

Honouring Our Local Veterans

2007

William Corbet

Birthdate: November 21, 1922

Rank / Branch: Sergeant, Canadian Army

Unit: 36th Field Battery; 23rd Field Regiment, 4th Canadian Armoured Division

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

Served: 1942-

Community: Cobourg, Belleville, and Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939 to 1945 Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp
- Victory Medal

Military Service

Bill enlisted in Cobourg, ON on April 7, 1942. He was assigned to the 36th Field Battery, C 73016. In the months following his enlistment Bill was given basic training at the nearby base in Peterborough, ON. In July, 1942 he was sent to Petawawa for a Gunnery course. He was then sent to Sussex, NB for a second round of Gunnery training after which he was sent across the Atlantic in July of 1943. In Eastbourne, England Bill was given training for the next year to provide support for the Armoured & Infantry Regiments.

Bill advanced steadily through the ranks and he went from Gunner in 1942 to Sergeant in 1944.

On July 15, 1944 Bill landed in Normandy as part of the 23rd Field Regiment - 4th Canadian Armoured Division. Bill participated in the entire European campaign serving in France at the Falaise Gap, Belgium and Holland with the Scheldt and Dutch campaign and Germany. His unit had crossed the Rhine at Emmerich on April 1, 1945 and were approaching Wilhelmshaven on V.E. Day.



J.P. (Jock) Fleming

Birthdate: July 21, 1920

Rank / Branch: Lieutenant, Canadian Army

Unit: Royal Canadian Engineers, Scout Platoon; 7th Platoon 'A' Company; and Perth Regiment 5th Division

Region: Canada (various locations for training), Italy, Germany, and Holland

Served: 1940-1946

Community: Toronto, Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939-1945 Star
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp
- Italy Star
- Victory Medal
- France and Germany Star
- Defence of Britain Star
- Dutch Medal



Military Service

Jock signed up with the Royal Canadian Engineers in July, 1940 in Toronto, ON.

He was sent to Camp Niagara from 1938 to 1942, then to Camp Petawawa from 1942 to 1943.

Jock served with the Scout Platoon, then the 7th Platoon 'A' Company. He then served with Perth Regiment 5th Division. In autumn of 1944 Jock fought in Italy. Later he participated in campaigns at the Lamone River crossing, Comachio Peninsula, Rimini, Ravenna, and Bagnacavallo. He was then sent north, to help with the liberation of the Netherlands at Apeldoorn and Arnhem. Jock's tour ended at Delfzijl on V.E. Day in 1945.

Jock spent his military career as a Lieutenant, first with the Royal Canadian Engineers, and then with the Canadian Infantry Corps. He was discharged in January of 1946.

Clifford Iles

Birthdate: October 29, 1921

Rank / Branch: Sergeant, Canadian Army

Unit: Grey & Simcoe Foresters; 2nd Armoured Brigade, Scout Troop

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

Served: 1940-1945

Community: Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939-1945 Star
- France & Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp
- Efficient Service Medal
- Dutch Medallion
- War Medal 1939-1945



Military Service

Clifford enlisted with the Grey & Simcoe Foresters on June 14, 1940. He received basic training as well as specialized training in tank warfare at Camp Borden. He then went to Camp Debert in Nova Scotia. Clifford left for England from Nova Scotia. He soon realized that being a tank gunner was not his calling and so requested a transfer. After being granted his transfer Clifford became a member of the 2nd Armoured Brigade's Scout troop.

His duty was to be the gunner and wireless operator of the two-man Scouting crew. He would sometimes switch with the driver. Clifford would advance in front of the main force and report the enemy positions back to Command.

On June 6, 1944 Clifford and his unit took part in the D-Day invasion and the push into Europe. Clifford was wounded by shrapnel from a German mortar in Caen, France as part of the Falaise assault. When given the choice of staying in a Hospital, or going back to the front with his regiment, Clifford chose to return to combat and serve his country. He was wounded a second time in Holland, and finished the war in an English hospital. Clifford was discharged from the Army on December 6, 1945.

