



**NAME: Russell Spenceley**

**BRANCH OF SERVICE: Army**

**SERVED FROM: 1939 TO:**

**THEATRE OF WAR: England, France & Holland**

(written by Cathy King , Branch 441 Legion Kinmount)

Russell Spenceley currently resides in Woodville and is a member of the executive of John McGrath Branch 441 Royal Canadian Legion Kinmount. Russell was pleased to share his story with us.

Although remembering dates are sometimes a challenge for him, Russ advised he has no trouble remembering the date he enlisted in the army. It was the "9<sup>th</sup> day of 9<sup>th</sup> month in 1939.

In 1940 while in the army, Russ married Millie.

When war broke out, Russ was transferred in June of 1940 overseas landing in Scotland.

Russ was a gunner with the 53<sup>rd</sup> Battery. Called Ack Ack gunners . They took the best gunners out of 53<sup>rd</sup> some from 16<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> (western Canada) Battery, who were then called the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Russ and his unit were stationed on the coast for about 6 months. When the enemy planes flew in low over the water to avoid the radar, Russ's battalion had to try to shoot them down while they were flying low.

After about 6 months their unit was broken up again and they were called the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Anti Air Craft Regiment which was made up of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and that stayed all through the war. Russ doesn't recall the exact dates in 1942 but remembers being sent to the Isle of Wight for training for armed combat. It was known that they would be