

SURPRISE PARTY

On Monday evening 150 friends of Mr. and Mrs. Delmer Healy gathered at their home in the form of a surprise party, to spend a social evening with them previous to their going to their new home in Whitby. Both Mr. and Mrs. Healy have lived in Eden nearly all their lives, and it is with a feeling of regret we bid them good-bye. Mr. Healy served overseas three and one-half years, and was in both battles of Vimy Ridge and Ypres. While he was in the trenches Mrs. Healy was a constant worker in Red Cross work and all things in connection with the Society. They both possess good sterling qualities, and will be greatly missed among their large circle of friends. They were presented with a solid leather chair and purse, followed by an address. We wish them good luck on their farm, and trust they will be very successful in all their undertakings.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather conditions, about one hundred and fifty were present, and a very pleasant time was spent, a substantial lunch being served before dispersing. The address was as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Delmer Healy and Miss SaDelle—

A few of your friends have gathered here to-night to spend a social hour with you in your home, before you depart from this community to take up your abode and interests elsewhere. It is not easy for us to express our feelings upon this occasion, but we must try. As you know, ordinary pieces of furniture may be parted from us and we feel no farewell. It is different, however, when we part with a horse or dog which has served us that they were counted as friends. We part with our living pets more reluctantly. But it is only when we are called upon to bid good-bye to men and women who have spent their young lives among us that we realize how strong the tie is that binds us together. Life and its interests in a small community like ours are so woven and interwoven together that it is impossible to remove a thread without affecting the whole fabric. Thus do we feel in parting with you, one of us, rather three of us, will be gone to live elsewhere. You may move, but the contribution you made to the life of this community remains with us. You cannot take your old associations with you, but you can take the assurance of unbroken friendships with you. It is well that we should all remember that, while heroism and acts of valor may command the applause of the community for a time, it is the steady, every-day action, produced by our better manhood and womanhood, that will command the lasting respect of any community, or give us power to share in the moulding of its character. Let us all, therefore, cherish the very highest ideals of manhood and morality, and endeavor to realize our ideals in every-day contact with others. We shall miss you from Sunday school and church, we shall miss your greetings at the station, we shall miss you from the circle by the stove, at the store, and other social circles. But we shall remember you. And we ask you to accept these presents as memorials of your associations of the past and as tokens of our best wishes for your welfare in the future.

On behalf of your friends—Mrs. Geo. French, Mrs. Geo. Healy, Mrs. Frank Travis, L. Leach, H. A. Dean.

Mr. and Mrs. Delmer Healy and SaDelle spent Sunday with Rev. and Mrs. Jones.
Emera Culp spent Sunday with...

Tillsonburg, with John...

The play given by the Baptist ladies' aid was quite a success, realizing \$25. Those who took part in the play were banqueted at D. D. Healy's after the play and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The members of the company expressed their appreciation as follows:—

kindest birthday greetings Mr. D. D.,
 And we thank both you and Mrs. Healee.

For we gathered together,
 Regardless of weather,
 Ate madly and gladly
 But not at all badly
 Of your wonderful dinner you see.

And now to show our a-prec-shee-
 aye-shun
 Of all the good things plus the fun,
 We mail you these mufflers,
 To keep out the blusters,
 Which come in the snow-time,
 And stay until springtime,
 And are then routed out by the sun.
 The farmers are quite elated over the

Card of Thanks

Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Healy wish to say that they sincerely thank the ladies and their husbands of the play for the beautiful mufflers presented to him through the mail on his birthday.

FIRST TO ENLIST FROM EDEN. ONT.



Upper Del D. Healy, No. 3117, who enlisted with the 7th Field Company Royal Canadian Engineers, at London, Ont., Feb. 14, 1916. He is now at Shorncliffe Camp and expects to leave in about two weeks for the trenches near Verdun. He is the first volunteer from Eden, Elgin County. He considered it his duty to go and do his bit to help protect his wife and little daughter, and his aged parents.



