

OUR WAR EFFORT.

The year 1945 is a year that long will be remembered with V.E. Day the 7th of May and V.J. Day the 15th of August.

As Mr. Churchill said to the Canadian boys aboard the Queen Elizabeth on his trip to the United States this year. "The Old Flag flies; the task is accomplished and the duty done; our future is in our own hands."

One of the greatest fetes of the 11 World War was the wonderful accomplishment the boys from all Allied Countries did by giving their time and many times their lives to make this world a good place to live for the rest of us.

We would like to honor the boys who left our community to join the services or whose families lived in this community at the time of the war:

Trooper Kenneth Joseph White - Overseas-2 years.Killed in action.
Pte. Franklin Begg - 2 months
F.S. Gunner Harold Bowlby - Overseas - 1 year
Pte. Nelson Bowlby - 3 years
Pte. Harold Butler - 1 year and 5 months
LAC Ernest Carroll - 3 years
Pte. Stephen Foris - 2½ years
Spr. George Hall - Overseas 5 years 3 months
Pte. Earl McCurdy - Overseas 5 months - service 2 years
L/Cpl. Fergus Hugh McCall - 4 years occupation in Germany
Signelman Leonard Silcox R.C.R. London.Overseas 2 years.
LAC Donald Travers - 3 years
WO2 Edwin Trimble - Postal Corp. 5 years - Overseas
F/L Noble Tafford - 4 years service - 2½ years overseas.



Pte FRANKLIN BEGGS.



WO2 ROBERT EDWIN TRIMBLE.

St. Thomas Relatives Meet in Britain



UNCLE and nephew from St. Thomas, Ont., had a reunion recently at headquarters of the R. C. A. F. Bomber Group in Britain. Lt.-Col. Roy A. Gilbert, left, commands the Base Dental Company which provides dental care for the thousands of Canadians in the group's heavy bomber squadrons. With him is his nephew, Flying Officer Noble Tufford, of Middlemarch, now instructing at an R. A. F. station—(R. C. A. F. Photo).

Lt. Col. Roy A. Gilbert was a pupil of Middlemarch School S.S. No. 14., for a short time, getting his Entrance from this school.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rivers who lived in our community for several years had five sons serve our country, ^{they} who are:

- Gnr. C.R. Rivers - Served Overseas 4 years-
Service 4½ years
- Gnr. H.E. Rivers - Served Overseas 4½ years-
Service 5 years. Wounded.
- Pte. G.F. Rivers - 4 years Overseas. Service
4½ years.
- Pte. W.L. Rivers - German Occupation. 1½ years
overseas.
- Pte. S.J. Rivers - Serving in London, Ont.
Detention Barracks 1 year service.

As each boy enlisted from our district he received a gift from the community as a token of good will from his home friends.

While the boys from our community were overseas, the group packed and sent them boxes of food stuffs and other articles hard to obtain in England, Italy and the other occupied countries. The boys on this side of the ocean received cards at different seasons of the year.

During the earlier stages of the war we helped serve lunches at the Hostess House at Fingal Bombing and Gunnery School to the boys and girls stationed there. We also assisted in the program at the Legion Hall in St. Thomas, a Sunday Evening Hour for boys and girls in Service: and served lunch to them after the program.



F.S. GUNNER HAROLD BOWLBY
MAY 10. 1944.



PTE. NELSON BOWLBY.



LAC. DONALD TRAVERS.



Pte. HAROLD BUTLER
in front of Barracks
Duncan B.C.

The Blood Clinic or Blood Bank was something to be proud of in St. Thomas and we had a little share in its wonderful accomplishments. Mrs. Don Begg gave very generously her time nursing at the Clinic. Those listed below were donors to the blood bank from our Community:

Mr. Trevor Stinchcombe
Mrs. Vera Smoke
Mrs. Stanley Lyle
Mr. Wm. D. Lyle
Mr. Robert Lyle
Mrs. Ella Dowler
Mrs. Harry Dubber
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Curtis
Miss Ann Tufford

Mr. Frank Curtis
Mr. John McNiven
Mr. Bruce Lyle
Mr. Ivan Lewis
Mr. Kenneth Butler
Mr. Walter Travers
Mr. James Carroll

We also served several dinners to the service personnel who donated their blood. At times there were as many as 100 donors in an afternoon.

A group of our ladies took the course on Home Nursing in order to be able to assist in case of emergencies in the home which was very necessary due to the shortage of Doctors and Nurses.

During the six years of the war a great deal of knitting was done both for the services and the civilians. The total amount being 813 articles. We would like to give special mention to Mrs. Thomas Dubber, one of our Charter Members, who did so very much for the Overseas knitting. During these war years she has knitted 164 articles.

The sewing done during these years was another tremendous item with a total number of 600 articles. Mrs. Ross Tufford, Miss M. Lyle and Mrs. Robert Dowler were the convenors and cutters for all the period and well deserve a great deal of credit. Mrs. George Carroll spent many, many hours of time and labour to make 37 wool quilts for the Red Cross and well deserves hearty recognition. The ladies of Middlemarch United Church also made numerous quilts for the Red Cross.

