



Bill Collier returns

Bill Collier had only visited Italy once. He didn't see the canals of Venice or the leaning tower of Pisa, but instead the bloodshed and ruin of the Second World War. Bill recently returned to Italy again with the Armed Forces, but this time to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Canadian Campaign.

Two members from each Canadian regiment that had served during the war in Italy were selected by the commanders of those regiments to form a 190 member delegation to attend ceremonies taking place through which the Italian people paid tribute to the Canadians who freed their country.

The tour also included visits to cemeteries and memorials as well as major battlefields of the Canadian Campaign. Wreath-laying ceremonies at Cassino, Moro River, Revenna and Villanova were part of the tour.

"Two Georgetown men, Reg Blair and George Latimer, lost their lives in Italy and are buried at Revenna and Villanova," Mr. Collier noted. The battlefield at Ortona was the scene of a special service for the dead of the many battles in Italy.

The group arrived at the beginning of the Liberation Day festivities which now celebrated as a national holiday throughout the country.

The official party that accompanied the 190 men were: D. J. Macdonald, minister of veterans affairs, Lieutenant-General L. M. Burns, commander of the 1st Canadian Corps; Major General Chris Vokes, 1st Divisional commander and three recipients of the Victoria Cross; Major John Mahoney, Major Paul Triquet and Major Ernest Smith.

"On the tour we passed the battle site where Major Triquet earned his Victoria Cross," added Bill.

In addition to attending memorial services for the war-dead, the trip also included a tour of Venice and Rome and an audience with the Pope. "People from all over the world were there to see the Pope," explained Bill.

Addressing the delegation the Pope stated, "Veterans are among the few people of the world who understand the true meaning of peace."

"The country has changed over the 30 years since I was there last," said Bill. "There are lots of cars, highways and service stations. Occasionally we would see an ox being used to plough a field like it was done 30 years ago."

The cities are now rebuilt but shell and bullet marks still serve as a reminder of the past. Streets that were filled with rubble and debris are now major transportation links throughout the growing country.

"In spite of the change in the country over the last 30 years the people haven't changed," furthered Bill. "They still are warm, friendly and appreciative."

A commemorative package was prepared by the Canadian government for those participating in the pilgrimage containing maps and dates of all the battles of Italy and a brief history of those two years.

Bill added a poster from Ortona as an extra, special souvenir of his second trip to Italy.

Bill was selected out of the many men of the Lorne Scots Regiment who served in Italy.



BILL COLLIER proudly displays one of the posters used to advertise the memorial services held at Ortona.

THE LIBERALS WILL BE READY. The Halton-Burlington Liberal Association was born Monday night in Milton as the combined East and West Halton Associations got together to form their new group. Heading the association is Frank Allen, Georgetown (seated), who was elected president of the Liberals' riding executive. Also in the executive are vice-presidents Jeanne Servos, Georgetown, Dolly Moulden, Esqueping; executive vice-president, Alice Walker, Georgetown; treasurer, Grant Casely, Georgetown; and secretary Paul DesRues of Georgetown.

Liberals betting on fall

Halton-Burlington Liberals aren't betting on a spring election although they plan to be ready for it.

At the founding meeting of the Halton-Burlington Provincial Liberal Association Monday night in Milton the newly elected president of the group, Frank Allen of Georgetown, noted that it would be highly unlikely for the Progressive Conservative Party to call a spring election because, he noted, "there is too much going against the Davis government at the present time."

Mr. Allen, who previously had been the executive vice-president of the Halton East Liberal Association, predicted that Premier Davis "won't call an election until he has a lot of fences mended."

If the government did call a spring election, Mr. Allen added, "it would be a shoe-in for the Liberal party."

He predicted that October 18 was a likely date for the next provincial election. "However," he cautioned, "we must be prepared to fight at any time."

The local riding association formally came into existence Monday with the acceptance of the constitution of the association and the election of the new slate of officers.

Georgetown and Esqueping will be well represented in the riding's executive. Besides Mr. Allen there are five other Georgetown or Esqueping residents on the executive body.

Alice Walker of Georgetown was elected executive vice-president of the local association and Dolly Moulden, Esqueping, and Jeanne Servos, Georgetown, were elected vice-presidents of the group.

Grant Casely and Paul DesRues, both of Georgetown, were elected treasurer and secretary respectively.

The Liberal supporters present for the meeting decided that the executive could select further executive members with a minimum of six coming from Halton Hills, four from Burlington and four from Milton. They will be selected at a later date.

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