

LOCAL NEWS

Dieppe service commemorates chaplain's courageous actions

Sixty-one years ago Tuesday, August 19, 907 Canadian soldiers died on the beaches of France during the Second World War.

The Dieppe raid was originally intended to make the Germans think an attack in the west was being planned, as well as to test new techniques and equipment and gain experience for what would become the D-Day invasion of Europe.

Five thousand of the 6,100 troops taking part were Canadians. When sections of the attack-

ing force lost the element of surprise, and others found themselves pinned on the beaches by heavy fire, casualties were high. Only 2,210 Canadian troops returned to England at the end of the raid, many of them wounded.

On Sunday, members of the Grafton Legion gathered for a special service commemorating the raid and paying tribute to the actions of John Weir Foote, the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry chaplain the Legion branch is named after.

Rev. Foote is the only member of the Canadian Chaplain Service to be awarded the Victoria Cross, Legion members heard during the service.

"Upon landing on the beach under heavy fire, he attached himself to the Regimental Aid Post which had been set up in a slight depression on the beach, but which was only sufficient to give cover to men lying down," states an official citation published in the *London Gazette* Feb. 14, 1946, which was read during Sunday's



Dieppe veterans Ron Reynolds (left) and Lou Pantaleo were guests of honour at Sunday's Dieppe memorial ceremony held at the Grafton's Col. Foote Legion branch Sunday afternoon.

PHOTO BY FRANCIS BAKER

service.

"During the subsequent period of approximately eight hours, while the action continued, this officer ... time and again left this shelter to inject morphine, give first-aid and carry wounded personnel from the open beach to the Regimental Aid Post," the citation continues. "On these occasions, with utter disregard for his personal safety, Honourary Captain Foote exposed himself to an inferno of fire and saved many lives by his gallant efforts."

When wounded were moved to the shelter of a beached landing craft, he continued to carry men from the beach to the new shelter through heavy fire. And although

he had several chances to be evacuated off the beach, he "returned to the beach as his chief concern was the care and evacuation of the wounded."

Rev. Foote was one of the 1,946 soldiers taken prisoner by the Germans after the Dieppe raid, and was not released until May 5, 1945.

He lived in Cobourg with his wife until his death in 1988, and is buried in Cobourg's Union Cemetery.

Among the special guests at Sunday's ceremony were two veterans of the Dieppe raid, Lou Pantaleo and Ron Reynolds, who were specially recognized during the event.

— FRANCIS BAKER

RIGHTMYER, GORDON CHARLES

Peacefully at home with his family by his side in Brighton, on Tuesday, August 12, 2003, age 68 years. Gordon Charles Rightmyer, of Perry Avenue, Brighton, survived by his loving wife Eileen. Dear father of Doug Rightmyer, Kathy Jackson and her spouse David Tonner, Brenda Rightmyer, Roger Rightmyer and his wife Josie, and Kyle Rightmyer and his wife Heidi Mayer. Very special Grandpa of Anne-Marie, Matthew, Amanda, Rachel, Ryan, Jared, Brandon, Luke, Cole and Nakia and great grandfather of Mikhaela. Also survived by two sisters, four brothers and numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 16349 Old Hwy. 2, on Saturday, August 16th at 2 o'clock. Cremation. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Hospital for Sick Children, care of Box 96, Brighton, Ontario, K0K 1H0, would be appreciated by the family. The family would like to express their appreciation to Dr. Arlene MacInyre for going above and beyond the call of duty and also to all the nurses from the VON, especially Sharon and Susan also to Gina of the Red Cross, for their compassionate care.

ROGERS, RETA

Peacefully after a lengthy illness on August 18, 2003 at home in her 85th year. Reta beloved wife of the late Harry Rogers for 59 years. Loving mother of Louise and Joe Ryckman and Pat and Paul Bonner. Cherished grandmother of Glen and April, Jeff and Trish, Keith and Michelle, and Lisa and Brett. Devoted great grandmother of James, Zach, Natasha, Brittany, Mitchell, Dallas, Drake and Alachia. Predeceased by her brother Albert O'Grady. Reta will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by many family and friends. Friends may visit at the Jerrett Funeral Home 660 Kennedy Road Scarborough (between Eglinton and St. Clair Aves. E.) on Thursday from 2-4 and 7-9pm. A funeral service will be held in the chapel on Friday at 11am. Interment to follow at Highland Memory Gardens (Don Mills and Finch). In lieu of flowers donations to the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated.