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Blundy recovering: "Sports beat"

By MAGGIE HANNAH Herald staff writer It is 60 years since Kaiser Wilhelm and his men surrendered to the British to end the Great War of 1914 to 1918. At Soldier's Memorial on 15 Side road and the Guelph Line Saturday five veterans of the conflict stood in the grey afternoon with 45 other veterans of the Second War and members of the community listening and remembering as the names of the "glorious dead" from both wars at a service organized by the Acton

Legion were read aloud.

France and England.

he came home.

him to grow up.

didn't come back."

now dead.

Willard Britton, R3, is a Nassegawaya native. He joined the artillery in Guelph in 1915 and served as a driver, he was wounded at Vimy in February 1916 and spent from that time until his return to Canada in 1918 in hospitals in

Bill Middleton, R4, was a signaller in the army. He joined from Harriston in 1916 and was wounded Sept. 1, 1918, after spending two years in France. He was wounded in both thighs and his right hand and was operated on in France, then spent six months in a hospital in England before

Mr. Middleton is reluctant to discuss his experiences although he says they beloed

COTHOME

hack," he says. "I was one of

the ones priviledged to get

He makes his annual trip to the cenetaph in Nassegawaya "for the sake of the boys who

Jack Milne, 85, still lives on the family form at R.R.1 Moffat, which he called home when he enlisted in the infantry in 1915. Mr. Milne had already gone to camp at

Petawawa for three summers.

he says. There were three men

from the township all enlisted

together, and all survived the

war although the other two are

Mr. Milne was struck by a

"Shells spread pretty badly

shell Oct. 11, 1915, in France.

when they hit, you know," he

says, "I was hit in the head,

and the arm and the band. I

had to carry me."

caught her "

wasn't unconscious but they

Seven operations on his ears

"I was wounded the day

before they shot Edith Ga-

vell," he says, "Have you ever

heard of the nurse who was

helping the British escape

back over the lines? The

Germans shot her when they

Mr. Milne says the 34th,

which was his regiment, were

a reinforcement group. They

understood they were to go

overseas as reinforcements for

the Princess Patricia's Cana-

dian Light Infantry but a

couple of days before they

suited out of Montreral they all

got new insignias. They were

going to reinforce the 1st

followed and Mr. Milne is now

totally deaf in the left car.

"A hell of a lot didn't come

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McCauley on on the spot --page 18

World War 1 veterans

recall "the great war"

SECOND SECTION

Halton Hills remembers its war dead



Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 led off the Remembrance Day parade in Georgetown Sunday afternoon. The parade left the Legion Hall shortly before 2 p.m. and proceeded by a roundabout route to Remembrance Park, where services were conducted by Rev. Peter Barrow of

Knox Presbyterian Church. Also marching in the parade were representatives from numerous community organizations.

(Photo by Lori Taylor)

Local Legion marks 50th anniversary, Georgetown has over 500 members

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. One of the oldest organizations in Georgetown as well as one of its best known, the Georgetown Legion has between 450 and 500 members according to its vice-president Maurice Mc-Lean.

Old time legion members like Walter Louth and Bill Gibbs say it was far different in the beginning.

Mr. Louth belonged to the Great War Veterans Association an organization somewhat like the Legion but without any nation-wide governing body. It was first set up in 1919 and each town apparently had its own little group with no connection to the group in neigh-

boring towns. Earl Haig visited Canada in 1925 with the purpose of forming a Canadian organization as part of the British Empire Service League. The idea spread quickly and the Georgetown branch was organized at a meeting in

the town hall on March 14, 1928. Mr. Louth estimates that there were 80 members in thebeginning.

FIRST EXECUTIVE A booklet prepared by the Georgetown Legion when it celebrated its 25th anniversary and loaned to The Herald by Branch 120 member Ralph. Hawes, says that the branch's ade arranged by the Legion first executive included Gordon Cousen as president, and Ed Barker, Allan Roney, Nelson' Tuck, Dr. C.V. Williams,

George Alcott and G.O. Brown in other positions. Tom Grieve was the first Sgt. at Arms. The Great War Veterans

Association turned over sever-

at hundred dollars to the new

organization and they received their charter April 27. The Women's Auxiliary for the branch was formed Sept, 13 of the same year.