**In Loving Memory of
Richard Obadiah Craven**

*Third son of the late Lazenby
and Ann Craven of Eden, Ont.*

*Who was killed in action at Courcellette, in
France, Sept. 15th, 1916, while nobly fighting for
his king and country. He enlisted in the 68th
battalion, at Regina, Sask., and was transferred
to the Princess Patricia Light Infantry.*

1877

George Yocum of Bayham - 82 years of age - was present at
Lundy's Lane and Fort George.

Samuel Howie of Bayham - 86 years of age - was present at
the burial of Brock.

Matthew House - 82 years of age - lives in Malakide - fought
at Lundy's Lane.

Thomas House - 78 years - of Bayham

Jacob Berdan - 83 years - of Bayham

Sidney McDiarmid - 75 years - of Bayham

Robert Eakins - 83 years - of Bayham

Thomas McDiarmid - 75 years - of Bayham.

VETERAN OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR - 1914-1918

Nelson

WILFRED ERNEST NELSON was the oldest of eight children. Born March 15th, 1897, near Essex, Ontario. His mother died in 1910. He then went to live with a farmer neighbour, a Mr. Jim Thorpe. He was there until he was 18.

Then he got a job on the C.N.R. unloading freight cars and was laid off for a month. It was during this time that he was drafted into the army. Went overseas and was wounded in the right arm and leg in France. He spent several months in England. They finally took the arm off.

He came home April 30, 1919 and got a job with Ford Motor Company in Windsor running a freight elevator.

Then, while visiting an Aunt in Welland, he fell and hurt his ankle, which wouldn't heal. So after about eight months in the hospital, they had to take the leg off.

Then he moved down near Eden with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Capling. There he met and married Blanche French.



(Courtesy Mrs. Reo Voakes
Essex, Ont. Sister)

11

LOCAL BOYS WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II

The following names are recorded in the Baptist Sunday School room as local boys who served in World War II:

Donald Graydon

Kay Palmer

Ted Sivyer

Frank Graydon

Leonard Palmer

Douglas Tanner

Clayton Jones

Philip Palmer

John Tanner

Leroy Jones

Philip Palmer Sr.

Joseph Yesbec

George Jenkins

Joe Parker

Earl Ketchabaw

Ray Roloson

Harold Ketchabaw

Anthony Salcak

Gordon McDonald

Richard Sivyer



Wounded in action, Rifleman, Frank W. Graydon, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Graydon of Eden, on the 11th of January. He enlisted in May, 1941, and trained at Camp Borden for one year. He was stationed at Vancouver for a year and went to Kiska Island in July, 1943, where he remained for six months. He returned home in January, 1944, and went overseas in May, 1944. He has seen action in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, where he was wounded.

His brother, Pte. Donald Graydon, was seriously wounded in Italy on September 7, 1944, and was recently moved to a hospital in England.

LEST WE FORGET

They died here in training

(Tillsonburg News Nov.9, 1985)

Since joining the Royal Canadian Legion in 1949, I have had the honour and pleasure of being in charge of the November 11th Cenotaph Service for the past 30 years.

Each year, Legions across Canada prepare for the day when we stand in front of the hundreds of Cenotaphs and pay homage to the thousands of men and women who laid down their lives for sovereign and country. Not being an overseas veteran and not having taken part in battles, I find my thoughts wander to others who for a number of reasons share my experience, but still paid the supreme sacrifice, without seeing overseas service.

With thousands of troops, sailors and airman training, accidents were bound to happen. In my army service I never knew of anyone being killed, but it did happen. Navy men were drowned during training, but the largest losses were suffered by the air forces.

In the second world war, Canada played host to the forming of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. It trained 125,000 men from all over the Commonwealth including 50,000 pilots, and placed some 30 training bases in Ontario. During the five years that the plan was in operation, over 800 trainees died in accidents.

