

# 1. The Story Of Three (Half/Step) Brothers - My Uncles



KIA Dieppe  
August 19, 1942  
Age 26



KIA France  
July 1944  
Age 22



KIA Germany  
March 8, 1945  
Age 19

## 2. The Story Of The Impact On Their Family In Wartime



Les Morris - RCAF BCATP

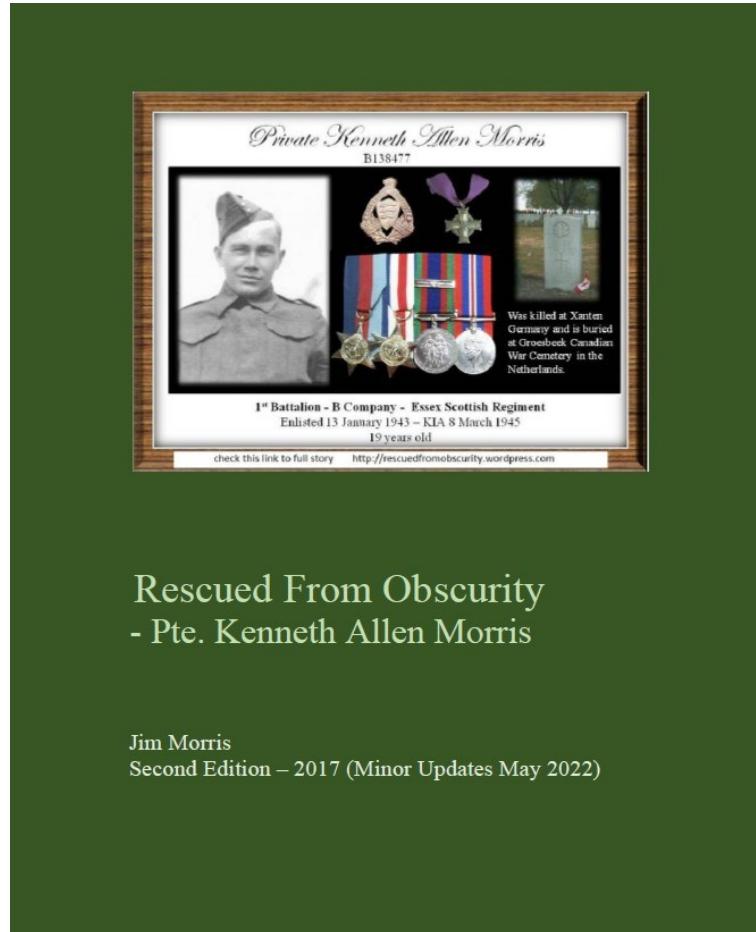


The Patton Parents - Hagersville, Ont.



### 3. The Story Of The Rescue - Discovering Their Stories

#### “Rescued From Obscurity”



# Motivation

- Share my family military story
  - For my family.
  - For others (including fellow Legion members).
- An example of how to research military stories.
- An example of the types of information you can get from research.
  - ⇒ Motivate others to do family military history.
- We owe them.
  - Tell their stories.



# Introduction

- Associate member of Legion Branch 314 since 2008.
- Joined with my Dad – Les Morris (Regular Member).
  
- I was involved with many military projects throughout my working career as a software engineering project manager.

## Army:

**NATO cold weather  
small arms testing in  
CFB Shilo Manitoba  
(1979 (February!))**



**Malaysia Army  
Tank Crew Trainer**



## Air:

### Boeing Vertol in Arnprior (early 1970's)

- Analyzing Chinook helicopter flight test data.
- Automated flight trials related to Vietnam war.



### EH101 New Shipborne Helicopter Project Definition (intended Sea King replacement)

- cancelled by Chretien



### Training Systems:

- Aurora Rear Crew Trainer
- B1 Bomber Cockpit Procedures Trainer



# Navy:

## Next Generation Naval Electronic Warfare (EW) ESM (Defence Research Ottawa (DREO))

- Research -> Prototype.
- Sea Trial of the Prototype on the HMCS Ville de Quebec, out of Halifax (1997 (February!))



# A Few Relevant “Extracurricular” Experiences

Skydiving:

- Over 1000 freefalls.
- Senior Instructor – trained many hundreds of students in first jump courses.



# A Few Relevant “Extracurricular” Experiences

## Flying:

- 36 active years, 1300 accident-free hours.
- Owner of Cessna 172 C-GGYZ.
- Jump pilot (Ottawa demonstration jumps, formation flights).



# A Few Relevant “Extracurricular” Experiences

Flying, with military context (and aerobatics):

- Harvard
- L29 Delfin (Czechoslovakia “Cold War” Fighter Jet Trainer) – “5 G Club”



Skydives out of WW2 Vintage Aircraft – DC3, Beech 18, Lockheed Lodestar



# A Few Relevant “Extracurricular” Experiences

## Lancaster - Canadian Warplane Heritage (Hamilton)

- Retirement present to myself.





# A Few Words About My Dad – Les Morris

- Regular Member of Manotick Legion



- Lived at Hyfield in Manotick (“The Sheriff”)



- Belonged to “MUGS” (Manotick Ugly and Grumpy Seniors).
  - “But we’re not grumpy!”
- Drove for ROSSS.

# A Few Words About My Dad – Les Morris

- Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre – after stroke.



- Same Perley unit as Jack Dods, Audrey and Lawrence Renton



- Dad passed away Feb 2020, at 97 – a few weeks before Covid.



# Now, Back To The Family – WW2 Perspective

## Hagersville, Ontario

“Grampa Patton”



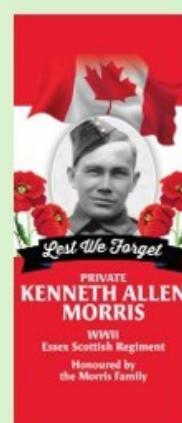
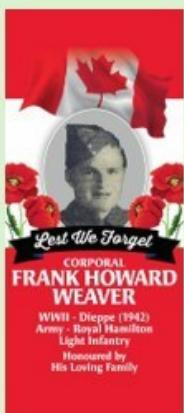
Private Danie Patton  
Son of Mr and Mrs Dan Patton  
Cape Breton. Belonged to Bruce Foot  
Wounded August 1944

“Gramma Patton”

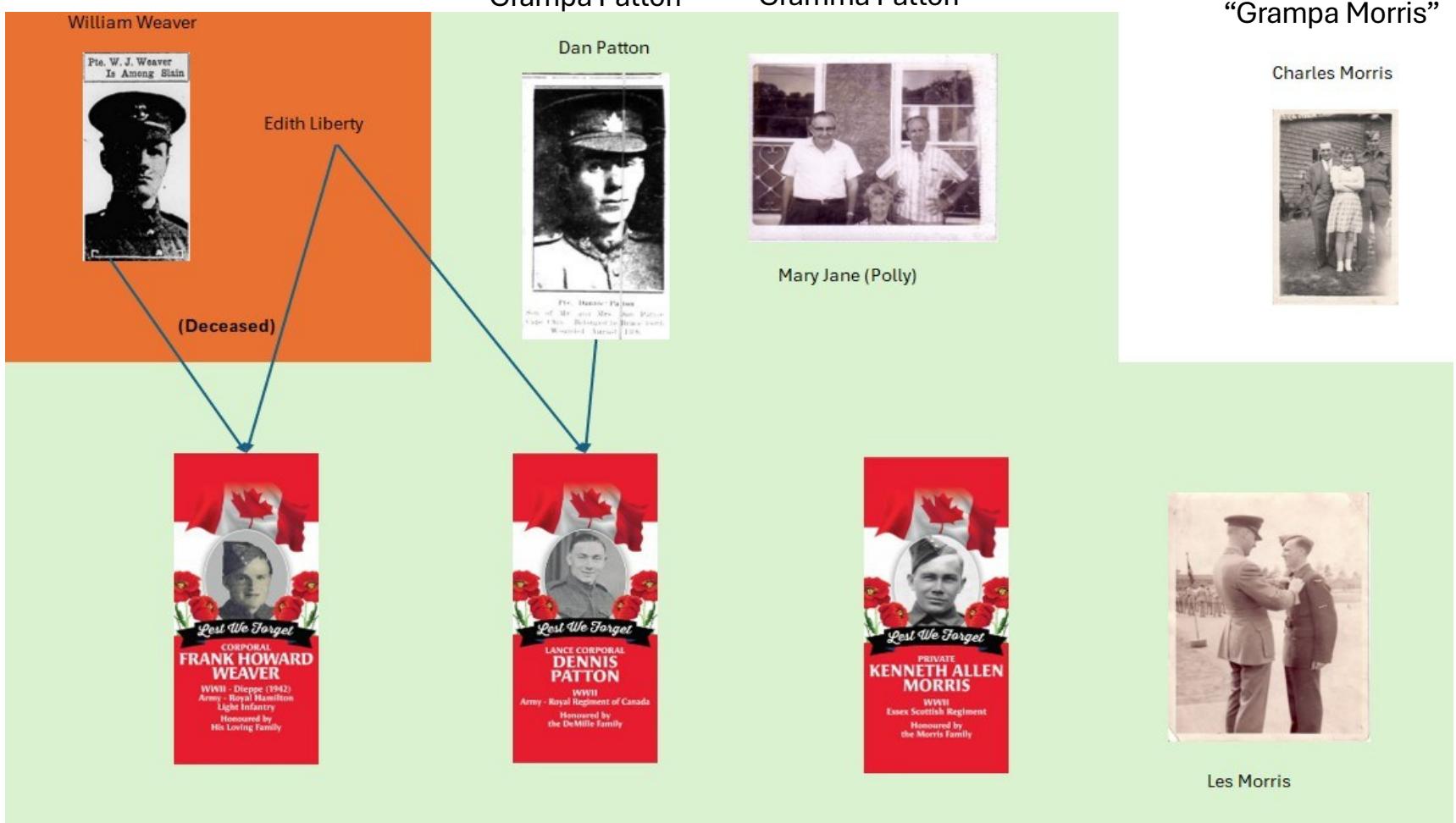


Mary Jane (Polly)

Dan Patton



# The Family



Family also included other siblings:

- One Weaver, Two Patton (mother Edith), Two Patton (mother Polly), Two Morris.



# William Weaver



- Lived in Winnipeg Manitoba. Born in England (1886).
- Married to Edith Emily Liberty (1910).
- Two sons, William (1911), and *Frank* (1915)
- Enlisted Canadian Army 78<sup>th</sup> Battalion (March 1916).
- Arrived in England (May 1916).
- Arrived in France (August 1916)



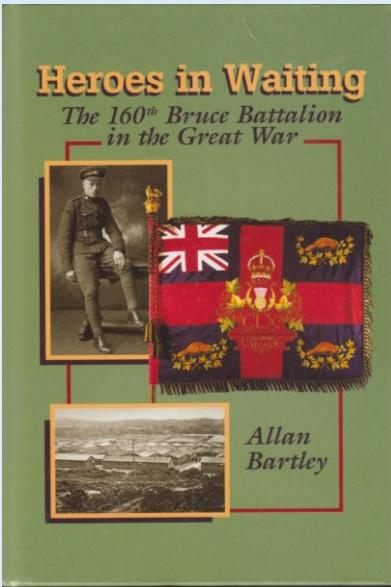
- KIA December 30, 1916.
  - Villers Au Bois, 10 km from Vimy. A few months before Vimy.
- Buried at Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France
  - Side note – May 2000, remains of an unknown Canadian soldier were taken from Cabaret-Rouge, and laid to rest in the tomb of the unknown soldier, at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.
- His sons were 5, and 1, years old.

