

Veterans on borrowed time?

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scription orders. He went to the nearby military office in Cochrane and signed up. Joining the Army Corps, he was sent to the military base in Camp Borden. It was there that the young logger first laid eyes on a tank.

Glover demonstrated a special knack for operating the large military machine. Not yet 18, Glover became a tank instructor. For three years, he taught the troops in both Canada and England all about the Sherman.

"I taught the troops all they needed to know about tanks," Glover said.

After the invasion of Europe, Glover joined the Governor General Horse Guard and stayed with it until the ceasefire.

In 1944, Glover did leave his tank long enough to marry Eileen, who was serving with the Auxiliary Territorial

Service. Like Glover, Eileen was the child of a First World War veteran.

After the couple exchanged vows, Glover joined his troop as they made their way through France and Belgium. Glover was also a part of the liberation of Holland. History shows the Dutch do not forget. Even the little children know the Canadians rescued their grandparents from the grip of war.

With ceasefire in 1945, Glover brought his war bride to Canada. There was no welcome mat. And, contrary to what many in Europe thought, Canada was no easy street. "We had a rough time," Glover said. "We had no place to live. But, Scarborough sold us a small lot and I built a shack. I bought a wheel barrel and a shovel and dug out the basement."

Glover got a factory job for a while. Soon after, he joined the fire department where he remained for more than

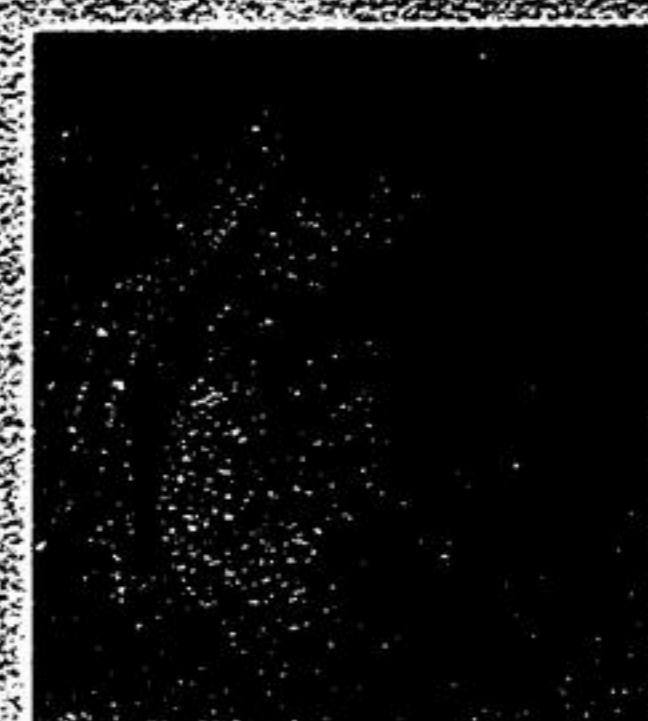
30 years.

Last June, Glover spent his 75th birthday visiting the graves of the fallen in Belgium, France and Holland.

"It's mind boggling. There are thousands and thousands of graves," Glover said. Joining Glover on this special trip was noted historical author Norm Christie. *Winning The Ridge*, is included among Christie's works.

Despite the efforts of writers like Christie and the provincial government's recent help in drawing attention to Remembrance Day, Glover is worried that the veterans and the war dead will eventually be forgotten.

"We (the veterans) are living on borrowed time," Glover said. "The children should be taught that those who died in the wars made the sacrifice for them. People wonder why we should remember bad things. If it weren't for the bad things, we wouldn't have our freedom."



Joan Ransberry

Could today's youth carry freedom torch?

Tomorrow I'll remember a man I never met. Private Alfred Alldread was killed in action in Italy in the spring of 1944. I was born the following year — on VJ Day to be exact.

