



# REMEMBRANCE DAY



N O V E M B E R 11



12 pages

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Veteran Ormie Carter of Norval proudly displays his Combat Infantryman's Badge, which was presented to him at a reunion dinner of the First Special Services Force, (FSSF) a U.S.-Canadian unit that saw action in Europe. American members of the FSSF received their CIB when the Force was disbanded in 1944, but Canadian members had to wait 60 years.

Photo by Ted Brown

Ormie Carter

## Special Forces veteran honoured— 60 years late

Although it took almost 60 years to happen, Ormie Carter has received his medal.

The long-time Norval resident was joined by 100 other veterans, or their spouses, last August as they gathered in Calgary to receive the Combat Infantryman Badge, (CIB) as veterans of the First Special Services Force (FSSF), better known as The Devil's Brigade, a joint Canadian-U.S. unit that saw fierce action originally in Italy and later throughout all of Europe during the Second World war.

American members of the FSSF were presented with the badge in December, 1944, when the Force was disbanded near the end of the war, but Canadian members were not allowed to receive it, as they were considered foreigners, and the U.S. Congress would not approve it.

The First Special Services Force Association had been lobbying Congress for more than 40 years, but approval was only granted this past May.

"There were many who missed out on it," said Carter from his Norval home. "Waiting so long, many have

passed on and their widows accepted on their behalf."

Carter was amazed at one fellow, who flew in from Australia to accept his CIB.

Held at the Sheraton Eau Claire Hotel in Calgary, Carter said more than 400 were present at the dinner to see the vets receive their CIBs.

"It was really nice to be honoured," said Carter, "Even if it was 60 years late."

And interestingly, Carter ran into a fellow who was in the same platoon as him, and they had spent three weeks together at Lake Albano in Italy, after Carter received a flesh wound during the liberation of Rome.

"There's only three fellows left from my original platoon," said Carter, "Seven (veterans) came home from the war, all living within a 100-mile radius of Toronto, but now there's only the three of us left."

The FSSF was activated at Camp William Henry Harrison near Helena, Montana, July 9, 1942.

Consisting of 2,300 men, the FSSF was organized into three regiments of 600 men

each plus a service battalion.

The Canadian volunteers who made up about one third of the unit, were screened before arrival at Camp William Henry Harrison. Preference was given to men with experience working in severe conditions, like lumberjacks, miners and mountaineers.

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## LEST WE FORGET

### 3 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

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280 Guelph St. - Georgetown

374 Queen St. E. - Acton

