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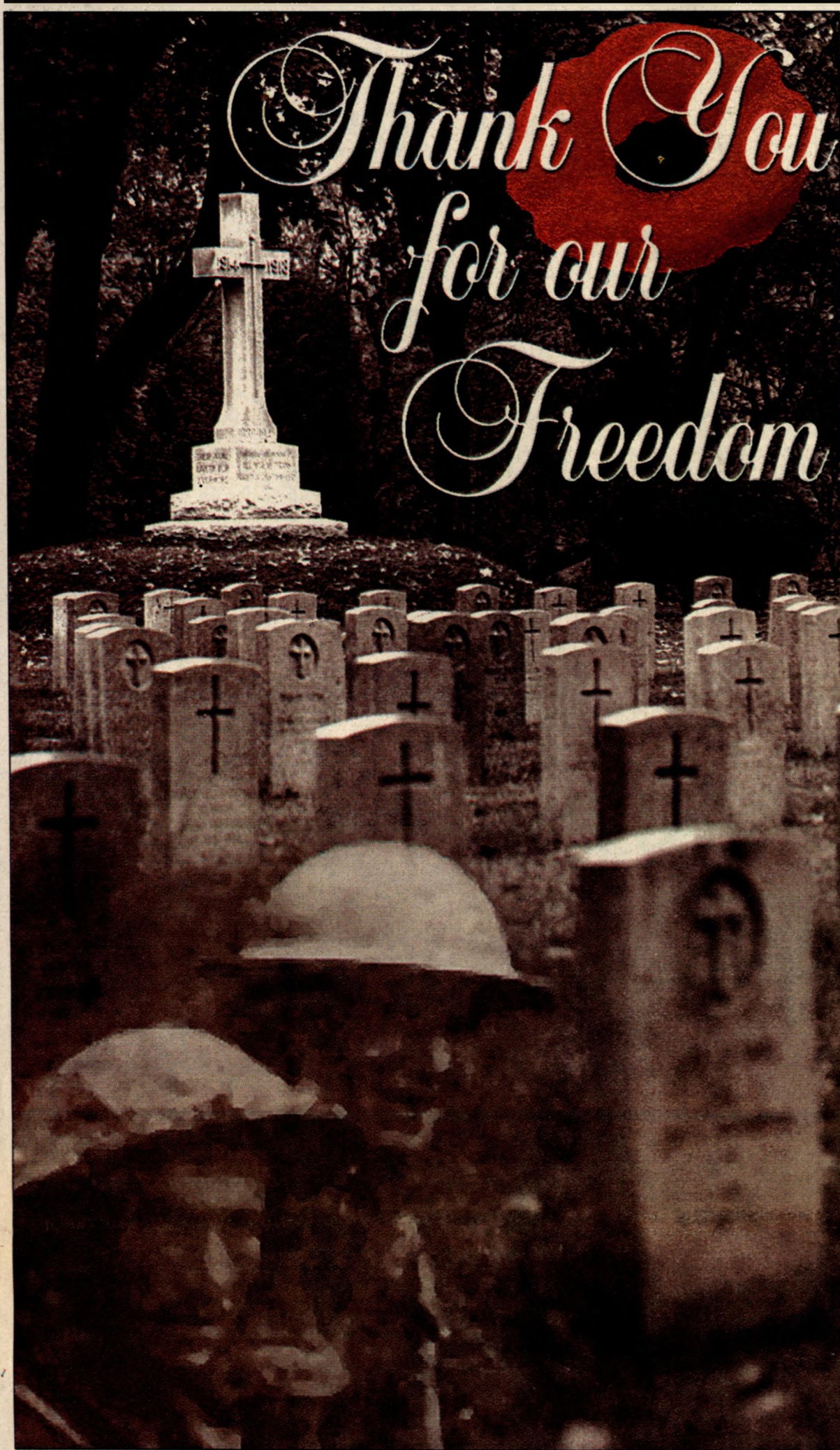


Photo montage by Barrie Erskine

Wave of Silence on Remembrance Day

There will be silence.

When the clock strikes the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, everything will stop for two minutes of silence. All radio and TV signals will stop, shops and schools, factories and farms will be still, and veterans will stand in silence at the local cenotaph on Thursday morning.

For too many years, says the Royal Canadian Legion, Remembrance Day has been an observance of just the war veterans and their families and friends, and those of the fallen.

It is also observed in schools, after the Legion convinced Queen's Park that Nov. 11th should not be a statutory holiday in 1982, arguing that students must be in school to observe Remembrance Day.

Elsewhere, mainly at workplaces, it's been 'business as usual' with little thought given to the young soldiers who lost their lives during World Wars I and II, and the Korean War.

It is feared, as the aging veterans die, that Canada's contribution to the war effort will be forgotten. Fewer than 500 veterans of World War I remain alive, and about 350,000 World War II veterans are alive today.

Realizing Thursday will be the last Remembrance Day before the New Millennium, the Legion has launched a campaign to have a two-minute Wave of Silence.

"Living in Canada, it is easy to forget that this century has been the most violent period in human history," says the Legion's '2 Minutes Silence' leaflet.

"More than 1.4 million young Canadians have volunteered to serve in our military and merchant navy and more than 116,000 have given their lives," it states.

"The Wave of Silence will be observed at 11 a.m., local times, from Newfoundland to British Columbia," said Bill Allan, vice-president of the Oakville Legion.

"We're asking everyone to stop what they're doing for two minutes (wherever safety and practicality permit) to remember."

The Town of Oakville supports the Legion's campaign to observe two minutes of silence.

"Please take two minutes to silently reflect and express gratitude for the sacrifices made by those who fought for Canada's freedom," said town clerk Judith Muncaster.

The two-minute Wave of Silence replaces the one-minute's silence observed since the mid-1950s.

A two-minute silence was first observed in Africa in 1918, when a two-minute silence was observed daily from May 14th to Nov. 11th, in anticipation of the Germany's defeat at the hands of the Allies, and the end of World War I. This obser-



vanace was adopted as a tradition for Remembrance Day. "We're reviving this tradition of the two-minute silence," said Allan.

In 1921, the poppy was adopted as the official symbol of Canada's Great War Veterans Association, and has been incor-

porated into the logo for the two-minute Wave of Silence.

The two minutes silence will highlight the Oakville Legion's Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph at George's Square tomorrow at 11 a.m. It was observed by the Bronte Legion during its Remembrance Day ceremony on Sunday.

Thursday's two-minute silence will be followed by the reading of John McCrae's *In Flanders Fields* by Michelle Ashburner, the laying of wreaths, the *Prayer of Remembrance* said by Major Ray Braddock of the Oakville Salvation Army, and the singing of *Onward Christian Soldiers*.

Last Post and *Reveille* will be played by Bruce Taylor, conductor of the Oakville Salvation Army Band.

Pastor Douglas Bramer of Hopedale Bible Chapel will also participate in the ceremony.

George's Square is on Trafalgar Road between Palmer and Sumner Avenues.

For more information, call the Oakville Legion at 845-6271, or check the web site: www.legion.ca

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