The London Evening Free Press

LONDON ACCLAIMS HUSSARS

Packinghouse Workers Go On Strike Threatening U.S. With Meatless Diet

Record Crowd Welcomes Famous Fighting Unit

London Today Welcomes Home Heroic First Hussars

Welcome Home FIRST HUSSARS

Contents

This book contains all London Free Press newspaper clippings scanned and saved from the Gristey Collection. In addition, on DVD, is the book plus the entire 1946 London Free Press issue welcoming the regiment's return to London which in part is shown as the book's cover.

London, Ontario
June 6, 2019 (The 75th anniversary of D-Day.)

Compiled and written by: Nick Corrie

London Free Press

-The Gristey Collection-

London's foremost newspaper began their WWII, wartime saga of the First Hussars, by reporting on all aspects of the regiment's development. Full accounts of recruiting drives, training in London and Camp Borden, were followed by lively coverage overseas as the Hussars trained for two and a half more years in Great Britain. The paper's coverage extended into battle from D-Day June 6, 1944, through eleven months of fighting across North-West Europe, culminating with victory in Germany on May 8, 1945. When the bulk of the regiment returned to Canada in January 1946, the newspaper's reporters were on hand to welcome them home.

The clippings seen in this book, mostly actual, not a facsimile, were carefully collected by Mary Gristey, wife of Sergeant Harry Gristey. They were married on September 9, 1939, one day before Canada declared war. Sergeant Gristey had been in the First Hussars Cavalry and immediately went "Active" for overseas duty.

Through Mary's diligent efforts, the regiment now has in addition to the three historical volumes written since 1945, a wonderful new book of day-to-day news reports on events as they happened during the war and read by subscribers back home. The **Gristey Collection** is presented here under appropriate headings, read, enjoy and learn.

Mary Elizabeth Gristey: 1920 – 2012

Sergeant William Henry Gristey (Harry), A 219: 1917 – 1996

The First Hussars' Story in WWII: an Introduction

As citizens of this great country, Canada, we can take enormous satisfaction that in many instances we are responsible for remarkable achievements despite our sometimes poor leadership. Since the close of WWII, historians through careful, unabashed and unrestricted analysis, have exposed the ineptness of so many of our leaders at that time, political and military.

Recall the saying: "When the going gets tough - the tough get going." And so it was in Canada during the war as Canadians from coast to coast rose to the cause to bring about the "big win" at the end. This achievement was created for the most part, by an all volunteer army as distinct from our British and American allies' conscripted armies. But the wheels weren't greased, many obstacles impeded the good results eventually achieved by the citizenry.

As the nineteen thirties wound down and the depression faded into a "thank God it's gone" oblivion, the First Hussars were totally unprepared for a new war - unless it was to be fought as the last - in the trenches and with horses. The invasion of Poland only cracked that notion; nine months would pass before Dunkirk shattered it all together.

In pre-war peace time, the biggest issue facing the languid Hussar mood, was a lively discussion regarding the cap badge: why in the official description, was the crown, which wasn't a crown at all but a ducal coronet, surmounted by a horse rampant? (A big faux-pas in the coveted world of heraldry.) After an exchange between the Commanding Officer and National Defence Headquarters (NDHQ), the horse stayed and the crown became a coronet in the description.

Phew! Just in time. That wrangle concluded on September 1, 1939, and the next day, September 2, the entire temperament changed when the regiment was mobilised for war. It wasn't, however, the end of befuddlement emanating from NDHQ.

In the *Gallant Hussars*, 2004, Michael McNorgan makes the point that in every war "...from South Africa to the Gulf, someone in Ottawa determines that the best way to meet the crises is through the creation of ad hoc units. The second world war was no exception..." (p.71) The "Global War," 1939-1945, supplied plenty of evidence in support of McNorgan's observation.

While NDHQ was waffling about discharging arbitrary name changes, their masters, the Mackenzie King government, was exercising its political clout with a more determined goal: save votes - mainly in Quebec. The issue was conscription: "Conscription if necessary but not necessarily conscription." This beautiful piece of King obfuscation was the best he could muster as a war cry; it only created anger, confusion, embarrassment and ultimately – lives.

The two streams of hesitation and change from Ottawa's political and military bastions ran parallel, but at least the military had an legitimate excuse. From the war's outset they were flying blind, dragging in their tail wind the lessons of the last, outdated WWI experience, while further shackled by myopic, self centred politicians. "Politicians make war – soldiers just get to fight them." (Old soldier refrain).

The accompanying Free Press articles seen here, don't highlight these changes to both the regiment and what would ultimately become the Canadian Armoured Corps, but some are referenced by name without

comment. To fully understand the content offered herein, some explanation is warranted.

The Regiment:

In 1939 as hostilities began, the First Hussars still retained their well earned name and were a unit of Cavalry, the official designation for all mounted regiments.

In an *ad hoc* change in 1940, the First Hussars became: the First Canadian Cavalry Regiment (Mechanized)...1 CCR (M) and were part of: the Canadian Active Service Force...CASF. They reverted to First Hussars in January 1941 only to change for the last time in WWII to: 6th Canadian Armoured Regiment (1st Hussars) or simply as: 6 CAR. (All armoured regiments were similarly designated by a number.)

The home contingent of the regiment became: the Regimental Depot for The First Hussars, and a member of the: Non-Permanent Active Militia...NPAM. In keeping with the numerical designations for the CASF, the Depot in November 1940 became: 6th (Reserve) Armoured Regiment (1st Hussars).

Camp Borden and Corps:

Forming alongside the name-changes to all armoured regiments, grew new names for the Borden training school and the creation of a Corps name.

Londoners and especially Hussars, should take note that on November 1, 1936, in the Royal School Building at Wolseley Barracks, the soon to be well known, Major F.F. Worthington,* created the Canadian Tank School. Known famously as "Worthy" or "Fighting Frank," he is rightly revered as the father of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps.

*Major-General Frederick Franklin Worthington, MC, MM, CD (1884-1967)

In keeping with the seemingly whimsical changes so prevalent at this time, when armoured training moved to the newly constructed Camp Borden, posted at the gate was a new name: Canadian Armoured Fighting Vehicle School...CAFVS. After great deliberation by the proliferation of red tabbed officers housed in Ottawa, bent on displaying their authority and presence, "School" was replaced with "Centre" to become: CAFVC.

The date August 13, 1940, is significant for all armoured regiments in Canada. On that date better minds finally prevailed to create: the Canadian Armoured Corps. (Royal was added post war.)

The Army:

Traditionally, from 1855 to 1940, the regular army was: Permanent Active Militia (PAM) or simply: Permanent Force (PF).

As a matter of note: in 1939 the PF consisted of a paltry 455 officers and 3714 all ranks.

The reserve army was: Non Permanent Active Militia (NPAM).

In 1939 with mobilization, PF and NPAM were combined to become: Canadian Active Service Force (CASF).

In 1940, the CASF became: Canadian Army.

With the creation of the Canadian Army in 1940, attention was drawn to distinguish between different components. In that context, three distinctions were added:

Canadian Army (Overseas) - Canadian Army (Active) - Canadian Army (Reserve)

Politics:

Initially, the strong enlistment response of 1939 gave way to come up short, unable to satisfy the expected requirements which the war would demand. It didn't take long before a hue and cry arose from the military, political and civilian camps alike. The obvious solution to correct the shortage, was to enact conscription to fill the ranks. Against this push Mackenzie King was adamant – no conscription – but he reluctantly bent to do something.

Spurred on by the fall of France, his answer on June 21, 1940: the National Resources Mobilization Act (NRMA). By this act the government had power to deem all "...persons to place themselves, their services and their property at the disposal of His Majesty...*for the defence of Canada.*" (The italics are mine.) In other words, should the enemy be foolish enough to invade Canada, the country was prepared to defend our shores down to the last man. Never before or since, has such a ridiculous piece of legislation been enacted in this country. The intention to avoid trouble in conscription opposed Quebec, the bastion of secure Liberal party votes, was all too obvious to the rest of Canada, which by and large, was committed to the war. What a farce!

