

A Dream to Serve

“A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles,” a quote once said by Christopher Reeve. A hero might be a word you would use to describe our Canadian soldiers who fought for our freedom. We should still remember to appreciate those whom wished only to protect our country but had their chance taken away from them. My grandfather, Bill Martin’s dream was to protect and serve his country, this is his journey attempting it.

Ever since a young boy, Bill had always wanted to join the military. Growing up, the idea of being a Canadian soldier had been praised and romanticized by society and with such a great appreciation and love for his country, he felt he was destined. Bill often thought that not a lot made sense in this world, but he knew one thing for sure... He wanted to make something of himself.

Years went by and Bill found himself right on his way to making his dream a reality. Bill began training for the military in 1939. He would have never truly imagined how horrid and exhausting it really was until he got there. Each day, Anthony reminded himself why he decided to join and how important it truly was. He missed his family. He missed his friends and his bed. He missed his dog. But he knew it was worth it. Weeks went by and he found himself learning a lot about weapons, the art of manipulation, survival tips and self defence methods which he took a great interest in. Things were going great. Then, just as suddenly as the dream came, it was gone.

Bill found himself in a hospital bed with the risk of losing his leg or becoming paralyzed neck down. Just another day out in training had turned into a life threatening injury when Bill had fallen out of a moving truck, broken his spine and crushed his knee. He spent several long excruciating months laying in a hospital bed. Within these months, Bill had plenty of time to think and reflect. An injury, this he had never expected nor seen coming! He hadn't thought of what he would do, were this kind of thing to happen. It was a major surprise, but it mustn't had meant to be. Finally, after spending several months in the hospital, Bill made a full recovery. He knew that even though he hadn't made it to the battle field, he gave it his all and the experience had not only been positively life changing, but it made him a prouder Canadian.

Bill is not the only veteran who was affected by this same scenario. Many, many veterans today had, also, trained for several long months in the military, were injured or got sick, and were no longer certified to continue. Lest we, also, forget those brave men/women who were willing to serve and sacrificed so much in hopes to only fight for our freedom. Though before they had the chance it was taken from them, we must always still appreciate and remember all of our Canadian heroes.