

# Former prisoner of war recounts experiences at Dieppe, prison camp

CANADA'S CENTENNIAL — 100 YEARS — JULY 1  
WE'LL ALL BE AT EXPO  
DIEPPE ANNIVERSARY — 25 YEARS — AUGUST 19  
SOME OF US WILL BE AT DIEPPE

The 25th anniversary of the Dieppe raid stirs memories in the minds of many Canadians. One of these, Lieutenant R. S. Stewart, who landed on the beach of Puy with the Royal Regiment of Canada has often recounted to the publisher his experiences as a kriegsgefangener (prisoner-of-war). The writer wishes it to be known that life was quite different in an Oflag (officers' camp) and a Stalag (prisoner for other ranks) and that his experiences occurred only in the former type where officers performed no manual duties and had to find ways of filling in their time. Furthermore, in his camp, the Dieppe prisoners were not handcuffed as were their regimental friends in other spots.



THE "KRIEGSFANGENER" — prisoner of war — was photographed for the records.

First of a Series  
By R. S. Stewart  
THE FIRST DAY I ENTER CAPTIVITY OR AS THE GERMANS EXPRESSED IT "FOR YOU, THE WAR IS OVER"

At dawn on August 19th, 1942, as the Royal Regiment of Toronto approached the shores of France, the sky was alive with flares, explosions, and tracer bullets. Under cover of a heavy bombardment the landing crafts hit the beach and we scurried through the water and dashed for the cliffs overlooking the beach. Many of the troops failed to make it because the enemy swept the beach with a devastating fire from vantage points above.

A few of our group, headed by our commanding officer, managed to cut through the wire and reach the heights above but most of us were pinned down below. Our landing crafts made valiant attempts to head back towards England with those who were able to

return to them but the enemy guns shelled them unmercifully and very few got any distance away from the shore.

So we were forced to surrender and were divided into three groups by our captors; namely, those not wounded,



A RAMP LEADS from the beach, where the author's regiment landed, to the village of Puy.

walking wounded, and those who needed assistance. I started out as a walking wounded but was soon put into an army truck and driven to an old hotel used as German headquarters. Being semi-conscious at the time, I did not know for several years that it had been my faithful batman who, with his friend, had supported me up the road and had finally decided that I should walk no farther.

From this inn, I was taken to a hospital in Rouen. One of my souvenirs is a machine gun bullet placed in my hand by a German doctor after he extracted it from my left knee. About a week later I was placed on a hospital train with several of my comrades. The cars were lined with triple decker bunks with a narrow passage down the middle. We made many stops depositing groups at various places.

When I reached my destination, a P.O.W. hospital in Germany, I was interrogated by the camp commandant. Even though I was still ill, I remembered our instructions to give only name, rank and number, and no further information which would be of value to the enemy. My watch, ring, knife, and money were confiscated,

after which my head was shaved. All of the articles were returned to me before the end of the trip.

The hospital in which I was placed had been well organized and disciplined by British officers, many of whom had been captured at Dunkirk in 1940 or on earlier commando raids. Soon I was wearing a new battle dress which had arrived shortly before from England.



THE ROYAL REGIMENT of Toronto landed on this stretch of beach at dawn on August 19, 1942. They were met with devastating fire from the cliffs above.

For me the war was over but instead of being relieved I was extremely annoyed at being out of action. My first thoughts were about my family and what the future held for me. The only consolation I had in captivity was the thought that many friends were with me. We accepted our lot cheerfully and soon began to laugh at our discomforts. The more we joked and laughed the more we provoked our guards who, in most cases, lacked any sense of humor.

Finally the day arrived for us to transfer to Oflag 9AZ, a prison camp at Rotenberg on the Fulda River, one hundred and fifty miles south of Berlin. Two of us were placed in a compartment, of the train

guarded by a kindly old German officer who was a veteran of the First World War. During the journey he let us examine his revolver and generally treated us as equals.

The train went by his farm home and as we passed he told us with tears in his eyes that his only son had been taken away. In contrast to him an officer of the storm troopers boarded our train at the first

stop, looked at us disdainfully, spat at us, and shouted, "I am a good Nazi, you are swine!" When he left, our guard spat in his direction and called him a fool.

Editor's Note: R. S. (Bob) Stewart was born in Acton where he received his elementary education. Having attended secondary school in Milton he left for Toronto to train as a school teacher. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Pedagogy degrees at the University of Toronto. Mr. Stewart has just retired from the Toronto Board of Education after forty-one years, the last fifteen of which he spent as the principal of several public schools in the city. He has written this account of his experiences for the Free Press.

Worry never cured cancer, nor have pills or diets. The one good hope is your doctor's help in early diagnosis and treatment.

## Six hopefuls seek title

# "Nassagaweya Centennial Queen"

Six girls have entered the Nassagaweya Centennial Queen Contest.

