



ARCHIVES OF THE



VIMY

BRANCH 145



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

VOLUME 1





**VIMY Branch 145
Royal Canadian Legion**

February 2014

Preface

Past President Mal Kay, not content with having edited volume II of the history of the Branch and its pursuits, turned his attention to the programs, correspondence, memorabilia and other ephemera from the eighty-five years of Vimy Branch activities.

Mal attacked the archives: collecting, collating, copying, and finally digitizing all. This is the product.

To LCol Mal Kay, Vimy Branch expresses its gratitude for a job well done.

**Don Bondy
President 2013-2014**

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ARCHIVES

OF

VIMY BRANCH 145

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

With the completion of my one year term (2008) as president of Vimy Branch, and already armed with a small assortment of branch memorabilia – largely past copies of notices of meetings and a few photos, I undertook the task of organizing the lot into a scrapbook. Within a couple of years, this collection had grown sufficiently for me to propose to the board of the day, that all Vimy related items that we could collect be catalogued in order to form the first stages of the archives of

The Vimy Branch 145.

The executive and directors were then, and continue to be, most enthusiastic that such an endeavour be undertaken - - as long as I was willing to do it. How could I not be with such total and vigorous support?

Various members provided me with whatever bits and bobs they had saved over the years. To all of them, my sincere thanks. Sadly, Ken Wooster and Bill Corfield, two of the major contributors, did not live to see the finished (will it ever be truly finished?) product, they both having died only three months ago.

With the advances in digital storage of material, it seemed practical to include both the 1983 and the 2006/09 Vimy history books into the format. They both appear, cover to cover, within the following pages. If any earlier attempt has been made to create Vimy Branch archives, no trace of it has appeared as yet, nor do any of our most senior branch members recall such a project having been undertaken.

As I read over all the material prior to cataloguing it, I was struck by some of the changes that have occurred within the branch over the years, not the least of them being the type of humour employed in our earlier notices, etc. By today's standards, many early Vimy writers might be seen as brash, perhaps irreverent, almost scandalous at times. Today's members, this writer included, are rather staid in comparison. We probably don't see ourselves that way, but the proof is in the puddin'. Read on and see for yourselves.

Vimy Branch's charter was granted in March, 1929 and listed the names of its 14 founding members, all veterans of the Battle of Vimy Ridge – or so the story goes. This small group soon recruited another two dozen Londoners, and the inaugural meeting of the branch was held that year. An executive was chosen and one of its early tasks was to formulate a list of six key decisions which effectively formed Vimy's only constitution until a more all-inclusive one was developed only a couple of years ago. Because the early members were all leaders in the city's business, professional, and political classes, and because this afforded them many opportunities for social and other gatherings, it was decided that Vimy would be run along the simplest possible lines while still complying with the overall rules of the Legion. They sought only the comradeship of their wartime, likeminded spirits.

The six bylaws and other matters pertaining to the earliest days of the branch are to be found on pages 11 to 16 of the 1983 edition of *Friends and Comrades*, the 1983 branch history. It and the 2006/'09 update are contained herein.

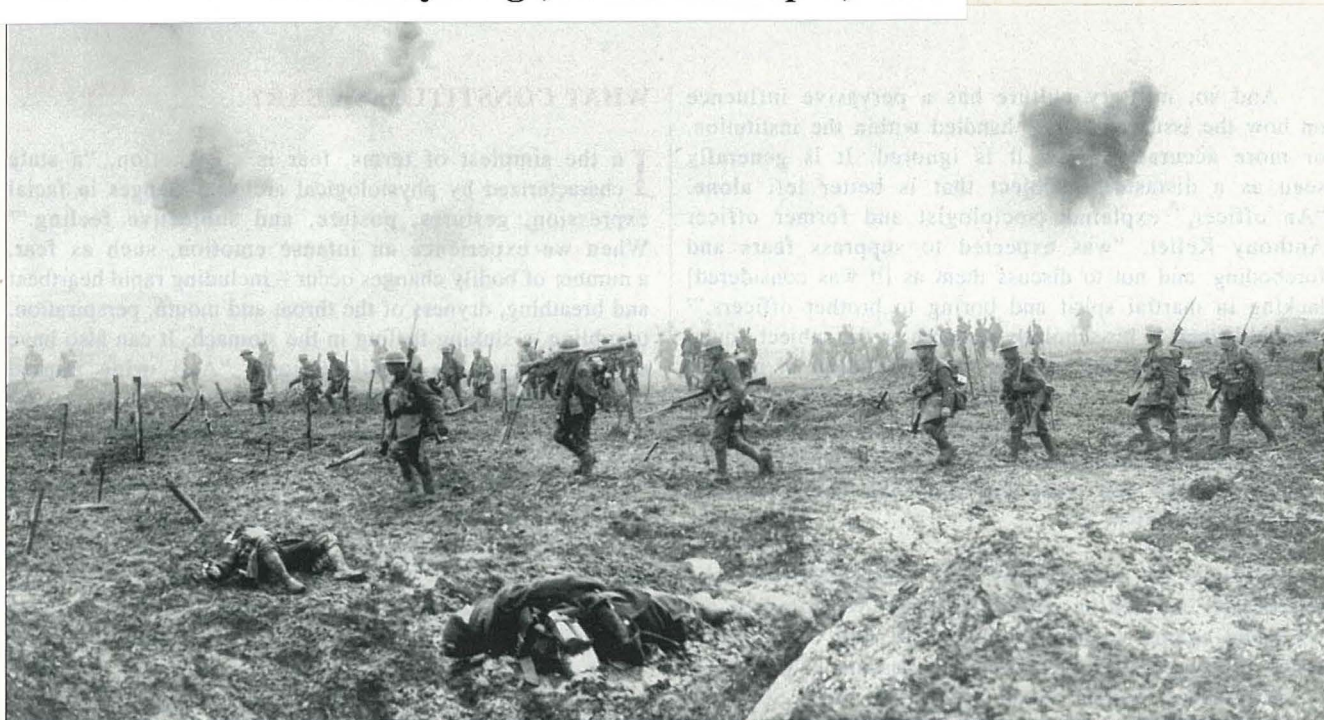
The timing of the release of this document coincides, almost by accident, with the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, the 97th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and the 85th anniversary of the founding of the

VIMY BRANCH 145, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Malcolm (Mal) Kay

March, 2014

1. The battlefields of Vimy Ridge, France – 09 April, 1917



Troops of the 2nd Canadian Division attacking on Vimy Ridge, 9 April 1917.

2. The warmer, drier surroundings of Longwood Inn, Lambeth – 1929 to 1936



Longwood Inn at Lambeth where Vimy Legion held its inaugural meeting in 1929 and twice-yearly dinners until 1936.

VIMY BRANCH 145
CANADIAN LEGION, B.E.S.L.

AUTUMN MEETING

Hotel London

Wednesday - November 9, 1949

Dinner 6:30 P.M.

M e n u

Relishes

Tomato Juice

Baked Virginia Ham

Raisin Sauce

Green Beans Saute

Mashed Potatoes

Apple Pie and Cheese

Coffee

R E M E M B R A N C E D A Y P A R A D E

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

FALL IN - DUNDAS STREET ARMOURIES - 0950 HRS.

DRESS OPTIONAL - WEAR A POPPY

MUSIC

Selected by VIMY Orchestra
for

November 9, 1949

MARCHES

Washington Post
Semper Fidelis
High School Cadets
The Thunderer
Officer of the Day
Stepping Along
Colonel Bogey
Great American Favourites
Sons of the Brave
Old Comrades
Laurentian March

SONGS (Cont'd.)

Group No. 2 - Key of C.

Old Soldiers Never Die
I want to go Home
Madelon
Keep the Home Fires Burning

Group No. 3 - Key of C.

The Bells of St. Marys
Old Black Joe
If You Were the Only Girl
Roll out the Barrel

SELECTIONS

Anchors Aweigh
4 Indian Love Lyrics
Road to the Isles
Chu Chin Chow
Blue Room
Over There
Oklahoma
Valse Bluette
Road to the Isles
Smoke gets in your Eyes
The Londonderry Air

SONGS

Group No. 1 - Key of G.

Hail Hail the Gang
Pack up your Troubles
Mademoiselle from Armentiers
Smiles
Keep the Home Fires Burning

Group No. 4 - Key of G.

Keep Your Head Down
When You Wore a Tulip
At Seventeen
Roses of Picardy

Group No. 5 - Key of G.

Sidewalks of New York
Let me call you Sweetheart
Let the rest of The World
go by
My Wild Irish Rose

Group No. 6 - Key of B flat

Peggy O'Neill
Take me Back to Dear Old
Blighty
I'm forever Blowing Bubbles
Just a wee doch-an-doris
When Irish Eyes are Smiling

Group No. 7 - Key of F

When I Grow too old to Dream
Maid of the Mountains Waltz

VIMY BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1949

Honorary President -

Brig. M. M. Dillon

Honorary Vice-Presidents -

Major General J. M. Ross

Col. I. Leonard

Col. H. F. Labatt

Brig. R. H. Beattie

President -

Col. Geo. W. Little

Vice-Presidents -

Col. Howard L. Hayman

S/L J. E. Jennings

Lt. J. B. Nash

Secretary-Treasurer -

Capt. D. H. Thomas

Executive Committee -

Cmdr. G. Nigel Bruce

Major S. G. Chipman

Major R. M. Dillon

Major E. C. Elwood

Capt. Geo. W. Foote

Capt. S. L. Gunn

Major H. G. Keene

Col. H. A. McKay

Capt. D. J. Urquhart

Capt. Harry Wooster

Past President -

S/L H. F. Davison

Auditor -

Capt. A. E. Clendinning

PAST-PRESIDENTS

1929-30 M. M. Dillon

1931 J. G. Gillanders

1932 G. E. Reid

1933 H. K. Ingram

1934 L. E. Mills

1935 D. B. Weldon

1936 D. J. H. Ferguson

1937 R. I. Watt

1938 C. H. Ivey

1939-40 G. F. Kingsmill

1941 J. H. Stevens

1942 L. T. Hayman

1943 J. I. Carling

1944-45 E. H. Shuttleworth

1946 R. H. Beattie

1947 G. W. Foote

1948 H. F. Davison

1949 G. W. Little

THE SEVENTY-THIRD VJMY DINNER
AT
THE HOTEL LONDON

FRIDAY APRIL 10 - 1959



Richard M. Dillon Host

From The Files Of

The London Free Press

Echoes of Other Years

50 Years Ago

26 March 1909

The Oratorical Contest of London South Collegiate was won today by little Tommie O. Robinson, who chose as his inspiring subject; "What I want to be when I grow up and the evils of Life Insurance".

