

NEIGHBOURHOOD OF SACRIFICE

MAPPING THE LOSS OF GLEBE FAMILIES IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

RESEARCH AND STORY BY DAVE O'MALLEY

Young men and women who are killed on active service are said to have paid the "supreme sacrifice." There's not much more that you can give than your life, but I posit that the greatest sacrifice of all is borne by the families of those killed in the line of duty. Airmen, soldiers and sailors who die in battle are lionized, and rightly so, but it's their mothers, fathers, wives and families who are conscripted to carry the burden of that sacrifice to the end of their days. This project is dedicated to those families of the Glebe who lost a loved one in the Second World War.

The Glebe has been my home since the early 1970s—a funky 130-year-old urban community of red brick Victorian homes, excellent schools as old as the neighbourhood, tall trees pleached over shady streets, open-minded and highly educated people, happy kids, diverse, desirable and timeless, close to everything. You might find a more upscale neighbourhood, a trendier one, a more affordable one, but you will never find a better one.

It is a truly perfect place to raise a family, build a business and live out a life as I have done, but once it must have felt like the saddest place on Earth. Its avenues ran with apprehension and despair, its busy serenity masked the constant high-frequency vibration of anxiety and the low pounding of sorrow. Behind every drawn curtain hid anxious families, broken parents, heartbroken wives, memories of summers past and lost, the promises of futures destroyed and children who would never know their fathers. These were the years of the Second World War.

There was nothing particularly special about the Glebe that brought this plague of anguish, nothing it deserved, nothing that warranted a special attention from death. Indeed, the Glebe was not singled out at all, though it may have felt like it was to its citizens. Every community in Canada took the same punishment, felt the endless blows to its heart, felt its life blood seeping away. Parents stood by while their sons and daughters left home, the routines that gave comfort, the futures that beckoned, and began arduous journeys that would lead most to war and great risk of death.

Some would die in training, others in transit. Some of disease and even murder. Some in accidents close to home, others would fall from the sky deep in enemy lands. Some by "friendly" fire, others by great malice. Many would simply disappear with no known grave, lost to the sea, a cloud covered mountain, a blinding flash, a trackless jungle. Some would die in an instant, others with prolonged fear and pain. An extraordinarily high number would not come home in one piece.

Though it was not alone in its sorrow, the Glebe was the first community in Canada to feel a blow. The first Canadian to die in the war went to Glebe Collegiate. Pilot Officer Ellard Cummings was killed a few hours after war was declared on September 3, 1939, when the Westland Wallace aircraft he was piloting crashed into a mountain in Scotland. The first Canadians to die on North American soil in the Second World War were from Ottawa, including Glebe resident Corporal David Rennie. He was lost in early September 1939, along with another Ottawa aviator named Ted Doan, when their Northrop Delta airplane experienced an engine failure and crashed into the New Brunswick wilderness while en route to Cape Breton to join in the search for German submarines. He lived with his parents on Ella Street. His was the first of many Glebe families whose lives would be destroyed by the war. Their son would not be found for another 19 years.

All these men walked the same streets that I did and still do. I can pass their homes any day, enter their churches, visit their schools. They all went to the Mayfair, Rialto and Imperial Theatres to find out the news about the war or just to escape from it. They played hockey on the frozen canal like I used to do. They used the same butcher shop I use today. This immediacy, this connection is a very powerful thing. It brings home the loss in a very personal way.

I began to wonder how many other stories there were in these streets and avenues. How many more had been lost? How many families were affected? What I found out left me speechless. In the age of the "infographic," I set out to demonstrate visually what that number of fallen meant to my community by mapping death's footprints. And so began a quest to find and map the fallen soldiers, airmen and sailors of the Glebe.

To do this, I would have to find the addresses of every young man or woman (no Glebe women were listed) whose

name appeared in Casualty Lists published in the Ottawa daily newspapers. In those days, newspapers always included the address of the next-of-kin. Starting with the posted date of the serviceman's death, I scoured every page of each issue of the *Ottawa Journal*, moving forward until I ran into a story about the subject serviceman. All of the men who qualified were mentioned in one of the thousands of official Army, Air Force and Navy Casualty Lists published in Canada during the war. I did not differentiate the manner of their deaths, though most died on active service. A tiny proportion died of disease, motor accidents, train wrecks and heart attacks, but if they qualified to be on an official Casualty List in the local papers or the Canadian Virtual War Memorial, then they qualified for this map.