Private Alldread was my mother's brother. Judging by an old photograph Uncle Alf had Hollywood good looks. When I was a kid, I used to look at the photograph and wonder out loud — If we hadn't had the war and Uncle Alf lived, what would he be like? Where would he live? Where would he work? Who would he marry? Would he have kids and would they look like the rest of us — blonde hair and Irish blue eyes.

Except for a grenade in the hands of a Nazi, Private Alfred Alldread would have made it home.

Had it not been for Second World War, Alfred Alldread might have done much with his life; he might have become a regular guy or maybe he'd have done very little. Instead, Alfred Alldread lies in a lonely grave in a foreign land far, far away.

On Monday, while visiting Stouffville's Legion Hall, I chatted with war veteran Bill Payne. He was a stocker in the Royal Canadian Navy, having joined at 17. "I spent my 18th, 19th and 20th birthday at war. I made it around the world, got discharged and got married all before I was 21," Payne said.

Could today's youth do what Payne, his brother Harry and one million others did? If war broke out now, we'd have to take a hard look at our youth, especially those with long hair and baggy pants and \$214 running shoes, Payne said. You know the ones. They spend their time and money piercing tongues and bellies. Would they pick up and carry the torch? "I think they would," Payne said. "My heart tells me they — even the funny looking ones — could do as good a job as we did."

Eventually, will people forget Canada's contribution to the First and Second World Wars? Payne points out that so many people are preoccupied with the pressing demands of the day, so many people are seemingly unaware or unmoved by the importance of the hour. Still, this old soldier reminds us that the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month should never be forgotten.

So far, Private Alfred Alldread has not been forgotten. Our family makes a point of mentioning him during our special gatherings. I never met my fallen soldier uncle, but I know this: Alfred Alldread was neat as a pin, loved apple pie and had a hound dog who hated thunderstorms.

Tomorrow, my parents, my aunts, uncles and cousins will attend Remembrance Day services to remember the 45,000 fallen Canadians, including Alf.

I'll pay my respects at the Remembrance Day service at the Stouffville Legion. During the traditional two minutes of silence, I'll think of that old photo of the young man. Private Alldread never got the chance to grow old.

While there, I'll also think of my other uncles who served their country. They came back. Ernie Alldread, Lloyd Alldread, Mel Ransberry, Tom Lewis, Harvey Jones and Don Parker were ordinary Canadians who did an extra-ordinary job. While I am from the new generation, I am aware of the enormous debt that I owe. And, while learned more than 40 years ago, I can still recite every word of *In Flanders Field*.

— Joan Ransberry



In photo below and bottom left, Jim and Eileen Glover were married in England in 1944. Both were instructors at the armoured training centre in Blackdown, England. Eileen was a Corporal in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (the women's army of Britain). Jim's dad and Eileen's dad were both soldiers in WW1. Jim and Eileen have been married for 54 years. Flanders' Fields, the famous grave site in Belgium for fallen Canadians and other soldiers in WW2, was photographed by Jim Glover last June on a tour of battlefields and grave sites in France, Belgium and Holland.



Schools should not forget

Lest We Forget will be the message delivered in Ontario schools every November, if MPP Julia Munro gets her way.

