'Those Yanks... gave me my freedom'

Continued from pg. 2

When the group made their way to Brunswick, the Americans were closing in on them. In fact, the day before they were liberated, the Americans bombed them by mistake, thinking they were German troops.

Wemyss will always remember that day in April 1945, when he was liberated.

"It was my finest hour," said Wemyss. "Those Yanks liberated us. They were the best thing I'd seen in years—they gave me back my freedom."

Being free again wasn't easy though. The Americans gave Wemyss and his comrades a big feed of rice as soon as they were free, which caused them to be sick. Their stomachs weren't used to food.

"We were flown to Brussels after that, and I managed to find a flight back to England that night," said Wemyss. "I landed in England that same night."

As soon as he landed, Wemyss had to go through de-lousing, to rid himself of the insects which had been closely attached to him for most of his time as a POW.

"I took a train to London the next day, and was home after that," said Wemyss. "It was good to be home."

He was demobilized May 13, 1946, after having left Britain in March 14, 1939.

Wemyss said he saw a lot of things that were unpleasant during those five years and wouldn't want to see again. But he maintains the 'esprit de corps' was what made him a survivor.

"We were closer to each other than brothers," said Wemyss.

"When you're a prisoner and you're up against the wall, you get like a rat," said Wemyss. "You find a way to do things, to look after yourself, to survive. I don't know



The above map shows how far prisoners at Stalag XXB marched in six months from December 1944 before being liberated in April 1945.

what happens, but if you can't do it alone, someone else will do their best to helpthat's 'esprit de corps'."

Following the war, Wemyss worked around London, where he met Connie Dennis, and they were married June 12, 1948. They had two children, Andy and Janet, and eventually set their sights on moving to Canada.

John arrived in 1956, and Connie followed behind the following year with the two children. They lived for a short time in an apartment in Georgetown before moving to their present home where they have resided ever since. John worked at Smith & Stones factory for years, and in his spare time, coached hockey in Georgetown.

This time of the year is a sad time for Wemyss.

"I feel a sadness when I think of those who didn't make it," he said. "But as I sell poppies in the mall and talk to others who went through the war, I realize that we all saw some tough times. Some will talk about it, but many won't. I don't know which is the best. Sometimes it's better to keep things to yourself, sometimes it feels good to talk."

Whether he talks about it or not, John Wemyss has marched to hell and back, and thanks to the power of 'esprit de corps', he has lived to tell the tale.

—By Ted Brown, staff writer

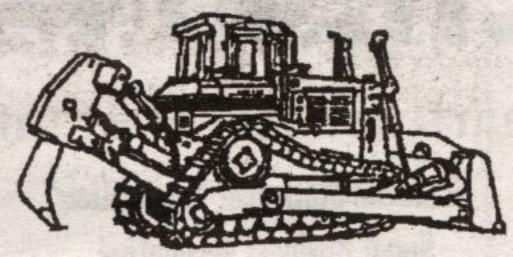
First World War veterans remembered

The following is a list of Glen Williams and rural Georgetown veterans who served in the First World War from 1914-1918. The list was compiled from church records at St. Alban's Anglican, St. John's United (Glen Williams) and Limehouse Presbyterian as well as back issues of the Georgetown Herald:

Robert Addy, Alfred Allen, Eric Appleyard, Ed Beerman, Wesley Brennan, Fred J. Brown, James Brown, William Burgess, Albert Carter, Ernest Cormish, Cedric Cross, C. J. Cummings, Albert Dane, Percy Davidson, Thomas Forgrave, Joseph Fry, John Fry, Gordon Garvin, Percy Graham, William Hadley, William Halpin, Walter Hancock, John Hartshorn, Thomas Hartshorn, William Hartshorn, A. Heaton, Wilson Heaton, John Hepburn, Edward Hill, James Holloway, Bob Hynds, Sam Jackson, Rueban Kentner, Kenneth Cowan Lindsay, William Lund, Jay Marsden, Alfred L. Marshall, Robert Marshall, Charles Meredith, Howard Meredith, Monty Merryday, William McDowell, Roy McGill, R. McMaster, Robert Mc-Menemy, Harry McOury, Alex S. Mino, David Muckart, George Muckart, William Norton, Al O'Neil, William Osborne, Thomas Page, William Page, C. C. Polkinghorne, Harold Polkinghorne, John Presswood, Wilfred Preston, Tom Roberts, Joe Shevlin, Frank Scott, A. J. Smethurst, Crofton Songer, J. L. Sutherland, Herbert Tracey, Ira van Campan, Floyd Varey, Percy Wagstaffe, Fred Weaver, Hudson Wheeler, S. M. Wright, John Wroe.

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A Remembrance Day Message From Michael Chong, M.P. Wellington-Halton Hills



For over one hundred years Canadian men and women have fought in conflicts around the world. Whether in the First War, in World War 2, in Korea, or in peacekeeping missions around the world today, over 100,000 Canadians have died for their country. This November 11th, please take time to pause and remember the ultimate sacrifice paid by your fellow Canadians.

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