# Dan Patton – WW1

- Born in Cape Chin (Bruce Peninsula), Ontario (1891).
- Enlisted Canadian Army 160<sup>th</sup> Battalion (January 1916).
- Arrived in England (October 1916).
- Wounded in action (gunshot wound to arm) in Amiens, France (13 August 1918).
- Also experienced a gas attack, which affected his breathing for the rest of his days.
- Arrived back in Canada January 1919.

- From “Heroes in Waiting”:
- Dan was on the 20 member Wiring Team, “a source of continuing pride to the Battalion.” All the members of the Wiring Team were handpicked by their CO, “Paddy” Pettigrew, to whom they were devoted. Pettigrew was a personal friend to everyone on the team, as they all knew each other at home before the war. All the members worked on farms on the Bruce Peninsula, and were all familiar with stringing barbed wire.



## Dan Patton - ... WW2

- Shortly after returning to Canada after the war, Dan married Edith Weaver (July 1919), in Winnipeg. In addition to Edith's two sons from William (William and Frank), they had 3 more children of their own, including Dennis Patton.
- Edith died of cancer in 1934.



- Dan remarried (date unknown), to Mary Jane (aka Polly), my Grandmother (my Dad's mother). She was divorced from my Grandfather, Charles Morris.
- In addition to Dan's 5 kids, Polly brought 4 kids, including my Dad and my Uncle Ken.
- Dan and "Gramma Patton" had 2 of their own kids.
- Dan passed away in 1985, at the age of 94.

- **What was it like, for Dan, who experienced the horrors of war first hand in WW1, to watch as 3 sons went overseas in WW2, and one by one, they were KIA? How do you process that?**

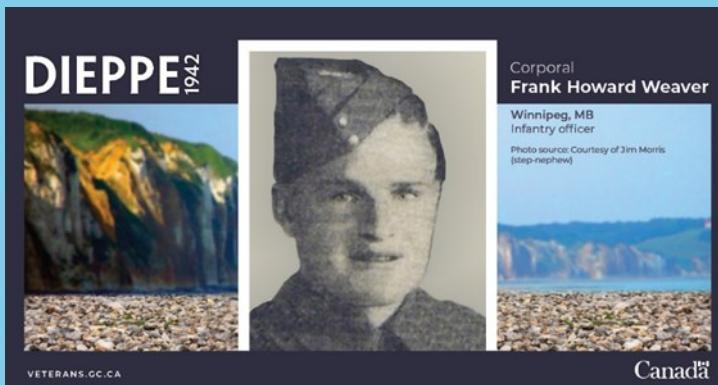
# Frank Weaver



- Born in Winnipeg Manitoba, December 1915.
- Second son of William and Edith Weaver.
- His father, William, was KIA in WW1 (December 1916). Frank was only one year old.
- His mother, Edith, re-married, to Dan Patton. This led to 2 half-sisters and one half-brother for Frank.
- Edith passed away from cancer in 1935.
- Dan remarried, leading to additional step-siblings.
- Complicated? But Frank seemed to be successful, in school and work.

# Frank Weaver

- Enlisted Royal Hamilton Light Infantry (Sept 1939 age 23).
- Arrived in Scotland (July 1940), training for 2 years.
- Promoted to L/Cpl in Nov 1940.
- August 18, 1942 – embarked to France for Operation Jubilee (the Dieppe Raid).
- August 19, 1942 – reported missing in action.
- Shortly after – reported KIA (26 years old).
- Buried in Des Vertus Cemetery, Hautot-Sur-Mer, France.



# Dennis Patton



- Born in Winnipeg Manitoba, 1922.
- Second child of Dan and Edith Patton.
- Edith passed away from cancer in 1935.
- Dan remarried, leading to additional step-siblings.
- Family settled in Hagersville, where Dennis worked on a farm.

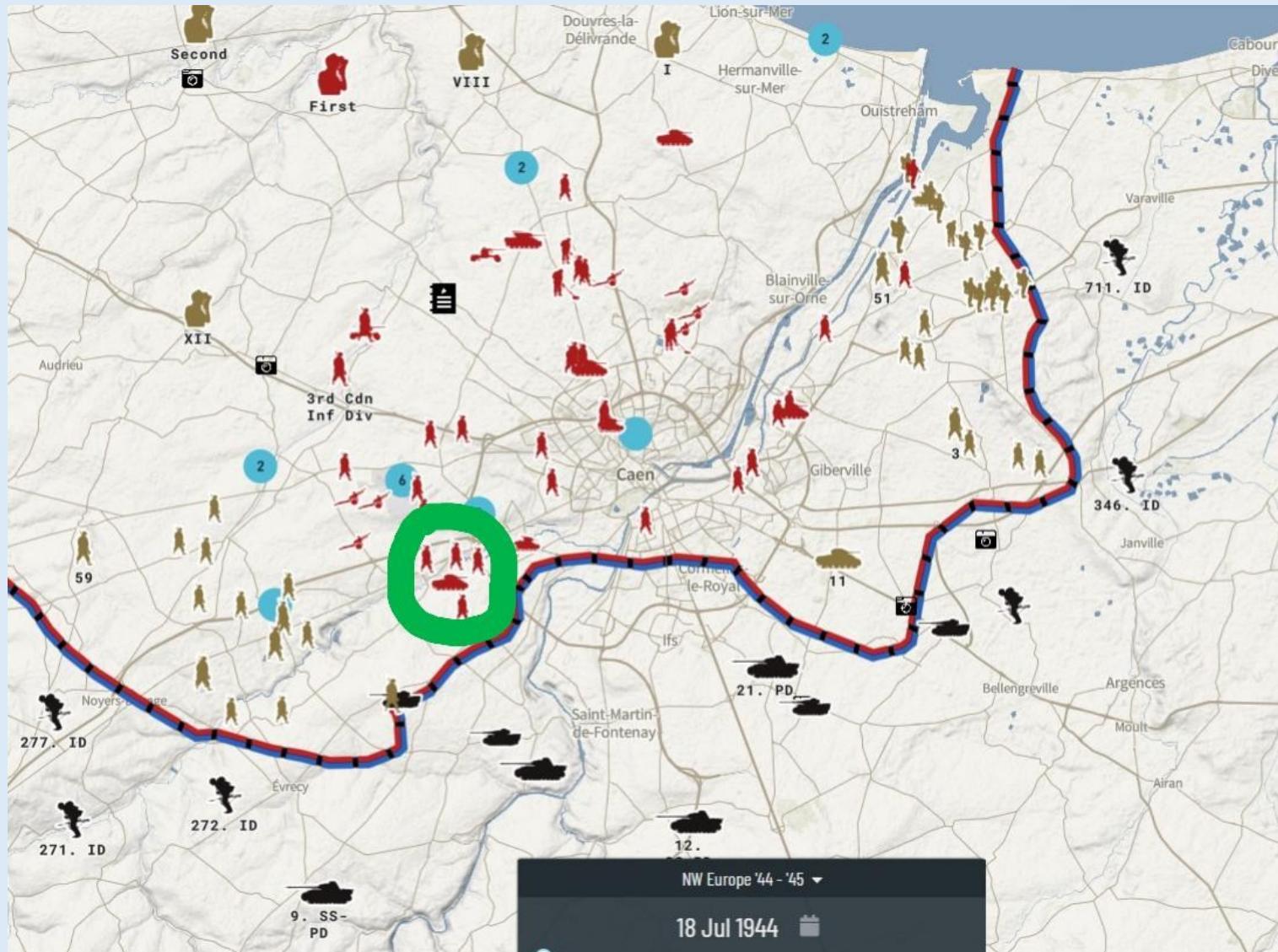
# Dennis Patton

- Dennis was very upset when his half-brother Frank Weaver was KIA at Dieppe.
- At age 20, Dennis enlisted, and did basic training in Ontario (Simcoe and Borden).
- June 1943 - embarked for U.K. Joined the Royal Regiment of Canada.
- Promoted to L/Cpl shortly after (age 22).
- July 6, 1944 – embarked to France.
- July 18, 1944 (12 days later) – KIA near Caen, France.
- Dennis was one of 37 in his regiment killed that day.
- Buried in Beny-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, France.

Plaque on wall in Church in Louvigny

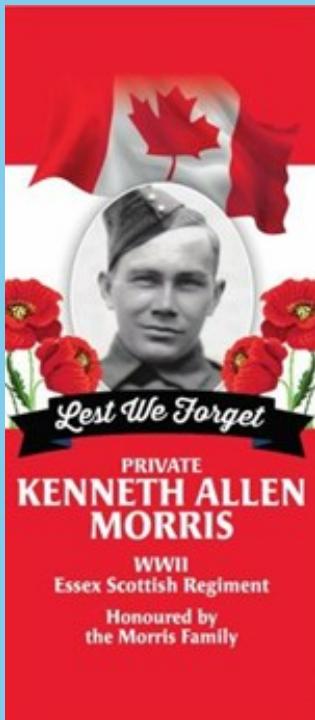


# Dennis Patton – KIA 18 July 1944



(courtesy Project '44)

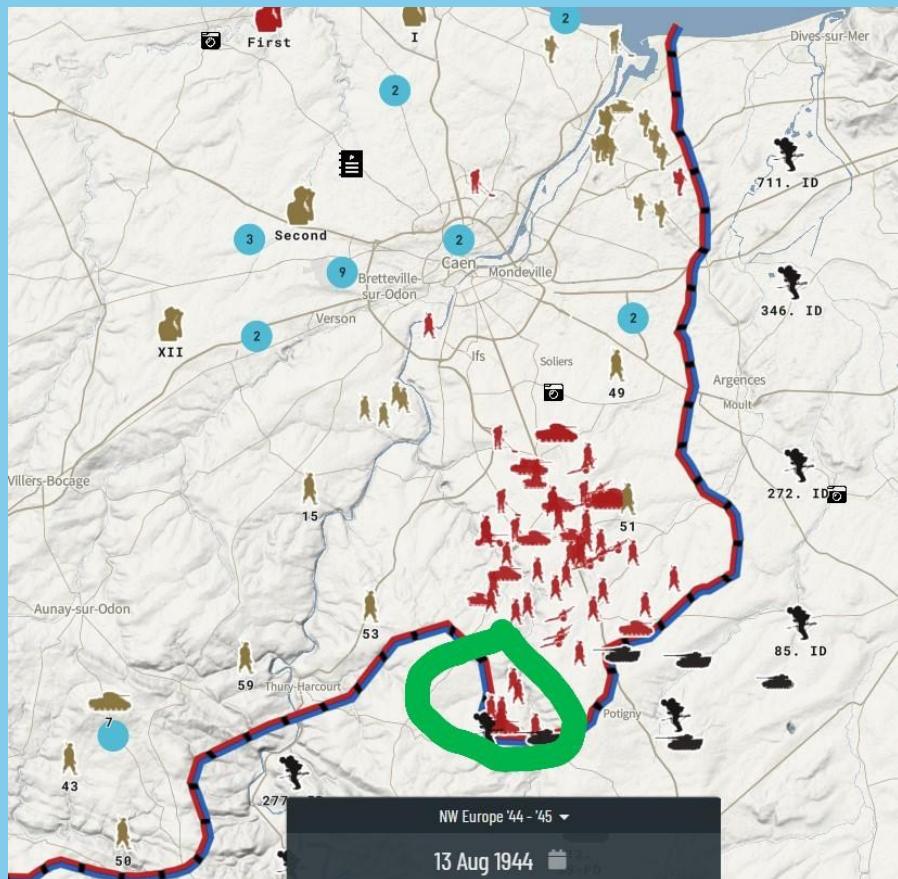
# Ken Morris



- Born in Meaford, Ontario, 20 March 1925.
- At a young age, Ken's parents divorced, and Ken went to live with his mother Polly and step-father Dan Patton, in Hagersville, Ontario.
- Two step-brothers – Frank Weaver and Dennis Patton.

