

*They Are All Our Heroes*

L e s t   w e   f o r g e t



## **Introduction**

This book was funded by an FCEM project in 2005. It was sponsored by C.A.M.I., in collaboration with the Entry Island Heritage Committee. All information compiled is correct to the best of my knowledge and ability with the sources available. I apologize in advance for any mistakes or inaccurate facts, for it was not intentional.

## **Acknowledgments**

I would like to thank C.A.M.I and the Entry Island Heritage Committee for their support. A special thank you to the veterans and their families for sharing their stories with me and supplying as much information as possible. A thank-you is extended to Elizabeth Ascah and Candace Aitkens for helping with the editing and final re-write and to Bobbie Sue Keating for helping with the layout. Last, but not least, thank you to Wendy Chenell for designing the cover page.

## **Dedication**

This book is dedicated to all the veterans of Entry Island who served their country in the First, Second and Korean Wars. Their bravery will forever be remembered.

Edna Morrison

## Life on Entry Island during WWII

Life on Entry Island during WWII was very different from what it is today. With 37 men gone, there were only women, children, elderly men and a few young men who stayed at home.

With the husbands and sons gone the women had to take care of their children and the farms by themselves. If they had older children they were very lucky for the extra help.

There were only seven boats from Entry Island fishing at that time and the price for lobsters was only 20-30 cents a pound.

When it came time to plant and harvest the crops or make hay for the winter, everyone helped. People were always generous and caring when it came to helping others when they were needed.

Entry Island was a very self-sufficient community. People raised their own livestock such as cattle, sheep and poultry. This supplied them with meat, eggs, cheese, butter and wool. They had plenty of fish, which they preserved by salting and drying. They also had large vegetable and potato crops.

The women spent many long nights worrying about their husbands, sons, brothers, uncles and cousins. Some families had as many as five members gone, not including the extended family members. It was very hard and sad when they received word that Hong Kong was forced to surrender and that fourteen men from Entry Island were taken prisoner by the Japanese. Church services were held and people came from all over to pray for their safe return. By the end of WWII the families on Entry Island had suffered greatly. Eight men died in the prison camps, one died accidentally while on leave, and one died shortly after his release from the after effects of his imprisonment.

All of these men were part of the Royal Rifles of Canada. As a result of this, when the church was re-built in 1950, it was named All Saints Memorial Church in honour of the men who lost their lives. It is the only War Memorial church on the Magdalen Islands.

Every year on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the 16 men who served in WWI, the 37 who served in WWII and the 4 who served in the Korean War, are always remembered, as the school children march to the church where they read off the honour roll, say a few prayers and then place poppies on each veteran's grave.

# World War I

## Clifford Carleton Cassidy



Clifford was born April 19, 1897 on Entry Island. He was the son of John James Cassidy and Margaret Ellen Dickson.

On November 9, 1917, he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Niobe*, the *Stadacona*, the *Hochelaga*, the *Seagull*, and the *Arras*. Clifford was awarded the Victory Medal, the British War Medal along with the War Badge Class AA.

After his discharge on January 2, 1919, he returned home to Entry Island where he married Viola Welsh and they had three children. He made his living as a fisherman and he was also a carpenter by trade. Clifford Carleton Cassidy died June 15, 1968 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Albert Earl Dickson



Earl was born January 5, 1900 on Entry Island. He was the son of Thomas Dickson and Martha Jane Welsh.

On July 20, 1917, he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Lansdowne*, and the *Stadacona*. For his service in the Navy he was awarded the War Badge Class B and the British War Medal. He was discharged on December 3, 1918 in Sydney, N.S.

Earl returned home to Entry Island where he married Margaret Collins and they had two children. He made his living as a fisherman and he was a farmer. Also, at one time, the post office was in his house, where he worked as the postmaster for a couple of years. After Margaret's death, Earl married a schoolteacher named Mildred Adams and they did not have any children.

Albert Earl Dickson died March 15, 1967, and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Paul Benjamin Dickson



Paul was born March 21, 1900 on Entry Island. He was the son of William Dickson and Jane Chenell.

On July 20, 1917, he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Lansdowne*, the *Stadacona*, the *Seagull* and the *Niobe*. He was awarded the War Badge Class AA, the Victory Medal and the British War Medal for his service in the Navy and was discharged on May 30, 1919.

After the war, Paul met and married Lillian Hirtle in Halifax, where they lived for a number of years before moving back to Entry Island. They had six children. He made his living as a fisherman and he was also a farmer.

Paul Benjamin Dickson died on August 19, 1963, and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Clarence Dickson Goodwin



Clarence was born in Grindstone, Magdalen Islands. He was the son of Charles A. Goodwin and Margaret Bloom and a brother to Norman Goodwin, who was also a veteran of WWI. He was young when his parents died and David Dickson and Bethia McCallum of Entry Island adopted him. During the First World War, he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. After the war he moved to N.S and married Mable Scott. No other information was available for Clarence.



## Norman Goodwin



Norman was born February 23, 1892 in Grindstone. He was the son of Charles A. Goodwin and Margaret Bloom.

On July 20, 1917, he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Lansdowne* and the *Stadacona*.

After being discharged on December 6, 1918, in Sydney, Nova Scotia he returned to Entry Island and his wife Isabella Dickson. They had four children.

Norman and his younger brother moved to Entry Island when they were very young men after their parents died. He was a fisherman and he could also speak French, which was very rare in those days.

Norman Goodwin died September 27, 1977, and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Herman Victor Josey



Herman was born on October 19, 1893 in Spry Harbour, N.S. He was the son of Emmanuel Josey and Caroline Hubley.

On August 10, 1917, he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Lansdowne* and the *Stadacona*. For his service in the Navy he was awarded the War Badge Class AA and the British War Medal. After being discharged on December 3, 1918 in Sydney, N.S., he returned to Entry Island and his wife Sylvia Welsh. They had four children.

