

**Bowman, George**

**Trooper**

**Lord Strathcona's Horse  
(Royal Canadians)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Regiment**

**H 55**



*Perseverance*

George Bowman was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba (MB), Canada on December 30, 1918.

His father, William Bowman Jr., was born in Scotland in 1883 and emigrated to Canada in 1903. He died in Winnipeg, MB in 1967 at the age of 84. On November 7, 1913 William Bowman Jr. married Marjorie Ann Stephen in Winnipeg, MB.

His mother, Marjorie Ann Stephen, was born in Scotland in 1891 and emigrated to Canada in 1911. She died in 1968 at the age of 77.

Marjorie and William had six children:

- |                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| - William James                 | 1914 – 1986 |
| - Jean                          | 1916 – 1995 |
| - George                        | 1918 – 1945 |
| - John                          | 1921 – 1975 |
| - Margaret, one half of twins   | 1926 – 1987 |
| - Marjorie, other half of twins | 1926 – 2012 |

His brother William James served with the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and his other brother John with the Canadian Army.

The family were members of the United Church.

George was 15 years old when he left school. He then went to High School for one more year.

Until his army enlistment in 1940 he worked as a clerk with Retail Store W.H. Bewick & Co in Winnipeg, MB.

In his spare time he loved going skiing in winter and played baseball, where he was a catcher.

On July 17, 1941, when he was almost 23 years old, George signed up with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armoured Regiment (Lord Strathcona's Horse) in Winnipeg, MB. He enlisted with the Canadian army for patriotic reasons.

On his medical army admission statement it said that George had brown eyes and brown hair, was 5 ft 7" tall, weighed 124 lbs and had a scar on his lower lip.

Trooper George Bowman served with Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment 'A' Squadron the entire war. He took various trainings as a Truck Driver in Winnipeg, MB, Listowel, Toronto and Borden, all situated in Ontario, (ON).

On November 12, 1943 Trooper George Bowman embarked in Halifax for his voyage to Gourock, Scotland, where he arrived a fortnight later. In the United Kingdom he took another training as a Gunner Operator 'C'.

The regiment embarked for transportation to Italy on November 12, 1943. They arrived there fifteen days later.

The 'Strats', as Lord Strathcona's Horse were also called, were involved in various major battles, among which the important crossing of the River Melfa in the spring of 1944. They battled there against attacks by determined German tank and infantry units until reinforcements arrived.



*LdSH tanks and infantry are preparing to attack the Hitler Line and crossing River Melfa: Liri Valley, Italy, May 24, 1944.*

*Photo: Strathy Smith*

On February 24, 1945 the regiment left Italy as part of Operation Goldflake. They arrived in Marseille, France two days later. Operation Goldflake was the code name for moving troops from Italy to Northwest Europe.

The regiment advanced through France until they reached Izegem, Belgium, where they arrived at the end of February 1945. In the summary of the war diary of the month of March 1945 it said that it was quiet due to the shortage of grenades and that it was exciting as they were staying in the town of Izegem the whole month, which was quite different from the experiences they had in Italy. During the month of March they were busy carrying out maintenance on the vehicles and the soldiers had the opportunity to go on leave.

The war diary of April 8, 1945 stated that the regiment moved across a part of Germany and back into the Netherlands, while passing the bombed towns of Kleve and Emmerich.

During the subsequent days the regiment encountered enemy artillery fire when they were moving to an assembly point near Arnhem.