The entries are Faye Mathies, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Mathies, R.R. 2, Campbellville; Sonja Agnew, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Agnew, R.R. 2, Campbellville; Mary and Lorna Murray, ages 18 and 16 respectively, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Murray of R.R. 1, Acton; Susan Commons, 17, daughter of Mrs. Lillian Commons of R.R. 2 Campbellville and Mary Dennis, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dennis of Campbellville.

Faye Mathies, a contestant in the recent Miss Milton Contest, is a student at Milton District High School and is working at the Caravan Restaurant for the summer. Faye enjoys swimming, horseback

riding, skiing and is a member of the music club and the drama club at the school. She hopes to take a course in business machines after completing high school. Faye will be in grade 12 next September.

Sonja Agnew, a grade 10 student at MDHS, enjoys dancing, drawing and sewing. Sonja is a member of the drama club at school and takes dancing lessons at the Joan Waters School of Dancing.

Both Mary and Lorna Murray are swimming and dancing enthusiasts. Mary is employed at the Superior Glove Factory in Acton where she operates a sewing machine. Lorna is a grade nine student at MDHS. Lorna is presently visiting Expo.

Susan Commons is a grade 12 student at MDHS. Susan spends a lot of time sewing, reading, playing badminton, basketball and volleyball. She

has ambitions of becoming a nurse.

Mary Dennis, a grade nine student at MDHS, knits, sews, is a swimming enthusiast and plays the piano. Mary belongs to the Young Peoples group at St. David's Presbyterian church. She hopes to be a nurse.

The girls will be judged this Friday evening, June 23, at Mohawk Raceway when Nassagaweya's three-day centennial celebration begins. The Queen will wear regal robes and a sash and reign over the festivities which continue Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday afternoon.

All entrants in the contest are 15 to 20 years of age and must live in Nassagaweya Township. Second and third prizes will be awarded to the runners-up to the girl chosen to reign as Queen of the celebrations.

## O.P.P. report

During the week of June 11 to 17, inclusive, personnel of the Milton Detachment, Ontario Provincial Police worked a total of 860 1/4 hours and patrolled a total of 7,375 miles on area highways. As a result of patrol, 25 traffic charges were preferred, 37 traffic violation warnings were issued and 33 vehicles were safety checked. There were 48 convictions registered.

There were three personal injury accidents resulting in four persons being injured, eight property damage accidents investigated and approximately \$4,190 in property damage recorded. Causes of accidents were: opening of left door and interfering with movement of traffic; inattentive driving; improper turns; failing to signal; cutting in; driving off roadway; and failure to yield right of way; and driving off roadway. There were four charges laid under the Highway Traffic Act as a result of these accidents.

There were 61 general occurrences during this period including one break and enter at Kelso Conservation Area; two break and enters at residences in Nassagaweya Twp.; one break and enter at a residence in Esquesing Twp.; one theft from an auto in Esquesing Twp.; six Liquor Control Act investigations resulting in nine persons being charged under the L.C.A.; one child drowned at Waterfalls Playground in Esquesing Twp.; one complaint of a dog being poisoned and shot in Esquesing Twp. All other occurrences were of a minor nature.

## BALLINAFAD

# Providence cemetery trustees named improvements W.I. centennial plan

Mrs. Frank Smith, Mrs. Jesse McEnery, Mrs. Wm. McLean and Mrs. Robert McEnery attended the opening day Monday, June 12, of the national convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada which was held in Guelph. Although it was a very hot day everyone enjoyed meeting and hearing Mrs. Aroiti Dutt of Bengal, president of the Associated Country Women of the World.

Quite a number attended the meeting of the Providence Cemetery on Saturday when Mrs. McMillan of the Depart-

ment of Health, was present, also Mr. Jackson, reeve of Erin Township and Mr. Fuller, a councillor from Erin Township. Plans were made as to what would be best to do about fixing it up.

Trustees elected Mr. Norman Sinclair, Robert McEnery re-elected, also Jim Kirkwood, F. J. Shortill, Garnet Sinclair to work with Mrs. William McLean, Mrs. Frank Smith and Mrs. Jesse McEnery, appointed from the Women's Institute who took this on as a centennial project.

Quite a few donations were

given from those interested in seeing this cemetery being made more beautiful which will mean work and money, so let's get behind those appointed to get this rolling. Any help will be appreciated.

Mr. and Mrs. John Pearson, David, John and Bobbie visited with Mr. and Mrs. Jesse McEnery on Friday and also called on Mr. and Mrs. Robert McEnery.

Community service was held in Ballinafad United church on Sunday morning, Rev. Mr. Johnson was in charge.