Herman first came to Entry Island as a young man in the early 1900's with his father, who brought a ship filled with cargo into the Magdalen Islands. At that time, there were only seven houses on Entry. He decided not to go back with his father and began making a living as a fisherman.

Finally, in 1989, after many years of calling Entry Island home, he moved to Winsloe, P.E.I. with his son.

Herman Victor Josey died February 5, 1994, at the age of 100. He is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

William Henry Josey



William was born on May 17, 1891 in Spry Harbour, Nova Scotia. He was the son of Emmanuel Josey and Caroline Hubley.

On August 10, 1917, he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. in Halifax, as Able Seaman, then obtaining the rank Leading Seaman on October 16, 1917. He served on the *Lansdowne* and the *Niobe*. For his service in the Navy he was awarded the War Badge Class B and the British War Medal.

After being discharged on December 3, 1918, in Sydney, N.S., he returned to Entry Island and his wife Arvilla Welsh. They had six children. William came to Entry Island in 1912 and was a fisherman there for many years. In 1933, Will and his family moved to Pictou, N.S. until 1946, then he moved to Brantford, Ontario where he remained until his death.

## Daniel Kenneth McLean



Daniel was born July 18, 1899 on Entry Island. He was the son of John Henry McLean and Nancy Maria Taker.

On July 17, 1917, he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Lansdowne*, the *Stadacona*, and the *Niobe*. For his service in the Navy he was awarded the War Badge Class A, the Victory War Medal and the British War Medal. Daniel was also injured in the 1917 Halifax Explosion, for which he received the Kings Certificate.

After being discharged on November 3, 1918, Daniel met Jean Johnstone, from England, in Westville N.S. They got married on Entry Island. He became the father of ten children, two of whom were stepchildren. He barbered for a while in Stellerton, N.S before returning to Entry Island and working for the Department of Transport for thirty years as a lighthouse keeper.

In 1937, sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion, Daniel was among a group of veterans who toured the World War 1 battlefields in Europe. Two of the important sites he visited were Sommes and Vimy Ridge.

Daniel Kenneth McLean died June 11, 1962 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Raymond Wilfred McLean



**Raymond was born December 23, 1894 on Entry Island. He was the son of John Henry McLean and Nancy Maria Taker.**

**On March 31, 1915, he enlisted in the Canadian Army in Halifax, obtaining the rank of Corporal.**

**After being discharged December 10, 1918, Raymond returned to Halifax and his wife, Florence Salmon, who was originally from England. During the 1917 Halifax Explosion, both Raymond and his wife Florence sustained injuries. Together they had eleven children. He did many things during his life, such as carpentry work, coal mining and working at the Trenton Car Works.**

**Raymond Wilfred McLean died April 8, 1954 and is buried in the Castle Hill Cemetery, McLellan's Brook, Nova Scotia.**

## Roland Seaman McLean



Roland was born October 23, 1889 on Entry Island. He was the son of John Henry McLean and Nancy Maria Taker.

He enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. on November 9, 1917 in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. After serving on the *Niobe*, the *Stadacona*, and the *Guelph*, Roland was discharged on May 11, 1919. For his service in the Navy, he was awarded the War Badge Class AA, the Victory War Medal and the British War Medal.

After the war, he went to the Northwest Territories where he met and married Ethel Katts. They did not have any children. He returned home to Entry Island, but the exact year is not known.

Roland Seaman McLean died in 1961 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Ronald Webster McLean



Ronald was born on Entry Island on September 14, 1892. He was the son of John Henry McLean and Nancy Maria Taker.

On April 23, 1917 in Halifax, he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R., with the rank of Able Seaman. The ships that he served on were the *Niobe*, the *Lansdowne*, the *Stadacona*, and the *Seagull*. For his service in the Navy, he was awarded the War Badge Class AA, the Victory War Medal along with the British War Medal.

After being discharged on December 20, 1918, he met and married Margaret MacKaracher. They lived in Pictou, N.S. and had four children. He worked on two cargo boats, the *Lovat* and the *Hosalita*.

Ronald Webster McLean died on December 26, 1939 from tuberculosis and is buried in Pictou, N.S.

## Curtis Wintie Quinn



Curtis was born on June 12, 1894 in Grosse Ile. He was the son of William Quinn and Melinda Dickson.

On April 3, 1917, he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. The ships he served on were the *Lansdowne*, the *Niobe* and *Stadacona*. For his service in the Navy, he was awarded the War Badge Class B.

After he was discharged on November 6, 1918, Curtis moved back to Grosse Ile and later to Entry Island where he married Dorothy Welsh. They had two sons. He made his living as a fisherman and he was also a farmer.

Curtis Wintie Quinn died April 3, 1948 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.



## Delbert Burton Welsh



Burton was born on Entry Island November 20, 1896. He was the son of Andrew Welsh and Mary Chapman.

On July 20, 1917 he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Lansdowne* and the *Stadacona*. He was awarded the British War Medal along with the War Badge Class B. He returned home to Entry Island after being discharged in Sydney, N.S. on December 3, 1918.

Delbert Burton Welsh died of tuberculosis at the age of 24, on May 18, 1920. He is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## John George Welsh



**John was born on June 3, 1894 on Entry Island. He was the son of John (Jack) Welsh and Grace Chapman.**

**On July 20, 1917, he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Lansdowne* and *Stadacona*.**

**After being discharged on November 25, 1918 in Sydney NS, he returned home to Entry Island and his life as a fisherman. He was married to Janie Dickson and they had four children.**

