

## Honouring Our Local Veterans

2004

### **Bill Bean**

Birthdate: April 14, 1923

Rank / Branch: Stoker Petty Officer, 1st Class, Royal Canadian Navy

Unit: HMCS York, HMS Fleetwood, HMCS Niobe, HMCS Kokanee

Region: Canada (various locations for training and service), United Kingdom, Northern Africa, and the North Atlantic

Served: 1942 - 1945

Community: Brampton, Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939-1945 Star
- Atlantic Star
- Africa Star with 1942 Bar
- Defence of Britain
- Volunteer Service Medal
- Victory Medal



### Military Service

Bill enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy at HMCS York. His training began with 2 weeks at HMCS York followed by 6 weeks in Halifax. Then Bill was transferred to the Royal Navy.

In September 1942, Bill was stationed aboard the HMS Fleetwood. He ran convoy runs from Londonderry, Northern Ireland to Freetown, Sierra Leone.

In October 1942, HMS Fleetwood was transferred to Operation Torch, and was part of the 500-ship convoy for the North Africa invasion. The ship took soldiers to reinforce the landings at Algiers.

In March 1943, Bill returned to Great Britain. He then made one more Londonderry to Freetown convoy where they sank a U-Boat picking up 8 German survivors.

Bill returned to Canadian Barracks, HMCS Niobe, in Scotland, and took a Mechanical Training course. He qualified as a Stoker Petty Officer.

In June 1944 Bill joined the HMCS Kokanee. He spent the rest of the War on the North Atlantic convoy runs and was discharged on November 27, 1945.

## Clarence Christie

Birthdate: August 5, 1922

Rank / Branch: Private, Canadian Army

Unit: 13 RCA 22 Battery, 17 Duke of Hassars

Region: Canada (various locations for training), Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany

Served: 1942 - 1946

Community: Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939-1945 Star
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp
- Defence Medal
- France Germany Star

### Military Service

On October 8, 1942 Clare enlisted in Owen Sound. He reported to Toronto for 6 weeks of basic training and then went to advanced training at Camp Borden. Clare was trained as a truck driver and received a trade test as a baker in the Army Service Corps.

On April 8, 1943 Clare landed in Scotland and was later moved on to Farnborough, England. He entered the school of cookery and spent 10 weeks training to become a Class "C" cook. He was then posted in Billingham, England. His Battery moved around England for a year until posted to Bournemouth.

Clare was sent to Normandy on D-Day. His regiment fought through France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. The War ended with Clare outside of Lear Germany. His regiment was then sent to Luntren, Holland to await repatriation to Canada.

Clare was sent back to Germany in the occupation army with the 17 Duke of Hassars as the officers' mess cook. In December 1945 Clare was sent to Amsterdam, Holland to play hockey with the regimental team. In February of 1946 he was sent home and was discharged on April 8, 1946.



## Laverne Connell

Birthdate: May 11, 1923

Rank / Branch: Gunner, Canadian Army

Unit: 4th Antiaircraft Regiment, 100th Battery, 1st Troop

Region: Canada (various locations for training), Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany

Served: 1942 - 1946

Community: Holland Township

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France and Germany Star
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal
- Defence Medal
- War Medal 1939-45



### Military Service

Laverne enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1942 in Meaford, Ontario. He trained to become a soldier and gunner and completed six months of basic training in Simcoe before going to Halifax for advanced training, which ended in June 1943. Laverne traveled to Scotland in July 1943. From Scotland he went on to Hazelmeir, England for six months of training.

Two weeks before being sent to the front, the soldiers were granted leave, however Laverne injured his knee and had to stay behind. The reinforcements were sent to Italy while Laverne was sent to Bournemouth, where he met his future Bride at a Red Cross dance.

Laverne then took part in the D-Day invasions. From Normandy, he traveled north to Belgium and fought on through Holland before arriving in Germany.

Laverne was in Germany on May 8, 1945 when Victory was declared. On May 11, 1945 he was taken out of action but was then sent to Holland to contain the movement of enemy soldiers who had not yet surrendered. Laverne was discharged in March 1946.

## Orville Cook

Birthdate: April 11, 1921

Rank / Branch: Corporal, Canadian Army

Unit:

Region: Canada (various locations for training), Great Britain, Northern Europe

Served: 1940-1946

Community: Toronto, Holland Centre

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France and Germany Star
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp
- Defence Medal
- 1939-1945 War Medal
- Normandy D-Day Medal



### Military Service

Orville enlisted in the Army in 1940 at the University Armouries. In June he was sent to Camp Borden for basic training. On August 10 he arrived at Botwood Newfoundland and moved on to Gander Airport where he trained against sabotage at airports and other strategic sites. Orville then had infantry training at Sussex New Brunswick.

On July 19, 1941 Orville left for England on the HMT Strathmore. On July 29th he arrived in England where he took a troop train from Gourock Scotland to Aldershot. He started combat training, commando courses and endurance schemes.

