

THE

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**BEECHWOOD**

Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Services  
Services funéraires, cimetière et crémation



# A History of the CSIS National Memorial Cemetery



The Canadian Security Intelligence Service is Canada's primary national intelligence service.

It is responsible for collecting, analysing, reporting and disseminating intelligence on threats to Canada's national security, and conducting operations, covert and overt, within Canada and abroad.

It also reports to and advises the Minister of Public Safety on national security issues and situations that threaten the security of the nation. CSIS was created on June 21, 1984, by an Act of Parliament.

## Did you know:

*The CSIS National Memorial Cemetery is the only cemetery in the Western Hemisphere dedicated to those who worked in security intelligence.*

On July 7 2013, former Pillar Society President Don Mahar and Clinton Langille, former Service liaison officer to the Pillar Society, met with members of the CSIS Executive to discuss the possibility of the creation of a dedicated section within Beechwood Cemetery, the National Cemetery of Canada, for the exclusive use of CSIS employees. Jeff Yaworski, the Deputy Director of Operations at the time, was very supportive of the initiative and agreed to be the CSIS Executive point of contact.

In May 2014, CSIS conducted an internal survey of all employees to gauge the level of interest in this project. Service employees quickly responded to the proposal by submitting over 400 completed questionnaires and written comments. The overwhelming majority of the respondents (88%) supported the idea of having a specific section of the Beechwood Cemetery designated as the CSIS National Memorial Cemetery (NMC). Close to half of all respondents (42%) indicated their interest in obtaining a plot with a further 36% undecided at the time. The consultation also brought forth several ideas to consider in order for the CSIS NMC to be relevant to and reflective of the entire Service membership.

A number of meetings were subsequently held at CSIS HQ to brief the Executive on this initiative which became known as the Pillar Project. Several months of discussion, research and consultation followed. On August 8 2015, the Beechwood Cemetery Foundation, CSIS and the Pillar Society finalized a Tripartite Agreement for the creation and operation of the CSIS NMC.

From the beginning, it was acknowledged by all parties that no public funds were to be used for the creation and maintenance of the CSIS NMC. The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation was able to provide a dedicated registered charity number and fundraising initiatives began in earnest. The purchase of plots by current and retired CSIS employees followed shortly thereafter.

The approval of the CSIS NMC by-laws on August 22 2016 represented a significant point of progress in the development of the site by clarifying the fundamental rules and regulations around the governance of the CSIS NMC. The objectives of these by-laws are to honour CSIS employees past and present, and to create, develop, protect, beautify and ensure respectful care of all parts of the CSIS NMC.

The Pillar Project was supported financially through a variety of methods including private donations, Pillar Society contributions and the Government of Canada's Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC). Once sufficient funds were identified, a professional survey of the CSIS NMC site was conducted and artistic renderings were completed in early 2017.

On April 4th 2017, the CSIS NMC saw its first burial with the interment of Peter Godin.

For the first time, the CSIS flag was displayed as part of a respectful ceremony honouring Mr. Godin. This historic event changed the concept of the CSIS NMC into an actual cemetery and final dignified resting place for CSIS employees and their family members who choose to use it.

Subsequently, on June 9, 2017, a CSIS flag gifted by the Service formally joined the colourful and resolute display of security and intelligence community flags in Beechwood Cemetery's Sacred Space.

During the 2018 / 2019 fiscal year, an Ottawa-based contractor was hired, paver stones were purchased and an interlocking pathway from the north side of the CSIS NMC to the main square was installed.

Sufficient paver stones for the main square were also purchased and stored at Beechwood for eventual placement.





Wednesday, November 14, 2018 was a cold and windy, late autumn day in Ottawa. But, in spite of the weather, the date represents a very proud moment for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), the Pillar Society (the retirement / alumni organization for CSIS and the former RCMP Security Service) and the Beechwood Foundation.

At 2:00 PM on this chilly day, the CSIS National Memorial Cemetery was dedicated during a ceremony attended by CSIS Director, David Vigneault, CSIS Deputy Director, Operations, Jeff Yaworski, Pillar Society National President, Donald G. Mahar and Beechwood representative, James Paterson.

A small group of CSIS employees and Beechwood representatives also attended. Following the dedication, the group gathered inside the Beechwood National Memorial Centre where a special window display, depicting historical CSIS and Pillar Society artifacts was unveiled. A small reception followed.

On October 30th, 2020, CSIS and Pillar Society leadership unveiled the CSIS National Monument in the new parade square.

The granite monument stands over 10 feet tall and is engraved on both sides with the CSIS crest and name in both official languages. It is an impressive anchor to the CSIS NMC site and its installation marked the completion of Phase 1 of the Pillar Project.



It is built to compliment the existing monuments around it and emphasize the relationship and history between the RCMP and CSIS.

Future plans include the placement of two flag poles on either side of the square for Canadian and CSIS flags and the construction of a monument celebrating the 5-Eyes intelligence sharing alliance.

*Adapted from a text written by:  
Jeff Yaworski, CSIS National Memorial Cemetery Committee*



## LT. LUCIEN JOSEPH DUROCHER

by Richard Brisson

### Lt. Lucien Joseph Durocher (1920-1985)

#### Royal Canadian Corps of Signals – SOE

**BORN ON 26 JUNE 1920** in Casselman (Ontario), Lucien Durocher received his schooling in Embrun, L'Orignal and Ottawa (LaSalle Academy and Ottawa Technical). He joined the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals on 3 September 1939. Shortly after, Lucien was sent to Barriefield Camp, near Kingston, where he was trained as an operator in wireless telegraphy. In early December, three months after he had enlisted, he was on his way to England as a member of the advance units of the First Canadian Division. Durocher was also with the Canadian brigade sent to Spitzbergen in August 1941 — from June 1943 to early 1944 he was a wireless operator with battalion and headquarters in Sicily and Italy. From there, he was recruited by the UK's Strategic Operations Executive (SOE) and sent to Algeria for accelerated training. Having received the rank of sergeant a few weeks prior, Durocher left for Algiers in North Africa in April 1944. There he received specific training for specialized work behind enemy lines.

Durocher, a tall, lanky young man who spoke fluent French and who was a skilful and experienced wireless operator, was parachuted down in southern France (near Lyon) on 24 June 1944 as part of Team DODGE for a JEDBURGH/OSS mission. In two respects, Durocher was unique among the Canadian volunteers with SOE in Europe; he was not commissioned as he had the rank of sergeant; and he was part of an OSS (Office of Strategic Services — precursor to the CIA) mission. By mid-1944, many mixed teams were being sent into France; Americans, Canadians, Free French, and British. Some were commando units, others sabotage teams. American Major Cyrus Manierre who headed the small DODGE team was full of praise in his letter of commendation for Lucien Durocher: "Sgt Durocher parachuted into France with me on 24 June 1944. He was immediately successful in establishing radio contact with Algiers, and for over eight weeks he acted as a secret radio operator behind enemy lines in enemy occupied territory. Sgt Durocher was required to make long trips in civilian clothes though a German occupied region and he





Lucien with wife Jean, sons Denis, Jean and daughter Anne (in arms) - 1949



Lucien Durocher's armlet worn while behind enemy lines in southern France (1944)

#### Sources of Information and Photos:

1. Lucien Durocher's children : Jean, Denis and Anne (especially almost all of the photos)
2. SOE Archives File on Lucien Durocher
3. "Canadians Behind Enemy Lines" by/par Roy MacLaren (1981)
4. "Eisenhower's Guerrillas - The Jedburghs, The Maquis, & The Liberation of France" by Benjamin F. Jones (2016)
5. "Uncommon Courage" Booklet by Veterans Affairs Canada (1985)

carried his radio on each of these trips. His accomplishments as a radio operator behind enemy lines were completely successful due to his courage, foresight, and endurance in the face of enemy obstacles and hazards as well as his high professional ability".

Lucien Durocher was awarded the following medals: a) 1939 -1945 Star, b) Italy Star, c) France and Germany Star, d) Defence Medal, e) Canadian Volunteer Service medal with clasp, and f) War Medal 1939-1945 with Mention in Dispatches.

When Lucien Durocher returned from Europe to Ottawa in February 1945, he was featured in a number of Ottawa newspapers in which he describes his experiences. In an article in the Ottawa Journal on 15 February 1945, he recalls that, since he was a tall blond-haired man, he stood out as a non-native in southern France — in Lucien's words: "My French commandant finally succeeded in getting me to cut my hair in a brush-cut style — like a German's. After that, the Maquis started shooting at me!" A few weeks later in 1945, he was joined by his British wife Jean and they raised a family in Ottawa — they had three children.

Lucien Durocher passed away in 1985 and is buried in Section 27, Range D, grave #139 at Beechwood.



*As part of research for the "Spies in the Cemetery" event (sponsored by Beechwood Cemetery and CSIS/RCMP) held on May 9th at Beechwood Cemetery, it was discovered that there was at least one actual WW2 spy buried in that cemetery — one is Lucien Joseph Durocher. Additional information has become to light since that event was held and is incorporated in this article — in particular making contact with Lucien's sons Jean and Denis, and daughter Anne who have all been invaluable sources of photographs and insight into their father and family — and Lucien's SOE files from the UK National Archives.*

#### About the author

Richard Brisson has great interest in the history of espionage and cryptology especially when there is relevance to Canadians. Mr. Brisson has a webpage dedicated to Lucien Durocher's story, which can be viewed at [www.campx.ca/luciendurocher.html](http://www.campx.ca/luciendurocher.html) to which new information will be added as it becomes available.

## About Us

Beechwood is the National Cemetery of Canada and is the home of the National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Forces, the RCMP National Memorial Cemetery, the Ottawa Police Service Memorial Cemetery, the CSIS National Memorial Cemetery and many more organizations and religious groups. Beechwood has been proudly serving our community since 1873.

Take advantage of all the services offered by Beechwood Cemetery, including pre-arrangements, full service funerals, cremation, cemetery services and executor assistance. Beechwood Cemetery can meet whatever wishes you may have from visitations, informal gatherings, life celebrations, memorial services, catered receptions, to a custom monument or memorialization.

Beechwood Cemetery is here to provide you with everything you need to make the right decision for you and your loved ones.

*Beechwood, Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Services* is owned by The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation and operates on a not-for-profit basis. Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, it is the only organization of its kind in Ottawa. In choosing Beechwood, Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Services, you can take comfort in knowing that all funds are used for the maintenance, preservation and enhancement of this National Historic Site. The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation was created for the purpose of safeguarding Beechwood's future and increasing public awareness of Beechwood, as well as the important historical persons buried within it.

## Contact Us

### EMAIL

[info@beechwoodottawa.ca](mailto:info@beechwoodottawa.ca)

### PHONE

613-741-9530

### WEBSITE

[beechwoodottawa.ca](http://beechwoodottawa.ca)

### ADDRESS

280 Beechwood Ave  
Ottawa, ON K1L 8A6



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