

# THE CENOTAPH SENTINEL

PROGRAM ON PAGE 16 FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 CEREMONIES

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE MANITOULIN DISTRICT CENOTAPH



For 100 years, the Manitoulin District Cenotaph has honoured Manitoulin's fallen soldiers.

## Nephew was so proud of his aunt's service he donated \$5 to Women's Memorial Monument

**by Tom Sasvari**  
TORONTO—When he was 12 years old, Corrigan Hammond was so proud of his aunt Joan (nee Corrigan) Lemons (originally from

Mindemoya) having served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps during World War II (working in the base post office in Ottawa), that he donated \$5 to the Royal

Canadian Legion Branch 177 toward a new Women's Memorial Monument at Memorial Gardens at the Manitoulin District Cenotaph. "I spent a lot of time with

my aunt Joan when I was young. I was extremely proud of her," stated Corrigan Hammond, who is now 34 years old and lives in Toronto, of his donation in late 1999. The memorial, located on the Manitoulin Island Cenotaph property, is dedicated to all the women from Manitoulin Island who served in the armed forces and the nursing sisters who cared for the wounded.

"Joan served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CMAC) during World War II and worked in the base post office in Ottawa," said Mr. Hammond. "She instilled in me the importance of service to country, and I guess the cenotaph and the new Women's Memorial was front and foremost when I decided to make the donation."

The CMAC, "were quite an interesting group of women," said Mr. Hammond. His aunt "delivered mail (as a courier), and did quite a bit of drilling and training in Kitchener during the war. She used to tell us kids that she had stopped the war, that she had been on a boat going

over to Europe and Adolph Hitler heard she was going to Europe and surrendered. I remember as a young boy I was at the War Museum in Ottawa, and there were several veterans there. I told them this same story and that we had won the war because

of my aunt." "We were trailblazers," Ms. Lemons told The Manitoulin Expositor in its Wednesday September 1, 1999 edition. "Prior to World War II there were no women in active service. Each force

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### *A brief history of the Manitoulin District Cenotaph: 1921-2021*

MANITOULIN—As we approach the centennial of the dedication of the Manitoulin District Cenotaph, in honour of Manitoulin's and Canada's military wartime casualties, it is interesting to reflect on how all this evolved.

Jim Wilson started all this somewhere in early 1920 or a little before; he was a returned veteran and no doubt had lost a few buddies. The hurt was still deep for him and all associated with World War I fatalities and certainly the local Campbell and Carnarvon population was grateful to all those who gave their all to turn back the scourge of the time.

Unfortunately, there is minimal documentation. What was available was passed on by his son, Clare, a WWII veteran who sadly is also gone. The records are sparse but indicate that someone started at Spring Bay and canvassed through Perivale, Long Bay, Britainville and Grimesthorpe covering most of Campbell Township. It is almost certain that a similar canvass covered Carnarvon. Typically, a donation was two

dollars then with the odd \$10 or \$20.

An original sketch, which was scaled back to fit the finances, bore the names of eight fallen soldiers of the immediate vicinity. The inscription block honoured First World War Campbell/Carnarvon soldiers who died in service, 1914-1918, Austin Blackie, Ernest Blackie, Robert Hill, James Pattison and William Richie and World War Two Campbell/Carnarvon soldiers who died in service, 1939-1945, Floyd Williamson, Gilbert Alexander and Doug Wagg.

This monument was built in the very centre of the road at this intersection of the roadways and was heavily damaged in an automobile accident in the late 1950s. It was later reconstructed on the southwest quadrant of the same intersection on a 3/4-acre memorial park donated by George White, who owned the farm on that corner and who was a veteran of both the First and Second World Wars.

The original marble statue of a soldier in  
...continued on page 4



Joan Lemons, centre, with grandchildren Corrigan Hammond, left, and Susan Parry.

*The*  
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# MASTER FATALITY REGISTER MANITOULIN DISTRICT CENOTAPH



## WORLD WAR I

### Plaque #1

Joseph Adams  
? Anwatin  
Alexander L. Ballentyne  
George Baxter

### Plaque #2

Harry Beatty  
Lawrence Beatty  
Percy Beck  
Sam Blackburn  
Austin W. Blackie  
Ernest J. Blackie  
Lorne Bradley  
Harry W. Brown  
Michael Cada  
Norman Campbell  
William Carr  
Isban A. Clark  
George W. Collins  
Edwin E. Cook  
John Cowan  
John D. Currie

### Plaque #3

Jack Elliot  
Joseph Enosse  
F. Walter Farthing  
Amerod Ferguson  
Blair Frazer  
Joseph C. Gallagher  
R. Joseph Good  
Agustus Hartung  
Victor Hewson  
Robert R. Hill  
Charles Holmes  
Wilfred J. Holmes  
John Hughson  
Robert Hunter  
William Jackman  
Alexander G. Jeffrey

### Plaque #4

Edgar Kent  
Frank Lavalley  
John E. Leach  
John Maguire

Harvey C. Marshall  
Dave Matheson  
John McDonald  
John Keddy  
John McMillian  
James Merrilees  
Ernest Minors  
Nelson Minors  
Vincent Misinishkotewe  
Thomas Moore  
Louis J. Norton  
Eli Louis Niganiwah

### Plaque #5

Thomas Niganiwina  
Frank Nighswander  
James T. Pattison  
Andrew Peltier  
Percy Pifer  
Franklin Proulx  
James A. Raynor  
W. Leslie Riching  
William Rousseau

Lorne Rumley  
Laurence Russell  
Clarence Rush  
Leslie Scott  
Colin D. Sims  
James F. Valliquette

### Plaque #6

Michael Wabanosse  
Lorne Walker  
William Wickett  
Arlif R. Wilkin  
Alden Wilkinson  
Robert Willet  
Valentine Wilman  
Nelson Young

## WORLD WAR II

### Plaque #7

Glibert Alexander  
Keith Beange  
Kenneth Buck  
Les Campbell  
Aubrey Chalmers  
Richard J. Clark  
Dominic Corbiere  
Everett Coulter  
Hubert Coulter  
John A. Eadie  
Ivan Falls  
Lloyd Fowler  
William Fowler

### Plaque #8

Alphonse Gaiashk  
Fredrick G. Green  
John C. Halcrow  
J. Lloyd Hall  
Morland L. Hembruff  
Steve R. G. Hilson  
James S. Howard  
Eric C. Hughson  
J. Mac Johnson  
Leonard Lehman  
Norman F. Lockeyer  
Henry Mandamin  
Alphonse Manitowabi  
(Korea)  
Russell McCracken

Theodore McGregor  
Armand McMillian

### Plaque #9

Leonard Mumford  
Charles Nahwegezic  
Roland Nahwegezic  
L.W. Orford  
John Ozaomik  
Alfred Pitawanakwat  
Burt Roque  
Frank Rowe  
Wilbert Rowe  
Ernest Sagle  
Isaac Shawanda  
Robert Smeltzer

Russell Stringer  
Zoey Trudeau  
Lyle Van Horn  
Douglas M. Wagg

### Plaque #10

Clarence Wakegijic  
Douglas Weeks  
Felix Wemigwans  
A. Floyd Williamson  
Albert J. Williamson  
Douglas Wright

# Merchant Marine Memorial was Canada's first

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This story first appeared in the June 5, 1994 special supplement 'In Tribute.'*

MANITOULIN—Merchant mariners, the seamen who braved the U-boat-infested waters of much of the world during the Second World War, were honoured alongside their military comrades at the commemoration of the Manitoulin District Cenotaph. A special, separate memorial to those mariners who lost their lives while fueling the Allied war effort with oil and supplies was dedicated during the ceremonies held on Sunday, June 5, 1994.

"The cenotaph committee thought that there was little done to recognize the Merchant Marine, considering their role in the war," the late Ed Kift, a co-ordinator in the Manitoulin District Cenotaph committee, told The Expositor in a 1994 interview. "They were just recently given formal recognition by the Department of Veterans Affairs and it's been a long time coming. Now they finally have all the benefits and recognition enjoyed by armed forces veterans."

"We were the first to do anything formally," said Mr. Kift adding, however, that in the meantime, a few com-

munities have since erected memorials to fallen seamen. "The main one is in Halifax, which of course was a major port that they sailed out of."

During the naval campaigns in the South Pacific, Mr. Kift, himself a naval veteran, recalled the merchant freighters. "They ran those oil tankers right up into it (the battle zones) to fuel the battleships."

The cost of supplying the various fronts with fuel, ammunition, bauxite and food, among other things, was high. Seventy-one Canadian ships were lost to German U-boats and 1,200 of 12,000 merchant mariners lost their lives during the course of the war. The numbers for the First World War are similar.

"We carried supplies to the war front," the late Ed Morphet, a Merchant Marine veteran from Little Current, had told The Expositor. "Our route was from Halifax, down through the Caribbean Sea and along the northern coast of South America to pick up supplies." Bauxite, a mineral needed for the production of aluminum, was loaded downriver in the Dutch Guyana, Mr. Morphet recalled. "They needed aluminum to make warplanes and we brought it from South America."

While Mr. Morphet was



*The Merchant Marine Memorial was dedicated on June 5, 1994, the first of its kind in Canada.*

fairly steady on the Caribbean route, he also sailed in the precarious North Atlantic. "We would pick up a load of trucks and jeeps in Montreal and take it to Corner Brook, Newfoundland," explained Mr. Morphet. From here, huge convoys of 200 or more ships would make the crossing, constantly on guard against wolfpacks of

German submarines. "We were warned of possible locations of U-boat activity, but you just never knew. There were lots of them patrolling around," said Mr. Morphet. "I remember one sneaked into the Port of Spain harbour and torpedoed two ships right there. It was nothing to watch an oil tanker get it at night. They

would go right up in flames. They used to prey on the tankers, it really made you stop and wonder how close the sub was from you."

Unfortunately, Mr. Morphet's luck in avoiding this menace ended on September 18, 1942 off the coast of Venezuela. "We were on the Norfolk, sailing alone with only a spotter plane to watch out for subs," said Mr. Morphet. "The plane would come by every couple of hours to check up on us and after it left us at around eight o'clock in the morning, we were hit. I didn't feel anything when they first hit us. I was watching the chronometer and my mate was watching the sun. By the time I got pulled into a raft, there was no sign of the ship. I broke 22 bones and was hospitalized in a Trinidad hospital until November 21. Then I was moved to a convalescing hospital on a plantation."

Another local merchant marine veteran was the late Calvin Van Zant, also of Little Current. Mr. Van Zant sailed all over the globe on board such ships as the Riverview Park, Port Royal Park and the Fort Fork.

"We carried ammunition, machinery, balsa wood—all wartime supplies," said Mr. Van Zant, who was also

very wary of U-boats. "The Grad Spee, a German raider, attacked a lot of merchant ships, as did the Prinzagen," said Mr. Van Zant. The latter often raided convoys in the North Atlantic including the famous British battleship, the Hood. "Off the coast of Newfoundland, in 1942, they sank about four tankers in a few minutes. They went after the oil ships. We saw the disabled boats but there was nothing we could do. If we stopped, we'd be sitting ducks," explained Mr. Van Zant. Apparently, it was the navy's duty to assist the marine casualties.

Because Mr. Van Zant belonged to the Seaman's Union in London, England, he mainly sailed on British ships. "We would sail the English Channel at night because it was safer," said Mr. Van Zant, noting German Stukas would often dive-bomb ships traversing the channel.

June 5, 1994 was a special day for Merchant Marine veterans as their memorial, an anchor with bronze plaque, was unveiled to honour the mariners lost at sea. The contribution of the merchant mariners went far in winning the war and finally their role is recognized.

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Would like to congratulate the efforts of the Cenotaph Committee in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Manitoulin Cenotaph Monument.

***We acknowledge the debt we owe to all our veterans for their sacrifices on our behalf.***



# ...Nephew was so proud of his aunt's service

...continued from page 1

Each force had their own uniform. With the blended army we have become even more unique and will never exist in that context again. Women from Manitoulin Island, and thankfully none were lost, are a significant part of that history.”

“It was a short time of our lives, but it's worth this much,” Ms. Lemons told The Expositor, her arms outstretched.

“We faced tremendous discrimination from male soldiers and civilians and got cat-called when we marched,” Ms. Lemons ex-

plained. “Even Prime Minister Mackenzie King didn't approve of women in the military, but eventually he had to allow it. But on September 30, 1946, all women were discharged, and we were forgotten,” she said with tears in her eyes.

The Expositor article ex-

plained that the Women's Memorial helps recognize the women who have been forgotten. The women from the Island were recognized for their accomplishments and for being a part of that first big step for the country.

The Manitoulin District Cenotaph Committee at the time hoped to raise \$20,000 for the monument.

“Joan used to give me \$2 dollars for my birthday and \$5 dollars at Christmas,” Mr. Hammond told The Expositor. His donation, and the letter he sent with it was dated December 21, 1999. “I might have got an advance on my Christmas money that

year.”

As for the Manitoulin Cenotaph and the Women's Memorial, Mr. Hammond said, “It's gorgeous. We need one in Toronto,” noting there are similar monuments in Kitchener and Brantford along with the one on Manitoulin Island.

In Mr. Hammond's letter dated December 21, 1999, he wrote, “Dear Royal Canadian Legion Branch 177 Cenotaph Woman Memorial Fund, Little Current, Ontario POP IKO. I am enclosing \$5 for Women's Memorial Fund.”

“My Auntie Joan Lemons told me all about the

Women's Memorial and how they were the first Canadian women to serve in the army,” he wrote. “I was surprised when I learned that you are trying to make a memorial and I support that. I also learned that you need donations. I felt that this was a worthwhile cause and sent \$5. I hope that other people and the government are also willing to help. My aunt said that I should mention that I am 12 years old! Yours truly, Corri Hammond. P.S. Thanks for fighting for my freedom! Merry Christmas everybody.”



Joan (nee Corrigan) Lemons served in the Canadian Women's Army Corps during World War II.



## MESSAGE FROM THE MANITOULIN DISTRICT CENOTAPH COMMITTEE

The Manitoulin District Cenotaph committee would like to extend a warm welcome to all in attendance today as we celebrate this special anniversary. Since joining this committee as Secretary-Treasurer in 2019 the loss of many valuable members who were able to witness some of the improvements that have been made since the dedication on June 5, 1994 have truly been missed.

Here is a highlight of the many improvements that have been made:

- 2002: The names of the 72 Merchant Navy vessels that sank during World War 2 were added to the Merchant Marine Memorial with a re-dedication taking place on May 25, 2002 by the Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister of Defense.
- 2004: A plaque was erected with the poem In Flanders Fields and the names of the municipalities were added to the main memorial as the crumbling stone was beginning to erode.
- 2012: Two new signs were erected on the highway as you approach from both east and west, advertising the District Cenotaph.
- 2015: A new roof and a complete bathroom makeover was done. This was made possible with a grant from FedNor.
- 2016: The names of the veterans on the Main Memorial were re-painted by the late Mr. Witty and a new plaque of a ship was put on the Merchant Marine Memorial.
- 2017: New interlocking block was installed surrounding the memorials including the Youth Memorial. This was made possible with a grant from Veteran's Affairs.
- 2017: September 27, 2017, celebrating Canada's 150 Birthday, two trees were donated and planted—one red maple the other a Vimy Ridge oak tree.
- 2021: A new sign replaced the old one at Veteran's Memorial Gardens.
- The Committee has decreased in size but we have been blessed with the continued support of the public whether it be monetary or donations of in-kind being material or labour.

I have worn many hats being the secretary/treasurer but couldn't have done so without the continued assistance of those who have passed and today's committee members, Comrades Jim Corrigan and Lewis Jewell.

Sincerely,  
Linda Bowerman, secretary/treasurer  
The Manitoulin District Cenotaph Committee



## ...A history of the District Cenotaph

...continued from page 1

uniform and arms was so heavily damaged (broken into several pieces) that it was replaced by a red granite obelisk when the monument was rebuilt in essentially the centre of the new Memorial Park, and it remained as the substitute for the statue until about 1989 when the late Allan Tustian volunteered to be responsible for the refurbishment of the base and inscription block of the original monument and to replace the obelisk with a new statue of a soldier again in uniform and arms. In the interest of longevity, the new soldier would be sculpted in granite.

Approximately \$16,000 was raised by voluntary donations and a plan of refurbishment was introduced and the replacement statue was ordered from Paul Rusk Memorials of Sudbury.

Time, misfortune and traffic took its toll and the good fortune of having the George White and Bert Hill families donate excellent park land on the two south quadrants of the same intersection resulted in the practicality, first relocating the memorial then finally augments to the original to create a complex that today is a district-wide cenotaph and has been dedicated to the memory of 130 fallen military men from Cockburn Island to Killarney and more than 2,000 Canadian Merchant Seamen who have also invested their lives in the greatest gift to mankind, liberty, one of our most valuable assets which allows us to live our lives as we see fit as opposed to much of the world who are living theirs at the whim of others. (The late Bert and Mary Hill, whose farm was on the southeast corner of the intersection was a nephew of Robert Hill, one of the First World War casualties inscribed on the original monument. The corner of this farm donated to the District Ceno-

taph cause is named Veterans' Memorial Gardens and now houses the Manitoulin Women's Memorial and the Youth in Partnership with Veterans Memorial.)

This didn't just happen. We won something with blood, sweat and tears, then had the wisdom and fortune to empower our governing bodies to maintain an acceptable status quo or relinquish their rank. Our system has shortcomings, but it was into the stratosphere when measured against most others. Don't ever allow our detractors to foster guilt in our level of living; as the saying goes, “we earned it” and have led the integrity to maintain it.

Practically all of this was made possible by the supreme sacrifice of the individuals whose names are inscribed on these plaques as well as the seaman who are honored here and the many thousands of others whose determination didn't falter under the most trying of circumstances. Even this memorial in its approach to opulence is but a feeble attempt to recognize a gift to mankind that has no parallel.

This current place of the memorial complex was initiated when an obelisk, a substitute for the original limestone statue, was being replaced by a granite statue, the late Mr. Tustian being one of the refurbishment committee. Local inquiry and two more Legionnaires, the late Ed Kift and John Bryan, indicated interest so local research suggested that upgrading to eliminate the wooden style and platform would be in order. With this encouragement and further research, it was discovered that there was widespread interest in a suggestion to make it a district memorial, thereby increasing the eligible names from what were the original eight from Campbell and Carnarvon to an estimated 75 or 80. By the

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The **Cenotaph Monument** is a lasting tribute to those who gave their lives so that we could know peace.

We commend the Cenotaph Committee on their outstanding job of preserving their memory. **We salute you.**

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This is a photo of No. 15 platoon, 119th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) taken September 16, 1915. It is comprised largely of Manitoulin volunteers. Front row, left, Dominic Odjig, T.W. Moore, F. Tomlinson, G.L. Beatty, W.H. Johnson, G.W. Cay, H. Hembruff, J. Enosse, Jacob Bondy; second row, left, Francis Misiniskotowe, Jonas Odjig, Frank J. Sinclair, L/Capt. Frank Lavalley, Sgt. E. Manuel, Lt. F.N. Hardyman, Col. H. Orr, Cpl. A.H. Hackett, F. Smith, G.B. King, Andrew Peltier; third row, left, B. Storms, Vincent Misiniskotowe, R. Hannah, Michael Wabanosse, Ignatius Peltier, F. Nighswander, R.J. Kay, Tommy A. Peltier, Lawrence Peltier, D.A.