In the Glebe, as in most urban neighbourhoods at the time, the Grim Reaper took the form of the telegram boy who had the duty to deliver both good and bad news. Mothers, looking out from their front porches, fathers from their parlours, wives from their washing, must have cringed to see the young man from the Canadian National Telegram and Cable Company pedal or drive down their street, and willed them to move on.

Each pin on the map represents the home of the fallen's next-of-kin. For the most part, this meant the parental home, the marital home or residence where a wife was living with her parents. I used only addresses that were mentioned in Casualty Lists or as reported in the daily broadsheet newspapers.

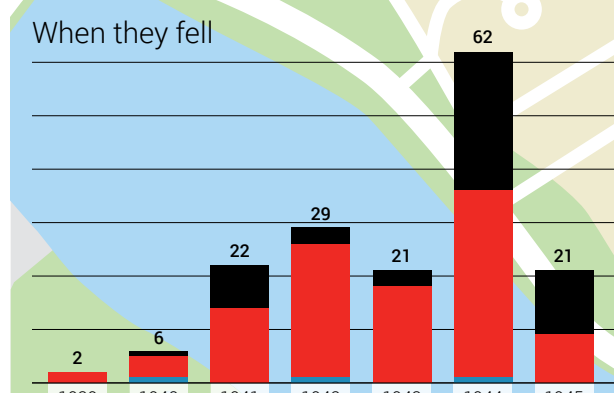
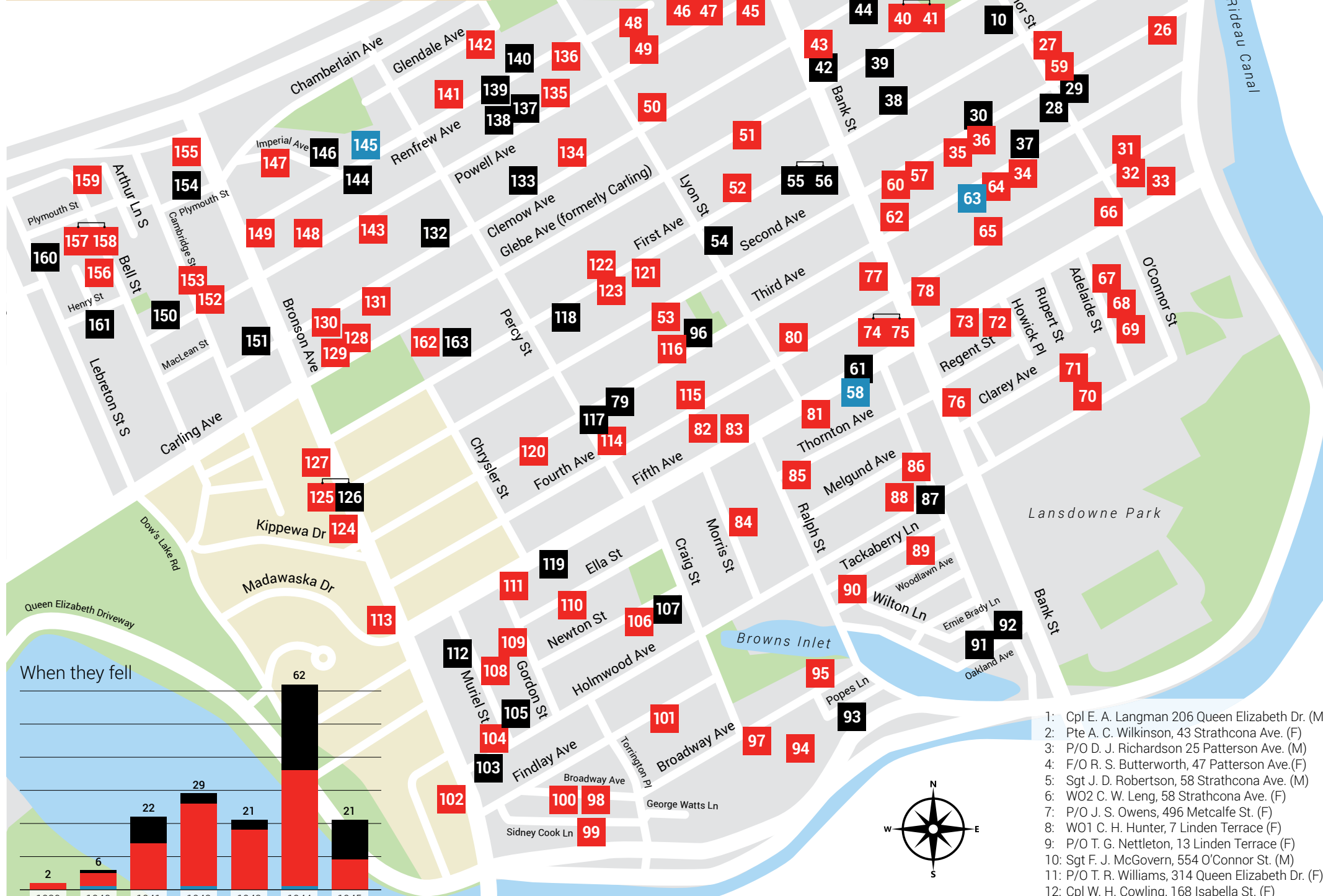
The 163 men I was able to pin to the map represent only a tiny fraction of the Canadians who died in the war. But among them, I found the complete picture of the war as it affected this country. There were men who died in the opening hours of the war and men who died in the closing days. Every major battle that Canadians were involved in is represented by someone in this group—the Battle of the Atlantic, Battle of France, Battle of Britain, North African Campaign, Defence of Hong Kong, Siege of Malta, Dieppe Raid, Battle of El Alamein, Dam Busters Raid, Battle of Ortona, Battle of Monte Cassino, D-Day, Battle for Caen, Battle of the Scheldt Estuary, Battle of the Falaise Pocket, and the never-ending campaigns of Bomber Command, Fighter Command, Coastal Command, Transport Command, and the activities of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, as well as Burma, Singapore and more. Some disappeared into the Mediterranean Sea, the North Sea, the Irish Sea, the Atlantic Ocean or the English Channel. There were men who died in motor accidents and training accidents in Canada and abroad. Some died before they left for war, some on their way to war, others after the war but before they could get home.

Having scanned every page of the *Ottawa Journal* and the *Ottawa Citizen* from September 1939 to September 1945, I learned that Canada was not the idyllic land I once believed it was in the years leading up to and throughout the war. I had always imagined a world of church-going, clean-living, Saturday-night-dancing, honour-before-all innocence. The kind of honest and forthright world that gave birth to the Greatest Generation. But it was a world that, in many ways, was far bleaker, harder and unkind than the world we live in today. Right off the bat, I noticed an extraordinary amount of industrial accidents, train wrecks, car-train collisions, fires, drownings and accidents due to unsafe practices. As well, theft, robbery, assault and murder seemed as or more common than they are today, multiple murders included. Institutionalized soft-core racism prevailed. Decades of government intervention, prevention and education has, in fact, improved things considerably. Yet, despite the cruel world of 1939, everyone in Canada read from the same page, got their news from the same trusted sources and fundamentally believed in the same things.

If this map included every family in the Glebe that had a son or daughter at risk during the Second World War, the underlying streets would not be visible. As it is, it reveals an astonishing toll paid by these families. Families just like yours and mine.

This project began as a result of curiosity and then became an homage to the parents, brothers, sisters, wives and grandparents who carried the terrible weight of sacrifice well into the 21st Century. An homage to the Silver Star Mothers, the broken fathers, the shattered families and the solitary wives. **God bless them.**

The Glebe 1939 to 1945
This map pinpoints the addresses of 163 citizens of the Glebe who died in service during the six years of the Second World War—more than all the Canadians who died in the 12 years of the War in Afghanistan.
For photos of each of the Glebe's lost servicemen, turn page.



Legend

- 1 Air Force
- 2 Army
- 3 Navy
- 1 2 Indicates households with two losses
- Park
- Area undeveloped pre-war

Where they now lie

35 United Kingdom	18 Germany	1 Iceland	1 Myanmar
21 France	9 Belgium	1 Sweden	1 Libya
20 Canada	9 Italy	1 Norway	1 Syria
20 Netherlands	4 Egypt	1 Hong Kong	20 No Known Grave

Ranks

Air Force AC2 – Aircraftman 2nd Class LAC – Leading Aircraftman Sgt – Sergeant FSgt – Flight Sergeant WO2 – Warrant Officer 2nd Class	WO1 – Warrant Officer 1st Class P/O – Pilot Officer F/O – Flying Officer F/L – Flight Lieutenant S/L – Squadron Leader W/C – Wing Commander	Army Pte – Private (Infantry) Tpr – Trooper (Cavalry Private) Gnr – Gunner (Artillery Private) Gdsm – Guardsman (Guards Private) SG – Signaller (Signals Private)	SP – Sapper (Engineer Private) L/Cpl – Lance Corporal Cpl – Corporal L/Sgt – Lance Sergeant Sgt – Sergeant Lt – Lieutenant	Capt – Captain Maj – Major Navy O/S – Ordinary Seaman SA – Supply Assistant SLT – Sub-lieutenant
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Next-of-kin

(F) Denotes Next-of-kin **Familial Home**

(M) Denotes Next-of-kin **Matrimonial Home**

Note: Most servicemen from the Glebe were unmarried. A small percentage were. If both matrimonial and familial homes were reported in the local newspapers, I chose to record the latter only. If only the matrimonial home was reported, then that address was mapped. Several of the men pinned on this map were not necessarily from the Glebe, but their wives were. In most of these cases, the wife remained at home with her parents until her husband's return from overseas. These addresses are equally important in that death visited these households in the same manner as the homes of parents.

- 1: Cpl E. A. Langman 206 Queen Elizabeth Dr. (M)
- 2: Pte A. C. Wilkinson, 43 Strathcona Ave. (F)
- 3: P/O D. J. Richardson 25 Patterson Ave. (M)
- 4: F/O R. S. Butterworth, 47 Patterson Ave. (F)
- 5: Sgt J. D. Robertson, 58 Strathcona Ave. (M)
- 6: WO2 C. W. Leng, 58 Strathcona Ave. (F)
- 7: P/O J. S. Owens, 496 Metcalfe St. (F)
- 8: WO1 C. H. Hunter, 7 Linden Terrace (F)
- 9: P/O T. G. Nettleton, 13 Linden Terrace (F)
- 10: Sgt F. J. McGovern, 554 O'Connor St. (M)
- 11: P/O T. R. Williams, 314 Queen Elizabeth Dr. (F)
- 12: Cpl W. H. Cowling, 168 Isabella St. (F)
- 13: Sgt J. H. King, 176 Isabella St. (F)
- 14: Tpr K. E. Smith, 180 Isabella St. (F)
- 15: Sgt F. I. Stata, 209 Pretoria Ave. (M)
- 16: Sgt J. G. Partridge, 182 Pretoria Ave. (M)
- 17: Sgt G. Jackman, 141 Patterson Ave. (F)
- 18: F/O G. M. MacLean, 8 Allen Pl. (F)
- 19: Sgt A. K. MacLean, 8 Allen Pl. (F)
- 20: Lt R. L. Richard, 195 Patterson Ave. (F)
- 21: Sgt G. J. Goodwin, 12 Allen Pl. (M)
- 22: F/O L. F. O'Brien, 1 Clewom Ave. (F)
- 23: FSgt P. W. Bisset Box, 217 Patterson Ave. (F)
- 24: Tpr L. W. M. Barclay, 220 Patterson Ave. (M)
- 25: F/O E. S. Guiton, 26 First Ave. (M)
- 26: Sgt J. A. McKenna, 12 Second Ave. (F)
- 27: Tpr E. F. Flanagan, 571 O'Connor St. (F)
- 28: Pte D. S. McAngus, 578 O'Connor St. (F)
- 29: LSgt P. Clarke, 56 Second Ave. (M)
- 30: Lt F. B. Stewart, 83 Second Ave. (F)
- 31: F/O R. N. McCleery, 23 Fourth Ave. (F)
- 32: F/O A. I. Watterson, 28 Fourth Ave. (F)
- 33: FSgt S. S. Lang, 11 Fifth Ave. (F)
- 34: P/O W. O. Slack, 60 Third Ave. (F)
- 35: FSgt E. H. Kingsland, 96 Second Ave. (F)
- 36: F/O M. W. Moffit, 92 Second Ave. (F)
- 37: Lt C. R. Maundrell, 61 Third Ave. (F)
- 38: Lt E. W. Dawd, 159 First Ave. (F)
- 39: Capt W. J. Williamson, 100 Glebe Ave. (F)
- 40: FSgt L. J. Labarge, 85 Glebe Ave. (F)
- 41: P/O B. H. Labarge, 85 Glebe Ave. (F)
- 42: Pte D. G. Patterson, 691 Bank St. (F)
- 43: F/L J. A. Johnson, 691 Bank St. (F)
- 44: Lt S. Darling, 28 Clewom Ave. (F)
