

Putting a Face and Story to the Names on the Cenotaph

by Daria Valkenburg

"Lest we forget." That's what we hear every November 11 as we gather by the various cenotaphs and memorials for the Remembrance Day services. "Lest we forget." It's true that we haven't forgotten to buy a poppy, or give a minute of silence on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. We may attend a service, lay a wreath, or attend a special church service. But this Remembrance Day, take a look at the list of names on the cenotaph or memorial you're at, and ask yourself if you have any idea about the service and sacrifices made by the people listed on those various memorials. Unless it's a family member, the answer is probably not. One man is trying to change that story at his Legion's Cenotaph.

Pieter Valkenburg is originally from The Netherlands, and served with NATO in the Dutch Air Force. When he settled in North Tryon, P.E.I. after retirement, he joined the Borden-Carleton Legion as a way to give back to an organization that serves the brave Canadians who helped liberate the country of his birth during WW II. "I was born during the Hunger Year of 1944, when there was little or no food. So many people starved to death," he explains. "The Canadians not only liberated us from Nazi rule, they saved us from starvation."

He participates with pride in the annual November 11 Remembrance

Day Services, always paying his respects at the Cenotaph outside the Legion. In The Netherlands, all the Canadian War Cemeteries are well tended, but the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten has a special program. Schoolchildren come every December to light candles at the graves, and the cemetery has a program called 'A Face To Every Name', with the purpose of creating digital records for each known buried soldier, with photos and additional information supplied by their families.

One day Valkenburg asked at his Legion if there were any records of the persons named on its Cenotaph, so that he could learn more about the people who had paid such a sacrifice for the liberation of Europe. When it turned out that there were no records available at the Legion, Valkenburg offered to do the research.

The purpose of Valkenburg's research is to document all the persons mentioned on the Cenotaph for a historical record, and to make a Wall of Remembrance in the Legion with their photos.

He began by looking at Veteran Affairs Virtual War Memorial website, looking for information on fallen soldiers. Next he searched through records available at Library and Archives Canada, the Tryon and Area Historical Society, community histories, and the Provincial Archives.

He reached out to other researchers, asking for help in identifying the names, and if there were photos and stories. Once he could match a name to the records, he started looking for families.

His Belgian cousin, François Bruegelmans, even made a trip across Belgium to help with the project, visiting various WWI cemeteries to provide photos of headstones that were not available on the internet. Among the stops was Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, where Bruegelmans searched out the names from the Cenotaph, among the more than 54,000 World War I war dead whose graves are unknown.

WW I soldier Private Vincent Carr, Regimental #444791, and WW II soldier Corporal Everett Samuel Francis, Regimental #F/60575 are two of the people whose information he's uncovered.

Carr's nephew, Delbert Carr of Tryon, was happy to help Valkenburg out with a photo of Carr in uniform, but noted that he knew little about his uncle. Similarly, Carr's niece, Arlene Sorensen, also of Tryon, suggested that because Carr died so young, was not married, and was older than her father and her cousin's father, there was not much information to pass on to the next generation.

Vincent Earl Carr was born May 3, 1894 in North Tryon, son of Robert Carr and Catherine McLeod. On June 2, 1914,

he enlisted in the 55th Battalion in Sussex, New Brunswick, recorded his trade as labourer. On October 30, 1915 his unit sailed to England, arriving on November 9, 1915 aboard the S.S. Corsican.

On April 6, 1916 he was transferred to the 36th Battalion, and then 2 months later, on June 23, 1916, he was sent for training at the 86th Machine Gun Battalion, later re-designated as the Canadian Machine Gun Depot. On July 28, 1916 he became part of the 1st (also called "A") Canadian Motor Machine Gun Battery and arrived in France with his unit the next day.

In an excerpt from the November 1, 1917 Operation Report for October 28-31, 1917 by Lt C.P. Gilman, Acting Officer in Charge, of the "A" Battery of the First Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade wrote: ... "On the evening of the 29thwere in position to fire on targets given for the Zero hour, which was 5:50 am morning of the 30th. As soon as we opened fire, we were subjected to an intense bombardment of our positions, and we were forced to retire 6 hours later, after sustaining 28 casualties...."

Carr was among those killed in action at the Passchendaele Ridge on the morning of October 30, 1917. He is buried in Cement House Cemetery in Langemark, Belgium.

Everett Samuel Francis was born February 2, 1921 in Albany, the son of Lester L. and Annie Mary Francis, and husband of Janie Louise of Grand Falls, Newfoundland. Before the war, he worked for Wilfred Inman of Albany as a farm labourer. On July 15, 1940, he enlisted, serving with the P.E.I. Highlanders.

On September 13, 1942, he was sent from Gander, Newfoundland, where his unit was based, to Long Branch, Ontario for a small arms training course. He was on his way back to Gander aboard the railway ferry S.S. Caribou when it was torpedoed by German U-Boat 69 off the coast of Newfoundland on October 14, 1942. 101 survivors were rescued and taken to Sydney, but the captain, 30 crew, 57 service personnel, and 48 passengers were lost, including Francis. He's buried in St. Matthew's Presbyterian Cemetery in Grand Falls, Newfoundland. Unfortunately, no family or photo of Francis has been found as yet.



