

# FINDING YOUR ONTARIO VETERAN!

RESEARCHER'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF VETERAN : \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Researcher:

For this research assignment you are going to choose a veteran of any war that Canada has been involved in and create a profile for the Ontario Veteran Community Archive. Your task is to find and research the life of a veteran who has some type of connection to the Province of Ontario; someone who lived in Ontario for all or some portion of their life, or someone who served here during the war etc. Once you have identified the veteran you will study, your job is to learn as much as possible about them so that you can better understand who they were and the sacrifice he or she made. The person you choose will have made the ultimate sacrifice and died during conflict.

The more information you can gather together, the more complete your profile will be; having this person's story told will mean a great deal to the veteran's family and will help preserve his or her memory for years to come.

You will conduct your research online using primary sources which are found on the internet and you will find information online beginning with the First World War to the present using the websites recommended in this package.

Read the provided research guide and answer the questions on the next few pages.

Good Luck!

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## Research Report

To begin your search, you must first have a name. Your best bet is to start by asking your family if there was a relative who served in the First or Second World War, Korean War etc. You can also research someone in your community using a local cenotaph, church record or contact the local Royal Canadian Legion. You may also research any person who gave their lives for Canada since the First World War using the database on the Veteran's affairs Canadian Virtual War memorial website. Follow the links and you will be amazed at what you can find out!

My Veteran's name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **CANADIAN VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL:**

<http://vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem>

**This site contains a registry of information about the graves and memorials of more than 116,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who served valiantly and gave their lives for their country.**

**To start your search of the Canadian registry, please enter the deceased's surname. You can narrow your search by including the deceased's given name or initial(s).**

**Take down all the information you find on the following pages.**

#### **Military Service**

**Service Number:**

**Age:**

**Force:**

**Unit:**

**Division:**

**Additional Information:**

**Date of Birth: (may or may not be available)**

Commemorated on Page \_\_\_\_\_ of the First World War Book of Remembrance.

Click for an image of this page and make a copy for your report.

Is there a digital photo collection relating to your soldier? \_\_\_\_\_

If so make a copy of the photo for your report and for your records.

For more information click on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission link on this page:

Collect the information from this website and record it below.

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission Website:**

[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

Click on search our records.

Enter the surname, initials, war, year of death, force and nationality of your veteran.

You will be directed to select the name of your veteran to see the records on file. Collect the information from this website and record it below. You may have already recorded some of the information above. Be patient and record what you find on this site.

**Name:**

**Initials:**

**Nationality:**

**Rank:**

**Regiment/Service:**

**Unit Text:**

**Age:**

**Date of Death:**

**Service No:**

**Awards:**

Additional information:

Casualty Type:

Grave/Memorial Reference:

Cemetery or memorial:

From the Cemetery or memorial information click on the red location site for more information:

Cemetery:

Country:

Locality:

Location Information:

Historical Information:

No. of Identified Casualties:

Go to cemetery photos and cemetery details and copy the page to add to your final report: find the location of your soldier and mark it with an X. (A memorial might not have this information available)

**ATTENTION: If you have chosen a soldier from the First World War please proceed with the next step of the research report. An attestation paper will give you some personal details about the person you are about to research.**

**Archives of Canada: Soldiers of the First World War**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/cef/001042-100.01-e.php>

Record the information you find on this website. To search the database, insert the surname, given names and regimental number.

Names:

Regimental number:

Reference:

Date of Birth

Record the information you see on the attestation paper. Begin with the front of form:

1. What is your surname?

1a. What are your Christian names?

1b. What is your present address?

2. In what Town, Township or Parish and in what Country were you born?

3. What is the name of your next-of- kin?
4. What is the address of your next of kin?
  - 4a. What is your relationship with your next of kin?
5. What is your date of birth?
6. What is your trade or calling?
7. Are you married?
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated or inoculated?
9. Do you now belong to an active militia?
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?
12. Are you willing to be attested and serve in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force?
13. What does a recruit declare to do and on what date? (Summarize this section to include only the important information)
14. What is the oath a recruit must make? (Summarize this section to include only the important information)

Record the following information from the BACK of Form. Go back to the previous page click on back.

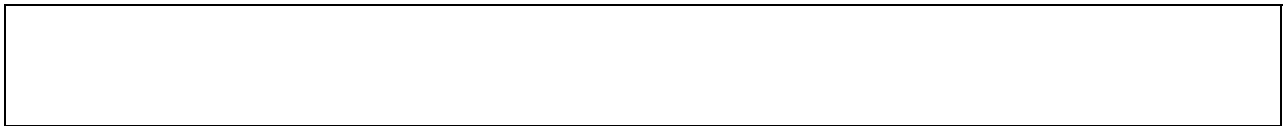
1. Apparent age:
2. Height:
3. Chest measurement:
4. Complexion:
- 5 Eyes:
6. Hair:
7. Religion:
8. Distinctive marks

**CONCLUSIONS:** What did you learn by doing this activity?

You are now ready for the next step! You will write an entry for the Ontario Veteran Community Archive. You will use the information you have gathered to pay homage to your adopted Ontario Veteran. You will use the pictures you have collected and write a report about your veteran. You can even make a video entry of what you have found! Be a part of the Ontario Veteran Community Archive! Do your bit to help preserve our history!