45 Years Ago

19 November 1914

London political observers today indicated that the race for the London mayoralty would be a close one with three aspirants said to be Angelo Pinto, Meyer Gutson and V. P. Cronyn.

40 Years Ago

10 April 1919

A large crowd of squealing girls met at the railway station to greet Robert Ignaceus Watt, who arrived home today after spending the past four years as prisoner of war in Germany; obviously touched by the squealing horde, he commented briefly on conditions in Germany. He was glad, he said, that the Hun hadn't adopted that old Arab custom of impaling prisoners on the spot. "It sure would have taught me a lesson" remarked the L.Cpl.

37 Years Ago

14 April 1922

At a meeting of the Vimy Branch, Canadian Legion, at Longwood Inn, it was reported that a dead mouse was found in a bottle of beer. A local firm today disclaimed any responsibility, subtly hinting that the beer had been smuggled in Western Ontario from Detroit. "In any case", states a spokesman for the local firm, "our beer never kills mice outright."

18 August 1922

Major Fred Fisher, popular member of Vimy Branch, Canadian Legion, today assumed his new duties as Registrar of Ontario Hospital. "No Vimy men in my hospital", proudly states Major Fisher.

12 November 1922

A live mouse was alleged to be swimming in a beer bottle at the Vimy dinner held last evening at Longwood Inn. The meeting was enlivened by much gaiety.

14 November 1922

Four men today were admitted to the Ontario Hospital, reveals Major Fred Fisher, Registrar. Charged with hallucinations, these men claim to have seen a live mouse swimming in a beer bottle. It is also claimed that the mouse was using abusive language.

17 November 1922

Severe questioning by the Upper Canada Vegetarian Society today prompted executive of local company to deny that mice can be called harmful additives to beer. In a dramatic gesture, legal counsel for firm, a charter member of Vimy Branch, swallowed a pregnant live cock-roach.

37 Years Ago

19 November 1922

One more Vimy man admitted to Hospital, reluctantly reveals Major Fred Fisher.

35 Years Ago

16 May 1924

The local branch of the W.C.T.U. announced the winners today for their Annual Essay Contest, sponsored each year in the Ontario Public Schools. The subject this year was: "The Evils of Drink or Who Gets Fat in the Booze Trade." Winners were: Mervie Dawson, Johnnie Cronyn, Alex Graydon, Jackie Moore and Jimmie Farmer.

33 Years Ago

A report from Lambeth today indicated that Nell, one time employee of the Longwood Inn, is expecting. Mr. Stevens left in haste for Victoria where it is reported that he is busy inspecting Empire Brass installations on The Kwakiuti Indian Reservation.

30 Years Ago

A new Scherzo has been composed by Comrade Murray Dillon, it was announced today. The composer states that he wrote the composition in the solitude of the second floor of Longwood Inn, Lambeth, during the April meeting of Vimy Branch, Canadian Legion. Retiring early from the dinner, Comrade Dillon lost his way in the corridors of the second floor and resolved to wait until dawn for help. On hands and knees in the darkness, with the light footsteps of Nell racing from room to room on the floor above beating a tempo in his brain, and lifted on the waves of excitement issuing from the floor below, Comrade Dillon was tempted to panic.

Instead, he wrote the whole inspired Scherzo on wallpaper in complete darkness, using a tube of toothpaste he has always carried in his pocket ever since leaving Flanders. At first light, exhausted but fired with success, Comrade Dillon, with Nell holding the ladder, ripped the manuscript from the wall and stuffed the whole sticky mess into his fiddle case.

29 Years Ago

Comrades Murray Dillon and Gordon Thompson presented, last evening in recital the premiere performance of Comrade Dillon's Scherzo, for violin and kettle drum. The concert was given at Longwood Inn and was outstanding. Comments of those in attendance were mixed. When asked for his reactions, Lt. Col. Alex Spencer simply said, "It was cool, man, cool".

"It reminded me of a great fish on a hot day," commented Comrade Cronyn, "Gamey, and it stank a little."

"Gimme a good horse any day", Comrade Norman Emory.

"It was bloody 'ell when the beer run out". -

Col. Ibbotson Leonard.

"I dunno. Jack wouldn't let me come downstairs."

Nell.

The composition was entitled, "Sometimes I feel like a Left-Handed Neutron."

22 Years Ago

As a result of pressure brought by citizens of London West and Chelsea Green, the City of London appointed a committee to report on the dangers of floods. Those names were, Brig. Dillon, Col. Archibald, Col. Humphries, Major Chipman and Jack Farncombe. A preliminary report of the committee stated "There will be no flood in London, there is a tide in the affairs of men."

21 Years Ago

London was inundated today by a severe flood which swept savagely through London West and Chelsea Green flooding over 1050 homes. London's flood committee of Messrs. Dillon, Archibald, Humphries, Chipman and Farncombe were absent from the City, in Banff, Alberta. They were inspecting flood conditions there, and when contacted by phone today, Mr. Farncombe said, "Some tide!"

18 Years Ago

Winners were announced today by the Fair Board of the Arva Winter Fair. Among the entries in the Angus Cattle Class was a shaggy old style black bull entered by Douglas Black Weldon capturing fifteenth place. The bull was subsequently purchased at 15¢ a hoof-pound by Maisie's Drive-In. There were fifteen entries in this class.

17 Years Ago

Reports from Queens Park today indicated that the Honorable Mitchell Hepburn was becoming concerned at the Abortion Problem in Ontario. Doctors Geddes, Ross and Jarrot left London late last night for Minnedosa, Manitoba.

16 Years Ago

It was reported today that the Robert Simpson Company has

paid Messrs. Smallman and Ingram the sum of \$3,000,000.00 for their London business. Amongst other assets the Toronto company acquired were: -

1. A large store at Dundas and Richmond Streets.
2. Large stocks of merchandise.
3. Goodwill.
4. Private W. J. Brown, affectionately known as Brownie.

15 Years Ago

The Dutton Banner today published a letter from a prominent Dutton citizen, Miss Millicent Jawkleblotter, to the effect that she wasn't the Jawkleblotter who got married to Bill Hockin last Saturday. She stated further that she had no intentions of getting churched this Fall. Business as usual, so they say, down at the pool room.

14 Years Ago

It was reported that Kingsmills store had taken over certain assets from the Robert Simpson Company. These include:

1. Goodwill.
2. Private W. J. Brown, affectionately known as Brownie.

13 Years Ago

It was reliably reported today that Squadron Leader H. F. Davison had been named the local representative of Julius Schmidt Company.

12 Years Ago

Some embarrassment was caused in the City of London, this week when a presentable young lady bearing the name of Lucy and claiming to be the daughter of a former Lambeth resident by the name of Nell called on several gentlemen, members of Vimy, referring to them affectionately as "Dad." Leaving on the night plane for Halifax were Colonel Ingram, Ed Hall, George Foote, and Harry Wooster. It was said that their business was fishing. Mr. Stevens is missing.

At 1800 Hours (6:00 P.M.) Vimy will meet in the Regency Room to forage. Liquor will be served during dinner and immediately thereafter the Bar will be flung open.

TWO POCKET EDITION BOOKS
WILL BE REQUESTED FROM
ALL LEGIONAIRES AND SUB-LEGIONAIRES

Honorary President Brig. M. M. Dillon

Honorary Vice-Presidents

Col. I. Leonard
Brig. R. H. Beattie
Capt. Harry Wooster

President Lt. Col. R. M. Dillon

Vice-President Lt. Comdr. W. R. Poole

Secretary Major A. E. Clendinning

Treasurer Capt. N. McBeth

Executive Committee

Capt. J. B. Cronyn
Capt. Bentley Baldwin
Capt. Samuel R. Grainger
Lt. Col. G. E. Humphries
Lt. Col. W. R. Buchner
Lt. Col. A. H. Birks

Auditor Lieut. W. J. Robinson

Comments by the Publisher

Any similarity or reference herein
to anyone, living or otherwise, is
purely coincidental.

So stop worrying!

Educational

Can you read - if so, get a copy
of that new book entitled,
"Brightly Shines The Top Brass"

Author - Mr. Stevens

Our Respects Will Be Paid To

Our Past Presidents

1929-1930	M. M. Dillon
1931	J. G. Gillanders
1932	G. E. Reid
1933	H. K. Ingram
1934	L. E. Mills
1935	D. B. Weldon
1936	D. J. H. Ferguson
1937	R. I. Watt
1938	C. H. Ivey
1939-1940	G. F. Kingsmill
1941	J. H. Stevens
1942	L. T. Hayman
1943	J. I. Carling
1944-1945	E. H. Shuttleworth
1946	R. H. Beattie
1947	G. W. Foote
1948	H. F. Davison
1949	G. W. Little
1950	H. L. Hayman
1951	J. B. Nash
1952	J. E. Jennings
1953	D. J. Urquhart
1954	Joseph Jeffery
1955	G. W. H. Bartram
1956	G. M. Burns
1957	F. N. D. Carmichael
1958	H. W. Hockin

THE VIMY

Weekend

MAGAZINE

For WEEKEND'S

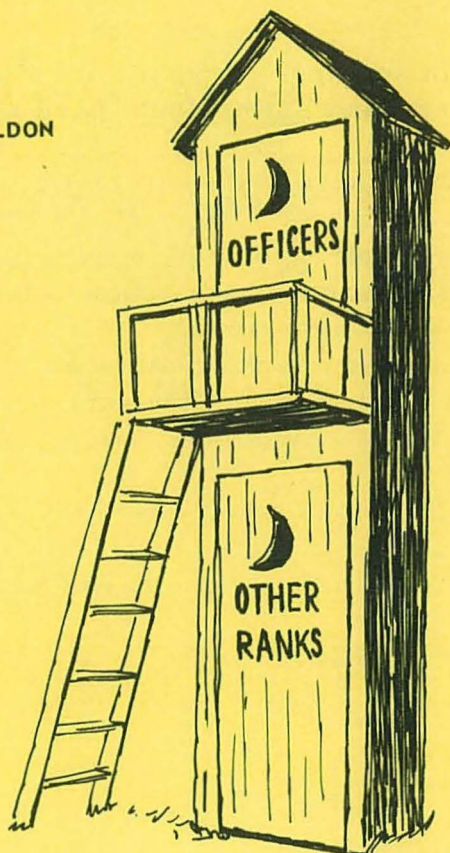
Visit to
The
STEVENS-WELDON
EXPEDITION

S

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Page 2



EMCO PORTABLE
for SAFARI use
Cat. No. 72496

The VIMY WEEK-END Magazine is happy to take you on a visit this week end to the Stevens-Weldon expedition in darkest Africa.

It has been disclosed to this correspondent that the purpose of the expedition is to secure close-up movin' pitchers of the private lives of such children of nature as lions, ants, and gazelles.

These two well-known VIMY members set sail some two or three weeks ago and were last heard of in a post card mailed from the Buck Tooth Inn at Kenya. The card simply bore the news that for the duration of the trip Private Stevens had been elevated to the rank of Acting Lance - Corporal without pay.

All of us here join in sending congratulations to L/CPL. Stevens on this short-lived but no doubt hard earned promotion.

We would also send our best wishes to Lt-Col. Weldon.

WEEK-END'S correspondent joined the expedition at a dry water hole 4-1/2 miles south of the crooked lemon tree that grows near the Mazumbo border. We are proud to present herewith the first telephoto pictures of the expedition and its intrepid explorers as they seek to uncover intimate details of African mammals, amongst other things.

Their adventures will be published later this year and will form an admirable sequel to their earlier book entitled, "With Rod and Creel Down the Alimentary Canal".

And now . . . ON TO AFRICA!

ON SAFARI



MASTERS OF THE HUNT



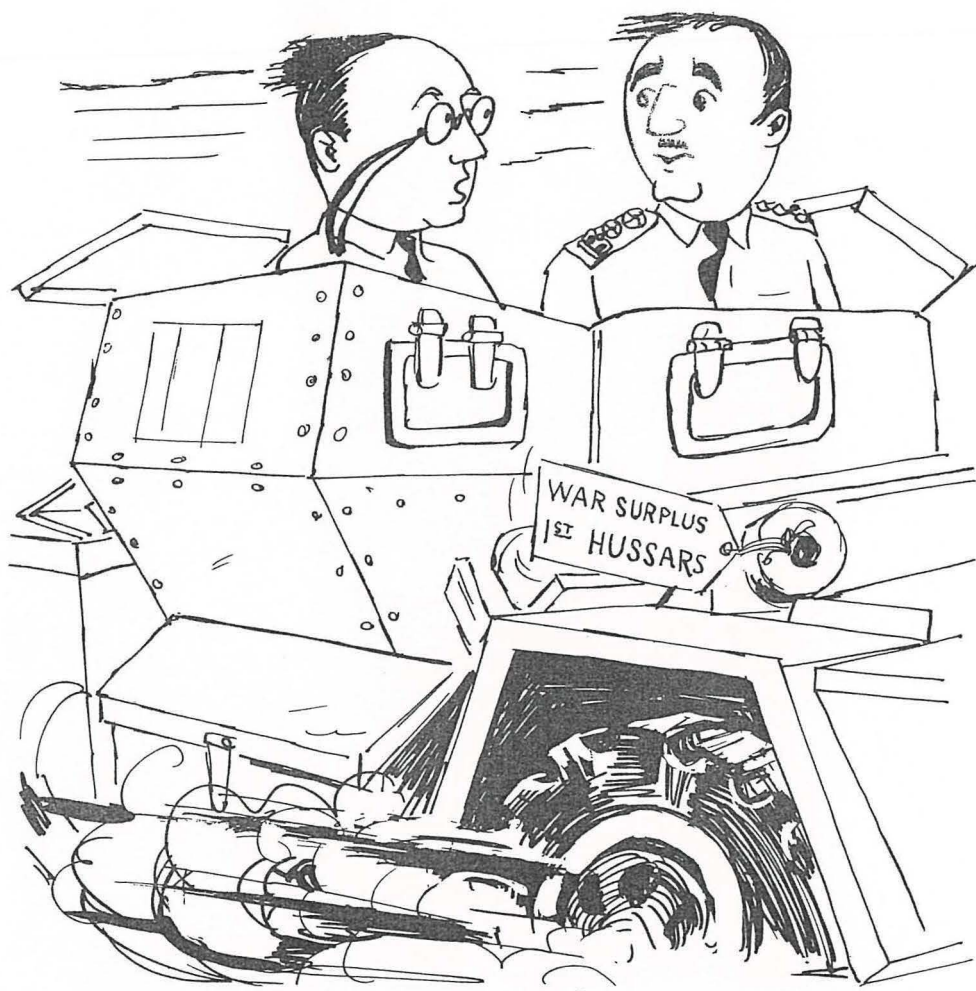
"Good Heavens, Jack You mean it was THOSE glasses you forgot!"

ON LOCATION



"Picture or no picture . . . I'm not running around this tree anymore."

ON THE VELDT



Wadda ya mean "Look out for the elephant?"
I thought you were driving!

ON LEAVE



Beautiful view . . . I wonder if
there's one for the other ranks?

EXCHANGING GIFTS WITH THE
LOCAL CHIEF



END OF THE TRAIL



GOOD-BYE, OLD PAL.

NOVEMBER 6 TH 1959

HOTEL LONDON

6:00 - Basic Training

7:30 - Combat

9:30 - Regrouping

YOU MUST BRING

2

POCKET EDITION BOOKS

FOR WESTMINSTER

or

PAY THE PIPER

VIMY (1919)

Friday - April 1, 1960

Hotel London



Deacon John H. Stevens, D.D., Arva, Ontario will present his celebrated lecture on Darkest Africa and the Evils of Drink, Voodoo, and Black Magic.

Lantern Slides

For its spring manoeuvre, Vimy is proud to present to its members an illustrated, educational lecture by 1/2 of the Stevens - Weldon African Safari. Members will recall the famous book "With Rod & Creel down the Alimentary canal" which was written last fly-time by these two Gentlemen of Arva.

From the Mazumbo Border and from the Crooked Lemon Tree, Vimy proudly recognizes and honours Comrades Weldon and Stevens.

LITERARY NOTE

As the years have gone by, and memories faded, it was felt that some pertinent record of the first meetings of Vimy should be preserved.

Some of the more temperate members may recall the following lines (see next page) describing the inaugural meeting. It is interesting too, to note the subtly prophetic overtones.

This manuscript was recently discovered in a roll of sheet music which came to light as the old and venerable Longwood Inn was being dismantled.

We are indeed grateful to the finder for giving us this opportunity to make it available for the second time.

VIMY -- 1919

A bunch of the boys were whooping it up
In the Longwood Inn Saloon,
The Brig. was at the music box
Hitting a jag-time tune.
While out in a cot and looking sot
Smiled Robert I. for Ignaceous Watt.
Swinging him gently to and from
Worked Gordon W. H. Bartrum,
And close at hand with Doug. Paddell
Was Art LeBel and a gal called Nell.
And in the back with a gorgeous pippin
Was Johnie Nash and Colonel Kippen.
And near the door but behind the bower
Swinging and singing was Logan Tower(s).
Next to him and against the ferns
Was Wily Wing Commander Burns.
Looking for bats up in the belfry
Were one or two of the brothers Jeffrey.
From out of the kitchen came sounds of a fight,
Then in come Brownie who went out like a light.
D. J. Urquhart called out for a tittle
For G. F. Kingsmill and Colonel Little.
Gordon Thompson started beating his drum
And poor old Nell fell flat on her bum.
Then everything got hot and jivey
Until D. B. Weldon saw Charlie Ivey;
For Charlie Ivey commenced to dance
A two step learned in the Arva Manse.
The wildest shrieks were from Colonel Ingram
Who was wound round a bottle of Seagram.

Refrain: (Heavenly voices)
Of all the names which are the fewest
None sounds so fair as R. P. Buist.

Then Nell appeared in her birthday suit
Fondly escorted by Georgie Foote.
Into the breach rushed Sheriff Beattie
Playing coy but shrieking "Sweetie."
Innes Carling became quite jealous
And started to fight with E. B. Nelles.

Again rushed the Sheriff into the breach
 Cutting out Sir Colonel Veitch.
 Poor Nell got cold and started to shiver,
 Up rose Stevens, shouting "Never"!
 E. H. Shuttleworth was also there
 Stroking a dahlia in her hair.
 J. E. Jennings and Hayman, too
 Were crowing like a mad curlew.
 That Nell was friendly was without doubt
 As soon as she spied Willie Trout.
 Charlie Ross and Hardy Geddes
 Began to shout, "It's time they fed us".
 The problem was to get them started
 But Monk and Nell would not be parted.
 Then out of the night came Walter Shrives;
 He took one look and burst out in hives.
 For some of the men started to molest her,
 But not including General Spencer.
 Ibbotson Leonard, dismayed, cried "God!
 I'll stop this now with Captain Todd."
 He showed his badge from the Canada Trust
 And struck Mel Hatch smack on the truss.
 T. O. shouted, "He shouldn't orter"
 And ran plump into F. O. Porter.
 The noise died down and Nell withdrew,
 "We're on the march," yelled Colonel Drew!
 And into dinner in twos and three
 Went Major Phipps and Colonel Petrie,
 Murray Wilson and Harry Wooster
 Together with a big black rooster.
 The party now began to get rollin'
 With Jimmy Bach and old Joe Nolan.
 Nell got high and appeared to be willin';
 But she was in doubt as to which Dillon.
 The Brig. continued to claw his fiddle
 And belted young Dick right in the middle.

Chorus: (female voices)

Of all the names which are the fewest
 None looks so good as R. P. Buist.

Who else was there 'mongst men and madams?
 Well, first of all there was Jack Adams.

Allison came and Andersons two,
 Jock wore brown & Duncan blue.
 Anguish roared and Armstrong sang
 And Babb and Hall and all that gang
 Leap-frogged along on Doctor Baker.
 But Baldwin, Ben, the cleanshirt maker
 Began to spar with Walter Bell,
 McAlpine cheered and Barnum fell
 Beneath the bar with quite a lurch.
 "Come, Come" said gently Captains Birch
 And Beveridge and Bewley,
 "Let us not celebrate unduly."
 "Let's drill 'em all." quoth Col. Blair,
 "Bennett first, then Mills, then Hare.
 We'll fill 'em up with Birks' green gold
 And top them off with wormy mould."
 Then Blake picked up his violin
 And sawed a tune of vice and sin.
 Bloch-Hansen heaved a Danish sigh
 And Borthwick snored. (He was quite high.)
 Bowen, Bowie, Brake and Brown
 Beat out the time on Brien's crown,
 While in and through the noise and din
 Bruce and Reid and Brickenden
 Danced hand in hand so prettily
 Reciting so Tit-willowly,
 That Buchner Bill was forced to say,
 "Well done, My lads, you've saved the day".

Descant: (Boy Sopranos & Eunuchs)
 Of all the names which are the fewest
 None ranks so high as R. P. Buist.

The sun sank down, up rose the dusk,
 "The lights, the lights," cried Col Busk!
 The Campbells rose, their eyes agleam
 And touched off all the Highland Cream.
 A light appeared just like a star,
 It was the face of Richard Carr.
 "Turn down that light," cried Creed and Crooks,
 "We just stole Cronyn's Pocket-books."
 While Caldwell peered and Cameron gawked,
 Carson, Childs and Hockin walked
 All arm in arm and laid the charge.

Silence fell, the room grew large,
 "Turn up the lights," Clendinning roared.
 Cartlidge tore, and Chesham soared.
 In strolled Craig and Clancy, prancing,
 Clift upon their shoulders dancing,
 "Dismiss the case," the Brig. decreed,
 "The Books must go with utmost speed
 To old Westminster. Friends, there rose
 A shout so loud that Carroll froze
 In utter shock. MacMillan wept
 And Coffey spilled, (But Corey slept
 The whole night thro'). And Collip, he
 Gave pills away, no charge, all free
 (Almost scuttled the Academy)
 And frozzled Walter Cunningham!)
 And Curtis dreamt of Sandringham.
 While Cawley mused, and in the gloom
 Conron rose and silenced all the room:

He said:

Of all the names which are the fewest
 I'll raise three cheers for R. P. Buist!

FINALE

Now this is a tale of long ago
 When hearts were young and tempers slow,
 And those whose thoughts were only Vimy
 Before the days of gimme, gimme.
 And this is some of the tale of Nell
 Who gave her best and didn't tell.
 And ever since, about twice a year
 We meet to have our cup of cheer,
 To sing our songs and tell our tales -
 Nell - no longer - just us males.
 And as we raise our toasts on high
 We'll think of her and sigh and sigh.
 For she improves with passing years
 Despite those early legion fears.
 And now her boys have all got married,
 How different from the days they tarried
 With Nell behind the bar,
 At Lambeth ..

APRIL 1, 1960

HOTEL LONDON

6:00 - Basic Training
7:30 - Manoeuvre
9:30 - Regrouping

YOU MUST BRING

2

POCKET EDITION BOOKS

for

WESTMINSTER

or

PAY

V I M Y BRANCH NO. 145 CANADIAN LEGION, B.E.S.L.
OFFICERS and EXECUTIVE - 1960

Hon. President -	Brig. M. M. Dillon	Executive Committee -
		Capt. B. I. Baldwin
Hon. Vice-Presidents -		Lt. Walter E. Bell
	Brig. R. H. Beattie	Col. A. H. Birks
	Col. I. Leonard	Col. W. R. Buchner
	Capt. H.W. Wooster	Maj. A. E. Clendinning
		Lt. J. B. Cronyn
President -	L/Cdr. W. R. Poole	Col. J. H. Geddes
		Maj. J. W. Nolan
Vice-President -	Lt-Col. G.E. Humphries	Col. C. C. Ross
		Maj. B. A. Urquhart
Secretary -	Cdr.(S) D. W. Paddell	
Treasurer -	Capt. N. McBeth	Past-President -
		Lt. Col. R.M. Dillon
		Chaplain -
		Maj. J. M. Anderson
		Auditor -
		Lt. W. J. Robinson

OUR RESPECTS WILL BE PAID TO
OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

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1956	G. M. Burns
1957	F. N. D. Carmichael
1958	H. W. Hockin
1959	R. M. Dillon

Ever since the demolition of the Longwood Inn, Lambeth, the Executive of Vimy has spent many hours of un-remitting toil pouring over the early archives of the branch. It is felt that parts of these records form such a priceless historical record of our heritage, that the time perhaps has now come to reveal to the members of Vimy something of their import. As the members can well imagine, these records are composed of old yellowed press releases, police records, summons from the former High County Constable of Middlesex, R.C.M.P. dossiers and in a few isolated cases old lavender coloured notes simply signed 'Nell'. Some of the earliest records in our possession are startling in the accuracy of their prognostications. Much has happened since the early days and as the twilight flickers and the dawn fades too quickly into dusk, we honour those who have proceeded us and reveal for the first time some incidents in the career of our first President.



