



VETERANS' SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK

Volume Thirteen



Raising the Maple Leaf, ISAF Headquarters, Afghanistan, 12 March 2014

**The Royal Canadian Legion
NOVA SCOTIA / NUNAVUT COMMAND**



Premier's Message

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, I would like to thank our Nova Scotia military personnel and their families for the enormous contributions and sacrifices they have made and continue to make for our country.

In 2017 Nova Scotians joined other Canadians in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Nova Scotians reflected and paid tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for Canada. We are especially proud of the role that two Nova Scotia battalions, the 85th Battalion (Nova Scotia Highlanders) and the 25th Battalion (Nova Scotia Rifles), played in this historic battle.

The Province of Nova Scotia is proud of our troops, their valuable service and sacrifice, and our historically strong connection with Canada's military.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen McNeil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier





With the left photo showing the raising of the Maple Leaf in Afghanistan and the right photo the monument at Vimy Ridge, Canadians should be very proud and thankful.

We marked the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge and also the 150th Anniversary of Confederation this year.

Let us never forget our soldiers who have kept this great nation free and the great sacrifices made for that freedom.



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President's Message



On behalf of the membership of Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command of The Royal Canadian Legion, I am most pleased to offer the 2017 edition, the 13th book, in our Veterans Service Recognition series.

The Veterans Service Recognition Books are produced to recognize, remember and honour those brave Canadians among us who serve and have served in Canada's Armed Forces and The Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

To the many NS/NU Command Legion Branches, Legion Members and others who contributed to this volume, I extend great thanks for your dedication to our Veterans and your support of this project.

To the advertisers and those who have made private donations to this volume please accept our gratitude for your generous assistance, through much needed funds raised, in the perpetuation of remembrance and support of programs that enhance the lives of our Veterans and our communities.

On behalf of all members of Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command I offer heartfelt thanks to Comrade Steve Wessel, Chairman and Editor of the Veterans Service Recognition Book for all of its' 13 years of publication. His diligence, dedication and tremendous effort has made this project a continued success.

Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command extends thanks to Fenety Marketing Services for their continued supportive partnership in the production of The Veterans Service Recognition Book.

We look forward, with your help, to issuing our 14th edition of the Veterans Service Recognition Book in the Fall of 2018.

In Comradeship



Melvin Crowe
President
Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command
The Royal Canadian Legion

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Project Chairman's Message



As project Chairman, and on behalf of the entire membership of Nova Scotia / Nunavut Command of The Royal Canadian Legion, it is an honour and a privilege to present the 2017 edition, the 13th book, in our Veteran Service Recognition Book (VSRB) series. All of these books are produced in an effort to honour, acknowledge and remember the contributions made by so many brave Canadians who have served, not only in times of war, but also during many peacekeeping and peacemaking missions. We also recognize and support those men and women who continue the proud tradition of service to Canada throughout the world in the Canadian Forces and the RCMP.

In this edition, we are continuing our efforts to present longer stories and biographies of our Veterans featuring their wartime contributions and experiences, as well as historical recollections of our province and our military establishments. I hope you enjoy them!

As always, I offer my sincere thanks to the Legion branches and members of the general public who continue to support these publications by contributing biographies and photos. I would also like to thank the many businesses, groups and individuals who generously support these publications through advertising and through personal financial donations. I would like to take this opportunity to personally, and publicly, thank two dedicated people, Mr. Mark Fenety and Ms. Kathy Gilbert of Fenety Marketing for their patience in dealing with me, as an amateur Editor, over these many years.

As I “wrap up” this 13th edition – actually, 14 books in total when counting our 1st, “*The History of Nova Scotia / Nunavut Command*” edition – I find it somewhat difficult to believe that we started out on this “**temporary**” project over 14 years ago. It has been a tremendous learning experience for me as Chairman and Editor of this project, as well as a tremendous honour to be able to present the stories of our Nova Scotian heroes in uniform. I have appreciated the opportunity NS/NU Command has given me to work on this series for the past 14 years and I sincerely hope that future Command Councils continue their ongoing responsibility to support its production.

In closing, Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command extends it's sincere thanks to our partners, Fenety Marketing Services, for their continued support of The R.C.L. through the production of these books and together, look forward to issuing the 14th edition of the VSRB series in the fall of 2018.

In Comradeship,



Stephen Wessel
Project Chairman / Editor

**We will always look back and
remember our Canadian heroes.**



Canadian soldiers returning from Vimy Ridge

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A Note to the Reader

Dear Reader,

This book is the Thirteenth in a series of Veterans' Service Recognition Books that we have been publishing since 2004. Thank you to the Legion Branches, members and individuals who collected, composed, and submitted stories that contributed to the great success of these publications.

The professional expertise of Fenety Marketing has raised funds through the selling of advertising in these books and through a public telephone solicitation. The proceeds raised are being used to improve our services to Veterans and Legion programs in more than 103 communities that we serve throughout Nova Scotia & Nunavut.

This unique publication is dedicated to the thousands of Veterans and ex-service personnel who have served their country so well during times of war and peace. This book will help future generations better understand the sacrifices made during these times of great conflict, and to better understand the purpose and objectives of The Royal Canadian Legion.

Please copy and use the submission form included in this book to send us additional stories. We encourage everyone to submit stories about their family members and friends with military backgrounds. When a story is received it will be deemed submitted for inclusion and may be edited and used without any further permission required. The maximum length of these submissions should be no longer than 200 words, and a separate sheet of paper can be attached to this form, as well as a photo. We retain the right to edit, but will not make any changes to content; if you misspell your name or give the wrong information, we may not make the necessary changes.

All submissions should be sent to the NS/NU Command office by Canada Post or email. Email to info@ns.legion.ca is the preferred method. Please send stories and photos together in the same email. If photographs are emailed, please ensure they have a resolution of 300dpi or higher.

If you are mailing in your submission, please send to:

Veterans' Service Recognition Book
61 Gloria McCluskey Ave
Dartmouth, NB B3B 2Z3

Photographs will not be returned, so if you mail one, mail a copy.

We hope this information and form are of assistance in preparation of your histories and stories and we look forward to receiving your submissions.

If you have any questions about the book or your submission, contact the Command Office at **902-429-4090**

Recognition of our Veterans is very important to all of us, so let's get behind this project and make it another successful and memorable publication!



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"...The Royal Canadian Legion is mandated to serve Veterans and their dependents, promote Remembrance and to act in the service of Canada and its communities..."

NS/NU Command has a membership of 21,000, serving 103 Branches. The annual Poppy Campaign raised \$2 million in NS & Nunavut alone, with proceeds going to support Veterans, Canadian Forces, ex-service personnel and their families.

Legions do fantastic things for the communities they serve. Here are some great things our members do:

Service to Veterans past and present

- Education and mental wellness programs
- Assistance with the Service Bureau
- Assistance through our Benevolent Fund

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- History and heritage learning materials
- Youth multimedia contests
- Bursaries and scholarships
- Competitive youth athletics
- Leadership Training Camp

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- Sponsorship of community youth clubs

Community Partnerships

- Sponsorship of local community programs

Leadership Opportunities

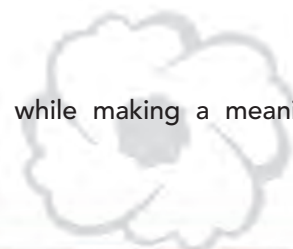
- Opportunities to lead at the community, regional, provincial, and national levels

Member Benefits

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Canada's Angels of Mercy in WWI

To the Canadian soldiers who fought in the First World War, they were known as Angels of Mercy. These “angels” were the scores of Canadian nurses who served overseas in military hospitals and dressing stations, often dangerously close to the front lines.

In all, 3000 women – 200 of them from Nova Scotia – served with the Canadian Army Medical Corps during the four year conflict. Most of them were single with an average age of 24 and, sadly, not all of those who went overseas returned home. By the time the war was over, 46 Canadian nurses had made the ultimate sacrifice for their King and country.

During the conflict, the Angels of Mercy were to be found at Canada's 30 military hospitals and clearing stations at the major battlefields in Europe and the eastern Mediterranean. Their official titles were nursing sisters – a nod to the fact many of the earliest volunteers were from religious orders – and they held the rank of lieutenant. Each woman wore a nun-like white head covering and a white apron over a distinctive blue dress.



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Royal Hamilton Light Infantry boys photographed in Europe prior to the Dieppe Raid.
Joseph P. Page, father-in-law of PLCAC director, Neil Lane, is pictured back row, centre.

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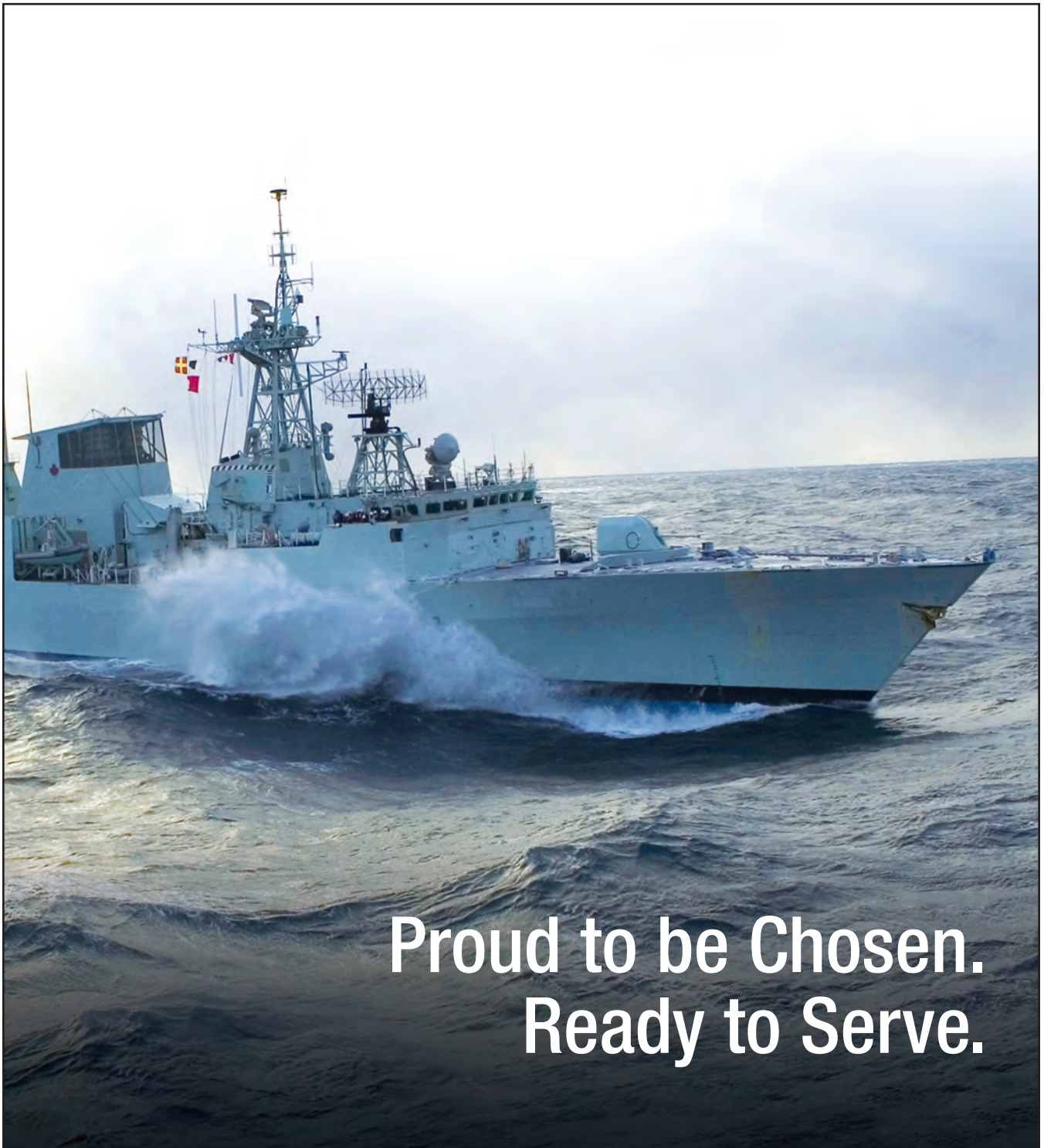
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Needless to say, it wasn't long before the troops honoured them with another affectionate nickname – “bluebirds”.

The women were ill-prepared for the special hell awaiting them at the battlefields, compared to their nursing experiences in Canada. They had to adapt quickly to the horrors of modern warfare, not just in terms of the kinds of ghastly wounds suffered by the troops but also the sheer numbers of casualties. Nor were they spared discomfort because of their gender; they shared the same dangerous, unsanitary field conditions as their male colleagues and often went hungry and thirsty.

Wherever they nursed, the Angels of Mercy were never far from danger. Sometimes, death found them when they were aboard hospital ships transporting the sick and wounded home to Canada. One such incident occurred during the night of 27 June 1917 when a Canadian hospital ship, the Llandovery Castle, was torpedoed in the Atlantic by a German U-boat. Of the 258 crew and medical staff aboard, only 24 lived to tell the story, an amazing escape considering the U-boat's crew machine-gunned the lifeboats. All 14 nursing sisters aboard perished that terrible night, among them Matron Marjory Fraser, daughter of Lt. Col. Duncan Cameron Fraser, the lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia.





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Other times, bombs and shells would rain down on the nurses as they went about their duties behind the front lines. In his book, “Nova Scotia’s Part in the Great War”, Captain M. Stuart Hunt describes the scene during one bombing attack on the St. Francis Hospital Unit in France.

“The nursing sisters and hospital staff displayed great courage all through these trying times, remaining at their posts in the operating room and hospital wards. No pen can describe the nerve-testing and nerve-wracking experience of hearing the swish through the air of those terrible and deadly bombs, then the terrific explosions and rocking and trembling of the earth which meant destruction and death to many. The way those splendid young women carried themselves was magnificent. Without a quiver or the slightest hesitation, they kept right along with their work and soothed and encouraged and ministered to their patients. They were the same living contradiction here as elsewhere to all logical relations, and the harmony of things. They would jump up on the operating table and scream at the suggestion of a mouse or trench rat; but would go out into the storm and darkness and fire to give a drink of water to a wounded soldier”.

The contribution made by the Angels of Mercy to Canada’s war effort was not forgotten, once hostilities ceased. A monument to them, and to the nursing profession itself, was erected in Ottawa in 1926. It can be found in the Hall of Honour in the Center Block of Parliament.



“ *The Angels of Mercy will be remembered for one other historic distinction as well. Their courageous wartime service helped convince the Canadian government that the time was long overdue to grant women the right to vote!* ”





Royal Canadian Legion Branch 168

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Remembering Our Heroes
Lest We Forget

Citadel Hill (Fort George)

Although all four fortifications constructed on Citadel Hill since 1749 are variously referred to as Fort George, only the third fort (built between 1794 and 1800) was officially named Fort George, by General Orders of October 20, 1798, after Prince Edward's father, King George III. The first two and the fourth and current fort, were simply called the Halifax Citadel. The Citadel is the fortified summit of Citadel Hill, a National Historic Site of Canada in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The hill was first fortified in 1749, the year the town of Halifax was founded. Those fortifications on the hill were successively rebuilt to defend the town from various enemies. A series of four different defensive fortifications have occupied the summit of Citadel Hill. Construction and levelling resulted in the summit of the hill being dropped by ten to twelve metres. Whilst never attacked, the Citadel was long the keystone to the defence of the strategically important Halifax Harbour and its Royal Navy Dockyard.

Today the fort is operated by Parks Canada as the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site of Canada and is restored to the Victorian period.

The First Citadel

First established in 1749, as a counterbalance to the French stronghold of Louisbourg, which the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) returned to France, Halifax played a pivotal role over the next decade in the Anglo-French rivalry in the region. The various fortifications at Halifax were to protect the Protestant settlers against raids by the French, Acadians, and Wabanaki Confederacy (primarily the Mi'kmaq) in a conflict known to some historians as Father Le Loutre's War.

The war began shortly after Edward Cornwallis arrived on June 21, 1749 to establish Halifax with 13 transports and a sloop of war carrying 1,176 settlers and their families. The Mi'kmaq felt that the British settlement at Halifax violated earlier treaties which were signed after Father Rale's War in 1726. On 11 September 1749, Cornwallis wrote to the Board of Trade:

“The Square at the top of the Hill is finished. These squares are done with double picquets, each picquet ten foot long and six inches thick. They likewise clear a Space of 30 feet without the Line and throw up the Trees by way of Barricade. When this work is completed I shall think the Town as secure against Indians as if it was regularly fortify'd”

The first fort was simply a small redoubt which stood near the summit (at a spot just east of the south ravelin of the present citadel) with a flagstaff and guardhouse. It was part of the western perimeter wall for the old city which was protected by five stockaded forts. The others were Horsemans Fort, Cornwallis Fort, Fort Lutrell and Grenadier Fort.

(The British built Fort Charlotte - named after King George's wife Charlotte - on Georges Island the following year in 1750.)



Building the first Citadel. Soldier of the 29th Regiment of Foot (right) guarding against Acadian and Mi'kmaw raids by Charles William Jefferys

continued...



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Citadel Hill (Fort George)

The fortified city walls guarded by five stockaded forts to protect against Mi'kmaq, Acadian, and French attacks was the centre of a network of forts Cornwallis built to protect settlements including Bedford (Fort Sackville) (1749), Dartmouth (1750), Lunenburg (1753) and Lawrencetown (1754).

Citadel Hill during Father Le Loutre's War (1750)



During Father Le Loutre's War, the soldiers guarding Halifax were in a constant state of alert. The Mi'kmaq and Acadians raided the capital region (Halifax and Dartmouth) 12 times. The worst of these raids was the Dartmouth Massacre (1751). Four of these raids were against Halifax. The first raid was in July 1750: in the woods on peninsular Halifax, the Mi'kmaq scalped Cornwallis' gardener, his son, and four others. They buried the son, left the gardener's body exposed, and carried off the other four bodies.

In 1751, there were two attacks on blockhouses surrounding Halifax. Mi'kmaq attacked the North Blockhouse (located at the north end of Joseph Howe Drive) and killed the men on guard. They also attacked near the South Blockhouse (located at the south end of Joseph Howe Drive), at a saw-mill on a stream flowing out of Chocolate Lake into the Northwest Arm. They killed two men.

In 1753, when Lawrence became governor, the Mi'kmaq attacked again upon the sawmills near the South Blockhouse on the Northwest Arm, where they killed three British. The Mi'kmaq made three attempts to retrieve the bodies for their scalps.

Prominent Halifax business person Michael Francklin was captured by a Mi'kmaw raiding party in 1754 and held captive for three months.

The Seven Years War



Citadel Hill, The British Squadron going off to Louisbourg Expedition (1757)

The stockaded forts were also instrumental to the British during the French and Indian War (the North American theatre of the Seven Years War). The Fort was used to help facilitate the Expulsion of the Acadians, many Acadians being imprisoned on Georges Island in Halifax Harbour. During the war, the Mi'kmaq and Acadians resisted the British throughout the province. On 2 April 1756,

Mi'kmaq received payment from the Governor of Quebec for 12 British scalps taken at Halifax. Acadian Pierre Gautier, son of Joseph-Nicolas Gautier, led Mi'kmaq warriors from Louisbourg on three raids against Halifax in 1757. In each raid, Gautier took prisoners or scalps or both. The last raid happened in September and Gautier went with four Mi'kmaq and killed and scalped two British men at the foot of Citadel Hill. In July 1759, Mi'kmaq and Acadians killed five British in Dartmouth, opposite McNabb's Island. There were also numerous raids against the British in the province such as the Raid on Lunenburg (1756).



We Remember

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them. - Laurence Binyon, *For the Fallen*

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men and women, past and present.
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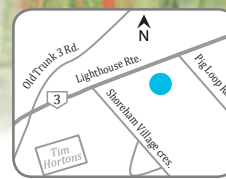
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The Second Citadel

American Revolution



Citadel Hill from Fort Needham during the American Revolution (1780)

The first major permanent fortification appeared on Citadel Hill in the American Revolution. The possibility of attack during the Revolution required a larger fortification to protect the city from an American or

French attack. Built in 1776, the new fort on Citadel Hill was composed of multiple lines of overlapping earthen redans backing a large outer palisade wall. At the center was a three-story octagonal blockhouse mounting a fourteen-gun battery and accommodating 100 troops. These works required that the hill be cut down by 40 feet. The entire fortress mounted 72 guns. Citadel Hill and the associated harbour defence fortifications afforded the Royal Navy the most secure and strategic base in eastern North America from its Halifax Dockyard commanding the Great Circle Route to western Europe and gave Halifax the nickname "Warden of The North". The massive British military presence in Halifax focused through Citadel Hill and the Royal Navy's dockyard is thought to be one of the main reasons that Nova Scotia—the fourteenth British colony—remained loyal to the Crown throughout and after the American Revolutionary War.

Neither French nor American forces attacked Citadel Hill during the American Revolution. However, the garrison remained on guard because there were numerous American privateer raids on villages around the province (e.g., Raid on Lunenburg (1782)), as well as naval battles just off shore, such as the Naval battle off Halifax. By 1784 the works were reported in ruins except for the blockhouse.

Citadel Hill from Point Pleasant Park during the American Revolution (1780)



The Third Citadel

Although all four fortifications constructed on Citadel Hill since 1749 are variously referred to as Fort George, this third Citadel is the only one officially named Fort George, by General Orders of October 20, 1798, after King George III.

French Revolutionary Wars

The French Revolutionary Wars that began in 1793 raised a new threat to Halifax. A new citadel was designed in 1794 and was completed by 1800. Much of the work was inspired by Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, the fourth son of King George III and the father of Queen Victoria, who was posted to Halifax as Commander-in-chief from 1794 to 1800. The top of the hill was leveled and lowered a further 15 feet to accommodate a larger fortress on the summit. It resembled the outline of the final Citadel, comprising four bastions surrounding a central barracks and magazine, but used mainly earthwork walls. One bastion was constructed with labour from Jamaican Maroons.

continued....





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Citadel Hill (Fort George)



Town clock

Prince Edward, Duke of Kent commissioned a clock tower in 1800 prior to his return to England. The Town Clock opened on October 20, 1803, at a location on the east slope of Citadel Hill on Barrack (now Brunswick) Street and has kept time for the community ever since.

The War of 1812

The Third citadel received hasty repairs and a new magazine during the War of 1812 in case of an American raid but a new fortification was not constructed as naval superiority provided by the British Royal Navy precluded any chance of an American siege. By 1825 all the works except the powder magazine, were in ruins.

Citadel Hill, circa 1870. Cannons facing the harbour.



The Fourth Citadel

The current star-shaped fortress, or citadel, was completed in 1856, during the Victorian Era, following twenty-eight years of construction. This massive masonry-construction fort was designed to repel a land-based attack by United States forces and was inspired by the designs of Louis XIV's commissary of fortifications Sébastien Le Prestre, Seigneur de Vauban –a star-shaped hillock citadel with internal courtyard and clear harbour view from armoured ramparts..



continued....



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Centrepiece of the Halifax Defence Complex

The Halifax Citadel and its predecessors were the focal point of the British military's "Halifax Defence Complex" which included (at various years):

- Fort Needham
- HMC Dockyard
- Fort Massey
- Fort Ogilvie
- Prince of Wales Martello Tower
- Connaught Battery
- York Redoubt
- Practice Battery
- Sandwich Point
- Camperdown
- Fort Chebucto
- Fort Charlotte on George's Island
- Fort Clarence
- Devil's Battery / Hartlen Point
- Five forts on McNabs Island:
 - o Fort Ives
 - o Fort Hugonin
 - o Sherbrooke Tower
 - o Strawberry Hill
 - o Fort McNab

The Halifax Citadel was constructed to defend against smoothbore weaponry; it became obsolete following the introduction of more powerful rifled guns in the 1860s. British forces upgraded Fort George's armaments to permit it to defend the harbour as well as land approaches, using heavier and more accurate long-range artillery. The Citadel's two large ammunition magazines also served as the central explosive store for Halifax defences, making Citadel Hill, according to the historian and novelist Thomas Head Raddall, "like Vesuvius over Pompeii, a smiling monster with havoc in its belly". By the end of the 19th century, the role of the Citadel in the defence of Halifax Harbour evolved to become a command centre for other, more distant harbour defensive works, as well as providing barrack accommodations.

78th (Highlanders) Regiment of Foot

The renowned 78th (Highlanders) Regiment of Foot were stationed at Halifax for almost three years (1869-1871). The regiment arrived in Halifax on the afternoon of May 14 aboard the troopship HMS Crocodile. A total of 765 men disembarked in full dress uniform. The Regiment was divided into two depots and eight service companies, consisting in all of 34 officers, 49 sergeants, 21 drummers, 6 pipers, and 600 rank and file.

For two years, the regiment spent its time billeted at the Halifax Citadel and at Wellington Barracks. The latter is now known as Stadacona and is part of Canadian Forces Base Halifax. Each summer, men from the regiment camped at Bedford to practice musketry at the military range.