# Ken Morris

- Dennis and Ken were very upset when their brother Frank Weaver was KIA at Dieppe.
- Jan 1943 - Ken enlisted, shortly after Dennis enlisted, at the age of 17.
- Ken arrived overseas shortly after D-Day.
- July 25, 1944 - Taken on Strength with the Essex Scottish Regiment in France.
- August 13, 1944 – badly wounded in a major battle. Sent back to England for surgery and recovery. While recovering, Ken learned Dennis was KIA.



# Ken Morris

- November 1944 – rejoined Essex Scottish in the Netherlands.
- March 8, 1945 – KIA at Xanten, Germany. One of 34 Essex Scottish KIA that day.
  - 19 years old, just a few days before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Initially interred at Xanten.
- Later moved to Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands.



Theodoor Christiaan Johan Holtzheuser ▶ GROESBEEK CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY  
March 12, 2020 •

Via The Royal Regiment of Canada: "This somber photo is of the interment of 2nd Canadian Division, 4th Brigade soldiers on the 9th of March 1945 in a 'small cemetery' in Xanten, Germany, as described in the Royal's War Diary. The Royal's Padre Appleyard was on leave, hence the Padre of the Essex Scots oversaw the interment of our soldiers. In the foreground is the grave of 29 year old Lance Corporal Melvin William Farrell, KIA on 8th of March 1945 during operations around Xanten, from the Essex Scottish Regiment. This photo is courtesy of the excellent research Mark Zuehlke is so adept at - Mark Zuehlke's Canadian Battle Series."



# Ken Morris

## Hagersville Mother Learns Son Killed

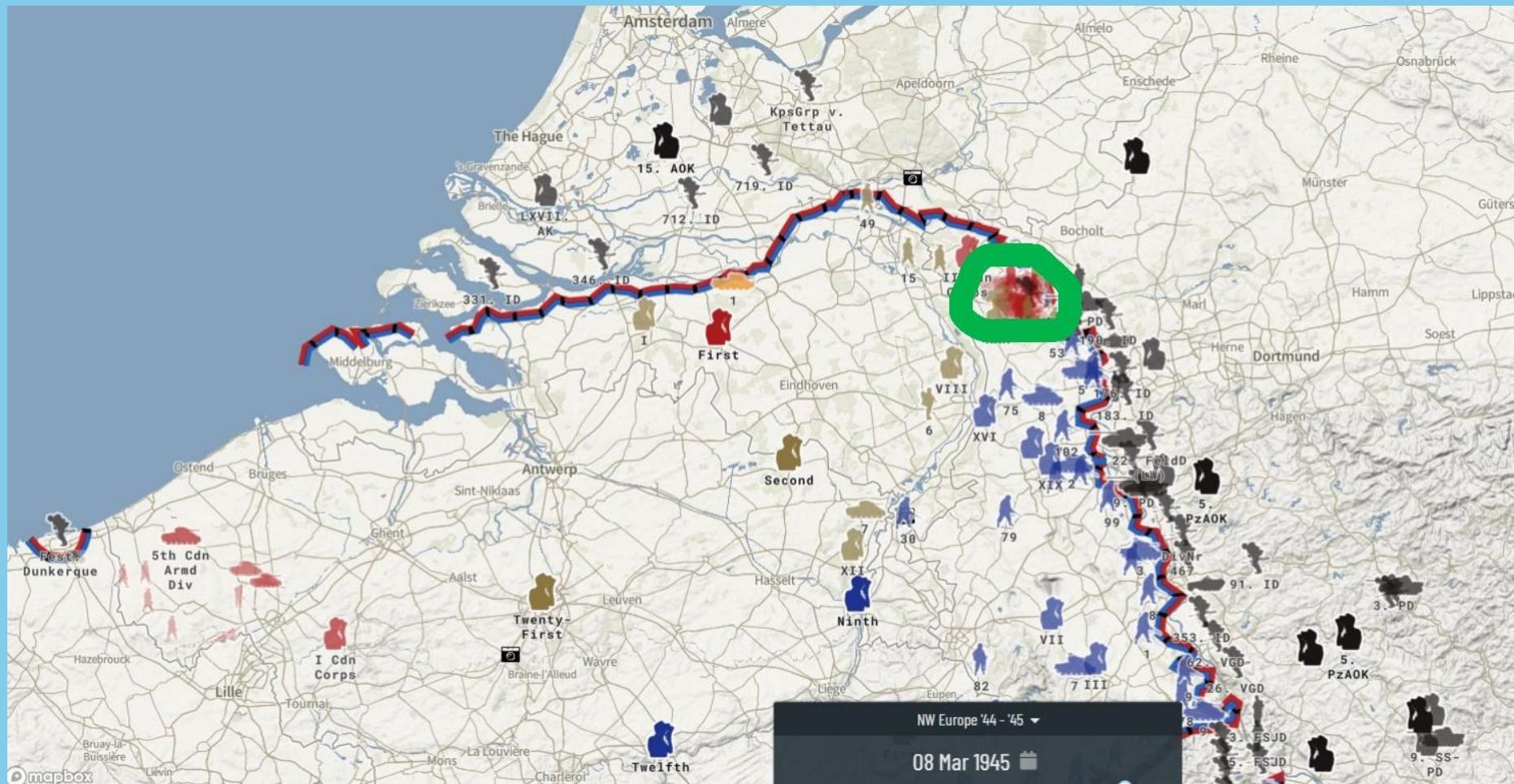
Pte. Kenneth A. Morris, of Toronto, son of Mrs. James Patton, of



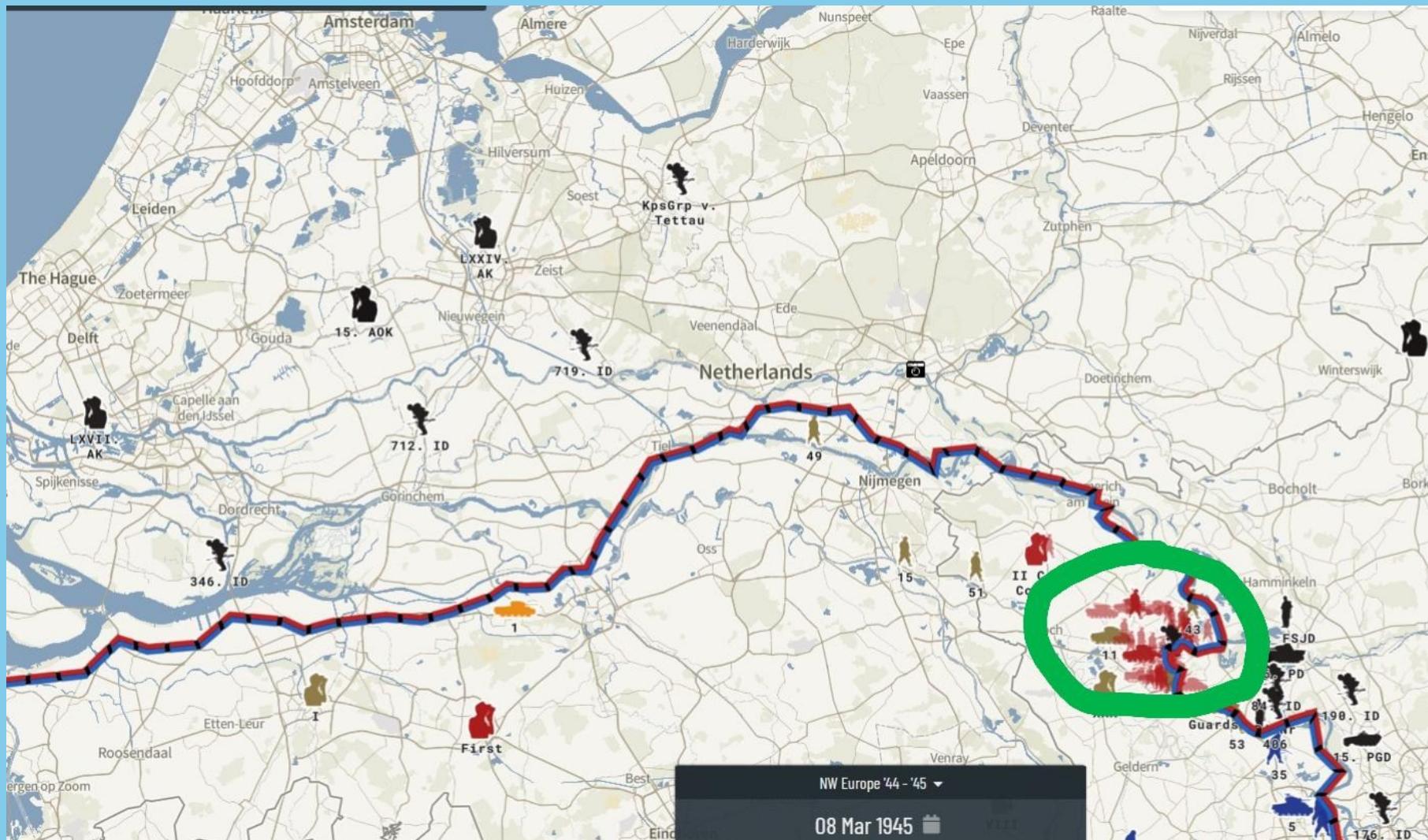
Hagersville, Ont., has been killed while fighting on the western front, according to information received by his mother recently. Before he enlisted in Canada's active army he was an employe of the Robertson Brothers, Ltd., candy manufacturers.

**Pte. K. A. Morris.** Queen street east. He was born and educated in Meaford.

# Ken Morris – KIA 8 March 1945



# Ken Morris – KIA 8 March 1945



## Les Morris

- Born in Welland, Ontario, 9 September 1922.
- Les and his family later moved to Meaford Ontario.
- Les' parents divorced, and Les stayed close to his father in Meaford (who remarried), and also his mother in Hagersville (who remarried).
- Les also stayed close to his brother Ken, who lived with their mother and step-father in Hagersville.
- During the war years, Les was in a relationship with his future wife, Shirley.
- Below is a picture of Les, Shirley, Ken (in uniform), and Les and Ken's half-sister Norma. Ken went overseas shortly after this picture was taken.



# Les Morris

- June 10, 1942 – Les joined the RCAF, at the age of 19.
- During the war, Les maintained contact with both his divorced parents, as well as his siblings, especially his brother Ken. Letter writing seemed to be the favoured way.
- Les was part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP). He was initially based at Aylmer Ontario, then Gananoque Ontario.
- Les' trade was Airframe Mechanic "A" and his rank was Leading Aircraftman (LAC).
- As an Airframe Mechanic, Les primarily worked on Harvard's, the staple training aircraft in the BCATP.



# Les Morris

- Les shared some interesting experiences and anecdotes with his son Jim.
  - Recovery missions to deal with crashed aircraft, and recovery of deceased crew. Sometimes there was not much to recover.
  - Checkout flights with instructors, with Les in the back seat. Once, while doing loops, both Les and the instructor passed out due to G-forces. Les woke up first, and decided to bail out. When he slid the canopy back, the noise and cold air roused the pilot. “Les, what the hell are you doing?” Les closed the canopy and they landed safely.
- August 1945 – Les was discharged from the RCAF.