**John George Welsh died in 1932 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.**

## James Gordon Welsh



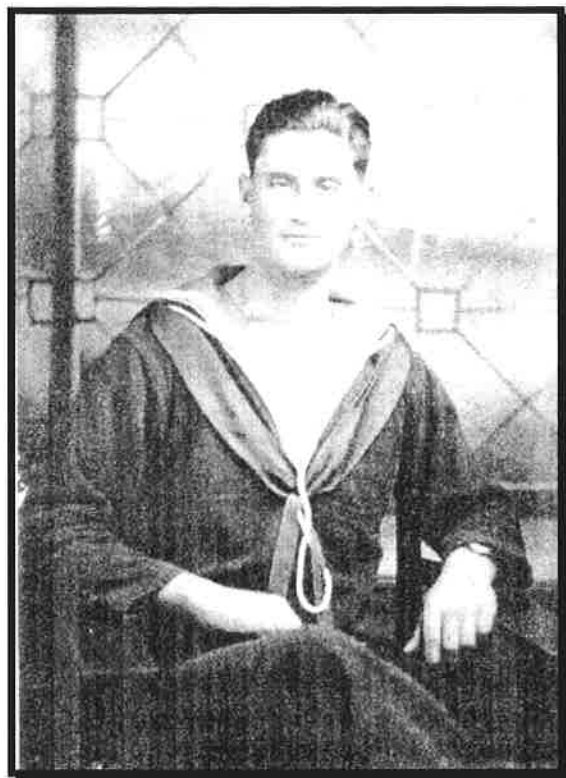
**Gordon was born on February 23, 1899 on Entry Island. He was the son of Thomas Welsh and Agnes Taker.**

**In 1917 he enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R. in Nova Scotia with the rank of Able Seaman.**

**After being discharged he married Dorothy McCullum and had two children.**

**James Gordon Welsh died December 17, 1986, and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.**

## Philip Welsh



**Philip was the son of Andrew Welsh and Mary Chapman. He was born April 5, 1897 on Entry Island.**

**He enlisted in the R.N.C.V.R on February 5, 1918 with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Niobe*, *Stadacona*, *Guelph*, and the *Seagull*. For his service he was awarded the War Badge Class AA, the Victory War Medal and the British War Medal.**

**After his discharge on May 19, 1919, he returned home to his wife Hester Chenell on Entry Island. They had three children.**

**Phillip Welsh died in 1922, at the young age of 25 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church, Entry Island.**

# World War II

## Robert Thomas Aitkens



**Rob, as he was known, was born on Entry Island on July 8, 1912. He was the son of James William Aitkens and Victoria Dickson.**

**In 1939, he enlisted in the Navy with the rank of Able Seaman. The medals he was awarded were: The Atlantic Star, 1939-45 Star, C.V.S.M, and the 1939-45 War Medal.**

**Following his discharge in 1945, he returned home to Entry Island. He continued his life as a fisherman and later married Vernie Welsh. They had seven children.**

**Robert Thomas Aitkens died on December 9, 1965 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.**

## Bazil Thomas Chenell



**Tom was born March 29, 1916, on Entry Island. His parents were Edward Chenell and Nancy E. Dickson.**

**He enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada July 1940 in Grindstone, M.I. with the rank of Rifleman and later stationed in Newfoundland. Due to medical reasons, Tom was discharged in 1942. For his service in the war he was awarded the 1939-1945 Star, C.V.S.M and the 1939-1945 War Medal.**

**He returned home to Entry Island where he made his living as a fisherman, later marrying Audrey Cassidy. They had three children. Basil Thomas Chenell died in a fatal sledding accident on February 14, 1948 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.**

## James Wilson Chenell



Jim Dan, as he was known, was born on Entry Island August 15, 1914. He was the son of Paul Chenell and Phoebe Welsh.

In 1940 he enlisted in the R.C.N.V.R. in Halifax, obtaining the rank of Petty Officer. The medals he was awarded were the C.V.S.M, 1939-45 Star, and the 1939-45 War Medal.

He met and married Rita Russell in 1943, while stationed in St. John's, NFLD. After being discharged on May 21, 1945, they returned to Entry Island and had five children. Jim was a fisherman for many years, while he lived on Entry Island and he was also a carpenter by trade. He had many dances in his boat shed and sold plenty of hotdogs. This is where he got the nickname "Hotdog Jim". One of his accomplishments as a carpenter was helping to build our beautiful church, now known as All Saints Memorial Church.

Jim and his family lived on Entry until 1966, moved back to NFLD until 1979 and finally moved to Vernon Bridge, PEI where he remained until his death.

James Wilson Chenell died March 9<sup>th</sup> 2001 and is buried at Christ Church, Cherry Valley Cemetery, PEI.



## Howard Charles Dickson



Howard was born on February 28, 1922 in Halifax. He was the son of Paul Dickson and Lillian Hirtle.

He enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada and following his discharge from the Army; he re-enlisted in the R.C.N.V.R. on May 18, 1942 in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Montcalm*, *Cornwallis*, *Stadacona*, *Prospect*, *Niobe*, *Chatham*, and the *Peregrine*. He was discharged from the Navy on October 11, 1945. The medals he was awarded for his service were the Atlantic Star, 1939-45 Star, C.V.S.M and the 1939-45 War Medal.

After the war Howard worked on other boats in the Northwest Territories and on the Great Lakes, as well as fishing and farming for many years. He was married twice. His first wife was Claire Gattinger. Later he married Minnie Patton on Entry Island and they had three children.

Howard Charles Dickson died March 26, 1984, and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Gerald Judson Dickson



Gerald was born on March 4, 1925 in Halifax. He was the son of Paul Dickson and Lillian Hirtle.

He enlisted in the Navy on July 26, 1943, in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Queen Charlotte*, the *Cornwallis*, the *Stadacona*, the *Scotia*, the *Avalon*, and the *Peregrine*. For his service in the Navy, he was awarded the 1939-1945 Star, the Atlantic Star, C.V.S.M. and Clasp, and the 1939-1945 War Medal. He was discharged on December 5, 1945.

Gerald married Melinda Sweet in N.S. and they had two children. They later moved home to Entry Island where he made a living as a fisherman. He also farmed for many years.

Gerald Judson Dickson died on August 12, 1996 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Edward Bruce Josey



Bruce was born March 1, 1925 on Entry Island. He was the son of Herman Josey and Sylvia Welsh.

He enlisted in the Navy on July 27, 1943, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Bradion*, the *Beaverton* and a number of Harbour Crafts. The medals he was awarded were the C.V.S.M, 1939-45 Star, and the 1939-45 War Medal.

After being discharged on November 27, 1945, Bruce returned home to Entry Island. He married Rhoda Dickson and had two children. He made his living as a fisherman and later working on the wharf for many years weighing lobsters. In 1989, they moved to P.E.I and still reside there today.

## Archibald Carl McLean



Carl was born on Entry Island in 1918. He was the son of Richard and Maud McLean.

During the Second World War he enlisted in the Navy obtaining the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

After the war he returned home to Entry Island, where he married Alice Welsh and they had two children. Carl was a lighthouse keeper on Bird Rock and he also taught school on Entry Island.

Archibald Carl McLean died in 1968, and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Arthur Ellsworth McLean



1.

Mick, as he was known, was born on Entry Island and was the son of Richard and Maud McLean.

He enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada in July 1940, with the rank of Rifleman.

He was married to Eva Lottie Collins, before the war, and had one child.

Arthur Ellsworth McLean died as a result of an accident on October 3, 1941, while home on leave. He is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

Every year on January 30<sup>th</sup>, you can view Mick's name, when the Book of Remembrance, located in the Memorial Chambers of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, is opened to page 38.

## Artie Alexander McLean



**Artie was the son of John Henry McLean and Nancy Maria Taker. He was born June 6, 1909 on Entry Island.**

**During the Second World War he served in the Pictou Highlanders.**

**He married Margaret MacKaracher and had six children, four of whom were stepchildren.**

**Artie Alexander McLean was living in Nova Scotia at the time of his death, in June 1982, and is buried in Pictou, Nova Scotia.**

**John Patrick McLean**



**Jack, as he was known, was born in 1904, on Entry Island. He was the son of John Henry McLean and Nancy Maria Taker.**

**During the Second World War he served in the R.C.N.V.R. obtaining the rank of Petty Officer.**

**He married Florence McPhail and they had four children. John Patrick McLean is buried in Nova Scotia.**

## Mackenzie King McLean



**King was born on October 28, 1926 on Entry Island. He was the son of Richard and Maude McLean. He enlisted in the Army.**

**He was married three times first to Lucille Herring, then Ethel Flemming and Maria Rosa. He had five children. King is buried in Montreal, but no other information was available.**



## Willis Richard William McLean



Willis was born July 15, 1926 on Entry Island. He is the son of James (Jim) McLean and Leona Dickson.

He enlisted in the Canadian Army in August 1944 in Halifax. Willis served in the Army Service Corp, obtaining the rank of Private, for which he was awarded the C.V.S.M. During this time, he was stationed in Ottawa.

After being discharged in 1946 he returned home to Entry Island and fished for two years. He moved to Ontario and in 1950 became a firefighter until his retirement 33 years later. He met and married Eleanor Moor. They had six children. Today, Willis is living in Owen Sound, Ontario.

## Cornelius Morrison



Neil, as he was known, was born May 11, 1902 in Westville, N.S. His parents were John Morrison and Jane Dickson. At the time of his enlistment, he was working as a miner in Nova Scotia.

On August 5, 1940, he joined the Pictou Highlanders at Mulgrave, N.S. He was a Sapper (Private in the Engineer Corp) and a qualified concreter's helper. On August 8, 1942 he left Halifax by boat for Glasgow, Scotland, a journey that would last ten days. For his service in the war he received the War Badge General Service Class, Defense Medal, the 1939-1945 War Medal, the C.V.S.M. and Clasp.

Neil was discharged on May 2, 1944 in England. He then returned home to Entry Island, his wife Margaret Welsh and their three children. He made a living as a fisherman.

Cornelius Morrison died May 18, 1973, and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## John Daniel Morrison



John was the son of John Morrison and Jane Dickson. He was born in Westville, Nova Scotia.

He enlisted in the Pictou Highlanders on July 29, 1940 in Mulgrave, N.S., obtaining the rank of Private. Upon his discharge on April 7, 1942, from the Pictou Highlanders, he then re-enlisted that same day in the Navy with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Stadacona*, the *Cornwallis*, the *Wasaga*, the *Avalon* and finally the *Queen Charlotte*. John was discharged on December 4, 1945. He was awarded the 1939-1945 War Medal, C.V.S.M. and Clasp, and the War Badge General Service Class.

He returned to Entry Island and made a living as a fisherman, but later moved to Ontario to work.

John Daniel Morrison died in April 1967 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Philip William Quinn



Philip was born on September 21, 1924 on Entry Island. He is the son of Curtis Quinn and Dorothy Welsh.

He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy on July 27, 1943, in Charlottetown, P.E.I., with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the commodore's boat in Halifax, a frigate named the *East View* and he served on the *Westmount*. The *Westmount* was a minesweeper, which was part of the Triangle Run, from Boston or New York, to Halifax and St. John's, Newfoundland. For his service in the war, he was awarded the C.V.S.M., the Atlantic Star, and the 1939-1945 War Medal.

After being discharged on January 2, 1946 he returned to Entry Island where he later married Eleanor Chenell. They had seven children. After the war Philip fished for a year then returned to the sea. He was on the *Sorel* in 1947 when it made, what is claimed to have been the boat's roughest trip in 29 years of service. He also worked for many years as a lighthouse keeper on Entry Island and Bird Rock. Philip and his family moved to Grosse Ile in 1979 and he still lives there today.

## Arthur Lloyd Welsh



Lloyd was born on Entry Island on March 13, 1924. His parents were Ruben Welsh and Sarah Dickson.

He enlisted in the Navy on July 23, 1943, in Halifax, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on the *Queen Charlotte*, the *Cornwallis*, the *Stadacona*, and the *Avalon* before being discharged on December 4, 1945. For his service in the Navy, he was awarded the 1939-1945 Star, the Atlantic Star, the C.V.S.M and the 1939-1945 War Medal.

