

Norm Gibson recalls memories of Dieppe

Norman Gibson, who has many friends in Acton, was asked by his local Brighton, England, branch of the Canadian Veterans Association (U.K.) to give a short address this year on the anniversary of the Dieppe raid of 1942.

The memorial service was held by the Royal Canadian Engineers at Newhaven, Sussex, on August 19, 1978.

Mr. Gibson shares his comments with readers of the Free Press.

It was just one year ago that this splendid monument was unveiled. It was raised by old comrades of the Royal Canadian Engineers to commemorate the members of the Corps who lost their lives during the raid on Dieppe on August 19th, 1942.

My own personal recollections of that historic day are still vivid. As a member of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, I went aboard one of the "tank landing craft" along with an assortment of personnel from other ancillary units. At dusk on the night of the 18th as part of a large armada of ships of all types, we silently headed out to sea from this ancient Port of Newhaven, to rendezvous with other flotillas of naval craft from other ports.

It was one of those rare summer evenings, and the fact that we were about to launch an attack on the enemy at Dieppe early next morning gave the operation more than a touch of unreality. So did the fact that under the terms of the Geneva convention, we, as medical personnel would find ourselves on the beaches of Dieppe without weapons to defend ourselves.

The account of that operation has been told and re-told in the 36 years since 1942. Dieppe has earned a place in the history of our time as a story of heroism and courage in human terms beyond all praise. It is also an account of bitter and tragic losses in young lives.

It sent a shock-wave of grief and despair throughout the length and breadth of Canada. However, from the grass roots of

Her people there emerged a new resurgence and resolve to prosecute the war with all the means at their disposal.

Re-inforcements arrived in England to fill the gaps in the ranks of the units decimated by the operation, and two years later, after the successful invasion of Normandy, the Port of Dieppe was at last occupied by troops of the Second Canadian Division.

Let me say that in the wider context of this occasion today you may feel as I do that we would wish to regard this fine memorial as commemorating also that multitude of men from all the various units who embarked from this Port and who, as yet, have not a specific memorial.

Dieppe of course was a combined operation, and in honouring our own dead we would wish to remember also the losses sustained by the Royal Navy, British Commando units, the Royal Air Force, the Royal Canadian Air Force and a contingent of American Rangers.

In the noble fabric of Canadian history it could be said that Dieppe has found an honoured place alongside Vimy Ridge of World War One—not only as a symbol of courage and sacrifice in war, but symbolizing the attainment of a national identity and maturity. This we have seen amply demonstrated in our own time by Canada's growing awareness of the duties and responsibilities of Nationhood, any by Her material contributions to the cause of democracy, stability, and peace—in association with Her sister nations.

Today, as we look back once more to that August morning of 1942, we see in perspective how Canadians accepted bravely the tasks and challenges of that hour, and like their pioneer forefathers who had forged for themselves a new nation in the wilderness of 19th century Canada, they found through faith in God and in themselves the resolve to continue the path of duty against all odds until the day of ultimate victory.



FIREFIGHTERS from across Halton region are taking part in a one-week basic training program at Milton's new central fire station. Forty-two volunteer firefighters are enrolled in the provincially-sponsored program to learn firefighting techniques and emergency rescue manoeuvres.

Getting pointers from instructor Norm Atkins, fire services advisor, are John Berry, on the ladder, from Burlington and Al Welke, holding the ladder from Milton. Instruction is carried out both indoors and outdoors.

Regional fire school attracts 42

Milton's new central fire station is a hive of activity this week, as more than 40 part-time firefighters gather for a one-week session of basic firefighting training.

The provincially-sponsored course is offered to 12 regions

and counties this year and Milton was elected as the base for the program in Halton.

Beginning on Monday and lasting until Friday, the firemen receive instruction on emergency rescue manoeuvres as well as fire

fighting extinguishing techniques and fire crime detection.

The equipment and the four instructors are supplied through the co-operation of the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office and the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst.

The 40-hour program is designed for volunteers, said Norm Atkins, instructor and advisor from the Fire Marshal's office, Toronto.

Many of the volunteers knowledge of firefighting techniques, the course offers the man the opportunity to practice and learn new methods, he explained.

Instruction is given inside and out of doors and includes genuine fires, specially set up

at the back of the fire station. Upon completion of the course, all participants receive a certificate.

The last time a similar course was held in the Halton region was in 1973 in the old Milton fire hall.

Volunteers currently training are from the five brigades in Milton, Georgetown, Acton, Burlington and Oakville.

