

The Burlington Historical Society

GAZETTE



Special Edition 75th Anniversary – D-Day

“On June 6, 1944, the First Canadian Army, with Americans on one flank and British on the other, attacked the German stronghold on the northern French coastline of Normandy. The success of the assault on Juno Beach was assured by the tenacity and dedication of men, like those from Burlington.

...Burlington was still very much a rural town when war was declared again in September 1939. The population had grown to about 3,500 and over 600 enlisted, this time in either the Army, Navy or Air Force, also known as the Canadian Active Service Force (CASF). Tanks, planes, ships and submarines were virtually unheard of in the Great War but played pivotal roles in the outcome of the Second World War.

...The Peel, Dufferin, Halton Regiment (later the Lorne Scots) was formed to give local identity to Army recruits, unlike the numbered battalions of World War One. Practice took place near the Old Town Hall on Elizabeth St., and on open ground near where Joseph Brant Hospital is today.

...War dragged on for six years and 44 of Burlington’s heroes were among the many Canadian war dead.”

Quoted with the author’s permission from the book “We Were Just Doing Our Bit” by Ed Keenleyside, ©2016

CANADIANS MOVE IN QUICKLY AFTER SMASHING BACK STIFF HUN RESISTANCE ON BEACHES

Vivid Eyewitness Account of Attack
Illustrates Magnitude of Onslaught

(By Ross Munro, Representing Combined Press of Canada.
Distributed by British United Press)

With Canadian Forces Landing in France, June 7.—(BUP)—Canadian assault troops, after some stiff opposition in certain sectors of this particular beach, are now advancing through the coastal defence strip which is part of the so-called west wall. It is likely there will be hard fighting inland, however, when German reserves are thrown in. Meanwhile, reports of successes are coming in one after another to this headquarters, one regiment after another flashing back that they are cutting their way forward. The opening of this western front was the mightiest spectacle that has been seen in combined operations in this war. I watched the whole incredible scene from start to finish and I have never beheld anything so tremendous in any sea-going attack

Newspaper clipping from 7 June 1944
D-Day + 1

On the Homefront

Photo BHS Archives

About 50 women and 3 men worked at the TW Hand Fireworks Co. plant on Caroline Street at Clarke Avenue, sewing and testing parachutes used to drop flares. The factory later became the home of Susan Shoes. Today it is a private residence.



Today

Photo: The Canadian Encyclopedia



Today, there is a spectacular monument to Canada's wartime sacrifices in France – the Juno Beach Centre. Located in Courseulles-sur-Mer in France, the creation of the centre was spearheaded by D-Day veteran and Burlington resident, Garth Webb.

This centre welcomes thousands of visitors every year and this anniversary year promises to set records. Among the visitors will be Burlington Mayor, Marianne Meed Ward.

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