



LATIN AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN CANADA REMEMBRANCE BOOK VOL I.



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Introduction

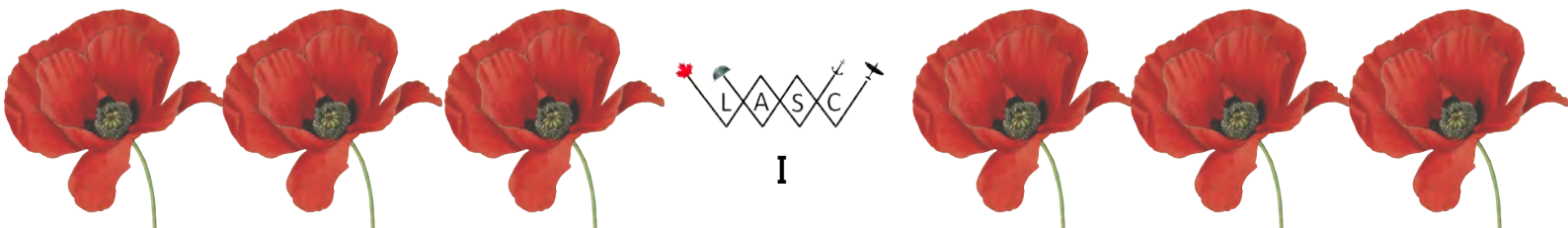
Authors: Juan Gabriel Morales, Head of the Consular Section, and General Germán Alejandro Frías Moreno, Military Attaché of México to Canada - February 2023.

Canada has a long history of welcoming immigrants from around the world, including Latin America. Latinos in Canada constitute a vibrant community, according to the last population census of Statistics Canada, the Latino population has increased from just over 100,000 in 1981 to over 580,000 in 2021. This represents a remarkable increase of more than 500% in four decades. The growth has been particularly significant in the last decade, with an increase of almost 30% between 2011 and 2021.

The Latino heritage has significantly contributed to Canada's rich cultural mosaic. Latin American communities have enriched Canadian society with unique traditions and customs, from food to music, arts to sports. The presence of Latinos in Canada is not a recent phenomenon, in fact, their footprint can be traced back to the late 19th century when the first group of Mexicans arrived in Canada to work in the mining industry in 1899. In the following years, other groups of Latinos from various countries came to Canada, seeking work and better opportunities. However, it was until the 1960s and 1970s, that the Latino community began to grow significantly.

Recognizing the importance of the Latino community, on June 21, 2018, the Parliament of Canada proclaimed October as Latin American Heritage Month, allowing for an opportunity to share and promote our unique culture and traditions with all Canadians and also to recognize and celebrate the valuable contributions to this country's social, economic and political fabric.

These contributions are many and varied. For example, in the field of arts and culture, Latinos have extended local traditions to the Canadian landscape as part of their immigration experience or through cultural exchanges, like the presence of 10 Mexican Charros in the first Calgary Stampede in 1912, that led to an annual presence of Mexican folk groups, in the famous Canadian celebration.



In recent years, Latin American music has become increasingly popular in Canada, with its richness of rhythms and sounds. Similarly, Latin American cuisine has become a staple in Canada, with many restaurants serving traditional dishes from the region.

In sports, Latinos have also left their mark, in particular, Canadian soccer has significantly been influenced by Latin American players and coaches; the Canadian national team has included several players of Latin American origin. In the business world, Latinos have thrived, according to a 2018 Canadian Hispanic Business Alliance report, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses in Canada has increased by 125% since 2001. These businesses contribute over \$20 billion to the Canadian economy and employ over 100,000 people.

However, even though Latin American have been serving in the Canadian Armed Forces for decades, contributing to its battles and shaping its national identity, their contribution during World War I and II is a lesser-known and often overlooked aspect of the history of Canada's military involvement in these conflicts. These soldiers, who came from a wide range of countries and backgrounds, served with bravery and distinction, often facing significant challenges as they fought alongside their Canadian comrades

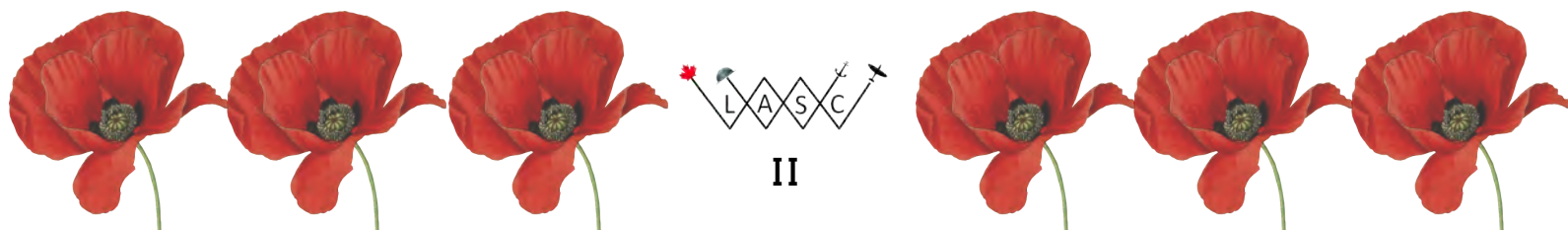
In a collective effort to remember men and women in uniform of Latin American origin who sacrificed, served, and fought to defend the Canadian flag, on October 17, 2022, the first Ceremony was held at the National Cemetery in Ottawa. Cohosted by the Embassy of Mexico in Canada, the Beechwood Cemetery, and Latin American Soldiers Committee, the Ceremony inspired by the results of the work coordinated by Captain Rey García Salas, a Guatemalan-born member of the Canadian Army, that had to date identified 200 soldiers whose origin is in Latin America, including a group of 21 Mexicans.

The research details presented in this book are timely, as the focus is on rescuing the memory of these soldiers and highlighting their contributions to Canada's military history. Garcia's work is based on extensive archival research and interviews with surviving family members of the soldiers. In addition, the book aims to shed light on the often-overlooked contributions of Latinos and to increase awareness of their rich cultural heritage.

One of the soldiers highlighted in the research is Private Rafael Rodriguez, a Mexican-born national who became a soldier who served in the Canadian Armed Forces during World War I. Rodriguez's story is remarkable, as he faced significant discrimination and prejudice due to his Hispanic background.

Despite these challenges, Rodriguez served with distinction, earning numerous medals and commendations for his bravery on the battlefield. His story is a testament to the courage and determination of the Latina-American soldiers who fought for Canada during this period.

Another noted case of a Mexican is Pilot Luis Pérez Gómez, that in 1944, during the II World War, joined the Canadian air force and died during the Normandy landings.



The story of Private Rafael Rodriguez and Pilot Luis Pérez Gómez, are just two examples of the many contributions made by Latina-American soldiers to Canada's military history. These soldiers fought and sacrificed to protect the values and freedoms that we all cherish. Remembering and honoring their service, courage, and bravery to defend their legacy is important.

During the Ceremony, a fragment of the poem In Flanders Fields was read for the first time in Spanish as an invitation to reflect on the importance of the legacy and honor their memory, courage, and sacrifice. In the famous poem, his author, John McCrea, a Canadian soldier, and doctor from Ontario, describes and recreates the Canadian Army's difficult moments in the battles of the First World War. Through each stanza, with eloquence, he conveys the feelings of the battle to bring to mind the courage and bravery of men and women who, like poppies, resisted all adversity to safeguard, at all costs, the ideals, and freedoms that we enjoy today in our societies.

The Ceremony also focused on new generations of Latinos who, regardless of their place of birth, origin, or ancestry, from multiple trenches and institutions, heed the call to defend and fight to protect the ideals and values that define our modern societies, confirming their resilience and commitment to continue to contribute every day to the social fabric of Canada, its economy, politics, and culture.

As Canada continues to grow and change, it is essential to remember the contributions of all those who helped shape its history, multiculturalism, and national identity. Hence, this book, together with the institutionalization of an annual ceremony during the celebration of Latin American Heritage Month, aims to protect the legacy and underscore the contributions of the soldiers of Latin-American origin, who fought in World War I and II. In the same way, they seek to continue to promote a deeper reflection on their critical role in shaping the Canadian Armed Forces.



Juan Gabriel Morales
Head of the Consular Section
Embassy of Mexico in Canada



Brigadier Germán Alejandro Frías Moreno,
Military and Air Attaché
Embassy of México to Canada

Special thanks

Three families from Guatemala of Theodore Hempstead, Gordon Smith and Denis Koester who provided photos and historic documents; they are: Alan Fairshurst Hempstead, Diana Koester de Voswinckel, Jane Koester de Dewey, and Catherine (Nicky) Smith de Falck - granddaughter of Lucy Owen Smith, who during the Second World War kept the Scrapbook where the majority of pictures of the three Guatemalan Volunteer Heroes and information were taken from.



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Latin American Cultures and Heritage

Did you know:

Latin Americans have last names from a wealth of different backgrounds? Those who maintain their culture today are considered Latin American, though their ancestors may originate from other continents. The term Latin American therefore includes Indigenous Peoples of the Americas and people from other continents who came to the Americas, and adopted Latin American cultures.

Additionally, Latin Americans have been contributing to the defence of our country dating back to the First World War. This was a challenging time for many Latin Americans. Many spoke Spanish as a first language, which wasn't widely spoken by other military members.

During the First World War, an estimated 72 members who enlisted in the Canadian military were Latin American and born in a Latin American country; two were Latin American members born in Canada; and seven were Latin American members born in the USA. Their ability to share their culture, while adapting to life in the Canadian military, was remarkable.

We thank the Latin American community for their important contributions to Canada and the Defence Team.

First-ever Latin American Heritage Month opening ceremony held at Ottawa City Hall

October 25, 2019 — Defence Stories

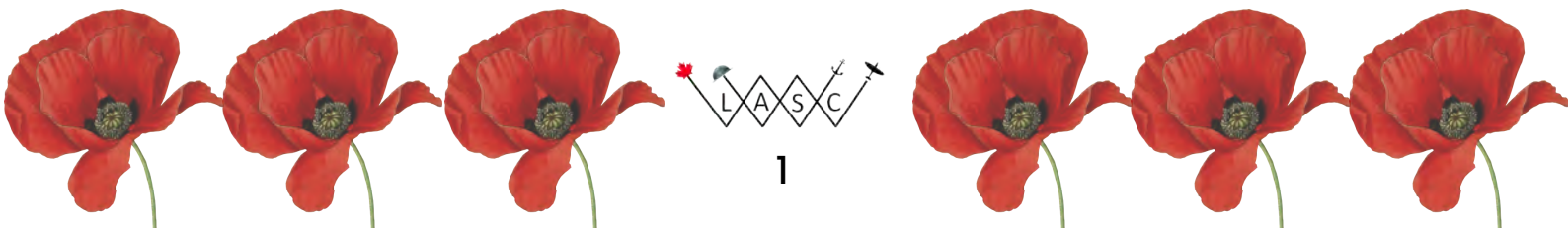
Author: Captain Rey Garcia-Salas 33 Signal Regiment

Diversity is the expression and representation of Canadian values integral to the military ethos and to the effectiveness of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) at home and abroad. Diversity is viewed as a source of strength and flexibility, and plays a pivotal role in making the CAF a modern, forward-looking organization. The CAF is committed to reflecting today's distinct Canadian population among its ranks, to build a workforce that reflects Canadian ideals of diversity, respect, and inclusion.

Beginning in 2010, Captain Milton Hoyos and Captain Rey Garcia-Salas began organizing and implementing Latin American activities within the Defence Team in an effort to celebrate Latin American heritage and diversity in the CAF.

Since that time, they have communicated with approximately 1500 military members and 500 civilian employees over the phone, through emails and by word-of-mouth in an effort to raise awareness about their heritage and culture. They have also established contact with 2000 public service employees through various outreach initiatives.

Currently, approximately 500 members are registered in the GC Connex federal government and CAF Latin American Heritage Group. This interactive intranet page, similar to Facebook, routinely shares information relevant to the Latin American member network.



An opening ceremony commemorating the first Latin American Heritage Month took place at Ottawa City Hall on 4 October 2019. Members from the Canadian Armed Forces, His Worship Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa, distinguished guests, and community members were in attendance.

The event offered those with Latin American roots an opportunity to connect and embrace their Latin American culture. Representing the Canadian Armed Forces were Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Maloney and Captain Rey Garcia-Salas. The Canadian Armed Forces was also represented at a meeting of the Hispanic Heritage Quebec Committee, held simultaneously in Montreal, by Captain Milton Hoyos.

As an institution that respects diversity and inclusion, the Canadian Armed Forces has long supported Latin American activities. Recently, in a demonstration of solidarity, the Canadian Armed Forces released an internal message (CANFORGEN 142/19) in honour of Latin American Heritage Month, encouraging commanders to support Latin American heritage and cultural activities in October.

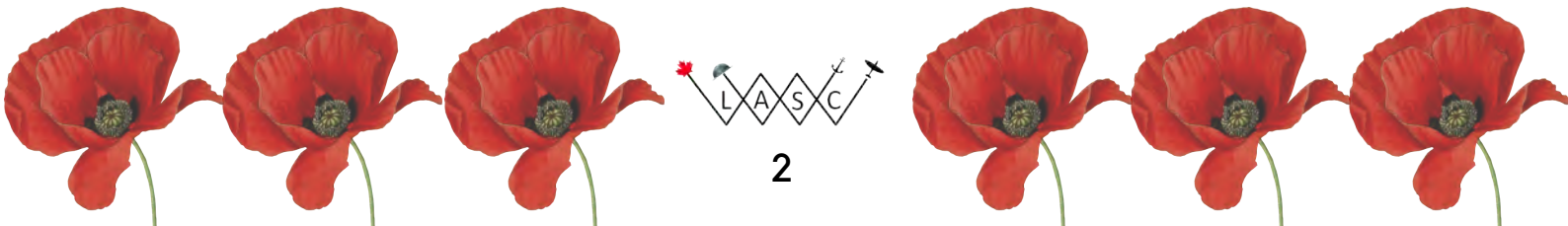
Who is Latin American?

The result of an amalgamation of cultures and ethnicities, Latin Americans represent a mosaic of diversity. Those who maintain Latin American culture today are seen as Latin American even though their ancestors may have originated from other continents. Latin American includes the indigenous peoples of the Americas, from Mexico to Chile, as well as descendants of those who emigrated from Europe, Africa, and Asia, who communicate in either Spanish, French, or Portuguese, and who have adopted Latin-American culture.

This article was written with research on the First World War provided by Capt. Rey Garcia-Salas.

Latin American Soldiers Committee (2022-2023)

- Captain Rey Garcia-Salas
- Giuseppe Marconi
- Nicolas McCarthy



A Remembrance Ceremony for the Latin-American Community in Canada

By Captain Rey Garcia-Salas,
*Head of the Latin American Heritage Month
Planning Committee for National Defence*

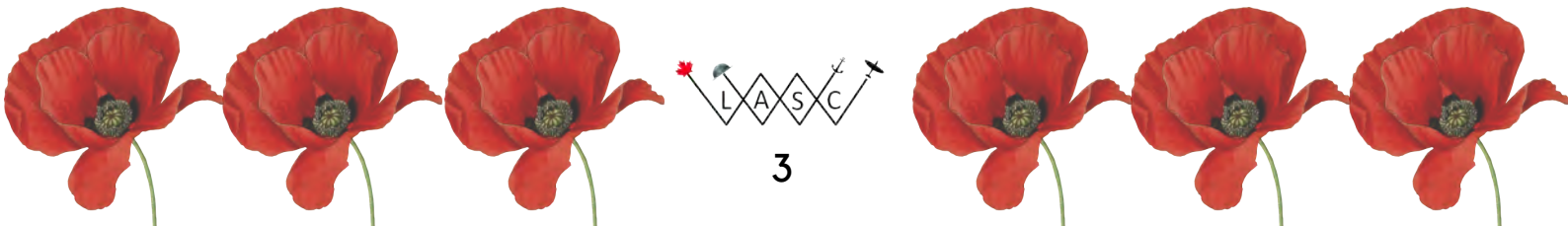
MORE THAN 80 LATIN-AMERICANS enlisted to fight for Canada and many of them died for Canada in the First World War, while approximately 40 Latin-Americans enlisted to fight for Canada and many of them died in the Second World War. The majority belonged to the Expeditionary Force in the First World War and in the Royal Canadian Air Force in the Second World War. History and many Canadians forgot about them for more than 100 years. There is no recognition for these soldiers.

One of the stories is of Private Rodriguez:

Many Canadians and Latin Americans do not know that Private Rafael Rodriguez was a fine first-class soldier who served overseas in the First World War with the 42nd Battalion (Montreal) for nearly a year and a half with an excellent conduct. He returned to Canada disabled due to shrapnel wounds during battle. On the 20th of Jan 1919, he died alone far away from his friends and relatives in Toronto because of his wounds, pneumonia, and tuberculosis when the Spanish Flu was everywhere. When Secretary Joseph Warwick Soldiers Aid Commission of Ontario was notified of this case, he said, "If we had only been advised sooner," he stated, "we might have been able to give more service to this very deserving case, as he was entitled to the war gratuity, which had been relieved his condition." At the end he indicated, "I am sincerely sorry that we did not have the opportunity to help him."



Nicolas McCarthy and Captain Rey Garcia-Salas



There was an inquiry for Pte Rafael Rodriguez on February 7, 1919. During the inquiry, Coroner Mason indicated that Pte Rodriguez died of tuberculosis and said that the army did not take care of him after his release. It was revealed that he was not paid for the last three months of his salary nor the War Gratuity before he passed away. The government of Canada is making a lot of efforts to improve the elimination of systematic racism and discrimination, understanding that more needs to be done. They will have the opportunity to rectify it from the past to heal any damage and construct a better future, paying respects and honours to this outstanding soldier. Nationwide, it will strengthen reconciliation, truth, and justice.

Veteran Affairs, and other organizations, will prevent cases such as Pte Rodriguez to happen in the present and future. Around 2400 veterans are homeless. Many veterans are entitled to receive help, but they need help to fill out forms. The system has too many barriers. The Latin-American community in Canada will feel more included with this Latin American Remembrance Ceremony while working together for the best country: Canada.