Eventually, some 60,000 NRMA troops were spread across the country giving rise to the creation of two groups: the "A" man who eventually volunteered for overseas service, and the "R" man who refused to leave. The "R" man became sneeringly, the pejorative - "Zombie." The rancour arising from this partisan gesture by King, served in time of war to divide both the government and the country when unity was most needed.

As pressure across Canada built demanding service overseas, King acquiesced to hold a plebiscite in April 1942 to allow a release from the "home" only provision in the NRMA. Four to one outside Quebec said yes; four to one in Quebec said no. The release was carried - and yet it wasn't.

Two more years would pass before 16,000 NRMA men in November 1944, were singled out for overseas service. By war's end, only 2500 of this number actually saw front line action. This number is too small to challenge the claim proclaimed in Canadian military history, that our country was the only one of our three allies (a fourth would be Russia) which fielded an all volunteer army. This boast is the compensation we are left to proudly assert because it was accomplished by Canadian citizens alone, despite, and overcoming, government partisan treachery.

In summary, Canada in WWII had three distinct armies: Canadian Army (Regular); Canadian Army (Reserve); and the army comprised from the National Resources Mobilization Act. As such, the result was a fragmented force top-heavy in administration and training cadres. The last two singled out, the Reserve and NRMA bunch, were two armies that would never see action and were upon analysis in the end, totally unsuited for war despite all the attention they courted. Historians assert today, that their very existence distracted men and material from Regular units which could have benefited from the added input. This single fact alone, contributed greatly to the shortage of replacements encountered as the war casualties mounted. The fault and shame for this debacle lies at the feet of the Mackenzie King government.

Historians frequently describe Canadians as un-war-like, then they complete their assessment by acknowledging that when the chips are down, Canadians respond and show their mettle. In WWII, all three armed services punched above their weight. On land, the Canadian Army in general and the First Hussars in particular, never flinched or failed to do their duty. At war's end, Canadian regiments proudly sewed on to their Colours and Guidons, battle honours from Sicily, Italy, North-West Europe and South-East Asia.

Twice each year, on June 6-11 and November 11, Remembrance Day, the First Hussars pay tribute to our veterans from all wars in which the regiment fought. As we parade to Victoria park and stand near the Holy Roller tank, we especially remember the 196 Hussars who died in eleven months of action from Normandy to Germany.

We will remember them

HODIE NON CRAS

Recruiting and Training

This London Free Press story below displaying two mounted contingents, "A" and "B" Squadrons of the First Hussars during their happy cavalry days (begun officially in 1856) could be entitled: "The Passing Parade." The caption details a change begun in 1939 which is still evident today: from *Horses to Horsepower* - cavalry to armour.

In short order, the regiment began recruitment drives throughout Southwestern Ontario, including the creation of a new squadron in Exeter. The switch from horses to mechanized, became so ingrained in the regiment that cavalry equipment was sold on a first-come basis.

Corporal Jim Fisher, A 525, was only too happy to pay $5.00 for a cavalry sword which he proudly carried about throughout the war – especially in his tank "Bad Boy."

The picture below (undated) for the sale of War Savings Certificates, illustrates money campaigns which folded in nicely with the recruitment drives. In this picture, standing prominently centre while wearing the uniform of the First Hussars, is Major E. L. Booth. The Major would go on to become Brigadier Booth, and unhappily become one of the two highest ranking Canadian officers killed in WWII.

Note: Brigadier E. L. Booth, DSO, MiD, ED. KIA, 14 August 1944.
His medals reside in the regiment's museum.

The recruitment drives were relentless. The Canadian Active Service Force, CASF, needed men, but not just a male body; they wanted capable men with acquired skills, especially mechanical. Knowing the horse was gone and armour was the future, their search was not unreasonable. Farriers and veterinarians became forgotten friends.

Realising early on that the pool of trained mechanics was not inexhaustible, a mechanical training syllabus was instituted and retained in Canada and Great Britain for the entire war. The enlistment officers were forever challenged to detect in a recruit, some mechanical ability for development. Corporal Jim Fisher mentioned above, was a tool and die maker gainfully employed in Sarnia. On that basis, he was approached as a prospective armour recruit; he joined the Hussars in 1940. While undergoing tank training in Britain, he was selected for some advanced instruction in his chosen trade. How the army expected a trained tool and die maker to make good use of his skills as a crew-man in a tank, is a good example of over exuberance in the selection process.

ACTIVE ARMY IS AFTER RECRUITS

Nearly 300 Required, of Whom 100 Must Be Tradesmen

MUST ENSURE CARE

Enlistment Officers Warned To Be Careful Picking Men

FIRST HUSSARS IS RE-FORMED

Non-Permanent Active Annexed Cav Regiment

BEGIN EACH NIGHT

Headquarters and Two Squadrons in This City

SELECT GROUP FOR TANK CORPS

Prospective Officers and Other Ranks Are Interviewed

BOARD VISITS DISTRICT

Men From Every Regiment May Join Armoured Units

MOTORIZED DRIVE DRAWS RECRUITS

Army Trucks and Cycle Troops Detailed

SOLDIERS GIVEN TRAINING

These three clippings provide good descriptions of the many reciuting drives carried out in the regiment's area.

On the left, the reader learns about some of the many name changes the Hussars coped with for the first few years and the

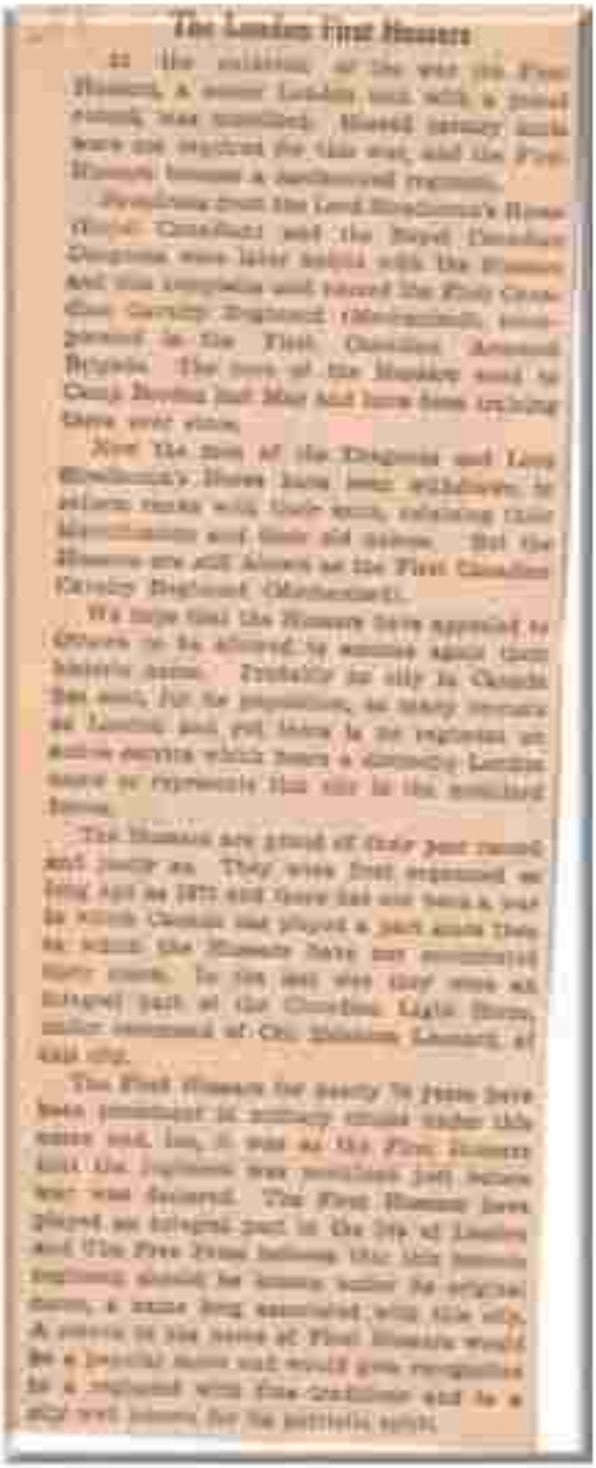
use of an annex to the Armouries in the old Medical School building at York and Waterloo Streets. The Exeter Squadron is mentioned also.

