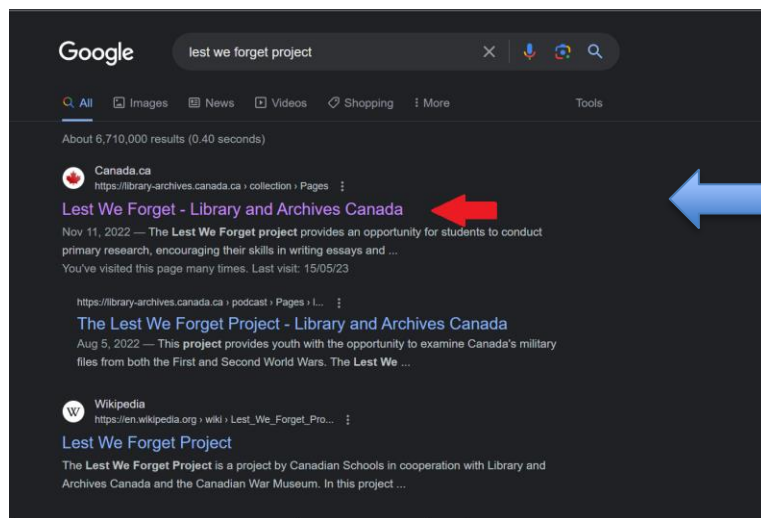


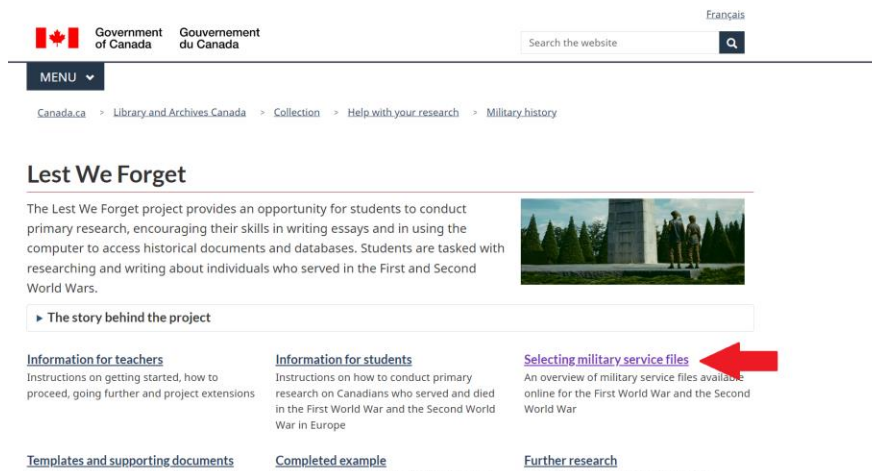
Lord Selkirk Regional – Canadian History 30F

Second World War Soldier Research – A Guide

- 1) Using information obtained from the Selkirk Cenotaph via Mr. Lopuck, decide upon which soldier you'd like to conduct research and make note of the first and last name, as well as the service number.
- 2) Google “Lest We Forget Project” and click on the first link from Library and Archives Canada



- 3) Click on the “Selecting military service files”.




- 4) Scroll down to “Second World War” and select “Service files of the Second World War”.

Second World War (1939–1945)

Only the files for those personnel who died in service between 1939 and 1947 are open to the public. The file can be specific to a service person killed in action, a service person who died subsequently of injuries incurred in service, or a service person who died from an accident or an illness while in service.

The digitized military service files of Second World War personnel include:

- A record of service documenting the unit with which the individual served
- Information on the individual's cause of death
- Information provided to the family on the death of their loved one
- And, in many cases, correspondence between the family and military authorities, as well as information on honours and awards

 During the Second World War, the three armed services (Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force) did produce more forms in French, although the working language was predominantly English. Correspondence with the families was in either French or English, depending on the language spoken by the service person. You will also find many abbreviations on these forms; to find out what they mean, consult [Military Abbreviations used in Service Files](#).