After the war Clifford remained active with the military working with the Armouries. Being a Sergeant he was able to teach recruits marching techniques and parade formations. He stopped instructing when his wife fell ill.

Barry Jackson

Birthdate: April 3, 1931

Rank / Branch: Warrant Officer Class II, Canadian Army

Unit: 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry;
13 Medical Company, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps

Region: Canada (various locations for training and service),
the United States (further training), Korea, and Japan

Served: 1950-1952; 1956-1968

Community: Owen Sound, Keady Township, and Derby
Township

Medals / Decorations:

- Korea Medal
- United Nations Service Medal for Korea
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal for Korea, given in 1991
- May 1951 the United States Presidential Unit Citation was presented to the 2nd Battalion, PPCLI
- Canadian Forces Decoration for 12 years of distinguished service (1966)



Military Service

Barry enlisted in Owen Sound on August 23, 1950. He began training in Calgary with the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was in Calgary and Wainwright, Alberta for Basic Training in the Fall of 1950. In Nov. of 1950, Barry set off to Fort Lewis, Washington, USA for Advanced Infantry Training. Barry was specifically trained to use the 75-millimetre recoilless rifle.

From February 1951 to early 1952, Barry was stationed in Korea where he participated in the Battle of Kapyong. Barry then spent the Winter/Spring of 1952 in Japan, in a Military hospital due to injuries.

After being discharged from Korean War service (1950-52) Barry had the rank of Private. He retired from his 2nd military career (1956-68) as a Warrant Officer, Class 2 and as the Company Sergeant Major (CSM) of 13 Medical Company, RCAMC.

Gordon Jackson

Birthdate: December 24, 1924

Rank / Branch: Air Mechanic/Ordnance, Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve

Unit: HMCS Star, HMCS Cornwallis, HMCS Stadacona, HMCS Protecteur, HMCS Peregrine, HMS Niobe, HMS Turnstone, HMS Fledgling, HMS Condor, HMS Kestrel, HMS Ringtail, HMS Daedalus, and HMCS Warrior

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

Served: 1943-1946

Community: Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- Service Medal
- Volunteer Medal with Clasp
- Defence of Britain



Military Service

Gordon enlisted September 3, 1943 at HMCS Star in Hamilton, ON. He trained to become a Stoker and achieved the rank of Stoker 1C on December 27, 1943. Gordon's active service began January 3, 1944 at HMCS Star.

In 1944, Gordon served on several different naval bases. He started at HMCS Star until he was posted to HMCS Cornwallis on February 29. Next, he was posted to HMCS Stadacona, HMCS Protecteur, HMCS Peregrine, HMS Niobe and he finished the year out at HMS Turnstone.

In 1945 Gordon went on to the Royal Navy Air Base HMS Fledgling, HMS Niobe, HMS Condor, HMS Kestrel, HMS Condor again, and finally HMS Ringtail. He also received the rank of Air Mechanic/Ordnance in June of 1945.

In 1946, Gordon saw service on the high seas with the aircraft carriers HMS Ringtail, HMS Daedalus, and HMCS Warrior.

April 1, 1946 Gordon went to HMCS Stadacona and ended his service at HMCS York. Gordon was demobilized on June 4th, 1946.

Thomas McClelland

Birthdate: July 6, 1913

Rank / Branch: Electrical Lieutenant, Royal Canadian Navy
Volunteer Reserve

Unit: HMCS Catarqui, HMCS Stadacona, HMCS Cornwallis, and
HMCS Levis

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

Served: 1940-1945

Community: Sullivan Township, Chesley, Kingston, Toronto,
Mississauga, and Grey County

Medals / Decorations:

- Atlantic Star
- Volunteer Service Medal
- 1939--1945 War Medal

Military Service

Thomas' military career began in 1940 when he joined the Canadian Officer Training Corps while at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. He received training twice a week while still attending University.

After graduating, Thomas enlisted with the Navy for active service.

He served on HMCS Catarqui, then HMCS Stadacona, HMCS Cornwallis, and HMCS Stadacona for a second time.

