River, Manitoba. In his book about Veterans, he wrote, "The first day I was sworn in: the second day I was sworn at!" Predeceased by one son, and Evelyn in 2015, he cherishes life still on his farm.

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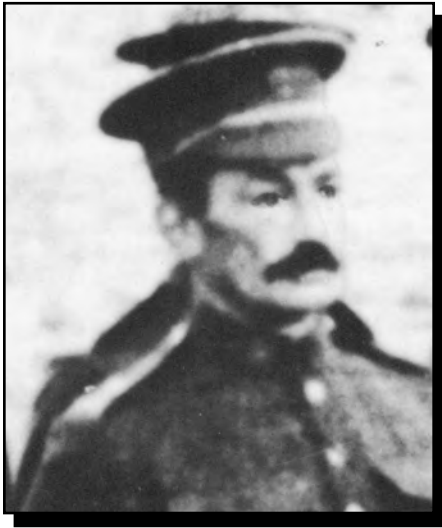
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DELHAYE, Leopold “Leo”

WWI

Leo was born on January 7, 1882 at Marche, Luxembourg, Belgium. In 1905, as a young man of 23, he immigrated to Canada becoming a Canadian citizen in 1908. He took out his homestead (SW 28-24-1E) in Sylvan, Manitoba in 1913. After completing the fall work on his farm in 1915, he walked the mile to Jake Lindal's place asked for a loaf of bread and continued his journey to Arborg, Manitoba, some 15 or 20 miles south. Leo went to Winnipeg, Manitoba on the railroad tracks and enlisted in the Winnipeg Rifles, Little Black Devils on December 23, 1915. He was 33 years old. His intentions were to help liberate his family in Belgium.

Leo trained with the 12th Platoon C. Company, 144th Overseas Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force at Camp Hughes, Manitoba (now Camp Shilo). He was sent overseas on September 18, 1916 under Commanding Officer, Lieutenant C.A.W. Morley. Their group consisted of 962 men and 29 officers when they arrived in London, England.

With the 144th Battalion CEF (3rd Battalion 90th Winnipeg Rifles) in England, Leo was stationed at Witley Camp in October 1916 and at Seaford from November 1916 until February 1917. They were to become reinforcement to the Canadian Corps in France. The 144th was absorbed into the 18th Reserve Battalion in January 1913.

In mid-February 1917, he was sent over to France where the Canadians were training for the Battle of Vimy Ridge which was part of the offensive attack of the Battle of Arras.

The Canadians were undisciplined according to British Army tradition and fiercely independent. They wanted to be kept together in their own units. Lieutenant General Julian Byng was placed in charge of the Canadian Corps and the “Byng Boys” would have the task of capturing the four-mile crest of Vimy Ridge.

The Germans controlled the seven-mile escarpment which was their best defended vantage point. For two years, the British and the French had tried in vain to capture it. The French alone had lost 150,000 men.

In the two-month training period in preparation for their battle, all the Canadians were drilled and fully informed on every aspect of the plan of attack, including maps, so that each soldier knew precisely what his objective was and the exact time he had to reach it. They were allowed and encouraged to use their own initiative and common sense to achieve their goal. This was unheard of by any military standards at that time.

The conditions in the trenches (which were actually ditches eight feet deep) were horrendous – mud and filth, lice and rats. It was wet and cold. A private carried approximately 40 pounds of equipment. His wet, mud-soaked great-coat weighed 47 pounds. For his efforts, he was paid one dollar a day with 10 cents extra while in the battlefield.

The Germans did not expect the raid before April 15, 1917; therefore, their reserves were well to the rear. They were confidently expecting the battle to take several days, possibly a few weeks – a battle they felt they could not lose.

The Canadians, 100,000 strong, planned to attack on April 9, 1917, Easter Monday, and intended to capture the ridge in a matter of hours.

The 1st Division under Arthur Currie, C.O., was on the right with the longest advance of 4,000 yards to the Farbus Wood. Leo was in the 8th Battalion in Reserve of the 1st Division, 2nd Brigade.

Beginning at 5:30 am (in a blizzard) in a leap-frog attack of split second timing, the Canadians advanced in four divisions, in a four mile sector behind and under a wall of shell and artillery fire in a “creeping barrage”. The thunderous noise was unbearable. In an hour and forty minutes, six million shells were fired at the German positions.

(continued)

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DELHAYE, Leopold "Leo" (continued)

By noon, the Canadians had captured most of the ridge. Before dark they had also taken Hill 145 and had accomplished what everyone else said could not be done. They dug in on the lower east slope in the bitter cold waiting for a counter attack that never came. By the end of the battle it had cost them 10,000 casualties - one quarter of whom never went home. Some were lucky however. Leo saw a soldier step on a land-mine get shot straight up into the air and drop back down untouched and unaware of what had happened. Upon his return to Sylvan, Manitoba, he learned that it had been a man from that area.

The fighting continued to the Battle of Arleux - Loop. The 2nd Brigade was assigned the task of eliminating the village. The 8th Battalion moved into the front line on the night of April 26, 1917 with 27 officers and 714 men under Major Mackenzie.

The artillery opened the attack at 4:25 AM on April 28 and the assault companies moved in right away. The 8th Battalion was hit by considerable machine-gun and rifle fire. They were up against the 73rd Fusiliers of the German 111th Division noted for their ferocious counter-attacks. The company in the centre was held up by the heavy rolls of barbed wire and lost all their Officers. The rolls of wire were made of heavy tempered steel as high as a house and 80 feet thick with barbs five inches long. The enemy awaited the Canadians behind the wire. The artillery totally demolished the village and the 8th got into the village in record time. Street fighting followed among the ruins with the enemy fighting to their last 100 men. The 2nd Brigade collected another 300 prisoners after the surrender, however it cost them 1,000 casualties, 300 of them "Little Black Devils" with 50 dead. Their strength was reduced to 435 men and the 8th was withdrawn from the line.

Leo was wounded by a gunshot wound in the left foot on April 29, 1917. The Battle ended successfully on April 30, 1917.

From the book "The Militia of Manitoba 1883-1979", Bruce Tascona writes "Throughout the war, the 8th Battalion held the proud honour of never having lost a trench. The 8th Battalion participated in every major battle that the Canadian Corps took part in".

By June 15, 1917, Leo was back in England in the military hospital at Ramsgate where he remained until the end of August. He was then sent to Epsom and on December 3, 1917 to Liverpool, England. After his return to Canada, he was honourably discharged on April 8, 1918 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Leo returned to his homestead after the war remaining there until 1928. After his marriage to Anna Coppens in 1927, he sold his homestead and worked out for several years. They moved to Fisher Branch with their two daughters, Therese (Mrs. Tim Vandersteen) and Alma (Mrs. Paul Vandersteen) in 1930 and started a business – a rooming house and butcher shop.

Leo's wound left him with a slight limp and for many years he kept pulling splinters of shattered bone from his foot. He always listened to the Armistice Day services on November 11 on the radio but when the bugler played the 'Last Post' for the two-minute silence, he could never remain in the house. He always walked out with tears in his eyes, remembering his friends.

As Pierre Berton wrote in his book "Vimy", when Commanding Officer Currie questioned why men fought, he replied, "They did it for their closest friends – the half-dozen private soldiers with whom they slept, ate, laughed, worked and caroused, the men in their own section whom they could and would not let down because in moments of desperation and terror their virtual existence was woven together as tightly as whipcord."

On October 3, 1941, Leo tried to enlist in the Canadian Field Force at Winnipeg, Manitoba for World War II. He claimed to be 49 years of age, actually, he was 59 years old and medically unfit for service. When told he was too old, Leo told the Medical Officer that, 'he' (the Medical Officer) was just as old and in the Army.

Leo passed away in Deer Lodge Hospital on November 24, 1959. He had belonged to the General McNaughton Branch 134 of The Royal Canadian Legion. His medals include: the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and One Gold Stripe.



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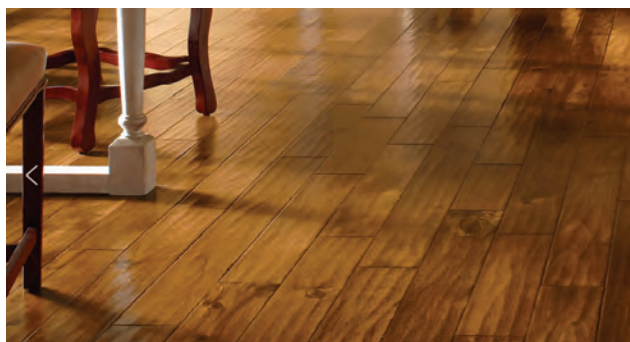
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EASTMAN, James

WWII

James lived in the Fisherton District. He enlisted in 1940 in the early part of World War II. He joined the Fort Gary Horse at the same time as Grant Wharf (see page 249), trained in Canada and served overseas.

EATON, George William

WWI

George enlisted in Winnipeg on February 4, 1916 and served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. After going to England, he served with the 14th Reserve Battalion. He was discharged on March 14, 1918 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



EDGERTON, Clifford L.

WWII

Clifford was born in 1914 on a farm in Souris, Manitoba. He joined Unit 10 District Depot of the Canadian Army Provost Corps and trained in Winnipeg and Camp Borden, Ontario. Because of a broken knee injury when he was younger, he was delegated to police duties and travelled from coast to coast on train patrols while stationed in Winnipeg. He was a Lance Corporal and was discharged in April 1946. When Clifford passed away in 1987, he had been a member of the Camp Borden Branch of The Royal Canadian Legion for four years.

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EGGIE, Josephene

WWII

Josephene was born in Birtle, Manitoba in July 1926. She enlisted in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1943 serving with the Canadian Women's Army Corps in Canada. Josephene was discharged in Winnipeg in 1945 receiving the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. Josephene and her husband Stanley had six children: Clara, Shiela, Janice, Linda, Betty, and June.

EGGIE, Stanley Austin

WWII

Stanley was born in Benito on September 2, 1924. He enlisted in Winnipeg, Manitoba in December 1943 serving overseas with the CIC. He was discharged in Winnipeg in August 1945 receiving a Service Medal. Stanley and his wife Josephene had six daughters.



EINARSON, Magnus S.

WWII

Magnus was born in Winnipegosis, Manitoba in 1921. He served overseas in World War II with the Army service unit #2 CIRU, 100th CABTC. Magnus was killed in action overseas in 1944.



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EINARSON, Sigurjon M.

WWII

Sigurjon was born in Winnipegosis, Manitoba on January 18, 1921. He joined the South Saskatchewan Regiment and served in Canada, England and France. He was killed in action on July 20, 1944 and is buried in the Bretteville-sur-Laize Cemetery.

FARGEY, Bruce

WWII

Bruce was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1920. He served in the Army with the RCAC during World War II. Bruce served overseas in the United Kingdom and in Italy. He received the Service Medal.



FARION, Joseph A.

WWII

Joseph was born in Dauphin, Manitoba in 1917. He served with the RCCA and RCME during World War II in Canada. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Flin Flon Branch 73.



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FARRELL, William K.

WWII

William was born in Neepawa, Manitoba in 1921. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II in Canada and overseas. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Flin Flon Branch 73.

FAVELL, William Charles

WWII

William enlisted on January 7, 1944 in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. He took his basic training for two months in Portage la Prairie and his advance training at Camp Borden, Ontario in the Canadian Army Corps. He was discharged in August 1944.



FEDORUK, William "Bill"

WWII

The family of Peter and Dokia Fedoruk settled on a homestead in Red Rose, Northwest of Dallas, in 1916. William was born on April 21, 1918. He grew up in Red Rose but went to school in Sunny Valley. Bill joined the Army in 1940. He took his basic training in Portage la Prairie, and after that, he joined the Regimental Dance Band #13 in the Engineers. Later, he was stationed in Chilliwack, Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia. He was demobilized in 1946 and was given honourable discharge. After his discharge, he operated a restaurant, then a hardware store with his brother Ted. He retired and lived with his second wife, Mary, in Winnipeg. They spent most of their time travelling in North America and in Europe.



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FINCH, Reginald Austin "Reg"

WWI & WWII

Reginald "Reg" Austin Finch was born on June 20, 1891 in Brandon, Manitoba into a family of five brothers and two sisters. His parents, William and Martha (Austin) Finch had moved to Brandon from Woodstock, Ontario. The family later moved to Winnipeg.

Reg, along with his brother, Billy, started Finch Messenger, the first in Winnipeg. They ran the business until World War I and at that time, they joined the war effort.

Two of Reg's older brothers, William (Billy) Everett and Robert (Bob) Lincoln, joined the Army - the 90th Battalion, Little Black Devils, Canadian Expeditionary Force. As both were musicians, they served in the Army band. Both had served overseas. Bob came back with a medal. Billy contracted tuberculosis and died shortly after returning home.

Reg had joined the Royal Air Force (Royal Flying Corps - British). Regrettably there is no record of his enlistment, rank, where he served etc. as all was destroyed in a house fire. Few stories were told as Reg never spoke much of the wars to his family. It is known that Reg fell seriously ill due to the flu epidemic. He was one of the lucky ones in that he survived; but it did cut short his active air force duty. Reg was discharged in December 1919.

On April 30, 1918, Reg married Mary Muriel Parker in Winnipeg. After the war, he started working and travelling for General Motors. Their first son, Kenneth Ray, was born on March 28, 1919 in Winnipeg. Reg and his young family moved to Weyburn, Saskatchewan in the early twenties. Reg, being a top-notch mechanic, started his own General Motors Auto Repairs Garage at this time. Two more sons were born to Reg and Muriel; William David on January 13, 1922, and Jack Hugo on April 15, 1923. Reg had a thriving business until the 'Dirty Thirties' and they were forced to move back to Winnipeg. In 1931, they moved to Hodgson and purchased NW 1/4 14-25-1 W, later purchasing SW 1/4 14-25-1 W. Reg and the boys engaged in mixed farming and hauling cordwood. Being the mechanic he was, a lot of Reg's time was spent under the hood of somebody's car. Those were the days of the Star, Whippet, Moon, Essex, Studebaker, Model T, Model A, 490 Chevill, Auburn etc.



Reg "writing home".

When World War II began, Reg joined the Army. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corp and was made Corporal on April 1, 1942. He was stationed in Winnipeg with the Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers. He served as Motor Mechanic, then as Head Auto Parts Storeman in a vehicle Repair Depot. He was also responsible for setting up depots in other locations, one being at the Lake Head (Thunder Bay). He was discharged on November 28, 1945, and returned home, where he farmed until his retirement.

Reg first joined The Royal Canadian Legion in Weyburn, Saskatchewan in 1928. He later joined The Royal Canadian Legion Hodgson Branch 158 when it received its charter in Fisherton. Reg was a faithful member until his death. Reg and Charlie Ross spent many a happy hour in the Legion at Hodgson and in many instances their happiness seemed to keep them going long after they had left the premises.

Reg passed away on October 22, 1960. His funeral was the first Legion funeral from Branch 158, with the Ladies serving lunch for the first time. Reg was a very loving and caring man, who left his family with many warm memories – children, being one of the loves of his life. His wonderful sense of humour and great imagination along with his gentle ways have left only cherished memories for all who knew him.

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FINNIE, Charles H. "Charlie"

WWII

Charlie, born January 10, 1920, grew up in Elphinstone, MB. He enlisted in the Army in Winnipeg very early in World War II, serving in the Royal Canadian Engineers. After building barracks, airfields, bridges, roads and more, in England, Charlie landed on D-Day, battling through France, Belgium, and Holland into Germany. On discharge, Charlie worked in mines in Red Lake, Ontario, meeting his future wife, Helen Brown, from Claresholm, AB. He bought a farm near Kenton, MB, through VLA, where they raised their family. An integral part of the community, Charlie became a Life Member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 118, Woodworth, Kenton for 66 years from 1947 until his death in 2013. He served on many committees, including poppy campaigns, Remembrance Day and bonspiels. As President, Treasurer, and Secretary, he attended many meetings and conventions including Dominion level. Charlie received Volunteer, Defence and War medals, and Stars 1939-45 WWII, France-Germany. Charlie passed away on March 2, 2013 and is buried with Helen, since deceased, in Greenwood Cemetery near Kenton.

FISCHER, Michael

WWII

Michael served in the Navy with the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve Navy on the HMCS Chatham during World War II. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Flin Flon Branch 73.



FISHER, Frederick L.

WWII

Frederick was born in London, England in 1910. He served overseas in the Army with the Motorized Lake Superior Regiment during World War II. He was killed in action in 1944.



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FITZPATRICK, Michael

WWII

Michael was born in Sturgis, Saskatchewan in 1917. He served in World War II with the CIC in Canada. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Flin Flon Branch 73.

FORDYCE, Albert Lawrence

WWII

Albert was born in 1919 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Following school, he worked, including horse drawn milk delivery until enlisting in the Army in 1942. Albert married Jean Kachor from Hilbre, Manitoba in 1943. He went overseas in 1944, before his daughter, first of four children, three daughters, one son, was born that same year. Albert served in England in logistics supply until war end, then Army of occupation until 1946 mainly in Germany, and also France, Belgium, Netherlands. Discharged in 1946, Albert received three medals, Victory Europe, Canadian Volunteer Service, and Defence, and two stars, 1939-1945 WWII, and France and Germany. He worked on farms near Kenton, Manitoba, before buying his own farm nearby in 1949 through VLA. He lived and served in the Kenton community of Woodworth Municipality all his remaining life. Albert was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Woodworth Branch 118, Kenton for 44 years, including vice president then president. He passed away in 1990 and is buried nearby in Greenwood Cemetery.



FRANKS, Edwin C.

WWII

Edwin was born in Kelwood, Manitoba in 1914. He served in the Navy with the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve in Canada during World War II. Edwin was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Flin Flon Branch 73.



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FRASER, Donald

WWII

Donald was born in Scotland in 1897. He served in the Army in France with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps during World War II. Donald was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Flin Flon Branch 73.

FYCK, William M.

WWII

William was born in Calder, Saskatchewan in 1925. He served as a Signaller with the A7 CSTC in Canada during World War II. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Flin Flon Branch 73.



GARTON, William Thomas "Bill"

WWII

William Thomas "Bill" Garton was born on March 13, 1918 in Homefield, Manitoba. He attended school there, then in Boissevain, where he grew up. In 1942, having met Edith Smith, of Kenton, Manitoba, they married on September 5, 1942 shortly before Bill joined the Army, and trained and served with the 59th Fd Battery, 21st Fd Regiment, RCA, Camp Petawawa, Ontario. In 1943, Bill went overseas just before his first daughter of five, and three sons, was born. Bill served from England through France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. His brother-in-law, Charlie Smith, was killed in action. Bill was honourably discharged in 1945, working for Gordon Hunter of Kenton, before buying his own farm nearby in 1954 through VLA. Bill received three medals: Volunteer Service, Defence, and Victory Europe, and two stars, 1939-1945 WWII, and France and Germany. Bill and his family were great community supporters. He was with the Knights of Pythias and was a Woodworth (Kenton) Royal Canadian Legion Branch 118 member for 44 years until his death in 2004.



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GODDEN, Norman James

WWII

Norman was born in Toronto, Ontario on April 15, 1927. He enlisted in Toronto on June 4, 1945 and transferred Perm to Force in October 1946. He served in Canada being discharged in Toronto on September 3, 1949 then enlisted in the RCMP in Toronto on November 7, 1949. Norman was married to Mildred and he passed away in Deer Lodge Hospital on April 17, 1956.

GOMPF, Ronald Henry "Ron"

WWII

Ronald Henry Gompf, Ron, was born in 1923 in Oak Lake, Manitoba. Raised on the family farm, Ron enlisted in the Army in 1943 in Manitoba, training on several bases including Camp Shilo, before going overseas, where he was promoted to Lance Corporal. He served with the Calgary Highlanders and Winnipeg Rifles through Europe including Germany Battle Rhineland, and the Liberation of Groningen and Northern Holland. A hair-raising experience was guarding SS Commander Brigadeführer Kurt Meyer. Discharge came in February 1946. Ron received the Volunteer Service and Victory Europe medals, and 1939-1945 Star. Having met before the war, he returned and married school sweetheart Katherine Maziarz. Ron and Kay raised a family of three, farming at Kenton, MB, a community near Oak Lake. Kay passed away in 1962, and Ron in 2004. Ron was a Legion Member for 56 years, starting with Branch 118, Woodworth, in Kenton. Ron is buried in Johnston Cemetery near Oak Lake.



GOOD, Orville Raymond

WWII

Orville Good, oldest of three brothers, was born on the farm near Lenore, Manitoba, on August 7, 1924. Enlisting in Winnipeg in December 1943, he trained in Rivers, then left Halifax overseas in 1944. Orville fought soon after D-Day from Caen, France, Belgium, Holland, and into Germany, in the Infantry, with the South Saskatchewan Regiment. During Battle of The Bulge, Orville and his buddy, with captured chicken, celebrated Christmas dinner in a foxhole. Discharged in 1945, Orville farmed with his father. With the VLA he bought his own farm in 1949 and married Ferne Jenson from Montana. Raising two sons, they retired in 1980 to Virden, Manitoba. For fun Orville trained Sulkie horses with carts. He was a Branch 118 Woodworth, Kenton and Branch 8 Virden member of The Royal Canadian Legion for 63 years. He received the Volunteer Service, Defence, and Victory Europe Medals, and 1939-1945 WWII, and France and Germany Stars. Orville celebrated Victory year 50 in Holland in 1995. He passed away in 2009 in Virden.



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GUIMOND, Wilfred “Wilf”

WWII

Wilfred joined the Army in December 1940. He took training at Fort Osborne Barracks, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba; Debert, Nova Scotia; Sussex, New Brunswick and Gander, Newfoundland, (one of the largest world airports). He took advance training while in Sussex, New Brunswick.

From Gander, Wilfred was transferred to the Bahamas where he spent two years on guard duty. His army experience there was most interesting, as he guarded the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. While guarding Government House, he experienced a hurricane. The winds were so violent, he was forced to leave his post at the gate and lie on the ground inside the surrounding cement wall. He watched trees and other articles flying about. After two hours, Wilfred was the only thing left lying on the ground.

Wilfred has fond memories of the Duchess' canteen nights, held weekly on Thursday. The Duchess would make an appearance and talk to the enlisted men. One Thursday evening, a buddy of Wilfred's bet him one English pound that he would not ask the Duchess to dance. This was quite a sum of money. Wilfred took the dare and off he went to ask “Wally” to dance. Much to everyone's surprise, she accepted and away they danced. She inquired where Wilfred came from and so on. Wilfred said he strung her a bunch of baloney and she took it all in, even telling Wilf he was a good dancer.

Other famous persons Wilfred met were Van Johnson, who he actually had a drink with and Lana Turner, to whom he spoke. While there, entertainment was provided by Jimmy Durante, Betty Davis and Joe E. Brown.

Wilfred returned home to Canada when the war was over and was discharged on May 29, 1946. He resided in Fisher Branch.

HEAPY, Gerald Edgar “Gerry”

RCMP

Gerald Edgar Heapy, Gerry, was born on June 1, 1931 in McAuley, Manitoba. His family later moved to Oak River Manitoba. In 1971, Gerry joined the RCMP, trained in Regina, then was off to E Division, BC. He arrived in Cloverdale soon after RCMP replaced BC Provincial Police. Cst. Heapy was later transferred to Yellowknife, arriving to meet Prince Phillip in 1954. The Prince bought a round for and imbibed with the boys. In January 1956, Heapy and comrades, received citations from Governor General Massey for extensive assistance, including dogsled, curbing the measles pandemic. Interesting postings G Division included Cambridge Bay. October 1959 brought a transfer to F Division, Saskatchewan, where Cpl., then Sgt., Heapy investigated in the General Investigation Section and Preventive Services. Marrying Charlotte Wonko in Yorkton, they had three children. Gerry retired in 1976, to farm in Oak River, and now is fully retired in Hamiota, Manitoba. Charlotte has passed, while Gerry still thrives in life at Hamiota.





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On behalf of all our members, we extend our wishes for a safe, prosperous and healthy 2021.



HONEY, Edward Lloyd

WWII

Edward was born in Russell, Manitoba, in 1922. He joined the Canadian Army and achieved the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He married Virginia Caruso in 1943 and was discharged as an essential farm worker due to his father's health. Following his father's death in 1945, Edward took employment as manager of the Portage la Prairie Mental Hospital Farm. In 1951, he took position with the Equity Cooperative of Wisconsin, USA, buying and selling cattle. He had three daughters and two sons. Edward passed away in 2001 in the USA.

HORNER, Thomas Leslie "Les"

WWII

Les was born in 1914 in Miniota, Manitoba and he worked in several lumber yards in southern Manitoba before the war. He served with the Royal Canadian Air Force from June 25, 1942 until March 1, 1946, when he was honourably released and transferred to the Reserve General Section Class "E". He was posted to Trenton, ON and Brandon, MB as Aircraftman 2 and to Calgary, AB, Gander and Flatrock, NL, and Plymouth, MB as Leading Aircraftman. He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp, the War Medal 1939-1945, and the Defence Medal. In 1950, Les married Lillian Ellerington and they had two daughters. He worked for the Miniota Co-op, sold life insurance and was salesman for Baker Manufacturing of Winnipeg. He lived in Miniota and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Miniota Branch 66 for 35 years before he died in 1991.



HOUSTON, James Simpson Anderson "Jim"

WWII

Jim was born in Winnipeg on April 20, 1913. All four brothers and one of two sisters, Jean (Houston) Daniel, served and returned from World War II. Jim was raised in St. Francis, Manitoba. He married Leah Breland in his hometown before enlisting on September 30, 1939 in Winnipeg with the Winnipeg Rifles. They had a son and a daughter, twins, before Jim was deployed to Jamaica in 1940, then Hong Kong in November 1941. With surrender, Christmas Day, 1941, Jim was POW mines and shipyards for four years. He suffered from disease, including beriberi, and injuries, torture and beatings, like crow bar across back for putting extra rice in rations. With liberation, Jim returned to Canada. Rehabilitated, he was discharged in June 1946. Jim received three medals: Volunteer, War, and Defence, and two stars, 1939-1945 WWII, and Pacific. Two more sons were born. Jim, assisted by VLA, set up a Market Garden in St. Francis. Retiring in 1974, predeceased in 1986, he remarried, later suffered a stroke, and then passed away in 2001.

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HOUSTON, Thomas Haddow “Tom”

WWII

Thomas Haddow Houston (Tom), born November 27, 1919, in St. Francis, Manitoba, was one of five brothers and three sisters. Jack, Volume 9, and other three brothers and sister (Daniel), this volume, came home safely from World War II. Perhaps boys having mother's maiden name Haddow common helped. Tom enlisted in January 1941. He was in signal's corps, trained, Fort William and Kingston, then went overseas in October 1941 to the 1st Canadian Air Support Control Signal Unit. He served in England all through France to Germany, receiving Volunteer, War, and Defence medals, and the WWII and France and Germany Stars. He stopped on the way home in Thunder Bay, which became his new home. He trained as a journeyman electrician, and became a foreman pulp and paper mill in Red Rock. He married Florence Redpath from Mather Manitoba, having son David and daughter Heather. Tom enjoyed extensive community service including the United Church, and volunteer building projects. Tom passed in 1993, and Florence in 2011. They are buried in Thunder Bay.

HOUSTON, William Haddow “Bill”

WWII

William Haddow Houston, Bill, born in Winnipeg, on February 12, 1915 raised with parents, three sisters, three brothers, nearby in St. Francis. He married Margaret McChesney from Winnipeg on December 19, 1940. They had one daughter Linda. Bill enlisted in February 1943 in the Army, Armored Car Regiment, and trained at Portage la Prairie and Camp Borden, before going overseas in August. He worked on equipment doing mechanical work, but mostly he was a driver transporting officers. Then came battling through France and Germany campaign. Bill received medals Volunteer Service, War/Victory Europe, and Defence, with stars 1939-45 WWII, and France and Germany. Back in Canada he continued some truck driving, but mainly worked for CPR in Winnipeg in express department. Bill passed in 1996 on his birthday. Margaret is now deceased, and recently daughter Linda. Haddow, his mother's maiden name, was given to three sons, Bill, Tom, and Jack. They and brother Jim, and sister Jean, all went to war and came home. Maybe Mother watched over them.



HOWARD, Earl Wesley

WWII

Earl was born in Mather, Manitoba, on April 4, 1919. He joined the Army and served in Canada. After the war, he returned home to farm and married Joan Clements of Winnipeg and had two sons. He passed away in 1994 and had been a member of the Cartwright-Mather Branch 86 of The Royal Canadian Legion for twenty years.



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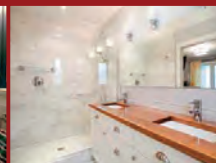
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HUNT, Ernest "Ernie"

WWII

Ernie was born on September 20, 1921 in Deleau, Manitoba and joined the Royal Winnipeg Rifles on January 5, 1943. He served in England and Continental Europe and had combat duty in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Ernie was discharged on February 15, 1946 and passed away on January 15, 2009.

HUNTER, Norman S.

WWII

Norman was born in Venn, Saskatchewan in 1919. He joined the Army as a Gunner and served from 1941 to 1945 as a radio operator and signalman with the 13th Field Regiment in England, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany. On D-Day, he landed at Juno Beach in France. Norman was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Boissevain Branch 10 for 45 years and he passed away in 2004.



HYDE, Lloyd George "Jiggs"

WWII

Lloyd was born in Burnside, Manitoba in 1920. He enlisted in April 1941 and served with the Royal Canadian Artillery 17th Field Regiment as a Gunner and later as a Driver. His service took him to England, Algeria, Italy, France, Belgium and Holland where he was wounded 21 days prior to the German surrender. He was discharged in August 1945 and returned to Canada where he married Isabel and raised six children on the family farm. Lloyd was a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba for eight years. Lloyd passed away suddenly in 1985 and is interred at the Burnside Cemetery.

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IMLAH, Walter R.

WWII

Walter joined the army on May 15, 1941 and had some parade square drill in Winnipeg, but mostly other recruits showed them how to march. While on guard duty at Water St. Barrack, he had to wait for a uniform. He went from there to Camp Shilo and was posted to the administrative wing RCATC. He was a dish washer and runner for the RSM then a telephone operator at the Regimental Sergeant Major's office.

In the fall, they went to Fort Garry for the winter. He got double pneumonia and ended up getting discharged for being unable to meet required military physical standards. He was discharged on April 29, 1942. Walter went to Ontario and worked in the bush camps for a couple of months, to Saskatchewan for harvest, then worked in Canada Packers and back to the bush swamping cordwood.

