



REMEMBRANCE DAY - Nov 9



CAN'T LIVE THROUGH THE MEMORIES

"I was born and brought up on a small farm near Milton, Ontario. We, as a family, had a good life. My mother and my sister were involved in local drives for paper, fat, rags and things like that. They also spent many evenings knitting gloves, socks and scarves. I guess it was easier in those days with no television to distract you.

I remember when the war started to close in on us. My oldest brother was nearly 18 at that time. He had finished high school and was working on the family farm. He was good looking, young and strong, with a full life before him.

I remember the day when dad, him and I went to the Milton market. That's when he found out that all his friends were either being called up, or they couldn't wait to be called up for service and they were volunteering.

I used to think Steve was so young and foolish to have made up his mind to go and fight. But now when I think back, I wish I were two years older than him and not two years younger. Then it would have been me who went and not him.

Mom and Dad tried in vain to talk him out of it - 'Wait until you're 18' - I remember hearing those words over and over, but it was no use. His mind was made up.

After Steve left, things were not the same. Mom and Dad were trying to act the same but I could tell they were suffering. Although Steve was still in Canada in the Air Force, for the next ten months we only saw him four times while he was getting his training. I can remember how mother would break down and cry after Steve left for camp. I wonder now if she had a premonition of things to come. The last time we saw him, he was home for ten days before they sent him to England.

We tried to cheer Mom up by saying he's only gone to England. Five weeks later, we had a letter from him. He was enjoying himself and happy to have met some of our relatives. This letter put us all on cloud nine. Then six weeks later, we received another letter saying Steve was missing in action. Those damn wars. I can't live through the memories let alone another war."

GUIDE HIM TO S

"I remember the war years, but I look back on those days because of a sense of pride and sadness that it caused us.

In 1936, my husband was killed in action and the only close ones I had left were my son, Barry and my daughter, Madelyn. Barry was in Milton, Ontario during the war. He was sent overseas to fight. I used to pray day and night, hoping the light would guide him to safety. Till this day, I light a candle for him every year on November 11th.

To help with the war effort, my husband and I worked with the Red Cross. We made pajamas and blankets. We would pack boxes and send them overseas. Madelyn was only 15 at the time. She would write short notes to the soldiers.

I can recall my son's last letter. He had never seen him before for words during that last letter. Before he left, he came into my arms around me, and told me he was going to be okay. Then tears came to my cheeks like maybe he knew differently.

The next day, I made his father's hat and left it on the kitchen table. I just sat there for a while. When I can't sleep, I look at it untouched. And I saw a glimpse of him up the road and out of sight. That was the last I saw of Barry."

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