

Honouring Our Local Veterans

2008

Gordon Breen

Birthdate: March 18, 1922

Rank / Branch: Lance Sergeant, Canadian Army

Unit: 1st Canadian Paratrooper Battalion, 6th Airborne Division

Region: Canada (various locations for training), the United States (for further training), Great Britain, and France

Served: 1942-1945

Community: Owen Sound, Port Coburn, and Toronto

Medals / Decorations:

- War Medal



Military Service

On September 14, 1942 Gordon enlisted in Toronto. He was sent to Brampton for 2 months of Army Basic Training. In November of 1942 he was sent to Montreal for a doctor's examination before becoming a paratrooper. Gordon then went to Fort Benning, Georgia, USA where he earned his paratrooper wings. In March he returned to Shilo, Manitoba to train for his Canadian paratrooper qualifications.

Once Gordon arrived in England, he began more training on Salisbury Plain and various other locations to obtain his paratrooper qualifications in England. He was in training until the two weeks before June 6, 1944. No one was allowed in or out of the training camp during those two weeks. On the night of June 5 they took off and landed in France at 1:30 am on June 6. Gordon joined the 1st Canadian Paratrooper Battalion which was part of the 6th Airborne Division in England. He parachuted into enemy territory on D-Day. Gordon was wounded and captured June 6, 1944. He spent the remainder of the war in a P.O.W. camp until his release in April, 1945. Gordon was discharged August 11, 1945.

Robert Fleming Clark

Birthdate: May 10, 1924

Rank / Branch: Warrant Officer Class II, Royal Canadian Air Force

Unit: 408 Canadian Bomber Squadron, 421 Squadron, and 439 Squadron

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

Served: 1942-1946; ___ -1968

Community: Owen Sound, Kemble, North Derby, Galt, and Stratford

Medals / Decorations:

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



Military Service

Bob visited the Stratford RCAF recruiting office on May 11, 1942, one day after his 18th birthday. He was told that they would be in contact with him, however, when he had not heard anything by June 2, Bob hitchhiked to London. He was sworn in and told to report to the Galt Aircraft School the following day to begin training as an aero engine technician. After 2 months of training, Bob was sent to Manning Depot, Toronto, Ontario and then to St. Thomas, Ontario. On completion of his course, he transferred to Trenton and worked on Fleet Finch, Cornell, Anson and Harvard aircrafts.

Bob sailed out of Halifax, on Christmas Day, 1943 on the Louis Pasteur. When he reached England, he was assigned to an RAF station at Scunthorpe, Linconshire. Over the course of his time overseas, Bob transferred to 408 Canadian Bomber Squadron at Linton-on-Ouse, 421 Squadron in Germany and 439 Squadron stationed in Flensburg, Germany.

After the war, Bob arrived in Owen Sound on December 24, 1945 and received his discharge in February 1946. After Bob re-enlisted, he was stationed all over Canada and spent 4 years in France with NATO.

Cliff Denny

Birthdate: April 20, 1921

Rank / Branch: Corporal, Royal Canadian Air Force

Unit:

Region: Canada (various locations for training and service)

Served: 1942-1947

Community: Fordwich, Orton, Wroxeter, Toronto, and Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- RCAF Service Medal



Military Service

Cliff enlisted with the RCAF in 1942 at the Toronto Exhibition Grounds.

He was sent for training to become a bomb armourer at the Bomb Armament School in Mountainview which he completed in 1943.

During his years of service, Cliff held the ranks of Airman Class 2, Airman Class 1 and Corporal. He was stationed to London AOS, then Mountainview, followed by Moncton Supply Station, Mountainview again and Montreal Pointe-aux-Trembles Supply Station.

Cliff was to be stationed overseas and was on a train headed to Halifax to board a ship when V.E. Day was declared. After taking a course in preparation to be stationed in the Pacific, V.J. Day was declared on the very day Cliff was writing his final exam.

Cliff served as a Driver until his discharge in February 1947 at the Pointe-aux-Trembles station.

Charles Fisher

Birthdate: November 5, 1914

Rank / Branch: Sergeant, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps

Unit: 5th Armoured Division, RCASC

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

Served: 1941-1947

Community: London, ENG; Owen Sound, ON

Medals / Decorations:

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



Military Service

Charles enlisted in the spring of 1941 in Owen Sound, Ontario. He was sent for basic training at Camp Borden, Ontario. Charles trained to become a driver. Over the course of his military career, Charles would progress to the rank of Sergeant.

