

# VETERANS DAY MAGAZINE

2014 - 2015



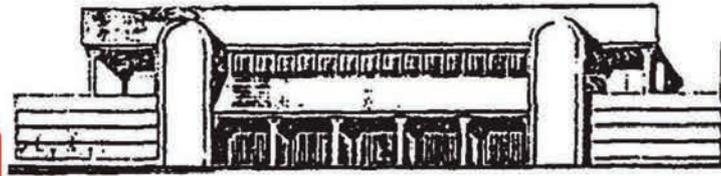
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EDDIE FRANCIS  
MAYOR

---

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget  
that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."  
~John Fitzgerald Kennedy~*

Dear Honoured Veterans, Families and Friends:

This will be my last opportunity to write to you as your Mayor and I want you to know that it has been my great privilege to represent the city on numerous occasions at events that recognize and honour our veterans.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know many of you personally and you have made a lasting and profound impact on my life through your stories of sacrifice, honour and bravery. I can assure you, I will never forget what you have done for our country and our city in the name of freedom.

Over the last eleven years, the city has demonstrated its commitment to honour and show our appreciation for the sacrifices you made. We have done so in tangible ways on our waterfront and in our parks by installing physical reminders that serve to make our residents stop and reflect upon the men and women of the armed forces and the freedom we enjoy today.

As important as these reminders are, for me, it is equally important to do as the John Fitzgerald Kennedy quote says above: *"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."* It is incumbent upon all of us to emulate and live by the values of honour, valour, integrity and sacrifice shown by the men and women of our armed forces, and only then, will we truly honour you and the memories of those who are no longer with us.

You have my deepest gratitude for your service to your community and to your country and I will always treasure my memories and my time with all of you as your Mayor.

Lest we forget.

Sincerely

Eddie Francis

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Our goal is to educate our youth to help them understand the sacrifices made by our Veterans so that they, our next generation, may continue to have the freedoms that they enjoy today.

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Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

November 11, 2014

### **A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am honoured to extend warm greetings to everyone reading the Veterans Memories Project magazine.

As Canadians, we show our patriotism in many ways — in the dedicated service of our men and women and in the acts of remembrance within our communities.

It is our duty to remember and commemorate our beloved veterans. Their stories and bravery should never be far from our minds, as we enjoy the freedoms that they helped protect and preserve.

I would like to thank all of those who helped to publish this magazine. It is an important resource that details the lives of those who served and their sacrifices — its pages reveal a proud and honourable tradition.

Please accept my congratulations on creating this meaningful testament and vital resource.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Wynne".

**Kathleen Wynne**  
**Premier**





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## Memorial Park Rededication

**By Matthew J. Pritchard**

The rainy morning of April 25th, 2014 was a fit setting to pay tribute to the 837 names of Great War Veterans on the First World War Monument in Memorial Park in Windsor, Ontario. In a joint effort with the Windsor Historical Society-Veterans Memories Project and the City of Windsor a rededication ceremony was held to mark the restoration and moving of the World War Monument to the front of the Memorial Park Gates. Despite the rainy weather, the event was well attended by Veterans, government officials, grade school students and members of the public.

The solemn event featured a great mixture of participants both young and old. Students from John Campbell Public school were in attendance to watch the laying of wreaths. Windsor Police Honour Guard and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police opened and closed the ceremony. Rev. Stan Fraser presided over the outdoor ceremony and spoke of the great sacrifices that young men and women made during the Great War. Guests were treated to music by the Silver Ambassador Band, led by band leader, Karen Barnes. The band put on a professional performance in spite of

the heavy rainfall. The voice of late Second World War Veteran, John White was heard reciting, "In Flanders Fields" which powerfully touched the audience. Wreaths were laid by politicians, Veterans; Larry Costello, Bob Kelly, Bruce Moncur and Bill Vivian. Another wreath was laid by Theresa Charbonneau, the mother of the late Afghanistan Veteran, Corporal Andrew Grenon.

After the ceremony, a luncheon was provided in the gymnasium of the Windsor Optimist Centre. Guests were treated to soup and sandwiches served by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 143. During the luncheon, a few speeches were made by politicians, Veterans and Walkerville High School student, Gabe Voycey.

The First World War Monument commenced moving in the fall of 2013 as it was evident that due to acts of vandalism, it needed to be in a safer place. The year before, Gabe Voycey made headline news in Essex County when he took it upon himself to clean disrespectful graffiti that had been written on the monument. The monument itself was erected in 2008 as part of a joint venture again with the Windsor Historical Society –Veterans

Memories Project and the City of Windsor. The Gates were built in 1925 to honour Great War Veterans and were also restored to their original appearance in 2008. In 2005 sixty trees were planted in the park by a Windsor Historical Society committee and the City of Windsor's Department of Parks and Recreation to mark the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The Windsor Historical Society would like to thank all of the Veterans, Theresa Charbonneau, The Windsor Police Honour Guard, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police the City of Windsor senior staff members John Miceli and Mike Clement, Councillors Alan Halberstadt, Ron Jones and Irek Kusmierczyk, Representatives of both the Federal and Provincial Governments, Karen Barnes and the Silver Ambassador Concert Band, Gabe Voycey, the students of John Campbell Public School, Branch 143, Rev. Stan Fraser and the members of the Windsor Veterans Memorial Service Committee, the staff of the Optimist Community Centre and all guests in attendance for making this event a great success. *Lest We Forget!*

## Gabe Voycey Story



It's been almost two years since I cleaned the memorial, and back then I wouldn't have been able to fathom the idea that 2 hours of work could have gone this far. Not only that, but the work I did felt almost ironic, how little the amount of time and effort needed, compared to the 837 young men and women from Windsor and Essex County, mostly my age, that gave their lives in the service of their country. They served justice to those who were unjust, to keep the freedom that our country holds so highly since our founding. They protected and comforted those who could not do it by themselves, and we as Canadians have continued to do just that, to this day. This new location for the memorial, although not far from where it used to be, will make sure everyone sees exactly that. It will make sure that everyone knows what sacrifice and knowledge is held within this living memory. I can only hope that in its new position,

it will not have to go through the same disrespect it went through 2 years ago. I am as proud to be here today at this re-dedication as I was 6 years ago when it was first erected. It is my absolute honour to thank the veterans who are here today, the ones that could not make it, those who have left us and the ones inscribed on that memorial. Without you, the world would be a much different place than it is today. I cannot begin to thank you for the stories you've told me and the wisdom you have shared. For that I am forever grateful and I will carry it with me throughout my life. I cannot picture my life as it is today without you all in it. You have made me realize how important it is to not forget the past, and most of all, you have made me realize how proud I am to be Canadian. Thank you.

Gabe Voycey

Note: Gabe delivered this speech at the April 25th rededication ceremony.

## A Lesson That Should Be Taught In All Schools

LEST WE FORGET - Wear a Poppy to show your respect on Remembrance (Veterans) Day and remember that saying thank-you is not a religious thing, it is gratitude!  
A lesson that should be taught in all schools. . .and colleges.

Back in September, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks.

'Ms. Cothren, where're our desks?'

She replied, 'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.'

They thought, 'Well, maybe it's our grades.'

'No,' she said.

'Maybe it's our behaviour.'

She told them, 'No, it's not even your behaviour.'

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom.

By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms. Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the deskless classroom, Martha Cothren said,

'Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this

classroom. Now I am going to tell you.'

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it.

Twenty-seven (27) War Veterans, all in uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall... By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned..

Martha said, 'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens.

They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it.



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## Pow/Mia Remembrance Ceremony

By Ed Ruckle

As you entered the hall this evening, you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor. It is set for one.

This table is our way of symbolizing members of the military profession, both Canadians and Americans alike who are missing from our midst.

They are commonly called POWs or MIAs, we call them "Brothers." They are unable to be with us this evening and so we remember them.

This Table set for one is small -- Symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his oppressors.

The tablecloth is white -- Symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.

### REMEMBER!

The single Red Rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms who keep the faith awaiting their return.

### REMEMBER!

The Red Ribbon tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the lapel and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing.

### REMEMBER!

The Candle, the candle is lit -- Symbolizing the upward reach of their unconquerable spirit.

### REMEMBER!

A Slice of Lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate.



### REMEMBER!

There is Salt upon the bread plate -- Symbolic of the families' tears as they wait.

### REMEMBER!

The Glass is inverted -- They cannot toast with us this night.

### REMEMBER!

The Chair -- The chair is empty. They are not here.

### REMEMBER!

Remember all you who served with them and called them comrades, who depended upon their

might and aid, and relied upon them, for surely, they have not forsaken you.

### REMEMBER!

Until the day they come home.

### REMEMBER!



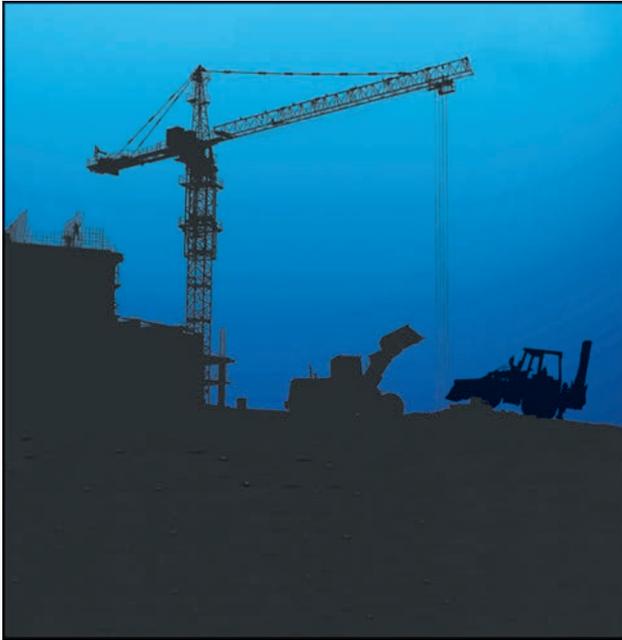
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■ Sophia Linner and Tom Abrash



■ Ed Ruckle



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## Veterans Faces

*By Cameila Anderson*

It was a sad day at the Windsor Historical Society - Veterans Memories Project when Stan Scislowski passed away. Many were in attendance to pay tribute to and honour Stan at Families First Fu-

neral Home. One in attendance was Ed Ruckle, a retired US Air Force Veteran living in Windsor. Ed noticed a Wall in the lobby of the funeral home where there were pictures and when meeting the Funeral Director, Brian Parent observed that the wall could be a very good tribute for a Virtual Wall. It was at

that point that the concept of `Veterans Faces` was born as veteransfaces.com. Ed's idea was to `bridge the bond of brotherhood` and respect, honour and remember Veterans who had passed away. As Ed would say, "Their memories may fade but their stories live on forever at VeteransFaces.com"

## One Of Canada's Greatest

*Jerry Billing*

Growing up in the 1930's during the depression Jerry Billing would read books of the air battles and aces of the first world war. When war broke out in Europe Jerry join the RCAF. Jerry achieved 2 tours during WWII with 250+ combat sorties in the Supermarine Spitfire.

Jerry served in the RCAF until 1964 where he was a member of Canada's first jet demonstration team the Blue Devils, and was the head aerobatic trainer for the RCAF Golden Hawks. In his career Jerry has piloted over 170 different aircrafts from the Tiger Moth to the F-104 Starfighter.

Jerry was the head test and display pilot for Canadian based De Havilland Aircraft for many years.

Jerry is best known for his legendary displays in Spitfire's across North

America thrilling thousands in his 52.5 years of continuous flying of the type, including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 1984.

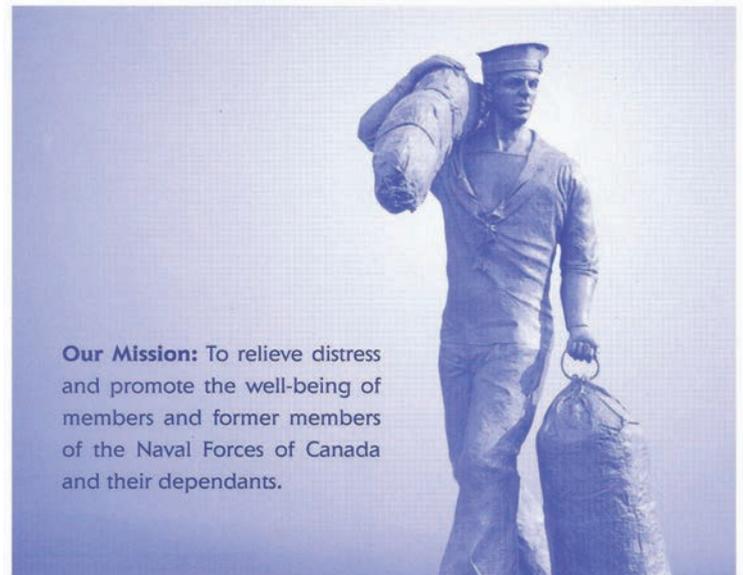
Jerry retired from air show flying in 1994 and has instructed many current pilots on displaying the Spitfire aircraft.

Since 2003 Jerry has been in a bitter battle with the Department of Veterans Affairs over a pension dispute with no prevail.

Sources: [www.jerrybilling.com](http://www.jerrybilling.com)



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## Remembering Stan

By Matthew J. Pritchard

In life there are mentors: those who inspire and leave a permanent impression on everyone they meet. Some do this through their actions, while others do this through their words. The late Stan Scislowksi did both. Quick with a joke, a twirl of his cane, or one of his stories, Stan always brought a smile into any room he entered, regardless of its size. It did not matter if he was talking to five hundred people or one on one, the results were always the same; he mesmerized his audience.