This event honoured the memory of the Latin American soldiers by giving them a historical identity. The generations to come will love their country even more by learning that their ancestors defended Canada since the First World War.

- First World War: Argentina (20), Mexico (21), Panama (3), Costa Rica (1), Cuba (1), Brasil (11), Chile (10), Guatemala (1), Peru (3), Venezuela (3), Uruguay (2), Colombia (1) Canada (1), USA (7).
- Second World War: Argentina (19), Brasil (2), Cuba (2), Costa Rica (1), Dominican Republic (1), Mexico (3), Guatemala (4), Canada (2), USA (1)



Tito Medina



Captain Terry Hunter

The first ceremony had the hallmarks of the traditional military remembrance ceremony, however, we decided to include a few of Latin American touches including a band playing Latin-American music and the Recitation of the poem "Fatality" written by Ruben Dario.

Fatality

**The tree is happy because it is scarcely sentient;
the hard rock is happier still, it feels nothing:
there is no pain as great as being alive,
no burden heavier than that of conscious life.**

**To be, and to know nothing, and to lack a way,
and the dread of having been, and future
terrors...**

**And the sure terror of being dead tomorrow,
and to suffer all through life and through the
darkness,**

**and through what we do not know and hardly
suspect...**

**And the flesh that temps us with bunches of
cool grapes,
and the tomb that awaits us with its funeral
sprays,
and not to know where we go,
nor whence we came!...**

Lest We Forget.





The Canadian Expeditionary Force

The following was taken from the Canadian War Museum Webpage

"The Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) was the entire overseas force fielded by Canada during the First World War. Out of the 630,000 Canadians who enlisted for military service, 424,000 went overseas as part of the CEF.

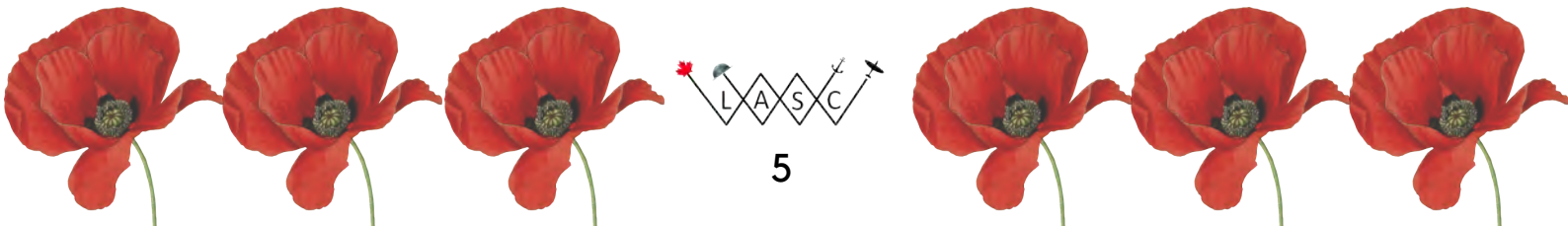
The Canadian Corps that fought on the Western Front was the CEF's largest formation and its principal combat element, but not its only one. Other units in the CEF served outside the Corps, including the Canadian Cavalry Brigade, forestry and railway units, and various medical hospitals.

Forming the Corps

Canada's first fighting division in Europe, comprised mainly of troops from the First Contingent who had sailed in fall 1914, served as an individual division under British command.

The growing size and complexity of Canadian forces overseas led in September 1915 to the creation of the Canadian Corps, an operational and administrative grouping of most Canadian fighting units and their supporting services.

At first commanded by British Lieutenant-General Sir E.A.H. Alderson and, from May 1916 to June 1917, by British Lieutenant-General Sir Julian Byng, the Corps grew from an initial establishment of two divisions with approximately 35,000 troops to a powerful striking force of four divisions with 100,000 troops by early 1917.



A Canadian Commander

From June 1917, the Canadians were led by Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie, a Canadian militia officer who rose during the war from command of a brigade to command of the entire Corps. Currie, who remained in command until 1919, is widely considered one of the war's most capable generals.

The Corps' Effectiveness

The Canadian Corps was a unique national formation that fought together for most of the war. While British corps usually consisted of an administrative or command structure through which divisions often cycled, and could be larger or smaller, depending on operational requirements, the divisions of the Canadian Corps almost always fought together.

The soldiers of the four divisions and their supporting troops learned to work together and could pool resources to improve combat effectiveness. This cohesion and stability, jealously guarded by most senior Canadian military and political figures, bred a sense of identity and pride in national accomplishment among both soldiers and civilians."

<https://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/life-at-the-front/military-structure/the-canadian-expeditionary-force/>



Canadian troops are issued tea ration from field kitchen along the Western Front
<https://blog.fold3.com/new-records-from-the-canadian-expeditionary-force/>





A tank advancing with Infantry at Vimy Ridge. April 1917. Library and Archives Canada.



Drinking water. 22nd Battalion. French Canadians. July 1916. Library and Archives Canada.



ARGENTINA



POW being assisted by colleague and CAMC medic. Source: Royal Canadian Medical Service Association



CAMC Nursing Sisters.

<http://guysboroughgreatwarveterans.blogspot.com/2012/09/the-canadian-army-medical-corps.html>



FIRST WORLD WAR

Name: Achezer, Elias
Rank: Private
Regimental # 524112
Date of Birth: 1894-04-25
Place of Birth: Moseville Argentina
Trade: Teacher
Enlistment Date: 1916-09-26
Place of Enlistment: Camp Hugues MB
Canada
Unit: AMC Training Depot
England and France. CEF
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Van Semasco, Edmund
Rank: Private
Regimental # 10077144
Date of Birth: 1896-07-11
Place of Birth: Entre Rios, Parana, Argentina
Trade: Drug Clerk
Enlistment Date: 1917-01-31
Place of Enlistment: Toronto Ontario Canada
Unit: 228th Battalion
CRT France and Belgium. CEF
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Gonzalez, Pedro
Date of Birth: 1894-04-25
Place of Birth: Argentina
Trade: Fireman
Date of Death: 1918-09-16
Cemetery: Tower Hill Memorial London, UK
Unit: Canadian Merchant Navy S.S. Acadian
(Montreal)
Reference: Veterans Affairs Canada

Name: Wilkinson, James Herbert
Rank: SPR
Regimental # 5006549
Date of Birth: 1895-07-19
Place of Birth: Cordova, Argentina
Trade: Carpenter
Enlistment Date: 1916-12-07
Place of Enlistment: St. John NB Canada
Unit: 24 DFT CE to ED.
CRT France. CEF
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Turner, Leonard Oliver
Rank: Private
Regimental # 5048869
Date of Birth: 1889-11-29
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires Argentina
Trade: Mechanical Driver
Enlistment Date: 1916-03-01
Place of Enlistment: Vancouver BC Canada
Unit: 4 Div M.T. Coy
France CASC. CEF
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: William, Ivor
Rank: Private
Regimental # 154677
Date of Birth: 1893-09-22
Place of Birth: Patagonia, Argentina
Trade: Farmer
Enlistment Date: 1914-12-24
Place of Enlistment: Moosamin SK Canada
Unit: 10th Canadian Mounted Rifles
1st Can Pioneers, Ypres, France. CEF
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Vannerus, Charles
Rank: Corporal
Regimental # 913048
Date of Birth: 1890-02-24
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires Argentina
Trade: Laborer
Enlistment Date: 1916-02-22
Place of Enlistment: Winnipeg MB Canada
Unit: 197th Battalion
England. CEF
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Williams, Pryce
Rank: Private
Regimental # 700537
Date of Birth: 1892-04-11
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Trade: Farmer
Enlistment Date: 1915-12-31
Place of Enlistment: Winnipeg MB
Canada
Unit: 101 st Overseas Batalion (W.L.I.)
CEF
Reference: Archives of Canada



Second Battle of Ypres

"In the first week of April 1915 the soldiers of the 1st Canadian Division were moved to reinforce the salient where the British and Allied line pushed into the German line in a concave bend. On 22 April, the Germans sought to eliminate this salient by using poison gas. Following an intensive artillery bombardment, they released 160 tons of chlorine gas from cylinders dug into the forward edge of their trenches into a light northeast wind—the first use of chlorine gas in the war. As thick clouds of yellow-green chlorine drifted over their trenches the French colonial defences crumbled and the troops, completely overcome by this terrible weapon, died or broke and fled, leaving a gaping four-mile hole in the Allied line. The Canadians were the only division that were able to hold the line.

All through the night, the Canadians fought to close this gap. On 24 April, the Germans launched another poison gas attack, this time at the Canadian line. In those 48 hours of battle, the Canadians suffered over 6,000 casualties, one man in every three, of whom more than 2,000 died."

Briton C. Busch (2003). *Canada and the Great War: Western Front Association Papers*. McGill-Queen's Press. p. 51. ISBN 978-0-7735-7108-2.

pres 1915 – Veterans Affairs Canada". vac-acc.gc.ca. 2004-07-29. Archived from the original on 2007-11-23. Retrieved 2010-06-30

Leo van Bergen (2009). *Before My Helpless Sight: Suffering, Dying and Military Medicine on the Western Front, 1914–1918*. Ashgate Publishing, Ltd. p. 66. ISBN 978-0-7546-5853-5.



"Members of the 48th Regiment "Highlanders" depart for camp from Toronto armoury," 1914. Bain News Service, publisher - This image is available from the United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division under the digital ID ggbain.16977.



Communication in the First World War

The following was taken from the War Museum Webpage:

"Communication between the rear areas and front line units, as well as laterally along the front line, was always difficult, and often led to failures in battle.

On the ground, signalers used a variety of devices and methods to send messages. Telephones were reliable, but their long, strung-out wires were vulnerable to shellfire and frequently cut. Burying the lines deep into the ground was labour intensive and time consuming, and still did not always protect against shellfire. Pigeons were surprisingly effective in carrying messages, but required special handlers and could become disoriented by the noise of artillery barrages.

Wireless telegraphy (radio) could transmit Morse code in 1914, but the wireless sets were bulky and fragile, with relatively short ranges. Later, more robust wireless sets were used by observers to direct artillery fire.

Aircraft flew "contact patrols" to observe the forward movement of troops. They were only fitted with transmitting wireless sets, as receivers added too much weight to the airframe. Aircraft could also drop messages near a headquarters or friendly position. Troops on the ground used various methods, such as signal lamps, panels, and flares, to send messages to aircraft.

Despite these tools, communication often broke down between the attacking infantry and their headquarters in the rear. When this happened, commanders did not know the location of their troops and were unable to support them with accurate artillery fire, ammunition, or supplies. This failure in communication was never fully solved during the war."

<https://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/battles-and-fighting/tactics-and-logistics-on-land/communication/>



Name: Ray, Arthur Francis
Rank: Private
Regimental # 157669
Date of Birth: 1897-02-21
Place of Birth: Argentina
Trade: Printer Compositor
Enlistment Date: 1915-06-07
Place of Enlistment: Niagara Falls, On Canada
CFA France and England. CEF
Demobilization: Toronto On. 1 Sep 1916
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Rees Owen Meredydd
Rank: Private
Regimental # 301561
Date of Birth: 1890-07-06
Place of Birth: Argentina
Trade: Farmer
Enlistment Date: 1915-12-01
Place of Enlistment: Winnipeg MB Canada
Unit: 37th Overseas Battery, Canadian Field Artillery
CFA France and England. CEF
Demobilization: Winnipeg 1 Dec 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Rees, Morgan John
Rank: SPR
Regimental # 104038
Date of Birth: 1892-01-23
Place of Birth: Argentina
Trade: Farmer
Enlistment Date: 1916-04-11
Place of Enlistment: Regina SK Canada
Unit: 68th Overseas Battalion
28 BN Can Inf France. CEF
Killed in Action 15 Sept 1916
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Rees, Seth
Rank: Private
Regimental # 268854
Date of Birth: 1895-05-31
Place of Birth: Argentina
Trade: Farmer
Enlistment Date: 1918-05-21
Place of Enlistment: Regina SK Canada
Unit: 1st Depot Battalion, Saskatchewan Regt
S.R. England. CEF
Demobilization: Regina, 21 may 2019
Reference: Archives of Canada

CALLED AND VOLUNTEERS OF ARGENTINA IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR (GREAT WAR)

"It is estimated that some 4,800 combatants went from Argentina to fight in the British Army during the Great War, some" 5,800 in the French Army and some 32,400 in the Italian Army. Also, the Argentines who enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in the Expeditionary Force should also be included, who were more than 90. Some were citizens of the country they went to defend; others, their children, and there were those who were neither. Some joined voluntarily and others were recruited.

The Great War was a defining event of the 20th century since it produced ten million deaths, the end of four European empires, the outbreak of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia, the beginning of North American predominance, the emergence of Nazi-fascism and laid the foundations of the Second World War. Its extraordinary economic, political and cultural impact also affected neutral States, such as those of Latin America, among which Argentina stood out.

The latter was due to two very marked factors. Firstly, because Argentina, presided over by the radical government of Hipólito Yrigoyen, was the country that carried a policy of active neutrality the furthest, despite pressure from Washington after the United States entered the war in 1917. And secondly, because around 1914, 27% of its inhabitants were first-generation Europeans, a proportion not equaled then by any other country in the world, and which increased considerably if the children of Europeans born on its soil were added.

The mobilizations of foreign immigrants that began on August 1 had two groups at stake: on the one hand, first-generation immigrants, born in Europe, and, on the other, their children, born in the country but considered European by the legislation of the old continent, based on the right of blood (jus sanguinis), and here as Argentines for legislation based on land rights (jus solis)."

The above was taken from the following site: Science Today. Dr. Hernan Otero. August 1, 2014
<https://cienciahoy.org.ar/convocado-voluntarios-de-la-argentina-en-la-gran-guerra/>





Listening Post. <https://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/battles-and-fighting/tactics-and-logistics-on-land/communication/>



Pigeon Message. <https://www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/battles-and-fighting/tactics-and-logistics-on-land/communication/>





Sergeants and Warrant Officers of the 15th Canadian Field Ambulance <https://camc.wordpress.com/2012/11/15/uniform-ww1-canadian-army-medical-corps/>



Artist's sketch of field ambulance in action at the front
<http://guysboroughgreatwarveterans.blogspot.com/2012/09/the-canadian-army-medical-corps.html>



Name: Wishart, Ion Katherine
Rank: NS
Regimental #
Date of Birth: 1891-07-21
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Trade: Nurse
Enlistment Date: 1916-11-22
Place of Enlistment: Kingston, Ontario Canada
Unit: Canadian Army Medical Corps Depot 10
France. CEF
Demobilization: Ottawa Canada 17 April 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Petit, Andre
Rank: Private
Regimental # 61869
Date of Birth: 1891-11-18
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Trade: Boxer
Enlistment Date: 1914-11-02
Place of Enlistment: Montreal, Quebec Canada
Unit: 22nd Battalion
England 21st Battalion. CEF
Demobilization: England West Sandley, 28 Aug
2015
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Winston, William
Rank: Private
Regimental # 132584
Date of Birth: 1892-08-08
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Trade: Waiter
Enlistment Date: 1915-09-20
Place of Enlistment: Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Unit: 73rd Overseas Battalion, Royal Highlanders
of Canada. Served in France. CEF
Demobilization: Montreal, 20 Dec 1915
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Ray, Albert Francis
Rank: DVR
Regimental # 157669
Date of Birth: 1890-08-17
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Trade: Painter
Enlistment Date: 1915-09-07
Place of Enlistment: Toronto, Ontario
Unit: 81 St Battalion
4th BN Can Inf. CEF
Demobilization: Toronto 4 Nov 1919. Proposed
Residence after discharged: Toronto.
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Prichard, Percival Domsellaar
Rank: DVR
Regimental # 2009507
Date of Birth: 1889-03-04
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Trade: Gas Engine
Enlistment Date: 1918-06-05
Place of Enlistment: Detroit MI USA
Unit: Engineer Depot, Brockville, Ontario CAN
Eng
England 23st Battalion. CEF
Demobilization: Vancouver, 17 May 1919
Winnipeg Proposed residence after discharged
Buenos Aires Argentina.
Death: 25 May 1967
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Owens, George
Rank: Private
Regimental # 3355365
Date of Birth: 1895-02-28
Place of Birth: Cyman, Argentina
Trade: Farmer
Enlistment Date: 1918-07-13
Place of Enlistment: Regina SK Canada
Unit: 1st Depot Battalion, Sask Regt. CEF
Demobilization: Sask, 18 Jan 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Paris Charles Jean B
Rank: Private
Regimental # 48315
Date of Birth: 1889-04-21
Place of Birth: Argentina
Trade: Mechanic
Enlistment Date: 1915-07-03
Place of Enlistment: Hull Quebec Canada
Unit: 41 Batallion. CEF
Demobilization: Montreal 18 Jan 1918
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Purves, Joseph
Rank: Private
Regimental # 1015524
Date of Birth: 1895-12-11
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Trade: Gardiner
Enlistment Date: 1916-06-20
Place of Enlistment: Vernon, BC Canada
Unit: 22nd Battalion
England 23st Battalion
72 Bn Can Inf. CEF
Demobilization: Vancouver, 20 Jun 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada



The Canadian Army Medical Corps (CAMC)

"For the Canadian military, the most significant development was the creation of the Canadian Army Medical Corps (CAMC) in 1904. The CAMC mobilized with the outbreak of war and was part of the first Canadian contingent that departed from Valcartier, Quebec for England in September 1914. The following spring, the first hospitals staffed by Canadians established operations in both England and France. As the war progressed, a network of medical stations and hospitals gradually emerged as the CAMC and other medical organizations responded to the growing number of casualties incurred on the battlefield.

In total, 21,453 men and women enlisted in the CAMC and many served at locations on or near the front lines. A total of 1325 personnel were killed or wounded during the war, and 3 CAMC personnel were awarded the Victoria Cross for meritorious service under fire. These facts bear testimony to their dedication, sacrifice and willingness to risk injury in service of their country."