Johnston, Eli King, Antoine Gabow, Philip Pitwanikwat. Francis Misiniskotowe won the Military Medal in the Battle of Vimy Ridge. He was also awarded the Cross of St. George, the most prized Russian Order founded by Empress Catherine in 1769. It was awarded only for conspicuous bravery. There are five sets of brothers from Wiikwemkoong in this picture. Eli and Blaise King, Tom and Lawrence Peltier, Andrew and Ignatius Peltier, Francis and Vincent Misiniskotowe and Dominic and Jonas Odjig. There were two sets of brothers from M'Chigeeng in the 199th Battalion: David and Isaac Debassige and Peter and George Corbiere.

## Wiikwemkoong veterans recall First World War War experiences together cemented lifelong friendship

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This story first appeared in the November 9, 1977 edition of *The Expositor*, the issue published before Remembrance Day.

**WIKWEMKOONG**—It was over 100 years ago that the first men from Wiikwemkoong who went overseas to fight in the First World War enlisted. In 1977, only three of about 30 who took part in the war were left to tell the story.

Dominic Odjig, Lawrence Peltier and Philip Pitwanikwat were in their early 80s in 1977, and they recalled the series of events that transpired in the war years.

Lawrence was one of the first from Wiky to sign up. "I took a notion to go and signed up near the end of the 1915, but they didn't call me until they had enough for a squad," he said.

Dominic signed up in February 1916. "A few joined before me. My friends coaxed me. 'Come with us,' they said."

Lawrence and Dominic stayed together throughout their service overseas and were separated after Dominic was wounded.

The 30 recruits from Wiikwemkoong, joined by about 10 more from the area, began their training in Manitowaning early in 1916, said Dominic, and were there until the first of May.

While training, the men boarded at the Queen's Hotel. "We had a great time," recalls Dominic. "We thought it was a good time but, after overseas, discovered it was hell. We saw it's not that much fun."

In early May, the men left for Niagra-on-the-Lake where they went through more training. "There was a whole battalion there; people from all over," Dominic recalled.

The men, who were part of the 119th Battalion, then moved to Halifax from where they sailed to Liverpool, En-

gland.

On arrival in Britain, the men were put in quarantine for a while, since some had the mumps, said Dominic, who spent 14 days in the hospital himself.

In England, the men were split up, recalls Lawrence. Dominic and Philip went to the 52nd, the Port Arthur Battalion, along with Lawrence. It was made up only of Canadians, he added.

Dominic said that "some boys" were even assigned to the Highlanders. Most were separated, but Dominic and Lawrence stayed together. Philip was also assigned to the 52nd, but not with them.

The men remained in England until the end of November and went through more training.

Near the end of that month, Dominic and Lawrence left for France. They crossed over to Le Havre where they waited for three days before moving on. "We took a train 30 miles, then a truck. I don't know how long, and then marched," said Dominic.

He could not recall the name of the town they came to, but it was in northern France, near Mount St. Louis. It was six miles from the front line. The men stayed in billets there.

Lawrence said most men were billeted in barns. He also recalled the French people saying it was one of the coldest winters they had had. "They were kidding us that we brought the cold weather," he said. "I said it would get pretty hot once we get going," and added, "but it did toughen us up."

They didn't go too far from that town and spent most of the time there training and holding the line, said Lawrence.

That year, the men spent Christmas at Vimy Ridge, the site of their first battle. The men spent a long time in the area, but the battle was over in about 12 hours, explained

Dominic. It began at 5 am, April 9, 1917, and was all over by the evening.

"This was the worst place. The Germans knew we were coming because the shells fired every night. The shells destroyed the barbed wire, trenches and barricades," he said. And then the battle began.

Dominic and Lawrence then went on to Avion. It was here

that Dominic was wounded during a battle in July of 1918.

"I was shot right through the leg and in the hand." He also had a minor wound in the left arm.

"After I was shot in the leg I fell and my friend behind me shot the German coming at me. He saved my life. The German could have finished me off with the bayonet," recalled Dominic.

He was then taken to England to recover in hospital and was there on Armistice Day.

Lawrence, meanwhile, moved on to Belgium where he was wounded in the arm during battle. "It was a sniper shot," he said. "But it was only a flesh wound. Lucky thing it never hit the bone." After the battle he too was taken to a hospital in Reading,

England.

On Armistice Day, Lawrence was in London. He said his leave was up two days before but he decided to take a couple of extra days. "I never saw London so lovely. I don't know what to say. Everyone went wild; everyone was celebrating."

Both men spent their time overseas mostly on the front ...continued on page 6



*honours the life and work of our veterans, women and men; those who made the supreme sacrifice and those who came home to resume their lives and rebuild our country; those who took the time out of their lives to dream dreams like the Manitoulin District Cenotaph Monument. We commemorate the monument's 100th anniversary and congratulate the Cenotaph Committee on all their hard work.*



# ...A brief history of the Manitoulin District Cenotaph


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 time the research was complete, there were 130. The result and consolidation eliminated the fragmentation created by many smaller monuments and projected a much clearer picture of Manitoulin's contribution to our defence effort. The public and the two Legions, Gore Bay and Little Current, fulfilled every request for funds and the committee never looked back.  
 In the spring of 1990 a construction committee was assembled, and serious discussions got underway

for the refurbishment program.  
 During one of the original committee meetings an observation by one of the members resulted in a proposal which was: In view of the annual Decoration Day service on the first Sunday of June, which was always held and usually well attended by significant representation from the entire Manitoulin community, and that further observation suggested that because of the several monuments throughout the district's many townships and municipalities, and in particular the casualties from the First Nations, were without memorials and therefore the area's contribution to remembrance appeared very fragmented and certainly incomplete, it was therefore proposed that the project be expanded to include all of the Manitoulin District's casualties on one large wing of the memorial and that the memorial be elevated to district status.  
 Design proposals were requested and ultimately submitted and approved. The local Royal Canadian Legion branches volunteered to continue the sponsorship of the expanded facility as they had sponsored the original refurbishment.  
 Donations were very encouraging throughout the entire project. There were some very substantial donations from the private, commercial and municipal sectors.  
 From day one, the District Cenotaph Committee got to work. A workable committee usually membered about 14 and, indeed, always included the current presidents of both Island Legion branches. Those who served essentially from start to finish were in alphabetical order, Chairman Allan Tustian, Jim Bond, Boyne Heise, Leland McIntyre, John Bryan, Ed Kift, Jim Watts, Ernie Debassige, Ralph Marshall, Archie Wilson and Marv Woods.  
 There were others who served for varying periods for several reasons, for example the Legion presidents while serving their term of office. Some




served during their term of local residency. Three died in office: Jim Bond, Ernie Debassige and Ralph Marshall. Those who were regarded as prime movers of the project were John Bryan, designer and supervisor; Ed Kift, secretary and expeditor; and Allan Tustian, chairman throughout the project.  
 It would be impossible to recognize everyone who made notable contributions to this endeavor, but they were many and varied, young and old, rich and poor, veterans and civilians, Canadian and American, one from Boston, Joe Livingston, who was pouring cement until 1:30 in the morning. Another example of those who pitched in until the job was done, and they were countless.  
 Probably not many people who were not closely associated really knew how lackadaisical the federal government had been in recognizing the Canadian Merchant Navy as one of our defence forces. Now that we know the public

were quite solidly behind us and upgrading the structure left the committee with the original monument pedestal unoccupied, it was suggested that we recognize the Merchant Navy by dedicating it to them. This was greatly enhanced by the generous donation of a large anchor by John and Shirley Cranston. When the Merchant Navy Veterans group was informed of this they immediately sent a large bronze plaque.  
 An enormous amount of effort, physical, administrative, technical and supervisory, not to mention the thousands of hours of donated by individuals and businesses and the ongoing support of the two local papers, all helped to bring an estimated six-year project to fruition in just over four years.  
 An adjoining park complements the memorial park by making possible parking for invalid vehicles, rest room and picnic facilities and especially parade

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**The Town of Gore Bay proudly supports the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Manitoulin District Cenotaph Monument**

Moore's is honoured to live in a community like Manitoulin where the roots of memory run so deep.

We salute Manitoulin Veterans and congratulate the Cenotaph Committee on commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Cenotaph Monument.

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## ...Wiikwemkoong veterans

...continued from page 5

overseas mostly on the front line. The rest was in hospital or training.  
 Dominic said he volunteered to go back to the front line after the first battle because of a good reason. "I had a French girl there and wanted to go back. A guy came with a book and asked who would volunteer for the front line. I said 'okay' and went."  
 Lawrence said it just worked out that way. "Once I signed up, I went where they sent me."  
 After the war was over, Dominic remained for a while in Seaforth, England and when he returned home in March 1919, he brought back an English bride with him. He set about to build a house for her.  
 Lawrence said he also remained behind for a while in Seaforth. There were many men anxious to get home, but not enough boats to get them there, he said. Some men rioted over the situation.  
 When he finally returned to Canada, he had to go to Winnipeg to get discharged. "It cost me 50 cents to get home from Winnipeg. He said people refused to take money for transportation because he was wearing a uniform. He said he forgot where he spent the 50 cents, but

that was all it cost.

Neither of the men remember exactly when they saw each other for the first time after the war, but they have spent a lot of time together since.  
 Lawrence said that most men did return home, but many began dying off at an early age. "They didn't die of old age. Maybe because of the gas."



The late Dominic Odjig, left, and the late Lawrence Peltier.

