

Well, this is one of the few incredible experiences that Ed had to tell me in our short time together. Ironically, what amazes me is the fact that when I approached him and spoke to him with regards to the fact I was researching and writing short stories on the experiences of the veterans in our branch, he said he really didn't have anything significant to talk about. I guess that's the nature of war hardened brave men.

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Ed was born in Greenock Scotland, which is just outside of Glasgow, June 25<sup>th</sup> 1918. He lived with his mom and dad and his older brother Samuel. His military involvement commenced in 1937 when he joined the 77<sup>th</sup> Highland Field Regiment Territorial army, which was part of the British Expeditionary Force and shipped to Auldershot in England for Military Field Training.

He was called up for regular service on September 10<sup>th</sup> 1939, two days before the war broke out. He was shipped to Cherbourg in France. He was involved in action in Belgium, and then returned once again back France to do battle in Dunkirk.

After this tour of duty, Ed returned to Andover, England for further training for six months and then off to the conflict in Algiers in North Africa with the 77<sup>th</sup> Highland Artillery Field as a gunner where he was captured.

Due to the fact Ed was rescued as a prisoner of war he was not allowed to join his old regiment, which was proper procedure. He was taken out of battle and sent to Alexandria in Egypt to supervise Egyptian labour with the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers. He was honourably discharged from the military on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1946, and transferred to the British Army Reserve until June 30<sup>th</sup> 1959.

Ed worked as a machinist in England until 1963. He then traveled to the United States with his wife Elizabeth and his son and daughter. Ed lived in New Jersey for seventeen years and is an American citizen. He moved to Canada in 1978 at sixty years of age and worked as a millwright for five years before he retired. He was been a member of our branch for twenty-eight years.

Ed's son Edward lives in Thailand, his daughter resides in Pickering, and his son-in-law Neil McWatt, is also a member of our branch. Unfortunately, Elizabeth, his wife of fifty-four years passed away in 1996.

Books are written, and movies are made of the kind of dangerous escapades that Ed was involved in. What I have written about this brave warrior, is only a small morsel of information this man experienced. But as he stated, defending his country and freedom was something he had to do, wanted to do, and like so many of his brave comrades, some who never came home, answered the call and were victorious. He was a soldier, a husband, a father....a veteran.

We have we lost another great veteran from our branch. Ed Fraser was a wonderful, very courageous human being. A man of incredible dignity and honesty. I am very proud to have known him ..... if only for a short while.

Bruce Sharpe



## **Ontario Provincial Command**

### ***Ontario's Veterans' License Plate Illegible To Vietnam Vets***

***Ontario's Veterans' License Plate program expanded to include service in Vietnam for those veterans who were Canadian citizens at the time of their service and who served in the forces of the United States or its allies during this war.***

#### ***Aurora***

Ontario Command of The Royal Canadian Legion, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, is announcing the expansion of the Veterans' License Plate program to include Canadian Citizens who served in the Vietnam War in the United States forces or in the forces of its allies in this war.

Applications are now available from the Legion's Ontario Command Office and the Ontario Legion website, the Issuing Offices of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation and the ministry's website ( [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca) ).

When submitting their application to the Legion, applicants will be asked to provide documentation of service in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and to provide proof of Canadian citizenship ( i.e., birth certificate or citizenship papers) at the time of service.

The Ontario Command of The Royal Canadian Legion and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation value our veterans' contribution, dedication and commitment to serving and protecting our country and are proud to recognize those Canadians who fought in Vietnam. These special license plates, which feature a red poppy and the word 'Veteran' are a year-round reminder of our debt to the brave men and women who have served, and those who are currently serving our country.

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## ***Ontario Provincial Command***

### ***The Royal Canadian Legion Supports Creation of a Seniors Ombudsman***

The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command has long supported the establishment of an Ombudsman position in Ontario to resolve issues related to long term care that are raised by veterans, seniors and their families.

We are delighted that many other seniors' advocacy groups are calling for an institutionalized Ombudsman for Seniors, with the power to investigate and report officially to the government and the people of Ontario.

