

# Brian MASSE

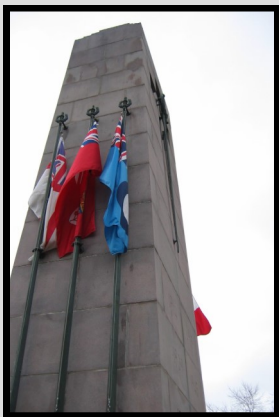
M.P. Windsor West



WINDSOR WEST UPDATE

November 2016

**BRIAN MASSE—YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA**



“Without freedom there can be no ensuring peace and without peace no enduring freedom.”

*~King George VI at the dedication of the National War Memorial (Ottawa, May 21, 1939)*

## CONTACT US!

**COMMUNITY OFFICE**  
SUITE 2  
1398 OUELLETTE AVENUE  
WINDSOR, ON N8X 1J8  
P 519-255-1631  
F 519-255-7913

**PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE**  
RM 1000  
LA PROMENADE BUILDING  
OTTAWA, ON K1A 0A6  
P 613-996-1541  
F 613-992-5397

Dear Friends,

As in the past, I am sending these special Remembrance Day stories to help our community honour our local heroes and remember our veterans.

Further, there are several ways that we can ensure that we pay special tribute to these war heroes with, for instance, wearing a poppy which has been a clear symbol of commemoration since the immediate aftermath of the WWI. Reflection in silence for two minutes is also a common way of remembering on November 11th of every year. These minutes, although short, provide us opportunity to think about the past, our heroes lost and returned, and those who serve today. Another way to remember is to visit the numerous war memorials that have been erected in the city, country and worldwide that are in many instances the only memory that we have of many soldiers.

I would like to send a special thank you to all war veterans of Windsor. Please take the time to thank our veterans, and remember them and our lost heroes not only on Remembrance Day, but every day.

Ultimately, I encourage everyone to participate in this year's Remembrance Day ceremony held at the cenotaph in City Hall Square at 11:00 a.m., on November 11, 2016. I hope to see you there.

On the back side of this newsletter you will find the story of one of our local veterans that pays tribute to their time in the Services. This story is just one sample of Veterans stories from our community. I am sending different veterans' stories to different neighbourhoods within my riding. If you are interested in seeing these other stories, please do not hesitate to contact my office or visit my website: [www.brianmasse.ca](http://www.brianmasse.ca)

*This November 11, 2016 at  
Windsor City Hall Square Cenotaph  
at 11:00 a.m.*

[masseb@parl.gc.ca](mailto:masseb@parl.gc.ca)

[www.brianmasse.ca](http://www.brianmasse.ca)

## Hugh Edward Thompson

(11th Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers, WWII)



Hugh Thompson was a 21 year old Canadian infantry lieutenant who was serving with the British Army as a

“Canloan Officer”. On October 28, 1944 in a battle at Wouw (near Antwerp) in southwestern Holland, a small steel Sten Gun magazine probably saved his life.

The Sten Gun magazine usually contained two rows of 16 bullets each. These bullets stopped two pieces of metal shrapnel from German mortar bombs and artillery shells that penetrated the side of the magazine and left two holes in the narrow side while other pieces of metal shrapnel pierced his right boot causing a foot wound. The magazine position of the Sten Gun, which was normally carried above the waist by attacking soldiers with the magazine on the left side of the gun barrel in front of the chest, fortunately probably stopped the shrapnel from hitting him in the chest area.

During the mortar and artillery shelling, most of the survivors took shelter on the reverse slope of the nearby railway bank, then reorganize and continued the attack toward Wouw. Upon reaching the windmill, Hugh and a fellow soldier opened the door and quickly moved to the bottom of the stairway leading to the upper story. Then, in case some German soldiers were preparing to open the door and lob a grenade or two down the stairwell, he tried to fire his gun at the closed wood door at the top of the stairway. However, the Sten Gun failed to fire so Hugh threw it on the floor in disgust and pulled his Smith & Wesson pistol from the holster on his belt and shouted in German to enemy soldiers to surrender. The soldiers surrendered and maintained that there were many tanks organizing right then in Wouw to counterattack soon. It was only the next morning that Hugh’s fellow soldier revealed that that Sten Gun had saved Hugh’s life pointing out that it had two holes.

Since 1944, he has kept this damaged Sten Gun magazine near him as a frequent reminder of his good luck at Wouw. Recently, Hugh has had his magazine framed and mounted on the wall of his basement office in his Windsor, Ontario home to acknowledge with thanks all the many good years he has enjoyed during his “borrowed time” and recognize the critical role played by the small Sten Gun magazine.