

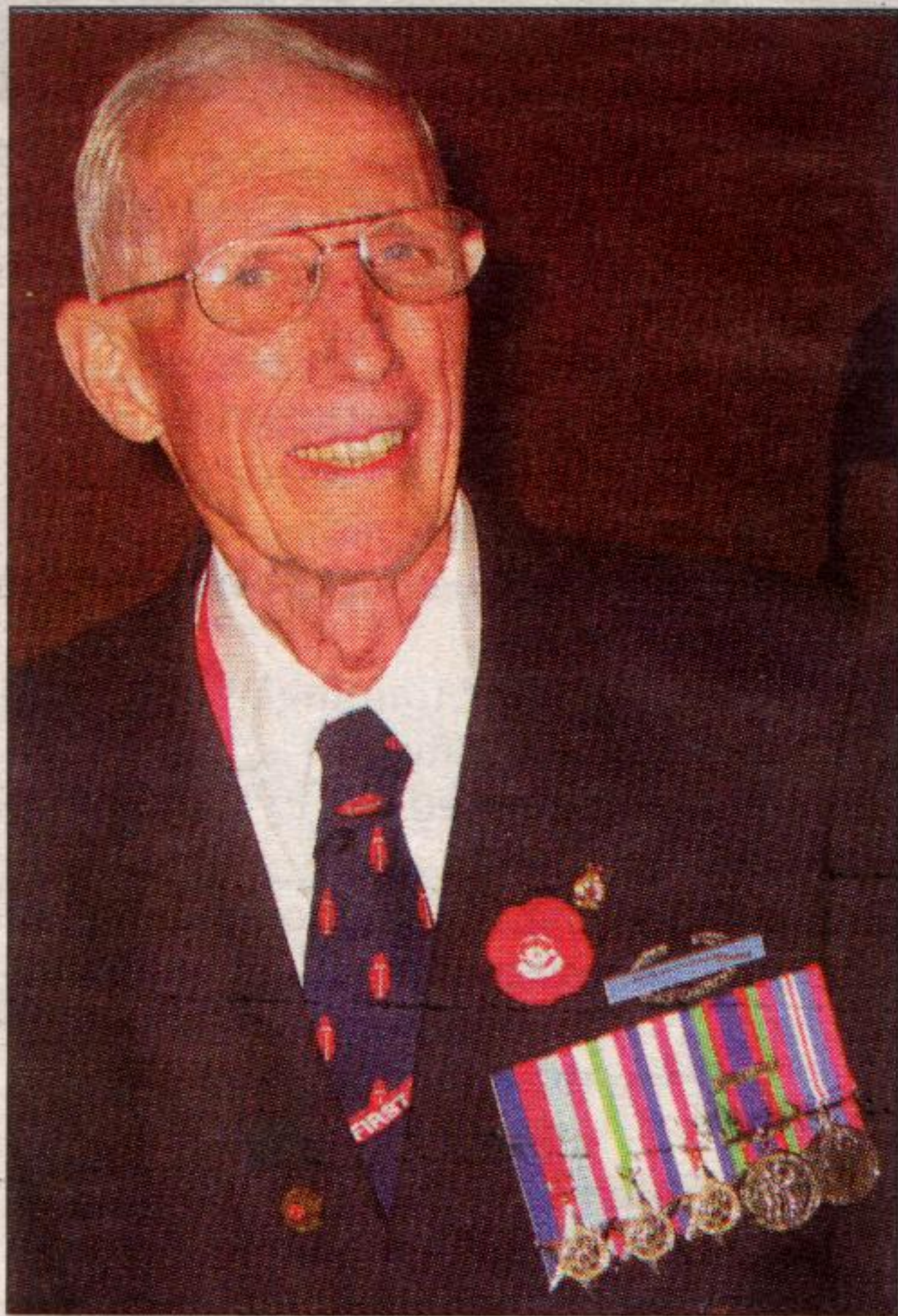
Carter's days with Brigade ended with his capture

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As fate would have it, Carter took a bullet the day Rome was liberated.

"It was June 4," said Carter, "At 4 p.m. I remember it well. I took a shot from a tank—good thing it was a ricochet bullet, it didn't have much speed, otherwise I might not be here today."

It turned out to be a flesh wound and Carter was sent out to be patched up, then spent three weeks convalescing at Lake Albano, before returning to active



Ormie Carter at the Calgary ceremony last August where he received his Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Photo by David Carter

service.

"When I went back, it (the wound) was a bit tender," said Carter, "But I was certainly ready to go at it again."

Weeks of training in rubber boats in southern Italy would prepare the FSSF for their next objective.

"We landed on the south coast of France," said Carter, "And after training, we were taken up the coast to try landing, like we would be later doing in southern France."

After landing in France, Carter's group patrolled the area for months and it was on one of the patrols that his days with the FSSF would end.

"It was September 9, 1944, south of Castellar, in France," reminisced Carter, "We were on a mountain range, between Castellar and Castillon, on the border between France and northern Italy. We were part of a section sent out to spot a German artillery placement that was shelling this town, Menton, on the coast of France, killing a lot of civilians."

"There was an artillery officer from a destroyer and two radio men along with us, so they could radio back to the ship and the naval artillery could try to take it out."

