

SOMM TIMES

TO PRESERVE, HONOUR, PERPETUATE AND EDUCATE
IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO SERVED

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Issue No. 9 - January/February 2015

Remembering a Local Soldier of the Great War - Lt. W. F. Cole
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Pages 4-6

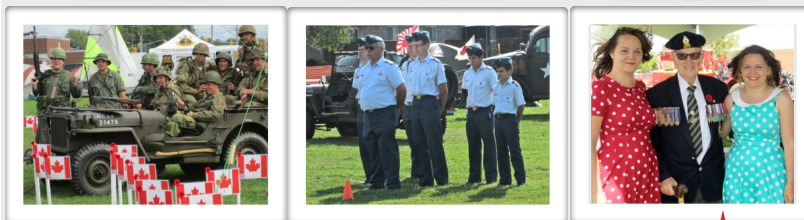
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS - NEW DATE, SAME LOCATION

2015 SOUTHERN ONTARIO MILITARY MUSTER

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF
V-E DAY



ESSEX SPORTS COMPLEX ARENA AND GROUNDS - ESSEX, ONTARIO

JUNE 13 AND JUNE 14

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT WWW.MILITARYMUSTER.CA



**THIS YEAR'S
THEME**

**CELEBRATING
THE
ANNIVERSARY
OF V-E DAY
and
HONOURING
ALL OUR
VETERANS**

**LOOKING FOR
PHOTOGRAPHS
FROM THE 1945
CELEBRATIONS
IN ESSEX
COUNTY.**

**DID YOU KNOW
THAT MANY
COMMUNITIES
CALLED IT A
THANKSGIVING
SERVICE.**



REMEMBERING A LOCAL SOLDIER OF THE GREAT WAR

LT. WALTER FRANK COLE



Form R231
1922 39/18 D414.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH OR MISSING REPORT

REGT. NO. _____ RANK Lieutenant

NAME COLE, Walter Frank UNIT 18th Cdn. Bn.

CASUALTY Killed in action 28-8-18.

CIRCUMSTANCES DEC 27 1918

During the Military operations in front of VIS-EN-ARTOIS on August 28th 1918, Lieutenant Cole was killed by enemy shell fire.

www.militarymuster.ca

In the last issue we introduced you to Lt. Walter F. Cole from Walkerville, Ontario.

This time we take a look at the correspondence regarding his death and the family left behind.

Thank you to Major Gerry S. Pheby (retired) for giving us permission to share these photos and documents.



Lieutenant Walter Frank Cole
**18th Battalion
Canadian Expeditionary Forces (CEF) - Western Ontario Regiment**

OVERSEAS MILITARY FORCES OF CANADA

BURIAL REPORT.

MILITARY OFFENCE
APR 22 1919
H.Q. CANADA

Unit 18th Cdn. Battalion Regimental No. _____

Rank Lieutenant Name COLE, W.F.

Date and nature of Casualty 28-8-18. KILLED IN ACTION

Where Buried Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, 8 miles South East of Arras, France.

Number of Grave Plot 2, Row A. Grave 24.

Marking of Grave Temporary wooden memorial erected with all particulars of the deceased inscribed thereon.

Reference R.L.9-C-597.RIC(2)/MH.

N.B. All communications regarding this report should quote the above number.

Extracted from Burial Records, Canadian Record Office, London.

4th April, 1919.

N.B. This Burial Report contains all information at present available, but is subject to revision by this office.

J. Brown
Captain _____
Lieut. _____
for Lt.-Colonel i/c Records,
O.M.F. of C.

R.173.
5M-2-1-19. www.militarymuster.ca



Walter Cole's five children

Hattie Victoria Cole (Hudson)



www.militarymuster.ca

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
OTTAWA.

16th September, 1918.

Dear Madam,

As you are reported by the Militia Department to be the next of kin of the late Lieutenant Walter Frank Cole, - although the relationship is not stated - I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to say with what deep regret both he and Her Excellency the Duchess of Devonshire have heard of the loss you and the Dominion have sustained by the death of Lieutenant Cole in the service of his Country. Their Excellencies deeply sympathise with you in your sorrow.

I am,

Yours very truly,

Private Secretary.

Mrs. Hattie V. Cole,
66 Kildare St.,
Walkerville, Ont.

www.militarymuster.ca

Government House,
Ottawa
16th September, 1918.

