

James Cohen

Royal Canadian Regiment

Family Life:

James (Jim) Cohen was born on July 11, 1931, in Owen Sound to William and Viola Cohen (nee Hiscox). Jim was born into a large family being one of 16 children. His father was a Second World War veteran who was severely injured after being run over by a tank. After the war, William returned home to the family.

Jim lived in Owen Sound before moving to Shallow Lake and Hepworth. He attended Alexandra School and Shallow Lake and Hepworth Elementary Schools.

Jim married Ruth Buckingham and they had three boys, Richard, David and Mark. After Ruth died at age 37, he was remarried to Doris Heartcatcher.

Jim worked at the National Table Company in Owen Sound, the Collingwood Furniture Company and the Southampton Furniture Factory. as well as at After his service he worked for 32 years at Hilroy Stationary.



Decorations:

Korea Medal
Commonwealth Medal
United Nations Medal
Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal

Military Service:

In his own words, Jim Cohen signed up for military service in 1951, at London, Ontario, with the Royal Canadian Regiment in order to escape his “mother’s purse strings”.

He was posted twice to Germany and Wainwright, Alberta. His service began during the Korean War.

Making his way to Korea, Jim sailed aboard the SS Buckner along with 5,000 troops first landing at Yokohama, Japan. The trip took 14 days as they embarked from Seattle. He was a wireless operator during his time in Korea.

Jim saw active fighting during the Korean War, including Hill 355, known as “Kowang-san” to Koreans. It was nicknamed “Little Gibraltar” by UN troops because of its large size and many defensive positions.

While posted to Züschen, Germany, Jim met Queen Elizabeth II, albeit in the pouring rain.

Lessons Learned:

Jim provided two thoughts: “The Major said don’t be too inquisitive before you see what’s on the other side of the hill,” and “You’ve got to be nice to people, that’s all there is to it.”