

# *The Ballad of Jimmy Kerr*

**First Released: 1997**

Jimmy Kerr was raised in St. Vital, Manitoba. As a teenager, he joined the Royal Winnipeg Rifles. He earned an officer's commission and was with this famous battalion on D-Day. He was killed as a Lieutenant commanding a platoon.

This music video, with its haunting lyrics, captures the story of this and other brave young soldiers like him... and is symbolic of thousands of his contemporaries. Still in the "age of innocence," they volunteered and eventually became part of one of the world's great armies, tasked to invade Europe and to do battle with the vaunted German (Nazi) SS and Wehrmacht.

This video and the tremendous rendition by the late Barry Campbell and his musicians is a tribute to Canada's Armed Forces. It carries a significant message: We must all strive to prevent war. In the words of The War Amps Program — NEVER AGAIN!

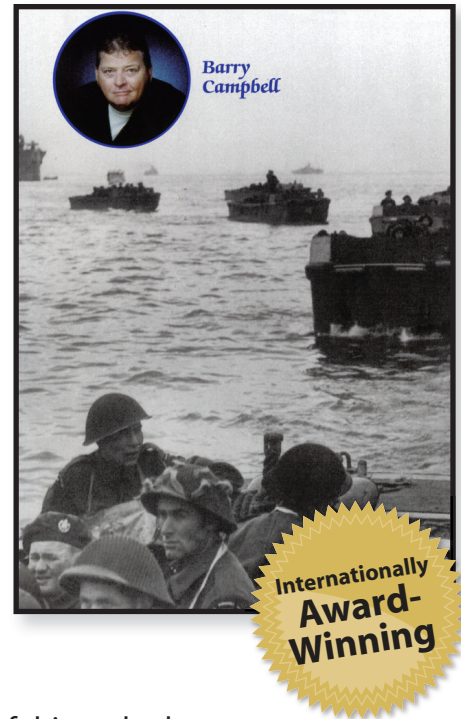
Campbell earned a well deserved reputation as a singer and composer. He spent some time in the Royal Canadian Navy, and was later a firefighter in Etobicoke, Ontario.

Campbell said of his song, originally entitled *The Canadian Veterans Tribute (A Song So Late)*, "It's important to me that the fellows who did what they did in the Second World War get some recognition."

## **Awards:**

Silver Award – 1998 Worldfest-Houston (Texas)

Finalist Award – 1997 Mercury Awards (New York)



# *The Ballad of Jimmy Kerr*

(Performed by Barry Campbell)

In this grave, there lies a soldier  
And his duty's done  
He never was a hero, but he never should've  
left his Mom  
Only seventeen, he's off to war  
Left his home, he left his family  
A product of his time  
He vowed that he'd return soon, this  
wouldn't take too long  
He was young and strong, and he  
heard the call  
Canada was calling them to rally round  
her flag  
The world was in a brutal war, and  
freedom was at stake  
All the young Canadians would leave their  
native shore.  
Many won't return  
Many won't return

*-Musical Break-*

When they stormed the beach at Juno,  
most were yet untried  
He and all his comrades, just praying  
they'd survive  
Their eyes got opened wide  
To the cost of war  
He was only steps from cover  
A bullet pierced his heart  
He never knew what hit him, and he never  
did fire a shot  
A young life sacrificed  
To the cost of war  
Canada had called them to rally round  
her flag  
The world was in a brutal war, and freedom  
was at stake  
All the young Canadians would leave their  
native shore.  
Many won't return  
Many won't return

*-Musical Break-*

Now the guns have all gone silent  
The warriors all grown old  
The last of living memory, for stories never  
told  
Hidden in the pain, that still remains  
So come sing a song of tribute  
To all that went and served  
Celebrate your freedom for those that  
ne'er returned;  
The sacrifices made.  
That freedom reigns  
Canada has called them to rally round  
her flag  
The world was in a brutal war, and freedom  
was at stake  
All the young Canadians would leave their  
native shore.  
Many won't return  
Many won't return