

WE REMEMBER

They lived in Humbercrest, Bloor West, Swansea, the Junction, High Park and Roncesvalles. They lived on Durie Street, Dundas Street, Windermere Avenue, Colbeck Avenue, Symington Avenue, to name but a few... They were students at Runnymede P.S., Humbercrest P.S., King George P.S., Runnymede Collegiate, Western Tech and Humberside and attended many churches in West Toronto.

“They walked these streets... We will remember them.”

Research provided by: Katy Whitfield , Coordinator of “They walked these streets. We will remember them” Project.

HUMBERCREST:

PRIVATE MATTHEW GREENWELL

Age 23. Lived at 76 McMurray Avenue. Humbercrest. Fought in the 38th Battalion, Eastern Ontario Regiment, Canadian Infantry. His brother also served in France. Greenwell worked in his father's butcher shop. He won a British War Medal and Victory Medal. Died on April 9, 1917 in the Battle for Vimy Ridge. His father said he “felt it was his duty.”



Matthew Greenwell

SWANSEA:

THEY WERE BROTHERS IN ARMS: PRIVATE ERNEST JOSEPH HOWARTH AND PRIVATE ARTHUR HOWARTH

Ernest, known as “Joe,” age 24. Lived at 72 Windermere Avenue. Swansea. Fought in the 83rd Battalion, Canadian Infantry. He was wounded and died in the Battle of Courcellette on September 24th, 1916. A comrade wrote a letter to his mother upon his death saying, “Joe had fallen in the fight.”



Ernest Joseph Howarth

Arthur. Age 25. Lived at 72 Windermere Avenue, Swansea. Fought in the 54th Battalion, Canadian Infantry. Died in the Battle of the Somme in France on August 8, 1918. His father also served as did his brother John W. This family lost two out of four sons during the war within 2 years.



Arthur Howarth

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS II, WILBERT SCOTT HIGNELL

Age 25. Lived at 115 Durie Street. Prior to enlistment he worked in the Iron Fireman Manufacturing Co and was an avid skier and tennis player. Hignell was a member of the RCAF, 97th RAF Squadron. He died in a bombing raid near Essen, Germany, while serving as a Navigator on a Lancaster Bomber. He died on January 9, 1943



Wilbert Scott Hignell

JUNCTION:

FLIGHT SERGEANT JOHN RICHARD GRIFFIN

Age 24. Lived at 73 Aziel Street. Junction. He flew in a Sterling I Bomber as part of the 7th (R.A.F) Squadron of the RCAF as a sergeant-observer. The plane crashed on July 13, 1942 over England. Griffin is buried in the Buxton cemetery in Derbyshire, England. All 8 crew members died in the crash. John's sister Kathleen Lynnett is still alive, lives in Toronto and just turned 103 years old. Her family ran the funeral home on Dundas Street West.



John Richard Griffin

JUNCTION:

PRIVATE DONALD VERDUN BREWSTER

Age 28. Lived at 3497 Dundas Street West. He was a soldier in the Toronto Scottish Regiment. A well-known athlete at Runnymede Collegiate. He worked as a butcher prior to his enlistment with his father. Donald was killed in action near Caen in France after the Battle of D-Day on July 21, 1944. He left behind his wife and one son.



Donald Verdun Brewster

CAPTAIN NORMAN CLIFF

Age 25. Lived at 34 Laws Street. One of the “Original First”. He went overseas with the First contingent in August 1914. He served as a Captain in the 3rd Battalion of the Canadian Infantry as a gunner for the Queen's Own Rifles. He was gassed at Festubert, sent back to Canada to recover, but returned to the front in September 1916. Cliff died of a gunshot wound in Pas-de-Calais, France. He won a military cross and bars for his service and bravery



Norman Cliff

BLOOR WEST:

MAJOR ALEXANDER LESLIE

He was 37 years old. Alexander was part of the 14th Armoured, Calgary Regiment. He lived at 145 Colbeck Street. He was killed while leading a tank attack in northern Italy. He came from a family tradition of soldiers, with his father and brothers serving in World War I. He received a Canadian Efficiency Decoration. Alexander died on July 1, 1944 and is buried in the Moro River Cemetery, in Assisi, Italy. Alexander left behind his wife and two children, Donald and Anne. Anne is still alive, is 85 years old and is a painter in Toronto.



Alexander Leslie

ORDINARY SEAMAN GORDON WILLIAM GAGE

Age 18. Lived at 312 St. John's Road. Prior to enlistment he worked as a Call Boy for the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Junction. In 1917, he signed up as a machinist's assistant on the HMCS Black Whale as part of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve. The ship was a coastal anti-submarine escort for the Royal Canadian Navy and sunk due to a mine in the North Sea off the Coast of Ireland. All 12 members of the crew were killed on January 3, 1918. He is remembered on the Halifax Memorial.



Gordon William Gage

FLYING OFFICER JOHN (JACK) NELSON MCDOWELL

Age 22. Lived at 626 Durie Street. He first enlisted in the Canadian Artillery but soon switched to join the air force. Prior to enlistment he worked as a chemist's assistant. He died in a flying accident after his plane took off in Greenwood, Nova Scotia. He died June 10th, 1944. Jack McDowell is related to local historian, Madeline McDowell.



John (Jack) Nelson McDowell

RONCESVALLES:

FLYING OFFICER EDWIN ROY GRAY

Age 25. Edwin (Ted) lived at 202 Humberside Avenue. He was a Flying Officer in the RCAF, 152nd R.A.F. Squadron and was a Spitfire Pilot. Well-liked by the staff at Humberside CI, he won the Alumni award and as a prize got to go to King George VI's Coronation. His plane was shot down 30 miles outside of Tunis, in Tunisia. He died December 28th, 1942.



Edwin Roy Gray

JUNCTION TRIANGLE:

PRIVATE NIGEL MILLER

Age 28. Lived at 248 Symington Avenue. Before enlistment he worked as a lamp maker. He was a soldier in the 19th Battalion of the Canadian Infantry. Nigel's Brother George was in the same Battalion as he was and his brother Angus served in the 39th Battalion. His brother Cecil died while serving at Camp Hughes. Nigel died on April 6, 1916 in the Battle of St. Eloi in Belgium. His mother had 4 sons serve in the war and 3 of them did not return.



Nigel Miller