

Port Hope,
April 26, 1995

Canada Remembers is the name of a campaign sponsored by Royal Canadian Legions, recalling the sacrifices made by veterans of the Second World War.

As the 50th anniversary of VE Day grows closer the words Canada Remembers become much more than a slogan. There are many in this community who remember soldiers marching off to war in the 1940s. They were young and strong, proud to be Canadians and willing to sacrifice their lives for this young country.

Others recall the jubilation, the ringing of all the church bells and the burning of effigies of Hitler and Mussolini when the war was finally over in May 1945.

There were parades and dancing in the streets. And there were solemn prayers for the men and women who did not come home to the land they had defended.

In tribute to all of the people who enlisted and all who stayed home fighting their own battles of survival, the chairman of the local version of Canada Remembers, **Dave Christie**, has planned a day of tribute on Saturday, May 6.

It is his wish that when the veterans parade down Walton Street to Queen Street and the cenotaph for the laying of wreaths and prayers for the dead, that hundreds of people will line those streets and once again cheer for their heroes. The church bells all over Port Hope will be ringing, marking half a century of hard won freedom. In

his words, the veterans deserve to be honoured for their generous gift to the people of this town and the country.

Following the service at the cenotaph, just after 11 a.m., a reception and barbecue will take place at **Branch 30 of the Royal Canadian Legion** on Toronto Road. Veterans have donated memorabilia from the Second World War which will be on display at the legion during the day. The music of the 1940s will be played by organist and veteran Ken Lees who learned to play while in a prisoner of war camp.

The **Legion Pipe Band** will stir the hearts of the people with their exceptional music.

OUR TOWN



Peggy Foster

May 9,
1995

Old enemies mark V-E Day

World leaders look to secure future while honouring millions who died

Reuters News Agency

BERLIN — The victors and the vanquished marked the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe yesterday with calls for a new system of global security and eternal vigilance against the "forces of darkness."

In Berlin, Germans and leaders of the main wartime Allies who defeated the Nazis in 1945 sat side by side to honour the dead of history's worst carnage and look forward to more decades of postwar peace.

Before a solemn ceremony in the Schauspielhaus theatre, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl greeted guests he had seen only hours before in Paris.

Tens of thousands of Parisians had jeered and booed the world leaders on the Champs Elysées when police held them back from the main French ceremony and a military parade they expected did not take place.

The leaders' three-day anniversary tour, meant to mark the world war's end in Europe on May 8, 1945, began in London on Sunday and will wind up today in Moscow.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, at an emotional Kremlin ceremony, called for a new system of world security and warned the West against any moves that could isolate Moscow.

Continued Russian military action against separatist rebels in Chechnya has cast a shadow over the Moscow events.

Mr. Kohl, outgoing French leader François Mitterrand and U.S. President Bill Clinton were among leaders planning to skip a Moscow parade of Russian troops and military hardware to protest against the Chechnya fighting.

Mr. Clinton, in a ceremony in Arlington, Va., said Americans would stand up to "the forces of darkness" — at home as well as abroad — thanks to the courageous example of the generation that fought and won the Second World War.

In a commemoration at Fort Myer army base, Mr. Clinton thanked that "extraordinary generation" the world over for defeating tyranny, adding: "Because of all you did, we live in a moment of hope, in a nation at peace."

Including a veiled reference to the Oklahoma City bombing that has made the country conscious of the potential for home-group terrorism, Mr. Clinton continued: "But there is one thing that even you could not do, that no generation can ever do — you could not banish the forces of darkness from the future. We confront them now in different forms all around the world and, painfully, here at home."

"But you taught us the most important lesson: that we can prevail over the forces of darkness, that we must prevail. That



French jets pass over the Arc de Triomphe yesterday to conclude ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the German surrender in Paris. (REMY DE LA MAUVINIÈRE/Associated Press)

is what we owe you and the incomparable legacy that you have given us. ... Thank you for teaching us that lesson."

U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, British Prime Minister John Major and Mr. Mitterrand joined their German hosts for the last of many painful anniversaries Germany has marked this spring.

German President Roman Herzog, speaking for a democratic postwar Germany not far from the underground bunker where Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler committed suicide 50 years ago, said his country had no doubt that it bore the blame for the war.

"The Germans today know very well — today perhaps even more clearly than 50 years ago — that it was their government at the time and many of their own fathers who were responsible for the Holocaust and brought ruin over the peoples of Europe," he told 1,400 guests in the Schauspielhaus.

Mr. Mitterrand, giving one of his last speeches as President, called V-E Day the victory of Europe over its own antagonisms.

Noting that Germany and France used to be considered born foes, he gestured to his

German hosts with a smile and said: "The hereditary enemies are here. Heredity did not hold."

The cancer-stricken Mr. Mitterrand, who was given a standing ovation after his speech, also praised Germany's soldiers for their bravery and their love of their country.

"They accepted the loss of their lives for a bad cause, but their gesture had nothing to do with that," he said.

Mr. Gore said May 8, 1945, represented a triumph of good over evil and added: "Now, with the perspective of a half century, we can say that V-E Day means not just victory in Europe, but victory for Europe."

Mr. Major stressed the postwar reconciliation among former enemies, both those of the Second World War and of the Cold War.

"We are, as it were, still rubbing our eyes after 1989 wondering if it can be real. It is. Fascism and communism lie behind us. The two great enemies of reason have been defeated."

Mr. Chernomyrdin sounded a note of caution when he hailed the new trust between East and West, warning how fragile it was. "It was not easy for any of us to get rid of the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall and develop

mutual trust," he said.

With a clear hint at Moscow's opposition to any expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to Eastern Europe, he added: "The 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe has to be the start of the construction of a genuine pan-European system of security and stability on a bloc-free basis."

At the heart of the remembrance celebrations in London was the Queen Mother, 94-year-old widow of the king, and a beloved figure who has grown more important to the nation as the younger generation of royals have run into family troubles.

Tens of thousands of Britons flooded the square in front of Buckingham Palace to wave the red-white-and-blue Union Jack and sing nostalgic songs. But most of all, they came to see the Queen Mother stand on the balcony where she and the king had stood May 8, 1945, to share the nation's relief.

Cheers of pride and affection rang across the palace forecourt when the small, frail figure, dressed in a peach-colored dress and hat, emerged onto the balcony.

The Queen and Princess Margaret joined their mother, as they did 50 years ago.