

THE COLLEGE CORD



LT. NORBERT JEFFERS

Dick Wellein Killed in Plane Crash

On Nov. 23 we were profoundly shocked to hear the news of the death of L.A.C. Richard Meredith (Dick) Wellein, a former student of Waterloo College and a member of its C.O.T.C. Dick was killed in a plane crash at No. 1 Service Flying Training School, Camp Borden, Ont.

He was in training as a pilot, and was to have received his wings in less than two months. He had been home the previous weekend and had talked to some of us. At that time he was pleased with his progress in training which was well above average. He said, however, that, though he liked flying, he certainly missed the College and its people.

Dick came to Waterloo in '41-'42 and soon won new friends among the students. Many of us still recall incidents showing his genial nature. At initiation, at school, at Thames Valley O.T.C. Camp and everywhere Dick showed himself a good-hearted fellow able to give and take with good humor. He began the '42-'43 term at Waterloo and in February of '43 enlisted in the R.C.A.F.

Dick was wellknown in athletic circles. He was more than proficient in such sports as rugby, track, basketball and gym work. He was one of the best swimmers in the district, his medals and shields representing victories at several centres, including Hamilton and Toronto.

Both the school and the community feel the loss of Dick keenly. A death such as his brings home the grim, destructive nature of this war. Perhaps the feeling of sorrow and resentment which his death inspired in us will help shorten the conflict which is sapping the country of its finest men. To his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Wellein of 35 Louisa St., Kitchener, and to his sisters, we express our deepest sympathy.

Tribute Is Paid To Lt. Norbert Jeffers

Far off in Italy—a land of which he had mere bookish knowledge a few years ago—Lieutenant J. Norbert Jeffers lies in a new-made grave.

He was killed in action at the head of his men, a platoon of the crack Canadian regiment, the R.C.R.'s. A private soldier from Kitchener helped to carry his body from the field. Slowly now the stories of his last action are coming back to his friends at home.

When his platoon was detailed for especially dangerous duty, he insisted on going first, though warned that he need not do so. He and his men were ambushed by snipers. Struck by three bullets, he used his last breath to order a smoke screen for the protection of those who were with him. Some who were fortunate enough to return announced that they owed their lives to his quick thinking. Young as he was, he demonstrated thus the essential value and function of an officer; he died as gallantly as any officer has ever died.

His friends at Waterloo had always felt the depth of character which he tried to hide under gaiety and good humour.

They were not aware, perhaps, that in secret he poured out his earnestness, sensitivity and devotion in a little poem like this (which was not intended for publication):

*By chance I found a garden
Where-in peace and beauty reigned.
And spellbound wandered o'er the verdant sod;
I paused—and prayed—and shared my thoughts with God.*

*My proud soul soon forsook
All its selfish vain desires
And every petty worry seemed to vanish into bliss;
I experienced a joy that I'd never known before,
My heart was filled with Christian happiness.*

*One brief and thrilling hour
Spent with God—the King of men
Has made me feel so fresh and clean within
That I invite the whole world to this garden;
If everyone should come it would mean the end of sin.*

Another side of him is revealed by this incident: He did not aspire to the excellent school grades of which he was capable, but he sat a few places removed from a student who did. Struggling one day with a test question, he was asked by his teacher, "How far are you from the correct answer?" Without hesitation he replied, "Three seats, sir!"

Here was a young man who would have been embarrassed on being singled out as a hero. He had no desire to show off and no lust to kill; he had a love of life and good living. But heroes are made now of just such men. He will be remembered at Waterloo, with the other alumni who have fallen in this war, as an inspiration to the C.O.T.C. and as a symbol to all of the heroic qualities of democratic manhood. We are ennobled by his example.

EDITORIAL

The twenty-first anniversary of the 1918 Armistice has come and gone.

Countless Remembrance Day services have again borne witness to society's grief at the staggering losses in life and health sustained during the mad years from 1914 to 1918.