Lloyd returned home to Entry Island and later married Edna Dickson. They had three children. He made his living as a fisherman and was also known for his boat building.

Arthur Lloyd Welsh died on May 19, 1969 as a result of a boating accident while fishing. He is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Burell Cowan Welsh



Cowan was born December 11, 1909 on Entry Island. He was the son of Ira Welsh and Amberzilla McLean. For three years before the war Cowan worked on board the R.C.M.P. Cruiser, the *Scatarie*.

He enlisted in the Pictou Highlanders on September 7, 1939 in N.S obtaining the rank of Lance Corporal. Upon his discharge on January 13, 1942, he re-enlisted in the Navy, that same day, with the rank of Able Seaman. He served on a number of ships, beginning with the *Stadacona*, then the *Venture*, the *Fort Ramsay*, the *Protector*, the *Niobe*, and the *Peregrine*. For his service in the war he was awarded the 1939-45 Star, The Atlantic Star, C.V.S.M., the Defense Medal and the 1939-45 War Medal. On two separate occasions, Cowan happened to be on the boats that were torpedoed. This was said to have been on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> both times.

After being discharged September 20, 1945, he returned home to Entry Island and fished for a few years.

Burell Cowan Welsh died July 17, 1971 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Charles Henry Welsh



Charles was born on June 1, 1916 on Entry Island. He was the son of Ruben Welsh and Sarah Dickson.

He enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada on December 8, 1941, obtaining the rank of Lance Corporal. For his service in the war he was awarded the War Badge General Class, the C.V.S.M. and the 1939-1945 War Medal.

After being discharged on June 10, 1943, at Patricia Bay, B.C. he returned home to Entry Island. Charles married Ada Turnbull from Grosse Isle and they had five children. He was a fisherman and he also transported the mail between Entry Island and Amherst for many years.

Charles Henry Welsh died December 20, 1980 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Clifton Henry Welsh



Clifton was born on Entry Island. He was the son of William Welsh and Sarah Clark.

During WWII, he enlisted in the Navy, serving as a Ship Wright. After his discharge he stayed in Pictou, N.S. where he ran the post office for many years.

Clifton was married twice, first to a woman named Minnie (last name unknown) and they had two children. He also married Mable Corbet and had one child.

Clifton Henry Welsh died December 2, 1972 and is buried in Pictou, N.S.



## Everett Clayton Welsh



Everett was born on Entry Island on October 6, 1906. He was the son of Thomas Welsh and Agnes Taker.

During WWII, he enlisted in the Merchant Navy. He worked as a fireman on the *Lovat*, which was the ship that ran between Pictou, N.S. and Grindstone, Magdalen Islands. For his service he was awarded the 1939-45 War Medal and the C.V.S.M

After the war, he made a living as a fisherman for many years. He married Janie Dickson and was father to twelve children, four of whom were his stepchildren.

Everett Clayton Welsh died November 17, 1995 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## George Walter Welsh



Walter is the son of George and Grace Welsh and was born on Entry Island on March 13, 1917.

In July of 1940 in Grindstone, Magdalen Islands, Walter enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada with the rank of Rifleman. Later in the Royal Highland Regiment, better known as "The Black Watch", he attained the rank of Corporal. He was wounded twice, the first time on July 25, 1944 in a battle at Verrières Ridge in France. This was known as one of the bloodiest confrontations in WWII. Walter recalls that there were about 340 men out of 800 that were either killed or wounded on that horrible day. After spending three weeks in England recovering, he was sent back to France and rejoined the Black Watch at Dunkirk. The regiment fought along side the English Channel on the European side all the way to Holland. On April 8, 1945, in Holland, he was wounded again shortly after taking command of the 14<sup>th</sup> platoon C-Company. This time he was sent to a hospital in Belgium and the war ended shortly after. For his bravery in this war, he was awarded the 1939-45 Star, France & German Star, British Defense Medal, 1939-45 War Medal, C.V.S.M. and a medal for the Liberation of Holland.

After his discharge on February 18, 1946 he returned to Entry Island and later married Helen Welsh. They had seven children, one of whom was adopted.

George Walter Welsh moved to Charlottetown, P.E.I in 1972 and is presently still living there.

## Wardie Edwin Welsh



Wardie was born on May 2, 1926 on Entry Island. He was the son of John Welsh and Janie Dickson and the stepson of Everett Welsh.

On January 10, 1945, he enlisted in the Canadian Army in Halifax, obtaining the rank of Private. For his service in the war he received the 1939-1945 War Medal.

After he was discharged on July 4, 1946, he returned to Entry Island and married Mildred Clarke. They had seven children. His family moved to Truro, N.S where he was living at the time of his death.

Wardie Edwin Welsh died on January 25, 2002 and is buried in The Valley Cemetery, Truro.

# Hong Kong Conflict

## The Royal Rifles of Canada in Hong Kong

In July 1940, the men who joined the Royal Rifles of Canada did their basic training in Valcartier, Quebec. Two months later, in September, they were transferred to Sussex, N.B. Then, in November of that year, the Regiment started to replace the Queen's Own Rifles in Newfoundland. Some were stationed at Gander Airfield and others at Botwood Seaport. Their orders were to guard these two places against possible enemy attack. The soldiers at Botwood were in charge of protecting the only railway line that supplied the forces in Newfoundland.

On October 9, 1941, the troops were called back to Valcartier to be re-equipped for the tropics. They had no idea where they were going. Leaving by train on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, they headed for Vancouver. On the night of October 27, 1941, there were nine hundred and sixty two Royal Rifles and one thousand and thirteen Winnipeg Grenadiers that left Vancouver aboard the *Awatea* with the *H.M.C.S Prince Robert* as escort. They stopped in Honolulu and Manila for fuel and arrived in the British Colony of Hong Kong on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Twenty-two days after their arrival in Hong Kong, they came face to face with the enemy and the battle for Hong Kong began. The fighting lasted until December 25, 1941. Being out manned and out-gunned, the forces sent to defend Hong Kong had no other choice but to surrender. They had no idea that almost four years of hell would follow.