EXETER RESIDENTS INVITED TO PICTURES

The article, "Select Group for the Tank Corps," indicates that no regiment with an armour reference was above receiving a raiding party which had set out from Camp Borden with the express purpose to find suitable candidates for tank warfare. The University of Western Ontario and its C.O.T.C. programme, came in for special attention. They were obviously head-hunting for officer candidates.

In the third article above, the recuiting drive takes on a more visible presence as convoys of trucks and motorcycles fan out through the country to impress the male population that the mechanized army is exciting, and, moreover, it offers valuable training which will be useful after the war.

On this page, we see that Major Robinson who later in the war became a Brigadier, is in Exeter showing a film. This colour film presently in the regiment's museum archives, shows the Hussars blasting through Canadian snow drifts in WWI Renault tanks at a blistering 5 MPH. If these pictures appeared in the New York Times paper in neutral USA, one can only imagine how they



The London First Hussars

sent a shiver of fear up the back of Rommel as his Panzers blasted their way across North Africa in modern tanks.

In January 1940, the regiment suffered the indignity of losing its time honoured name. In exchange for First Hussars (note: this is the regiment's proper name, NOT 1st Hussars) they became: the First Canadian Cavalry Regiment (Mechanized) or abreviated: 1 CCR (M).

This article apparently initiated by the Free Press on their own, appeals to Ottawa, aka – red tabbed officers at NDHG - to correct their misdeed and give back the regiment's proper name.

To correct this insult in the words of the LFP "...would be a popular move and would give recognition to a regiment with fine traditions and to a city well known for its patriotic spirit." (It would be a good plan to repeat today to re-establish "First" as the only ligitimate regiment's name.)

HODIE NON CRAS

Morale Booster or Propaganda?

These articles posted in the London Free Press, apparently in the war's earliest stages, present for the reader the rather difficult task of developing an answer to the question posed in the above heading. The audience for these pieces fall into distinct but related categories: First, the most obvious - the enlisted man in the Armoured Corps to boost his confidence. Next, the families of these men extending to the population at large who must together support not just these tank men, but support the entire war effort. The extended purpose was one of recruitment: impress the civilian man to join up.

CANADA'S MINISTER OF DEFENCE INSPECTS TROOPS IN SOUTH OF ENGLAND

The page (1) picture, taken in England, is ultimately what was achieved – a full compliment of tankers in the First Hussars.

As an aid for answering the question outlined above, these three articles below should help, but first – an examination of the facts.

In the first article: "Britain Prepared..." wherein the author assures the Canadian reader that our troops will be well received with lots of good food and numerous tanks on hand for their use - bull, bull and more bull.

BRITAIN PREPARED TO EQUIP TANK BRIGADE FROM CANADA

"More Divisions of Canadians Come Here the Better," Says General—Provision of Food for Troops Presents No Problem

From the outset, war time Britain underwent food rationing. The U-Boats were severing Britain's life-line to the world from where extra food stuffs necessary to sustain body and soul, had always come from. Additionally, the cross Channel, European source after Dunkirk, was kaput. It was all up to the British people to feed themselves and now with the influx of foreign troops, they were faced with feeding thousands more. Brussel sprouts anyone?

Tanks? Britain's early tank arsenal was not large and it certainly wasn't formidable, not against the Germans' tactics of blitzkrieg. The fall of France and Dunkirk served as step one for adopting new tactics and designing better equipment. Step two in lesson learning for the

beleaguered British Armoured Corps, was again at their expense against the better tanks and tactics of Erwin Rommel in North Africa.

All new British production by necessity went to replenish the tanks lost in North Africa, and the loss wasn't only to German fire power. British tanks, under gunned, under armoured and poor mechanically, meant their disproportioned losses only increased the need to bypass the enthusiastic Canadians for the imperative need to resupply the war zone. As a result, the equipping was piecemeal until fresh supplies became available, and where did they come from? – Canada! The Ram was the first near modern tank the Canadians were issued until the Shermans arrived much later. One wonders why they braved the North Atlantic in the winter of 1941 when food and equipment at home was in abundance? C'est la guerre.

BRITAIN'S SPEEDIEST TANKS HAVE CANADIANS AS DRIVERS

POLICE CYCLES 'OUT' STREETS TOO ROUGH

The next Free Press article is certainly not Bull. The reader may best want to assign it under the column – Morale Booster. For the First Hussars on D-Day and all

Canadian soldiers whenever committed, they proved themselves as excellent, determined troops.

Still, the author can't resist the temptation to overstate the preparedness of Britain, and, therefore, how completely Canadians would be equipped to do battle against the experienced foe. In the end, the Canadians entered battle as British trained and largely equipped in British style except for their tanks which were American Shermans.

Hitting Power of British Home Forces Shown by Manoeuvres

'INVASION' REPELLED

LIST CANADIANS WITH BEST TANK FIGHTERS IN WORLD

Taken together, Canadians borrowed something else from the Brits. The British have always prided themselves as a people who know how to muddle through somehow. Rule Britannia!

The article above is probably from late 1941. The invasion of Britain is off because Herr Hitler thought it was a good idea to invade Russia. Whoops! Or maybe he heard that the First Hussars would be in Britain by December?

One British Colonel upon reviewing the Canadians, opined, "...I maintain the Canadians, from what we have seen of them here, will be probably the best tank fighters in the world." He mistakenly said "probably." Hell! Who is to say we weren't?

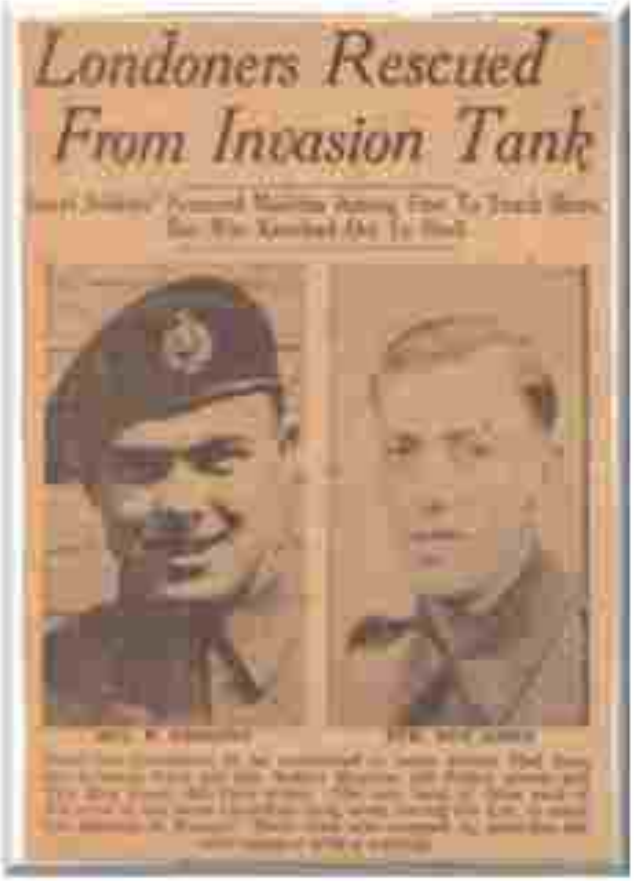
HODIE NON CRAS

D-Day June 6, 1944 to Caen:

When the huge Allied Army came into view off the coast of Normandy, the German defenders began to quake with fear, but with nowhere to run to they had to fight and fight they did. The next surprise appearing before them off the Canadian designated shore line, Juno Beach, was the floating Duplex Drive Sherman M4A2 floating tank, the DD Tank as it was called. This tank was devised as an essential part of that day's strategy to have the tanks land on the beach ahead of the all too vulnerable infantry. The plan was to assault and eliminate the beaches' fire power allowing the infantry a better chance of survival - the success varied.

The following 8 pages pertain to D-Day. Pages # 9 on, contain various battle descriptions as the war raged on; June 11 in particular.

