



## ///Message to Teachers///

The Cenotaph Project is an engaging activity that gives students an opportunity to get to know the individual men and women who served, and potentially died, in wartime. Begun by Ontario teacher Blake Seward, teachers and students nationwide have undertaken this project. This document serves as a step-by-step guide to assist students throughout this activity. Additional resources are available for download on the Learning Tools section of the *Canada at War* website.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

Access the military service files available from Library and Archives Canada to select a service person from your local, regional or provincial community to be the subject of your project. If applicable, this might include a family relation or someone who attended your school. Use the military service files available to research where the soldier lived, what they did in the war or how and where they died. Refer to page 2 for more detailed instructions.

### RESEARCH TIPS

When deciding on your service person, start with your local, regional or provincial cenotaph. Is there a war memorial in your community? Does it list the names of war dead? Churches, legion halls and schools often have memorial plaques, which can be a rich source of background information. Other primary sources such as yearbooks, photos, community history or oral history are also valuable resources.

Working with a partner can make your research even better. Reading through documents can be challenging and having a partner to discuss your findings can lead you to new insights. Use the worksheets included on page 8-9 to help you record your findings.

Secondary sources must also be consulted to understand the wider context of the war. Some great places to start include the following:

- [The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)
- [CBC Archives](#)
- [The Memory Project](#)
- [Canadian War Museum](#)
- [Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Canadian Museum of History](#)
- [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#)

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

As you read through the service records and construct your account of your service person's experiences, consider the following questions and historical thinking concepts created by the [Historical Thinking Project](#).

#### 1. Primary Sources

- What is this document and why was it produced?
  - Some of your findings might include an attestation paper (similar to a registration for the military) or a telegram sent to the family at the time of death.
- Why do some documents present different information and details, for example, the day, place or circumstances of death? How can I verify the evidence? What is a reasonable **inference**?
  - Consider that many servicemen lied about their age or got married after they signed up for war.

**INFERENCE:** an educated guess based on a limited amount of information.

#### 2. Ethical Dimension

- How do you remember a death respectfully?
  - Many servicemen died of illness or accidents during training, sometimes before leaving Canada to go overseas. Others may have had disciplinary actions taken against them during their service. Writing honestly and respectfully is essential, especially if the final product is going to be accessible to the public, and possibly relatives or friends of the deceased.



### 3. Historical Perspective-Taking

- a. Why would someone sign up for war?
  - Consider the reasons men and women may have had for enlisting in the military. Look for clues such as previous occupation and hobbies, age, world events or social status.

### 4. Continuity and Change

- a. What was the service person's world like? How is it similar to or different from yours?
  - Finding out the soldier's address and occupational history, and, if possible, visiting their community, can help you understand the different time period in which your soldier lived.

## PRESENTING YOUR RESEARCH

Historians use many ways to communicate the past to the public, including museum exhibits, historical fiction and non-fiction, films and lectures. Once you have completed your research, consider how you will present your findings about the wartime experiences of your service person. Options include creating a plaque, writing a poem, monologue or song to be performed at a Remembrance Day ceremony, filming a documentary or designing a website. Artwork or exhibits can be placed in community spaces or in your school. Before December 15, 2015, students can also enter commemorative writing or visual artwork in the [How We Remember contest](#).

The Cenotaph Project can be used as the research component for a larger commemorative initiative within your class or school. Soldier biographies can be collected and printed as a book to be donated to local libraries and museums. The information gathered can be used to help plan a Remembrance Day ceremony, or provided to local legions or museums as an exhibit to be shared with the public.

*The Canadian Encyclopedia's Your Canada* map also offers an opportunity to share your research. You can upload your research to the **Canada at War: The Cenotaph Project** layer of the map and share the stories of service people from across the country with Canadians.

## /// Researching Canadian Servicemen and Women ///

### RESOURCES

#### Library and Archives Canada — Military Heritage Research

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/Pages/military-heritage.aspx>

#### Lest We Forget: Cenotaph Research

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/lest-we-forget/Pages/lest-we-forget-project.aspx>

#### Second World War Information Package

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/lest-we-forget/Documents/Second-World-War-Information-Package.pdf>

Library and Archives Canada has an extensive collection of Canadian military records. Over 1,300 service files of Canadians who died between 1939 and 1947 as a result of service in the Second World War are available online.