## 2. The Story Of The Impact On Their Family In Wartime



# Edith Emily Liberty / Weaver / Patton

- 1888 - Born in England.
- 1910 - Emigrated to Canada (22 years old. Travelled alone on Empress of Ireland).
- August 18, 1910 – Marriage to William Weaver.
- Lived in Winnipeg Manitoba.
- 2 Children, including Francis (Frank) Weaver in 1915.
- 1916 – Husband enlisted in Canadian Army and went overseas.
- Dec 30, 1916 – Death of husband William (KIA in France).
- Edith now a widow, with two sons (age 5 and 1).
- July 10, 1919 – Marriage to Dan Patton.
- 3 Children, including Dennis Patton in 1922.
- Feb 16, 1934 – Died of cancer (age 46).

# Edith Emily Liberty / Weaver / Patton

*Arguably the most tragic figure in the whole family story*



# **“Gramma Patton”**

## **Mary Jane (Polly) Atherton / Morris / Patton**

- 1901 - Born in Lancashire, England.
- 19?? - Emigrated to Canada.
- 1918 – Her brother, Thomas Atherton, who was in the Canadian Army, was KIA in France (August 28, 1918).
  - This is a new discovery for me. Thomas would be my great-uncle.
- February 28, 1922 – Marriage to Charles Leslie Morris.
- Lived in Welland, Ontario.
- 4 Children, including James Leslie Morris (1922) and Kenneth Allen Morris (1925).
- 1934? – Divorce from Charles Leslie Morris.
- 1935? – Marriage to Dan Patton.
- 1936 – Birth of daughter Norma Patton.
- 1942 – Birth of son Frank Patton.
- 1981 – Died (age 80).

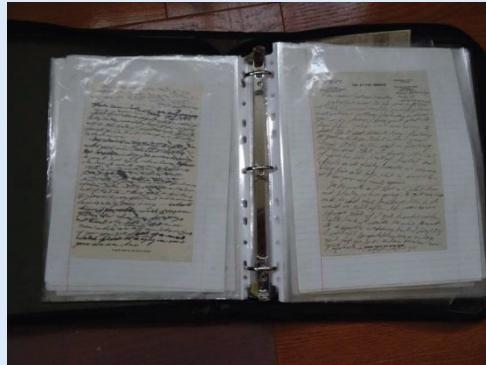
# “Gramma Patton”

## Mary Jane (Polly) Atherton / Morris / Patton

### *The Family “Silver Cross Mother”*



# “Gramma Patton”

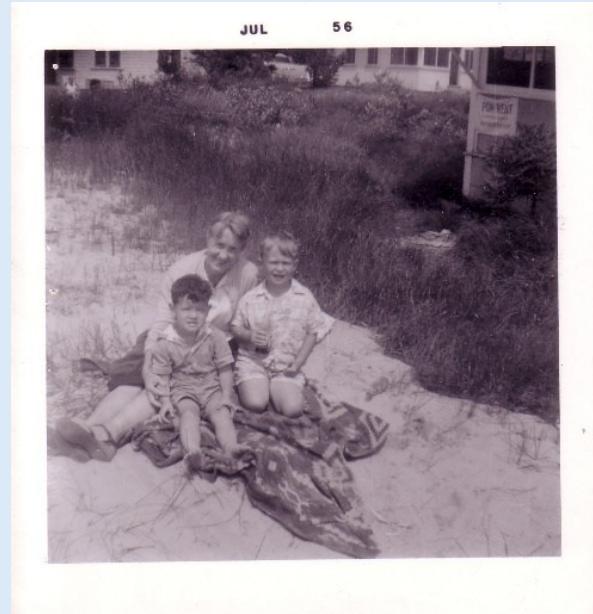


- We have the letters from her son Ken to her.
- We can only imagine what was in the letters from her to her son.



# “Gramma Patton”

- A few short years after the war (early 1950's), experienced the risk of losing 2 grand-kids (brother Bob and me), after her son Les separated then divorced.
  - Dad got custody of Bob and me, but wasn't able to care of us.
  - So Gramma allowed Bob and me (ages 3 and 4) to live with her and Dan.
  - Determined not to lose more family, so shortly after the war.





# Gerard Arts

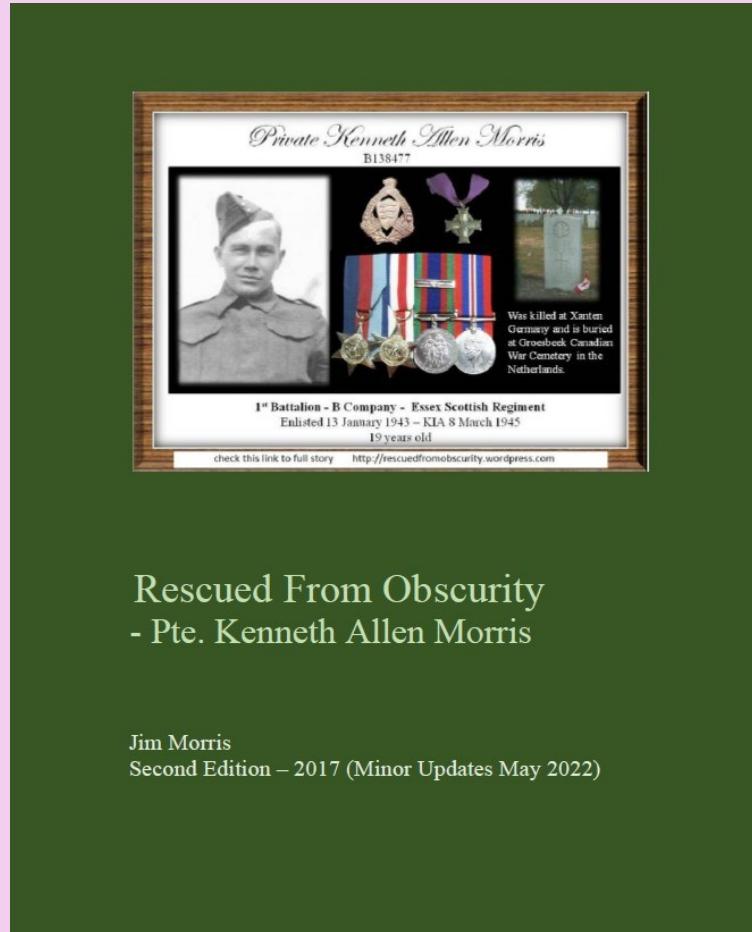


- Gerard Arts, a Dutch teenager from Nijmegen, “adopted” Ken’s grave in nearby Groesbeek.
- Gerard reached out to Ken’s mother shortly after the war, and they exchanged Christmas cards for many years until Polly passed. Gerard spoke no English, so his cards were in Dutch.
- After Polly passed, Aunt Marie (Ken’s sister), then my Dad carried on the Christmas card exchange.
- When they passed, I took over the Christmas card duties, until just a few years ago when it appears Gerard passed.

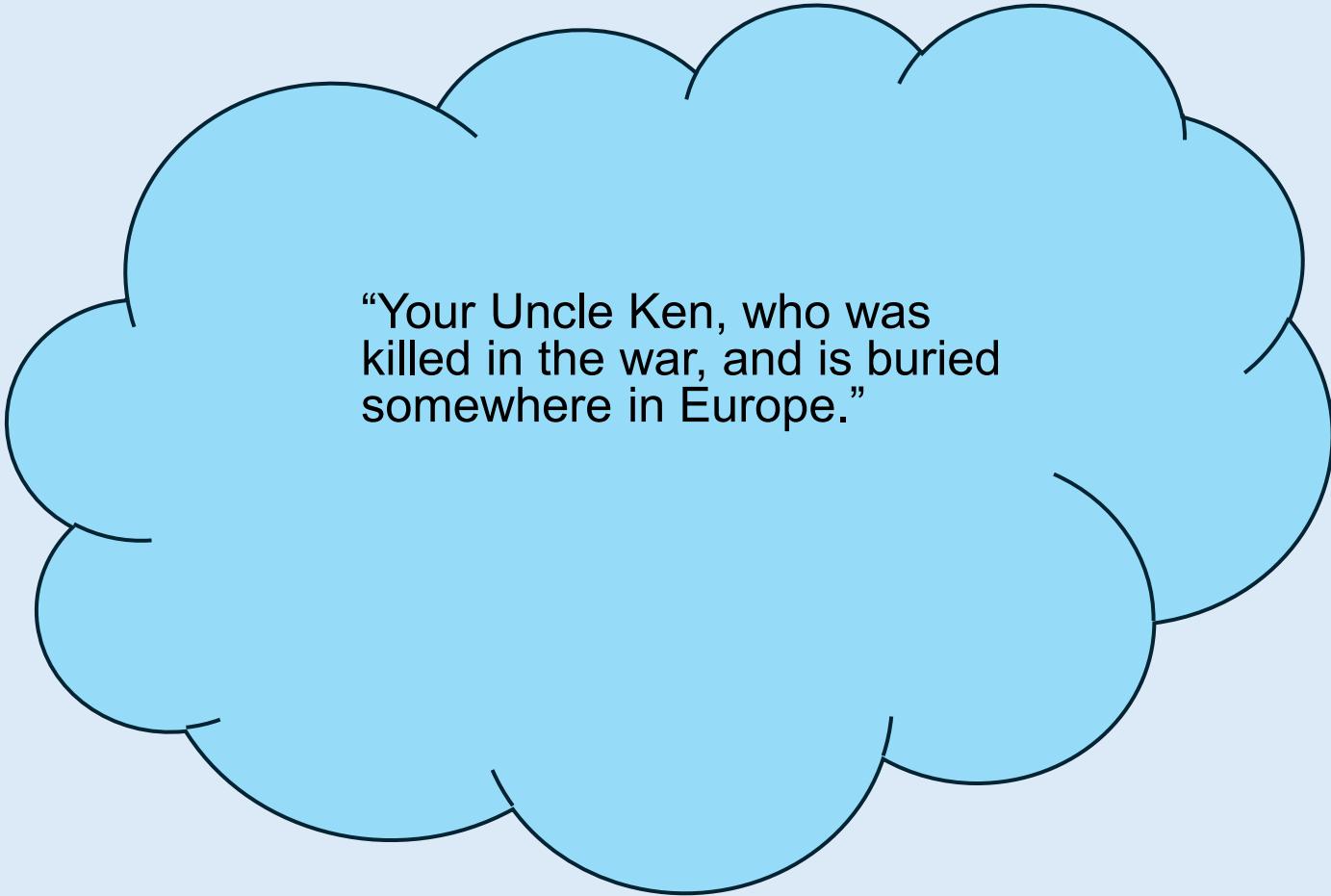


### 3. The Story Of The Rescue - Discovering Their Stories

#### “Rescued From Obscurity”



### 3. The Beginning of the Rescue



“Your Uncle Ken, who was killed in the war, and is buried somewhere in Europe.”

### 3.1. The National Archives Visit (1995)



- December 1995, with my oldest daughter Stephanie (9 years old at the time).
- Online Research not yet available.
- Got a copy of Uncle Ken's Military Personnel Service File (Service and Casualty Form, Attestation Paper, etc.)
- We were also able to access the War Diaries of Uncle Ken's regiment – the Essex Scottish. Got photocopies around key dates (wounded in August 1944, KIA in March 1945).
- Discovered Col. C. P. Stacey book "The Victory Campaign..." seemed to be the official reference book at the Archives.