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Citadel Hill (Fort George)



*78th Highlanders
- Contemporary
Re-enactors, at
Citadel Hill*

On their departure in 1871, a farewell ball complete with a musical tribute was composed in their honour. It was hosted by the famous brewmaster and then Grandmaster of the Mason Lodge of Nova Scotia and mayor of Halifax, Alexander Keith.

On November 25, the regiment set sail for Ireland on board the troopship Orontes. With them went 17 young Nova Scotian women who had married members of the regiment.

The Halifax Citadel has a living history program featuring animators portraying life in the fort where soldiers of the 78th Highland Regiment and the 78th Highlanders (Halifax Citadel) Pipe Band who re-enact life in 1869.

First and Second World Wars

Although never attacked, Citadel Hill's various fortifications continued to be garrisoned by the British Army until 1906 and afterward by the Canadian Army throughout the First World War.

When the Great War began in 1914, there was widespread suspicion in Canada that immigrants from enemy countries might be disloyal. In response, the federal government passed regulations allowing it to monitor and intern anyone who had not become naturalized British subjects. These people were labelled "enemy aliens." In total 8,579 men were prisoners of war in 24 camps across the country.

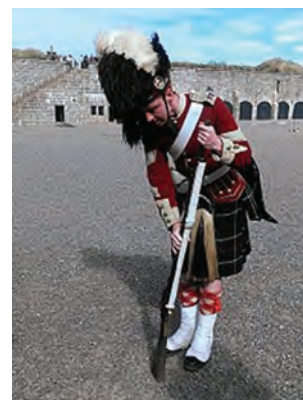
Fort George's final military role was to provide temporary barracks, signaling and the central coordinating point for the city's anti-aircraft defences during the Second World War.

Preservation

In 1935, the hill and fortifications were designated a National Historic Site and received some stabilization as a works project during the Depression. However, the fort was not restored and began to decay after the end of the Second World War. In the late 1940s, Halifax downtown business interests advocated demolishing the fort and leveling Citadel Hill to provide parking and encourage development.

However, recognition of the fort's historical significance and tourism potential led to the fort's preservation and gradual restoration. Research by historian Harry Piers published in his final book *The Evolution of the Halifax Fortress, 1749-1928* in 1947 played a key role in making the case and providing resources to restore the Citadel. In 1956, the partially restored fort opened as a historic site and home to the Halifax Army museum and, in the years before they constructed their own museums, as home to the Nova Scotia Museum and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. The Citadel was finally fully restored to its 1869 appearance in the 1990s by Parks Canada.

*This re-enactor is
showing the
tourists how the
rifles of the 19th
century worked.*



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Citadel Hill (Fort George)

Present day



The hill in summer.

Today the site is under the responsibility of Parks Canada. The Citadel has been restored to the mid-Victorian period. The fort is amongst the most visited National Historic Sites in Atlantic Canada.

The grounds of the Halifax Citadel are open year round, and from spring to fall has a living history program featuring animators portraying the 78th Highland Regiment, (stationed at Halifax between 1869 and 1871), the 78th Highlanders (Halifax Citadel) Pipe Band, the Third Brigade of the Royal Artillery, soldiers wives, and civilian tradespersons. Parks Canada also hosts several re-enactment events each year by volunteers of the Brigade of the American Revolution and the Atlantic Canadian World War Two Living History Association.

There are guided and self-guided tours available as well as audio-visual presentations and exhibits which serve to communicate the Citadel's role in shaping Halifax's and North America's history.

One of the most enduring and recognized symbols of the Halifax Citadel's role in shaping Halifax is the year-round daily ceremonial firing of the noon gun. The artillery is also used for formal occasions such as 21-gun salutes.

The "Army Museum", located in the Citadel's Cavalier Block, displays a rare collection of weapons, medals, and uniforms exploring Nova Scotia's army history. It is an independent non-profit museum but works in close partnership with the Citadel staff of Parks Canada.

Firing the noon day gun.



In July 2006, Halifax Citadel celebrated the 100th anniversary of the withdrawal of the last British military forces from Canada. The Citadel hosted over 1,000 re-enactors from around the world.

Approaching the Christmas season, Citadel Hill annually hosts a "Victorian Christmas". Visitors are treated to crafts, carolers, and games.

From the time of it's becoming a town and then a city, Halifax has been protected for over 258 years from various enemies, foreign and domestic, by the enduring fort in the center of the city – Citadel Hill!



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The Ship's Story

HMCS Sackville – The Ship's Story



Photo by: Ian Urquhart

HMCS Sackville

was one of more than 120 corvettes built in Canada during the Second World War. Corvettes soon became the workhorses of the North Atlantic, escorting merchant convoys to Europe and attacking U-Boats. Without the supplies carried by these merchant ships, the war effort in Europe would have collapsed. The Canadian Navy escorted 25,343 merchant vessels across the Atlantic: ships which carried an incredible total of 181,643,180 tonnes of cargo during the war.

HMCS Sackville was commissioned on December 29, 1941. Serving in well-known escort groups called C1, C2 and C3, Sackville escorted convoys from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Londonderry, Ireland, from January 1942 to August 1944. Sackville was an original member of the famous Barber Pole Group, with red-and-white barber pole stripes painted on the funnel. All ships in the East Coast Canadian Navy fleet now sport the barber pole symbol.

During August 1942, on a westbound convoy mission and 250 nautical miles east of Newfoundland, Sackville encountered a U-boat on the surface. At a range of less than a quarter of a mile, Sackville fired a star shell. The U-boat crash-dived, Sackville accelerated, steamed into the swirl of water and fired a pattern of depth charges.

The powerful blast forced the U-boat back up to the surface. She then slipped down into the sea and disappeared. Sackville was credited with a probable kill. Just ninety minutes later, Sackville engaged another surfaced U-boat in a dangerous tactical ballet. Sackville steered courses to ram while the U-boat steered to avoid being attacked, but Sackville's crew succeeded with a good four-inch shell hit, punching a large hole in the base of the submarine's conning tower. The ship was officially credited with the probable damage caused. This damage would have certainly put the U-boat out of commission and it would have had to return to its home port.



In September 1943, Sackville was part of an escort group in the combined westbound convoys called ON. 202 and ONS. 18. (These ill-fated convoys became the victims of the first use of acoustic torpedoes. These advanced torpedoes were a German invention which had sensors to detect engine noise and could home in on the noise a ship made when underway. A lot did not work, but at first there was little Allied defence against them.)

In addition to several merchant ships, four of the escort vessels were torpedoed and sunk: the British frigate HMS Lagan; the four-stack (four funnels) destroyer HMCS St. Croix; the British corvette HMS Polyanthus and the British frigate HMS Itchen. Itchen was carrying

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survivors from the first two ships to go down and when she, too, was torpedoed, there was heavy loss of life. When Itchen blew up, pieces of her superstructure landed on the Canadian corvette HMCS Morden. It was during the enemy action prior to the sinking of HMS Itchen that Sackville, after firing depth charges, experienced a tremendous explosion and it was thought the depth charges had detonated a torpedo close alongside. Sackville's number one boiler was severely damaged. (The boiler was never replaced, which meant she had space on board to be used after the war. In fact, this wartime combat event contributed to Sackville's escape from the scrap yard and is just one reason why we can still visit her today.)

Much later, when efforts to make repairs were unsuccessful, it was decided to retire the corvette from active service and use her as a training ship, then later as a Canadian Naval Auxiliary Vessel (CNAV). She served with the Canadian Navy as a CNAV in an oceanographic research role, and it was this decision which has also prolonged the life of this important ship and allowed her to become The Canadian Naval Memorial. She is the very last of all the Flower Class corvettes in existence.

HMCS SACKVILLE STATISTICS:

Type: Flower Class Corvette

Displacement: 950 tonnes

Length: 205.1 feet

Beam: 33.1 feet

Draught: 11.5 feet

Top Speed: 16 knots

Ship's Company: Officers: 6, crew: 79; increasing to a total of more than 100 as additional weapons and sensors were installed during the war.

Weapons: One Mark IX four-inch breech-loading gun, with a range against surface targets of 12,000 yards; one Mark VIII two-pounder pom-pom and two 20mm Oerlikon anti-aircraft guns; anti-submarine weapons included 100 depth charges: steel

drums filled with 300 pounds of high explosive, set to explode at various depths and launched from two depth-charge throwers on each side or rolled off the stern from two depth-charge rails. Later in the war, one MK 3 Hedgehog was fitted forward. The hedge hog was a spigot mortar which fired 24 projectiles or bombs in a pattern 200 yards ahead of the ship, allowing the attacking ship to remain in contact as it pursued its U-Boat target. The contact-fused bombs were filled with 32 pounds of Torpex – if one bomb hit the target it exploded and the rest of the pattern detonated too, greatly increasing the likelihood of a successful attack compared with depth charges.

Propulsion: A single four-cylinder vertical triple expansion engine capable of generating 2,750 hp to its single shaft and propeller, achieving a top speed of 16 knots. This engine was designed before the turn of the 20th century and was used because it was simple to operate and to repair. Sackville was also equipped with two cylindrical Scottish fire-tube oil-fired boilers, which provided steam at 200 psi pressure to power the ship's engine and also a basic level of heat and hot water for the ship's company's use.


Radar: Initially the Canadian-built SW1C for surface warning and navigation later replaced by the much better British Type 271; and the SW2C/P air warning radar.

Asdic: Initially the Type123A, later replaced by the 127DV which was required for the new hedgehog. (This acoustic sensor [referred to as sonar in the US Navy] was devised by the UK's Anti-submarine Detection Investigation Committee after World War I.) Using echo sounding it provided the range and bearing of an enemy submarine.


Pendant (Hull) number: K181. Named after the Town of Sackville, New Brunswick

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Shipbuilding Co. Ltd., Saint John, New Brunswick. Laid Down: May 28, 1940; launched: May 15, 1941; commissioned: Dec 30, 1941; paid off: Apr 8, 1946

Modernization: In May 1944, Sackville underwent an eight-week refit in Galveston, Texas which greatly improved her capabilities as an anti-submarine escort. Her forecastle (foc'sle) was extended aft to make her more seaworthy and create additional living and working space for her crew. She was also fitted with a gyro compass (replacing her obsolete magnetic compass) which provided accurate bearings and drove compass-repeats throughout the ship, and the Hedgehog ATW (Ahead-Throwing Weapon).



Battle of the Atlantic Place – A new home for HMCS Sackville

"Battle of the Atlantic Place" is an innovative experiential centre. Guests will learn about Canada's decisive role in the most critical campaign of the Second World War, but they will also discover how a generation of Canadians, after being plunged into war, rose to a seemingly impossible challenge. They will emerge with a deep appreciation of the deeds of their forebears and an enhanced sense of their national identity as a Canadian. If Canada is to survive as a distinct national entity, it is critical that Canadian stories be told and national achievements celebrated.



The Design of Battle of the Atlantic Place

How does one tell a story as broad and far ranging as Canada's role in the Battle of the Atlantic?

The process of developing a concept design for the facility was started with a general call for expressions of interest. The responses came from ten consortia which brought together fifteen companies with the necessary skill and knowledge to develop a signature piece of architecture and an interpretive plan, which would effectively tell the amazing story. The project brief issued to all proponents had two main requirements. The first called for a structure that would be visually compelling and worthy of the prominent site it would occupy on an historic waterfront. The second called for an interpretive plan that would tell the full story and leave visitors with an appreciation of the struggle, sacrifice and dedication with which Canadians responded. The desire was to create an experience that would generate a sense of having been there.

Five of the ten consortia were selected to produce some preliminary concept work to flesh out their ideas. From these the jury selected one headed by Stantec Architecture

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Battle of the Atlantic to Canada and how the Country had come of age in economic, social and political terms. **The gallery will house HMCS Sackville**, the last Corvette (an escort convoy ship), and a Canso aircraft, both of which represent the most important factors in the Battle of the Atlantic. Before departing the complex visitors will pass through a memorial space that will pay homage to the almost five thousand Canadians who gave their lives in the Battle of the Atlantic and have no known grave.

Canadians are largely unaware of the legacy of the Battle of the Atlantic and the extraordinary achievements of so many ordinary Canadians, almost five thousand of whom gave their lives in the struggle. **Let us not forget the sacrifice of that great generation of Canadians** that did so much to build the Canada we enjoy today. It is important that future generations know of the deeds that shaped the character of our nation.

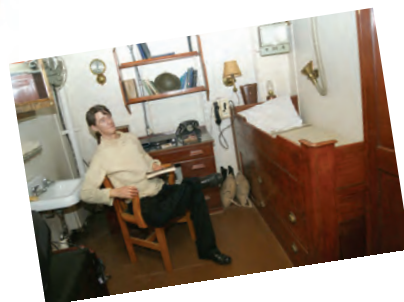
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No. 2 Construction Battalion

No. 2 Construction Battalion

The No. 2 Construction Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) — also known as the Black Battalion — was authorized on 5 July 1916, during the First World War. It was a segregated non-combatant unit, the first and only all-Black battalion in Canadian military history.

Black Canadians have a long and honourable tradition of patriotism, sacrifice and heroism in the British and Canadian Armed Forces. Following the outbreak of the First World War, Canadians flocked to recruiting stations. From Nova Scotia to British Columbia, hundreds of Black volunteers, eager and willing to serve, were turned away from enlisting in what they were told was a “White man’s war.” The No. 2 Construction Battalion was created after several appeals and protests to top military officials.



No. 2 Construction Battalion

History of Black Canadians in the Armed Forces

Black Canadians have long demonstrated loyalty to king and country by volunteering for military service. During the American Revolution (1775–83), the British Crown encouraged enslaved people to desert their American masters and join the British lines. Eager to escape the shackles of enslavement, thousands heeded the call and worked as labourers for the British, while others worked in combat units. The Black Company of Pioneers, for instance, was raised by the British and based in the American colonies — it served throughout the war.

During the War of 1812, Black soldiers helped defend Upper Canada against American invaders. A number of volunteers in the Niagara region were organized into the Company of Colored Men, who played an integral role in the Battle of Queenston Heights. Many Black soldiers in the War of 1812 were former slaves who escaped to Upper Canada to find freedom.

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HALIFAX

No. 2 Construction Battalion

By the 1850s, Black soldiers began receiving military honours for their bravery. William Neilson Hall was one of the first Canadians to be awarded the Victoria Cross — the British Empire’s highest award for valour. Hall, a Black seaman from Horton Bluff, Nova Scotia, risked his life in the relief of Lucknow, India, on 16 November 1857.

In 1860, before the American Civil War, approximately 600 Black people emigrated from California to Canada to escape racial persecution. They would settle in the colony of Vancouver Island. Unpopular with local residents due to the colour of their skin, they were denied the right to join the volunteer fire brigade and decided to organize a volunteer military force. Officially known as the Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps, the all-Black force was the first organized troop in the history of Western Canada.

First World War

Although Black men were not altogether welcome in the armed forces, there were those who served in a number of combat units during the First World War. This includes the 106th Battalion, Nova Scotia Rifles, CEF, which was authorized 8 November 1915. Recruits were drawn from Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. As the 106th Battalion began the recruitment process, protest erupted over Black volunteers.

Samuel Reese, a Black man from British Guiana living in Truro, was told he would only be accepted to the armed forces if he first recruited a certain number of Black soldiers. At the same time, Reese was referred to Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel W.H. Allen for enlistment in the 106th Battalion. Reese also reached out to Reverend William A. White for assistance. White was pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Truro, and he in turn appealed directly to Allen to assist young Black men with the enlistment process. Reverend White made a verbal agreement to put his efforts into recruiting Black men throughout Nova Scotia.

*Recruitment poster for the
No. 2 Construction
Battalion.
(courtesy Esther Clark
Wright Archives at Acadia
University/ 1900.237-
WWI/31)*



In December 1915, the federal government declared that enlistees could not be refused based on their race. This proclamation did not sit well with several White volunteers, who refused to sign up and fight alongside Black soldiers. As there was no official policy for discrimination, recruiting officers were ultimately responsible for selection. Allen felt strongly that a

continued ...



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No. 2 Construction Battalion

segregated battalion would be the best solution; however, from December 1915 to July 1916, approximately 16 Black volunteers were accepted into the 106th Battalion.

The Black soldiers were dispersed throughout the battalion's four companies. On 15 July 1916, the battalion left for England aboard the RMS Empress of Britain. As was common practice at the time, the 106th Battalion was broken up to provide reinforcements for front-line battalions that had suffered heavy casualties in France.



Two soldiers washing their uniforms, September 1916. Photo by Henry Edward Knobel. (courtesy Department of National Defence/Library and Archives Canada/PA-000667)

Other CEF combat units containing Black volunteers included the 25th Battalion, the 102nd Battalion, the 1st Quebec Regiment and the 116th Battalion. There are a number of battles in which Black Canadians fought, including the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the Battle of Passchendaele.

Two months after the outbreak of the First World War, the first contingent of Canadian troops arrived in Britain. Across Canada, large numbers of Black men were turned away at recruiting stations strictly on the basis of race.

Many were unwilling to accept this rejection and a battle for the right to fight for one's country began to take shape. Several Black leaders and White supporters began to question recruiting policies and practices. Concerns were addressed to the highest levels of both the civilian and military authorities. Defence minister Sir Sam Hughes and Major General G.W. Gwatkin received numerous letters requesting an explanation.

After receiving word from Hughes that those who so desired could form a platoon in any battalion, J.R.B. Whitney, Black publisher of the Canadian Observer newspaper in Toronto, offered to create a unit of 150 Black soldiers. Despite rigorous recruitment and great interest from Black volunteers, Whitney quickly discovered that officers stationed at headquarters were not willing to accept the platoon and adamantly ignored Hughes's memorandum.

The struggle to form a separate platoon went on for two years. Casualties were reaching alarming proportions overseas and there was a lack of reinforcements. The issue of rejecting Black volunteers had reached the floor of the House of Commons, and many were awaiting a satisfactory response.

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No. 2 Construction Battalion

On 11 May 1916, the British War Office in London called the governor general and expressed its willingness to accept a segregated unit.

The No. 2 Construction Battalion was formally authorized 5 July 1916 as a unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Due to the racial composition of the battalion, it was difficult to find a commander. Lieutenant-Colonel Daniel H. Sutherland, of River John, Pictou County, eventually accepted the position of Commanding Officer.

The battalion was granted special authority to recruit throughout Canada. Nova Scotia provided the largest group, with more than 300 recruits. Enlistments also came from the United States and the British West Indies.

Headquarters for the Black Battalion were first established at the Market Wharf in Pictou, Nova Scotia. On 9 September 1916, headquarters were relocated to Truro, Nova Scotia, as Sutherland felt the presence of a Black community would stimulate recruitment.

Reverend William A. White was appointed chaplain and given the rank of honorary captain. The Williamsburg, Virginia, native was reportedly the only Black commissioned officer in the Canadian military at that time.

Despite enthusiasm from hundreds of Black men, there was still great difficulty in recruiting the desired target of approximately 1,000 volunteers. This may be attributed to the rejection and humiliation Black men experienced when previously turned away at recruiting stations; the objection to serving in a segregated non-combatant labour battalion; and the exclusion of Black immigrants, especially in Western Canada.

In December 1916, Sutherland received word from Ottawa that the battalion was needed overseas immediately. Sutherland confirmed that the unit would be ready to depart the last week of February 1917.

Conscription

On 29 August 1917, the Canadian government passed the Military Service Act to reinforce depleted troops overseas. With some exceptions, the Act made every British subject between the ages of 20 and 45 who was, or had been, residing in Canada since 4 August 1914 liable for active service.

Black men, who were turned away from enlistment due to the colour of their skin from 1914 to 1916, were now subject to conscription. Those embittered by racism and discrimination refused to respond to this new law. Many of these men were plucked from the streets and held against their will if they would not enlist.

Forcing Black men to enlist contradicted the exclusion Black men initially faced, and many military authorities still wanted to maintain racial segregation. Despite training as infantry alongside White conscripts in Canada, many Black soldiers were placed in segregated units and assigned to labour duties upon their arrival in England.

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No. 2 Construction Battalion

Details on the Front

The Black Battalion embarked from Pier 2 in Halifax on 28 March 1917 aboard the SS Southland. Prior to dispatch, a high-ranking officer suggested the battalion be sent overseas on a separate ship without a naval escort to avoid offending fellow passengers. The motion was rejected and the 19 officers and 605 other ranks, along with 3,500 non-Black troops from other units, arrived in Liverpool, England, following a 10-day voyage through submarine-infested waters.



Loading Ammunition - Four members of the Canadian Corps pose with ammunition before loading it into tramway cars to be taken up the line. Most black soldiers who served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force remained segregated in labour units. Few were allowed to serve in combatant roles. (courtesy George Metcalf Archival Collection, Canadian War Museum/CWM 19930012-397)

As a construction unit, the battalion was tasked with non-combat support roles, which included building roads, railway tracks and bridges, defusing land mines to allow troops to move forward, removing the wounded from the battlefield and digging and building trenches.

In early May 1917, orders were received to downgrade the battalion to a company because it had fallen under strength. A battalion is generally comprised of 600 to 800 soldiers, and the battalion had lost a number of men who had fallen ill or lost their lives. The unit proceeded to France and the Swiss border, where it was attached to the Canadian Forestry Corps, CEF, and performed logging operations. The majority of soldiers served at Lajoux in the Jura Mountains, while smaller detachments joined Forestry units at Péronne, a commune of the Somme department in Picardie in northern France, and Alençon, a commune in Normandy, France.

*Soldiers, 1918
(courtesy
McCurdy
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No. 2 Construction Battalion

Legacy and Significance

The No. 2 Construction Battalion was officially disbanded on 15 September 1920. Their story represents a group of determined men who fought racism and discrimination at every turn for the basic right to serve one's country. While most soldiers returned home from war as heroes, the men of the Black Battalion didn't receive proper recognition until decades later.

On 12 November 1982, Senator Calvin W. Ruck and the Black Cultural Society of Nova Scotia hosted a recognition and reunion banquet held at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax for nine Black veterans of the First World War. Senator Ruck went on to write *The Black Battalion 1916–1920: Canada's Best-Kept Military Secret* (1986), a book that details the story of the No. 2 Construction Battalion and profiles its veterans.

Many veterans of the Black Battalion were buried in Camp Hill Cemetery in Halifax. Each grave was marked by a flat, white stone, forcing visitors to crouch down and grope the grass to find loved ones. In 1997–98, Senator Ruck successfully lobbied the Department of Veterans Affairs, and each soldier received a proper headstone and inscription in 1999.

Other commemorations of the battalion include a permanent monument on Market Wharf in Pictou, an annual commemoration ceremony in Pictou, and an official stamp launched by Canada Post on 1 February 2016 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Black Battalion. In addition, the film *Honour Before Glory* (2001), written and produced by Reverend William White's great nephew Anthony Sherwood, and the poem "Black Soldier's Lament" by George Borden — which has been published in Canadian and American Grade 10 textbooks — tell the story of the No. 2 Construction Battalion.



Members of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, 5 July 1920

The photograph above was taken at the dedication of a plaque in memory of the members of the No. 2 Construction Battalion, an all-Black non-combat battalion that served in the First World War. The plaque was (and is) in the main hall of Queen's Park in Toronto. Rev. Mrs. H.F. Logan and Rev. H.F. Logan, who spearheaded the campaign for the plaque, are at left of centre. Also included in the photograph are Rt. Rev. Samuel R. Drake, General Superintendent of the British Methodist Episcopal Conference; Ontario Premier Ernest Charles Drury; and Sir Henry Pellatt.

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Larry Vaincourt's classic poem was first published in his 1987 Remembrance Day newspaper column.



Larry Vaincourt's writings has been published across Canada, the United States and around the world. He was best known for his moving poem JUST A COMMON SOLDIER (A Soldier Died Today), which has been reprinted thousands of times worldwide. It has been featured in Ann Landers column, broadcast annually on national radio and appears on thousands of web site.

He published three volumes of prose and poetry, beginning with RHYMES AND REFLECTIONS. In July 2004 he published JUST A COMMON SOLDIER and Other Poems, a collection built around his most popular poem.

Born in upstate New York, Larry grew up as a farm boy in the rural setting of Covey Hill, Quebec, where he lived until he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II as a Leading Aircraftsman. After serving as an aircraft mechanic and part-time entertainer, he returned to Quebec in 1946. A varied career saw him working as a logger, news photographer (ABC News Pictures), civil servant and metallurgical photographer (Rolls Royce).

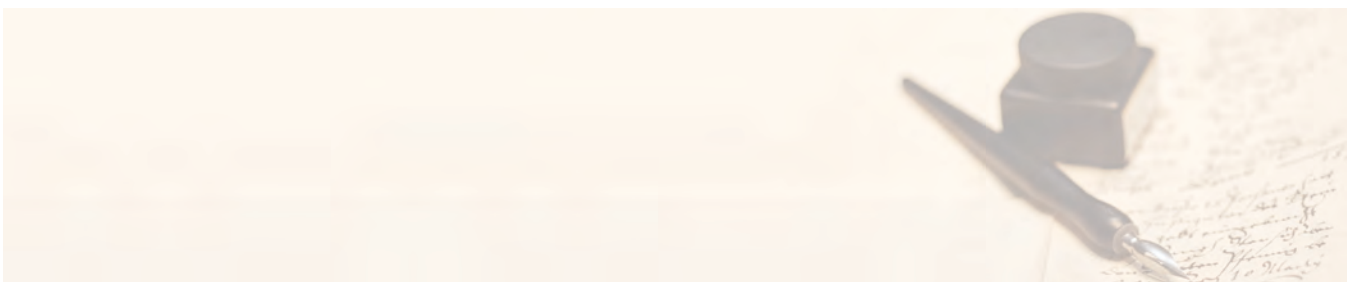
In 1963 Larry opened his own photo studio which he operated until 1983. After selling the business, Larry embarked upon his writing career first as a regular columnist for THE LACHUTE WATCHMAN.