Six of our ladies very diligently and consistantly attended all the Red Cross meetings at Fingal and worked very hard to accomplish the work set out before them. These ladies are: Mrs. W. Lyle, Mrs. R. Tufford, Miss M. Lyle, Mrs. H. Dubber, Mrs. J.R. Fatcher and Mrs. R. Dowler. Mrs. K. Butler acted as temporary secretary

for the Red Cross at Fingal for about 6 months and Mrs. W. Lyle has been the Red Cross secretary for the past two years. Miss Maude Wardell kindly typed out many Red Cross Knitting instructions to help with her share of the war work.

While the Air Force men and women were stationed at the T.T.S. and the Fingal Bombing and Gunnery School, several members helped entertain these boys and girls by having them out for dinners and showing them a general good time and a homey atmosphere. Also some made room in their homes for living quarters or fixed up houses, for those in need to help in a little way the extreme shortage of housing in and around St. Thomas.

There were several opportunities for our members to take the Air Force boys out on sight seeing excursions, showing them the parts of interest in St. Thomas and the surrounding District.

The Jam for Britain campaign was pioneered by the Norfolk County Women's Institute with Mrs. R. B. Barrett of Port Dover the originator of the idea. Mrs. Barrett got the idea for a "Jam for Britain Campaign" while visiting the last Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto in 1939 and immediately took steps to get it started on her return home. The Port Dover newspaper helped tremendously by writing up the campaign right up to the time of shipping. That season the whole of Norfolk County only sent five tons of Jam but it was the beginning of a Dominion wide campaign. The Norfolk Women's Institute had to pay for all their own cans, labels and shipping, then the next season the Red Cross arranged all this allowing the Norfolk County ladies to keep their own distinctive labels in recognition of their pioneering this great work. Jam making perhaps was one of the biggest efforts of all our ladies to help supply the needs of the other Allied Countries less fortunate than ourselves.

During the war years, as a group, we made over 3,000 pounds of jam including cases of honey. Some of the honey was donated by individuals of the Institute and we received generous gifts of money and sugar from other Institutes, individuals other than from Institutes and the school children from S.S.#14.

Raising money was another problem but was as well done as the other

projects undertaken. We catered to suppers for the Business Girl's Club and Secondary Teachers, had a Tea, Bazaar and Food Sale once a year, held dances, card parties, and several other methods: one big effort to raise money was done by the school children of S.S. #14 who worked hard collecting pounds and pounds of salvage and turned over all their money to the Red Cross. In the earlier part of the war the school children made an afghan consisting of 63 knitted blocks each 6 inches square, which, when finished was sent to the refugees. The girls having a part in the making of this afghan were Cathryn Lyle, Louise Lyle, Joan Wilson, Elizabeth Foris, Viola Erskine, Amy Fatcher, Betty Ann Begg, Margaret Dubber and Eleanor Lyle. The girls met at different homes to make this afghan and through the collections taken at these meetings they purchased a wool blanket which they also sent to the refugees. The girls also knitted wash clothes, scarves and socks for part of their share towards the war effort.

The Women's Institute sent many little contributions for such funds: Seeds for Britain, Greek Relief, Chinese Relief, Mobile Kitchen and individual members sent used clothing for war stricken countries, furs to be made into fur jackets for seamen and many, many pairs of wool blankets were sent for those bombed-out peoples.

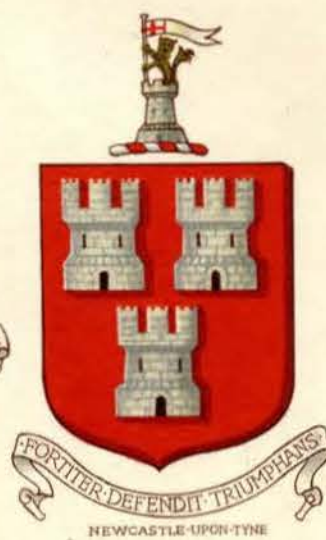
Our men and women on the farm had a big task to do by the demands for the increasing of production of farm produce and had to overcome the extreme shortages of labour and machinery. We can well be proud of the fact that these demands were very well met.

Perhaps the greatest of all work that everyone, children and grown-ups alike, had a small part to do and did very well, was the pledging and buying of war stamps, certificates and bonds.

We are proud that the war effort of our district made up part of Canada's splendid war contribution. We feel now, that as Churchill said, "Only the same steadfastness and purpose with which it fought the war is needed to ensure that the British Commonwealth, glorious and free, will form a structure and organization in which there will be room for all and a fair chance for all."

"Mrs. Kenneth Butler"

"Roberta Butler"



On behalf of the
War-distressed People
of
Great Britain & Northern Ireland
the
Women's Voluntary Services



tender thanks to you
for your generous help
given during
the long years of battle against
Nazi tyranny.

Patricia Reading

Chairman



"Yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful."





The Ontario Division of the
Canadian Red Cross Society expresses sincere
appreciation to

Middlemarch Women's Institute

for special service in the work of the Red Cross
during the war years, 1939 - 1945.

Alma Hill

President





Women's Institute
1897 - 1947

Rodney Branch
1906 - 1947

We Treasure the Past;
We Face the Future.

