

# SOMM 'TIMES

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

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Issue No. 8 - Christmas 2014

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

The Scrapbook of  
George Thomas Lee

Happy Holidays and  
Thank You

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A photo from last year - just in case you forgot what it was like.

**We would like to wish everyone a peaceful and safe holiday season.**

Each year goes by faster and faster and before you know it will be time for the Military Muster 2015. Hope to see you there.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this Christmas edition and we look forward to bringing you much more in the coming year.

from the SOMM Executive - Geoff, Linda, Michael, Gunilla and Jason.



# REMEMBERING A LOCAL SOLDIER OF THE GREAT WAR

## LT. WALTER FRANK COLE

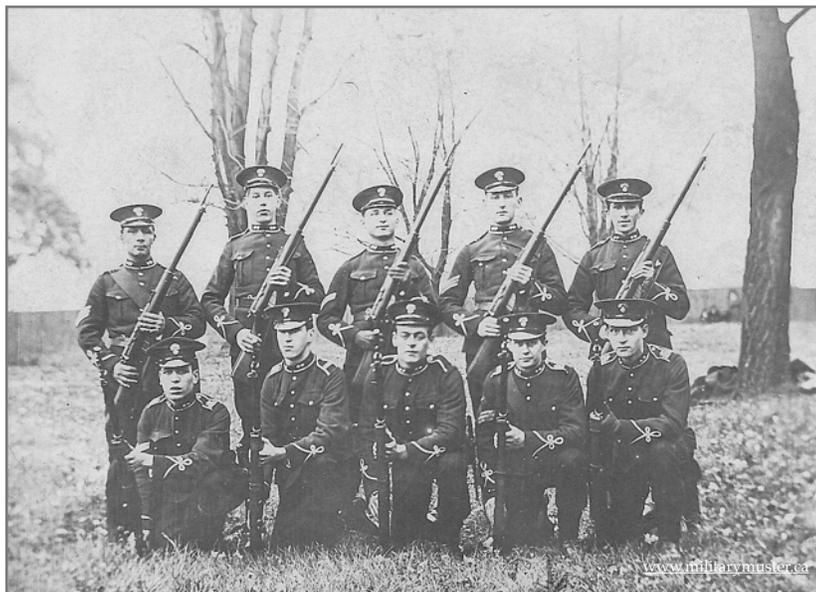


Thank you to Major Gerry S. Pheby (retired) for giving us permission to share the photos and documents of his maternal grandfather, Lt. Walter F. Cole.

In the coming months, we will publish more but for now we will give a brief biography and leave with a Christmas message from Lt. Cole to his little girl.



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



4th man in bottom row (arrow in picture points to W. F. Cole)

Essex Fusiliers Militia Regiment - Pre World War I postcards



Born on July 12, 1879 in Guilford, Surrey, England.

Embarked for France on September 15, 1915.

Lived in Walkerville, Ontario and worked as a steelworker.

Earned his Lieutenancy on the battlefield in 1916.

Married with 5 children.

August 1917, injured at Boulogne, sent back to England.

Sergeant in the old 21st Battalion, being connected to them for 15 years as Second Lieutenant No. 4 Company.

Returned to France June 4, 1918 to Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp.

Enlisted as a private on November 3, 1914, Windsor, Ontario at the age of 35.

Despatched to 18th Cdn. BN and joined them in the field on August 17, 1918.

Unit: 18th Battalion - Western Ontario Regiment.

Listed as wounded and missing on August 28, 1918 at the Battle of Arras. On that bloody day, the 18th Battalion lost 34 soldiers.

Left Halifax on April 18, 1915 aboard the S.S. Grampian, arrived in England on April 29, 1915.

Confirmed killed in action in the field on September 7, 1918, telegram sent.

Promoted to Sergeant, July 1, 1915.

Buried in the British Cemetery at Visen Artois, France.