"We got up to the top (of the moun-



The Devil's Brigade calling card translates from German into "The worst is yet to come."

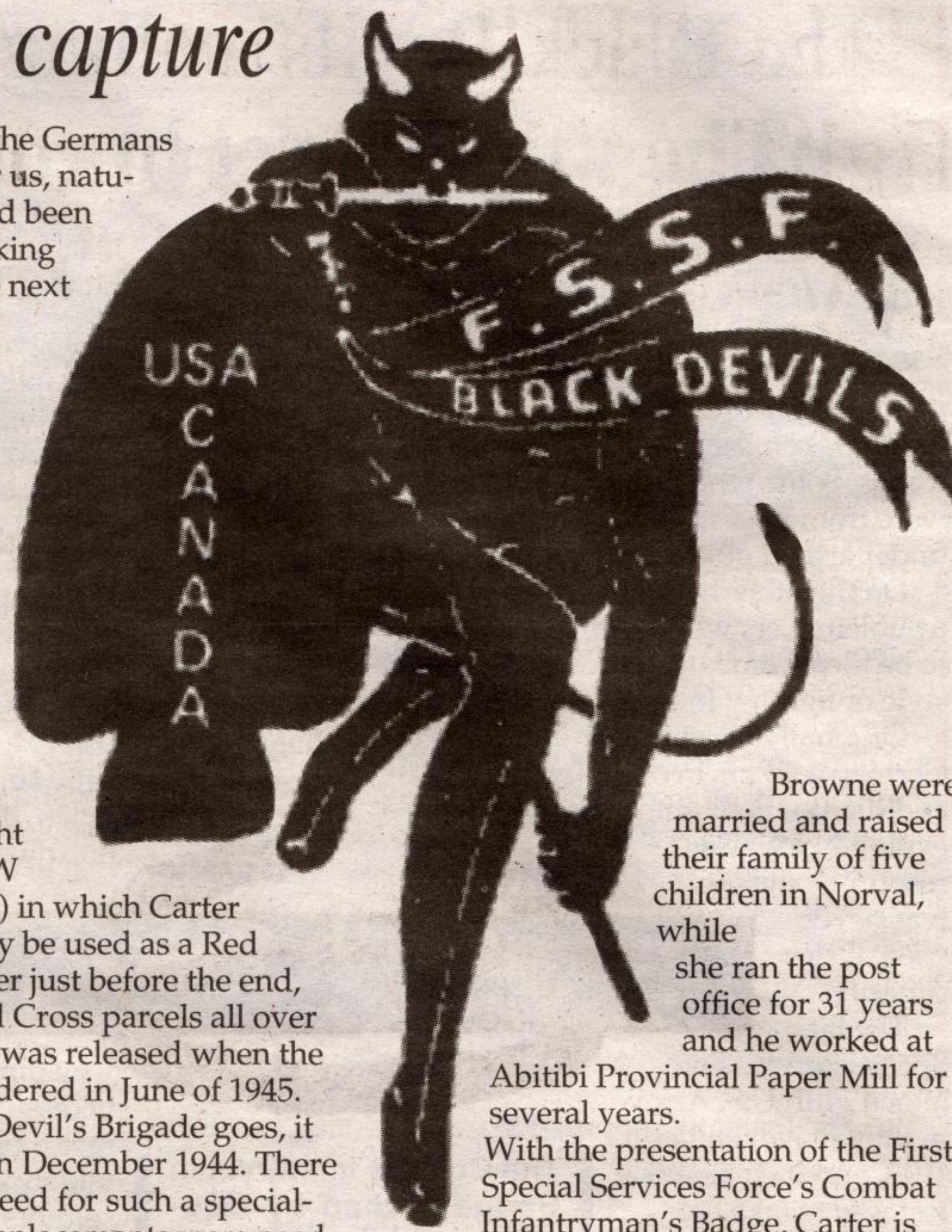
tain range) and the Germans were waiting for us, naturally, since they'd been watching us making our way up. The next guy to me was a ways down the path, carrying a radio—we called him 'Chicken Muscles Malone.' We later learned that he actually got back—he didn't get captured at all."

That was the beginning of eight months as a POW (Prisoner of War) in which Carter would eventually be used as a Red Cross truck driver just before the end, transporting Red Cross parcels all over Europe, until he was released when the Germans surrendered in June of 1945.

As far as the Devil's Brigade goes, it was disbanded in December 1944. There was no further need for such a specialized force, and replacements were needed in other outfits. The Canadian and U.S. troops were transferred to other outfits to fill the needs there.

"I was back home July 2, 1945, but I had to wait a year, until 1946 to marry my wife," grinned Carter, "She was in the (Canadian Women's) Army in Ottawa, and they wouldn't let her out until she got a replacement."

In 1946, Ormie Carter and Joan




Browne were married and raised their family of five children in Norval, while she ran the post office for 31 years and he worked at

Abitibi Provincial Paper Mill for several years.

With the presentation of the First Special Services Force's Combat Infantryman's Badge, Carter is pleased, even if it took so long.

"The (Canadian) fellows were left out back in '44, and it's nice to see them finally recognized," said Carter, "I feel sad that so many weren't around to see it happen. But I'm pleased I got to see it myself. It was quite a feeling to receive it."

—By Ted Brown, staff writer



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