- 45: W/C J. D. Twigg, 14 Powell Ave. (M)
- 46: F/O R. J. Gray, 27 Powell Ave. (M)
- 47: P/O F. K. Orme, 27 Powell Ave. (F)
- 48: F/O D. R. Parker, 14 Renfrew Ave. (F)
- 49: WO1 A. H. A. Morris, 67 Powell Ave. (F)
- 50: P/O J. E. Gardiner, 211 Clewom Ave. (F)
- 51: F/L D. J. McKenna, 140 Glebe Ave.
- 52: Cpl C. A. Hale, 247 First Ave. (F)
- 53: F/O J. L. Eagleson, 262 Second Ave. (F)
- 54: Pte J. Dempster, 684 Lyon St. (F)
- 55: Capt J. W. Courtright, 220 First Ave. (F)
- 56: Tpr H. C. Courtright, 220 First Ave. (F)
- 57: P/O D. Y. Claxton, 126 Second Ave. (F)
- 58: SA F. Quinlan, 168 Fifth Ave. (F)
- 59: FSgt V. Brophy, 575 O'Connor St. (F)
- 60: P/O J. D. Buchanan, 132 Second Ave. (F)
- 61: Cpl D. F. Shearn, 168 Fifth Ave. (F)
- 62: P/O C. D. Mison, 115 Third Ave. (F)
- 63: O/S J. R. Millar, 74 Third Ave. (F)
- 64: F/O W. R. Morrison, 70 Third Ave. (M)
- 65: F/O G. R. Presland, 89 Fourth Ave. (M)
- 66: P/O A. I. McFarlane, 19 Fifth Ave. (F)
- 67: F/O J. B. Wilson, 9 Adelaide St. (F)
- 68: WO2 H. A. Healey, 21 Adelaide St. (F)
- 69: WO1 K. L. Dale, 31 Adelaide St. (F)
- 70: F/O G. D. Spencer, 57 Holmwood Ave. (F)
- 71: FSgt S. L. Reid, 12 Clarey Ave. (F)
- 72: Sgt W. R. Little, 8 Howick Place (F)
- 73: LAC J. H. Golding, 84 Fifth Ave. (F)
- 74: F/O J. R. Beasley, 147 Fifth Ave. (F)
- 75: LAC W. H. Beasley, 147 Fifth Ave. (F)
- 76: F/O P. Bosloy, 885 Bank St. (F)
- 77: FSgt A. A. Bussell, 800 Bank St. (Father's Store)
- 78: Sgt A. A. Cameron, 98 Fourth Ave. (F)
- 79: Lt W. M. Foster, 230 Third Ave. (F)
- 80: WO2 D. Al. Watson, 145 Fourth Ave. (F)
- 81: S/L W. H. Baldwin, 182 Fifth Ave. (F)
- 82: WO1 M. J. D. McGuire, 203 Fifth Ave. (F)
- 83: P/O P. G. Anderson, 203 Fifth Ave. (F)
- 84: Sgt A. R. McWhinney, 21 Morris St. (F)
- 85: F/O R. G. Mansfield, 34 Thornton Ave. (F)
- 86: F/O J. G. Boyle, 36 Monk St. (F)
- 87: WO2 L. R. Moffatt, 38 Monk St. (M)
- 88: P/O A. I. Cohen, 38 Monk St. (F)
- 89: P/O S. W. Follows, 13 Woodlawn Ave. (F)
- 90: F/O J. D. Lindsay, 35 Woodlawn Ave. (F)
- 91: Pte J. Cochrane, 15 Wilton Cres. (F)
- 92: Sgt D. G. Hutt, 9 Wilton Cres. (M)
- 93: Lt W. E. W. Steeves, 500 Queen Elizabeth Dr. (F)
- 94: Sgt J. B. Anderson, 514 Queen Elizabeth Dr. (F)
- 95: F/O H. P. Ralph, 23 Broadway Ave. (F)
- 96: Lt R. B. Murchison, 187 Third Ave. (F)
- 97: F/O P. W. Lochnan, 40 Broadway Ave. (F)
- 98: LAC G. H. Crawford, 132 Broadway Ave. (F)
- 99: F/O W. J. Windeler, 588 Queen Elizabeth Dr. (F)
- 100: F/O W. B. Ernst, 140 Broadway Ave. (F)
- 101: LAC L. D. Wetmore, 18 Findlay Ave. (F)
- 102: F/L W. J. B. Murphy, 994 Bronson Ave. (F)
- 103: Lt C. S. MacDonald, 316 Holmwood Ave. (F)
- 104: WO2 D. J. Somers, 301 Holmwood Ave. (F)