When Stan passed away this past March, his death left a great void in all those he touched. The Windsor Star ran an article on its front page entitled "History Page 'Empty' Without Second World War Veteran". Star Author Sharon Hill could have not have used better words to describe the beloved 90 year old Veteran. He had spent his life as both a writer and



a student of history. Before he enlisted at 19, Stan spend his youth reading as many accounts of the Great War as he possibly could. He was also very fond of chemistry during his high school days at W.D. Lowe. When one of his experiments went wrong and he almost blew up the school's science laboratory, he earned the nickname "the Mad Chemist"

Stan Scislowksi was born in Windsor, Ontario on September 13th, 1923 and grew up in a large Polish-Canadian family in the Parent Avenue area. With a humble upbringing, Stan spoke fondly of his childhood and his loving family. He would often relate his struggles in the Great Depression and how living through such an event made a person ap-

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preciative of things. These childhood experiences shaped Stan into the caring man he was and helped foster his ability to always find humour and joy in even the smallest of things.

When the Second World War began, it was only a matter of time until Stan's sense of adventure and duty would encourage him to enlist. In 1943 Stan joined the Perth Regiment, 11th Infantry. After basic training in Canada and spending a few months in England, Stan was sent to Italy, for what would be two tough years of fighting.

The first major battle was in May 1944, near Monte Cassino, when the Allies pushed to take and liberate Rome. Stan recalled his emotions prior to his first engagement with the enemy.

"The very real possibility of

dying a horrible death or maimed for life never entered my mind. Others would die, but not me. How innocent I was. By day's end my innocence was gone, and if anyone else thought the way I did, their innocence had gone too, evaporated in the thunder and vaporous hell erupting all around us."

These powerful words illustrate how war can change a young boy into a man, a soldier into a Veteran, and innocence into experience in literally one long day. After this battle, Stan noted in his writings that, "surviving a battle is a mixture of luck and a miracle."

The Gothic Line, located in Northern Italy, was a heavily defended trench system that Adolph Hitler ordered to prevent Allied forces from advancing north. Yet on September 3rd, 1944, after

taking heavy losses, the Allies did finally break through this heavily guarded line. On August 30th, 1944, at Hill 204, Stan was wounded after being hit by two grenades while charging the hill with his bayonet. Luckily, he was able to recover from his injuries and bravely returned to the front. Stan was one of the first soldiers who took this hill, a defensive line that was thought to be impossible to break through. Stan emotionally described the misery he faced while fighting on the front. For him misery was, "If you're moving up to battle and the rain's coming down in sheets, and the chill winds cut through you like a knife, and you bed down for the night in the muck off the side of the road; that's misery." After the War Stan was regarded as a celebrity in Italy, as the Italian citizens would often thank him and his fellow Veterans for their sacrifices made during the War. From the moment he first landed in Naples, he felt connected with the people he helped liberate. Over the course of his life Stan made 7 journeys back to Italy to pay tribute to his fallen peers. He used to talk about how grateful the Italian citizens were for his service. One of the greatest moments Stan experienced occurred when he was personally invited by the mayor of Villanova, Italy to be a special guest of the town. Interactions like these have created a strong bond, forever remembering the bravery that men like Stan displayed during the Second World War. Stan returned home after the war, married to his sweetheart, Joyce and fathered six children. A smile formed

from ear to ear when he spoke about Joyce, his children and later on, his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was a dedicated family man who again always found a positive outlook and joy while raising his beloved family.

*surviving a battle is a mixture of luck and a miracle*

After Stan was discharged from the Army, he used his skills to operate a successful chemical business in Windsor. This allowed him to provide a very good upbringing for his children. He made sure his children experienced the same amount of love and dedication he received as child. A close bond formed between Stan and his family that has transcended his passing.

Soon after getting re-established at home, Stan began researching and writing accounts of his experiences in the Canadian Army. He wrote many articles on his own life experiences. This was a way to heal from what he witnessed during the war. Stan once spoke with a doctor who encouraged him to continue to write as much as possible. It was a way to cope with any issues that arose from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He went on to publish a book entitled "Not All Of Us Were Brave" which depicted his personal accounts of military service. The work was also featured in Canadian history text books and often, in the Windsor Star.

Stan took me under his wing and taught me how to write for readers. Even though he was an extremely well-spo-

ken man with a wide array of vocabulary, he always made sure that his work would reach the largest readership base as possible. His advice was always to the point; keep it simple and do not be afraid to add an element of humour. Stan believed that too many writers focused on being technical and chose to use too complex terms which would literally go over the head of the average reader. For years, he was the head editor of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 594's newsletters and always made sure he was respectful to his fellow Veterans but would do so by injecting his famous sense of humour. Stan spent his retirement writing and speaking to school children and was a proud Legion member and key member of the Windsor

Historical Society- Veterans Memories Project. Every year the Veterans Day Magazine featured at least one or two articles written by Stan and were the flagship of the magazine. His passion was to speak to younger generations and he would attend high school talks captivating auditoriums of young Canadians. Stan had always lived his life with a sense of dignity and pride and anyone who met him could not help but feel proud in his presence. He will be remembered as a loving family man, a Veteran, a prolific writer, a "Mad Chemist", a Legionnaire, a mentor, a comedian, and most importantly a friend to all that knew him and even to those who didn't. Rest well my dear friend and mentor. *Lest We Forget.*



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# Reflections Of A New Beginnings Summer Student

By Lam Nguyen

After graduating from high school last year, I went to a youth organization called New Beginnings that provides high school students with summer jobs. I told the interviewer, Marionette, that I was aspiring to work in a law office or in a day camp. Weeks later, I received a phone call from her telling me to go back for another interview. I received a piece of paper that told me that I would be working at the Windsor Historical Society in the months of July and August.

I thought it was a museum, but boy was I wrong. Actually, the WHS is a non-profit charity organization that is dedicated to preserving, honouring and sharing Veterans' stories. However, when I arrived there I felt like some-

thing was twisting inside my stomach; I was worried that my lack of knowledge in history would deter my ability to efficiently handle the job. To my surprise, it was not what I had initially expected. During the first few weeks, we delivered copies of the annual Veterans' Day magazines to numerous doctors' offices, chiropractors, dentists and other medical businesses in the Windsor-Essex County area.

It was a slow start for me, but I was starting to get to know my co-workers on a more personal level. They were very friendly, but at the same time we made sure to maintain a level of profes-

sionalism while working.

After that we began working on one of the largest projects they have assembled. Our plan was to distribute their educational documentary, titled 'Take a



Every issue of Biz X magazine remembers the achievements and sacrifices of Windsor/Essex war veterans with our special column, "The Way It Was" by Andrea Grimes.

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Glimpse into the Eyes of History'. Our goal is to send this video to high schools in all provinces and territories in Canada so everyone gets a chance to understand that our freedom was given to us at a cost, but also how Canadians have been thanking the Veterans.

We contacted school principals via mail, e-mail or phone in hopes that they will share this documentary with their students. That being said, I worked alongside with fellow volunteers Sarah Meddaka and Mark Zayat on transcribing this project and translating the subtitles of their documentary to French so that closed captioning may be available for those who are hearing impaired. At one point, I asked my father about his opinion on the Canadian soldiers who fought with the Southern

Vietnamese military against the communist regime of North Vietnam. He said he was very grateful for those Canadian troops who helped to fight against them, which deepened my appreciation for the Veterans.

I am thankful for these brave people, whether it may be the Navy, the Air Force or the Army who fought for our rights and freedoms as well as those who are serving currently.

I'm also grateful for the opportunity that both New Beginnings and WHS have given me-- a summer job before I begin my post-secondary education at the University of Windsor. To Dann Bouzide, I support your goals and hope that you accomplish them for a better future. To the Veterans, thank you for your service.

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# God Bless Our Canada!

## Canada and the Netherlands WW2

*By Hasan Polat*

The liberation of the Netherlands, an essential step in defeating Nazi Germany and bringing an end to the war in Europe. By September 1944 Canadian forces had just reached the Netherlands which had been occupied by German forces earlier in the war. The fighting would continue for almost 9 more months, all the way to May 5th 1945. There would be a total of 7,600 Canadian casualties.

The first attempts for liberation were made by the Americans and British, but on the fall of 1944 they were replaced by the Canadian 1st corps. The first Canadian corps was entering Holland from the west led by Lieutenant-General Charles Foulkes and it's

mission, to capture north of The Maas River. The Canadian first corps consisted of the Canadian infantry 1st division and the armoured 5th division plus a few British and Polish soldiers. They played the largest role in liberating holland. Canadian forces who had fought in the Italian Campaign and at Normandy during D-Day now had the final task of pushing back the Germans troops from the Northeast back to the sea and west back towards Germany. Canadian troops did their job in a marvellous fashion freeing town after town from German occupation. On April 28th, the Germans had been driven into a line running through Wageningen, Amersfoort and the Black Sea. After a truce was arranged between the two exhausted sides, the allies were able to provide relief to the citizens of the Netherlands who had started the war out neutral. It had almost been 5 years since the Dutch had surrendered to Nazi-Germany on May of 1940. The citizens had been perishing under the difficult Nazi-German rule. The winter had been hard with fuel

and food shortages. Many man, women and children had already died from starvation and harsh conditions. The citizens of holland were grateful to Canada and since then they have sent 10,000 tulips bulbs annually to Canada. The Netherlands have been celebrating it as a national holiday since 1990. Three days later the last of the German troops surrendered ending the war in Europe.



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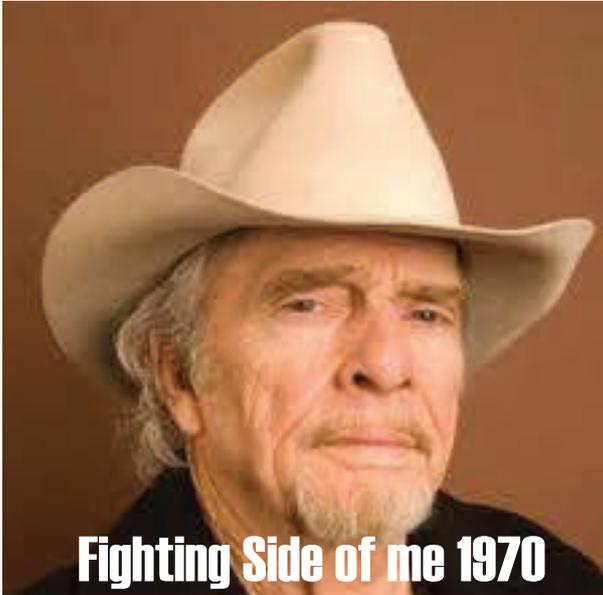


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## Fighting Side of me 1970

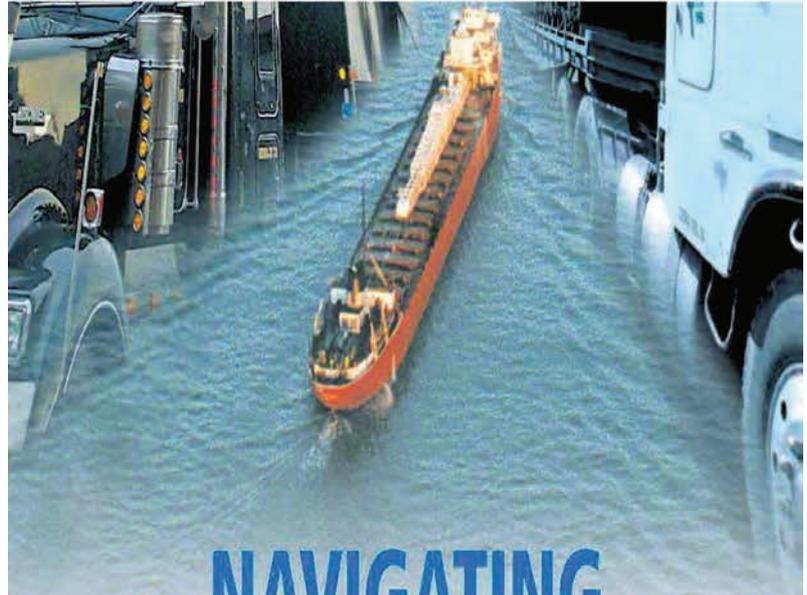
### Merle Haggard

I hear people talkin' bad,  
 About the way we have to live here in this country,  
 Harpin' on the wars we fight,  
 An' gripin' 'bout the way things oughta be.  
 An' I don't mind 'em switchin' sides,  
 An' standin' up for things they believe in.  
 When they're runnin' down my country, man,  
 They're walkin' on the fightin' side of me.  
 Yeah, walkin' on the fightin' side of me.  
 Runnin' down the way of life,  
 Our fightin' men have fought and died to keep.  
 If you don't love it, leave it:  
 Let this song I'm singin' be a warnin'.  
 If you're runnin' down my country, man,  
 You're walkin' on the fightin' side of me.

I read about some squirrely guy,  
 Who claims, he just don't believe in fightin'.  
 An' I wonder just how long,  
 The rest of us can count on bein' free.  
 They love our milk an' honey,  
 But they preach about some other way of livin'.  
 When they're runnin' down my country, hoss,  
 They're walkin' on the fightin' side of me.

Yeah, walkin' on the fightin' side of me.  
 Runnin' down the way of life,  
 Our fightin' men have fought and died to keep.  
 If you don't love it, leave it:  
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 Let this song I'm singin' be a warnin'.  
 If you're runnin' down my country, man,  
 You're walkin' on the fightin' side of me.



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# Freedom

*Mickey Moulder*

What is freedom? Is it a natural state for humanity or is it an aberration? How wide spread is freedom in the world as we know it? Per various references, approximately 110 billion humans have lived on this planet since our arrival. Of that multitude, only 5 billion of us have ever lived in freedom and of that few only 3 billion became free in just the last 50 years.

In answer to the age old question, "Where did slavery come from?" A more appropriate question might be, "Where did freedom come from?" Unfortunately, slavery is one of the oldest and most universal of all human institutions. Slavery has existed among peoples around the world as far back as recorded history and a source of great suffering for most but also a source of great wealth and power for some until the last 100 to 200 years. In fact, it is

the idea of freedom that is rare and completely uncommon in our gene pool. Yet freedom doesn't feel so unique or special does it? It's pretty much taken for granted by most of us. There is that inherent feeling that we are free, have always been so and thus will always be. It's the same with indoor plumbing, modern super markets, automobiles, airplanes, paved roads, electricity, air conditioning, clean drinking water, sewers, computers, the Internet etc. Of course we have these things; didn't we always? But from 30 to 150 years ago, these items did not exist.

History shows that the freedom found in what we call the Western world did not suddenly emerge out of thin air. This astounding coming together of morals, philosophy, respect for human rights, and understanding of the limits built in to our democratic societies to check the power of government came with a price. And it took a long time.

What is more natural in history? Is it kings, dictators, emperors, czars, generals, barbarians, tyrants, slavery, vassals,



wars of conquest, empires, subjugation of weaker tribes and nations, human slaughter, corrupt governments and pogroms, or is it peace, individual liberty and freedom where every person is supposedly equal under the law with one person, one vote to elect national and local governing power? For almost all of human history, the vast majority of people have been without any hope of freedom always being ruled by those with more clout, more swords, better guns, stronger armies, the greatest



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**Bernice A. McKenzie,**  
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wealth. Survival of the fittest has always been the rule. Throughout the ages it has been accepted practice in many societies for a man to routinely discard a female baby for example or to kill a weak male child. And women; what of their rights, privileges and freedoms down through the ages? They were mere chattels with no real rights or protection under the law, and this still exists even today in many societies. We should never lose sight of the fact that injustice has an existence of its own. Injustice fills the hearts of men. Injustice and oppression have always prevailed in human history. In order for freedom and democracy to survive, injustice must be defeated. It will not simply disappear. It must be cast

aside. And that is what our ancestors, at least here in the West accomplished. Over the millennia, at great cost and in fits and spurts, the West purged injustice and laid claim to freedom and democracy. Freedom is a miracle and even today only a minority of us on earth are living a life that the vast majority of the earth's historical inhabitants could not have imagined or hoped to enjoy just a few short years ago. Should we not fortify our present and future by ensuring that we all understand what it has taken for us to arrive at this point in history? There is a need to recognize and respect just how rare and fleeting freedom is and can be. After all, freedom is not the norm; it never has been and requires nurturing and respecting and protecting.



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## D-Day Conneaut, Ohio



Come help us celebrate the 71th anniversary of D-Day and the invasion of Normandy France.

D-Day Conneaut is fast becoming America's premier living history event by being the most realistic and educational annual reenactment of D-Day - June 6th, 1944.

Since 1999, this annual recreation of the amphibious Allied landings upon the beaches of Normandy, France, has thrilled thousands of spectators. The event occurs within the beautifully kept grounds of Conneaut Township Park, Conneaut, Ohio, and assembles hundreds of re-enactors from across the United States and Canada. Remarkably, the 250 yard long beach and sloping adjacent terrain closely resemble Omaha Beach in Normandy, France.

On August 21 – 22, 2015, D-Day Ohio, Inc. will invade the Lake Erie shores of Conneaut, Ohio, and stage the largest D-Day (1944) living history reenact-

ment in the country. Featuring over 1,000 re-enactors from across the US and Canada, spectators will witness men, women, and their machines perform a living tribute to the veterans of WWII through dress, mock battles, and living history displays. Meet the real men and women that lived through these times. Last

year we were proud to host over 100 WWII veterans and hope to have even more this year. Come and be a part of this Admission FREE event and experience what people call the most realistic and educational D-Day reenactment of the WWII era. The event occurs within the beautifully kept grounds of Conneaut Township Park, in Conneaut, Ohio. Just off Interstate 90 (Exit 241), 5 miles west of the Pennsylvania border, Conneaut is just



about half way between Cleveland Ohio and Erie Pennsylvania. There's plenty of free parking with speedy shuttles.

Entry is free but donations of any size are always appreciated as we are 100% funded by donations.

**NOTE - Veterans Memories Project is planning a bus trip for two days, one overnight. If you are interested in participating call (519) 564-7646. Space is limited.**

## 15 Things I've Learned In Life

1. Don't do anything that wouldn't make your mother proud.
2. People who say, "Money isn't everything." usually have plenty of it.
3. The best tranquillizer is a clear conscience.
4. I've learned a good deal is a good deal only when it's a good deal for both parties.
5. I've learned that position can be bought, but respect must be earned.
6. I've learned that if love isn't taught in the home it's difficult to learn it anywhere else.
7. I've learned that no one is ever so powerful or successful that they don't appreciate a sincere compliment.
8. I've learned that you should treasure your children for what they are, not for what you want them to be.
9. I've learned that you can have a fancy education and still not be very wise.
10. I've learned that a fulfilled life is not possible without friends.
11. I've learned that if you smile at people, they will almost always smile back.
12. I've learned that being a grandparent is God's compensation for growing older.
13. I've learned that there's no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs.
14. I've learned that what a child learns at home lasts until the grave.
15. I've learned that if a child is not getting love and attention at home, he will go somewhere else to find them.

## Lest We Forget



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# Veterans Faces Bridges: SOUTHWEST SOLUTIONS and PIQUETTE SQUARE

By Ed Ruckle

## Southwest Solutions:

Southwest Solutions is nationally recognized as a model of community building. They are a leading provider of both human service, affordable housing, and economic development. Their goal is to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and families, while making southwest Detroit a place where people choose to live because of its vitality and diversity. They help those who were at the margins of society turn the page and write new chapters of resilience and purpose.

Their programs are wide-ranging and work in concert to create a full system of support that promotes recovery and improves quality of life. They serve people of all ages and backgrounds. And, when they cannot accomplish a project or program on their own, they collaborate with other agencies to address needs and build effective partnerships.

## Piquette Square:

Piquette Square has become a national model of supportive housing for veterans who were homeless. It has also come to exemplify the effective collabora-



tion needed to revitalize a city. Piquette Square consists of 150 apartment units and provides comprehensive support services to help the veterans develop healthy and independent living skills.

The John D. Dingell Veterans Administration Medical Center in Detroit has opened a resource and referral center at Piquette Square that will offer veterans case management, substance-abuse treatment, community referrals, housing placement, triage, transportation, showers, laundry facilities, a computer lab, clothing, and ready-to-eat meals. The Veterans Community Resource and Referral Center will be open for 12 hours every day at the 150-apartment housing facil-

ity, at 301 Piquette St. It is the site of the former Studebaker factory in the New Center area. Nonprofit Southwest Solutions opened Piquette Square for homeless veterans in 2010.

“We are thrilled to be part of this new initiative,” Beth Baker, the center’s chief, said in a statement. “We are one of just 16 in the nation and the second in the United States to open its doors. The services we offer to Detroit area veterans are very specialized and quite unique.”

About 400 of the estimated 3,100 homeless people in Detroit are veterans, according to the Homeless Action Network of Detroit.

Sources: Southwest Solutions Website and Craines Detroit Business



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By Tony Mancinone

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) graduated 131,500 pilots in World War 2 and almost 73,000 were Canadians. On a very cold December day in 1942 Flight Officer Bill outlined the duties of the day. "Bob, you will be pilot of a light bomber. Ron, you will be navigator and Sam, you are to release the bombs. Sam, it is most important that you release those bombs within seconds from when Ron says, "Drop" to

## The Bombing Runs over Lake Champlain

fall near the target. There are markers on the lake whose locations will not be known to you. You are to seek and drop your bombs as close as possible to those markers. Good luck!"

As they rose to their required altitude they noticed the plane's clear reflection on the shining smooth lake below. They thought,--this will be a piece of cake. We'll drop these babies right on the markers. Soon, a marker is spotted. Bob bellows, "Alright men, let's go do it. Ron, ready to give the Drop order. Sam, we are counting on you."

The plane aligns to the target and drops to the optimum height. Ron studies his instruments—"wait---wait---wait--- Drop!" Sam scrambles to release the clips holding the bomb. "Bomb away," is quickly followed by shrill cry of, "Help!" Ron releases his safety belt and rushes to the bomb bay. Stretching to release the bomb, Sam lost his balance but managed to grab on to the fixed landing gear. Seconds pass but it seems

like hours. Finally, Bob says in a quiet voice, "Sam, hold on, we'll get you home. If I try to land, you would hit the ground before the plane will. Here is my plan. I will fly as slow and as close to the ground as I can. When I say so you must let go and curl yourself into as much of a ball as you can. Good luck." A minute later, "Let go!" and Sam was seen hitting the surface of the frozen lake and sliding across the smooth lake for many hundreds of yards. The co-ordinates were given to headquarters and teams rush to find Sam. Hours later, Bob and Ron hear that Sam has returned and is in the infirmary. He is found laying face down with a cigarette in his hand as doctors tend to numerous cuts and bruises but he has no broken bones. Soon, Sam returned to duty. This story was related to me by a partner of the firm who was a member of the squadron to which the story occurred.



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**PROUDLY PROTECTING THE CITY OF WINDSOR**

by Jason Lavin, Cardiff, Wales.

For many people, these two words may not hold any significance. Up until a year ago they did not mean anything to me. In fact, the only thing I knew about Wales was that it was in the United Kingdom and the birthplace of Catherine Zeta-Jones (Wales fun fact #1). I also thought that Wales was a province or county of England and not its own country like Scotland or Northern Ireland which, together with England and Wales, form the UK.

Wales is the second smallest country in the UK both in landmass and population, but boasts the largest amount of castles per capita in the UK and Europe (Wales fun fact #2). The 500 castles that decorate the Welsh countryside offer a glimpse into the rich history of Wales and invite people to discover more about this fascinating and charming country; only one of the many reasons why I decided to move to Wales to earn my teaching degree.

On August 28th, 2013, I arrived in Cardiff and made myself comfortable in my new home and looked forward to the next 10 months. Cardiff is the capital city of Wales with a population of around 450,000 people and twice as many sheep. The people are very friendly, welcoming and enjoy the Canadian accent, but to say I wasn't nervous about teaching in a foreign country

## My Time In Wales

would be a lie. I thought back to the Grade 9 science teacher I had, Mrs. Jones. Jones is actually a very Welsh name but Mrs. Jones was from Australia, and though she was very nice, our class did not make it easy for her. I thought that being from Canada and having an accent would either be an asset or a drawback, but it turned out to be a little of both.

One of the biggest challenges during my time in Wales was having to learn about Welsh history at the same time I was teaching it. From the Welsh archdeacon Gerald of Wales, who travelled around Wales gathering recruits and support for the Third Crusade, to Owain Glyndwr, the rebel who fought against the English rule of Wales, I had the unique opportunity of learning along with the students while I taught them. Another challenge I had to overcome was incorporating incidental Welsh into my lessons. Wales, like Canada, is a bilingual country.

Welsh is the other official language of Wales and the Welsh government has recently introduced an effort to bring it back into prominence; this means that educators have to incorporate 'incidental Welsh' into their lessons. Myself, along with the other international students, had to take Welsh language lessons at the university. Suddenly, words like "Shw-

mae" ("Hello"), "Bore da" ("Good morning"), "Da' iawn" ("Well done") and the ever-present "Dim siarad" ("No talking") were added to my vocabulary and lesson plans, though my pronunciation was lacking which, along with my accent, had some students laughing at times, but you just have to laugh with them. For example, pronouncing the name of the Welsh city Ystradgynlais provided some entertainment for the students. Also, using Canadian terms like semester (term in Wales) and backpack (rucksack) was amusing for them, though on the whole, the Canadian accent helped to hold students attention as it was different from what they were used to hearing so I considered it to be an asset.

Secondary school in Wales starts earlier than it does in Canada. Students begin secondary school in Year 7 at 11 years old and are required to attend until they are 16, where they can choose to continue their education for another two years in 6th form class (Year 12 and 13) for 16-18 year olds. The majority of the students I taught were between thirteen and fifteen years old at 2 different schools: Stanwell Comprehensive School and Cantonian Comprehensive School; schools with very different qualities. Stanwell School was located in an affluent suburb just outside of Cardiff

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with a mostly Caucasian student population. The students were very well-behaved and came from good homes and families, so behaviour, attendance, and grades were all at a high-standard, while Cantonian was the complete opposite. Cantonian was an inner-city school with a very multicultural student population

and older facilities. In addition, most students came from more impoverished families and had difficult upbringings. Although I enjoyed my time at Stanwell more than my time at Cantonian, I felt that the students at Cantonian had more personality than the students at Stanwell, even though they could be difficult

to teach at times.

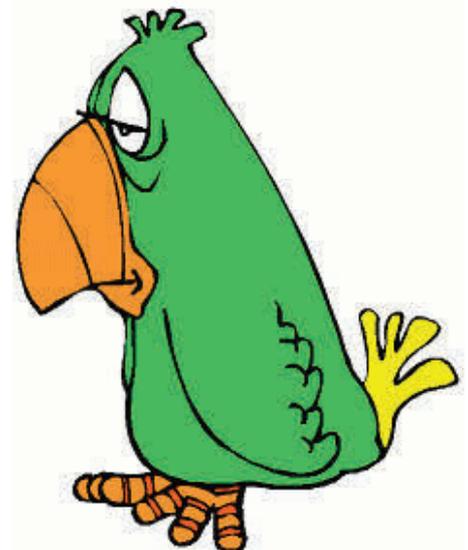
My 10 months in Wales was an experience I will never forget. I made friends and it was a life-changing experience. I will never forget and have taught students I will always remember. So, in the words of the Welsh, "Diolch" and "hwyl fawr" (*Thank you and good bye!*)

## Bad Parrot

A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary. Finally, John was fed up and

he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even more rude. John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched

arms and said "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior." John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird spoke-up, very softly, "May I ask what the turkey did?"



And you thought there were no clean jokes left!



## Bridges: Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

By **Ed Ruckle**

### Overcoming Adversity

In spite of adversity and limited opportunities, African Americans have played a significant role in U.S. military history over the past 300 years. They were denied military leadership roles and skilled training because many believed they lacked qualifications for combat duty. Before 1940, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military. Civil rights organizations and the black press exerted pressure that resulted in the formation of an all African-American pursuit squadron based in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1941. They became known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

"Tuskegee Airmen" refers to all who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experience," the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air. (Source: Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.) Who Are Tuskegee Airmen?

"Tuskegee Airmen" refers to the men and women, African-Americans and Caucasians, who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experience", the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots,

navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air. (Source: Tuskegee Airmen, Inc)

The Tuskegee Airmen is the popular name of a group of African-American military pilots (fighter and bomber) who fought in World War II. Formally, they formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Forces. The name also applies to the navigators, bombardiers, mechanics, instructors, crew chiefs, nurses, cooks, and other support personnel for the pilots. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American military aviators in the United States armed forces. During World War II, Black Americans in many U.S. states were still subject to the Jim Crow laws<sup>[N 1]</sup> and the American military was racially segregated, as was much of the federal government. The Tuskegee Airmen were subjected to racial discrimination, both within and outside the army. All black military pilots who trained in the United States trained at Moton Field and Tuskegee Army Air Field, located near Tuskegee, Alabama, which included five Haitians from the Haitian Air Force. Although the 477th Bombardment Group trained with North American B-25 Mitchell bombers, they never served in combat. The 99th Pursuit Squadron (later, 99th Fighter Squadron) was the first black

flying squadron, and the first to deploy overseas (to North Africa in April 1943, and later to Sicily and Italy). The 332nd Fighter Group, which originally included the 100th, 301st, and 302nd Fighter Squadrons, was the first black flying group. The group deployed to Italy in early 1944. In June 1944, the 332nd Fighter Group began flying heavy bomber escort missions, and in July 1944, the 99th Fighter Squadron was assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group, which then had four fighter squadrons.

The 99th Fighter Squadron was initially equipped with Curtiss P-40 Warhawk fighter-bomber aircraft. The 332nd Fighter Group and its 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons were equipped for initial combat missions with Bell P-39 Airacobras (March 1944), later with Republic P-47 Thunderbolts (June–July 1944), and finally with the aircraft with which they became most commonly associated, the North American P-51 Mustang (July 1944). When the pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group painted the tails of their P-47s and later, P-51s, red, the nickname "Red Tails" was coined. The red markings that distinguished the Tuskegee Airmen included red bands on the noses of P-51s as well as a red rudder, the P-51B and D Mustangs flew with similar color schemes, with red propeller spinners, yellow wing bands and all-red tail surfaces. (Source: Wikipedia)

## Royal Navy Man Returns To Juneau For The 70th Anniversary Of The Day

by Ed Ruckle

Anthony Balch, born December 1, 1926, served aboard the battleship, HMS Warspite, as a telegraphist and was on board during the action of the D-Day. Anthony wrote the following memories for his children and with some editing, these are his words. Anthony Balch served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1956. On 16 March 1944 I traveled by train from Chatham barracks to the Inverkeithing, a place in Scotland, quite close to the famous Forth Bridge fourth floor that spans the Firth of Forth river. Here are My first sight of the most famous ship in the Royal Navy and could barely believe my good fortune of being selected to become part of the ships complement.

There were a number of other boy telegraphists besides myself joining at the same time. Those I can remember were Freddy Sparks – my friend who had been my friend since the start of training – Fred cross, Charlie got, Ken Austwick and others whose names I cannot recall.

We were all in the same training class and knew each other very well. You boarding a ship is a time honored procedure in the Navy, cross in the gangway, arriving at the top and saluting the officers of the watch, to request permission to come aboard.

We were met by leading telegraph is who became our nanny and looked at looked after us throughout. We remained boy telegraphers.

We were assigned a special mass, a special area for showing our personal gear and a special area for slinging our hammocks for sleeping.

Our first few weeks were spent becoming familiar with all of the communications offices and the equipment. One of the transmitting offices like house to transmitter no one as the T 49 and this was a spark device. The hot elements of the transmitter in itself were hidden trying to shroud grilled because of the high voltage involved.

When the transmitter was use the lights of the other offices would dim Brighton in time with the team. The transmitter was not use very often.

There were many other offices both receiving and transmitting and we still had to practice reading audio Morse tests just the same as in training.

It was not long before we were given real work to do and at the same time we really felt we were sailors and communicators. The complement of officers and men were around 1200 and the logistics of feeding and caring for such a large number of comp were comprehensive. We carried medical officers, education officers, training supply and secretarial officers, cook and Stewart's, as well as the usual semen, gunnery, engine room officers and ratings.

Battleships are unique in the Royal Navy and that they were always they always carried a body of Royal Marines, who by tradition were responsible for 'X' turret guns. The turns were let Leonard A and

space B space in the forward part of the ship and X space and space Y at the after part. Early weeks were spent in 'working up close', an expression used to describe the many drills and operations that were



practiced over and over again in preparation for battle stations, until everything became second nature.

The exercises including firing all guns at various times, were meant to drill the crew and to ensure the accuracy of the guns themselves. The first firing of the mighty 15 inch guns was exciting and little frightening. The sure noise of the salvo and the recoil space – space so powerful that you could actually roll the whole huge ship sideways – were awe – inspiring.

Understandably a protector in the test firing, to watch the flash in the great cloud brown smoke emanate from the barrels of the shell, each weighing the best part of a ton, hurtled through the twin barrels, was a never to be forgotten experience. Down below on the mess decks of the ship in the offices, life was less exciting. The smell of burnt cordite (the stuff used in the charge to actually propel the shell out of the barrel) was pervasive and unpleasant. Although we wore "Flash Gear" that consisted of overalls and a Belaclava style headgear, which could be made to cover the mouth, it was impossible to avoid the smell, which got into the nostrils and was something I never got used to.



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On November 11th, Canadians stand to honour and remember all those who served and continue to serve Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace.

Wounded Warriors Canada is guided by the ethos “Honour the Fallen, Help the Living” and we are proud to hold a number of events annually that pay respect to the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in defence of freedom and the rule of law. Furthermore, our organization strives to support all Canadian Armed Forces members, both serving and retired, in their time of need, aware of the struggles facing our ill and injured military personnel living with the scars of war.

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Wounded Warriors Canada is a non-profit organization that helps Canadian Forces members – be they regular force, reservists, or retired – who have been wounded or injured in their service to Canada.

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# 100 Year Anniversary Of World War I



source : <http://chivethebrigade.files.wordpress.com>

*By Matthew J. Pritchard*

August 4th, 2014 marked the hundredth anniversary of Canada's involvement in the Great War. In 1914, Canada was a young Dominion which was still constitutionally and socially tied to Great Britain. When Great Britain declared war on Germany, Canada automatically declared war. It was popular opinion at that time to believe that the conflict with Germany would be contained by the fall of 1914 and the troops would be home by Christmas. This prediction turned out to be very inaccurate. For Canada, 1914 would mark a time of preparation and training. A calm before what would be one hell of a four year storm. It was supposed to be "the war that ended all wars".

When Britain officially declared war, Canada had already confirmed its backing of the Empire. On August 2nd, Canada offered soldiers to England for overseas service after being told by the British Prime Minister on July 27th to prepare for war. One day after declaring War, Great Britain officially accepted Canada's offer and by mid-fall the first Canadian troop ship had set sail for England.

The years, 1915 to 1918 were considered to be the time where Canada earned

its nationhood at such places as Vimy Ridge, Somme, Ypres, Mons and Passchendaele but 1914 marked the year of preparation.

When Canadians heard about the conflict in Europe, local recruiting offices were overwhelmed with applicants. Many of these people were either British born or were second or third generation children of immigrants from the United Kingdom. These brave men and women had a sense of duty to both King and Country while other volunteers including many non-British Canadians were just simply looking for adventure and a chance to prove the young Nation's worth in battle or like many, were looking for a way to escape the recession of the day that was taking its toll on the Canadian workforce. Canadian First Nation recruits should also be

noted as they had the highest enlistment percentage of any of the ethnic groups in Canada, including both British and Scottish Canadians. For First Nation members, the conflict in Europe was a way to show support for Canada, gain more rights and to administer traditional warrior practices. It should also be noted

Canada did not pass a conscription bill until 1917, so all enlisting were volunteers in 1914.

Before Canadian soldiers would go on to take part in legendary Campaigns such as Canada's One Hundred Days of 1918, they had to be trained. The Canadian army's regular force was made up of 3,110 soldiers, plus a larger militia prior to the war. These numbers would vastly grow as by August 19th. Young soldiers began to arrive at the Valcartier Camp, located in Quebec. Valcartier Camp was set up by Sam Hughes, who was then Canadian Minister of Militia and Defense. Hughes lead a heavy recruitment plan throughout Canada as he attempted to fill Britain's request for 25,000

troops. Ignoring Canada's already set in place Mobilization Plan, Hughes decided to make a more direct approach

*Canadian First Nation recruits should also be noted as they had the highest enlistment percentage of any of the ethnic groups*

by appealing to Canadians directly and targeting all social classes. This led to an overwhelming response by the Canadian public and by September 4th, 32,000 soldiers had arrived at the Valcartier Camp.

Training was expedited as has Hughes felt a great pressure to get Canadian sol-

diers to the frontlines. The force lacked leadership, as it was not made up of very many Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers. Despite these setbacks, Hughes fulfilled his promise to Britain and on October 3rd, the first wave of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) set sail for England, arriving almost two weeks later on October 14th. The CEF did not have a lot of time for sightseeing in England because they were required to continue with their training. As the fall turned to winter, it became evident that the War would not be over by Christmas. A stalemate formed along the frontlines in France as the usage of new technological advancements the most noteworthy of which was the machine gun, forced a new form of battle strategy: trench warfare. Trench warfare meant that this was not to be a war of mobilization, limiting the effectiveness of traditional tactics such as the use of mounted horse

cavalries. Instead the First World War became quickly became a war of attrition, as both sides began to suffer heavy losses of life. On September 15th the first trenches of the Western Front were dug forever changing the landscape of the Great War. For Canadian's stationed in England the War was still far away as many still had some doubts that they would be able to make it to the Frontlines before the War was over. Both British and Canadian propaganda campaigns painted a bright picture for the Allies and back home young men were still signing up in large waves. But in France the real reality of War was already taking its toll. On August 22, the French Army lost 27,000 men in a single day as part of the "Battle of the Frontiers". The late fall First Battle of Ypres, which was also known as the "Race to the Sea", caused casualties of 85,000 French, 56,000 British and

22,000 Belgian soldiers. In the first four months of fighting alone France lost almost one million men. It was only a matter of time until the British called of the CEF to the Frontlines. On December 21st, 1914, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Regiment was summoned to France and became the first Canadian unit to participate in the Great War. Although they did not participate in a major battle until early 1915, the Canadians had arrived in France. In less than six months, Sam Hughes had fulfilled his promise to Britain and built an army that was a sizeable number. As the War went on over 600,000 Canadians would serve their young nation and lead the charge at many of the major turning points of the Great War. It was evident that from the start of the Great War Canadians were committed to the claiming victory over Germany by winning the Great War.

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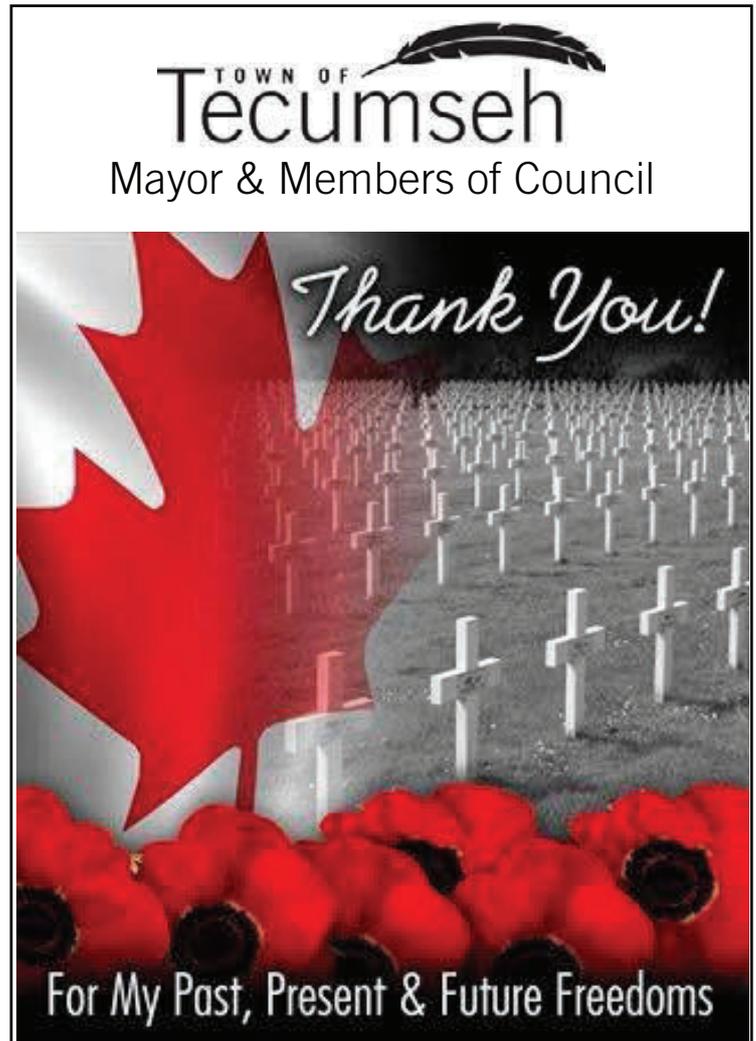
Above all, we honour those that have made the ultimate sacrifice and those who have lost loved ones in the service of our country. On behalf of the Council and residents of Tecumseh, I offer a profound "thank you" for your dedication and devotion to freedom.