After the surrender, even though they were extremely exhausted and some wounded, twenty-two hundred of the men at Stanley Fort were marched twelve miles to North Point Camp. Eight men died at this camp. The surviving men remained there until September 26, 1942 and then moved to Sham Shui Po Camp on the mainland of Hong Kong. Diseases such as diphtheria, beriberi, dysentery and pellagra ran rampant through this prison camp. Fifty-one soldiers from the Royal Rifles died in this camp, thirty-seven from September 28<sup>th</sup> to November 28<sup>th</sup> and four of them were from Entry Island. These men were Stanford Welsh (Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>), Delbert Welsh (Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>), Allen Welsh (Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>), and Maxwell Chenell (Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>).

Beginning January 19, 1943, the Canadians started being shipped to Japan. By April 19, 1944, six hundred and three men from the Royal Rifles were put in prison camps across Japan. Seventy of those men died there and four of them were from Entry Island, Ben Chenell (Sept. 26, 1943), Carleton Aitkens (Feb. 1, 1944), Burton Welsh (Mar. 31, 1944) and Radley Chenell (Apr. 21, 1944).

In the prison camps, men were used as slave labor, building airports and tunnels, working in mines and factories, being up at 5:00 a.m. and working non-stop until 8:00 p.m. These working conditions combined with a lack of proper food, medical supplies and the brutal treatment they received was the cause of most of the deaths at the camps. By the end of the war there were two hundred and fifty nine casualties. One hundred and thirty were killed before the surrender on December 25, 1941, fifty-nine died in the Hong Kong prison camps, and seventy died in the Japanese prison camps. Seven hundred and two of the Royal Rifles that arrived in Hong Kong survived the deprivations of the prison camps. Six of these survivors were from Entry Island. These brave soldiers were Bahan Chenell, Borden Chenell, Leslie Chenell, Ancil Josey, Jim McLean and Ernest Welsh.

The motto of the Royal Rifles of Canada is: "Valens et Volens" (Willing and Able) and all of these men have proven that. No one will ever fully comprehend the extent of the suffering, pain, and horror that these men endured during those four long years.

## Ancil Lloyd Josey



Ancil was born on Entry Island May 1, 1917. He was the son of Herman Josey and Sylvia Welsh.

In Grindstone, Magdalen Islands, in July 1940, he enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada with the rank of Rifleman. The Japanese captured him on December 25, 1941 after the surrender of Hong Kong. He suffered for two years as a P.O.W. in the Hong Kong prison camp and twenty months in the Japanese prison camp. Soon after his liberation on August 30, 1945, he returned to Canada and was later discharged. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star, The Pacific Star, C.V.S.M & Clasp and the 1939-45 War Medal.

When Ancil returned home to Entry Island, he married Olive McLean and had six children. After the war he fished for a while, was the postmaster and ran a general store.

Ancil Lloyd Josey died March 26, 1985 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## William Radley Chenell



Buck, as he was known, was born September 8, 1908 on Entry Island. He was the son of Paul Chenell and Phoebe Welsh.

In July 1940, he enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada with the rank of Rifleman. Seventeen months after enlisting the Japanese took him prisoner after the surrender of Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941.

William Radley Chenell died a little over two years later on April 21, 1944 as a P.O.W. and is buried in the Yokohama British Commonwealth War Cemetery, Japan. For his service in the war, his wife, Irena Welsh, received his medals, the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, C.V.S.M and the 1939-45 War Medal. They had no children.

One can view Radley's name every year on June 12, when the Book of Remembrance, located in the Memorial Chambers of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, is open to page 272.



## John Maxwell Chenell



**Max, as he was known, was born November 5, 1910 on Entry Island. He was the son of Paul Chenell and Phoebe Welsh.**

**He enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada in July 1940, obtaining the rank of Lance Corporal. After the surrender of Hong Kong, on December 25, 1941, he was taken prisoner at the hands of the Japanese. John Maxwell Chenell survived 10 months in the Sham Shui Po prison camp and died as a P.O.W on October 16, 1942. He is buried in the Saiwan Bay War Cemetery, Hong Kong. His wife, Elizabeth Welsh, and their only child, a son, received his medals, which were the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, C.V.S.M & Clasp and the 1935-45 War Medal.**

**Every year on February 13<sup>th</sup>, you can view Maxwell's name, when the Book of Remembrance, located in the Memorial Chambers of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, is opened to page 64.**

## Bernard Leslie Chenell



Leslie was born March 23, 1907 on Entry Island. His parents were Edward Chenell and Nancy E. Dickson.

In Grindstone, Magdalen Islands, in July of 1940, he enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada with the rank of Rifleman. Upon the surrender of Hong Kong on December 25, 1941, Leslie was captured and spent almost four, horrendous, years as a P.O.W. The medals that were awarded to him were the Pacific Star, 1939-45 Star, C.V.S.M. and the Defense Medal.

After his liberation in August 1945, he returned to Canada and married his second wife, Diola Welsh and had one child. His first wife and the mother of his other two children, Emily Welsh, died in 1936.

Bernard Leslie Chenell died only fourteen months after his release on October 4, 1946, in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. He is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery on Entry Island.

Every year on December 11<sup>th</sup> you can view Leslie's name, when the Book of Remembrance, located in the Memorial Chambers of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, is open to page 583.

## Edward Bahan Chenell



Bahan was born on Entry Island on March 7, 1903. His parents were Edward Chenell and Nancy E. Dickson.

In July 1940, he enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada, with the rank of Rifleman. He was the oldest man from Entry Island to enlist in the Royal Rifles.

