

Herbert MURPHY

Bert Murphy was born in 1912 at Quinnville, Quebec (now a part of Gatineau), the third eldest of seven children. By the time Bert was a young man independently seeking his fortune, the Great Depression with its extremely high rates of unemployment had hit. However, in 1934 he found employment with the Canadian International Paper (CIP) Co.

Due to an accident suffered when working in the bush for CIP, Bert's first application to join up when WW II broke out was rejected. In November, 1944 however he was able to get into the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC). Although he hoped to be a driver with the RCASC he had to transfer to Medical Corps. This transfer allowed him to be reclassified and to get an overseas posting in November, 1943.

Bert sailed from Halifax on the "New Amsterdam", landed in Scotland and subsequently served in a number of places in southern England. On VE-Day, he was stationed in Aldershot (southern England) and celebrated the event in Windsor. "The streets were so crowded that it was almost impossible to walk. You just went with the flow."



THEN

Following the end of the war, Bert stayed on in England, taking inventory of Canadian stores and equipment before the facilities used by the Canadians were turned over to the British. He sailed for home on the Isle de France, landing back in Halifax in March, 1946. Following a month's leave, he was discharged and returned to CIP. He worked for the company until he retired in September, 1974.



NOW

In June, 1951 Bert married the former Mary Turner. They have two children: a daughter Jean who lives in Victoria, B.C. and a son Robert, living in Richmond. They also have three grandchildren. The Murphy's lived in Gatineau for the first 28 years of their married life. Here Bert built his own home and, from 1954, he became active in the Norris Branch (Que. # 227) of the Royal Canadian Legion. The Murphy's moved to Richmond in 1979 and transferred their energies and talents to helping the Richmond and District Branch (Ont. # 625) develop its land and building.

Bert's wartime memories are good ones. He enjoyed the travel, the close friendships and the spirit of the British people. Nor does he forget the friendly "pubs" and the great ales of Britain. Bert considers himself one of the lucky ones: he came home in one piece and has

enjoyed life to the fullest ever since.

Bert passed away October 20, 2010 at the age of 98 and is survived by his wife Mary, his son Bob (Alma George) and daughter Jeanne (Michael Brinksmead), four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.