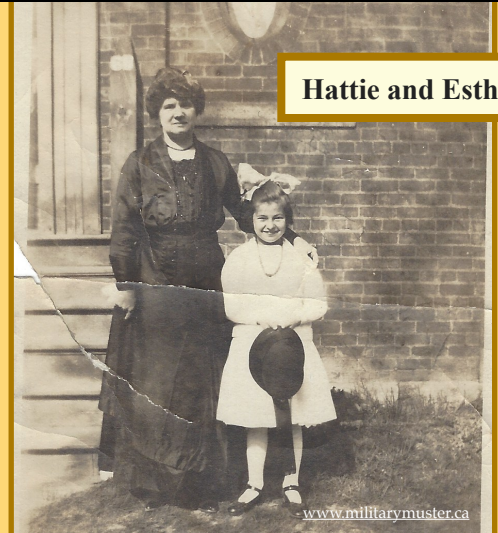
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I am,
Yours very truly,

Private Secretary,

Hattie and Esther



www.militarymuster.ca

One can only wonder what Mrs. Cole must have thought while reading the Government House letter - widowed eleven days after their 14th wedding anniversary.

A similar oversight in the records occurs on the burial documentation. Next time, we will look into the mystery regarding his gravesite.

September 6, 1918 - Letter from Lt. Col. Lewis Elgin Jones, CMG, DSO

*Mrs. V. Cole
26 Kildare St.
Walkerville*

Sept 6th

Dear Madam

It is with much regret that I write you of the death in action of your husband Lieut. Cole of this unit. He was killed by machine gun bullet in an attack on Aug. 28th last. Both during the time he was with us as a Non Commissioned Officer and as an Officer in 1915-16 and during the present summer he had always been a faithful and trustworthy Officer. We have a particular affection for the original members of the Battalion and the loss of any of them is of considerable grief to us. Your loss is great likewise is ours for we have lost one of those whom by long service and companionship we had come to regard as a trustworthy and true friend. All ranks unite with me in the deepest sympathy for you in your bereavement. I remain

*Yours very sincerely
L. E. Jones
Comd'g 18th Cdn Bn*

www.militarymuster.ca

Sept 6th

Mrs. H.V Cole
26 Kildare St.
Walkerville

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It is with much regret that I write you of the death in action of your husband Lieut. Cole of this unit. He was killed by machine gun bullet in an attack on Aug. 28th last. Both during the time he was with us as a Non Commissioned officer and as an officer in 1915 & 16 and during the present summer he had always been a faithful and trustworthy officer. We have a particular affection for the original members of the Battalion and the loss of any of them is of considerable grief to us. Your loss is great likewise is ours for we have lost one of those whom by long service and companionship we had come to regard as a trustworthy and true friend. All ranks unite with me in the deepest sympathy for you in your bereavement. I remain

Yours very sincerely
L.E. Jones, Lt. Col.
Comd'g 18th Cdn Bn

FROM THE SCRAP BOOK OF GEORGE THOMAS LEE - ESSEX SCOTTISH



- GIBBS
- MARSHALL
- MUIR
- LEE
- GARRAWAY
- STURROCK
- JACK
- HAMBLETT
- FORBES
- McDONALD
- BAILEY
- CAMPBELL
- SINCLAIR
- GREEN
- VALLANCE
- McKAY
- PEACOCK
- CASSIDY
- McLAUGHLIN
- FISHER
- GORDAN

The only postcard in the collection that lists names on the back. No particular order.
Is that George in the center in the second row?



FROM THE SCRAP BOOK OF GEORGE THOMAS LEE - ESSEX SCOTTISH



GEORGE LEE
403- PITT-ST- "W"
WINDSOR, ONT.
CANADA.

George T. Lee

Clyde Dan Willis, Tec. Sgt. 14071397 - Radio Gunner 322nd in B-26 - #117862 (Too Much of Texas Crew) shot down on 2nd mission - May 17, 1943. Hometown- Columbia, Mississippi

[http:// clydedwillis.tripod.com/ stalag9c.html](http://clydedwillis.tripod.com/stalag9c.html)

If you go on the site you will notice four arrows on his picture, no names but George has an arrow below him. Also note what looks like a string from George's boot going up his pant leg. Can also be seen on man next to him. Read Willis' account of their one day walk to the Monastery.

Willis arrived at the Stalag on June 24, 1943. We know that George Lee was a bed patient for 14 months (machine gun fire in both legs left him with nerve paralysis), he was not able to walk on crutches until October 1943. Lee's own account states that he left camp about October 10, 1943 after being certified for repatriation. Willis states that they spent two nights at the monastery and then the Americans were bussed to Stalag VII-A.

In our collection of photos, we have another group photo taken at the Monastery. This photo may be of those that were repatriated in the prisoner of war exchange announced on November 8, 1943.

While searching for pictures of Stalag IX-C - Reserve Lazaret, Obermassfeld Hospital, a copy of our scrap book photo above was found on Clyde D. Willis' site. In his memoirs, Willis states that these 21 men were marched from Stalag IX-C to the Monastery. The next morning they were lined up and this group picture was taken by the German guards.

To MY DARLING WIFE BETTY XXX
GEORGE
UNDA
Geprot 7
Oflag IX A



FROM THE SCRAP BOOK OF GEORGE THOMAS LEE - ESSEX SCOTTISH



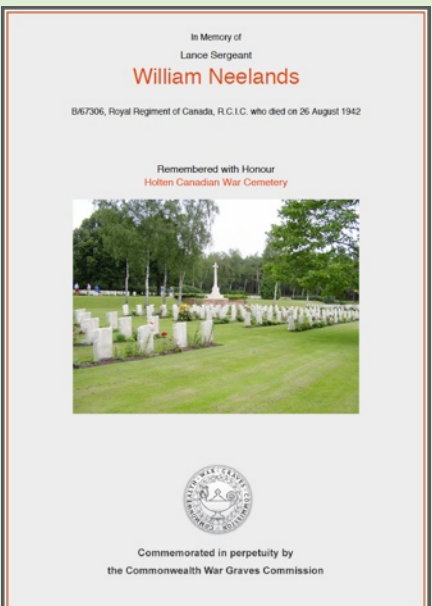
This postcard depicting a burial service at Stalag IXA was found in the Lee scrapbook. Nothing is written on the back to identify those involved. These postcards, although not rare, are not seen very often. While researching this photo, I came across an article by Kirk W. Goodlet which contains photos of a German POW funeral in Canada in 1942. I urge you to read what was happening here in Canada when this picture was taken. <http://www.canadianmilitaryhistory.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/2-Goodlet-German-POWs-in-Canada-REV.pdf>

The cross seen on the far right in the picture when enlarged shows that it is the burial site of a Canadian, Sgt. W. Neelands, who died on August 26, 1942, a week after Dieppe.

In the December issue of the SOMM Times, we brought your attention to the Canadian Virtual War Memorial website - <http://www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca>. Using the name search, we found Lance Sergeant William Frederick Neelands of the Royal Regiment of Canada, R.C.I.C. The serial number on the marker, B67306 helped to confirm this. On the website we found pictures of his grave at the Holten Canadian War Cemetery. After the war, the graves at the stalag were moved to the Netherlands.

His name is commemorated on Page 102 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance. The photo of William Neelands was found. Following the link to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site, his memorial record, casualty record and grave site information are found.

Unfortunately, his birth date and home town are not listed on the documents.



A LOCAL WAR BRIDE'S STORY - JOYCE HODGSON - IN HER OWN WORDS



Training school - Hounslow Heath - the 4 girls in the electrician class.

Joyce
Hodgson

Scotty

Joan

Bessie
James

www.militarymuster.ca



Joyce & David Hodgson, Joyce's sister Beryl

I was 18 years old when the second world war began. I was living with my family in Twickenham, Middlesex England, a village 11 miles from the city of London.

I was employed at MacFarland & Langs Biscuit Factory. Inside the factory on the wall, there were 3 lights, amber, red and green - like traffic lights. When it was peaceful the lights stayed green. When the German bombers crossed the Channel, the light turned amber. When the fighters were overhead the light turned red. When this happened, we had to run across a field and over the railway tracks to the shelter, with the plane fighting overhead. Some of the girls would scream and refuse to go. We had to stay at the shelter until the all-clear was issued.

In November 1940, the Germans dropped incendiary bombs on Pouparts Jam Factory and blew up the sugar. The Germans had mistaken it for an ammunition dump. Living only a few blocks away, we had bombs drop on our house. The Air Raid Precaution (ARP) man was killed in our attic trying to put out the bombs. We were evacuated for 3 days. We had a small bomb shelter in our back garden. Six months later during a raid we were in there and the ARP man came to tell us to get to the main shelter, as there were delayed time bombs, and were evacuated again. When my parents were out at night, they would walk on opposite sides of the street, so they both wouldn't get killed in the event of a bombing.

I was conscripted on Aug. 19, 1941. I was sent to a training school in November to Hounslow Heath, now known as Heathrow Airport. The school was made of temporary buildings. Many others were there, as well as sailors. I was training to be an electrician. The class consisted of 4 girls and 16 men. The men were mostly wounded men from Dunkirk. On March 25, 1942, one other girl and myself were posted to the Clifton York Fighter Squadron. We went to Paddington Railway Station and took the Flying Scotsman to York. It was a big adventure for me and my friend Bet, neither one of us had ever been away from home. When we arrived in York it was a lovely sunny day, and all the daffodils were in bloom.

We were to stay with the local vicar and his family. However his children came down with the chickenpox. So we spent our first night away from home in the Guard house. Needless to say we were nervous.

