

# Another mission accomplished as Air Force vets reunited



## Comrades in arms

Penetanguishene's Ron Desroches, (rear, centre), stands proudly with other members of 425 Alouette Squadron in this W.W.II photo of their bomber crew. Flanking him are the two comrades who recently

by Ken Regan

Ron Desroches was just 20-years-old when he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force, in 1942.

Caught up in the fever of the times he was one of thousands of young men and women who signed up to fight for

their country and put an end to tyranny.

Last weekend, Ron went back in time in a sense. He along with five other members of the Alouette Squadron, who also reside in this area, took part in the 40th anniversary celebrations commemorating the Battle of

"persuaded" him to attend an Air Force reunion in Toronto, Harvey Gothier, (rear, left), and Johnny Arsenault, (rear, right).

Britain.

The festivities were held in Toronto, Sept. 12-14.

Ron almost missed out on the weekends events, but was "persuaded" to attend by two former flying mates.

Pressure Ron knew of the

festivities taking place, but wasn't certain he wanted to make the trip.

He says he didn't know whether he was willing to take the pressure of being in the city.

When Saturday morning arrived he received a phone call from Johnny Arsenault, of Montreal, and Harvey Gothier who'd flown up from New Hampshire for the reunion.

The two men had been gunners on the same Halifax Bomber on which Ron served as wireless operator.

When they called the men told Ron they were coming to get him and soon they were at his door.

In tones that are heartfelt and wistful, Ron tells of how his buddies, who he hadn't seen in 17 years, "talked (him) into it."

He said "We had a couple of drinks of rye...and fought the war all over again and they talked me into going to Toronto."

Sentimental

It is not surprising Desroches becomes a little sentimental when he talks of their days

together in the R.C.A.F. The comradery still exists says Desroches. "We were just like brothers."

It is no wonder considering the three men, along with three other crew members flew 30 missions together over enemy territory, most of which were over the

Ruhr Valley in Germany, one of the hottest spots of the air war.

Ron is glad he was persuaded to attend the reunion and take that trip back in time. And for his "brothers" Johnny Arsenault and Harvey Gothier it was yet another mission accomplished.

## Fiddler on the Roof at MSS

by Amgad Shehata

Casting for the play, Fiddler on the Roof, began this week at Midland Secondary School.

A lot of hopefuls have turned out for the casting, making for the anticipation of a successful play.

Acting talent in the school is really quite high in caliber as judged by the success of last year's play, Androcles and the Lion.

The play won the Georgian Bay Drama Festival Award.

The musical endeavor for this year has seen over 2000 performances on Broadway and is

reputed as being one of the most popular musicals ever written.

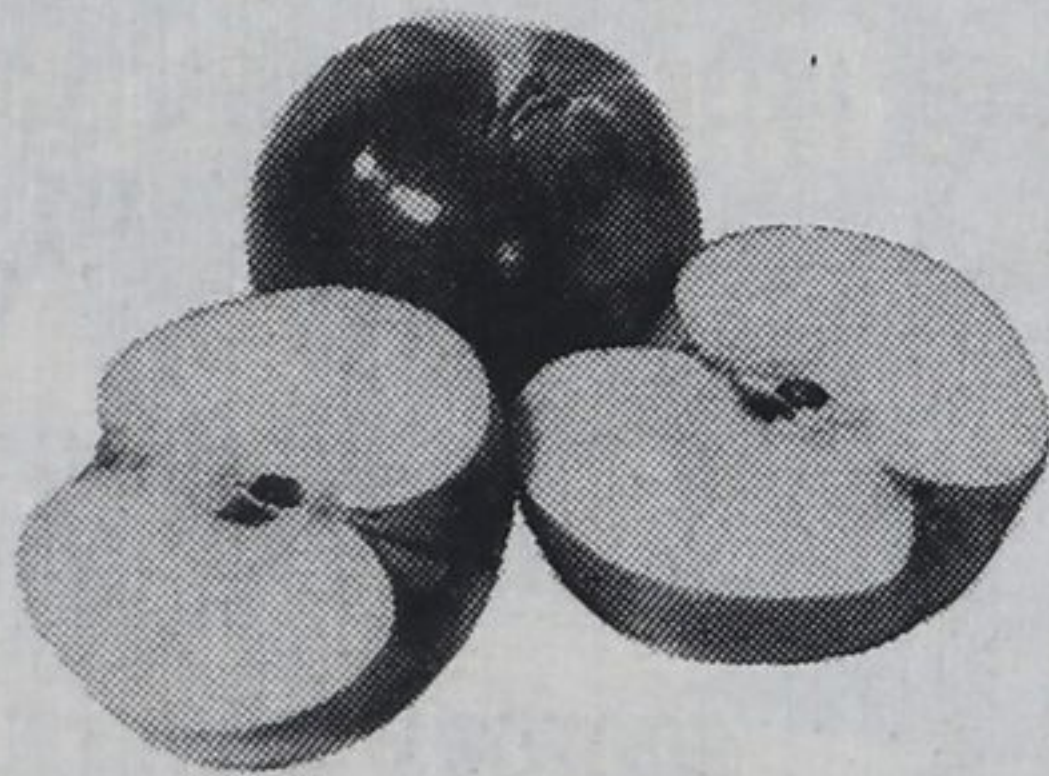
For more than a decade now, the songs and story of Fiddler on the Roof has brought laughter and tears to audiences all over the world.



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