The present European war is, however, melancholy proof that the oft-repeated Armistice Day slogan—"Lest we forget"—has not availed to prevent man from repeating his dreadful mistake of 1914.

Upon a glorious November day, twenty-one years ago, millions of battle-weary humans laid down their weapons of destruction; solemnly vowing to seek, forever after, the ways of peace.

Today, many thousands of these have re-ascended the altar of Maloch—not alone; but in the company of younger millions—bewildered apprentices to the art of human butchery—courageous young men, to whom the last Great War is nothing but a thrilling story.

Before the Nazi invasion of Poland, fast-moving events in Ethiopia, Spain, China, and Czecho-Slovakia had infallibly pointed to the imminent collapse of an already-tottering Armistice.

Now the breakdown has come—and with it has come civilization's scourge—war.

Powerful voices raised in pleading for tolerance, understanding, and Christian charity among nations have now become faint whispers—scarcely audible amid the din of exploding bombs.

All this has not, however, come about by accident. For, never in the desperate, battle-torn history of post-war Europe has anything like real peace returned to that troubled continent.

We are learning, today, that a mere cessation of hostilities for the purpose of taking a breather before resuming them—even if a quarter of a century later—does not represent an honest effort to banish war from the earth.

When this war is ended (and God grant that this end may come soon) let us not be content with an Armistice. But, rather, let each of us who worship the Prince of Peace hearken to his teachings to the end that future generations may work out their destinies secure in the affections of those whom God will some day give them to cherish.

FLIGHT SGT. W. C. THURLOW KILLED IN ACTION

On July 28 word was received from Ottawa of the death of Flight Sgt. William Charles Thurlow. He was killed on active service on July 24. His funeral was held in England from Pocklington to Burnby Moor Churchyard.

Flight Sgt. Thurlow was a former student at Waterloo College. In June, 1940, after the completion of two years of study he joined the R.C.A.F. He was first stationed at Manning Pool, Toronto, and did his period of security guard at Camp Borden, after which he trained at Eglington Hunt Club, Toronto, and Malton. In March, 1941, he received his observer's wings at Jarvis. He then finished his astro-navigation course at Rivers, Man., and the following May was sent overseas. At the time of his death he was attached to an all-Canadian squadron. In his last letter home he said that he had made twenty-seven flights which left only three more to be made before he was sent back to Canada on furlough.

Bill Thurlow was a very popular member of the College. He was on the basketball team in 1938 and 1939, and belonged to several Twin City clubs. All his friends at the College were sorry to hear of his death.

The following poem is a tribute to him written by Mrs. Buckley, wife of Rev. L. A. Buckley, general secretary of the Y.M.C.A.

*Farewell, Belov'd, now the day is done,
Earth's struggles o'er, for thee the conflict won,
No noise of battle shall disturb thy peace,
For thee the Saviour hath made war to cease,
Gladly you answered your Country's call.*



Knowing in conflict you must stand or fall,
All that you were, or hoped to be, you gave,
Now you are honoured with your Country's brave,
Your sacrifice shall never be in vain,
Hands are outstretched to take the torch again,
To hold it high that all the foe may see
Christ leads mankind to peace and victory.

Capt. W. M. Bean Gives Life



C. D. McIntosh Presumed Dead

WO. Charles David McIntosh, son of Mrs. Mary McIntosh, 393 Queen Street South, and the late Col. D. Graham McIntosh, who was reported missing July 31, 1943, may now be presumed dead, according to a recent communication from Ottawa.

By reason of the fact that he was shot down near France, however, his family have reason to hope the 20-year-old pilot is still alive. If such is the case, they are prepared to wait until the end of the war for confirmation.

WO. McIntosh was returning from operations over Germany, when part of his squadron became detached. Anti-aircraft fire brought down the Kitchener airman's plane, and since that time no word has been received of the landing.

A flight-sergeant at the time of the mishap, the young airman has been promoted to the rank of warrant officer, his mother has been informed.

WO. McIntosh is a graduate of St. Andrew's College at Aurora, and at the time of enlistment was attending Waterloo College.

Waterloo College has lost a loyal friend, with the death of Captain William M. Bean, killed in action, presumably in the push in Germany. He enlisted in the Scots Fusiliers in 1940, and was sent to Woodstock as an instructor. Subsequently he was commanding officer in Kitchener of a driving and maintenance school for the C.W.A.C. Going overseas about a year ago, he was with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, and saw action in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. A letter received at the college a month ago, written from Holland, told of the snow and ice the army was encountering, the below zero weather, and how happy he was to receive letters.

While at college Bill took a very active part in sports, particularly in rugby. He was one of the founders of Waterloo College Invitation Games, first sponsored in 1935, for collegiate students of central Western Ontario.

No _____ Rank Lieutenant Name JEFFERS, John Norbert
 Unit Royal Can. Regt. Date of death 26th January, 1944.
 Died at Italy.
 Cause Killed in action.
 Death occurred on strength of Forces. HQ 332-29-234 d17-2-44
 N/K Mrs. Helen Grace Jeffers Relationship Widow
 Address Box 168, Stayner, Ont.
~~216 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario~~
 Remains buried in _____ Cemetery
 MR.299159, Left of Road, North of town, San.Nicola, Italy.
 Grave location Grave 8.

CHK ✓

“OVER-”

REMEMBERING THOSE LOST - Lieutenant Norbert Jeffers, a student of Waterloo College, died while serving in Italy during the Second World War (above). Surrounding it are seven of the eleven men associated with the College that also perished in the war. Student members of the Canadian Officer Training Corps participate in a Remembrance Day march in 1942, below.



Courtesy of Wilfrid Laurier University Archives and Special Collections



Major Gordon Sim



Sgt. Pilot George Douglas Lowe



Captain William M. Bean



Lieutenant John Norbert Jeffers



Flight Officer Frederick Weber Shantz



Warrant Officer Charles David MacIntosh



Warrant Officer William Charles Thurlow

Remembering WWII at Waterloo College

KRIS COTE
Cord Historian

“I had all the officers and N.C.O's in my headquarters for an hour or so, earlier this evening for a little get-together,” Major A.K. McTaggart told Waterloo College through a letter to *The College Cord* in January 1945, recounting that “much of the time was spent in telling of the ways in which we had spent previous Christmases.”

For the 152 men and women from Waterloo College who were engaged in the war, this was a time of extreme dislocation and chaos.

Yet, contrary to the often larger-than-life portrayals of military life and the war, ordinary aspects of life continued. Christmas, even though on the front-line, still occurred.

While the Waterloo Campus was transformed by Canadian Officers Training Corps (COTC) program and air raid drills, students still went to classes, held dances and wrote about music, movies and gossip in *The College Cord*.

Similarly, students and soldiers fell in love, married, had children, fought and died in the war.

Eleven men from Waterloo College died during training and overseas operations throughout the Second World War.

While *The College Cord* did not feature regular coverage of the war, it nonetheless featured a regular COTC column, updates on servicemen from Waterloo College and when the occasion struck, notified the campus and community of the death of one of their brethren.

While the accounts of those killed and wounded highlighted

the selfless and heroic nature of the men, it did so in a way which humanized them, reinforcing their connection to Waterloo College and the community.

FLYING OVER WATERLOO

Gordon Douglas Lowe was the first Waterloo alumnus to be killed, after his plane crashed into a stone-house near Kingston during a training operation on December 30, 1940.

Graduating from Waterloo College in 1937, Lowe had worked as an accounting clerk at Mutual Life Insurance Company in Waterloo until he enlisted in the RCAF on April 20, 1940.

But he was not the only Waterloo casualty on Canadian soil. On November 23, 1943, Richard Meredith Wellein died after his plane crashed nose-first

into the ground at Camp Bordon, near Everett, Ontario, while on a training mission.

Eleven Waterloo College students and alumni were killed during WWII; nine in Europe and two during training in Canada.

