

Burnside, Richard Thomas

Private

Royal Hamilton Light Infantry

1st Battalion

C/122658



Richard Thomas (Tommy) Burnside was born in Ottawa, Ontario, on May 13, 1913. He was the son of Alice (Davis) and John Burnside who had 13 children. The father was a lumber culler by trade.

The Burnside family comprised four daughters: Dorothy, Elsie, Sybil and Alice and nine sons: Clayton, Harold, Milton, Walter, Thomas, Samuel, William, Hugh and Clifford (who died in 1929 at the age of seven)

During the Second World War, seven brothers of varying ages had enlisted in the Canadian army to serve their country. Five of those men went overseas to fight in the various campaigns in Northwest Europe as well as the Central Mediterranean campaign. Two others were stationed in Canada.

On December 20, 1941, their hometown daily newspaper, the Ottawa Citizen featured a lengthy article about the "5 Burnside Boys" who had joined the army "doing their bit to crush Hitlerism, both in active and reserve units." They were Harold, Milton, Sam, William (called Pat) and Hugh. But Thomas and Walter signed up a few years later in 1943. Their war services concluded with Harold as a signaller in the Canadian Signal Corps in Germany; Milton as a gunner in the Royal Canadian Artillery in Italy; Sam as a staff quarter-master sergeant in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals in Italy; William or Pat as a gunner with the Royal Canadian Regiment in Ottawa; Hugh as a private with the Canadian Light Field Ambulance Corps in Italy and Walter as a staff clerk in the national casualty office in Ottawa.

5 Burnside Boys Doing Bit To Crush Hitlerism

Mr. and Mrs. John Burnside, 534 Booth Street, Have Just Reason to Be Proud of Their Family of stalwart Soldiers. Private Hugh Making Quite a Name For Himself in English Boxing Circles.

Mr. and Mrs. John Burnside, 534 Booth street, have just reason to be proud of their family of stalwart soldiers. Out of a family of eight boys and four girls, five of the boys are in the uniform of Empire doing their bit to crush Hitlerism, both in active and reserve units.

The oldest boy, Corporal Harold Burnside, is with the 3rd Divisional Signals, Royal Canadian Corps Signals, now posted to an artillery battery overseas. Thirty-six years old, he has been in the reserve army since he was 16, and went on active service the day war was declared. His small son Jackie, aged six, is determined even now to follow in his father's footsteps (provided his dad doesn't K.O. Hitler in the meantime) and already has his "toy" uniform which he wears with a great deal of pride.

Corporal Burnside was born in Ottawa and operated a grocery store at 488 Booth street with his brother Clayton, before he joined up for active service. Constant snafus and watch against the possibility of enemy invasion constitute a major portion of the former grocer's life overseas now—and he is looking forward to the day—if it ever dawns—when Hitler tries to come across.

Next in line comes Gunner Milton Burnside, 32 known as "Bunny" to his pals. Bunny went overseas in December, 1939, with the 51st Battery and in frequent letters home since that time reports "everything going fine—all we want is some action." Gunner Burnside knew nothing of army life until he joined the battery soon after the war broke out. He was here only two days, joining on Thursday and leaving for Churchill's embattled island the following Saturday. Bunny is single and is not counted among the 3,000 or so Canadians who have taken English brides since they went overseas. He was employed at the J. R. Booth firm before enlisting and is a graduate of local schools.

Waves Mean Flat
Lance Corporal Sam Burnside

V. D. Societies



Brooklyn-Born Actress Watching Sale Of Book

Peggy Wood Playing Flesh-and-Blood Character in Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" and Keeps Keen Eye on How Her Memoirs, "How Young You Look," is Doing in the Book World.

By Leon Edel
Canadian Press Staff Writer
NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Peggy Wood, probably the only Brooklyn-born actress to achieve stardom on the London stage, is playing on Broadway these days as a flesh-and-blood character in the first two acts of Noel Coward's urbane farce "Blithe Spirit," and then as a grey wrath in the third act.

In addition to which she is watching her memoirs, "How Young You Look," make their way in the book world. In fact, her book and the Coward play were launched on the same day, Nov. 4, and both are distinguished successes.

