

# Faces to Names

Submitted by Abbey Doucette

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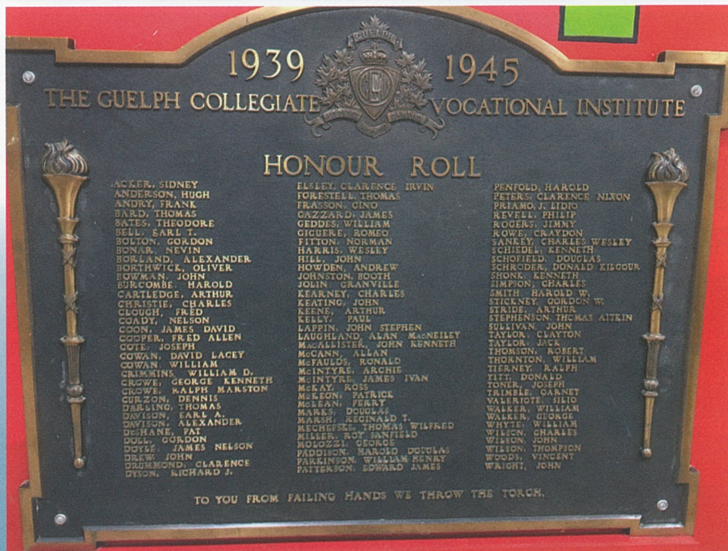


Photo Courtesy of Karen Hunter, The Canadian Remembrance Torch

## Private James Nevin Bonar

Nevin Bonar was born in 1915 to parents James and Rachel Bonar. He grew up in Guelph with his siblings: Beatrice, Helen, Kenneth, Colin, and Bruce. Nevin attended Tytler, then GCVI and was interested in carpentry, hunting, fishing, riding, and mechanics. He left school at sixteen to work at Guelph's Lancashire Felt Company, blocking hats. He later worked as a leather finisher/tanner in Kitchener. In 1936, he married his wife, Lillian, and they lived at 117 Waterloo Avenue. In 1941, when their son, Charles, was four, Nevin enlisted in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada. He served as a Driver Mechanic until his death on October 23, 1944 during the Battle of the Scheldt in the Netherlands. He was 29. More than 6,000 Canadians died in this battle to secure the shipping route to Antwerp so its port could be used to supply the Allies in north-west Europe.





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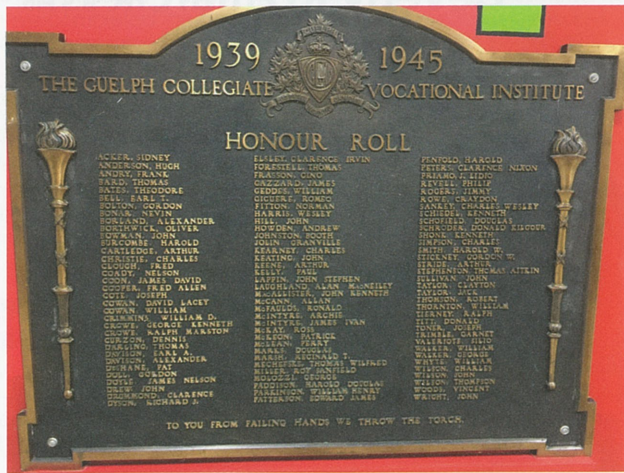
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^ Photo Courtesy of Karen Hunter, The Canadian Remembrance Torch

## Flying Officer Alexander George Borland

Alexander George ("Sandy") Borland was born in 1923 to parents John and Jessie Borland of Guelph. The family, including Sandy's sister Jean, lived in the Turnkey's/Governor's Residence (County Buildings) at 74 Woolwich Street because John worked at the nearby Guelph



Photos courtesy of The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Gaol (Jail). Sandy attended Central School, then GCVI and was interested in basketball, tennis and bowling. He planned to attend university to study medicine. After finishing high school, he enlisted in 1942 in the Royal Canadian Air Force, 416 Squadron when he was 18. He was on day patrol as a Flying Officer when his Spitfire was shot down over Belgium, apparently by an American plane. Initially listed as missing, Sandy was later presumed to have died on Christmas Day, 1944, age 21. A military inquiry into the event was inconclusive. He is commemorated at the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey, United Kingdom, a memorial for those with no known grave.