## W.I. delegates attend Expo hear president

Following the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada conference held recently at the Guelph University, the delegates were taken by train to Montreal and attended Expo 67 for several days. They again had the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Aroiti Dutt of Bengal, India, president of the ACWW, speak at a luncheon held in their honor, Hospitality Pavilion, Cite du Havre. One of the high statesmen of India was also a guest.

Local delegates attending were Mrs. Duncan Moffat, Mrs. Mansell Nellis and Mrs. Alex Near from Dublin W.I., also Mrs. Cecil Nelles, past president of South Wellington District.

Concise is an odd disease — it makes everyone sick except the one who has it.

## Poor attendance

# Art show in scout hall raises money for Brownies

Attendance was disappointing at the second Acton Brownie pack unique art show in the scout hall Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. However the girls raised about \$40 from admissions and draw tickets, and the Scout and Guide Mothers made a small sum selling tea, pop, sandwiches and cookies.

The draw for a three-dimensional depiction of a ship made by Brown Owl Mrs. Gloria Browne was won by Charlie Barber, R.R. 4, Acton (Churchill Rd. S.).

Friday evening attendance was 25 adults and 10 children; Saturday's — in pouring rain — wasn't much better.

Joseph Denton's sketches and parchment - and - wood piece were centred in the hall and flooded. This well-known sculptor and artist lives at Rockwood.

Around the walls were displayed the works of other contributors to the show — Gary Burtenham, a College of Art student; John Chisholm, engineer, lent a couple of paintings by William Ronald, the M.C. of the CBC show, Umbrella.

of the Acton oil painting group including Mrs. L. Dittich, Mrs. R. H. Elliott and Mrs. D. Garrett.

Out-of-town exhibitors were Mrs. Jacobs and Noel Holland of Milton. A cousin, Art Coopers was there those contributed by the Brownie leader, Mrs. Browne. Her original bas-reliefs composed of leather,

parchment, painted plastic bottles, string and canvas, were intriguingly titled — like "Probing Inner Space".

Brownie mothers who assisted in the project with Brown Owl Mrs. Browne and Tawny Owl Mrs. Combe were Mrs. G. De Bruyn, Mrs. W. Duval, Mrs. B. Heptner, Mrs. E. Baxter and Mrs. J. Buckman.

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# — NOTICE — POWER SHUT-OFF SUNDAY, JUNE 25

Hydro Power will be turned off Sunday, June 25 from the hours of 6 a.m. until 10 a.m. in the following areas:

**ALONG MILL ST. WEST FROM MAIN ST., INCLUDING CAMERON AVE., PARK AVE., LAKE AVE. AND KNOX AVE.**

ACTON HYDRO COMMISSION

# BELL LINES

by L. G. Denby  
your telephone manager

As my old Grandmother used to say many years ago, "Neither braggin' nor blowin' but..." and then continue on to relate some fine piece of news. Well, you may have to put up with a bit of braggin' and blowin' from any telephone people you may know across the country. We're all basking in reflected glory these days following the impact our Telephone Association of Canada Pavilion has had on the crowds visiting Expo '67. Why, even newspaper critics are raving over the results of several years of planning and work by the major telephone companies in Canada who worked as a team on this project. The whirlwind tour of Canada via Walt Disney's Circle Vision 360° technique proved the most popular attraction at Expo during its opening weeks. Some 36,000 visitors a day are crowding into the circular theatre in the Telephone Pavilion to view the wonders that are Canada. Canada 67 is leaving Canadians with a deep sense of pride in their country and visitors from other lands with a new respect and awe at the vastness and variety of our land. I hope you will put the Telephone Pavilion high on your list of "must visit" buildings when you are at Expo. It seems to be the popular and "in" thing to do at the greatest World's Fair ever.

Moving, whether it's off to the cottage for the summer months, down the street, across town or to a distant city, presents quite a challenge for most homemakers. Lists of things to be done can help smooth the path, however. Could I ask you to please jot down "telephone" at the top of that important list? And then let us know just as soon as the date and place of your move are set. By letting us know early of your moving plans we can clear up all the "behind the scenes" work and ensure prompt service when you move into your new dwelling. Although it usually takes our installers only a short time to install telephones in your home, much planning and work must be done in our switching units to provide this taken-for-granted service. When you let us know early of your moving plans, we can plan ahead to avoid any delay in serving you.

When you are vacationing in unfamiliar territory — as many of us may well be doing this year — it's good to know that you can count on the local telephone directory for help. If you need a mechanic, a new fishing rod, a good restaurant, a doctor or a dentist, you'll find listings quickly in the Yellow Pages. And, if you are not sure of dialing procedures or just how to place a call in a strange town, you can turn to the front pages of the telephone book for helpful information.

Seems hard to believe, especially with all the communications of the future on display in the Telephone Pavilion at Expo 67, but just 91 years ago — June 25, 1876 — the first public demonstration of the telephone was held at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.

*Lloyd Denby*