On March 10, 1943, he went to Winnipeg and joined the army again. He went to Fort Garry for basic training and Camp Shilo for advance training. He got his trained soldier's badge in the first part of August 1943. He got

an embarkation leave to spend 48 hours at home, then they were off by train to Halifax. There they boarded the Queen Mary and were off to the United Kingdom. On August 30, they sailed past some land away at a distance. They were told it was the coast of Ireland; this was where he was on his twentieth birthday.

They disembarked in Scotland, got on trains, and were taken to Whitley, England, a holding unit. From there Walter went to Worthing, England. He saw Slim Hallett and Charley Mackie there. That is where the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders were stationed. This was the regiment in which he had originally enlisted. He was put in D Company, 17th Platoon. After a couple of weeks there, he saw orders he was to report to Battalion Headquarters at 8am sharp to take a special course in scout and sniper training. He reported there and although he trained with the regiment on the schemes etc., they were being trained as scouts. The training was how to get in and out of enemy lines, compass reading, map reading, etc. and lots of target shooting.

Walter went to Inverness, Scotland in January 1944. There, he was trained on landing craft infantry. This showed them how to get on the boat and then how to get off in the water and into battle. Some mornings there was about an inch of ice on the water. Well, they would head for the shore, stop about thirty feet out and down went the front end, like dropping a big tailgate of a truck. Everybody had to jump out and head for the shore. Sometimes, if you were short, you went over your head but most of the time the water was two or three feet deep and ice cold.

From there he went back to Worthing, England and on to Broom Park, which is about 11 or 12 miles from Canterbury. They were all housed in tents. The scouts and snipers had their own tent. There were 44 of them. One time they were out on a scheme and the scout platoon had their own cook. The cook's nine-day leave came through and they were out on this scheme until the following Monday. The cook could leave on Friday night. All of a sudden, the Captain came up to Walter and told him he would be the cook for the next three days. Walter said, "I can't cook". He said, "Herb said you could and he will show you what to do". Walter was the cook for three days.

Walter also used to cut hair. That all started because they all had to have a hair cut by morning - this order was given by their Major. Walter had a date that night and the barber was busy and a guy named Tickle, and Walter, were waiting. Walter asked him if he ever cut hair. "A couple of times I cut my younger brother's hair" he said. Walter said, "Me too, so let's cut each other's hair". Walter asked the barber if they could use his tools when he was not using them. When the barber put his clippers down, Walter used them. When he put the scissors down, he used them and then Tickle did the same thing to cut Walter's hair. Walter went on his date and Tickle went dancing. The next day a guy came looking for the fellow who cut Tickle's hair. Walter was pointed out to him and he wanted him to cut his hair, from then on Walter cut lots of hair.

(continued)



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IMLAH, Walter R. (continued)

When they got that big tent in Broom Park, they were going on a twenty-mile route march. They were just ready to go on parade when Walter thought he heard someone asking if he could use their barber. Their captain said, "We don't have a barber". "Yes, Sir, we do," said one of their platoon, "it's Imlah." The captain called Walter out and asked him if he would stay in camp that day and cut hair. A Major in A Company and all his men had to have their hair cut by the next morning. Walter said he would do it and as he turned to leave, his Captain called him back and said, "You know, Imlah, I'm not going to ask you what you can do anymore. I'll just ask you what you can't do. I think the answer will be much shorter. You cook, wash clothes, darn socks, cut hair, press uniforms," and he shrugged his shoulders and continued, "and at five hundred yards you put five bullseyes with five shots". Then he just laughed and proceeded with the route march.

From Broom Park, they were put on water landing craft and went to Normandy. They did not even have to get their feet wet because there was a make shift walk or dock. They walked on the beach with dry feet thanks to the 3rd Division and others who secured the beach head. They walked from there to Carpiquet just out of Caen, France. They were there for quite some time when one morning, row upon row of their bombers came just at break of dawn bombing Caen. They moved through Caen to a place called St. Andre Serron. After being there about a week and being shelled a plenty, he was sent to the hospital. After a couple of weeks, he returned to the front lines.

When he returned to the orchard where their unit had been it had been shelled so badly, it looked like a plowed field. They kept advancing. The way they advanced was; the scouts would be divided and they took turns scouting and leading the rest of the men in. He remembered being lead scout three times. "You'd walk down the road about three hundred yards ahead of the next man! I remember looking hard for signs of the enemy and all the time wondering when I was going to step on a mine or be shot between the eyes". Some of the scouts got cut off from the rest of the company by the enemy but managed to get out with the help from the French.

Once two scouts took all the Germans in the town prisoner and locked them in the town jail, again with the help from the French people. When they got near Falaise, they were pinned down by snipers and were being shelled by the Germans. Walter was trying to dig in with that little trench tool that was next to useless for the ground was very hard. Some comrades signalled him to come to where they were. They were other scouts and snipers. Two of the snipers were trying to spot the German snipers. These guys had found a German V shaped trench with a real good top on it. They figured it would take a bomb to dent that top. Before he got there the corporal had found a five gallon can of Calvados. He said "give me your cup. I'll give you a shot of this stuff. It'll perk you up". Walter passed him his cup and he poured about half an inch. He took a sip and handed it back to him saying the stuff was poison and should be poured out.

There were five of them jammed into that slit trench. A fellow from another company asked if he could squeeze in, too. He squeezed in but stood his rifle right beside him. Just then a shell hit close to this fellow. The blast blew the wood right off his rifle. He was not hurt. Right then, Walter passed his cup to the Corporal and said, "Give me a drink of that stuff. I might as well die from poison as get blown up." He had a couple of good slugs.

The shells were still coming. The corporal said to Walter, "Let's go up there and see what the hell's holding us up". Out they got and started walking right down the road to Falaise. There were company men in the ditches along the road who kept telling them to get down, that they were crazy walking down that road. There was a bridge up ahead of them and what looked like a gun on the other end. They could not see any movement and both men were carrying Bren guns. Walter was walking, aiming that Bren gun from the hip ready to fire if anything moved. About three or four yards behind him was the corporal doing the same and covering him. Nothing moved. The gun was abandoned so they walked right into Falaise. The regiment followed them in. Of course, there were Germans in there but by dark they had captured Falaise. The corporal got a mention in dispatch. They stayed there overnight and the next morning they moved up about five miles.

They figured maybe the war was over because for two days they did not get shelled. They had baths, got clean

(continued)



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IMLAH, Walter R. (continued)

uniforms and on the third day they got mail. Walter was reading a letter when he heard planes. He looked up and saw they were American planes and he proceeded to read his letter. Then someone yelled "Look out, bombs!" Walter looked and sure enough two bombs were coming right at them. They used all the signals they could to tell them they were allies but they kept on bombing.

The next morning, they were on the move again. They backtracked a little towards Falaise, circling to their right. They marched all day and all night. Early in the morning they came to Bayeux. They went through that city and walked all day again. They came to their destination at dark. They cut off the hole they called the Falaise Gap causing many German divisions to surrender as they were surrounded. They stayed overnight and were on their way again. They kept up town after town until they got to the Seine River. At this point, Walter regretted that he had to leave the front lines because of battle fatigue, that's what it was called, he called it shell shock or a nervous breakdown.

From then on, he was posted to 19 Special Employment Company in Ghent, Belgium. He went to #9 mobile laundry in Syse, Belgium then back to 19 Special Employment. He also went to 6 CCS Hospital 10 Nijmegen, Holland where he was cook's helper for the officers. He was also assigned to the burying detail, who buried the unfortunate who could not be saved at the hospital. He saw Harold Slater again. He had seen him once in battle but did not think he would make it. Harold thought the same about him, but they met in the Canada Club. They were moved to Almelo, Holland at 6 CCS hospital.

In Almelo, they now were attached there from 19 Special Employment and washed windows, scrubbed floors and did other such jobs. Walter met his wife Anne just after they got to Almelo and asked her to marry him not long after that.

In the last part of July 1945, he got a medical inspection and they told him they were sending him to the hospital the next day. He had lots of trouble with tonsillitis. Every time it would occur the doctor would say, "Your tonsils will have to be taken out, but we have to wait till the infection goes away." Also, he had been told he had T.B. and something was wrong with his chest, bronchitis or something. He thought he was going in with regards to these; he never thought about the battle fatigue, although he had not received treatment at any time for this.

The morning after he was admitted to the hospital in Ghent, Belgium, a doctor, with the rank of Major and a nurse came to his bed. He asked Walter what he was in for, and he said, "I'm sorry, Sir, I was told I had to go into the hospital and I didn't ask what for." He continued that it must be on his papers as to why he was there. That doctor just tore into him and called him every dirty thing he could. He said Walter should be shot for slinging the lead and that he was going to discharge him. Immediately, Walter said, "No, you're not. I want my tonsils out." The doctor said he would have to see a specialist and then went left. About ten minutes later, the same nurse returned and said, "Mr. Imlah, if you want to lay a charge against that doctor, I'll help you, and I'll be a witness because he had no right saying those things to you." Walter told her, "It's okay, forget it". But it was true he had not asked why they were sending him to the hospital. She said, "I believe you," and she said she would see that a throat specialist looked at his throat.

He wished that he had laid a charge against that doctor. He could be the reason why there does not seem to be any records re-battle fatigue. Walter saw the throat specialist who was also a Major in the American Army. He was sent to No. 1 Canadian hospital in France where he had his tonsils removed.

Walter went back to 19 Special where he was with the Regimental Police until they returned to Canada. He put in for permission to get married. He had to go to different camps in order to stay in Holland until he got married. Walter mostly worked as a fireman, on steam boilers, in different Canadian Camps. He got married on December 20, 1945 and soon was on his way back to Canada. He returned in February 1946 and was discharged on May 6, 1946. He retired back to Fisherton with his wife Anna.

He received the following medals: the 1939-1945 Star, the France and Germany Star, the Defence of England Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp and War Medal 1939-1945.



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JOHNSON, James

WWI

James, formerly of the Fisherton District, served in the Army with the 44th Infantry Regiment during World War I.

JONES, George

WWI

George joined in 1916 with four other men from Fisherton. They went overseas at the same time and landed in England. Private Jones served with the 61st Battalion Canadian Infantry in England and in France. He was killed in action in September 1918.



KEMPTHORNE, Leslie E.

WWII

Leslie was born in Boissevain, Manitoba in 1914. During World War II, he joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps and served as an orderly in Canada and England. He was a member of Boissevain Legion Branch 10. Leslie passed away in 1996.



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KEMPTHORNE, Norman R.

WWI

Norman was born in 1896 in Boissevain, Manitoba where he attended school, worked on the home farm and did farm work for their neighbours. In the fall of 1917, he enlisted in the 1st Depot Battalion and went overseas in February 1918. Norman was transferred to the 43rd Battalion, Cameron Highlanders, and served in the trenches in France and Belgium. He was wounded during the battle of Amiens in August 1918 but returned to his battalion where he remained till peace was declared. Among his souvenirs, was a picture of the 43rd Battalion marching into Mons, Belgium on November 11, 1918. He and his comrades then had to march a great many miles on foot in the winter before they finally boarded a train, eventually transferring to an ocean liner for the long voyage back to Canada. Norman died in 1976.

KEMPTHORNE, Willard B.

WWI

Willard was born on the home farm in Desford, Manitoba in 1898. He joined the Army and served in Canada and England. Willard was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Boissevain Branch 10 and he passed away in 1978.



KENDRICK, Frederick A.

WWII

Frederick was born in Boissevain, Manitoba in 1914. He joined the Army and served with the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps in Petawawa, Ontario. Frederick passed away in 1987.



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KONOPETSKI, John

PEACETIME

Major John Konopetski hails from Fisher Branch, Manitoba and enrolled in the RCAF from High School in October 1951 at the Recruiting Unit in Winnipeg, as an Aircraftsman 2nd Class. For a Prairie boy not having travelled beyond Winnipeg, the excitement of boarding the CN Transcontinental en route to Montreal was indeed a fitting way to begin a military career.

October to December 1951

St. Jean, QC. #1 Manning Depot for Recruits. The reality of military life at this stage is literally an eye-opener. Long days, physically demanding and everything new and strange, particularly sharing a long barracks room of double bunks with 120 males from all walks of life.

January to February 1952

Aylmer, ON. #2 Composite Trade Training School. The switch from marching and rifles to a classroom is a welcome relief.

February 1952 to January 1953

RCAF Station Rockcliffe, ON. Employment as an Accounting Clerk brings the opportunity to utilize newly acquired skills and a somewhat stabilized daily routine. Ottawa is a delight.

January to March 1953

RCAF Station London, ON. Officers Training School. More demanding and difficult than Recruits Manning Depot but a different atmosphere as they graduate as Flight Cadets.

April to July 1953

RCAF Station Claresholm, AB. Pilot Training School. More long days and hard work but an exhilarating experience. Unfortunately, short-lived as Ottawa decided to cut back on Pilot Training and 60% of new trainees became victims of a drastic switch in policy.

August 1953 to January 1954

Hudson Bay Trading Co. McKenzie Island, ON. Enrolled by HBC as a Store Manager apprentice, but a brief stint in semi-isolation proved unattractive.

January 1954 to July 1955

RCAF Station St. Hubert, QC. Re-enlisted as Accounting Clerk. Decided to make a career of the military. Nearby Montreal. Very enjoyable.

July 1955 to July 1957

RCAF #Fighter Wing, Marville, France. (Air Gunnery Detachment, Rabat, Morocco.)

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July 1957 to August 1958

RCAF Station Saskatoon, SK. Advanced Flying School (multi-engine). A nice city- a full-scale Prairie dust storm was an awesome sight.

September 1958 to December 1962

RCAF Station Winnipeg, MB. Air Navigation School. Married Trudy Amirault (they met in France) and their son was born. It was nice to be in home territory for four years.

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KONOPETSKI, John (continued)

January 1963 to March 1965

RCAF Station Baldy Hughes, Prince George, BC. Radar Squadron. Control of the Radar chain passed from USAF to Canada and many of them headed for new locations. Arrival at this remote site was somewhat delayed for John by an avalanche, as the first attempt to keep the Roger's Pass open throughout winter by virtue of newly constructed snow sheds. Upon entering the shed, 60 feet of avalanche debris buried everything within a half mile, thus this marked the first incident where a life was saved by a snow shed and being in the right place at the right time.

March 1965 to May 1965

RCAF Station Centralia, ON. Officers' School. Promoted to Flying Officer (Lt).

June 1965 to April 1966

RCAF Rockcliffe, Ottawa, ON. Co-located with Air Material Command.

April 1966 to April 1967

#1 Fighter Wing, Marville, France. Closing out the Air Bases as France pulls out of NATO (militarily).



April 1967 to October 1970

Canadian Forces Base Lahr, Germany. Promoted to Captain. Formed part of the Advance Group to establish the Air Base and HQ to accommodate the move from France. Also did temporary duty in England, Belgium, Holland, Italy (Sardinia) and Cyprus. Visited other countries on leave: Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, Andorra, Austria, Switzerland, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Scotland and Ireland.

October 1970 to April 1975

Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake, AB. Air Weapons Range and Advanced Jet Training Base. John enjoyed The West once again at a very active Air Base. Purchased some land and took up hobby-ranching as a sideline—quite an experience.

May 1975 to August 1978

Canadian Forces Base Winnipeg, MB. Base Exchange Officer. Established retail outlets on Base.

August 1978 to August 1983

Air Command HQ, Winnipeg, MB. Staff Officer Finance. Promoted to Major. Travelling extensively across Canada performing inspections from Newfoundland/Labrador to Vancouver Island and across The Arctic (Dew Line).

August 1983 to August 1987

Canadian Forces Base Cornwallis, NS. Recruit School. Served as Base Comptroller and retired from the Regular Forces, having completed 35 years of Service.

August 1987 to September 1988

National Defence HQ, Ottawa, Ont. Staff Officer Non-Public Policies and Procedures. Accepted a one-year contract to serve in Ottawa and headed a Special Project Team. Once again travelled extensively (all Provinces and Europe).

September 1988

Returned to their home in Digby, NS. Fully retired. Total Service 36 years and three and a half months.

John spent virtually all his adulthood in the military and recalls it as a career both satisfying and rewarding. The lifestyle was vigorous and interesting – an education. He said: “were it possible to make that choice again, there would not be any hesitation on my part.”



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KOSKI, Charles W.

WWII

Charles was born in Whitewood, Saskatchewan, in 1922. He joined the Lorne Scots Regiment in Winnipeg in January 1943, serving in Canada, Italy and Germany. He was wounded in Italy in December 1944. Charles passed away in 1988.

KOSTYNIUK (KENT), Micheal

WWII

Micheal enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force on August 25, 1942 in Toronto. After mechanical training in Galt and St. Thomas, Ontario as airframe mechanic he served on air force training establishments with the Aircraft Maintenance Squadrons for all types of RCAF aircrafts. This was in Moncton, NB; Brantford, ON; Winnipeg and Dauphin, Manitoba; and Calgary, AB. He was honourably released in Winnipeg on September 26, 1945. He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with the rank of Leading Aircraftsman (LAC).

After his discharge from the Air Force, he pursued engineering studies at the University of Manitoba graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1950.

Micheal entered the RCN Reserve as 2nd class stoker in Winnipeg in October 1946. He attained the Officer's rank and transferred to the RCN in September 1949. He studied Marine Engineering specialization with the Royal Navy in Plymouth, England. He served as Engineer Officer aboard the Aircraft Carrier HMCS Magnificent working with the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean; as Engineer Officer of Destroyer HMCS Crusader with the Maritime Fleet; as Technical Officer at Naval Headquarters in Ottawa; as Engineer Officer of Destroyer HMCS St. Laurent working with the US fleet on submarine patrols off Pearl Harbour and with West Coast Fleet on patrols off Queen Charlotte Islands. He was later transferred back to Halifax as Ships Repair Officer in the Naval Dockyard. He was honourably released in Halifax on November 22, 1965 with the Rank of Lieutenant Commander.

He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, the War Medal 1939-1945 and the Canadian Forces' Decoration.



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LAMBERT, Evert Walter

WWII

Evert Walter Lambert, RCAF enlisted in the wireless section of the Royal Canadian Air Force at Winnipeg, MB on September 29, 1942. He passed the IQ test required to train as a wireless operator and was posted to No. 2 Manning Depot in Brandon where he took basic training for regimental drill, review of electricity, geometry, algebra, science, etc. He recalled those were long and hard days of drill and study.

One day he was detailed to meet some new recruits at the train station and march them back to barracks. His good buddy from Hodgson, Albert Hamrlik, was at the station all dressed up in his civies, suit, hat, tie, with long winter coat and a suitcase in his hand. After a day spent issuing him air force apparel, he looked just like the rest of them. They were happy to be together for the short stay at Manning. Evert did well studying the basics in wireless and passed in the area of ninety percent. After that he was posted to #3 Wireless School in Winnipeg, MB.

His training began at #3 Wireless School on February 20, 1943 where he learned how radio receivers and transmitters worked, dismantling and assembling the oldest and newest types until they knew all about them. They learned the Morse code until they could take and send no less than thirty words per minute, five letters or numbers making a word. They learned the use of flags (semaphore) and Aldus lamps for signalling. Physical training was strenuous, and Evert fractured his right clavicle on the PT floor resulting in a month's stay at Deer Lodge Hospital.

The last two weeks at #3 Wireless School were spent going to and from Stevenson Airport where they became familiarized with aircraft and flying. The aircraft they flew in were the Fleet Fords which were small jobs with two cockpits, one behind the other. Only ninety of them were ever manufactured. They also flew in the Norseman, a one engine, nine passenger, very stable craft. They practiced air to ground radio communications. These were Evert's first experiences in aircraft and it took a couple of days before he could sit up straight in the cockpit without hanging on with both hands. The pilots were also trainees and they had a lot of accidents. Evert received his Certificate of Qualification as wireless operator from #3 Wireless School on October 29, 1943.



On November 10, 1943, he transferred to #8 Bombing and Gunnery School in Lethbridge, Alberta. This is where they practiced with Browning machine guns and different types of bombs from the air. They used the old four-motor Boling Brock bombers for bomb practice and for machine gunnery by shooting at a drogue pulled by a long cable attached to a Tiger Moth plane.

Rifle and pistol practice on the range was part of the training and night familiarization flying was done in two-engine Ansons. These were so quiet and peaceful that he once wrote a letter to his wife, Drew, whilst flying. Evert received his Certificate of Qualification as Wireless Operator Air Gunner from #8 Bombing and Gunnery School on December 13, 1943 and a promotion to rank of Sergeant.

In January 1944, he was posted to #3 Operational Training Unit, Patricia Bay, BC where they formed an aircraft crew consisting of personnel from various parts of Canada and were assigned to "Canso A" flying boats. They were 63 feet long from nose to tail and 104 feet from wing tip to wing tip. They had two Pratt & Whitney motors circular, each thirteen cylinders, developing 1200 H.P.

Their crew were: Sgt. Bert Lahey, Pilot; Sgt. Albert Smith, co-pilot; F/O Loyd Monroe, Navigator; Sgt. Evert Lambert, 1st Wireless Air Gunner; Sgt. Warren Taillefer, 2nd Wireless Air Gunner; Sgt. Bob Sugden, 3rd Wireless Air Gunner;

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LAMBERT, Evert Walter (continued)

Sgt. Raymond Joy, 1st Engineer and Sgt. Bill Bagget, 2nd Engineer. They were still together as a crew when Victory in Europe (VE Day) was declared.

They were at #3 OTU for about two and a half months for steady operational practice of gunnery, bombing and fighter affiliation. On completion of training at #3 OTU, Patricia Bay, BC, they received a two or three week leave which Evert spent with his wife in Winnipeg. During this time, their posting came through for operational duty with #7 Bombing and Reconnaissance stations on the West coast of BC. After spending a few days at Prince Rupert, BC they were transferred to RCAF Station, Alliford Bay, on the Queen Charlotte Islands. They spent long days there patrolling the North Pacific Ocean as far as the Aleutian Islands, on enemy Japanese submarine and ship surveillance. That is where Evert was when Drew gave birth to their son, Larry, on May 8, 1944 in Victoria Hospital in Winnipeg. Evert's records show that on this day he was on submarine search patrol for thirteen and a half hours.

Evert was promoted to rank of Flight/Sergeant at this station and in the first week of September 1944 a notice came from High Command. Their crew were to be posted overseas.

They were given first-class fares on the Canadian National Railway to Halifax, NS stopping over in Montreal, Quebec for one week to await final orders. Upon arrival in Halifax, they were called for an interview by RCAF Command Headquarters. They presented each of them with a commission, appointing them rank of Pilot Officers commencing on September 18, 1944. They were each given a voucher for \$250 to purchase their officers' uniforms and other apparel. Evert purchased his in the T. Eaton Co. store. One of his uniforms cost \$66.50, the other, \$46.50. Cost of the greatcoat was \$55.00 and \$35.00 for the raincoat. The officer's cap was \$10 an additional \$6 for a wedge cap and two pairs of shoes at \$14.00 each. They did some celebrating then until they moved to an RCAF service station in Scoudouc, NB, twelve miles from Moncton, where they stayed in barracks.

They received their overseas posting to the North Atlantic Squadron #162 RCAF, based at Reykjavik, Iceland and waited in Scoudouc to pick up the aircraft. On October 12, 1944, they were assigned to a "Canso A" A/C, #11092 (an amphibious A/C that can land on ground or water) and were airborne from Moncton at 1230 hours, destination: Reykjavik.

En route they spent two days at Goose Bay, Labrador and two days at Blewy West 1 in Greenland. On October 18, 1944, they arrived at home base of Squadron #162, Reykjavik, Iceland. It took them five hours and 45 minutes flying time from Moncton to Goose Bay, six hours and forty minutes from Goose Bay to Blewy West 1 and nine hours and ten minutes from Blewy West 1 to Reykjavik.

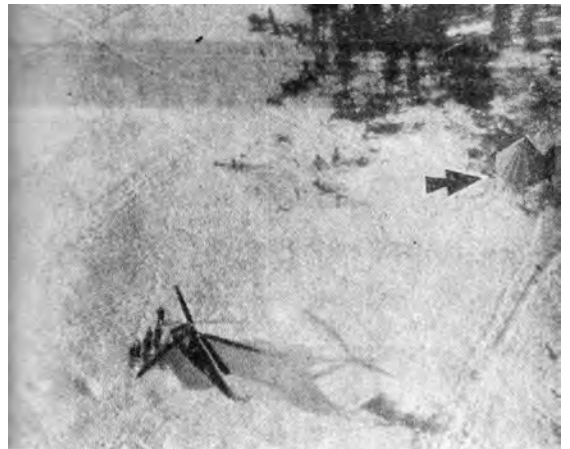
The #162 Squadron Barracks for Commissioned Officers in Reykjavik was connected to the officers' lounge and messroom, a great convenience. They flew every day, weather permitting.

Some days they were airborne as long as fourteen hours. They rose very early in the mornings to have breakfast in the RAF field kitchen, not a sanitary place at all. The cooks wore rubber boots to assist them in wending their way through the grease adhering thickly to the floor. They had a big frying pan on the stove full of aging grease into which they broke the eggs and bacon. The RAF crews from England seemed to get on well with this menu but the RCAF crews had no stomach for so much grease. Evert got horribly airsick several times. Finally, they were endowed with their own Canadian kitchen and cooks for their breakfast. Everything was just great.

From breakfast they went to the briefing room on the airfield, briefed on weather and other pertinent information and given envelopes containing duties and destination for the day. They were not allowed to open the envelope until airborne. This secrecy from ground personnel was to help prevent sabotage. They were usually airborne at first light, just before the darkest part of the morning.

Their duties were normally surveillance for enemy submarines or ships to be reported as seen or heard anywhere

(continued)



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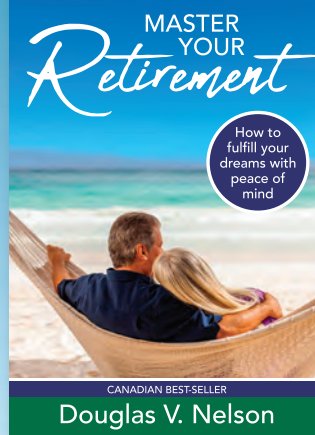
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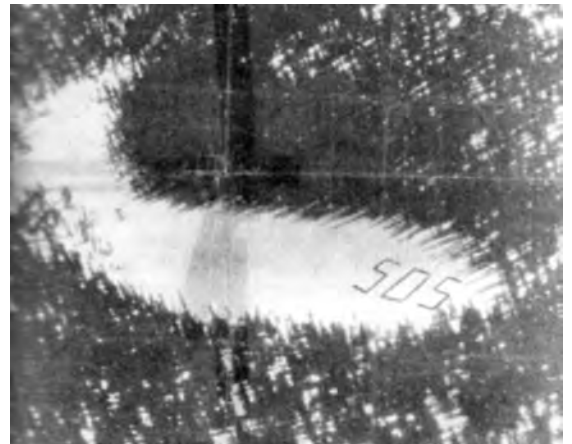
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LAMBERT, Evert Walter (continued)

in the North Atlantic or Arctic Oceans and surveillance around convoys en route across the Atlantic. They escorted the troopship *Normandy* bound for Europe. These hours and hours of flying time had their moments of excitement and anxiety. On one occasion they almost literally 'came in on a wing and a prayer'. They had to fly four and one-half hours to get back to base after one engine stopped. That is a long time waiting to see if the remaining engine will hang in there. They were told that a crew may survive only an hour or so if ditched in the cold and angry North Atlantic Ocean. Then it would be a miracle if they could all get into the emergency dinghies. One dark and stormy night they listened to their companion A/C sending out an SOS. They had probably lost their directions and there was nothing Evert's crew could do to help in such a situation. They were found the next day crashed up in the mountains one hour from base. It was a sad occasion when the Army and Air Force went up for the burial service. There were no survivors.

Another hair-raiser for Evert was when their brakes failed after landing on Reykjavik Airfield runway. The pilot revved one engine to get the A/C away from 50 or so other A/C on the taxi strip and off the runway. They went through a high-wire fence, a ditch, crossed a highway, another ditch, a second wire fence and ended up in an Icelander's residence. That A/C was taken off the flight schedule. Evert was promoted to rank of Flying Officer in March 1945.

In approximately the middle of March 1945, their crew were detailed to fly a "Canso A" A/C from Reykjavik to Scoudouc for a major overhaul. As Evert's Flight Log Book was left in Iceland, this flight was not entered into it. His last entry was on March 11, 1945 when they escorted some ships on the ocean. However, he remembered that it took seventeen hours flying time from Reykjavik to Goose Bay, Labrador. Their "Canso" was supposed to fly eighteen hours at cruising speed (165 knots per hour) before running out of fuel. They fueled up and flew the aircraft from Goose Bay to Scoudouc the next day. The crew was then given leave to visit their families while the A/C was undergoing a major overhaul. Evert's wife, Drew, was staying with her sister, Connie, in Lingle, Wyoming, USA so that is where he spent his leave. When Evert got back to Scoudouc they still had to wait around for a plane. They spent most of this time exploring and sightseeing in the Moncton area.



The following are entries from his diary as written at the time with recent comments in parentheses:

April 19, 1945 - Canso #11076's crew: F/O Bert Lahey, F/O Albert Smith; F/O Loyd Monroe, F/O Evert Lambert, F/O Warren Taillefer, F/O Raymond Joy, F/O Bob Sugden, F/O Bill Bagget. Departed from Moncton, NB Time 0845 hrs. Destination: Reykjavik, Iceland via Goose Bay, Lab. Starboard engine missing due to iced carburetor or blocked gas line. Emergency landing at Mingan, P.Q. Time 1200 hrs.

Drained gas lines, checked radios. Dinner at Mingan, good. Departed for Goose Bay, time 1515 hrs. poor communications on wireless equipment due to atmospheric conditions. Starboard engine stopped. Icing bad. Losing altitude with only one engine. Prepare for crash landing. Pilot stopped engine. Wireless operator turned off main electrical switch on panel. All crew members took crash positions on A/C. position 6203W - 5143N - time 1630 hrs. (Crashed). After some time drew straws to decide who should first enter A/C to throw out emergency rations and gear. The gas tanks had split while landing in spruce bush. These tanks had been filled to capacity of 1100 imperial gallons of high-octane fuel at Mingan.

Forward personnel had to push through this stream while evacuating A/C and escape through back blister. I was one of those and got gas in my eyes and could see nothing as I felt my way to the escape blister and jumped out. It must have been ten feet down before I hit ground and landed on something that caught me in the groin and pushed my hip back a little. Outside of this injury we all survived as far as I know, with minor cuts and sprains. However, Bert

(continued)

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LAMBERT, Evert Walter (continued)

Lahey and Bill Bagget got the short straws in the draw mentioned previously. They went back into the A/C and managed to throw out the medical kit when the A/C blew up. Bill pulled out of the blister as the flames poured out around him. He was rolled in the snow to extinguish the flames from his clothes. Bert, whom we thought had been lost in the explosion, came walking out of the bush later. He was blown out and away from the A/C. Built fire and made lean-to out of Spruce and snow blocks. Rations slim. Everyone hungry. Bill suffering badly with gassed lungs and stomach, and burned head, face and hands. Bert also badly burned.

April 20, 1945 - Bettered our shelter by making bunks out of spruce boughs in the hole the fire melted in snow. Snow about seven feet deep. Warren and Evert walked up south hill and surveyed small lake and discussed feasibility of striking off for Goose Bay or Mingan by foot. Several A/C sighted.

April 21, 1945 - Warren, Loyd and Evert departed camp, hoping to make Goose Bay in several days or? Walked four hrs. Going tough. Climbed big, bald hill and stopped for lunch from K rations. Mitchell A/C flew overhead non-stop. At 1330 hrs. attracted attention of C54 six engine Sky Master A/C en route to New York (we learned later, and had orders to fly low and keep search watch for us.) We directed second C54 to crash site by snow signs. (The first C54 had been attracted by us by using signal mirror and fire smoke from spruce boughs which we had piled in readiness in case of A/C sighting.) The C54 A/C dropped us sleeping parkas and pants, cigarettes and lighter and 40 oz. of brandy. In a short time the sky was congested with A/C. Norseman A/C #787 landed on small lake here behind the high, bald hill. Norseman crew were F/O Bud Herr (pilot), F/L David Todd (W.A.G.), L.A. C., Loyd Atchison (engineer) Medical Officer, S/L Fred Smith was also with them. Survivors from the "Canso" A/C that had crashed, namely Munro, Taillefer and Lambert also boarded Norseman #787 and at 0915 hrs. attempted take-off for Goose Bay from this little lake. One minute later clipped tree fringe, stopped just short of running into bigger trees. Established camp for night.



April 22, 1945 - Time 0900 hrs. Todd and Lambert repair aerials, broken relay in Norseman A/C 787 then contact Goose Bay. Signal strong. Goose Bay standing by until weather clears. 0930 hrs. - stock-taking of rations: 14 D rations, 2 C rations, 9 field rations, 7 bandoliers, 1 tea pail, 2 cups, 3 axes. Improved camp.

April 23, 1945 - Having snow. Breakfast menu = 1 tin bacon, biscuits and coffee - Dinner menu: cheese, biscuits, chocolate. 2055 hrs. called Goose Bay on A/C radio - all well - Fuel low - gave estimate of damage to A/C.

April 24, 1945 - stopped snowing. Called Goose Bay. Time 1245 hrs. - asked for saw, axe, frypan and supplies. Goose Bay reports gear ready to drop if weather permits at time 1830 hrs. Canso 11023 flew over. Dropped food, sleeping bags, seven pair snowshoes, cigarettes, rum, and scotch.

April 25, 1945 - named this Herr Lake in honour of F/O Bud Herr, the pilot of Norseman #787. At time 1815 hrs. three Canso A/C arrive. Dropped army tents, cook stove, axes, bear paw snowshoes, rifle, shotgun and ammo.

April 26, 1945 - Time 1000 hrs. Canso 11023 dropped material to repair Norseman 787 - fabric, dope, plywood, gas and oil. Tents erected.

April 27, 1945 - Time 1100 hrs. Goose Bay reports weather 25 degrees Fahrenheit above zero to-nite. All hands turn out repairing A/C Norseman 787, and building runway by burying spruce trees in snow and packing.

April 28, 1945 - Completed runway. A/C also serviceable. Weather turning cold. Bud Herr decides to take A/C 787 off in morning while runway frozen.

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LAMBERT, Evert Walter (continued)

April 29, 1945 - Unable to take off with A/C. Ice had formed on wings and tail plane. All hands turn out to remove same. At time 0900 hrs. Goose Bay reports not to attempt flight here. Weather bad, visibility zero. Advises to fly to Lake Morhiban Station which is only 36 miles from Herr Lake. Time 1100 hrs. Warren goes for hunt, shoots porcupine. Lambert skins same. Cooked porcupine in boiling water. Tasted good with jack pine flavour. At 1800 hrs. Goose Bay reports American helicopter will arrive there in one hour. Todd breaks swede saw blade. Sharpened cross-cut saw at 1815 hrs. Bud Herr takes. Norseman 787 off and headed for Lake Morhiban.

April 30, 1945 - M.O. Dr. Smith gives narration on Eskimos after drinking off "Old Plaid" at 2130 hrs. Sikorski helicopter dropped in and began evacuating the men to Lake Morhiban escorted by Canso A/C. (This helicopter was brought to Goose Bay in parts from New York, USA, re-assembled at Goose Bay and put into service to rescue us from the desolate wastes of Labrador.)

May 1, 1945 - at 1130 hrs. Canso A/C dropped message that helicopter was repairing motor. Oil pressure was low. At 1625 hrs. helicopter arrives. Brought back Mike Slater, a reporter with cameras.

This was his last entry in his short diary. They were all evacuated to Morhiban Lake station, one at a time, as this was only a small helicopter. From Lake Morhiban they were flown by a Norseman A/C to RCAF Station, Goose Bay, the last of them landing there on May 8, 1945. Bert Lahey and Bill Bagget were flown to hospital for burn treatment and Evert lost touch with them. Off and on over the years he has wondered what became of them.

Imagine their surprise at learning Victory in Europe (VE Day) had been declared! After a few days of celebrating, they were given survivors' leave. Dakota transport flew them to Moncton, NB and Evert went on to spend the next month with Drew at Lingle, Wyoming where their second son, Daniel was born on June 5, 1945. Within an hour after being rescued from the wilds of Labrador, where he was marooned for thirteen days following the crash of a Canso amphibian, F/O E.W. Evert purchased a Victory Bond.

Evert then returned to Winnipeg where he was offered a position of Wireless Instructor if he remained in the service. However, Evert was still leery of flying and wanted, most of all, to be with my family. On June 30, 1945, he was struck off strength from the RCAF by reason of retirement upon completion of a term of voluntary service during an emergency and was transferred to Class "E" of the General Section of the Reserve. Evert received the Wireless Air Gunner's Badge, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp, the 1939-1945 Star, the War Medal 1939-1945, the Pacific Star and the Atlantic Star.

In 1946, Evert purchased land through the Department of Veterans Land Act and farmed until 1973 when he sold out. From 1973 until 1982, he was in the carpentry and construction trade. He retired and lived with Drew in the town of Fisher Branch.

In August 1946, he joined The Royal Canadian Legion Fisherton Branch 158. Later in 1957, he transferred to Hodgson. Comrade James Cosens was President at the time. Evert was elected President in 1958 and served as Secretary Treasurer in 1960. From 1960 to 1964 inclusively, he was Immediate Past President. In 1976 and 1977, he was President again and from 1978 to 1981 inclusively, he was Immediate Past President. He was Legion Club Steward for 1965-1966 and elected Secretary for the year 1986. The Certificate of Merit from The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 158 was awarded to him in 1980 and he received the Life Membership Award in 1985.



He is shown here signing his application form while S/L C.J. McKenzie, chairman of the RCAF Eighth Victory Loan Committee at Goose Bay, looks on. F/O Lambert was one of seven crewmen who spent two weeks on the bleak Labrador wastes before being flown to safety in a helicopter which was flown up by special transport from New York in order to save the men. (RCAF Photo)

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LARENCE, Eugene Harry

WWI

Joe, John and Eugene (Harry) were the sons of Jim and Eleanor (Lagimodiere) Larence who came from St Laurent. Jim moved to Fisher Branch, Manitoba after the death of his wife in St-Ambroise in 1901. Harold, son of Harry Larence, served in World War II.

Private Harry Larence enlisted in the 222nd Battalion Canada Canadian Expeditionary Force in St. Boniface, Manitoba on January 24, 1916. He took his basic training in St. Boniface and his advance training in Edmonton. While in Edmonton the renowned Father Lacombe, noted for his acts of kindness and good work among the natives, died. Pte. Larence was one of those chosen from the battalion to serve as guard of honour at Rev. Father Lacombe's funeral.

From Edmonton he was posted overseas and spent the first few months in England. He was then sent to France with the 24th Battalion, a French Battalion and from this point on he was at the front lines. His first battle was at Vimy Ridge in France. Here was fierce fighting. The day was Easter Monday, 1917 and there was a blinding snowstorm. When that

battle was over only four came out of his outfit. He said that old Gaspar De La Ronde (Hodgson) was the only one to survive from his (Gaspar's) unit.

Passchendaele was the next point of battle. It was just a swamp that had been shelled over and over - it was just a floating bog. They had made walkways with wood and boards. If you fell off these, you would drown. The greatest fear of the soldiers at Passchendaele was if you got wounded there and fell off these walks you would sink in this slimy bog and drown.

At Passchendaele he had a friend called Tom Roy, he was from McCreary. Tom had friends (two brothers) who were both killed in battle and Harry went to tell Tom. Also, that morning Harry had borrowed a razor strap from one of these brothers. He kept this razor strap and had it in his home in Fisher Branch. Many years later, Tom Roy came by plane to see him. Tom told him he would never forget when he came to tell him about his friends and he vowed he would see him again - he did - 44 years later.

Quote "I fought in many battles, Ypres, Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele. Passchendaele was bloody and muddy. I advanced seeing bodies everywhere. Mud and stones were flying all around me. A shell would fall close to me - mud and stones would fly around but the shell would miss."

In the World War I, at the second battle of Ypres, there was only one cavalry attack. Harry witnessed this massacre. He was sitting on a little hill where he could watch - and it was just like watching a movie. The men and horses were just mowed down like grass. It was awful, nearly all were killed - horses and men. Really nobody came out of this battle - Officers, everyone was killed.

At Arras in France, they were attacked with poisonous gas. The Germans opened hundreds of cylinders and you could see the gas drifting over no-man's land and into the trenches. Men were dying like flies. Somebody told them that if you urinated on a piece of cloth and held it over your nose you could protect yourself from the gas. They tried this and Harry lived but suffered from the effects of the poisonous gas all his life.

Quote "After one battle a bunch of German soldiers were captured. I was left to guard a small group (about 9) of these prisoners, while another soldier went for a truck to load them in. I heard a voice speak my name, saying 'You don't have to guard me with a rifle. I won't run away - I'm a Canadian.' This chap had migrated to Canada six years before war time. I had met him on the prairies at harvest time. Just before the war broke out, he had returned to Germany to visit his relatives. While there the German army conscripted him into the army, forcing him into the services, as his name was still on the German registry."

Quote "I remember Armistice Day. I was in an English hospital recovering from the flu." Harry was returned to Canada in 1918 and was discharged to Montreal on May 18, 1919. He was given his fare back to Manitoba. He then returned to the farm at Fisher Branch.

During World War II, Harry Larence was commissionaire at the Cordite Plant in Winnipeg and MacDonald's Aircraft. He was a Life Member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 158 and was the only remaining World War I Veteran of this Legion until his death on January 28, 1990, at the age of 93. Until this time he had resided in Fisher Branch with Sadie, his wife of 68 years.

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LARENCE, Harold Percy

WWII

Harold enlisted in the Army at No. 10 District Depot on November 19, 1942. He remained in Winnipeg, taking his basic training in Fort Garry, Manitoba for about five months then went on to Camp Shilo where he took advance training. From there he went to Woodstock, Ontario to take a course in mechanics. The next spring, he returned to Camp Shilo.

In early 1944, he was posted overseas. He travelled on the ship Andes, landing at Liverpool, England. Harold was in England for a short time then was sent to France and there he joined the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. His first front line action was at the Battle of Leopold Canal in October 1944. They also fought at Walcheren Island. When this was over their unit spent the winter in Nijmegen, Holland where they prepared for more fighting in the spring.

At the Battle of the Siegfried Line, they had to use Buffaloes (a vehicle that could go on land or water) to cross from Nijmegen to the Siegfried Line as the Germans had blown up the dikes and flooded the troops out. They ended up going back to Nijmegen because the water was so deep. It was so high the tracks of the buffaloes were getting caught in the telephone wires and had to be maneuvered back and forth to get free.

From the Siegfried Line, they moved on to Cleve, Germany. They were trying to take Dusseldorf. Here, they were moved by kangaroos, which were tanks with the turret taken off. When they moved into the Moyland Woods, they were pinned down but the support company with the flame throwers came in to help them. They took the woods. It was there, Harold again saw Jimmy Long, as he was with the flame throwers unit that came to help them. There was fierce fighting and many casualties. Harold was wounded in the shoulder this time but was in the hospital for only a short time when he returned to 'C' Company.

One night just at dark he was standing ready to go out to battle. They were waiting for their orders to move out, standing at parade rest. He could see four or five men approaching carrying rifles. He did not think anything of it, so did not say anything. A few minutes later, the corporal turned and saw them. He ordered the approaching men to halt. They halted, dropped their rifles and surrendered. They were German soldiers coming in to surrender.

There was more fighting, then they had a rest in the Reichswald Forest before they went to cross the Rhine River. While they were at rest, they did target practice. One of Harold's buddies, Joe Houle, ran to check the target and stepped on a land mine that had been planted there by the Germans. It blew off his foot. When they went to cross the Rhine, the Regina Rifles were the spearhead of that attack, so they took the worst of the fighting. When Harold got there, they had a bridge made and a smoke screen – their first engagement was at Emmerich. From there to Apeldoorn, they had the Germans on the run.

One night when Harold was a runner delivering messages from headquarters to the Company, he was going down the street where there had been heavy shelling. There were a lot of bodies, with no clothes on, lying on the street. His hair stood on end but had to keep going. The next day Harold went down the same street and found that the bodies were store dummies that had fallen out of the store window due to the bombing. If he had not gone down that same street the next day, he would have been telling this story with a different ending. Another night, while delivering messages, Harold ran past a house and was told later on that eight Germans had been captured in the basement of that house later that day.

Their regiment had a parrot as a mascot. It travelled in the kitchen truck. The driver of the truck was a French fellow from St. Laurent and the parrot must have been picked up in France because any words the parrot spoke were in French. When the parrot was left out of the cage, it would not fly away - it travelled with them all the way.

On April 5, Harold was wounded again this time in the right leg. He was in hospital in Nijmegen. When he was released, he went to Ghent. Harold met Rosario Guimond and Fred Raymond in Ghent. The army needed drivers for trucks, so they flew him to Marseilles, and he drove the trucks back to Ghent. After returning to his unit, he had a few more battles and the war was over. They all celebrated this.

They were taken to Utrecht and here they were looking for volunteers to go to the Far East. Harold and his buddy joined. He was shipped home and arrived in Winnipeg in the middle of July. He had thirty days of leave. During this time, the war with Japan was over. They sent them to MacDonald, gave them harvest leave and returned to Fort Osborne Barracks where Harold was discharged. He received the 1939-1945 Star, the France and Germany Star, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp and the War Medal 1939-1945. He joined The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 158 in 1957 and received Life Membership. He was Sergeant of Arms for many years. Harold resided in Fisher Branch with his wife, Lillian.

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LEROUX, François Xavier

WWII

François enlisted in 1940 with the Winnipeg Light Infantry. He had one month of training then he was home for two years. In the fall of 1942, he went back to No. 10 District, then to Portage la Prairie for basic training for six or seven weeks. He was drafted to Halifax (Eastern Passage) for advance training of about one month. There he signed for overseas and was given embarkation leave. On his return to Halifax, he was taken off the draft because his documents got lost between Portage la Prairie and Halifax. So, for the time he was in Halifax, he had no money except for seven dollars he was given at the time of embarkation leave and no pay. From there he was drafted to Vancouver where his documents were retrieved but he had no pay again. He never did find out what did happen to that pay.

In the spring of 1943, he was in Vancouver, stationed at Boundary Bay on Coast Guard. From there he got leave for seeding, then back to Vancouver and was stationed at North Vancouver, West Vancouver and Hastings Park until the end of August when he again got harvest leave. In the fall of 1943, he went back to No. 10 District Depot and was drafted to Barriefield, Ontario (Kingston) where he

took Basic and Advance Training. Again, François signed up for overseas and got embarkation leave and went back to Barriefield and was taken off the draft again because of his right eye. He spent two weeks at Kingston Military Hospital where he was told he could not be fitted with glasses.

François spent some time repairing heaters in camp, fired a pressure boiler for a while then in 1944 he was sent to the kitchen on vegetable preparation but not for long. He was on cooking until spring when again he got farm leave. After seeding he went back to Barriefield and cooking until he got harvest leave. Back again to Barriefield and cooking until February when he was taken on a refresher course in preparation for overseas, but he got no further than the kitchen.

In the spring of 1945, in March or April, he was drafted to Peterborough, Ontario for further training with all staff members from Buck Private to Lieutenant, where he stayed until VE Day. Shortly after this he got farm leave which was extended to November. He reported back to Depot #10 and back to cooking until March 16, 1946 when he got his discharge. François went to Flin Flon on April 4, 1946. There he joined the reserve force Militia in 1947 until he left Flin Flon on May 4, 1952. While with the Forces in Flin Flon, he was called into Winnipeg for the 1950 flood.

In 1942 to 1943, he was in Winnipeg Light Infantry in Portage la Prairie. In Halifax in the spring of 1943, he was in the Royal 1 Canadian Artillery-Heavy Anti-Aircraft Gun. In Vancouver he was with the RCA 3-7 gun. He was with the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps until he got discharged on March 16, 1946. In Flin Flon he was with the RCA The Royal Canadian Engineers. In May 1952, he came back to Fisher Branch to farm but lost two crops to the wet years, so he moved to Winnipeg.

LIGHTBURN (STEWART), Janet

WWII

Janet was born in Dand, Manitoba on June 25, 1924. She enlisted with the Canadian Women's Army Corps in April 1943 in Winnipeg, MB and took her basic training in Vermillion, Alberta and driver training in Red Deer. She was stationed in Winnipeg for a short time as a driver and then stationed in Victoria, BC to deliver mail and to drive officers. She was discharged in May 1946. Janet passed away in 2003 and is buried in Nanaimo, British Columbia



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LINKLATER, James L.

WWII

James was born in Selkirk, Manitoba in 1923 and joined the Navy, serving on the High Seas. He passed away on February 1, 2010 and had been a member of the Selkirk Branch 42 of The Royal Canadian Legion for fourteen years. No additional information is available.

LONSDALE, Henry "Bud"

WWII

Henry Lonsdale, known to everyone as Bud, was born in Stockton-on-Tees, England in 1908. He immigrated to Harding, Manitoba as a fifteen-year-old to work on farms. There he met Edna Corney of Harding, and they married in 1928. Bud and Edna had a family of four sons and two daughters. Their daughter Pauline married Bill Campbell, a returning World War II Artillery Veteran. When World War II arrived, Bud joined the RCAF and served in Canada in Manitoba and Ucluelet, BC. He received the Volunteer Service Medal and the 1939-1945 War Star. Bud bought a farm near Kenton, Manitoba through VLA after the war. He and Edna lived and farmed there, and Bud was a member of the Woodworth, Kenton Branch 118 of The Royal Canadian Legion for 29 years until his death in 1975.



MABB, Herbert

WWII

Herbert enlisted in the Army on September 19, 1939 in Winnipeg. He joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers. Herbert trained at Minto Armouries and Fort Osborne Barracks in Winnipeg. In May 1940, he sailed to Bermuda on the Lady Drake and then went to Jamaica in September 1940. Their regiment returned to Canada in the beginning of October 1941. At the end of October 1941, they were posted to Hong Kong. Herbert was not required to go because of a broken arm but he did not want to leave his regiment, so he went, too. When Hong Kong fell on December 25, 1941, Herbert was among the Winnipeg Grenadiers who were taken prisoner. He died of diphtheria on October 10, 1942 while a prisoner of war. His mother received a letter from the Department of National Defence on July 22, 1943 expressing sympathy at the loss of her son. His marked grave, along with many of his comrades, can be found in Hong Kong.



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MacLEOD, John A.

WWI

John was born in Valleyfield, PEI, in 1896. He joined the 108th Overseas Battalion CEF Regiment on October 15, 1915 and served in England. He returned to Canada on June 21, 1919, and after moving to Carberry in 1943, he also served as chaplain for the RAF forces that were stationed there. John passed away in 1985.

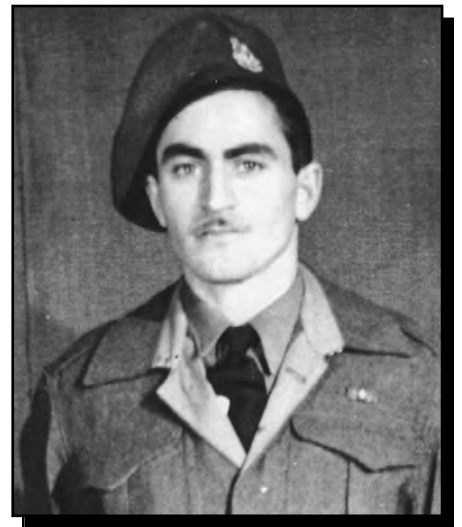
MALENCHAK, Frank

WWII

Frank enlisted in Portage la Prairie in February 1942. He took basic training there, then his advance training at Fort Garry, Winnipeg. While in Winnipeg we also took further training at the Old Ford Plant- some of the training was driver training and motor mechanics.

He was transferred to Shilo, Manitoba where he was a driver instructor for a short time. He went back to Winnipeg for about three months and attended the technical school. He took fitter gun (MV) training at Kingston, Ontario and from here he was on draft for overseas.

In May 1943, he went overseas on the Queen Mary. There were approximately twenty thousand soldiers aboard. They docked in Scotland then went straight on the train to Borden, England. Further training followed and he signed up to go to the theatre of war. His first posting was to Italy. He was attached to the Canadian Military Headquarters (CMHQ). On the way there, just a half day past Gibraltar, their ship, which was part of a convoy of twenty to thirty ships, was torpedoed. They spent roughly six hours in the waters of the Mediterranean hanging on to lifeboats and half the time not hanging on. Another ship picked them up and they were taken to Algiers. About two weeks later they went to Naples, Italy.



As he was connected with headquarters, and a driver, he had to drive the senior officers to the front lines, deliver messages and do anything he was needed for. They even had to go ahead as the regiment was moving up to look for buildings to set up headquarters in. At this time, they found out Frank was a gun fitter, motor mechanic and machinist so he had to look after headquarters' vehicles. He continued to do this as they progressed to Casino, Rome and Florence.

While in Florence, the war ended. They were shipped back to England. He had to wait in Farnborough for a ship to take them home to Canada. Frank landed back in Canada in January 1946 and was discharged in March 1946 having served as Craftsman with the Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers. He then resided in Okanagan Falls, British Columbia, with his wife Mina.



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MARCYNIUK, Donald Arthur "Dan"

PEACETIME

Dan joined up at Winnipeg Fort Osborne Barracks at Depot #8 as a private. From there they sent him to Edmonton, Alberta for basic training at Camp Greisball Barracks. He was there for only three months and then they shipped him to Camp Albert Head on Vancouver Island for the remainder of his basic training. After basic training, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, C. Coy, PPCLI at Work Point Barracks in Esquimalt, BC in the outskirts of Victoria.

During his stay at Work Point Barracks, he visited a few different camps. One was Chilliwack where the Royal Canadian Engineers were posted. He spent a night in Camp Vernon, BC on the way to Camp Wainwright, Alberta. There they spent a couple or more weeks training with soldiers from all over Canada. At that time, they had visitors from other countries. Later they spent a week or two in Camp Shilo, Manitoba.

After his posting in Esquimalt, he was shipped to Germany. They went by Air Canada from Vancouver to Toronto, Ontario then by bus to Trenton, Ontario. They waited at Trenton, Ontario RCAF Base for an air lift to Dusseldorf, Germany and from here they were bussed to Fort Mcleod, near a little town, called Deilinghofen. He stayed there for only nine months.

Dan broke his leg in Germany so spent a month or more in a British Military hospital in a town called Iserlohn, Germany. From there he was sent to Marville, France. He spent a few nights there then the RCAF brought him back to Trenton, Ontario. He spent a few nights there and then flew back to Winnipeg to Deer Lodge Hospital. He spent about a month there and went back to Fort Osborne Barracks where he was released on October 19, 1964. Dan still had his leg in a cast when released. "I must admit I'm sorry I got out when I did as the three years I spent in the Army was a very good experience for me."

MARTIN, Albert B.

WWI

Albert was born in Oakland Municipality, near Nesbitt, Manitoba, in 1891, and lived on the farm with his parents until he enlisted in 1917 with the 43rd Cameron Highlanders, serving in Belgium, France and Canada. He returned home on May 19, 1919, to take up farming for a living in Welwood and Oakville, Manitoba. In 1941, Albert enlisted for service again and was officially made a guard for foreign prisoners held in Canadian Prisoners War Camps. He returned to Oakville to his farm after the war. He passed away in 1980.





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MASNIUK, Peter Paul

WWII

Peter was born on February 17, 1920 at Morweena, Manitoba. He enlisted in the 18th Armoured Car Regiment in April 1942. It became the 12th Manitoba Dragoons in June 1942. He took basic training at Fort Osborne Barracks, Portage la Prairie and Debert, Nova Scotia. He went overseas and landed in Glasgow, Scotland on August 30, 1942. D-Day was June 30 on the beaches of Calais. The 12th Manitoba Dragoons were part of the Army that liberated Caen and the breakthrough to the River Seine.

During the taking of Caen their forward troops were severely bombed by their own Air Force. They fought through France, Belgium, Holland and ended up in Northern Germany at the end of the war. Trooper Masniuk was promoted to Corporal and frozen as essential to the occupation of Germany. The Regiment was shipped home in January 1946 and Corporal Masniuk was discharged in March 1946.

The Battles to remember were the closing of the Falaise Gap in Normandy, the Battle to hold the Bridge at Nijmegen and the battle to drive the Germans back in the Hochwald Forest in Holland.

On discharge, Corporal Masniuk received the usual five medals: the 1939-1945 Star, the France and Germany Star, the Defence Medal, the Canadian Voluntary Service Medal 1939-1945 and Clasp and the Honourable Discharge Medal.

Peter transferred from The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 141 to Hodgson Legion Branch 158 in 1957. He served as President from 1960 to 1966, also Zone Commander of Zone 52, 1965 to 1970 and Deputy District Commander, District 5 for two years. Pete received the Past Presidents Medal, The Past Zone Commanders Medal, the Past Deputy District Commanders Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Canada Medal from the Queen, the Legion Service Medal, 1926-1976 and the 60th Dominion Jubilee Medal for his work and devotion to The Royal Canadian Legion.

MATTHEW, Harley

PEACETIME

Harley Matthew, son of the late Ross Matthew and Dorothy Switzer, enlisted in the Navy on November 30, 1961. He took his basic training at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. He sailed on HMCS Sioux which was decommissioned in the fall of 1963. The Sioux was a "V" class destroyer. Harley served with the 5th escort squadron on the Kootenay, in the Baltic and North Atlantic during the "Cuban Crisis". He also served in the Mediterranean during the "Cyprus Crisis". Harley left the Navy in August 1964 to return to civilian life. He resided in Norman Wells, Northwest Territories. The picture was taken in front of the Coliseum in Rome.





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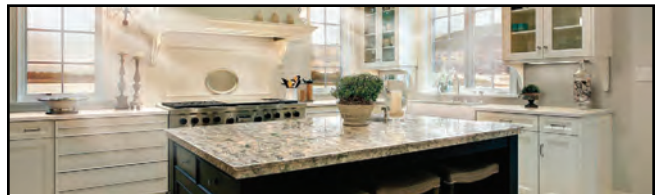
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McCAHON, Frederick James “Fred”

WWII

Frederick James McCahon, Fred, was born to Hugh and Ellen (née Buckley) on August 25, 1923, at Harding, Manitoba. He, sister Alice, and brother Sid, all enlisted, Fred in the RCAF on December 10, 1942. He trained in Lachine, Quebec, before going overseas. He continued training in England and was a Mid Upper gunner on Lancaster bombers. He began bombing raids in August 1944, and on September 12, 1944, Mission 14, they were shot down over German held territory on the way to Frankfurt. He was taken prisoner and held POW at Stalag Luft 7, before being transferred to Stalag III A towards the end of the war. Upon repatriation, he returned to Harding, being discharged on August 24, 1945. He married Eunice Chambers from Roland on December 10, 1946, and they had six children, Hugh (deceased), Irene (deceased), Catherine, Harvey, Mary, and Julie. Fred ran his own garage business, with a great reputation, until retirement. Eunice died on May 9, 1995 and Fred died on March 23, 2011. Both are buried at Greenwood Cemetery nearby. Fred, Sid, and Alice would wish to have all honoured by not themselves being distinguished by their own medals.

McCAHON, Margaret Alice “Alice”

WWII

Margaret Alice McCahon, Alice, was born to Hugh and Ellen (née Buckley) McCahon of Harding Manitoba, on March 1, 1925. She enlisted with the RCAF Women's Division on March 4, 1943. Alice served in various capacities in different locations throughout Canada including Rockville, Yorkton, Toronto, and Winnipeg. She was discharged on May 9, 1946. She married Albert Gordon Christie of Winnipeg who had also served with the Manitoba Dragoons. They spent their remaining years in Winnipeg. They had two children, Linda (deceased) and Jim. Gordon passed away in Winnipeg on February 4, 1980, and is buried at Brookside Cemetery, and Alice died on February 22, 2020 and was cremated. Fred, Sid, and Alice would wish to have all honoured by not themselves being distinguished by their own medals.



McCAHON, Sidney Arthur “Sid”

WWII

Sidney Arthur McCahon, Sid, was born to Hugh and Ellen (née Buckley) on September 6, 1918, in Harding, Manitoba. He enlisted in the 18th Manitoba Reconnaissance Battalion Canadian Active Army on August 1, 1941 in Brandon. He spent most of his time in the United Kingdom and Continental Europe and was discharged on February 9, 1946. After a brief stay in Harding, he left to head to British Columbia, where he spent his working years in the logging industry. He married Ivy Sampson of Salt Spring Island, and they raised seven children, Richard, Charles, Bill, Carol, Jim, Sylvia, and Alex. Sid passed away on November 12, 2012, and Ivy followed him on August 31, 2015. Both are buried at Mountain View Cemetery, Duncan, BC. Fred, Sid, and Alice would wish to have all honoured by not themselves being distinguished by their own medals.

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McCORRISTER, Oswald

WWI

Private Oswald McCorrister served during World War I with the 16th Battalion and was killed overseas on February 15, 1918. No further information is known at this time.

McCORRISTER, William Robert

WWI

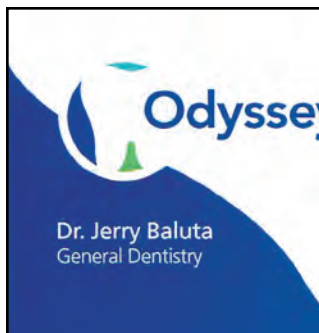
Private McCorrister enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Selkirk, Manitoba on December 4, 1915 at the age of 25. He served with the 108th Battalion in France where he was wounded. Upon returning to Canada, he was discharged in Winnipeg, Manitoba on April 30, 1919.



McGREGOR, Donald Morris "Morris"

WWII

Morris was born in Kenton, Manitoba, on April 25, 1923. He grew on the family farm with one brother and one sister, before enlisting with the Royal Canadian Navy during World War II. He was posted on the Atlantic coast in Halifax. When the war wound down, he returned to Kenton, bought his own farm through VLA, and married Helen Large from Makaroff, Manitoba. They had two sons and two daughters, all raised in Kenton. For his service, Morris received the following medals: Volunteer, War, and Defence, and 1939-45 WWII star. Morris served the province of Manitoba for nearly 20 years as MLA for Virden constituency. He was instrumental for provincial support for many constituents, including the Kenton Dam Reservoir and water system in 1968. Following retirement in the early 80's, Morris and Helen, herself retired from teaching school, moved to Brandon, Manitoba. Morris was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 118 Woodworth, Kenton, then Brandon, for nearly 60 years until he passed away in 2005. Helen, now 95 this year, still enjoys good health in Brandon.



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McIVOR, Thomas Edward

KOREA

Thomas Edward McIvor joined the Army with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry on January 8, 1951 at Fort Osborne, #8 Personnel Depot. He was sent to Calgary, Alberta, "Currie Barracks" where he received his uniform and everything needed to be a soldier. After receiving all this crumpled up clothing they had to learn how to wash and press and shine.

Thomas was put in a platoon and they began to train in field tactics and drill at the Calgary Stampede Corral. They stayed in Currie Barracks for the winter then in May they moved out of the barracks and into tents at Sarre cee for still more training. Thomas was transferred to the 25 CRG. From early May until June 16, 1951, they did not stay many nights in tents they were staying on ground sheets in trenches.

Thomas remembers June 16. He was going to go to Wainwright for Junior NCO school early that morning. He was in the tent when a sudden snowstorm came up and flattened all their tents. About ten inches of wet snow fell. He left for Wainwright anyway and started school with another twenty guys. He stayed in Wainwright until the end of July and at that time he was promoted to L/Cpl and was sent home on furlough for all of August. Thomas married his wife Bernice on August 14, 1951.

After furlough he was posted to 1st Battalion PPCLI; the battalion was getting ready to go to Korea so Thomas was busy again - needles and different clothing. The Battalion went to Korea in groups. Charlie and Dog Company went first in early October 1951 then Thomas left on October 17, 1951. They left Seattle, Washington aboard the Ship Sir Hugh Freeman. It was a very rough crossing and they arrived in Yokohama, Japan eight days later. There were approximately 1500 Canadians on board and Thomas believed somewhere near 3000 US Troops. They got off the ship at Yokohama and boarded a train for Sas a Boe, Japan. They travelled through Hiroshima and Nakasaki, this was where the bomb had been dropped in 1945. Thomas recalled there were still some very bleak looking sights. All the buildings were down and young and old people with bandages covering burns and wounds. Japan was still being run by America at that time and there was a lot of begging for food.

They arrived at Sas a Boe and got boats to Pusan, Korea which was an overnight ride plus a day. From Pusan they got on a train that went through Seoul and within thirty miles of their B Echelon which was twenty miles from the front line. From there they were given ammo and C Rations and did exercise for the twenty miles to the line, where they exchanged places with the men from 2 PPCLI. This was in November 1951 and Thomas was in B Coy at that time and they were to hold the line at the 38th parallel.

The Koreans and Chinese were very smart and stubborn people. On Christmas 1951, the North Koreans and Chinese put cards on the barb wire fence within fifty feet of the trenches and no one heard or saw them. On New Year's they did the same with cards and a propaganda sign saying, "Go home, Canada, this is not your war". At night a small plane would fly over without lights and a loud hailer would tell them how nice it was back in Canada, and just to be unfriendly they would drop a few mortar shells on them.

They stayed at the front until August 1952 then they were put in reserve position which was approximately two miles behind the front lines. From there every evening, one section of men would go out on patrols, such as listening and fighting patrols to let the enemy know they were still there. It was on these patrols that Thomas met Tommy Prince, he was a sniper at the time.

(continued)

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McIVOR, Thomas Edward (continued)

In October 1952, they were replaced by 3 PPCLI; it was a nice feeling for Thomas knowing they were coming home but again sad because we were leaving behind some very good friends who would never go home again.

They left from Yokohama to sail to Seattle, Washington. Everyone got thirty days leave then went back to Calgary. In the spring of 1953, all the men who were not Parachutists were told to take para training or go to the Canadian Guards. Thomas took Para Training at Rivers, Manitoba for seven hard weeks. He spent one of those weeks at Camp Shilo. He jumped from the high tower six times, a height of 256 feet which was a must to qualify and seven exits from airplanes. The planes were C-4 7 or Box Cars. After Thomas qualified, he was sent back to the battalion in Calgary where he continued to jump. Thomas made nineteen jumps, all with the T-7 chute which is 28 feet across.

In 1955, the Battalion was again preparing to exchange duties with the 2nd Battalion PPCLI who were in Germany. In October 1955, Thomas was sent to Camp Fort MacLeod in Germany with the 1st Battalion. At this time his younger brother was there as well. His younger brother finished with 21 years of service in the PPCLI and went into farming in Alberta. Thomas' older brother was RCHA (Royal Canadian Horse Artillery) and is now deceased. He was killed in a truck accident while on leave. He had the rank of Sergeant.

Thomas was not in Fort MacLeod for very long when he was transferred to Fort Henry, where Brigade HQ was. The duties included protecting the Brigadier whenever he went out on war games. Thomas' wife and family joined him in Germany. They got a PMQ, military housing, in Soest which was home for two years. In September 1957 they went back to Canada and he was posted to Camp Borden, Ontario School of Infantry. They again had a PMQ there for five years. Thomas received his release in Toronto in May 1963. He lived in the Hodgson area.



McLEARY, John "Jack"

WWII

Jack was born in Fort William, Ontario, on October 9, 1914. He joined the 12th Manitoba Dragoons, 18th Armoured Car Regiment, serving as a Lieutenant in Canada, England, France, Belgium and Holland. He was wounded in Bergen op Zoom, Holland in 1944. He returned to Holland in 1984 with members of his regiment to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the town's liberation and was chosen to place the wreath representing the Canadian Veterans at the ceremonies. Jack assisted with the establishment of a monument at Vimy Ridge Park to honour those who served in the Dragoons. He was a Life Member and Sergeant at Arms at The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 161 in Arborg for 66 years. Jack received the 1939-1945 Star, the France and Germany Star, the Defence Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Silver Clasp, and the Maple Leaf Emblem War Medal 1939-1945. Jack passed away on May 2, 2004.



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McLELLAN, Howard Hudson

WWII

Howard Hudson McLellan, the fifth child of Elizabeth and John McLellan, was born on October 25, 1920, on the family farm near Oakner, Manitoba. He went to school in Oakner, then enlisted in the Army and went overseas with the Royal Canadian Corps of Engineers, RCCS, attached to the SSR, South Saskatchewan Regiment. He served in England then all through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany as a signalman. He received five medals, Volunteer Service with Clasp, Defence, and War/Victory, and stars 1939-1945 WWII, and France and Germany. Howard returned on The White Star Superliner Queen Elizabeth, to farm between Kenton and Oakner, operating a mixed farm. In 1950, he married Molly Cormack of Kenton. They were blessed with three children, John, Arnold, and Ann; John and Ann still live on their farm. Enjoying sports, especially curling, until health prevented him, Howard remained involved and active in community. He passed away in 1992, and Molly in 2017.

MENARD, Delphis "Tom"

WWI

Tom signed up as Recruiting Officer for the Fisher Branch area shortly after World War I was declared. He enlisted in the Artillery with 24th Battalion in August 1916 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He was sent overseas to England and on to the front lines in France with the 4th Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division. He fought at Ypres and Vimy Ridge until the occupation of Mons on November 11, 1918. He had been promoted to Sergeant in France. After the war was over, he returned to England and was sent back to Canada on January 11, 1919 with all the other Canadians. They came on the troop ship HMS Olympic arriving in Halifax on January 17, 1919. On their way from Montreal to Winnipeg, the train they were travelling on was derailed and they spent a few days on the side of the track, cold and miserable, waiting for another train to take them home. Tom was discharged in Winnipeg in February 1919. He was a Life Member of The Royal Canadian Legion, Norwood Division until his death on March 30, 1960.



NEELY, William Allen "Bill"

WWII

William Allen Neely, Bill, born on September 1, 1921 in Eriksdale, Manitoba, 3 of 8 children surviving childbirth. His parents, 1916 Irish immigrants, moved to Winnipeg, then back to farm their new homestead near Eriksdale. In 1942, Bill, now farming his own farm, married Helen Mae Parkes, from nearby Oatfield. He enlisted that fall in Army Artillery in Winnipeg, Fort Osborne, then Ontario, before shipping out in 1943 from Halifax on ship Mauretania. He was armored car gunner with 12 Manitoba Dragoons, 18th Armored Car Regiment. Landing on Juno Beach 3rd wave, Bill this year is being awarded the French Legion Medal of Honour. Fighting all through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, then back into liberation of Holland. On return, raising three children, one son, one daughter, and Mae have now passed. Bill received three medals, Volunteer, Defence, and Victory Europe, and two stars WWII 1939-1945, and France and Germany. Bill joined The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 52 in Stonewall, Manitoba after the war, and remains in good health in Teulon, Manitoba.

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NOBISS, George Arthur

WWII

George Arthur Nobiss was born in Stonewall, Manitoba in 1924. He enlisted in April 1940 in Winnipeg, Manitoba with the Winnipeg Grenadiers "C" Force. He took his basic training in Sherbrooke, Quebec and was deployed to the Battle of Hong Kong where he was captured and spent four and a half years in a prison camp. He also trained in Jamaica. He returned to Winnipeg in 1945 and in 1947 married Stella Kulchyski and drove truck from 1947 until 1979, raising four children. George received the Certificate of Peace Medal and the Diamond Jubilee Medal, both in 2015. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Same Steele Branch 117 for 45 years. George passed away in 2016.

PACKER, Hubert David "Dave"

WWI

Hubert David "Dave" Packer was the third son born to Arthur Henry and Sarah (Henshaw) Packer. Born on March 17, 1898, he was nine years old when he and his family crossed the Atlantic to come to Canada. They came from Trowbridge, England, in 1907; first settled in Winnipeg, then later homesteaded in Dallas, Manitoba. It was 1916, when Dave turned eighteen, that he enlisted in the Army with the Fort Garry Horse Cavalry in Winnipeg. Dave served overseas in England for the duration of World War I. In his later years, Dave would recall a story he liked to tell of the pride he felt as they marched on as soldiers, to hear the cheering of the people "Yea, Canucks, Yea, Red", the latter referring to Dave, as he had bright red hair and really stood out in the crowd. After returning to civilian life, Dave, who was interested in mechanics, got a job with Brown and Rutherford Lumber Company. He married Irene (Wanag), a schoolteacher who had been employed on one of the islands of Lake Winnipeg. Dave and Irene raised six children. They farmed in the Pinawa area until retirement. Dave passed away in Winnipeg on May 7, 1978.



PACKER, Robert Henry "Bob"

WWI

Robert "Bob" Henry Packer was born in Trowbridge, England on June 27, 1891. He was the second eldest son of Arthur Henry and Sarah (Henshaw) Packer. The Packer family arrived in Canada in 1907 from England, first settling in Winnipeg, then later homesteading in Dallas, Manitoba. Robert enlisted in Winnipeg in 1915, one year after the outbreak of World War I. He joined the Royal Canadian Corp of Engineers - Army. Robert first trained in Ottawa and then overseas. He fought and was wounded in action in France. After recuperating from his wounds in England, he returned to the front lines in France. Back to the trenches, the mud; back to the unimaginable stress of trench warfare. Robert was one of the lucky ones in that he survived, but he did suffer the effects of the War until his death. He was discharged on July 8, 1919 and received two medals for his duty. Robert returned to Canada and married Edith May Beadle, a nurse whom he had met while in England. Two children were born to Robert and Edith: a son, Ken and a daughter, Ruth. Robert established a sash and door factory, later Pembina Woodworking, on Pembina Highway in Winnipeg. He retired in 1950 and moved to Whittier, California. Robert passed away on January 25, 1961.

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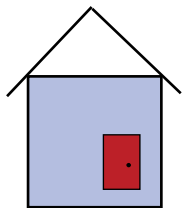


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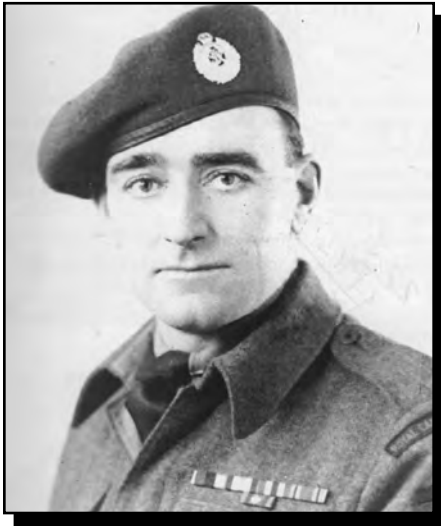


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PALMER, William

WWII

William enlisted in the Canadian Army, Active, in Winnipeg, Manitoba on May 26, 1941 at the No. 10 District Depot (CH) Royal Canadian Engineers. He took his basic training at Fort William, Ontario from June 28, 1941 until August 26, 1941. He arrived at the RCE training depot at Dundurn, Saskatchewan on August 28, 1941. He left Dundurn on November 8, 1941 to go overseas and arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia around November 12. They boarded the troop ship, The Duchess of Atholl at about 11am and got settled in one of the lower decks and had a meal. At about 8pm that evening, their three sections of the RCE were called to disembark, going down on the troop train two or three of the men had come down with mumps and scarlet fever and because there was no medical officer on the train they went into quarantine. They put them in quarters at the MM Depot in Halifax and then took them on trucks out to Debert, Nova Scotia where they remained until the end of January 1942.

They left Debert to go back to board another troop ship to go overseas and it turned out this ship was not seaworthy so in the middle of February they were taken back to Valcartier, Quebec. Finally, at the end of February they took the train to Halifax and boarded a troop ship on February 28 and embarked for Garriock, Scotland. The ship arrived on March 7, 1942 and the men trained around the south of England until the end of June 1942. They were then sent out to the field and joined up with the 4th Canadian Field Park Squadron RCE of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division and did a lot of training with the Bailey Bridge. William ended up as a driver, hauling the bridge over ditches and small bodies of water. They went to different ports on Division Exercises until July 1943, then went along the Thames River and did pontoon bridging and ended up in East Anglia, near Norfolk on the East Coast. They were there until the end of September and came back down to the south near Eastbourne. They left on October 20 by train to Liverpool then to Italy arriving in Naples on November 8. They were attacked by enemy aircraft near dusk on November 6. They had a large convoy as they had the 5th Division and all of the 1st Canadian Corps. They hit the ship that had the 8th Canadian General Hospital Equipment and all the nursing sisters and doctors and staff, as well as the headquarters of the 1st Canadian Corps and all the records. But the ship did not go down until the next evening after they towed it to the shore of North Africa, so there was no loss of life.

After they disembarked at Naples they marched for a few miles and went into some old buildings that were deserted. They stayed for a couple of weeks. They got their equipment and moved over to the East Coast. They got more stores and supplies and hauled them up from the South Coast at Bari and Brindise. The Engineers were attached to a New Zealand Division to help put the roads and bridges in shape. They were with them until after the New Year, after the 1st Canadian Division captured Ortona on December 24 and 25. They went back to their own division and got organized for the drive up the East Coast.

They went over to the north of Naples for a push in May, up through the Hitler Line and continued on until things were rounded up in March 1945. Then they crossed the Mediterranean Sea to the South of France and on up to Belgium and Holland. They left there at the end of July and went back to England to wait until October 16 to sail home, arriving in Halifax on October 21, 1945. William received his discharge on March 29, 1945 with the rank of Sapper, Regimental number H36496. He served in Canada, the United Kingdom, the Central Mediterranean Area and Continental Europe and resided in Davidson, Saskatchewan.

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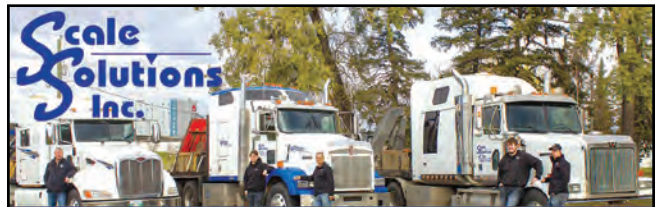
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PERSOWICH, William

WWII

William was born in the Municipality of Rockwood on March 23, 1919. He enlisted on February 5, 1943 at MD10 Winnipeg as a Trooper. He took basic training at Portage with advance training at Camp Borden as Driver I C Wheel. He was posted overseas in August 1943. They landed in Greenock, Scotland arriving aboard the Queen Mary. He was transferred to Aldershot then was sent to North Africa in October 1943 on the ship Chantilly. The next move was to Italy, they ferried Scout cars to Greece via Bari, Italy. On November 15, 1943, William transferred to Brigade Headquarters as part of the first Canadian Armoured Brigade to the DADME Section. He then moved to the Calgary Tank Regiment. In February 1945, they moved to Belgium, Holland and Germany where they became the First Canadian Army. He returned to Canada with the regiment arriving aboard the Queen Elizabeth on October 15, 1945. He was discharged on November 18, 1945. William went into Deer Lodge Hospital November 19,

1945 and was discharged on November 18, 1946. He moved to Fisher Branch to try farming and married Pearl Hnatiuk. They had three children. He went to work at the local Co-op from 1960 to 1961. William was accepted at the post office in 1962 and worked there until his retirement on March 23, 1984. He and his wife moved to Winnipeg in 1985.

PHILLIPS, George T.

WWI

George was born in Lauder, Manitoba, in 1896. He enlisted with the 209th Battalion in Swift Current, SK, on March 22, 1916. He became seriously ill with blood poisoning in May while still in Swift Current and was medically discharged on November 1, 1916. He re-enlisted with the 106th Winnipeg Light Infantry on August 4, 1917 and trained in Winnipeg until he was sent to England in April 1918. Upon arrival in England, he was assigned to the 18th Reserve Battalion in Seaforth, Sussex. In August 1918, George was transferred to the 44th Battalion and joined near Amiens, France, on April 20 and served for the remainder of the war, participating in the attack on the Drocourt-Queant Line, the Canal du Nord and Valenciennes where he was wounded on November 1, 1918. He was awarded the Military Medal for actions around Valenciennes. George spent the winter of 1918-1919 in Belgium before shipping to England in April 1919, and finally to Canada in May, where he was discharged in Winnipeg on June 8, 1919. He passed away in 1966 and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Napinka Branch 89.



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PHILLIPS, Ivan Caswell

WWII

Ivan was born in Hodgson. His father, Caswell Phillips, was a World War I Veteran. Caswell served overseas until the fall 1918. He was ill with influenza on arriving back in Canada. Later he farmed south of Hodgson and moved to Winnipeg at the outbreak of World War II. Ivan attended Assiniboine School and St. James Collegiate. He was on the High School football and hockey teams. Two years before enlisting in the Navy, he worked at CPR as a machinist. He enlisted into the Navy in November 1942. Ivan served at the West Coast for two years, aboard HMCS Chignecto after which he was transferred to HMCS Uganda in August 1944. While at sea, Stoker Phillips was stricken with a sudden illness and was put into sick bay. He received the best of medical care but died almost within 48 hours.

Ivan was believed to be the first Canadian naval casualty in the Pacific War. He was buried at sea with full honours after a funeral service was conducted by Capt. E.R. Mainguy, of Duncan, British Columbia. After Phillips' records had been examined, the word spread around the ship that he had been helping to put a younger brother and sister through school. A collection of \$1,225 was taken up, which was sent home as a token of remembrance from the "Uganda".



PONCHON, Antoine

WWI

Claude Felix Ponchon and wife Seychal Jeanne Marie had seven children. They lived on a farm at La Chamba, Canton de Noirétable, Département de la Loire, France. Antoine, their son, served in the French Army. He was killed in action during World War I.





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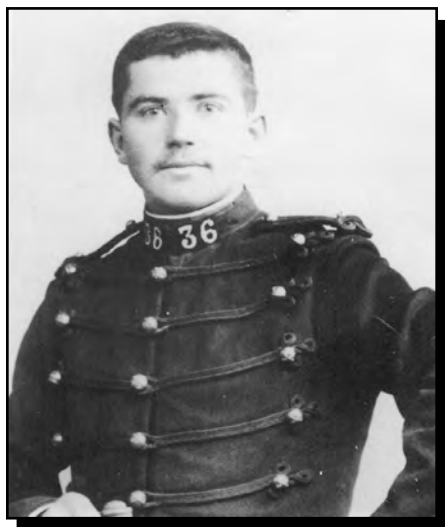
FRENCH ARMY

Claude Felix Ponchon and wife Seychal Jeanne Marie had seven children. They lived on a farm at La Chamba, Canton de Noirétable, Département de la Loire, France. Emile, the last son of the Ponchon family, was born in 1910. He also served in the French Army from 1930 to 1931. His trade was Telephone Communications and was stationed at Nancy, Département de Meurthe-et-Moselle, France. After service, he lived with his wife Simonne near Paris in Sens, France.

PONCHON, Eugène

FRENCH ARMY

Claude Felix Ponchon and wife Seychal Jeanne Marie had seven children. They lived on a farm at La Chamba, Canton de Noirétable, Département de la Loire, France. Eugène, their son, served in the French Army from 1906 to 1907. His trade was in leather (making harnesses for the horses). He came to Canada with his wife and two sons in 1914 settling on a homestead in Fisher Branch. The boys Emile and Henri attended Dumoulin School. Leo Caners was teaching there at the time, this was in the early 1920's. Later the family moved to Pine Falls. One of their sons, Henri, was killed in a gravel pit accident on November 29, 1926, at the age of fourteen. He is buried in the cemetery in St. George, Manitoba. On April 4, 1928, Eugène and his family returned to Paris, France.



PONCHON, Jean-Baptiste Celestin

Claude Felix Ponchon and wife Seychal Jeanne Marie had seven children. They lived on a farm at La Chamba, Canton de Noirétable, Département de la Loire, France. Jean-Baptiste, their son, enlisted in the Army at the age of 22 years. He was the oldest of two brothers of a family of seven to enlist for compulsory training in the same year. He was enrolled in the 36th Artillery Regiment at Clermont Ferrand on November 14, 1904. While in the army, he was trained as a second gunner. His trade was in agriculture and he earned about one or two centimes a day. On September 23, 1905, he was sent on leave of absence with a possible admission into the reserve army. He returned to his parents' farm home at La Chamba, Canton de Noirétable Département de la Loire, France which was close to Clermont-Ferrand where he had been stationed for his military training. From October 19 to November 15, 1908, he returned and completed a period of military exercises in the 36th Artillery Regiment. This short stage was also compulsory. The following year, on April 30, 1909, he left for Canada. He worked in several places in Manitoba. In 1912, he settled on a homestead in Fisher Branch where he spent the remainder of his life.

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PONCHON, Marius Antonin

FRENCH ARMY

Claude Felix Ponchon and wife Seychal Jeanne Marie had seven children. They lived on a farm at La Chamba, Canton de Noirétable, Département de la Loire, France. Marius was born in 1883 in France.

Marius joined the 6th Artillery Regiment in 1904 and was stationed in Tunisia, where he served for two years and seven months. While in the army he earned one cent a day. Even at this wage they managed to save enough to have a few drinks together. He was a master gunner in which he had to be very skillful while using the 75mm Cannon.

While stationed in Tunisia, he learned his trade as a "Charron" (Wheelwright) and "Forgeron" (Blacksmith). While in Tunisia they were warned every morning to shake out their boots as there may be scorpions in them. One morning there was a scorpion crawling across

a friend's face while he was still asleep. Everyone kept very still and quiet. Fortunately, he remained sleeping and did not awaken enough to slap at it and the horrible thing crawled away. One morning while in Tunisia there was even a frost. Being in Africa this did not happen very often. While eating, especially soup, they had to leave a little food as there was always sand in the bottom of the bowl.

Marius came to Canada on April 29, 1908. He worked around Winnipeg helping to put in the sewers. Later he and his brother John homesteaded in Fisher Branch area. He resided there with his wife Beatrice (Meilleur) until his death on January 25, 1953.

PRUDEN, Phyllis

WWII

Robert Pruden Sr. served in World War I. The children of Robert Sr. and his wife, Florence; Walter, Robert Jr. and Phyllis also served. Phyllis served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps during World War II.





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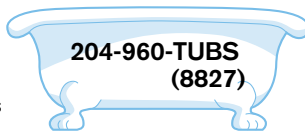
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PRUDEN, Robert Jr. “Buckey”

KOREA

Robert Pruden Sr. served in the World War I. The children of Robert Sr. and his wife, Florence; Walter, Robert Jr. and Phyllis also served. Robert Pruden Jr. enlisted in the Army on July 31, 1952 at Fort Osborne Barracks in Winnipeg with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He took his basic training in Calgary, Alberta at Currie Barracks and his advance training in Victoria, British Columbia. When he finished his advance training, he flew to Japan and then travelled by ship to Korea. Robert was in Korea for one year. He returned to Canada and received his discharge on August 18, 1954.

PRUDEN, Walter

WWII

Robert Pruden Sr. served in World War I. The children of Robert Sr. and his wife, Florence; Walter, Robert Jr. and Phyllis also served.

Walter enlisted in the Army in May 1944. He felt he would not have been accepted if he had not previously had a hernia operation. Walter took three months basic training at Portage la Prairie. From there he went to Camp Shilo for advance training. Just before Christmas they gave him embarkation leave.

He was sent overseas in the early part of 1945 and went over on the New Amsterdam troop ship. He landed at Greenock, Scotland then on to Aldershot, England for about one and a half months. From there he moved to Petworth, England for general warfare training. There were two guys from the Winnipeg Rifles and one fellow from the Canadian Scottish Regiment instructing them. They then went to Ostend, Belgium. Walter was in the front lines at Wilhelmshaven, Germany and it was there that he joined the Lake Superior Regiment. When the war ended, they came back to a Hengelo, Holland and Walter volunteered to go to the Far East.



He back to Canada on the same ship he went overseas on, the New Amsterdam. He had thirty days leave and the war, in the Pacific, ended during his leave. He went back to No. 3 Wireless Barracks for about one month. He could not leave the army because he did not have enough points. Throughout the winter of 1945, he was in Camp Shilo where he took motor mechanics and boxing. Walter was discharged in Winnipeg, in the spring 1946. Later, he resided in Harwill, Manitoba.



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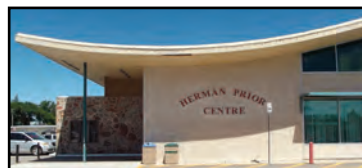


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PRUSS, Walter

WWII

Walter enlisted in February 1942 for active service in the Army at Fort Osborne Barracks in Winnipeg. He served with the Canadian Army overseas, as he believed it was his duty to serve his country and sovereign. He took his basic training at Fort Garry, Winnipeg and spent four months of parade square drill and route marching. He was transferred to Camp Ipperwash, Ontario to complete his advance training in assault course and night manoeuvres. In July 1943, he got two weeks leave. When he got back to camp, all personnel were confined to barracks. One week later he was transferred to Halifax to board the troop ship, Queen Elizabeth, destination - England. It took the ship six days to cross the Atlantic Ocean. The ship held 30,000 troops on board on that trip. One day out at sea, two corvettes came out to meet them and escorted them in with the Scotch bagpipes into Port Greenock, Scotland. That same night they were quickly transferred to a troop train and on to Aldershot, England. After two weeks in Aldershot, he was transferred to Algonquin Regiment 4th Light Armoured Division, 10th Brigade.

When Walter was in B Platoon, C Company he received his first furlough and spent it in Edinburgh, Scotland. He remembered it being like a home away from home. The regiment spent considerable time in training. They were also on alert for air raids - it did not matter what time of day or night. London was bombed the most. In February 1944, the regiment spent two weeks training at Inverness, Scotland for the invasion of Normandy. The regiment then returned to Heathfield for a rest period. They all got a week furlough. This time Walter and his partner spent their leave in the northern part of England away from the sirens and air raids.

In July 1944, the regiment was transferred to London to board a ship for Normandy, France. They landed on the beach in Normandy without too much resistance. The next night they had their first casualty, their sergeant major got shot in the foot. The destination was Caen, the front lines of Calais, Carpiquet Airport and Falaise Gap. After three weeks on the front lines they were relieved by an English Division and the regiment was moved to Caen for a rest period. That night in August 1944, instead of a rest, Walter's platoon was mustered for night patrol the objective was Hill 96. As they got close the patrol got ambushed by a German rear guard action. The platoon was either killed or wounded; Walter was among the wounded.

As the German Army moved the wounded away, Walter was taken prisoner of war. He was taken to a first aid post which was in a Catholic convent. From there he was moved to a Paris hospital. It was also occupied by the German Army. He was treated for wounds and two weeks later, he was moved from there with the rest of the prisoners. They were loaded into a boxcar (that was their transportation) and only moved at night as the Royal Canadian Air Force bombed every moving train.

Days later, he landed at Dusseldorf, Germany at the Red Cross first aid station. Walter was held there, had his wounds treated and the bandages changed. At this point he had an operation on his wrist. Two weeks later the Red Cross station was hit by a bomb, the cook and kitchen were blown to hell. Walter was moved to Frankfurt, Germany which was Luftwaffe German Airport and held there for a week. From there he was moved to Munich and on to Friesing with his destination being Stalag 7A prison camp. After three weeks, living and travelling in a boxcar, the stalag was a welcomed sight for Walter, even though it did not promise a hell of a lot. After recovering from his wounds, he was asked to go out on work detail parties and as they were allowed more food, Walter went.

The company was then transferred to Munich to lay railway tracks after every bombing. The railway track was the prime target, so every morning at 4am they were called out to board the train for Munich and they were lucky to be back by midnight. Walter stated: "Our Christmas dinner was a piece of horse meat, what part don't ask, because I was there to help butcher the poor animal."