^ Photo Courtesy of Karen Hunter, The Canadian Remembrance Torch



^ The Governor's Residence, ca. 1987. Wellington County Museum and Archives, ph 30417a.



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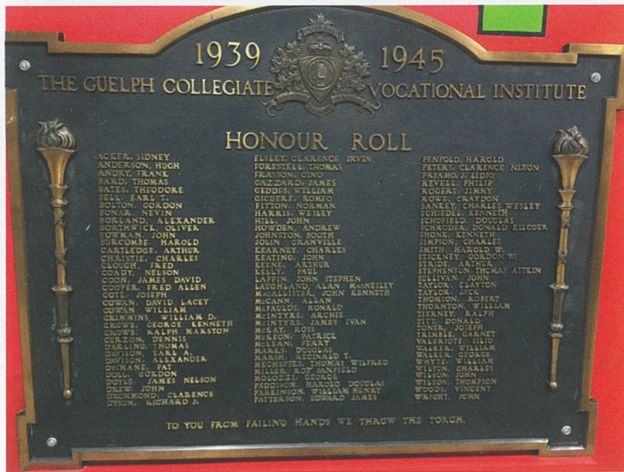
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√ 1978.93.2.1 - Northern Rubber Company Limited Picnic at Waterloo Park, 1934. Courtesy of Guelph Museums. Northern Rubber was located at the corner of Alice and Metcalfe St.



## Flight Sergeant Charles Wellington Christie

Born in 1917 to parents Herbert and Jane Christie, Charles was raised at 19 Powell St. E. along with siblings Oscar, Gordon, and Ross. He attended Central Public School, then GCVI where he played rugby and basketball. After high school, he worked in Guelph as a cutter at Northern Rubber and Tolton Trousers, then as a clerk at Leland Motors. In 1941, age 24, he married his wife, Helen, and they had a son, Darragh (his mother's maiden name).

In 1942, Charles enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force -15 Squadron and became a Flight Sergeant. During an air operation, his Lancaster bomber reportedly crashed into the sea though no wreckage was found. He was listed as missing,

but later presumed to have died on January 13, 1944, age 27. His name is listed on the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey, England which commemorates those with no known grave.



Photos courtesy of The Canadian Virtual War Memorial



^ 1991.28.3 - Ski Pants, Tolton Manufacturing Company Limited, Unknown date. Courtesy of Guelph Museums



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✓ Courtesy of Veteran Affairs Canada,  
Canadian Virtual War Memorial



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## Leading Aircraftman Sidney Acker

Born in 1919 to Samuel and Molly Acker, Sidney grew up in the family home at 113 Cambridge St. where he learned to speak Yiddish along with the values of Judaism. He had two brothers (Abraham and David) and a sister (Shirley). He was a top student at GCVI, excelling in chemistry and physics. His hobbies included tennis, golf and swimming. After graduating, he worked in the family's Guelph business, Acker's Furniture, as an Assistant Manager. In 1940, he joined the Perth Regiment, then enlisted with the Air Force in 1942. He died later that year while as a Student Navigator at an Air Observation School, as the result of a flying accident in Dorchester, ON. He was 23. Acker's Furniture, located at 42 Carden St., was in business in Guelph for about 80 years and was the oldest retailer in the downtown core when it closed.

