

PROFILES



with

Jennifer Barr

World War One veterans are few and far between and it's not easy finding one who'll talk about his experiences. Jim Ingalls had doubts about the good it would do, but it is important for the youth of Acton to know what old soldiers went through.

Jim got a lot of stories, some of them printable. As well as serving for three years as signal sergeant in France 1915 to 1918, Jim retired 20 years ago after 50 years service as signalman with the C.N.R.

Jim enlisted in World War One at the age of 19 from his home in Listowel. He joined the County of Perth Regiment in 1915 and considered himself "real lucky" for the remainder of the war.

"Real lucky" means he managed to survive the mud and the blood until the last month of the war when he was shot in the shoulder and chest.

Lady Luck on his shoulder

After enlistment Jim travelled to Stratford to find out where he would serve and what job he'd pull. He was asked to stick with his company and take a job as signal man.

"They were a good bunch to be in" he remembers.

They must have been. Jim got quite an education taking signal courses when he got to England and passed top of the list.

He then helped other recruits pass their signal tests by sending the wire tests. He was told he was the best wire signaller working on tests.

Canadian regiments were re-assembled when they arrived in England and Jim found himself with the famous Black Watch Highland regiment.

"I happened to be lucky," (there's that word again).

By 1916 Jim was in France and finding out first hand that war was hell. Rather than giving in to the fear most young men felt at the shock of the trenches, Jim said his company treated their advances like hockey games.

"I wanted to go - they were company to me" and he was usually in the first runners up the hill to attack.

He survived two years in the front lines with the help of his friend "Lady Luck". He talks of the time in 1918 in Beauvais Woods when the contingent assembled in the dark.

"You never saw such a mass of soldiers in your life - you had to tap the fellow in front of you on the shoulder to know where you were going."

Thick fog and black skies helped the attack but not Jim's nerves.

"The attack started at 4.20 in the morning. What a racket! The guns went off and we didn't know they were there - it sounded like a freight train."

When the fog lifted Jim and his company found themselves in shallow trenches recently abandoned by the German army.

"A German 'whiz-bang' landed a few yards from me, it was a dud - just another one of my streaks of luck."

Another time he felt a German shell (again sounding like a train) exploding near his

shoulder. Feeling a thump on his shoulder he was relieved to discover it was a chunk of mud thrown up by the shell not muscle-shattering metal.

"My shoulder would have been gone!" he breathes.

The mud of the trenches and Flanders Fields finished many a soldier in World War One but Jim managed to shrug it off.

"You just got wet and muddy and tried to dry out"

He recalls one time camped in mud trenches in the front lines, water had to be fetched from a pump 80 yards from German lines.

"We all had to take our turn. The mud was two feet deep and like thick soup. It came over our puttees and you never knew when you were going to get shot."

"I never got sick from the mud and I never suffered from the food. Some guys were fussy but I never minded. The Black Watch had this little Scottish cook who could make a meal out of anything."

Being a signaller, Jim's job was always up front carrying his heavy signal equipment on his belt with his bullets and bombs.

Those front line trenches were full of tension as the war advanced and passwords were necessary in order to move any distance along the trench. Jim saw one fellow soldier shot for not remembering the password.

"Walking case" not wounded
War relief came in the form of two gunshot wounds for Jim. He was wounded September 29, 1918, a date etched in his mind.

He was hit by enemy fire beside a barbed wire roll fence and was lucky enough to have a good friend who was a stretcher bearer close at hand.

"He patched up the big wound in my side and told me to stay still and wait for help - I never saw him again."

But Jim wasn't too happy lying out in the open with German bullets winging by him so he dived through the barbed wire into a short trench.

"There was a wounded German sitting in it, shot through the leg. We sat for a few minutes then I began feeling awful sick so I crawled out of there."

With his life's blood pouring out of him, Jim remembered to leave his bayonet by the trench with a white tag on it - to indicate a wounded man was here.

Walking back to base he met stretcher bearers but because he was managing to stay on his feet

he kept getting sent from station to station as a "walking case". Fortunately he was able to attract the attention of a doctor who realized how seriously Jim was wounded. The fact that he got gassed walking back to base with his shot up side and arm contributed to his sickness.