I would also like to thank the Windsor Historical Society Veterans Memories Project for its commitment to preserving the priceless stories, collective wisdom and inspiring recollections of our Veterans. How wonderful that you are ensuring this valuable information will be available to future generations!

We shall never forget.

Sincerely,

Gary McNamara  
Mayor





*Written by Tony Mancinone*

Mommy, why is Uncle Eddie so crabby? I remember when I was six and Uncle Eddie would come to visit. His visits were so much fun. We used to play football and baseball. He taught me to play tic tac toe and checkers. Sometimes I would even beat him. I think he may let me but I didn't care 'cause I won. Then he went away for three years. Mom said he went to fight a war against some bad men across the Ocean. One day, when I was nine, he came to visit us but things were not the same. He seemed to limp and favoured his right leg. Mom said he had been shot several times during the war and had earned a purple heart medal twice and had even earned the silver star medal that was the third highest award for bravery awarded by the United States Army. From then on he was always my hero but things were not the same. He didn't seem to want to play with me and most of the time he sat quietly by himself or slept. He did that a lot. So, I asked Mom, "Why is Uncle Eddie so Crabby?" Mom said that he had to take medicines that tended to make him sleepy. Before he went away he always seemed to tell all sorts of stories and talked more than anyone else. Sometimes the talk at the dinner table got very loud or there was a loud noise outside such as a car backfiring. Suddenly, he left his dinner and went out the door and was gone for a long time. Although most of the older people at the table were veterans no one seem to want to talk about what happened while at the war. Things were not

## Mommy, why is Uncle Eddie so crabby?

the same. Mom knew that he had been dating a girl for a while when he returned from the war. What happened? Mom was not sure but she thought he had broken up with her. Why, she seemed real nice? She seemed ok with his changing moods from time to time. Mom said he told her that he was afraid that someday he might physically hurt her during one of his bad days.

I asked Mom where he worked. She said that sometimes he had a job for a little while but never could keep working long. I couldn't understand that because Mom had always said that he was really smart and had been always at the top of



his class. He seemed to get sick a lot and we didn't see him for a while. She said he had a small pension from his years in the war and that gave him some money, but he had to rely on staying with grandpa and his older brother Steve, who had also served in the same war. Uncle Steve seemed to be the same but Uncle Eddie was not the same. As I got older I learned more about Uncle Eddie. After hearing about the disaster of the Canadians at Dieppe he volunteered for the 36th Division of the United States Army since he had been born in Port Huron but the family had lived mostly in Canada especially in Quebec and Ontario and were living in Toronto at the time. The family

had managed to leave Poland about 1921 after Poland won its independence from Russia and went to live in Quebec. Some siblings stayed there and some had come to Ontario. Jobs were scarce during the Great Depression especially for those that were neither English nor French. In September 1944, his Division landed near Paestum in southern Italy as part of the US Fifth Army under Lt. General Mark Clark after North Africa and Sicily had been cleared of the Nazis. His battalion received a Presidential citation for having been the only battalion to engage the German 1st Parachute Division on the first day. They moved up the coast and were stalled at Cassino. His brother Steve had joined the Royal Canadian Dragoons in Toronto and landed with the British and Americans at Anzio. They won many battles and made their way into Rome on June 4, 1944. I still have the photograph of Uncle Steve sitting on the Trevi Fountain in his uniform. After several months the Allies pushed the Germans northward but then were stopped at Nunziatella near Orvieto just short of the Gothic Line in upper Italy. It was here that Uncle Eddie's life changed. His Company ran into an ambush with the Germans holding the high ground. Uncle Eddie had trained as a machine gunner. With guns and mortar shells and cannon fire all around everyone ran for cover. Uncle Eddie set up his machine gun and was the only one returning fire. Even after he had taken several bullets to his legs he did not quit. Eventually help arrived and others came and dragged him screaming from the battlefield. The Nazis had killed or wounded many of his buddies. He spent many months recovering from his wounds and then returned to duty. Now the 36th Division had moved into Normandy and finally made their way into Belgium. Not long after another major battle began in December, 1944 and Uncle Eddie fought on. Again he was injured. The real pain was that his injuries were likely caused from 'friendly fire' which means likely from soldiers of his own Regiment. He spent almost a year recovering from these wounds but things were not the same. We would not hear from him for many years. I got married

and we had four children. One day we had gone to church only to arrive home and find that the fridge had been stuffed with five pints of ice cream and there were three more in the sink. Uncle Eddie was in the family room but we had difficulty to understand what he was saying. He left a while later but the kids and I were scared. For the next several days the kids and I would run to the house of a friend nearby and we would watch seeing him as he banged on the doors. Then he never returned. Ten years went by and then a niece reported that he had called after midnight one night but again it was very difficult to understand him. Fortune never seemed to be on his side. Sometime after he was in a hospital and it caught fire. He had to jump from the second floor of the hospital to escape the flames and broke a leg. More time went by. Once day he called the niece again and asked to speak to her mother who was his sister, Helen The niece curtly snapped that she had died. What about her husband, George? No, he's dead too. Many, many years went by with no word. We never knew whether we had chased him away or whether he kept away. We finally learned that he was likely in a veteran hospital in the Detroit area. We wrote to Veteran's Affairs and were told he did not want to talk to any of his family including the only living sibling, Rene, a sister. We got to visit him once last time at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Michigan in 2012. He is now at peace with his God: *the pain is gone.*

## WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY - VETERANS MEMORIES PROJECT



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## George Beurling



### Ed Ruckle

George Frederick "Buzz" Beurling DSO, DFC, DFM & Bar, RAF & RCAF (6 December 1921 – 20 May 1948), was the most successful Cana-

dian fighter pilot of the Second World War. Beurling was recognised as "Canada's most famous hero of Second World War", as "The Falcon of Malta" and the "Knight of Malta", having shot down 27 Axis aircraft in just 14 days over the besieged Mediterranean island. Before the war ended his total climbed to either 31 or 31 1/3. Beurling's wartime service was terminated prior to war's end. In an attempt to continue combat flying in the postwar era, Beurling lost his life in a crash while delivering an aircraft to Israel.

### Malta

Fighter pilots played a critical role in the defence of Malta during its siege. Beurling landed on the island on 9 June, after having flown off the deck of HMS Eagle aboard his Spitfire, during Operation Salient. His nickname on Malta was "Screwball", an expletive he had a habit of using. Beurling had his baptism of fire in

the mid-morning of 12 June when, flying a Spitfire, with three other pilots from 249, the formation intercepted eight Bf 109s. Beurling claimed to have blown the tail off a Bf 109, but nobody saw it hit the ground, so he was credited with a "damaged". After that, Beurling claimed a series of kills that had no equal on the Mediterranean island. On 6 July 1942, with other pilots from 249, he attacked a formation of three Cant Z1007bis, 14 Reggiane Re.2001s and more than two dozen Macchi MC.202s. He almost certainly shot down Sergente Francesco Pechiari from 352 Squadriglia. Then he claimed another Macchi that crashed near Zejtun, likely the Reggiane of Sottotenente Romano Pagliani, 152 Squadriglia. He made a third claim that day, a Messerschmitt, hit from a distance of 800 yards and was credited with three victories in his first proper air battle at Malta.



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A group of veterans who range from WWII to Afghanistan recount their personal experiences in hopes that their stories can touch Canada's next generations.

The future of Canada rests in the hands of its youth. To help them understand the history of Canada and how to make informed choices, we have to explain to them what veterans have sacrificed. Through personal accounts of combat and serving conditions the veterans featured in this film will install that freedom comes at a price. For this reason people should thank, honour and remember veterans for their sacrifices, on Remembrance Day and every day of the year.

For more information contact:  
[www.veteransmemoriesproject.com](http://www.veteransmemoriesproject.com)  
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conflicts. These events contain information that could not possibly have been covered within one semester. Especially in terms of Canadian war history, the curriculum misses the impact these events had on the soldier, the airmen and the sailor. High school history does not engage the history of

these people in a personal way. The students do not see how these wars changed the soldiers and how war has changed over time. Take a Glimpse into the Eyes of History covers areas of history lost in the generalizations of history textbooks, and gives attention that the men and

women serving in the Canadian military deserve, both past and present. Unfortunately, there are no Canadian World War I veterans to speak about their experiences in war, but we must draw from this realization the importance of gathering the stories of veterans from all wars, especially World War II.

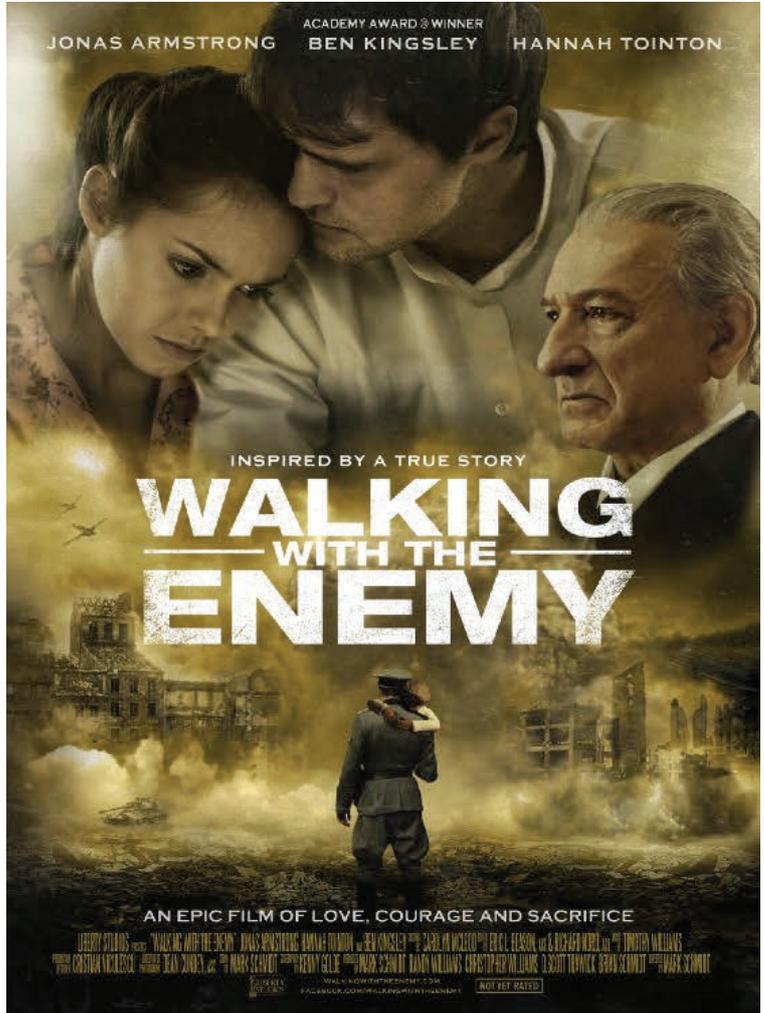
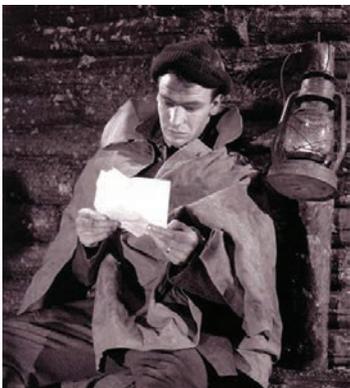
# Letters from Home

*John Michael Montgomery*

My Dear Son,  
 it is almost June,  
 I hope this letter catches up  
 to you, and finds you well  
 Its been dry  
 but they're calling for rain,  
 And everything's the same ol'  
 same in Johnsonville  
 Your stubborn 'ol Daddy  
 ain't said too much,  
 But I'm sure you know he  
 sends his love,  
 And she goes on,  
 In a letter from home  
 I hold it up and show my  
 buddies,  
 Like we ain't scared and our  
 boots ain't muddy,  
 and they all laugh,  
 Like there's something funny  
 bout' the way I talk,  
 When I say: "Mama sends  
 her best y'all"  
 I fold it up an' put it in my  
 shirt,  
 Pick up my gun an' get back  
 to work  
 An' it keeps me driving me on,  
 Waiting on letters from home  
 My Dearest Love, its almost  
 dawn  
 I've been lying here all night  
 long wondering where you  
 might be  
 I saw your Mama and I  
 showed her the ring  
 Man on the television said  
 something so I couldn't sleep  
 But I'll be all right,  
 I'm just missing you  
 An' this is me kissing you  
 XX's and OO's,  
 In a letter from home  
 I hold it up and show my  
 buddies,  
 Like we ain't scared and our  
 boots ain't muddy, and they  
 all laugh,  
 'Cause she calls me "Honey",  
 but they take it hard,  
 'Cause I don't read the good



parts  
 I fold it up an' put it in my  
 shirt,  
 Pick up my gun an' get back  
 to work  
 An' it keeps me driving me on,  
 Waiting on letters from home  
 Dear Son, I know I ain't  
 written,  
 But sittin' here tonight, alone  
 in the kitchen, it occurs to  
 me,  
 I might not have said,  
 so I'll say it now  
 Son, you make me proud  
 I hold it up and show my  
 buddies,  
 Like we ain't scared and our  
 boots ain't muddy,  
 but no one laughs,  
 'Cause there ain't nothing  
 funny when a soldier cries  
 An' I just wipe me eyes  
 I fold it up an' put it in my  
 shirt,  
 Pick up my gun an' get back  
 to work  
 An' it keeps me driving me on,  
 Waiting on letters from  
 home.