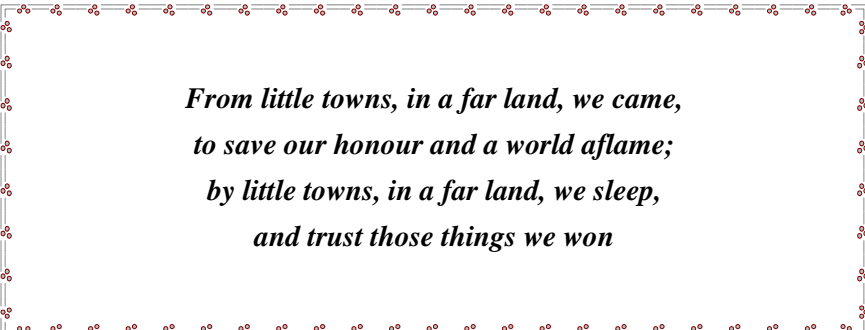
We have been pleased with many of the recent initiatives under the current Minister of Health to facilitate the reporting and resolutions of problems within the long term care system, from the 1-800 line to improvements to the compliance process.

An Ombudsman will complete the process of redress and allow for a final independent review for issues of care that have not been resolved within the system or through the advocacy of the Legion and other seniors groups.

We are pleased to support the other seniors' advocacy groups in their call for an Ombudsman for all Seniors with a broader mandate. These broader responsibilities will include complaints regarding care in long term care facilities and other care centres. Veterans and seniors in long term care are frail, elderly and vulnerable.

They often cannot speak for themselves and we are obliged as a society to take every measure possible to ensure they are protected and that individual and systemic issues are addressed when the system has failed them.

We ask all Legionnaires and all citizens of the province to support the call for the appointment of an independent Ombudsman for Seniors, whose mandate will include long term care issues in Ontario.



***From little towns, in a far land, we came,  
to save our honour and a world aflame;  
by little towns, in a far land, we sleep,  
and trust those things we won***



***Legion Urges Department Of National Defence  
To Take Strong Pro-active Stance On WW2 Members  
Deemed Not To Have Served***

The Royal Canadian Legion is very concerned about the status of as many as 14,000 Canadian veterans who were deemed 'not to have served' in World War 2. In a statement released today by Dominion President Mary Ann Burdett, the Legion is calling upon the Department of National Defence to review the original Order in Council which reclassified the veterans, and to ensure that all those surviving veterans included in the Order in Council are offered the opportunity to recover their status as "honourably served".

The Legion believes that many of the 14,000 veterans who were not properly discharged from the military after the war did not willfully go absent but were the victims of arbitrary and cumbersome processing procedures. They should therefore be given the benefit of the doubt and offered the opportunity to regain their status as having honourably served during World War II. DND should therefore immediately open the door to any veteran (or surviving family member) who wishes to apply for reclassification of status as such, and any veteran who is reclassified should be fully eligible for all benefits under the Pension Act.

It is a fact that some persons disqualified themselves for veterans' benefits by committing the act of desertion. The Legion has not changed its position on this specific law and still considers its application correct based on the validity of the case. Desertion is against the law.

What is becoming clear now, however, is that in many of the cases where a person was deemed "not to have served", because he or she was not properly discharged, the person did not go willfully absent. Rather the person may have been the victim of arbitrary and cumbersome processing procedures. Therefore, we strongly believe that the person should be given the benefit of the doubt and offered the opportunity to have their status reclassified to having "honourably served".

Given that the Department of National Defence bears the primary responsibility for the actions taken, The Royal Canadian Legion is strongly urging the department to take a very pro-active stance on this matter. It is strongly suggested that the department use every possible means to allow those deemed as "not to have served", or a surviving family member, to make an application to be reclassified as "honourably served. Any veteran who is reclassified should then be fully eligible for all benefits under the Pensions Act.

The Royal Canadian Legion believes this to be a fair and equitable solution to the problem.

Mary Ann Burdett  
Dominion President  
The Royal Canadian Legion