Larry's prose and poetry were carried for over 20 years as a regular feature in the monthly journal DIALOGUE. For many years his poetry also appeared on the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) program FRESH AIR.

He and his wife Doreen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 1st, 2001. Larry received the 2004 Column of the Year Award from the Quebec Newspaper Association.

Larry passed away on April 20th, 2009, surrounded by his family. His son Randy now handles all business matters on behalf of his father.

Larry final book, HARPER'S HILL, was published in 2010.



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Just A Common Soldier

(A Soldier Died Today)

by A. Lawrence Vaincourt

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

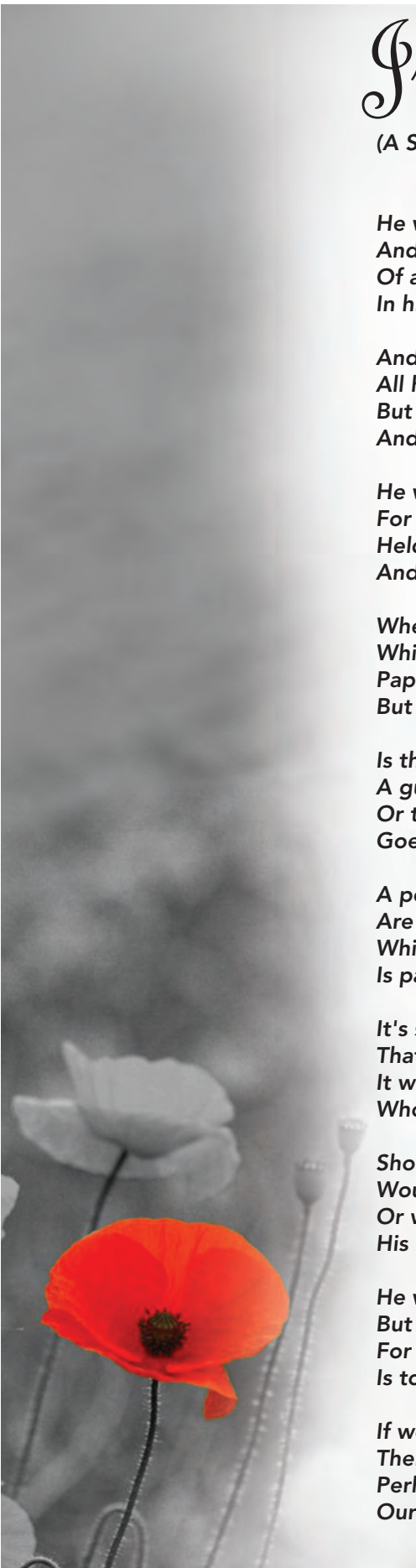
It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.

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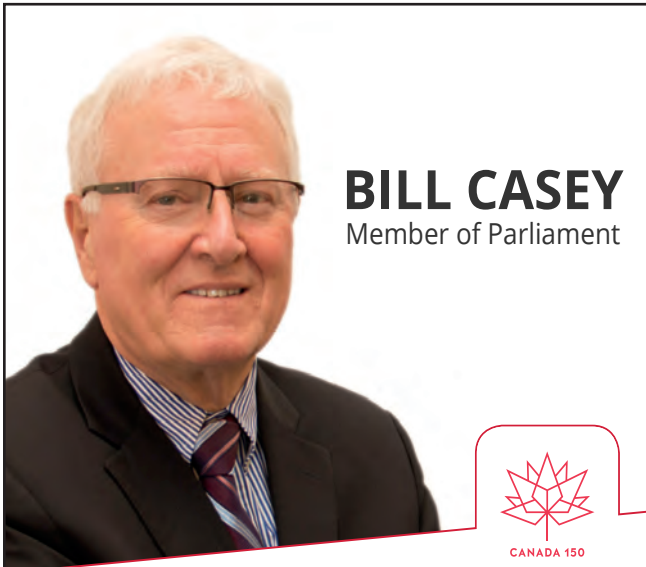
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The 25th Battalion - Nova Scotia Rifles

During the First World War, three Nova Scotian battalions saw combat in France and Belgium as distinct fighting units - the Royal Canadian Regiment, 85th and 25th Battalions. The Royal Canadian Regiment, based in Halifax, was the only unit in existence at the time of the war's outbreak. Having previously served in both the Northwest Rebellion (1885) and South African (Boer) War (1899-1903), its overseas deployment was delayed by a garrison assignment in Bermuda from September 1914 until August 1915. Upon returning to Nova Scotia, its members attested for overseas service with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), arriving in France in October 1915. The second unit, the 85th Battalion ("Nova Scotia Highlanders") was formed entirely by volunteer enlistment in a province-wide campaign conducted throughout the autumn and winter of 1915-16. After ten months of training in England, it was deployed at the front in February 1917.



25th Battalion Cap Badge

The third unit - 25th Battalion, "Nova Scotia Rifles" - is not as well-known as its counterparts, despite the fact that it was the first Nova Scotian regiment to see action at the front. It was officially authorized on November 7, 1914 under the command of Lt. Col. G. A. Lecain of Roundhill, Annapolis County, who immediately organized a recruitment campaign.

Regimental headquarters were established at the Halifax Armouries, with recruitment offices in Sydney, Amherst, New Glasgow, Truro and Yarmouth. Organizational efforts were hampered by a lack of suitable training facilities. Nevertheless, the battalion achieved full strength (1000 men) by late December 1914, with an additional ten percent "reserve" in training at the Armouries.

The 25th was not officially considered a "Highland" battalion, despite the fact that it included a kilted pipe band, nor was it was part of the "Highland Brigade" later recruited in Nova Scotia. Military officials later prohibited its members from wearing kilts, a decision that became a sore point with many of its members. In fact, the battalion possessed a strong "Highland" element. It had a historical connection to the British army's Seaforth Highlanders - the "Ross Shire Buffs" - a unit originally recruited by the chiefs of Clan MacKenzie. The 25th's official tartan was MacKenzie of Seaforth, proudly worn by its pipe band, and its members referred to themselves as the "MacKenzie Battalion" throughout the war. Its regimental march and assembly tune was the air "Mackenzie Highlanders" , leaving no doubt as to the unit's Scottish character.

Officially organized on March 15, 1915, the 25th Battalion mustered in front of Province House in April 1915 for a ceremony at which the people of Nova Scotia presented the regiment with two fully equipped field kitchens and the sum of \$ 2500 . On May 20, 1915, its members boarded HMTS Saxonia, disembarking at Devonport, England nine days later. The men traveled by train to Westenhanger, Kent, at which point they marched to East Sandling Camp, Shorncliffe in the early hours of the morning.



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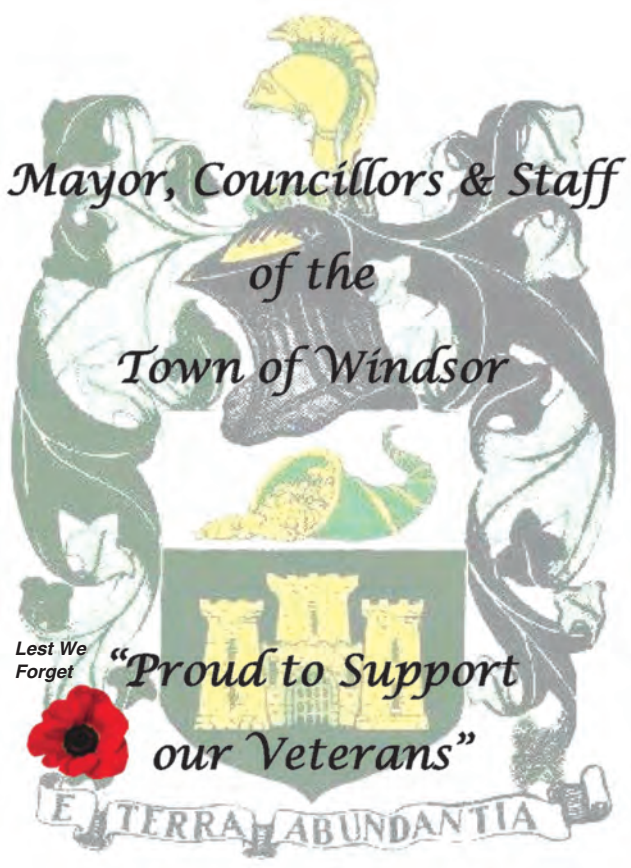
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Officers' Collar Badge

The 25th Battalion was assigned to the 5th Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division, along with the 22nd (the famed "Van Doos"), 24th and 26th Battalions. Brigade personnel was recruited entirely from Eastern Canada - specifically Quebec, Montreal, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia - and trained at Shorncliffe for three and a half months, eight hours a day, along with regular four-hour "night operations" training. On September 15, 1915, the 5th Brigade traveled from Folkestone to Boulogne, France, moving by train the following day from Port de Brieques to St. Omer, France. After a five-day march in their newly issued "Kitchener boots", the 25th reached the front lines in Belgium.

On the night of September 22-23, 1915, the "Mackenzie Battalion" took up combat positions near Ypres, Belgium, becoming the first Nova Scotian battalion to see combat in the war. The regiment spent its first "tours" in trenches H and I of the Kemmel Sector of the Ypres Salient, a strategic piece of high ground that protruded into German lines. Its members passed the autumn and winter of 1915-16 in this precarious location, gaining valuable experience "in the line". Their military skills would be severely tested in several 1916 battles.

In April 1916, the 25th was assigned to defend the front lines in a sector referred to as the "St. Eloi craters". The battalion moved into several large depressions created in late March 1916 when British forces detonated several large mines planted beneath the German front lines. The 25th occupied this precarious location in a rotation that lasted for almost six weeks. The lack of properly constructed trenches left the men dangerously exposed as they were subjected to hostile fire on three sides.

German forces attacked one crater five times during one particular night, but the battalion successfully repelled each assault. When finally relieved, the unit's manpower had been reduced to the point where soldiers from other regiments were brought in to assist in evacuating wounded personnel.



*25th Officers
Capt. William A.
Livingstone, MC
& Bar (left) and
Major Guy
McLean
Matheson,
DSO, MC, MM*

As with many other regiments, the members of the 25th sought diversions to distract them from the perils of their circumstances. While serving in Belgium, the battalion purchased a two-week-old goat from a Belgian farmer for the grand sum of two francs. Suitably named "Robert the Bruce" and trimmed in MacKenzie tartan, the animal served as battalion mascot for the duration of the war. The goat was trained to prance in front of the battalion's



continued ...



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pipe band, eat cigarettes, drink beer, and demand its blanket at "lights out". Apparently, the animal was repeatedly sold to Belgian farmers, only to be "retrieved" by the men under cover of darkness. At war's end, Robert the Bruce retired to a much deserved rest on the Baddeck, Nova Scotia farm of one of the battalion's most decorated officers, Major Guy McLean Matheson, MC, MM, DSO.

The "Mackenzie Battalion" spent 339 days in the treacherous Belgian trenches, 164 of which involved front line duty. Its reassignment to the Somme region of France in September 1916 may have come as a relief to the men, but this new locale proved to be just as treacherous as the muddy trenches of Belgium. On September 15, 1916, the 25th participated in an attack on Courcelette, moving through the town, establishing and holding new forward positions for several days before being relieved. In the early days of October 1916, the 25th Battalion took part in a series of attacks on Regina Trench, one of the most fortified German positions on the front lines.

The price of its Somme engagements was costly. By the time the battalion left the area, less than 100 of the men who had initially arrived in France with the unit were still available for duty. The regiment relocated to Lens, where it was reconstituted with reinforcements and undertook training in preparation for a return to the front.

The 25th spent the autumn and winter of 1916 - 17 in the Lens sector, where its soldiers honed their skills as "trench raiders". Its personnel captured enemy positions at Fresnoy and Arleux, France in February 1917, suffering severe casualties in the attacks. Several months later, the unit participated in the April 9, 1917 attack on Vimy Ridge, as well as the Second Battle of the Scarpe later that same month. On August 15, 1917, it played a key role in the Battle of Hill 70, withstanding a ferocious German counter-attack after participating in an advance near Cite St. Laurent. As part of the 5th Brigade, the battalion also took part in the final assault on the Belgian town of Passchendaele in November 1917.



25th Battalion brass buttons

In March 1918, the 25th relocated once again to northern France, where German forces launched a major "spring offensive". The battalion was assigned to the Mercatel-Vetasse sector during the assault. In its aftermath, the unit established a reputation as the "Master Raiders" of the Canadian Corps, carrying out excursions into enemy outposts on each tour of front line duty. On occasion, its soldiers ventured as far as three-quarters of a mile into German lines, earning the nickname the "raiding battalion" in recognition of their daring exploits.

By late summer, a major Allied assault was launched on German positions in northern France. The 25th was "in the line" at Amiens on August 8, participating in an attack that advanced a remarkable 12 miles in two days. Relocated to Berneville, near Arras, its personnel fought in the advance that continued throughout the month. After a brief two-day break in early September, the battalion returned to the front lines, where it remained until after the fall of Cambrai on October 9, 1918.

On November 9-10, 1918, the members of the 25th participated in what became its last combat action of the war - an attack on Elouges, a small mining town near Mons, Belgium. The battalion was scheduled to participate in an assault on Mons the following day when news of the



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11 am armistice arrived. Eight days later, the 25th began a lengthy march to the Rhine River as part of the Allied "army of occupation". The regiment crossed the German border at 10:08 am December 5, continuing to Bonn, where it crossed the Rhine at 10:47 am December 13, 1918.



Brass Insignia

After spending six weeks in Germany, the 25th returned to Belgium for a well-deserved rest. On April 9, 1919, the "MacKenzie Battalion" departed Belgium for Havre, France, where it boarded the Prince Arthur, a vessel that traveled from Boston, Massachusetts to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in the

years prior to the war. The regiment arrived at Southampton the following day and proceeded to Witley Camp, Surrey, where it encamped for one month. Finally, on May 10, 1919, the men of the 25th began the final part of their journey home, boarding the SS Olympic at Southampton with the rest of the 5th Brigade's battalions. The battalion was "mustered out" at Halifax on May 16, 1919 and officially disbanded on September 20, 1920.

Altogether, 263 officers and 4829 "other ranks" served with the 25th Battalion on the battlefields of France and Belgium. A total of 156 officers and 2557 "other ranks" were invalided as wounded or sick to England, and an additional 32 officers and 686 "other ranks" were killed in action during its tours of duty. Of its original personnel, only 2 commissioned officers and 96 "other ranks" were still with the unit at war's end. Unlike the other two Nova Scotian battalions that saw action in France and Belgium, the 25th Battalion was not perpetuated after the war. Its service record at the front remains as impressive proof of the sacrifices endured by the first Nova Scotian battalion to see combat in "The Great War".



This postcard shows men of the 25th Battalion marching through Halifax, carrying their Ross Rifles, ca. 1915.





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'Be Well Advised'

The 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion "Nova Scotia Highlanders"



The 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion "Nova Scotia Highlanders"

During the twelve months following the outbreak of the First World War, Nova Scotians enlisted with several military units, most notably the 17th, 25th, 40th and 64th Infantry Battalions. While each contained substantial numbers of "Bluenosers," several included recruits from other parts of Canada. The 17th Battalion, for example, contained members of the Seaforth Highlanders, a British Columbia regiment. Others, such as the 40th (Halifax Rifles), were built upon pre-war militia units and did not recruit across the entire province. The 64th was a "Maritime" unit initially established at Sussex, NB. While the Royal Canadian Regiment solicited recruits in the province, it existed prior to the war's outbreak as part of Canada's "standing army" and was based by coincidence at Halifax.

Nova Scotia raised only two truly "volunteer" units through province-wide recruitment. The first was the 25th Battalion, authorized on November 7, 1914. While headquartered at the Halifax Armouries, the unit established recruitment offices in all of the province's major towns and cities—Sydney, Amherst, New Glasgow, Truro and Yarmouth. The battalion departed for England on May 20, 1915 and was assigned to the 2nd Canadian Division's 5th Brigade shortly after its overseas arrival.

The 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion, officially authorized on September 14, 1915, was the second "volunteer" unit raised through province-wide recruitment. Commonly known as "The Nova Scotia Highlanders," its Scottish connections were readily apparent. The battalion included a pipe band, its

official air was the Scottish tune "The Cock o' the North," and its motto was the Gaelic phrase "Siol Na Fear Fearail" ("Breed of Manly Men"). Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Allison Hart Borden, the 85th established its headquarters at Camp Aldershot.




85th Battalion cap badge.

The battalion immediately launched a province-wide drive, during which each of its four companies targeting specific regions. "A" Company drew its personnel from Pictou, Colchester and Cumberland Counties. "B" Company covered the largest area, canvassing Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne, Yarmouth, Digby, Annapolis, Antigonish, Guysborough and Inverness Counties. "C" Company's ranks came from Halifax, Hants and Kings Counties, while "D" Company concentrated on Richmond, Victoria and Cape Breton Counties.

Within one month of its inception, military officials relocated the unit's headquarters to Halifax, where the battalion mobilized 200 men "over strength" on October, 14, 1915. "A" Company entered quarters in the

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The 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion 'Nova Scotia Highlanders'



Armouries, while the remaining three companies were accommodated in huts erected on the adjacent Common. Throughout the fall and winter of 1915-16, its recruits enthusiastically trained, in anticipation of orders to proceed overseas.

In early 1916, recruitment efforts expanded to include an additional three units—the 193rd, 185th and 219th Battalions—as part of the "Nova Scotia Highland Brigade". The 85th formed the Brigade's senior unit. As subsequent events unfolded, it was the only battalion to enter service as a unit, its three counterparts eventually dissolved to provide reinforcements for other battalions in the field.

The call to overseas duty finally came more than a year after the 85th's formation. On October 13, 1916, the 85th and its Brigade mates boarded HM Transport Olympic, "sister" ship to the famous Titanic, at Halifax. The four battalions safely crossed the North Atlantic and disembarked at Liverpool on October 19. At the time of its arrival in England, the 85th consisted of 34 Officers and 1001 "other ranks" (OR).

The battalion spent the autumn and early winter in training at Witley Camp, Surrey, eagerly awaiting orders to depart for France. Shortly after the dissolution of the Highland Brigade in December 1916, the 85th was on the move, crossing the English Channel on February 10, 1917 and completing its final training for service in the line at Gouy Servins, Bouvigny and Bouvigny Wood, France.

In March 1917, the 85th was officially designated a "working unit" and temporarily attached to the 4th Canadian Division's 11th Brigade. As its soldiers had no combat experience, the unit was assigned to "reserve" positions, in support of the Canadian Corps' assault

on Vimy Ridge. Its soldiers were to follow the advancing units, carry ammunition, construct dugouts, establish and maintain communication trenches, clear entangled wire and guard prisoners of war as the battle progressed.



Prime Minister Robert Borden reviews 85th's ranks (France, March 1917).

Despite the 85th's anticipated role, Lt.-Col. Borden insisted that his soldiers prepare for combat, its personnel training "over the tapes" on a model of the sector assigned to the 4th Canadian Division. Its Officers also received complete briefings on the plan of attack. As subsequent events unfolded, Borden's directives proved invaluable on the day of battle.

As the April 9 attack unfolded, the battalion's role changed significantly. While advancing infantry units successfully captured most of their initial objectives along the well-fortified ridge, German positions in front of Hill 145—the ridge's highest and most strategically important feature—withstood the initial artillery bombardment. Emerging from their dugouts as the 4th Division's 11th Brigade advanced up the ridge, the German soldiers held out against the 87th and 102nd Battalions and enfiladed

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As the overall success of the day's assault hung in the balance, Canadian commanders hastily discussed their options. Late in the afternoon, they selected the 85th Battalion's "C" and "D" to execute a direct assault on the strategic German position. At 6:45 p.m., the two companies advanced up the ridge without artillery cover, in the face of relentless machine gun fire. Dwindling German supplies and lack of reinforcements, combined with the determination of the assaulting troops, resulted in the position's capture and solidified the Canadian Corps' hold on the ridge. Two decades later, the Canadian government erected the Canadian War Memorial atop the exact location where the 85th's soldiers made their battlefield debut.

The entire 85th Battalion remained "in the line" on the newly captured ridge until relieved on April 14. Their first combat experience under their belts, the unit was permanently assigned to the 4th Canadian Division's 12th Brigade, where it served alongside the 38th (Ottawa), 72nd (Seaforth Highlanders of Canada) and 78th (Winnipeg Grenadiers) Battalions for the remainder of the war.



85th Battalion's colours.

The 85th's soldiers served a regular rotation in the trenches near Lens throughout the spring and summer of 1917. In October 1917, the battalion joined other Canadian personnel in

Belgium's treacherous Ypres Salient as the Canadian Corps prepared for its second major assault of the year—an attack on German positions along Passchendaele ridge.

The 85th's soldiers participated in the third phase of the attack, carried out from October 28 to November 2, 1917. Prior to the advance, "D" Company, consisting of Cape Breton recruits, responded to an enemy counter-attack. On the night of October 28, German infantry launched an assault during relief operations and seized a strategic portion of the front line. The 85th's "D" Company—the relieving unit—succeeded in recapturing the trench at a decisive point in the fighting, thus preserving the existing line.

Two days later, the 85th's "A", "B" and "C" Companies participated in the advance on Passchendaele village. "D" Company remained in support, entering the fight at a crucial moment and turning the tide in favour of the attacking forces. While the 85th succeeded in securing its objectives, the costs were considerable. Of the 26 Officers who entered the line at Passchendaele, 12 were killed and eight wounded, while 371 of the 662 OR who entered the trenches on October 28 were casualties by the time the battalion retired from the line on the night of October 31/November 1.

Its Passchendaele statistics represent the 85th's greatest "single tour" losses of the entire war. Several months after the November 1918 Armistice, a group of its soldiers returned to the battlefield where so many of their comrades were killed or wounded and erected a monument in their memory. The structure remains there to this day, its plaque engraved with the names of the soldiers killed in action during the Passchendaele tour.

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85th Battalion Passchendaele Memorial (April 2015)

The battalion's 1917 successes at Vimy and Passchendaele prompted other Canadian units to refer to the 85th as "The Never Fails". Throughout the following year, the unit served with distinction, participating in major battles at Amiens (August 8-11, 1918), Arras (September 2-5, 1918) and Cambrai (September 25 - October 2, 1918) during Canada's "100 Days." Its performance solidified its reputation as a formidable infantry unit and reliable component of the Canadian Corps.

Following the conclusion of hostilities, the battalion remained in Belgium until May 1, 1919, at which time its personnel returned to England. On May 3, the 85th's distinguished brass band and a detachment of its soldiers joined thousands of British and Imperial troops in the Great March of Triumph through

the streets of London. At month's end, the battalion departed England for Canada, arriving in Halifax on June 8. An estimated 60,000 Nova Scotians crowded the city's streets to witness its homecoming parade.



Photo courtesy of Robert Harvey, Lower Sackville

Lt. Col. James L. Ralston sits atop his horse as crowds cheer on the return of the 85th Nova Scotia Highlanders from the First World War on June 9, 1919. Joining the leader was Captain A.T. Croft (also on horseback) followed by Regimental Sergeant-Major A.S. Ward and Private Charles H. Harvey, Battalion Runner, on Halifax's Barrington Street, opposite Grand Parade.

85th Battalion's return to Halifax (June 1919)

While the unit was officially demobilized on the day of arrival, it took several days before all personnel were discharged. On June 15, 1919, the battalion's remaining members marched its regimental colours to Government House, where they were surrendered for posterity to the province's Lieutenant-Governor. On September 15, 1920, the 85th Battalion was officially disbanded by General Order, bringing to an end the story of its remarkable contribution to Canada's "Great War" service.





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The Victoria Cross

The Victoria Cross is the British Commonwealth's highest award for military bravery and 69 Canadians were recipients during the First World War, among them were four plucky soldiers from Nova Scotia. What follows are the accounts of how each of these four men won this highest honour that their King and country could award, as set out in official military citations.

Private John Bernard Croake, V.C.



His citation reads: "For most conspicuous bravery in attack when, having become separated from his section, he encountered a machine-gun nest which he bombed and silenced, taking the gun and crew prisoners. Shortly afterwards he was severely wounded, but refused to desist." Not long afterwards, back with his platoon, Private Croake encountered a very strong enemy machine-gun position. "Seeing an opportunity, he dashed forward alone and was almost immediately followed by the remainder of his comrades in a brilliant charge. Croake was the first to arrive at the trench line, into which he led his men, capturing three machine-guns and bayoneting or capturing the entire garrison." According to the citation, "The perseverance and valour of this gallant soldier, who was again severely wounded, and died of his wounds, were an inspiring example to all."

Private James Peter Robertson, V.C.

Robertson's citation says that he won his V.C. "...for most conspicuous bravery and outstanding devotion to duty in attack." According to the official record, "When his platoon was held up by uncut wire and a machine-gun causing many casualties, Private Robertson dashed to an opening on the flank, rushed the machine-gun and, after a desperate struggle with the crew, killed four and then turned the gun on the remainder, who, overcome by the fierceness of his onslaught, were running towards their own lines. His gallant work enabled the platoon to advance. He inflicted many more casualties among the enemy, and the carrying the captured machine-gun, he led his platoon to the final objective. He there selected an excellent position and got the gun into action, firing on the retreating enemy who by this time were quite demoralized by the fire brought to bear upon them. During the consolidation, Private Robertson's most determined use of the machine-gun kept down the fire of the enemy snipers; his courage and his coolness cheered his comrades and inspired them to the finest efforts. Later, when two of our snipers were badly wounded in front of our trench, he went out and carried one of them in under very severe fire. He was killed just as he returned with the second man."



continued ...



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The Victoria Cross

Lieutenant-Colonel Phillip Eric Bent, V.C.



His citation reads: “For most conspicuous bravery, when during a heavy hostile attack, (the men on the) right of his own command and the battalion on his right were forced back. The situation was critical owing to the confusion caused by the attack and the intense artillery fire. Lt. Col. Bent personally collected a platoon that was in reserve, and together with men from other companies and various regimental details, he organized and led them forward to the counter-attack, after issuing orders to other officers as to the further defence of the line. The counter-attack was successful and the enemy was checked. The coolness and magnificent example shown to all ranks by Lt. Col. Bent resulted in the securing of a portion of the line which was of essential importance for subsequent operations. This very gallant

officer was killed whilst leading a charge which he inspired with the call of, “Come on the Tigers.” Sadly, Lt. Col. Bent has no known grave and is commemorated on the memorial wall at Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium.

Private John Chapman Kerr, V.C.

The citation reads: “For most conspicuous bravery, during a bombing attack he was acting as bayonet man, and, knowing that bombs were running short, he ran along parados (an earth dike behind the enemy trench) under heavy fire until he was in close contact with the enemy, when he opened fire on them at point-blank range, and inflicted heavy loss. The enemy, thinking they were surrounded, surrendered. Sixty-two prisoners were taken and 250 yards of enemy trench captured.” The citation notes that, before carrying out this very plucky act one of Private Kerr’s fingers had been blown off by a bomb. “Later, with two other men, he escorted back the prisoners under fire, and then returned to report himself for duty before having his wound dressed.” Happily, John Chapman Kerr survived the war and lived to be 76. He passed away in 1963.



“ *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.* ”



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We Remember

Vimy Ridge

April 9, 1917



An honour guard member dressed in period uniform stands in front of the National War Memorial.

Since the fall of 1916, the powerful Canadian Corps had been holding trenches facing Vimy Ridge. The 15-kilometre-long escarpment controlled the flat countryside around it, although the chalk ridge rose gradually to only a height of 147 metres.

Three enemy divisions held the Vimy sector, with 10 battalions either in the front lines or immediate reserve at any one time. The Germans had created two strong defensive lines along the ridge: one that followed the forward slope and another farther back, mostly behind the crest.

Further to the rear, a third line provided defence in depth. Between the trench lines several heavily fortified positions hid in villages, farms and woods.



*Canadian soldiers dug in at Vimy Ridge in 2017.
(CP File)*



continued ...

All together

For the first time since the four divisions of the Canadian Corps had come together the previous fall, they would attack simultaneously. In early January, the Canadians began an intense period of preparations and rehearsals unequalled in previous attacks.

Behind their front lines, the Canadians constructed detailed scale-models of German positions based on aerial photographs. On it, every unit from platoon to battalion rehearsed its role in the assault. Previously maps had only been given only to officers, but now ordinary soldiers received them. At the tactical level, the ideas of 1st Division commander Maj.-Gen. Arthur Currie were put into practice, the result of his discussions with British and French commanders.

Battalions would no longer walk line abreast across no man's land. Instead, sections and platoons would use their own firepower to work their way around enemy positions. Confidence and morale rose accordingly.

The Canadian plan called for all four divisions to attack in four phases, based on the location of German positions and the ground to be covered. Four successive colour-coded lines — black, red, blue and brown — ran up and over the ridge from west to east.

The four divisions, some 36,000 strong, were to assault on a frontage of about seven kilometres, to an average depth of around three kilometres. From north to south, the divisions were lined up in reverse numerical order — 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st.

The leading infantry battalions moved forward to their assembly areas on the evening of April 8 — Easter Sunday — many using 13 tunnels painstakingly hacked into the chalk. All units were



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in location by 4 o'clock on the morning of Easter Monday, some only 100 metres from forward German outposts.

The soldiers settled down as best they could in the frosty pre-dawn to await the artillery barrage. The previous evening's mildness had been replaced by cold squalls of hail and sleet. Everyone was soon chilled to the bone.

At 5:30, 983 Canadian and British guns and mortars opened fire as two huge mines exploded under the German lines. This was the signal for 15,000 men in 21 battalions — the first attack wave — to go over the top. They advanced across open ground towards their objective in driving wind, snow and sleet, following closely behind a creeping artillery barrage.

As some battalions moved forward, machine-gun fire momentarily checked their progress. But they soon surged forward and to the flanks, overcoming enemy strong points by bayonet and bomb.

“Winnie” McClare

In the thick of it, Private Percy “Winnie” McClare of the 24th (Victoria Rifles) Battalion kept his head down while fighting across the cratered, machine-gun swept landscape. McClare had enrolled six weeks after his 17th birthday, but only after begging his mother to sign the consent form.

Although born in Boston, he was the first of eight children raised by Canadian-born parents who moved back to Nova Scotia. By early 1914 they had settled on a farm at Mount Uniacke.

Telling the recruiters he was 18, McClare joined the 63rd Regiment Halifax Rifles in April 1915. He trained on McNabs Island, where he was happy to have the company of two American cousins who had also enrolled.

In July 1916, all three boys sailed to England, where — much to their disappointment — they were separated into different units. McClare entered the trenches for the first time a day before the April battle.



Captured German soldiers help a wounded Canadian soldier (centre) during the Battle of Vimy. (AP File)



The Canadian National Vimy Memorial in Vimy, France. (AP/Michel Spingler)





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Muddy Easter Monday

During the attack, the young soldier was focused on survival, but in the back of his mind that stormy Easter Monday was the letter he had recently written to his mother, Gertrude, describing the French farmhouse in which he had been billeted. He ended the letter by stating he had not received any mail, but would “be mighty glad to get it.”

Advancing with the third wave of infantry, McClare and his buddies helped destroy determined enemy soldiers hidden in tunnels, who patiently waited for the initial waves of infantry to pass by before popping up and attacking them from behind. Suddenly, the young private was hit by shrapnel, but bravely carried on.

By 6:14, McClare’s battalion had fought to the first line. Half an hour later the 25th (Nova Scotia Rifles) Battalion passed through according to plan. With two pipers leading, the Nova Scotians captured German positions in the second line.

For the three southernmost divisions, the attack unfolded largely as planned and by mid-afternoon had taken all their objectives. Only in 4th Division’s sector did the attack get bogged down, largely due to the strength of Hill 145 — the highest point on the ridge — and nearby Hill 120, known as the Pimple.

Although the raw 85th (Nova Scotia Highlanders) Battalion captured Hill 145 in an attack that night in its very first battle, it took until the morning of April 12 before the Pimple could be captured.

When the battle ended, the Canadians had captured more ground, prisoners and equipment in one day than in all the Allied offensives of the previous two and a half years. But the cost was high, with 3,598 men killed out of 10,602 casualties.

The elite

The corps instantly became the darling of the British press and firmly established its reputation as elite storm troops.

McClare survived the battle; not bad for a soldier with limited experience. Six days later he welcomed the arrival of 21 letters and a parcel of gum. On April 16, he sat down in the mud to write a reply. It displayed remarkable prescience for a young soldier:

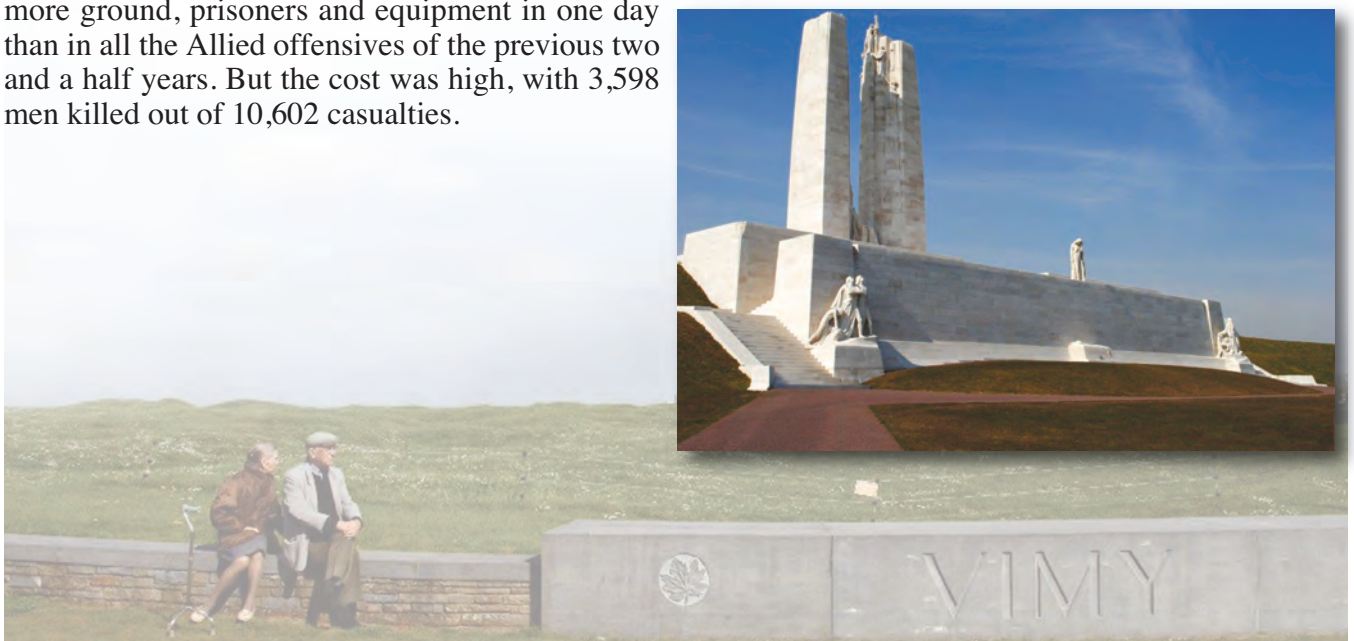
“My dear mother . . . I have been in the trenches for nine days and it is impossible to write up there. You have no doubt heard before this of the big advance of the Canadians and the capture of Vimy Ridge. I was in the whole of that battle and it was hell. I got a small splinter of shrapnel through the fleshy part of my shoulder. It was very slight . . . It was some battle and I am glad to say that I was through it, as it will be one of the biggest things in Canadian history.”

Before closing, McClare asked for some socks and anything else “in the line of eats,” but “please fix the parcel up good.”

Five weeks after he had survived one of the most important battles in Canadian history, McClare was reported killed in action.

Because his body was never found, his name is among the 11,285 Canadians inscribed on the soaring Vimy memorial who were killed in France but have no known grave.

It sits atop Hill 145, on the ridge young Winnie McClare helped to capture.





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Wounded at Vimy Ridge: *A Nova Scotia son's story*

MACK FRAIL

Published April 8, 2017



Some of Wallace Frail's memorabilia, including the button he was most proud of and his helmet.

My father, Wallace Frail, was a student at Acadia College in 1916 when he decided to join the Canadian Army.

He enlisted on Feb. 23, 1916, at the recruiting office that was on Main Street in Wolfville. He joined the 85th Nova Scotia Highland Battalion and trained at Camp Aldershot.

On Friday, Oct. 13, 1916, the 85th Battalion sailed from the port of Halifax for England on the Olympia, a sister ship to the Titanic. They were sent to Camp Bramshott and were described by a British officer as "the finest body of troops ever sent over from Canada".

Before Wallace served on the front lines during the Battle of Vimy Ridge, he was transferred to the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment (Black Watch). The Royal Highland Regiment was an infantry regiment that began in Scotland in 1751 and served in many parts of the world.

During the First World War, the members of the 42nd Black Watch were described as a "hard-fighting, indomitable force" through such battles as Mount Sorel, Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, Amiens, Arras, and Mons, to mention a few. Canadian soldiers relieved the British soldiers serving in the trenches below Vimy Ridge several months before the attack took place on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917.

My father's account was that the battle was well planned and every soldier knew what he was to do. I have my father's notebook where he marked in the battle positions. The battle was planned to begin at 5:30 a.m. on April 8, but because it was Easter Sunday it was postponed for 24 hours at the request of the French.

The reason expressed was that "it was nauseating to contemplate the horrors that the representatives of two Christian nations would inflict on each other

continued ...



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at a time of Easter festivities, each believing that they were right”.

I have a copy of the letter my father wrote to his mother after he was wounded by a German bullet during the battle. It describes the night of April 9, 1917, when they were sheltered in the tunnels waiting to take their positions on the front lines.

Wallace mentions the calmness of his comrades before and as they prepared themselves, then went over the top of the trenches in a single body to advance toward the German lines. He also mentions the terrific noise of the artillery barrage.

He rarely talked about the war, especially to his children, because his memories could cause him to become emotional. He made an effort to forget about his wartime experiences and to avoid the memories that were upsetting to him.

His friend Earl Eaton fought in France during the First World War and came regularly to our home to visit with my father. Late in the evening, after my siblings and I had retired to our bedrooms, my dad and Earl would talk about the war. I would quietly leave my bedroom and listen, sitting unseen on the stairs. Some of the memories they shared and I overheard as a young child were upsetting to me.

Wallace describes in his letter to his mother that it was late in the day of April 9, 1917, and he was in a shell hole with his lieutenant. When he rose up to fire his rifle towards the German defences, he was wounded in his right hip. The German bullet entered the front of his hip and exited without causing irreparable damage. He was helped from the battlefield by a German prisoner of war, who he referred to as a “Hun”. He was sent to Birkenhead, England, to a temporary hospital that was formerly a school. Miss Mabel Isaac was 17 and a girl guide volunteer at the hospital where she had attended school. Mabel was a member of the First Rock Ferry Girl Guide Troop, formed by Lady Baden Powell. She met Wallace when she was giving out apples to the wounded men.

Wallace returned to France and was wounded again, this time by a German bullet that entered his right shoulder and exited his back. He was sent back to England to recover from his wound and to spend time with Mabel Isaac.

The temporary hospital was turned back into a school after the war and the students are still told the story about a Canadian soldier who met and fell in love with a former student. Wallace and Mabel exchanged many letters across the Atlantic before her arrival on Oct. 24, 1921, in Halifax, where they were married.

A German artillery shell landed close enough to Wallace that he was thrown about 50 feet, triggering the shellshock that kept him out of the battles towards the end of the war. The shrapnel that went through his right ear was a close call that could have ended his life.

When Wallace attended Acadia in Wolfville, he was a member of the track team and a very good sprinter and long-distance runner. I recall overhearing a conversation with Earl Eaton concerning his officer explaining to him that he could remain behind the lines and become involved with sports to entertain the troops. Wallace declined his offer, stating that he wanted to go to the front with his comrades.

I think of him as a hero who expected no recognition or glory for defending his country. He was proud of a badge, in the form of a brass button, with the words “for service at the front” that he wore on the lapel of his suit.

In the centre is an enamel Union Jack in the form of a Tudor shield, and on the bottom are the letters C.E.F., for Canadian Expeditionary Forces. The medal was awarded to those who had seen service on the front lines during World War One.

I treasure this medal that was worn with pride by my father. Among his medals from World War One, it is the only one he displayed.

continued ...



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Wallace received an invitation from the minister of veterans affairs in Ottawa to attend the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge celebrations in France in 1967. He was pleased to attend, displaying the medal that was awarded for service on the front.

Wallace returned to Centreville, Kings County, where he made a home with his wife, Mabel, and where they raised a family of eight children. I am the only one of their five sons who did not serve in the military.

Wallace experienced unfair treatment because he was a war veteran, referred to as a 'return man'. He was refused employment because of a policy, in effect, not to hire return men because they were not physically able to do a proper day's work. Many in the community were unsympathetic concerning his symptoms of shellshock.

He outlived Mabel by 17 years. He and I lived together in his home in Centreville until the last three years of his life, when he lived at Camp Hill Veterans Hospital in Halifax.

He had two strokes that occurred about a year apart and left him in a state of dementia that progressed to where he was not speaking. He was in this condition when I went to visit him on Remembrance Day, 1982.

The nurse on his ward suggested I should take him downstairs where Remembrance Day celebrations were taking place. We got off the elevator downstairs, with Dad in his wheelchair, and he appeared to be enjoying the celebrations.

It was the Black Watch piper, who entered the room wearing his kilt and full attire, that brought the terrible memories of the war back to him.

Although Wallace had not spoken for several months, he broke down and kept repeating several times, "I remember, I remember".

I took him back upstairs where the sounds of the bagpipes could not be heard to remind him of his terrible experiences.

It was an upsetting experience for me to realize that hearing the sound of the bagpipe in his weakened condition — a sound that would have been familiar to him when he was in the trenches — released the horrid wartime memories he had tried so hard to forget.

Wallace and Mabel struggled to raise a family of eight children. Wallace's plans to further his studies were disrupted by the war and he was not able to return to Acadia, mostly because of his nerve problem from shellshock. On three occasions between the early 1920s and early 1930s, he was admitted to Ste. Anne's Hospital in Ste.-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec, for treatment relating to shell shock.

Wallace adjusted to cope with his disabilities and was an upstanding resident of Centreville. He was involved with the Baptist Church, where he served in various capacities, and after serving as a deacon he was appointed honorary deacon.

He worked very hard to make ends meet. The \$10 pension he received from the Canadian Department of Veterans Affairs, because of his wounds, paid the mortgage payment on our family farm.

Mabel, my mother, died Aug. 29, 1967, age 66, and Wallace, my father, died Feb. 17, 1984, age 93. They are buried in a family plot at Lakeview Cemetery in Billtown, Kings County, Nova Scotia.

*Mack (Malcom) Frail lives with his wife Sheila in Centreville, Kings County, where he operated Frail's Valley Nursery and Garden Centre for 50 years before retiring in 2010. A local historian, he is the author of *The History of Centreville Kings County* and writes a column, *Story From the Family Farm*, for his community paper.*






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William Hall

HALL, William (baptized William Neilson), sailor and farmer; born on 25 April 1829 in Nova Scotia, possibly in Horton Bluff (Lockhartville), one of several children of Jacob and Lucinda Hall; died unmarried on 25 August 1904 in Avonport, NS.

William Hall grew up on the banks of the Avon River. His father, one of the black refugees brought to Nova Scotia during the War of 1812, became a sailor and worked at the shipbuilding yards at Half-Way River (Hantsport). In 1844, young William joined the crew of a vessel sailing out of Half-Way River, and during the late 1840s he apparently served in the American navy. Hall enlisted in the Royal Navy as an able seaman in February 1852, and he was in the battleship *Rodney* for four years. During the Crimean War, he took part in the siege of Sevastopol (Ukraine) as the captain of a gun in the siege batteries, and he was present at the battle of Inkerman. In 1856, he was assigned to the frigate *Shannon*.

When the Indian Mutiny broke out in May 1857, the *Shannon* was sent to Calcutta. Naval reinforcements were urgently required to assist the British army, and Hall was one of the seamen and marines from the *Shannon* who were formed into a naval brigade and sent as part of the force marching to the relief of Lucknow, then besieged by mutineers. On 16 November 1857, the expedition arrived before the town. Two 24-pounder guns crewed by the *Shannon's* men were set the task of breaching the walls of a mosque which was a strong point of the defence. Within a short time the six men of one gun crew had become

casualties, and of the second only Hall and Lieutenant Thomas James Young were standing. The two worked the gun in a storm of bullets, firing until a breach had been made and British troops had passed over the walls. Their gallantry contributed materially to the lifting of the siege, and they were successfully nominated for the Victoria Cross. Hall was presented with the award on 28 October 1859, the first black, the first Nova Scotian, and the first Canadian sailor to receive the decoration. By that time he had become captain of the foretop.

Hall retired on 10 June 1876 with the rank of quartermaster and a certificate of good conduct, and he settled on the family farm near Hantsport. When interviewed in 1900 the ageing man thought little of his glories or the Victoria Cross. As he said, "It isn't worth very much . . . after all, only ten pounds a year. If it wasn't for my regular navy pension of forty pounds a year besides, I don't know how we'd get along here. The farm is small, and my two sisters live with me." In October 1901, he emerged briefly from obscurity when he was presented to the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall during their visit to Halifax. Upon his death Hall was buried without honours at Lockhartville. In 1945, his remains were reinterred in the grounds of the Hantsport Baptist church, and in 1947 a commemorative cairn was erected by the Canadian Legion on land it had purchased. The cairn is one of a number of memorials, several of them created by the black community of Nova Scotia, which perpetuate the name of William Hall, vc.



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Harold Stanley Ingraham

Harold Stanley Ingraham was born on November 23, 1905 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Harold was the proud son of Ira James Ingraham and Ida G. Shaw. Harold had two brothers, Arthur Lewis (eldest) and Allen Lebert Ingraham, who grew up in Fairview. Harold married Georgina Elizabeth Hurshman on September 23, 1924. They had three sons: Robert Norman, Arthur Lebert and Ira James Ingraham, who all resided in Carrolls Corner, NS. Harold was almost 35 years old when he felt it was his “duty” to join the fight and took the oath on June 13, 1940 with the Platoon of Fusiliers Infantry Corps.

Private Ingraham embarked from Halifax on October 26, 1942 on the SS Queen Elizabeth for the United Kingdom. Private Ingraham was listed with the Algonquin Regiment RCOC. Harold was taken on strength from X-4 list 13 Battalion into the field on October 22, 1944. A struck off strength from his Battalion was received on October 25, 1944 stating he had been killed in the line of duty while in Belgium. Those who had the privilege to know Harold miss him dearly and those who did not, respect and hold his sacrifice in the highest regard. Lest We Forget.



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Herman Melanson

In 1939, Herman Daniel Melanson was a single, young man living in Doucetteville, Digby County, Nova Scotia. This was a time of depression with little or no work so Herman left Nova Scotia for New Brunswick in search of employment. In September 1939, a radio announcement completely changed his life. England had declared war on Germany!

So, at the age of 23, he joined the Carlton York Regiment and was sent to Camp Borden in Ontario for basic training. Private Melanson was trained as an infantryman and learned to use the Bren gun and the machine gun. It was not long before he was sent to Debert, NS, then to Halifax and several days later he was aboard a ship on his way to Liverpool, England.

After a short stay in England he was off to Algiers, Africa where he fought under the command of General Montgomery whom he admired greatly and was very proud when he had a chance to shake his hand. It was in Algiers that Herman learned that German General Rommel was a force to be reckoned with.

Private Melanson left Africa with his regiment for the invasion of Italy. Upon arriving they seized the local airport although the Italians had already surrendered to the British forces and they were now fighting only the Germans. Herman fought in many battles in Italy and witnessed many of his comrades being killed or wounded. In Ortona, his company sergeant had been shot and killed as Herman laid beside him. Bullets flew all around him with one finally wounding him in the shoulder. A medic helped him crawl about 100 yards or more by coaxing and urging him on or he would have been taken prisoner as many others were. His Officer, Lt. LeBlanc, stood during this fierce battle and ordered his men to move on, but when Herman hollered to get down, they got down, but the Officer did not and died of bullet wounds.

Herman's mother received the telegram notifying her of her son's wounds, but it took an additional 36 days before she learned how seriously he was hurt. Herman was treated for his wounds and sent to the British/Canadian 14 General Hospital in Naples. Following several more surgeries and a short term of therapy, he was returned to his unit at the front.

Herman remembered vividly when the Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini, was captured, executed and hanged by his feet in the city square along with his mistress.

In 1945, after a few days of very little information and very little food to eat, and only the ground to sleep on, Herman's company was informed that the war in Europe was over. He and his comrades were sent back to England where they waited for a ship to return them to Canada. After his return, he was transferred to a base in Cornwallis, NS where he found work to be difficult because he was suffering from the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. He married Gladys Pulley in 1956 and they had one daughter, Isabel, and one grandson, Alan Herman.

During the time that Herman's daughter was growing up, she felt something wrong with her father so she went to DVA and discovered that her father was receiving a small pension for the wounds he received but nothing had been done regarding his mental condition. After years of searching, Isabel finally received her father's military medical records and discovered that his diagnosis was written as "suffering from PTSD", thereby making him eligible for a disability pension.

After 53 years, Herman Melanson finally received the pensions he was due, but retroactive for only three years.