Some sank:



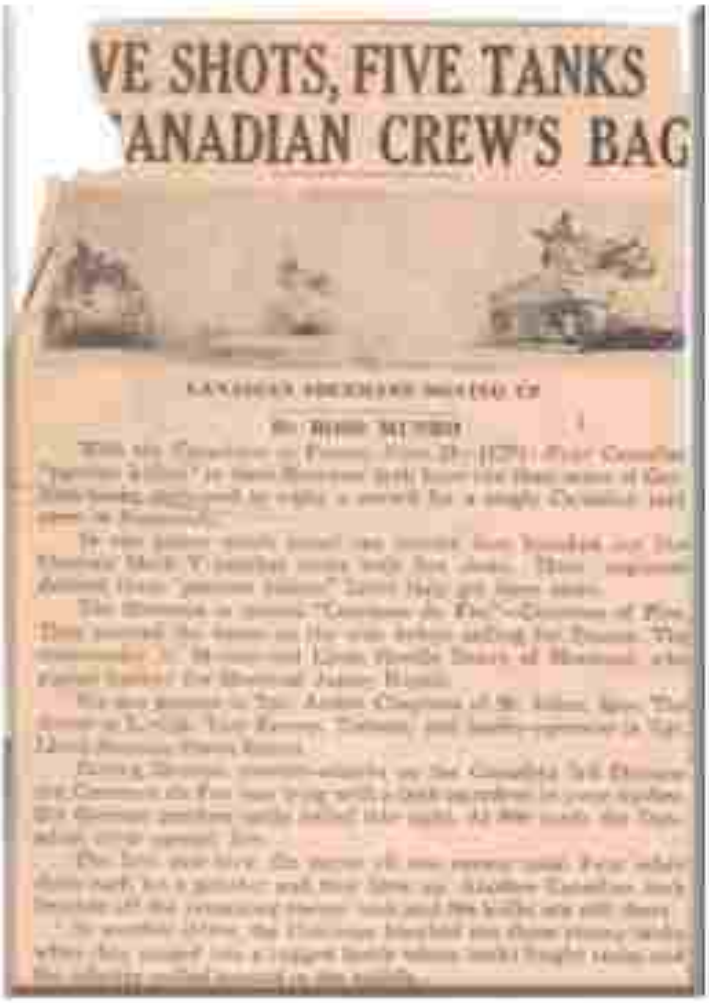
Londoners Rescued
From Invasion Tank

Bitter Tank
Battle Fought

London Officers in Cai

Story On Hussars, Secret
Tanks In English Paper

Good Shooting: Read # 1



VE SHOTS, FIVE TANKS
ANADIAN CREW'S BAG

GS - Read # 2

GS - Read # 3

5 Battalions

Read # 1

5 ONTARIO BATTALIONS IN THICK OF D-DAY FIGHT

Tell How Infantry Made Gallant Assault on Tanks on 14 Canadian Units Drove Ashore and Many Miles Inland

INVASION LETTER MAY WIN YOU $20

5 Battalions

Read # 2

IVE ONTARIO BATTALIONS IN THICK OF D-DAY FIGHTING

5 Battalions

Read # 3

From D-Day to Caen, June 6 to 11 - Regiment's "Black Day"

Read # 1


1st Hussars

Read # 3


of Sacrifice

Read # 2


Drive Into Ambush, Save Caen Hinge, in Saga

Read

 # 4

1st Hussars in Saga of Sacrifice at Caen

CAPT. G. E. FULLER

CAPT. E. E. DUNLAY

CAPT. BOB MILLER

Read # 5

Read # 6

Mentioned above: Captain (Major) HARRISON, Reginal Henry, PoW, 11 June 1944. "B" Squadron Commander. Escaped execution.

From June 11 to War's End:

First Hussars Cleared Way At Gris Nez For Infantry

LONDON'S 1ST HUSSARS HELPED WIN BOULOGNE

By William Stewart

WITH THE 1ST CANADIAN ARMY, Oct. 1—(CP Cable)—The 1st Canadian Hussars, veterans of the Battle of Normandy—and the Canadian infantry force which in the last two weeks of September assaulted and overrun the big German garrison at Boulogne, captured the Channel supply port and taking 9,000 prisoners, it was announced in Montreal today.

The operation was remarkable for two things:

1. The manner in which infantry-men, with strong air support and backed up operational British armoured formations, assaulted "hard" fought city and through German defence lines with machine-like speed.

2. The excellent of the Canadian infantry force which carried out the operation.

Le Regiment de la Chaudiere, of Levis, Megantic, Quebec, was deployed, incidentally, in Italy, but an important part in the assault and capture of Boulogne. The Fusiliers-speaking troops were assigned to the attack when it began, September 17, and took a whole series of fortified positions north of the port, but did not take part in the final entry and clean up of Boulogne.

Other Canadian Inf. Divisions units which participated actively at Normandy on D-Day and took part in subsequent action were:

1st Hussars, London, Ontario.

Sherbrooke Fusiliers Regiment, Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Royal Winnipeg Rifles, Winnipeg.

Regina Rifle Regiment, Regina.

Canadian Scottish Regiment, Victoria.

Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, Toronto.

North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment, Newcastle, N. B.

Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, Cornwall, Ontario.

North Nova Scotia Highlanders, Amherst, N.S.

Winnipeg Light Infantry of Canada, Oak, Ontario.

Carleton Highlanders of Ottawa, Ottawa.

17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars, Montreal.

Londoner Picks Off 4 Hun Tanks In France

[illegible]

London Armored Unit Takes Part in Big Push

BY DOUGLAS AMARON

WITH THE 1ST CANADIAN ARMY IN GERMANY, March 13—(CP Cable)—Tanks from the 7th Hussars, a London, Ont., armored unit, supported the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment in an all-day battle for Kappeln, 15 miles due north of Uedem, shortly after the second phase of the advance from the Maas to the Rhine started February 10, it was permitted to disclose today.

The Hussars had fought across France, Belgium and the Netherlands as part of the 2nd Canadian Armored Brigade.

It also was permitted to disclose the Royal Winnipeg Rifles had been in action in this offensive, having part right from the jumpoff February 8. The unit passed through the flooded land between the Hochwald and the Rhine to spiking march of the anchor of Xanten. It shared in the advance at the Hochwald Line and now part in operations to the southern part of the Hochwald.

The Essex Scottish, a Windsor, Ont., unit, was previously identified in action but today it was disclosed that they were one of the Canadian infantry battalions that shared in the capture of Xanten March 8. The Essex, which also had a part in taking high ground south of Goch last month in the overwhelmed Wood pocket, had a strong fight in the southwestern suburbs of Xanten.

Twenty-three Canadian units now have been identified as having taken part in the offensive.

More than 20,000 British and Canadian engineers served in the operation, under Brig. Geoff Walsh, of Oakville, Ont., the 1st Canadian Army's chief engineer. The engineers included 21 Canadian Engineer Companies of various kinds.

Numbers of the Engineer Companies involved were released for the first time. Field Companies included the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 18th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 26th, 30th, 31st, 33rd, and 34th. Field Squadrons included the 6th and 8th.

No. 7 Road Construction Company operated in this offensive, as did No. 3 Water Supply and Fire Company.

The Port Carry Horse, a Windsor, Ont., regiment, the Algonquin Regiment of North Bay, Ont., an infantry formation, the Carleton Highlanders of Ottawa, a machine-gun and heavy mortar battalion, Toronto infantry unit, and the the Royal Regiment of Canada, a Royal Hamilton (Ont.) Light Infantry all were named in a front dispatch last night. The Algonquins had been previously identified.

The Royal Regiment of Canada, the R.H.L.I. and the Essex Scottish all are veteran regiments of the Dieppe reconnaissance in force in 1942.

13 Hussar Tanks Topple Nazi Bastion

Lambaren, Tell Tens Press Writer of George Which Was Lopped

Note: The Trooper mentioned in the story as the tank's driver, became -

L/Corporal Wilf BOWCOTT,

A 533, KIA, 14 April 45.

Buried Holten War Cemetery

Netherlands.

Prior to the war he worked

at L & P Barrel and lived at 520

Egerton St.

Lone Hussar Hurls 50 Bombs at Huns

Note: Lt EGGO, David George Carnegie (MC), WIA, 5 March 1945

Citation for Military Cross in part states:

Lieutenant Eggo's grim determination to close with and kill the enemy without regard for his own personal safety or the odds against him was outstanding in a brilliantly successful squadron attack.