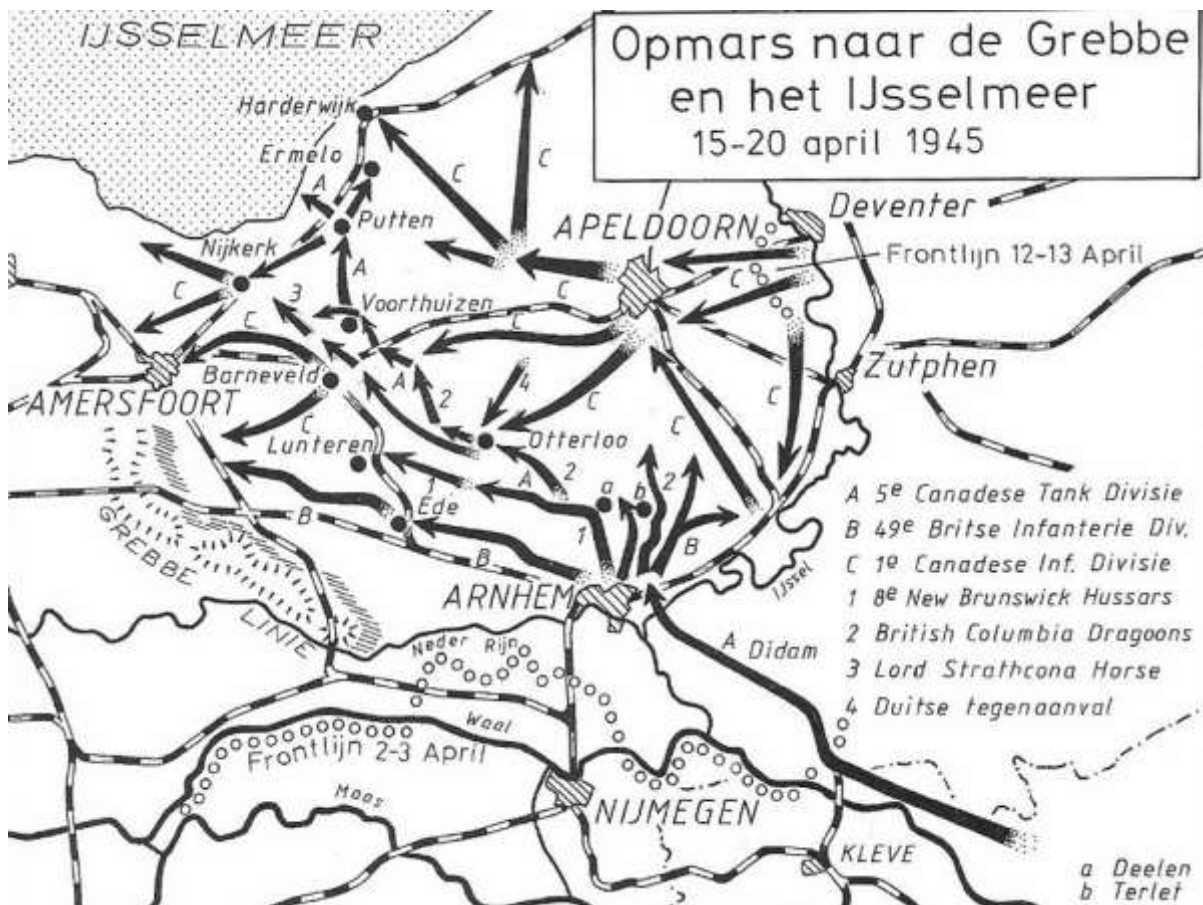


Photo from the book 'Canadezen in actie' (Canadians in Action) by Hen Bollen and Paul Vroemen.

As part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian tank division, under Major-General Bertram (Bert) M. Hoffmeister's command, they left Arnhem on April 15, 1945 and went into the direction of Otterlo.



Shortly after noon and just before entering Otterlo, their Sherman tank was hit by an 88mm grenade from a concealed German cannon and caught fire. Corporal Harald Forde and Troopers George Bowman and Clarence Graham died instantly.

Commander Lieutenant MacKinnon got heavily wounded and rolled into the ditch along the road. He was later picked up by Medical Officer Captain Verdicchio, after the latter had negotiated with the Germans that he was surrounded by. Lieutenant MacKinnon was taken to Ede hospital, where he died of his injuries two days later.

George Bowman was temporarily buried at the Military Cemetery in Arnhem, row 3 grave 6.

This was a very small cemetery near Van Löben Sels School (now primary school De Wijzer), Dalweg 40 in Arnhem.

405-B-58370

CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS  
EST  
OVERSEAS CDN RECORDS OFFICE P.A.