The above was taken from the following site:

First World War Veterans of Guyborough County
<http://guysboroughgreatwarveterans.blogspot.com/2012/09/the-canadian-army-medical-corps.html>



Interior of No. 7 Canadian General Hospital, France. <http://guysboroughgreatwarveterans.blogspot.com/2012/09/the-canadian-army-medical-corps.html>



MEXICO



"The 22nd battalion at work draining trenches in July 1916. The Van Doos would serve with distinction at the battles of Amiens, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70 and Passchendaele." Photo taken from MontrealMagazette.com
<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/lets-remember-van-doods-fought-for-the-honour-of-french-canada>



"The Van Doos encampment at the Battle of Amiens, a turning point in the war." PHOTO BY DND/LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA





Name: Pengelly, James
Rank: Private
Regimental # 4938
Date of Birth: 1899-04-12
Place of Birth: Pachuca Mexico
Trade: Mechanic
Enlistment Date: 2 May 1918
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: Depot Squadron Royal Canadian Dragoons. CEF
Discharge cause: Being a Mexican Toronto ON 31 May 1918
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Morales, Raymond Joseph
Rank: Private
Regimental # 2138980
Date of Birth: 1893-03-15
Place of Birth: Lapas Mexico
Trade: Blacksmith helper.
Enlistment Date: 12 Feb 1918
Place of Enlistment: Canada
Unit: Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario) 20th Bn
Can Inf served in France. CEF
Death: 11 Oct 1918. Cemetery: Niagara Cemetery
IWUY Nord France
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Pengelly, John
Rank: Private
Regimental # 4936
Date of Birth: 1897-04-12
Place of Birth: Pachuca Mexico
Trade: Electrician and Horseman
Enlistment Date: 2 May 1918
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: Royal Canadian Dragoons. CEF
Discharge cause: Being a Mexican. Toronto ON 31 May 1918
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Vacher, Herbert Walter Sidney
Rank: Private
Regimental # 82144
Date of Birth: 1897-09-26
Place of Birth: Mexico City Mexico
Trade: Student
Enlistment Date: 7 Jul 1916
Place of Enlistment: Shorncliffe England. CEF
Unit: 32nd Battalion
Discharge reason: Commissioned in the Imperial Army. Shorncliffe 29 Jun 1917
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Ratcliffe, Walter
Regimental # 1286955
Date of Birth: 1895-12-23
Place of Birth: Mexico City, Mexico
Trade: Barber
Enlistment Date: 17 Dec 1918
Place of Enlistment: Calgary AB Canada
Unit: CASC. CEF
Discharge: Calgary 31 Dec 1918
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Blackett, William C
Rank: Private
Regimental # 25688
Date of Birth: 1896-02-28
Place of Birth: Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico
Trade: Stenographer
Enlistment Date:
Place of Enlistment: Canada
Unit: Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regiment). 14th Bn. CEF
Death: 31 Dec 1915. Cemetery: La Plus Douve Farm. Belgium
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Rodriguez, Rafael
Rank: Private
Regimental # 684692
Date of Birth: 1894-10-24
Place of Birth: Ocotlan, Guadalajara Mexico
Trade: Labourer/ 3 years in the Mexican Army
Enlistment Date:
Place of Enlistment: Canada
Unit: Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regiment), 42. CEF
Division. 171 Bn Served in France and England
Demobilization: 11 Apr 1918 Toronto ON
Death: 20 Jan 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Smithers, Charles Crosby
Rank: SPR
Regimental # 2010121
Date of Birth: 1899-09-14
Place of Birth: San Luis Potosie Mexico
Trade: Painter
Enlistment Date: 8 May 1918
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: Canadian Engineers. Served in England. CEF
Demobilization: 6 Jul 1919 Toronto ON
Reference: Archives of Canada





Royal Canadian Dragoons 1914.
<https://dragoons.ca/history-of-the-dragoons/first-world-war-wwi/>

The Royal Canadian Dragoons 1914

"The Regiment, with a strength of two squadrons, moved in August 1914 from Toronto and St. Jean, PQ to Valcartier, PQ where C Squadron was formed. LCol C.M. Nelles took the Regiment overseas on the 3 October 1914 to England where intensive field training was undertaken at Maresfield.

The Regiment then became part of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Seely. After the first battle of Ypres, the First Canadian Division had lost 6000 men. Brigadier General Seely was asked to provide support, but as infantry. He called a full strength parade, presented the proposal and every man volunteered.

The Regiment was in action predominantly as infantry throughout the war. After the second battle of Ypres, the Canadian Cavalry Brigade was sent to France from Belgium on 4 May 1915. Thereafter, the Regiment saw action as infantry and cavalry and was highly commended for its part in the advance on the Hindenburg Line, at Cambrai and through their domination of no-man'sland at Le Verguier. On 30 March 1918 at Moreuil Wood, the Dragoons participated in what was to be the last of the great cavalry charges.

Galloping across open ground the RCD met heavy machine gun fire. Turning into the woodline, they engaged in hand-to-hand combat clearing the woods of all enemy. At the end of the 90 minutes battle, 95 Dragoons were either killed, wounded, or missing. The Brigade overall lost 300 men and more than 800 horses.

After the cease-fire, the Dragoons remained in Belgium until March 1919. At Amiens, a table was dedicated to the Regiment for its part in the battle. Shortly after, The Regiment, with its new guidon returned to Canada."

The above was taken from the following site: <https://dragoons.ca/history-of-the-dragoons/first-world-war-wwi/>





"The once-ragtag Canadian Corps's capture of Vimy Ridge, led by British Lt.-Gen. Sir Julian Byng, was a signal achievement" (Universal History Archive/UiG/Getty)



PHOTO: LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA—PA000262





Name: Ward, Edward Graham
Rank: Private
Regimental # 2137550
Date of Birth: 1895-11-07
Place of Birth: Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Rosario Mexico
Trade: Draughtsman Apprentice
Enlistment Date: 20 Nov 1917
Place of Enlistment: Victoria BC Canada
Unit: 2nd Depot Battalion, British Columbia Regt.
Served in France. 29th Bn Can Inf. CEF
Demobilization: 4 Feb 1919. Proposed Residence San Bernardino
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Wood, Roy William
Rank: GNR
Regimental # 334159
Date of Birth: 1895-11-01
Place of Birth: Tampico Mexico
Trade: Labourer
Enlistment Date: 8 Feb 1917
Place of Enlistment: Windsor ON Canada
Unit: 63rd Battery. CEF
Discharge: London ON, 19 April 1917
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Webb, Malcolm Rae
Rank: Private
Regimental # 2024775
Date of Birth: 1897-04-15
Place of Birth: Irapuato Mexico
Trade: Bas Boy
Enlistment Date: 17 Aug 1918
Place of Enlistment: Victoria BC Canada
Unit: 1st Depot Battalion, British Columbia Regt.
Served in England. CEF
Demobilization: 22 Jun 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: White, Collin Canon
Rank: Private
Regimental # 3185648
Date of Birth: 1897-06-09
Place of Birth: Mexico
Trade: Shipping Clerk
Enlistment Date: 24 May 1918
Place of Enlistment: Aldershot NS Canada
Unit: 6MD, 1st Depot Battalion, NS Regt. CEF
Demobilization: Halifax NS 14 Jan 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Whaley, Thomas
Rank: Private
Regimental # 3328988
Date of Birth: 1890-09-15
Place of Birth: Veracruz, Mexico
Trade: Oilwell Driller
Enlistment Date: 12 Oct 1918
Place of Enlistment: New York NY US
Unit: 2nd Depot Battalion Eastern Ontario Regt. CEF
Demobilization: Ottawa ON 29 Nov 1918
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Pengelly, Fredrick Harold
Rank: Sapper
Regimental # 2011555
Date of Birth: 1899-07-05
Place of Birth: Hidalgo Mexico
Trade: Mill man
Enlistment Date: 26 Jun 1918
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: Canadian Engineers. Served in France. CEF
Demobilization: Toronto ON 7 Aug 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Pease, Joseph Bartlett
Rank: SPR
Regimental # 2007288
Date of Birth: 1885-07-04
Place of Birth: Cananea Mexico
Trade: Miner
Enlistment Date: 29 Jan 1918
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: Canadian Engineers. CEF
Demobilization: St Johns 18 Feb 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada





"King George V (left), with Victoria-born Canadian Corps commander Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Currie (centre) and Gen. Henry Horne, surveys Vimy Ridge" (The Print Collector/Print Collector/Getty Images)

"Currie, considered by all to be one of the best—if not the very best—corps commander on the Western Front.

Forty-three years old in 1918, Currie had been a militia officer in Victoria, where his artillery regiment was judged the best in the country.

Canada's Hundred Days, which began in August 1918 and lasted to the Armistice on Nov. 11, would include the Canadian Corps's greatest victories. Canadian soldiers defeated one-quarter of the German army on the Western Front, cracked the enemy's major defence lines and advanced well into Belgium. Currie had created, trained and led a formidable force, and he was Canada's greatest soldier. Sadly, 100 years later, few Canadians know anything of this man or the army he led.

J.L. Granatstein is a former Director and CEO of the Canadian War Museum and author of many books, including *Canada's Army: Waging War and Keeping the Peace*."

The above was taken from the following site:

<https://www.macleans.ca/longforms/how-canada-earned-the-worlds-respect/>



The Van Doos

"As the only combatant unit in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) whose official language was French, the 22nd (French Canadian) Infantry Battalion, commonly referred to as the "Van Doos" (from vingt-deux, meaning twenty-two in French), was subject to more scrutiny than most Canadian units in the First World War. Known for its rowdiness and, at times, indiscipline, the battalion was also one of the CEF's fiercest fighting units. To its commander, Lt. Col. Thomas-Louis Tremblay, the 22nd was more than a mere battalion: it represented all of French Canada. The reputation of French Canada was at stake, and Tremblay worked hard to ensure that the 22nd acted with poise and bravery throughout the war.

This return to discipline was just in time for the Van Doos' third and busiest year on the Western Front. The battalion played a large role in three of the CEF's most important campaigns. The first two, Vimy Ridge (9 April) and Hill 70 (15 August) were resounding successes. The battalion helped the CEF secure all of its objectives and suffered significantly fewer casualties than at the Somme. Tremblay was proud of his men.

In November 1917, the battalion arrived at the Ypres sector in Belgium. The objective was Passchendaele ridge. Despite the capture of the ridge, the men of the 22nd Battalion do not remember the operation as a victory, but as one of the most terrifying ordeals they encountered. Even seasoned veterans were deeply affected by the horrors of Passchendaele. To Tremblay, the battle was a nightmare. The image of dead bodies rotting in the mud was seared into the minds of many."

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/the-van-doods-and-the-great-war#>



Canadian Soldiers returning from the Battle of Somme in France Nov 1916. Library and Archives of Canada PA 000832





Name: Ybarra, Benito
Rank: Private
Regimental # 2500281
Date of Birth: 1894-08-17
Place of Birth: Mexico
Trade: cook. Served in the Mexican Army for 9 Months
Enlistment Date: 13 April 1918
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: Railway Construction Depot M.D. 2. CEF
Cause of discharge: Being a Mexican Citizen. Hamilton ON 25 May 1918. Member would live at YMCA Chicago
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: McCormack, James Roger
Rank: Private
Regimental # 528059
Date of Birth: 1894-10-08
Place of Birth: Juarez, Mexico
Trade: Machine Hand. 3 1/2 US Army (Bugler)
Enlistment Date: 1917-01-08
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: CAMC No 2 Training Depot. Served in England. CEF
Demobilization: 19 Aug 1919 Toronto ON
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Ortiz, Adelaido
Rank: Private
Regimental # 3038131
Date of Birth: 1887-12-16
Place of Birth: Jerez, Mexico
Trade: Labourer
Enlistment Date: 13 May 1918
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: 1st Depot Battalion, 1st Central Ontario Regt. CEF
Cause of discharge: Being a Mexican Citizen. Niagara on the Lake 8 June 1918
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Smith, Henry
Rank: Private
Regimental # 40882
Date of Birth: 1888-08-06
Place of Birth: Mexico
Trade: Foreman
Enlistment Date: 9 Jun 1915
Place of Enlistment: Niagara ON Canada
Unit: 37th Battalion. Served in France. CEF
Cause of discharge: 25 May 1919 Toronto ON
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Valerio, John
Rank: Private
Regimental # 336056
Date of Birth: 1891-09-06
Place of Birth: Saxotoas, Mexico
Trade: Miner
Enlistment Date: 28 Feb 1917
Place of Enlistment: Woodstock ON Canada
Unit: DFT 65th Battery. Served in England
Demobilization: 5 Jul 1919. Proposed residence. CEF after discharge, Texas
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Smith, Herbert John
Rank: Private
Regimental # 2173519
Date of Birth: 1898-08-03
Place of Birth: Piedras Negras, Coahuila Old Mexico
Trade: Clerk
Enlistment Date: 17 Sep 1917
Place of Enlistment: Camp St. Charles MB Canada
Unit: 400th Winnipeg Grenadiers. Served in France and England. CEF
Demobilization: 7 May 1919. Proposed residence after discharged, Chicago Illinois
Reference: Archives of Canada



Jail, Hospital, Death for Wounded Soldier. The Toronto World. 24 Jan 1919

Private Rafael Rodriguez

Private Rafael Rodriguez
 Date of Birth: 1894-10-24
 Place of Birth: Ocotlan, Guadalajara Mexico
 Trade: Labourer/ 3 years in the Mexican Army
 Regimental Number: 684692
 Death: 1919-01-20
 Age: 24
 Force: Army
 Unit: Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regt), Served in France
 Division: 42nd
 Son of Mr. Jesus Rodriguez of Ocotlan Mexico
 Cemetery: Mount Hope Catholic Cemetery in Toronto.
 Grave: Sec18 Range 28 CR 85
 Canadian Virtual War Memorial
 Archives of Canada
 The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

JAIL, HOSPITAL, DEATH FOR WOUNDED SOLDIER

Far away from home and friends Pte. Rafael Rodriguez, formerly of Ocotlan, Mexico, died at the General Hospital after having served nearly a year and a half in France with the 42nd Battalion. He was buried this morning with full military honors under arrangements made by the soldiers' aid commission.

Pte. Rodriguez died tonight owing to his unfamiliarity with the English language or his claim as a Canadian soldier. "Some time ago he was sent to the jail farm where his physical condition, undermined by his service at the front, gradually grew worse and he was sent to the General Hospital when the soldiers' aid was notified of his case. "He had only been advised sooner," stated Secretary Warwick yesterday afternoon. "We might have been able to give more service to this very deserving man as he was entitled to the very gratuity which would have relieved his condition. Rodriguez was a first class soldier and his conduct was excellent. He was badly disabled by shrapnel wounds and was discharged in Toronto on April 12th of last year. He was a very fine type of Mexican and I am sincerely sorry that we did not have an opportunity of helping him."

Call Magistrate As Chief Witness. Inquest Held on Veteran Sent to Jail When Dying. The Toronto World. 29 Jan 1919

Jury on Soldier's Death Blames Militia System. The Toronto World. February 8, 1919

CALL MAGISTRATE AS CHIEF WITNESS

Inquest Held on Veteran Sent to Jail When Dying.

KNEW NO ENGLISH

Was Discharged, Without Back Pay, in Last Stages of Tuberculosis.

Police Magistrate Kingsford, military officers and the police, will be summoned to attend the inquest in the morgue, Friday evening, Feb. 7, and testify at the investigation into the death of Pte. Rafael Rodriguez, the young returned Mexican soldier who died in the General Hospital. Rodriguez, according to medical evidence, was in the last stages of tuberculosis when he was discharged from the soldiers. He was arrested on a charge of a breach of the Ontario Temperance Act, and unable to speak English or make himself understood when he was tried in police court. Magistrate Kingsford imposed a sentence of three months at the jail farm. When the jury heard the evidence of Major Morrison, superintendent of the jail farm, and Detective C. John of Thornhill, and Coroner W. H. Butt, the foreman of the jury at the resumed hearing last night, and returned to Coroner H. Mason that the jury were dissatisfied with the small number of witnesses present, and asked that the inquest be enlarged, the county crown attorney's office was not represented, and the jurors were of the opinion that Magistrate Kingsford, the district military discharge officer, and the police officer who arrested Rodriguez should be summoned to attend and give their evidence in the case.

office was not represented, and the jurors were of the opinion that Magistrate Kingsford, the district military discharge officer and the police officer who arrested Rodriguez should be summoned to attend and give their evidence in the case.

Rodriguez was 23 years of age, and his relatives live in Ocotlan, Mexico, where he came from two years ago to enlist with the Canadian army. He went to France and was wounded in the back and leg. It was also stated that it was while in the army that he developed tuberculosis. His discharge papers showed that he had a splendid conduct record while on active service, and that he was discharged "for physical disability." On Jan. 9, 1918, he was arrested for having a bottle of whiskey. He appeared in court the following morning, and having no money or unable to speak to defend himself, was sentenced to three months. There was no court interpreter present at the trial, and it was later made known that the soldier had between two and three hundred dollars back pay coming to him. As far as could be ascertained last night, the money is still in the hands of the military paymaster.

Went to Jail.

After being sentenced, Rodriguez was removed to the jail, where he remained for two days, at which time he was transferred to the municipal jail farm. On his arrival at this institution he was very ill and was at once placed in the jail hospital.

Major Morrison called Dr. C. John, the farm physician, to attend Rodriguez, and the doctor reported that the soldier was in the last stages of consumption. An effort was made to put him on a diet, with the intention of strengthening his constitution sufficiently to allow his removal to the sanitarium. Two days later his condition grew more serious, and Major Morrison had the patient removed to the Toronto General Hospital, in which institution Rodriguez died the following day. Coroner Butt remarked at the morgue last night that in the post-mortem he had found the prisoner to be suffering from pneumonia and tuberculosis.

Coroner Mason intends conducting a thorough investigation of the case, especially the speedy trial of the unfortunate soldier in the police court.

CORONER'S JURY BLAME MILITARY

Inquest on Rodriguez Elicits Fact of Hurried Trial.