*The Cenotaph Committee has done an outstanding job of erecting magnificent memorials honouring the servicemen/women and Manitoulin.*

*We share the pride of their accomplishment and observe the 100th anniversary of the Cenotaph Monument.*



**5855 HWY-542, Mindemoya  
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 Closed Sunday**



# A collection of Islanders' letters from overseas

Feb. 24, 1916 119th Battalion

The following letter has been sent to all the eligible young men in Algoma and Manitoulin urging them to offer their services in defence of the Empire. Think it over and if able DO YOUR DUTY.

Dear Sir;

You are, I believe, of military age, physically fit and unmarried. As such, I address this letter to you, with the appeal that you will consider it, and will come forward and enlist in the 119th Overseas Battalion.

You are absolutely needed. Every man, married or single, of military age and fitness, in the Great Countries of France, Russia and Italy, is enrolled and subject to call on a moment's notice, to fight. In Great Britain, through conscription, every single man qualified to join her fighting forces is about to be brought into her armies. Canada has just raised the strength of her fighting forces to half a million men.

Is there any doubt now in your mind that you are needed? That, if you do not volunteer, someone else—perhaps a married man whose wife and children need him—must take your place?

Have you considered who should make the sacrifices entailed by enlisting? The single men or the married

men? Britain, through conscription, say the single men should. The world over the sentiment is the same; and is not less pronounced in Canada than elsewhere?

Numbers of young men have left their homes in this District to fight for Canada. That means, for you and your parents, and for yours, and their property. You know many of these men. WAS IT—IS IT—THEIR DUTY TO GO, any more than yours? Is it fair they should sacrifice everything, their positions, their earnings for a year or more, all their home comforts, to enable you to hold down your job and to enjoy your ease and comfort?

DO YOU THINK THEY SHOULD FIGHT FOR YOU?

June 22, 1916

My Dear Mae,

Just as I started this I heard a funny roaring sound and had to beat it for safety. An aeroplane has just dropped two bombs within a short distance of us but did not damage. Our guns are shooting him up but missed him.

I have sad news to report regarding Fred Dobie. He was killed on May 7th but possibly you have already heard that. He and an officer were killed by rifle grenade the same night. Fred was a good soldier and very well thought of by everyone in the

battalion who had ever met him. I was in the same trench with him more than once and thought a great deal of him. He was a brave soldier and a cheerful one; always ready with a cheery word and helping hand for anyone who needed it.

Your loving cousin,  
Homer Patterson

January 20, 1916,

Joe Nelder

Bramshott Camp, Hants, Eng.,

My Dear Mother;

Received your most welcome letter of Dec. 4th and am certainly glad, mother, you are writing often, although I've done pretty well for mail. Since I've been here I have gotten five or six letters. I got one from a lady in Toronto, a city in N.B. I was sent over to a drug store by Capt. Magladery for some papers and when I got back to the train and was standing on the platform a bunch of ladies were talking to me and they asked me for my address. They said that some time when I was feeling lonesome they would drop me a letter to cheer me up and I guess this one thought it was time to write, that I would be lonesome soon as I got here because there was a letter waiting for me when I came

back from London. You see, mother, there are some funny things happen in this world.

Well, mother dear, Christmas is over. We tried to make it as much like Xmas as we could. We decorated our mess room with holly and mistletoe and also our sleep shacks and we had roast turkey with dressing trimmed with cranberries, mashed potatoes with vegetables, plum pudding, oranges, apples, grapes, and nuts of all kinds. We tried to make it as cheerful as we could but it soon died out. I guess they were

all like myself, their thoughts were a long ways from Bramshott Camp and all you could hear was, "What were you doing this time last year?" and, "I wonder what they are doing at home now," and "I wonder where we will be this time next year," and all sorts of questions like that. On Christmas Eve we turned out the lights in our hut and we bought some candles and lit them and set them in two rows along the floor and we sat up on the benches outside of the candles and sang till we were tired. Then

five or six of us went into the next hut and caught the rubber sheets, with which the bottom of every man's bed is supplied and pulled them out in the centre of the floor, explaining to them that sleeping was strictly forbidden on Christmas Eve. Some of them talked strong but it is no use talking that way here because you always lose by it. After I got tired roving around and we had put all the candles out, there was a bunch crept in from another hut and got a hold of some of

...continued on page 10

We remember the men and women of Manitoulin who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you to the Manitoulin District Cenotaph committee for all their hard work creating the Veterans' Memorial Gardens and organizing this occasion.

Nous nous souvenons des hommes et des femmes de l'Isle Manitoulin qui ont fait le sacrifice ultime. Merci au comité du Cénotaphe du district de Manitoulin pour tout leur travail dédié à la création des Jardins Commémoratifs des Anciens Combattants et à l'organisation de cette occasion.

Mkwenmaadaanig ininwag miinwaa ikwewag manpii Manidoo-minising gaa-bagidendizwaad. N'miigwechwi'aag gonda Manitoulin Cenotaph Committee ezhnikaandwaa wiikjitowaad wii-naagdawendmang gechi-piitendaagwag mjimendamowin.



Michael Mantha, MPP/député  
Algoma-Manitoulin  
1-800-831-1899  
mmantha-co@ndp.on.ca



## ...A brief history

grounds which gets our ceremonial parades completely off the highway. The other advantages are obvious.

Although the first structure was originally and appropriately designed a "Monument," which it is in face, however the new facility is more precisely designated the Manitoulin District Cenotaph.

The first word needs no explanation, "District" includes from Cockburn Island on the west to Killarney on the east. "Cenotaph" means "a memorial to those who are buried elsewhere." So it was agreed that the official title of the memorial would be the Manitoulin District Cenotaph.

In honour of the service people from Manitoulin District who gave their lives in defence of our own country and our allies of the free countries of the world.

The Manitoulin District Cenotaph was dedicated in 1994 before an estimated crowd of 2,000 Manitoulin citizens. Crystal Shawanda from Wiikwemkoong, then a little girl with a big voice, sang the national anthem. The Sudbury and District Pipe Band was in attendance too, as they have been every year without fail on Decoration Day since the mid-1930s.

But that dedication wasn't the end of the celebration of Manitoulin's storied military history.

In 1999, on the Veterans' Memorial Gardens portion of the complex, the Women's Memorial was dedicated and this impressive monument focuses on the Manitoulin women who served in both World Wars, complete with names and plaques representing all branches of the services in which women served.

Linda Bowerman co-chaired this initiative and she has remained involved with the District Cenotaph complex, overseeing the perpetual maintenance fund that maintains the complex, in co-operation with assistance from the Municipality of Central Manitoulin. Contributions to the perpetual maintenance fund are welcome and Ms. Bowerman can be contacted at (705) 368-2465.

In 2000, the Youth in Partnership with Veterans Memorial was dedicated, also at the Veterans' Memorial Gardens, a tangible representation of the commitment by all Manitoulin schools from Sheshegwaning to Birch Island, that their students would perpetually observe Remembrance Day. This project was spearheaded by Colin Pick.



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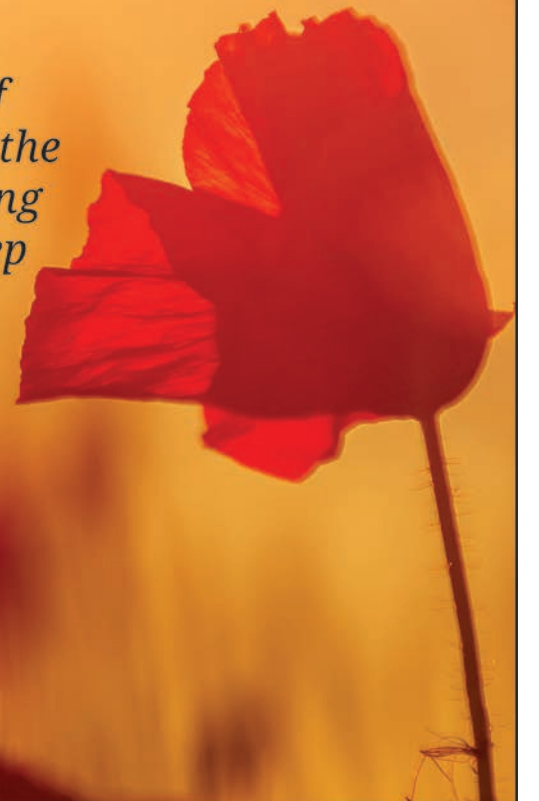
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*Andy's wishes to extend a warm welcome to those attending the ceremony and to congratulate the Cenotaph Committee on its resounding success in organizing this memorable event.*

*We observe the 100th anniversary of the Cenotaph Monument and salute the memory of Manitoulin's brave fighting forces. The cenotaph will forever keep them in our memory.*



# Islanders took part in D-Day landing

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This story first appeared in the June 5, 1994 special supplement 'In Tribute.'

**MANITOULIN**—Seventy-seven years ago this past June, two million Allied troops were stationed in England, waiting for the moment when they would cross the English Channel and invade the coast of France in the famous D-Day invasion. After two thousand tons of bombs were dropped along the coast to immobilize as much German opposition as possible, the British, Canadian and American troops boarded 4,000 ships and landing crafts and landed on the beaches of Normandy.



The late Isadore Wemigwans.

The British and Canadians landed near Caen and fought a bloody battle against German gun placements. After five days of fighting, the Allies had landed 16 divisions and seized 80 miles of coastline, thus opening a much needed second front in Europe.

The Canadian battalions which took part in the invasion suffered huge casualty rates, but at least three Manitoulin boys made it home.