### 3.1. The National Archives Visit

#### Uncle Ken's Military Personnel Service File.

- Date of birth: 20 March 1925
- Place of Birth: Meaford, Ontario
- Education: Grade 7
- Enlisted: 13 Jan 1943 (age 17)
- Left Canada: 26 June 1944
- Arrived England: 3 July 1944
- Arrived France: 23 July 1944
- Joined Essex Scottish: 25 July 1944
- Wounded (France): 13 Aug 1944
- Hospitalized (England): 17 Aug 1944 - 18 Sept 1944
- Returned to North West Europe: 18 Nov 1944
- Rejoined Essex Scottish: 29 Nov 1944
- Medical Evacuation: 24 Jan 1945 - 3 Feb 1945
- Rejoined Essex Scottish: 4 Feb 1945 - 7 Feb 1945
- Hospitalized: 8 Feb 1945 - 21 Feb 1945
- Rejoined Essex Scottish: 4 March 1945
- Killed In Action: 8 March 1945 (age 19)

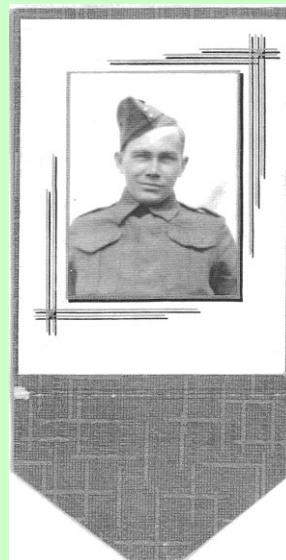
## 3.2. The “Family File”

- Talked to my Dad about what we had found at the Archives.
- Dad offered me the following three items.

**Uncle Ken's war medals.**



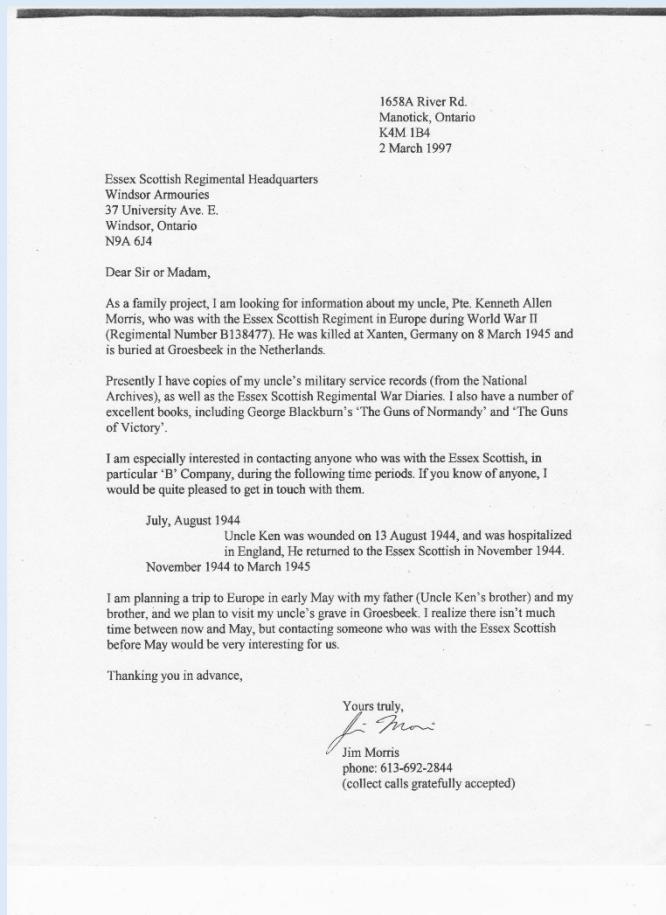
**A picture of Uncle Ken in uniform.**



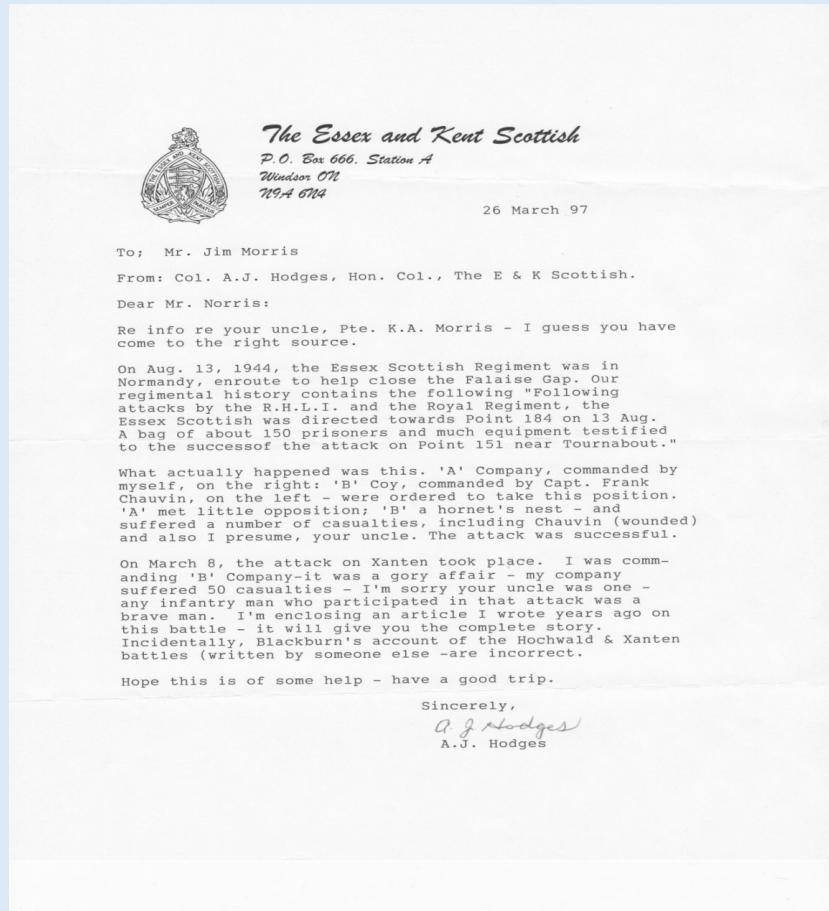
**A letter Dad received from Uncle Ken, while Ken was recovering from bullet wounds he received in August 1944.**



### 3.3. Essex Scottish Regiment – Making Contact (1997)



Uncle Ken was in 'B' Coy.



Hon. Col. Alf Hodges (then Capt. Hodges)

- Commanded 'A' Coy, when Ken was wounded in August 1944.
- Commanded 'B' Coy, when Ken was KIA in March 1945.

### 3.3. Essex Scottish Regiment – Making Contact (1997)

### 3.4. Essex Scottish Regiment Reunion

Now The Essex and Kent Scottish – Primary Reserve Infantry Regiment



Meeting Hon. Col. Alf Hodges



## 3.5. Dad, Bob & I Go To Europe (1997)

- Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery



### 3.5. Dad, Bob & I Go To Europe (1997)



### 3.5. Dad, Bob & I Go To Europe (1997)



- May 4 (Dutch Remembrance Day) Silent March from the Village of Groesbeek to the Canadian War Cemetery.



### 3.5. Dad, Bob & I Go To Europe (1997)

- Finally meet Geri Arts and family.

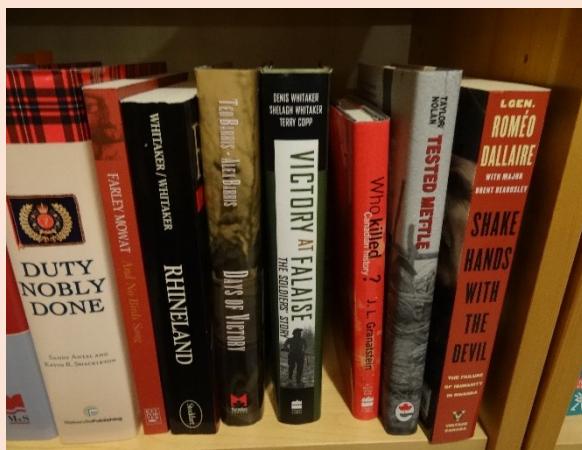
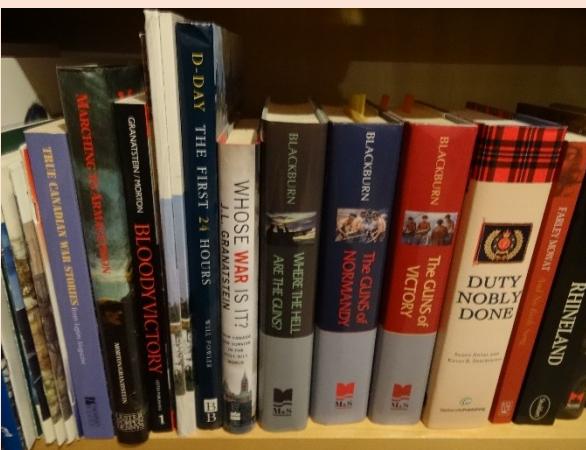
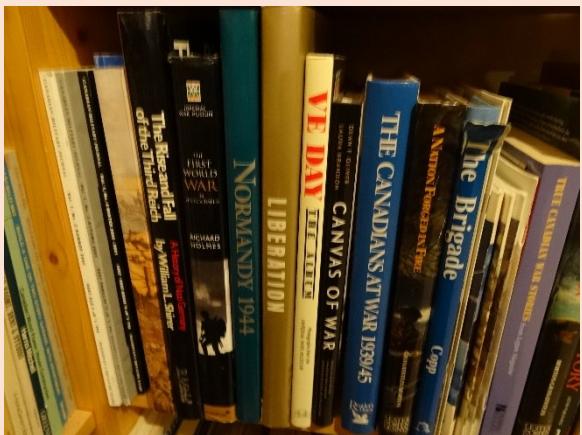


### 3.5. Dad, Bob & I Go To Europe (1997)





## 3.6. Hitting The Books





# 1<sup>st</sup> Edition – Wrapping Up

## Thanks Jean Lanouette – Manotick Legion

*Private Kenneth Allen Morris*  
B138477



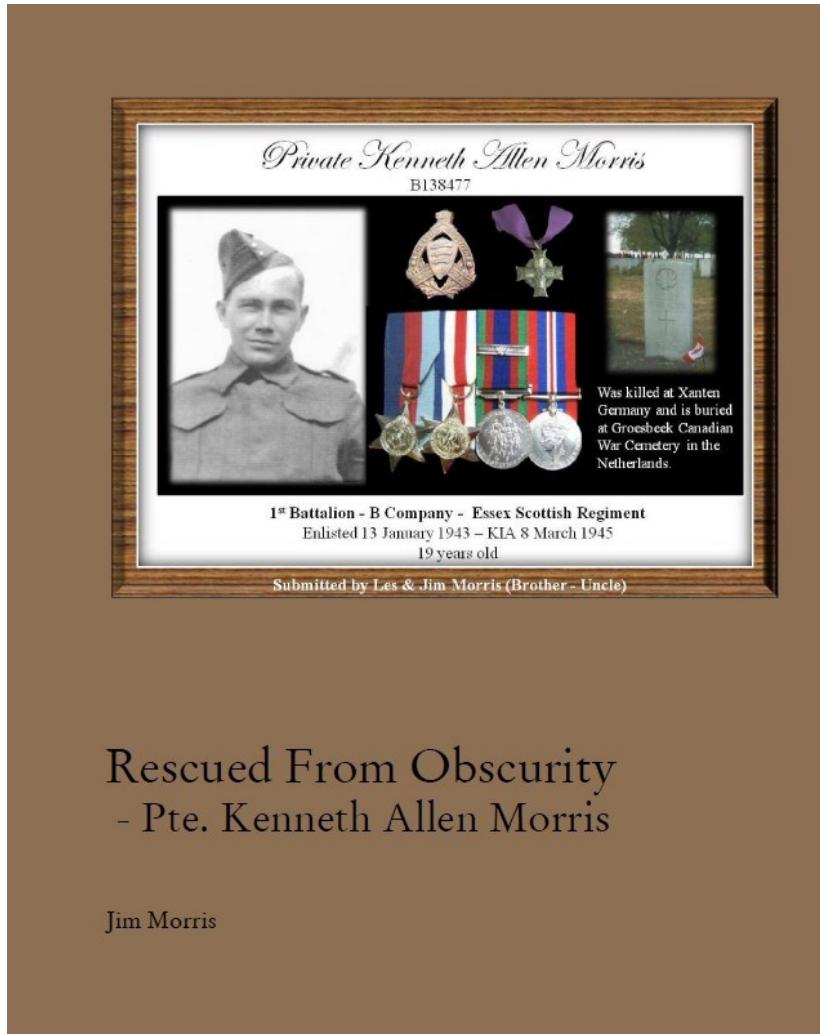
Was killed at Xanten Germany and is buried at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands.