That the military authorities were in error when they discharged Pte. Rafael Rodriguez, the Mexican soldier who died in the General Hospital from tuberculosis, before he was able to look after himself, was the verdict of a coroner's jury at the morgue last night. Rodriguez had been discharged from the army as physically unfit as the result of gunshot wounds received in France. The medical board who examined him before he was discharged could not find any traces of tuberculosis, although within two months from the time Rodriguez was granted his discharge he was arrested and sent to the jail farm. When admitted to the farm the returned man was in the last stages of tuberculosis.

So serious was his condition that Major Morrison, the farm superintendent, ordered the prisoner removed to the General Hospital, where he died the day after being admitted. The jury men praised Major Morrison for the way in which he had treated the dead soldier, and made the suggestion that Coroner Mason have the military authorities see that the back pay which Rodriguez was entitled to be forwarded to his relatives.

The hasty trials in the morning police court were again gone into, but the jury men, despite a reference made by the coroner in his address, did not mention it in their verdict. Rodriguez was sentenced to three months at the jail farm on January 19, on a charge of a breach of the Ontario Temperance Act. Constables Black and Allen, the officers who arrested Rodriguez, did not swear in their evidence that Rodriguez did not enter a plea of "not guilty" when he was tried in court by Magistrate Kingsford.

Not Guilty.

William Bell, a prisoner from the jail farm, testified that he was serving a term for the same offence as was committed by Rodriguez. He swore that he followed Rodriguez in the court and when the prisoner was called and the charge read, Bell distinctly heard him answer "not guilty."

Within a few minutes a plea was entered and the sentence imposed and Rodriguez walked down stairs. After Bell had been sentenced he went below. Rodriguez was ill and he had fetched him a drink of water while in the cells in the city hall. Another prisoner had intimated to him that Rodriguez looked very ill.

While waiting to be transferred from the jail to the farm, Bell said that he and Rodriguez and a number of other prisoners were all in the same room at the Toronto jail. Dr. Parry, witness said, had given him several white pills to give to Rodriguez.

Dr. Parry, jail physician, said that he had examined Rodriguez and found that he was in fit condition to be sent on to the farm. He denied the story of Bell that he had prescribed tablets for Rodriguez.

County Crown Attorney Greer questioned Inspector Gregory of the morality department as to the authority of the police searching suitcases of persons coming in from Montreal on suspicion. Mr. Greer pointed out that there was no provision in the Ontario Temperance Act that gave the police the privilege of picking out respectable people who looked suspicious to them and searching their traveling bags.

The only explanation forthcoming from Inspector Gregory was that the police used discretion in approaching and searching people.

Photo Credits to Rkonigs



CENTRAL AMERICA



Canadian soldiers returning from trenches during the Battle of the Somme. Photo: Library and Archives Canada / PA-000832



War painting - The Capture of the Sugar Refinery at Courcellette by the Canadians on September 15, 1916 by Fortunino Matania. Image: Canadian War Museum 19870268-001.





Name: Pardo, Joachim Peter
Rank: Private
Regimental # 4060226
Date of Birth: 1891-08-22
Place of Birth: Panama
Trade: Mechanic
Enlistment Date: 26 Feb 1918
Place of Enlistment: St. John NB Canada
Unit: 1st Depot Battalion, New Brunswick Regiment. 26th BN Can Inf. Served in England and France. CEF
Demobilization: 17 May 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Snyder, William Ralph
Rank: Private
Regimental # 426577
Date of Birth: 1893-10-02
Place of Birth: Bocas del Coro Panama
Trade: Farm Hand
Enlistment Date: 13 Apr 1915
Place of Enlistment: Regina SK Canada
Unit: 3rd Bn Can Inf (Central Ontario Regiment). CEF
Death: 3 Oct 1916. Boulogne Eastern Cemetery
Son of Michael Theodore and Seveline Elizabeth Snyder, of Bocas del Coro, Republic of Panama. A Naturalised Canadian.
Reference: Archives of Canada
 The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Name: Perez, Thomas Endero
Rank: Captain
Regimental #
Date of Birth: 1891-07-30
Place of Birth: Santo Domingo West Indies (Dominican Republic)
Trade: Physician
Enlistment Date: 9 Feb 1917
Place of Enlistment: Montreal QC Canada
Unit: C.A.M.C. Training Depot No4. Served in England and France. CEF
Demobilization: 7 Jul 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada



Name: Piza, Fernando Emilio
Rank: GNR
Regimental # 2671246
Date of Birth: 1894-09-28
Place of Birth: Costa Rica
Trade: Clerk
Enlistment Date: 23 May 1918
Place of Enlistment: London ON Canada
Unit: 63rd Depot Battery, Canadian Field Artillery. Served in Canada. CEF
Demobilization: Halifax NS 12 Jan 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada



Name: Suarez, Miguel Angel
Rank: SPR
Regimental # 1102367
Date of Birth: 1884-08-29
Place of Birth: Havana Cuba
Trade: Drug Clerk
Enlistment Date: 12 Feb 1917
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: 257 BN. CRTD Corps. Serve in France. CEF
Deceased: 2-9-1957
Reference: Archives of Canada



Battle of Somme

The following was taken from Veterans.gc.ca Webpage.

"The Battle of the Somme began with a massive attack by hundreds of thousands of British and French troops on the morning of July 1, 1916. It would be a disastrous start for the Allies as their forces were pounded by heavy enemy fire when they climbed out of their trenches and advanced across No Man's Land. Tragically, more than 57,000 British Commonwealth troops would be killed, wounded, taken prisoner or go missing—the highest single day losses in the British Army's long history. This shocking total included more than 700 soldiers of the Newfoundland Regiment (who were not fighting as part of the Canadian Corps as Newfoundland did not become part of Canada until decades later in 1949).

For most of the summer of 1916, the Canadian Corps had been manning a section of the Western Front in Belgium. In late August, however, they began to shift to the Somme front near the French village of Courcellette. The Canadians immediately encountered some stiff action there and suffered some 2,600 casualties before the major new offensive they had been tasked with had even gotten underway."

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/wars-and-conflicts/first-world-war/battle-of-the-somme>



Roll call of the Seaforth Highlanders on the afternoon of the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Photo: Imperial War Museum, Q 746



Battle Honours of The Royal Canadian Regiment

The following was taken from A Brief Regimental History prepared by Capt Michael O'Leary , CD

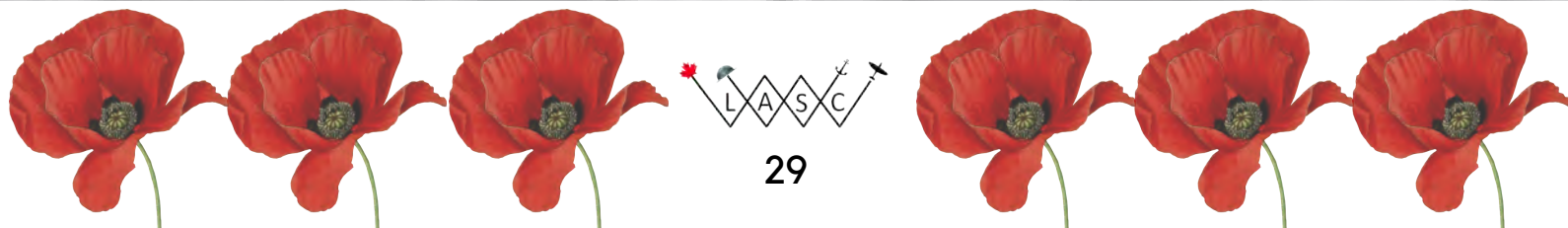
"At the eruption of the First World War, The RCR was gathered at Halifax where Regimental Headquarters and six of the Regiment's ten companies had been located since 1905, having substituted the last British Army garrison in Canada. The RCR was brought up to wartime strength in late 1914 as it started its first task which was to serve for a year as the garrison battalion in Bermuda until August 1915. The RCR then proceeded to England and straight on to France as a battalion of the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade in the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division.

The RCR was presented 16 battle honours for its actions during the First World War, including the Somme 1916, Vimy Ridge and the Pursuit to Mons. One member of The RCR, Lieutenant Milton Fowler Gregg, was awarded the Victoria Cross.

In 1919, the Regiment received a singular honour when King George V granted the Regiment the right to wear Queen Victoria's cypher – "VRI" – on its buttons and badges in perpetuity in recognition of its service in the First World War. This made the RCR the only Commonwealth regiment to wear a deceased sovereign's cypher with no requirement to change cyphers following the coronation of a new King or Queen."

http://www.regimentalrogue.com/researching_the_rcr/RCR_brief_regimental_history.html

Wars and Operations	Battle Honour	Date
War of 1812	Detroit	15 Aug 1812
	Niagara	19 Dec 1813 to Sept 1814
	Defence of Canada – 1812-1815 – Défense de Canada	
North-West Rebellion	Saskatchewan	
	North West Canada 1885	
South African War	Paardeberg	
	South Africa 1899-1900	
First World War		
Summer Operations, 1915. (March-October)	Ypres, 1915	22 April – 25 May 1915
	Gravenstafel Ridge	22-23 April 1915
	St Julien	24 April – 4 May 1915
	Festubert, 1915	15-25 May 1915
Local Operations, 1916. (Previous to the Allied Offensive)	Mount Sorrel	2-13 June 1916
Operations on the Somme. (1 July – 18 November, 1916)	Somme, 1916	1 July – 18 November 1916
	Pozières Ridge	23 July – 3 September 1916
	Flers-Courcelette	15-22 September 1916
	Ancre Heights	1 October – 11 November 1916
The Arras Offensive (9 April – 15 May, 1917)	Arras, 1917	9 April – 4 May 1917
	Vimy, 1917	9-14 April 1917
	Arleux	28-29 April 1917
	Scarpe, 1917	3-4 May 1917
	Hill 70	15-25 August 1917
The Flanders Offensive (7 June – 10 November, 1917)	Ypres, 1917	31 July – 10 Nov. 1917
	Passchendaele	12 October 1917 and/or 26 October – 10 November 1917
The Advance in Picardy (8 August – 3 September, 1918)	Amiens	8-11 August 1918
The Breaking of the Hindenburg Line (26 August – 12 October, 1918)	Arras, 1918	26 August – 3 September 1918
	Scarpe, 1918	26-30 August 1918
	Drocourt-Quéant Line	2-3 September 1918
	Hindenburg Line, Battles of	12 September – 9 October 1918
	Canal du Nord	27 September – 2 October 1918
Picardy (17 October – 11 November).	Cambrai, 1918	8-9 October 1918
FRANCE AND FLANDERS, 1914-18	Pursuit to Mons	11 November 1918
FRANCE AND FLANDERS, 1914-18	FRANCE AND FLANDERS, 1914-18	





Name: Ralston, George Harrah
Rank: BG
Regimental #
Date of Birth: 1866-05-22
Place of Birth: Rio de Janeiro Brazil
Trade: Civil Engineer
Enlistment Date: 24 Sep 1914
Place of Enlistment: Valcartier QC Canada
Unit: 8th Overseas Battalion, 90th Regiment, Winnipeg Rifles
Served in England and France with the 3rd/1st/10th Brigade C.F.A. and 3rd CAN DIV Art. CEF
Demobilization: Ottawa 10 Jun 1920
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Plumeri, William
Rank: SPR
Regimental # 2497629
Date of Birth: 1897-07-06
Place of Birth: Sabellon. Brazil
Trade: Laborer
Enlistment Date: 3 Jul 1917
Place of Enlistment: Canada
Unit: Y & S Forests Construction
Served in France and Belgium
Demobilization: 26 Mar 1919 Toronto ON. CEF
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Potts, John James
Rank: QMS
Regimental # 763308
Date of Birth: 1890-09-17
Place of Birth: BAhia, Brazil
Trade: Hoisting Engineer
Enlistment Date: 8 Mar 1916
Place of Enlistment: Gravenhurst ON Canada
Unit: 122nd Overseas Battalion
Served in England and France. CEF
Demobilization: Toronto 27 Mar 1919
Died at South Porcupine, On 27 Feb 1954
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Westaway, Richard
Rank: Private
Regimental # 877142
Date of Birth: 1896-12-26
Place of Birth: Brazil
Trade: Machinist
Enlistment Date: 7 Mar 1916
Place of Enlistment: Sydney, Cape Breton NS Canada
Unit: 185th Battalion
Served in France. 25 BN Can Div. CEF
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Westall, Edward David
Rank: Private
Regimental # 862550
Date of Birth: 1875-12-19
Place of Birth: Sao Paulo, Brazil
Trade: Chauffeur
Enlistment Date: 22 Feb 1916
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: 180th Battalion
CACS, England. CEF
Demobilization: 9 Oct 1916
Reference: Archives of Canada





(Library and Archives Canada Photo, 'MIKAN No. 3194494)



(Library and Archives Canada Photo, MIKAN No. 3522484)

Canadian Engineers (RCE), First World War pattern cap badge.

"One of the first tasks completed by the Canadian Engineers after the declaration of war upon Germany in 1914 was for the rapid development of the Valcartier training site in Quebec. At its peak size 30,000 men were stationed here before the 1st Canadian Division was deployed to England.

When the 1st Division arrived on the Western Front in Belgium they were accompanied by field companies of the Canadian Engineers (men recruited into the service after the start of the war were part of the Militia branch and not the regulars). These troops were responsible for construction of defences, sanitation systems, water supplies, bridging, and assisting with trench raids. Canadian Engineers also served in the Middle East fighting the Turkish Army.

One of the most important functions of the Sappers in the war was to dig tunnels for mines underneath enemy trenches, after which explosives were planted to destroy them. At the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917, and particularly at the Battle of Messines in June 1917, several such mines were used to win the battle. The Canadian Military Engineers contributed three tunnelling companies to the British Expeditionary Force, 1st Canadian Tunnelling Company, 2nd Canadian Tunnelling Company and 3rd Canadian Tunnelling Company. One was formed from men on the battlefield, while two other companies first trained in Canada and were then shipped to France.

In the war the only Victoria Cross the Canadian Engineers received was earned by Captain C.N. Mitchell his for actions on 8 October 1918 at Canal de l'Escaut, north-east of Cambrai, France. (This VC is currently held in the CME Museum at 5 CDSB Gagetown, Oromocto, New Brunswick).

In total, more than 40,000 Canadians served as Engineers in the war, with 14,000 on the front on the last day of the war."

Credits: Military History Books by Harold A Skaarup. Royal Canadian Engineers
<https://www.silverhawkauthor.com/post/royal-canadian-engineers-rce>





"Canadian Pioneers carrying trench mats with wounded and prisoners in background during the Battle of Passchendaele." Photo: William Rider-Rider / Canada. Dept. of National Defence / Library and Archives Canada / PA-002084



"Personnel of the 16th Canadian Machine Gun Company holding the line in shell holes during the Battle of Passchendaele." Photo: William Rider-Rider / Library and Archives Canada / PA-002162





Name: Chirsty, Frank
Rank: Private
Regimental # 77236
Date of Birth: 1895-01-16
Place of Birth: Sao Paulo, Brazil
Trade: Logger/Laborer
Enlistment Date: 1914-11-08
Place of Enlistment: Victoria BC Canada
Unit: 30 Overseas BN England
CEF
Demobilization: Quebec Canada. Medically Unfit 31
Dec1915
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Mackintosh Ian Lyall
Rank: GNR
Regimental # 327878
Date of Birth: 1889-04-25
Place of Birth: Pernambuco, Brazil
Trade: Clerk
Enlistment Date: 1916-03-08
Place of Enlistment: Winnipeg MB Canada
Unit: 59th Overseas Battery, 15th Overseas Brigade,
Canadian Field Artillery
CEF
Demobilization: 25 Jun 1919. Proposed residence
after discharged; Winnipeg
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: McRae William
Rank: Private
Regimental # 3230058
Date of Birth: 1895-06-23
Place of Birth: Brazil
Trade: Machinist
Enlistment Date: 4 Jan 1918
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: 2nd Depot Battalion 1st Central Ontario
CEF
Demobilization: Toronto ON 31-12-1918
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Walter, James Roy
Rank: Corporal
Regimental # 346000
Date of Birth: 1896-12-25
Place of Birth: Brazil
Trade: Farmer
Enlistment Date: 23 May 1917
Place of Enlistment: Kingston ON Canada
Unit: 75th Depot Battery. CFA France
CEF
Demobilization: 30 Jun 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: McGuire Frank Joseph
Rank: Private
Regimental # 2030322
Date of Birth: 1888-03-02
Place of Birth: Bahia, Brazil
Trade: Laborer
Enlistment Date: 27 Aug 1917
Place of Enlistment: Vancouver BC Canada
Unit: 72nd Regiment Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
Reinforcements.
22 BN CAN inf France/England
CEF
Demobilization: London ON 6 Jun 1919. Residence
after discharged Chicago Illinois.
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Webster, Harry Joseph Levi
Rank: Sergeant
Regimental # 2458369
Date of Birth: 1874-12-07
Place of Birth: Rio de Janeiro Brazil
Trade: Clerk
Enlistment Date: 1 Oct 1917
Place of Enlistment: London ON Canada
Unit: 1st Depot Battalion, Westen Ontario Regiment
CEF
Demobilization: London ON 24 Mar 1920
Reference: Archives of Canada



Battle of Passchendaele

The following was taken from Veterans.gc.ca webpage:

"Canadians have a proud history of bravely serving in the cause of peace and freedom over the years. A name from Canada's First World War military heritage that still stirs emotions is "Passchendaele." On a muddy battlefield in northwest Belgium, Canadians overcame almost unimaginable hardships to win an impressive victory in the fall of 1917.

Early in October 1917, the Canadians were sent to Belgium to relieve the battered ANZAC forces and take part in the final push to capture Passchendaele. Canadian Corps commander Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie inspected the terrain and was shocked at the conditions he saw. He tried to avoid having his men fight there but was overruled by his superiors. As at Vimy, the four divisions of the Canadian Corps would see action. However, the ubiquitous mud, flat terrain, and relative lack of preparation time and artillery support would make Passchendaele a far different battlefield than the one the Canadians had encountered at Vimy Ridge."

