

At the end of 1944, 2 permanent cemeteries were created to gather the graves of Canadian soldiers: one in Reviers, Béný-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, and Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery south of Caen.

The cemetery holds 2049 burials, most of which Canadian with also 15 airmen from different nationalities, 3 British soldiers and one French soldier. In this cemetery are buried 335 soldiers from the 3rd Canadian Division: those who took part in the D-Day fighting on Juno Beach as well as those who were prisoners of war and were shot by the 2nd SS Panzer Division 'Hitlerjugend' in the Ardenne Abbaye.

The main path leads to the Remembrance Stone then to a place of contemplation, the Cross of Sacrifice and finally to the gardeners' shed. Maple trees line the entrance and Norman-style towers offer a point of view on Juno Beach. The register box of the cemetery can be found at the foot of one of the towers. The headstones are made of Portland stone and Botticino marble.

## Horticulture

The CWGC called upon Arthur Hill (1875–1941), botanist and assistant director of the Royal Gardens of Kew to create the gardens inside the cemeteries. Thanks to the species chosen, the cemeteries are restful and welcoming places.

There is an alternation of higher growing plants, rose bushes and lower plants. Trees, bushes and hedges contribute to a general harmony. The use of perennial plants ensures a longer flowering time.

There neither electricity nor running water here. But the cemetery remains in bloom all season thanks to the work of the gardener on site employed by the CWGC. He is helped by a mobile team when trimming the maples, Canada's symbol.

He regularly collects items left by families who come to visit a relative's grave. Poppies and fabric flags, wedding photos from the 1940's, poems ...

## D-Day

Out of the 135,000 Allied troops who landed or dropped in Normandy on June 6, 1944, 14,000 were Canadians which make Canada the third provider of troops after the United States and the United Kingdom.

45,000 Canadians lost their lives during the Second World War, 5,500 of them during the Battle of Normandy and 381 on D-Day.

## The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Created during the First World War by Sir Fabian Ware, under the tutelage of the Prince of Wales (future Edward VIII), it commemorates over 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth forces who died during both global conflicts. The CWGC built and looks after this Canadian military cemetery.

### Renseignements :

- Guided tour available on the Memory Anchor app: **Memory Anchor**
- CWGC: [cwgc.org](http://cwgc.org)
- Cœur de Nacre tourisme (canadian landing beaches tourist office): [coeurdenacretourisme.com](http://coeurdenacretourisme.com)
- Centre Juno Beach: [junobeach.org](http://junobeach.org)
- Canadian Remembrance Route: [routedusouvenircanadien.com](http://routedusouvenircanadien.com)



### Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery

Les Ruraux - D35  
14440 Béný-sur-Mer / 14470 Reviers





### Rifleman Herman Stock

Regiment: Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, R.C.I.C. | Grave: V. B. 14.

Rifleman Herman Stock was a First Nation born in the Gibson reserve in Sahanation, Ontario, on April 14th 1920. He enlisted in the Queen's Own Rifles in July 1941 when he was 19. During D-day, he landed in Bernières-sur-Mer. He jumped on a mine right in front of what is now "La Maison des Canadiens" (Canada House), with two of his comrades. Today, they are buried on each side of Herman's grave.



### Private Charles Doucette

Regiment: North Nova Scotia Highlanders, R.C.I.C. | Grave: VI. A. 16.

Charles lived in the Membertou reserve in Sydney, Nova Scotia when war broke out. At 28 and father to 3 daughters, he enlisted in the Nova Scotia Highlanders (NNSH). Growing up among First Nation, he knew very little English and signed his enlistment papers with an "X". After D-Day, he moved inland with his comrades. Out of ammunition, they surrendered to the 12 SS Panzer Division, who moved the prisoners to the Ardenne Abbaye. They were then shot on June 7. Charles was 31.



### Chaplain 4th Class The Reverend Walter Leslie Brown

Regiment: Canadian Chaplain Service  
Grave: XIII. C. 1.

Born in 1910 in Ontario, Walter volunteered for military service in the Canadian Chaplain service in 1941. He was one of the first chaplains to land in Normandy. He was helping transport the wounded towards a casualty station when he was captured and shot by soldiers of the 12th SS Panzer Division « Hitlerjugend ».



### Lieutenant Jean Robert Gregoire

Unité : Le Régiment de la Chaudière, R.C.I.C.S  
Grave: XIV. G. 16.

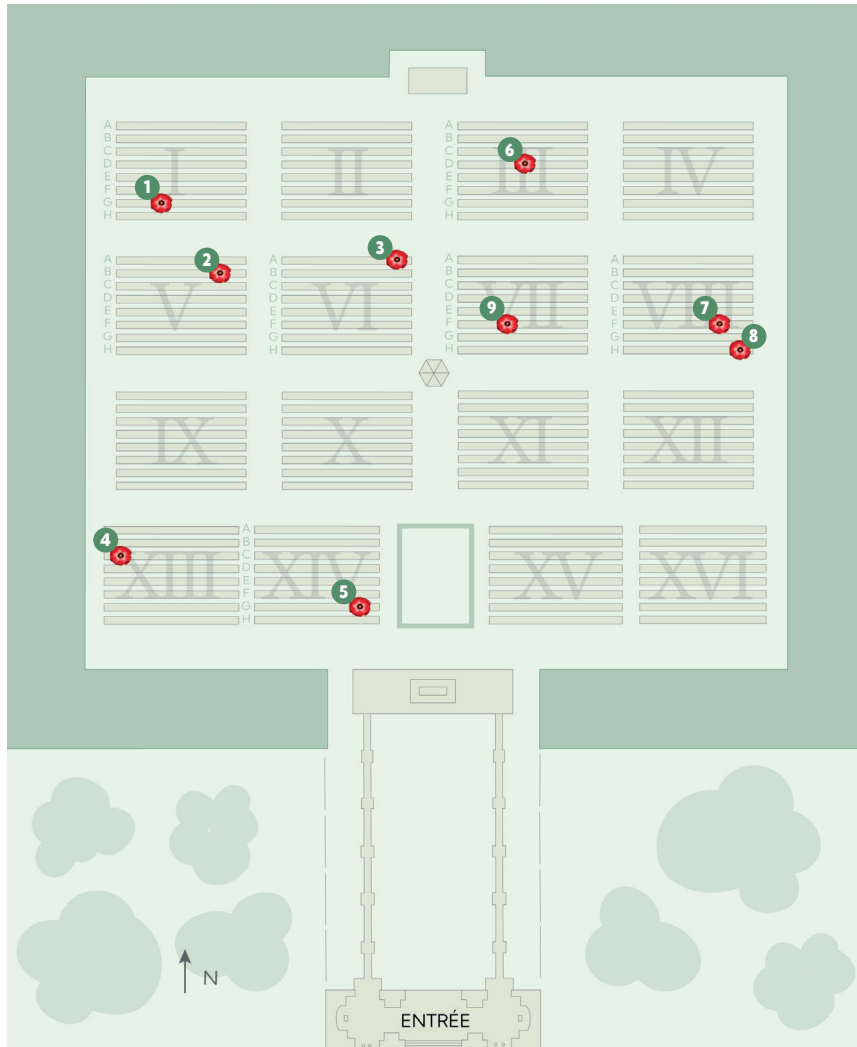
This lieutenant came from Quebec and belonged to the Régiment de la Chaudière. He helped liberate the streets wood in Bernières-sur-Mer, and made 15 German prisoners. He died early July during fights in Carpiquet. He was 22.



### Major John Archibald MacNaughton « Archie »

Regiment: North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment, R.C.I.C.  
Grave: I. G. 8.

Archie is the oldest serviceman buried here, and the only one who fought during both world wars. Born in 1896 in Black River Bridge, New Brunswick, Archie survived World War I, married and had two children. On June 6 1944, Archie got wounded on the beach, but went on bravely guiding his men through Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer and Tailleville. He died at 47 years old after being shot by a German machine gun. Younger men looked up to him like a father. His military medals are on display at the Juno Beach Centre.



### The Westlake Brothers

Rifleman Thomas Lee Westlake  
Regiment: Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, R.C.I.C. | Grave: III. D. 7



Rifleman Albert Norman Westlake  
Regiment: Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, R.C.I.C. | Grave: III. D. 8.



Private George Westlake  
Regiment: North Nova Scotia Highlanders, R.C.I.C. | Grave: VIII. F. 12

Canadian volunteers, the Westlake brothers came from Toronto. On June 7 the youngest, George lost his life in Authie, most likely after close combat. On June 11 in Mesnil-Patry, Tommy and Albert are found dead lying side by side in a field, both shot to the head. 9 groups of siblings are buried in this cemetery.



### Sergeant Rosaire Gagnon

Regiment: Le Régiment de la Chaudière, R.C.I.C. | Grave: VIII. H. 16.

Sergeant Rosaire Gagnon's mission was to clear an access route for his regiment, which had for objective the liberation of Beny-sur-Mer and Basly. Once the mission accomplished, Rosaire saw a group of French civilians mistakenly taken prisoners along German soldiers; he was able to intervene and free the civilians. During the few days in Bernières-sur-Mer, he bonded with the grateful inhabitants. He died during fighting in Rots at 24 years old. A roundabout in Bernières-sur-Mer now bears his name.



### Rifleman Horace Roy Thomas Haney

Regiment: Regina Rifle Regiment  
Grave: VII. F. 8.

This is the youngest serviceman buried here. He was 17 and came from Winnipeg. He was part of the Regina Rifle Regiment. In Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery, another serviceman holds the sad record of being the youngest Canadian soldier killed during the conflict; he was 15.

Réalisation :  
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