Siegfried Steel No Match For Hussars

Had To "Fry" Nazi Paratroopers Out of Pillboxes

Additional details related to troops mentioned above:

A 86664, Trooper BENOIT, Arthur W., WIA, 14 April 1945

B 132705, Trooper EVANS, Bruce William, WIA, 6 June 1944 and WIA, 19 January 1945

A 105205, Trooper STEWART, William G., WIA, 14 April 1945

B 4843, Trooper WALLACE, George Edward, KIA, 14 April 1945. Buried Holten Canadian War cemetery, Netherlands

Getting Stuck in Bog Saved Hussars' Lives

Additional details related to troops mentioned above:

B 134717, Trooper BETHELL, John F., WIA, 13 April 1945

B 113443, L/Corporal STANFIELD, Harvey R., WIA, 13 April 1945

Note: A new $17.5 million building in Wolseley Barracks was named on May 10, 2006, in honour of Captain P.C. Neil, (MC), for his actions in 1945. He was awarded the Military Cross; citation in part states: *Under heavy fire in a minefield, Captain Neil retrieved 51 stranded tanks.*

R.C.R.'s and Hussars Combine to Take Dutch City

The First Hussars is always willing to help the Royal Canadian Regiment, its junior London regiment.

Sergeant Aubrey Cosens, VC. Queen's Own Rifles of Canada:

Note: Following this action assisted by First Hussars' tanks, Sergeant Cosens was killed by a sniper. The complete story is on film, transferred to DVD and in our Museum.

Hero Rides Hussar Tank
To Guide Attack By Unit

Assortment of Promotions, Citations & Articles of Interest

MOST HONORS WON BY FIRST HUSSARS

Also Sustained More Losses in Action Than Other Canadian Armored Units

This article written after the war, is a post-war remnant of unemotional statistics. In one bold sweep, the good record of 52 honours for brave deeds done, is casually juxtaposed against the tragedy of killed and wounded.

As the years have gone by, the two statistics have parted. The pain and sorrow felt during the war and after by the affected families and friends for those killed or wounded, have been shared by countless others each year the war is commemorated. In contrast, sans émotion, the medals languish in drawers, on walls and in museums as mere artefacts known only to a few as mementoes of a war long ago.

Brigadier BOOTH, Eric Leslie, DSO and Bar, KIA, 14 August 1944.

A controversial figure, this officer's association with the First Hussars began before the war, when the regiment was a cavalry unit. In Italy, he became the commanding officer of the Three Rivers Regiment. He has the unfortunate distinction of being one of the two highest ranking Canadian officers killed in WWII. Age 38.

Brigadier Booth's medals are on display in the regiment's museum.


BRIGADIER MISSING,
IS FORMER LONDONER

BRIG. BOOTH


BRIG. BOOTH IS NOW
LISTED AS KILLED

Happy News:

Lance Sergeant JUBB, Robert C., P 1701, MIA, 6 June 1944.

A case in point how bad news was quickly transmitted across the ocean to relatives and press back home, predictably creating anxiety, then the same network functioned to put the record straight. The anguish felt between those times goes unreported.

Had Long Swim
But Safe Now

Christmas Wishes:

This undated LFP article illustrates the worrisome and heartfelt emotion exhibited between the people back home in Canada, in this case Stratford and area, for all the serving men and women overseas. A true Christmas wish.

ON CHRISTMAS EVE

From the Stratford Beacon-Herald

Do you realize that on Christmas Eve? Go out into the open and raise your eyes to the heavens and see the stars and realize that somewhere, across the vastness of the velvet and boys are looking up at them, even as you and I—and, in that knowledge, find yourself close to them.

On the Home Front:

From the poem by Milton, "On His Blindness," is written: "They also serve who only stand and wait." When applied away from Milton's blindness affliction, this observation becomes a borrowed war-time sentiment, one which doesn't diminish with time or circumstance to offer a valid description for all those families left waiting on the home front during any war. But not everyone simply waits, some are more active. This article illustrates how.

The 6th Canadian Armored Regiment (1st Hussars), another Ladies' aid, also are cared for by an auxiliary who work at home for the welfare of the soldiers' families in Canada and, where it is needed, give various kinds of assistance to them. The auxiliary is headed by Mrs. J. F. Wilson, president; Mrs. Ira Carling, vice-president; secretary, Miss Mary Collison and treasurer, Miss Marguerite Stoner.

The combined auxiliaries tag day, which will be held in the city on Saturday, April 22, will help these two women's groups and other auxiliaries carry on their good work for the men overseas and their families. Citizens will be asked by tagsers to be generous in their support.

In every military organisation in times of war and peace, there is a wonderful group of unheralded, dedicated workers who have the commonality of being invariably – women! This little article from the LFP attempts to recognise some who did more than just wait. Mrs. J.F. Wilson maybe the wife of Captain John Ferrier Wilson, serving overseas with the regiment? The same can be said for Miss Marguerite Stoner, perhaps the sister of Captain Oliver Stoner, WIA, June 11, 1944? And is Miss Mary Collison related to the regiment's Captain T.A. Collison? The last woman of note is Mrs. Ira (Helen) Carling, the auxiliary's vice president. In 1941, London records show her to be a soldier. After the war her dedication to the military persisted. In 1949 she was a clerk for the Department of Veteran's Affairs, in its rehabilitation department.

The First Hussars salutes both those who waited and the tireless auxiliary workers who "did their bit."

Gallantry Award:

Lieutenant PETTIGREW, Douglas Bonar, M.C.

The full description of Lieutenant Pettigrew's action leading up to this citation is seen on p.322, *Gallant Hussars*.

On p.196, this picture shows the awarding of this medal by none other than Field Marshall Montgomery (Monty) on 23 February 1945. Briefly stated, the medal was in recognition of his outstanding determination to lead his troop of Shermans against the enemy during the Battle of Zetten on 20 January 1945. Overlooking the many hits his tank received and it should be added, miraculously survived from hand held panzerfaust rockets, twelve times the account reads, he fought on to dislodge and eliminate enemy positions. The final line of the citation reads: "Lieutenant Pettigrew played a very major role in the capturing of Zetten, and the breaking of the enemy's will to fight."

<u>Gallantry Award:</u>

Major POWELL, John Wilson,

DSO, MC, WIA, 8 August 1944.


Hussar Decorati

Distinguished Hussar

This officer when not fighting and winning against the enemy, was kept busy receiving both citations and promotions. Coming ashore on D-Day, he was Lieutenant Powell, second-in-command of "A" Squadron.

From the well thumbed *Gallant Hussars,* p. 115, we learn that John "Jake" Powell was born in England, joined the Hussars just prior to the war, won his Military Cross on D-Day and just kept on going. By the cease fire in May, he was the Officer Commanding of "C" Squadron. In his citation for the Distinguished Service Order, running two and one half columns, the final sentence is most descriptive of this Gallant Hussar: "There is no praise too high for the action of this gallant officer."

Letter From the Front to Home:


Describes How Seven
Hussars Met Death

Trooper RICE, Clarence E., A 57

Trooper Rice served with both "A" and "HQ" Squadrons.

These personal testimonials are special. In these few short sentences he pays homage to the fallen he knew while offering the emotions felt under battle conditions. In the passage where he passes on personally witnessed details of Sergeant Lilly's death and burial, are details not often seen, if at all, in military histories. Clippings like these are real treasures.

Promoted:

Sergeant BISHOP, Harry, A 173,

WIA, 25 July 1944. His WIA summary is shown under Honour Roll. The displaying of these two newspaper announcements, "Promoted" and "Wounded," is easy to contemplate together. For his family back here in London during the war, seeing them arrive one at a time, they presented a roller coaster of emotion.

One can imagine the total delight his wife and parents felt when notified he had been promoted to Sergeant. There is no date shown and it could have been before D-Day. He went ashore with "A" Squadron in a floating DD tank and survived that momentous landing. Tragically, 21 Hussars were killed that day. For a time the family could rest easily knowing he made it safely to shore. Then, in what must have seemed like a too quick succession of circumstances, a telegram arrives informing them he is wounded. At that point, greater details as to the seriousness isn't given, that comes later.

We are left wondering the extent of his wounds, no further details appear in the press. However, the record shows upon his return to London, he was employed at Labatt's Brewery from where he eventually retired. End of the Harry Bishop story here.