In November, 1941 Charles was sent to the United Kingdom and joined the 5th Armoured Division, RCASC in Aldershot. During his time in the service Charles served as a driver and batman with the Transport Corps, and later as Transport Sergeant at the Canadian Military Headquarters in London, England.

Charles participated in the Defence of Britain, the Italy Campaign, and in France, Holland and Germany. He was discharged in February of 1947.

Ian MacKay

Birthdate: April 1, 1921

Rank / Branch: Flight Lieutenant, Royal Canadian Air Force

Unit: 457 Squadron, Squadron 605, Operational Spitfire Squadron 403

Region: Canada (various locations for training and service), United Kingdom, Gibraltar, Malta, and France

Served: 1940-1945

Community: Owen Sound, Toronto, Meaford, and Walkerton

Medals / Decorations:

- Operational Wing (on completion of one and one half tours)
- 1939 - 1945 Star
- Aircrew Europe Star
- Africa Star
- Defence Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp
- The War Medal
- Malta George Cross Medal
- Battle for Malta Medal



Military Service

Ian enlisted on Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario in August of 1940.

Ian was posted to Guard Duty in Jarvis, Ontario before beginning his Initial Training at Hunt Club, Toronto, Ontario. Ian then went on to Elementary Flying Training in Mount Hope, Ontario from January 5 to February 19, 1941. Ian's training continued from March 7 to May 12, 1941 in Dunnville, Ontario with Service Flying Training on Harvards. Upon graduation he was appointed a Pilot Officer.

In 1940 he began as an Aircraftsman 2nd Class and became a Leading Aircraftsman in 1941. On May 28 he was posted to "Y" Depot Halifax. On June 15, 1941 Ian sailed aboard HMS Wolfe (the former liner Montcalm). Between Halifax and Iceland, the convoy lost fourteen ships to enemy submarines. On July 12 he continued to the British Isles and landed in Liverpool, England. He was posted to Bournemouth, England and then to Hawarden, Wales with 57 Operational Training Unit on July 23, 1941 where he trained on Spitfires, finishing on August 29, 1941 as a Fighter Pilot.

From September to October 1941, Ian was with the Australians of 457 Squadron in Jurby, Isle of Man. The squadron was then "purified" and the five Canadians were posted to Honley, England with Squadron 605, to retrain on Hurricanes. The squadron was then posted to Abbotsinch,

Scotland to join the aircraft carrier Argus. The Argus was sent to Gibraltar to join the carrier Arc Royal and the group bound for Malta. Between arrival in Malta on November 12, 1941 until departure on May 17, 1942, of the fifteen members of the Squadron, only three survived to return. During the Defence of Malta, Ian was involved in numerous air battles with ME 109's and JU 88's.

After being posted as an instructor with the 56 OTU, in Dundee, Scotland, Ian rejoined an Operational Spitfire Squadron 403 at Kenley, England in the 11 Group as Flight Lieutenant. Ian flew over 70 operations with 403 Squadron. After an aircraft accident on July 13, 1943 Ian was advised not to fly operationally for a year so he was returned to Ontario. After a brief recovery period, Ian joined a Visiting Flight at Trenton as an Instructor in Armament. He was discharged in May 1945.

Cliff Saigle

Birthdate: November 2, 1924

Rank / Branch: Sergeant, Royal Canadian Air Force

Unit: 419 Squadron. #10 Repair Depot, numerous fire halls across Canada

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

Served: 1942-1945; 1946-1973

Community: Toronto, ON; Winnipeg, MB; Trenton, ON; and Owen Sound, ON

Medals / Decorations:

- Defense Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp
- War Medal
- 1939 - 1945 Star
- Canadian Forces Decoration & Clasp

Military Service

Cliff enlisted right out of high school in Toronto, Ontario. He was sent to #1 Manning Depot for Basic Training and then in 1942, he went to #1 Bombing and Gunnery School in Jarvis, Ontario. During this year he was promoted to Sergeant. After an aircraft accident in Gimli, Manitoba Cliff was left unable to fly. He re-mustered to the ground trade as an armorer. Upon completion of his course, he was sent overseas in October of 1943. While at Middleton St. George, he was given the chance to re-muster back to air crew as an air gunner and flew with 419 Squadron. Cliff was discharged in September 1945.