From 1943 to June 1944, Orville undertook extensive training in loading and unloading personnel and vehicles from landing craft in preparation for D-Day. After D-Day Orville continued to fight on through Northern Europe until the war ended.

## Lou Deveau

Birthdate: June 23, 1922

Rank / Branch: Driver Mechanic, Gunner, Royal Canadian Artillery

Unit: 4th Field Regiment

Region: Canada (various locations for training), Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany

Served: 1941-1946

Community: Wakefield MA, Yarmouth NS, and Southampton

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France and Germany Star
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp
- Defence Medal



## Military Service

Lou enlisted in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. His training was at Aldershot, NS. He then went to Halifax for a mechanics course. Lou was sent to Hamilton, Ontario for trade school and then moved on to advanced artillery training in Petawawa, ON. Lou served for 15 months in Canada with the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps (RCOC). He then spent 39 months overseas in England and Northwest Europe.

While Lou served overseas he was a Driver Mechanic with the Royal Canadian Artillery. He drove all kinds of vehicles including tanks.

Lou was discharged on January 12, 1946.

## Ted Horton

Birthdate: April 1, 1918

Rank / Branch: Sergeant to Flight Lieutenant,  
Royal Canadian Air Force

Unit: #1 GRS Summerside, PEI; #111 OUT  
Nassau, Bahamas; #160 Royal Air Force  
Squadron

Region: Canada (various locations for training  
and service); Nassau, Bahamas; Atlantic Ocean;  
Sri Lanka; Malaysia; Sumatra; and France

Served: 1940-1946; 1953-1965

Community: Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939-1945 Star
- Burma Star
- Canadian Forces Decoration
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp
- NATO Medal (for service in France from 1957-1961)
- War Medal 1939-1945



### Military Service

In December 1940 Ted enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Hamilton, Ontario. He reported to the Manning Depot in Toronto and then to Trenton for guard duty.

In 1941 Ted was sent to Toronto, then Mount Hope, and then Aylmer Ontario for training. In August he graduated as a pilot and was posted overseas. When he arrived in Halifax he was posted to Charlottetown, where he became a Sergeant, then Summerside, PEI and then Nassau, Bahamas for more reconnaissance training.

In August of 1944 Ted ferried a Liberator from Quebec to Scotland. In November he ferried a Liberator from Scotland to India. Ted was later posted to Sri Lanka, Ceylon.

From late 1944 until the end of the war in 1945 Ted was posted to #160 RAF Squadron in Kankasanturi. The first half of his 500 operational flying hours on this tour was spent laying mines while the second half was spent dropping supplies and Gurkhas (commandos) to the underground in the Jungles of Malaysia and Sumatra. Ted was released from the Air Force in 1946.

## Gerald Meades

Birthdate: October 13, 1922

Rank / Branch: Flight Lieutenant, Royal Canadian Air Force

Unit: RCAF Squadron #423

Region: Canada (various locations for training and service),  
Great Britain, and North Atlantic

Served: 1941 - 1954

Community: Winnipeg, Hanover, Port Rowan, Wingham, and  
Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp
- Defence Medal
- War Medal 1939-1945



## Military Service

In February 1941, Gerald enrolled in the Galt Aircraft School #4 course to become an aircraft technician. In July 1941 he enlisted at the RCAF Manning Depot in Toronto. July 1941 to November 1942 Gerald trained in Trenton and was then sent to Halifax.

Gerald left Halifax for Scotland in November 1942; his ship made the crossing in 4½ days with no convoy escort. He was sent to the Coastal Command Station, in Northern Ireland as part of RCAF Squadron #423 in January 1943.

From December 1942 to March 1945, Gerald was part of 423 Squadron, they flew convoy escort duty and anti-submarine activity in the Battle of the Atlantic.

In March 1945 to October 1945 Gerald was transferred to England and trained on a variety of aircraft. Gerald was to be posted to the Far East but, Japan surrendered and further forces were not required.

May 1, 1947 Gerald was transferred to the RCAF (Primary Reserve). He served as an instructor and later as an adjutant of the 167 Air Cadet Squadron until April 1954 when he was discharged with the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

## John Wright

Birthdate: September 15, 1920

Rank / Branch: Sergeant, Royal Canadian Air Force

Unit: #10 Repair Depot, RCAF Squadron #424

Region: Canada (various locations for training and service), Great Britain, and Holland

Served: 1940-1946

Community: Proton Township, Thorton, Collingwood, and Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp
- War Medal 1939-1945



### Military Service

On September 26, 1940, John enlisted at Bay Street in Toronto. He was then trained in Toronto at the Manning Pool before going on to Camp Borden for guard duty. In December 1940 he attended the St. Thomas Technical School for further training to become an Aero Engine Mechanic.

In April 1941 John was stationed at #10 Repair Depot in Calgary, Alberta. They were trained for specific jobs. Certain personnel worked in certain hangers on specific jobs. Some personnel fixed crashed aircraft while others worked on the engines.

In January 1945 John traveled overseas to train for action against Japan. Once in Europe John worked on aircraft dropping food to the starving Dutch.