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/wars-and-conflicts/first-world-war/battle-of-passchendaele>



"A damaged tank on the muddy Passchendaele battlefield." Photo: Library and Archives Canada PA-002195



South America



Name: McHoul, Alexander Fraser
Rank: Sapper
Regimental # 180271
Date of Birth: 1895-09-18
Place of Birth: Valparaiso Chile
Trade: Clerk
Enlistment Date: 9 Dec 1915
Place of Enlistment: Victoria BC Canada
Unit: 88th Battalion Victoria Fusiliers. Served in France. CEF
Discharge: Toronto ON 24 May 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Nicholls, William James M
Rank: Sgt
Regimental # 81669
Date of Birth: 1892-09-09
Place of Birth: Iquique Chile
Trade: Carpenter
Enlistment Date: 29 Dec 1914
Place of Enlistment: Winnipeg Canada
Unit: Signalling Section No 30. 8th Bn Can Inf. Served in France. CEF
Discharge: Medically unfit Ottawa 21 Nov 1918
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: McdLennan, Alexander Roderick
Rank: Sgt
Regimental # 11263
Date of Birth: 1896-06-23
Place of Birth: Valparaiso Chile
Trade: Laborer
Enlistment Date: 1914-09-22
Place of Enlistment: Valcartier QC Canada
Unit: 36 Regt. 4th Bn Can Inf 1st Brigade served in England and France. CEF
Demobilization: Toronto ON. 7 Dec 1918
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Ossana, Juan
Rank: Private
Regimental # 529027
Date of Birth: 1890-01-12
Place of Birth: Chile
Trade: Clerk
Enlistment Date: 20 Jan 1917
Place of Enlistment: Winsor ON Canada
Unit: CAMC (Training Depot No1). RCR Served in France. CEF
Demobilization: England 18-03-1919. Proposed residence after discharge, Santiago de Chile
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Price, William
Rank: LCol
Date of Birth: 1867-08-30
Place of Birth: Talca Chile
Trade: Merchant and Manufacturer
Enlistment Date: 13 Mar 1916
Place of Enlistment: Quebec QC Canada
Unit: 171th Battalion. Served in France.CEF
Accidentally Killed in Canada 2-10-1924
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Real, Sagunto
Rank: SPR
Regimental # 2497887
Date of Birth: 1897-03-29
Place of Birth: Chile
Trade: Laborer
Enlistment Date: 25 Jul 1917
Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
Unit: York & Simcoe Foresters Construction. CRT Served in France and Belgium. CEF
Demobilization: Toronto ON 25 May 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Walker, John
Rank: Lt
Date of Birth: 1881-09-27
Place of Birth: Valparaiso Chile
Trade: Civil Engineer
Enlistment Date: 7 Jun 1915
Place of Enlistment: Niagara Camp ON Canada
Unit: 37th Battalion. Served in England and France with 50th Battalion. CEF
Demobilization: 30 Jun 1919
Reference: Archives of Canada

Sailor Jose De La Cruz Torres
Death: January 10, 1918
Force: Navy
Unit: Newfoundland Mercantile Marine
Division: Schooner W.C. McKay
Son of Mrs Maria Avela Torres of Chancho, Chile
Cemetery: Beaumont-Hamel (Newfoundland) Somme, France
Canadian Virtual War Memorial Canada





Private Frederick Rowland
 Death: April 24, 1915
 Age: 35
 Force: Army
 Unit: Canadian Infantry (British Columbia Regt)
 Division: 7th Bn
 Son of Late Samuel Frederick Rowland, Chile
 Cemetery: Menin Gate Ypres Memorial Belgium
 Panel 18-28-30
 Canadian Virtual War Memorial Canada

Name: Reed, Gustavo
 Rank: Private
 Regimental # 1093411
 Date of Birth: 1894-09-06
 Place of Birth: Rancagua Chile
 Trade:
 Enlistment Date: 16 Apr 1917
 Place of Enlistment: Prescott ON Canada
 Unit: 254th Oversead Battalion. 21 Bn Can Inf.
 Served in England and France. CEF
 Discharge: Ottawa ON 27 Jan 1919
 Reference: Archives of Canada



Trimmer Vic Crothalin
 Death: December 12, 1917
 Force: Merchant Navy
 Unit: Canadian Merchant Navy
 Division: S.S. Halifax
 Born in Peru
 Cemetery: Tower Hill Memorial. London, UK
 Canadian Virtual War Memorial Canada



Seaman A. Velasquez
 Death: 13 Aug 1915
 Force: Merchant Navy
 Unit: Canadian Merchant Navy
 Division: S.S. Royal Merchant Navy
 Born in Peru
 Cemetery: Tower Hill Memorial. London, UK
 Canadian Virtual War Memorial Canada



Name: Lancashire, Robert John
 Rank:
 Regimental # 3328768
 Date of Birth: 1891-09-09
 Place of Birth: Callas Peru
 Trade: Telegram and Cable Operator
 Enlistment Date: 1918-10-09
 Place of Enlistment: New York NY USA
 Unit: 2nd Depot Bn RCR CEF. Served only in Canada.
 Demobilization: Ottawa ON 26 Nov 1918
 Reference: Archives of Canada





Private Manuel Bermudez
 Born: May 22, 1894 Caracas, Venezuela
 Death: October 1, 1918
 Age: 24
 Force: Army
 Unit: Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regt)
 Division: 14th Bn
 Son of Manuel Bermudez Lecuna and his wife,
 Carlota Valdez de Bermudez
 Cemetery: Sancourt British Cemetery, Nord,
 France. Grave: II. A.36
 Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Name: Woods, Raymond
 Rank: Private
 Regimental # 733803
 Date of Birth: 1896-10-03
 Place of Birth: Caracas, Venezuela
 Trade: Fisherman
 Enlistment Date: 15 Jan 1916
 Place of Enlistment: Shelburne NS Canada
 Unit: 112th Battalion
 CEF
 Discharge: 12 Jun 1916 Unfit
 Reference: Archives of Canada

Cadet John Ludford
 Born: May 22, 1894 Caracas, Venezuela
 Death: September 18, 1917
 Age: 19
 Force: Air Force
 Unit: Royal Flying Corps
 Son of E.H. and Luisa Odina Ludford of Caracas
 Venezuela
 Cemetery: Barrie (ST. Mary's) Roman Catholic
 Cemetery
 Canadian Virtual War Memorial



Name: Wigley, John Walter
 Rank: Sergeant
 Regimental # 811008
 Date of Birth: 1869-06-17
 Place of Birth: Montevideo Uruguay
 Trade: QMS
 Enlistment Date: 6 Dec 1915
 Place of Enlistment: Edmonton AB Canada
 Unit: Canadian Forestry Corps Served in France. CEF
 Demobilization: Calgary AB 27 May 1919
 Reference: Archives of Canada

Name: Prichard, Leonard Wilfred
 Rank: Sergeant
 Regimental # 2005544
 Date of Birth: 1893-09-07
 Place of Birth: Montevideo Uruguay
 Trade: Machinist
 Enlistment Date: 22 Feb 1917
 Place of Enlistment: Windsor ON Canada
 Unit: No 6 Service Company, Canadian Engineers,
 Military District No1. Served in France with 11 CE
 Demobilization: Toronto ON 16 Jun 1919
 Reference: Archives of Canada



Name: Puyo, Peter
 Rank: Private
 Regimental # 2011581
 Date of Birth: 1899-06-29
 Place of Birth: Bogota Colombia
 Trade: Auto Mechanic
 Enlistment Date: 2 July 1918
 Place of Enlistment: Toronto ON Canada
 Unit: Canadian Engineers. Served in England
 Demobilization: Toronto ON 10 Oct 1919
 Reference: Archives of Canada



BRIEF FIRST & SECOND WORLD WAR



The research of Captain Rey Garcia-Salas about the Latin Americans who came to Canada and joined the Canadian Armed Forces and participated in the First and Second World Wars for the freedom that we enjoy today in Canada, Latin America and the world, exposed 5 Historic Facts:

1. Latin Americans have been contributing to the defence of our country dating back to the First World War. This was a challenging time for many Latin Americans. Many spoke Spanish as a first language, which wasn't widely spoken by other military members.
2. The Canadian Armed Forces' statement of multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion is not a new initiative. It took place in our case when they accepted Latin-Americans to be enlisted in the First World War.
3. Those soldiers with Latin-American roots came to Canada to be recruited voluntarily. Nobody forced them into taking this action. These soldiers were altruistic, generous, resilient, compassionate, and courageous by fighting for our Canadian freedom.



4. Each Latin American soldier's last name came from many different backgrounds. Those who maintain their culture today are considered Latin American, though their ancestors may originate from other continents. The term Latin American, therefore, includes Indigenous Peoples of the Americas and people from other continents who came to the Americas, and who adopted Latin American cultures.

5. In my list, many who came from Latin America to fight for Canada in the Second World War, fought as pilots within the Canadian Forces in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

We as Canadians with Latin-American roots share culture, history, legends, customs, DNA, etc with the indigenous people of this land that have been living here for thousands of years.

There may be parity between the experiences of First Nation, Inuit and Metis veterans in Canada to that of the Latin American Soldiers who originally enlisted in the Canadian Forces in the First/Second World Wars.

In my research I found the follow numbers:

First World War, estimated 94 soldiers. 84 of the soldiers who enlisted in the Canadian military were born in a Latin American country, 2 were born in Canada having a Latin American last name, and 7 were born in the USA having a Latin American last name. Their ability to share their culture, while adapting to life in the Canadian military, was remarkable.

Second World War, I found an estimated total of 35 soldiers who enlisted in Canada. Of these, 32 members were born in a Latin American country, 2 were born in Canada, and 1 was a Latin American member born in the USA with Latin American last name. The following are the names that I was able to find, not every soldier was included in the list.



Latin America During Second World War

"During World War II, a number of significant economic, political, and military changes took place in Latin America. The war caused considerable panic in the region over economics as large portions of economy of the region depended on the European investment capital, which was shut down. Latin America tried to stay neutral at first but the warring countries were endangering their neutrality. In order to better protect the Panama Canal, combat Axis influence, and optimize the production of goods for the war effort, the United States through Lend-Lease and similar programs greatly expanded its interests in Latin America, resulting in large-scale modernization and a major economic boost for the countries that participated.

Strategically, Panama was the most important Latin American nation for the Allies because of the Panama Canal, which provided a link between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans that was vital to both commerce and defense. Brazil was also of great importance because of its having the closest point in the Americas to Africa where the Allies were actively engaged in fighting the Germans and Italians. For the Axis, the Southern Cone nations of Argentina and Chile were where they found most of their support, and they utilized it to the fullest by interfering with internal affairs, conducting espionage, and distributing propaganda.

Brazil was the only country to send troops to the European Theater, was instrumental in providing air bases for the resupply of the combatants, and had an important part in the anti-submarine campaign of the Atlantic. Several other countries also had skirmishes with German U-Boats and cruisers in the Caribbean and South Atlantic. Mexico sent a fighter squadron of 300 volunteers to the Pacific, the Escuadrón 201, known as the Aztec Eagles (Águilas Aztecas).

The Brazilian active participation on the battlefield in Europe was divined after the Casablanca Conference. The President of the U.S., Franklin D. Roosevelt on his way back from Morocco met the President of Brazil, Getulio Vargas, in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, this meeting is known as the Potemkin River Conference, and defined the creation of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force."

Wikipedia: Latin America during World War II

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_America_during_World_War_II



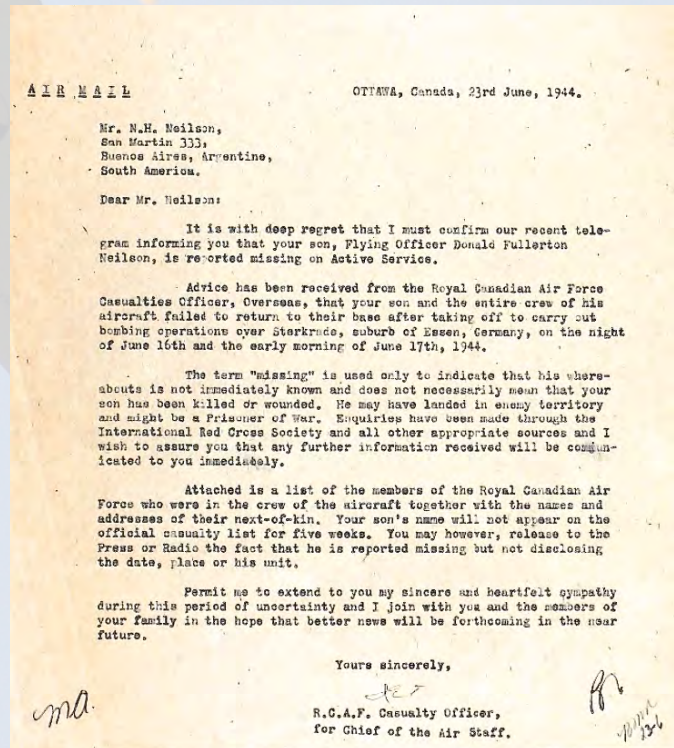
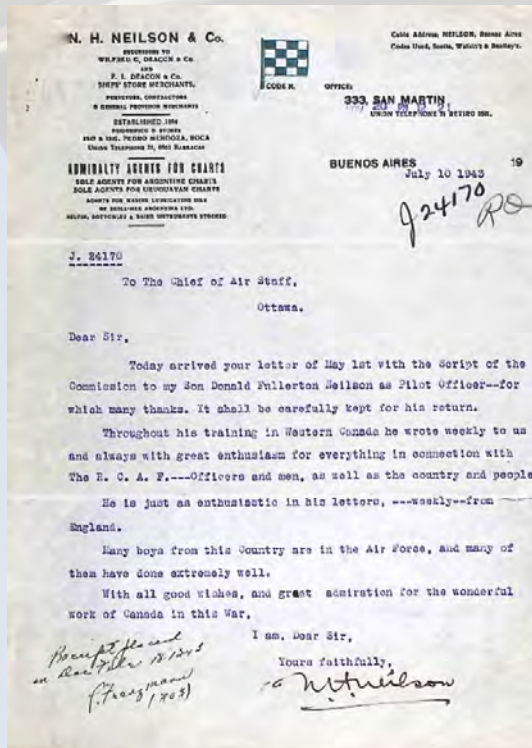
Argentina



Photo of DONALD FULLERTON NEILSON – Submitted for the project Operation Picture Me Canadian Veterans Affairs

Name: Donald Fullerton Neilson
 Rank: Flying Officer
 Regimental # J24170
 Date of Birth: 17 May 1917
 Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
 Enlistment Date: 27 January, 1942 Calgary, AB
 Unit: 550 Sqn RCAF
 Death: 17 June, 1944
 Cemetery: Runnymede Memorial Surrey, UK
 Citations:
 1939-45 Star, Air Crew Europe Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, War Medal 1939-45, Posthumously awarded RCAF Operational Wings in recognition of gallant service in action against the enemy, the 26 April 1947.

Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial



Argentine Volunteers in The Second World War

The participation of Argentines in the Second World War is not widely known. 5,000 Argentine volunteers, including 400 women, fought in this war. They did not receive a war pension nor did they ask for it.

To name some of these Argentine heroes, we have:

Ricardo Moreno, who was trained in Canada and fought in Europe flying an aircraft.

Frederick Bradbury, died during the war flying a Sterling in 1940.

Alejandro Francisco Watt, whose four brothers were pilots, two died in combat. In the 1980s he was second in command of the Austral airline.

Mauricio Letti, was missing in action on his Spitfire fighter in the North Sea in 1945.

Juan Conran was the first Argentine pilot to bomb Berlin in 1941. He was shot down and taken prisoner until the end of the war. He rose to the rank of Captain.

Reinaldo Daintree, was a heavy bomber pilot in India and was an international airline chief for Aerolineas Argentinas. He was a pilot for President Arturo Frondizi. In the civil aviation. He broke records for speed, distance, and hours flown. He accumulated 33,000 flight hours.

Captain Stuart Haslam, was a pilot of Spitfires, after the war ended he went to live in Hurlingham.

Captain Robert James Hill, flew for the Royal Air Force (RAF, Royal Air Force). At the end of the war, he was summoned for the start of Aerolineas Argentinas.

Bernardo Noel de Larminat, carried out 345 combat missions, shot down three aircraft, damaged two, destroyed fifty cars and five trains. He was the most decorated Argentine pilot who fought in the Royal Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force.

Kenneth Langley Charney, known as the Black Knight, fought with the Royal Air Force (RAF), shooting down twelve planes and damaging sixteen. His nickname is due to having fought in the Battle of Malta and given his reckless actions, which consisted of attacking German bombers head-on and shooting them down one by one.

Maureen Dunlop, the "pilot of Las Pampas", along with 164 other women was part of the Air Transport Auxiliary of the RAF. Their mission was to take planes from factories or workshops to their air bases. She flew thirty-eight different types of aircrafts. After the war, she qualified as an RAF flight instructor.

She instructed pilots for Aerolineas Argentinas who were beginning to train and flew for the Argentine Air Force. Though, they did not give her the wings of a military aviator.

More than 550 pilots from Argetina, fought during Second World War II, 300 returned, 122 died in combat.