GRAVE REGISTRATION FORM

Name BOWMAN, George Place and Date of Birth Winnipeg, Man. 20 Dec 1920  
 Rank TPT. Regt No. R-55  
 Unit 7 Armd. Regt. ABY. Name of the Father Mr William BOWMAN  
 Address Suite B., Gerris Block, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

PARTICULARS OF HOSPITALIZATION

Date of Admission \_\_\_\_\_ Name and Location of Hospital \_\_\_\_\_  
 Diagnosis \_\_\_\_\_

PARTICULARS OF DEATH

Date of Death 15 Apr 45 Place of Death England  
 How \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cause of Death KILLED

PARTICULARS OF BURIAL

Date of Burial 12 Apr 45 Cemetery Arnhem Mil. Cem., Box 749748 No. 5, Row 3  
 Death Cert No. \_\_\_\_\_ Location of Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Page of Death Cert \_\_\_\_\_ Plot No. \_\_\_\_\_ Row \_\_\_\_\_ Grave 6  
 Burial \_\_\_\_\_

Date 31 Oct 45  
 W. B. [Signature]  
 For Command, GRC Headquarters,  
 CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

Extracted from Social Records  
 OVERSEAS CDN RECORDS OFFICE,  
 SCHOOL, LEONARD, W.V.

4/25 CP 110  
 1/25 CP 110



Temporary Military Cemetery Arnhem.

Trooper George Bowman died at the age of 26. On September 4, 1945 he was reburied at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, grave reference **VII. A. 4.**



*Photo Ans Mostert.*

The following words are inscribed on his headstone:

AS LONG AS LIFE  
AND MEMORY LAST  
WE WILL REMEMBER YOU

Early July 1946 his father, Mr William Bowman, was informed by letter that his son, Trooper George Bowman, had been reburied. The letter was signed by Colonel C.L. Laurin, Director of Records.



George Bowman was awarded the following medals:

- 1939-1945 Star
- Italy Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp

MEDALS AND MEMORIALS—DECEASED PERSONNEL	
1) MEDALS AWARDED TO Mrs. Marjorie A. BOWMAN (MOTHER) Ste. 5, Orris Bldg, WINNIPEG, Man.	MEMORIAL BAR DATE DESP. IN REGN. NO. 343
2) MEMORIAL CROSS AWARDED TO	
3) MEMORIAL CROSS AWARDED TO Mrs. Marjorie Ann BOWMAN, (M.F.M.S.) (ENGLISH) 1945 Ste. 5, Orris Bldg., WINNIPEG, Man.	RECEIVED MAY 22 1945 REGN. NO. 19376

The medals, together with the Memorial Cross, were sent to his mother, Mrs. Marjorie Ann Bowman, Winnipeg, MB on May 22, 1945.

In his will George designated his mother, Mrs. Marjorie Ann Bowman, as beneficiary and his brother William James Bowman executor.



Life story: Ans Mostert, Research Team Faces To Graves.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)
- Library and Archives Canada
- TracesOfWar.nl
- MyHeritage
- Slag om Otterlo.nl
- Find A Grave
- War Diary of Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment
- Book 'Canadezen in actie' (Canadians in Action) by Hen Bollen and Paul Vroemen.

\*If you have a photograph of this soldier or any additional information, please contact [info@facestograves.nl](mailto:info@facestograves.nl).

In 1985 in Manitoba a 'creek' was named after him: Bowman Creek.



The creek' is situated just south-west of Hudson Bay (see the small dot on the right picture).



*Photo Ans Mostert.*

The 'Battle of Otterlo' monument in Otterlo (municipality of Ede) is a memorial stone with a carved-out 'Maple Leaf'. The stone was put on a masonry pedestal, on which a stainless steel sheet in a triangular shape was placed. Next to the memorial stone there is a metal plaque and an information panel showing a photo of Canadian Major-General Bertram M. Hoffmeister.

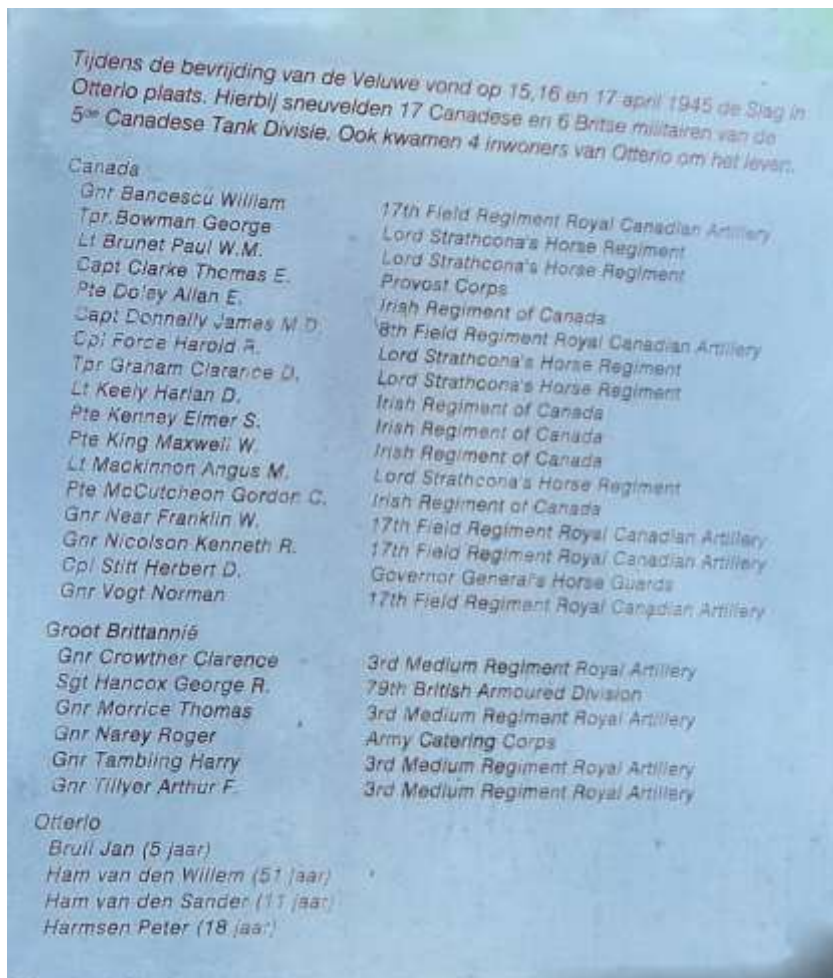


The text on the moment reads as follows:

AT THE GOING DOWN OF  
THE SUN AND IN THE  
MORNING WE WILL  
REMEMBER  
THEM !



During the Battle of Otterloo on April 15, 16 and 17, 1945 sixteen Canadian soldiers and six British soldiers of the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian tank division lost their lives. Four inhabitants of Otterloo died too.



Trooper George Bowman is commemorated in the Second World War Book of Remembrance, page 497.



# BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

UPON THESE PAGES ARE WRITTEN IN PROUD AND EVERLASTING MEMORY THE NAMES OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR NAVY, ARMY AND AIR FORCE, & OF THOSE CANADIANS IN THE ARMED SERVICES OF THE OTHER NATIONS AND ALLIES OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH, WHO, IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR, GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR CANADA AND IN DEFENCE OF THE SACRED LIBERTIES OF ALL MANKIND.

... Lay them with all that is most living,  
In light transcendent;  
In the timeless aisles of silence,  
With the immortals that moved the world.



In the Memorial Chamber of the Canadian Parliamentary Building in Ottawa, ON, at 11.00 am every day one page is turned of the eight memorial books.

These contain the names of more than 120,000 Canadians who gave their lives in their country's service.

LA ROCHELLE		19	45	APELDOORN	
HOLTROP					
AB	Bolin, Gordon Walter	RCNVR	F/O	Boulton, Clive Arkoll	RCAF
Pte	Boltz, John William	Seaforth C	Pte	Bouma, Albert George	C Scot R
Pte	Boltz, Wilbur George	Hll of C	Sto PO	Bourbonnais, Joseph Jean-Guy	RCNVR
WO1	Bomby, John	RCAF	Pte	Bourgeois, Jean-Paul	Fus MR
Gnr	Bonamico, Sanguin	RCA	Pte	Bourgon, Ernest Joseph	Edgar SD&G Highrs
Pte	Bond, Carl Rufus	A&SH of C	Spr	Bourner, Roland Edward	RCE
Capt	Bond, Leslie Charles	Essex Scot	Pte	Boutet, Bruno Gerard	Rde Mais
AB	Bond, Neil Archie	RCNVR	Pte	Bouthillier, Alphonse Thomas	VOC
F/S	Bond, Walter George	RCAF	Spr	Boutilier, Burnham Edward	RCE
Cfn	Bonn, Melvin Pascal	RCEME	Pte	Boutilier, Sherman William	Nth NS Highrs
Pte	Bonnell, George Edward	RCAMC	Lt	Boutin, Paul Henri	Fus MR
F/O	Bonter, Stewart Millen	RCAF	Tpr	Bouvier, Maurice Alfred	CGG
Gnr	Booth, John Stewart	RCA	Col supp	Bouvier, Roland	1H
F/O	Booth, Wyman Alexander	RCAF	Tpr	Bovain, Douglas Jay	BCR
F/S	Booty, Cameron Harrison	RCAF	Pte	Boville, Allan Charles	Line & Well R
L/Bdr	Borland, Joseph	RCA	L/Cpl	Bowcott, Wilfred William	1H
F/L	Borrett, William Fleming	RCAF	Pte	Bowen, Jesse Lenard	DDCLI
Maj	Boss, Gilbert Wyatt	CMSC	Pte	Bowers, William Henry	Line & Well R
Pte	Bostrom, William Adolph	R Regt C	F/O	Bowes, Donald Stuart	RCAF
Maj	Bostwick, James Montgomery	RHU	F/O	Bowes, Gordon David	RCAF
F/S	Bostwick, Stanley Edward	RCAF	F/L	Bowhay, Samuel Leslie	RCAF
D/O	Botting, Ross Malcolm	RCAF	F/L	Bowlen, William Michael	RCAF
Sgt	Bouch, Robert Leonard	RCAF	Sgt	Bowman, Edward Max	RCAF
Cpl	Boucha, Henry Wilfred	Lake Sup R	Tpr	Bowman, George	LD SH (RO)
Mat 2/c	Bouchard, Joseph Eugene Paul	RCNVR	Lt	Box, Vernon Eric	RSF
Pte	Bouchard, Raymond Joseph	R Regt C	L/Cpl	Boxall, Leslie Alfred	RWgs Rif
Cpl	Bouchard, Stanley	Rde Chaud	Maj	Boyaner, Frank	RC DC
Pte	Boucher, Arthur Alfred	Line & Well R	D/O	Boyce, Ernest Bertin	RCAF
Pte	Boucher, Jean-Baptiste	Rde Mais	Capt	Boyce, Reginald Scott	RCA
Pte	Boucher, Joseph Henry Marcel	R22c R	Pte	Boychuck, Cecil	Hll of C
Pte	Boucher, Maurice	Rde Chaud	Pte	Boyd, Alexander	Alg R
S-Lt/A	Boucher, Rodolphe Joseph	Lorenzo RCAF	F/O	Boyd, Allan Bernard	RCAF
Pte	Boucher, Thomas William	R22c R	L/Bdr	Boyd, Francis Eric	RCA
F/O	Bouck, George Walter	RCAF	LSA	Boyd, Harold Kelly	RCNVR
Pte	Boudreau, Richard Joseph	CB Highrs	Cpl	Boyd, Lawrence Malcolm	Alg R
Pte	Boudreau, William Edward	RCOC	Tpr	Boyd, Roy Smith	BCR
Pte	Boudreault, Samuel	CFC	Pte	Boyd, William Alex	Essex Scot
Sgt	Bough, Roy Edward	RCAF	Pte	Boyer, Alvin Basil Ephraim	RCR
Lt	Boulet, Joseph Eugene	RHLI	Pte	Boyer, Donatien	Fus MR
Cpl, supp	Bouley, Raymond	Fus MR	Pte	Boyko, Paul	Alg R
L/Cpl	Boulter, Ralph Schurman	Nth NS Highrs	F/O	Boyle, Bernard Francis	RCAF
			F/O	Boyle, Clair Patrick	RCAF

Second World War Book of Remembrance.