The next day the boss, told us about a lady who would take us in on a trial basis as she only took in men. So Bet and I went to see her. She ran a tight ship, but it soon became my second home. We stayed with her until we were posted to Leeming. Before I emigrated to Canada with my husband, I took him to meet her. That was the last time I was to see her, but we did write until she died.

The first day on the job, we were sent out to the runways to repair the lights. They were red, green and white. We did not know there was a special way to install the lights. That night an Australian Fighter Squadron landed and they wondered what was going on when they came in to land, as the lights shone in all directions. Of course the next day we were up on the carpet, but nobody knew whether to laugh or be angry.

We stayed at the Fighter Squadron for one year. On April 4, 1944, we were posted to the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Bomber Squadron at Leeming, Yorkshire. We were billeted with the Land Army girls and one ENSA girl on the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) site.

One day a week we worked at the Friarage Military Hospital, in Northallerton in North Yorkshire. The rooms were big and all the beds were in rows. The men were mostly burn patients, having their faces all bandaged up. They all were treated to a bottle of beer every day. We were there to change light bulbs, fix plugs and wiring. Sometimes the men would whistle as we walked by.

I met my husband, David, at Leeming. He was an air gunner in the #429 Squadron. We were married April 14, 1945.

I arrived in Canada on May 21, 1946 on the HMS Aquitania. We docked at Pier 21 Halifax, Nova Scotia. We moved to Windsor, and in 1950 we built a house in the Oliver Farms Veterans project and lived there for 60 years.*

Thank you to Joyce for sharing her story and photos with the SOMM.

**Oliver Farms Subdivision was created in 1948 under the Veterans Land Act. The area it covered was Montgomery, Talbot Road, Howard and Concession Road 6. For more information go to <http://www.internationalmetropolis.com/2011/01/26/oliver-farm-subdivision/>*

UPCOMING EVENTS

364 

LANCASTER SQUADRON

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS

TO LEARN - TO SERVE - TO ADVANCE

FAMILY DAY BANQUET FUNDRAISER

WHEN
Monday, February 16th

DOORS open 6:30 DINNER 7:00

WHERE
Legion Branch 143 (Former Air Force Club)
1570 Marentette Avenue
Windsor, Ontario N8K 4E5

DONATIONS NEEDED

DOOR PRIZES, SILENT AUCTION PRIZES & BAKE GOODS



PRIZES
Door Prizes
Silent Auction
50/50
And many more

\$20 PER TICKET

MENU
Chicken
Potatoes,
Sides,
Penne
Various Desserts

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
364 Lancaster Squadron
Royal Canadian Air Cadets

TICKETS/DONATIONS CONTACT
Cherie Beneteau
Banquet Committee Chair
519-796-0938
parents_of_364@hotmail.com

SUPPORT THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF DUTCH LIBERATION

FUNDRAISER

FOR SUNPARLOR PIPES & DRUMS

RAISING FUNDS FOR A TRIP TO HOLLAND TO MARK THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS.

ESSEX LEGION BRANCH 201
103 TALBOT STREET NORTH, ESSEX
SATURDAY FEB 28TH, 2015
COCKTAILS AT 5:00 PM
DINNER AT 6:00 PM
COST \$15.00 PER PERSON FOR DINNER

Selling tickets (\$20.00) for a chance for 2 people to accompany the band to Holland (flight, accomodations, meals (some limitations apply)(or take \$6,000.00 cash) April 29th - May 8, 2015 (drawn the evening of Feb. 28)

There will also be a 50/50 draw and door prizes and music.

Tell your friends and join us for an awesome evening.

Note: Date changed to March 28th !!!



DELTA COMPANY

M.A.S.H. BASH #2

@ MAJOR F.A. TILSTON VC ARMOURY * 4007 SANDWICH ST

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH, 2015 19h00 (7:00 PM)

DRESS - "MILITARY THEME" - BE CREATIVE

TAKE PART IN THE "KLING-OFF" KLINGER LOOK-A-LIKE CONTEST

BANDS: MURPHY'S BOYS & E & K SCOT PIPES & DRUMS

\$25 each (includes military style dinner) CASH BAR

PROCEEDS TO CANADIAN MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES

TICKETS: CALL CY @ 519-566-3145 or MARY @ 519-890-9606

Email - cy.mcgrath@gmail.com or murph1965@gmail.com





CONGRATULATIONS TO RALPH MAYVILLE

<http://blogs.windsorstar.com/news/windsor-vet-ralph-mayville-part-of-devils-brigade-honoured-in-u-s>

Photo - Dax Melmer/The Windsor Star

Muster Update ... just confirmed

Veterans Military Anniversary Parade

on June 13 at 9:15 am from Essex RCL Br. 201 to the Essex Sports Complex Arena Grounds.