Tire shop

A New Toronto resident used an NSF cheque to cover the cost of a pair of new tires from Queen's Tire Service Ltd., on Queen Street last week. The tires were valued at \$206.

Rural barn breakin site

Would-be thieves gained entry into a countryside barn east of town where construction equipment is located, reports the owner. Entry was gained through a side door.

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Separate teachers will get 8.5% pay hike each year

Halton separate school teachers will receive 8.5 per cent pay boosts each of the next two years following settlement of a new contract last week with Halton Separate School Board. The contract covers the 1978-79 and 1979-80 school years.

The increases bring maximum teacher salaries up to \$27,404 in the first year of the pact and they increase to \$28,847 in the second year. The pay rate for a level seven teacher with 12 years experience, the highest level, was \$26,024 for 1977-78.

A tentative agreement was reached August 10 following a late night bargaining session. Negotiations have been in progress since last spring. Teachers and the board both ratified the new agreement on Tuesday, September 5.

This year's negotiations were in stark contrast to last year's talks which lagged over many months despite the help of a fact-finder, two different mediators and special assistance from both the teachers' and trustees' provincial organizations.

Talks lasted about a year on the 1977-78 pact and were highlighted by a teacher demonstration at the board's Burlington office and two overwhelming strike votes. Only a last minute settlement averted a teacher strike.

The new pact calls for six per cent wage boosts in each of the two years. However, increments will bring the pay hikes up to 8.5 per cent each year.

Beginning this year separate school principals will be paid on the basis of experience and quali-

cations. In the past they have been paid on the basis of the size of their school.

Principals' salaries will range from \$27,862 to \$34,062 this year and \$29,382 to \$35,562 in 1979-80. Last year's principal salary range was \$26,539 to \$31,539.

In the area of fringe

benefits the board's contribution to the teachers' dental plan will increase to 85 per cent from 75 per cent while the board will continue to pay 85 per cent of O.H.I.P., the teachers' extended health plan, group life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment plans.

Hourigan says he's innocent of wrong

Halton Police Commission Chairman William Hourigan, currently being investigated by the Ontario Provincial Police over alleged involvement with the laying of charges against a Burlington doctor friend, says the investigation will show he is innocent of wrongdoing.

Hourigan was called to the Burlington police station of Halton Regional Police by a doctor charged with impaired driving the night of August 24.

According to Halton Police Chief Ken Skerrett, Mr. Hourigan remained with the doctor while charges were laid and the man released. Chief Skerrett initiated the investigation into the incident when he contacted the Ontario Police Commission.

The question before investigators is whether Mr. Hourigan was acting as the doctor's lawyer or using his position as police commission chairman to influence laying of charges.

Halton Crown Attorney Jim Treleven is quoted as

questioning whether police officers could regard Mr. Hourigan as a private citizen, or as their boss.

The police commission head practices law with Burlington Regional Councillor T. Sutherland, but most of his dealings are in real estate. Sources claim he occasionally practices criminal law but Mr. Treleven says he can't recall seeing Mr. Hourigan defend-

ing anyone in Halton criminal court since he became crown attorney in 1972. He speculated a conflict of interest might arise if the police commission head represented a client in a Halton criminal court, an opinion shared by Police Chief Skerrett.

Mr. Hourigan sits on committees dealing with promotions in the Halton force and as a defence lawyer may have to question the conduct of police officers during an investigation against a client, the crown attorney is quoted as saying.

Obituary

John Andersen dies August 29

Funeral service was held August 31 at the Shoemaker funeral home for Johannes (John) Borg Andersen, of R.R. 4 Acton. He died August 29 at his home.

Mr. Andersen was born on May 14, 1915 in Denmark, son of Christian and Pauline Andersen. On March 31, 1941, he married Else Andersen in Lyngby, Denmark.

In 1952 the couple came to Canada and settled in Burlington, where they lived for 15 years. Nine years ago they moved to their present home.

Mr. Andersen was manager of McNair Mushroom Farm and a member of the Canadian Mushroom Growers' Association.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife Else, daughters Gerda Rea of Burlington and Evelyn Gordon of Upper Gagetown, New Brunswick, brothers Vigge and Folmer Andersen, sisters Anne and Lydia Neilsen, all of Denmark, and five grandchildren.

The Rev. Becker officiated at the funeral. Pallbearers were all friends, Tom McNair, Ove Petersen, Hugo Johnsen, Manuel Pereira, Jim Whitman and Bill Allan. Interment was in Fairview cemetery, Acton.

Mr. Andersen was a past

member and past president of Acton Rotary club and was formerly an active member of the scout group committee.



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