The late Isadore Wemigwans of Wiikwemkoong was 20 years old when he and his comrades in the Queen's Own Rifles landed amid the carnage. This battalion was among the last to go in and "the last to get out of the hole," said Mr. Wemigwans, who was clearly troubled in his remembrance of the event when he was interviewed at his home in the

Wikwemikong Nursing Home in 1994. As soon as they landed, he explained, everyone around him, including himself, fell. "Nobody was left standing," he said. Mr. Wemigwans was hit in the arm and leg as soon as he reached shore. "It was pretty rough," he said.

Justin Roy of the 3rd Anti-tank Regiment, 3rd Division is originally from M'Chigeeng but currently lives in Mesa, Arizona with his wife. Mr. Roy remembers the day as "terrifying," commenting in a telephone interview with The Expositor.

"We were the third wave to go in," explained Mr. Roy. "Fighting was extremely heavy. Our landing craft didn't make it all the way to the beach, we had to wade through five feet of water."

His regiment's objective was to take out a bridge seven miles inland, an objective they reached but not without enormous losses. "I think there were 200 of us in our group, but only 48 of us survived after three days," said Mr. Roy. "We took the bridge after three hours but not after they bombed the hell out of us." Once the German batteries zeroed in on the regiment's location, they pounded mercilessly. "The only reason I survived was because I hid under a bombed-out tank for three days," said Mr. Roy. "I was wounded on July 11 when we were going into Caen. Shrapnel almost put holes in my lungs."

While in Normandy, Mr. Roy remembers running into an old schoolmate, Johnny Ozaomik of Wiikwemkoong. "We went to school together in Spanish," said Mr. Roy, adding, "I met him in France three or four weeks after the invasion." Mr. Ozaomik was later killed while crossing the Rhine River in Germany.

Besides contributing soldiers to the historic invasion, Manitoulin also produced a son who went on to help co-ordinate the landing. Lieutenant-Colonel William John Hastie of Sheguiandah, father of Marion Arrowsmith, was among the first Canadian military personnel to be sent overseas.

"On September 3, 1939 he received an order to report to London Barracks with full kit. He was teaching in Toronto at the time," the late Ms. Arrowsmith told The Expositor in a 1994 interview "He didn't come back till the end of the war but my letters always reached him."

"Dad was always a great organizer," said Ms. Arrowsmith. This skill no doubt came in handy during the planning stages of the invasion. "He was right behind the boys all the way," explained Ms.

Arrowsmith. "He followed the landing craft in the supply boats."

For his tremendous service, Mr. Hastie was awarded the Croix de Guerre with palms, the highest French military honour, although he rarely talked of the war when he returned. "Whether you were in combat or an officer, it was rough," said Ms. Arrowsmith.



## MESSAGE FROM THE DOMINION PRESIDENT

I am honoured to share my thoughts about the significance of monuments like the Manitoulin District Cenotaph. It has certainly stood the test of time and has provided generations of families a place to find solace. I have visited this monument and was overtaken by its grandeur and palpable solemnity. I felt that I was in the presence of something greater than stone and carved words in a pastoral setting.

Like the red poppy, which also turned 100 this year, the relevance of symbols of remembrance cannot be overstated.

Monuments serve us in several ways. They stand as permanent tributes to the women and men who sacrificed their lives to protect Canadians and citizens of other countries. Their imposing presence reflects the rights and freedoms we sometimes take for granted today.

These structures are always in our line of sight, whether highlighting a local park like the Manitoulin District Cenotaph, towering over a region of France as does the Vimy Memorial, or becoming a city centerpiece such as The National War Memorial in Ottawa. These carefully sculpted pieces are prominent for a reason: so that we never forget.

The young soldier whose dreams disappeared in an instant, the mother whose children became orphans, the father who didn't meet his grandchildren. These are painful stories, the hefty price of war and humanitarian missions. The realities that allow us the fortune of living peacefully and safely in Canada.

Just as importantly, monuments also bring comfort to families who have lost loved ones through service to our country. This in turn, helps them live with their tremendous loss. Our Comrades gave their lives in service, we must forever return our thanks.

The Manitoulin District Cenotaph remains an outstanding means of channeling our gratitude.

In Comradeship,  
**Bruce Julian, Dominion President**  
Royal Canadian Legion



## MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

Hello and greetings Comrades!

I am both thrilled and honoured on this 100th anniversary, to send greetings from the officers and staff of the Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command. It is most humbling to be asked to contribute to this ceremonial and historic event.

First, I'd like to recognize that the Manitoulin District Cenotaph and Veterans' Memorial Gardens are located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe people: the Ojibwe, Odawa and the Pottawatomi. Your beautiful cenotaph and adjacent Memorial Gardens are very fitting places for veterans, Legion members and indeed all members of our communities to reflect and to remember the service of our veterans. Those volunteers involved with the designs, the actual creation and indeed the amalgamation of the area, are all to be congratulated and thanked for everything they did and indeed for all they do today. We need to honour those community members whose names are inscribed on the cenotaphs. They were fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters long before they were soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen. We must thank them for our freedom.

All residents of Manitoulin Island should be proud of their military heritage and this ceremony today highlights that it is an important and significant milestone!

"They will not be forgotten and so our torch we pass. Lest we forget."

In Comradeship,  
**Garry Pond, president**  
Ontario Provincial Command  
Royal Canadian Legion





# Golden Silver Star Memorial Rifle Team honours all veterans

**by Michael Erskine**  
**MASSEY**—In 2014, US Army veteran Wayne Golden of Massey set out to have an honour guard fire a salute over the grave of his uncle, the late Sergeant Charles Golden of Willisville, who served in the famed Big Red One American 1st Division during the First World War (and was part of the expeditionary force that chased revolutionary Pancho Villa across the breadth of Mexico before that), but he soon hit a number of brick walls—frustrated, he decided to take matters into his own hands.  
 “I had called the Irish Regiment to ask them if they would shoot over the grave of a decorated vet,” he recalled. “They told me they would if the president of the Royal Canadian Legion branch called them with the request.” Unfortunately, the president at the time declined to make the call. “I couldn’t get any cooperation,” he said.  
 So Mr. Golden put an advertisement in the Espanola paper. “I got one reply,” he said. He went on to post a notice in the Legion—still nothing. But Mr. Golden, himself a veteran of the Vietnam War, remained undaunted.  
 “I couldn’t get the support I needed, so I purchased all the rifles and sought out

members for a rifle team,” he said. “No vet in any country should be put in the ground without being given supreme honours.”  
 So began the Sergeant Charles Golden Silver Star Memorial Rifle Team, with its first series of memorial services taking place in May of 2015, providing tribute to WWII veteran Jack McGauley (the father of Dan McGauley), WWII veterans Avery Smith (father of Robert Smith) and Percy Smith (his uncle), as well as WWII veteran David Harrison, firing three shots over each of their graves. Mr. Harrison’s 90-year-old wife Glenora was present for the occasion.  
 From its humble beginnings, the rifle team grew to its present total of 10, with eight riflemen complemented by Mr. Golden as director and Little Current’s Roy Eaton as bugler.  
 Since that first handful of salutes, the Sergeant Charles Golden Silver Star Memorial Rifle Team has fired salutes over the graves of more than 103 veterans who served in the military of many different nations—travelling as far away as Cornwall, Ontario in order to provide honours for veterans. This week they will be firing over the grave of a veteran in Sault Ste. Marie. The rifle team has also

become a frequent fixture at Remembrance events at Memorial Gardens.  
 The salutes have not been without some controversy due to the inclusive policy followed by the team.  
 “We got a lot of criticism for shooting over the graves of German soldiers,” said Mr. Golden. “But Gary Trimmer (one of the founding members of the team) decided that we would honour any veteran who stepped up to serve their country.” It is a policy the team has maintained since its inception.  
 “A veteran is a veteran,” said Mr. Golden.  
 The Sergeant Charles Golden Silver Star Memorial Rifle Team has lost three of its original members over the intervening years—including the late Fred Nesbitt, who the team recently saluted following Mr. Nesbitt’s celebration of life held at the Little Current Royal Canadian Legion Branch 177.  
 “We will keep doing this as long as we are able,” said Mr. Golden, expressing some concern about succession planning should he himself pass. “I would like to see it keep on.”  
 To schedule a veteran’s salute contact Mr. Golden at 705-865-1597 or Mr. Trimmer at 705-368-2884.



The Sergeant Charles Golden Silver Star Memorial Rifle Team fires a shot during ceremonies at Royal Canadian Legion Branch #177.

In keeping with our traditions on Manitoulin Island of acknowledging merit, our congratulations to the Manitoulin District Cenotaph Committee for their hard work over the years including this commemorative event for the Cenotaph Monument’s 100th anniversary.

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We must stand and reflect on how much has been given so that we may live in peace and freedom.

The Manitoulin District Cenotaph Monument serves as a reminder for those who made the supreme sacrifice.

**We will remember them.**

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For your courage and sacrifice, we salute you. We will remember you.

The 100th anniversary of the Cenotaph Monument is a momentous occasion. This commemorative ceremony is a historic chapter in Manitoulin’s proud military history.

# ...A collection of Islanders' letters from overseas

...continued from page 7

our sheets. I know I was one of the unlucky ones. I took a sudden slide across the room. Some of my blankets went with me, others stayed where they were. When we got to our feet all we saw was a few shirttails fluttering out of the door at about 60 miles an hour, but that was all that happened to us so you see how we spent our Xmas Eve.

Say it's kind of funny that Coy and Johnnie can't shoot any deer this fall. I guess they will have to wait till I get home with my twenty pounder, or at least it feels that heavy sometimes after you march about fifteen or twenty miles and carry it.