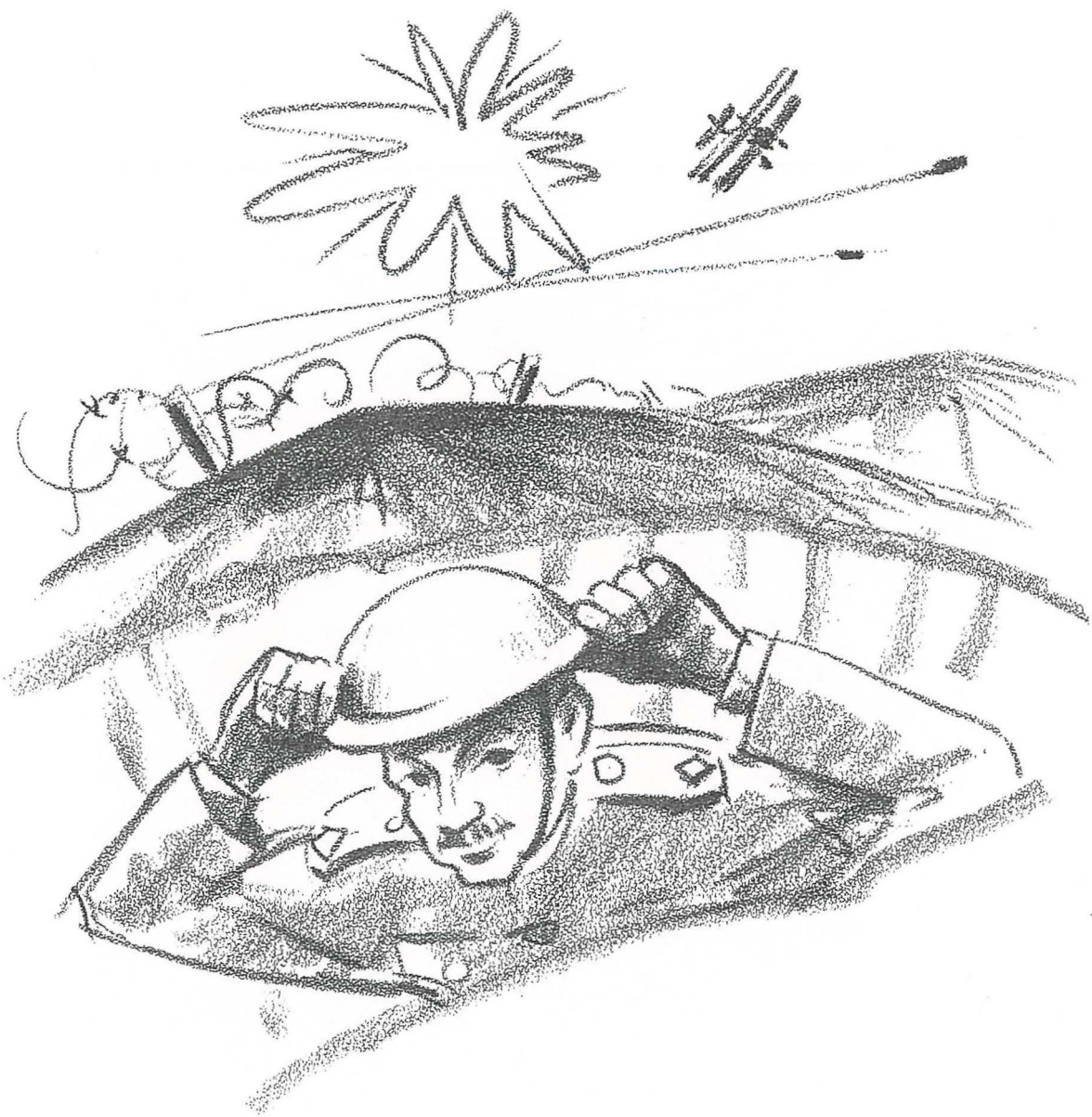
LONDON - 1890

THE IRISH ARRIVE



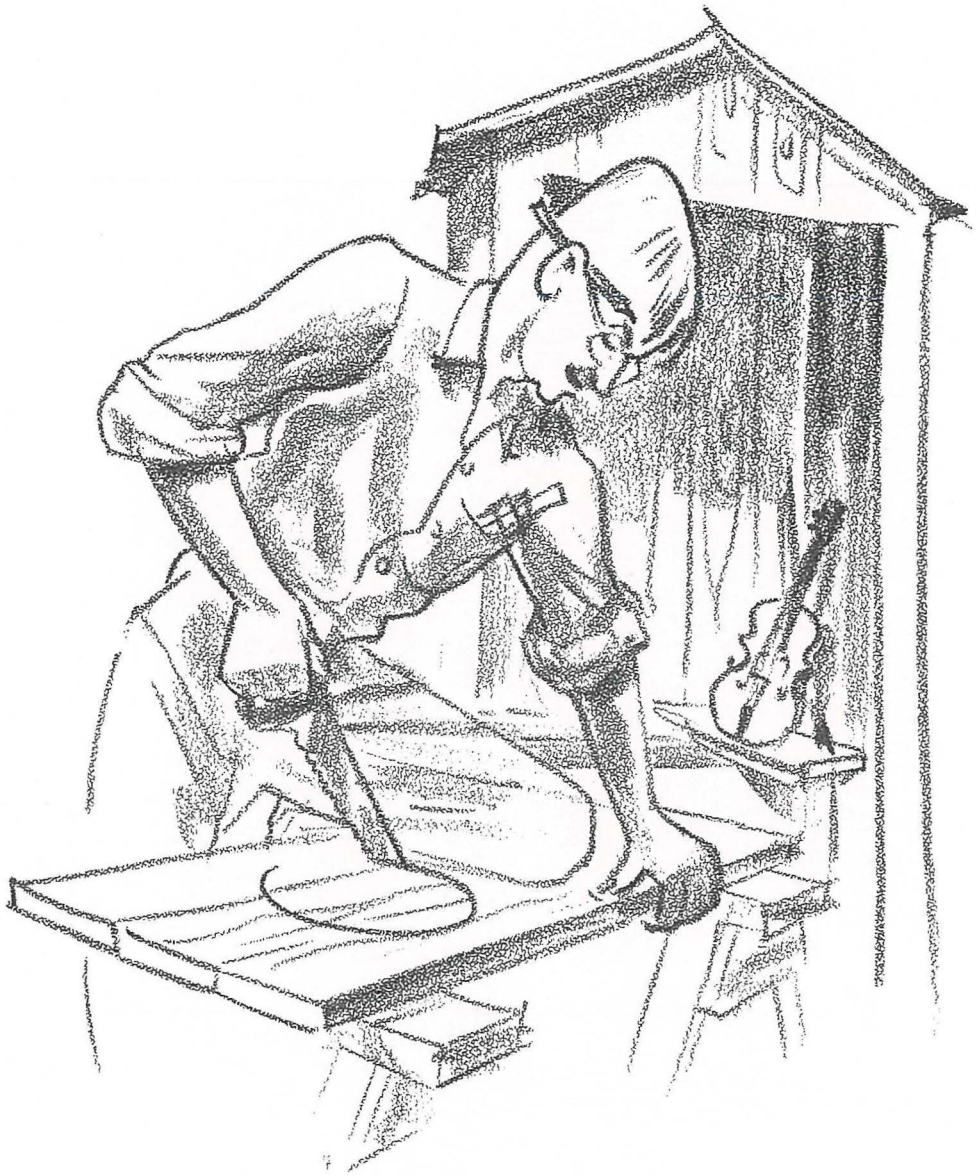
LONDON - 1914

FIRST INSPIRATION



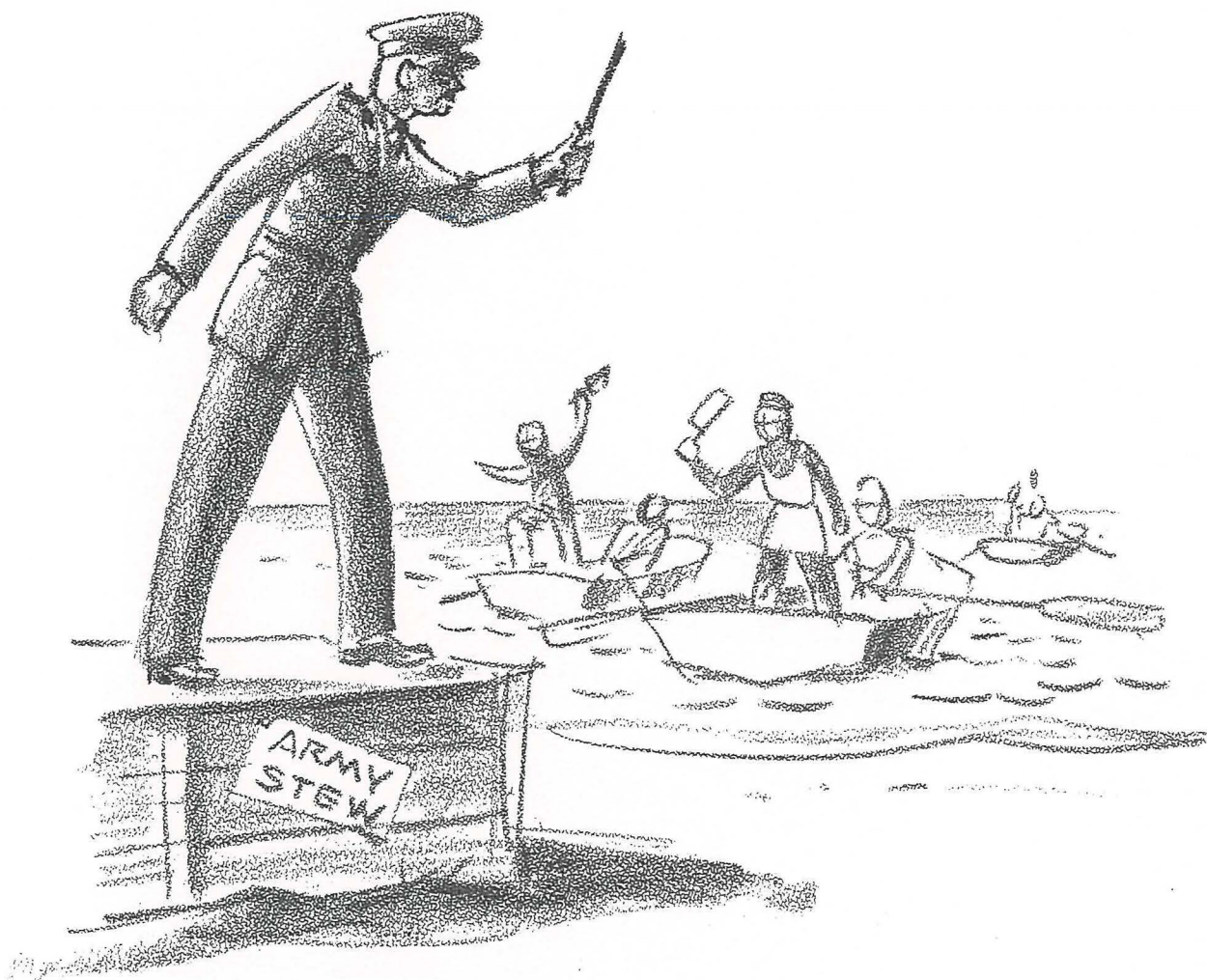
FRANCE - 1915

DAMMIT, NO MIRROR



LONDON - 1920

INSPIRATION CENTRE



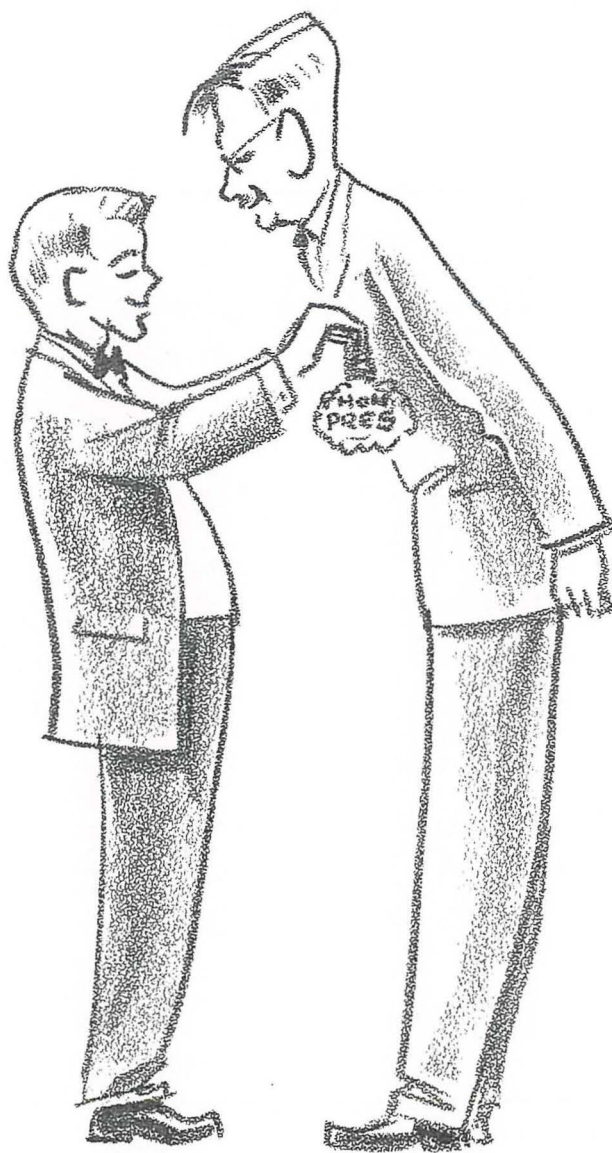
KISKA - 1942

AND DON'T COME BACK, KELLI!!



OTTAWA 1945

Triumphantly received at Ottawa by Prime Minister King, our President lost no time in pleading the cause of "Conscription.. or else." Here we see him broaching the subject to the Prime Minister. Coincidentally it was only seconds later that the Prime Minister is reputed to have delivered his famous dictum, "Conscription if necessary but not necessarily conscription." It was but a short time thereafter that our President doffed his khaki and was promoted to his present distinguished office of Honorary President of VIMY.



VIMY - 1946

THE CLIMAX OF A CAREER

HOTEL LONDON

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1961

6:00 Basic Training

7:30 Manoeuvre
The Vimy Orchestra - Brig. Dillon, conducting

9:30 Regrouping

VIMY BRANCH NO. 145 ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
OFFICERS and EXECUTIVE - 1961

Hon. President	- Brig. M. M. Dillon	Executive Committee:
Hon. Vice-Presidents	- Brig. R. H. Beattie	Capt. B. I. Baldwin
	- Col. I. Leonard	Col. A. H. Birks
	- Capt. H. W. Wooster	Col. W. R. Buchner
Past President	- L/Cdr. W. R. Poole	Maj. A.E. Clendinning
		Lt. J.B. Cronyn
President	- Lt.Col. G.E. Humphries	Col. J.H. Geddes
		Maj. J.W. Nolan
Vice-President	- Capt. N. McBeth	Col. C.C. Ross
Secretary	- Cdr. (S) D.W. Paddell	
Treasurer	- Lt. Walter E. Bell	
Chaplain	- Major J. M. Anderson	
Auditor	- Lt. W. J. Robinson	

You must bring 2 Pocket Edition Books for
Westminster or P A Y.

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1955	G.W.H. Bartram
1956	G. M. Burns
1957	F.N.D. Carmichael
1958	H. W. Hockin
1959	R. M. Dillon
1960	W. R. Poole

1a

VIMY WEEK ENDER



BRIGADIER RUSSELL H. BEATTIE, M.C.E.D.
SHERIFF COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

HOTEL LONDON

FRIDAY, NOV. 10, 1961

12

Vimy Week-end Magazine salutes in this issue one of Vimy's founding fathers and constant supporters - Comrade Russ Beattie.

The "Brig.", as he is known with affection to many, was born in London of fine old Scottish stock. Early records of the Clan are few, but it is known that the line extends back through the early eleven hundreds to a Chieftain known pleasantly to his followers as Macthanife, Fife of Fief.

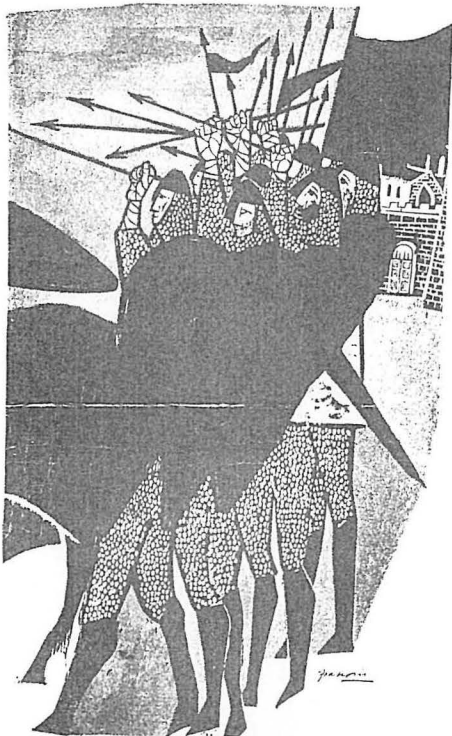
As a king, the Fife was not a particularly good one, badgered though he was by the wily democrats of that era on the subject of tribal defence. He is best remembered, perhaps, for that grand old marching song later made popular by the Duke of Marlborough's troops on their way back to Lisbon. It went like this:

'Though of all names that are the fewest
None rank so high as R. P. Buist,-

Yet and nonetheless,

There's none so brief
As the Fife of Fief.

