

WE REMEMBER

We remember these Canadian soldiers who walked these streets, and were "liberators of the Netherlands," yet paid the supreme sacrifice in May 1945

"They walked the streets. We will remember them" is an innovative and interactive community Remembrance commemoration that engages community members in learning about the contributions and the sacrifice of soldiers who served in the First and Second World Wars and who never returned. This project is coordinated by Toronto highschool teacher Katy Whitfield and tells the stories of over 1350 soldiers in our community who died in the service.

On May 5th, 2025, Canada and the world will recognize the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, marking the end of the Second World War and the Liberation of the Netherlands. In our community, 60 soldiers who served in the Royal Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Air Force died as part of the efforts to liberate the Netherlands in the spring of 1945. Here below are some of the stories of these brave soldiers. To learn more about them, check out the project website: <https://sites.google.com/view/theywalkedthesestreets/>. "At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them."

Those who served from our neighbourhood in the Second World War.

They were students at Runnymede Collegiate, Western Tech, HumberSide C.I., Bloor C.I. and Parkdale C.I.

They held rank in the air force as Flight Sergeant, Warrant Officers, Pilot Officers, and Bombardiers and in the Army as Privates, Riflemen, Sapper and Trooper.

They lived in Roncesvalles on Fern Avenue, Grenadier Road, and Geoffrey Street, in High Park on Indian Road, St. John's Road and Vine Street and in Bloor West Village on Durie Street, Evans Avenue and Deforest Street to name a few.

There were sons, brothers, fathers, athletes, and active members of the Scouting movement.

And now they rest in the Holten, Groesbeek and Bergen-Op-Zoom Canadian war cemeteries across the Netherlands.

"They were the liberators." "They walked these streets... We will remember them."

Research and writing by: Katy Whitfield, Coordinator of "They Walked These Streets, We Will Remember Them" Project

Please scan the QR codes below to view the source and find out more information about each person.



Private Joseph Smith Stewart, served in the Royal Regiment of Canada, lived at 117 Indian Road. Died April 3, 1945. He was 19 years old.



Trooper Allan Maxwell Freeman, 8th Princess Louise's (New Brunswick) Hussars, lived on Sorauren Avenue. He was 21.



Rifleman Gordon Walter Parson, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, lived at 63 Priscilla Avenue. He was 21 years old.



Rifleman Norman Victor Woodley, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, lived at 66 Durie Street, Swansea. He was 27 years old.



Captain Donald George Innes, Royal Canadian Artillery, lived at 2 Evans Avenue. Died April 23, 1945. He was 23 years old.



Private William Alex Boyd, Essex Scottish Regiment, lived at 894 Windermere Avenue. Died February 1st, 1945. He was 22 years old.



Private Douglas Orr, Royal Regiment of Canada, lived at 1596 A Bloor Street West. He was 21 years old.



Rifleman John Klaczka, Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, lived at 34 Fernanagh Avenue. He was 20 years old.