Gallantry Awards:

Two officers, Lieutenant Colonel W.D. Brooks and Major A.B. Conron, receive Distinguished Service Orders at Buckingham Palace from His Majesty, King George VI.

Previous Announcements for Brooks and Conron:

THREE IN 1ST HUSSARS RECEIVE DECORATIONS

HUSSARS OFFICER WINS PROMOTION

Promotion:

Captain LEES, Harry Maxwell, WIA 8 September 1944.

Harry Lees upon leaving the army at war's end, resumed his employment with the Burroughes Furniture Co. By 1949 he was manager of this company located at 303-307 Dundas Street with a charming wife, Harriet. This address we should note, lies adjacent to the London Armouries, the home of the First Hussars. By 1964 the company had moved into Wellington Square but without Harry. At some point before then, he opened his own furniture store appropriately named, Lees Furniture. When this venture closed, he utilised his love and talent for furniture to join the sales staff at Paton's Place, located at the foot of Winery Hill on Wharncliffe Road. We find him there in 1976.

<u>Awards:</u> Despite censorship insulating the public and families to gruesome details experienced by serving Canadians overseas, by June 1944 with the war into it's fifth year, much was known. The strategy adopted by the press and encouraged by a cautious and concerned government, was to instead emphasise good, positive news to boost morale. In a sense, the war was being fought on two fronts - at home and on the front lines. The First Hussars were in Holland when Burke Martin of the Free Press sent in this pacifying piece for readers at home.

First Hussars Win 29 Major Awards

Top Honors Held by Major J. W. "Jake" Powell Wins M.C. and D.S.O.

BY BURKE MARTIN

Burke Martin

After the war, the pleasant duty of recognising gallantry of regimental members continued. The Monarch's representative in Ontario during the immediate post-war period, was Lieutenant-Governor Albert Matthews who presided in Toronto near the Legislative Chambers of the Provincial Government at Queen's Park. It was at this venue more decorations were presented. Awards presented: Received Military Cross: Captain Victor W. Jewkes. Received Distinguished Service Order: Lieutenant Colonel Franklyn H. White. Received the Military Medal: Sergeant Bernard Enns.

Gallantry Awards
Presented at
Vice-Regal Investiture

Receive Gallantry Awards
At Investiture From
Lieutenant-Governor

The First Hussars Return Home:

The day was January 16, 1945, when the train rolled into the CNR station on York Street. Family and friends were on hand to welcome the heroes, although it's doubtful any of the troops thought of themselves that way. There had been a job to do overseas - again - the second time in the twentieth century, and these men had volunteered to fight in a just war against a tyrannical regime. Remaining behind to be never forgotten, resting in cemeteries across North-West Europe, were 196 of their comrades.

But now it was peace time, or almost, Japan would fight on for eight more months. That reality did not dampen anyone's spirits, and the January cold was no obstacle for many private celebrations. But first, they had to be de-mobbed at Wolseley Barracks, then final leave and then - home for good. Civilians once more.

Hussars Holding Dinner To Start Peace Program

The regiment was not content to simply rest on their laurels, a bit of military style celebration was in order – and music – Bonnie Dundee. Who doesn't love that marching tune? (The Corries rendition is the best by far!)

Hussars To Hear Famous Song

<u>The Final Legacy Summarised: Impressive!</u> (Pay special attention to the last section, bottom –right.)

First Hussars Win 29 Major Awards

Top Honors Held by Major J. W. "Jake" Powell With M.C. and D.S.O.

HODIE NON CRAS

The Holy Roller Story:

Much has been written and even more words passed in conversation, between First Hussars veterans and others, regarding the validity of the Holy Roller's battle distinction. The claim is: our memorial tank is one of only two Canadian Sherman tanks to have survived the entire eleven months of combat in North-West Europe: from D-Day to the war's end in Germany. (The other Canadian Sherman is the proud property of the Sherbrooke Fusiliers Regiment.) This article quoting Lt. Col. Frank White, D.S.O., the original tank's crew commander, should put "paid" to any doubts still swirling about on those shaky, unsolicited grounds.

'Holy Roller' Wins Spot in Hearts of Hussars

Additional notes on Holy Roller:

The name "Hairless Joe" in the article above, a tank name suggested by Lt. Col. Frank White, deserves an explanation. Joe was a character in the comic strip "Li'l Abner," written by the well known writer and artist, Al Capp.[1] In Capp's comics, Joe was a moonshiner whose "Kickapoo Joy Juice" was "so strong that the fumes alone were strong enough to melt the rivets off battleships." The conjured image of "Hairless Joe" and his near lethal moonshine affixed to a Sherman tank determined to fight, would have presented a fearful message of *strength* and *danger* to the unsuspecting enemy.

Each year we are proud to respectfully honour our somewhat religiously inspired, "Holy Roller," but it leaves one to ponder how our June parades to Victoria Park might be altered if they were to recognise and honour a tank named "Hairless Joe?"

Crew names mentioned in Free Press articles are:

Original crew: Frank "Buster" Fowler who suggested Holy Roller as an appropriate name. He was also the Driver/Mechanic from D-Day to V-E day. The four other crew were: Lt. Col. Frank White; William Reed; Terry Doherty; Everett Smith. LFP June 1, 2014

Other recognised crew are: C. Deller; J.W. Nolan; W. Bury; C. Benoit; G.P. Cook; R. Moore; G. Green; Lewis McIntosh. LFP June 5, 1950

[1] The idea to use a character from Al Capp's Dogpatch comic strip for a tank name was not an isolated notion. With the formation of the 1st Canadian Armoured Carrier Regiment, aka "The Kangaroos," (Canadian Ram tanks with the turrets removed for carrying infantry) one whole troop sported names from the Dogpatch family: Li'l Sue, Mammy Yokum, Pappy Yokum, Daisy Mae, Granny Yokum, and Li'l Abner.

ROLL OF HONOUR

6TH CANADIAN ARMOURED REGIMENT (1ST HUSSARS)

LEST WE FORGET

Corporal BAKER, Frederick Ianson, A 372, KIA, 25 July 1944.

Operation "SPRING" - to clear the Verrieres ridge; action leading to closing the Falaise gap.

Bayeux Memorial, France

Panel 19 Column 2


LONDON DISTRICT MAN NOW PRESUMED KILLED

Trooper JACKSON, Jack Leslie, A 579,

DoW, 6 June 1944.

D-Day invasion of continental Europe.

Beny-sur-Mer, France

Plot 1 Row D Grave 1

Age 23

Sergeant LILLEY, Roy Graham, A 88,

BEM, MiD, KIA, 14 August, 1944.

Operation "TRACTABLE" - to close Falaise gap.

Bretteville-sur-Laize, France

Plot 25 Row H Grave 5

Age 26

SGT. ROY G. LILLEY
LISTED AS KILLED

Lance Corporal MAGUIRE, Philip George,

A 500, KIA, 25 September 1944.

Operation "UNDERGO" - to capture Calais.

Calais Canadian War Cemetery

Pas-de-Calais, France

Plot 7 Row B Grave 3

Age 23

Brother of: Trooper MAGUIRE, Herbert H.

A 469, First Hussars

Survived the war.

LONDONER IS KILLED IN ACTION IN FRANCE

Trooper MANN, Douglas James,

B 134737,

KIA, 8 August 1944.

Operation "TOTALIZE" – braking through German lines leading to the Falaise gap closing.

Beny-sur-Mere, France

Plot 15 row B Grave 5

Age 21

Killed in Action

Sergeant MOORE, Arthur Frederick, A 498,

KIA, 8 August 1944.

Operation "TOTALIZE" - breaking through German lines leading to the Falaise gap closing.

Bretteville-sur-Laize, France

Plot 3 Row C Grave 13

Reported Killed

SGT. A. F. MOORE WAS PROMINENT LONDON SCOUT

Lance Corporal NICHOL, Gordon Ivan,

B 19597, KIA, 11 June 1944.

Commemorated yearly as the "Black Day" for the regiment. "B" Squadron ambush.

Beny-sur-Mer, France

Plot 6 Row H Grave 4

Age 25

EXETER SOLDIER DIES IN FRANCE

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Nichol of Exeter have received official word that their second son, L/Cpl. Gordon Ivan Nichol, died in France on June 11. The cause of his death is not mentioned. He was in his 25th year.

