

FINE TRIBUTE PAID TO GALLANT DEAD OF THREE WARS

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More than 100 veterans of two world wars and the Korean War marched behind the Canadian Legion Pipe Band to the Cenotaph in front of Arnprior and District Memorial Hospital to pay homage to their fallen comrades, and to lay wreaths in remembrance of those who died for freedom. A crowd of 300 townspeople also braved the chill weather to attend.

The ceremony marked the 40th anniversary of Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, the day when Germany acknowledged defeat after four years of struggle with the Allied Powers in what was known as The Great War.

The parade comprising the Canadian Legion Pipe Band, veterans of three wars and members of Arnprior Boy Scout and Wolf Pack brigades, moved from the CPR station, down John Street to the Cenotaph. The veterans, many bearing ribbons and medals, formed up in three ranks, on John Street, facing the Cenotaph, for the services.

Following the playing of "O Canada", master of ceremonies, Paul Bertrand, president of the Arnprior Branch of the Canadian Legion, called for the traditional two minutes' silence while the "Last Post" was played.

The laying of wreaths followed. Ref. Frank Mitchell and Mrs. James McManus laid wreaths on behalf of the Province of Ontario; Comrade "Pat" Kelly on behalf of the Canadian Legion, and Mrs. Pearl Carr, in behalf of the Women's Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion. Other wreaths were placed on the Cenotaph in behalf of the Town of Arnprior; Major-General M.H.S. Penhale for Canadian Civil Defence College. Legion Auxiliary members placed wreaths for the merchants and businessmen of Arnprior. Mr. Bertrand than called on all Legionnaires present to lay their wreaths.

Following the singing of the hymn "Abide With Me" Mr. Bertrand called on Father D.J. Morris to deliver the address in the unavoidable absence of Fr. R.E. Dillon, Legion chaplain.

Father Morris spoke briefly on the example set by the Commonwealth for the whole world in setting aside November 11 in remembrance of those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. Fr. Morris went on:

"Although men in this modern world are divided by diverse elements of race, colour and creed and by the expression these elements inspire, nevertheless on this day, in answer to the appeal of the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, all publicly unite in recognizing that to those who have given their lives is due the open gratitude of every heart.

"None surely can enter more deeply into true meaning of this great national act than those of you who have fought by the side of your comrades, who have seen them fall. The red poppy you wear must ever remind you of the blood so freely shed that you and I and indeed every one of us might live in freedom. To you who serve in our Armed Forces, at home and in all the world, to pour forth His service in all theatres of war, we know of your sacrifice and gladly do we proclaim our gratitude today for your efforts so noble, and so generous. You had nothing to gain, no national interests to protect, and our shores were immune from attack, yet you heard the call of justice, the claim of the common brotherhood of man under the common Fatherhood of God, and you gave yourselves without hesitation and without stint to the common cause.

"Twice in this century you parents have been called upon to give up your children to the defence of our country. Only a living, dynamic love of Canada in your hearts and homes can ever justify the terrible price you have paid. In those dark days as you wandered in the valley, it was your faith in the progress, the peace and the growth of this blessed land that was your strength and comfort. Your contribution to the cause of freedom and of peace in the world are the still fresh graves of your loved ones.

"As we gather to keep this Remembrance Day beneath the vault of God's own heaven and retrace in memory the successive happenings of those tremendous years, we cannot but help but examine our losses and our gains as they will appear one day in the light of history and then with one heart to call upon the Almighty in whose hands are the destinies of every nation, of every people, and all abundant blessing upon all those who in loyalty to God and Fatherland have sacrificed themselves in the sacred cause of Honour, Truth, Justice and Freedom."

Following his address, Fr. Morris thanked those present for affording him the honour of speaking on the occasion.

Following "The Queen" the parade reformed, and, escorted by the local Police cruiser, moved back up John Street.

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