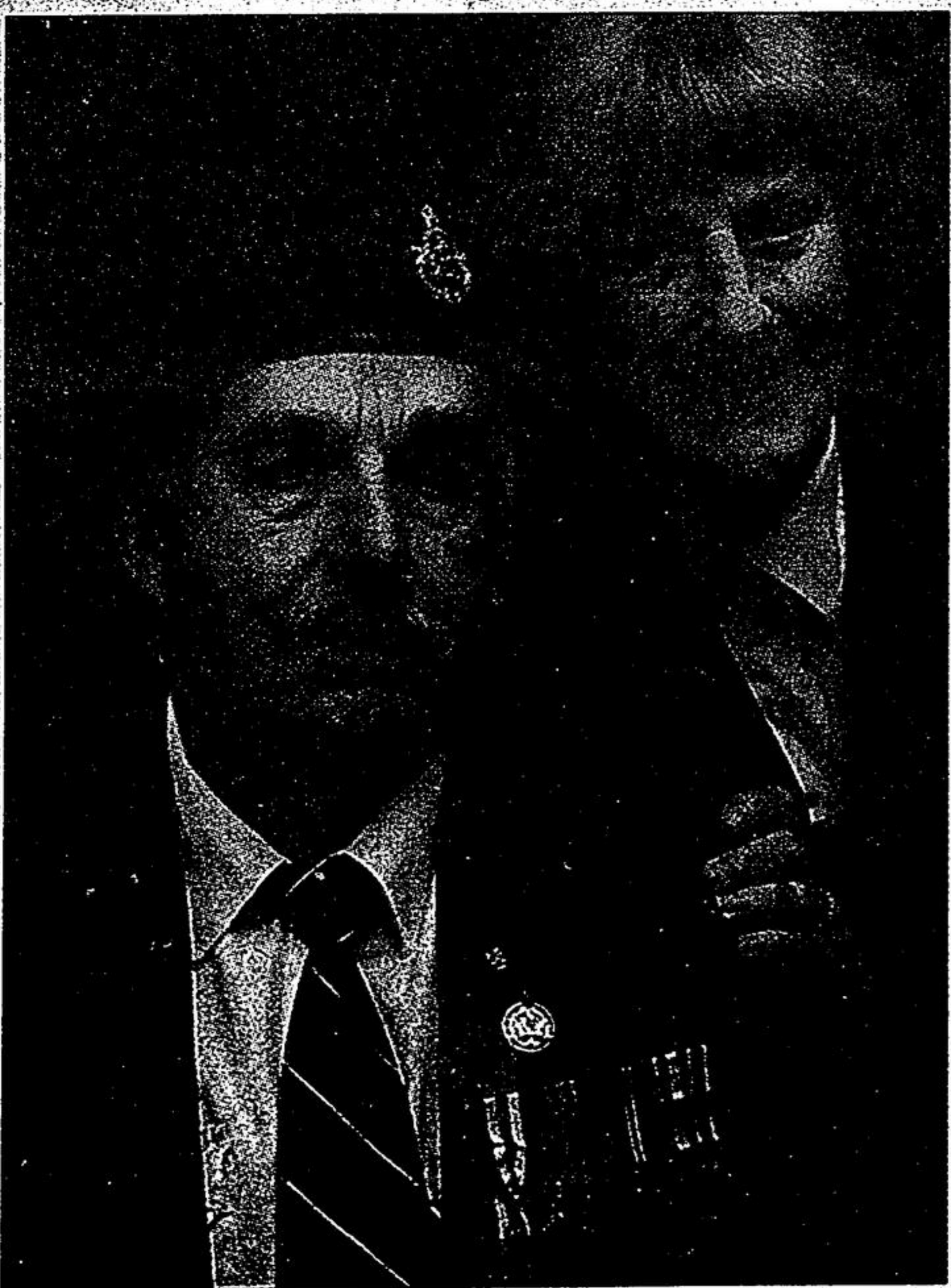
On Thursday at Queen's Park, Munro delivered a petition calling for the creation of a special Remembrance Day curriculum to ensure the efforts of Canada's war veterans are never forgotten.

The curriculum would involve all grades and would be developed with the assistance of the Ontario Veterans Association, Munro said.

"The world wars and Canada's role in them are important, too important to be forgotten or to go untaught in our schools," Munro said. "Whole generations have grown up, raised children and neared retirement since Canada involved itself in battles such as Vimy Ridge and D-Day."

More than one million Canadians served in the two world wars and the Korean conflict. Since confederation, more than 116,000 Canadians have lost their lives while serving in overseas campaigns, the petition states.

— Joan Ransberry



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