Early records of the Clan showed a sharp divergence in the family. Great Grand-Uncle Dugald, for example, (1420-1450, shown here on the right) chose the cavalry. As you can see, he turned out to be somewhat of a dandy but he sure taught that horse of his a lot of tricks. His horse's name was Trigger.



Great-Uncle Gimlet, on the other hand (1425-1524) chose the infantry. He is the first figure on the left and, as you can see, he shook a pretty determined meat-hook. It was this progenitor whose example the Brig. decided to follow and, as is well known, it was a happy choice. The fact that Uncle Dugald died at 30 from a slippery stirrup, while Uncle Gimlet was still lancing away at 99, influenced the Brig's choice. It was said, in fact, that Uncle Gimlet died with his shoes on. This is quite historically true, as he was unable to bend down for quite some time to loosen them, due to a kink in his armor where an unfriendly Sassenach postmistress had stamped his mail with a broadsword.

As with any lusty Scottish family there was an uncle who brought a kind of fame to the house. Uncle Andrew is shown here snitching a quick one from the cupboard. Uncle Andrew passed away quite a while ago after a short but exciting vigil.



Uncle Benjamin exercised considerable influence on the Brig. Seen here in his regalia of office he was a handsome man with flashing eye and damned uncomfortable collar. Not quite as bemadalled as the Brig. he nevertheless shows the same devil-may-care attitude and symbolizes well the high distinction of office which his grand-nephew was destined eventually to bear.

More pictures of the Brigadier's relatives may be seen on request.



After having arranged to be thus born in London, of fine Scottish stock, the Brigadier pursued a military career thereafter through service in the 135th Middlesex Battalion, the 48th Highlanders, the 20th Battalion, the Reserve Militia and the City of London Regiment. For the last several years he has been extremely active in many organizations, a goodly number of which are quite eminently respectable.

The Brig has always been a collector of rare and sometimes valuable things. While rummaging through the bottom left hand drawer of the fruitwood china cabinet, he came across some hitherto unpublished photographs of Vimy members during the early and difficult days of the Branch. With great kindness he has loaned his prints to the Vimy Week-end Magazine and we are proud to present them herewith. Where necessary, the Brig has appended his own explanatory comments. Where some of the prints appear hazy and indistinct, the Brig has asked your indulgence. It appears that the damned drawer (his own expression) has been stuck for the last ten years and the dust got to be something awful.



MRS. SARAH GORMSLEY-CHELTENBIRD,
moving out of Longwood Inn,
Saturday morning, November 12, 1921.



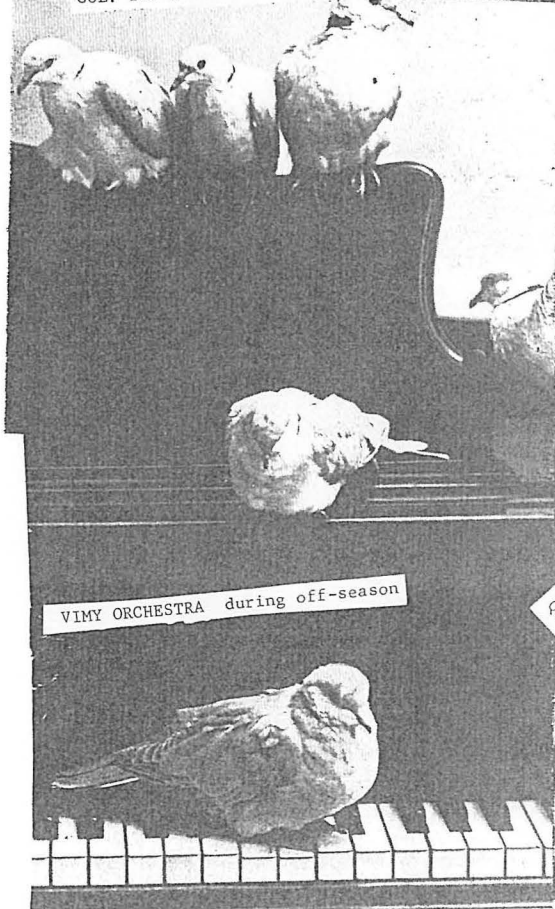
NEERAWA 1922 listening to his mother
W. R. POOLE
in the family kitchen.



COL. IBB LEONARD - attacking at St. Vincent



SIR NEIL at the console



VIMY ORCHESTRA during off-season



Quiet men, the leader's practising.



L/COL. ARTHUR BIRKS giving thanks
prior to dinner. 1952.

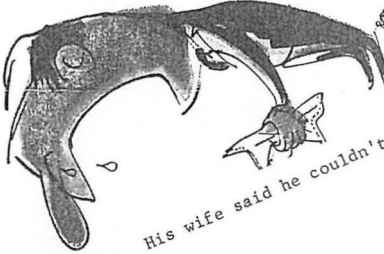
This is F/O Peter Pistol. Picked up the cactus juice habit (Sicily 1942), couldn't break it. Shrank his kidneys, then his gonads, finally him. Pete says drink doesn't bother him much now, but a fellow sure misses his gonads, especially in Sicily.



Some of us will remember HENRI, Chef at Longwood. 1921-1929. J/L/20



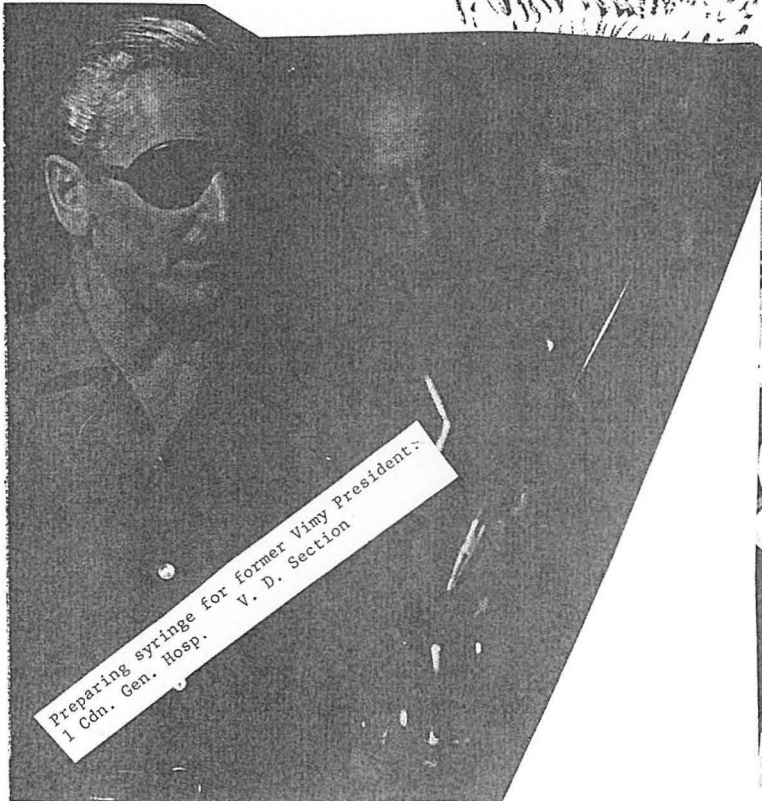
Unidentified VIMY member receiving instructions prior to VIMY dinner - 1929.



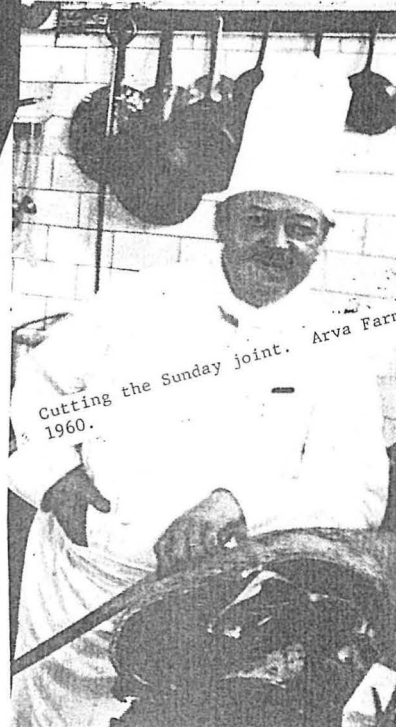
His wife said he couldn't go.



GEN. MACKLIN - preparing his talk before VIMY. April, 1958.



Preparing syringe for former Vimy President:
1 Cdn. Gen. Hosp. V. D. Section



Cutting the Sunday joint. Arva Farms. 1960.



Mei Hatch taking the oath on joining
Vimy Branch, French Foreign Legion -
Paris, August 1945



Vimy's first annual outing. Charlie Ivey and family on the
Thames near Springbank - circa 1921. Boy, was that a hot summer!



