



Bond between soldiers 50 years after

• from TAG LINKS on page 3
 although not where," Mr. Clement said. "Judging by a service number engraved on the piece of jewelry, Mr. Clement determined it belonged to an officer from

Ontario. He decided the fastest way to find the former soldier, if he could be found, was to place an advertisement in an issue of the Royal Canadian Legion magazine.

To his surprise, Mr. Clement received a letter from the owner — a resident of Orillia — within a week. The letter came from Hartley T. Higgs, who served with the Toronto-based 17th Duke of York Royal Canadian Hussars.

"It almost blew my mind to see my name in print in the legion magazine after all these many years," he wrote.

"I had forgotten all about that bracelet, but knew it had been a present from my younger sister, who would be just 17 in 1943."

Mr. Higgs, who joined the Canadian army in the fall of 1942, said from his Orillia home that he can't recall if he gave the bracelet away or lost it. "It's like Ripley's Believe It Or Not," said a grateful Mr. Higgs, adding he never thought he'd see the meaningful piece of jewelry again.

"Although I don't remember Zwolle, we probably passed through there as our regiment travelled to the far north of Holland."

Mr. Higgs, who was married in 1946 to a Scottish woman he met after the war, said he contacted his 69-year-old sister Audrey to inform her of the news. Audrey had sent the bracelet to her brother in England as a Christmas gift and was upset when he came home without it. "She's quite excited about it," Mr. Higgs said.

Mr. Clement said he plans to mail the name plate to his new friend next week. For now it's on display at the legion's Remembrance Hall. The display includes a 1945 photo of Mr. Higgs in Holland.

The touching story is a reflection of the "human relations we as veterans still feel both for ourselves and posterity," Mr. Clement said.

Board rebuffs veterans

from PUBLIC on page 1
 lack of appreciation for Remembrance Day.

"Every Halton school acknowledges Remembrance Day in their own unique way and the board does so by honouring the traditional reflection at its public board meeting," he wrote.

Several Milton public schools annually take part in The Champion's special Christmas publication, which features students' stories and drawings reflecting holiday themes, confirmed Rob Kelly, the newspaper's editor.

Mr. Parry said he wasn't aware of the publication or the schools' participation and added that he can't know about everything that goes on in every board facility. He also noted that not everyone celebrates Remembrance Day or Christmas.

Legion member Dick Clement said he was taken back by the board's decision, especially considering he recently gave a war-related talk at a local public school and two years ago the organization presented Milton District High School with a bronze plaque naming former students who went to war. The project involved extensive research and countless hours of work.

Mr. Parry said if individual schools decided to take part there would be little he could do about it, and all students have the option of participating on their own time.

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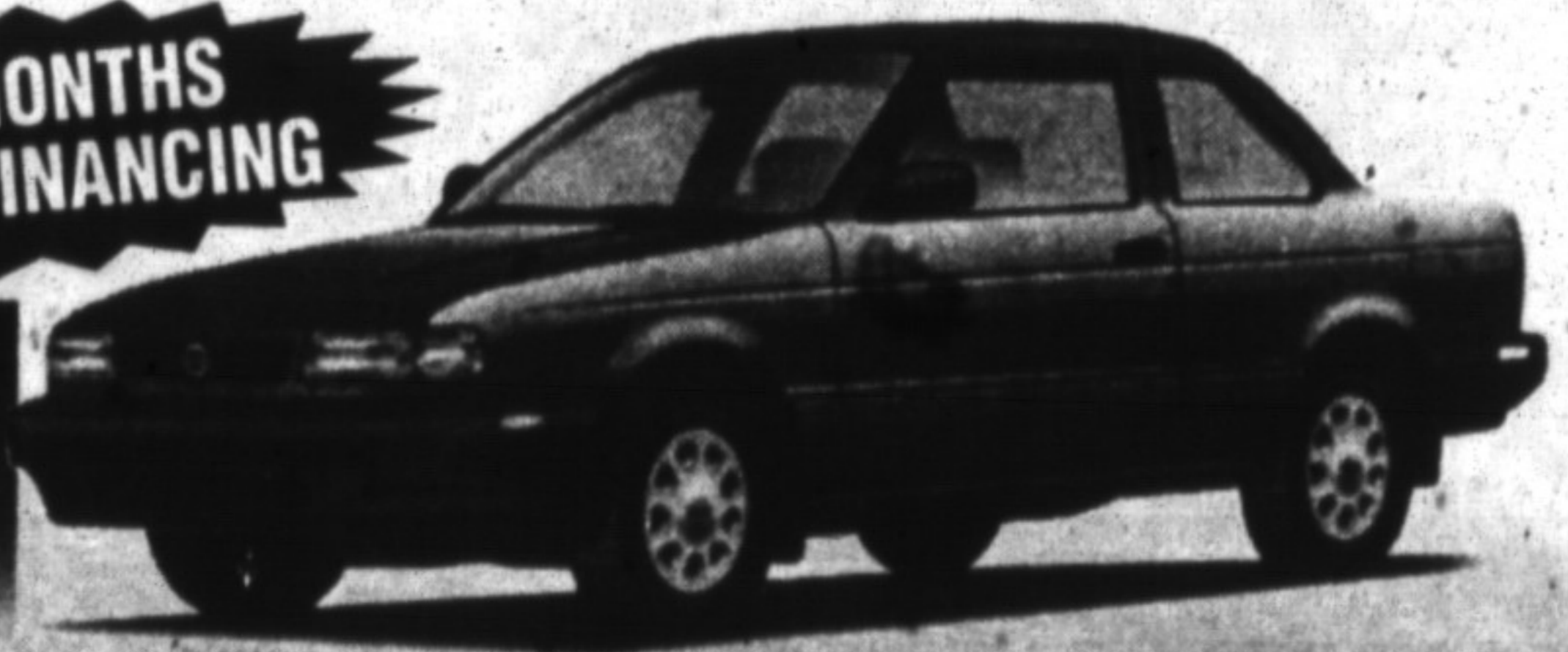
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