I was talking to a guy going home from the front last night. I bought a lunch for him at the Y.M.C.A. He was on his way home for seven

days. He had nothing to eat all day and said he was in such a hurry he hadn't time but I filled him up properly last night. He was carrying home a load of relics that would break a horse's back. He said the fighting at the front wasn't very severe. It was principally starving them. Well, mother, guess I will close, hoping to hear from you soon again.

With love to all from,  
Joe Nelder.

Oh! Mother, I nearly forgot the post cards I sent you; one of the Lapland, the steamer we came across in, and the other is picture of Thos. Colburn. He was the big lumberjack who enlisted at Little Current the same time I did. I think I pointed him out to you the night we left. He is a French Canadian and cannot write at all and reads very little and I do all

his writing for him, so he gave me his picture on Sunday after church. By-by this time. Joe

July 6, 1916 Recruiting letter  
To the People of Manitoulin

As you are aware, the 227th Battalion "Men o' the North" are endeavoring to recruit a full company on the Manitoulin. This battalion is a Manitoulin battalion, and has the name "Manitoulin" on its badges. It is the first time in your history that this has occurred. If we do not get from the Manitoulin the number we expect, it will be impossible to recruit this Manitoulin Battalion, and what will happen will simply be that we will mobilize under strength and merge into other battalions.

The identity of the 227th Battalion will thus be lost, we will take off our badges, and be known under some other number and some other name.

To prevent this we must have 150 men more from the Manitoulin, and this question which today concerns the Manitoulin people is—are they going to be found wanting? I believe you are all thoroughly convinced of the necessity for men. The story has been told and retold to you. Would you not rather have your men folk fighting to hold off and fight with some other battalion from a different part of the country? This is the Manitoulin Men's opportunity to fight under their own banner and with men from their own district. If you let it go by you lose forever the opportunity for the name "Manitoulin" to be known in this war.

Rally to the Colours, then, Men of the Manitoulin, fill up the Island Company and preserve for all time the fighting record if the Manitoulin Company in the Manitoulin Battalion.

C.H.L., Jones, Lt-Col,  
O.C. 227th O.S.Bn, C.E.F.

July 6, 1916

227th Battalion

"Men O' The North" Manitoulin Battalion  
Manitoulin Company  
Great Recruiting Trek

The Manitoulin Company will commence a trek throughout the entire Island for the purpose of securing recruits for this battalion.

The story of the necessity for men has been told in our meetings. We will now give the men of the Island an opportunity to see soldiers on the march and in camp. Games and dances will be held at each place, and a good time is offered for all.

Uniforms and equipment for new recruits will be carried along and all men joining can be outfitted the same day and if desired, continue with the trek, pay starting immediately.

A good orchestra and bugle band will be with the Company. A good time is promised at the dances, to which everybody is invited.

The following is the route to be taken by

the trek and the points at which camp will be made each day.

- July 13 Little Current Trek starts Sheguiandah Camp and Dance
- Green Bay Camp and Dance
- Bidwell Camp and Dance
- Manitowaning Camp and Dance
- Hilly Grove Camp and Dance
- Sandfield Camp and Dance
- Big Lake Camp
- Mindemoya Camp and Dance
- Grimesthorpe Camp and Dance
- Long Bay Camp
- Gordon No.1 School Camp
- Gore Bay Camp and Dance
- Ice Lake Camp
- Kagawong Camp and Dance
- Bower Corners Camp
- West Bay Camp and Dance
- Honora Camp and Dance
- Sucker Creek Camp
- Little Current Camp and Dance

The 227th Battalion is your own Battalion. We must get a full company from the Manitoulin. It is up to you boys to come. We must win the war; the Empire needs men and it needs Manitoulin men. Do not hesitate any longer. Take the plunge—be a man, and join up. If you are not joining us talk it over with us anyway.

GOD SAVE THE KING AND CANADA

March 16, 191+


Pte. L. Wragge, No 6007

Care of British Red Cross Society  
Wanstead Hospital Norgate, England  
Mr. J. McEachern, Little Current

Dear Friends;



I am just writing these few lines to let you see I have not quite forgotten you although I have been such a long time in writing. I hope you are all in the best of health. You will see I am in hospital at the time of writing this and I hardly expect being out for quite a long time yet for I am in bed with both my legs pretty well smashed up and awaiting an operation on both. I went out along the with the captain of my Battalion on the night of Nov. 5th and I suppose some of old Kaiser Bills bunch spotted us as it was only about 5 o'clock at night, anyhow they put about 100 shells over the place and the Captain ran to an old trench close by whilst I ran into an old dugout, I had barely reached it and got inside when a large shell landed right on top and knocked the roof down fastening me in pretty tight. The captain thought it was over with me but at 7:30 next morning he said to one or two of the boys I would like to see about getting poor old Dick out of that old dugout near Irish Farm and 5 or 6 of them volunteered to dig me out dead or alive. Well they dug me out but thought I was dead as I was almost suffocated and no use at all in my limbs but Capt. Sinclair

...continued on page 13




*Township of*  
**BILLINGS**

is proud of the cenotaph honouring Manitoulin's heroic servicemen/women. The committee has performed an admirable task in preserving our outstanding military tradition and commemorating this momentous occasion.

**The Manitoulin Expositor**  
is honoured to have been covering  
**Decoration Day and other veterans' events**  
for a century.



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705-368-2744

Appreciation will be in our hearts forever.  
We will remember you.



**Manitoulin Denture Clinic**  
*Leanne Bentley Hon. B.Sc., DD*

58 Worthington Street, Little Current • 705-368-0723

# 'Men O' The North' Island Battalion's own song

MANITOULIN—The 227th Battalion was billed as “Manitoulin’s own” when local recruiters like Capt. Meiser from Providence Bay and Grant Turner from Little Current were raising companies on Manitoulin and then training them. Route marches around the Island were not uncommon as the young men drilled here before going on to more formal training at Camp Borden.

The 227th is recalled as having had lots of spirit and, in fact, the organization seems to have had an entrepreneurial bent as, while still training on the Island in 1916 they raffled off a Studebaker car, ostensibly to provide the niceties of life that the recruits implied to ticket-buyers, were lacking in their army fare. This would now, apparently, fall into the category of misleading advertising and the new troop had their wrists slapped by army officials.

A contest was held to find an appropriate battalion song and, the contest was won by Harry R. Pearse from the Soo who provided both the lyrics and the rousing music.

On the cover of the music sheet, the song is “Dedicated to Lt. Col. C.H.I. Jones, Officers, N.C.O.’s and Men of the 227th Sudbury, Manitoulin and Overseas Battalion, C.E.F.” It was copyrighted in 1916, in Canada and the U.S., to Lt. Col. Jones.



**Youth in Partnership with Veterans Memorial**

In 2000, the Historic Pinnacle and the Youth in Partnership with Veterans Memorial was created, a project between the Royal Canadian Legion, Branches 177 and 517 and the students of Manitoulin District's schools. The memorial is an example of youth and veterans working in harmony and with respect for each other. Following the unveiling, a ceremony of passing the torch from veterans to student representatives was held.



A copy of the sheet music for 'Men O' The North.'

CHRYSLER RAM Jeep

MANITOULIN CHRYSLER

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For those who left, never to return.  
For those who returned, but were never the same.

To the men and women of Manitoulin who gave their tomorrows so we could have today, we will remember you.

We salute Manitoulin Veterans and congratulate the Cenotaph Committee on commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Cenotaph Monument.

*“We will remember them.”*

We celebrate their valour.  
On the 100th anniversary of the Manitoulin District Cenotaph Monument, we remember the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

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*'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.'*

*- An excerpt from 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon*

The Cenotaph Monument is a fitting tribute to the men and women of Manitoulin who served their country.

We celebrate their valour and salute the monument's 100th anniversary.



**DOWNTOWN MINDEMOYA**  
**2233 HWY 551**  
**(705) 377-5444**

# ...A collection of Islanders' letters from overseas

...continued from page 10

forced brandy into me and saw I still breathed but for 4 days there was no blood going through my legs. I was sent here but I can tell you it's awful being fast in bed for months but I don't worry for I get the best attention I could possibly have, this is the third time I have managed to get knocked out but I am still alive thank God.

L. Wragge

P.S. I was gassed at Ypres, wounded at Festeubert also at Mestines, not too bad a record, eh, Jack? Well better next time.

March 16, 1916

Pte. W.R. Ferguson  
East Sanding, Kent, England

Dear Mother;

Just a few lines in answer to your most welcome letter which I received Saturday. I came over here to answer it last night but I was too sleepy and I went back and went to bed for we were down at the butts about six miles yesterday and I felt kind of tired.

Well this will have to be short and sweet for there is no news around here at all, just the same all the time, for it has blown all day and when we were down at the rifle ranges it rained so hard that we had to come back, for all the targets were fall-

ing down. I am certainly a poor shot over here, out of 55 points I only got one yesterday and out of 202 only four today so there is not much chance of me getting to be a sniper unless they put elephants up in front of me to shoot at.

Well how is everything up there, I heard one the boys say that he thought the rink was going to close I guess it will be kind of dull if it does.

I am going to write you a little piece of poetry down about the mud over here just think of us in the mud hole.

*On this thick  
and chalky loam,  
Where ere the eye  
may roam,*

*The brutal truth come home  
of mud.*

*It is said the great  
God Buddha,*

*Is an idol made of mud.*

*You could make  
a million Gods,*

*Of what once was grassy  
sod, but is mud.*

*The ancient home Britians  
were of mud.*

*And one need not of  
reflection chew the cud,*

*To quickly understand,*

*They took what was next at*

*hand,*

*As they dotted  
all the lands,*

*with homes of mud.*

*In the morn when we arise,  
There are but the rainy  
skies and the mud,*

*Nine inches deep it lies.*

*We are mud up to our eyes,*

*In our cakes and in our  
pies, there is mud.*

*We soldiers like to  
stroll in the mud,*

*And the horses like to  
roll in the mud.*

*Our good Canadian shoe,  
It goes quickly through  
and through,*

*Peels the sole and melts the  
glue, in the mud.*

Well I guess I will close for this time, love to all I remain your soldier boy.

Willie Ferguson

April 16, 1942

Mrs. J.E. Lewis Sec.,  
Sheguiandah W.I.

Dear Madam;

I am writing to thank you for the lovely quilt I received from the W.V.S. It is wonderful work you are doing for the people who have been bombed and my husband and I wish to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for enabling us to spend his few days leave in comfort. He is a sailor on a destroyer and was in the battle of the Atlantic and was away at sea when we were buried in an Anderson shelter the first day of bombing in London. I have a daughter 3 years old who was away for a year in the country but has returned once more to the place that was once home. We still laugh in spite of what is hap-

pening all over the world and I wish to thank you for the quilt. My people are still living in London although some have lost everything in the terrible night bombing we had here.

I have a grandmother and grandfather nearing 90 who have sat night after night in their own home through the whole of the bombings and a Mother and Father who lost nearly everything. We are only poor people but it is a home to us and we are living in scattered dwellings and blacked out windows, still we never grumble. We all

hope the day will soon come when our lights of London will shine again. Until then, we must all be brave and cheer each other.

My husband went back this morning so I thought I would write to thank you for your kindness in helping to make things comfortable.

I will close now wishing everyone at the Women's Institute the best of luck from someone who is grateful.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. G. Stevens

35 Mill Road,

Lewisham S.E.13, London

February 2, 1942

Dear Mrs. Parsons;

I received your most welcome cigarettes a few days ago.

Cigarettes are a real problem over here at times. We really appreciate getting them from you people back home in Canada. We have very little snow over here and it just comes and goes over night. The weather over here is so different to what we were used to in Ontario and we had a few weeks that


...continued on page 14



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If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep,  
Though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.'*

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# ...A collection of Islanders' letters from overseas

...continued from page 13  
we didn't think much of this country. But they say it's real nice in the summer months. Well, we've got a job to do over here and when it's finished I hope to see you people of Little Current again. Thanks once more for the cigarettes.

I remain as ever,  
JERRY PENNIE

Canadian Army Overseas  
January 6, 1942

Dear Friends;

We seem to get some sort of a surprise every once in a while but one of the most pleasant surprises that the boys on Gibraltar have had yet was to receive some Christmas parcels in time for Christmas. I received a most welcome parcel from the Overseas Comforts Committee, Little Current and found everything in ship shape for we sure hate to see anything damaged in shipping as each article is a treasure in itself to us here on this rock.

Everybody spent a very good Christmas, with plenty to eat and a few with too much to drink. I spent Christmas Day and the day after in bed with bronchitis, but I am feeling much better now.

This morning was the first morning here that we could feel frost in the air, just like an early September morning

in Canada. We also can see snow on the mountains in Spain and North Africa from the rock for the first time but they never get snow here, so I guess this will be the first winter in my life without snow on the ground. Yes, I'll still take Canada and her snow drifts ahead of all their sunny countries around this part.

Wishing everybody a Happy New Year and many thanks again.

I remain as ever,  
L.pl. Geo J. Bowes  
No 2 Tunneling Cont.  
Canadian Army Overseas

Somewhere in England  
July 11th, 1942

Dear Georgina;

It was with great appreciation that I received the wonderful parcel sent by the Overseas Comfort Committee. Thanks a million and please convey my thanks to the other members of the Committee.

I also received a parcel sometime ago and acknowledge, but apparently my letter hasn't arrived yet. It is beyond me how we boys can repay the kindness given us by the Committee.

England's weather can be very nasty at times and yet when a few good days do dawn it seems like Paradise. The English country side is



**Manitoulin Women's Memorial**

The Manitoulin Women's Memorial, located at the District Cenotaph Gardens, was dedicated on September 15, 2001 and honours those brave Island women who served as nursing sisters, or as member of the Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division, Canadian Women's Army Corps and the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service.

most picturesque and beautiful. The incessant showers kept the fields and hedges spring green all summer long, but I am afraid a Canadian could never adapt himself to the English climate, nor their customs either. Sometimes I think I am dreaming there

is such a wonderful place as Canada and Island as grand as Manitoulin.

I hope you get the other letter I sent in acknowledgment of the parcel before.

I'll say cheerio for now and thanks again.

Yours as ever,  
John Eadie.

N.B. I hope your mother and father are enjoying good health.

England, August 16, 1942  
Dear Brother and Family;  
Arrived back in England from Ireland yesterday p.m. Had a fine leave in Ireland, lived in luxury for a time with servants to awake me, bring up my breakfast and draw my bath. Were middle-aged couple, an M.P. with a large home, lawns, gardens, etc., quite nice people too. I enjoyed it for a while then had an arrangement made to go to a dairy farm where I spent over a week and a half. I had a grand time there, gained weight, grew a beard, went

hunting and fishing, hiking, and also helped with the hay when it was in shape to touch, only one day. The people were ever so nice and served grand meals, four of them a day, no matter how busy they were. I told them at home so if you get out you can read it. Mother says they can't get a girl to help in the house and tells me of several women and girls working in the hay fields like over here.

There is huge labour shortage in Canada and U.S. fruit farm districts and tons of fruit will have to rot on the trees as well as hay and grain in the fields.

Gasoline sales no doubt will be somewhat lower this summer but will be more red tape and book work in connection with it so you will no doubt be busy.

Mother said that hay, cherries, berries and hoeing were all on there at the same time. The farm I was on they had six full grown men working but had no haying weather and what tedious, slow, disgusting methods they have of curing and drawing it in. They draw in one coil at a time on a one horse cart. Pull the coil on with the winch built on the cart in one lump, wind the thing till they are blue in the face, then drive to the hay shed with one measly coil, slide it off and pitch it by the forkful from man to man to the mow.

Well I hope family and you are enjoying the finest of health.

Best of Luck,  
Harry Tracy

August 22, 1942

Dear Mom;  
Headquarters is nestled snugly in the pines on a hilltop, slightly apart from the rest of the camp. When I look out I am reminded of Northern Ontario, except that everything is more neat and tidy here. You would imagine that every tree had received individual attention. The surrounding countryside is hilly and beautifully blanketed with pink-blossomed

heather, is like finding a four leafed clover-it brings good luck. Incidentally, black cats over here mean good luck. I haven't seen any Manx or Cheshire cats yet.

I believe I told you about the lovely family I met in Epsom-thanks to Joan Corrigan. Mr. Pitman and Ruth took me up on the downs to see the track where the famous derbys are run. Jerry has dropped a bomb in the grand stand, but it did not do much damage. The downs themselves have been dug up so that enemy planes won't be tempted to land. It's quite thrilling to visit a place where the finest and fastest horses have raced. Our kings have raced their horses at Epsom for many years.

I haven't been to Scotland yet- well, I was through it on our trip down from Glasgow, but the train travels so fast that one hasn't time to take in all the sights. The boys report some grand times in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Ireland is "out of bounds" to a soldier who is not on military duty. Of course if you have a wife living in Dublin, and can satisfy the commanding officer that you have, you may be granted permission to visit the Emerald Isle.

Now that the Second Front has started we office workers cannot expect much liberty, but must buckle down and help win the war as quickly as possible. This headquarters is a very busy place. Don't let anybody tell you that there's no action yet. You'd think there was plenty of action if you were in this office for a day! Things seem to have reached a climax, and I pray and believe that the war will be over soon.

Don't be afraid Mom, have faith in God and He will answer your prayers.

Love,  
Your son George Hubbert

Somewhere in England,  
June 22, 1943

...continued on page 15



## WE CELEBRATE THEIR VALOUR

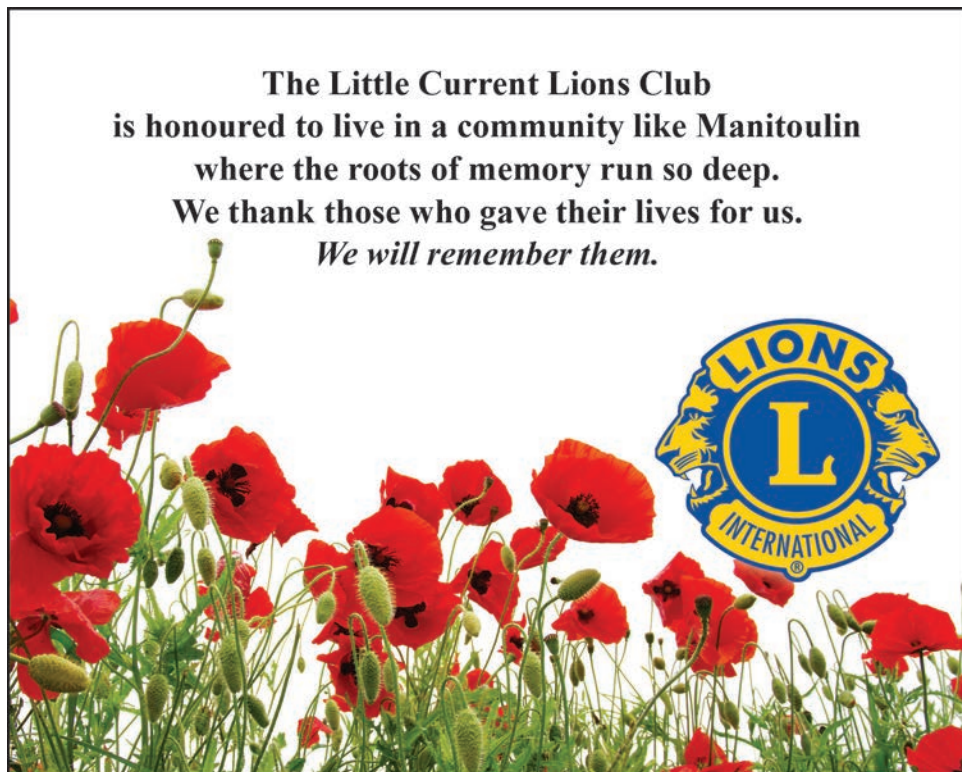
Over the years so much hard work has gone into the creation, fundraising and construction of the Manitoulin District Cenotaph. We commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Cenotaph Monument which led to the edition of the other monuments over time and the Veterans' Memorial Gardens.



