

WILLIAM DONALD LESLIE GAREY  
(1908 - 1981)

W.D.L. (Bill) Garey, of Ottawa died on August 7, 1981 following a brief illness. Bill was born in England on February 11, 1908, and attended school in Fareham, England. After leaving school, he continued his academic education as an apprentice at the Royal Air Force School of Technical Training, graduating as an aircraftsman at the age of 18, and continuing in the Air Force until 1938. He was employed by the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain as a civil assistant, working on map revision. At the outbreak of war in August 1939, he was called up as a Sergeant in the Air Force, trained as an aircraft engineer, and by the time of his discharge in December 1945 was a Flying Officer. His service in the Royal Air Force included periods in Malta, the Middle East and Canada.

From January 1946 until February 1947, he was employed as a survey draftsman, in the compilation of maps for the Ordnance Survey. He emigrated to Canada in 1947, and found employment with the Department of the Attorney General, Government of Saskatchewan, as a plans examiner from June 1947 to July 1949. For the next five years, he worked as a survey assistant with the Ontario Department of Highways.

Upon being commissioned as an Ontario Land Surveyor in April 1953, Bill joined the Legal Surveys Division of the federal Department of Mines and Technical Surveys for the first time, being employed as a land surveyor on surveys of Ontario Indian reserves for two years. He qualified as a Dominion Land Surveyor in May 1955.

From May 1955 to May 1960, Bill was again employed by the Ontario Department of Highways as an inspector of surveys. He returned to the Federal Legal Surveys Division in May 1960 as a land surveyor and during the next three summers, worked as a chief of party on surveys of Indian reserves in Ontario and on the St. Regis Reserve in Quebec.

In June 1963, he understudied George Babbage for a month as Chief of the Instructions Section, and then became a supervisor in the Instructions Section, and in December 1968 he became chief of the section as an En.Sur.5. Bill reached retirement age in February 1973, and was granted an extension to help the division over the difficult transition from a centralized operation to a regionalized operation.

On December 28, 1973, Bill retired at the age of 65, after 50 years of public service in England and Canada, completing his service as head of the Instructions Section, Legal Surveys Division, in the Federal Surveys and Mapping Branch.

After retiring, Bill spent the years from 1974-77 as a language replacement for three senior officers in the Legal Surveys Division while they undertook French language training.

Between November 1978 and May 1980, Bill accepted four assignments with the Headquarters Survey Unit of the Department of Public Works in Ottawa. They were going through a development stage during that time and put Bill's surveying expertise to good use. On May 17, 1980 Bill retired for the third time.

Bill was a member of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, and its Eastern Regional Group, and of The Canadian Institute of Surveying in its Ottawa Branch.

Bill married Nora Hornsby while in Canada with the Fleet Air Arm (on loan from the RAF during 1940-43) and took her back to England after the war, as a war bride in reverse. They have one daughter, Elizabeth, and one granddaughter, Jennifer.

Throughout his career, Bill has been noted as a hard-working and conscientious man with a deep feeling of personal responsibility for detail of his work. Upon the occasion of Bill's first retirement, Surveyor General Dave Slessor paid tribute to his extremely conscientious effort in carrying out his duties, and particularly to the success of the contract negotiation aspect of the section.