**Walter Frank Cole  
Service No. 53184**



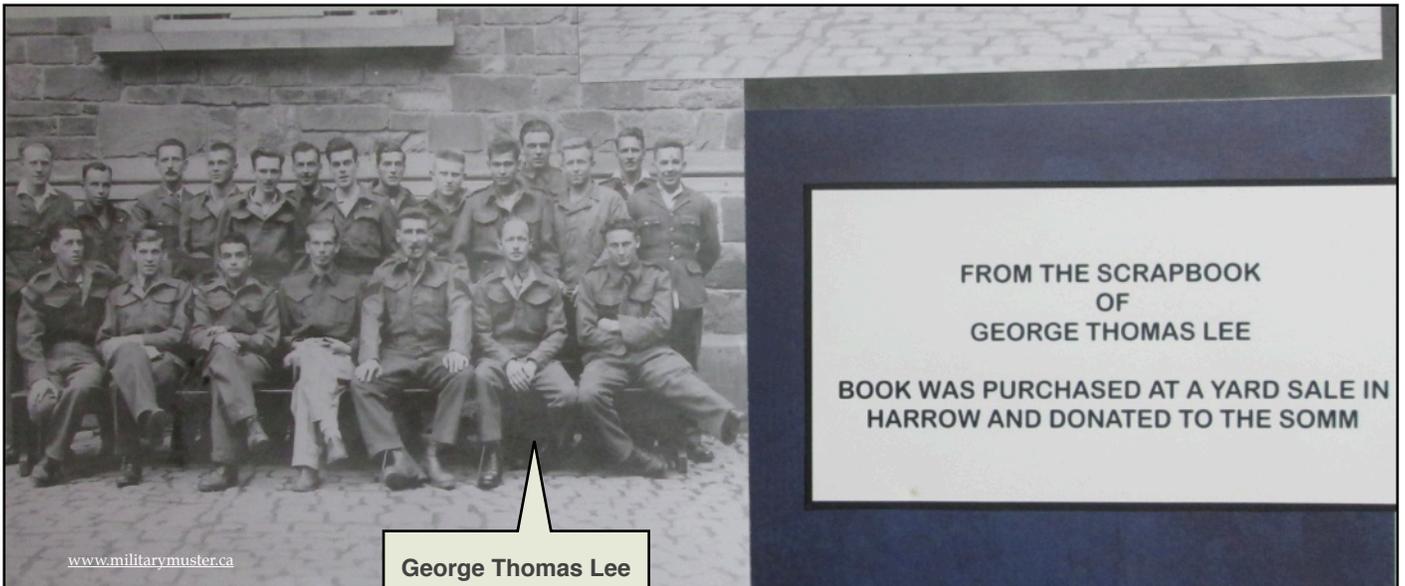
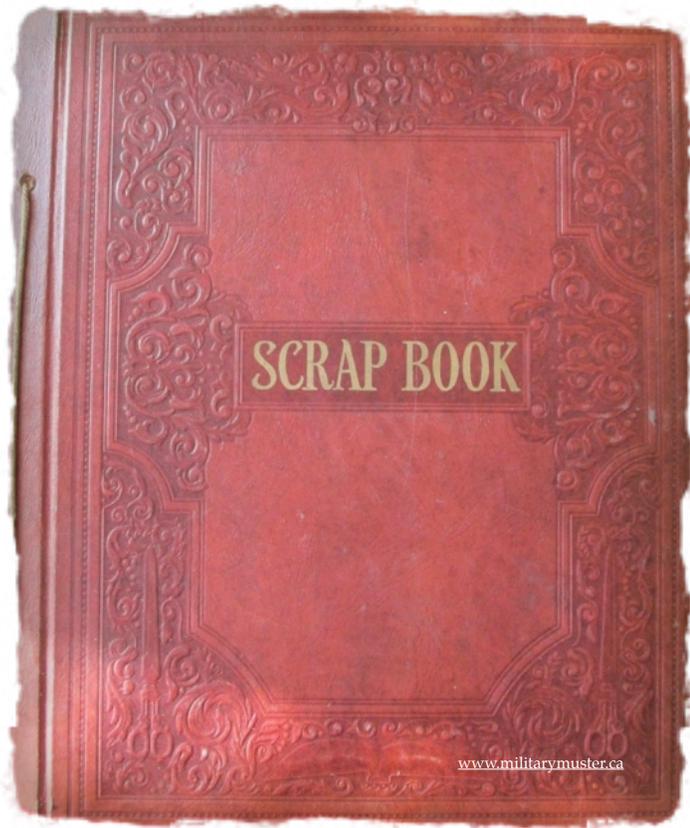
**Christmas postcard sent from Lt. Cole to his daughter, Esther.**

Carefully tucked in with the family photos, this beautiful embroidered postcard is in exceptional condition. One of the only remembrances that she had left of her father, Esther, who was born in 1912, kept this in a safe place all her life.

No date on the card but it would have been 1915, 1916 or 1917.