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 Spring 2015

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## Bridges: World War I Museum

Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri houses the official World War I museum of the United States. Designated in 2004 by the United States Congress as America's official museum dedicated to World War I, the new museum opened to the public in December 2006. The new subterranean facility was designed by Ralph Appelbaum Associates and greatly expands the original facilities that are still housed on the main deck of the Liberty Memorial: Exhibition Hall and Memory Hall. Memory Hall includes murals originally painted for the Panthéon de la Guerre in Paris, and adapted by LeRoy Daniel MacMorris in the 1950s. The National World War I Museum tells the story of the Great War and related global events from their origins before 1914 through the 1918 Armistice and 1919 Paris Peace Conference. Visitors enter the 32,000-square-foot (3,000 m<sup>2</sup>) facility across a glass bridge above a field of 9,000 red poppies, each one represent-

ing 1,000 World War I combatant deaths. The museum consists of:

- Two theaters that provide visitors with an educational narrative
  - Exhibitions with period artifacts including:
    - A Renault FT tank
    - Uniforms such as Paul von Hindenburg's Model 1915 Field Jacket[14]
    - Guns
    - Maps
    - Photographs of major forces
    - Propaganda posters
    - State-of-the-art interactive displays
    - Replica trenches
    - A research center and library carrying 60,000 archival documents and three-dimensional objects and nearly 6,000 library titles
    - Multi-purpose conference room and classroom
    - Museum store
    - The Over There Café
- The first part of the museum focuses on

the beginning of the Great War pre-U.S. involvement, while the last group of museum galleries focuses on the United States' military and civilian involvement in the war and President Woodrow Wilson's efforts for peace.

Throughout the year, the museum hosts special guest lecturers, authors, exhibitions, plays and films related to World War I. Actors Kevin Costner and Louis Gossett Jr. are members of the museum's honorary board.

To ensure the stories of the First World War are not lost for future generations, the Museum continues to seek additions to its collection. Learn how you can donate an object and help the Museum fulfill its mission.

“The most striking thing [about visiting the Museum] was to see the way in which the Museum is free of a national narrative; it really tries to tackle the subject comparatively, which, on the whole, most national museums fail to do.”

## In the Army Now

*From a Nova Scotia farm kid now at a Recruit Training Depot. Likes to write with large print.*

Dear Ma and Pa:

I am well Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Army beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up

quick before maybe all of the places are filled. I was restless at first because you got to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m., but am getting so I like to sleep late.

*Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc, but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food*

Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot and shine some things No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc, but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food, but tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys from Halifax that live on coffee. Their food plus yours holds you till noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much. We go on "route marches", which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A "route march" is about as far as to

our mailbox at home.

Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks.

The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags a lot.

The Capt. is like the school board. Majors and colonels just ride around and frown.

They don't bother you none. This next will kill Walt and

Elmer with laughing. I got a medal for shooting. I don't know why The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you

like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them two city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Tug MacDonald from over Lawrencetown way. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds, and he's 6'8" and weighs near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

*Your loving daughter,  
Gale*



Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

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Office of the Mayor  
Kenneth M. Antaya

November 2014

### 2014 VETERAN'S APPRECIATION DAY

I am proud to be a Canadian.

This time of year evokes an assortment of emotions.

We, as a society, are thankful we live in a free country, but sometimes do not realize what was forfeited to ensure that freedom.

Young lives.....shattered dreams.....broken promises....heroic sacrifices.

Each of the lives lost in these struggles represent the building blocks of our freedom, every one vital to the foundation of our liberty.

We set aside a small part of our year, to honour the brave men and women who fought for our freedoms.

When you encounter a veteran, recognize their contribution, thank them, appreciate them, and never ever forget them.....they will not....must not....be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Antaya  
Mayor

HEALTHY VIBRANT CARING



## The Town of LaSalle



November 11<sup>th</sup> evokes an assortment of emotions,

We honour the memory of our fallen soldiers and recognize that these were young people sent to a foreign land to fight oppression and defend democracy. They did not even know what they were there for. They just knew their country needed them and they answered the call.

Let us not take our freedom for granted. When you encounter a veteran, recognize their contribution, thank them, appreciate them and never ever forget them.



Town of LaSalle Council

Mayor – Ken Antaya

Deputy Mayor – Mark Carrick

Councilors: Marc Bondy, Sue Desjardis, Ray Renaud, Terry Burns and Crystal Melone

## A Chance Encounter with Charles Davis

By Terri and Courtney Davis Fitzpatrick



You know what they say; everything happens for a reason.

It all started out with a newspaper article. Ewen

Mitchell, 10, son of Stacey Mitchell, was so taken by what he learned in school about World War II as the 70th anniversary of D-Day approached. He was so intrigued, that he wanted to learn more. Stacey thought a good way for him to see what those young men went through so many years ago in the fight for our freedom, was to watch the movie *Saving Private Ryan* with her son. The movie *Private Ryan* depicts a less glorified version of the horrors that played out as these soldiers risked, and in many cases lost their young lives. After watching the film, Ewen's tearful response was one beyond his years: Mom, how can I thank these men?

Enter a Windsor Star article published on May 30, 2014, detailing the story of 91 year old WWII Veteran Charles

Davis, and his planned pilgrimage back to the beaches of France to commemorate the significant anniversary on June 6, 2014. The article, featured Mr. Davis story, along with a picture of him and his granddaughter, Courtney Fitzpatrick. Upon seeing the story, Stacey told Ewen that she worked with Courtney and might be able to arrange a meeting. Ewen was ecstatic! Nervous that he might not be able to keep his composure, Ewen decided he wanted to first write Charles a letter, thanking him for his service and sacrifice. Stacey passed Courtney the letter, which Courtney read to her Grandfather, as he has some difficulty seeing and hearing. The very sweet letter had a big impact on Mr. Davis, who wanted to take Ewen up on his offer to buy [him] a beer some time. So on Friday, July 11, 2014, that's exactly what he did! Stacey, her husband Kevin, and her other two children Mia and Declan accompanied Ewen to meet Mr. Davis at the Canadian Anglo Club in Riverside. It was like a meeting of two old friends, with both



Ewen and Mr. Davis grinning from ear to ear, and even becoming quite emotional at times. Mr. Davis brought a few little trinkets, such as pins and postcards for Ewen, and even let him try on his jacket bearing his war medals! Mr. Davis was impressed by Ewen's interest and gratefulness for something that happened some sixty years before he was born. Mr. Davis told Ewen that him going to France for the D-Day celebrations was great, because it led to the article, and now I got to meet you, and here we are, he said tearfully, giving Ewen a squeeze. It was a great experience for both, and one they'll not soon forget!

# TRANSIT WINDSOR WOULD LIKE TO SALUTE OUR VETERANS

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Veterans for the daily benefits we continue to enjoy as a result of the battles they fought, and continue to fight.

On November 11, we pay our respects by honouring the sacrifices of our Veterans with a moment of silence. All Transit Windsor buses will pull over and stop for a moment of silence to acknowledge the brave efforts of our Veterans and service people around the world.

Here's to our loyal soldiers past and present – we will never forget your contribution to freedom in Canada and a more peaceful society.



For more information:

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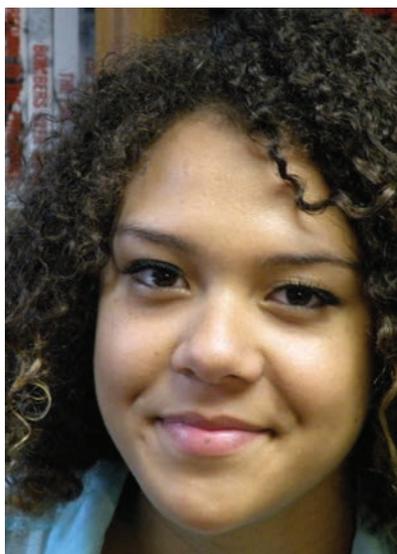


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DRIVING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

## Students Projects



Jazmine

### ■ Jazmine's Story ■

History is probably one of the most dreaded subjects a teenager has to take in highschool (aside from math and science). But have you ever stopped to think that maybe it's not the subject itself, it's the person teaching the subject to you? Personally, my history teacher was amazing; she made history interesting, fun, and could list battles, the year they took place, how many Canadians lost their lives etc., right off the top of her head! The rest of you may not of have had the luxury of a great history teacher-- that is one of the main reasons why Veterans Memories Project is a must see film in your secondary school experience.

After watching Veterans Memories Project it opened up my eyes to a whole new light: You get to experience WWII told by people who were actually there rather than reading about it in a textbook. The stories become real: Real people, real emotions, and real blood was shed. These veterans describe their time at war as if it just happened yesterday: They talk about their siblings, close friends before the war and close friends after the war, but the most interesting and terrifying part about these stories is the fact that these veterans were only a few years older than you and I are today. I cannot describe to you the fear they felt when they were being sent off to war but I will try to make it as relatable and comprehensible as I can.

All of us have walked home late one night by ourselves or maybe with a group-- whether it be from a party, a friends house,



Alyssa

### ■ Alyssa's Story ■

or the movies, and as your friends near their houses you eventually all separate until you're alone. You begin to notice how eerie everything becomes at night. You walk past a dark alley (or that one street your parents told you to avoid if you're by yourself) and naturally, you can avoid this area and walk in the opposite direction but unfortunately, this isn't always the case. If you were a soldier at war you don't get to make that decision; everywhere you turn is a dark alley-- you can't yell to your friends because it puts you at risk of being exposed to the enemy. When you're a kid however, walking home, and the cat knocks over a garbage can it startles you; in war that becomes the sound of gunshots, bombs exploding and the cries of your friends.

These veterans underwent all this and more for the free country we have the privilege to live in today. We should be thanking them 365 days a year not just on November 11th. Next time you're in a remembrance day assembly questioning why you have to be there take a look at your parents or your grandparents: If Canada wasn't a free country would you still be standing where you are today?

So much to protect the country and everything it stands for. All the veterans are their country's heroes. They deserve to be remembered by people today. The Windsor Historical Society's Veterans Memories Project, Veterans' Day Magazines, and the amazing video of veterans speaking to students, all these hard-working and great efforts made by the society can help people



Arielle

### ■ Arielle's Story ■

remember the history and the loveliest people who served Canada in times of wars, conflict as well as peace. Moreover, I feel that the Veterans Memories Project is a very valuable way to educate the young generations. They can learn from the veterans' experience and cherish more of their hard-earned peace and happy life.

All in all, I feel so honoured that I am a member of a good organization and am doing such meaningful work. I appreciate what the Windsor Historical Society has done for its population, for society and for Canadian history. Going on my second year with the Veterans' Memories Project has been riveting as we continue to expand and do more for our veterans. Seeing this organization become more prominent on an international level as well as

Watching Veterans' Faces take off has been an extremely rewarding and valuable experience. I just recently began university for history and there is no greater gift than to assist an organization that works in the field that interests me. Working for the Veterans' Memories Project has given me advantages and has allowed me to feel much more connected to the material I have been studying surrounding the world wars. Some students are looking at primary documents written by veterans for the first time, I on the other hand work with people every week who are primary sources. I have constant access to an unbelievable amount of content that is increasingly more valid in my life. This opportunity I have been blessed with is

becoming rarer each passing month with the amount of veterans who are passing away in recent years. Being able to work in the area that I love while going to school is a privilege not many people receive. I applaud Veterans' Memories Project for their valiant efforts this year at preserving the memories of our country's veterans and their contributions to making our world a better place.

■ Kiana' Story ■

Hello Veterans Memories Project I'd like to tell you a little bit about myself beyond what my resume speaks. Other than that I am a second-year University studying pursuing a future that links well to my program (B.A.H. Combined Honours Psychology and Criminology), I volunteer quite frequently. One of the main purposes as to why I choose to spend my time volunteering is that I have an immense appetite for opportunity.

I am a self-proclaim opportunist. I have an uncanny amount of life experience and I'm only turning nineteen I am a strong believer in the trial and error method, thankfully, from a professional standpoint I have been 'blessed' with the ability to adapt to nearly any circumstance proposed to me. I am a fast learner and my worst critique, so please, by any means, feed me constructive criticism. I am assertive and have found

myself utilizing my ability to exhaust leadership. Confidently, I am a leader, I opt to encouraging people and tasks, events, and Kiana etcetera.

Paradoxically, I am outgoing and laid-back. I have a serious motivation to understand humans and humanity. I take any scenario and evaluate it from many to any possible standpoints. Much like was mentioned in the trailer of your video you had me view yesterday; where a Massey high school history student had referred to history textbooks like math, where he says, "it's just following equation after equation; 1 + 1 is equal to 2. However, the Veterans stories, the movie, after being interviewed, the Veterans, it's just like Art, there are different ways to look at it; it's not one fixed perspective." I look at things factually, professionally, personally, morally or ethically, philosophically, amorally, simply and etcetera. I do this so that I can understand a wide range of perspectives insofar as thinking critically and acting accordingly. Who I am cognitively, is who I am whole-heartedly.

I am dedicated, compassionate, professional, honest, critical and a realist. Most of all, I can never get enough knowledge. It's something that can be learned both in an outside of an educational institution, it's ac-

quired routinely in an array of ways. Knowledge is definite and infinite power. Through this organization, Windsor Historical Society, Veterans Memories Project I believe that I will acquire so much knowledge and I cannot wait to do so Much thanks, Sincerely, Kiana Burton  
My Experience at Veterans Memories Project By Alyssa I am an international student who is doing a master's degree at the University of Windsor. I was very lucky to get the opportunity to volunteer at Windsor Historical Society through the VIP program. As a student who has never worked before, I felt excited, but tense at the same time. I felt excited because I have always dreamt of working in marketing, and they gave me the opportunity. I was tense due to the fact I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to keep up or complete my work satisfactorily; however, that was not the case.

