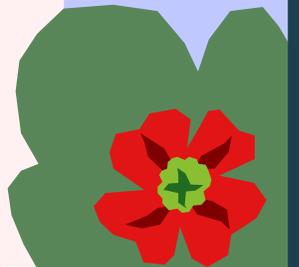
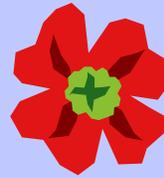
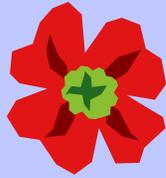


James Gilchrist

*Story of a Royal Canadian
Infantry Veteran*

of

World War II



Always
&
Forever



Lest We Forget

Rev. James Gilchrist

In Memorial

(as told by his daughter)

Jim tried to join the Royal Canadian Infantry in 1939 but he had broken his arm when he was a young teenager and the arm hadn't set just right so they turned him down.

He waited until 1941 to try and sign up again when he was 29 and the Army really needed volunteers. This time he was accepted. During Basic Training, the other soldiers called him "Pop" as he was so much older than them.

Jim was set to be deployed to Italy but he was held back. Then he was suppose to go to France but that got changed as well and he didn't go. Later he heard many of his friends who went overseas in those two groups had been killed. He was amazed he had been held back both times. In the end he was stationed in Aldershott, England.

Jim was assigned to Ordinance. Ordinance had the job of loading the trucks with ammunition and supplies. He said it took three days, working twenty-four hours a day, to get the trucks ready for D-Day.

One thing Jim was grateful for was, when on leave, he was able to visit his father's family in Scotland. Being stationed in England granted him the joy of seeing family he would otherwise never have met.

Canadian soldiers had patches on their shoulders with Canada written on them. While in England, he said he had never seen so many people so proud to see soldiers. People on the buses or trains would insist on the Canadian soldiers taking their seats.



He remembers one older woman on a bus who insisted on him taking her seat saying, "You need to sit down Canada, you came to help us".

Jim's faith was strong through his service time and his life. He believed that God gave him the strength to do what he had to do.

Jim was discharged in late 1945 or early 1946.

After his discharge, Jim went on to become a Presbyterian Minister.

Thank you, Rev. James, for your contribution to the war effort. God truly was with you.