L/Cpl. Nichol was born at Woodvale and in 1931, with his parents moved to Grey Township where he received his primary education. L/Cpl. Nichol died and his high school education in Brussels. In June, 1941, he enlisted, and in November of that year went overseas.

He is survived by his parents and three brothers overseas, Irvin in Italy, Wilfrid and Lloyd in France, and one sister, Arnetta, at home.

Lieutenant PATTISON, Herbert Kitchener,

KIA, 25 July 1944. Operation "SPRING" - to clear the Verrieres ridge; action leading up to closing the Falaise gap.

Beny-sur-Mer, France

Plot 12 Row C Grave 14 Age 30

Sergeant PELKEY, Richard Thomas, A 314,

KIA, 11 June 1944.

Commemorated yearly as the "Black Day" for the regiment. "B" Squadron ambush.

Bayeux Memorial, France

Panel 19 Column 1

Age 27

Missing And Wounded

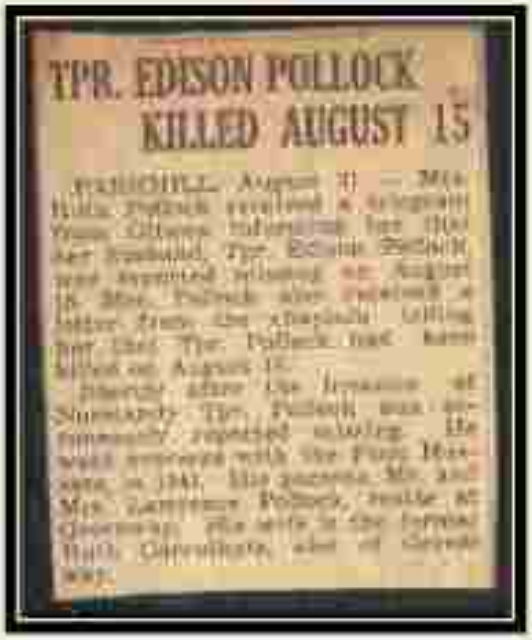
Lance Corporal POLLOCK, Edison, A 622,

KIA, 15 August 1944.

Operation "TRACTABLE" - to close the Falaise gap.

Bayeux Memorial, France

Panel 19 Column 2



TPR. EDISON POLLOCK
KILLED AUGUST 15

Sergeant POWER, Arthur John, A 134,

KIA, 26 February 1945.

Operation "BLOCKBUSTER"- to trap German army in pincer movement.

Groesbeek Memorial, Netherlands

Panel 10

Age 26

Trooper SHEPHERD, Eric James,

A 106469,

KIA, 25 July 1944.

Operation "SPRING" - to clear the Verrieres ridge; action leading up to closing the Falaise gap.

Bayeux Memorial, France

Panel 19 Column 2

Age 28

TPR. ERIC SHEPHERD, AGED 28, IS MISSING

Trooper SMITH, William John,

A 106964,

KIA, 12 August 1944.

Operation "TRACTABLE"- to close the Falaise gap.

Bretteville-sur-Mer Cemetery, France

Plot 7 Row A Grave 2 Age 29

Trooper Smith was transferred to the Sherbooke Fusiliers at time of death.

James's widow Kathleen and young son Gary, supported each other for years. Gary attended Lorne Avenue School and Clarke Road High School. He became a draftsman with M M Dillion. In time, he married his neighbourhood sweetheart, Lynda Prowse.

Corporal WARE, Edward Thomas, A 104,

DoW, 17 April 1945.

While advancing on Apeldoorn, Holland.

Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands

Plot 3 Row D Grave 5

Captain WILDGOOSE, Richard,

KIA, 11 June 1944.

Commemorated yearly as the "Black Day" for the regiment. "B" Squadron ambush.

Bayeux Memorial, France

Panel 19 Column 1

NON-FATAL CASUALTIES

Wounded in Action & Prisoners of War

Sergeant BISHOP, Harry, A 173,

WIA, 25 July 1944. Operation "SPRING" -

During action to clear the Verrieres ridge leading up to closing the Falaise gap.

Post war, Harry enjoyed a respectable and stable civilian life. In 1949 he and his wife Lillian, had moved to 759 Strand St., a post war development area once part of the military preserve in London. His future prospects as a family provider, became secure when he was hired on at Labatt's Brewery. This old London brewery was prosperous; employment there meant a steady job with good pay. He may well have retired from Labatt's; the record indicates that in 1976 he is still listed as a brewery employee and married to Lillian.

Major CONRON, Alfred Brandon, DSO, CD, CdeG, WIA, 6 June 1944.

D-Day invasion of continental Europe.

Brandon "Brandy" Conron's accomplishments in life are too numerous to relate here. Below is a web site outlining his distinguished career written by a long time friend.

From the regiment's perspective he was a valued asset in times of war and peace. In 1940 he left university to join the Hussars rising to the rank of Major, OC "A" Squadron. Returning as Regimental Commanding Officer 02 September 1950 to 30 September 1952.

His longest service was acting as Honorary Colonel 24 May 1969 to 17 November 1978.

He passed away in 1993.


HUSSARS OFFICER
WINS PROMOTION

http://www.canadianpoetry.ca/cpjrn/vol36/thomas.htm

Trooper EVANS, John S., A 312,
WIA, 25 July 1945.

Operation "SPRING" -During action to clear the Verrieres ridge leading up to closing the Falaise gap.

Apart from service to his country and the First Hussars, the article notes that he was married overseas in 1942.

His post war career upon returning to London, notes that his British wife's name was Ann and in 1949 he worked at General Steel Wares. By 1964 he was a salesman for Rolland Hill Shoes.

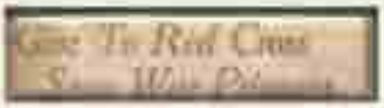
LONDONER WOUNDED IN FIGHTING IN FRANCE

Tpr. John S. Evans, 22, son of Cpl. and Mrs. John Evans, 41 Vaughan street, has been wounded in action in France his parents have been notified. He is now in hospital in England, still according to letters received from him he is "doing well." Tpr. Evans joined the army in September, 1939, and went overseas in October, 1941. He attended Trafalgar Public School and the Bess Collegiate. He was married overseas in 1942.

Tpr. Evans

Corporal FLOYD, James J., A 560, PoW, 11 June 1944

On that day in June, still regarded today as the "Black Day" for the regiment given the extraordinary number of killed and wounded, James J. Floyd should have received a decoration for his devotion to a fellow First Hussar. Upon capture, Floyd discovered his mate, Corporal SHIRE, Roy D., A 529, was also captured but wounded. Shire feared for his life knowing the enemy's habit of murdering such incapacitated prisoners. Floyd without hesitation hoisted Shire up and practically carried him to their incarceration in Germany, to Stalag 357. Both men survived the war.



Trooper FITZMAURICE, Philip Ambrose, A 148,

WIA, 16 October 1944.

In Holland in support of the British 49th (West Riding) Division.

With the war over, Philip returned home to live with his parents. Their home on Ontario Street is very near the main CPR yard in London. Sufficiently recovered from his wounds, he became a brakeman with the railroad. By the early '60s he was a conductor and married to Mildred, both living far from the tracks on Baseline Road.


TPR. P. FITZMAURICE IS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

Sergeant GRISTEY, William Henry, A 219,

WIA, 25 July 1944. On the Verriers ridge.

Sergeant Gristey was struck by shrapnel on the wrist, crippling his arm completely. The irony, if he ever thought of the wound in a humorous vein, on his wrist at the time was a German watch he had "liberated".

Following the war, Harry secured employment with the Richards-Wilcox manufacturing concern in London. After a number of years with them, he became a welder with General Motors Diesel from where he retired.

He suffered gravely from his wound. Each day forever more, his wife Mary applied salve to the wound. We owe these clippings to Mary.

Corporal HUSTON, Wilbur J., A 4455,

WIA, 15 August 1944.

Operation "TRACTABLE."

We see here yet another Hussar who found time from his busy training schedule to court a girl, a Scottish girl, and marry her. By the war's end some 43,454 Canadian service men had married overseas.