In February 1945, Walter was moved with 79 other prisoners to a forestry camp to look after wildlife. They were under German guard and if anyone tried to escape, they were shot at. As the war drew to an end, they were not allowed outside of the compound. One morning, a week later, the American Army came to the village and liberated them. "Quite a sight! The gates were open and nowhere to go," Walter recalled. He was transferred back to England by US plane; his first stop was the delousing tent to get rid of freeloaders. In 1945, he was transferred back to Canada and in September 1945 he was demobilized back to civilian life. Walter's five military war medals include: the 1939-1945 Star, the France and Germany Star, the Defence Medal of England, the Canadian Voluntary Service Medal and the Defence Medal. He returned to Fisherton where he resided with his wife, Kathy.

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REDFERN, Henry Alfred

WWII

Henry Alfred Redfern, born in Oak Lake, Manitoba, moving early to Grenfell, Saskatchewan, was born on April 17, 1917; one of three boys, and one sister. Attending 1 room school through high school, baseball and skiing diverted from outside chores on parents' farm. Hiring as farmhand, Henry then enlisted on August 6, 1941 in Indian Head. He trained in Petawawa, and Camp Borden ON, then overseas in England. Qualifications GNR Redfern, were Driver Mechanic Gp C and I.C., A/L/Bdr. Henry, with 17th Field Regiment, 5th Armoured Division, arrived in Naples, Italy in November 1943. Ottona and other battles, preceded France to Germany in 1945, including enemy attack near Otterloo and Arnhem. Volunteering Pacific, war ended. Henry married Eleanor Scott of Oak Lake in 1946. Raising five sons, two daughters, they farmed near Grenfell, then at their own farm in Kenton, Manitoba, before moving to Brandon. Henry continued education, Certificate Automotive Mechanics, worked at Camp Shilo, then built business at gas bar in Brandon before retirement. Medals were Volunteer, Defence, Victory Europe, and Stars, Italy, France and Germany, 1939-1945 War. Inspired by Henry, the family built many successful businesses. Henry, "Faithful soldier", passed away in 2002, and Eleanor in 2007.

ROBERTS, Peter David

WWII

Peter was born in Herb Lake, Manitoba in 1925 and served in the Army. After his discharge, he returned to Herb Lake where he met his wife, Pauline. Together, they raised three boys in Herb Lake and later at Wekusko and in Snow Lake. Peter passed away in July 1976 at the Deer Lodge Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba and is buried in Brookside Cemetery.



ROBERTSON, Clyde S.

WWI

Clyde was born in Snowflake, Manitoba, in 1892. He joined the Army and served in England with the 18th Regiment COC and worked at the Ordnance Store Depot. His family was told that he did not cross to mainland Europe because he had flat feet. He passed away in 1959 and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 35.

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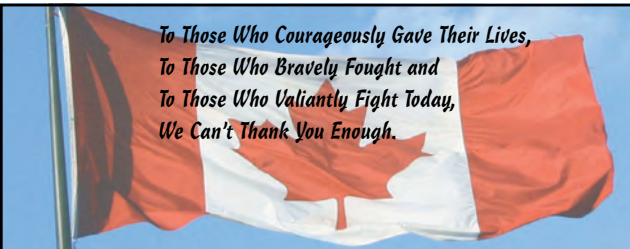
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SANDULIAK, John

WWII

John enlisted at #10 District Depot, Fort Osborne Barracks, Winnipeg, Manitoba in May 1942. He served in Canada and England during World War II. John was discharged on August 24, 1946.

SANDULIAK, Peter

WWII

Peter and John were the sons of Charlie and Rose Sanduliak of Kilkenny, Manitoba. These two brothers left Fisher Branch at the same time to join the army. Both served overseas and returned to Canada around the same time. John is now deceased.



SAUNDERS, Henry

WWI

Henry enlisted in the army on May 8, 1916. He served overseas in England, France and Belgium with the Imperial Engineers during World War I. Private Saunders was wounded in his shoulder at the Battle of Passchendaele, France. Henry was discharged on February 7, 1919. He returned to Fisherton where he lived until his death.



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SAUNDERS, Teddy

WWII

Private Saunders enlisted in October 1940 in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. He went to Camp Shilo for a short time, then on to Camp Borden, Ontario for more training. On November 1, 1941, he was sent overseas on the French ship, the "Pasteur". He landed in Greenock, Scotland, then went on to Aldershot, England where he spent the winter. From there he moved to East Wrenstead. When travelling to Italy, the ship was in a convoy with 22 other ships. Just past Gibraltar, their ship was torpedoed. He was in the water for about an hour before being picked up. He landed at Naples, Italy in November 1943 and remained in Italy until the end of 1944. From there he sailed to France, landing at Marseilles. Private Saunders also served in Belgium, Holland and Germany. When the war ended, he was in Groningen, Holland. He had volunteered to go to the Pacific, but the war had ended there. Private Saunders came home in August 1945 and was discharged in September that same year.

SAVAGE, Emery H.

WWII

Sergeant Emery H. Savage, Fisher Branch airman who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force for two years prior to the outbreak of war, was officially reported killed in action. Sergeant Savage was the son of Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Savage, of Fisher Branch and was born in 1916. He was active in all sports prior to enlistment. Sergeant Savage enlisted with the RCAF in 1937 and received his initial training in Winnipeg and was later posted to Calgary. Following training in Macdonald and Trenton as a bombardier, he was posted overseas in 1943. Sergeant Savage was buried in Harrogate, England on January 8, according to word received by his parents. In memory of the airman, high mass was sung in the Roman Catholic Church, Fisher Branch, on January 11. Besides his parents, Sergeant Savage was survived by a sister, Mrs. C.G. Brown, and three brothers, Victor, Leo and George, the latter serving with the RCNVR. Leo Savage also served in the Canadian Army. *Obituary taken from the Winnipeg Free Press*



SAVAGE, George J.

WWII

George enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve, at HMCS Chippawa, Winnipeg, on August 2, 1942. He served at sea between Newfoundland, Canada and England as an Able-bodied Seaman during World War II. He was discharged on October 5, 1945. George passed away in late 1989 and is buried in Winnipeg.

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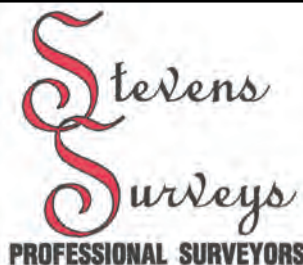
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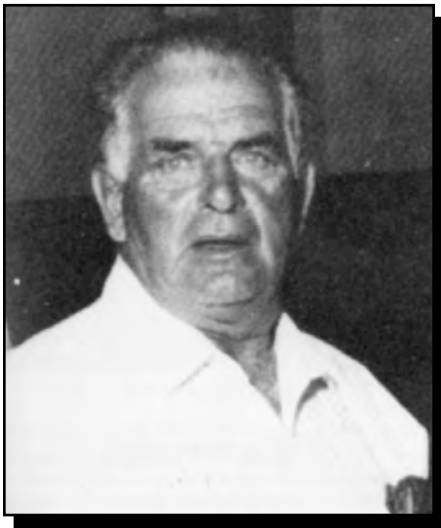


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SAVAGE, Leo

WWII

Leo was born on November 21, 1914 in Fisher Branch, Manitoba, the son of Alereque and Rose Savage. Leo was the eldest of three brothers, Victor, George and Emery, and one sister, Cecile. He spent many years in Fisher Branch and worked for a short period of time in the mine at Pickle Crow, Ontario. He enlisted in the Canadian Army on June 23, 1944. He served as a Rifleman in Canada, the United Kingdom, and Continental Europe. He was discharged from service on May 29, 1946.

Leo seldom spoke of the war years but did reminisce about how he saved big cigarette rations and purchased a BMW motorcycle while in Europe. To his everlasting regret, he had to leave the motorcycle when discharged. Leo's fascination with motorbikes continued throughout his life. He continued to enjoy riding a three-wheel trike until his death at the age of 69.

After his discharge, he met and married Hermina LaPorte from Inwood, Manitoba. Leo and his childhood friend, Gerry Bedard, opened a restaurant in Winnipeg which they operated for a few years. Leo then worked for the CPR for a number of years.

In 1952, he moved to Kenora with his wife and family of three daughters, Leona, Pat, and June. He started his own business called A.M.I. Coin Machines, which he operated until 1974. When he sold this business, he semi-retired to Miami, Florida, where he bought a small bar called the Hi-Lo Bar. Many French tourists visited this area during the winter months and French was frequently spoken in the Bar. Leo fully retired in 1981 in Bradenton, Florida. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed spending his summers fishing on the Lake of the Woods, as well as deep sea fishing in Florida. Leo died on May 10, 1984 in Traverse City, Michigan in a traffic accident.

SEDGWICK, Thomas Osborne "Tom"

WWII

Thomas Osborne Sedgwick was born on February 20, 1926 in Minnedosa, Manitoba, an only son with two sisters. Older sister, Phyllis, served with the RCAF in WWII. His father farmed, then his mother died when he was three years old. Tom, raised by the George A. Anderson family of Hamiota, Manitoba, enlisted in November 1944 with Army Infantry in Winnipeg and served mainly at Camp Shilo. He deployed to Churchill in 1946 before discharge that June. Tom married Eleanor Shier from Carnduff, Saskatchewan, in 1947. He worked for Goodyear Tire in Winnipeg. Moving to Hamiota, they raised two daughters. VLA assisted with his farm purchase. They retired into Hamiota. Tom is a 70-year Legion member from Hamiota Branch 137, and now Woodworth, Kenton 118. He received Volunteer and Defence medals, and 1939-45 WWII Star. Eleanor passed in 2014. Tom compliments the military and Veterans Affairs for education and assistance. "You made your bed, now sleep in it", from army days, taught him to enjoy life still.



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SELLICK, Norman (Pruden)

WWII

Private Norman Sellick enlisted in Winnipeg on September 18, 1940 to QOCH of Canada. He later transferred to the Regina Rifles. He was posted to Debert, Nova Scotia and went overseas on the "Empress of Russia". He landed in Scotland and went on to Aldershot, England, also Harvardsheah. Norman became a dispatch rider. He went to Belgium where he was wounded in the right knee and spent some time in a hospital in Antwerp. From there he was transferred to a hospital in England. Norman came back to Canada on the "Franconia" ship in April 1945. He resided in the town of Hodgson with his wife Marge and had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 158 for many years.

SEMOTIUK, George

WWII

Private George Semotiuk was called to the Army in the early years of World War II. He had training in Winnipeg and Camp Shilo in Manitoba. About one year was spent in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, two years in Vernon, British Columbia and further training in Wainwright, Alberta. He was discharged due to ill health in around 1944. He resided on the family farm in Fisher Branch.



SHERMAN, John

RESERVES

John enlisted on March 19, 1969 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He took his first training for about six months at Minto Armouries in Winnipeg. After that he spent two months in Wainwright, Alberta training for Junior NCO (non-commissioned officer). When he took a special weapons course, he specialized in an M72 Rocket Launcher. John came back to Manitoba and took more training at different places in Manitoba: Camp Shilo, Lac du Bonnet and Pine Ridge. His platoon, along with the Cameron Highlanders Band, went to Carthage, Missouri, (a small town just outside of Japlin) where they participated in the Maple Leaf Festival. In 1973, he took his Senior NCO training but did not complete the course. With the training he had it gave him a Master Corporal Standing. He was given an honourable discharge on January 1, 1974 in Winnipeg. In October 1974, he resided in Fisherton, Manitoba, with his wife, Connie, and family.



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SHERRER, George A.

WWII

George was born in MacGregor, Manitoba, in 1920. He joined the 13th Field Artillery in Calgary at the beginning of World War II. After his training in Canada, he was sent to England where he went on various missions throughout the British Isles, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland and Canada. George participated in the D-Day Battle at Normandy on June 6, 1945. His medals include a Voluntary Service Medal, the France and Germany Star, the 1939-1945 Star, the Defence Medal and another 1939-1945 Medal. George passed in 1996 and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Swan River Branch 39.

SHURVELL, Frederick C.

WWII

Frederick was born in Isabella, Manitoba, in 1915. He joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders on September 18, 1939, in Brandon, Manitoba, and served in England where he took his most intensive training. He was taken Prisoner of War at Dieppe and spent thirteen months as a shackled prisoner at Stalag B Camp and was later sent to Stalag 2-D Camp in charge of a work party of 23 men. Work parties were fed better than those penned in prison camp proper. Frederick was one of the first Canadians to be liberated by the Russians and taken to Odessa Camp Russia. He arrived in the United Kingdom on April 2, 1942. He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, the Defence Medal, the War Medal 1939-1945 and the 1935-1945 Star P.O.W. Frederick passed away in 1990 and had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 78 for over forty years.



SHWALUIK, Steve

WWII

Steven Shwaluik enlisted on July 14, 1941 with the Royal Canadian Engineers in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He took his basic training at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba and his advance training at Camp Shilo. He was sent to Woodstock, Ontario for drivers mechanic course. After completing the course, he returned to Camp Shilo and took a Bren gun carrier training course. He then returned to Woodstock for a Dispatch Rider's course and after this he transferred to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and returned to Fort Osborne Barracks to a Specialist Company. Steve went overseas in March 1943 and was stationed in Aldershot, England. His Company, the 1st Division, went to Sicily at the time of Sicily's invasion. He crossed into Italy and went as far as Ortona at which time he was transferred to the 9th Field Ambulance. He left Italy and landed in Toulon, France. Steve went through France, Belgium, part of Germany and into Holland, where he was when the war ended. Steve returned to Canada in October 1945 and received his discharge in December 1945.



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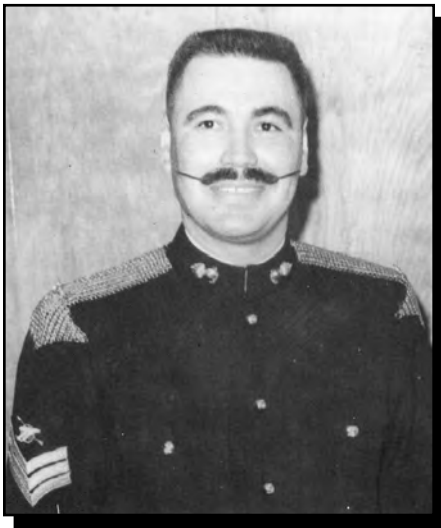
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SINCLAIR, Arnold C.

PEACETIME

Arnold enlisted in the Canadian Army on March 1, 1954 at the young age of nineteen. He was immediately posted to the 1st Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. This regiment had just recently returned from Korea and was stationed at Fort Osborne Barracks in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He took his basic training at Fort Osborne Barracks. When that portion of training was completed, he moved on to Shilo, Manitoba and completed training in basic gunnery. Having gone that round of training to its end, he returned to Winnipeg, becoming acquainted with the older Veterans of the regiment who had returned from Korea. Army life was a life that taught one the art of survival and in learning one grew up very quickly.

His next step in the learning process took him on to complete the course that dubbed him as Junior Non-Commissioned Officer and on December 17, 1954, he received his first promotion to Lance Bombardier. His first Christmas was a very memorable one that was spent in charge of kitchen fatigue. He must have done well because he was granted leave for New Year's Eve.

The regiment spent the summer of 1955 in Shilo, Manitoba and in Wainwright, Alberta. In November 1955, after the annual fall leave, he received posting to Fort Churchill, Manitoba. As part of a test-team with the defense research northern laboratory, they tested equipment and clothing. The knowledge and experience would be of great value later in his career.

He returned to the regiment in Winnipeg on May 1, 1957 and at that same time received another promotion to Bombardier. The regiment was preparing for a tour of duty with NATO in Germany. They spent the summer in Gagetown, NB. They sailed from Quebec City, Quebec on November 20, 1957 on the oceanliner The Empress of France. November was definitely not a good time to attempt to cross the Atlantic Ocean. They encountered a major storm while they were en route and their arrival in Rotterdam, Holland was delayed by three days. Although the going was rough for the crew, it proved even more so for the aging vessel. Upon arrival in Rotterdam, it was inspected and condemned.

During their three-year stay in Prince of Wales, Germany, they had both good times and bad. One of the good things was that the Canadian dollar was worth \$1.05 in American currency on the world market. Thus, his pay as a Bombardier was equivalent to that of a German physician. However, and naturally, to prevent them from living too high-on-the-hog, their salary was restricted. They were allowed a certain small amount per month and any need of additional money required approval from the commanding officer. Purchase of personal items had to be approved and all purchases were scrutinized then validated by the commanding officer.

The Cold War was at its peak now. The Berlin Blockade and the subsequent airlift to supply the city, as well as the mobilization of the American troops in Europe, all proved to be contributing factors to a very tense and high-strung atmosphere. However, it all soon ended and on October 18, 1960 they departed from Germany. This time they travelled by air. The Royal Canadian Air Force had converted the North Star aircrafts to accommodate passengers, thus all the single men flew home. Though much faster than their journey to Germany, the trip home for other reasons would prove to be just as memorable. The carriers were extremely noisy and no one spoke for the duration of the air-time since they could not hear one another enough to carry on a decent conversation. The flight took twenty-nine hours of noisy time. Other time was spent in England, the Azores and Gander, Newfoundland for refuelling. They finally arrived in Trenton, Ontario. Everyone departed from there for an emotional regrouping with family and loved ones, a first in more than three years. When leave was all-too-soon over, they returned to Gagetown, NB to rejoin their regiment that was stationed there.

For the next two years, he served with the regiment in Gagetown, catching up on courses that he had missed while in service in Germany. One important course was that of Senior Non-Commissioned Officer which he completed successfully. On completion of that, he returned to Shilo. On January 7, 1962, he was posted to the Royal Canadian School of Artillery in Shilo. He served there as drill instructor with the Royal Canadian Artillery Depot, training new recruits for the artillery. Subsequently he was promoted to Sergeant on September 20, 1962. On April 1, 1963, he transferred to the apprentice training battery which was also at Shilo, where he remained until September 15, 1963. He was then posted to 2RCHA at Fort Osborne Barracks in Winnipeg to begin preparation for his second tour of duty in Germany. On January 9, 1964, they left Trenton, Ontario on their way to Germany. However, with the new jets, the flight took only eleven hours and boasted all the comforts of civilian air service. It was the second tour for the regiment and many of the senior personnel were returning for the second time. Settling in was fast and efficient.

(continued)



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SINCLAIR, Arnold C. (continued)

Many good things happened during this second tour. East-West relations were better and therefore the stress and tension were less. Unification of the Armed Forces came into being and with it came new uniforms and new pay structure. Other things happened, such as the new Canadian Flag being raised for the first time at 1200 hours on February 15, 1965. Arnold was the guard commander for the quarter guard that presented arms during the lowering of the old flag and the raising of the new one. As mentioned, many new and exciting things came about on the second tour of duty. It was on this tour of duty that he married his wife, Ilse. They received new guns, U.S. - designed 155mm Howitzers. Being masters at gunnery, it was not long before they mastered this new piece of equipment. The following story of Arnold and his gun crew appeared in the gunner's salvo section of the Canadian Brigade newspaper.

FASTEST GUN IN GERMANY

CRA PAYS THE WAGER - Last spring the Commander Royal Artillery Second British Division Brigadier Philip Rooke asked Sergeant A.C. Sinclair of 2RCHA if he could improve on the accepted intense rate of fire of three rounds a minute for the U.S. designed 155 Howitzer. Sgt. Sinclair confidently claimed his gun crew could fire 15 rounds in three minutes. Brig. Rooke said if the Sergeant could make good his boast during the annual CRA's practice camp in July, he would give two cases of beer to the gun crew. During the fire-power demonstration for the 2,500 soldiers of the division that made up the CRA's camp, Sgt. Sinclair said that his "Fox Charlie" gun crew were firing fast and true when his shoot was called off after thirteen rounds because of equipment failure. Brig. Rooke however told the spectators that the rate they were firing, the "Fox Charlie" crew would probably have got off 17 rounds in three minutes and sportingly presented Sgt. Sinclair and his men with two cases of brew. The other members were: Gnr Graham Linny; Gnr. Gordon MacLean; Gnr. JPM Vaillancourt; Gnr. Carl Nutley; L/Bdr. Robert Lavoie; Bdr. Lealie Mason and Gnr. Thomas Taylor.



On January 8, 1967, he returned to Canada with his wife and their two children, Robert and Susann. Their flight this time took only nine hours. He spent the rest of the year and a half with the regiment in Gagetown, again catching up on some of the career courses in Montreal, Quebec; Shilo, Manitoba; Chilliwack, British Columbia and Rivers, Manitoba.

On May 28, 1968, he was posted to the newly formed Airborne Battery in Edmonton, Alberta. However, this posting was cancelled en route and he went instead to RCSA in Shilo, Manitoba. There, he attended the group 4 course which started on September 4, 1968. When this course was completed, he remained with the school in Shilo as instructor in gunnery until May 4, 1970 when the school of gunnery was transferred to Gagetown.

To become part of the combat arms school he was assigned to the special warfare company, instructing in subjects far removed from my gunnery training in the company. They had the AirBorne element and conducted courses in mountaineering, watermanship, helicopter repelling winter warfare in the Arctic, mine warfare and survival. There were twelve instructors in the whole Coy. They called them "*The Dirty Dozen*". This experience was one of the highlights of his career.

He was promoted to Warrant Officer on July 9, 1972. On September 1 of that same year, he was posted to the "E" Battery 2RCHA in Gagetown as Troop Sgt. Major, where he served until July 24, 1973. He was then posted to RSS Atlantic in Halifax, Nova Scotia to serve as regular support staff to the militia for the next three years. He was promoted to Master Warrant Officer on July 10, 1976 and was posted to 3RCHA in Shilo, Manitoba on September 6, 1976 as battery Sergeant Major "G" Battery where he remained until his retirement.

On August 10, 1979, at the age of 44, with 25 years and 5 months experience, he left the Canadian Armed Forces. Upon his retirement, he moved to Dallas, Manitoba where he designed and built their home. His wife and family joined him at Christmas 1979. In September 1981, he returned to school. This time, he attended Red River Community College to take training as barber stylist. When the course was completed in June 1982 he returned home to Dallas, Manitoba and opened his own salon.

As is the story of life, some bad things happen with the glad and some happy with the sad. Sadly, their son Robert passed away in his early years. He succumbed to cancer in December 1985. Their daughter Susann married, has made them proud grandparents and had secured her license in barber styling as well. She joined him in his shop.

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SINCLAIR, Garnet

PEACETIME

Private Garnet Sinclair joined the Army on March 12, 1976. He took Basic Training in Cornwall, Nova Scotia. He was transferred to Camp Borden, Ontario, then on to Kingston, Ontario for further training. Garnet received an honourable discharge in October 1976.

SINCLAIR, George Walter “Doddin”

WWII

Gunner George Walter Sinclair enlisted in 1941 with the Heavy Artillery. He served in England, France, Belgium and Holland during World War II. George is now deceased.



SINCLAIR, Kenneth “Ken”

WWII

Ken enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1940 and served at the rank of Gunner in Italy and Europe during World War II. He was discharged in 1940.

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SINCLAIR, Melford Clarence

WWII

Melford enlisted in the Canadian Armoured Corps (Royal Canadian Artillery) in Winnipeg, Manitoba on June 23, 1942. He served in Canada, the United Kingdom and Continental Europe during World War II. He was discharged on March 18, 1946, on demobilization under routine order. He was awarded the following medals: 1939-1945 Star, France and Germany Star, and Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. Other active Army Service was NRMA from January 9, 1941 to February 8, 1941. He resided with his family on the Peguis Indian Reserve and was a Life Member of The Royal Canadian Legion Hodgson Branch 158.

SINCLAIR, Stanley

WWII

Three Sinclair brothers served in World War II and all were overseas. They were Stanley, Wallace and George, sons of Kate and George Sinclair.

Stanley enlisted in May 1942 and took basic training in Portage la Prairie for about three months. He was sent to Valcartier, Quebec for about two weeks and went overseas in September 1942 on the ship Athlone, in a big convoy. He landed in Liverpool, England then was sent to Braemore, Scotland for about two years. He was then transferred to the American and British Engineer Corps. At Dover, England, they built extensions to the rail lines so they could load special locomotives on the ships. These had to be built so that they would run on the continental European rail lines as they were a different gauge. They worked for 21 days under heavy artillery fire from the Germans. They flew from France which was about 22 miles away. When the shells would land on shore, they would make craters as large as a small house. They worked there until the invasion of France. When the Allies got a foothold in France, they moved further into France and went through Belgium, Holland and Germany, mostly working on, making, and repairing bridges. They were also cutting logs with which to build the bridges. These were cut from the Reichswald Forest. They were in Dusseldorf, Germany when the war ended. They went on a tour of Berlin twice. The Russians did not want them to get friendly with the people of Eastern Berlin.



Stanley went to see the place where Hitler lived and died. He was in the occupation force until January 1946 in Dusseldorf, Hanover, and Hamburg. He came home on the Queen Elizabeth ship and got to Winnipeg on the last week of January 1946. It was bitterly cold, a big change from England. He was discharged at the end of February 1946 and resided in Winnipeg.

Photography by Hugo Girouard

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SINCLAIR, Wallace

WWII

Private Wallace Sinclair joined the Army in Canada. He went overseas with the Algonquin Regiment and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He went to France, Belgium and Holland. Wallace related that the saddest part of his experience was that he and his buddy went through everything together, right from joining up at the same time, to one hour before the official cease fire to end the war came. Then, his buddy was shot between the eyes and killed instantly.

SLATER, Harold George

WWII & PEACETIME

Harold was born on December 21, 1923, in Hodgson, Manitoba. On November 4, 1942, he enlisted in the Canadian Army (active) in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He served with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, 2nd Division and later with the Canadian Provost Corps in Europe during World War II. He was honourably discharged on March 12, 1946, in Winnipeg. His medals and decorations include: the 1939-1945 Star, the France and Germany Star, the Defence Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp and the War Medal 1939-1945. After being discharged from the Canadian Army after World War II, Harold re-enlisted on May 23, 1951, in Winnipeg, serving in Canada. He was honourably discharged June 27, 1952.



SMALL, Stanley

PEACETIME

Stanley Small joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in September 1961 as a Traffic Technician. He has been employed at various bases in Canada which included St. Jean, Quebec; Edmonton, Alberta; Camp Borden and Trenton, Ontario; Gimli and Winnipeg, Manitoba; Moncton and Chatham, New Brunswick. During his military career, Stanley flew for three years as loadmaster on the CC-130 Hercules Aircraft. He has visited many different countries which included places like Korea, Germany, Syria, Spain, Italy, France and many more. In 1979, Stanley served with the United Nations Peace Keeping Force for six months in Egypt. Stanley was employed at Air Command Headquarters, Canadian Forces Base Winnipeg. He held the rank of Master Warrant Officer and had completed a total of 29 years of service. He married Donna Hamilton of Moncton, New Brunswick. They had a daughter, Deborah, and a son, Darren, who also served in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

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SMITH, Charles W. "Charlie"

WWII

Charles W. Smith, Charlie, was born on March 23, 1923 in England, near Cheshire. His older sister Edith was born in 1916 and his twin siblings died young. His father Samuel (Sam), a Boer War Veteran, immigrated to Canada and worked on farms in Manitoba. In 1926, mother Louisa, and young Charlie with sister Edith, joined dad in Crandall then Beulah, Manitoba, before moving to Kenton. Charlie grew up on Gordon Hunter's farm where his father worked. Charlie joined the army soon after turning eighteen, training in Canada before transferring overseas. As a dispatch rider on a motorcycle, he was killed in a blackout on April 4, 1944 on hitting the back of truck. Charlie received three medals: Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, Victory Europe, and Defence, as well as the 1939-1945 Star. He is buried in a war memorial cemetery in England.

SMITH, Howard O.

WWII

Rifleman Howard O. Smith joined the Royal Winnipeg Rifles in April 1941 and served overseas during World War II.



SMITH, John F.

WWI & WWII

John was born in England and joined the Hartney Platoon 222nd Battalion and then to the 44th Battalion. He was wounded at Vimy 'Over the top' on two separate occasions. In World War II, he was with the Veterans Guard of Canada. He was a Life Member of The Royal Canadian Legion Hartney Branch 26.



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SMITH, Maurice

WWII

Private Maurice Smith enlisted in the Canadian Army on June 23, 1942, serving until his discharge on March 9, 1946.

SMITH, Micheal "Mike"

WWII

Mike Smith enlisted in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry on December 12, 1941. He trained in Portage la Prairie and served four years in England. On January 26, 1944, he was promoted to Corporal. Mike was discharged from service and returned to civilian life on March 29, 1946. He returned to Fisher Branch where he lived with his wife Mary. He was awarded the following medals: Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, Good Conduct badge, and M.F.M. Mike passed away on June 2, 1983.



SMITH, Morris

WWII

Private Morris Smith joined the Army in August 1941 and took his basic training in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba and his advance training in Winnipeg. He went to Terrace, British Columbia in 1942 with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, then moved to Prince Rupert, BC in the winter of 1942. In the early summer of 1943, Morris moved to Nanaimo, BC. In August 1943, he went to Kiska Island in the Aleutian Islands. He returned to Victoria, BC in January 1944. Morris went to England in the summer of 1944, then to France in July 1944. He fought through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany until he got wounded in February 1945. Morris came home to Hodgson in December 1945 and was discharged in January 1946. Morris has been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Hodgson Branch 158 for many years. He resided in Hodgson, Manitoba.



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SMITH, Reginald

WWII

Reginald joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers on September 23, 1939, along with Herbert Mabb. As there was no barracks available at that time, they were allotted living out allowance and had to find their own board and room. For the first month or so they boarded in a rooming house. There were approximately twelve soldiers boarding there at \$16.00 per month. They had to catch a bus, in the morning, to get to Minto Armories where they received their training. However, Herbert and Reginald were not satisfied with the conditions at the boarding house, so they moved to a private house. It was just like home but cost them more money. It even exceeded their allowance, but it was worth it. They also were within walking distance of Minto Armories.

Either the end of November or first part of December they were all put into Fort Osborne Barracks, and remained there until May 1940, at which time they were drafted to Bermuda and Jamaica. He spent

three months in Bermuda. His company which was "A" Coy was dropped off there on the way to Jamaica but at the end of three months, they were moved to Jamaica to make room for a couple of hundred "Royal Scots" (survivors of Dunkirk). They were brought to Bermuda to convalesce.

Reginald spent approximately fourteen months in Jamaica. Most of his tour there was spent attached to H.Q. CO. as a driver mechanic.

In October 1941, they returned to Canada, then after two weeks leave, they were transported west by train to Vancouver where they boarded the ship "The Awatea" and their destination at that time was unknown. They were not aware of their destination, until after they left Singapore. They were then told they were going to Hong Kong. This journey took 21 days. Their main meat diet in those 21 days was mutton. Everything went well in Hong Kong, until December 8, 1941. That was the day the Japanese declared war.