Wellein had enrolled at Waterloo College in 1941, but dropped out in February 1943 to join the RCAF. *The Cord* was shocked to hear of his death since he had just visited his former classmates the previous weekend, and the paper noted that “a death such as his brings home the grim, destructive nature of this war.” An investigation failed to reveal the cause of the crash.

After completing his first year at Waterloo College, William Charles Thurlow spent his summer break of 1939 in Banff, Alberta, where he worked as a golf caddy at the Banff Springs Hotel. Hoping to train as a commercial pilot after obtaining his BA, Thurlow instead joined the RCAF

upon returning to Ontario, and was soon sent overseas. He had completed 27 missions by July 1942, only three short of becoming eligible for furlough in Canada, when his plane was shot down over France and he was killed. Thurlow had previously written his parents and told them that “I have a job to do that is more

- See WWII, page 3

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important than anything else. If anything happens I will go down fighting."

Several months after Thurlow had enlisted, his fellow student, Charles David MacIntosh, also enlisted in the RCAF at the age of 18. MacIntosh was killed two years later while escorting Typhoon bombers in France on July 31, 1943. A report of his death noted that "the Squadron was engaged by enemy fighters and the Blue Section was separated from the rest of the Squadron ... They crossed the coast east of Gravelines at approx. 12.30 hours and were heavily engaged by light flak. F/Sgt. MacIntosh's aircraft was seen to burst into flames and dived in the sea."

Another Waterloo alumnus, Harold A. Wills, was also killed in France when his plane was shot down on his very first flight, November 28, 1943.

While death notices at least brought closure, the announcement in April 1945 that Frederick Weber Shantz failed to return after flying a mission over Germany left family and friends hoping that he would be found alive.

An investigation following the war, however, revealed that Shantz, along with five other airmen, were killed when their plane was shot down. They were buried together at Amelsbueren, Germany, though a seventh man survived the rest of the war in a POW camp.

THE CAMPUS FRONT

Students at Waterloo College also fought the war in ways other than active duty.

As labour demands increased, an increasing number of female students took jobs in the war industry during their summer holidays. Their efforts and experiences were documented and displayed in *The College Cord*.

Other female students sought greater participation in the war effort, enlisting in non-combat roles and serving overseas. The names of these women appear on the honorary plaque in the Arts Building. Female students also created their own program of military training and preparedness.

Feeding the armies in Europe was not an easy task during the war, especially with the strain on farm labour caused by the war. In 1942, this prompted eight students to go west as part of a government program to help alleviate the shortage in farm labour, where they worked for several weeks and received class credit.

COTC training was mandatory for all male students, as part of the government's defence policy. Students were trained in map reading, trench negotiation, rifle and machine gun techniques, and spent two weeks every year at a larger COTC camp at the University of Western Ontario.

Of the 55 students who concurrently trained for military service during their education, 39 later saw active service. In November 1942, *The Cord* announced that, due to enlistment shortages, any male student who failed an exam would be discharged from the school and then drafted into the army.

WOUNDED, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

11 students and alumni from Waterloo College made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives

to the Canadian war effort. But those who returned home sacrificed as well. *The College Cord* served to highlight the sacrifice and bravery of many of its returning students and alumni, maintaining the link between the campus, its students and the war.

In February 1944, *The Cord* reported that Bill Artindale, a former student, was wounded during action in Italy, and that he was recovering from his injuries in a hospital in Algeria. In October of the same year, Artindale again made news in *The Cord* after he returned to combat, was wounded a second time, captured and imprisoned in a German prisoner of war camp.

Other students and alumni were more fortunate, as they were able to recover from their injuries among their family and friends in Canada. In March 1945, *The College Cord* reported that four former students; Lee McLaughlin, Clare Kruspe, Gordon Burns and Jack E. Koehler all returned to Canada and were recovering from wounds received on the battlefield. Despite their actions, they remained humble, and as Kruspe told *The Cord*, his actions were nothing that had not "been told many times before."

In November 1942, The Cord announced that, due to enlistment shortages, any male student who failed an exam would be discharged from the school and then drafted into the army.

