

# SOMM TIMES

TO PRESERVE, HONOUR, PERPETUATE AND EDUCATE

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO SERVED

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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**IT IS OFFICIAL ..... 2015 DATE HAS BEEN SET!**



Torstar News Service

**FOR ALL THOSE WHO PRESERVE THESE VINTAGE MILITARY VEHICLES, THIS IS THE ULTIMATE HONOUR.**

*above: Larry Goucher sits in the 1944 gun tractor that towed the casket of Cpl. Nathan Cirillo. The Chevrolet was built in Oshawa.*

*below: There is a long tradition of using gun tractors in military funerals. Traditionally, a fallen soldier is placed on the cart built to carry guns as sign of respect and honour. The gun tractor that carried Nathan Cirillo's casket was built in March 1944 in Oshawa.*



Cathie Coward, The Hamilton Spectator



# REMEMBRANCE DAY 2014



**WE WILL REMEMBER THEM**

**WOODSLEE - NOVEMBER 8TH**  
GEOFF BOTTOMS AND LINDA ILER WITH LARRY COSTELLO



**WINDSOR CENOTAPH - NOVEMBER 9TH**  
SILVER CROSS MOTHER - THERESA CHARBONNEAU



**LASALLE - NOVEMBER 11TH**





# REMEMBERING A LOCAL VETERAN OF THE GREAT WAR

## PTE JOSEPH ELMER BOUFFORD



Thank you to SOMM Director at Large, Michael Appel, for sharing his grandfather's story. Michael is our resident historian and a familiar face to many - he is a man of many costumes. Michael designs the layout of the World War I trench and conducts tours for the public at the Muster.

It is a lonely job in the trench and we strongly encourage anyone who is interested in World War I history to volunteer their time and learn from him.



*Michael Appel - Wings and Wheels , CH2A - May 3, 2014*

**Grandfather**

**1045034 Private Joseph Elmer Boufford**

**241st BN CEF Canadian Scottish Borderers**



*Above: Grandfather and unidentified soldier at assembly area in Windsor before getting on train to go overseas in 1917*

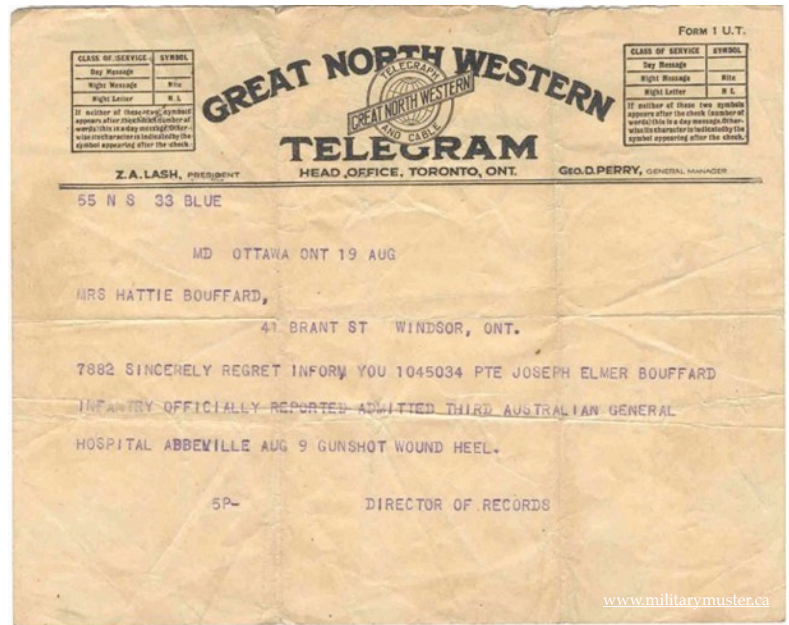


*Above: West Sandling camp, England, summer 1917*



[www.militarymuster.ca](http://www.militarymuster.ca)

**21st Essex Fusiliers, Windsor**



[www.militarymuster.ca](http://www.militarymuster.ca)

**Telegram to his mother**

Grandfather was born in Malden Township in 1896. Moved to Chatham in 1914 and joined the 24th Kent. Back to Windsor in 1915 and transferred to the 21st Essex Fusiliers where he was part of the Special Guard Company to guard Armouries. In July 1916 he transferred to the 241st Battalion CEF but the Battalion did not go overseas (UK) until May 1917. Since there was no need for new units, the 241st was broken up for reinforcements. He was sent to the 15th Battalion CEF (48th Highlanders, Toronto).

His greatest regret was not being able to return with the 15th and the victory parade.

After the war he was employed by the City of Windsor in the Assessment Department. He married his sweetheart, my grandmother, Eva Beaune, in 1920.

He was a founding member of the Windsor Chapter of the Great War Veterans Association and faithfully attended 241st reunions until just before his death in January 1970.



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**Above: Grandfather sitting in hospital. Gun shot wound to right heel August 8, 1918.**

**His cousin, Leo Joseph Boufford (standing) was awarded Military Medal for bravery in the field.**

He arrived at Passchendaele in August 1917 fortunately after the worst of the fighting was over. It was not until 8 August 1918 that he was wounded at Amiens, France on the first day of the big push known as "Hundred Days". His wound never healed properly so he was still in hospital when Armistice was signed. He was returned home in February 1919 without going back to the front.

**Michael Appel**

**Right: Grandfather was Deputy Assessment Commissioner for the City of Windsor when he retired in 1965(?)**

**1950s picture - he is wearing his "Service at the Front" pin**



[www.militarymuster.ca](http://www.militarymuster.ca)



**LOOKING BACK ..... MOVING FORWARD**

I must apologize for the delay in getting this issue out as it always seems that the show takes a lot out of the Executive members. Barely time to catch our breath, the autumn kept us busy with events leading up to Remembrance Day.

This year, the events in Ottawa and Quebec changed priorities. The images, Bruce McDonnell's cartoon, the outpouring of love, respect and pride and the profound sadness of loss touched Canadians.

The 2014 Military Muster was a great show that many missed. It was a shame that vacations, other events, delivery delays and threatening weather kept the crowds away. The photos tell the story.

The Veterans were there and many new friendships were made. Thank you to the Afghan Veterans who attended, to Michael Bauman for donating the walking sticks and to Theresa Charbonneau for making the opening ceremonies memorable.

Many new exhibits were displayed in the arena which will be shared in the upcoming newsletters. Yes, I am still looking for George T. Lee but in the meantime we have discovered many new stories and treasures from World War I and II.

Going forward, it was decided during the show that the date had to be changed as August had too many conflicting dates.

*The 2015 event will be Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14.*

At the start of the festival season, we hope that more people will be able to attend. On Friday, June 12, we plan to have a few local school groups attend for a preview of the show, to see the vehicles up close, tour the World War I trench and meet a few of the re-enactors.

Many new ideas for 2015 and not much time to implement them. The theme of the show will be the 70th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe) and our opening ceremonies will honour our surviving World War II Veterans. More details will be shared in the coming weeks. If you have an idea or suggestion, please share with us.

We are asking those who support us to help us out in any way you can. Materials and donations are greatly appreciated.

SOMM Newsletter Editor - Gunilla

**UPDATES**

\* The SOMM has a new Facebook page. We have a new member who is dedicated to maintaining and updating the page. Lots of new stuff to come, so check out our page, like it and share with your friends. Thank you for your support.

\* The SOMM's Book of Remembrance project is ambitious as it seeks to gather the Veteran names, photos and biographies of ALL those who served and returned to Essex County. It will recognize all conflicts and all branches of the military. The Veterans Gallery on the website is currently being revised to accommodate the vast scope of the project. Selected Veteran biographies and photos will also be featured in future editions of the newsletter.

\* Selected photos and stories from the scrapbooks will be shared in the newsletters and on Facebook. A weekly scrapbook feature is in the works as there is a wealth of material to choose from. A special thank you to Nick Boisvert at CBC News for meeting with us and running the story on George T. Lee's scrapbook just before the 2014 Military Muster. It is hoped that by bringing more of the photos to light that we may find someone who knew him.

\* Do you know about the Canadian Virtual War Memorial? Go to <http://www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca/>. In conjunction with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Veterans Affairs has compiled a database of the War Dead. If you have a relative, you can search their name, find more information on where they served and where they are buried and honoured. Families are encouraged to upload photos to put faces to these names. The Commonwealth Graves Commission cemeteries would also like photos to display at the grave site. An Honour Roll is listed for each day and a link to the Book of Remembrance on Parliament Hill is also available. In the next issue, we will introduce you to Lieutenant Walter F. Cole, 18th Battalion, Canadian Infantry who was killed on August 28, 1918. The original photo provided by his grandson will be added to the virtual memorial. We will remember them.

\* The Essex Memorial Spitfire Committee and the Essex Memorial Spitfire Project are no longer associated with the Southern Ontario Military Muster. The Committee will complete the memorial phase of the project as they had originally planned with the assistance of the Town of Essex. We wish them the best.



# 2014 MILITARY MUSTER



www.militarymuster.ca



www.militarymuster.ca



photo courtesy of Ron Bauman

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photo courtesy of Ron Bauman

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# SOUTHERN ONTARIO MILITARY MUSTER - AUGUST 16, 2014



## Above - Opening Ceremonies - Honouring Afghan Veteran Soldiers

Left to Right: WO Wayne Taggart, retired Bruce Moncour, retired Mike Akpata, Cpl. Steve Cunningham, Sgt. Maj. Cyril Cheng, Michael Bauman (donor of Walking Sticks), Cpl. Joe McLeod



much more to share .... SOMM TIMES, ISSUE NO. 8

CHRISTMAS 2014 edition

will be released the week of December 21st.