The above was translated from the following site:

<https://tenienteolivieri.wordpress.com/2021/02/06/argentinos-en-la-segunda-guerra-mundial/>



Here are the names of Argentine pilots who died serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force:

Flying Officer Lister, Thomas Edward
Flying Officer Nielson, Donald
Flight Lieutenant Pryor, Gerald Cower
Flying Officer Cameron, Allan Reid
Flight Sargent Gittins, Harold Bryan Livingston
Flight Sargent Hudson-Bell, Thomas Reginald Trevor
Flying Officer Pryce Hughes, George
Flying Officer Joyce, David Dudley Plaister
Pilot Officer MacQueen, Ian Andrew James

Flight Lieutenant T्रेry, Charles Ronald
Pilot Officer King, Stuart Douglas
Flight Lieutenant Austen Cadmus, George
Flight Lieutenant Fullerton Mcqueen, Donald
Flight Lieutenant Udney Lister, Thomas Edward
Flight Lieutenant Plasitor Joyce, David Dudley
Flight Lieutenant Pryce Hughes, Richard
Flight Sergeant Willie, Charles John

<https://weekend.perfil.com/noticias/armas-2/firmes-volamos-los-pilotos-argentinos-que-pelearon-en-la-segunda-guerra-mundial.phtml>

<https://www.infobae.com/2015/11/12/1769273-la-historia-los-5-mil-argentinos-que-pelearon-la-segunda-guerra-mundial/>

<https://www.lanacion.com.ar/lifestyle/heroes-argentinos-segunda-guerra-nid2186888/>

Archives of Canada

<https://tenienteolivieri.wordpress.com/2021/02/06/argentinos-en-la-segunda-guerra-mundial/>



By Harris, Ted - McGill University Library, Rare Books and Special Collections, Canadian War Poster Collection, Reference no. WP2.R16.F3, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3855624>





Photo of GEORGE AUSTEN CADMUS – George Austen Cadmus in training days in the RCAF
Operation Picture Me Canadian Veterans Affairs

Name: George Austen Cadmus
Rank: Pilot Officer
Regimental # 16789
Date of Birth: Jan 7, 1915
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Enlistment Date: 27 Mar, 1941 Ottawa, ON
Unit: 427 Sqn RCAF
Death: 23 Jun 1943 Wistlaer-Bochum
Germany
Reichswald Forest War Cemetery
Son of Thomas Jefferson Cadmus and
Sarah Amy (nee Morgan) Cadmus, of
Reepham, Norfolk, England. Brother of
Amy and Elsie
Citations:
1939-45 Star, Air Crew Europe Star,
Defence Medal, War Medal, Canadian
Volunteer Service Medal & Clasp.
Posthumously awarded RCAF Operational
Wings in recognition of gallant service in
action against the enemy, the 19th of
September 1946.
Reference: The Canadian Virtual War
Memorial



Photo of Allan Reid Cameron – Submitted for the project,
Operation Picture Me

Name: Allan Reid Cameron
Rank: Flying Officer
Regimental # J25525
Date of Birth: 5 January 1916
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Enlistment Date: 20 May 1942 Toronto ON
Death: 16 December 1943 Faldingwoth, Lincolnshire,
England
Nottingham Crematorium UK
Son of Alexander Allan and the late Alice Mabel (nee Smith)
Cameron of Hurlington, Argentina; husband of Nora
Blanche (nee Traill) Cameron, of Buenos Aires, Argentina.
Brother of Archibald, Raymond, Amy and Heather.

Citations:
.Defence Medal, War Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service
Medal and Clasp.
Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial





Name: Thomas Edward Udny Lister
Rank: Flying Officer
Regimental # 7821
Date of Birth: 8 Dec 1913
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Enlistment Date: 27 March, 1941 Ottawa ON
Death: 10 Sep 1943 Dean Farm,
Gloucestershire, England
Bath (Haycombe) Cemetery. Somerset, UK

Citations:
Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45,
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and
Clasp.
Reference: The Canadian Virtual War
Memorial

Photo of Thomas Edward Udny Lister – Passport photograph of Flying Officer Thomas Edward Udny Lister in civilian clothing. Submitted for the project Operation Picture Me. Canadian Veterans Affairs



Former Argentine World War II pilot Ricardo (Dick) Moreno (R) talks with Canadian veteran Duane Daly before a ceremony at Canada's Aviation Museum in Ottawa, November 19, 2007. The ceremony was held to honour the 800 young men from Argentina who volunteered to fight for the Allies during the war. REUTERS/Chris Wattie





Name: Ian Andrew James MacQueen
Rank: Pilot Officer
Regimental # J8439
Date of Birth: 19 May 1921
Place of Birth: Godoy Cruz, Mendoza, Argentina
Enlistment Date: 8 Nov 1940 Kingston ON
Unit: 44 (Rhodesia) Sqn
Death: 5 Aug 1942
Runney Memorial Surrey, UK Panel 101
Son of John and Katherine Isabella (née Stuart) MacQueen of Province Santa Fé, Argentina.

Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Newspaper clipping – From the Toronto Star September 1943. Submitted for the project Operation Picture Me



Name: Thomas Reginald Trevor Hudson-Bell
Rank: Flying Sergeant
Regimental # R99900
Date of Birth: 4 Nov 1922
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Enlistment Date: 18 Jun 1941 London ON
Unit: 519 Sqn (RAF) RCAF
Death: 26 Aug 1943
Ben Loyal, Sutherland, Scotland
Wick Cemetery Caithnesshire, UK
Son of Thomas and Mary Agnes (née Victory) Hudson-Bell, of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Brother of Thomas, Ian, Noreen and Dorothy.

Citations:

1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star, War Medal 1939-45, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. Posthumously awarded RCAF Operational Wings in recognition of gallant service in action against the enemy, the 27 of June, 1946.

Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Flying Sergeant Thomas Reginald Trevor Hudson-Bell -Submitted for the project, Operation Picture Me



Bernardo Noel Marie De Larminat



Bernardo Noel Marie De Larminat was born on December 25, 1920 in Buenos Aires. He was the son of Santiago De Larminat, a Frenchman, and a pioneer of Patagonian development at the beginning of the 20th century.

He was accepted into the Royal Canadian Air Force to begin his flight training but had issues since he did not know English. Bernardo was sent to take a Basic English course. To his disappointment, while he was starting out as an air cadet, his comrades received their combat aviator wings and were sent to the European theater of war.

Bernardo received his aviator wings on December 6, 1941, a few months later than his peers. His instructor suggested:

"Very good effort. Don't go to the bombers, your Argentine comrades have almost all died in operations. Don't get yourself killed, you know what to do to avoid it."

Bernardo became a fighter pilot at the age of 21 and flew one of the most advanced planes of his time, the legendary Spitfire. Two years later, after attending different flight schools for perfecting himself in aerial combat, he moved to Europe and later to North Africa.

The first time he faced death was in Tunisia, on April 19, 1943. During a patrol flight, his squad leader told him over the radio "turn to the left, German fighters". Bernardo made a violent turn and evaded the hail of German fire. His partner in front was knocked down. The Germans were everywhere. His plane suffered an explosion but kept flying. He pretended not to have control of his plane and skimmed over a mountain before shooting at a German Stuka bomber and escaping. Upon landing, the mechanics realized that their plane had a huge hole and that he was lucky it didn't explode in the air.



"At 23, he was promoted to Squad Leader. He led to combat the select group of Canadian pilots who supported the advance of the British Eighth Army with their flights.

Death nearly overtook him in 1944. It all came to an abrupt end when his Spitfire's engine stalled over the Adriatic Sea. He had to jump with a parachute, which had terrible consequences. When the parachute opened, his arm became entangled and caused serious injuries. He fell into the water. During his recovery, he received some bad news: the Canadians have decided to cut him off from operations.

He was told: "That's enough, De Larminat, you have completed 300 combat missions. You can return home to Argentina or serve as a flight instructor in Canada.

He requested discharge from the Canadian Air Force and appealing to his French origin, enlisted in General De Gaulle's free French aviation. Bernardo flew as Squadron Leader in the select French 341 squadron made up of pilots of the same seniority.

April 1, 1945, after attacking a German train behind enemy lines with cannon fire and bombs, Nazi anti-aircraft shells hit the engine of his damaged Spitfire, which consequentially stopped. Bernardo knew that he would not be able to return to his base and that he will fall behind enemy lines. He made an emergency landing with the wheels inside. The fighter slid over several ruts, hit a fence, and finally, his plane came to a stop. He escaped. Some shots went over his head. He went into a forest and stayed in a cave. The Dutch resistance then discovers him and evacuates him. Dressed in mechanic overalls and an old cap, he walks to a shelter. Guided by the resistance towards a Canadian regiment, he is greeted with joy.

When Germany surrenders, Captain Bernardo De Larminat receives all kinds of decorations. Great Britain awards him the Distinguished Flying Cross. He is also consecrated "Knight of the Legion of Honor" and receives the French War Cross with four palms and seven citations from the French government for his professionalism and devotion to duty in combat."

The above was translated from the following site:

Meunier, C. (2022, June 3). El gaucho que combatió a los Nazis. creció en neuquén, Se Hizo Piloto de cazas y fue "as Del Aire" en la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

LA NACION. Retrieved August 28, 2022, from <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/lifestyle/as-del-aire-la-fantastica-historia-del-gaucha-que-se-hizo-piloto-de-cazas-y-combatio-a-los-nazis-en-nid13012022/>



https://everipedia.org/wiki/lang_en/bernardo-de-larminat



<http://www.aviationart.eu/delarminat.htm>





Photo of CHARLES RONALD TRERY – Submitted for the project, Operation Picture Me

Name: Charles Ronald Trery

Rank: Flight Lieutenant

Regimental # J13065

Date of Birth: 25 February 1922

Place of Birth: Huinca Renanco Argentina

Unit: 272 Sqn RCAF

Son of the late Charles Herbert Trery, and Leone Ernestine Helene Trery, of Hurlingham, Argentina. Brother of Colinette, Bertha and Amelia.

Death: 2 Aug 1943 Prevez Greece

Malta Memorial, Malta Panel 10, Column 1

Citations:

1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45.

'Posthumously awarded RCAF Operational Wings in recognition of gallant service in action against the enemy, the 10th September 1946.

Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial



Name: Douglas Stuart King
Rank: Pilot Officer
Regimental # J4824
Date of Birth: 16 Nov 1917
Place of Birth: San Martin Buenos Aires Argentina
Unit: 76 Sqn RCAF
Son of Douglas and Inez Georgina (née Bell) King, of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Brother of Dorthea, Sheila, Mavis and Enid.
Death: 30 Dec 1941
Runnymede Memorial Surrey, UK Panel 59
Citations:
1939-45 Star, Air Crew Europe Star, War Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. Posthumously awarded RCAF Operational Wings in recognition of gallant service in action against the enemy, the 21 February 1947.
Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Name: Charles John Wyllie
Rank: Warrant Officer 1st Class
Regimental # R74287
Date of Birth: 11 April 1917
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Enlistment Date: 17 Oct 1940 Ottawa ON
Unit: 53 Sqn RCAF
Death: 8 May 1942
Bergen-Op-Zoom War Cemetery
Son of Charles John and Helen R. (née Mackenzie) Wyllie, of Duggan, Argentine
Citations:
.1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star, War Medal 1939-45, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. RCAF Operational Wings awarded posthumously in recognition of valiant service in combat against the enemy, 21 February 1947.
Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Name: Gerald Cowes Pryor
Rank: Flying Lieutenant
Regimental # J4823
Date of Birth: 5 Aug 1918
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Enlistment Date: 17 Oct 1940 Ottawa ON
Unit: !* Sqn RCAF
Death: 8 Nov 1941
RUnnymede Memorial Surrey, United Kingdom
Citations:
.1939-45 Star, Air Crew Europe Star, War Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp. Posthumously awarded RCAF Operational Wings in recognition of gallant service in action against the enemy 14 March 1946.
Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Name: Harold Bryan Livingston Gittins
Rank: Flying Sergeant
Regimental # R74283
Date of Birth: 8 Jun 1917
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Enlistment Date: 17 Oct 1940 Ottawa ON
Death: 15 Dec 1941
Nottingham Crematorium UK
Son of George Leopold Carlyle Gittins and Rose Elizabeth Magdalene (née Livingston) Gittins, of Curumalan, Argentina. Brother of John, Warwick, Denis, Arthur, Phyllis and Noel.
Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Name: David Dudley Plaister Joyce
Rank: Flying Officer
Regimental # 4822
Date of Birth: 25 May 1919
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Enlistment Date: 17 Oct 1940 Ottawa ON
Unit: RCAF 10 (RAF) Sqn
Death: 2 June 1942 Oeding Germany
Reichswald Forest War Cemetery Germany
Citations:
1939-45 Star, Air Crew Europe Star, Defence Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, War Medal 1939-45..
Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Name: Hugh Hjalmar Michael Lismore
Rank: Trooper
Regimental # B61227
Date of Birth: 25 Jun 1922
Place of Birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina
Enlistment Date: 13 Mar 1941. Toronto, ON
Unit: 1st Hussars R.C.A.C.
Division: 'B' Sqn., 6th Armd. Regt
Death: 6 Jun 1944
Cemetery: Beny-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery.
Calvados, France. Grave Ref VI. B. 8
Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial



HUGH HJALMAR MICHAEL LISMORE
Trooper Hugh Hjalmar Michael Lismore, B61227
1st Hussars

Note on the death of H.H.M. Lismore, from: A History of the First Hussars Regiment 1856-1980

“After an Orders Group with the infantry it was decided that three groups of tanks would move behind Pierrepont and make a recce of the high ground. The troops mopped off and for a considerable period encountered no opposition. Suddenly near Fontaine-Henry an anti-tank gun was seen on the left flank. Since the gun was not pointed at the tanks, they moved in keeping it covered. This gun, later discovered to be a dummy, had absorbed the attention of the crew commanders and suddenly an 88mm, concealed beside the road, opened fire and succeeded in knocking out five tanks before Sgt. Garipey could neutralize it. Lieut. C.M. McLeod was wounded, but his crew were unhurt. Lieut. Pease' tank was less fortunate, and he, along with Tpr. H.H.M. Lismore, Cpl. P.F. Newton and Tpr. C.J. McAndrew, was killed. Only the co-driver, Tpr. Wilkes, escaped alive. In Cpl. Shire's tank, Tprs. E.J. Annis and W. Feschuk were killed and in the tank commanded by Cpl. Pike, Tpr. C.F. Homuth was killed.”

<https://www.junobeach.org/tributes/hhmlismore/>

Letters From Prisoners of War

AIRMEN IN CAMP ORCHESTRA PRACTISE TWO HOURS DAILY

Stalag Luft Three Group Starts on "Carmen" After Successful Concert

PRAISE RED CROSS

In Stalag Luft 3, the orchestra opened the "summer season" of popular music in June. A violinist is Flight-Sergeant Charles D. McCloskey, a Mosquito bomber pilot, who was shot down on April 6. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. McCloskey, Kingsway Cres.

"Our orchestra played the Mendelssohn, Wagner, Vienna Woods, Malaguna and several other pieces," he writes. "We have started to practise Carmen, and this we shall play at our next big do." The boys practise two hours daily.

Fly Wilkins, our orchestra leader, is pretty well informed as to what goes on in the musical world. He is quite a success in imparting his knowledge to us.

McCloskey writes that the prisoners have roll call twice a day and are left to themselves. Rugby and volleyball are popular sports.

"Don Armstrong, Ontario, Parkway, has done it again. He just cooked up a swell meal from Red Cross food parcels. What Don can do with them would amaze the best of chefs. These food parcels make up our main meal of the day."

NEW PRISONERS HELPED

When Warrant Officer William Nelson Green, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Garnat, Danforth Ave., who was shot down over Stuttgart on April 18, was brought into Stalag Luft 3 with others, he was warmly welcomed by fellow prisoners.

COOK FOR 83 IN ON ONE STOVE

Stalag Luft 3 Trees Remind Toronto Flier of Lake Couchiching

GET SOME PARCELS

"The news this time is about our new camp. Although this camp is only walking distance from where we were, it was like moving to a new city, except that the people are the same," recently wrote Flying Officer Don S. Armstrong, from Stalag Luft 3 to his parents, Rev. and Mrs. Allan E. Armstrong, Oriole Parkway.

"The accommodation is better as to sanitary arrangements. There are trees inside the wire which, with a little imagination, remind one of Lake Couchiching. Our mess has four people in it at present but will increase shortly. Squadron Leader Campbell, D.F.C., is commanding in the B.A.F. in our room, 'Buckner'. Hex Henry is an Aussie, plays the guitar, and is busy at making cooling vests out of old tin cans. Fred Wordley is English. I am chief cook and bottle washer, and I hope the boys, especially now that we are hot and weak, appreciate. Eighty-three people have to be cooked for all on one stove!" Armstrong wrote.

A roommate of his is Flight-Lieut. Langford, Field B.C.

"A word about parcels. They are distributed on a communal basis weekly, e.g. last week the whole camp got one Canadian Red Cross parcel per head. This week it will be one British Red Cross parcel per

Missing After Air Operations

King, Douglas Stuart, pilot officer, J4824, missing; Mrs. D. King (mother), Buenos Aires.

Lynch, John Joseph, sergeant R67234, missing; Mrs. P. Lynch (mother), Syracuse, N.Y.

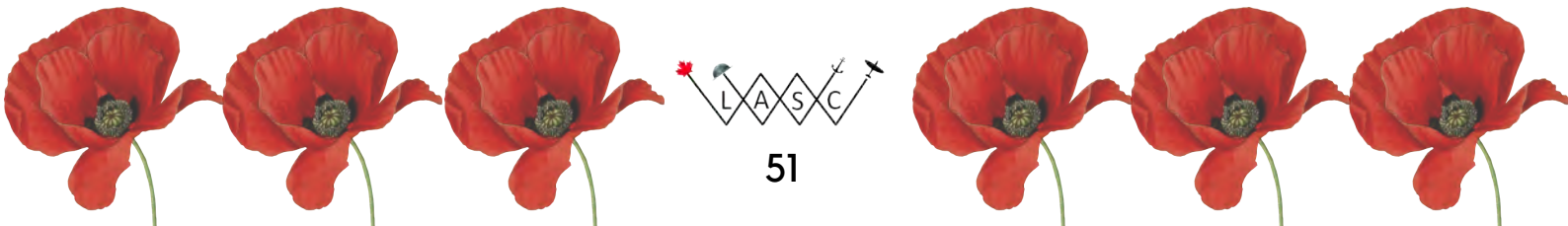
Seriously Injured on Active Service

Reimer, Alvin Wilbert, sergeant, R61467, seriously injured; Mrs. M. M. Reimer (mother), Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.

Dangerously Ill

Sherwood, Ralph Edmund, sergeant, R84620, dangerously ill; Mrs. E. M. Sherwood (mother), Moncton, N.B.

