

RCEME FOUNDATION UPDATE FALL 2025 (#2)

*****Please see our Donor Match Program note at the end of this Newsletter*****



The Red Poppy – Royal Canadian Legion (2025)

(Source: Royal Canadian Legion Website)

Remembrance Day/Veteran's Week 2025

The universal symbol for Remembrance Day, in Canada and across the former WW1 Allied and British Commonwealth nations, is the red poppy. Use of the poppy symbol originated in France, and was adopted in Canada by the Great War Veteran's Association in 1921 (*Source: Royal Canadian Legion Website*). Once again, this week, millions of Canadians will congregate at local Memorials, in classrooms and in front of their televisions to commemorate Remembrance Day and recite John MacRae's now ubiquitous poem, '*In Flanders Fields.*'

The RCEME Corps and RCEME Community will also gather this week to remember the RCEME Veterans, and their colleagues from other countries, Services and Regiments, who gave their lives for their country and their friends. These Canadian RCEME heroes are commemorated in the **RCEME Digital Book of Remembrance**:



RCEME Book of Remembrance

The Book of Remembrance honours the men and women of the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME) who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country. This digital portal offers a searchable database that allows families, friends, and visitors to find detailed entries including name, date of death, age at passing, cemetery location, and other biographical notes, with many records also featuring a photograph of the grave site. Explore the database by name, year, or conflict era and pay tribute to those whose dedication and service shaped the legacy of RCEME.

[Search the Book of Remembrance](https://bor.rcememuseum.ca/en-ca/)

<https://bor.rcememuseum.ca/en-ca/>

Sergeant Raymond Melville Matson of Calgary, Alberta, who died on August 8th, 1944, near Falaise, is one of the 18 RCEME casualties from Normandy who are commemorated in the Book of Remembrance:



Burial Site of Sergeant Raymond Melville Matson

(Source: The RCEME Museum Book of Remembrance Website)

Our Newest RCEME Story Portal - RCEME in Normandy



The RCEME Badge – 1944

(Source: RCEME Museum Book of Remembrance Website)

The RCEME Foundation, in support of the RCEME Heritage Program, along with our technology partners at Blue Rhino Design™, are pleased to announce the release of the **RCEME In Normandy** Story Portal on the RCEME Museum Website:



A Sherman Armoured Recovery Vehicle (ARV) south of Caen, June 1944. Sergeant Fielding and his RCEME crew used an ARV like this to deliver ammunition and fuel under fire at Hill 195.

Credit: Library and Archives Canada

The action demonstrated the adaptability and fighting spirit of RCEME tradesmen. Recovery crews were trained to tow wrecks and operate winches, not to run supply convoys. Yet the same skills—handling heavy vehicles, improvising under pressure—made it possible to deliver critical supplies to troops under fire at the very front lines of Operation Totalize.

<https://rcememuseum.ca/en-ca/Our-Stories/Normandy>

The **RCEME in Normandy** portal details the stories three RCEME leaders who, along with their teams of technicians and engineers, made a significant contribution to the Allied victory in Normandy, and ultimately in North-West Europe. See below a short excerpt from the **RCEME in Normandy Story** (Source: *The RCEME Museum Website*):

The Battle of Normandy was the first stage of the Allied liberation of Northwest Europe. It began with the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944 and continued through a summer of heavy fighting until late August, when the German Army was forced to retreat from France. Canadians played a central role: securing Juno Beach on D-Day, battling through the city of Caen, and helping close the Falaise Pocket that trapped tens of thousands of enemy soldiers.

Created just weeks earlier in May of 1944, Normandy was the RCEME Corps' first test. RCEME tradesmen worked close behind the front lines, often under fire, performing tasks that went far beyond routine maintenance. Recovery crews dragged disabled Sherman tanks from the mud. Mechanics patched engines and gearboxes by the roadside. Armourers and welders modified equipment to suit the hedgerow country. Workshops became conversion lines for entirely new types of vehicles.

The Battle of Normandy proved that RCEME was indispensable...

There is also a short section called the “**Cost of Victory**,” which provides some background for Craftsman Norman Symington. During the Normandy Campaign, the RCEME Corps suffered 18 fatalities. You can read about all of these RCEME technicians and officers - beginning with Craftsman Symington of Toronto (who died on 7 Jun 1944) through to Craftsman Roy Coombes of North Bay, Ontario (who died on 16 Aug 1944) – in the **Book of Remembrance** by searching for “WW2/1944/France.”

<https://bor.rcememuseum.ca/en-ca/>

Along with the details found in the **RCEME in Normandy Story**, our sister portals for the **RCEME Book of Remembrance** and **RCEME Honours and Awards** (also on the RCEME Museum Website) provide more background on these RCEME heroes - please have a look at this collection of great RCEME personalities.

Donations to the RCEME Foundation

As we commemorate Remembrance Day and Veterans Week of 2025, we are hoping many of you will consider supporting the RCEME History and Heritage Program. So, how will the RCEME Foundation fit into your plans? **For many of you, a donation to the RCEME Foundation will have personal meaning –** enabling family and friends to share your RCEME story now and into the future. Your donation will help us to continue with future Digital RCEME Heritage projects like an online **RCEME Artifacts Inventory**, and new stories like **RCEME in Afghanistan**. And, thanks to the generosity and commitment of the RCEME Foundation Board and RCEME Council, **we will now be able to match your donations, up to a total of \$5000, between now and Dec 31st, 2025!** 😊

Whether you have previously supported the **RCEME Heritage Program** by donating to the RCEME Foundation, or you wish to make your first donation in support of our upcoming Heritage projects, please visit our website below. Note that the RCEME Foundation is completely volunteer-operated and 100% of your donation goes directly to RCEME Heritage Programs. If you would like to explore a more personal arrangement like recurring monthly donations or a formal bequest, please contact us via our website or the mailing address at the end of this note.

Donate to the RCEME Foundation today and help commemorate 80+ years of RCEME excellence.

**MAKE YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE
DONATION HERE**

<https://rcemefoundation.org/donations/>

Arte et Marte



The RCEME Heritage & Museum Foundation

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