In 1944 Thomas joined the frigate HMCS Levis, as the ASDIC (Anti Submarine Detection and Investigation Committee) Maintenance Officer for the 27th Escort Group (EG27). This was the only such appointment in the Canadian Navy. Thomas' job was to maintain the ASDIC sets on the five frigates of EG27 which had been taken off convoy duty and assigned to submarine hunting only. Thomas was transferred from ship to ship as required so that a ship did not have to go in to port for maintenance.

Thomas played a critical part in the Battle of the Atlantic; the fight against German submarines. He was discharged from the Navy in 1945.



John Newton

Birthdate: September 14, 1923

Rank / Branch: Flying Officer, Royal Canadian Air Force

Unit: #9 Air Observer Squadron

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

Served: 1942-1945

Community: Brantford, Oakville, Sept Iles, QC, Toronto,
Walkerton, Milton, and Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- General Service Medal



Military Service

John enlisted in Toronto with the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942, and was assigned the service number of R193320.

John began his Pilot training in 1943 at the #10 Elementary Flying Training School in Pendleton, ON. Later that year he was off to the #5 Service Flying Training School in Brantford, ON where he earned his Pilot Wings. He then trained at the #9 Air Observer School in St. Jean, QC where he became a staff pilot. John had received training at the Reconnaissance & Navigation School in Summerside, Prince Edward Island.

John was responsible for flying training of student Navigators and Bombardiers at #9 AOS.

During the course of his military service, John worked his way up the ranks. In 1943 he began as a Leading Aircraftsman, then he was promoted to Sergeant later that year. In 1944, he became a Warrant Officer Second Class.

John was discharged in November of 1945.

While working for the Department of Defence, John achieved the rank of Flying Officer in 1957.

Doris Pedwell (nee Hiatt)

Birthdate: December 28, 1925

Rank / Branch: Driver, Royal Army Service Corps

Unit:

Region: Great Britain

Served: 1943-1945

Community: Birmingham, ENG; Owen Sound, ON

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939 - 1945 Service Medal

Military Service

Prior to enlisting, Doris survived the blitz on Birmingham. She remembers spending nights in the Anderson shelter with her family with only an oil lamp for light. Every morning they would have two streaks of black soot under their noses, which would always make them laugh at each other.

Another story Doris remembers from the blitz was the time she went into air raid shelter with sandals. When they went to leave, she only had one sandal. There was glass everywhere so she got a piggy back down the street to where there was less debris. Doris remembers having to root through the rubble to find something to eat.

The day after Doris turned 18, she enlisted in Aston, Birmingham, England, her service number was W301682. She went for Basic Training in Pontefract, Yorkshire, England, then to Camberley, Surrey; Llansanffraid, North Wales; and Leamington Spa., Warwickshire, England.

Doris trained to become a driver on a 3 tonne truck up on blocks so she could learn how to double clutch. After mastering the clutch, Doris was able to drive. Throughout the war she drove trucks and "most things on wheels", and then she became a staff car driver.

Doris was discharged in November of 1945.



William Avery Tiner

Birthdate: September 28, 1917

Rank / Branch: Leading Seaman, Royal Canadian Navy Reserve;
Staff Sergeant, Canadian Army

Unit: Grey & Simcoe Foresters, HMCS York, HMCS Stadacona,
HMCS Northney, HMS Quebec, HMCS Niobe, RMS Strathnaver,
USNS James O'Hara, USNS Marine Adder

Region: Canada (various locations for training and service),
United Kingdom, North Africa, North and South Atlantic, Italy,
France, the United States (for further training), Korea, Egypt, and
Germany

Served: 1940-1945; 1950-1968

Community: Owen Sound, Guelph, London, Barrie, Burlington,
and Markdale

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939--1945 Star
- Atlantic Star with France-Germany Bar
- Africa Star
- Italy Star
- Defence Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Bar
- 1939--1945 War Medal
- United Nations Service Medal (Korean)
- Canadian Korean Medal
- NATO Medal
- Peacekeeping Medal (Egypt)
- UN Medal
- UN Egypt Medal
- Canadian Medal
- D-Day Commemorative Medal (50 years)



Military Service

On June 10, 1940 William joined the Grey & Simcoe Foresters. He began Basic Training in Camp Borden. He later transferred to the Royal Canadian Navy on February 17, 1941 at HMCS York in Toronto. William was posted to HMCS Stadacona in Halifax on April 25, 1941 for Basic Training as an Able Bodied Seaman. He trained on MTB's. On January 9, 1942 William was posted to the United Kingdom on the HMCS Northney, where he trained on landing craft in combined

operations. February 28, 1942 William was posted to the HMS Quebec for advanced training in landing craft assault.

