

The Independent & Free Press

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Never forget

On page 5 of today's Independent & Free Press you will see the faces of five people who know first-hand the horrors of war.

They know the pain of saying goodbye to loved ones, of losing friends, of having to live on rations... of watching a world gone mad.

As we prepare to enter a new century, we can only hope current and future generations will not have to experience what these seniors and thousands of others like them had to endure earlier this century.

The past 100 years have undoubtedly been the bloodiest in mankind... we hope we have learned from our mistakes.

Tomorrow, Canadians are being asked to pause for two minutes of silence to honor those who fought to preserve our freedom. We are being asked to take a moment to pay tribute and say thanks to those men and women who showed courage beyond belief to stand up to tyranny and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Two minutes hardly seems enough.

As the years roll along, the number of those who fought so bravely dwindles. So does the number of those who can recall what it is like to live through a war. But it is crucial that we never forget.

Never forget that freedom carries a high price.

Never forget that others sacrificed greatly so that we have the lives we have today.

Never forget that war is not only ugly... it is hell.

We hope that 100 years from now no one will be able to recall first-hand what it was like to live through a world war.

But we hope 100 years from now future generations will still be pausing at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month to say thank you to those brave men and women of the 20th century who gave so much of themselves.



Let there be no more wars

Dear editor,

One September morning a small boy looked at his parents. His father had a worried frown on his face and his mother looked incredibly sad.

"It's all going to happen again," said his father.

Later that day the same little boy sat beside the radio and listened to a special announcement. War had been declared.

I didn't understand. To a seven-year-old boy it was all rather exciting; to my parents it was saddening.

No one wanted war, everyone in the Western World was prepared to bend over backwards to avoid more conflict.

My parents on that day saw only a repetition of the last conflict. They saw only the rationing, the trench warfare that killed so many young men. They saw again the devastation of the countryside, the long lines of refugees struggling to escape the horror of living in a land under the domination of a foreign power.

Today, in the last year of this century, there are many millions who have not had to face the cruelties of war. The reason we continue to remember past wars is the hope it will encourage us to stop new wars before they begin.

Let us resolve to bend our minds, ears and spirits in the cause of peace, that all future generations shall never have to know the misery and dereliction of international armed conflict.

Peter Barrow,
Georgetown

Letter of the day

Why we remember

Dear editor,

On Nov. 11 every year we celebrate Remembrance Day. This day, every year, we are gathered into the school cafeteria to listen to readings, poems and The Last Post while giving one minute of silence. What's the point?

Unfortunately, we have almost lost sight of the sacrifice that was given so that today we can be free. During the First World War, 66,556 Canadian men lost their lives and during the Second World War 42,045 men and women lost their lives.

Both world wars were horrible: man to man combat, mines, guns and mustard gas. Imagine not being able to remember the last time you were dry, or even showered and worst of all, not knowing when, or if, you were going to make it home to see the family and friends you left behind. Or seeing your best friend get hit in the back with a piece of shrapnel, lying there unable to move, and you, knowing you could not possibly do a thing to help him and having to leave him there to die.

Why do we remember? Because, if it wasn't for their courage and loyalty to their country we might not be free today. They went through hell for us and deserve our thanks and praise. Show everyone you remember. Buy a poppy and wear it. And on Nov. 11 when The Last Post is played, think of what the four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force went through for four years of the First World War and six years of the Second World War.

Think of the families they left behind, everything they had to go through and remember that all the fighting and horror they endured was for 27 million future Canadians who they'll never know. We owe our lives to them and let's never forget that.

Nina Loreto, Georgetown

Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for content or length and can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com