- 105: Gdsm E. V. H. Murdock, 71 Muriel St. (F)
- 106: F/O P. B. Dennison, 16 Newton St. (F)
- 107: LCol S. A. MacDonell, 12 Newton St. (F)
- 108: FSgt C. J. O'Grady, 51 Muriel St. (F)
- 109: WO1 L. N. Fresque, 38 Gordon St. (F)
- 110: Cpl D. A. Rennie, 58 Ella St. (F)
- 111: P/O H. M. Lowry, 328 Fifth Ave. (F)
- 112: Lt H. C. Fisher, 36 Muriel St. (F)
- 113: F/O D. R. Gilchrist, 862 Bronson Ave. (F)
- 114: P/O D. J. Arnie, 535 Percy St. (F)
- 115: F/O J. S. MacIntyre, 1814 Fourth Ave. (F)
- 116: F/L G. B. Snow, 193 Third Ave. (F)
- 117: Lt L. M. Palmer, 533 Percy St. (F)
- 118: Lt W. H. Harrington, 310 First Ave. (F)
- 119: Cpl C. J. Johnstone, 308 Fifth Avenue (M)
- 120: P/O J. R. Patterson, 378 Third Ave. (F)
- 121: FSgt G. A. Booth, 290 First Ave. (F)
- 122: P/O D. S. Dadson, 291 First Ave. (F)
- 123: P/O S. H. Hunter, 7 Linden Terrace (F)
- 124: F/O C. R. Olmsted, 818 Bronson Ave. (F)
- 125: Sgt I. A. MacDonald, 806 Bronson Avenue (F)
- 126: Sgt N. R. MacDonald, 806 Bronson Ave. (F)
- 127: FSgt H. E. Maglady, 796 Bronson Ave. (F)
- 128: FSgt G. J. Darling, 237 Carling Ave. (F)
- 129: F/O D. M. Eastman, 241 Carling Ave. (F)
- 130: LAC A. C. W. Ault, 324 Clewom Ave. (F)
- 131: F/O P. B. Code, 310 Clewom Ave. (F)
- 132: Capt T. E. Clarke, 291 Clewom Ave. (F)
- 133: Lt R. N. Stewart, 251 Clewom Ave. (F)
- 134: P/O R. M. Graham, 321 Clewom Ave. (F)
- 135: P/O L. J. Burpee, 111 Powell Ave. (F)
- 136: W/C J. S. Dunlevie, 34 Renfrew Ave. (F)
- 137: Gnr W. H. Morehouse, 123 Powell Ave. (F)
- 138: Capt J. L. Engler, 145 Powell Ave. (F)
- 139: SG E. A. B. Laidlaw, 58 Renfrew Ave. (F)
- 140: Lt G. W. Swale, 45 Renfrew Ave. (M)
- 141: FSgt J. K. Player, 55 Renfrew Ave. (F)
- 142: F/O D. M. Price, 30 Glendale Ave. (F)
- 143: FSgt R. H. Cowley, 220 Powell Ave. (F)
- 144: SG R. L. Whyte, 106 Renfrew Ave. (F)
- 145: SLT A. G. Byshe, 95 Renfrew Ave. (F)
- 146: Maj K. E. Richardson, 107 Renfrew Ave. (F)
- 147: F/O Ch. E. Dewar, 46 Imperial Ave. (F)
- 148: P/O R. J. Bradley, 259 Powell Ave. (F)
- 149: S/L F. E. R. Briggs, 142 Renfrew Ave. (M)
- 150: Pte J. L. K. McCann, 329 Powell Ave. (F)
- 151: Cpl M. W. Cleary, 343 Clewom Ave. (F)
- 152: FSgt F. J. Hogan, 311 Powell Ave. (F)
- 153: WO2 H. J. L. Coppinger, 491 Cambridge St. (F)
- 154: SP K. Sheehan, 19 Plymouth St. (F)
- 155: LAC R. H. Prosser, 604 Bronson Ave. (F)
- 156: Sgt E. M. Lefty, 314 Bell St. (F)
- 157: FSgt E. M. Lefty, 314 Bell St. (F)
- 158: Sgt N. Lefty, 314 Bell St. (F)
- 159: P/O E. H. Atkins, 273 Bell St. (F)
- 160: Gnr W. R. Smith, 299 LeBreton St. (M)
- 161: Pte H. S. Angel, 14 Henry St. (M)
- 162: F/O B. L. P. Pollock, Glebe Collegiate (teacher)
- 163: J. H. MacNeil, Glebe Collegiate (teacher)