When you hear that Miss Wood has written her memoirs you think of her as a "veteran" actress, since you don't write memoirs at 20 unless of course you are a prodigy with a past like Orson Welles. Consequently your first impulse on being invited to take a chair in Miss Wood's dressing room is to repeat the title of the book to her. "How Young You Look!"

asm, for the play is a bright and funny farce in which the ghost of the first wife of the hero arrives to trouble his second marriage. Miss Wood is the second wife who finds herself matched against a rival she can't even see, but of whose presence she is only too uncomfortably aware. Out of this strange situation Coward spins a characteristic web of farce and fancy that is delighting Manhattan playgoers.

Canadians last saw Miss Wood when she played "Candida" in Toronto and many will remember her as the Portia to George Arias' Shylock when the British actor played "The Merchant of Venice" in the Dominion some years back.

Boy Scouts

"I welcome the opportunity, through The Citizen's Scout column, to send season's greetings to all Cubs, Scouts, Rovers and leaders.

"We have just had another splendid year in Scouting. Our census figures show that we have increased by almost a hundred, but even more encouraging, our association is in fine fettle. The war has brought us many difficulties, but many more opportunities for community and national service, and you have every right to feel proud of what you have done during the past year.

bombs" marked the beginning of the "air raid." Lights went out. Scout messengers reported on the double to "A.R.P. headquarters," "first aid squads" manned emergency "dressing stations." "Casualties" included a "broken leg" and a "dashed arm" and, working in complete darkness, with stretchers and first aid kits the Scouts demonstrated their efficiency as first-aiders. Altogether the blackout, which was staged entirely within the building, lasted twenty minutes and the Scouts of the troop are very well satisfied with the conduct of the boys who were taken completely by surprise.

The district office advises that all Wolf Cubs and Scouts attending the Plant Bath on Saturday morning must either wear uniform or, in the case of Scouts, present their Scout registration card. A special card is being provided for Cubs and can be obtained on application to the executive secretary, E. L. Callow.

Craig Murison, instructor in swimming for Ottawa Public Schools, has been engaged as instructor for the scout swimming period and is authorized to pass boys in first class, swimming and rescuing and proficiency badge tests. Cubs or Scouts who wish to pass these tests must make their applications to the district office in the usual manner and present badge cards signed by their Cub leaders or Scoutmasters.

The 37th Wolf Cub Pack (MacKay church) under Harry Campbell have moved to new quarters in Crispston street public school.

Thomas was a member of the Erskine Presbyterian Church. He had left school after grade eight. He lived at 457 Booth Street, Ottawa and worked at Halliday's garage as a paint sprayer for six years before enlisting in the Canadian army.



On July 2, 1938, Thomas married Veronica Mary Magdalen Hickey in Ottawa, Ontario. They had a son, Gary Richard in 1939 and a daughter, Sandra Faith, in 1944.

Thomas and his wife Veronica

Thomas Burnside enlisted October 19, 1943 in Kingston, Ontario, with the Royal Canadian Artillery regiment. In his military records he was described as having brown eyes, brown hair, being five foot seven inches tall and weighing 128 pounds.

Gunner Burnside initially trained at the Petawawa Military Camp. It was at this time that he completed Part II RGA training.

He left Canada on April 30, 1944 and arrived in the United Kingdom on May 7, 1944. He underwent rigorous training in preparation for combat duty. He was sent to Belgium on October 15, 1944. Three days later, he was transferred to the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry regiment.

He died near Xanten in Germany on March 8, 1945 at the age of 30. Private Thomas Burnside was one of 38 from his regiment who were killed that day.

In a letter received by his family in Canada in late March, 1945, Private Burnside wrote that he had been in "the stiffest battle I'd ever want to be in."

He was originally buried in the western outskirts of Xanten Germany. He was later moved and is now buried in Groesbeek Canadian War cemetery, with the grave reference **VII. C. 13**.

On his tombstone is written the following inspiring words;

SUNSHINE PASSES,
SHADOWS FALL,
LOVE'S REMEMBRANCE
OUTLASTS ALL

Private Thomas Burnside was awarded the:

- 1939-45 Star
- France-Germany Star
- War Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with clasp



Pte. R. T. Burnside Killed In Germany



Pte. "Tommy" Burnside

One of six sons of Mr. and Mrs. J. Burnside, of 534 Booth street, serving their country in uniform, Pte. R. Thomas "Tommy" Burnside has been reported killed in action in Germany according to word received by his wife, the former Veronica Hickey, who lives at 457 Booth street.

Pte. Burnside went to Britain in March, 1944, and had taken part in fighting in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. In his last letter, received within the past week, he told his family he had just been in the "stiffest battle I'd ever want to be in."