After re-enlisting in 1946, Cliff was sent to Mountain View, Ontario for Basic Firefighter Training in October. Cliff's first transfer as a firefighter was to #10 Repair Depot in Calgary, Alberta. Over the next two years, Cliff was posted all over Canada, starting at RCAF Edmonton and Fort Nelson, in British Columbia; the north-east shore of Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories; Edmonton, Alberta; and the Institute of Aviation Medicine in Toronto, Ontario. In October of 1949, Cliff was promoted to Corporal. His next posting was to the fire hall at the civilian aerodrome in London, Ontario, followed by two years at the Camp Borden fire hall. Over the next fifteen years Cliff would serve at several bases: Portage La Prairie #2 A.F.S. with the Fire Department; Toronto; Aylmer as a Fire Instructor at the Fire School; Centralia as Deputy Fire Chief during which time he was promoted to Sergeant; the Radar Base in Moisie, Quebec as Fire Chief; St. Hubert, Quebec as the Deputy Fire Chief; Radar Base in Yorktown, Saskatchewan as Fire Chief. In 1967, Cliff went overseas and served with the RCAF in West Germany. He was stationed with 4 fighter-wing in Baden-Soellingen, West Germany crash rescue (the pilots were flying CF 104's). Cliff returned from overseas and served as the Senior Crew Chief at CFB Trenton until his retirement in May of 1973.

Jack Ward

Birthdate: March 26, 1922

Rank / Branch: Flying Officer, Royal Canadian Air Force
Unit: #5 Service Flying Training School, #7 Elementary Flying Training School, #9 Service Flying Training School, and #10 Elementary Training School

Region: Canada (various locations for training and service)

Served: 1942-1945

Community: Toronto, Etobicoke, Weston, Chatham, Brampton, Georgian Bluffs, and Owen Sound

Medals / Decorations:

- Canadian Service Medal
- Canadian Defence Medal
- Victory Medal



Military Service

Jack enlisted in the RCAF in Toronto, Ontario as an Aircraftsman Second Class (R-193714) and began his training to become a Pilot and Flying Instructor at Toronto Manning Pool in 1942.

In 1943, Jack attended the RCAF Initial Training School and then proceeded on to the Aircrew Graduates Training Program. Afterwards, Jack trained at the #2 Elementary Flying School in Fort William, Ontario. Jack then went on to #11 Service Flying Training School in Yorkton,

Saskatchewan for the remainder of 1943 and into 1944. Finally, Jack trained at # 1 Flying Instructors Training School in Rivers, Manitoba in 1944.

Jack attained the ranks of Leading Aircraftsman, Pilot Officer and Flying Officer in 1943.

After completing his Flying Instructors Training, Jack was posted to the #5 Service Flying Training School in Brantford, Ontario from June 6 to September 1, 1944. He was then transferred to #7 Elementary Flying Training School in Windsor, Ontario on September 7, 1944. From November 21, 1944 to June 5, 1945 Jack was posted to #9 Service Flying Training School, Centralia, Ontario. He last served at #10 Elementary Training School in Pendleton, Ontario from June 26 to July 23, 1945.

Philip B. White

Birthdate: November 2, 1925

Rank / Branch: Ordinary Signalmen, Royal Canadian Navy

Unit: HMCS York, HMCS Montcalm, HMCS Cornwallis, and HMCS Westmount

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

Served: 1944-1945

Community: Toronto, Owen Sound, Hamilton, Timmins, Oshawa, and Meaford

Medals / Decorations:

- General Service
- Good Conduct
- Atlantic Star



Military Service

Philip enlisted at HMCS York in Toronto, Ontario in 1944. He was issued the service number V86082.

Philip trained as a new entry for 6 weeks in 1945 at HMCS Montcalm in Quebec City. He then began six weeks of Seaman Training at HMCS Cornwallis in Digby, Nova Scotia. Philip finished training to become an Ordinary Signalmen at Communications School in St.-Hyacinthe, Québec where he was trained in visual signals: lamp signals, Morse code and semaphore.

After training, Philip was posted to Halifax, Nova Scotia and transferred to HMCS Westmount. He saw duty on the Atlantic east coast under Halifax command.

Philip was discharged in September of 1945.