In December 1941 he was one of the thousands of men to be taken prisoner by the Japanese following the surrender of Hong Kong. From December 29, 1941 to September 26, 1942 he was imprisoned at the North Point Prison Camp and then sent to the Sham Shui Po Camp. He was incarcerated for nearly four years as a P.O.W. in the most horrible of conditions before being liberated by the Allies on August 28, 1945, and later discharged on January 21, 1946. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star, C.V.S.M & Clasp, Pacific Star, 1939-45 War Medal, Defense Medal and the War Badge Class General Service.

Bahan finally returned home to his wife, Rosella Welsh. They had four children, two before the war and two after. He was a fisherman for many years.

Edward Bahan Chenell died on January 25, 1997 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## George Borden Chenell



**Borden was born May 28, 1918 on Entry Island. He was the son of Edward Chenell and Nancy E. Dickson and the youngest of their five sons in the war.**

**He enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada in 1940, with the rank of Rifleman. He was captured and taken prisoner by the Japanese after the fall of Hong Kong in December 1941. He spent almost four years as a P.O.W. First he was put in the North Point Camp, then to Sham Shui Po Camp and then moved to Niigata Camp in Japan, where he remained until his liberation in 1945. For his service in the war he was awarded the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, C.V.S.M & Clasp and the 1939-45 War Medal.**

**A few years after his discharge, Borden married Diola Welsh. The couple had two sons and five stepchildren. He was a fisherman for many years.**

**George Borden Chenell died on November 17, 2001 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island. He was the last surviving Hong Kong Veteran in the Magdalen Islands.**

## Edward Carleton Aitkens



Carleton was born June 16, 1909 on Entry Island. He was the son of James William Aitkens and Victoria Dickson.

He enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada in July 1940 with the rank of Rifleman. In December 1941 he was captured and taken prisoner, after the surrender of Hong Kong.

Edward Carleton Aitkens died two years and two months later on February 1, 1944 as a P.O.W. He is buried in the Yokohama British Commonwealth War Cemetery, Japan. The medals that he was awarded were given to his mother. These medals were the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defense medal, 1939-45 War Medal and the C.V.S.M. & Clasp.

Carleton's name can be viewed every year, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, when the Book of Remembrance, located in the Memorial Chambers of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, is opened to page 235.

## Albert Benjamin Chenell



Ben, as he was known, was born on Entry Island in 1913. He was the son of Edward Chenell and Nancy E. Dickson.

In July 1940, he enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada, with the rank of Rifleman. After the surrender of Hong Kong in December 1941, he was taken prisoner by the Japanese.

Albert Benjamin Chenell died twenty-one months later on September 26, 1943 as a P.O.W. and is buried in the Yokohama British Commonwealth War Cemetery, Japan. The medals that his family received for his service were: the Pacific Star, 1939-45 War Medal, and the C.V.S.M.

Before Ben went to war he was a fisherman and at one time, the janitor at the Entry Island School. He loved children and even though he had none of his own, he would always buy them all a gift at the school.

Every year on March 27<sup>th</sup>, his name can be viewed on page 145 of the Book of Remembrance that is in the Memorial Chambers of the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.

## James Patton McLean



**Jim, as he was known, was born on Entry Island, February 15, 1904. He was the son of Richard and Maude McLean.**

**On August 24, 1940, in Valcartier, Quebec, he enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada, with the rank of Rifleman. When Hong Kong was forced to surrender to the Japanese in December of 1941, Jim was captured and taken prisoner. He endured the horrible condition as a P.O.W for nearly four years until his liberation by the allies in August of 1945. He was awarded the Pacific Star, 1939-45 Star and the C.V.S.M & Clasp for his service in the war.**

**After his liberation in 1945, he returned home to Entry Island and his wife Leona Dickson. They had eight children and he made his living as a fisherman for many years.**

**James Patton McLean died in June 1979 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.**

## Delbert William Louis Welsh



**Delbert was born on Entry Island on November 24, 1920. He was the son of Philip Welsh and Hester Chenell and stepson to Leonard Chenell. He enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada in July 1940, with the rank of Rifleman. He was captured and taken prisoner on Christmas Day 1941, after Hong Kong was forced to surrender to the Japanese.**

**Delbert William Louis Welsh lasted only ten awful months before he died on October 6, 1942 in the Sham Shui Po prison camp. The cause of his death is stated as Diphtheria. He is buried in the Saiwan Bay War Cemetery, Hong Kong. Delbert kept a diary of his life as a P.O.W. His last entry dated the day he died, reads as follows, "did not have anything to eat all day, could not swallow." His diary is on display in the National War Museum in Ottawa.**

**The medals his family received for him were the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, C.V.S.M. and the 1939-45 War Medal.**

**On March 15<sup>th</sup>, of every year, when the Book of Remembrance, located in the Memorial Chambers of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, is opened to page 123, you can view his name.**



## Ernest Edwin Welsh



Ernest was born February 11, 1922 on Entry Island. He was the son of Ruben Welsh and Sarah Dickson.

He enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada in Grindstone, Magdalen Islands in July 1940, with the rank of Rifleman. When Hong Kong was forced to surrender to the Japanese on December 25, 1941, he was one of the thousands of men that were captured and taken prisoner. Ernest spent almost four long, arduous years as a P.O.W. He was awarded the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, C.V.S.M and the 1939-45 War Medal for his service in the war.

After his liberation in 1945, he returned home to Entry Island and later married Nancy McLean. They had four children together. He worked for Hydro-Quebec for many years before retiring and moving to Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Ernest Edwin Welsh died on August 20, 1993 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## Allen Benjamin Welsh



**Allen was born on Entry Island in 1923. His parents were Ruben Welsh and Sarah Dickson.**

**He enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada, with the rank of Rifleman, in July of 1940, in Grindstone, Magdalen Islands. After the fall of Hong Kong on December 25, 1941, the Japanese took him prisoner.**

**Allen Benjamin Welsh died as a P.O.W. ten months later on October 7, 1942, at the Sham Shui Po prison camp. He is buried in the Saiwan Bay War Cemetery, Hong Kong. The medals that his family received for his service in the war were the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, C.V.S.M and the 1939-45 War Medal.**

**Every year on March 15<sup>th</sup>, his name can be viewed on page 123 of the Book of Remembrance, located in the Memorial Chambers of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.**

## James Stanford Welsh



Stanford was born on Entry Island in 1906. He was the son of Henry Welsh and Nancy McPhail.