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We will remember them.



# Island Observer Corps scanned skies for bandits

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This story first appeared in the June 5, 1994 special supplement 'In Tribute.'*

KAGAWONG—While thousands of young men were fighting on the various fronts of World War II, the civilian populations here and overseas were also working hard to ensure victory. Among these were the Royal Canadian Air Observers, men and women from communities across the continent whose job it was to identify and report any suspicious aircraft in Canadian airspace. Austin Hunt Sr. was one such observer based in Kagawong.

"The late Tom Farquhar, then Algoma East MP, asked dad if he would do this during the war," said Austin Hunt Jr. of Kagawong. "It was essentially a military thing. The observers were given plastic cards with silhouettes

of various military and non-military aircraft. It had a grid on it and if you got the distant aircraft within the silhouette, you could gauge the distance. At that time there was always the idea that enemy planes could go bomb the Soo Locks or something."

Before 1968 and Bell Telephone, Manitoulin residents used local telephone companies for communication and those were often shut down in the evening. Air observers were given 24-hour telephone links so they could report any activity to North Bay, the major air

force base in the area.

After the war, Austin Hunt Sr. gave up his post, but during the heady times of the Cold War, air force officials were reluctant to give up their eyes on the ground. "I became a Ground Observer (the name was changed in 1950) during the 1950s," said Austin Hunt Jr., who took over the role from his father. While looking out for Russian planes was part of the job,

Mr. Hunt explained that his role was primarily looking out for lost aircraft flying over Western Manitoulin airspace.



"There weren't as many planes in the skies at this time," explained Mr. Hunt. "They were all mainly propeller-operated, so they flew closer to the ground and were easier to track. We were given a kit with various silhouettes and we went to North Bay periodically for conferences. They had a table there with a map and lights to track goings-on in this airspace. It was just like the old war movies."

Up until the 1960s, Mr. Hunt was the chief observer in the Western Manitoulin area, with observers in every community. However, with the advent and gain in popularity of jet aircraft, the program became obsolete. Jet aircraft fly much higher and faster and are thus very difficult to track by eye on the ground.

## ...A collection of Islanders' letters from overseas

...continued from page 14

The L.C. Overseas Comforts Committee,  
Dear Ladies;

I now take the pleasure to write to you a few lines to thank your grand committee for the wonderful way in which you have taken care of us L.C. boys with parcels and cigarettes. Last night I received 300 cigarettes from your Comforts Committee and I sure was pleased to get them, and thanks a Million.

I am now at a six-pounder anti-tank school, taking up about the six-pounder, and I like it fine, although we work long hours and we are situated out in the bush, miles from any town. We are sleeping under canvas and it is a very healthful life.

The weather is grand over here and everything is going fine. So long for now and I wish to thank you all again for the cigarettes.

Dear Pauline;

You no doubt will be very surprised to hear from me, but I do hope it will be a pleasant one. I really don't know how to begin, so will begin with a big Hello to everyone, hoping this finds you all in the best of health. Now, much has happened to me Pauline, since I last saw you, and since I left the Current, some few years ago. It was OK when the family were there. I used to get all the news of what was going on, since they moved away, I never heard a thing about it, or about anyone. So I've decided to write you and get a little news. Though I never did drop you a line before, I can well imagine your surprise. I did write to Dolly, only from Canada. I don't believe I wrote her since I am overseas. Then I heard her and Barbara took a notion to get married. I'm still single; close calls sometimes, ha ha. Imagine me getting married, ha ha ha. I can't. Anyhow, I hope you receive this note and tell me all the news of late or even years back. It will be all news. I used to hear from Craig, but he quit writing a year or so ago, and a few others quit from around there, gosh it seems everyone forgets you when you come away.

I'm writing from what I'd describe as a ghastly little town in Holland, not hardly a building left standing, or any signs of living. It has taken a pounding from both sides. Yes Pauline, I am now in action against the common enemy, the blasted Germans. I have been all summer now, I came in the first day of the invasion, 6th day of June 1944, long to be remembered. It was first I saw action, and believe me, I saw plenty that day, and many days since. I've been in a few real "hot spots" but Walter is still alive. Thank the good Lord I'm safe and am praying I get through OK to get back and see the old Current I left so long ago, it seems. How I can well remember it though. I think of it more these hard days on the battle field, though I never did forget it. How are all the boys over here from home doing? I saw Bud Hilson and Orton Michery once in England, but no other. Gosh Bud surprised me. I nearly fell over, why, I didn't even know in was in the army, honest I didn't.

Especially, how have you all, at home, been getting on? Where did Dolly and Barbara settle down. Also where is Em, give them all my best, when you see or write them, also my personal regrets to your mum, also remember me to everyone I know. How is Eddy getting along? Say, is Elgin Aelicks still around? If so, say Hello to him and tell him I was asking about him. Tell him to have his car running. In good condition. I'll want him to come to Halifax and meet me, when we finish off these Jerries here. Yes, I've seen a lot, I cannot take time to tell you everything, but if you keep writing I will tell you bit by bit, you will get the general idea of how I have been spending the last couple of years. It's been most exciting this summer, of all days. Plenty hot sometimes, especially when shells and bullets flying all over, bombs, now and again. I don't like to speak of war when I am writing. I want to forget about it. I'm

seeing enough, seeing enough now as it is. It's not the nicest place in the world to be, but then, it's a soldier's life and duty. This is what I joined up to do, and trained so hard for. I'm making the best use of everything and must say getting on nicely. I had a Wireless Operator's course in England, that is now my job. I get on nice with it. It does get monotonous at times, especially if communications are poor.

Well Pauline, I'll finish off with just a few lines about the countries I've seen, well to begin with, I saw England over Dover, was to Scotland four or five times; London was my hangout, nice place to have fun.

Now for this continent- I've come all the way across France from West to East, didn't pass by Paris though. It sounds nice to say, but it wasn't too nice to do. We had a lot of hard fighting, some of the bitterest of the fighting took place in France. I then came to Belgium, wasn't many hard days there compared to France. Well then I came on to Holland. Of all countries, I think only in my opinion, Belgium is a real nice country. Heavily populated, but so clean and nice in spite of a few ruins caused by war. It's quite nice. It didn't suffer as much

as other places and the people are most friendly, and highly educated. I wish I could speak the language. Some pretty females about, but then, I have no time for women these days. I'll make up for it when I get back somewhere where I can understand the lingo. As one guy said, "Long time no she," ha ha ha. You don't find many people here who speak English. The Germans were sure strict on anyone speaking English, they immediately interned them, I hear. The speak Belgium and German, most, if not all. Well one, I guess, could learn a language in four years.

Well, I'm afraid this is me. Please write and give me all the news of the old home town. I'll be happy on hearing from you. I always look forward to mail days, all one lives for out here. Regards to all, good night and God bless you. Write soon.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all, if I don't get a chance to send a card,

Love  
Walter Mejaki

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March on: 1:00 PM

PARADE IN POSITION: Parade Marshal Jack Bould turns over Parade to Master of Ceremonies,  
Comrade Jim Woods, Past President, Branch 514 Western Manitoulin

INVOCATION: Comrade Erwin Thompson, Chaplin, Branch 514

“O CANADA”

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF DIGNATARIES

Carol Hugés, MP for Algoma/Manitoulin/Kapuskasing  
Michael Mantha, MPP for Algoma/Manitoulin  
Comrade Ken Faubert, District H Commander  
Comrade Sharleen Sissons, Zone H3 Commander  
First Nations Representative

LAST POST: Comrade Roy Eaton  
SILENCE

LAMENT: Pipe Major Stewart Gagan  
ROUSE: Comrade Roy Eaton

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

RIFLE SALUTE: Sgt. Charles A. Golden Silver Star Rifle Team

LAYING OF WREATHS

Silver Cross Representative Comrade Linda Bowerman  
Federal Government MP Carol Hugés  
Provincial Government MPP Michael Mantha  
Canadian Armed Forces Comrade Jim Kiviaho  
District H Comrade Ken Faubert, District Commander  
Zone H3 Comrade Sharleen Sissons, Zone Commander  
Aboriginal Veterans  
Branch 514 President Carrie Lewis  
Branch 177 President Ruth Eadie  
Manitoulin North Shore Naval Veterans Vice President  
Roy Eaton

Manitoulin Navy League  
Manitoulin/Espanola O.P.P. Constable Daryl Leighton  
United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin Police Force  
Doric Lodge/ Manitoulin Masons Master Mike Terry  
Sudbury/Manitoulin Masons R.W. Bro. David Spencer  
Sudbury Shrine Club President Noble John Miszczak  
Hawewater Unit of the Sudbury Shrine Club Nobles Jim  
Corrigan and Ted Taylor  
All other Wreaths

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GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

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The parade will proceed to Memorial Gardens to lay wreaths on behalf of the Women of the  
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Womens' Memorial Wreath presented by: Children of the World Wreath  
presented by Willow Fogal, granddaughter of Warrant Officer (retired) Jack Bould.



*Lest We Forget*