Newspaper clipping – From the Toronto Star January 1942. Submitted for the project Operation Picture Me





George Pryce Hughes

Air Force No. R-74, 491 POSTED TO Training School, Toronto, ONT. TRADE Airman Pilot 3rd.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE
(ATTESTATION PAPER)

(Pages one and two, only, are to be completed in Applicant's own Handwriting)

1. Name HUGHES Full Christian Name George Pryce

2. Present Address Ottawa, (Canada) Telephone _____

3. Permanent Address Cangallo 456 Buenos Aires ARGENTINA

4. Place of Birth Buenos Aires ARGENTINA Citizenship British Subject

5. Date of Birth Oct. 24th 1912 Married, Single, Widower, Separated, Divorced Single

6. Particulars of Children N.A.

Name	Date of birth	Name	Date of birth
/	/	/	/

7. Occupation Locomotive Inspector 8. Religion Church of England

9. Languages English and Spanish (fluent)

10. Next of Kin (Full Name) HOPE JULIA HUGHES Relationship Mother

" Address Cangallo 456 Buenos Aires ARGENTINA

11. Father (Full Name) GEORGE DANIEL HUGHES Birthplace MUNSTERVILLE ENGLAND

" Address Decatur Citizenship BRITISH SUBJECT

" Occupation _____

12. Mother (Full Maiden Name) HOPE JULIA MURRAY Birthplace ARGENTINA

" Address Cangallo 456 Buenos Aires ARGENTINA Citizenship British Subject

13. Details of any Naval, Military or Air Force Service:


Ottawa, Ontario,
30th December, 1948.

Mrs. Nancie E. Halsall,
Shadie House Betley,
Nr., Crews,
Cheshire, England.

Dear Mrs. Halsall:

The Certificate of Mentioned in Despatches awarded your gallant cousin, the late Flight Lieutenant G.P. Hughes, in recognition of distinguished services rendered during the Second World War, has recently been received from the United Kingdom and is forwarded herewith for your retention.

I feel sure the knowledge that your gallant cousin's services have been recognized will help temper your very sad loss.

Yours sincerely,

(K.E. Ball)
Squadron Leader
for Chief of the Air Staff

S/L KB Ball:PA

Clipping from "The Standard", May 17th, 1946.

Copenhagen, Thursday.

The body of G.P. Hughes, a pilot who died in a 'plane crash on the west coast of Denmark near Esbjerg in 1942 is soon to be brought back to Argentina. The machine was shot down by German anti-aircraft guns on the night of July 11, 1942, at Rejaby, Hughes survived the crash but was later killed by the German and was buried by the Danes near Esbjerg together with other Allied Airmen.

The request for the return of the body to Argentina has been made by the dead pilot's mother and the Royal Air Force is arranging the sending of it to Buenos Aires. (A.P.)

George Pryce Hughes left Buenos Aires, in October 1940 and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. It will be recalled that before the war he was one of the four members of the Tigre Boat Club who went to Fenley at their own expense and won the Wyfold Challenge Cup, George Hughes being the stroke of the Argentine crew. (Editor "The Standard".)



BRAZIL



MONK, ERIC JOSEPH P/O(AG) J180121/R83829. From Sao Paulo, Brazil, South America. Killed in Action Jun 17/43 age 24. #156 Squadron (We Light The Way). Lancaster aircraft #ED 840 missing during a night trip over enemy-held territory. FSS R.F.A. Dobson (RAF) and P. Woodcock (RAF) were also killed. Four other crew members, not Canadians, missing believed killed. P/O Monk had been slightly injured on March 22, 1943 when a Wellington aircraft crashed at Okgar Farm, Terrington Marshes, four miles north-east of Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England. Pilot Officer Air Gunner Monk is buried in the Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp, Wilrijk, Belgium.
RCAFAssociation.ca



Name: Bryan Donald Hughes
Rank: Pilot Officer
Regimental # J10765
Unit: RCAF
Son of Donald Bruce and Doris M. Hughes, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Death: 13 Jul 1942
Cemetery: Aylmer Cemetery ON Canada.
Grave Ref: Plot 546, Grave 7
Reference: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Photo courtesy of Marg Liessens
Photo fournie gracieusement par Marg Liessens

"An aircraft being flown by P/O B.D.Hughes RCAF (Instructor Pilot), and LAC J W Littlejohn RAAF (Pupil Pilot), was engaged in practising spins. The aircraft was seen to spin from a height of 7,000 feet without recovery until at a very low altitude of approx 1,000 feet, from which height it crashed directly into the ground. The aircraft crashed at 0939 hours, one mile west of the main dome of No.14 SFTS, Aylmer, and both the crew were killed. Buried at Aylmer Cemetery, Ontario, Canada."

[http://www.rafcommands.com/forum/showthread.php?13852-Information-on-P-O-Bryan-Donald-Hughes-\(Can-J-10765\)-KIA-on-13th-July-1942&highlight=HUGHES&p=81757#post81757](http://www.rafcommands.com/forum/showthread.php?13852-Information-on-P-O-Bryan-Donald-Hughes-(Can-J-10765)-KIA-on-13th-July-1942&highlight=HUGHES&p=81757#post81757)



CUBA



Flight Sergeant Ricardo Losa was a Cuban airman of the Royal Canadian Air Force who died during the Second World War.

He was born on 1 August 1916, in Havana, the son of Jose and Elvira Losa (née Perez). Losa enlisted on 9 January 1942, in Montreal, Quebec

16-17 December, 1943; BERLIN:

"Bad weather had prevented the bombers operating for almost two weeks.

Thursday night of 16th saw them back on the road to Berlin once again. An all Lancaster force of 483 plus PFF Mosquitoes attacked a cloud covered target using sky-markers. 49 Squadron had two new crews operating; Canadian F/O Bill Healey (JB679) and crew flying D-Dog, and P/O Gordon Ratcliffe (JB545) and crew in O-Oboe.

German night fighters had managed to intercept the main force whilst en-route over Holland, and it was here that Oberleutnant Heinz Schnauffer the German night fighter ace shot down the unsuspecting Ratcliffe crew using the dreaded 'Schrage Music'. Their Lancaster came down between Oldetrijne and Sonnega in Holland where recovery of the bodies proved extremely difficult due to the marshy ground. The crew are all buried together in Wolvega Cemetery.

Twenty-five Lancasters had been brought down over enemy territory, but the losses did not end there. Returning over Eastern England, tired crews found low cloud covered many of their bases. A further 32 bombers were lost as a result of crashes or being abandoned when their desperate crews baled out. No. 1 Group, whose airfields were situated up on the Lincolnshire Wolds suffered the heaviest - fifteen 1 Group Lancasters and their crews perished on what became known as 'Black Thursday'."

Credits: 49 Squadron Association and Archives of Canada





Name: Robert William Leslie Taylor
Birth Date: 1918-12-31 (age 23)
Born: Kingston, Jamaica
Son of Robert William Leslie Taylor and Leslie Marguerite Taylor, of Miranda, Oriente, Cuba.
Home: Auburn, Alabama, USA
Enlistment: Toronto, Ontario
Enlistment Date: 1941-06-17

"Robert Taylor was known by his third name of "Ian" to his family. He was born on 31st December 1918 in Kingston, Jamaica to Robert and Leslie Taylor. He and his father had worked at the Central Miranda Warner Sugar Corporation, Oriente, Cuba for a number of years with Ian working in the Cuban sugar industry since he was a young child. At the age of eight he had survived contracting typhoid. He attended schools in the USA and was studying at the Georgia School of Technology in Atlanta when he enlisted into the RCAF in Toronto, Ontario on 17th June 1941, at the time he enlisted he was living in Auburn, Alabama, USA. After training in Canada he arrived in the UK in May 1942 and after completing his training at 23 OTU in July 1942 he was posted initially to 420 Squadron on 28th September 1942. This posting lasted only a matter of weeks as on 8th November 1942 he was posted to 405 Squadron and died three weeks later."

Halifax B.Mk. II DT576 1942-11-29

"Served with No. 405 (B) Squadron, RCAF, coded "LQ*U", based at Dishforth. Crashed on 29 November 1942, just half mile east of Melmerby, Yorkshire shortly after taking off from Topcliffe at 10:05 local time and burnt. There were two crews in the aircraft, the flight crew, plus second crew and a ground crew mechanic as passengers all 15 on board killed. Was ferrying second crew to detachment at Beaulieu. This was the worst non-operational loss to occur in Yorkshire during the entire war." Credits: Royal Air Force Commands and Halifax DT576 near Melmerby, Ripon.

<https://www.yorkshire-aircraft.co.uk/aircraft/yorkshire/york42/dt576.html>



COSTA RICA - REPUBLICA DOMINICANA



Military Number: J37711. Air Bomber
Age: 24
Born: December 20, 1920 San Jose Costa Rica
Strength: Military aviation
Unity: Royal Canadian Air Force
Department: 420 Squadron
Death: 18 February 1945
Son of JD Orozco and Rosario Floripe de Orozco of Toledo, Ohio USA

Halifax III NR126 took off 1126 17 Feb 1945 from Tholthorpe. At approximately 1745 the Halifax flew into a hillside at 1600 feet AMSL near a spot known as Shillmoor in the Cheviot Hills some 14 miles SW of Wooler Northumberland.

Virtual War Memorial of Canada Royal Air Force Commands



"DELLIS, DONALD LIVINGSTONE FS(P) R217478. From the Dominican Republic. Son of Mr. And Mrs. George Dallis of San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic. Killed in Action Jun 6/45 age 21. Unit: Royal Canadian Air Force. 357 Squadron. Liberator aircraft missing. Please see F/O J.J. Perron for casualty list and other detail. Flight Sergeant Pilot Dellis has no known grave, his name is inscribed on the Singapore War Memorial, Malaya."

The Canadian Virtual War Memorial RCAFAssociation





"Pilot Officer Luis Perez Gomez, Spitfire Pilot

Royal Canadian Air Force

Pilot Officer Luis Perez Gomez was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco on 8 October 1922, He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force on 30 June 1942. Receiving his wings on 6 August 1943. He was trained in No1 Operational Training Unit (OUT) in Bagotville, Quebec, Canada. In November 1943, Pilot Perez was posted to No. 127 Squadron at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. It was one of many squadrons formed in 1942 for the defence of the Canadian east coast. There he did flying patrols in the Hawker Hurricane MKXII and also trained in the North American Harvard.

He moved from England 443 Squadron (where escorted medium bomber to targets over beachhead in France) to Site Croix Sur Mer 144 Squadron on 15 June 1944. The following day Pilot Perez Gomez was part of six Spitfires formation sweep flight near Caen. They had poor weather conditions and they were involved in an aerial combat over the town of Sassy against eight FW-190s of 1/JG1. All four Spitfires were shot down with three pilots killed including Pilot Perez Gomez flying his aircraft 21-S.

Before he was killed, he flew a total of 29 combat missions. He is considered the only Mexican to die in the service of RCAF during the Second World War. Buried in Sassy cemetery, Calvados where the town recently named a public square in his honour."

Reference:

- Mexicans at War: Mexican Military Aviation in the Second World War, 1941-1945 by Santiago A. Flores,
- Archives of Canada



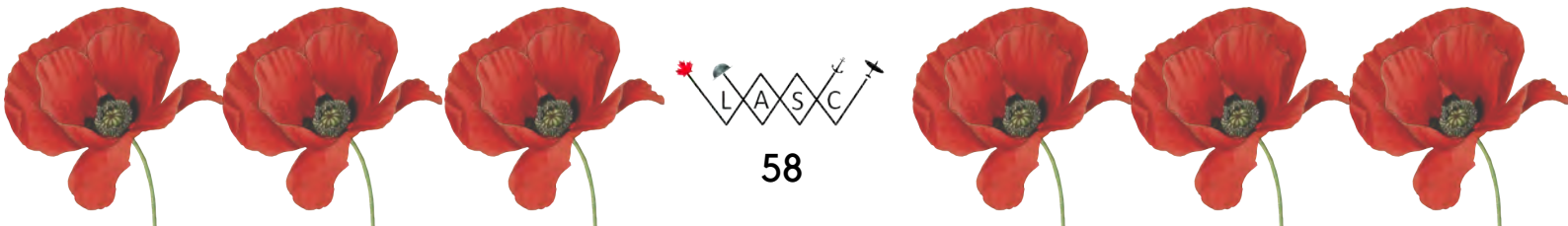


"Pilot Officer Thomas Benfield Lee Olmstead, Spitfire pilot, Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF)
This Pilot was a Mexican who flew Spitfires in combat. He was born in Pachuca, Hidalgo in March 1920. His father was British and his mother an American. Joining the RCAF in November 1939, his first employment was being a telephone switch operator before he decided to become a pilot. This decision was a consequence of him heard a talk from veteran fighter pilots of the Battle of Britain. He received his wings on 4 March 1941. At the beginning he was assigned to training duties in Canada until December 1942. Then, he was sent to England assigned to training command. On 14 April 1945, he was assigned to No 402 RCAF Fighter Squadron, 126 RCAF Wing, 83 Group of the 2nd Tactical Air Force."

"On 20 April, his Squadron was involved in a series of dogfights around Hagenow aerodrome northern Germany. The Canadian pilots including Pilot Lee, claimed that 20 German aircraft shot down. On 30 April, in the northern Germany city of Schwerin, he was involved in this second aerial combat. His 402 Squadron was accredited with shooting down six German aircraft (four FW-190s and two Ju-188s) and damaging two more FW-190s. Lee was accredited with damaging the two FW-190s. When the war ended, he returned to Mexico to fly commercial aeroplanes in the peninsula of Baja California. He retired in Canada and pass away at age of 81 on 18 April 2001."

Reference:

- Mexicans at War: Mexican Military Aviation in the Second World War, 1941-1945 by Santiago A. Flores
- Archives of Canada





"Sergeant Wireless Operator/Air Gunner Francisco Lua Manzo, RCAF

A Mexican volunteer. He was born on 11 January 1923 in Mexico. He decided to travel to Vancouver, British Columbia and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air force on 18 February 1943. After completing his training in Canada, he was posted overseas to the United Kingdom in early October of the same year, joining No 427 "Lion" Bomber Squadron RCAF on 31 October 1944. It was part of No 6 Bomber Group. He was part of the following crew:

Flight Lieutenant Rob M. Gould (Pilot)

Flight Officer R.A. Graham (Navigator)

Flying Officer C.H. Robinson (Bomb aimer)

Sergeant Killburn C. Embree (Engineer)

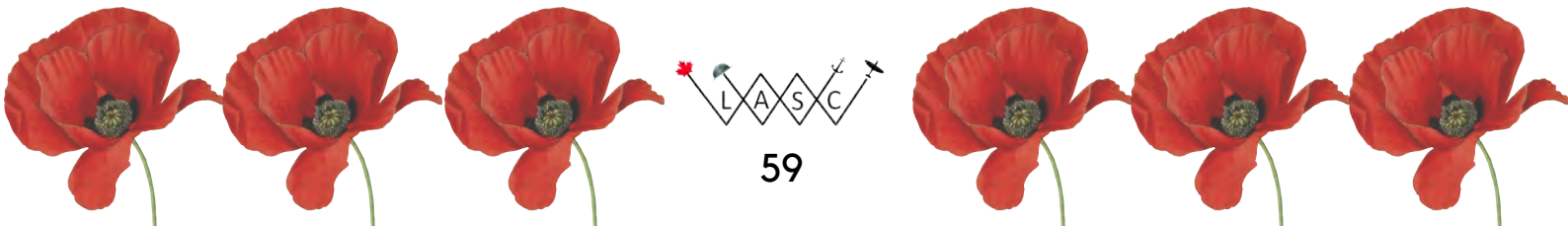
Sergeant J.D. Dixon (Rear Gunner)

Sergeant Chuck H. Holmstron (Mid Upper Gunner)

Sergeant Manzo and his crewmates flew 30 combat missions with heavy bombers. 18 in Handley MK.III and 12 in Avro Lancaster MK.I. He completed his tour of operations on 25 April 1945 when he left the unit. He returned first to Canada and was discharged from the RCAF on 17 Aug 1945, then he went back to Mexico."

. Reference:

- Mexicans at War: Mexican Military Aviation in the Second World War, 1941-1945 by Santiago A. Flores
- Archives of Canada



GUATEMALA



Mario Alfredo Fernandez De Leon

Service Number: J86015
Age: 26
Unit: Royal Canadian Air Force
Division: 429 Sqn
Born: December 12, 1917 Guatemala City, Guatemala
Enlisted: December 10, 1941 Vancouver, British Columbia
Son of Dr. Jose Fernandez de Leon of Guatemala and Amelia Escobar de Fernandez de Leon of Oakland, California USA.
Brother of Joseph R. Fernandez de Leon of Dan Mateo, California, USA
Commissioned 23 March 1944. He stated that he enjoyed tennis, swimming, handball and his employment was that of an interpreter. He spoke English and Spanish.

Killed in Action May 25/44 age 27. #429 Bison Squadron (Fortunae Nihil). Target - Aachen, Germany.