In July 1940, he enlisted in the Royal Rifles of Canada, obtaining the rank of Corporal. He was taken prisoner in December 1941, following the surrender of Hong Kong to the Japanese.

James Stanford Welsh died in the Sham Shui Po prison camp on October 5, 1942, as a P.O.W., ten months after he was captured. He is buried in the Saiwan Bay War Cemetery, Hong Kong. The medals that he was awarded, and received by his wife, Diola Welsh, were the 1939-45 Star, Pacific star, C.V.S.M and the 1939-45 War Medal.

Stanford and Diola had six children. He was a fisherman and a boat builder before joining the service.

His name can be seen every year on March 14<sup>th</sup>, when the Book of Remembrance, located in the Memorial Chambers of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, is opened to page 122.

# Korea

## Bedford Bernard Chenell



**Bun, as he was known, was born on Entry Island on January 23, 1932. He was the son of Leslie Chenell and Emily Welsh.**

**In 1950 he enlisted in the Army with the rank of Private and was discharged in 1953. The medals he was awarded for his service were the Korean Medal and the United Nations Medal.**

**Bun met and married Irma Day in Westville, Nova Scotia, and had four children. He worked at the Trenton Car Works for many years until his retirement.**

**Bedford Bernard Chenell died on February 5, 1997 and is buried in St. Bee's Cemetery, Westville, Nova Scotia.**

## Burrell Cowan Welsh



Cowan was born December 11, 1909 on Entry Island. His parents were Ira Welsh and Amberzilla McLean.

Being a veteran of the Second World War, he felt it was his duty to serve in the Korean War as well. At the age of 42 Cowan enlisted in the Army (Active Force) on September 5, 1951 as a Sapper. He was discharged on October 19, 1954 and returned home to Entry Island. He was awarded the Korean Medal and the United Nations Medal. All of his medals are on display at the Entry Island Historical Museum.

Burrell Cowan Welsh died on July 17, 1971 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.

## John Robert McLean



Jack, as he was known, was born May 14, 1932 on Entry Island. He is the son of Daniel McLean and Jean Johnstone.

He enlisted in the Canadian Army on October 6, 1951 in Toronto, with the rank of Private. He was discharged four years later on July 12, 1955 and returned home to Entry Island. The medals he was awarded were the Korean Medal, V.S.M, United Nations Medal and the defence of Europe Medal.

Jack married Thelma Chenell and had five children. He worked for the Department of Transport from 1959-1988 as lighthouse keeper on Entry Island. Today he is presently living in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

## **David Ellsworth Roy McLean**



**Dave, as he was known, was born October 30, 1930. He was the son of James (Jim) McLean and Leona Dickson.**

**In 1950, he enlisted in the Korean War and for his service he was awarded the Korean Medal and the United Nations Medal.**

**Dave was married twice, first to Rose McLean and then to Lois Keating. He had three children and made his living as a fisherman.**

**David Ellsworth Roy McLean died on August 8, 1993 and is buried in the All Saints Memorial Church Cemetery, Entry Island.**



## Interesting Facts

**During the First World War a boat came to the Magdalen Islands recruiting men for the war. The men from the Islands that were going to join went to Halifax to enlist.**

**Herman and Will Josey enlisted on the same day and they married sisters. Herman's two sons Ancil and Bruce were in WWII.**

**Raymond, Ronald, Roland and Daniel McLean all enlisted in WWI. Their brothers, Artie and John (Jack) enlisted in the WWII. Daniel's son John (Jack) enlisted in the Korean War.**

**Burton and Philip Welsh (brothers), enlisted in WWI.**

**Curtis Quinn was in WWI and his son, Philip, was in WWII.**

**Paul Dickson was the only veteran to serve in both the First and Second World Wars. His sons, Gerald and Howard, were in WWII.**

**In WWII there were five Chenell brothers, four of them were taken prisoner (Ben, Bahan, Borden and Leslie), at Hong Kong. The fifth was Thomas. Leslie's son Bernard (Bun) enlisted in the Korean War.**

**James, Radley and Maxwell Chenell were brothers and cousins to the five Chenell brothers. Radley and Maxwell were married to sisters and they were also P.O.W.'s (WWII) in the Hong Kong hostilities.**

**Walter and Burton Welsh were brothers, and also brothers-in-law to Radley and Maxwell Chenell. Burton was also a P.O.W (WWII) in the Hong Kong conflict.**

**Lloyd, Charles, Ernest and Allen Welsh were brothers. Ernest and Allen were P.O.W.'s (WWII) in Hong Kong**

**In WWII, James, Carl, Ellsworth (Mick) and King McLean were all brothers. James was also a P.O.W. in Hong Kong. His son, Willis McLean also served in WWII. David McLean, another son of James, enlisted in the Korean War.**

**Cowan Welsh was in WWII and the Korean War.**

**Robert and Carleton Aitkens were brothers. (WWII)**

**Cornelius (Neil) and John Morrison were brothers. (WWII)**

**Gordon Welsh was in WWI and his brother Everett Welsh was in WWII.**

**Wardie Welsh served in WWII. His father John Welsh was in WWI.**

**Delbert Welsh, WWII, was taken as a P.O.W. in Hong Kong. His father Philip Welsh served his country in WWI.**

**R.C.N.V.R. means Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve.**

**C.V.S.M. means Canadian Volunteer Service Medal.**

**The Book of Remembrance contains the names of all Canadian soldiers since Confederation who have died while serving their country. There are seven books located in the Memorial Chambers in the Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. All together the books contain more than 115,710 names.**