After fighting a losing battle, the governor of the island, was forced to surrender on December 25, 1941. They were all taken Prisoners of War. Reginald's first internment was at North Point Camp on the island of Hong Kong but, after a few months, they were all taken over to their original barracks at Kowloon which was on the mainland of China. On arriving in Kowloon, Reginald was much rejoiced, for there he was reunited with Herb Mabb. They had been separated during the conflict and after the surrender were taken to different camps. But, unfortunately, about a year or so later, Herb was stricken with diphtheria and passed away. Altogether, Reginald spent two years in Hong Kong. In Kowloon Prison Camp, he worked as an orderly in the hospital for most of those two years.

After the two years in Hong Kong, he was transferred to Japan to a place called Oyama. There they worked in a surface mine. He spent one year and nine months at that camp. Then, in August 1945, the war with Japan was over.

In the three years and nine months of their imprisonment, their main diet was mostly rice with potato top soup - no meat and no other vegetables. At war's end, Reginald weighed 107 pounds. It was thirty days, from the time he left Japan, until he arrived in Winnipeg. He had at that time gained 60 pounds. Reginald weighed 167 pounds. Altogether he spent 1,347 days as a Prisoner of War. After returning home they were given six months leave. He arrived home in October 1945, and was discharged, in March 1946. (All dates are approximate). Reginald resided in Courtenay with his wife Mickey (Hendrickson).



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SMITH, Samuel John "Sam"

BOER WAR

Samuel "Sam" Smith was born in 1878 and grew up in England. He enlisted and fought in the Boer War (1899-1902). Sam was 21 to 24 years old and served in the infantry. After the war, he married Louisa around 1910-1915 near Cheshire. They had four children, but twins died young. Edith was born in 1916, and Charles in 1923. Sam immigrated to Canada and worked on farms. In 1926, Louisa arrived with the two children to join Sam near Crandall and Beulah, Manitoba, before moving to Kenton, Manitoba in 1930, to work for Gordon Hunter. Edith married Bill Garton, Artillery, WWII. Charles was killed in action overseas in 1943. Sam and Louisa retired to Kenton. Louisa passed away in 1955. Sam lived a good long life and was especially pleased to talk with young boys about his experiences. He passed away in 1965. Sam and Louisa are buried at Greenwood Cemetery near Kenton.

SMITH, Samuel Morrison "Sam"

WWI

Sam was born in Dumfries, Scotland in 1890, coming to Canada in 1910. He joined the Canadian Mounted Rifles in 1914. Sam was sent overseas to France and was wounded in Passchendaele. He lost one lung due to his wound and spent considerable time convalescing in a hospital on the East coast of England in Bexhill-on-Sea. Sam married Mary Howard of London, England. They came to Canada in 1920 and settled in Fisherton, Manitoba. Sam passed away in 1951 and his wife, in 1975.



SNIDER, Harold B.

WWII

Harold enlisted in Winnipeg on April 11, 1941. He served overseas and received his discharge in Winnipeg on October 9, 1945. Harold was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Hodgson Branch 158, joining in April 1946. He lived in Inwood, Manitoba for many years with his wife, Nell, who was an English war bride.



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From A Friend



SNYDER, David Harold

WWII

David Snyder enlisted on March 23, 1942 in Winnipeg and took basic training in Fort William. He went overseas that same year as reinforcements and joined the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in England. He served in most of the European countries and was wounded in Belgium. He re-enlisted with The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders and was discharged in Winnipeg on January 17, 1946. While serving in Belgium, David was presented with the Military Medal. Unfortunately, David passed away on September 3, 1983.

SORGENFRIE, Ronald

PEACETIME

Ronald, of Hodgson, Manitoba, joined the Army Signal Corps in June 1959 when he was sixteen years of age. He was stationed at Camp Petawawa, Ontario, and Gagetown, New Brunswick, until the fall of 1964. While in the Army, he finished his high school education with marks in the high 90's, which goes to show what can be achieved when one applies oneself. Ron also studied Electronics and Communications, and because of this, he got work with the Telephone Company. After he left the services, he was employed by the New Brunswick Telephone until April 1976, when he passed away. Ronald is survived by one daughter Kenora Lee.



ST. GERMAIN, Leo

WWII

Private Leo St. Germain lived in Fisher Branch before the War. He was the nephew of Elie and Madeleine St. Germain. He served in the Canadian Army during World War II.

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STAPLES, Albert George "Bert"

WWI

Bert enlisted in the services on May 7, 1918 in the 1st Battalion Depot, Manitoba Regiment, Canadian Expeditionary Forces. He was discharged on October 14, 1919. Bert lived most of his life in the Hodgson area. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Hodgson Branch 158 and received a Life Membership. Bert passed away on July 30, 1974.

STAPLETON, Hubert

WWII

Hubert enlisted on July 3, 1940, in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. He served overseas in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany during World War II. He was an army cook and was wounded while overseas. Hubert received his discharge in August 1946. His decorations were: 1939-1945 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, and Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. Hubert was deceased on March 5, 1982.



STEVENSON, Alfred James

WWII

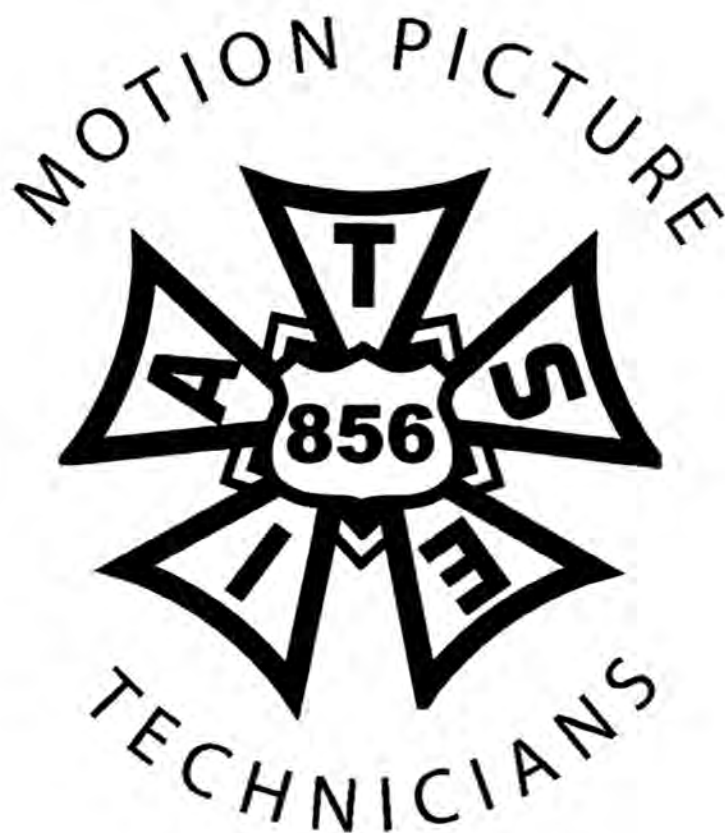
Alfred James Stevenson was born on December 28, 1907 in West Selkirk, Manitoba. He joined the service on May 23, 1942 in Winnipeg. He was a Gunner in May 1942 and was promoted to Sapper in September 1942. He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal on November 23, 1943.



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STEVENSON, Charles Allan

PEACETIME

Charles was born on July 8, 1948 to parents Micheal and Annie Stevenson of Peguis Reserve, Dallas, Manitoba. He joined the service in September 1965 at the age of seventeen. He has been at Sinai, Egypt and also in Cypress. He also served overseas in West Germany for over four years.

STEVENSON, Horace H. "Hudge"

WWII

LAC Class 1 (Leading Aircraftman) Horace H. "Hudge" Stevenson was born on the family farm near Oak Lake, Manitoba on April 26, 1918. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force on October 29, 1941 at the Minto Armoury in Winnipeg. After training as an armourer in Trenton, Ontario, he was posted to Coastal Command at R.A.F. Castle Archdale on Lough Erne, Northern Ireland. With 423 Squadron, he flew Sutherland aircraft hunting German submarines that were a constant threat to allied shipping. He served as both air and ground crew. Hudge returned to Canada in February 1944 after being injured and received an honourable discharge that summer. He received the following medals: Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp, Defence 1939-45, and Victory Europe, and 1939-45 WWII Star. After the war, Hudge married Roma Tolton of Oak Lake. They raised a family of three girls and two boys on their farm near Kenton, Manitoba. Hudge passed away on September 6, 1979.



STEVENSON, Philip

WWI

Philip enlisted in the 108th Battalion, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He went overseas with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on December 2, 1915 and accompanied the 78th Battalion in France. He returned to Canada and was discharged on September 21, 1918 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He had been wounded in action and was discharged as medically unfit for further war service. He spent a lot of his time back and forth to Deer Lodge Hospital until his passing in 1937 and was placed to rest at Brookside Cemetery in Winnipeg. He had been 21 years of age at the time of his discharge. Philip received one medal of decoration, one gold bar. He returned to Peguis Reserve after the war.

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STOCKI, Craig

PEACETIME

Craig was born on August 1, 1969. He lived and attended school in Fisher Branch. He was a member of the Fisher Air Cadets for four years. Craig was sworn into the Canadian Armed Forces in Winnipeg on June 18, 1987. He completed officer basic training in Chilliwack, BC and then went on to serve two years at Royal Roads Military College in Victoria, BC. He was stationed at the Royal Military College of Canada, in Kingston, Ontario, where he pursued a baccalaureate degree in Computer Engineering.

STODGELL, Alex

WWII

Alex was born in Woodlands, Manitoba in April 1908 and moved with his parents, Henry and Kitty Stodgell, and brothers, Harry and George, to Fisherton in 1910. After his school years he farmed in the Fisherton District, owning 320 acres. Some years after the war he bought another 160 acres.

Alex enlisted in the 7th Canadian Medium Regiment Artillery on April 15, 1942. He trained at Camp Shilo, Manitoba and went overseas later in 1942. Alex met his wife, the former Joan Hartnett, in London, England shortly before he and his regiment were sent to the second front in Europe. He went through France and Holland with his regiment, fighting the German Army. He went to England on leave towards the end of January 1945. He contacted Joan and they went out together several times. Alex went through Belgium and Germany as the fighting got heavier. He often spoke of the horrendous fighting when crossing the Rhine River in Germany. Many soldiers broke down and had to be taken out of the battle and sent to hospital.



Alex carried on fighting up to VE Day in May 1945. He stayed in Europe with his regiment until the end of September 1945. The previous July he had ten days leave and went to England to become engaged to Joan and made plans to marry when his regiment returned to England.

Alex and Joan were married in Finchley, London, England on October 3, 1945. They honeymooned in Scotland and England. Alex returned to Canada with his regiment in November 1945 and was discharged from the Army in January 1946. Joan joined him on the farm the following June. He rebuilt his herd of cattle and eventually bought another farm.

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STODGELL, Cyril

WWII

Cyril enlisted in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders on October 6, 1940. He trained at Fort Osborne Barracks in Winnipeg and went overseas in October 1941. He transferred to the Lake Superior Regiment in England.

Tommy Farr was the world's heavy weight champion boxer at one time and owned a bar in Brighton, England. While at this bar, Cyril got in a dispute which ended up in a fist fight with Tommy. Of course, Cyril did *not* win the fight.

He served in England, France and Belgium during World War II. Cyril was killed in action in 1944 in Belgium. He was buried at Adegem Canadian Cemetery in Belgium (Oorlogsgraven Van Het Gemenebest).

Stodgell Islands in Caribou Lake is named in Cyril A. Stodgell's honour. The following is a letter written by Jim, Cyril's chum, to Mrs. Stodgell:

March 25, 1945
#1 Canadian Detention Barracks
Canadian Army Overseas
England

Dear Mrs. Chas (Charlie) Stodgell,

I have received your most welcome letter today and was very glad to hear from you people. Even my own people hardly write to me at all just once in awhile. I guess they must be tired of me now.

As far as health is concerned I am doing O.K. and hope this letter finds you all in the same condition as I am.

I can't very well tell you everything but, I'll try my best to tell you as much as I can.

Yes, I was with him (Cyril) when he got it and I got the guy that shot him too. He (Cyril) got it on both legs and was pretty badly wounded. I didn't look after him right away because it was kind of heavy shelling at the time, and he sure lost a lot of blood by the time I got back to him. I dressed him (Cyril) and another guy who were wounded together. By the time the Aid Post came around; well they were pretty well coming to. I stayed with them giving them a drink of water and kept them warm till they picked them up. And a week later, I heard that Cyril died the next day, for loss of blood. It was terrible to see anything like it on both legs, one wound was just above the right foot and the left was above his knee.

The words he told me was to take his men and keep going next day and he said to send his personal belongings to you so I'm gladly doing it. I sure missed him a lot now. I haven't got anybody to chum around with now. So darn nervous ever since I seen him and every time I think of him I sure feel downhearted.

I take him for my own brother who was killed in Italy, last summer, anything further I can't say.

I haven't a picture of myself at all. I am sorry. I sent them all home.

I went on absent and now I am in detention in England for awhile and I will go back and take another crack at them low down rats.

My people live in Sintaluta, Saskatchewan. If I stay in a safe place like I am now, I'll be able to see you all whenever it's over.

There is nothing I can tell you about and it will be a long stay. If I do go back to Canada, I'll stop at Winnipeg and try to find your hometown, from there before even going back to my own home.

I've been away so long now that I don't even want to go home at all. I close my letter here with best of luck and hope to see you all some day.


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STODGELL, Garnet

WWII

Private Garnet Stodgell enlisted on September 28, 1939 in Winnipeg. He trained at Fort Osborne Barracks and Minto Armouries. He went to Bermuda on the "Lady Drake". Then to Jamaica in September 1940. He returned to Canada at the beginning of October 1941. Five weeks later he took a train to Vancouver, then a ship to Hong Kong. It took 21 days to get there. He was there from three to four weeks when the fighting started. Garnet was taken prisoner on December 24, 1941. He died in a Japanese prison on March 20, 1943 at the age of 25 and lies in a cemetery somewhere in the Orient. Stodgell Lake is named for Private Garnet James Stodgell.

STODGELL, George

WWI

George was the son of Henry and Kitty Stodgell of Fisherton, Manitoba. His brother Harry served in World War I, and his brother Alex served in World War II. George enlisted in 1914. He served in England and France, where he was gassed at Ypres, then taken Prisoner of War for some months until the war ended. He was farmed out to a German family around 1916 or 1917 and got along so well with them that he planned on staying in Germany, but he got ill and went to England for treatment. He stayed there for almost a year. He was with the occupation forces in Germany after the war. George got married to May Davey in England in 1919 and returned to Canada and was discharged in 1920. He resided in Winnipeg until his death in 1943.



STODGELL, Harry

WWI

Harry was the son of Henry and Kitty Stodgell of Fisherton, Manitoba. His brother George served in World War I, and his brother Alex served in World War II. Harry enlisted in 1914. He served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany during World War I. He married an English girl in 1916. He returned to Canada in 1920, then moved to the United States where he resided until his death.



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STODGELL, Norman

WWII

Norman was born in Fisherton on April 21, 1924. There was one daughter, Frieda, and seven sons in the family. He enlisted on June 1, 1943 in Winnipeg and took his basic training at Fort Garry, Manitoba for three months and his advance training at Camp Shilo, Manitoba. He got one month off to help his father take the crop off in the fall of 1943. Then he had to take his advance training over again. There were fourteen of them at Shilo that had taken training for Non-Commissioned Officers but two of them wanted to go overseas so they kept bugging their Regimental Sergeant Major and he finally gave in and had them shipped out pronto. They went by train to the east coast at the beginning of August 1944 and then overseas on the ship "Aquitania".

The second day out of port they released lots of depth charges at German submarines. It took them four days to reach Liverpool, England. They were in England for about three weeks, then boarded ship again. This was a big convoy of ships. He was on the "Queen of Bermuda". They were fourteen days on the ocean before they landed in Naples, Italy. They stayed in Ravenna, Italy for a short while and that is where he joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He met Jack Hall there but could not talk long because they were on their way to the front lines. They spent Christmas Day, 1944 on a big pile of wheat in a big barn. When they left Italy from the Port of Leghorn, they could see the "Leaning Tower of Pisa", but they would not let them go to see it. They went by ship to Marseilles, France, then by truck to Paris but they were not allowed out of the trucks. Then they went through Belgium to Holland where they went into action again. He was a Bren gunner.

One morning, Norman and his buddy were in a slit trench in a field about 75 feet from a large concrete building. The enemy was around this area too. His buddy went first for breakfast and got in okay. Then he tried and got to the building okay but hit the wrong door that would not open. That was when the Germans opened fire at Norman with a machine gun. He had to run 50 feet to the next door. He could see the bullets bouncing off the concrete wall just inches behind him. His buddy in the building had the door open for him and he flew in. He never ran so fast in his life and his speed most likely spared his life.

Shortly thereafter, on April 26, 1945, in the wee hours of the morning (it was still dusk) he saw a German patrol coming. He got one shot away and his machine gun jammed. And that was the last he remembered until he woke up in a hospital twelve hours later. One of his buddies by the name of Freddy Smith from Lake Francis, Manitoba, told him that he got the guys that got him.

He was in the hospital for two weeks, so he missed some of the VE Day celebrations. After he was released from the hospital, he was sent to a lake in Holland for convalescing for three weeks, then six of them went to Aberdeen, Scotland, on leave for three weeks. After that they went to Belgium.

He came home on the "Île de France" ship in October 1945 and was discharged on November 26, 1945. He resided at his father's farm in Fisherton, Manitoba. Norman received the following medals: 1939-1945 Star, Italy Star, France and Germany Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, and War Medal 1939-1945. He joined The Royal Canadian Legion Hodgson Branch 158, in November 1945. He had been an active member and received a life membership.

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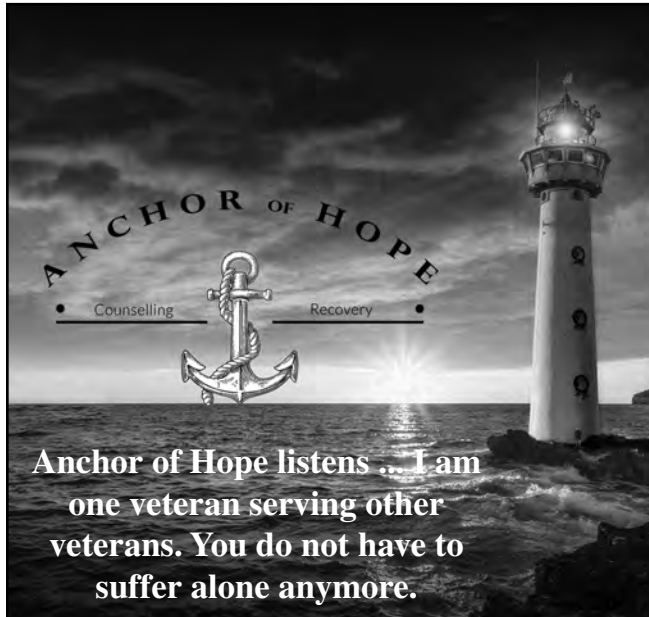
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STODGELL, Roy

WWII

Roy, a Stodgell brother, enlisted on September 14, 1939 in the Winnipeg Grenadiers. He trained at Minto Armouries and Fort Osborne Barracks until May 19, 1940 when he went to Bermuda on the "Lady Drake"; he spent four and a half months in Bermuda and after that he went to Jamaica for thirteen to fourteen months. He returned to Canada in October 1941. He left for Hong Kong five weeks later, going by train, then by ship, a trip which took 21 days from Vancouver to Hong Kong.

They were there about three - four weeks when the fighting started. He was taken prisoner on December 19, 1941 and spent some time in North Point Camp, then 'Sham Shoo Poo' Camp. The first year after being taken prisoner, Roy worked in the airport in China. Their food was mostly vegetables and rice but there was never enough. In 1943, he was shipped from China to Japan by freighter. They were loaded by alphabetical order. All names before 'S' were put in the hold and they were packed so the rest stayed on top of the deck. The toilets and latrines in the hold were all

plugged. The prisoners on the top deck were not treated too badly, but the ones in the hold had their food lowered down in tubs by a rope. The cooks knew the prisoners were going to Japan, so they baked two thousand buns but those in the hold never got any. They were four and a half days going to Japan.

The first year in Japan they got "red barley" boiled, three times a day. They got all they could eat but it burned their stomachs out. They also got three sardines twice a week. In 1944, their main food was boiled potato and carrot "tops". The Japanese kept the potato and carrot roots for themselves.

In Japan they worked in shipyards. When they finished work at night they would try to sleep, but between picking lice and bugs off themselves they got little rest.

Whenever there was an air raid they killed cats, horses or dogs. The Japanese would bring them to the prisoners to cook for themselves.

Whenever they moved to a different camp they would walk because there was no other transportation. In 1945, they were put to work in the coal mines. Their meals there were one cup of rice three times a day. It was never enough. In Japan, their clothing was "gunny sack" pants and shirt and sandals. The sacking itched like crazy.

In the mines it was so hot all they wore was a G-string and sandals. The Japanese girls that worked there too wore the same dress.

The war was over for seven days before the prisoners were told.

The Americans started to drop food by air the second week after, plus "three forty-five gallon drums of French safes", but that did not help very much because the prisoners' health was not very good. After that the Japanese treated them pretty good.

They stayed about three weeks after the war ended, then started for home. They travelled to Guam by boat, stayed one week there, then took a plane to an American base where they stayed four days. Next was on to San Francisco and from there by train to Vancouver for three days, after which they left by train for Winnipeg, arriving there on September 20, 1945. Roy was discharged March 1946.

Roy received the following medals: 1939-1945 Star, Pacific Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, Defence Medal and War Medal 1939-1945.

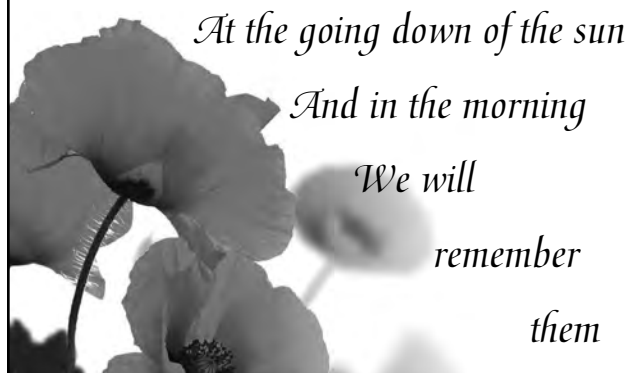


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STODGELL, Stanley

WWII

Stanley, one of the of the five Stodgell Brothers, enlisted on September 14, 1939 with the Winnipeg Grenadiers in Winnipeg. He trained at Fort Osborne Barracks and Minto Armouries. He went to Bermuda on the "Lady Drake" in 1940 and on to Jamaica in September 1940. He returned to Canada in 1941 and stayed for five weeks. During this time, he had a leave and visited his family in Fisherton. He took a train to Vancouver, then a ship to Hong Kong, spending 21 days at sea, arriving in Hong Kong in November 1941. After about four-five weeks, the fighting began. Stanley was killed in action on December 19, 1941. There is no known burial place for Stanley. Stodgell Islands in Caribou Lake named for Stanley Stodgell.

STORKSON, Albert M.

WWII

Albert was born in Bergland, Ontario on September 25, 1918 to Carl and Cecilia Storkson. He worked on the farm until he joined the Canadian Army in Port Arthur, Ontario on February 1, 1942 at age of 24. He took his basic and advanced training at Winnipeg and Camp Shilo, Manitoba and was a transport driver with the 41st Canadian General Transport Company, with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps. He served almost four years in Canada, England, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Albert was discharged on October 30, 1945 in Winnipeg, MB and returned to his hometown and worked again on his parents' farm, logging camps and road construction. He passed away on November 8, 1975 at the age of 58.



STRANGER, Albert Leslie

WWII

Leslie Stranger was born in St. Peter's Dynevor on October 1, 1918 and moved to Peguis, Manitoba in September 1938. He enlisted with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles on July 10, 1942 and was later transferred to the Royal Edmonton Regiment. He went overseas later in the same year on the Queen Elizabeth. Leslie had Christmas dinner in Ortona, Italy, and before New Year's was taken Prisoner of War. He was confined at Stalag VIIA for the duration of the war. Leslie received his discharge on August 24, 1945.



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STRANGER, David Reuben

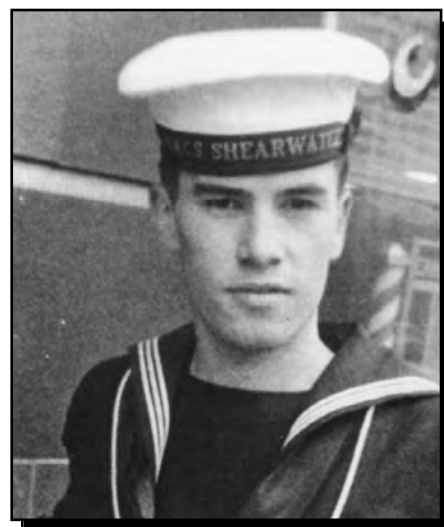
PEACETIME

David joined the Navy in February 1952 at HMCS Chippawa in Winnipeg and took basic training at HMCS Cornwallis and was then stationed at HMCS Naden. Also, he was in Korea on sea patrol for thirteen months during the peace talks. Their home port was Sasevo, Japan and sometimes they were running Australian soldiers to Hong Kong on R.N.R. David spent some time in southeast Asia and also Panama Canal and Caribbean. He was discharged at HMCS Naden in January 1957. All of his sea time was served on board HMCS Sioux 225. David resided in Terrace, British Columbia.

STRANGER, James Thomas "Jim"

PEACETIME

Jim was born in St. Peter's Dynevor on September 6, 1935 and moved to Peguis in 1938 with his family. On graduating from Peguis South School, he attended Birtle High School. Jim enlisted in the Navy and served aboard HMCS Bonaventure. On return from the Navy, Jim worked on the family farm. Jim passed away in March 1990. He left behind his wife, Yvonne, and three children: Alvin, Crystal and Andrew.



STRANGER, Melvin Kitchener

WWII

Melvin was born on January 16, 1923 in St. Peters Dynevor. He enlisted in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry on February 9, 1943 and went overseas with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. He transferred to the Royal Winnipeg Rifles while he was overseas. He was wounded on September 24, 1944 in Calais, France. Melvin received his discharge on March 29, 1946.



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STURGEON, Douglas C.

PEACETIME

Douglas Sturgeon was educated in Hodgson and Fisher Branch, Manitoba. His Naval and Military career in peacetime service was from November 1961 to March 1962 where he completed boot camp, the basics of military life in the form of foot drill, rifle drill, small arms combat and overall screening for an eventual trade within the navy.

HMCS Crescent - DDE #226 - April 1962 to June 1963. On the job training where he took Sonarman learning duties in submarine detection and seamanship. Doug was promoted to ordinary seaman, then to Sonarman in July 1962. He was actively involved in coastal patrol of Canada's East Coast during the Cuban Crisis in 1963 and was promoted to Able Seaman in December 1962.

HMCS Stadacona - July 1963 to March 1964. Doug took basic training in field electronics with some specializing towards sonar electronics, equipment fitted in most Canadian destroyers. Prior to posting to HMCS

Terra Nova, he was married to Nancy Bedgood, daughter of Edna and Ron Bedgood of Halifax.

HMCS Terra Nova - DDE 259 - March 1964 to May 1965. A most memorable fourteen months as the Terra Nova was considered the best destroyer in the fleet at that time. She had a good crew and won the Efficiency Award for 1964, suffered few if any breakdowns and was always ready and willing to go whenever and wherever she was needed.

HMCS Skeena - DDH 207 - June 1965 to October 1967. Serving on HMCS Skeena took them away from their home port of Halifax for a great deal of 1966. In all, they travelled over 62,000 nautical miles, as far south as Buenos Aires and Argentina only returning to Halifax for supplies. They then joined the NATO squadron in Europe, visiting ports in England, France, Germany, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Scotland, before returning to Halifax. Doug was promoted to the rank of Leading Seaman in July 1965.

HMCS Stadacona - November 1967 to August 1968. Doug took extensive training in operation and servicing Sonar electronic equipment, fitted in current Canadian Warships.

HMCS Nipigon - DDH 266 - September 1968 to August 1969. Time spent on HMCS Nipigon was mainly during exercises off the Eastern North American coast with the exception of spending three months with NATO Squadron in Europe.

HMCS Bras d'Or - FHE 400 - September 1969 to April 1971. At one time this ship was listed as the fastest warship in the world, however her life was short lived. It was quite an experience. It maneuvered like a destroyer but three times as fast.

Fleet School DDH 280 Project - May 1971 to September 1975. Doug took electronic training on a digital computer used in sonar trade to seek and destroy hostile submarines, and after a fourteen-month course was promoted to Petty Officer 2nd class, also known as Sergeant in unified forces and posted to fleet school program section. Duties there involved maintaining the programming generation computer and assisting the programmers in making program changes and edits and ensuring the fleet ships were provided with the most nuclear combat programs as they were generated.

His fourteen-year career with the Canadian Armed Forces (Navy) is one which Douglas remembered as being a great experience. He left the Armed Forces in September 1975 to pursue his electronics career in civilian life. Douglas and his wife had four children, three sons, and one daughter.



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STURGEON, James Leslie "Les"

WWII

Les enlisted in May 1941 in the 18th Manitoba RECCE as a cook. He took basic training in Shilo, Manitoba then in Barrie, Ontario where he was made Corporal. The Regiment was en route to Hong Kong when Pearl Harbour was bombed, so Les was stationed on Vancouver Island – Victoria, Esquimalt, and Sooke Guard Duty. He then went to Truro, Nova Scotia, and from there was posted overseas in 1942. He returned in May 1943 crippled with arthritis and was discharged. Les spent many months in Deer Lodge Hospital. He passed away on July 30, 1965.

SUTHERLAND, Laurence Floyd

PEACETIME

Laurence joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, 2nd Battalion in January 1967. He took basic training in Wainwright, Alberta, and Edmonton, Alberta. He was sent to Egypt in late 1967 and arrived in Cairo where they stayed for 48 hours. The United Nations had to pull out because of civil war. He went to West Germany for three years with the occupational forces. In 1969, they were on standby for 48 hours because of the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. In 1970, he returned to Winnipeg to the new Fort Osborne Barracks. He was in the October Crisis in Montreal in 1971, for three months, while the search was on for LaPorte and Cross. He relayed messages to

different areas from block to block. In 1972, he went to

Cyprus for six months as a dispatcher, in the peacekeeping forces. He ran in the cross-country races against the U.N. forces stationed there. They, Canadian runners, always came in fourth but in Canada they came in first. The courses he took during his army career were assault pioneers, driver-track, driver-wheel, mountain warfare, winter warfare, pay level 5 (junior non-commission officer course) and para course in Germany. In his last two years in the army, he was a cook in Fort Osborne Barracks. Laurence received his release on November 25, 1975.





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SWARK, Roy

WWII

Roy joined the Army in 1943 and joined the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. He took his basic training at Camp Shilo, Manitoba. He spent one year in England and worked on a crew hauling coal. The driver rolled the truck and spent six months in hospital, the rest of the crew had to remain there for the Board of Inquiry. While in England, Roy spent a lot of time with John Lywak. Roy spent some time in Holland and Germany. While in Germany, Roy was on an island in the Battle Sea on guard duty. After that, he became a Batman. Roy returned to Canada in the summer of 1946 and received his discharge in October 1946.

SWITZER, Cecil

WWII

Cecil was the son of William Switzer and Margaret Thomas, the fourth child in a family of six. He was born and grew up on a farm in Fisherton, Manitoba, twelve miles northwest of Fisher Branch.

Cecil joined the 18th Armoured Car Regiment in the fall of 1941. He was sent to Otter Point, Vancouver Island and was there until May 1942. He then went to Camp Debert, Nova Scotia for a couple of months, then went to England.



Cecil was in England until March 1944. While in England he wrote that Cyril Stodgell had been to see him and how good it was to see him.

Cecil was wounded in France in September 1944 and was sent back to England where he was hospitalized for many months, as he got diphtheria while he was in hospital.

In February 1945, he wrote that he got engaged to Eleanor Henderson from Camper, Manitoba. She was a CWAC. He met her while in hospital. Frank Stodgell, her cousin, had brought her to visit Cecil. They had put in for permission to get married, but before permission came through, on April 3, 1945, he was sent back to the front line in Belgium. He died on about April 18 when a petrol stove exploded while he was lighting it.


Cecil is buried in Holland in the Holten Cemetery.



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SWITZER, Charles

WWII

Charles enlisted in the Army on April 27, 1942. He was a member of Headquarters 17th Canadian Infantry Brigade. Charlie trained and became a qualified driver operating self-propelled vehicles. He served in New Brunswick and in Ontario. Charlie was discharged on February 9, 1945. He returned to Fisherton where he farmed until his retirement and passed away on December 6, 1984.

SWITZER, David

WWI

Private David Switzer served in Canada and in England during World War I. He returned to reside in Fisherton until his death.



SWITZER (CAMIRE), Dorothy "Dot"

WWII

Dot joined the CWAC on October 12, 1942. After one month training at Fort Osborne Barracks, she was sent to Vermilion, Alberta for basic training and later to Vancouver, British Columbia on December 3, 1942. Dot was attached to the Ordnance Corps and remained there until July 1, 1944 when she received her discharge. Dorothy married Ross Matthews in 1944 and was widowed in 1951. She raised her four children in Winnipeg and Vancouver. In 1980, she returned to Fisher Branch and married Phil Camire.



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SWITZER, Oscar Sidney

WWI

Oscar was born on July 13, 1897 in Cavendish, T.W.P. County of Peterborough, Ontario. The Switzer family moved to Manitoba in 1900. They lived in Gunton for a short while, then moved to Fisherton, Manitoba. He enlisted in the army on November 22, 1915, with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, (Little Black Devils) 17th Platoon 90th Canadian Overseas Battalion. He fought on the Belgium front, and in France at Vimy Ridge. He was wounded very seriously for the second time during his time at the front. He was transferred to a hospital in England, until the end of the war. He was discharged at O.C. Dispersal Station N in Brandon, Manitoba on March 25, 1919. On November 25, 1925, he married Katie Nowosad of Fisher Branch, Manitoba. They took up residence in Winnipeg in 1927 and lived there until his death on February 11, 1967.

TESSIER, Louis Amos

WWII

Rifleman Louis Amos Tessier was born in Broad Valley, Manitoba in 1923. He served with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles (Little Black Devils) in World War II. He was wounded on September 6, 1944. Louis was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Ukrainian Canadian Veterans' Branch 141 in Winnipeg. He passed away on June 10, 1990, at the age of 67.



THICKFOOT, Connie

WWII

Connie joined the Women's Division of the Royal Canadian Navy (WRENS) at Chippawa in 1941. When stationed in Halifax, she was posted for overseas. She did not go as that was the time of the huge explosion in Halifax. She remained there to nurse those injured in the explosion. Connie passed away in Toronto, Ontario in 1956. Her father, Thomas Thickfoot, served in World War I and her brother, Vernon Thickfoot, also served in World War II.



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THICKFOOT, Thomas "Tommy"

WWI

Thomas joined the army in 1914. He went overseas to England then over to Europe. He was gassed at Vimy Ridge. Tom returned home in 1919 and was discharged in Winnipeg. He lived in the Dallas, Manitoba area until he passed away in 1975, at the Deer Lodge Hospital. His son, Vernon, and his daughter, Connie, both served in World War II.

THICKFOOT, Vernon

WWII

Vernon joined the Canadian Army and served in Canada for two years. He lived in the United States for fifteen years and passed away in Chicago on October 19, 1973. Vernon was buried at St. Peter's Anglican Church on the Peguis Reserve, Manitoba. His father, Thomas Thickfoot, served in World War I and his sister, Connie Thickfoot, also served in World War II.



THOMAS, Carl

KOREA

Carl enlisted in June 1952 at Fort Osborne Barracks. He took basic training in Calgary, Alberta at Currie Barracks and went to Victoria, British Columbia for advance training. After this, he flew to Japan, then went by ship to Korea, right to the front lines. He was in Korea for one year then returned to Canada on a one-month leave. He went to Germany for occupation duty for two years. He then returned to Canada in 1956 for discharge and resided on Peguis Reserve.



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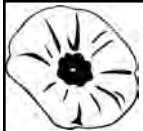


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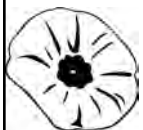
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THOMAS, Charles "Charlie"

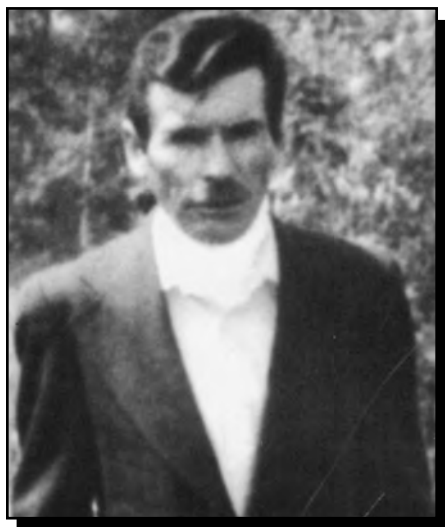
WWII

Charlie enlisted on August 3, 1940 in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps in Winnipeg. He took basic training at Camp Shilo, Manitoba and Camp Borden, Ontario. Charlie served in England, Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany during World War II. He received his discharge in October 1945 and returned to farm in Fisherton. He resided in Fisherton with his wife Odile. Both Charlie and Odile are now deceased.

THOMAS, Herbert A.

PEACETIME

Herbert joined the Air Force in 1962. He served at the Canadian Forces Bases in Saint Jean and Val d'Or, Quebec; Borden, Ontario; Penhold, Alberta from February 1967 to 1969. Then he was in Cold Lake, Alberta; Moosonee and Armstrong, Ontario and Summerside, Prince Edward Island. He also served in Cyprus for two years. Herbert has also been stationed in CFB Borden, Ontario; Alert (two years); Chatham and Gagetown, New Brunswick; Alert and Lahr, Germany (1989). In October 1990, Herbert Thomas was sent to the Middle East due to the Persian Gulf Crisis.



THOMAS, James G.

PEACETIME

James joined the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in 1966 or 1967, in Winnipeg. He was stationed in Shilo, Manitoba, for basic training. When he completed this, he went to Gagetown, New Brunswick for a few months before going to Germany. In Germany, James was stationed at Fort Prince of Wales. James was the son of Mary Thomas of Hodgson, Manitoba.



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THOMAS, James "Jim"

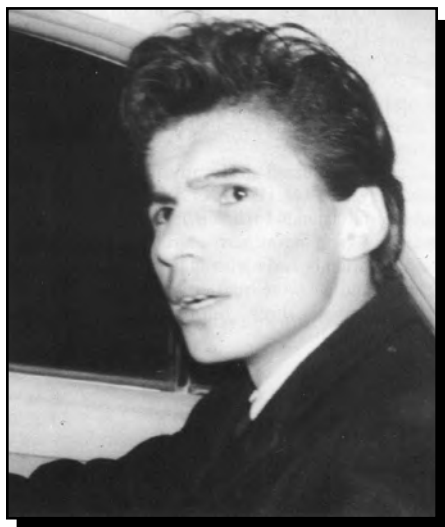
WWII

Jim and Charlie, sons of Phil and Margaret Thomas of Fisherton, both served in the Canadian Army. Jim enlisted on August 4, 1940, one day after his brother Charlie's enlistment. Jim trained at Camp Shilo, Manitoba and Camp Borden, Ontario. He was discharged in 1942 due to medical reasons. He then returned to live in Fisherton until his death in 1976.

THOMAS, Joan

PEACETIME

Joan joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in Winnipeg in 1951. She took basic training in St. Jean, Quebec and Instrument Technician in Camp Borden, Ontario. She spent the remainder of service time in Summerside, Prince Edward Island and Trenton, Ontario. She worked on both prop and jet aircraft during that time.



THOMAS, Walter

PEACETIME

Walter joined the services with the Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1967. He took basic training in Edmonton, Alberta. He transferred to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Edmonton. Walter was the son of Mary Thomas of Hodgson, Manitoba.



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THOMAS, William Clarence

PEACETIME

When William was a young fellow right out of high school in Birtle, he was in Regina, where he had just been laid off from a clerking job. He was broke, out of a place to stay, and hungry. He saw this Royal Canadian Air Force recruiting poster, so he went to apply for a pilot's position. His medical concluded that William was too blind. He was offered a ground crew position, so he joined up. After basic training in St. Jean, Quebec, William spent a year training as an Electrician Technician in Clinton, Ontario. He was posted to Gimli where he worked on T 33's, the two-seater jet trainer. He also worked on CF100 fighter aircraft, Beech 18's and DC-3's. All in all, it was great fun, and William met many good friends. He served from November 1954, until he took his discharge in November 1957, and embarked on a university career. William earned his B.Ed. (Bachelor of Education) and M.Ed. (Masters of Education) degrees.

THOMAS, William George "Bill"

WWI & WWII

Bill Thomas served in both World War I and World War II. Private William George Thomas enlisted in the Canadian Machine Gun Corp, #2, 1st Depot Battalion, MS, Canadian Expeditionary Force in Winnipeg on November 12, 1917. He served in England for eight months, then became ill. He recovered by the time armistice was signed. Bill received his discharge on December 27, 1918 in Winnipeg. He lived in the Hodgson area until enlisting in World War II. William George Thomas, Lance Corporal, enlisted in the Veterans Guard of Canada, 27th Company, in Winnipeg on February 8, 1943. Bill served in Canada at several German Prison Camps. Some of the places he was stationed at were Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Seebee, Alberta; Rossland Trail, and Bear Creek Post, British Columbia. Bill received his discharge on October 25, 1945 at Number 10 District Depot in Winnipeg. He returned to the farm in Hodgson and farmed until he passed away on October 25, 1985 at the age of 84.



TOMCHUK, Harold "Harry"

WWII

Harry enlisted in April 1941 in Winnipeg. He took basic training in Portage la Prairie for three months and advanced training in Dundurn, Saskatchewan for about two months. He then went to Chilliwack, British Columbia to build an army camp in the bush. They had to clear the land before they could build. They were there about three months and then went overseas in December 1941 on a cattle boat. All they had to eat for seven days was boiled fish and tea. They landed in England and were stationed at Godalming for advance training. They were then sent to Gunsfold where he joined the 2nd Battalion of Royal Canadian Engineers. They built the Gunsfold Airdrome. It took six months to build. They started to build the St. Eval Airdrome near Cornwall, England in May 1943 which also took six months to build. While in England, he was the best man for Joe Topolnicki at his wedding. In England, he was stationed at Camberly, Bedford and Godalming. About five days after D-Day, he went to France. He was at Carpiquet Airport and Caen. He went all through France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany right to Berlin where he was when the war ended. Harry came back to Canada in the fall of 1945 and was discharged shortly thereafter.



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TOPOLINSKI, Joseph

WWII

Joseph enlisted on February 26, 1941 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He joined the Royal Canadian Artillery and later transferred to the 7th Field Engineers. In 1942, he went overseas and served in the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. While in battle he was wounded in the forearm, face, and thumb. While overseas, he married and had one daughter. Joseph returned to Canada in 1945 and received his discharged on December 15, 1945. He received the 1939-1945 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. He lived in Fisher Branch on the family farm.

TRAILL, Ralph Ernest

WWI

L/Cpl. Ralph Ernest Traill was born in Sebeka, Minnesota, USA in 1897. He served in the Army with the 1st Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles in France and in Belgium during World War I. Ralph passed away in 1965.



TRAILL, Stuart

WWI

L/Cpl. Stuart Traill was born in Sebeka, Minnesota, USA in 1894. He served in the Army with the 1st Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles in France and in Belgium during World War I. Stuart passed away in 1972.

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TRETIK, Peter

WWII

Peter was the younger of the two sons of the late Daniel and Teodozia Tretiak of Broad Valley, Manitoba. He attended Mayfair School in Broad Valley then went to Winnipeg to further education at Isaac Newton High School. Peter enlisted in the Air Force in 1941, trained in Canada and was sent overseas. He served as an observer on flights over major cities in Europe in bombing raids. He returned to Canada in 1945 and received his discharge.

TRUTHWAITE, Alexander "Alex"

WWI

Alexander Truthwaite, born in 1889, was a son of Andrew Thruthwaite and Hannah McDonald. He served overseas. He returned home, got married but had no children. Alexander passed away in 1973.



TRUTHWAITE, Andrew

WWI

Andrew Truthwaite, born in 1880, was another son of Andrew Truthwaite and Hannah McDonald. He served overseas during World War I and returned home to marry and raise a family. Andrew passed away in 1966.

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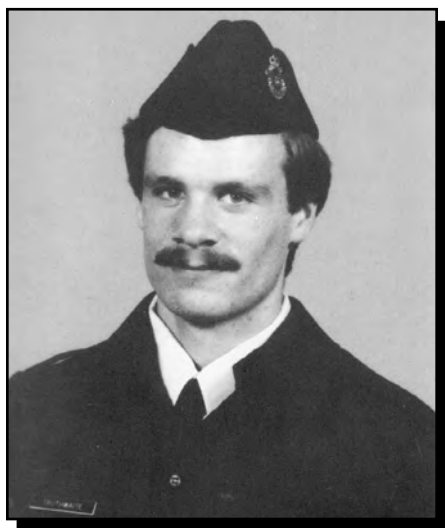
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TRUTHWAITE, Robert Henry Jr. "Rob"

PEACETIME

Rob Truthwaite, youngest son of Bob and Ann Truthwaite, joined the army as a radio operator. He left for Cornwallis, Nova Scotia on September 28, 1990 to take his basic training for ten weeks.

TRUTHWAITE, Sean Thomas

PEACETIME

Sean Thomas Truthwaite was born in Arborg, Manitoba, on October 30, 1963, the first child of Bob and Ann Thruthwaite of Hodgson, Manitoba. He was raised on the farm and attended school for four years in Hodgson then transferred to Fisher Branch when the Hodgson school closed. Sean worked on the family farm and for neighbours.

In February 1984, he went to Cornwallis, Nova Scotia to participate in Course 8408, basic training from which he graduated on April 26, 1984. He transferred to Camp Shilo, Manitoba where he completed his artillery trade, qualification three on July 27, 1984. Following leave, Sean was posted to 1 RCHA in Lahr, West Germany in August 1984. He completed the Basic Artillery Communication Course 8402 in November 1984, Basic Artillery Technician 8501 in December 1985, Basic Unarmed Combat Course 8501 also in December 1985, Driver Light Track Course 8601 in March 1986 and completed the Combat Leaders Course, in first place and was promoted to Master Bombardier in July 1987.



In 1985, there was a competition at Vogelsang, which was constructed during the early years of Adolph Hitler's rise to power as a center for higher education and physical development. This competition involved six sections that battled for supremacy throughout a week that included small arms shooting, orienteering, first aid, demolitions, grenades, and the obstacle course, as well as others. Number 4 Section, of which Sean was a member, finished in first place, which was a great honour.



Sean was killed on April 25, 1988 while instructing a drivers training course in Lahr, when an untrained driver lost control of the light tracked carrier in which they were training and it overturned.

There was a Master Bombardier S.T. Truthwaite Memorial Trophy being presented annually by the Regiment 1 RCHA, to the Gunner who displayed the best professional and personal qualities that were personified by Sean.



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TRUTHWAITE, Thomas

WWI

Driver Thomas Truthwaite enlisted in 1914. His regimental depot was Shorncliffe, England, and his unit in field was the 3rd Canadian Division Train. Thomas served in France from 1917 to the end of hostilities on November 11, 1918. He remained in England until March 31, 1919, then returned to Canada. He was discharged on April 8, 1919. Thomas passed away in 1979, at the age of 89.

TRUTHWAITE, Victor

WWI

Victor Truthwaite, son of Andrew Thruthwaite and Hannah McDonald, was born in 1897. He joined the army and went overseas. He was killed at Passchendaele on August 6, 1918.



TRUTHWAITE, William Duncan "Bill"

WWII

Bombardier William Duncan Truthwaite enlisted in 1942 and received his basic training in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. His advance training was in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Bill was eventually stationed in the Costal Artillery in Saint John, New Brunswick for three years. He received his discharge in 1945.

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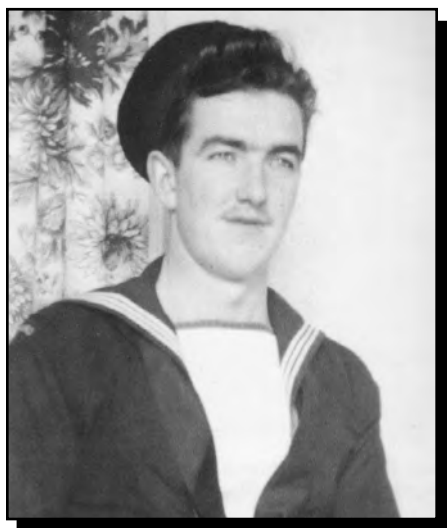


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TWEDDELL, Donald "Don"

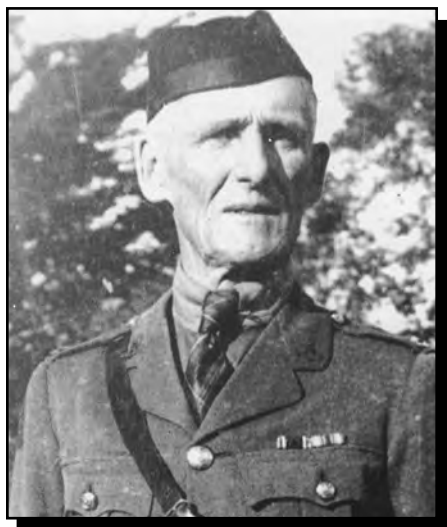
WWII

Don enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy in Winnipeg, Manitoba on March 25, 1944. He left Winnipeg on July 27, 1944 going to Cornwallis, Ontario, where he took a two-month course. He left for Halifax in September where he picked up his ship, HMCS Beauharnois. He made six trips across the Atlantic. He took leave in Belfast, Ireland; Glasgow, Scotland; and London, England. In December 1945, Don was on HMCS Peregrine in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He received his discharge on March 8, 1946 at HMCS Chippawa in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

TWEDDELL, Robert "Bob"

WWII

Bob enlisted in the Canadian Army on January 30, 1943, serving in the Artillery and the Medical Corps in Canada. He was discharged on March 7, 1946 and resided in Portage la Prairie.



TWEDDELL, William G. "Bill"

WWI

Bill enlisted in 1916 in the 108th Battalion and was transferred to the 16th Canadian Scottish Battalion. He served in England, France, Belgium, and Holland during World War I and was in action until the war ended in 1918.



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URBANOWICH, Bill

WWII

Bill Urbanowich served in the army for four and a half years from 1941 to 1945. He served in England and France during World War II and arrived back in Canada in 1945 on the SS Île de France.

VANDERSTEEN, Bernard Joseph

Bernard enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in September 1955 in Winnipeg, Manitoba and moved to CFS Saskatoon. He was employed on repair and maintenance of air field equipment, also trained as a fire fighter and crash rescue. From 1960 to 1964, he was at 1 Air Division headquarters in Metz, France where he was employed on maintenance and repair of air field equipment. He was promoted to Corporal in 1965 at CFB Edmonton, Alberta, where he was employed on repair and inspection of electric fork lifts and general service vehicles. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1968 in London, Ontario where he was a member of 27th Canadian Ordnance Repair Depot, employed on repairing fire and crash trucks, fuel tenders, etc. Bernard was also supervisor for electrical rewiring on the relifing of vehicles.

Bernard was promoted to Warrant Officer in 1974 when he was instructing at trade school, Canadian Forces School of Aeronautical Engineering, Vehicle Branch, at CFB Borden and Kingston. He was also on duty for six months with the International Commission of Control and supervisor in Vietnam as Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of repair and maintenance of all equipment for four countries of the ICCS.



He received his promotion to Master Warrant Officer in 1978 at NDHQ, Ottawa, Ontario as a member of the Land Maintainability Engineering Division (LMED) of 202 Workshop, Montreal tasked with Technical Writing Development of New Maintenance Techniques. He was also employed with No. 1 (CEU) Winnipeg in the Arctic. A major responsibility was development and writing of the installation instruction for T.O.W. Missile mounting on the armoured personnel carrier and quarter-ton jeep. From 1978 to 1980, Bernard was equipment manager on staff of the Directorate of Support Vehicle Engineering Maintenance at National Defence H.Q. From January 1981 to June 1982, he was on contract from Dew Engineering to DND as maintenance manager.

Bernard served 25 years in the military and was presented the Chief of Defence Staff Commendation by Admiral Robert H. Falls for completion of the TOW Missile Installation project. He retired in December 1980 in Ottawa, Ontario.



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VANDERSTEEN, Bert

WWII

Bert enlisted in Winnipeg on January 8, 1942, did basic training at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, and then joined the Royal Canadian Field Artillery.

He completed advance training in Fort Garry, Manitoba, lodging in the residential buildings of the University of Manitoba, which were much better quarters than the coal heated barracks of Portage la Prairie.

After two months advance training, Bert was assigned to 49 Battery, 24th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery stationed at Nanaimo, BC. There he passed his tests as qualified gun layer on August 19, 1942. Pay was increased from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per diem.

During the summer of 1942, his regiment was sent to Shilo, Manitoba to train with live ammunition, and fire 25 pounders. Then they returned to Nanaimo to play a defensive role on Vancouver Island.

Japanese subs were seen quite frequently in this area during the summer months, at one point shelling a weather station along the coast. There

were many alerts and they conducted maneuvers at most coastal points on the Island, such as Victoria, Comox, Port Alberni, and Campbell River.

The circumstances that resulted in these undertakings was the fact that in June 1942, Japan launched an attack on the Aleutians, with a large task force consisting of two aircraft carriers, several heavy cruisers, and three destroyers, also troop transports and submarines.

They bombed Dutch Harbor (an air and naval base) twice, then proceeded to invade and occupy two islands, Attu and Kiska. They captured 42 Aleuts on Attu, killing the radio operator. On Kiska they captured ten sailors at a weather station, who were taken to Japan as Prisoners of War.

They now had two bases from which land-based planes could potentially bomb northwestern United States and Western Canada.

With these events taking place, the west coast became fearful that an air raid would occur, so a complete black out was put into effect. The concern was that defenses were not sufficient to protect the cities and towns along the Pacific Coast.

Japanese nationals, some of them Canadian, were interned and put in concentration camps, their property confiscated. In the meantime, the Americans acted to remedy the situation by establishing forward air bases on Adak and Amchitka and proceeded to bring in heavy bombers, inflicting serious damage to Attu and Kiska installations. The enemy airfields never did become fully operational. The defenders, however, dug in and the heavy bombing could not dislodge them.

In spite of the bombing, their anti-aircraft fire was extremely accurate and deadly, downing many U.S. planes.

When the battle for Midway failed, the Japanese suffered a great defeat in the South Pacific, losing four aircraft carriers and several war ships. The Americans now had supremacy in air and naval power and successfully blockaded the Aleutians. However, enemy subs occasionally slipped through to resupply their garrisons on Attu and Kiska.

On May 11, 1943, 16,000 U.S. troops attacked Attu. It took 28 days of bloody fighting to regain possession of the island. The Japanese fought until their ammunition ran out, then staged a counter offensive to try to seize the food and ammunition dumps of the Americans. They broke through the American lines, overrunning a field hospital and bayonetting the wounded inside. Eventually they were stopped and before the end of the day 500 committed suicide rather than surrender.



(continued)



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VANDERSTEEN, Bert (continued)

In all, 549 Americans were killed and more than 3,200 wounded. Of the approximately 2,600 Japanese troops, only 28 were taken prisoner. All the rest committed hara-kiri.

The following month, things began to happen at their camp in Nanaimo. They started intensive mountain training and were issued U.S. 75 millimeter artillery guns to replace their traditional British 25 pounders. These 75 mill guns were much lighter, could be towed by hand, and be broken down and backpacked if necessary. They knew something big was in the works but were not told what their mission was. However, they made an educated guess and were proved right later on, when they were told it would be Kiska. All leaves were cancelled, and they were confined to barracks.

They were issued U.S. gear and winter clothing, which meant a long campaign. However, they kept their Canadian battledress and black berets, and were given blue shoulder patches with a dagger as a logo. They would be paid in American money which paid 10% premium on exchange.

Soon three big supply ships docked in the harbor at Nanaimo and began taking on supplies and ammunition. It was now midsummer in 1943.

Three days later the 24th Field Regiment RCA and the 13th Infantry Brigade, consisting of battalions of Winnipeg Grenadiers, Rocky Mountain Rangers, and Le Régiment de Hull commanded by Major General G.R. Pearkes of Pacific Command, went on board. (After the war, G.R. Pearkes went into politics, was elected Progressive Conservative M.P. in the Diefenbaker government, and later became Lieutenant Governor of BC.) Other units were 46th light Anti Aircraft battery RCA the 24th Field Company RCE A company of The Saint John Fusiliers and the 25th field Ambulance RCAMC.



These units sailed in a fourth transport from Chemainus, a Vancouver Island Port in British Columbia.

At dusk, the convoy slipped quietly out of the harbor. Two warships joined the convoy at this point; the smaller corvette in the lead and the larger destroyer bringing up the rear. It was smooth sailing for awhile until they got out of the channel past the Queen Charlotte Islands, when the full force of the Pacific hit them; the water was very rough.

Things were uneventful until they got into the danger zone of the North Pacific. With days on end in heavy fog, the convoy slowed to a stop, visibility zero. They were motionless for several days and nights, running no lights. Finally, when the fog cleared, the convoy was minus one ship and the destroyer. They feared they might have been torpedoed, but to their relief the next morning they were back in formation with the convoy.

At one point the destroyer took off to the right at top speed, as if detecting something. It turned out to be only whales. They encountered no enemy subs throughout our trip.

Finally, one evening, they sailed into the beautiful harbor of Adak. It was good to see land again. Adak was the staging area for the upcoming invasion of Kiska. There were a great number of ships at anchor, including many warships. There was also an airfield where heavy bombers could take off and land; this was the largest base in the western Aleutians. It had taken only one year to construct and was only 275 miles east of Kiska.

They disembarked the following day and began training in amphibious landings for the invasion, which was scheduled for August 15, 1943. After two weeks training, they went back on ship and sailed to Amchitka for a dress rehearsal of the invasion itself.

It was very windy and the water rough. The troops were wet and seasick on the barges before hitting the beaches. Some small boats were smashed by the surf on the rocky shore. Other than that, it went quite well.

They were now only 60 miles from Kiska and could see the peak of its only live volcano in the distance.

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VANDERSTEEN, Bert (continued)

Invasion time was drawing near and as they pulled away from Amchitka, the ship ran aground on a sand bar. The ship tried to free herself but had to wait several hours for the tide to come in before she floated free. There was no damage to the ship, however.

It was now time for the invasion of Kiska, code named Operation "Cottage". The Canadian force of approximately 6,000 men would land at one end, while the American force of 26,000 would land on the other, in two landings August 15 and 16.

Members of the 1st Special Service Force consisting of Canadian and American troops highly trained in amphibious and paratroop duty would be the first to go, in the early morning hours in advance of the main body.

The men of the regiment were all keyed up and busy getting their gear in order, sharpening knives and bayonets. That night, no one got much sleep. In the morning, they woke to naval gun fire as the warships bombarded the island. They ate a good breakfast, then got up on deck with their gear, and watched the Infantry climb down the rope ladders into the L.S.T. barges and head for the beaches.

They were soon to follow. The barges carrying the guns and crew were able to get quite close to shore as the weather was calm for a change. As Bert remembered it, he did not even get his feet wet jumping from rock to rock.

The guns were pulled off the barges onto the beach and inland, with tow ropes. Ammunition boxes were very heavy and had to be carried by two men.

They quickly got the guns loaded and ready to fire but it was late in the afternoon when the order "Stand by to fire" came. It seemed the enemy had been contacted at last. But the order to fire never came and they wondered why. As it turned out, the Canadian Infantry, unopposed by the enemy, moved in beyond their objective and came under fire. They called for artillery support. The mistake was soon discovered, however, before any casualties occurred.



There were a few skirmishes during the night between nervous American troops. A number of them were killed by their comrades in the darkness.

A U.S. destroyer struck a Japanese mine and sank with the loss of 71 men. Four Canadians died due to booby traps left by the Japanese. Two of these were Lieutenant S. Vessey, Rocky Mountain Rangers, and P. Poshtar, Winnipeg Grenadiers. Two men of Le Régiment de Hull entered a Japanese bunker, as they marched to their new positions, two weeks after the initial landing. They were looking for souvenirs. They heard the explosion and rushed over to see the body of G. Boisclair blown to bits, and his buddy G. Desardines, who was behind him, came stumbling out with his hands over his face. He sustained severe head injuries and died in military field hospital a month later. These Canadians were buried on Kiska and were reinterred at the Fort Richardson National Cemetery in Alaska after the war.

A few days after the invasion of Kiska it became apparent there were no Japanese left on the island. They had managed to evacuate their 6,000 troops in heavy fog shortly before the invasion, they learned later. Radar blips, possibly Japanese subs, had decoyed the American fleet out of their blockade positions. The Americans fired on these targets and had to refuel and rearm, leaving the way open for the Japanese to get their men off.

The military could not believe the enemy had evacuated and thought they had holed up in the hills, as they had done in Attu.

After Kiska was secured, they found a massive underground defense system, and military gear of all descriptions including a British naval gun captured in Singapore. There was a midget submarine base, which had received a

(continued)



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VANDERSTEEN, Bert (continued)

direct hit in the bombing, with four damaged subs inside. There was also a fully equipped underground hospital. The equipment left behind that was not already destroyed by bombing had been destroyed by their own troops before evacuation. There were tunnels and caves packed with food and clothing that they recovered, and which was sent to Prisoners of War held by the Allies.

They came across a crashed American plane which had flown into cables strung across a deep and narrow ravine, the ravine the American fliers used in order to avoid anti-aircraft fire.

They had buried the pilot on the spot, and erected a cross and sign which read: "Sleeping here a brave hero who lost youth and happiness for his Motherland. July 25, Nippon Army".

The Canadian Air Force had two squadrons operating in the Aleutians during the war. They lost seven men who are also buried at Fort Richardson National Cemetery.

It is worth mentioning here that Janie "Pat" O'buck, a Canadian Veteran, (CWAC) who was a Legion member and lived in Anchorage, learned that Canadians were buried in Alaska. She called the Director of the National Cemetery and requested and received permission to place Canadian flags on the graves on Memorial Day. The American Legion places American flags on all graves on Memorial Day.

She contacted Dominion Command, Canadian Legion and was told the flags would be sent to her. They did not arrive. In the meantime, a friend of hers in Washington, D.C. found a source for the flags and sent them to her. It pleased her that she was be able to place the flags on the Canadian graves. We should all be grateful to her for this kind act.

When all the supplies had been unloaded on Kiska, the American engineers went to work constructing piers in the harbor, building roads and power lines, and rebuilding the airfield. They did this in record time. Tents and quonsets went up and they were eating fresh rations in mess halls, instead of K rations.

They could now send and receive mail, but all out-going mail was censored. They could purchase all sorts of goods in the American P.X. and there was entertainment in the recreation centre.

Their regiment now settled down to garrison duty, digging in our guns on Mercy Hill overlooking the harbor. There were a few alerts when enemy planes were reported nearby, but they did not come under attack.

After six months duty, their regiment was the last of the Canadians to leave Kiska, but not before they were honoured by a march past in review by American top brass and an unveiling of a memorial stone monument with the lettering "24th Field Regiment" in empty shell cases inscribed on it. This was in appreciation of their involvement in the Aleutian campaign and helping to put an end to enemy occupation of U.S. territory.

On returning to Canada, and after a two-month leave, they went to Prince George, BC and began training for Polar Bear exercises. This was to test British and American equipment under cold and damp conditions. During the winter months they moved through the northern interior of BC, then through the Chilcotin mountain range to Bella Coola on the coast.

They started out with wheeled vehicles, then changed to tracked vehicles when the snow got too deep, completing the last 200 miles or so on snowshoes and pack horses, through the mountain passes.

British and American observers accompanied them throughout the trip. These exercises were conducted in preparation for the invasion of mainland Japan.

However, the war was over in Europe and soon afterwards the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki which ended the war with Japan.

Demobilization started in Canada and Bert was discharged in January 1946.



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VANDERSTEEN, Cornelius "Case"

WWII

Gunner Cornelius Vandersteen enlisted in Winnipeg on August 21, 1942. He took his basic training in Fort Garry, then to Woodstock, Ontario for three months. From there, he went to Hamilton, Ontario to train as a motor mechanic. Cornelius went to England in 1943 and spent six more months training as a driver and motor mechanic until D-Day. Two days after D-Day, they went to France and spent the rest of the time in full action at the front lines. They played a big part in the liberation of Holland. Their regiment lost three gun crews of six men each during the liberation of Holland. He was an interpreter for the Canadian Army while in Holland. Cornelius met his wife, Johanna Wilhelmina Albersnagel, in August 1945, and they got married on January 10, 1946. He returned to Canada on January 15, 1946 and received his discharge on March 29, 1946. They lived in Fisher Branch for ten years then moved to Calgary in 1956 and remained there until 1980 when they retired to Lavington, twelve kilometers from Vernon, BC.

VANDERSTEEN, Mark M.

PEACETIME

On January 12, 1989, Mark Vandersteen signed the Oath of Allegiance to the Canadian Armed Forces in Winnipeg. On January 27, he boarded a plane for CFB Cornwallis, Nova Scotia for ten weeks of basic training. He graduated from Recruit Training Course 8904. From Cornwallis, he travelled to CFB Borden, Ontario, for a Basic Drivers Course for three weeks. His next course was in CFB St. Jean, Quebec, which was a 26-week course in Vehicle Technician Training, where he graduated top in his class with honours. Mark received his first posting in December 1989, to CFB Suffield, Alberta where he worked at Base Maintenance.



VANDERSTEEN, Paul

WWII

Paul was born on January 25, 1918, on the family homestead SW 16-25-1 W near Hodgson, Manitoba. He was the son of Cornelius and Rica Vandersteen. Paul enlisted as a gunner in the Royal Canadian Artillery "C" Battery, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on February 10, 1942. He took his basic training in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, and Shilo. After a long day of shooting practice on the firing range, Paul became seriously ill and was hospitalized with pleurisy. While recuperating, he was stationed at Fort Osborne Barracks, in Winnipeg. His platoon went to Dieppe without him. Paul was honourably discharged due to ill health in August 1942 in Winnipeg. Paul married Alma (Delhaye) in 1949. They had four children. He farmed in Fisher Branch until his death on February 3, 1985.



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WADHAM, Frank Edwin “Ed”

WWII

Frank Edwin Wadham (Ed) was born at home, on the family farm on October 3, 1926, near Maryfield Saskatchewan. He was the oldest of three boys and three girls. With school, he farmed with his father. Ed enlisted in the Army infantry in October 1943 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. His father, WWI POW, intervened. The next brother was much younger. Classified essential service agriculture, Ed was removed for harvest. For the remainder of war, he shared time between farming and the army, as Private in M Division. When war ended, Ed farmed and then did mechanical trades. He married Hazel Curtis of Kenton, Manitoba in 1948. Ed, Hazel, and three sons, a daughter, still share love and life together. Ed and Hazel live in Virden, Manitoba. Ed was honoured by Manitoba for lifetime service, as scout leader. He was also long-term Lay Minister, Anglican Church, and is a member of Woodworth 118 Legion in Kenton. Being musical all his life, Ed still entertains with guitar and voice. He and Hazel still love to dance.

WATT, Lancelot “Buster”

WWII

Buster Watt enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942. He served as stationary engineer in Dafoe, Saskatchewan. He was discharged in 1945. Buster, and his wife Bernice, lived in the Fisherton area for a short time, and then moved to Winnipeg.



WEBSTER, Allen “Al”

WWII

Allen J. Webster (Al) was born August 20, 1923 and was raised in the Elmwood area of Winnipeg. He enjoyed sports, mostly playing hockey for the Cavaliers. In 1941, he enlisted in the army. With 1st Canadian Survey Regiment, 1st Division, Royal Canadian Artillery, he served in England, Italy, and France through Germany. On return, he married Phyllis Bryant, his prewar love, after their many letters during war. In April 1946, Allen joined Winnipeg City Police, serving the citizens of Winnipeg for nearly 34 years, retiring as Staff Inspector. Allen was an avid curler, a devoted member of Acacia Masonic Lodge 111, and a very proud member of The Royal Canadian Legion, Prince Edward Branch 81 in Winnipeg. Al received many Medals: Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp, Defence, Victory Europe, Stars: Italy, France and Germany, 1939-1945 WWII, and Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police with bronze bar 25 years, and silver bar 30 years, and the General Service Badge. He passed away in April 1998 at the age of 74 years.

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WEBSTER, Roy Clayton

WWII

Roy Clayton Webster was born on September 19, 1919, then grew in Sperling, Manitoba. He enlisted in the Army, Canadian armour, with the Manitoba Dragoons, in May 1941. Training in Winnipeg in mechanics, sidelined for appendicitis, then overseas, continuing training every course offered, he landed near Juno 8 days before Caen liberated. Fighting was intense, losses high, against German Armored divisions. To Masse Sanctuary area by September, to Holland, into Germany, Arnhem and beyond, Dragoons came back into Holland including Rotterdam and liberations. Roy was a brilliant mechanical mind. Designing improvements forwarded by Major Roberts, Roy much improved manufacture of the Staghound. Likewise, Roy gave to manufacturers in peacetime. Receiving usual medal honours, he did not want to make big deal of them. A devout Christian, he knew the words "Give" and "Love". Roy married Kathy from nearby Graysville, and they, she still, lived in Carmen. He operated his own caterpillar into his 90's. Roy, a 40-year member of The Royal Canadian Legion Sperling Branch 155, died in 2015, and is buried at Sperling Cemetery.

WHARF, Grant

WWII

Grant enlisted on February 7, 1941 in the Fort Garry Horse Regiment. He took training in Winnipeg for about one and a half month, then went to Camp Borden, Ontario until November 1941. They were sent back to Winnipeg to the Immigration Hall then left Winnipeg in April 1942 for England. They travelled by train to the East Coast and boarded the Banfora Ship. They boarded the ship in the morning. At noon, the meal was so poor that they decided to go uptown in the afternoon to get a decent meal. An M.P. Officer told them that any man that left the ship would be shot. About 1,800 soldiers did leave the ship and stayed on land for about eight hours because all they were getting to eat was boiled liver and sausages, cooked by East Indian cooks. They finally got Canadian cooks and they discovered that there was lots of frozen chicken on the ship.

There were so many rats on the ship and they ate holes in the men's kit bags. There was about eight inches of water on the ship floor and the men used to make bets as to which rat could win swimming from one side to the other.

There were 22 ships in the convoy. Two ships were sunk by German submarines. They arrived in Greenock, Scotland after 21 days on the ocean. They went by train to Blockdown, England, Canadian 3rd Base Reinforcement Unit for about eleven months. From there, they went to Crookham, Crossroads for two months then to Bearsdon, Scotland for thirty days.

They sailed for Sicily on the LTS 21 in a very big convoy. He saw a hospital ship torpedoed and it sank in about ten minutes. This happened about two days past Gibraltar. They landed at Algiers, North Africa after thirty days on the ocean. They stayed there for about fourteen hours then sailed to Malta. From Malta, they went to Sicily. He joined the Three Rivers Regiment and went to Italy where he saw his first front line action at Iramolia. They fought through Italy, including Rome, right up to Florence. He left Italy on March 4, 1945. They went north through France to Belgium. He had 28 days of special training in Meenen, Belgium and went from there to Nijmegen, Holland then on to the Reichwald Forest in Germany. They went back to Arnhem, Holland. Grant was in Apeldoorn, Holland when the war ended. He spent five months in Holland at Dokkum.

He went back to England for about twenty days then boarded the Queen Elizabeth at Southampton on November 25, 1945, sailing for Canada. He was discharged on December 14, 1945.





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WHARF, Jack

WWI & WWII

Jack Wharf enlisted in 1914 to serve in World War I with the Fort Garry Horse and trained at Camp Hughes, which is now Shilo. He was also in the 1st CMR, 3rd Canadian Machine Gun Battalion and in the Toronto Scottish Regiment at Salisbury Plains. He served in England and France and was poison gassed while on the front line. After being discharged, he returned to Fisherton to farm. In World War II, he once again enlisted, this time in the Winnipeg Grenadiers in 1939. He took his training at Minto Barracks and Fort Osborne Barracks. He went to Jamaica in 1940 and came back to Canada in early October 1941. At the end of October 1941, the Winnipeg Grenadiers were sent to Hong Kong. He was taken prisoner on December 19, 1941 and was a Prisoner of War until the end of the war. Jack returned to Canada at the end of September 1945 and was discharged in April 1946. He again returned to Fisherton. Jack passed away on October 21, 1976.

WHITTINGHAM, Douglas Hart

WWII

Douglas Hart Whittingham was born in East Kildonan on April 30, 1920, the son of George Whittingham of Leeds, Yorkshire, England and Dorothy Swan of Greenwich, London, England. He enlisted with the Royal Canadian Engineers (Militia) in Winnipeg. On September 2, 1939, Douglas signed on for active service and was shipped overseas that same year. He was stationed in the United Kingdom with the 12th Field Company of Engineers until the invasion of Sicily.

The 1st Canadian Division was attached to the British 8th Army under General Montgomery. Canadian, British and US Armies formed a special task force and went around by sea and landed at Anzio, Italy to try and cut off the German retreat. Later, the 1st Division was joined by the 5th Division and fought as the Canadian Army.

After the D-day invasion of Europe, the 1st and 5th Divisions were landed in Southern France and fought through France, Belgium and into Holland to assist the Allies in crossing the Rhine into Germany.

Douglas returned home in July 1945. He met Annabelle Stranger, daughter of Solomon and Anna Bella Stranger of Peguis at a mission school in Sioux Lookout. They were married at Moose Factory on July 31, 1947.

In 1952, Douglas re-enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was discharged in July 1965 and joined Medical Services of National Health and Welfare. He was employed at the Fisher River Hospital and at Percy E. Moore Hospital in Hodgson.

Douglas and Annabelle retired and lived in Gimli, Manitoba.





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WHYTE, George M. "Geordie"

WWII

George was raised on the family farm in Verity district with its one room school, near Kenton, Manitoba. He was born in 1907, one of five boys and four girls. During the 1930's, he went to Sheridan in northern Manitoba to work in the mines. He then went to Winnipeg to enlist in the Army infantry in 1942. Going overseas, he fought in the front lines right into Germany, his body riddled with shrapnel from a shell. On one interesting occasion, someone came to him asking if he knew John Whyte who played the banjo. The brothers had not seen each other in two years and had a great visit in the front lines. There being a shortage of barbers, Geordie trained himself, cutting between battles. He returned to work with his brother John in Kenton in the lumber business. He barbered and played the fiddle for all. In retirement, he loved fishing and music until his death in 1990. Medals were Volunteer Service with Clasp, War/Victory, Defence, and Stars WWII 1939-1945, and France Italy. He is buried in Greenwood near Kenton.

WHYTE, John M.

WWII

John M. Whyte was born on a family farm in Verity district, into a family of five boys and four girls, one room school included, near Kenton, Manitoba. John's arrival in 1909 meant that he had lots of farm chores. Working at home and in the area changed dramatically with his enlistment in the Army, with the Royal Canadian Engineers, in Winnipeg on June 22, 1942. A Class III driver, he departed to England, France and Europe in November 1945. Interestingly, John met his brother George (see above) while on the front lines. John's banjo playing was the key. He was medaled with War/Victory, Volunteer Service with two Clasps, and Defence, with stars WWII and France and Germany. John bought a lumberyard, coal, and Esso business after he returned home. He married Beatrice Riddell of Oakner, Manitoba in 1950, and they were blessed with three daughters and a son. John played, coached, managed and supported sports, especially baseball and hockey. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 118 in Woodworth, Kenton for 25 years. His son Craig took over the family lumberyard upon John's death in 1970. John was predeceased by Beatrice.



WIDDICOMBE, Daniel Diamond

WWII

Daniel was born in Birtle, Manitoba in 1926 and joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, serving in Canada and England. He was stationed in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and at # 2 Wireless Swift Current when he was with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He travelled overseas in January 1945 and was stationed at Aldershot and South Downs, Surrey, England, returning in 1945 and volunteering for the Pacific Campaign, 7th Division that was forming at Fort Osborne, Winnipeg. Later, he farmed for eleven years until ill health intervened. He married Muriel Cowie in 1950 and had two daughters and three granddaughters. Daniel passed away in 2007 and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Foxwarren Branch 152 for 61 years.

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WILLIAMSON, Norris H.

WWII

Norris was born in Minnedosa, Manitoba, in 1926. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and Army, serving in Canada, England and Germany. Norris had numerous postings during his military career. He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and the 1939-1945 CD. Norris joined The Royal Canadian Legion Stonewall Branch 52 and became President of that Branch and then District Commander of District #5 and then President of the Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command from 1997 to 1999. Norris had been involved with The Legion for thirty years before he passed away in July 2010.

WILSON, Andrew Robert

WWII

Andrew joined the Royal Canadian Air Force on October 23, 1941 as a security guard. He was stationed at #7 Equipment Depot, Winnipeg. Later he transferred to #8 Air Observer School, Ancienne Lorette, Quebec, on March 23, 1943. He remustered from security guard to postal clerk. Then he was posted overseas to #3 Personnel Reception Center, Bournemouth, England on July 12, 1943. He was repatriated to Lachine, Quebec on November 23, 1945.

Almost a year later, he decided to join the service again on December 13, 1946. He was back in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a safety equipment technician. This trade included all safety devices such as, packing personnel, parachutes, drag chutes for installing in Voodoo aircraft, ejection seats, dinghies, walkaround oxygen bottles, oxygen masks - for flying personnel, liquid oxygen - for fast aircraft such as the Voodoo aircraft.



He was sent to Aylmer, Ontario for a course on safety equipment on April 4, 1947, then was stationed in Trenton, Ontario on November 11, 1947. He was stationed in Mount Hope, Ontario on July 24, 1950, then went to 6 Repair Depot, Trenton, Ontario on December 11, 1950. He was moved to North Bay, Ontario on December 3, 1951 then was transferred to 445 Squadron in North Bay on April 1, 1953. He transferred from 445 Squadron to Station Uplands Ontario on October 5, 1956. Also, he was posted overseas to #4 Fighter Wing, Soellingen, Germany in the Black Forest on October 6, 1956. Then he was stationed in Bagotville, Quebec on October 15, 1959 and later transferred to 416 Squadron in Bagotville on January 30, 1962. He was stationed in Uplands, Ontario on January 31, 1962 and taken on strength station Chatham 416 Squadron on September 10, 1962.

Andrew was discharged as a Corporal on October 6, 1969 with decorations as follows: Defence Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, War Medal 1939-1945 and Canadian Forces' Decoration and Clasp.

He lived in Dublin, Ireland from 1970 to June 1974 when he lost his dear wife, Molly, on June 22, 1974. He then came back to Winnipeg in 1975.

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WILSON, Charles V.

WWII

Charles, son of Humphrey and Madeline (Stewart) Wilson, was born in Neelin, Manitoba in 1920. He served overseas with the Provost Corps as part of a motorcycle unit that brought ammunition and supplies to the troops. Later, he often remarked that the people of Holland and Belgium were happy to be liberated and showed their kindness to Canadian soldiers. He returned home in 1945, farmed for a short time then worked for the Manitoba Telephone System in Winnipeg until he retired. Charles lived in Charleswood for many years and enjoyed gardening and making sauerkraut with his friend Ray. Charles had four children and passed away in 2005.

WILSON, Donald

WWII

Donald Wilson enlisted in Winnipeg, Manitoba on August 26, 1941 in the Royal Canadian Air Force and served in Winnipeg and Eastern Canada for about two years. In 1943, he remustered to air crew to train as an air gunner. While awaiting his posting to wireless school and air gunnery training, he had a chance to volunteer for overseas service. Donald left Canada in late 1943. He ended up in Bournemouth, England, where he accidentally ran into his brother Andrew who was stationed there, but Donald was not aware of that. He, like many more of the "boys", ended up in northern England. There they were posted to several Tactical Air Force Wings preparing for, as they later learned, the invasion of Europe. He was with one of several "Spitfire Wings" that was part of 2nd Tactical Air Force that gave fighter cover for their troops etc. going into France. Being a mobile unit (all their equipment was transported by trucks) they carried all their personal equipment, etc. They trained at several places in England and ended up in the south prior to D-Day. Shortly after D-Day, they embarked on L.S.T. ships and sailed out of Gasport, England to land on Juno Beach. Their unit #144 Fighter Wing, led by then W/C Johnnie Johnson the famous RAF fighter ace, was one of the first Air Force units to land in Normandy.



They were at a small field just off the beach (Juno Beach) Sainte-Croix-sur-Mer. They stayed there until after the Battle for Caen, and after the Falaise battle. They progressed through France to Brussels, Belgium in September 1944. In one of his letters from home, he received Mrs. Leo Delhaye's mother's and sister's address. He did locate them and with his small knowledge of French he was able to speak to them. This sure was quite a surprise and they were most anxious to know all about Mr. and Mrs. Delhaye etc. They gave him a letter to send to Mrs. Delhaye, this he had to keep until he came home, as he could not put it in his mail to be sent home, as no one could censor it.

They moved from Belgium to Holland where they spent the winter of 1944-45, near Eindhoven. There he met "Ikey" Rudyk who was in the army. They sure were surprised to see one another. In early spring of 1945, they moved over the Rhine River through Germany. They were near "Belsen Concentration Camp" for awhile. What a horrible sight. They were at different airfields ending up north of Hamburg, Germany. He remained there until it was time for him and others to go home. From Hamburg, Germany they went to Bournemouth, England. They sailed from Southampton on the Queen Elizabeth Ship to New York. From New York, they went by train to Montreal and on to Fisher Branch. They were home in time for Christmas 1945. This sure was a great Christmas as it was the first family reunion since before the war. They sure did have plenty to talk about and to give thanks to God for saving them all.

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Lest We Forget





WILSON, Douglas Stewart

WWII

Douglas served on active service with the Royal Canadian Air Force, enlisting on August 26, 1943 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He had no service in a theatre of war and was not wounded. He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, signed – Jas. V. Ranson F/O for Chief of Air Staff. He took his basic training in Brandon, Manitoba and then spent a short time at RCAF Station Souris, Manitoba then was transferred to #4 SFTS in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for approximately 23 months during 1945 and 1946. Then he was sent to RCAF Station in Winnipeg for a short stay and then to RCAF Station Edmonton for a brief while. His last posting was RCAF Station Whitehorse, Yukon in 1946 for a number of months until he received his discharge in July.

While in the Royal Canadian Air Force, he served as a traffic controller with the Aerodrome control. He was unable to join the Air Force until after his eighteenth birthday on October 9, 1942. By the time he enlisted, took basic training and was posted, the war was coming to an end, so he did not experience any unusual or historic events during his time in the RCAF.

Douglas was honourably released and transferred to the Reserve General Section, Class E in July 1946 in Whitehorse, Yukon.

He resided in Victoria with his wife, Stephanie, and two children. Douglas joined The Royal Canadian Legion Sir Sam Steele Branch in Winnipeg early in 1950 and continued his membership for a few years. According to a card dated July 1946, it certified that "R269775 Cpl. Wilson D. S. is entitled to wear War Service Badge 'General Service Class' No. 386540, signed by G.N. Noltz F/L issuing officer."

WILSON, Edward F. J.

WWII

Edward enlisted in Winnipeg on September 18, 1941 and was sent to Brandon, Manitoba to the Manning Pool for a few days. He was then posted to No. 1 Wireless school in Montreal for three months. He was then posted to No. 3 wireless school in St. Charles, Manitoba where he taught Morse Code for about three years. He was then moved to Edmonton for a short while and on to Fort Nelson, British Columbia for one year and to Grande Prairie, Alberta until his discharge. He was assigned as a wireless operator in the control towers. He was discharged on October 22, 1945. Andrew retired and lived in Winnipeg with his wife, Elsa.



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WILSON, Thomas

WWI

Thomas was born in Ayrshire, Scotland in 1892. He served in the Army in World War I with the 27 Battalion 2nd Division. He served in Canada, England and France. Thomas was killed in action in 1918 in France.

WRIGHT, Clarence Delbert

WWI

Clarence was born in Boissevain, Manitoba in 1895. He served in World War I with the Fort Garry Horse in France and Canada. Clarence was killed in action in 1918 in France.



WRIGHT, James "Jim"

WWII

James was born to Jim and Christie Wright of Fisherton. He joined the Canadian Army on June 10, 1940. He was sent to Chatham, Ontario for six months of training. He returned to the 103rd Canadian Army training center at Fort Garry, Manitoba and was discharged on August 13, 1942. His brothers, John and Robert, also served in World War II, John being killed in action.

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WRIGHT, John

WWII

John enlisted on July 9, 1940 in Winnipeg. He took basic training in Fort William, Ontario. He went on a forced march with his regiment from Ottawa to Montreal. They moved to Camp Borden, Ontario and took most of their advance training there. Then they went to Truro, Nova Scotia and also to Saint John, New Brunswick. They went overseas in August 1942 on the Strathmore ship. They landed in England and were stationed at Brighton for quite some time. He went into action at Forges, France and Belgium. John was killed in action in Belgium in August 1944. John was a son of Jim and Christie Wright of Fisherton. His brothers, James and Robert, also served in World War II.

WRIGHT, Robert "Bud"

WWII

Bud was one of the three Wright Brothers, sons of Jim and Christie Wright of Fisherton. He enlisted on January 8, 1942 at the Perring Building. He stayed there for about one month then he went on to Portage la Prairie for about two months. He took his advance training in Shilo, Manitoba for about three months.

Bud went overseas on the HMCS Latisha. On the trip over lots of depth charges were dropped at submarines. They landed safely in Liverpool, England and went to the 2nd Canadian Reinforcement Unit in Gilford, England, then on to Petworth. He took a Drivers Mechanic Course in Canterbury, Kent and worked in transport in Whitley.

Bud met Cyril Stodgell, Cecil Switzer, Cecil Champagne in Barnsley, England.

He went to Edinburgh, Scotland a few times on leave. He met Charlie Mackie and Ben Hallett. He also met his brother John.

He went to Caen, France and was in St. Andre for quite a while, withholding the Germans at bay while the Polish Army went around behind them.

He was wounded at the Seine River, France in August 1944. He was in a tent hospital for about two days, then taken to England to a hospital near Aldershot for about five months and was convalescing for about three months. He was operated on for ulcers, then went on leave to Edinburgh for two weeks. He came back to Whitley, England then came back to Canada in 1945.

He was in Deer Lodge Hospital for about three months, receiving his discharge on June 29, 1945.

His brothers, John and James, also served in World War II; John being killed in action.



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***We Will
Remember***



WRIGHT, Wilbur "Mike"

WWII

Wilbur "Mike" Wright was born on June 3, 1920 in Kenton, Manitoba. His older brother William (John) was in RCAF. They and their sister Varna grew on their family farm near Kenton. Mike enlisted in the RCAF and went overseas with the 407 Squadron out of Calgary as a top and tail gunner in Hudson and Wellington Bombers. They flew the Atlantic to hunt and sink U-boats. They set a record for tonnage sunk, then two months later broke their own record. Mike received medals Volunteer Service, Victory Europe, and Defence, and Star World War II 1939-45. Returning to farming on discharge, he married Lorraine Bray from same area in 1949. They raised one son and one daughter. Mike was a great athlete both before and after the war, especially in hockey and baseball. He was a Legion member Woodworth Manitoba #118, from Kenton, for over forty years until his death in 1991. He and Lorraine, 1992, are buried in Greenwood Cemetery near Kenton.

WRIGHT, William Lewis "John"

WWII

William Lewis "John" Wright, the second of three, one brother, one older sister, was born near Kenton, Manitoba on September 8, 1919. They grew on the family farm. Then John and younger brother Wilbur (Mike), both joined the RCAF. John, as an Officer and pilot, flew with 429 Bomber Squadron over Europe. He married Evelyn Jean Cumming, from British Columbia before going overseas. On July 31, 1944, he was killed in action over France. He was then honoured by the community of St. Martins, and is buried there near their church. Johnny, a great athlete before the war, never returned to field or ice, however, he has been well remembered, including through his name's sake, nephew John Wright, himself a lifelong athlete in baseball, hockey, and track in the Kenton area. John was awarded medals for Volunteer Service, Victory Europe, and Defence, with the 1939-1945, and France and Germany Stars.



WYATT, Donald C.

WWII

Donald was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario in 1926 and joined the Royal Canadian Navy, serving in Canada, England and the High Seas. He passed away in 2009 and had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Fort Garry Branch 90 and Ontario Branch 211 for sixty years.



YAKYMIW, Joe

WWII

Joe Yakymiw enlisted with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in June 1942. He trained at Camp Shilo and went overseas in October 1942. He was officially reported killed in action in France on July 22, 1943.

YANKOSKI, Frank

WWII

Frank was born in Binscarth, Manitoba, in 1920. He enlisted in Winnipeg in July 1941 with the Royal Canadian Army Service Corp 13th Field Ambulance, serving in Canada, the United Kingdom, Italy, France and Germany. He was discharged in Winnipeg in January 1946 and received the 1939-1945 Star, the Defence Medal, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, the Italy Star, and the France and Germany Star. Frank passed away in 1995 and was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Russell Branch 159.



YAWORSKI, Walter

WWII

Walter enlisted on February 23, 1943 at No. 10 District Depot in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He joined the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and served in Canada, the United Kingdom, and Continental Europe – France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, where he fought in the front lines with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He returned to Canada and received his discharge on March 22, 1946 in Winnipeg. Walter received the France and Germany Star.



YOUNG, Earle

WWII

Earle was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1919 and joined the Royal Canadian Navy, serving in Canada, England and the High Seas. He passed away in 1994 and had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Fort Garry Branch 90 for 59 years.

ZABINSKY, Andrew H.

WWII

Andrew was born in Manitoba in 1932. He joined the Navy and was sent overseas as a gunner, but he was assigned to the Medical Corps to work on the front lines. His duty was to pick up the dead bodies as well as the injured men so they could be sent home. Several men died in his arms because nothing could be done to save them and before he passed away on July 9, 1992, he had recurring nightmares about the war, as if it was all coming back to him. Andrew had been a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Elmwood Branch 9 for over forty years.



ZAPOROZAN, William "Bill"

WWII

Bill enlisted in the Army in Winnipeg on November 4, 1943. He served in Canada and overseas in Europe. He passed away in February 1972. Bill is interred in Fisher Branch Congregational Cemetery.

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Name of Military Person being Recognized:

Last name:

First Name:

Initial:

Place of Birth:

Year of Birth:

Year of Death:

Service: WWI ☐ WWII ☐ Korea ☐ Special Duty Area ☐ Peacetime ☐ Other: _____

Branch of Service: Navy ☐ Army ☐ Air Force ☐ Merchant Navy ☐ Other: _____

Service Unit: *i.e. North Shore, Carleton York, CWAC,
Names of Ships, Squadrons, etc.*

Areas Served in: *i.e. - Canada, High Seas, England,
C/E, Korea, SDA (Please name), etc.*

Killed in Action? Yes ☐ No ☐ Year of Death: _____ Where Killed _____

Was or is a Member of Legion Branch - Name & #:

How many years? _____

Information on person submitting form:

Submitted by (Name): _____ Branch # ☐ LA # ☐ Individual ☐

Contact Information: Tel # _____ FAX # _____ e-mail _____

Please attach additional information if available.

Example - medals and awards for bravery i.e., VC, DSC, DFC, MC, MM, etc.; POW, etc.

**Please attach photograph here:
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