Photo: Grave of Everett Samuel Francis in Grand Falls, Newfoundland.

Valkenburg still needs help to complete his project of putting a face and story to every name. He has not been able to find one person – F. Arsenault, who served in WWII.

All of the names on the Cenotaph found so far were men, with two from the Merchant Navy.

As well, research shows that there seems to be some surname spelling differences, and one name seems to be listed under the wrong column.

If you recognize any of the names on the Cenotaph and have photos, letters, diaries, or stories you are willing to share, please email him at dariadv@yahoo.ca.

"I also encourage family members of those on the Cenotaph to come to the Borden-Carleton Legion on Remembrance Day for the service," Valkenburg says.

He also notes that the Cenotaph is showing signs of wear and tear and needs some restoration work.

The Borden-Carleton Legion is holding a Christmas Tea on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, from 2 to 3:30 pm, as a fundraiser for the Cenotaph Restoration Project.

cont'd on p. 7



Cenotaph at Borden-Carleton Legion Branch No. 10 photo Daria Valkenburg



Photo of Vincent Carr in 1915, in the uniform of the 55th Battalion. (Photo courtesy of Delbert Carr collection)



Photo: Grave of Vincent Carr at Cement House Cemetery. (Photo credit: François Bruegelmans)



Photo of the S. S. Caribou. (Photos from www.findagrave.com)

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Cenotaph Names cont'd from p. 6

WWI

Patrick Raymond Arsenault
Kenneth John Bell
Charles Benjamin Buxton
James Ambrose Cairns
James Lymon Cameron
Leigh Hunt Cameron
George Albert Campbell
William G. Campbell
Vincent Carr
Arthur Leigh Collett
W. Basil Cormier
Patrick Philip Deighan
(Deegan)

James Graham Farrow
Percy Earl Farrow (Farrar)
Ellis M. Hooper
John Goodwill Howatt
Charles H. Lowther
Bruce Sutherland MacKay
Arthur Clinton Robison
Harry Robinson
William Douglas Sherren
(WWII)
Henry Warburton Stewart
John Lymon Wood

People listed on the Borden-Carleton Cenotaph

WWII

James Arthur Affleck
Albert Eugene Arsenault
F. Arsenault (no info found)
Frank Lewis Arsenault
Leonard Stephen Avery
George Ashley Bartlett
Austin Harry Boulter
Harrison William Craig
George Alfred Dunn
John Daniel Ferguson
Everett Samuel Francis
Ernest Ramey Gallant
James Emmett Hughes
Singleton Charles Jeffrey
(Jeffery)

Harold Lloyd Lefurgey
Elmer Allister Mabey
Elmer Bagnall Muttart
Joseph Charles McIvor
George Martin McMahon
Ernest Murray Norton
George Preston Smith
Arnold Dudley Taylor
William Ness (1955)

Kinkora Primary Care Clinic

Kinkora Primary Care Clinic will be held at Kinkora Place each Thursday morning from 8:30 am- 12:00 pm. A Registered Nurse will be available to help individuals deal with issues such as high blood pressure, breathing difficulty, diabetes, heart health and stopping smoking. Different sessions can also be formed to meet the needs of a group or on the desired topic. Sessions will also focus on preventing health issues and discuss when is the appropriate time for screening.

Drop ins are welcome or pre-booked appointments can be made by calling 902-432-2600.

Schedule for October is as follows:
Thurs., October 20:
Registered Nurse

Thurs., October 27:
Diabetes Educator

Councillors Give First Reading to Fire Bylaw

by Andy Walker

Councillors gave first reading to a bylaw dealing with Fire Protection and Emergency Services for Kensington during their September meeting.

That was a follow-up to the September 26 Committee of Council meeting, when the document was tabled for discussion only. The bylaw is to delineate and clarify roles and responsibilities within the governance and operation of the department.

The document has already been reviewed by Fire Chief Allan Sudsbury and he did not recommend any changes. Town Chief Administrative Officer Geoff Baker said the department and town staff are continuing to work with W.G. Hogan Fire Safety Specialties to develop a policy and procedures manual. The fire department plans to meet with Hogan throughout

department members while they are carrying out their duties.


Council also agreed to participate in the development of a tourist information map for the area. The two sided map will show the town on one side and the surrounding area on the other. Advertisements will be sold by the marketing company developing the map and the town has agreed to cover the shortfall if not enough ads are sold to cover the cost of producing 5,000 copies.

Baker told councillors the map will provide an opportunity to promote the town and its businesses and any costs involved should be minimal. If the town ends up having to cover any portion of the \$4,200 production costs, the money will come out of the 2016-2017 operating budget.

October and November to review the new bylaw and the policies currently in place, with a view to having the final document ready for approval by council next February.

The bylaw defines the role of the chief and other department members and allows the department to collect dues for fire protection and rescue services, fire safety services, and fire watch duty. It commits council to defending any member of the department in the event they face legal action while carrying out their duties providing they are acting in good faith and without malice.


The proposed bylaw also provides for fines in cases where a person refuses to leave an area when asked by firefighters or obstructs any



Border-Carleton Library

NEW HOURS of operation:
Monday 10am - 2pm
Wednesday 4 - 8pm
Saturday 11am - 3pm

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