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion - B Company - Essex Scottish Regiment  
Enlisted 13 January 1943 – KIA 8 March 1945  
19 years old

Submitted by Les & Jim Morris (Brother - Uncle)

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# 2010: “Rescued From Obscurity” 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Published





# So, Are We Done Yet?

- The Rescue Gets Bigger:
  - Awareness of other “Patton” Family (Dennis Patton, Frank Weaver)
  - Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)
  - Hagersville Researchers Contact
    - Connected the dots between Ken, Dennis and Frank
  - Gramma Patton’s Binder (aka “Uncle Ron’s Binder”)

### 3. Timelines - “Rescued From Obscurity”

#### **Initial Focus On Kenneth Morris**

- 1. 1995: The National Archives Visit (Uncle Ken)
- 2. 1995: The “Family File”
- 3. 1997: The Essex Scottish Regiment – Making Contact
- 4. 1998: Attending An Essex Scottish Reunion
- 5. 1997: Dad, Bob and I Go To Europe
- 6. Hitting The Books
- 2010: “Rescued From Obscurity” 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Published

#### **The Rescue Gets Bigger (Dennis Patton, Frank Weaver)**

- 7. 2015: May 2015 Europe Trip – 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of End of WW2
- 8. 2016: Hagersville Connection
- 9. 2016: The Binder, including Letters
- 2017: “Rescued From Obscurity” 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Published

#### **“Pulling On Strings” – The Rescue Never Ends**



# May 2015 Europe Trip - Overview

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – End of WW2.

-Netherlands

- Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery.
- Uncle Ken.



-Belgium (WW1 – Flanders, etc.)



-Vimy



-Dieppe



-Normandy



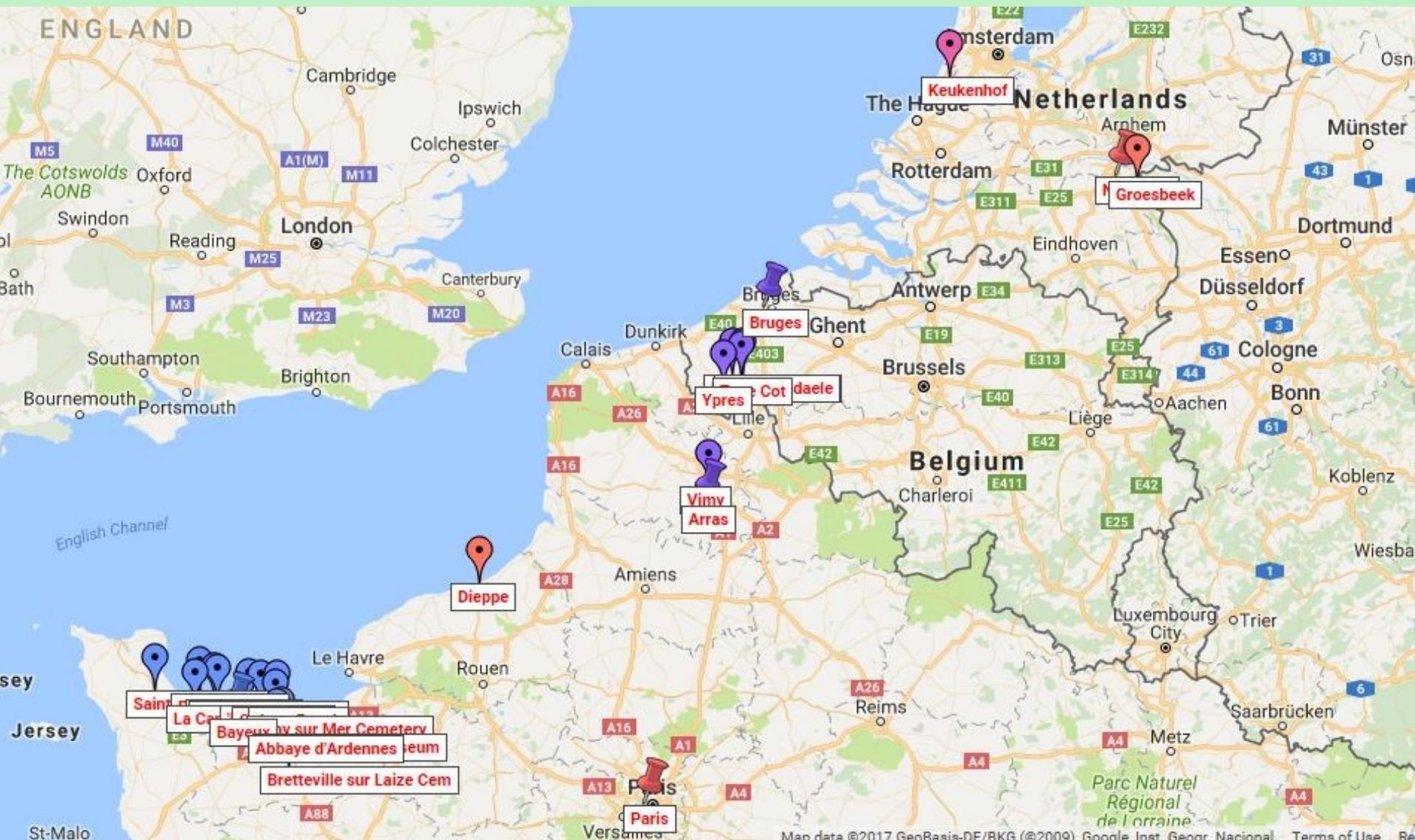
-Paris



### 3.7 Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

#### “Patton” Family (Dennis Patton, Frank Weaver)

- As part of our planned trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France), further research digging led to an awareness of 2 others “connected” to Uncle Ken’s Patton family – Dennis Patton and Frank Weaver.
- The “connection” was still unclear leading up to our trip, but fortunately we included their cemetery visits in our plan.



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

Coincided with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2.

## The Netherlands – Groesbeek

- May 4 (Dutch Remembrance Day) Silent March from the Village of Groesbeek to the Canadian War Cemetery (my third Silent March – 1997, 2007, 2015).



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## The Netherlands – Groesbeek



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## The Netherlands – Groesbeek

Mr. and Mrs. Arts



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Belgium (stayed in Bruges)



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Belgium

- **Brooding Soldier**
- **Menin Gate** – names of 54,000 Commonwealth soldiers whose graves are unknown.



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Belgium

### **Langemark World War 1 German War Cemetery**

(more than 44,000 buried here).

- In Germany, the site became known as the “Student Cemetery.”



### **Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery.**

11,956 graves (8369 unnamed).

- Also the names of another 35,000 whose graves are unknown (they ran out of room at Menin Gate for all the names!)



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Vimy Ridge



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Dieppe (a stone for my aquarium)



- **Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery – Frank Weaver.**



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Normandy (stayed in Bayeux)



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Normandy

- **Juno Beach** – another stone for the aquarium.



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Normandy

- **Beny-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery** – over 2000 Canadians killed during the early stages of the Battle of Normandy (including 340 D-Day).
- Dennis Patton.



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Normandy

- **Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery** – over 3000 Canadians killed during the later stages of the Battle of Normandy.
- Shelton Nephin (Mary's mother's cousin, from Ottawa Valley near Pembroke).



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Normandy

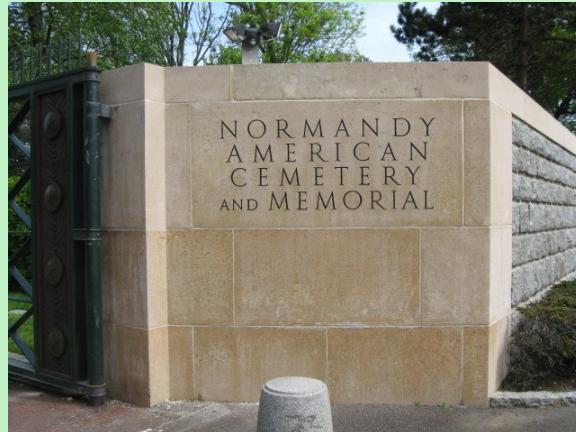
- **Ardenne Abbey** – where Kurt Meyer and German SS Panzer Division illegally executed 27 Canadian soldiers, one by one.



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Normandy

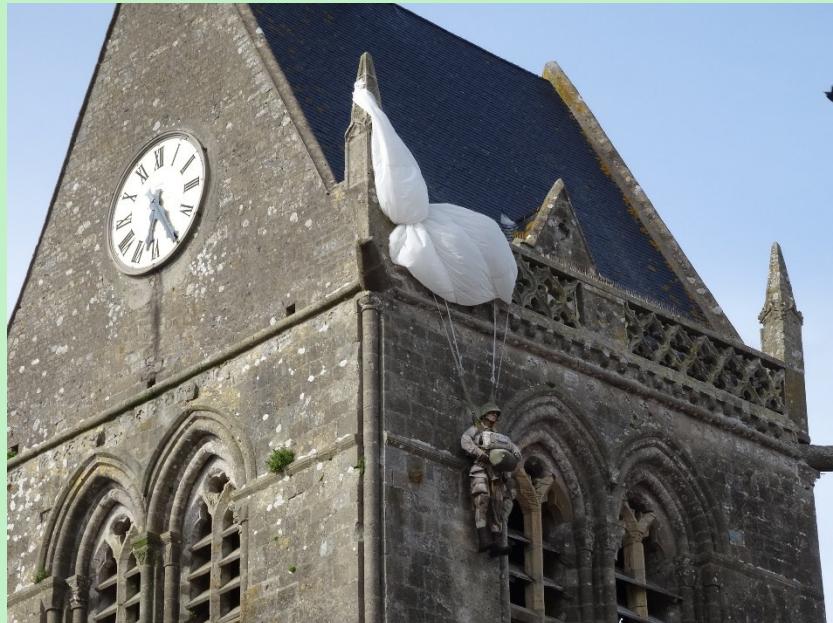
- **Normandy American Cemetery** – 9388 burials.



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Normandy

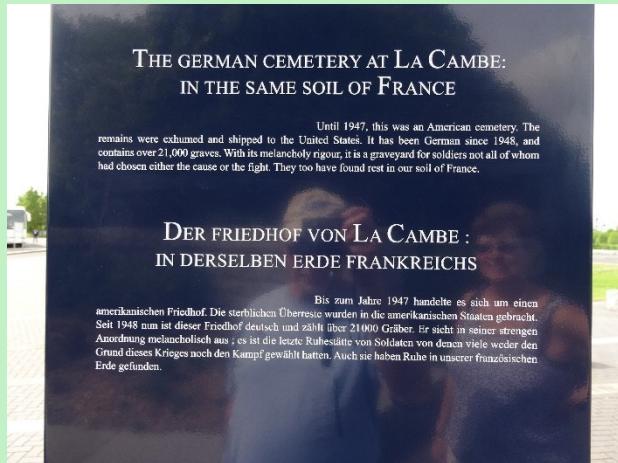
- **Sainte Mere Eglise.**



# Trip to Europe, May 2015 (Netherlands, Belgium, France)

## Normandy

- **La Cambe German Cemetery** – 21,000 graves.





## 3.8 Hagersville (2016...)

- Starting January 2016 - An amazing sequence of emails, initiated by a member of the Hagersville Presbyterian Church, researching war dead in the small Ontario town of Hagersville.



## 3.8 Hagersville (2016...)

- The many emails led to our mutual understanding of the connection between Frank Weaver, Dennis Patton and Ken Morris: half-brothers and step-brothers!



## St. Andrew's Church Remembers Soldiers

By Sheila Phibbs  
The Haldimand Press

HAGERSVILLE—Each Remembrance Day, the congregation at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church recognizes its members killed in training when he was 18.

Parishioner Brenda Gal-  
lant believed that more  
should be done than just an-  
nouncing the names of the  
dead.

Russ Bertran, who taught in Onondaga and Watertown, was gunned down after a

was their names.'

Leat November, she embarked on a historical journey to learn more about

these men and, in the process, learned of seven more who were affiliated with the church. Her extensive research uncovered

are less than unconvincing. British pilot William Frank Mitchell met his wife, Mary Dugay, while training in Jarvis. They were married at

gregation paid tribute to these eleven fallen soldiers. Peter Marshall Laidlaw was the first member of the congregation to be killed in the war.

church to die in WWI. He was in the Machine Gun Corps and fought at Passchendaele. His name is inscribed on the Ypres Memorial.

cluded on the *Spies* Memorial in Belgium.

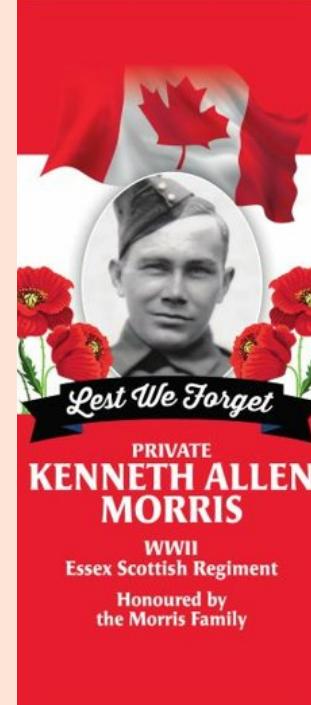
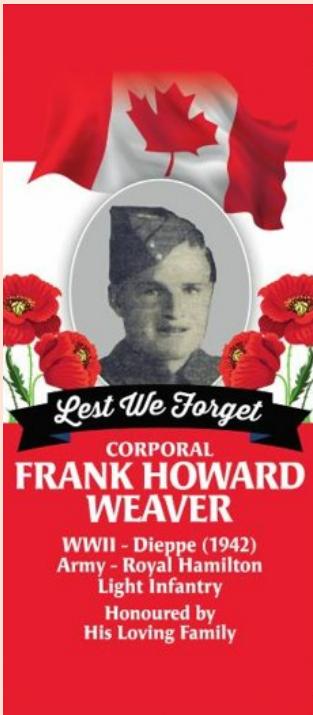
Richard Lawrence Grinnell, 25, of 1000 Lakeshore Rd., Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., was a member of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Dragoons. He was killed in action in Normandy, France, on July 10, 1944. He is buried in a Canadian War Cemetery in Normandy.

don, whose father was minister at St. Andrew's, was in the Royal Canadian Air Force and was shot down.

over enemy territory in with the Black Watch Royal

## 3.8 Hagersville (2016...)

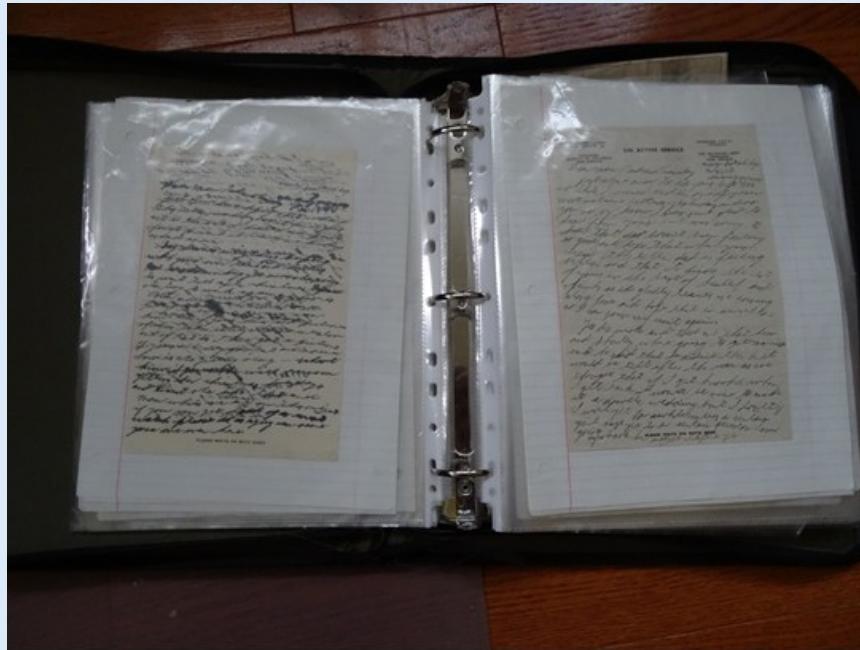
- The correspondence with the Hagersville team continues...
  - Hagersville Remembrance Banners
  - Hagersville Cenotaph Updates





## 3.9 “Uncle Ron’s Binder”

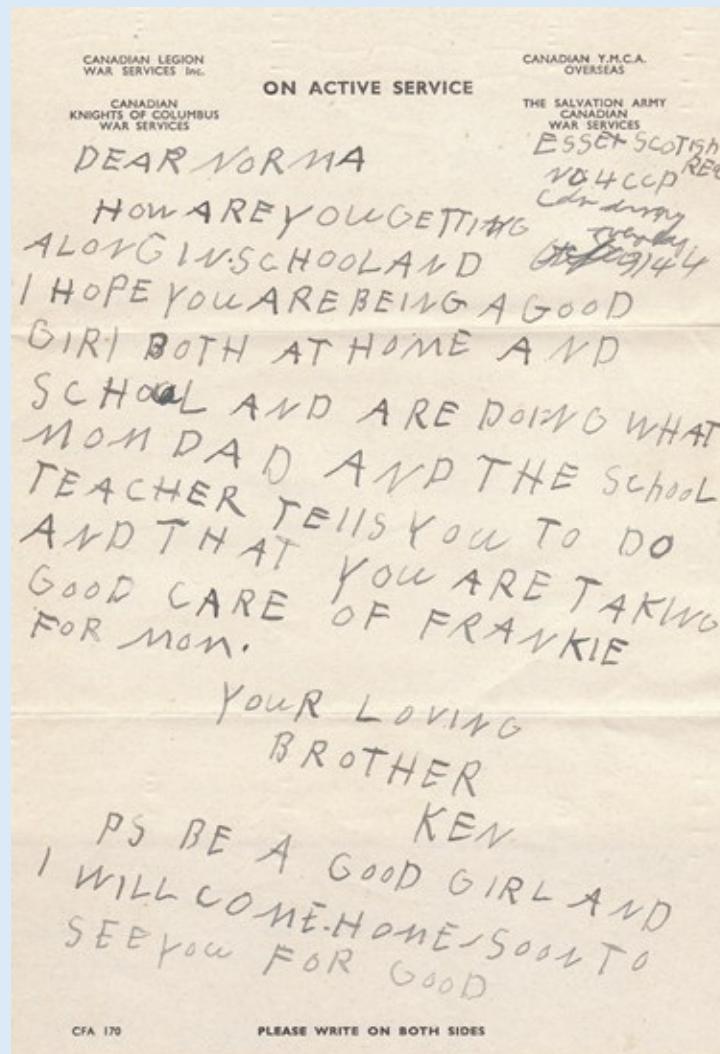
- Sometime after my Uncle Ron passed away in November 2015, I received this from my cousin Val.
- A collection of letters written by Uncle Ken to his mother (my Grandmother).
- Also cards, pictures, telegrams, etc.
- All carefully filed in plastic envelopes – **by whom?**



# “Uncle Ron’s Binder”



# “Uncle Ron’s Binder”



# “Uncle Ron’s Binder”

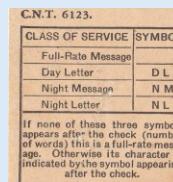


R G 74 GB NL 2 Ex-Ottawa Ont 19

Mrs Mary Jane Patton, Report Delivery RR 3 Hagersville Ont.

8997 minister of National defence sincerely regrets to inform you that B138477 Private Kenneth Allen Morris has been officially reported wounded in action thirteenth August 1944 nature of wounds described as bullet wounds to left abdominal wall stop when addressing mail add words In Hospital in bold letter after name of unit for quick delivery stop when further information becomes available it will be forwarded as soon as received.

Director of records. 1245 PM



R F 55 2 Extra DL GB Ottawa Ont 113 pm Mar 19-45

Mrs Mary Jane Patton, Report Delivery, RR # 3 Hagersville Ont.

65852 regret deeply B138477 Private Kenneth Allen Morris has been officially reported killed in action eighth March 1945 stop You should receive further details by mail direct from the Unit in the theatre of war stop To prevent possible aid to our enemies do not divulge date of casualty or name of unit .

Director of Records . 226 pm

# “Uncle Ron’s Binder”

## Killed in Action



PTE. KENNETH MORRIS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morris, who made the supreme sacrifice while serving in the Armed Forces in Holland. He was within a few days of attaining his twentieth birthday.

## In Memoriam

MORRIS—In sad and loving memory of Pte. Kenneth A. Morris of the Essex Scottish Regiment, who was killed in action in Germany, March 8th, 1945.

—Sadly missed by Mom, Dad, Sisters and Brothers.

8-3

CASWILL—In loving memory of a loving wife, mother and sister, who passed away one year ago, March 9, 1946. A loving wife, a kind mother and a true sister.

—Sadly missed by husband, sons and daughter Polly.

8-3

MORRIS—In loving memory of a dear step-brother, Kenneth A. Morris, killed in action March 8th, 1945.

I will never forget his smiling face,  
As he bade his last good-bye,  
For he left his home forever,  
In the distant land to die.

—Forever remembered by step-sister,  
Patsy.

MORRIS—In sad and loving memory of a dear son and brother, Pte. Kenneth A. Morris, 19 years old, of the Essex Scottish Regiment, who was killed in action in Germany March 8th, 1945.

The blow was great the shock severe,  
We little thought the end was near,  
And only those who have lost can tell  
The pain of parting without farewell,  
More each day we miss you, son,  
Friends may think the wound is  
healed.

But they little know the sorrow  
That lies within our hearts concealed.  
Sadly missed by Mom, Dan, Marie,  
Norma and Frankie.

