

# On The War Memorial Trail..... 2019 Visit To The Canadian War Cemetery In Groesbeek

by Daria Valkenburg

While in The Netherlands this past fall, Pieter Valkenburg visited the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek and laid down flags of Canada and PEI for the names listed on the Cenotaph outside the Borden-Carleton Legion, which he has been researching, as well as other Islanders identified by Dutch researchers. This cemetery visit occurred on a rare sunny and dry day during our time in The Netherlands.... it rained 19 out of 21 days! Valkenburg was joined by his former colleague in the Dutch Foreign Service, Ad Scheepers, and his wife Noor, who live in Groesbeek.

While no additional names of soldiers from PEI have been uncovered since Valkenburg's last visit in 2017, photos of several soldiers have now been provided by family members. Flags were placed at the grave-stones of these soldiers from PEI:

- L/Cpl Ralph Schurman BOULTER, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, from West Point
- Pte Lawrence BULGER, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, from Foxley River
- Major John Weston CAMP-

- BELL, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, from Clermont
- Cpl Preston D. CAMP-BELL, Algonquin Regiment, from Coleman
- Rifleman William Alfred CANNON, Regina Rifle Regiment, from Pownal
- Cpl Arthur GAUDET, Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal, from Mont Carmel
- Sapper Joseph Edmond HENNEBERY, Corps of Royal Canadian Engineers, from Morrell
- Cpl George Ivan MACKINNON, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, from Mt. Albion
- Cpl Robert Bruce MACNEILL, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, from Ch'town
- Pte Barney Ruben MCGUIGAN, North Shore Regiment, born in Souris
- Cpl Stephen A. MCKINNON, Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, from St. Peter's Bay
- L/Cpl Edward Gabriel PERRY, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise), from St. Nicholas
- Pte John Clifford ROGERS, North Shore Regiment, born in Hope River
- Pte Ralph K. SILLIKER, Lake Superior Regiment, from O'Leary
- Sgt Edison Alexander SMITH, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, from West Point
- Pte George Preston SMITH, North Shore Regiment, from Kinkora
- Pte William L. WEATHERBIE, Royal Regiment of

Canada, from Charlottetown A Canadian flag was also placed at the grave of one soldier from New Brunswick, the uncle of North Tryon resident Brenda Graves:

- L/Cpl Frank Edward MCGOVERN, North Shore Regiment, born in Chipman
- After placing the flags, Valkenburg met with Alice van Bekkum, the Chair of the Faces To Graves Project in The Netherlands, which is trying to find a photo for every Canadian soldier buried in one of the Dutch cemeteries for a digital archive.

During the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of The Netherlands commemoration in May 2020, the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek has received permission from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to place photos of Canadian soldiers by their gravestones for two weeks. Valkenburg is trying to ensure all of the Island soldiers have a photo. **Unfortunately, photos of Henneberry and McGuigan are still to be found.** If you have info to share on any of the soldiers listed above, or know of more Islanders buried in the cemetery in Groesbeek, please contact Valkenburg at dariadv@yahoo.ca



L-R: Ad Scheepers, Leendert van Bekkum, Alice van Bekkum, Pieter Valkenburg, Daria Valkenburg, Noor Scheepers.



Pieter Valkenburg at the entrance to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.  
(Photo credit: Daria Valkenburg)



Pieter Valkenburg with Noor and Ad Scheepers by the grave of William Weatherbie.  
(Photo credit: Daria Valkenburg)

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