On November 8, 1942 he landed American Troops at Algiers, North Africa. On November 15, 1942 William returned to the UK for more training with the Army. William sailed from England on the RMS Strathnaver as a Leading Seaman in May, 1943 around South Africa and up through the Suez Canal. On July 10 he landed English troops at Cape Pachino, Sicily then on July 12, 1943 he returned to the UK. October 13, 1943 William was in Victoria, BC. He later returned to the UK in March, 1944 and trained with the army to get in and out of LCA's. June 5, 1944 was a false start to June 6, 1944 (D-Day) when William landed the Chaudieres on the Nan Sector of Juno Beach 8:22 the second wave in. He returned to Portsmouth until June 10 then William returned to France with supplies. He came ashore on June 30 to get married on July 2.

William was then posted to the HMCS Niobe in Grenock, Scotland on July 12, 1944, later he was posted to Halifax, NS. On May 25 1945, William was posted to HMCS York, and was discharged August 9, 1945

On August 16, 1950 William enlisted in the RCE SPR in London, ON for duty in Korea. He was posted to Chilliwack, BC on August 19th for basic training. William was then sent to Fort Lewis, Washington USA for training in October of 1950. William went to Korea with the advance party aboard the USNS James O'Hara on October 15, 1950. He arrived in Pusan, Korea on November 5, 1950. William then returned to Fort Lewis, by air on January 4, 1951 for more training. On May 2, 1951 he went back to Korea aboard the USNS Marine Adder. William returned to Canada on December 14, 1951 where he was posted to London, ON holding the rank of Corporal. In QM stores he was promoted to Sgt January 1, 1956. William was posted overseas to Egypt on March 23, 1957 as CQMS of HQ COY UNEF Base. William was posted to Camp Borden RCSI April 8, 1958. His next posting took him to Soest, Germany on March 10th, 1963 where he was part of the Nato Force. On June 5, 1965 William was posted to RCEME in Lakeview, ON. On July 2, 1965 he was posted to 15 RCO Depot where he was promoted to Staff Sgt on September 15, 1965. After a total of 23 years, 3months and 18 days of service, William was discharged from Army on April 7, 1968.

Clarence L. Wark

Birthdate: September 18, 1923

Rank / Branch: Officer Steward, Royal Canadian Navy
Volunteer Reserve

Unit: HMCS Georgian, HMCS Owen Sound

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

Served: 1941- 1945

Community: Truro, NS; Belmont, NS; Guelph, ON;
Belleville, ON; White Lake, ON; and Owen Sound, ON

Medals / Decorations:

- 1939- 1945 War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal
- 1939- 1945 Star
- The Atlantic Star



Military Service

Clarence signed up for the Navy in Halifax, NS on September 18 1941; his service number which he remembers quite well is V26331.

After joining the minesweeper HMCS Georgian, the crew was mainly on minesweeping duties between Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. In January 1942, the Georgian was escorting ships through the St. Lawrence to Anticosti Island and then on to Newfoundland to join one of the large convoys going across the "Pond".

Clarence did lookout duty for periods of 4 hours at a time; he also had Depth Charge Duty when action stations were sounded. This involved loading a 300-400 pound depth charge into the cradle, priming it and then firing it over the side of the ship.

In the fall of 1943 Clarence was sent from Halifax, NS to pick up the new HMCS Owen Sound Corvette in Collingwood, ON. She was sailed through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence to Halifax. From there the HMCS Owen Sound went to places like Bermuda, Azores, Ireland, Bay of Biscay area and the English Channel on D-Day