To select a digitized file

- Consult our [Service Files of the Second World War – War Dead 1939-1947](#) database
- You can do a search by given name(s), surname and service number of a soldier. By clicking on Hide/Show Advanced Search Options, you can also search by the soldier's place of birth, his address at the time of enlistment, his rank, or his unit. If you want to browse the digitized service files, select “yes” in the drop-down box beside the label Digitized File
- For information on how to consult or obtain copies of these Second World War – War Dead 1939-1947 files, please



- 5) Input the soldier's regimental number and name and click on “search”. If your soldier does not pop up, try going back and using just the regimental number or just the name; sometimes the system can be quite picky.

Second World War Service Files – War Dead, 1939 to 1947

Use this tool to locate the service files of Canadian Forces members who:

- were killed in action
- died as a result of accident, illness or injury while in service
- died in 1946 or 1947 of injuries related to service

Search the database


Available online : :

All these words:

This exact phrase:

Any of these words:

None of these words:

Date:  Year Time period
Year:

First name:

Last name:

Service number:

6) You should get a results page that looks like the following. Click on the soldier's name.

The screenshot shows a search results page with a left sidebar and a main content area. The sidebar lists various filters: 'Found in:' (Genealogy (1), Military (1), Service files WWII (1939-1947) (1)), 'Date:' (1940-1949 (1), 1942 (1)), 'Branch:' (Army (1)), 'Unit:' (Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, R.C.I.C. (1)), 'Rank:' (Sergeant (1)), and 'Available online:' (Yes (1)). The main content area shows 'Showing 1 - 1 of 1 filtered results' with 'Sort by: Relevance' and 'Per page: 25'. A red arrow points to the name 'LINKLATER, WILLIAM BENJAMIN' in the search results. Below the name is a thumbnail image of a document and a list of details: 'Date of birth: 1904-10-08', 'Date of death: 1942-08-19', 'Rank: Sergeant', 'Service number: H19751', 'Unit: Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, R.C.I.C.', and 'Reference: RG 24, Volume 26974'.

7) On the soldier's page, you should see the file embedded. You may now begin to conduct your research!

[Canada.ca](#) > [Library and Archives Canada](#) > [Collection](#) > [Search the collections](#)

LINKLATER, WILLIAM BENJAMIN

The screenshot shows a document viewer interface. At the top, there is a 'Back to Search Results' button. The viewer displays a scanned document with a purple label that reads 'H19751 LINKLATER WILLIAM BENJAMIN'. The viewer includes a navigation bar with a hamburger menu, page number '1 / 30', zoom level '54%', and icons for search, refresh, download, print, and share.

- 8) The first step in your research should be to fill in the attached templates. Once you have completed that, conduct a Google search on the soldier, are there any other details for the soldier's life that pop up? Using the information you've found in the soldier's file, as well as any other supplemental information, write the story about the soldier you researched. Be sure to reflect on the historical thinking skills while composing the story:
- a. Historical Significance
 - b. Primary Source Evidence
 - c. Cause and Consequence
 - d. Continuity and Change
 - e. Historical Perspective
 - f. Ethical Dimension

When writing the soldier's story, particularly when considering the events surrounding his death, you will also need to consider the larger story of Canada's participation in the war. For example, if you discovered that your soldier died on or around June 6, 1944, you should include in your story information about what battle(s) Canadian soldiers were fighting in around that time (ex. Normandy).

Your soldier's story should be between 1 and 2 pages, double-spaced, and in 12-pt font (approximately 250-500 words).

Rubric:

1. Student has demonstrated the ability to use primary source documents in a historical context. (5)
2. Student has demonstrated evidence of understanding how to use the historical thinking skills in the composition of their soldier's story. (5)
3. Student has demonstrated comprehension of how Canada's presence on the world stage was shaped by its role in the Second World War and its growing participation in the international community. (10)
4. Self-evaluation:
 - How well have I contributed to the composition of the story? Was I a 'good' group member? Did I contribute to the research/writing? Did I actively help my group members complete the task? Give yourself a mark out of ten for your participation in the task. (10)
5. Group Evaluation:
 - How well and in what ways did each of my group members contribute to the completion of the task? Provide a mark out of 5 for each group member related to their participation in the task. (5)

Total: /35