Source: Library & Archives Canada



Carden St. circa 1935 Courtesy of  
Guelph Museums image ID 1977.33.11



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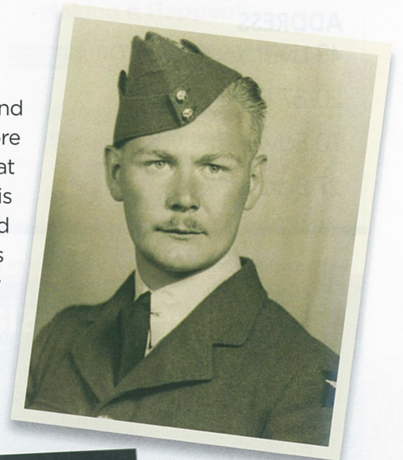
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## Leading Aircraftman Theodore Bates

Born in 1913, to Grace and Theodore Bates Sr., Theodore grew up in the family home at 2 Pipe Street along with his brother, Thomas. He attended GCVI from 1926 to 1929 and was a top athlete, the 1928 Field Day Intermediate Champion, and a member of the Bugle Band. His hobbies included skiing, swimming, photography, radio, and model aircraft. He worked as an Inspector for Guelph's Federal Wire & Cable, then as an Apprentice Printer at Guelph Mercury. In 1937, he enlisted in the Army then joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was a Leading Aircraftman until his death on December 13, 1940, age 27, in an air collision during a search and rescue mission. In 2013, more than 70 years later, his body was recovered from Lake Muskoka and he was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery with full military honours. Bates Road is named after him.

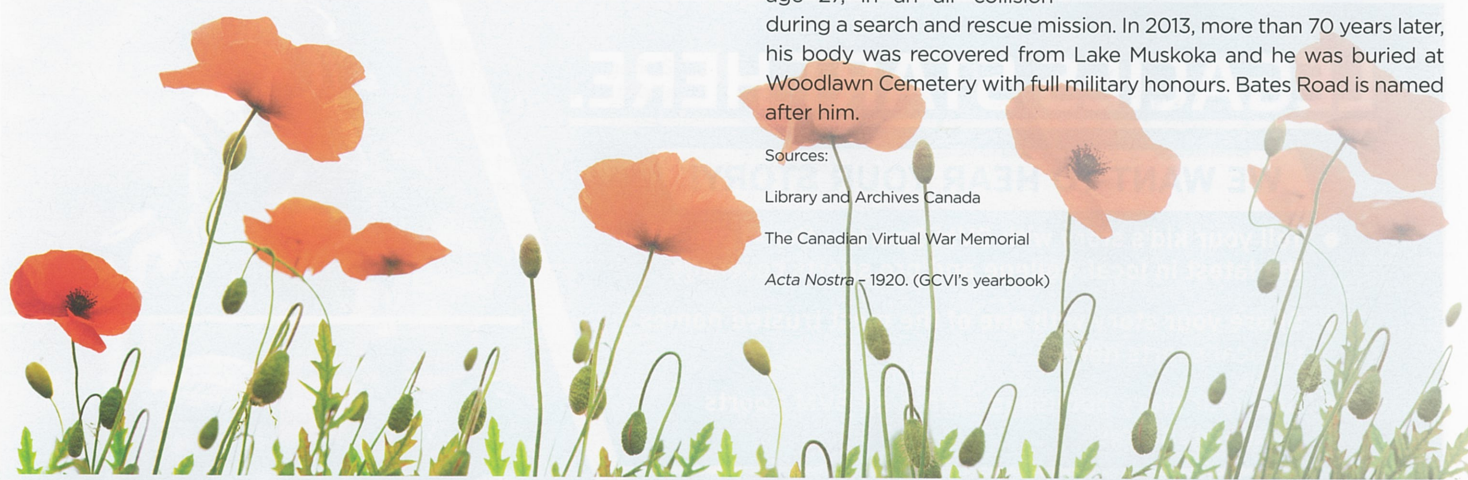


Sources:

Library and Archives Canada

The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Acta Nostra - 1920. (GCVI's yearbook)



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Photo of Federal Wire & Cable Company, circa 1940. Located on Suffolk St. on the former site of Crowe's Foundry and the present-day townhouse complex.

Photo courtesy of Guelph Museums photographic ID 2014.84.616.

