



ANZAC DAY

LEST WE FORGET

ANZAC DAY

Anzac Day marks the anniversary of the first campaign that led to major casualties for Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. The acronym ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, whose soldiers were known as Anzacs. Anzac Day remains one of the most important national occasions of both Australia and New Zealand; however, the ceremonies and their meanings have changed significantly since 1915. According to Dr Martin Crotty, a historian at the University of Queensland, Anzac commemorations have "suited political purposes right from 1916 when the first Anzac Day march was held in London and Australia, which were very much around trying to get more people to sign up to the war in 1916-1918.

With the coming of the Second World War, Anzac Day became a day on which to commemorate the lives of Australians and New Zealanders lost in that war as well and in subsequent wars. The meaning of the day has been further broadened to include those killed in all the military operations in which the countries have been involved. Anzac Day was first commemorated at the Australian War Memorial in 1942, but, due to government orders preventing large public gatherings in case of Japanese air attack, it was a small affair and was neither a march nor a memorial service.

Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders "who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations" and "the contribution and suffering of all those who have served"

In Ottawa, the Field of Honour and the Commonwealth War Graves Section at the National Military Cemetery has been the final resting place for members of allied armed forces from across the World. ANZAC members served alongside Canadian Armed Forces during the World Wars. Australia, New Zealand and Canada has a long history of diplomacy, military and intelligence cooperation and support.

Lest we forget

Beechwood is the final resting place of the following members of the ANZAC Corps.

Australia - Section 29

Douglas Mervyn Lord was born in 1919 to G. W. Lord of Melbourne, Australia. Lord joined with the Royal Australian Air Force and then came to Ottawa to train in the pilot program at Uplands Airport. On 6 May 1941, Aircraftman Douglas Lord's training plane crashed into a field near Uplands Airport, claiming the lives of both LAC Lord and Flying Officer Bennett L. Duffey. This was the second training accident in two days that resulted in the death of pilots. Douglas Mervyn Lord died at the age of 22.

Harry William Long was born in 1921 in Australia. After enlisting with the Royal Australian Air Force, Leading Aircraftman Harry William Long was in a crash of a Harvard trainer at Black Rapids. The crash occurred on 15 August 1941, killing Harry William Long at the age of 20.

New Zealand - Section 29 and Section 27

Sergeant Pilot Blyth Kempton-Werohia was born in New Zealand, in 1921, and is the son of Whetu Henare Kempton-Werohia and Margery Dinah Kempton-Werohia, of Te Puke. During World War 2, Serg. Kempton-Werohia enlisted in the Royal New Zealand Air Force. As part of the training program, many commonwealth soldiers trained abroad. Serg. Kempton-Werohia trained with RCAF, 6 Service Flying Training School in Dunnville, Ontario according to Base Records.

He completed his course 1: Class 36 and graduated on 18 April 1942. Kempton-Werohia received his wings at a ceremony in Rockcliffe in June. Two weeks later he was transferred to the RCAF, 31 Bombing and Gunnery School in, Picton, Ontario. It was there, that Serg. Kempton-Werohia was "killed in Active Service," on 14 August 1942, when a bomber crashed into Lake Ontario near Picton. He died at the age of 21 and one week before he was to marry Margaret Mary Humble.

John McNeil was born in 1881 in Christchurch, New Zealand. At a young age, his parents moved him to Australia, then to South Africa as a teenager. Although new to the country, McNeil was quickly wrapped up in the brooding war. He is quoted in a newspaper article saying, "everyone who could carry a rifle was enlisted." McNeil joined the South African Field Force in order to fight in the Boer War, and would continue to wear a uniform more most of the rest of his life. Upon the end of Boer War in 1902, he moved to Canada in order to find "reputed work for young men," he said. Once there he worked as a plasterer on projects like the Victoria Museum, the old Union Station and even the Chateau Laurier.

Upon the outbreak of World War 1, McNeil joined Ottawa's 38th Infantry Battalion, which led to a year on post duty in Bermuda. A terrible case of pneumonia brought him home. After a year recovery, McNeil returned but this time in the Corps of Military Staff Clerks where he worked until the outbreak of World War 2. Despite being on the verge of retiring, he stayed on with the rank of sergeant-major, warrant officer class two and was a valuable military administrator. After the war, McNeil served in the Corps of Commissionaires until his retirement. He died on 2 April, 1976 at the age of 95, and was the husband of Margaret Hood.

280 Beechwood Ave, Ottawa • 613-741-9530 • www.beechwoodottawa.ca

Owned by the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation and
operated by The Beechwood Cemetery Company