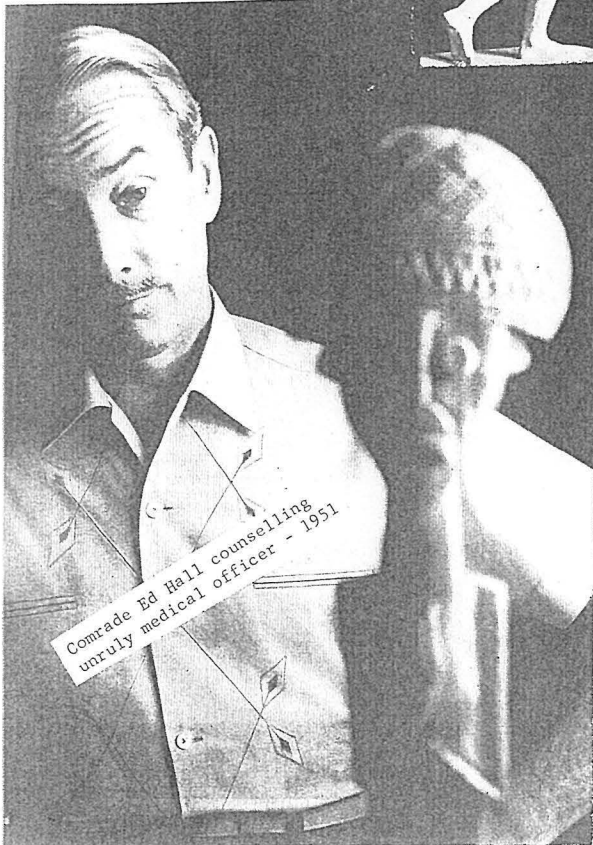
Following T. O.'s progress
through Russia - 1959



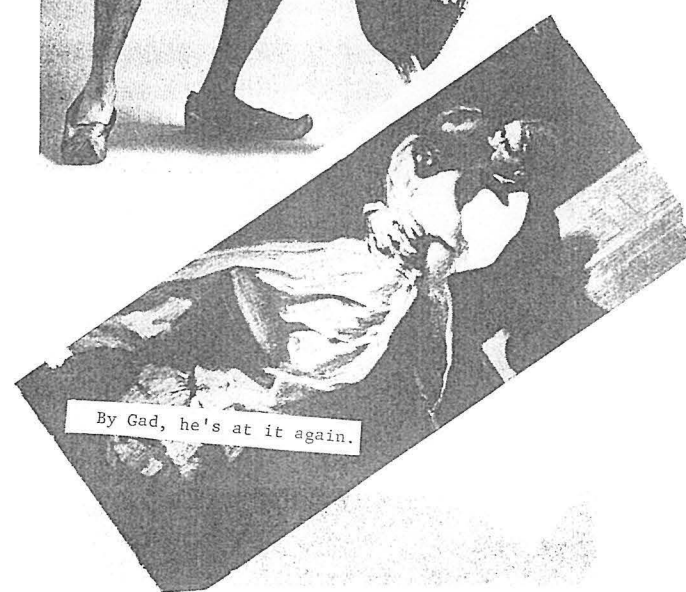
Fred Fisher
Army Games 1916



BROWNE selling a rug to COL. KIPPEN
at Kingsmill's. Depression days. 1931.



Comrade Ed Hall counselling
unruly medical officer - 1951



By Gad, he's at it again.



As one would expect from any connoisseur the Brig. has a special collection of photographs devoted to Nell, her friends and playmates. These prints have never been published before but we are sure they will be received with warmth and nostalgia by all those who knew this charming person and enjoyed her somewhat expensive company.



Nell as a young girl, watering the geese - Longwood.



Nell, being pursued by a man - Longwood.



Nell and L/Corp. COMRADE FRED KINGSMILL -- on the Riviera. April, 1926.



Nell, Saturday morning, Nov. 12, 1927



Pte. J. H. Stevens, Saturday morning, Nov. 12, 1927



Nell, watering the lawn, Longwood



Nell's mother on unexpected visit to town, Saturday morning, Nov. 12, 1927



Unidentified group of former suitors for Nell's hand.

HOTEL LONDON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1961

- 6:00 Reconnaissance
- 7:30 Engagement
During the Engagement the Vimy Symphony
Orchestra, under the direction of
Brig. M. M. Dillon, will play appropriate
selections.
- 9:30 Consolidation

VIMY BRANCH No. 145 ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION OFFICERS and EXECUTIVE - 1961

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	- Col. I. Leonard	Col. W. R. Buchner
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1946	R. H. Beattie		

The Vimy Plaintalk

Western Ontario's Family Newspaper

LONDON, ONTARIO

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1963

NIFTY NELL NUDE NIPS NAVY NEAR NEEPAWA

THERE'LL BE HOT NUTS TONIGHT

LOCAL FEELINGS HEATED



CHOC FULL O' NUTS

This picture snapped by our staff photographer, shows the well-known "Choc-full O'Nuts" as it was during last night's Dundas St. Fire.

CITY SUED

London (VP)

The City of London was sued today by Miss Nell Taylor for the sum of \$7.50 in damages resulting from defective paving. Miss Taylor stubbed her toe in an open crack on Monday last, and in stumbling forward a bottle of Glen McSquirrel fell out of her muff and was shattered to pieces on the pavement. Col. Kippen, who was with the injured party, said that he was going to speak to Mr. Poole to arrange a lawyer for the lady.

BULLETIN

VIMY EXECUTIVE ANNOUNCES SPRING PARADE!

FRIDAY APRIL 5

HOTEL LONDON

6:00 p.m.

BASIC TRAINING

7:30 p.m.

BRIG. F.A. CLIFT

D.S.O., E.D., C.D.

9:30 p.m.

MORE BASIC TRAINING

Minnedosa, Man. (VP)

It was reported that the residents of this small rural Western community were shocked last night over stories of a frenzied orgy which was taking place on the roadside near J.B. Millar's hen house.

Reports from police seem to indicate that a woman of ill repute from the East had come to the area to seek her fortune. She was joined, it appears by a group of Naval and Military men, also from the East.

One of the men taken into custody, Brown, by name, said, "We were only testing certain theories in the Kinsey Report."

Another, who refused to give his name but was heard muttering, "Arva" later said, "I sure hope this don't leak out at home." "Home"? said another, "to hell with home I worried about leaking."

HEADICARE FOR ALL

London - City controlled haircuts will take effect July 1st. Requisitions (3 copies) will be issued to citizens by City Hall. Rumor has it that with the barbers in the fold, the surgeons will logically be

THE VIMY PLAINTALK
is published on the premises
somewhat infrequently.

"This paper smells but it sells."

Hon. Editor - Brig.M.M. Dillon
Hon.Vice-Editors: Brig.R.H. Beattie
Col. I. Leonard
Capt. H.W.Wooster
Lt.Cmdr. W.R. Poole
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Capt. E.G. Brown
The Hon. A.M.Lebel
Col. W.R.Buchner
Major A.E.Clendinning
Lieut. J.B. Cronyn
S/L M.H. Dawson
Major J.O. Howitt
Major B.A.Urquhart

* * * * *

SHORT EDITORIALS

When a man is driven to drink, he
usually walks back.

If a girl has a pretty face, no man
can tell what kind of clothes she has
on.

A young woman of conspicuously aphro-
disiacal face and frame runs some risk
of being stormed anywhere,including a
Church Bazaar or even the Houses of
Parliament. But an elderly W.C.T.U.
worker or other such frump,might tramp
the Black Belt from end to end without
suffering any more molestation than a
female alligator.

IT SAPI'S SPOTANDA BIGONE

..... Juvenal

LONG EDITORIAL

During the past five years this
area has been plagued with reports
about the impending lack of water
and the necessity of a pipeline.
Every so often, or so it seems to
this paper, the authorities choose
up sides and start the thing all
over again. As a matter of fact it
could be said that they have been
sitting on the political fence for
so long that their rear ends must
look like a Hot Cross Bun.

The time is now at hand for some
bold and decisive action. Or as one
voter put it, "It's high time to
take the thing in hand."

A number of proposals have been
submitted but it seems to this paper
that they all have one thing in
common...that is to spend our dough.
What we need in this matter is
experience. Let us ask ourselves
this question, Have you ever built a
pipeline? Do you know anyone who has?
This is where they all go wrong and
this is the root question.

What we suggest is the immediate
construction of a half inch pipeline
from the Hotel London across Dundas
Street to the City Hall to convey
Whiskey. From this experience we
advocate a second 2 inch pipeline to
convey beer.

Think of the time saved in Council
if the Councillors didn't have to
duck into the can for a nip during
the debates. From the sale of these
products, we can predict a decrease
in the price of the VIMY dinners.

PIPELINE PROPOSED BY LOCAL GROUP

Permission to build a 1/4" pipe-line was sought today from City Council.

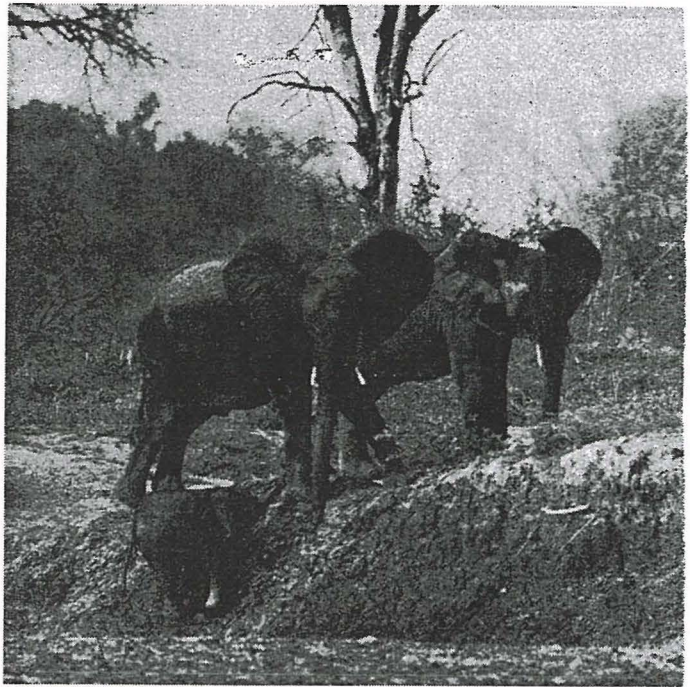
Sponsor of the proposal is a group of Westmount citizens headed by a retired manager of a large gambling syndicate.

Plans call for laying the line from the top of Westmount Hill, along the Thames River to the Dundas Street bridge; thence along Dundas to its intersection with Dundas.

Purpose of the line is to provide water for a new fountain donated to the City by T. O. Robinson, chairman of the sponsoring group. Lt. Robinson told this newspaper that for many years he has envied the City of Brussels for its world famous garcon, the Manikin Pis. "There is no reason why London cannot duplicate what Brussels has done and even exceed it," states Lt. Robinson. "With all that pressure built up by the long descent down Westmount Hill, I venture to say that the stream would shoot all the way from Dundas and Richmond up to City Hall. On sunny days it would create a rainbow right over the Huron & Erie Building."

Ample water for the project is said to be available from private sources atop Westmount Hill and immediately adjoining the City's present reservoirs.

Financing will be arranged through afternoon concerts on Chelsea Green.



BULL ESCAPES

North London reports reaching London today had the farmers north of this growing community in a sweat. A big monster of a black bull escaped from the Medway farm of Col. Weldon and Pte. Stevens. To say the farmers were scared was, according to our reporter, putting it mildly. Several farmers said their cows were now swollen with love, and intended to enter suit.

Interviewed on the back forty, Vimy's Weldon and Stevens scoffed, "Why if these guys knew what they were getting free, they should be payin' us. As Col Weldon explained, "When a guy's got too many irons in the fire, he's liable to get one of them burnt."

Our staff reporter chatted with the Weldon-Stevens team for the rest of the day out by the greenhouse and came away with a picture of the new strain brought back from Africa with the intention of lining up local herds. These are the first pictures. As we go to press, the new beasts are still on the loose.