## Sergeant Gordon William Bolton

Thomas and Ettie Bolton had eight sons and two daughters: Charles, Roy, Leslie, John, Joseph, Harry, Hughie, Gordon, Grace and Eva. Gordon, born in 1913, was the second youngest. Gordon attended GCVI from 1927 to 1928. At age 16, he left school to work as an enameller for Federal Wire and Cable Company—an important manufacturing employer in Guelph—applying layers of enamel to copper and aluminum wires to prevent short-circuiting. At 23, Gordon married Kathleen and they lived at 89 Kent St. Three years later, in September 1941, Gordon enlisted with the Royal Canadian Artillery's 6th Anti-tank Regiment. By then, they had a daughter, Joanne, and Kathleen was expecting their son, Gordon Jr. On August 8, 1944, Gordon died in France at the age of 31 during the battle of Normandy. Kathleen and the children moved to 26 Allan Ave. Gordon's brother, Hughie, who also enlisted, survived the war.



Photo courtesy of Guelph Public Library Guelph Mercury archive





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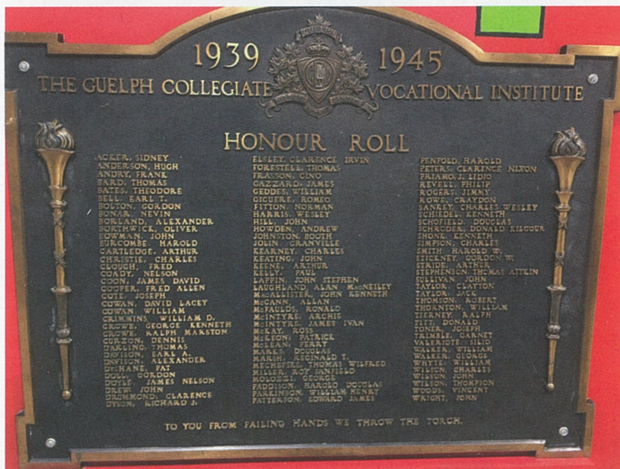
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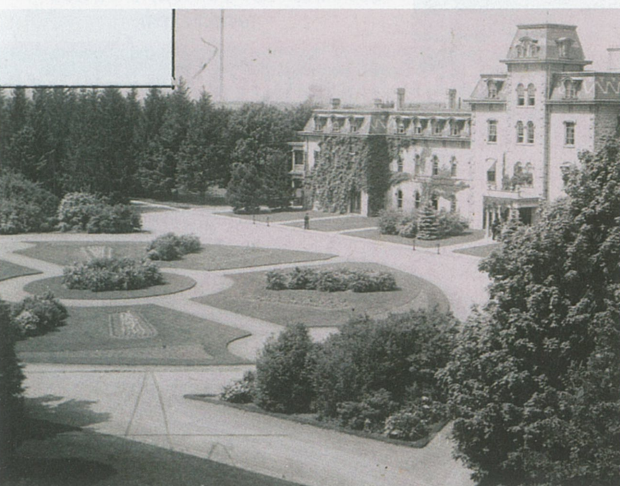
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^ Photo Courtesy of Karen Hunter, The Canadian Remembrance Torch



## Lieutenant Fred Allen Cooper

Born in 1918 to loving parents, Emma and Harry Cooper, Fred was raised at 47 Meadowview Avenue. He attended GCVI from 1932 to 1936 and was an Honours student. After graduating, Fred attended university at Guelph's Ontario Agricultural College. In 1942, while at university, Fred joined the Royal Canadian Artillery's 17th Field Regiment to aid with the war effort, intending to return to his studies when the war ended. Fred was serving in the UK when he met his wife, Rita, and they were married in February, 1944. They had been married only seven months when Rita was informed that Fred had been killed as the result of a vehicle accident in Italy. He was riding on the running board of a truck which left the road and rolled down an embankment. Fred died instantly. He was 26. Coopers Court is named in memory of Fred.



Courtesy Guelph Public Library, Guelph Mercury Archives



^ Gunners of the 17th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery (R.C.A.), firing a 25-pounder gun near Castel Frentano, Italy, February 10, 1944, Courtesy Library & Archives Canada

< The main building of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, March 20, 1925 Toronto Star Photograph Archive, Courtesy of Toronto Public Library