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Lawrence Maxwell Parker

Lawrence Maxwell Parker was born on May 27, 1924 in South Farmington, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia. In April 1941, a month away from his 17th birthday, while still a high school student, he enlisted in the army.

Max was sent to Halifax where he became a member of the Princess Louise Fusiliers D Company. His company was sent to Aldershot, NS for about three to six months where they were trained to use Vickers machine guns. They also spent a few months in Mulgrave, NS and then finally sent to Debert, NS.

While in Debert, Max was promoted to Lance Corporal and then to Corporal, and was sent to Woodstock, Ontario for a driver-mechanics course. On his return to Debert, he became a driving instructor and was promoted to Sergeant.

Max's company was sent overseas in March 1942 on the luxury liner Queen Elizabeth which had been converted to a troop carrier and was on its first voyage in that capacity. They landed in Glasgow, Scotland and travelled by train to Aldershot, England. They continued their training at Boxhill, using flamethrowers on bren-gun carriers. A few months later, D Company was sent to Italy by ship and landed in Naples.

A few stories stood out in Max's memories of the war. One night he had dug a slit trench, and afterward laid down in it and was gazing up at the stars. He thought about home and how much he would like to see everybody. A moment later, he turned over on his left shoulder to get more comfortable, and a large piece of shrapnel landed right where his head had been and buried itself about eight inches into the ground.

A few months later, Max was driving an officer to look for a new position from which to shell the enemy. They came to a railway crossing and as the tracks in Europe are built very much higher off the ground, he decided not to cross but to

drive into an olive orchard beside the tracks and wait for the rest of the trucks that were following. Max decided to go for a stroll as he waited and that is when he noticed a sign written in German that said "Minefield". By this time the first truck was already making the turn into the orchard and before he could call out a warning the truck struck a mine with one young soldier in the truck being killed. A second truck also hit a mine but with no casualties. Then Max had to make his way back through the orchard to his Bren-gun carrier and the officer. No one volunteered to go with him, as you might imagine, but he went in and drove it out safely.

A few weeks later, just before the Battle of Monte Cassino, D Company were given a 72-hour break from the front lines. On Sunday morning at breakfast, Max said to one of the other guys that he had a feeling they would be back in action that day. Around 10:00am, the officer in charge left and when he returned he announced that they were moving out to a new position.

By 4:00pm, they had set up their headquarters in a large building, which had a courtyard with a roof over it. In the main part of the building were the headquarters and the kitchen. Everyone was pretty well settled in and Max went to the door where the cooks were setting up to see if he could help them. They accepted his offer and the next thing Max remembered was a huge blast and the whole roof came down on him. He believes it took him about 15 to 20 minutes to dig himself out of the rubble and when he did he realized he was covered in blood. Max spent the next seven months in 14 Canadian General Hospital in Italy. He was repatriated back to England on April 26, 1945 and spent some time in hospital there.

Max came home to Canada on the last trip the Queen Elizabeth made as a troop ship, in 1945. They disembarked in New York and travelled by train to Halifax. After another checkup in a Halifax hospital Max was released and came back home to the Annapolis Valley – his career as a soldier was finished.

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George Lawrence Price

The last Canadian soldier to die in action in the First World War was a 26-year-old private from Nova Scotia. His name was George Lawrence Price.

Price was born in Falmouth, Nova Scotia, on 15 December 1892, and raised in what is now Port Williams, Nova Scotia. He moved to Moose Jaw Saskatchewan as a young man, where he was conscripted on 15 October 1917.

Price was serving with the 28th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was shot dead at 10:58 am on 11 November 1918, just 2 minutes before the Armistice was due to go into effect. Not only was he the last Canadian to die, he also had the tragic distinction of being the last fatality of the British Empire during that terrible conflict which claimed almost 10 million lives, including 67,000 Canadians.

According to records, the 28th Battalion had orders for 11 November to advance from Frameries (south of Mons) and continue to the village of Havre, securing all the bridges on the Canal du Centre. The Battalion advanced rapidly starting at 4 am, pushing back light German resistance and they reached their position along the Ville-sur-Haine by 9 am where the Battalion received a message that all hostilities would cease at 11 am.

Price and fellow soldier Art Goodworthy were worried that the Battalion's position on the open canal bank was exposed to German positions on the opposite side of the canal where they could see bricks had been knocked out from house dormers to create firing positions. According to Goodworthy, they decided on their own initiative to take a

patrol of five men across the bridge to search the houses. Reaching the houses and checking them one by one, they discovered German soldiers mounting machine-guns along a brick wall overlooking the canal. The Germans opened fire on the patrol with heavy fire but the Canadians were protected by the brick walls of one of the houses. Aware that they had been discovered and outflanked, the Germans began to retreat. A Belgian family in one of the houses warned the Canadians to be careful as they followed the retreating Germans. George Price was fatally shot in the chest by a German sniper as he stepped out of the house into the street. He was pulled back into one of the houses and treated by a young Belgian nurse who had ran across the street to help, but he died a minute later at 10:58 am, 11 November 1918.

Incredibly, even that close to the end of hostilities, Price was not the last Allied soldier to die in the First World War. That unfortunate historical footnote belongs to Henry Gunther, a U.S. soldier who was shot and killed in the Argonne region of France at 10:59 am.

Ironically, the actual Armistice which ended the war was signed at five o'clock that morning by British, French and German officials meeting in Paris. They decided not to make it effective until 11 am, a delay of six hours, to make sure front-line combatants on both sides had received the news. It was a costly delay in terms of human lives. By one estimate, that final six hours of fighting resulted in almost 11,000 casualties, more than those suffered by the Allies during the first day of the Europe (D-Day) invasion during the Second World War.



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Remi Saulnier

Remi was born in 1937 in Clare, NS. He joined the RCAF in 1956 and received his pilot wings at Portage La Prairie in 1958. His first operational posting was 2 (F) Wing, Grostenquin, France. On his return to Canada in 1961, he served with 129 Test and Ferry Flight for three years in Calgary and two years in Trenton. From 1966 to 1969 he served as a recruiting officer in Montreal. In 1969 he returned to operational flying on the CF-5 with 433 ETAC in Bagotville. From there, he was posted to Valcartier in 1971 as the first Commanding Officer of 5 Tactical Air Control Unit. After attending Staff College in Toronto Brigadier-General Saulnier was appointing Commanding Officer of CFS Chibougamau. With the formation of Air Command in 1975, he was appointed Executive Assistant to the Commander in Winnipeg. From 1977 to 1979, he served as Commanding Officer of 441 Squadron in Baden, Germany on CF-104. On his return to Canada in 1979, he was appointed Base Operations Officer at CFB Bagotville. He was promoted to

Colonel in August 1982 and was posted to the National Defence College in Kingston. From 1983 to 1986 he was the Base Commander of CFB Lahr in Germany. Upon his return to Canada in July 1986 he served as Chief of Staff Northern Region Headquarters North Bay. In May 1987 he was promoted to Brigadier-General and posted to a Command Director position at NORAD Headquarters in Colorado Springs. In August 1988 he was posted to Langley AFB, Virginia where he held the Deputy Command position of the CONUS NORAD Region. In that capacity he was the second in Command responsible for the air defence of the Continental United States. During his service, he accumulated a total of 5,500 flying hours and was qualified on 21 types of aircraft including the French Mirage, the F-15, F-16 and F-18.

*Submitted by Earl Francis Spryfield Memorial Branch #52,
The Royal Canadian Legion*

Knights of the air was a name used for these brave souls that flew the planes during the war. Many made the supreme sacrifice.

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BOYLES, Charles Burton “Charlie” WWII

Charles Burton Boyles was born on November 21, 1916 in Eureka, NS and raised on Boyles Point near Trenton. Charlie was a radio operator with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders serving on the front lines of France, Belgium and Holland. He was very close to his brothers, Ben and Fraser, who served at the same time. After two years without contact, he dropped into a pub in Belgium. A friend came to the door and called out, “RED”. Half the pub responded with “YEAH”. He called out again, “RED BOYLES” and the three brothers shouted back. They were overjoyed to see each other. A fourth brother working at a nearby motorpool was called. They asked to borrow a jeep. The jeep arrived complete with brother Cliff, who began his complaining and off they went. Ten minutes later the jeep was demolished. They left the jeep and

Cliff behind. They continued on their way to celebrate their day of good fortune. Charlie passed away by accident on February 5, 1955 at age 78. Ben passed at age 80. Fraser is still going strong at 96. And “OLE RED CLIFF” passed away at 96 – still complaining about the jeep. Charlie was a member of the Legion in Trenton, NS until he died.

Submitted by Family



DEVILLER, Thomas Albert WWII

Thomas was born on January 16, 1915. He served overseas during World War II with the 1st Canadian Division, Royal Canadian Signals Corps in England, Sicily, Italy, North Africa and the Northwest Europe campaigns. He continued his military service after World War II as a Regimental Sergeant Major with the local Artillery Unit, the 84th Field. Thomas was awarded the Canadian Efficiency Medal for long and efficient service and was presented with his medal at a full parade of the 14th Field Regiment at the Armories, with Brigadier W. D. King, O.B.E., E.D., CRA 5th Infantry Division presenting the medal. Thomas served in the 6th Armoured Car Regiment Signal Troop prior to World War II. He was called out for service in August 1939, enlisted on September 2, 1939 and served throughout the entire period of the war. After discharge from active service on November 29, 1945, he served with the post-war 84th Field Regiment and was a valued and popular instructor in the 152nd

Battery. His decorations include: 1939-1945 Star, Italy Star, France and Germany Star, the Defence Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp, the War Medal 1939-1945, the Coronation Medal, the Canadian Decoration (CD) and the Efficiency Award with Two Bars (EM). A four-time President at Yarmouth Legion, Branch 61, Tom was awarded the Legion’s highest award, the Palm Leaf to Meritorious Service Medal on December 1, 1992. Tom passed away on July 30, 2008.

Submitted Independently

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GAUDET, Ronald

WWII

Ronald Gaudet had an interesting military career. He reported for duty in 1940 at Yarmouth for Army training. This was the first group to train under the new regulation. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force on February 18, 1941 as a pilot recruit and reported to the Toronto Exhibition Grounds for basic training before being posted to Trenton airbase for guard duty. At the Eglington Hunt Club, he took initial training as pilot and was posted to #9 E.F.T.S. at St. Catherines, ON and trained on the Fleet Finch biplane and advanced to #6 S.F.T.S. at Dunnville, ON. There, his training was on the Yale and Harvard and after eighty hours was awarded his wings and transferred overseas. He arrived at 59 Operational Training Unit at Crosby-on-Eden on December 8, 1941 and trained on Hurricanes. On February 20, 1942 after 42 hours on “Hurries” he was ready for operational flying. He was assigned to the Middle East and joined 80 Squadron RAF on August 10 and flew Hurricane 2C aircraft until January 2, 1943. He returned to England on

medical grounds; flew “Hurries, and Defiants to train gunners on ships and tanks along the south coast of England and was posted to 53 Hibaldstow, Lines and flew the Spitfire for seventeen hours and posted to 83 G.S.V. at Bognor Regis and trained on the Spit IX for eight hours. On September 30, 1944 he was posted to 443 Squadron at Grave, Holland and returned to Canada on medical grounds. He enlisted in the Signal Corps in December 1950 as a radio mechanic and was posted to 1 Airborne at Kingston, ON, took the jump course and received his wings. He changed his trade to telemech and went to the cipher depot at Vimy Barracks at Kingston. He was discharged due to age in 1969. He is a member of Freeport Legion Branch 92.

Submitted by Freeport Branch #92, The Royal Canadian Legion



JONES, Donald Allan “Don”

WWII

Donald was born in Star City, Saskatchewan, the son of the late Robert E. Jones and Ethel B. Mitchell in 1941. Born into a farming family, he spent the first nineteen years of his life working the land. In 1959, he joined the military which began an illustrious 37-year flying career with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) initially as a Radio Officer then for most of his career as a Tactical Navigator on the Argus, the Aurora, and while on exchange at RAF St. Mawgan, Cornwall on the Nimrod from 1970 to 1972. Don flew into all of the NATO Maritime Patrol bases in North America and Europe. An avid aviator, he volunteered to serve on Sea King helicopters rather than being posted to a non-flying position. From 1979 to 1981, he was the Helicopter Detachment Commander aboard HMCS Huron. While so serving he obtained a Watch Keeping certificate, a rare feat for an aircrew member. A natural leader with outstanding tactical skills and excellent teaching abilities he held the highest of respect from the Anti-Submarine-Warfare community. As a

result he, along with a few others, became the first Aurora navigators to become Crew Commanders, a position normally held by pilots. On retirement, he was the Chief Aircrew Instructor at the Maritime Patrol and Training Squadron. He accumulated almost 13,000 flying hours, earning the VP International Gold Pin awarded for accumulating 8760 hours, one full year while airborne to support Maritime Operations. He also received the NATO and the Canadian Volunteer Medal. Don passed away on February 14, 2017.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #60, The Royal Canadian Legion



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MacKEIGAN, William “Bill”

WWII

Bill was born in Sydney Mines on September 15, 1916. Bill enlisted with the Cape Breton Highlanders in 1937. Along with his brother Johnny, Uncle Albert and many of his friends he was assigned to Company “C” and they trained locally. As a member of the reserves he was immediately called upon when war broke out in 1939. He spent the first years of the war guarding local strategic installations and maintaining coastal watch. In November 1941 he was sent overseas where the Highlanders were merged into the 5th Armoured Division. Bill was deployed to Sicily and subsequently served in Italy, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. As a driver with the 5th Armoured, Bill regularly transported supplies to the front lines; these loads often made him a choice target for the enemy. On one occasion he and a friend were spared when an armour-piercing

round hit the pavement between them and ricocheted away without detonating. After the war, Bill worked in sales for various concerns and eventually opened his own business “Cape Breton Trailer Sales” which he operated until his retirement in 1989. He and his wife Irma had four children. Bill was a Life Member of Armstrong Memorial Branch 19 of The Royal Canadian Legion in North Sydney for sixty years. Bill passed away in 2016.

Submitted by Armstrong Memorial Branch #19, The Royal Canadian Legion



MILLER, Duncan Edward

PEACETIME

Duncan joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1965. He served as Commanding Officer of HMCS Cowichan, HMCS Nipigon, the Canadian Forces Maritime Warfare Centre and the First Canadian Destroyer Squadron. During the Gulf War in 1990-91, he commanded Canada’s Naval Task Group and served with distinction as Commander of the sixty-ship Allied Combat Logistic Force. His staff appointments have included that of the Privy Council Office’s Defence Advisor to the Prime Minister, Director General Policy Operations in NDHQ and Commander Canadian Defence Liaison Staff London where he was also Defence Advisor to the Canadian High Commissioner. In September 1977, he was promoted to Rear-Admiral and in October 1997, Rear-Admiral Miller was appointed Commander Maritime Forces Atlantic. In December 1998, he was appointed Commander in the Order of Military

Merit. Rear-Admiral Miller has co-authored a book with Ms. Sharon Hobson of Jane’s Defence Weekly concerning the Canadian Navy’s involvement in the Gulf War entitled “The Persian Excursion”. He and his wife, Ann, have three children all born in Halifax in the 1970s.

Submitted Independently



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RUSSELL, William John
WWI & WWII

William was born on June 30, 1899 in Francis Harbour, Labrador. He was a coal miner in Glace Bay, Cape Breton. William served in both the First and Second World Wars. In World War I, he enlisted in the 185th Canadian Infantry Battalion (Cape Breton Highlanders) at the age of sixteen, serving as a private. He served in France with the 73rd and 42nd Battalions. With the 42nd, he fought during the Battles of the Last Hundred Days. At Amiens, he destroyed an opposing machine gun pill box, allowing the company to advance. He also served as a runner, delivering messages between his company and Battalion Headquarters. On one occasion, he stayed on duty for 72 hours under conditions of poison gas attacks. For these acts he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Military Medal. These actions are described in

the book *The 42nd Battalion, C.E.F. Royal Highlanders of Canada in the Great War* by Lieut.-Colonel C. Beresford Topp, D.S.O., M.C. During World War II, he served in a variety of postings, including a POW camp housing German soldiers. He was a member of the Glace Bay Legion. William died in 1968 in Glace Bay from miner's lung.

Submitted Independently



SUTHERLAND, Daniel H. **WWI**

Daniel was born in River John, Nova Scotia in 1878. He studied engineering at McGill University and worked as a railroad contractor before enlisting with the 193rd Battalion, Nova Scotia Highlanders. On July 5, 1916 he became the Commanding Officer of the newly formed No.2 Construction Battalion, Canada's first and only predominately black Battalion. The officers were white with the exception of Hon. Captain William A. White, chaplain, one of very few black officers in the British Empire. Daniel recruited men from across Canada, the highest number came from Nova Scotia, and as well, men came to join from United States and the British West Indies. The original headquarters were in Pictou, NS, moving three months later to Truro, NS to larger accommodations. The Battalion sailed from Halifax, NS to Liverpool, England on March 25, 1917 during the height of enemy

submarine warfare in the Atlantic. In England training continued, until they were sent to France in May. In France they were sent to assist the Forestry Corps, in the Jura region. Here they supported the war effort by logging, milling and shipping timber. They built and maintained roads needed to transport the heavy traffic demand and they also built and maintained the water pumping stations and water lines needed for camp life. They served their country well. This is the 100th Anniversary of the Battalions' formation and it is finally receiving the recognition it and its men deserve. In February, Canadian Post designed a stamp to honour the No.2 Construction Battalion's role in Canadian history. Daniel was a member of the Legion Branch 108 before he passed away in 1977. He is buried in Bellevue Cemetery in River John.

Submitted by Family

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ACKER, Elthan St. Clair

WWII

Elthan was born in Kingston, Nova Scotia in 1924. He was the son of the late Perley and Effie (Freeman) Acker. Elthan served in the Canadian Army as a Bren gun carrier driver during World War II in France, Germany and Italy. He received the France and Germany Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp and NATO Medal. Elthan retired as a Branch Manager with Irving Oil in Kingston. Elthan passed away on July 25, 2013. He was a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Kingston Branch 98.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion

ANDERSON, George Arthur **PEACETIME**

George was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1931. He joined the Air Force with the Air Defence Command. He served in Canada within Halifax and Chatham in Peacetime. He was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp as well as the Defence Medal.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion



ANDERSON, Jordan

AFGHANISTAN

Jordan was born in Iqaluit, Nunavut in 1982. He grew up in Pelly Bay, Tuktoyaktuk where he attended elementary school, and Inuvit in the Northwest Territories. Jordan completed high school in Wilcox, SK, where he was an avid rugby and football player. Corporal Jordan Anderson was a member of the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry based in Edmonton, Alberta. He was only 25 years old when he and six other soldiers died when their armoured vehicle struck a massive roadside bomb near Kandahar, Afghanistan on July 4, 2007. He loved parachuting and was close to earning a political science degree and wanted to pursue a master's degree in strategic studies.

Submitted by Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command, The Royal Canadian Legion

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ANDREWS, Fulton Kerr

WWII

Fulton was born in South Branch in 1921, son of Stanley and Jennie (Fulton) Andrews. He joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1941 and served in various ships. His service took him to points in Canada, the UK, the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean. He completed his service as Stoker, Petty Officer. Fulton was wounded onboard ship once and was nearly swept overboard. He married Verna White of Musquodoboit, and later married Edith (Hutchison) Higgins. He lived most of his adult life in the Musquodoboit Valley and was appointed an assessor for Halifax County and retired in 1981 as Director of Assessment. He was a lumberman and also operated a small canteen for a time. Fulton passed away in 2008.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

ANGEVINE, Ewart Mansfield
WWII & SPECIAL DUTY AREA

Ewart was born in Wallace, NS in 1925. He was the son of the late Oliver and Matilda (Mingo) Angevine. He joined the Army in 1939 with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders and served in England, France, Germany and Italy until 1945 during World War II. He was awarded with the 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, CDN Volunteer Medal and Clasp, Defence Medal and Holland with Bar. He was a member of the Legion Wallace, NS and Branch 60 Pugwash. Ewart passed away on May 11, 2012.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion



ARENBURG, Lawson G.

WWII

Lawson was born in Bridgewater, NS and served with the 30th A.A. RCA in the Atlantic. He received the 1942-1945 Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. Lawson passed away on April 4, 2007.

Submitted by Bridgewater Branch #024, The Royal Canadian Legion

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ASHFORD, Jack Floyd
SPECIAL DUTY AREA & PEACETIME

Jack was born in Yarmouth, NS in 1936. He joined the Air Force with the Armament, Maintenance and Weapon Tech. He served in Summerside, Torbay, Greenwood, Germany, Cold Lake and Shearwater in Peacetime and Special Duty Area. He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, NATO and Defence Medal. Jack passed away in 2017.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion

AYRES, Annie Elizabeth “Bessie”

WWII

Bessie was born in Stellarton, NS in 1919. When World War II began, she and her husband, Ernie, along with four children were living in Upper Stewiacke working for the Foster family. Bessie left each of the four children with a different family and enlisted, serving overseas in England. When the war ended, she returned to Nova Scotia before her husband and got all the children back together. Ernie and Bessie lived their retirement years in Berry Hill. She passed away in 2006.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



AYRES, Ernest George

WWII

Ernest was born in England in 1913 and came to Canada at age 16. He was working for the Foster family in Upper Stewiacke when World War II began and he enlisted in 1939, serving overseas in England, Africa, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. His wife, Annie, also served overseas in England. After the war, they lived in the Halifax area before retiring to Berry Hill. Ernest passed away in 1992.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



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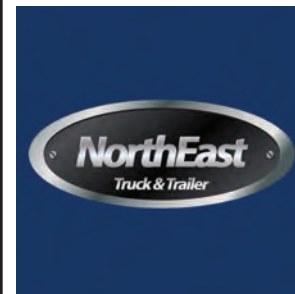
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BAKER, Victor "Buzz"

WWII

Victor was born in 1916 in Yarmouth, NS, and enlisted in the Canadian Infantry, serving in Canada and Europe from 1941-1945. Victor, "Buzz," returned to Yarmouth where he worked until his death. He enjoyed his cottage in Carleton, where he and his family spent many summers.

Submitted by Carleton Consolidated Branch #167, The Royal Canadian Legion

BARRETT, John Alfred

WWII

Alfred, son of Richard and Myrtle (Pratt) Barrett of Upper Stewiacke Village, was born in 1915 and was a Lance Corporal with the 4th Canadian Armoured Division serving in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He married Marguerite Fraser of New Glasgow and lived in Truro, then in Upper Onslow. Alfred worked on the railroad for twenty years and then opened a Radio and TV repair shop in Truro. He passed away in 1986.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



BATEMAN, Cecil

WWII

Cecil was born in Liverpool, England on August 5, 1926. He joined the British Army in 1944 and served in the United Kingdom. After the war, he came to Canada and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force as an Air Navigator, retiring in 1972. Cecil was a resident of Middleton, NS until his death on June 22, 2006.

Submitted by Middleton Branch #001, The Royal Canadian Legion

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BEACH, Bernard Charles

PEACETIME

Bernard was born in Halifax, NS in 1926 and served in the Canadian Army (Active Force) in Canada. He was a member of the Calais Branch #162 for 20 years. He passed away in 2006.

Submitted by Calais Branch #162, The Royal Canadian Legion

BEATON, Duncan Joseph

WWII

Duncan was born in Scotch Lake, NS on May 26, 1925. He enlisted in the Army on January 5, 1944 with the Nova Scotia Highlanders and served during World War II in Halifax and Canada until his discharge on April 18, 1946. He was a member of the Legion Branch 53. Duncan passed away in 2005.

Submitted by Normandy Branch #034, The Royal Canadian Legion



BENTLEY, John Douglas

WWII

John, son of Abram and Flora (McCarthy) Bentley of Otter Brook, was born in 1907. He joined the Royal Canadian Navy and served four years as a Chief Petty Officer mostly overseas. After the war, he lived in Mount Uniacke and sold insurance. He was a founding member of the Mount Uniacke Volunteer Fire Department and served on both the East Hants Municipal Council and the East Hants School Board. In 1981, the school board named the J.D. Bentley Memorial Gymnasium at the Mount Uniacke School in his honour. He passed away in 1978.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society





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BENVIE, Irene Mae

WWII

Irene Mae, daughter of John Will and Janie (Dean) Benvie of Cross Roads, was born in 1920. She joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (Women's Division) and was stationed in Halifax and St. Hubert, Quebec, during World War II. After the war, she married Carl Sidney Fleck, son of Sidney and Janie (McCulloch) Fleck of Middle Stewiacke, and they lived in New Brunswick. She passed away in 1956.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

BLAIKIE, George Morrison

WWII

George, son of Roy and Edna (Fleming) Blaikie of Upper Stewiacke Village, was born in 1921. He went overseas with the Signal Corps in 1943 and served in England, France and Germany. He married Dorothy Shipley of Glasgow, Scotland. He returned to Nova Scotia in 1946 with Dorothy and settled in Upper Stewiacke, where George worked at Blaikie Brothers Lumber Mill. He passed away in 1993.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



BOUTILIER, Kenneth Rudolph

WWII & KOREA

Kenneth, son of Lloyd and Marjorie (Webster) Boutilier of Middle Stewiacke, was born in 1925. He tried to enlist at the beginning of World War II but was found to be underage. When he became of age, he joined the Royal Canadian Navy and served in the Corvettes crossing the Atlantic. He also served in the Korean War. Kenneth passed away in 2005.

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BREMNER, William Frederick DesBarres

WWI

William was born in Halifax in 1859. He joined the North-West Mounted Police in 1884 and arrived outwest in time to witness the suppression of the “North-West Rebellion” between the Métis and their First Nations allies against Canadian government forces. When the 112th Battalion was activated at Windsor in 1915, with broad recruitment across western Nova Scotia, Bremner volunteered and quickly became a Major and second-in-command. After training on the grounds of Fort Edward in Windsor, this battalion arrived in England in 1916, but did not see combat. After many soldiers were sent to reinforce other units on the continent, the 112th was merged into the 26th Reserve Battalion. William suffered from bronchitis in 1917 and was invalided back to Canada and released from service. He retired to his fruit farm at Castle Frederick in Falmouth, Hants County. William passed away in 1933.

Submitted Independently

BRENTON, Walter Campbell

WWII

Walter, son of William Clark and Irene May (Goodwin) Brenton of Cloverdale, was born in 1918. He enlisted in 1940, serving in Canada, England, France, Belgium and Germany. He married Marion Campbell in 1946 and lived and farmed in Stewiacke East. He passed away in 1984.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



BROWN, R. Denis

SPECIAL DUTY AREA/PEACETIME

Denis was born in Wallace Bay, NS in 1933. He joined the Army with Europe NATO Administering and Middle East Peacekeeping. During his 28 years in the Army, he served in Canada, the Middle East and Europe. He received the Canadian Long Service Medal 2 Rosette, Special Service Medal (NATO), Middle East Medal and Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. He was a ten-year member of Peace Legion Branch 60 in Pugwash, NS. Denis passed away in 2016.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion



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BROWN, Harold C.

SPECIAL DUTY AREA

Harold was born in 1932 and served in the Air Force as a Rank Corporal as a peacekeeper in Egypt. He received the UNEF (Egypt) Medal, Peacekeeping Medal, and Good Conduct Medal for 12 years and 22 years of service. Harold passed away in 2003.

Submitted by Calais Branch #162, The Royal Canadian Legion

BURRIS, Jeannie McBean

WWII

Jeannie, daughter of Ewan and Jane McBean of Liff, Scotland, was born in 1914. She enlisted as a WREN in the British Navy. She met Laurie Burris at a friend's wedding and they were married in Dundee, Scotland in 1945 and settled in Middle Stewiacke, where she remained for several years after Laurie's death. She passed away in 2000.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



BURRIS, Laurie Bernard

WWII

Laurie, son of Fred and Lucy (Dartt) Burris of Beaver Brook, NS was born in 1916, and was a private in the Canadian Forestry Corps, 13th Company working as a truck driver in Scotland. He married Jeannie McBean of Liff, Scotland, and returned to Nova Scotia with Jeannie to farm in Middle Stewiacke, until his death in 1953.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

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CAMPBELL, John Hartley

WWI

John was born on June 25, 1883, son of William Scott Campbell and Jessie Cameron of Campbell Hill, Scotsburn, Pictou Co., NS. Sergeant John Hartley was a member of the 85th Battalion, Nova Scotia Highlanders, CEF. He was an architect and builder in Boston and came home to enlist. He was wounded in the battle of Vimy Ridge. He married Rose Edith Seguin in Halifax in 1920. They had one son Scott C. Campbell. They lived in Providence, Rhode Island where Hartley was employed as a construction superintendent. He died at the Gander Air Force Base on his way home to Providence after having just completed a project in Argentina, Newfoundland.

Submitted by Family

CAMPBELL, George Burriss **WWII**

George, son of Hugh and Emma (Burriss) Campbell of Middle Stewiacke, was born in 1910. He enlisted in 1941 with the Royal Canadian Army Corps and served overseas. In 1948, he married Anna Sophia Christina Bosveld (called Fie) of the Netherlands, whom he met while serving in that country. They lived and farmed in Middle Stewiacke. He passed away in 1975.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



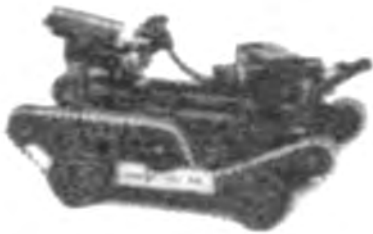
CAMPBELL, Marion

WWII

Marion, daughter of Hugh and Emma (Burriss) Campbell of Middle Stewiacke, served three and a half years as Leading Aircraftswoman with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Canada and Newfoundland. She married Walter C. Brenton of Cloverdale and lived and farmed in Stewiacke East. She passed away in 1987.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

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CANN, Malcolm

WWI

Malcolm was born in 1895 in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. He was one of the first Canadian servicemen to die in combat during the Great War. Malcolm was in the first class of cadets to graduate from the Royal Naval College of Canada in Halifax in 1913. A Midshipman, he temporarily joined the British fleet. Sadly, he and three other Nova Scotians serving onboard HMS Good Hope died at the Battle of Coronel on November 1, 1914, off the coast of Chile. The others were Arthur Silver and William Palmer of Halifax, and John Hatheway from Granville. Malcolm was just nineteen. He is honoured on the Halifax Memorial in Point Pleasant Park, dedicated to those who died in the World Wars with unknown graves. Malcolm passed away in 1914.

Submitted Independently

CARDOZA, George Charles

BOER WAR

George was born in Bethnal Green, London, United Kingdom in 1884. He served with the 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) in South Africa. He received the Queen's South Africa Clasp, Cape Colony, Transvaal South Africa 1902. He was a Life Member of Digby Branch #020 of The Royal Canadian Legion. George passed away in 1967.

Submitted by Digby Branch #020, The Royal Canadian Legion



CHAMBERLAIN (MacLELLAN), Catherine E. WWII

Catherine was born at Bay St. Lawrence, NS in 1922. She served at Army Trades School in Hamilton, Ontario. Catherine passed away in 1962.

Submitted by St. Peter's Branch #047, The Royal Canadian Legion



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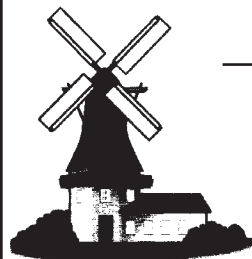
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**CHAPLIN, Homer Grant****WWII**

Homer was born in Otter Brook in 1925, son of Stanley and Gertrude (Flemming) Chaplin of Middle Stewiacke. He served with the occupation forces in Holland and Germany for four years. After the war, he married Anna Urquhart and settled in Truro Heights and worked as a lumberman. He passed away in 1983.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

CHAPLIN, Lewis Everett**WWII**

Lewis, son of Stanley and Gertrude (Flemming) Chaplin of Middle Stewiacke, was born in 1921, and enlisted in 1942, serving with the Canadian Army Signal Corps. He married Olive Warnell of Halifax, and settled in Waterloo, ON where he worked for the Globe Furniture Company. Lewis passed away in 2005.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

**CHAPMAN, Robert "Bob"****WWII**

Bob was born in Dorchester, New Brunswick in 1923. He served in the Air Force during World War II and in Special Duty Area in France, Belgium, Holland and Greenwood. He was awarded the France and Germany Star and the Holland Liberation Medal.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion

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CHASE, Brian David
SPECIAL DUTY AREA & PEACETIME

Brian was born in Sackville, New Brunswick in 1951. He joined the Air Force with the Engineers (Construction) and served in Canada, United Nations, NATO and Egypt Emergency Force. Brian was awarded the UNEF Medal, CD and NATO. He is a member of the Peace Legion Branch #060 and has been for 22 years.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion

CHUTE, Colin Douglas

WWII

Colin, son of Colin Campbell and Christy (Clark) Chute of Middle Stewiacke, was born in 1925. He enlisted in 1944, and went overseas in June of that year. He was wounded in Italy and spent some time in hospital. He recovered and came home on furlough, but his health deteriorated and he died in a Halifax hospital in 1945.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



CHUTE, George Edward

WWII

George, son of Colin Campbell and Christy (Clark) Chute of Middle Stewiacke, was born in 1924 and took his training in Lachine and Jarvis and graduated from St. Jeans, Quebec in June 1943. He went overseas the following month and served with the 49th Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force as a Pilot Officer (air bomber). He was killed in action over Essen, Germany on March 26, 1944 and is buried in Rheinberg War Cemetery in Germany.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

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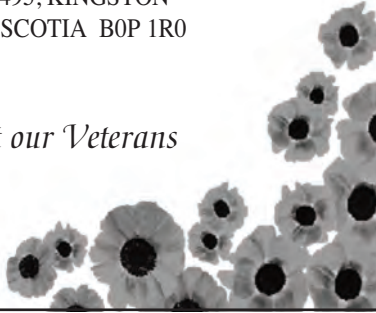
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CLARKE, John

WWII

John was born in Truro, NS in 1913, son of John B. and Laura (Linkletter) Clarke, and went overseas with the 1st Contingent in 1939. He was married overseas to Beryl Jones of Ogmore Valley, South Wales, who he met in London. After the war, John was employed with the Department of National Defence at Windsor Park, Halifax. He and Beryl moved to South Branch in 1973. He passed away in 2000.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

COLBURNE, Richard Alan

WWII

Richard, son of Willard and Olive (Patriquin) Colburne of Middle Stewiacke, was born in 1924. He enlisted with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders in 1943 and went overseas in 1944 with reinforcement units and served in France, Belgium and Holland. He was killed in action on February 26, 1945, while serving with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, RCIC in Holland. He is buried at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society




COLEMAN, Vincent

WWI


Vincent was born in Halifax, NS in 1872. He was a civilian train dispatcher who saved hundreds of lives during the Halifax Explosion in 1917. On December 6, 1917, the Belgian relief vessel Imo and French munitions ship Mont-Blanc collided in the harbour, igniting the world's largest man-made explosion up to that time. Approximately two thousand people died with thousands more injured and homeless. Vincent died in the blast, while his north-end neighbourhood was completely devastated. While working at Richmond railway station, Vincent learned of the danger and frantically sent telegraphs warning incoming trains to stop. Heroically, he sacrificed his own life to save others: "Guess this will be my last message. Good-bye boys". Vincent's wife and children survived but their home was destroyed.

Submitted Independently



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COLEMAN, Glenna Marie SPECIALDUTYAREA

Glenna Marie was born in Glace Bay, NS. She joined the Royal Canadian Navy and served from 1951 to 1954 as a Leading WREN serving on HMCS Stadacona and HMCS Dockyard in Halifax. Glenna passed away in 2007.

Submitted by the Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command, The Royal Canadian Legion

CONNOLLY, Frederick Gordon ‘Fred WWII

Fred was born in Bible Hill, NS. He enlisted with the Canadian Army on March 2, 1943 in Truro, NS and served with the No. 6 District Depot in Canada and the United Kingdom and was discharged on October 12, 1946. For his wartime service he was awarded the Defense Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp and the War Medal. Fred passed away on February 15, 2005 at the age of 92.

Submitted by Colchester Branch #026, The Royal Canadian Legion



CONROY, John Lyons WWII

John, son of William and Bertha (Tupper) of Middle Stewiacke, was born in 1912. He was on his way west when war broke out, so he joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers. In England, he was wounded in the leg when a hand grenade exploded during training. He married Helen McCabe of Truro and settled in Ontario. John passed away in 1977.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



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CONROY, Robert Fitzgerald

WWII

Robert, son of William and Bertha (Tupper) Conroy of Middle Stewiacke, was born in 1921. He enlisted in the Canadian Forestry Corps, then transferred to the Royal Canadian Air Force and served overseas as a Flight Lieutenant. In 1943, his plane was shot down. He survived and was able to get through enemy territory back to England and was sent home on furlough and volunteered to return to action and was killed when his plane was shot down over Dusseldorf on March 24, 1944. Robert was buried in the 1939-1949 War Cemetery in Berlin, Germany.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

COOK, Harvey **WWII**

Harvey was born in East River, NS in 1923. He served with the Royal Canadian Signal Corp in Europe. Harvey passed away in 2006

Submitted by F. E. Bulter Branch #044, The Royal Canadian Legion



COOK, Wilfred Harding Densmore

WWII

Wilfred was born on March 24, 1925 in Densmore Mills, Hants County, NS. He served with the R.C.N.V.R. in the North Atlantic on Convoy Duty. Wilfred was killed in action while onboard HMCS Guysborough which sunk in the Bay of Biscay with 51 casualties.

Submitted by Hants North Branch #166, The Royal Canadian Legion

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COOLEN, Merve

WWII

Merve was born in Fox Point, Lunenburg County, NS in 1917. He served as Able Seaman in the Canadian Navy RCNVR in Russia, Mairhashah from 1939 to 1945, Bermuda, and the North Atlantic High Seas. He received the following medals: 1939-1945 Atlantic Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, and King George VI Medal. He was assigned to the Stadacona, also on the Avalon Cornwallis, Prince Henry, Naobe. He escorted the warship convoy to Halifax and across the Atlantic. Merve passed away in 1999.

Submitted by Four Harbour's Branch #120, The Royal Canadian Legion

COPE, James

WWI

James was raised near Windsor, NS and came from a proud family of Mi'kmaw soldiers. A young Private in the 25th Battalion (Nova Scotia Rifles), he was killed in France in 1918. James initially joined his father, Joseph, and brother, John, in enlisting with the 106th Battalion at Truro. His father was too ill to go overseas. His brother returned home but was crippled by enemy fire and suffered from exposure to mustard gas. He passed away in 1952. Another brother, Leo, only an infant when his siblings left for Europe, served with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders during World War II. He fell in battle in 1944. Relatives only recently discovered the full extent of the Cope family's sacrifice for Canada during the World Wars. They are now honoured by Veterans groups in Windsor and Millbrook First Nation.

Submitted Independently



COPE, Leo

WWII

Leo was born in 1916 in Windsor, NS. He joined the Army and served with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, RCIC. He was killed in action on June 9, 1944 at the age of 28, and is buried at the Beny-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in Calvados, France (Grave reference: VII. D. 16).

Submitted by Colchester Branch #026, The Royal Canadian Legion



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COTTON, Harry Robbins

WWII

Harry was born in St. George's Channel, NS in 1915. He served in the RCA 2 Canadian Field Regiment in Canada, England, France, Holland, Italy and Germany. He received the MBE for services rendered beyond the call of duty. He received the Defense Medal, Italy Star, 1939-1945 Star, France and Germany Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. Harry passed away in 1972.

Submitted by Chedabucto Branch #046, The Royal Canadian Legion

COX, Daniel Graham **WWII**

Daniel, son of Samuel G. and Machala (Graham) Cox of Eastville, was born in 1904. Before the war, he taught school and worked in the ice business in Boston. In 1931, he married Doris Mae Packard of Massachusetts and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1939 and was discharged in 1945. After the war, he worked for the National Fish Company, Maple Dairy and the Department of National Defence. He retired in 1970 to his home place in Eastville and served as municipal councillor for the area for a time. Daniel passed away in 1998.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



COX, Harold Thompson

WWII

Harold was born on May 21, 1923 in Westville, NS. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II and served with Bomber and Coastal Commands in the United Kingdom and Continental Europe. He returned home in 1945 and attended university. He rejoined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1954 as a Padre. Prior to retiring in 1977, he was Command Padre for both Air Transport and Maritime Commands. He was a member of Branch #001 for sixteen years, serving as Branch Padre. Harold passed away in 1993.

Submitted by Middleton Branch #001, The Royal Canadian Legion



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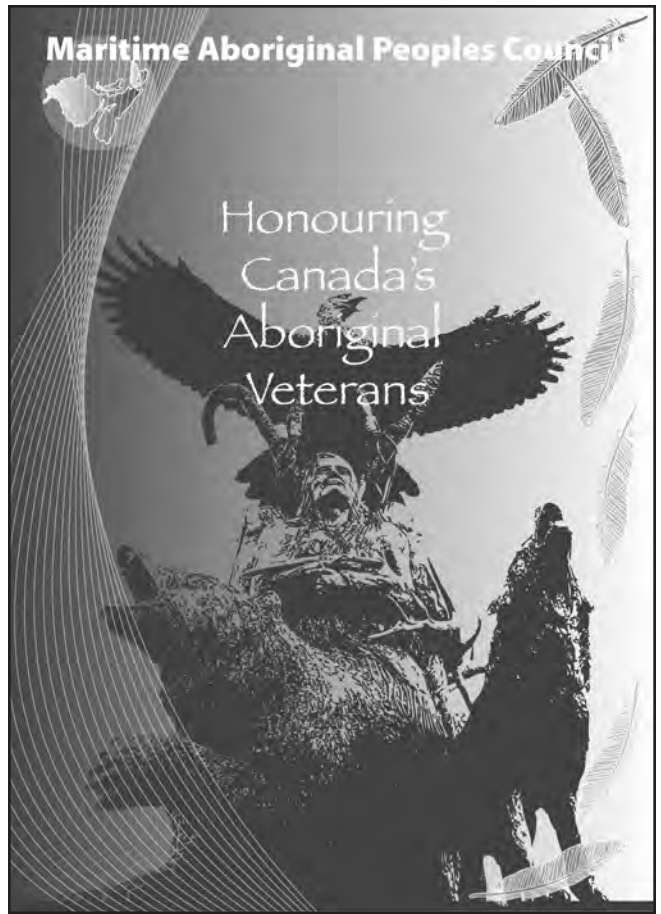
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COX, Kathleen Mabel

WWII

Kathleen, daughter of James and Stella (Bates) Cox of South Branch, was born in 1915 and received her Registered Nursing degree from the Nova Scotia Hospital in 1941, enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1943 and was sent overseas, nursing in England, Holland and Germany, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. She spent two months nursing Russian ex-prisoners of war from the German Concentration Camps. After the war, she married Harry Winters and when he died she returned to South Branch and built a house on the Meadowvale Road. She passed away in 1995.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

COX, Roland Grant “Bub” **WWII**

Bub, as he was known, was born in 1919, the son of Grant and Mary Jane (Smith) Cox of Otter Brook Road. He enlisted in the No. 6 District Depot of the Canadian Army in 1941 and served in England and Continental Europe working on a Brenn Gun Carrier. He married Jean Smith of Londonderry Station and lived in Kitchener, ON. He passed away in 1969.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



COX, Ula Bessie

WWII

Ula, daughter of Reuben and Etta (Taylor) Cox of South Branch, was born in 1921 and served overseas in the Army Dental Corps. She married Frank Ernst, a dentist and they lived in Lunenburg. She passed away in 2003.

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CREELMAN, Donald Logan

WWII

Donald, son of Samuel James and Gladys (Logan) Creelman of Eastville, was born in 1917, and served with the Royal Canadian Signal Corps. He was married overseas in 1943 to Anna Nicholavina Drozdoff (called Nita), who was a Corporal in the Royal Air Force. After the war, they lived in Dartmouth and Donald worked for the Department of National Defence as a carpenter at Canadian Forces Base Halifax. He passed away in 1982.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

CREELMAN, Hedley Gordon **WWII**

Gordon was born in Otter Brook in 1923, son of Hedley and Jessie (Johnson) Creelman. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1943 and was later transferred to the postal services serving in Manitoba and Yarmouth. He married Joan Reid of Bible Hill and operated a grocery store there for many years. He was elected to the Colchester County Municipal Council and served as clerk of the municipality for a time. He passed away in 2007.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



CREELMAN, Howard Thompson

WWII

Howard, son of William and Lottie (Cox) Creelman of South Branch, was born in 1920. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1943 and trained in Yarmouth and Camp Borden, ON and was sent overseas and served in England, Continental Europe and the Mediterranean area. He was wounded, though not seriously. Howard saw his brother, Lloyd, being carried out on a stretcher while he was waiting to go up to the front. He married Thelma Beulah Miller of Alton and settled in the United States. He passed away in 1992.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



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CREELMAN, Jamie Cox

WWII

Jamie, son of William and Lottie (Cox) Creelman of South Branch, was born in 1910 and enlisted in the North Nova Scotia Highlanders in 1943. After training at several points in Nova Scotia, he was sent overseas and saw duty in England and Continental Europe. He was wounded by shrapnel in Germany in 1945. He married Lois Joudrey and lived in Milford Station, Hants County, where he worked as a mechanic. Jamie passed away in 1989.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

CREELMAN, Kenneth Munro **WWII**

Kenny, son of Hedley and Jessie (Johnson) Creelman of Otter Brook, was born in 1924 and served at various places within Canada during World War II. He married Muriel Davis of Five Islands and lived on his home place in Otter Brook, where he worked in the lumber industry and became president of the Marwood Group of companies. He enjoyed horses and could often be found in the show ring with his champion Cape Cod Percherons. He passed away in 2005.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



CREELMAN, Lloyd Duncan

WWII

Lloyd, son of William and Lottie (Cox) Creelman of South Branch was born in 1914 and enlisted in the Army in 1942. After training at New Glasgow and Aldershot, he was sent overseas, seeing active duty in many areas. In 1943, while on duty in Italy, he was hit by a sniper's bullet and in 1944, was seriously wounded by shrapnel and spent many months in hospital before returning home. He married Mary Elizabeth Davis and lived in South Branch, where he owned and operated the Pine Grove Dance Hall and later the South Branch Garage. Lloyd passed away in 1993.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



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**CREELMAN, Robert Currie****WWII**

Currie, son of Robert Edgar and Myrtle Esther (Johnson) Creelman of Newton Mills, was born in 1904 and was an ordained Presbyterian Minister. During World War II, he served as Senior Protestant Chaplain for the 2nd Canadian Division in France and Germany. He was twice decorated for his service and received a certificate from Field Marshall Montgomery. He married Margaret Graham of Alberta, and for a time he was Moderator of the Presbyterian Synod for Ottawa and Montreal. He passed away in 1964.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

CREELMAN, William Aubrey**WWII**

Aubrey, son of William and Lottie (Cox) Creelman of South Branch, was born in 1916. He joined the North Nova Scotia Highlanders in 1942 and took his training in Halifax, Debert, and Sydney before going overseas. He was wounded by shrapnel in Germany. He married Shirley Snook, daughter of Hugh and Ruth (Fulton) Snook, and lived in New York State. He later returned to Nova Scotia and died in Halifax in 2006, survived by companion Euela Barron of Enfield.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

**CROCKETT, Edward Arnold "Eddie"****WWII**

Eddie, son of John and Cora May (Graham) of Burnside and Otter Brook, was born in 1921. He enlisted in June 1941, landing in England on September 1st of the same year. He served in Europe for nearly three years. He married Evelyn Goodall and lived in Dartmouth. Eddie passed away in 1987.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

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CROCKETT, John Cecil

WWII

Cecil, son of John and Cora May (Graham) Crockett of Burnside and Otter Brook, was born in 1917. He served with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders as a light machine Gunner. He was killed in Germany on February 2, 1945, when a mine blew up the tank that he was in. Cecil is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery in Holland.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

CROUCHER, George

WWII

George was born in Outremont, Quebec in 1922. He served in the Royal Canadian Army Grenadier Guards as a Private in Holland, Germany, Belgium, Britain and France. He received the following medals: 1939-1945 Star, France and Germany Star, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, Defense Medal, and War Medal 1939-1945. George passed away in 1996.

Submitted by Four Harbour's Branch #120, The Royal Canadian Legion.



CROWE, Edward Allan

WWII & SPECIAL DUTY AREA

Edward was born in Wolfville, NS in 1924. He enlisted in the Army on January 7, 1943 and served until December 5, 1945. Edward re-enlisted on January 18, 1956 and served until April 6, 1975 as a Field Engineer – Group 1. He was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and War Medal 1939-1945 Canadian Forces Decoration and Clasp. Corporal Crowe received Public Recognition 1939-1945 from Mayor Corporation and Citizens of Wolfville, apprenticeship Branch Interim Certificate Plumbing and Steam Fitting from the Veterans Training Centre in North Sydney, Certificate of attendance in Wolfville on October 8, 1947, Fundamentals of First Aid Certificate from Camp Gagetown in March 1962 and the Certificate of Recognition Senior Choice Baptist Church in Wolfville in May 1989. Edward passed away in 1993.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion

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CURRIE, Hugh Robert

WWII

Hugh served with the Lanark and Renfrew Scottish Regiment, RCIC during World War II. He was killed in action on September 3, 1944 at the age of 24 and is buried at the Gradara War Cemetery in Italy (Grave Reference: I. G. 22.)

Submitted by Colchester Branch #026, The Royal Canadian Legion

CURWIN, John Michael Roy **AFGHANISTAN**

John was born on March 1, 1982 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and grew up in Mount Uniacke. Private Curwin served with 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment based in Gagetown, NB. He was a member of the Force Protection Company of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team and was killed on December 13, 2008 at age 26, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his armoured vehicle during a security patrol in the Arghandab District west of Kandahar City. He was an avid hockey fan, a husband to his childhood sweetheart, Laura, and a dedicated father to three young children.

