



Flags at half mast at the Glen Williams Cenotaph, Sunday.

Area war dead honored

Remembrance services were held for Halton Hills war dead Sunday in Georgetown, Glen Williams and Acton.



Acton veterans of World War I receive the present arms from serving members of the Lorne Scots Regiment who attended the Remembrance Sunday service on Mill Street. The veterans are: Cam Leishman, Billy Middleton, Dr. Allen Buchanan, Willard Britton, Jim Inglis, John Milne and Bob Turner.



Dr. Allen Buchanan lowers the Remembrance ensign during the sounding Last Post and Reveille. Cpl. Larry Taylor of the Lorne Scots Regiment stands vigil at the Cenotaph.

ON THE HOME FRONT

Childhood memories shared in remembrance

By SUSAN De FACENDIS
For an entire generation, Remembrance Day has little or no meaning. This has been abetted by allowing it to become largely a public holiday, thus making it an occasion for celebration rather than one of respect.

Although on the part of our young people this is an understandable attitude (for them, even music older than 5 years is ancient history) it is a shame, because even by a two minute interval of silence, they would be participating in an event that has spawned a library of books, probably making the two World Wars the most clearly documented period of history to date, and one that had a profound effect on everyone living during the first 40 years of the twentieth century.

My recollections of WWII are certainly hazy, but certain things still stand out clearly in my mind. We lived on the Sussex seacoast, 52 miles south of London, and lay in the path of every attack wave that was launched on London.

If the timing mechanism of an unmanned V-2 rocket destined for London was defective it landed on us instead. Our beloved beach was mined and

barricaded off by barbed wire due to the strong possibility of an invasion, and the northern coast of France seemed terrifyingly close in those days.

Children of course, are very adaptable and we were no exception. The unusual quickly became the usual. One learned to live with the expected air raids - which came at 12:30 a.m. without fail every night - and having to know the locations of all the public bomb shelters on your route to school in case of a surprise daylight attack, something that became more and more frequent as the war years dragged on.

It is remembering a father disappearing into the Navy one day, to return a complete stranger to us five years later. It is recalling the food rationing and believing that scrambled eggs made from powdered eggs and milk was the genuine article.

It is an image in my mind of the day my grandmother (an indomitable lady) returned from a morning shopping expedition, incoherent with rage because an enemy aircraft had come in across the English channel, its wings barely tipping the waves in order to avoid the radar and had actually machine gunned along

the pavement on which she was standing. My grandmother took it as a personal affront that she had been forced to make an unladylike flying leap into the gutter.

It is a clear remembrance of the funny incidents. The lady across the street, who was certain she would die in her bed as he always slept through the air raid alarms, and my mother rigging up a wire across the street between the two opposite front bedroom windows with a bell suspended over the heavily sleeping lady. If the sirens did not waken her, the energetic bell ringing of my mother certainly did.

Remembering the young Canadian soldier on sentry duty one very wet, foggy night. With every measured sound of his heavily tramping feet echoing in the blacked-out, silent street, my mother felt sorry for him. She finally took him out a mug of hot tea. Later, as a thank you gesture, he arrived on the doorstep, pulled a huge steak from his pocket and told my mother it was for our dog. I cannot recall who went into a greater state of shock, my mother and grandmother who had to unblink-

ly watch the dog devour this undreamed of delicacy - or the dog itself.

I regret that Canada recently saw fit to combine the three branches of the armed forces. I sincerely hope they do not decide to change the distinctive, identifying uniforms to a common one. Each branch of the service formed their own proud traditions that should be allowed to live on, they fought in their colours and many died in them.

The veterans march with heads held high in Remembrance Day parades, as well they might, for we owe these ordinary, heroic men a debt

that can never be repaid. On November 11th at 11 a.m. my memories, although distant childish ones, will join with theirs.

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