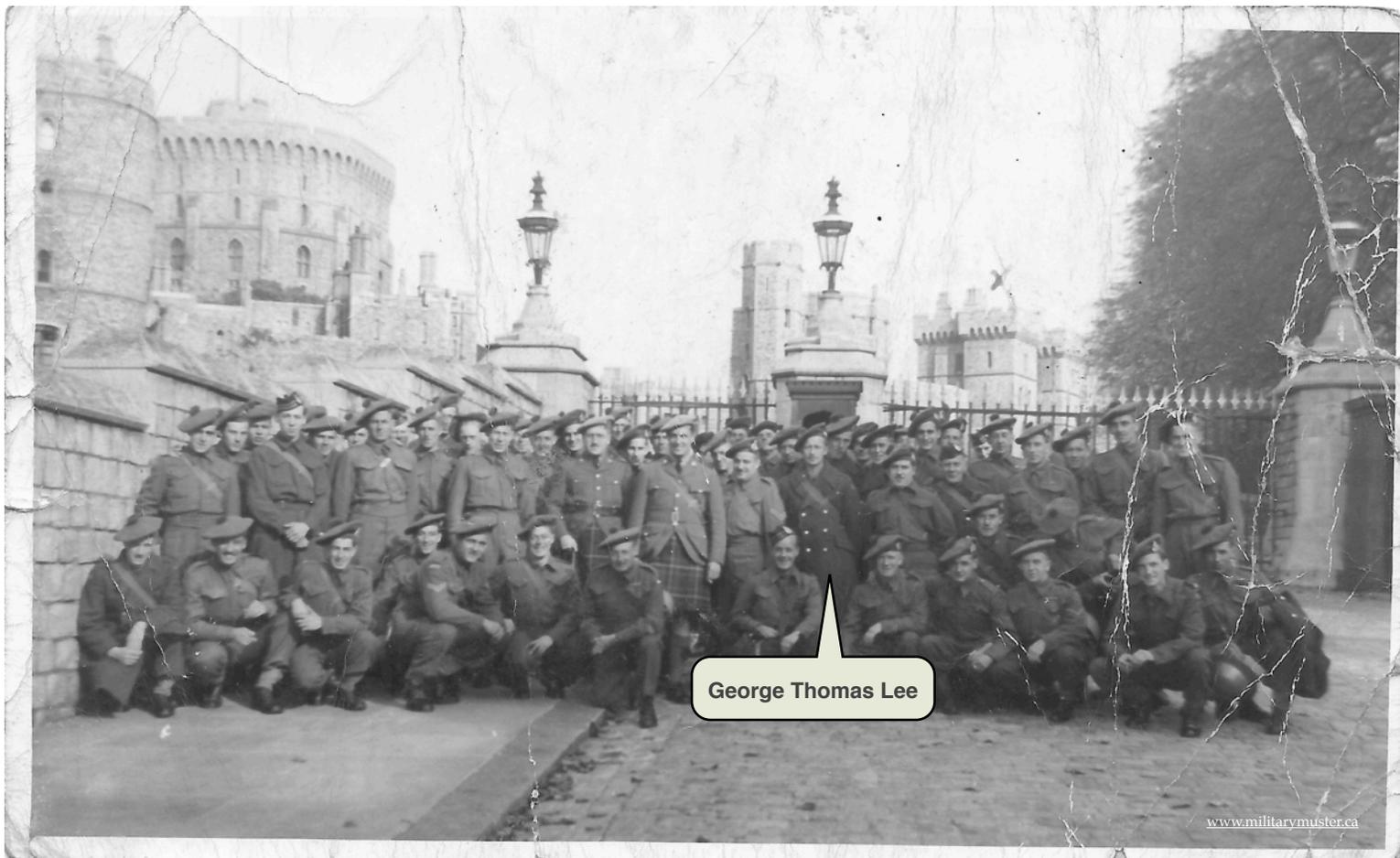
# THE SCRAPBOOK OF GEORGE T. LEE - ESSEX SCOTTISH



Two exhibits were created and displayed at the 2014 Military Muster from this scrapbook - one featured the Essex Scottish from 1939 to 1944 and the other was a collection of photos from various prisoner-of-war camps.

The photo above is from Stalag IX where George was a prisoner of war. Captured at Dieppe in 1942, he was repatriated in a prisoner-of-war exchange and returned to Canada in early 1944.

In the new year, we will spend more time sharing his story in the hope of finding out more about him.



George Thomas Lee

www.militarymuster.ca

Postcard of the Essex Scottish in London, England, 1941-1942.  
How many others can you identify? Let us know.



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Page One of the George Lee Scrapbook

# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

In closing, we would like to thank the following for their continued support throughout the year. North Wall Riders Association, Windsor Veterans Memorial Services Committee and .....



The Town of Essex for the use of the Old Memorial Arena which allowed vehicles and equipment to be transported and stored before and after the show.

To Chad at Moir-Ferris Machinery Movers Inc. for transporting two loads of private military vehicles to the arena.



To John, Mildred, Clifford and the rest of 45th Scout Group for volunteering their time, setting up the Mess Tent and feeding our hungry patrons.



To Jamie at Reg Clark Trucking and all the volunteers who prepared the installation of the World War I trench pictured before it was set in the ground.



We close with a 1944 Christmas dinner invitation from F/O Gordon Hobbs when he was stationed in England.



**SOMM  
 ANNUAL GENERAL  
 MEETING**

**JANUARY 26, 2015  
 AT 7PM**

**HOLY TRINITY PARISH HALL  
 2839 METCALFE, WINDSOR  
 PARKING AT GEOFF'S  
 AUTOMOTIVE**

**REMINDER**

**2015 MEMBERSHIP  
 RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE**