PRESS KIT

HE LIVED WHERE YOU LIVE

A Commemorative Community Postcard Campaign



Remembering the Canadian sacrifice for freedom and democracy 80 years ago





Anciens Combattants Canada

Veterans Affairs Canada



OVERVIEW



May 8, 2025 marks **80 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe**. To commemorate this important anniversary, the Juno Beach Centre Association – the charity that owns and operates Canada's Second World War museum in Normandy, France – has sent unique postcards to 1,945 addresses in Canada to share the names and stories of the soldiers who once lived there.

Canadians played an important role in the road to victory. **Between July 1944 and May 1945, thousands of Canadians lost their lives**. This initiative hopes to connect everyday Canadians with the history of their home, letting them know someone enlisted from that address, and lost their life in the fight for a better world. This initiative was made possible by support from Veterans Affairs Canada's Commemorative Partnership Program and Yellow Pages.

DETAILS









The front of the postcard features four images, from left to right:

- 1. Flight Officer John Kalen, 439 SQN RCAF, June 14, 1944 (he died July 18, 1944)
- 2. Lieutenant William P. Hayes, HMCS Iroquois Anti-Aircraft Officer, in antiflash gear, April 1943
- 3. Unidentified soldier in webbing
- 4. Captain Bernard J. Finestone, served in Italy with British Columbia Dragoons and was wounded



Here's an example of a postcard that was sent to an address in Vancouver. Pilot Officer Aune was only 20 years old when he died in a plane crash near Hanover, Germany.

OUTREACH

Postcards were sent to addresses from across all 10 provinces, marking the geographic diversity of those who enlisted in Canada and Newfoundland.



An interactive map showcasing the locations of each postcard sent can be <u>found here</u>.

These postcards create a personal connection between contemporary Canadians and the young heroes who perished to defeat Nazi Germany and restore freedom to millions. We have a responsibility to remember that everyone who participated had a unique personality, occupation, family, and home. These postcards remind us that their legacies can be traced back to our local communities even today.

- Alex Fitzgerald-Black, Executive Director of the Juno Beach Centre Association

More Details

Press Release

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

A series of biographies have been researched based on names on select postcards that were mailed across the country. The biographies include details about the person's enlistment, life, family and circumstance of their death.

Biographies are from service personnel from:

- Vancouver, BC
- Edmonton, AB
- Winnipeg, MB
- Thunder Bay, ON
- Toronto, ON
- Hamilton, ON
- Montreal, QC
- Charlottetown, PE
- New Glasgow, NS
- Saint John's, NL

Biographies



The Juno Beach Centre was opened in 2003 as a commemorative site for all Canadians who contributed to Allied victory during the Second World War, and to transmit this memory to the future generations through educational efforts. More than twenty years and over a

million visitors later, the Centre is considered a site of national historical importance for Canada. It is owned and operated by the Juno Beach Centre Association, a registered charity based in Burlington, Ontario, Canada. The Juno Beach Centre is the only Canadian Second World war museum in Europe. It showcases the Canadian military and civilian war effort throughout the Second World War and pays homage to the 45,000 servicemen and women that lost their lives over the course of the war. To learn more, please visit www.junobeach.org

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