Born in Ottawa, Pte. Burnside attended local schools and was employed by Milt Halliday's garage when he enlisted with the RCA in Oct., 1943. Later, after reaching overseas, he transferred to the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

The men of this regiment were recently given highest tribute for their bravery by CBC commentator Matthew Halton.

Pte. Burnside was the last of five of the six brothers to arrive overseas. One is in Canada. Serving in Germany with the Signal Corps is Sgmn. Harold Burnside. On active service in Italy are Gnr. Milton Burnside with the RCA, SQMS Samuel Burnside with the Signal Corps, and Pte. Hugh Burnside with the RCASC. Cpl. Walter Burnside is with the staff clerks in the casualty office here. Two brothers, Clayton and William "Pat" are at home. "Pat" is an employe of The Evening Citizen.

Surviving, in addition to his parents and his widow, are a son, Gary, and a daughter, Sandra, his seven brothers, and four sisters, Mrs. James O'Heare and Misses Dorothy, Sybil and Elsie Burnside, all of Ottawa. Pte. Burnside was a member of Erskine Presbyterian church.

J. E. Secours, Rev. Canon J. A. Carriere, Rev. Dr. Philippe Cornelier, OMI, rector of the University of Ottawa, and a large group of members of the diocesan clergy.

In the cortege, besides the chief mourners were Edmond Cloutier, King's printer; Thomas Moncion, president of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Action; Dr. Felix Desrochers, Dr. J. L. Lamy, Dr. Ernest Couture, Dr. J. Drouin, Paul Fontaine, KC, Georges Bearegard, president of the French-Canadian Institute; Dr. Thomas Provost, D. T. Robichaud, L. P. Gagnon, Marius Gay, Herman Pelletier, Ald. M. M. Walsh, Joseph Goulet.

Augustin Potvin and Paul Larose, of the translation bureau of the Department of National Defence for Air; Hormisias Beaulieu, Joseph Gauvin, Camille Gauthier, Eugene C. Larose, J. A. Drouin, Oscar Barrette, J. H. Lemieux, Edouard Mainville, A. Patry, Daniel Mowat, Alex. Castonguay, Marius Lachaine, Inspector Leonard Bichette, Celista

Wives of MP's

Sharing the memories

about parades, speeches and ceremonies who gave their lives for their country in the First World War — the memories of these people — the ordinary — that give this day its meaning. People think about on Remembrance Day.

It was at a house party during the Great Depression that I met Tom. I was 18 and I knew right off the bat that he was a good sport. He liked nothing better than to sing and dance and have fun.

He also had his serious side. He worked for Milt Halliday, a former Ottawa Senator, who taught him to spray-paint cars. Tom was ambitious, and looked towards the day he'd have his own business.

We married in July 1938, and our son, was born two days before Canada declared war on Germany. Tom was reluctant to go to war and leave his young family, but the call of duty kept tugging at him until he finally enlisted and went to join his five brothers already in Europe. Tom never got to see or hold his daughter; she arrived after he shipped out.

I recall during the war the Citizen running a piece about Tom and his brothers titled "The Battling Burnside's of Booth St." This article naturally made our hearts swell with pride, yet it's not how I remember him. No, my Tom wasn't a battler, my Tom was the gentle good sport, who enjoyed singing and dancing and having a good time.

— Veronica Burnside, Ottawa

■ MORE MEMORIES / F3

■ OTHER COVERAGE / A10-11, F5



— Michael Thomas, CMA

For Remembrance Day, his wife, Veronica Burnside wrote this letter which was published in the Ottawa Citizen, date unknown.



In 1963, Mrs. Burnside travelled over to the Netherlands as part of a pilgrimage of many Canadian next-of-kin to visit war cemeteries throughout the country.



FACES TO GRAVES

Stichting Faces to Canadian
War Graves Groesbeek

Biography: Justine Deschamps, student from St. Mother Teresa High School, Nepean, Canada for Faces to Graves courtesy of Vanessa Kirtz, teacher at All Saints H.S.

Additional research and editing provided by Kurt Johnson.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission Library
- Canadian Virtual War Memorial
- Library and Archives Canada
- Project '44
- "The Ottawa Journal" of 1945 and 1951
- Pictures and newspaper provided Danielle Lepine, great granddaughter of Richard Thomas Burnside

* Do you have a photo of this soldier or additional information please contact info@facestograves.nl



Photo: <http://lestweforget1945.org/>



The photographic project
of Canadian war graves
in the Netherlands