I remember clearly, the first day I volunteered, I watched a video they produce called Take a Glimpse into the Eyes of History, through which I learned about Canadian history and the effort Canadian veterans dedicated to protect their country. I was touched by these veterans' stories. They served with strength and dignity and they sacrificed so much.

# Thank You to our War Veterans Lest we forget



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## Frank Doolittle's Story



Way back in 1941 I was 17, I was working on war work in a machine shop for 12 hours a day, seven days a week, for ten and a half months. I didn't want to be a machinist that bad but I wanted to fly. So when I turned 18 I applied to go to North Bay where the recruiting office was but they said my education was insufficient for air crew. I had a nice letter from the principal that said Frank is from a very nice family, and he has three years in high school two years in the first form and one in the second. At least he didn't say I failed the second one. So I guess he thought I wanted to fly really badly. The recruiter said there's a course set up in Ottawa designed for aircrew and if you can pass this course you're in. So, they gave me ten bucks a week for my room and board and some books. I had never done any studying in my life, I had no use for it, but I put my nose to the books and I passed that course. I'm sure it wasn't flying colours but they accepted me and sent me to basic training in Quebec. We had instruction at Eglington Hunt Club in Toronto and after a couple more postings I was in the #7 EFT5 in Windsor. That's where my folks had moved to. I got flying but only with an instructor. They said you're just not a natu-

ral, they didn't say those words but that's what I figured. I had quite a bit of flying instruction and training so they recommended me to go air bomber; I could use my flying experience if the need came up in an emergency. So, after a brief posting to Toronto I was posted at Jarvis Bombing and Gunnery School, where I learned a lot about bombs and how to get them on the target. We practiced in an avro anson aircraft dropping smoke bombs on the target. That was the kind of thing that suited me fine because I was very diversified. I went and practiced bombing and I was flying. Gunnery was fun too. Shooting at droges towed by aircrafts

from Bowling Brooks and there might have been three or four of us and we took turns shooting at this droge. I remember that because I guess my elevation was pretty good because I shot the cable of once. I thought I might have gotten to use my parachute training. We had instruction in that and some ground school and we had a cable going from the rafters and we'd climb into the rafters and slide down that cable and it was just the angle so when you hit the deck it was just like landing with a parachute. I thought I would get to practice so I asked the pilot if I could bail out. He was a civilian pilot just for our exercise. One engine

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had quit and he had to land and we were high enough there and I thought I could bail out and get some parachute experience and he screamed, "You get back here and secure yourself for a forced landing!" Well I think I kinda turned him off but anyway he put that plane down into a field no problem. They flew out the next day I understood. I graduated from all these courses; the navigation course was the final one because that's where I received my wings and it was presented by Billy Bishop, the famous WWI pilot. I had him instruct me in a couple gunnery exercises. I don't think I learned very much from him. We got a two week leave. I should have told you in Windsor I found my love. I met her at a dance and I crawled under the fence a few times for her, and when I came back after the war I married her. So after those two weeks I went to Halifax and to a Canadian report base in Bournemouth England. It was a peace time tourist center but there was no elevator for us. We had to use the stairs. Everything was really economized during the war, you didn't waste anything. I was on the third floor and I didn't want to carry the huge duffle bag down the stairs, so I went on the balcony and dropped it down. Well, I guess the terminal velocity was too much for it, cause when it hit the ground it busted open so I spent some time cleaning up before we were shipped out to Scotland.

I was on my way to Wigtown, Scotland, #1 (o) AFU, where I racked up another 36 hrs' in Ansons dropping practice bombs, infrared bombing and other training' I was RAF now and I shivered the six or seven weeks in Wigtown. It was December, very damp and freezing or close to it, most of the time.

One night on a long run over France and down into Italy, because sometimes we would try to surprise the enemy by coming in from the South through the mountains. I was getting tired of flying straight and level and decided to put "George" in. It locked in on heading and lateral control but didn't want to come back to programmed altitude as I got a blast from the tail 56Doolittle, what's going on up there?" "Just putting George in, Skipper". "No! No! Take it out, it don't work!" I guess I lost 500 ft. but after that he clued me in a little more. Even new planes can have glitches.

Another instance sticks in my mind when the navigator screamed at the top of his lungs, "LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!!" We were over Dusseldorf and the Skipper was having a hard time getting me on the target, avoiding the search lights etc. I had to call "DLMMY RUN" twice. That's when the navigator screamed. I was afraid he might have gone into shock, as I have seen happen, but he brought us back. We did get our "cookie" on the target and the incendiaries where the cookie made the kindling. We never really encountered enemy fighter attacks as we searched diligently and if we spotted one we would let fly a few rounds and when he saw the tracers he would usually go look for someone else. I hope we didn't chase any Spits or Hurricanes away. We were very fortunate that we didn't lose our rear gunner as a piece of shrapnel went through his turret where his head would have been if he hadn't been leaning forward. They had that patched for our next scheduled flight.

We often did one night raid, one day raid for three day and not "hit the sack" The 'wakey wakey" pills worked well but the Skipper did catch me sleeping once, I have to admit.

Maybe I was a bit of loner because whenever we did get leave I seemed to go off on my own, but had no trouble making friends.

One night in London I got a very pleasant surprise. I feel sure, now, that it was an Act of God. I was standing in a store alcove in a pitch dark blackout when I heard people talking in the next alcove. The voice was familiar so I called out "Bob Little!" "Frank Doolittle!" came the reply. The best friend I had made in two years of

training. We did the navigation course together in Canada and never really got together since. He had two nice girls on the hook so we did the London town together. I was very saddened to hear, later, that their crew didn't return from a raid. I did get to meet his parents back in Canada, and offer my condolences.

Another night in London. Well I don't remember the night but I was awakened by the manager of the Duchie Hotel trying to get my door open. Apparently it was jammed and I was lying on the floor with all the bedding on top of me. A buzz bomb had landed close by and my windows were open to the ceiling but weren't broken.

Occasionally we flew over Norway and Sweden to approach from another direction. The Skipper wasn't at all concerned about the flack they sent up but, I'm sure, if a German aircraft flew over, their accuracy would improve greatly. They were neutral.

Referring to my log book, I'll list some of our targets: stettin, Dormstadt' Konigsberg' Le Havre, Boulogne, Bermerhaven, Rheydt, Munster, Dartmund, Ems canal, Karlsruhe, Bremen' Kaiserslautern, wilhelmshaven, Flushing, Brunswick, Bergen, Homburg, Harburg' Dusseldorf' Mitterland canar, Munich, Heil-brown, Geissen. I would consider them pretty "hot targets" but we were a pretty hot crew. I wasn't 21 yet and I was the oldest one in our crew we were fearless and, I think that is what got us through' one experience will stick in my mind even though I wasn't involved' I witnessed two pathfinder mosquitoes collide over Lincoln while I was "on the town" I've never seen fireworks to equal that. One plane just exploded, the other spiraling down in the middle of it minus one wing Those things happened but certainly not advertised well, that pretty well concluded my ops. I completed 31' operational trips' I was awarded my little gold operational wings that I cherish.

Flying was in my blood, now. Ask me about any of these experiences or any of my civilian experiences that I encountered over the following 68 years; believe me there were a few!



*November 11th, marks a day of reflection to honour all war veterans who fought in the war and sacrificed their lives to bring peace to the world so we can celebrate our freedom. Thank-you.*



**Town of Lakeshore Council**  
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**Deputy Mayor—Al Fazio**  
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**Steven Bezaire, Linda McKinlay and**  
**Charles McLean**

# Second World War – The Arsenal Of Democracy

*Written by Mickey Moulder*



Much as been written about the magnitude of the Allies war production efforts in the Second

World War. General Eisenhower said that “the Allies record of production, as well as on the battle field, is one that will fill our histories forever”. Today, just 70 years later however, I am not sure much of this achievement is taught in our schools or talked about in general. Donald Nelson, the head of the American War Production Board stated that the Allied manufacturing effort of the Second World War “was probably the greatest collective achievement of all time. It makes the seven wonders of the ancient world look like the doodling of a small boy.” The American auto industry contributed mightily to this output with its plants in the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa and elsewhere. Unfortunately, American auto plants in France, Belgium, Germany, Japan and elsewhere also were commandeered by the Axis Powers and used to produce war materiel for their side.

Canada became the fourth largest Allied manufacturer after the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union but only needed 30 per cent for its own use and the rest was exported all across the globe to Britain, the Soviet Union, India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Latin America, and the U.S.A., North Africa, the Middle East and the Far East including Burma and China. All major combat zones through out the war used Canadian made armaments and goods. Canada supplied more heavy trucks than all of Nazi Germany’s plants combined. Out of a total of 816,000 heavy CMP model military trucks produced for the British Empire during the war, over 500,000 were produced by Chevrolet and Ford in Canada and half of this number was made right here in Windsor. Before the war, Canada’s aerospace industry was comprised of only 8 small plants turning out 40 aircraft annually. By 1945 Canada employed

116,000 aircraft workers which during the war, produced a total of 16,500 airplanes from four engine bombers to twin engine and single engine fighter planes, dive bombers, long range patrol flying boats and training aircraft. As for ships, 126,000 Canadian men and women produced over 4,000 naval vessels including landing crafts, over 300 anti-submarine war ships including 4 Tribal class destroyers and 410 cargo and navy support vessels. By 1943, Canadian shipyards could produce a 10,000 ton cargo ship in just 58 days from start to finish. In the U.S., Kaiser Industries in California, Washington State, Oregon and in British Columbia began mass producing Liberty and Victory cargo ships from keel to launch in just 45 days with one ship being built in just 4 days time in California. At a Kaiser shipyard in Vancouver a slightly smaller cargo ship was built in just 71 hours and 40 minutes. By 1943 all of the thousands of cargo ships sunk by Adolf Hitler’s forces since 1939 had been replaced.

When the United States entered World War II in December, 1941 it had 7 aircraft carriers and by the end of the war in August 1945 it had 163 aircraft carriers. In addition, the United States produced over 300,000 military aircraft of every size and variety and at the cutting edge of design while Britain produced 132,000 war planes,

Germany 120,000, Italy 12,000, Japan 76,000 and the Soviet Union 158,000. In addition to finished products like tanks, armored cars, troop carriers, aircraft, ships, guns, ammunition, shells, machine tools, tires every type of raw material needed to be produced such as crude oil, gasoline, rubber, aluminum, iron ore, steel, glass, gun powder and endless other chemicals and pharmaceuticals etc. And literally several thousand new factories had to be built and countless plants expanded and all their manufacturing tools, fixtures, and literally billions of various component parts of every design and configuration were required to be designed, manufactured, transported, and assembled into sub assemblies, and assemblies and then final assembled into their finished products. Millions of uniforms, boots, gloves, helmets, webbing gear, shirts, buttons, belts, socks, coats, hats... you name it had to be designed and made. And what about the tens of millions of workers needed to be trained and staff the explosion of industry that took place almost overnight while gasoline and rubber were rationed? And who was to grow all the food while so many sons enlisted in the military? Hundreds of thousands and millions of new electrical, mechanical, aeronautical and manufacturing engineers, tool and die makers, machinists, mechanics, construction workers, airline pilots, navigators, co-pilots,



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naval officers, and endless highly skilled technicians were needed to be identified, educated and trained.

Here is a quick glance of the magnitude of what occurred during the Second World War:

Total Allied combat personnel including army, navy, air force, merchant marine, auxiliaries and irregulars numbered 80 million personnel while the Axis powers of German, Italy and Japan including eastern European countries pressed into service numbered 30 million.

<u>Allies</u>	<u>Axis</u>
Tanks, Self Propelled Guns, Trucks, Jeeps etc.	
4,400,000	670,000
Artillery, Motors, Guns	
6,800,000	1,400,000
Aircraft	
637,000	230,000
Missiles	
0	45,500
Ships	
55,000	1,700
Nuclear Weapons	
3	0
Aircraft Carriers	
199	16
Battle Ships	
16	5
Cruisers	
152	17
Destroyers	
665	86
Frigates	
209	0
Corvettes	
387	0
Patrol Boats	
4,209	30
Submarines	
568	1,414
Mine Sweepers	
1,244	50
Landing Craft	
44,500	50

As noted earlier Henry Kaiser was a major mass producer of ships during the war using assembly line methods unheard of up until that time. Two other people who re-invented the way airplanes were produced were Edsel Ford and his right hand man Charles Sorensen. They applied moving assembly line methods to producing B 24 bombers which no one to this day has ever come close to duplicating. Henry Ford himself

was not a factor in getting things produced in WW II... it was his son Edsel and his team who persevered. For example the Ford Motor Company produced bombers, amphibious vehicles, armored cars, Universal troop carriers, trucks, squad tents, the M4 and M 10 tanks, airplane gliders, 14 and 16 cylinder aircraft engines and 30,000 12 cylinder Rolls Royce Merlin aircraft engines in Manchester England, Jeeps and endless major components for innumerable manufacturers and dedicated over 220,000 people in the U.S. alone to this effort.