The war, not to end for another five weeks, was over for Jim Ingalls and he was sent to hospital in England.

He landed home in Canada December 23, 1918, a Christmas present for his parents.

Ever a signaller

After the war, Jim settled down to his job with the Grand Trunk railway, later to become the CNR. His war experiences had made him a first rate signal man and that's how he spent the remainder of his working life, travelling round to various Ontario stations relieving signal men.

Marrying his wife Vera in 1927, he settled in Acton ten years later. Even after retiring with 50 years' service under his belt in 1960, Jim wouldn't sit still. He was asked to help out at the old Rockwood station until it was closed in the early 60s.

Now formally retired, Jim spends his days in his Arthur Street garden, a piece of living history from the War to end all Wars.



Jim Ingalls

Head lice scratched...

(Continued from page 1)

The public health department last week checked the rooms in which six children at St. Joseph's School took classes. Principal Briggs said that even the teachers were checked. Since St. Joseph's started there has been one case in each year, according to the principal.

Public health officials inspect people who are believed to have head lice. The children's playmates are also checked and if there is any lice found, then the classes are checked, indicated Jamieson.

"What we are really trying to do is get parents to check kids hair on a regular basis, say, once a week," said Jamieson.

The adult louse is a tiny brown insect which moves very quickly. "They usually jump to the

healthiest head of hair," said the public health nurse.

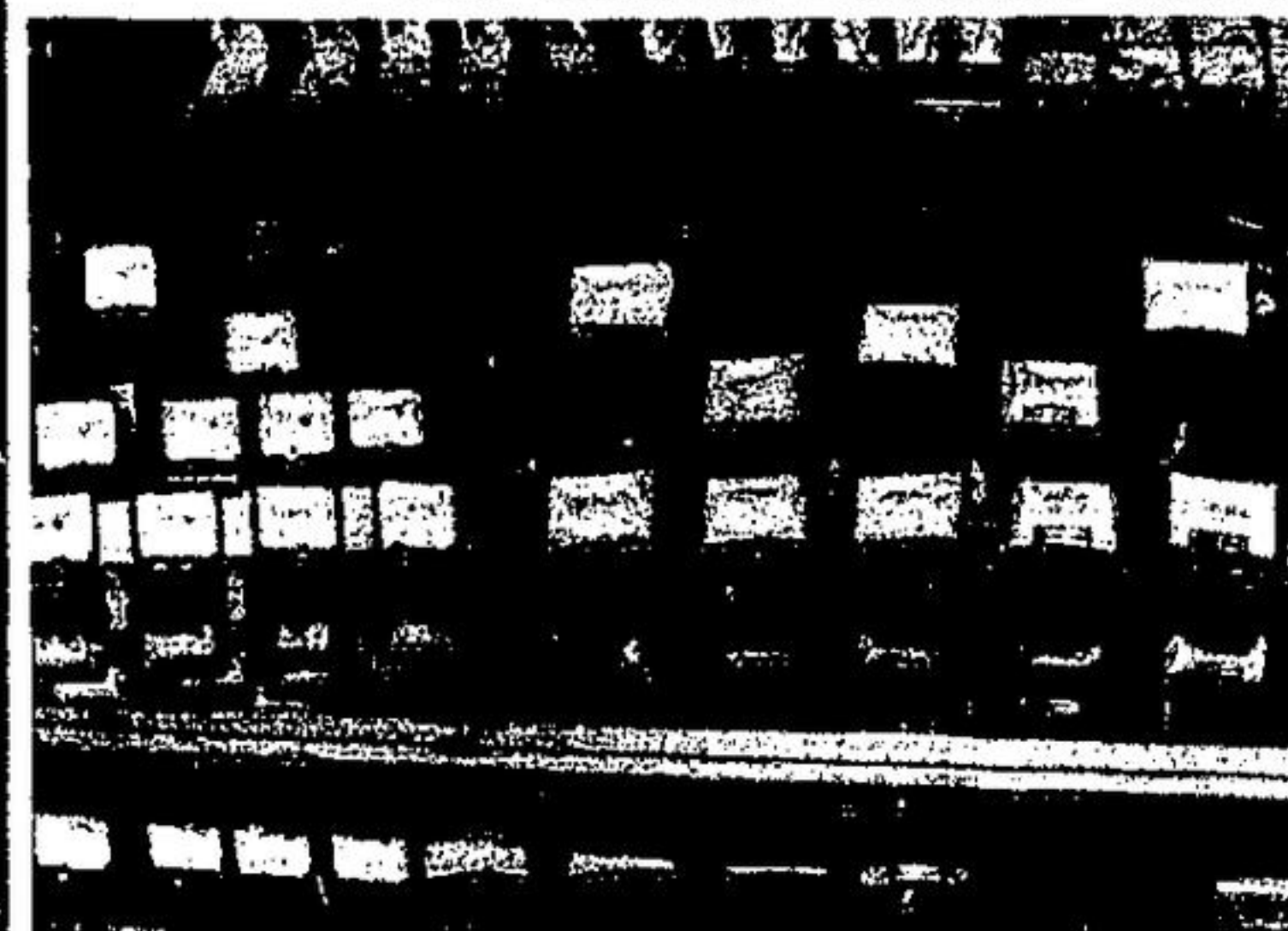
The most common places for lice to gather is behind the ears and on the nape of the neck.