Citation(s):
1939-45 Star, Air Crew Europe Star, Defence Medal, General Service Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, Operational Wings awarded posthumously on 21 January 1947

The Canadian Virtual War Memorial -RCAF Association a



THREE VOLUNTEERS FROM GUATEMALA

a World War II story



December 9th, 1940

Group Captain de Miverville
Director of Manning
Jackson Building
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Sir:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of last week, the men accompanying this note -

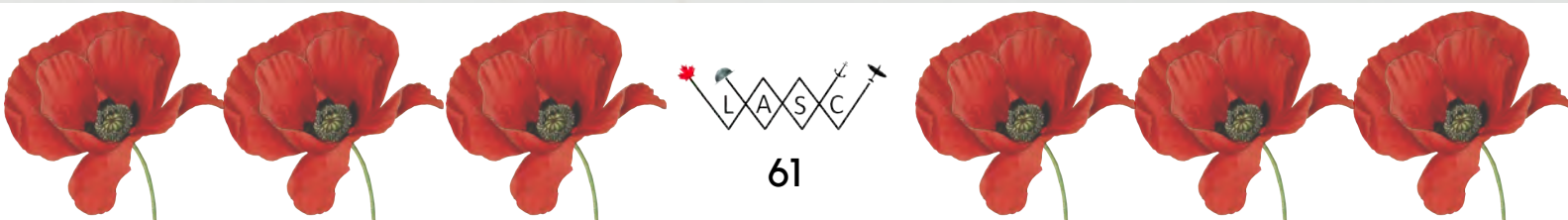
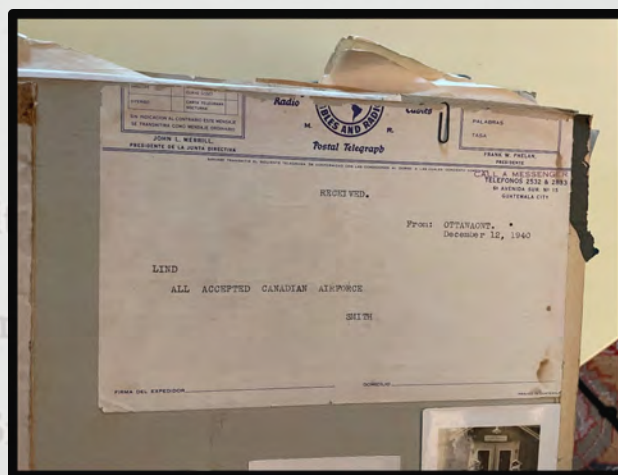
John Smith,
Robert Hempstead and
Denis Koester -

have come from Guatemala at their own expense to serve in the R.C.A.F.

Following your suggestion on the telephone, I am sending them direct to you.

Very truly yours,
John L. Wensell
John L. Wensell
Group Captain, R.C.A.F.

fhs
bt





John Gordon Smith

"JOHN GORDON SMITH was born in Hastings, England on April 20, 1917. Both his siblings and his mother were born in Guatemala, however they travelled from Guatemala to England in 1915 to accompany John's father after he volunteered to fight in World War I. The telegram advising that his second son had been born was received by Captain Smith while his battalion was in the midst of trench warfare in the Ypres sector of the Somme. (In 1941, John's father died in Guatemala from heart trouble diagnosed as the result of being gassed during WWI.) The young family finally returned to Guatemala in March of 1919 and lived on the coffee finca that was their home and business. John and his siblings were sent back to England at a young age to attend the Sherborne School in Dorset. His education continued when he enrolled for a three year program at The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture on the island of Trinidad in the British West Indies. When he returned to Guatemala, he worked on several different coffee fincas until he was needed by his father to oversee the Cinchona (quinine) plantations on their own property.

World War II was in its beginning stages in 1940 when John left Guatemala for England with Dennis Koester and Robert Hempstead to volunteer in the Royal Air Force. "The boys got as far as New York, but the British consulate there was very slow at moving them on, so they finally ended up joining the Royal Canadian Air Force for training in Canada. This was just as well, because the ship in which they were scheduled to sail for England was sunk by enemy action with the loss of all hands", John wrote in his memoir."



"John flew twenty five combat missions over Germany as commanding officer of a Sterling bomber. In September 1942 his bomber was shot down over Holland. He was declared a prisoner of war and transferred to Stalag Luft III where he was held until the war's end.

Upon being decommissioned from military service, John returned to the family farm on Guatemala's Pacific coast, to take an active part in its management and direction, a job that kept him busy until his death in Guatemala on September 5, 2003. He had two daughters, one step-daughter and three stepsons along with eighteen grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

In addition to being a successful grower and producer of coffee and other tropical commodities, John was a founding member of both the Experimental Coffee Association in Guatemala and also of Agrosalud, a preventive health care service for coffee farm workers. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Banco del Agro in Guatemala (1968-1997), and president of the board of trustees of the Escuela Agrícola El Zamorano in Honduras (1979-1991)."




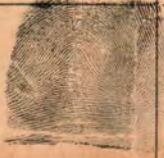
John Gordon Smith receiving his wings



Guatemalan Newspaper. John Gordon Smith is liberated by the Alley Forces



John Smith at Stalag Luft 3 Concentration Camp

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25								
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Kriegsgefangenen-Stammlager: Stalag Luft 3																	Nr. <u>681</u>															
Lager: <u>Stalag Luft 3</u>																																
Name: <u>Smith</u>																	Staatsangehörigkeit: <u>Kanada</u>															
Vorname: <u>John Gordon</u>																	Dienstgrad: <u>F/Lt.</u>															
Geburtstag und -ort: <u>20.4.17 England</u>																	Truppenteil: <u>RCAF</u> Kom. usw.:															
Religion: <u>C of E</u>																	Zivilberuf: <u>Farmer</u> Berufs-Gr.:															
Vorname des Vaters: <u>Gordon</u>																	Matrikel Nr. (Stammrolle des Heimatstaates): <u>J 6960</u>															
Familiennamen der Mutter: <u>Owen</u>																	Gefangennahme (Ort und Datum): <u>Zwolle 5.9.42</u>															
Ob gesund, krank, verwundet eingeliefert:																																
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																	c/o Mr. Pearse															
																	167 Latymer Court															
								Hammersmith, London																								

Des Kriegsgefangenen
Carby Montreal (see page 306, 310, 311, 312)

189 *6/27* *31 HLWS* *Wenden!*

Department of National Defence
Air Service
Ottawa, Canada, 10th September 1942.

Mrs. G.P. Smith,
Finca Nosa, Guatemala,
Guatemala, Central America.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

It is my painful duty to confirm the telegram recently received by you, which informed you that your son, Flight Lieutenant John Gordon Smith, D.F.C., is reported missing on Active Service.

Advice has been received from the Royal Canadian Air Force Casualties Officer, Overseas, that your son was a member of the crew of an aircraft which failed to return to its base after air operations on September 25th, 1942.

I desire to point out that this does not necessarily mean your son has been killed or wounded. It might be that he is a prisoner of war and inquiries have been made through the International Red Cross Society and all other appropriate sources. Official announcement that your son has been reported missing will not be made through the Press for at least five weeks and, until then, you are requested not to give any information to the Press or Radio. It is possible that he has landed in enemy territory and in that event publicity at this time might imperil his chance to escape.

This is all the information that we have at these Headquarters but your son's Commanding Officer is writing you a letter which you should receive shortly and which will give you all available details. Please be assured that any further information received will be communicated to you immediately.

May I join with you in the hope that better news will be forthcoming in the near future.

Yours sincerely,
W.R. Gunn
W.R. Gunn F/O
Flying Officer.

All America Cables and Radio

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

REPLY BY AIR MAIL

1942 OTTAWA 27 OCT 1059M 25H

RC 485 G. P. SMITH FINCA NOSA GUATEMALA GUATEMALA

PLEASE TO INFORM YOU SERVICE RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY QUOTING GERMAN INFORMATION STATES THAT YOUR SON FLIGHT LIEUTENANT JOHN GORDON SMITH DFC IS NOW A PRISONER OF WAR (FOR LETTER FOLLOWING) NEAR CASUALTIES OFFICES.

CPY-CPCL

7-501-s
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL WAR SERVICES
Ottawa, Jan. 27th, 1943.

WAS: Mr. E.H. Merv. John Gordon Smith D.F.C.

Your letter of the 18th Instant has been duly received.

According to information received on December 15th, 1942, from the International Red Cross, Geneva, your son was transferred from Stalag Luft III to Oflag XII B, Germany. His prisoner of war number remains the same, POW No. 681.

Please rest assured that any further information received concerning your son will be passed on to you immediately.

You will please find enclosed herewith a Prisoner of War Air Mail Form which is used extensively in Canada. I would advise you to make enquiries at your Post Office concerning similar forms which would be permitted to be sent from Guatemala.

Yours respectfully,
E. F. Collins
E. F. Collins
Associate Deputy Minister.

Mrs. G. P. Smith,
Finca Nosa, Guatemala,
Central America.





Denis Koester

"Denise Koester War Achievements

Koester was Navigator for J.C. " Monty" Thelwell at 109 Squadron and were both posted to 105 Squadron on July 12 1943, when 105 began using Oboe and they needed experienced crews on the Squadron. Koester and Thelwell were on the very first Oboe op to Essen in Dec.1942. Koester flew Oboe ops with 105 Squadron until being posted to the Air Ministry July 12 1944.

Regards

Dave Wallace

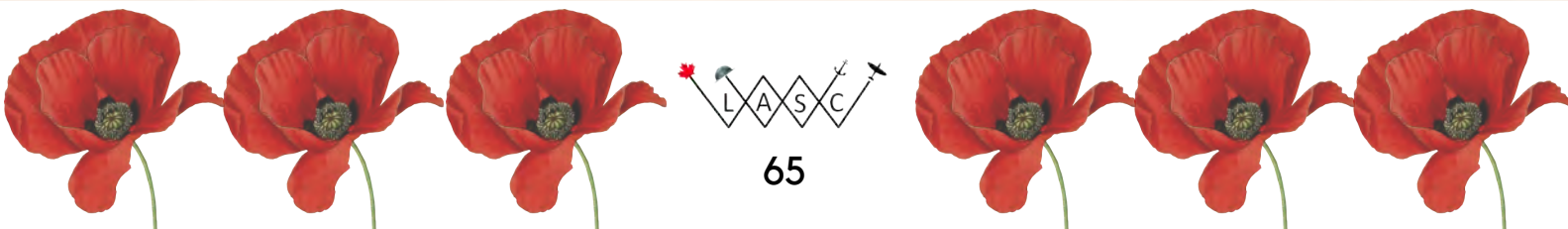
Koester was a Navigator who flew with S/L J.C. "Monty" Thelwell at No.109 Squadron then was transferred to the only other Squadron that did Oboe marking, No.105. I have ORBs from both Squadrons although my 109 entries start in Oct. 43 which may be after he went to 105. I can also check some books I have on Oboe. What information are you looking for?

I know one of the German beam transmitters was at Cherbourg and they carried out "Ruffian Raids", using the German beam to fly down then bombing the source and 109 Squadron carried out lots of those operations in the early days.

Regards

Dave Wallace

KOESTER, F/L George Denis Scott (J8341) - Distinguished Flying Cross - No.109 Squadron - Award effective 7 May 1943 as per London Gazette dated 14 May 1943 and AFRO 1035/43 dated 4 June 1943. Born in Guatemala, 11 August 1913; home there. Enlisted in Ottawa 13 December 1940 and posted to No.1 Manning Depot. To No.1 BGS, 15 January 1941 (non-flying duties). To No.3 ITS, 23 March 1941; graduated and promoted LAC, 3 May 1941. To No.1 Manning Depot on 3 May 1941; to No.5 AOS, 24 May 1941; to No.3 BGS, 17 August 1941. Graduated 29 September 1941 and promoted Sergeant. To No.1 ANS, 30 September 1941. Graduated and commissioned on 27 October 1941. To "Y" Depot, 20 November 1941. To RAF overseas, 7 December 1941. Promoted Flying Officer, 1 October 1942. Promoted Flight Lieutenant, 14 March 1943. Promoted Squadron Leader, 1 February 1944. Repatriated, 3 May 1945. Released 23 June 1945."



"Flight Lieutenant Koester has made a large number of operational sorties. He has invariably displayed a high degree of navigational skill.

Before coming to this squadron, Flying Officer Koester made 12 operational sorties, many against German targets.

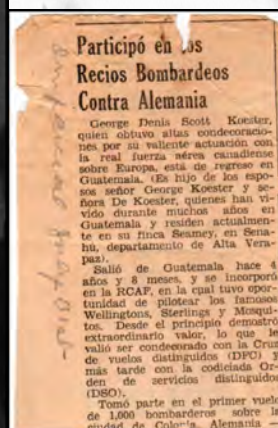
Since December 1942, while engaged on ARI.5513 operations with this squadron, Flying Officer Koester, together with Flying Officer [John C.] Thelwell, his pilot, has made 16 sorties, including sky and ground marking sorties where accuracy of aiming is essential. Flying Officer Koester has always shown a very high degree of skill and accuracy in his navigation. Whilst engaged on a ground marking operation at St.Nazaire, Flying Officer Koester succeeded in releasing his markers although his special equipment was nearly unserviceable. He navigated his aircraft with great precision thus enabling his pilot to take over the place in the operation in which the previous aircraft had failed.

This was subsequently edited to read:

Since December 1942, Flying Officer Koester has made a large number of operational sorties, including some of a special nature calling for exceptional accuracy of timing. During this period he has invariably displayed a high degree of navigational skill.

KOESTER, S/L George Denis Scott, DFC (J8341) - Distinguished Service Order - No.105 Squadron - Award effective 29 August 1944 as per London Gazette of that date and AFRO 2274/44 dated 20 October 1944.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of courage and determination in air operations. He is a highly skilled member of aircraft crew, whose great skill and devotion have played an important part in the success achieved. His record is most impressive."





English Paper Denis awarded DFC May 14 1943



George Denis Scott
* * *
VIENE DE LA 1a. PAGINA

mayo de 1942—, y fué uno de los primeros pilotos de las Mosquitos Pathfinders, cuya misión consistía en volar delante de las formaciones de bombarderos pesados con el fin de localizar los objetivos militares y para lo cual, durante la noche, lanzaban luces de bengala y lograban en esta forma mayor eficacia en los bombardeos de precisión.

Scott Koester alcanzó el rango de jefe de escuadrilla, que corresponde al de mayor. Al ser dado de baja por la RCAF, hizo viaje a Guatemala en compañía de su esposa y una hija.

**DENIS SCOTT KOESTER
CONDECORADO OTRA VEZ**
2002 2004 1944



Ya el joven Koester, quien desempeña el cargo de jefe de escuadrón en la Real Fuerza Aérea y forma parte de los "Pathfinders", que tan importante papel han desempeñado en el éxito de las operaciones aliadas, fué condecorado el año pasado, por sus méritos, con la Cruz de Vuelos Distinguidos (D. F. C.)

Ahora acaba de recibir la condecoración, aún más codiciada de la Orden de Servicios Distinguidos (D. S. C.), por sus actos de valor en el desempeño de las misiones que le han sido encomendadas.

Al dar esta noticia a nuestros lectores de este nuevo triunfo de un compatriota, quien en compañía de otros guatemaltecos de descendencia británica partió para alistarse en la RAF desde el principio de la guerra, enviamos nuestra más sincera felicitación a sus orgullosos padres, señores George Koester y esposa, quienes por largos años han radicado en este país en la finca de su propiedad, "Seamay", Senahú, Depto. de Alta Verapaz.

Photo Denis Koester medals DSO DFO and Wings



English Paper Denis awarded DFC May 14 1943



"Robert Theodore Hempstead, or "Hempy", as he was known, was born at the family home in the town of Cobán, in northern Guatemala, on May 25th, 1912 to Robert Weir Hempstead and Maria Luisa Dieseldorff de Hempstead. He was their second child of an eventual five, and their first son. His mother's family had emigrated to Guatemala from Germany via London, the US, then Belize in the early 1860's, and became pioneers in the country's nascent coffee trade.

His father's ancestors emigrated from Essex County, England to North America in the 1640's with the John Winthrop colony of New London, Connecticut. Hempy's great grandfather Christopher was dispatched as an agent for a New York City shipping company to British Honduras, (Belize). His father, RWH, was born in Belize and migrated to Guatemala in 1899 as an 18 year old apprentice to a coffee enterprise in the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala.

Hempy's early childhood was spent primarily in rural Guatemala on the various coffee farms his father had purchased over the years. He attended Morristown High School in New Jersey where he excelled brilliantly in sports he had not grown up playing. While attending Wesleyan University, his father passed away and Hempy eventually returned to Guatemala.

It's important to try to fathom how this might have affected a young man of 20 years of age, suddenly inheriting the responsibility of administering several coffee farms in various stages of development and to have eventually succeeded alongside his recently widowed mother. The myriad challenges Hempy encountered undoubtedly galvanized his character, deep sense of determination, and an eagerness to always fight hard for what's right.

Hempy and two Anglo Guatemalan friends, John Gordon Smith and Denis Scott Koester, decided to travel to New York to volunteer for service at the British Consulate; all of them eager to fly. They grew frustrated with delays at the Consulate and were encouraged to travel to Canada in order to enlist there instead. It is important to bear in mind that the US had yet to enter the War."



Egypt, '42 Trying on a Hawker Hurricane for size



A timeline of Robert T. Hempstead's Service:

"1942

Jan 1, Transferred to RAF's storied 92 Squadron, also known as No 92 (East India) Squadron; Lincolnshire, England, NE of London.

Feb 11, 92 Squadron departs Digby, England for "destination unknown".

Feb 13, 92 Squadron sets sail from King George V Docks, River Clyde, Glasgow, Scotland.

Apr, 92 Squadron arrives in Cairo, Egypt. No Spitfires were yet available for them to fly, so they were instead tasked with various maintenance duties. Some members, most probably Hemy among those, flew Hawker Hurricanes, (this based on photos of him in a Hurricane and John Smith's adamant and vivid recollection of Hemy having written to tell him as much told him so), the 80 Squadron.

Aug Supermarine Spitfires are delivered to the 92 Squadron just in time to play a major part in the defeat of Rommel's final offensive, the battle of Alam el Halfa, (fought between Aug 30 - Sept 6, 1942). The 92 Squadron then embarks on escort and fighter sweeps, maintaining air superiority while defending the El Alamein area. (They eventually followed the 8th Army until the Axis forces were vanquished).

Sept 10, Visits Tel Aviv and Jerusalem while on leave.

Oct 19, Pilot officer Robert Theodore Hempstead is killed just prior to the 2nd Battle of El Alamein, in a midair collision. He is buried at the El Alamein War Cemetery in Marina, Egypt"



Photo by Patricia Shelton Hempstead





John Smith and Hempy "in training" in Picton, Canada. '40 -'41



This picture was taken in Englewood, New Jersey, before shipping off overseas. The US was not in the war yet and Canadian and British soldiers were not allowed to wear their uniforms in public. So it must have been worn strictly as a photo-op to send home and for posterity.



Egypt, '42. Awaiting orders.



Oil painting of Hempy by Germaine Glidden; an old friend from Englewood, NJ.



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Image from CANVA