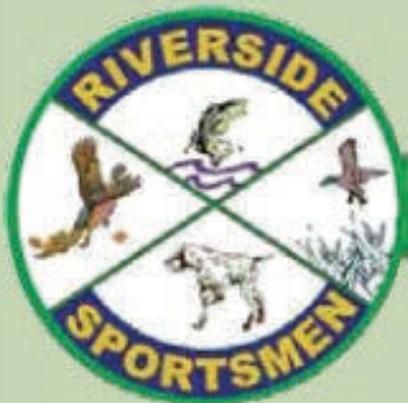
Other automotive initiatives included General Motors making Allison aircraft engines, Avenger and Wildcat fighter aircraft and tank destroyers, amphibious DUCK troop landing craft, trucks, machine guns, bullets, motor shells etc. Chrysler built a new tank plant in Warren Michigan and by 1943 was building more tanks than all the tank factories of Nazi Germany combined and its engineers were developing diffusers used on the atomic bomb. The President of GM, William Knudsen was made a lieutenant general in the U.S. Army and made Director of War Production and visited 1,200 factories, flying 300,000 miles while heading up the American war time production effort. He gave up a \$300,000 per year salary at GM to make \$1.00 per year working for the war effort. The Packard Motor Company in Detroit built 60,000 of the total 150,000 V12 Rolls Royce Merlin aircraft engines. Here in Canada the Inglis people in Montreal made Bren Machine Guns, Westinghouse in New Jersey made bomb sights and radar, Kleenex Tissue Co. made machine gun mounts, an orange-squeezer company made bullet molds, a casket maker produced airplane parts and a pinball machine maker turned out armour piercing shells while Dow Chemical invented Saran Wrap to pro-

tect guns, tanks munitions etc while being shipped overseas.

In 1940, one year before the USA came into the war the American unemployment rate was 17.2 per cent. In the spring of 1943 the rate fell to 4.7 per cent. The Great Depression was finally over. The state of Michigan alone, received 10 per cent of all war production contracts worth trillions of dollars in today's money. Only New York with more than double Michigan's population received more. The City of Detroit was growing so fast it threatened to surpass Philadelphia as the third largest city in America. General Motors became the number one defense contractor followed by aviation powerhouse Curtis-Wright followed by the Ford Motor Company.

Edsel Ford and Sorensen broke ground on the largest industrial plant under one roof in March, 1941 on hundreds of acres of Ford Motor Company land in Ypsilanti Michigan called Willow Run. When completed this 3.5 million square foot, 80 acre (1.5 miles) plant along with its six, 160 foot wide runways ranging in length from 6363 ft up to 7286 feet created not only a gargantuan new manufacturing plant but one of the largest airports in the world. It eventually employed and housed over 42,000 people and began building the Consolidated B 24 four engine bomber that could fly nearly 3,000 miles with its revolutionary long, narrow wing design.

On September 10, 1942 Ford delivered its first B 24 Liberator bomber. No one believed that Ford could build a bomber an hour... in 1940 the Consolidated Aircraft plant in California was building just 12 bombers per month...mostly by hand and



*"Thanks to all the Veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us"*

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many parts on the plane did not match the blueprints. This plane consisted of 1.1 million parts and was cutting edge technology (over 1,000 engineering design changes implemented during war). Ford built the plant, runways, housing, roads, hired tens of thousands of people, trained them, fed them, built the machine tools with which to make major components and assemble and test the plane seemingly overnight. The pressure on Ford to produce was overwhelming.

Against all odds, Ford finally achieved one bomber per hour production (400 per month) just one month after D-Day in July, 1944 and 22 months since production began. At the end of June, 1945 bomber number 8,685 rolled off the assembly line; the last Ford built B 24 Liberator. Four manufacturers produced a total of 18,482 Liberators during the war and 8,685 were made by Ford at Willow Run. The cost to make each Liberator bomber by Ford dropped from \$238,000 at the beginning of production to \$137,000 at the end. Under the guidance of Edsel Ford and "Cast Iron" Charlie Sorensen, the Ford Motor Company in the U.S. alone built 57,851 aviation engines at its Rouge complex in Detroit, 277,896 Jeeps, 93,217 trucks, 26,954 tank engines, 2,718 tanks, 87,390 aircraft generators, 52,281 aircraft superchargers, 10,877 squad tents, 12,314 armored cars, and 2,400 jet bomb engines (an American copy of the German V1 and V2 flying bombs), 4,291 invasion airplane gliders. The total dollar figure of war materiel that came off company assembly lines in America (not including all other countries in which Ford factories produced war materiel) was \$5 billion in 1945 dollars representing many trillions of dollars in today's money.

With all of our computers and modern wizardry, could we ever hope to accomplish what these men and women did from 1939 to 1945? I think not. Of course today manufacturing only represents about 12 per cent of the American and Canadian economies while in the 1940s manufacturing made up about 26 per cent of GDP.

In any case, we have a Second World War automotive based production history of which to be most proud and our Ford and Chrysler plants along with many secondary supplier operations here in Windsor made a huge contribution. Please pass this knowledge along to your kids and grandkids before it is forgotten.

Mickey Moulder

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## British Salute Canada



*Written by Kevin Myers*

■ Until the deaths of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, probably almost no one outside their home country had been aware that Canadian troops are deployed in the region. And as always, Canada will bury its dead, just as the rest of the world, as always will forget its sacrifice, just as it always forgets nearly everything Canada ever does.

It seems that Canada's historic mission is to come to the selfless aid both of its friends and of complete strangers, and then, once the crisis is over, to be well and truly ignored.

Canada is the perpetual wallflower that stands on the edge of the hall, waiting for someone to come and ask her for a dance. A fire breaks out, she risks life and limb to rescue her fellow dance-goers, and suffers serious injuries. But when the hall is repaired and the dancing resumes, there is Canada, the wallflower still, while those she once helped glamorously cavort across the floor, blithely neglecting her yet again.

That is the price Canada pays for sharing the North American continent with the United States, and for being a selfless friend of Britain in two global conflicts. For much of the 20th century, Canada was torn in two different directions: It seemed to be a part of the old world, yet had an address in the new one, and that divided identity ensured that it never fully got the gratitude it deserved. Yet its purely voluntary contribution to the cause of freedom in two world wars was perhaps the greatest of any democracy. Almost 10% of Canada's entire population of seven million people served in the armed forces during the First World War, and nearly 60,000 died. The great Allied

victories of 1918 were spearheaded by Canadian troops, perhaps the most capable soldiers in the entire British order of battle.

Canada was repaid for its enormous sacrifice by downright neglect, its unique contribution to victory being absorbed into the popular Memory as somehow or other the work of the "British."

The Second World War provided a re-run. The Canadian navy began the war with a half dozen vessels, and ended up policing nearly half of the Atlantic against U-boat attack. More than 120 Canadian warships participated in the Normandy landings, during which 15,000 Canadian soldiers went ashore on D-Day alone. Canada finished the war with the third-largest navy and the fourth-largest air force in the world.

The world thanked Canada with the same sublime indifference as it had the previous time. Canadian participation in the war was acknowledged in film only if it was necessary to give an American actor a part in a campaign in which the United States had clearly not participated - a touching scrupulousness which, of course, Hollywood has since abandoned, as it has any notion of a separate Canadian identity.

So it is a general rule that actors and filmmakers arriving in Hollywood keep their nationality - unless, that is, they are Canadian. Thus Mary Pickford, Walter Huston, Donald Sutherland, Michael J. Fox, William Shatner, Norman Jewison, David Cronenberg, Alex Trebek, Art Linkletter and Dan Aykroyd have in the popular perception become American, and Christopher Plummer, British.

It is as if, in the very act of becoming famous, a Canadian ceases to be Canadian, unless she is Margaret Atwood, who is as unshakably Canadian as a moose, or Celine Dion, for whom

Canada has proved quite unable to find any takers.

Moreover, Canada is every bit as querulously alert to the achievements of its sons and daughters as the rest of the world is completely unaware of them. The Canadians proudly say of themselves - and are unheard by anyone else - that 1% of the world's population has provided 10% of the world's peacekeeping forces. Canadian soldiers in the past half century have been the greatest peacekeepers on Earth - in 39 missions on UN mandates, and six on non-UN peacekeeping duties, from Vietnam to East Timor, from Sinai to Bosnia. Yet the only foreign engagement that has entered the popular on - Canadian imagination was the sorry affair in Somalia, in which out-of-control paratroopers murdered two Somali infiltrators. Their regiment was then disbanded in disgrace - a uniquely Canadian act of self-abasement for which, naturally, the Canadians received no international credit.

So who today in the United States knows about the stoic and selfless friendship its northern neighbour has given it in Afghanistan? Rather like Cyrano de Bergerac, Canada repeatedly does honourable things for honourable motives, but instead of being thanked for it, it remains something of a figure of fun. It is the Canadian way, for which Canadians should be proud, yet such honour comes at a high cost. This past year more grieving Canadian families knew that cost all too tragically well.

Kevin Myers, The Sunday Telegraph  
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## The Final Inspection

The soldier stood and faced God,  
Which must always come to pass  
He hoped his shoes were shining,  
Just as brightly as his brass.

'Step forward now, you soldier,  
How shall I deal with you ?  
Have you always turned the other cheek ?  
To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,  
'No, Lord, I guess I ain't.  
Because those of us who carry guns,  
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,  
And at times my talk was tough.  
And sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,  
That wasn't mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime,  
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God, forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,  
Among the people here.  
They never wanted me around,  
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,  
It needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,  
Where the saints had often trod.  
As the soldier waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God.

'Step forward now, you soldier,  
You've borne your burdens well.  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in Hell.'

Author Unknown~



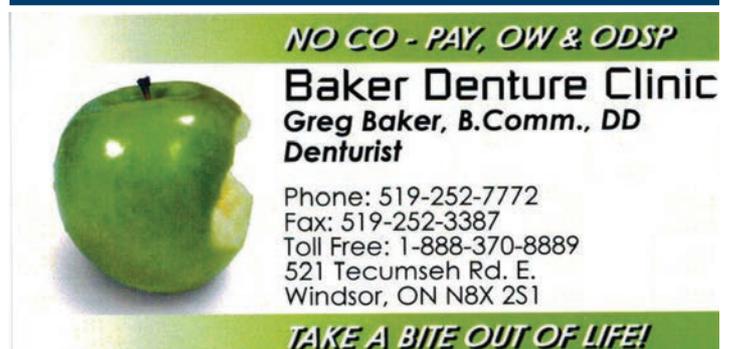
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**LEST WE FORGET - Wear a Poppy to show your respect on Remembrance (Veterans) Day and remember that saying thank-you is not a religious thing, it is gratitude!**

[www.VeteransMemoriesProject.com](http://www.VeteransMemoriesProject.com)

## D-Day Conneaut, Ohio



D-Day Ohio is quickly becoming America's premier living history events. This free to the public reenactment is a highly realistic and educational reenactment of the WWII European Theater of Operations and the D-Day Normandy invasion.

**The Mission: Memento Sempre**  
The mission is to educate the public about the sacrifice of those who fought and those who died on the beaches of Normandy, June 6, 1944 and to encourage remembrance, honor, and respect for the soldiers of the Allied and Axis armies of World War II.

**The Vision:**  
It is the purpose of D-Day Ohio, Inc. to faithfully preserve the events of June 6, 1944 by annually sponsoring "D-day Conneaut." The event commemorates the World War II battle

that occurred on the Normandy coast in early June of 1944 between the Allied and Axis armies.

D-day Conneaut is a cultural and historical reenactment of the WWII era. Great attention is given to participant authenticity so we can create a living history of WWII. Beyond the reenactment of the beach attacks by WWII re-enactors, an encampment of both Allied and Axis troops will be held to share the daily life of the soldiers of both armies.

Through the encampments, battle reenactments, lectures, displays and tours, the public gains an understanding of the events that occurred prior to June 6, 1944, and the sacrifices made

during and after the invasion. Special recognition is given to all U.S. and Canadian veterans, particularly those who served in WWII.

Plan to attend D-Day Ohio, 21-22 August, 2015. For information please contact Ed Ruckle at [www.veterans-faces.com](http://www.veterans-faces.com) or call 226-783-1311 for details.

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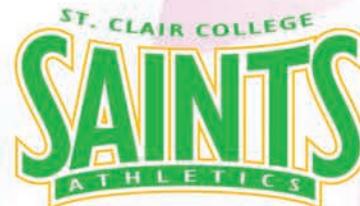


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# VETERANS MEMORIES PROJECT

## WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**TEACHERS, EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, PARENTS:**

**‘Take a Glimpse into the Eyes of History’ DVD**

**NOTE: This Documentary Will Not Be Out Dated This Century.**

The Veterans Memories Project (VMP) is pleased to announce our DVD “Take a Glimpse into the Eyes of History” is being distributed across Canada. It features amazing stories from eight World War II Veterans, two Korean War Veterans, two NATO Peacekeepers, two Afghanistan War Veterans and more.

This educational documentary supplements traditional learning resources including references not found in textbooks, such as German U-Boats sinking Canadian ships in the St. Lawrence Seaway during WWII. Understanding war from the veterans' perspectives is the essence of this documentary. It brings life to Canada's military history from the eyes of soldiers who were there. Students learn that their freedom was at a price; thousands of veterans' lives, thousands of disabilities and thousands of broken families were all a part of the cost for their freedom.

Teachers, you can help show this film to history students across Canada by purchasing one or more DVDs at \$25 each including taxes and shipping. Show it to your history classes or your whole school. Ask students to tell their families about the film and encourage them to purchase the DVD. We can send you advertising and promotional material. You can easily order the DVD online at [veteransmemoriesproject.com](http://veteransmemoriesproject.com), and for every DVD sold Veterans Memories Project will donate \$5.00 to your school to use towards scholarships, bursaries, equipment, field trips etc.

Student's reactions to the film can be viewed at [studentsreact.com](http://studentsreact.com) and you can view a trailer at [http://youtu.be/18\\_UVudsvyY](http://youtu.be/18_UVudsvyY). To participate interactively, we are inviting students to record and post their own reactions to the documentary. Please ask students to share their thoughts and view other students' reactions. Videos should be one minute or less and in an MP4 format. These reactions can be sent to [studentsreact@gmail.com](mailto:studentsreact@gmail.com). They will be added to our website for students and teachers across Canada, and the world to view.

For further information please contact:  
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