- ▶ Begin your research on the [Library and Archives Canada](#) website. From the homepage, select [Military Heritage](#) in the [Online Research](#) dropdown menu.



- ▶ Scroll down to the list of Databases and select [Second World War Service Files: Canadian Armed Forces War Dead](#).

<p><b>Service Files of the Royal Canadian Navy, 1910-1941</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Guide to Sources Relating to Canadian Naval Vessels</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>First World War: 1914 - 1918</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Second World War: 1939 -1945</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Lest We Forget Project</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>War Brides</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>How to Obtain Copies of Military Service Files</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Military Abbreviations used in Service Files</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>War Diaries, Ship Logs and Operations Record Books</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Databases</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Digitized Microforms</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Electronic Collection</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Open Data</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Research Aids</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Thematic Guides</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Virtual Exhibitions</a></li> </ul>
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### Databases

- [Black Loyalist Refugees, 1782-1807- Port Roseway Associates](#)
- [Courts-martial of the First World War](#)
- [Faces of the Second World War](#)
- [Loyalists](#)
- [Loyalists in the Maritimes — Ward Chipman Muster Master's Office, 1777-1785](#)
- [Military Medals, Honours and Awards, 1812-1969](#)
- [North West Mounted Police \(NWMP\) - Personnel Records, 1873-1904](#)
- [Photographs: War Records-Manufacturing \(WRM\) Series - National Film Board of Canada \(Archived\)](#)
- [Second World War Service Files: Canadian Armed Forces War Dead](#) ◀
- [Service Files of the Royal Canadian Navy, 1910-1941 - Ledger Sheets](#)
- [Soldiers of the First World War - Canadian Expeditionary Force \(CEF\)](#)
- [South African War, 1899-1902 - Service Files, Medals and Land Applications](#)
- [War Diaries of the First World War](#)



► If necessary, read through some of the information to provide a better understanding of the records or navigate straight to [Search: Database](#).

Library and Archives Canada

Discover the Collection ▾ Online Research ▾ Copies & Visiting ▾ Services and programs ▾

Home → Discover the Collection → Military Heritage → Second World War: 1939-1945 → Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947

Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947

Search: Database

## Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947

- [The Records](#)
- [The Database](#)
- [Search Screen](#)
- [How to Interpret the Results](#)
- [How to obtain copies or consult a file](#)
- [External Links to Other Websites](#)

Search: Database

► [Search for a specific soldier](#), if you have a name in mind, or search for only those soldiers with digitized files. Advanced search options are also available, although these do not always provide complete results.

Note that there is no way to filter languages when searching—whether you search in French or English, the same results will come up. Service Files may contain documents in both official languages.

Discover the Collection ▾ Online Research ▾ Copies & Visiting ▾ Services and programs ▾

Home → Discover the Collection → Military Heritage → Second World War: 1939-1945 → Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947 → Search: Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947

Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947

Search: Database

## Search: Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947

Enter one or more search terms. (eg. Whiteaves, White\*)

Surname

Given Name(s)

Service Number

Digitized File Yes ▾

[+] Show Advanced Search Options

Search Clear



In order to access an individual search result, click on the linked Item Number.

Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947

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Search: Database

## Result: Service Files of the Second World War – War Dead, 1939-1947

Search term(s)  
2000 result(s) found for "1".

Item Number	Surname	Given Name (s)	Date of Birth	Date of Death	Service Number
<a href="#">1</a>	AADLAND	RICHARD	1904-09-05	1945-02-12	L106876
<a href="#">2</a>	AALBORG	KARL INGE	1917-07-09	1944-09-13	J24013
<a href="#">3</a>	AANDAL	RALPH BERNARD	1925-09-02	1944-12-16	H18844
<a href="#">7</a>	ABBL	ERNEST EDWARD	1925-05-20	1945-02-08	K1463
<a href="#">8</a>	ABBOTT	ALFRED BRUCE	1913-02-04	1942-12-12	A4173
<a href="#">10</a>	ABBOTT	DOUGLAS ARTHUR	1919-12-20	1942-10-26	R114434
<a href="#">11</a>	ABBOTT	GEORGE	22 Jun 1907	11 Sep 1941	D9219
<a href="#">14</a>	ABBOTT	JOSEPH NOEL	21 Dec 1908	25 Jul 1944	B130987
<a href="#">16</a>	ABBOTT	WILLIAM GEOFFREY	1921-07-30	1943-05-23	R100271
<a href="#">17</a>	ABEL	FREDERICK J.	02 Jan 1902	28 Nov 1942	H6154
<a href="#">20</a>	ABEL	PERCY DONALD	07 Nov 1915	20 Aug 1944	B15009

The individual search result page offers a very brief summary of the material available in the service file. If there is a digitized file available, a link will be shown near the top of the page.

Discover the Collection ▾
Online Research ▾
Copies & Visiting ▾
Services and programs ▾

[Home](#) → [Discover the Collection](#) → [Military Heritage](#) → [Second World War: 1939-1945](#) → [Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947](#) → Item

Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947

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Search: Database

## Item: DOUGLAS ARTHUR ABBOTT

**Related Pdf file(s)**  
1 pdf file(s) found for item "10".

**Link(s) to pdf file(s)**  
[sww-24713-abbott-douglas\\_arthur-r114434](http://sww-24713-abbott-douglas_arthur-r114434)

<b>Surname:</b>	ABBOTT
<b>Given Name(s):</b>	DOUGLAS ARTHUR
<b>Age:</b>	21
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	1919-12-20
<b>Place of Birth - Locality:</b>	Toronto
<b>Place of Birth - Province:</b>	ON
<b>Date of Death:</b>	1942-10-26
<b>Rank:</b>	Leading Aircraftman



▶ If no digitized file is available (as shown below), it is possible to order a hard copy of the file, but this must be done in advance as it can take up to 30 days to receive records. The limited number of digital records may make it necessary to research an individual from another town, city or province.

Discover the Collection ▾
Online Research ▾
Copies & Visiting ▾
Services and programs ▾

Home → Discover the Collection → Military Heritage → Second World War, 1939-1945 → Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947 → Item

**Service Files of the Second World War - War Dead, 1939-1947**

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**Search: Database**

## Item: FRANCIS R. ABBEY

**Related Pdf file(s)**

0 pdf file(s) found for item "6".

No PDF file available

**Surname:** ABBEY

**Given Name(s):** FRANCIS R.

**Age:** 25

**Date of Birth:** 1918-12-02

**Date of Death:** 1944-07-28

**Rank:** Lance Corporal

**Unit:** Royal Canadian Army Service Corps

**Force:** Army

**Service Number:** B95738

▶ At first glance, the service files can be daunting. Photocopying or bad handwriting may make them difficult to read; there will often be unfamiliar language and codes; and the files can contain up to 300 pages. Focusing on the attestation papers will help to direct your research. The attestation papers will always be explicitly labelled.

**SPECIAL RESERVE**

**ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE**

(ATTESTATION PAPER)

(Pages one and two, only, are to be completed in Applicant's own Handwriting)

- Surname: ABBOTT First Christian Names: DOUGLAS ARTHUR
- Present Address: #10 B.T.C., Kitchener, Ont. Telephone: N.A.
- Permanent Address: 16 Hepburne Ave., Toronto, Ont.
- Place of Birth: Toronto, Ont. Citizenship: Canadian
- Date of Birth: December 20th, 1918 Married, Single, Widowed, Separately Divorced: Single.
- Particulars of Children
 

Name	Date of Birth	Name	Date of Birth
N.A.			
- Occupation: Posteurier Religion: Anglican
- Language: English (Fluently)
- Next of Kin (Full Name): Olive Susan Abbott Relationship: Mother Address: 16 Hepburne Ave., Toronto, Ont.
- Father (Full Name): John Arthur Abbott Birthplace: Sudbury, Ont. Address: 657 Ossington Ave., Toronto Citizenship: Canadian Occupation: Banker
- Mother (Full Maiden Name): Olive Susan Turner Birthplace: Sussex England Address: 15 Hepburne Ave., Toronto Citizenship: Canadian
- Details of any Naval, Military or Air Force Service:
 

Unit	Place	Rank	Trade	From	To	Reason for Discharge
#10 B.T.C.	Kitchener, Ont. Pte.			Aug 27 1941	July 1941	

**ACTIVE FORMATIONS AND UNITS OF THE CANADIAN ARMY**

(ATTESTATION PAPER)

- Surname: ABBEY
- Christian Name: Russell Kenneth
- Present address: 206 Seventh Street, Midland, Ontario, (Canada)
- Date of birth: 23 August 1924
- Place of birth: Canada Ontario Kitchener
- Citizenship: Canada
- Religion (State denomination): Protestant (Church of England)
- Trade or Calling: Truck Driver
- Married, Widower or Single: Single
- Name of next of kin: (Mrs.) Marjory ABBEY
- Relationship: Mother
- Address of next of kin: 206 Seventh Street, Midland, Ontario, (Canada)
- Do you belong to, or have you served in a Reserve Formation or Unit of The Canadian Army?  No
- Have you served in (a) an Active Formation or Unit of The Canadian Army?  No (b) You have (but state of Service) (c) Any other Naval, Military, or Air Force?  No (d) You served (but state of Service)
- Did you serve during the Great War 1914-1918?  No (d) You served (but state of Service)

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN OF ATTESTATION**

I, Russell Kenneth ABBEY do solemnly declare that the above particulars are true, and I hereby engage to serve in any Active Formation or Unit of The Canadian Army so long as an emergency, i.e., war, invasion, rebellion, or apprehended crisis, and for the period of demobilization after said emergency ceases to exist, and in any event for a period of not less than one year, provided His Majesty should require my services.



- ▶ A Certificate of Medical Examination usually follows attestation papers. This document provides physical details about servicemen otherwise unavailable.

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**  
**CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

Part 1. Information obtained from the applicant—

1. Age **21** 2. Have you ever suffered from any of the following defects in health?

(a) Rheumatism	<b>NO</b>	(j) Head Trouble	<b>NO</b>
(b) Tuberculosis	<b>NO</b>	(k) Ear Disease	<b>NO</b>
(c) Bronchitis or Asthma	<b>NO</b>	(l) Eye Disease	<b>NO</b>
(d) Heart Disease	<b>NO</b>	(m) Epilepsy	<b>NO</b>
(n) Kidney or Bladder Disease	<b>NO</b>	(o) Nervous or Mental Disease	<b>NO</b>
(p) Gastro-intestinal	<b>NO</b>	(r) Syphilis	<b>NO</b>
(q) Blisters	<b>NO</b>	(s) Gonorrhoea	<b>NO</b>
(t) Varicose Veins	<b>NO</b>	(v) Bone Fractures	<b>NO</b>
(u) Flat or Deformed Feet	<b>NO</b>	(w) Other Disease or Defect	<b>Scarlet fever</b>

3. Have you ever worn glasses? **No**  
4. Have you had any illness for more than one week's duration?  
Examiner's Remarks re above: **Scarlet fever, no complications.**

Part 2. Information obtained by Medical Examination (Applicant must be stripped)—

1. Identification marks or scars (if operative obtain history):  
**Brown mark right forearm**

2. Height **5** feet **8 1/2** inches. 3. Weight **140** pounds.  
4. Complexion **Dark** 5. Color of Eyes  **hazel** Hair **Brown**  
6. Development **Good** 7. Chest Measurement—Full expiration **34** inches  
Range of expansion **3** inches  
8. Hearing—Right **N, v. 20** Left **N, v. 20** Tympana—Right **N** Left **N**  
9. Vision—Without glasses—Right **20/50** With glasses—Right **Part 2 Cont.**  
**C, v. N, 15ft** Left **20/25** Left  
10. Condition of mouth and teeth **Good** 13. Reflexes **N**  
11. Urine—Albumen **Neg.** Sugar **Neg.** 14. Heart **N**  
12. Abnormalities (Congenital and Pathological) found on Examination **N.A.** 15. Lungs **clear**  
16. Blood Pressure **110/70**

**CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

Name in full: **Russell Kenneth ADARSON** Place: **Barrie** Date of Medical Examination: **January 17/43**

Part 1. Information obtained from the recruit.

1. Age **18** 2. Have you ever suffered from any of the following diseases?

a. Rheumatism	<b>NO</b>	k. Ear disease	<b>NO</b>
b. Tuberculosis or pleurisy	<b>NO</b>	l. Eye disease	<b>NO</b>
c. Bronchitis or asthma	<b>NO</b>	m. Fits	<b>NO</b>
d. Heart disease	<b>NO</b>	n. Nervous or mental disease	<b>NO</b>
e. Kidney or bladder disease	<b>NO</b>	o. Syphilis	<b>NO</b>
f. Stomach or bowel trouble	<b>NO</b>	p. Gonorrhoea	<b>NO</b>
g. Rapures	<b>NO</b>	q. Have you ever worn glasses?	<b>NO</b>
h. Varicose veins	<b>NO</b>	r. Are you now or have you in the past received disability pension or compensation? If so, give details.	<b>NO</b>
i. Foot trouble	<b>NO</b>		
j. Nasal trouble	<b>NO</b>		

I hereby declare that I have not suffered from any disease whatsoever except as stated above.  
*Russell Adarson*  
Signature of Applicant

Part 2. Information obtained by medical examination. **THE RECRUIT MUST BE STRIPPED.**  
Medical Officer's Remarks on information as stated in Part 1:  
**(Scar pt. check. Small scar below left eye.)**

1. Identification marks or scars **Scar calf of rt. leg.**  
2. Height **5** feet **6** inches. 3. Weight **130** pounds. Good Fair Poor  
4. Complexion **Reddish** Eyes **Blue** 5. Development **Slender**  
Hair **Dk. Brown** Reflexes **normal**  
6. Chest measurement—Girth on full expiration **34 1/2** inches. Range of expansion **1 1/2** inches  
7. Vision, right **20/15** left **20/15** 8. Hearing, right **CV 20'** Left **CV 20'**  
With Glasses—right left  
9. Condition of mouth and teeth **Healthy** Case **Normal**  
10. Blood Pressure—S. D. (Required if recruit is over 25 years of age, or if otherwise indicated)  
11. Urinalysis **Sug. neg. Alb. neg.**  
12. The abnormalities (congenital and pathological) found on examination are as follows:—  
13. Chest X-Ray **Neg.** No. 10927 Laboratory of path. taken Royal Victoria Hosp. **Barrie Ontario Canada**

In order to help interpret and understand the information found on the attestation papers and service files, consult the [Second World War Information Package](#) available through Library and Archives Canada and fill out the “About My Veteran” worksheet included in this package.

If you're able to research a local veteran, you can supplement your research by accessing collections at local libraries or museums. These institutions can provide documents and artifacts that help tell a story beyond wartime. They may also have access to databases such as Ancestry.ca, which can be used to build a family tree for the veteran.



## ///About My Veteran///

The worksheet below will help you identify specific information from the attestation papers and certificates of medical examination found in all service files. The exact details available from these documents may vary slightly, but you should be able to fill in most of the following information.

Once you've examined the initial documents, search the files for other types of documents. Use the dates and the information provided to build a narrative of the veteran's service.

### ATTESTATION PAPER

First Name:

Last Name:

#### Military Service

Service branch:

Rank:

Unit:

Regimental number:

Date of enlistment:

Place of enlistment:

Details of any military service:

Current status:

Honours/Awards/Medals:

#### Personal Information

Address at time of enlistment:

Permanent address:

Next of kin:

Date of birth:

Relationship:

Place of birth:

Address:

Citizenship:

Father:

Birthplace:

Religion:

Address:

Languages:

Citizenship:

Married/Widower/Single

Occupation:

Children:    Yes    No

Mother (maiden name):

Birthplace:

Particulars of family

Address:

(Names and date of birth):

Citizenship:



## ATTESTATION PAPER (CONTINUED)

### Education and Occupation

Occupation/Trade/Calling:

Particulars of education:

Particulars of all civil occupations:

Special qualifications (if any):

Sports engaged in (if any):

Character references:

Other information provided:

## CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Age:

Date of examination:

Any past diseases?      Yes      No

If yes, state:

Identifying marks or scars:

Height:

Weight:

Complexion:

Eyes (colour):

Hair (colour):

Vision:

Hearing:

Condition of mouth and teeth:

Remarks or comments from medical examiner:

Other information provided:

