

Georgetown vet says battles left soldiers 'with little choice'

Continued from pg. 6

"We had a tube (barrel) and a base plate, but no tripod," he continued, "And no bombs for it. I went back and found three bombs- two smoke bombs and one regular one."

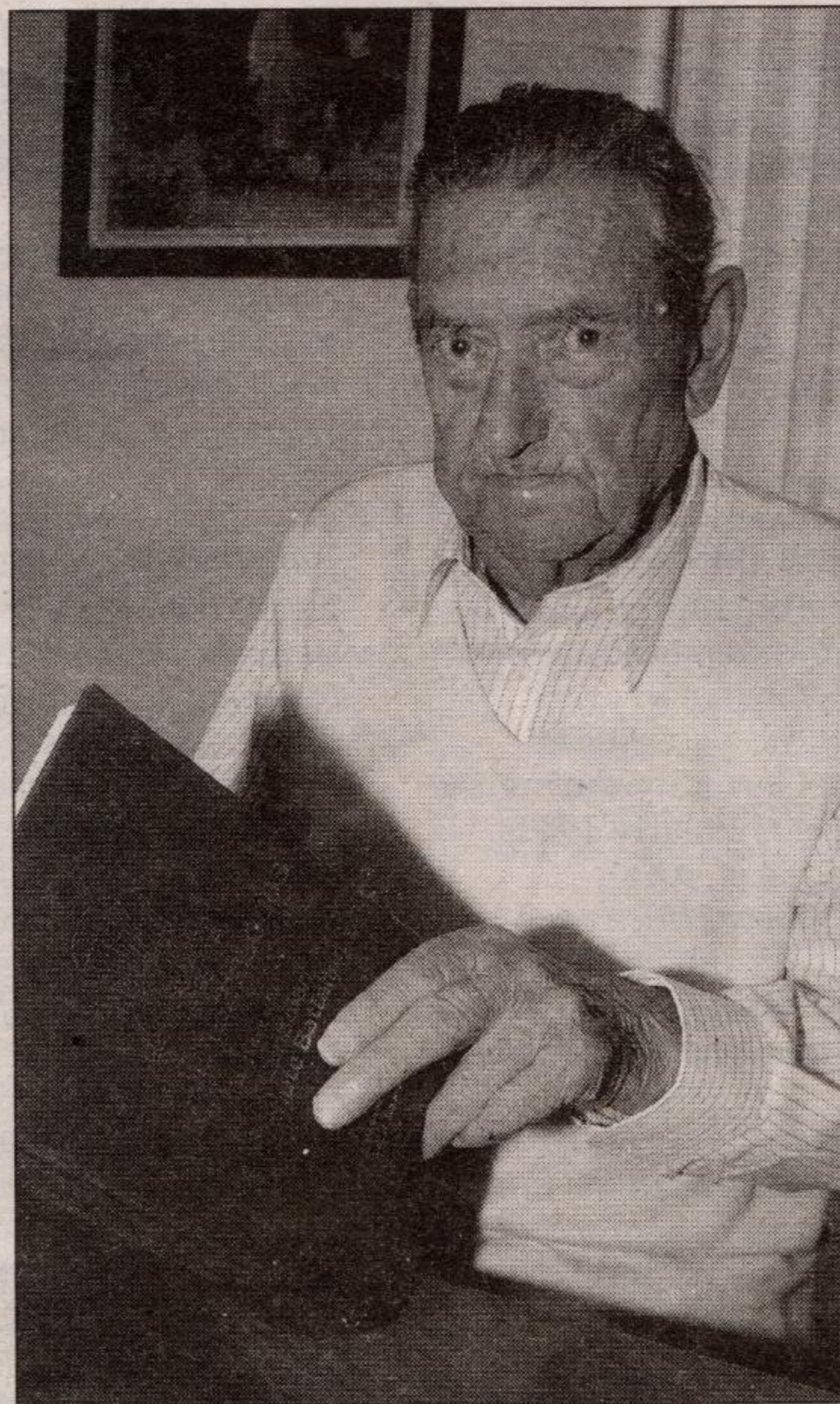
As another of his group joined them, one held the tube up (acting as the tripod) while the others steadied the base plate, and Clapham fired the mortar at the tanks.

"The first one was a smoke bomb, and was way over it, and the next smoke bomb was too close," he said. "When I used the regular bomb, I was lucky enough to be right on— the tank took a direct hit, and we disabled it. The other tank high-tailed it out of there, but if he'd known we had no more mortar bombs, he might have stuck around."

Clapham returned from the war in May of 1945, and after a short stint at a government job in Toronto, he teamed up with Jim Ross of Georgetown and they operated a taxi together.

Later, after marrying May Hicken, he and his brother-in-law Ted Hicken built the garage at Maple Avenue and Trafalgar.

May and Tom tried a few different ventures over the years, including a summer resort at Jackson's Point, but eventually



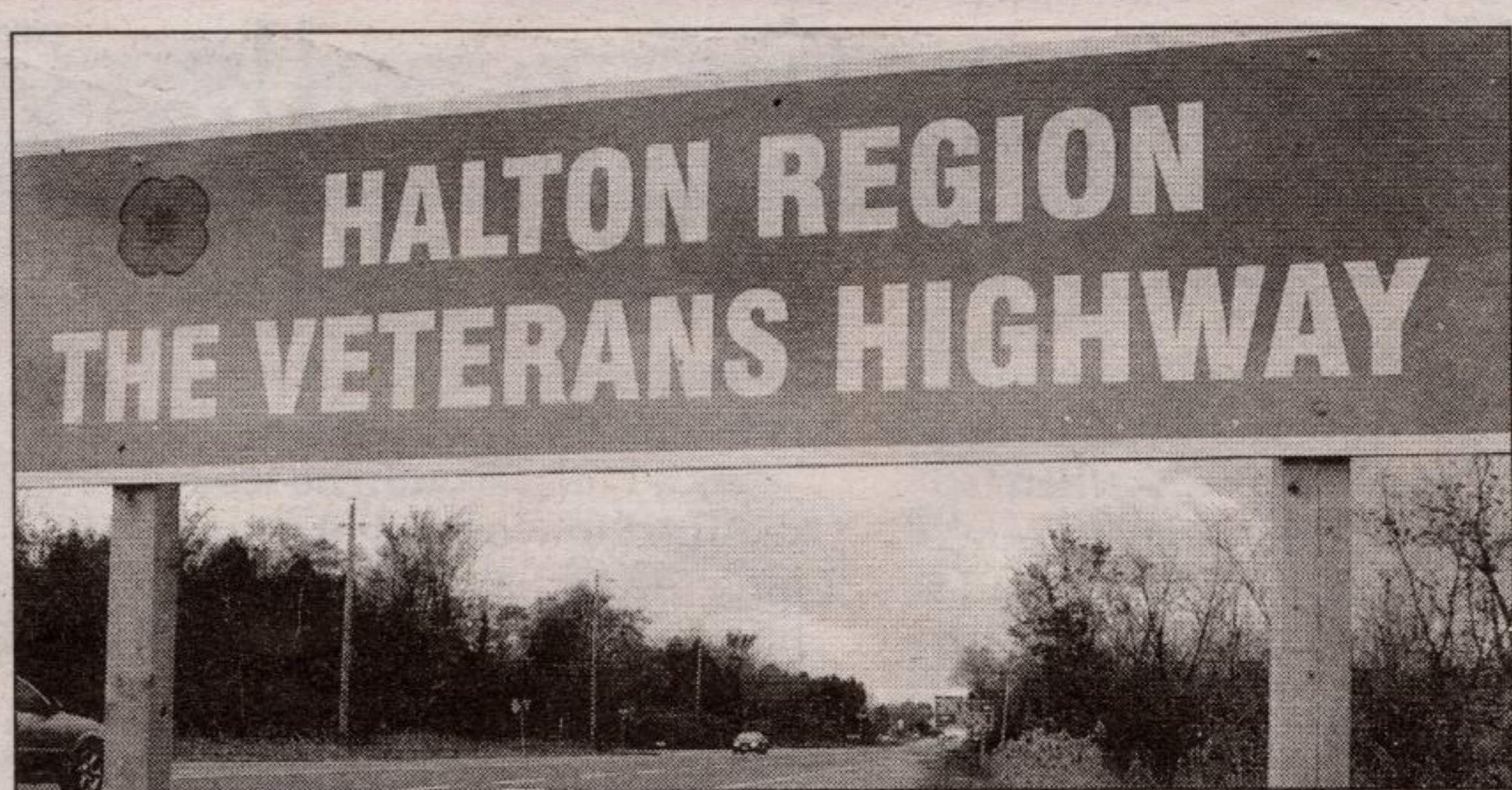
Veteran Tom Clapham reminisces from his Georgetown apartment about his role in the war as a paratrooper.

Photo by Ted Brown

returned to Georgetown, where they retired in 1977.

"You know, I killed 16 of the enemy during the war," he said, "But I was never hit myself. I feel a bit ashamed at times, but like I said, it was war, and we have little choice. Afterwards, you just have to carry on with your life."

—By Ted Brown, staff writer



Roadway a tribute to veterans



Halton Region recently bestowed honorary dedication to Regional Road 25 (formerly Hwy. 25) by naming it the Veterans Highway. "Signs posted along Regional Road 25 will serve as a permanent tribute to the heroes in our midst," said Halton Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline. "This ceremony will applaud the Halton veterans who fought for our liberty, ensuring the quality of life we are so privileged to enjoy." (Left) Gordon Moore, vice-president, Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion, lays a wreath at the Acton Legion ceremony.

Photos by Ted Brown and Trish England

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