Within 100 km. of Tillsonburg there were 12 Air Training Bases. They included Elementary Flying Training Schools at London, St. Catharines, Mount Hope and Goderich; Service Flying Training Schools at Brantford, Dunnville, Aylmer and Hagersville; Air Navigation Schools at Port Albert and Hamilton; Air Observers School at London and Bombing and Gunnery Schools at Jarvis and Fingal.

After reading James N. Williams' book, The Plan, I decided to do some checking and see how many of the trainees who died were still buried in this area. My first stop was in the village of Mount Hope, just outside of Hamilton. Just south of the old training base is a small church with a cemetery behind it. In a line are 14 identical granite markers. They mark the final resting place for airmen of the Royal Air Force who trained at Mount Hope under "The Plan". The first three died in 1941 in the crash of an Anson trainer in the Caledon Hills. Five lost their lives in 1942 in a crash near Wallacetown. The last date was December, 1943, in a crash near Waterford.

My second stop was in the small town of Jarvis. A neat cemetery contain 11 granite markers, but the graves contain men from different Commonwealth countries.. One is a Royal Canadian Air Force Flight Sergeant. One is a Sergeant from the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Four contain bodies of Royal Air Force personnel and the other five are from the Royal Australian Air Force. All died between 1941 and 1945.

My last visit was to the cemetery south of the town of Aylmer. It is located some eight miles from the old air base, now the site of the Ontario Police College. I was most familiar with No. 14 Service Flying Training School, Aylmer, as I had visited it a number of times prior to enlisting in the army. The cemetery has 11 of the same granite markers located just to the left of a Cenotaph placed there by the Aylmer Royal Canadian Legion Branch. The countries from which the airmen came was varied. One Canadian, three Australians and eight English airmen rest here. It was noted that six were members of the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm. It was also interesting to find that many had died in places familiar to us in Tillsonburg. Crashes had occurred in places Eden, Calton, Straffordville, Brownsville, King Lake, Otterville, Avon.

LEST WE FORGET

They died here in training

Four men had died within five miles of the Tillsonburg boundaries. The military section of the Tillsonburg Tri-County Museum has a number of articles displayed from some of the crashes.

Because they came from overseas countries, their bodies still remain in Canada. The graves are well tended and neat. In some cases the crews are kept close together. The markers have air force crests, service numbers, rank, names, units and date of death. Some carry special inscriptions requested by their families.

As Mr. Williams writes in his book: "And it really doesn't matter whether you're prancing in a Tiger Moth over Neepawa or in a Halifax over Berlin - you're just as dead. And these young fellows were all just as loyal, just as courageous, just as young and just as prepared to go and do those big and glorious deeds as those that got to do them, but they never got the chance and they got none of the rewards. The guy that was killed later usually had a few weeks, or months or years of glory beforehand - whether that made it worthwhile or not is another matter - but these kids got nothing. They got no Wings; they got no recognition; they got no memorial; they got no gongs. Nobody ever talks about them any more.... and I think they should."

So this year when you attend the November 11th Remembrance Service, remember them, as well as the men and women who died in battle.

On my trip to the Aylmer cemetery, Lt. Linda Pitter, training officer for the 153 Varnavair squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets, was with me. After learning the story of my visit she composed the following poem.

This poem is dedicated to the memory of those who died serving our country.

REMEMBRANCE

When we think back of times long ago,
And of families with their losses who suffered so,
We must remember that there were more,
Who served but never fought in that war.

Men travelled a great many miles,
From Australia, New Zealand and the British Isles,
Left friends, and home, and family,
To come and serve in this country.

No decorations or medals were won,
But they, too, were here and now are gone,
For accidentally they died in training,
And here their bodies forever remaining.

Back home their families still do wait,
With heavy hearts and losses great,
These lives and families from across the sea,
Should also be kept in our memory.

Linda Pitter

On the Cenotaph in the Aylmer cemetery, the following inscription reads, "

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN, AND IN THE MORNING,
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

"

Written by Captain H.J.Saelens
Commanding Officer
153 Varnavair Squadron
RC(Air)CS, Tillsonburg.