The louse lays tiny, white, oval shaped eggs which can be confused with dandruff. There is, however, one major difference. If the hair is shaken, dandruff will fall.

Louse eggs, on the other hand, stick to the hair, and if the hair is shaken, they won't move. Eggs hatch in about nine days.

The lice easily travel from head to head. "Children have a habit of sharing hats, combs and brushes, which we are trying to discourage," said Jamieson.

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Works money needed

A request for \$750,000 more than budgeted to finish Halton Region works projects has been made to the Ontario Municipal Board.

The OMB must give approval to a municipality to increase the 1980 spending quota.

The increases are all in debenture financing.



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- McCain frozen regular cut 2 lb. **FRENCH FRIES** 79¢
- Frozen 709 g McCain's Strawberry or Raspberry **SHORT CAKE** \$2.09
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- Del Monte fancy halved Bartlett pears, sliced or halved peaches or fruit **cocktail** 19 oz. .98
- Carnation 6's asst. flavours **instant breakfast** 1.69
- Cascade auto dishwasher **detergent** 66 oz. 3.69
- Carnation 500 g. reg. marshmallow, milk instant **hot chocolate** 2.59
- 3 lb. shortening **Crisco** 2.68
- Mennon Speed stick reg. or spice **deodorant** 75 g. 2.25
- Red Rose 100's economy **tea bags** 1.89
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- Blue Bonnet 2 lb. bowl soft **margarine** 1.59
- Carnation 350 g. instant **mashed potato** 400 g. specified varieties .89
- Peek Frean **biscuits** 1.29
- Chef Boy Ar Dee plain 14 oz. **spaghetti SAUCE** .59
- 14 oz. with pork **Clark's beans** .49
- Chef Boy Ar Dee meat or mushroom spaghetti **SAUCE** 14 oz. .69
- Puritan beef, Irish, meatball **stew** 24 oz. 1.59
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- Gainsborough frozen 15 oz. 3's **pie shells** 1.39

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Linda Gillies and Sharon Page, both of Rockwood, received gifts from Audra Fernandes for their fund raising efforts to buy an electric lift chair for her mother's rest home.

Bowlers raise \$1,000 for electric lift chair

Jeanette's Rest Home, Main St. North, Acton, has an electric chair lift now thanks to the generosity of Halton Hills and Rockwood residents.

Georgetown resident Terry Gordon, whose mother used to live at Jeanette's and is now in a nursing home, organized

a series of bowl-a-thons which were played in Georgetown, Acton and Fergus and raised nearly \$1,000. for purchase of the special chair to take seniors living at Jeanette's up and down the stairs.

Seniors from the rest home cheered staff and friends of Mrs. Gordon

during the bowl-a-thons. Owner Jeanette Fernandes, said she was "amazed" by the generosity of both residents and businesses in Georgetown and Rockwood who sponsored bowlers. She added she was disappointed by the weak support the project received from Acton.



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