# “Uncle Ron’s Binder”

<p>veteran of the two wars.</p> <p><b>PTE. K. NORRIS HAS STOMACH WOUNDS</b></p> <p>MEAFCRD, Aug. 26 — Charles Morris of Meaford received word that his youngest son, Pte. Kenneth Alan Morris, has suffered abdominal wounds. The exact extent of his injuries are not known as yet, but his father is anxiously awaiting further word.</p> <p>Pte. Kenneth Morris is just 19 years of age and the word that he was in France came as a great surprise to his father. He is serving with the Essex Scottish Highlanders. He enlisted in January of 1942 and trained at the following places: Toronto, Camp Borden, Sussex, N.B.; Niagara Falls, Stratford. He went overseas in July of this year and must have proceeded to France shortly afterwards. A brother, L. A. C. Leslie Morris, is with the R.C. A.F. at Aylmer.</p>	<p><b>PTE. KEN MORRIS REPORTED KILLED</b></p> <p>Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Morris are Notified that Son Made the Supreme Sacrifice in Holland</p> <p>—Young Man Overseas Since Last July</p> <p>On Tuesday, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morris were notified that their son, Pte. Kenneth Morris, had been killed in action in Holland. The sad news was received with deep regret.</p> <p>Pte. Morris went overseas in July of last year. He had been previously wounded, but recovered and was able to go back in the line. The young man would have celebrated his 20th birthday on Tuesday.</p>
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## Hagersville Mother Learns Son Killed

Pte. Kenneth A. Morris, of Toronto, son of Mrs. James Patton, of

Hagersville, Ont., has been killed while fighting on the western front, according to information received by his mother recently. Before he enlisted in Canada's active army he was an employee of the Robertson Brothers, Ltd., candy manufacturers.

Pte. K. A. Morris, Queen street east. He was born and educated in Meaford.



# “Uncle Ron’s Binder”



**CANADIANS IN GERMANY**—Three famous Canadian regiments pay tribute to those of their number who died in the battle of western Europe. A firing party fires a grave-side salvo at the service held for members of the Essex Scottish, the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry and the Royal Regiment of Canada.

—Canadian Army Overseas Photo.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Queen and I offer you our  
heartfelt sympathy in your great  
sorrow.

We pray that your country's  
gratitude for a life so nobly given  
in its service may bring you some  
measure of consolation.

George R.I.



## Letters – Insight Into the Worry, and Pain, of Families In Wartime

- **Ken, to his brother Les**, after Ken was wounded in August 1944 [Sept 2 / 44]:
  - *don't worry about me as I am coming along fine and they took the stitches out of my stomach wound to-day ... the flesh where the slug punched me seems dead ... but I think myself lucky, seeing some of the guys, but so much for that.*
  - *Les I hope Mom didn't take it too hard*
  - *you don't know how much it means to a guy to receive a letter from home when he's either in action or hospital and when a guy receives a letter from home it makes him feel as if he could take on the whole German army single handed and lick them which we are doing now and the boys are doing a damn good job of it.*

# Letters – Insight Into the Worry, and Pain, of Families In Wartime

- Letters from **Ken to his mother**:

- *Tell Pop to have a good storage of beer on hand for the day Denny and I come home as you are going to see two pretty dry sons coming home after the job is done as the beer we can get over here tastes like fish* [Aug 10 / 44 – 3 weeks after Dennis was KIA, 3 days before Ken was seriously wounded].
- *That about Dennis came as a heck of a shock to me and I am going to miss him more than words can say when I get back home as Dennis and I had many a good time together and the way we did things we were more like brothers and a few people took us for brothers when they seen us together as in some way we resembled one another.* [Nov 12 / 44]
- *I am back with my regiment and where I am now is pretty good only for the mud and language, which is hard to understand and it sounds like dutch to some of us. But the people are friendly* [Nov 27 / 44]
- *I enjoyed this Christmas fairly well as we had a platoon get together a couple days before Christmas and had turkey, sauce, pudding, oranges and Christmas cake and after the meal we had a little party with plenty of punches to drink* [Jan 7 / 45]

# Letters – Insight Into the Worry, and Pain, of Families In Wartime

- Letters from **Polly to Ken:**

- *I can't help worrying when I don't hear from you. I pray for you every night ... Frankie says Ken is shooting the Germans, he sure can talk now. I hope this war is over soon so we can have you home again ... May God bless you and keep you safe. Lots of love.*
  - [Mar 9 / 45] – Note the date, one day after Ken was KIA. Letter was returned 'DECEASED, RETURN TO SENDER'

- Letter from **Lieut. James Noonan, Essex Scottish Regt:**

- *May I convey to you the sincerest sympathy and understanding of all the officers and men of "B" Coy ... His fatal wound was received from machine-gun fire while making an attack with his company ... Pte. Morris was a very good soldier and a friend of all the boys in the platoon.*

# Letters – Insight Into the Worry, and Pain, of Families In Wartime

- Letters from **Les to his mother**:

- *He [Ken] was in battle too as he said he got a few before he was hit. He said not to worry though because he was well on his way to recovery. Thank God Mother he is and I hope and pray that it is over soon and we can all return to a peaceful world again.* [Sep 11 / 44, after Ken was wounded]
- *Dear Mother ... I have not had any word from Ken for quite awhile either and I hope he is okay too ... Yes Mom I know Ken will be 20 years old on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month and Shirl and I sent him a card last Sunday* [Mar 13 / 44, 5 days after Ken was KIA]
- *Dear Mother, Received your telegram yesterday afternoon Mother and it was an awful shock to me. I think you will understand Mother when I say I can't express my feelings as you know my feelings. I'm so terribly sorry as I loved Ken so dearly* [Mar 21 / 45]
- *Mother I know you are thinking an awful lot of Ken and so are we all, but as you said Mother it is God's will, but we are certainly deeply proud of Ken. Mother I know the Silver Cross you received for Ken is very, very nice and is a dear remembrance.* [May 13 / 45]

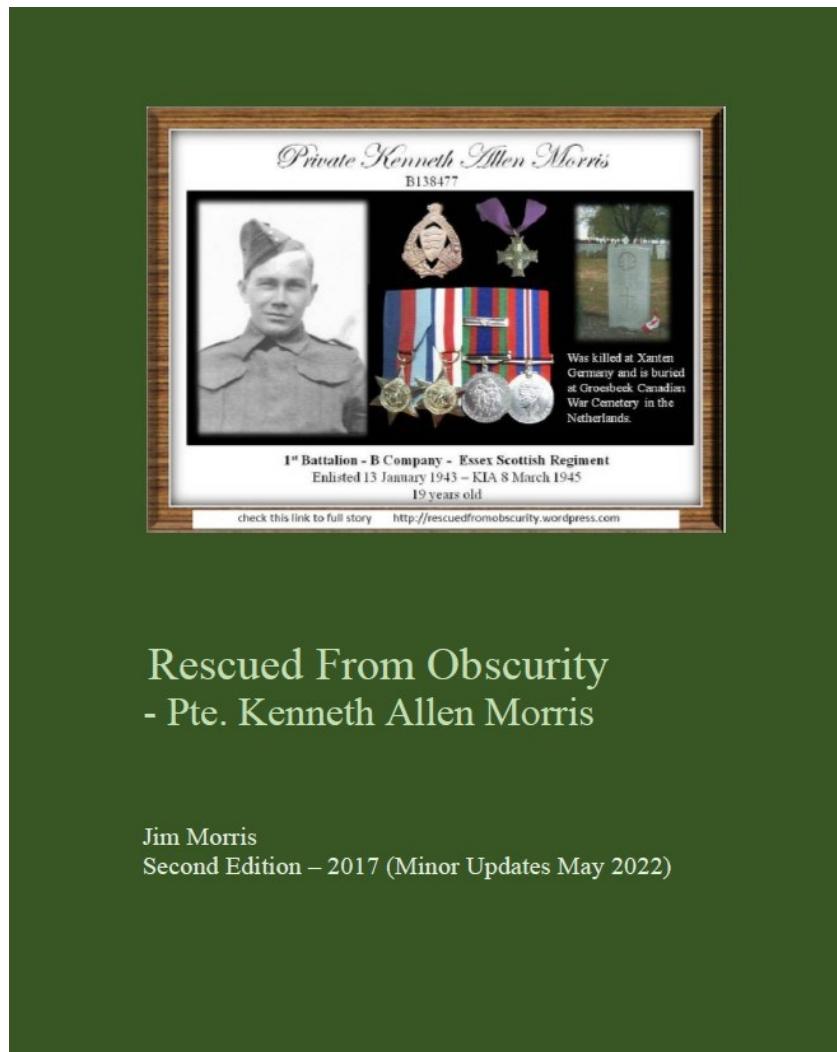
# Letters – Insight Into the Worry, and Pain, of Families In Wartime

- Letters from **Dennis to Brenda's step-grandfather in Hagersville** – Dennis worked on his farm – another amazing coincidence in “Rescued From Obscurity”.
  - June 21, 1943 (3 pages).
    - Right after Dennis arrived in the U.K. from Canada.
    - The usual stuff about England, the English, English driving, English money, English girls, English beer, English trains ... And, oh yea, please write.
  - August 27, 1943 (2 pages).
    - You haven't written. How's the farming going? How's George, and everyone else? Sure hope this thing doesn't end before I get a crack at it. A new niece. And, oh yea, please write. Or else.



# Second Edition

## November 2017





## Second Edition - The Final Chapter?



So many Canadian losses during wartime.

Unimaginable, the impact on their families.

## Second Edition - The Final Chapter?



 **Canada Remembers**  
Page Liked · 21 hrs · 

This Veterans' Week we remember Master Corporal Byron Greff who lost his life in Afghanistan October 29, 2011 #CanadaRemembers

Byron Greff was born in Saskatchewan in 1983 and enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces while still a teenager. Master Corporal Greff lost his life in Afghanistan while serving with the 3rd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry when an improvised explosive device blast hit his vehicle in Kabul October 29, 2011. He was the last of the 158 Canadian Armed Forces members to die in the course of Canada's mission in Afghanistan. Photo: Department of National Defence

More information: <http://ow.ly/Dj4m30gb8vr>

### “Canada Remembers” Facebook – Remembrance Day 2017:

Master Corporal Byron Greff was the last Canadian to die in Canada's mission in Afghanistan (October 29, 2011).

He was 28 years old. His wife was 26. They had two children, 6 years old and 2 weeks old.

<https://legionmagazine.com/byron-greffs-wedding-ring/>

## Second Edition - The Final Chapter?

My initial motivation for “Rescued From Obscurity” (2010):

“As I start to write this, I reflect on my motivation. First, I believe this is an interesting chapter in the Morris family history, for follow-on generations. But perhaps there is a more important motivation. On too many occasions lately (2010), young Canadians are dying in Afghanistan. I have three children of the same ages as these young Canadians. It is unimaginable to me having a son or daughter killed in a far away dangerous place, away from family. It is even more unimaginable to have him or her die in obscurity, to have any knowledge of their existence fade to next to nothing in a few short years from now. I trust the families of the young Canadians dying today won't let that happen.”



# My “Rescue” Websites

## Wix – Basic Simple Website Design (Free)

<https://jimmorrisbiz1.wixsite.com/rescuedfromobscurity>

<https://jimmorrisbiz1.wixsite.com/ww2-stories>

## My Books (Blurb)

I have used Blurb to create high quality hardcopy books, and pdf softcopies which I can share.

- “Rescued From Obscurity – Pte. Kenneth Allen Morris (Second Edition)”
- “Europe May 2015 – The Netherlands, Belgium, France”
- “Pte. Kenneth Morris – A Short Biography”
- “Les”

# *Private Kenneth Allen Morris*

B138477



Was killed at Xanten  
Germany and is buried  
at Groesbeek Canadian  
War Cemetery in the  
Netherlands.

**1<sup>st</sup> Battalion - B Company - Essex Scottish Regiment**

Enlisted 13 January 1943 – KIA 8 March 1945

19 years old

Submitted by Les & Jim Morris (Brother - Uncle)