Write your report here

Name of Soldier:



Here are a few examples of what you can send in as an entry!

Sample Story:

Ralph Hay Emerson

Ralph Hay Emerson was a young man who served in World War Two. His life began on April 22, 1915. He grew up in the small town of Nestleton. Ralph was the son of loving parents Malcolm and Ethel Emerson. Also, he was the brother of Frank, Irene, and Gladys. As a teenager, Ralph was a student of Port Perry High School. Ralph was very young when he went to war; however before he left he met a woman named Eleanor Irene. They fell in love and got married.

During the war, Ralph was a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was a part of the 76 Squadron and he served as a Flying Officer Navigator. Ralph was one of the Canadians who flew a Halifax aircraft. The Halifax was a British front-line, four engine heavy bomber. Halifax's were only flown by The Royal Australian Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force, Royal New Zealand Air Force and Polish Air Force. Ralph flew Halifax III MZ740 MP 'R'.

Unfortunately, the life of Ralph Emerson was cut very short. He was killed in action on December 26, 1944. On that day, Ralph took off from Home-on-Spalding Moor. He was part of a daylight attack on enemy troop positions at St. Vith, Belgium. Sadly, during the attack, Emerson was hit by flak, which is a German gun used to shoot down aircraft. This completely shattered the nose section of his Halifax. Soon after this, Emerson crashed into the woods near Nassogne (Luxemburg). This attack was a special one because it was the first time since October that the weather had been good enough to attack using all the bomber groups. It was said that the attack was very concentrated and accurate. Two Halifax's were lost in this attack. Ralph's was one of them.

Ralph Hay Emerson was only a young man when he died . He served his country and will be remembered by family and friends. To visit Ralph, you can visit the Heverlee War Cemetery in Belgium. Ralph is also listed on page 300 of "The Book of Remembrance" in Ottawa.

#### Additional Information

Service Number: J/27577

Force: Air Force

Age: 29

Unit: Royal Canadian Air Force

Division: 76 (R.A.F.) Sqdn

Rank: Flying Officer (Navigator)

Grave Reference: 12. E. 9. Cemetery: Heverlee War Cemetery

Sample story:

#### **Thomas Meneely**

Lance Corporal Thomas Anderson Foley Meneely was born in 1923 to Robert and Mary Bisset Meneely of Blackwater, Ontario. Robert Meneely was a blacksmith from Northern Ireland, who was wounded in World War 1. Lance Corporal Meneely grew up playing hockey with his brother Billy (deceased) and sister Elizabeth (deceased). Lance Corporal Meneely was part of the Royal Canadian Regiment, and died on January 6, 1944, fighting at Moro River and Ortona, Italy. Lance Corporal Thomas Meneely is buried at the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery in Italy.

#### **From the Canadian Virtual War Memorial**

Military Service Number: B/133179

Force: Army

Rank: Lance Corporal

Unit: Royal Canadian Regiment

Nationality: Canadian

Date of Death: January 6, 1944

Date of Birth: 1923

Age: 21

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Death

Grave /Memorial Reference: X.D.8

Cemetery: Moro River Canadian War Cemetery

Country: Italy

Number of Casualties: 1,563

#### **Moro River Canadian War Cemetery**

**Location:** The Moro River Canadian War Cemetery lies in the locality of San Donato in the Commune of Ortona, Province of Chieti, and is situated on high ground near the sea just east of the main Adriatic coast road (SS16). The cemetery can be reached from Rome on the autostrada A25 (Rome-Pescara) by branching

on the autostrada A14 and leaving it at Ortona. The approach road to the cemetery from the main road passes under an arch forming part of the little church of San Donato. The cemetery is permanently open and may be visited anytime.

By the winter of 1943, the German armies in Italy were defending a line stretching from the Tyrrhenian Sea north of Naples, to the Adriatic Sea south of Ortona. The Allies prepared to break through this line to capture Rome. For its part, the 1st Canadian Infantry Division was to cross the Moro River and take Ortona. In January 1944 the Canadian Corps selected this site, intending that it would contain the graves of those who died during the Ortona battle and in the fighting in the weeks before and after it. Today, there are 1,615 graves in the cemetery; of which over 50 are unidentified and 1, 375 are Canadian at the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery