

Canadians in Oxted



During World War 2, there were many Canadian Soldiers Billeted in and around the Oxted area. The Oxted Branch clubhouse holds some memorabilia in what we call Canadian Corner.



Canadian Corner



A plaque from 408 Goose Squadron, Royal Canadian Airforce. Assumed to be from members of the Squadron looking after the Secret Airstrip that was just north of Bluehouse Lane along what is now Park Road. Used by Lysander aircraft for tasks such as dropping SOE members into France.



The 49th [Loyal Edmonton Regiment](#) (LER), a Reserve Force battalion, is affiliated with the PPCLI but is not formally part of it. As part of this affiliation, the LER carries the designation '4th Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry'.

The 49th Loyal Eddie's visited in 1989





Regimental Colours of the 49th LER



Canadian Units and Locations:

The 1st Battalion of The Edmonton Regiment (later known as The Loyal Edmonton Regiment) was billeted in the Oxted and Limpsfield area in Surrey, England, from late December 1939 until the regiment was deployed to Sicily in July 1943.

On Saturday March the 22nd 1941, The Edmonton Regiment and the Oxted Branch RBL sponsored a football match on Master Park, children's races and an evening dance at the Hoskins Arms Hotel in aid of the local Oxted hospital.

Seaforth Highlanders of Canada: Members of this regiment were extensively billeted in private homes throughout Oxted and Limpsfield. The grave of Lance Corporal M. Thomson of the Canadian Seaforth Highlanders can be found in St Peter's Churchyard.

Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF): RCAF personnel were stationed nearby, with barracks including a dance hall, located off Park Road, Limpsfield. The Oxted Royal British Legion clubhouse has a "Canadian Corner" with memorabilia, including a plaque from 408 Goose Squadron, RCAF.

Canadian Army Headquarters: One large house, located behind the British Legion, served as the headquarters for the Canadian Army based in the area.

Billeting: Soldiers were billeted in various locations, including houses in Granville Road and Blue House Lane. Civilians in the area had fond memories of the troops, who interacted with local children, taught them baseball, and shared stories and food.

Anecdote from Clive Palferman as a child in Oxted.

"It must have been the summer of 1940 that we went down to the recreation ground (Master Park) to see the soldiers parade. It may have been Canadian soldiers I can't remember but when we were there the sirens sounded and we the civilians made for the new shelters. When we arrived at the gates they were all locked and then everyone ran for it. There were two or three Messerschmitts strafing the field obviously attracted by the assembled troops. We ran and the enemy plane followed us along the road but my mother always believed that seeing her with me and my brother in a pram the pilot did not shoot in our direction.



This painting, *The Canadians at Ypres* was gifted to the Oxted Branch in 2025 by Alan Jones. The painting had been left to him by his father a former soldier. His Grandfather had also served prior to WWI during the Boer War.

The Canadians at Ypres.

William Barnes Wollen's painting, titled "The Canadians at Ypres", is a dramatic reconstruction of the scene during the Second Battle of Ypres where the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry heroically fought off the massed German attack against Bellewaerde Ridge on 8 May 1915. An officer shouts to a private who is coming into their position from a communication trench. He is probably Captain Dennison in command of no.2 Company, a remnant of which acted as rearguard until most of the company withdrew to the support trench.

The painting was commissioned by Sir William Henry Veno of the Veno Drug Company, Manchester (Veno's Cough Mixture). The famous English painter, William Barnes Wollen exhibited it at the RA in 1916. It is 44 in x 64.25 in, now on show in the regimental museum, Calgary.

The Canadian Division's trial-by-fire at Ypres earned the Canadians a reputation as tough and dependable troops, but they had paid a high price: some 6,000 casualties over the four-day battle.

Note: This painting is linked to the Canadian corner in that the 49th [Loyal Edmonton Regiment \(LER\)](#), now a Reserve Force battalion, is affiliated with the PPCLI but is not formally part of it. As part of this affiliation, the LER carries the designation '4th Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry'.



After a recent visit by Club members:

Pennants from the RCL Branches in British Columbia.
Sooke on Vancouver Island and Kamloops in the Rocky
Mountains.