The branch did a lot of house hunting before a suitable location was found over a grocery store on the west side of Main Street which was leased for

two years at \$15 a month. The first Armistice Day par-

was attended by 1,500 people. The Legion moved into new quarters on Mill Street in 1934

and applied for a licence to sell

beer to its members as a means of improving its financial posi-

Increased membership forc-

ed the branch to purchase its present home at the corner of Market and Mill Streets for \$1200 (\$600 in eash) in 1935. Bill Gibbs remembers the building when the Legion first

purchased it. "It used to be an implement shed in the front and a garage in the back," he says. "There was a fellow upstairs who used

to make fire escapes." what is now an apartment at the north corner of the upstairs. It was in this small

The meetings were held in space that the mortgage burning ceremony was held and Mr. Gibbs says each member

took a piece of the mortgage and burned it in the fireplace in that small room. Even if the area was small there was a bar and beer sold for 15c a bottle or two for a quarter, Mr. Gibbs

"It was just like a big open house in those days," he says. "Anyone could walk in and buy a beer and sit down for a chat. Then the rules were tightened up and eventually you had to be a member to get

Branch 120 along with the Lions Club and local industries all sponsored teams in Midget NHL hockey when Gordon Alcott organized It in 1937.

The branch began renovating the building and the work gobbled up organization funds as they became available.

Throughout the Second War years the branch was busy raising money for the Legion War Fund and sending parcels to members' sons serving overseas. A number of members including Slike McGill and Jim Murphy, founding members of the branch, joined the Veterans' Guard doing guard duty at Canadian Prisoner of War camps across Canada.

In 1946 it was decided to renovate the building and for many months its use was carried on in makeshift condit-Milne says. ions as the place was literally torn apart and rebuilt.

Feb. 8, 1948 the boiler blew up and did a great deal of damage to the newly renovated building and once again members began raising funds to restore their building.

BOILER BLEW

Bill Gibbs recalls the disaster and says it resulted from someone putting the wrong type of fuel in the new boiler. "Gee, it made a mess," he

Around 1960 it was decided that the branches should begin looking outwards towards their respective communities and since that time the Georgetown Legion has been involved in a number of community service projects includling raising funds for the Georgetown and District Memorial hospital, the outdoor pool, the memorial arena and Countryside residence for

at Hornby. The Legion looked after hockey Saturday morning for youngsters until the Town took over the project a few years ago. They also sponsor the they were sent back shortly Royalettes who won the Ontario Junior Ladies Fastball tournament this summer.

The Air Cadels have been another Legion responsibility for the past 10 years and receive no outside help except for uniforms provided by the government and the occasional transportation to some course or event.



World War I veteran Dr. B.D. Young was helped from the Nassagewaya cenotaph after the service was completed. Although Dr. Young suffered from a stroke this summer he

made the effort to attend the service in which he has taken part for many, many years.

the cenotaph," he says "Others were in favour of it. It must, have cost \$6,000 or \$7,000 in those days."

Mr. Milne was a member of the Great War Veterans' Association in Acton and became a charter member of the Acton Legion when it was formed in

Dr. B.D. Young, 80, who has been a veterinarian in Nassagawaya since 1932, says he ran away from home to enlist at the age of 18.

"Maybe I shouldn't say I ran away," he chuckles, "We were talking about the war and I said I didn't want to get eaught in the draft. The ones they were getting in conscription were the bottom of the barrel and 1 didn't want to wind up with them, so I went off to Montreal and enlisted. That was all the notice my family had, just that day or

The family farm was at Mansonville, Quebec. Dr. Young says he wanted to

IN TORONTO join the air force but they weren't taking pilots at that He was back in Toronto on New Year's Day 1917, Mr. time so be joined the engineers instead thanks to a little help Mr. Milne remembers argufrom one of his sisters who was ment in council prior to the a teacher in the city and knew building of the cenetaph at the someone in the engineering corner of 15 Sideroad and the

Guelph Line. He chuckles over the fact "Some people thought the that the air force came to the, money could have been spent farm looking for him a couple better ways than by pulting up of days after he set sail for

Europe because he was AWOL on their records.

Dr. Young says that 90 per cent of the men in his outfit were Americans picked up by a British recruiting mission through the States, "They'd rather volunteer

and get into our engineering corps than get caught in the draft at home," he says. The Germans last big resis-

tance was at Cambria, Belgium he recalls. There was quite a bit of hand-to-hand fighting there and they were under shell fire all the time after that as they threw up bridges across canals, but they still managed to advance quite rapidly. He was at Mons when the war ended.

· LIKE A DREAM "It was like a dream," he says, "One minute the shells were flying and the next minute everything had stop-

ped." Immediately after the armistice was declared his group was set to dismantling the

Hindenburg Line. "You may have heard of it, he says, "It was the line that was supposed to be impregnable. We found some dugouts that were three stories deep. They would have been officers'

In the process of dismantling these dugouts they had a few

casualties over booby-traps so

they began throwing hand grenades inside first to eliminate such problems before going in. Anything usable they found was turned over to the Ordinance Corps. They found quite a few stray horses, he says and most of them were turned in, but some were sold to Belgian butchers for spare

Dr. Young was among the 250 engineering corps members sent to Harve to build a camp for returning men to Britain or Canada. He says he was one of the last able bodied men to leave France in May .1919, and went from France to Camp Whitby in southern England.

He was supposed to come home on the Acquitaine, he says, but some men got out of hand and burned up the tin town (the camp for peddlers who followed army camps) and his papers went up in smoke along with the shanty town. That delayed them for

about ten days. When they did sail it was aboard the Saturnia, a former horse boat from South Africa,

"They gave us sandwiches to tide us over for the train trip to Glasgow where we were to catch our boat," he says, "but most of us figured the easiest way to carry them was to eat

Continued on Page 22

Ambulance nurse

Woman tells of her war past

By LORI TAYLOR Herald staff writer

"Everybody has their memories and experiences from the war, but they're very personal, about your friends and loved ones you lost, and people don't talk about them," Audrey Martin says.

Mrs. Martin, 60, was with the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas during and after World War II and was assigned to a hospital in Britain, caring for civilian and military patients. She assisted the Royal Canadian Medical Corps at Winford Emergency Hospital in Bristol; the hospital had been a children's hospital, but was taken over during the war for civilian and military casualties.

Mrs. Martin was one of the first members of the George-

town division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Her mother, Blanche Grieve, was one of the women responsible for the forming of the division in Georgetown. When the call came for volunteers to assist overseas, Mrs. Martin, who was 27 at the time, was the

only member of the Georgetown division to volunteer. In order to join the brigade, women studied first aid and home nursing courses, and once they had joined, they were re-examined every year. Before she went overseas, Mrs. Martin took additional training in Toronto.

Between the time she volunteers and the time she actually left to go overscas, Mrs. Martin went through a period of on-again, off-again, waiting for her travelling orders to be

issued. Twice she was told her services weren't required, but each time, she was called up

WAR ENDED By the time the group she was in finally got underway, the war had just ended, but nurses were still needed in British hospitals. Mrs. Martin's group with women from across Canada, was the last one sent overseas. She spent about 13 months in Brit-

The official title of the group to which Mrs. Martin was attached was the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas Voluntary Aid Detachment. They were responsible to the staff in the British hospitals, but all mail went through the

"You didn't know where you



AUDREY MARTIN

were going," Mrs. Martin says, "I had relatives in the London area, but I was sent to Bristol. I did manage to visit my relatives on furloughs, though. Once the volunleers arrived

at their respective hospitals, they started work, usually with bedmaking and bedpans, and were gradually given more responsibilities. "The English were very

strict about the way things were done," Mrs. Martin says. "I was lucky-I got a nursing sister to head nurse) that I go a long with. A lot didn't like her, but I got along with her." There were four Canadian women at the hospital where Mrs. Martin was posted, but

after she arrived. "They called me Canada," Mrs. Martin says with a smile. The volunteers worked 12hour shifts, and Mrs. Martin says they had little trouble with the more unpleasant side

of caring for the wounded.

"You saw operations and Continued on Page 22



Acton Branch 120 of the Royal Canadian Legion held its Remembrance Day parade Saturday morning. Marchers, led by to the cenotaph for the 11 a.m. service. the Acton citizen's band, paraded from the Post Office along

Bower Street, across Frederick Street and west along Mill Street (Photo by Maggie Hannah)

GLEN WILLIAMS REMEMBERS Glen Williams residents marked Reme- laying ceremonies at the village's war mbrance Day, on the weekend with wreath memorial.

(Herald photo)