Submitted by Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command, The Royal Canadian Legion



DAKIN, Allison "Duke"

WWII

Allison was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Dakin of Berwick, NS. The adventurous boy was dubbed "Dukey" by his boyhood friends, and later known as "Duke Dakin" in the Royal Canadian Air Force due to his fighting courage. The Flight Sergeant went overseas in 1941, and was an air gunner in a bomber plane of a torpedo squadron. On June 27, 1942, Allison's plane was reported as having crashed in the sea after bombing its target. Allison's body was eventually recovered off the coast of Holland. Allison "Duke" Dakin was buried in Holland.

Submitted by Berwick Branch, Ortona #069, The Royal Canadian Legion

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DAUPHINEE, Harold

WWII

Harold was born in Chester, NS in 1923. He served with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in Europe. He also served in U.N.E.F. Egypt from October 1966 until May 1967. He retired in 1973 as Warrant Officer 2nd Class. Harold passed away in 1984.

Submitted by F. E. Butler Branch #044, The Royal Canadian Legion

DAVIDSON, Estwood Harold

WWII

Estwood was born in New Brunswick in 1913. He served the Royal Canadian Navy on the High Seas. He was wounded and suffered shrapnel injuries and lost hearing in one ear. Estwood passed away in 2005.

Submitted by St. Peter's Branch #047, The Royal Canadian Legion



DAVIS, Paul

AFGHANISTAN

Paul was born in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia in 1978. He served with the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry based in Shilo, MB. Corporal Davis was killed on March 2, 2006, when the light armoured vehicle he was traveling in collided with a taxi and then rolled over. Before being deployed to Afghanistan, Cpl. Davis was offered a promotion that would have kept him at home but refused because he had the sense of duty and comradeship with the people with whom he had been training. Davis was married with two young daughters, aged five and three.

Submitted by Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command, The Royal Canadian Legion

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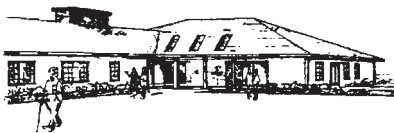
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DAVIS, Roy Walcott

WWII

Roy was born in Truro, Nova Scotia on April 10, 1922. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force on April 3, 1941, and received his commission on April 27, 1942. With the Bomber Command 6 group and with 415 Squadron Eastmoor, he completed tour (32) in December 1944. Aircraft types he flew included: Hudson, DC-3, Liberator B-24, A-20 Boston, DC-4, A-30 Baltimore, C-47, Bolingbroke, Wellington, Halifax and Lancaster. Roy was released on October 12, 1945, and following Dentistry School, he practiced in Truro until his retirement in 1988. He was a 53-year member of The Royal Canadian Legion. Dr. Davis passed away on February 22, 2006.

Submitted by Colchester Branch #026, The Royal Canadian Legion

DAYE, William Stanley

WWII

William was born in Pope's Harbour, NS in 1906. He served with the 2nd Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery in France as a Gunner. He was killed in action in 1944 in France, and is buried in Bey-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, Revvers, Calvedos, France.

Submitted by Four Harbour's Branch #120, The Royal Canadian Legion



DEAN, George Gordon

WWII

Gordon, son of George and Elizabeth (Lemmon) Dean of Rocky Brook, was born in 1910 and enlisted in the Canadian Army in February 1942. He became a Gunner in the Royal Canadian Artillery training in Halifax, Yarmouth, and Petawawa before going overseas in August 1942 and seeing action in England, France, Belgium and Germany. He married Mary Nelson of South Branch and settled in Truro where he was employed as a carpenter. Gordon passed away in 1993.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

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DECOSTE, Phillip Clifford Sr. "Phil"

WWII

Phil was born in Truro, NS on May 10, 1927. He joined the Army on November 30, 1943 at sixteen years of age and was with the Infantry Service Unit. On December 8, 1944, Phil was discharged for being under-age. He was a 44-year member of The Royal Canadian Legion Colchester Branch #026. Phil passed away on December 21, 2005.

Submitted by Colchester Branch # 026, The Royal Canadian Legion

DENSMORE, Robert "Bob"

WWII

Bob was born in East Noel, Hants County in 1921. He was the son of Andrew and Margaret (Densmore) Densmore. He was a labourer by trade before joining the Canadian Army in May 1942, signing with the Canadian Forestry Corps and serving in England, Belgium, France, Holland and Scotland before returning home in July 1945. He married Ruth Blaikie and was employed at Blaikie's Mill in Upper Stewiacke and also worked in the carpentry trade. Bob passed away in 1974.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



DEWOLFE, Robert Bryson

WWII

Robert was born in East Ship Harbour, NS in 1925. He served with the Essex Scottish Regiment RCIC in Europe and Belgium as Private. Robert was killed in action in 1944, and is buried in Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerpen, Belgium.

Submitted by Four Harbour's Branch #120, The Royal Canadian Legion



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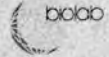
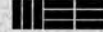
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DEYARMOND, Lester Burton “Les”

WWII

Les was born in Burnside in 1908, son of Everett and Eudora (Fulton) Deyarmond. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in November 1941 and went overseas with the Forestry Corps. He came home on furlough in 1944 and joined the North Nova Scotia Highlanders and went overseas again to France and Germany and remained there until the war ended. After his discharge, he clerked at H.T. Fulton’s store in Upper Stewiacke Village and at the Co-op until he retired. Les passed away in 1991.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

DICKEY, Ernest Ryan “Ernie”

WWII

Ernie was born in Middle Stewiacke in 1922, son of George and Jennie (Brenton) Dickey. He enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force in June 1943 and went overseas in September of that year. He was a Flying Officer, making 69 trips over enemy territory and completing two tours of duty for which he received an Operational Wings and Bar. He re-enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and served from 1951 to 1954. He married Gwen Grandy of Truro and made their home in Middle Stewiacke. Ernie passed away in 1977.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



DICKEY, John Franklin “Jiggs”

WWII

“Jiggs” as he was known, was born in Middle Stewiacke in 1920, son of George S. and Jennie (Brenton) Dickey. He enlisted in 1941 and served with the 4th Division of the Canadian Army in England, Holland and Germany until his discharge in 1945 with the rank of Lance Corporal. In England, he met and married Margaret (Peggy) Coles, who had joined the War Service Nursing Auxiliary. Their oldest son was born in England and was one year old when she landed at Pier 21 in Halifax. After the war, “Jiggs” worked as a heavy equipment operator and spent the last twenty years working at the Lafarge Cement Plant in Brookfield before retiring. He and Peggy made their home in Middle Stewiacke. He passed away in 2005.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

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DICKIE, Lloyd George

WWII

Lloyd was born in Eastville in 1916, son of Clarence and Clarinda (Matheson) Dickie. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in Halifax in 1944 and was stationed at St. Hubert, Quebec, and served there as a mechanic until his discharge in 1946. He married Avis MacLeod of The Falls, Colchester County. They first lived in Upper Musquodoboit where he operated a machine shop, then in Middle Stewiacke where he built a house and had a combination shop and garage. He later worked at a garage in Stewiacke town. Lloyd passed away in 1976.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

DILLMAN, George Garfield

WWII

George was born in Goffs, NS on April 14, 1912. He joined the Royal Canadian Army and served with Queens Own Rifles in Canada, Halifax, Debert and Camp Aldershot. He was honourably discharged and upon his retirement became a Commissionaire. He was a Life Member of Montgomery Branch #133, The Royal Canadian Legion in Enfield, NS. George passed away in December 1983.

Submitted by Bernice Donaldson of Elmsdale Branch #048, The Royal Canadian Legion



DOBSON, Lloyd Woodman

WWII

Lloyd was born in Saint John, NB in 1903. He served with RCOC (PR) No. 7 DD, 2nd Reserve Battalion, Saint John Fusiliers (MG), No. 3 Det. RCOC, No. 9 Det. RCOC; Ord. store coy. He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, and the War Medal 1939-1945. After he left the service he was a tire salesman in New Brunswick, mostly out of Saint John and Moncton areas. Lloyd passed away in 1972.

Submitted by Port Royal Branch #021, The Royal Canadian Legion



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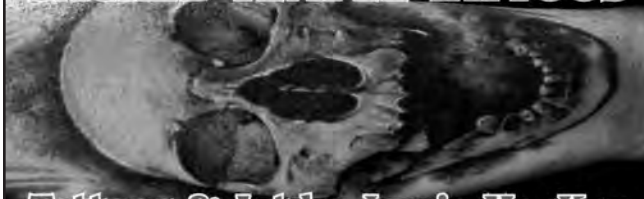
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DOMINEY, Willis Charles

WWII

Willis was born in Jeddore, NS. He served with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders RCIC in the Netherlands as Private. He was killed in action in 1945, and is remembered with honour at Bergen-op-zoom Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands.

Submitted by Four Harbour's Branch #120, The Royal Canadian Legion

DOWE (PIERCE), Marjorie Jean **WWII**

Marjorie was born in Clementsvale, NS on June 10, 1922. She joined the CWAC in 1944, after beginning of a career in teaching. Basic training was spent in Kitchener, ON then she was off to Edmonton, AB to take courses in secretarial work. Marjorie spent the remainder of her military career on the home front working as a clerk/typist in Halifax at No.6 Depot. She received the 1939-1945 War Medal, as well as the 1939-1945 Canadian Voluntary Service Award. After the war, she resumed her teaching career in Wolfville, NS until her retirement.

Submitted by Family



DOWNEY, George A.

WWI & WWII

George was born in Preston, NS in 1892. Along with his cousin James Downey, he enlisted with the No. 2 Construction Battalion and served with distinction in the Great War. For his service in the "Black Battalion," Private Downey was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Despite racial discrimination in the forces, he re-enlisted for World War II and served with the Veterans Guard of Canada, earning the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and the War Medal. After the war he became a businessman and community leader. His fighting spirit was an inspiration to his family with a number of sons and grandsons having successful careers in boxing, military, government and politics. George died in 1969 and is laid to rest at a family cemetery in Fall River, NS.

Submitted Independently



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EISAN, George William

WWII

George was born in Ship Harbour, NS in 1917. He served the Canadian Army Active Force from 1946-1958. He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. George passed away in 1992.

Submitted by Four Harbour's Branch #120, The Royal Canadian Legion

EMBREE, William Hazen **WWII**

William was born in Amherst, NS on June 10, 1909. He served as Captain with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps at Camp Aldershot, 22nd Field Ambulance, and Aldershot Military Hospital. He received the Defense Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, and War Medal 1939-1945. William was reported missing on May 1, 1942 while aboard SS Nerissa, when the ship was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action by a U-552. Eighty-three crew and one hundred and twenty-four passengers were lost in May 1941. Having no known grave, his name is commemorated on Panel 14 of Halifax Memorial.

Submitted by Lockeport Branch #080, The Royal Canadian Legion



EVERETT, Charles "Boyd"

WWII

Charles, known as Boyd, was born at Victoria Beach, Annapolis County, NS on July 21, 1907. Boyd served in the Army in Canada. He passed away on October 10, 1977.

Submitted by Port Royal Branch #021, The Royal Canadian Legion



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FAHIE, Percy Philip

WWII

Percy was born in East Lower Ship Harbour and was a Flight Sergeant in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Percy was killed in action in Malta in 1943.

Submitted by Four Harbour's Branch #120, The Royal Canadian Legion

FEVENS, Lawrence Whitman

WWII

Lawrence was born in Overton, NS in 1916. He joined the Navy and served on HMCS Gaspe, Q-Boats, Glenora, North Wind, HMCS Fundy and HMCS Border Cities. In the Merchant Marines, he served on the Chomdy and Lord Calvin on the High Seas, the Mid Atlantic and along the Atlantic Coast. He was awarded the Military Service Medal 1939-1945, the Merchant Marine Medal, two Atlantic Star Medals, two King George Medals, Bar Medal and the Napel Leaf. His duties included loading ammunition, oiling, motor mechanics, dismantling mines, and working in the diesel room as an engine room engineer. Lawrence passed away in 2009.

Submitted by Enid Elliot



FINDLAY, John Leroy

WWII

John was born in Dartmouth, NS in 1924. He served the Royal Canadian Navy in Canada, England and France from 1943 to 1945. He received the following medals: Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, 1939-1945 Star, 1939-1945 War Medal, and the France and Germany Star. He was wounded in France in 1944 with multiple gunshot wounds, which resulted in him having multiple surgeries. He was discharged in October 1945. John passed away in 2001.

Submitted by Four Harbour's Branch #120, The Royal Canadian Legion



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FISHER, Adams Elwood

WWII

Adams was born in Birch Hill in 1902, son of Suther and Annie Maude (Richards) Fisher. He enlisted with the Royal Canadian Artillery in Halifax in 1940 and served as Staff Sergeant until his discharge in 1946. He married Blanche Gourley of Stewiacke town and resided in Stewiacke town. Adams passed away in 1972.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

FISHER, Alexander Kent “Alec” **WWII**

Alec was born in Halfway Brook in 1921, son of Raymond and Katherine (Taylor) Fisher. He enlisted in 1940 with the 13th Company of the Canadian Forestry Corps and served in Canada until his discharge in 1944. He married Helen Chute of Middle Stewiacke, and worked for Eastern Transport and later for Canada Post as a mail courier. He and Helen made their home in Middle Stewiacke. Alec passed away in 1995.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



FISHER, Harold Taylor

WWII

Harold was born in Halfway Brook in 1918, son of Raymond and Katherine (Taylor) Fisher, and enlisted at Halifax in 1939 as Sapper with 1st Field Coy RCE Canadian Active Service Force and went overseas with the 1st Canadian Division in January 1940. He was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal and served in the United Kingdom, Central Mediterranean and Continental Europe. He married Jessie Fredericks of Upper Musquodoboit and they settled in Halfway Brook. Harold passed away in 1978.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

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FISHER, Howard Dickey

WWII

Howard, son of Homer and Clara (Fleck) Fisher of Birch Hill, was born in 1897. He joined the Royal Canadian Artillery in Halifax in 1939 and served in Quebec, Esquimalt, BC and Newfoundland. He married Jean Stark Deyarmond of Burnside. After the war, they moved to Red Deer, AB where he worked as a carpenter. Howard passed away in 1948.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

FISHER, Hugh Garnet **WWII**

Hugh was born in Birch Hill in 1917, son of Austin and Laura (Corbett) Fisher. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1942 at New Glasgow, where he trained and later served with the Sherbrooke Fusiliers, a tank regiment. His tank was 'knocked' and he was hospitalized for two months with burns to his hands and face. He transferred to a BC Regiment serving in France, Germany and Holland. He returned to Canada in 1946 with the rank of Sergeant. He married Doris Fulton of Upper Stewiacke Village and lived in Brookfield, where he was postmaster for a number of years. Hugh passed away in 1966.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



FISHER, John Alvin

WWII

John was born in Halfway Brook in 1916, son of Raymond and Katherine (Taylor) Fisher. He enlisted in Halifax in 1942, signing with the Royal Canadian Engineers serving in Canada, the United Kingdom, and northwestern Europe until the end of the war. He was discharged in February 1946 with the rank of Lance Corporal. He married Lyda Wylie of Glenholme and settled in Halfway Brook. John was postmaster at Upper Stewiacke for several years and was also the first president of the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society. He passed away in 1983.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



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FISHER, Leonard Weldon

WWII

Leonard was born in Middle Stewiacke in 1914, son of Burton and Della (Fleck) Fisher. He joined the Canadian Army in August 1942, serving with the Canadian Forestry Corps in various parts of Canada. He was stationed in Debert when the war ended and was discharged in April 1946. He married Frances Banks of Montreal and lived in Brookfield, where he worked for the Department of Natural Resources as a carpenter. Leonard passed away in 2002.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

FISHER, Norman Marshall

WWII

Norman was born in Middle Stewiacke in 1903, son of Homer and Clara (Fleck) Fisher. He enlisted with the 13th Co. Canadian Forestry Corps in September 1940, serving in Canada and Scotland, and was discharged in April 1944 because of defective eyesight. He was a farmer and lived in his home place in Birch Hill and later moved to Stewiacke town. Norman passed away in 1981.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



FISHER, Rupert Seldon "Rupe"

WWII

Rupe was born in Middle Stewiacke in 1920, son of Burton and Della (Fleck) Fisher. He worked as a mechanic prior to enlisting in 1940 with the 13th Co. Canadian Forestry Corps serving in Canada, Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, returning to Canada in September 1945. He met and married Mary Riddell of Scotland in 1944 and they settled in Middle Stewiacke after the war. Rupe was employed with the Department of Lands and Forests in Shubenacadie for 37 years. He passed away in 2000.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



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FLECK, Cyril Dares

WWII

Cyril, son of Charles and Bertha (Clark) Fleck of Middle Stewiacke, was born in 1923. He enlisted in 1943 serving as a Tank Operator in Italy. After the war, he lived in British Columbia and married Cora Gray. He passed away in 1970.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

FLECK, Raymond Dickie

WWII

Raymond was born in South Branch in 1907, son of Solomon and Martha (Andrews) Fleck. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in January 1942, training at New Glasgow, Petawawa and Eastern Passage, as well as taking an NCO course in Owen Sound, ON. He served on special duty in Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Before the war ended, he married Gertrude Levy and they made their home in South Branch. After his discharge, he worked at the local lumber mill and later at landscape gardening. Raymond passed away in 1988.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society




FLECK, Russell Charles

WWII & KOREA

Russell was born in Middle Stewiacke in 1925, son of Charles and Bertha (Clark) Fleck. He enlisted in May 1944 with RCOC and served in Canada and the United Kingdom. He was discharged in June 1946 and re-enlisted in May 1953, and served with the Canadian Army in Korea as a Corporal. He was discharged in May 1961, and married Elizabeth Fielding of Truro, where they resided. He was killed in a car accident near Penobsquis, NB in August 1962.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society.



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FORBES, John W. “Scotty”

WWII

Scotty, as he was known, was born in Dundee, Scotland in 1906. He was the son of John and Helen Forbes. He served in World War II with the Royal Canadian Air Force as a Leading Aircraftsman in the motor transport section working as a mechanic in England, Scotland, Ireland and the South Pacific. He married Bertha (Clark) Fleck and lived in Middle Stewiacke. Scotty passed away in 1989.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

FOX, Edward L.

WWII

Edward was born in Emerald Isle in 1924. He joined the Canadian Army and served the North Shore Regiment 3rd Division in the United Kingdom, France and Germany. He was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, 1939-1945 Star, and the France and Germany Star. He was a line foreman for Nova Scotia Power and retired in the Yarmouth area. Edward passed away in 2003.

Submitted by Carleton Consolidated Branch #167, The Royal Canadian Legion.



FRANCIS, Stephen Joseph

WWI


Stephen was born in 1873. A Mi'kmaw soldier (sma'kins), Stephen served bravely in World War I. He was born in Milton, a village in southwestern Nova Scotia in 1873. Stephen enlisted at Camp Sussex, New Brunswick before joining the 24th Battalion (Victoria Rifles) in France. At age 42, he was quite old for a Private. At the Battle of the Somme in 1916, he suffered serious shrapnel injuries to his chest and lungs. Afterwards he was sent to hospitals in England and Halifax. Stephen settled in Annapolis Royal, where he died of tuberculosis in 1947 which was complicated by lung injuries from the war.

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FRAZEE, John Albert

WWII

John, son of Isaac Frazee, was born in Grand Prairie, Alberta in 1925 but grew up in Brookside, NS. After enlisting, he trained as a Dispatch Rider and was assigned to the North New Brunswick Regiment. He was eventually transferred to a bren gun carrier where he was the Gunner. John died at the age of nineteen from wounds suffered in Holland on October 27, 1944. He is buried in Adegem Canadian Military Cemetery, Adegem, Belgium,

Submitted by Colchester Branch #026, The Royal Canadian Legion

FULTON, David Holmes

WWII

David was born in Cross Roads, Upper Stewiacke in 1923, son of David (Pat) and Georgina (Dickie) Fulton. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and completed his electrician course with the RCAF at St. Thomas, ON. He was stationed in British Columbia before going overseas to England and North Africa. After the war, he went to California and settled in Lake Arrowhead. He did not marry and worked for the Southern California Edison Company until retirement. David passed away in 1992.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



FULTON, David Scott

WWII

David was born in Upper Stewiacke in 1919, son of David and Jessie (Bryant) Fulton. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force with 435 Transport Squadron in July 1943 and was stationed in India for a period of time. Before enlisting, he married Shirley Carter of Brookfield, and they made their home in that community. He was a truck driver and later worked in sales. He passed away in 1998.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



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FULTON, Douglas Graham "Doug"

KOREA

Doug was born in Upper Stewiacke in 1933, the son of Harry (Sandy) and Winifred (Watson) Fulton. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in August 1950 serving with the RCR. He was in Korea for a one-year term and was discharged in 1953. In 1956, he re-enlisted with the RCEME and served in various parts of Canada, Egypt and Germany. Doug retired from active service in 1973 and settled in Calgary, Alberta. He married Frances McMullin of Hardwoodlands, Hants County. Doug passed away in 1991.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

FULTON, Ervin Blair **WWII**

Ervin was born in Newton Mills in 1916, son of Martin and Hattie (Dickie) Fulton. He married Jessie Graham of Pembroke in November 1940 and went overseas with the West Nova Scotia Regiment, RCIC in November 1942. He was killed in Italy on September 20, 1944, survived by his wife and infant daughter. He is buried in Gradara War Cemetery in Italy.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



FULTON, Frank Austin

WWI

Frank, son of William and Esther (Kerr) Fulton of Meadowvale, was born in 1891. He left the farm and enlisted with the 193rd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and also fought with the 25th Battalion. He was wounded at Vimy Ridge. When he returned home from the war, he married Hazel Aiken from PEI and lived on his home farm. Frank developed tuberculosis and died in 1931 at the age of 40.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

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FULTON, Herbert Roblyn "Tim"

WWII

Tim, as he was known, was born in Upper Stewiacke Village in 1908, son of Jessie (Bryant) Fulton. He enlisted and became a Lance Corporal in the Canadian Provost Corps. He married and lived in Pictou County after the war. He passed away in 1957.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

FULTON, Joseph Young

WWI

Joe, son of John and Phillipa (Young) Fulton of Berry Hill, was born in 1893. He joined the 76th Regiment, Canadian Militia before enlisting with the 106th Nova Scotia Rifles in 1915. After the war, he moved to Alberta and married Alice Mary Campbell and lived in Delia, AB. Joe passed away in 1965.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



FULTON, Louis Emil

WWI

Louis was born in Upper Stewiacke in 1898, son of S. A. (Bob) and Emma (Harrison) Fulton, who operated the Strathlorne Hotel. He enlisted in 1916 with the 193rd Battalion and was later transferred to the 85th Battalion. After the war, he married Hazel Ogilvie of Truro and moved to Springfield, Massachusetts, and was employed there with the US Rubber Company. Louis passed away in 1959.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



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FULTON, Norman Lester

WWI

Norman, son of Frank and Teresa (Archibald) Fulton of Pembroke, was born in 1896. He worked as a plumber before the war. He belonged to the 76th Regiment, Canadian Militia before enlisting with the 106th Battalion in 1915. He lost a leg in the war. After the war, he worked at the Post Office in Truro, and then started an insurance company known as Fulton Insurance which is still operating today. He married Rose Knowlton and lived in Truro. He served on the Truro town council for two terms. Norman passed away in 1953.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

FULTON, Parker Alonzo **WWI**

Parker was born in 1892 in Upper Stewiacke, son of S. A. (Bob) and Emma (Harrison) Fulton, who operated the Strathlorne Hotel. He joined the 76th Regiment of the Active Militia before signing up with the 106th Battalion in 1916 and being sent overseas. He was fighting with the 26th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (New Brunswick Regiment) when he was killed in action on Hill 70 on August 17, 1917. Parker is buried in Aix-Noulette Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



FULTON, Parker Leslie

WWII

Parker was born in Cross Roads in 1919, son of David (Pat) and Georgina (Dickie) Fulton, and enlisted in the Canadian Army and trained in New Glasgow and Petawawa, ON. He married Jewel Scott of Elderbank, Musquodoboit, and lived in Cross Roads near his home place. He owned and operated his own gravel truck as well as farming and some lumbering. He passed away in 2000.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

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FULTON, Reta May

WWII

Reta was born in Upper Stewiacke in 1913, daughter of David and Jessie (Bryant) Fulton, and served overseas nearly five years as a Nursing Sister attached to No. 1 General Hospital. She was in England over three years, and Italy for seventeen months when she became seriously ill with meningitis. She came home on furlough in May 1945 then went to a military hospital in Montreal where she remained until the end of the war. After she recovered, she worked in a hospital in Edmonton, then went to Didsbury, Alberta where she met and married Kenneth McCoy and settled in Didsbury. Reta passed away in 1998.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society

FULTON, William Stanley **WWI**

William, son of Lyman and Sarah Jane (Johnson) Fulton of Newton Mills, was born in 1891. He moved to California as a young man and served in the American Army in WWI. He married Lavinia May Hanna and lived in Ripon, California. He passed away in 1967.

Submitted by the Stewiacke Valley Historical Society



GARDEN, Rayburn Vincent

WWII

Rayburn was born in Dartmouth, NS in 1920. He served the Royal Canadian Navy aboard the Corvette HMCS Louisburg in Canada, United Kingdom, High Seas and the Mediterranean. Ray was killed in action in 1943, and is survived by his daughter, Colleen O'Neil, who resides in Moncton, NB, one brother, and five sisters.

Submitted by Elmsdale Branch #048, The Royal Canadian Legion

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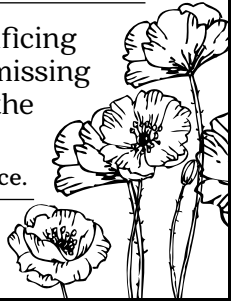
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GASS, Clare

WWI

Clare was born in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia in 1887. She served as a Nursing Sister with the Canadian Army Medical Corps. Overcoming brutal conditions and countless patients, nurses were the unsung heroes of World War I. During her time working at No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill University) in France she became friends with John McCrae, a military doctor. McCrae showed her a draft of his iconic poem, "In Flanders Fields". She copied it to her diary. Asked what she thought, Clare encouraged him to publish it in Punch magazine which he did in 1915. Together with the poppy, it remains at the heart of Remembrance Day ceremonies in Canada. Remarkably, four of Clare's younger brothers also fought in Europe, with one dying in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917. She returned to Canada after the war and became a pioneer in the field of medical social work. Clare passed away in 1968.

Submitted Independently

HAMMOND, Thomas

WWI

Thomas was born in Scarsdale, Nova Scotia in 1887. He was among more than 200 Mi'kmaq from Atlantic Canada to volunteer for the Great War. Despite limited civil rights at home and cultural barriers within the military, First Nations enlistments were significant across the country. Thomas joined the 26th New Brunswick Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force as a Private in 1915, but was tragically killed during the Somme Offensive the following year. He participated in the intense fighting of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette in northern France from which his body was never recovered. He was 29 years old. A number of Mi'kmaq received awards for bravery and distinguished service. One sma'knis (soldier), Stephen Toney of Pictou Landing, was among the most decorated snipers in the entire Allied Army.

Submitted Independently



HUBLEY, Laura

WWI

Laura was born in St. Margarets Bay, near Halifax in 1875. She served as a Matron of the Dalhousie University No. 7 Stationary Hospital during World War I. After graduating from Victoria General Hospital in Halifax, she went into private practice before joining the Canadian Army Nursing Corps. The Dalhousie unit, established in 1915, saw frontline service and treated approximately 60,000 patients in France and England. As Matron, Laura not only supervised her 26 nursing sisters but also organized social functions for the hospital staff and patients. On one occasion she even arranged a visit from Canadian flying ace Billy Bishop, who put on a display overhead. Laura was awarded the Royal Red Cross (1st Class) for exceptional service in military nursing. She passed away in 1964 and is buried at Camp Hill Cemetery in Halifax.

Submitted Independently

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JOHNSTON, Stewart

PEACETIME

Stewart was born in Little Shemogue, New Brunswick in 1936. He served in the Army with the Armour Corp during Peacetime. He was stationed at CFB Gagetown, NB and CFB Borden, ON. He was awarded the Canadian Service Medal and Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. He is a member of the Legion in Port Elgin, NB and has been for three years.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion

JONES, Jeremiah “Jerry”

WWI

Jeremiah was born in Truro in 1858 and was a courageous soldier from the World War I. Like many other Black Canadians, he had to overcome racial barriers just to volunteer. While the No. 2 Construction Battalion was the only predominately Black unit in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, African Canadians did serve in other units, including infantry battalions. At the advanced age of 58, Jerry joined the 106th Battalion in Truro and fought with the Royal Canadian Regiment at Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele in 1917. At Vimy Ridge, he single handily stormed and captured a German machine gun post. For his bravery Jerry was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal, second only to the Victoria Cross for recognizing gallantry in action. It was never awarded. In 2010, after decades of campaigning, the Canadian government posthumously awarded Jerry a Canadian Forces Medallion for Distinguished Service. He is a heroic figure in African Nova Scotian history. Jerry passed away in 1950.

Submitted Independently



MacBURNIE, Ronald “Ron”

KOREA & SPECIAL DUTY AREA & PEACETIME

Ronald joined the Army in Halifax and took basic training and trades at Kingston. He was transferred to Shilo with the 1 RCHA in 1950 and served in Korea with the unit. Returning to Canada, Ron was posted to Debert in 1955, and then served in Egypt for a year with the 56 CDN SIG SDN, (UNEF). He returned to Halifax and was posted to the New Brunswick Sigs Troop, serving as an electrician until his release in 1961.

Submitted Independently





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MacDONALD, Angus L.

WWI

Angus was born in rural Cape Breton in 1890. He was one of Nova Scotia's longest-serving Premiers. Before entering politics, he served with his brothers Oswin and John Colin in World War I. After officer training, Angus joined the Cape Breton Highlanders 185th Battalion before being sent to the front lines in 1918 as a Lieutenant with the Nova Scotia Rifles 25th Battalion known as the "Trench Raiders". Bravely leading a company into action, he was seriously wounded by a German sniper only four days before the armistice. Angus grieved for "poor Collie," his younger brother who fell in the battle. Angus had a lasting impact on Nova Scotia. The Angus L. MacDonald Bridge in Halifax was opened in 1955, a year after he died in office.

Submitted Independently

MacDONALD, Margaret C.

WWI

Margaret was born at Bailey's Brook in Pictou County in 1873. She served as Matron-in-Chief of the Canadian Army Nursing Corps (CANC) during World War I. After graduation, Margaret gained significant international and wartime experience as a nurse. At the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, she volunteered for overseas service and was appointed Matron-in-Chief. From her headquarters in London, she directed all Canadian nursing services in Europe, including clearing stations, hospitals and medical units onboard ships and trains. She is credited with enhancing the professionalization of the CANC, based upon her earlier training in the British nursing corps. Margaret was awarded the Royal Red Cross and the Florence Nightingale Medal. The Canadian government also designated her person of national historic significance, with a plaque at Bailey's Brook where she is buried. Margaret passed away in 1949.

Submitted Independently



MALONEY, Dennis Frank

KOREA

Dennis served in the Merchant Navy and in 1952 with the Special Forces in Korea.

Submitted Independently

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MALONEY, Frank

WWI

Frank enlisted in the regular force on November 11, 1916. He sailed from Halifax on the SS Justicia on March 5, 1917 to England on May 14, 1917. He was in Camphill Hospital on August 6, 1919 and medically release from the force at this point.

Submitted Independently

MALONEY, Gerald James

Gerald enlisted and served with the RCOC in 1951, Korea in 1953, Egypt in 1957 and Germany in 1964. He retired from the military in 1973.

Submitted Independently



MALONEY, John William

PEACETIME

John served with the Merchant Navy; 1952 RCEME, 1954 RCAF and 1959 in France. He retired from the military in 1972.

Submitted Independently



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MALONEY, Ralph Edward

Ralph enlisted and served with the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1954 and he was released in 1957. He re-enlisted with the RCCS in 1957 and retired in 1980.

Submitted Independently

MARCHBANK, George Henery

WWI

George was born in Desable, PEI in 1886. He enlisted in the Army with the PPCLI and served in France and Belgium during World War I. He was a member of Legion Branch 26. George passed away in 1978.

Submitted by Family



McCABE, John Joseph

WWII

John was born in Truro, NS on December 18, 1926 to Lawrence McCabe and Lillian Coldwell. He joined the Truro 77 Air Cadet Squadron in his early years. Then during World War II, he enlisted in the Navy and completed his basic training at HMCS Cornwallis, NS and at HMCS Montcalm, Quebec in Quebec City. John served on the HMCS Alberton and HMCS New Liskeard. After the war, John was employed by the CNR until he retired in 1982. John now resides at Camp Hill Veterans Hospital in Halifax. He has been a member of the Colchester Branch 26 in Truro for 49 years.

Submitted by Family

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McKINNON, Jerome

WWII

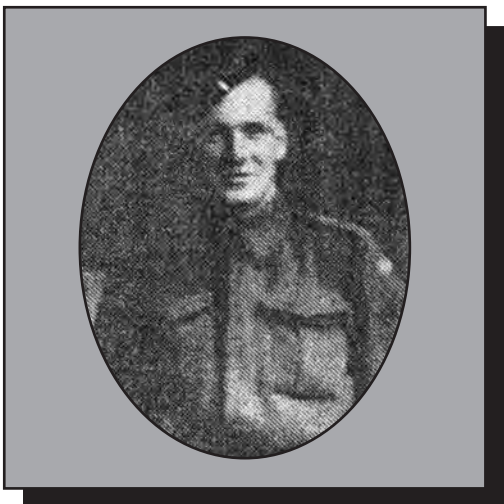
Jerome was born in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia in 1916. He enlisted in the Army with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders. He served as a Private in Canada, the Mediterranean, in Continental Europe and the United Kingdom. He received the Italy Star, the France and Germany Star and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. He was a member of the Ashby Legion Branch 138 in Sydney, NS. Jerome passed away in 1977.

Submitted by Family

McLELLEN, Boyde **WWII**

Boyde joined the Army during World War II with the 13 CCY Forester Corps. He later transferred to the NS Highlanders.

Submitted Independently



McLELLEN, Douglas

WWII

Douglas joined the Army and served during World War II with the 13 CCY Forester Corps.

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McLELLEN, Wilfred

WWII

Wilfred enlisted in the Army during World War II and served with the 13 CCY Forester Corps. Wilfred came home in 1943 and finished out the war with the Veteran Guards.

Submitted Independently

MINGO, Russell Keith
SPECIAL DUTY AREA & PEACETIME

Russell joined the Army in 1951; he trained with the Governor General Horse Guards at Calgary and Wainwright, and was then transferred to the 3 RCR at Petawawa. In 1952, he went to Camp Borden, where he took the Cooks Training Course, and was then transferred to the RCASA. Russell served in Korea for two years and upon his return to Canada he worked for the Provost Corp at Camp Aldershot until 1959. He then went to Germany with the 8th Canadian Hussars, returning in 1962 to Petawawa where he remained until 1966 when he was posted to Cyprus. He was then off to Germany at Lahr until 1971. Returning to Canada, he was posted at Cornwallis, then Debert, then to Kingston in 1977, where he cooked at the Staff College (Royal Military College). He retired in 1979 as a WO. Russell has been a Legion member for 21 years; six with Branch 72 and has served two terms as Branch President.

Submitted Independently



MOORE, Thomas “Tom”

WWI

Thomas was born in Nottingham, England in 1894. He was orphaned at a young age and sent to Dakeyne Farm in Mount Denson, near Windsor; this was a home for British youth with limited career options to be trained as farmers. Like many Nova Scotians, and British Home Children across Canada, Thomas eagerly volunteered to serve in World War I. With proper militia experience, he joined the 112th “Overseas” Battalion at its headquarters in Windsor in 1916. This Hants County unit had been raised the year before. Thomas survived the war and lived the rest of his life at Mount Denson. In 1914, Thomas sent for his future wife Lavinia to join him in Nova Scotia. She was also from Nottingham. Thomas passed away in 1978. The couple is buried at the Baptist cemetery in Mount Denson.

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MORRISON, Sholto Douglas

WWI

Sholto enlisted in the Air Force with the XV (15) Squadron during World War I and served in England and France. The aircrafts he flew included: Maurice Farman (S.H.), A.W., B.E. 2C, B.E. 2E and RE8 (Armstrong Whitworths).

Submitted by Family

MURRAY, John Robert **WWI**

John was born in West-Branch-Cumberland County in 1879. He joined the Navy during World War I and served with 85th Battalion NSH in France and Belgium. John was killed in action on November 6, 1918 in Cambrai, France.

Submitted Independently



OWEN, Daniel

WWI

Daniel was one of the many World War I veterans from Annapolis County, Nova Scotia. He was born in Annapolis Royal in 1890. A barrister by trade, Daniel has previous training in the 69th "Annapolis" Regiment of the Canadian Militia prior to the war. He enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1917 but soon transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, in which he became a Captain. On a mission in 1917, he was wounded by enemy fire but still managed to crashland his aircraft behind German lines. Daniel lost an eye in that fight and spent nearly a year in prisoner of war camps before being repatriated to England. Shortly after the war, Daniel led a major aerial expedition over Labrador to survey forestry and natural resources for industrial development. Daniel passed away in 1939.

Submitted Independently

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*Thank You
For Supporting
Our Veterans*



*That Canadian
flag flies free,
but let us never
forget the cost.*



PARRIS, Joseph A. “Joe”

WWI

Joseph was born in Guysborough County, NS in 1899. He served in the No. 2 Construction Battalion alongside several family members, including his brother William and his cousin Seldon. He was only 17 when he enlisted at New Glasgow; he served his country with great enthusiasm despite the prejudices of the day. Departing from England in 1917, the “Black Battalion” was attached to the Canadian Forestry Corps in France. Its forestry work, road and railway construction while helping the wounded were essential to the Allied victory in World War I. After the war he returned to Mulgrave, Nova Scotia where he joined the local Branch of the Canadian Legion. He passed away in 1972 and is laid to rest in St. Lawrence Catholic Cemetery in Mulgrave.

Submitted Independently

**PAULEY, Clarence Albert WWII & SPECIAL
DUTY AREA & PEACETIME**

Clarence was born in Little Shemogue, New Brunswick in 1925. He joined the Army with the North Nova’s in World War II and retired RCA in 1976. He served in England, Holland, Belgium, Shilo, Manitoba, Halifax and Germany. Clarence was wounded in Belgium during World War II. He received the Canadian Medal, British Star, Holland Star and War Star 1939-1945. He is a member of The Royal Canadian Legion in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Clarence passed away in 1984.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion



PAULEY, Eldon Arthur

**SPECIAL DUTY
AREA/PEACETIME**

Eldon was born in Port Elgin, New Brunswick in 1936. He enlisted in both the Army and Air Force in Maintenance. He served in Special Duty Area and in Peacetime in Canada: Saskatoon, SK; St. Hubert, QC; Holland and Nottingham, England. He was wounded while serving in Holland. He was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and NATO Medal.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch 60, The Royal Canadian Legion

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**PAULEY, Roderick Eugene****PEACETIME**

Roderick was born in Port Elgin, New Brunswick in 1939. He enlisted in the Air Force in Airframe and served during Peacetime in Canada: Bagotville, Quebec and Chatham, New Brunswick. He received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. Roderick passed away in 2013.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion

PAULEY, Victor Milledge**SPECIAL
DUTY/PEACETIME**

Victor was born in Port Elgin, New Brunswick in 1934. He enlisted in the Army and served as a Paratrooper with the RCR in Canada: London, Ontario and Petawawa, Ontario. He was awarded the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Defence Medal. Victor passed away in 1995.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion

**PETTIS, Herbert Norman**

Norman was born on March 4, 1916. He passed away on March 14, 2010.

Submitted by Family

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PICKUP, Walter

WWI

Walter was born in Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia in 1893. He came from a prominent family but like so many other sons and daughters from Annapolis County he enlisted in the Canadian Corps during World War I. A graduate of Mount Allison University, Walter served with the 14th Battalion, known as the Royal Montreal Regiment. He became Captain and fought bravely in France, often in harsh conditions in the frontline trenches. He was wounded at the Somme in 1916 and killed at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917, one of Canada's most significant and bloody victories. Two of Walter's older brothers also served in the war. Walter is commemorated at Nine Elms Military Cemetery in France and at Stony Beach Cemetery in Granville Beach.

Submitted Independently

PORTER, Albert Judson

WWI

Albert was born in Falmouth, Hants County in 1897. He served with the 112th Battalion during World War I. He had local militia experience and volunteered for the 112th at its headquarters in Windsor in 1915 not long after that unit had been established. The following year they embarked for European battlefields aboard the Olympic, a famous luxury liner turned troopship. Porter fought valiantly, suffering serious wounds to his chest and shoulder at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917. He was sent to hospitals in England and then discharged at Halifax. Tragically, Albert was struck and killed by a car while walking to work in Windsor in 1942. Only 46 years old, he left behind a wife and seven children. Falmouth mourned this "respected citizen" and war veteran.

Submitted Independently



PRENTICE, Dr. Willit

WWII

Prentice was born in Springhill, Nova Scotia in 1920. He enlisted in the Army with the 3rd Division Co. and served in France, Germany, Debert, Camp Borden and Petawawa. He is a member of the Springhill Legion. He was awarded the France and Germany Star, Holland Liberation Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. Dr. Prentice is 96 years old and currently resides in the Veterans Wing at High-Crest Nursing Home in Springhill.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion

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RITCHIE, Gertrude “Gert”

WWII

Gertrude was born in Annapolis Royal in 1903. She served in World War II and had a successful career with Parks Canada. In 1942, Ritchie joined the Royal Canadian Air Force Women’s Division (RCAFWD), serving as a clerk and equipment assistant. Based on the British model, the RCAFWD recruited thousands of women into trade positions, who were essential to the success of this rapidly expanding air force. After the war, she worked in the private sector before joining Parks Canada in 1959. She held senior positions at both Fort Anne in Annapolis Royal and the Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site in Baddeck. In retirement, she was active in many community groups, including becoming one of the first women to hold an executive position with The Royal Canadian Legion. She passed away at Annapolis Royal in 1998.

Submitted by the Annapolis Heritage Society

RUGGLES, Walter

WWI

Walter was born in Nova Scotia’s Annapolis Valley in 1890, the son of Lenfast and Laura Ruggles of Bridgetown. He enlisted at Halifax in 1916 and joined the 85th Battalion (Nova Scotia Highlanders) in Europe the following year. Based upon his previous military training, he was promoted to Captain and given command of “B” Company. At the Battle of Hill 70, he suffered shrapnel wounds during a German raid on the Canadian trench. After several months in the hospital, Walter was back in the field where he received another serious injury. He was evacuated to England and eventually declared unfit for service and sent home. Walter died at Camp Hill Hospital in Halifax in 1919, from injuries sustained in the war. He is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Annapolis Royal.



SAWLER, Harding Robert

WWI & WWII

Harding was a resident of the community of Western Shore, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia and was born on July 18, 1895. At the age of 23, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) on March 11, 1915 where he served for three years in France until discharged on August 3, 1919. He was presented with War Service Badge “Class A”. On July 4, 1940 he re-enlisted in Halifax with the Royal Canadian Artillery and achieved the Rank of WOII, and served Her Majesty’s Canadian Services until June 16, 1945. It was in this term that he received the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. Robert was the founding president of Branch 144 Western Shore, now renamed “Harding Branch”.

Submitted Independently

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SAYIES, Baptiste

WWII

Baptiste was born in Cumberland House, Saskatchewan in 1919. He enlisted in the Army with the Winnipeg Grenadiers RCE with the rank of Sapper and served during World War II. He was a member of Legion Branch 236 for sixty years. Baptiste passed away on October 8, 1990.

Submitted by Family

SLOAN, Easterby Jr.

WWII

Easterby Jr. was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne, United Kingdom in 1920. He served the Canadian Army with the 7th Anti-Tank Regiment in England, France and Germany during World War II. He was a member of Bear River Branch 22, The Royal Canadian Legion before he passed away in Bear River, NS in 1984.

Submitted by Bear River Branch #022, The Royal Canadian Legion.



SLOAN, Easterby Sr.

WWI & WWII

Easterby Sr. was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne, United Kingdom. He served with the British Tank Corps during World War I, and later with the Merchant Navy, and Veterans Home Guard during World War II. He was member of Bear River Branch 22, The Royal Canadian Legion before he passed away in Bear River, NS in 1971.

Submitted by Bear River Branch #022, The Royal Canadian Legion



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SPENCER, Charlie Ernest “Ernie” SPECIAL DUTY AREA/PEACETIME

Ernie was born in Minto, New Brunswick in 1938. He was the son of the late William and Georgette (Vandenborre) Spencer. Ernie retired as a MWO from the Royal Canadian Air Force after 36 years following a career as an Armament Systems and Avionics Technician. He became a CIL Officer in Duncan, BC and finished his military career as Commanding Officer for the Air Cadet Squadron. He received the NATO Medal and the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. He was a member of Markland Branch 99 Masonic Lodge Scottish Rite. Charlie passed away in 2010.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion

STEWART, Dr. John

WWI

John was born in Black River, Cape Breton in 1849. Dr. John Stewart commanded Dalhousie University’s No. 7 Canadian Stationary Hospital during the Great War. When the Dalhousie unit was created in 1915, John was seen as its natural leader. He was a Dalhousie graduate and prominent surgeon in Halifax. The unit consisted of 162 staff, including Dalhousie professors and students, nursing sisters, members of other universities and the general public. Although 67 years old, John set a brisk pace for marches and coolly slept through a German air raid on the hospital. He attained the rank of Colonel and in 1918 was transferred to a high-level position in England. After the war John became the Dean of Medicine at Dalhousie. He received many honours for both his wartime service and medical career. Dr. John Stewart passed away in 1933.

Submitted Independently



WEATHERBEE, Darren Stephen SPECIAL DUTY AREA & PEACETIME

Darren was born in Truro, Nova Scotia in 1973. He joined the Army with the 1st Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment. He served in Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan in Special Duty Area and in Peacetime.

Submitted Independently

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WHITE, Joseph

WWI

Joseph was born in Halifax in 1897 and grew up in the Old Town Clock on Citadel Hill, in which his father was the caretaker. His father, William “Gunner” White, served in the Royal Artillery before joining the Halifax police. A student at Dalhousie University, Joseph enlisted with the Canadian Machine Gun Corps at eighteen. He was injured in battle and transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and had a decorated career in the world’s first air war. This ace fighter pilot was honoured for his “bravery and dash in action,” downing at least 22 enemy aircraft. Joseph retired as a Captain in No. 65 Squadron. Tragically, as a member of the newly-formed Royal Canadian Air Force he died in a mid-air collision in 1925.

Submitted Independently

WHITE, Thomas G.

**SPECIAL DUTY
AREA/PEACETIME**

Thomas was born in New Waterford, Nova Scotia in 1935. He joined the Army and served with the Highlanders, RC signals and Military Engineers. He served in Germany, Palestine, Egypt, Congo, Alert, Bermuda and he was on loan to the German Army Training Centre (GATS), 24 Sqn Royal Engineers, US Air National Guard Mass USA. Thomas G. White CD, Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation served for 39 years. He was the founding member of CAVUNP. He was the First Director and past President of RCL Branch 015 in New Waterford, NS. Thomas was also a member of Veterans Ombudsman Committee. He is a proud Veterans Service Officer for 21 years.

Submitted by Independently



WHITE, William A.

WWI

William was born in Virginia to former slaves in 1874. He came to Nova Scotia in 1899 to study at Acadia University. After graduating, he became a minister at Zion Baptist Church in Truro. Prior to joining the No. 2 Construction Battalion at Truro in 1917, William was an active voice against racial discrimination in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was a trail blazer. During the Great War, he was one of the few Black officers in the Canadian Army, and its only Black Chaplain. White returned to Halifax after the war, where he became the pastor of Cornwallis Street Baptist Church. He died of cancer in 1936. He is remembered fondly within the African Nova Scotian community as an inspirational and dedicated figure in the fight for racial tolerance and equality. William passed away in 1936.

Submitted Independently

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WHITMAN, James Lawrence

GULF WAR

James was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1944. He joined the Army with the 1st Canadian Field Hospital and served in Canada, Germany and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War. He is a member of the Pugwash Legion Branch #060 and has been for thirty years. He received the Gulf War, NATO, Defence Medal and Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp.

Submitted by Pugwash Branch #060, The Royal Canadian Legion

WINTERS, P. E.

WWII

L-Cpl. Winters sailed overseas in July 1940 and was stationed in England. While there he met and married Phyllis Nicolls of north Chale, Sussex, England. He was wounded in Italy during the Sicilian and Italian campaigns; a three-inch German Mortar Bomb hit twenty yards away from him and he was hit with shrapnel in the left knee. He returned to Halifax aboard the Lady Nelson and stayed for a time in Halifax. He was a member of the Legion Parsboro Branch 45 and has held several offices in the Legion, including President. P. E. is deceased and remembered fondly.

Submitted Independently



YORKE, Laurie C.

WWII

Laurie enlisted in the Army and served in England, Sicily and Italy with the West Nova Scotians Princess Louise Fusiliers during World War II. While in Italy he was wounded, receiving 28 pieces of shrapnel in his legs and was hospitalized in North Africa. Four months later he had one of his legs amputated and he soon returned to Canada on the hospital ship Lady Nelson. His family learned of his return after seeing his picture in the Halifax paper. During his stay in a Halifax hospital he met and later married Cpl. Dorothy Leigert CWAC of Spencerville, Ontario. They later settled in Parsboro where they raised five children. As an active member of Branch 45, Private Yorke served as President and was the first member to receive a Life Membership. Laurie is deceased and remembered fondly.

Submitted Independently

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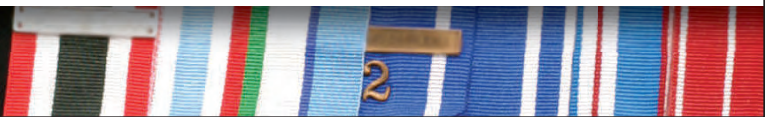
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