As the Germans retreated in a headlong rush to escape Normandy, Corporal Huston's wound was one suffered by many, including, a large number of Hussars who died trying to close the infamous Falaise gap. He was perhaps part of "C" Squadron.

Sergeant JOHNSTONE, Thomas, A 192,

WIA, Date unknown.

Adding to the details shown, Sergeant Johnstone returned to London, to the same address indicated, where he happily embraced his wife Violet, and, of course, his little daughter as well.

They eventually moved to Moffat Ave.

Captain McLEOD, Charles Melbourne,

WIA, 6 June 1944 and WIA, 25 July 1944

This officer landed on D-Day as a Lieutenant and was promptly wounded by the lethal German 88mm gun. His welfare was helped by Madame Chretien, a local resident who administered first aid. He gave her a medallion which proved useful after the war in locating her for a reunion and expression of gratitude.

Promoted to Captain and acting as second in command of "B" Squadron, he received a serious wound on the Verrieres ridge bringing to a close his much valued contribution to the regiment's success.

Corporal OKE, Frank L., A 44133,

WIA, 25 July 1944.

During action to clear the Verrieres ridge leading up to closing the Falaise gap.

SGT. FRANK OKE WOUNDED

ST. THOMAS, July 31 — Sgt. Frank Oke, whose wife lives at 28 Miller street, was wounded on July 25 in Normandy, according to word received here. A former instructor at Camp Borden, Sgt. Oke was a member of the First Elgins and was attached to the First Hussars. He had served for some time overseas prior to his service as an instructor.

Corporal Oke was originally on the nominal roll of St. Thomas' Elgin Regiment, noted here as the First Elgins. They ultimately became the 25th Canadian Tank Delivery Regiment (Elgin R) C.A.C. In 1943, one squadron was delegated to land in Sicily with the opening of the Italian campaign; it's not likely Oke was part of this force. At some point he was transferred to the Hussars which is why he is listed as a casualty with the First Hussars. In some cases Hussars were transferred out to other units (See above: Trooper W. J. Smith, KIA, 6 June 1944).

Corporal PEARSON, John E.,

B 19586,

WIA, 8 July 1944 and WIA, 5 March 1945


BEAUTIFUL BLONDE SHAVES TANK GUNNER IN HOSPITAL

This article is rare in its authenticity. John describes his July encounter with the deadly 88mm and lives to tell the tale. Despite his injuries and trauma, we are treated to some soldier humour when his mind spins to the happiest, craziest moment. Bar stories rejoice on these times. Then, forever the serious soldier, he doesn't forget his mate.

Men Thought Officer Dead, Turns Up Later in Paris

LIEUT. WILLIAM RAWSON IS MISSING IN ACTION

Lieutenant RAWSON, William,

WIA, 24 July 1944.

Verrieres ridge.

A typical wartime service man's saga:

First, soldier is missing; then found wounded - both bad news items. Then goes out word he is a prisoner in a German hospital - notice received reluctantly as some good news – at least he is alive!

William Rawson returned to London to his father William and his wife Muriel, perhaps seeing his little girl for the first time. He secured employment at Labatt's eventually retiring as foreman.

HUNS LEAVING PARIS LEFT PRISONERS BEHIND

Lieutenant (Captain) STONER, Oliver Gerald MiD, WIA, 11 June 1944.

Commemorated yearly as the "Black Day" for the regiment. "B" Squadron ambush.

Captain Stoner had quite a war. The *Gallant Hussars* recounts many encounters this Londoner survived against a determined enemy. Post war, he remained in touch with members of the regiment he had known since 1941. On page 234, he is pictured on Juno Beach in 1971 as the long submerged "Bold" is hauled from the Channel to become the regiment's WWII memorial in France. (See Chapter 5 for his personal account on 11 June 1944.)

Sergeant WALTERS, Edwin R., A 17087,

WIA, 8 August 1944.

Operation "TOTALIZE" - breaking through German lines leading to the Falaise gap closing.


HUSSARS SERGEANT REPORTED WOUNDED

Sgt. Walters

Troops returning from overseas duties were frequently welcomed back to former employment; such was the case for Edwin Walters. He returned to Northern Life Assurance Co. of Canada. This company was located in a regal building at 291 Dundas Street, near our Armouries. Ed became the company's Secretary, retiring by 1976. The other notable accomplishment was his marriage to Marion.

Trooper WILKES, Ernest Leslie, A 4227,

WIA, June 6 1944.

D-Day invasion of continental Europe.

With the war over and his wound healed, Ernest Wilkes returned to London and secured employment at the # 25 Central Ordinance Depot on Highbury Avenue. Along the way by 1949, he was married to Norma residing on London's East Street. When the C.O.D. closed, he afterwards worked in some capacity for the Department of National Defence.

TPR. ERNEST WILKES IS WOUNDED OVERSEAS

Tpr. Ernest Leslie Wilkes 22, of 785 Central avenue, Canadian Armored Corps, has been wounded in action overseas, according to a cable received by his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Wilkes, today. He had been overseas about four years. Tpr. Wilkes, a native of London, was educated at Lorne Avenue Public School and London Technical School. He is a member of St. Matthew's Anglican Church. He enlisted about four years ago and went overseas after training at Camp Borden. A daughter, Sgt. W. Wentford, of the Canadian Dental Corps, is also overseas.

Tpr. Wilkes

The Ugliest Side of War – Murder:

After landing on D-Day, when the First Hussars got its first blooding, not many days passed before the regiment began to get wary of the enemy's murderous intensions beyond normal battle tactics and resistance. Barring their way into Caen, SS Panzer Divisions confronted them near the village, Le Mesnil-Patry, a name never to be forgotten in regimental history. On June 11, "B" Squadron was practically annihilated as it attacked around the village. In the aftermath, dead tankers were found with all the tell-tale fatal wounds of execution; the Germans had murdered some of the wounded and prisoners taken.

The accompanying article printed after the war in the Toronto Star, memorialises some of the victims, all Canadian soldiers, two from the First Hussars. They are:

Captain SMUCK, Harry Lee, KIA , 11 June 1944. Buried Ryes, France.

B 61599, Trooper PEDLAR, Kenneth Oscar, KIA, 11 June 1944. Buried Beny-sur-Mer, France.[1]

[1] In post war 1945, a pathologist determined that Trooper Pedlar was probably not murdered. More likely, he died of combat wounds sustained in a tank.

TORONTO FAMILIES SHOCKED BY NEWS KIN MURDERED

Note the comments made by the families as to the hoped for future prospects awaiting Major General Kurt Meyer. In the words of Mrs. V. Forbes: "Kurt Meyer wouldn't understand a trial. He should get the same treatment he gave them."

The evidence to determine if a soldier was murdered or died of combat wounds is a daunting task. The case sited above for Trooper Pedlar illustrates how initial assessment for cause of death could be wrong. In a few incidents there was an eye-witness to verify that the soldier was shot, but in many cases this evidence is missing. Despite the difficulty of making a definite determination as to cause of death, Canada's Department of Veteran's Affairs states that "up to 156 Canadian soldiers were illegally murdered in scattered groups, in various pockets of the Normandy countryside."

The known list of First Hussars who were probably murdered[i] is:

A 609, Trooper BOWES, Arnold David, KIA, 11 June 1944, Buried Beny-sur-Mer, France

A 57462, Trooper CHARRON, Albert Alexander, KIA, 11 June 1944, Buried Ryes, France

B 135342, Trooper HANCOCK, Arthur Richard Hugh, KIA, 11 June 1944, Buried Ryes, France

D 131465, Trooper LeCLAIRE, Joseph Marcel Andre, KIA, 11 June 1944, Buried Ryes, France

B 49476, Trooper PERRY, Clayton George, KIA, 17 June 1944, Buried Beny-sur-Mer, France

B 61456, Trooper PRESTON, Lee Irwin, KIA, 11 June 1944, Buried Beny-sur-Mer, France

L 154029, Trooper SCRIVEN, Gilbert Harold, KIA, 11 June 1944, Buried Beny-sur-Mer, France

Captain SMUCK, Harry Lee, KIA, 11 June 1944, Buried Ryes, France

Lest We Forget

HODIE NON CRAS

[1] Despite the probability that they were murdered, they are nevertheless, recorded as Killed in Action, KIA.