In November 1944, Waterloo College was informed that Charles Campbell, another former student, had lost his right arm as a result of his injuries and was awarded the military cross for his actions.

The February 1945 *College Cord* printed his official citation.

"This intelligence officer accompanied his commanding officer afoot, behind the assault companies in the attack on Buron, on the morning of July 8, 1944. When communications between the infantry and the tanks broke down, this officer ran out to the tanks over three yards of shell-swept ground. Climbing up the sides of the tanks he conveyed the commanding officer's orders to the squadron leader.

"While doing this he came under fire from snipers in trees. When the progress of the battle became confused due to the number of wireless sets knocked out, he left the command post, and despite heavy shelling, walked through the village in search of the infantry company, not knowing whether it was cleared of enemy.

"When the command post was hit and all others killed or wounded, he endeavoured to establish a command post and carry on.

His great assistance in helping to get men forward, and his coolness and courage throughout the day resulted in our men being able to form a firm base in the village, and was a leading factor in the success of the attack."

IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Again, however, not everyone returned from battle. Having trained with the COTC on campus, Craig Alles joined the Scots Fusiliers of Canada on July 29, 1942. Alles participated in the lib-

eration of Holland, but was killed in action on April 12, 1945. On September 6, 1944, Major Gordon Drummond Sim was killed in action in France, leaving behind his wife, Mildred Elizabeth Sim.

THE NORMALCY OF WAR

Despite the dislocation caused by training and war, soldiers continued to engage in the normal aspects of life, with a distinct twist.

For instance, on August 8, 1942, John Norbert Jeffers, a Waterloo College graduate and employee of Mutual Life Financial, sought permission from the army, and was approved, to marry Miss Helen Spaetzel of Kitchener. He was subsequently granted leave, and on September 11, 1942, the two were wed. Similarly, William M. Bean, also a Waterloo graduate, sought leave on December 8, 1942, in order to visit his wife and newborn daughter in Kitchener. He returned to his duties, however, and was killed in action in France on March 5, 1945.

Personal connections between soldiers, family and the student community remained strong, despite the distance and chaos between them.

Writing for the alumni magazine, *Laurier Campus*, in November 1995, Sunil Kuruvilla reveals one such instance of trans-Atlantic connectedness. Jeffers and Earl Pepler had both grown up in Kitchener, though the men did not know each other.

Through the course of the war, their families became close, and through letters back and forth, urged the two soldiers to meet each other. They finally met on January 26, 1944, though not under the circumstances that their families had hoped.

While leading his platoon in Motta, Italy, Jeffers was shot and killed. In a letter home, Pepler told his parents, "Although I didn't reach Lieutenant Jeffers until after it was all over, they tell me he died like a true soldier ... even after [the sniper's bullet] struck, he continued to call out commands and ordered his men to send up a smoke screen." His actions, wrote Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Mather, "were heroic, and in giving his life [he] was instrumental in saving those of many others." Pepler later carried Jeffers' body from the field in their first face-to-face encounter.

STUDENTS WHEREVER THEY WENT

While war often made 'men of boys,' through letters home and in correspondence with *The College Cord* it is evident that despite their surroundings, some soldiers continued to be students at heart. "It is a lot of fun for some of us to practise our 'school book' French," Jack Keohler wrote *The Cord* in October 1944. "I find I can manage quite well."

Thus, under different circumstances, these men who never returned from war would have proven that they were no different from anyone else, in their time or ours. Their lives, however, were taken from them, and for this they deserve to be remembered.



How to pay your respects at WLU this Friday

DAN POLISCHUK
News Editor

For the bravery and patriotism displayed by fellow citizens as far back as 90 years ago, Canada will be commemorating the contributions of its soldiers, past and present, this Friday – Remembrance Day.

For James Stonevurgh, a former member of Canada's peacekeeping troops, November 11 will provide an opportunity for him to talk about his experiences, which he hopes will help the younger generation "to be proud of who they are."

Stonevurgh will be one of the keynote speakers at Friday's 10:30am ceremony in the Concourse, believes that students should know that "they are a powerful force."

"What I felt when I have talked to students is they don't really have that sense of history, that sense of accomplishment. What was done before them was done for them and the potential that [students] have – I'm not seeing that the way it should be," he said.

Sonia Lam, student coordinator of WLU's Remembrance Day ceremony along with WLUSU President Dan Robert, stressed the

importance of student participation in commemorating the dedication of soldiers around the globe.

"[The soldiers] believed in [freedom]. The only way for their legacy to live on is through us," said Lam.

For defending something important as freedom, Stonevurgh believes that he has "enhanced Canada's image world-wide," and believes that through his experiences he has become "one hell of a better person."

"We were very proud of what we were doing. We were very professional and we were basically the frontline ambassadors for our country," he said, adding, "We took our jobs seriously, and hopefully we did a very good job."

Through sharing such experiences in his speech Friday, Stonevurgh hopes to instill some more pride in his listeners.

"It was the same people that went over during the Second World War, Korea, and even the First World War – they were just like [today's youth]," he commented.

"[The youth] are a powerful force, and I am more than happy to talk to any of them to tell them how important they are."



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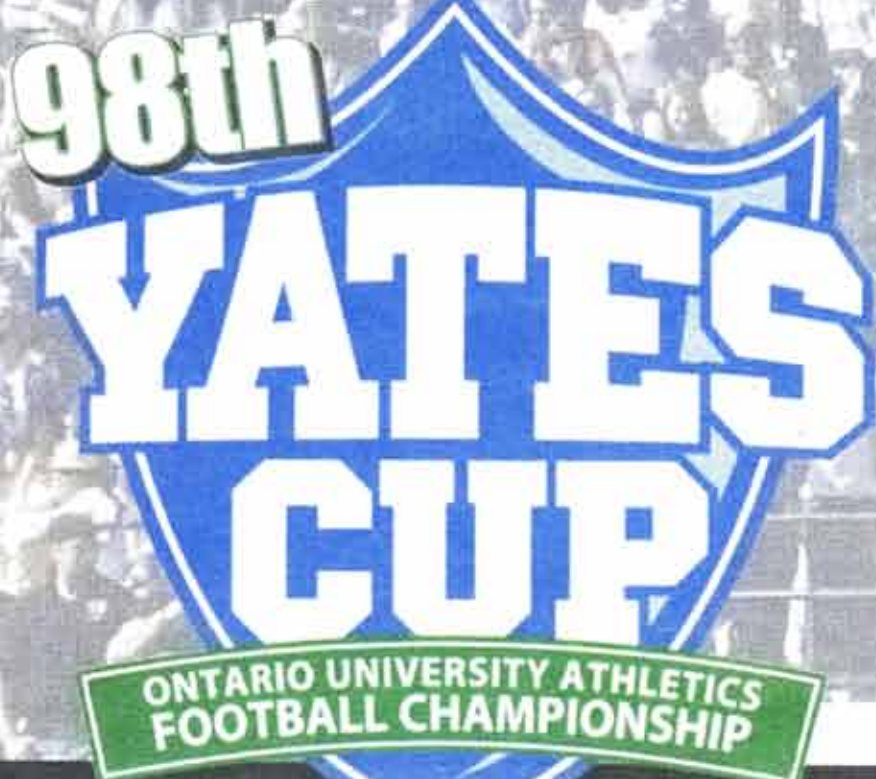
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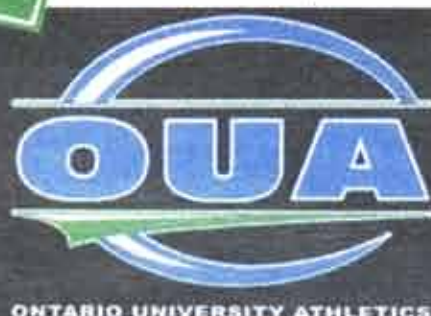
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