THE SOCIAL SCENE

The many friends of M.C. Scrotch will be sorry to learn that he fell down a steep flight of steps on Friday and broke his neck. Mr. Scrotch was in the act of lowering a case of Three Star Hennessey into the cellar when his foot slipped. It is understood that the Hennessey was ten years old and will revert to the widow. The number of friends and neighbours who have called to express their sympathy has been something fierce.

A bouncing twelve pound boy has blessed the home of Mr. & Mrs. Aenais Scrod of 20 First Avenue West on Tuesday last. Mr. Scrod has fired the hired man and has engaged a more aged servitor.

Hank Bell who was hanged last week in Goderich for an atrocious crime, is no relation to Walter Bell, Vimy's Treasurer.

Miss Rosie Pook of Delaware is staying in London for a few days nursing her alleged father, whose addiction to whiskey is most distressing to his friends - especially since he seldom has the price.

Col. Charlie Ross, formerly of Minnedosa, suffered a greivous injury to a sensitive area of the spine, after having inadvertently impaled himself on the handle of a curling stone while settling comfortably into the hack during a fierce contest on the Coves the other evening between the Brick St. Athletic Club and the Ladies Auxiliary of No. 2 Branch.

Miss Maude de Vere of Lucan arrived in London on Wednesday afternoon and was run out of town Wednesday night. It's a pity Miss de Vere isn't a race horse. She is very fast.

CANADA COUNCIL RECOGNIZES LOCAL ARTISTS

Ottawa, April 5 (VP) The Canada Council today issued a grant of \$10.30 to the Vimy Orchestra, well-known locally.

The funds are slated for the development of a truly Canadian image in the medium of the musical arts.

"I have always been moved while listening to this group," states Col. D. B. Weldon, Chairman of the Council, "And I know that under the load they carry and with Brig. Dillon's leadership, the money will be quickly put to use."

The Brig., presently shooting game in the Komoka swamp, could not be reached for comment.

Captain Harry Wooster, assistant conductor, volunteered that in his opinion the Colonel sure hit the nail on the head and that personally he often got quite moved too.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Refresh your tired eyes with

MURINE

Handy in Barber Shops and at home too.
Comes in handy bottles, also in drops.

Box 200 PLAIN TALK

NO BELTS NO PINS NO PADS

You move gracefully, you dance beautifully. All is as fine as should be. How nice for you, if you're a Tampax user!

Tampax Inc. Palmer, Mass.

LEARN BRIDGE BUILDING AT HOME

or in your spare time

No boring exercises, start building right away. All instructions by number. Only a few cents per day - car or wife taken as down payment. Write Major Gabion T. Firestep, V.D. with scar
c/o PLAIN TALK

VIMY GROUP VISITS MUSEUM

London (VP)

A group of gentlemen from London, Ontario, visited in Ontario's Queen City today. Referring to themselves as the Vimy Study Group, the gentlemen arrived via the C.N.R.'s special week-end excursion to visit Toronto's Royal Museum.

Asked whether they intended to start one back in London, W/C Gord Burns, the group's spokesman stated, "Well, we wanta see how it's done."

At the Union Station the group was met by Toronto's Mayor, who directed the party to the Museum where the stuffed animals took on a pre-dominate position. Reaching down the neck of a carnivorous brontasaurios, the Mayor drew out a bottle of Scotch whiskey. Each of the group, after testing the bottle, pronounced the Museum superior in every way to the one they had in London, England, and away ahead of the Louvre, In Paris, France. The Meglausaurious, being extra large was good for three bottles, altho' a small specimen of the dinotherum, 6,000,000 years old, and found only in the Micene formation, yielded only a pint of Seagram's. However, there was no kick about the arrangements and after spending most of the afternoon at the Museum, the group was taken over to the Waxworks where they found, in the breast pocket of Sir John A. Macdonald's Prince Albert, a large, flat, oblong bottle of rather good stuff.

Advt. Advt. Advt.

R U B B E R S

Special rubbers for the youth. All sizes, all styles - some

with buckles, imagine that, zippers too.

Also some used overshoes.

Box 150 - PLAIN TALK

SHERIFF APPEALS FOR FITNESS

Stating that a 50 mile march never hurt anyone but a horse, Sheriff R. H. Beattie today accepted the challenge of Robert Kennedy, and led off London's business and professional men in a spring route march.

Starting time was 5:00 P.M. Umbrella, brief case and black derby was the order of dress.

Competing with the sheriff were: Col. Kippen, Col. Leonard, Capt. Killoran, W/Cmdr. McDougall, S/L Robert Porter Col. J.E. Smallman, Joe Kennedy, Major Fred Fisher, Ptes, Fred Kingsmill and Brown.

All of the competitors are members of the local organization, VIMY BRANCH WALKING CLUB, with the exception of Joe Kennedy, whose application is undergoing scrutiny.

The route lay due east from the Sheriff's office, along Dundas Street, and terminating at the Armouries. Although the Belvedere Hotel was declared out of bounds, the Misses Bessie Ambrooster and Goldie Schyler, old time friends of the sheriff, stepped from the bar and applauded him briskly as he swung by at the head of the column.

All contestants crossed the finish line standing up. An advance party had been on hand at the Garrison Mess since 3:30 P.M. to welcome the tired marchers. Detail of Advance Party is given in Page 6.

The only ugly incident to mar the outing was a short fist fight which broke out when, due to the large numbers in the mess, the Sheriff was prevented from getting to the bar until 6:30 P.M. at which time the bar closed. Lt. Col. Geo. Humphries cleared his throat 3 times and the brawl ceased.

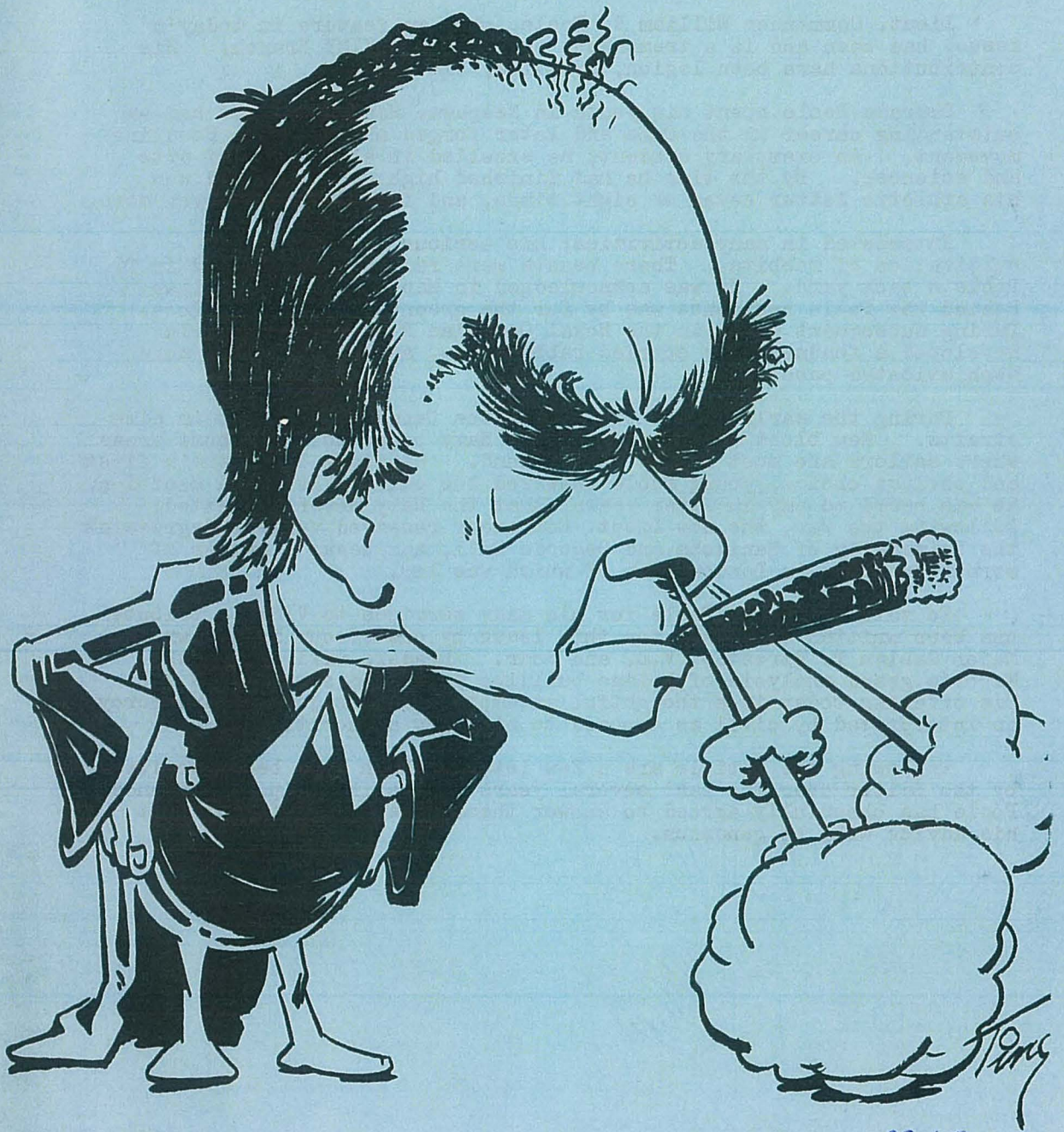
NOMINAL ROLL OF ADVANCE
PARTY MENTIONED ON PAGE 5

WINNER IN YEAR

1929-1930	M. M. Dillon
1931	J. G. Gillanders
1932	G. E. Reid
1933	H. K. Ingram
1934	L. E. Mills
1935	D. B. Weldon
1936	D. J. H. Ferguson
1937	R. I. Watt
1938	C. H. Ivey
1939-1940	G. F. Kingsmill
1941	J. H. Stevens
1942	L. T. Hayman
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1954	Joseph Jeffery
1955	G. W. H. Bartram
1956	G. M. Burns
1957	F. N. D. Carmichael
1958	H. W. Hockin
1959	R. M. Dillon
1960	W. R. Poole
1961	G. E. Humphries
1962	N. McBeth

THE VIMY WEEK-ENDER

PRESENTS



09 APR. 1965

Lieut. Commander William R. Poole, whom we feature in today's issue, has been and is a tremendous supporter of VIMY Branch. His contributions have been legion, creative, distinctive.

Comrade Poole spent his youth in Neepawa, Manitoba. He had an outstanding career in the Cubs and later forged ahead in the Scouting movement. An exemplary student, he excelled in all manner of arts and sciences. By the time he had finished high school he had won his athletic letter seven or eight times, and indeed perhaps even more.

Interested in many activities; his serious hobby was the cultivation of rabbits. These beasts were raised and nurtured in Dr. Poole's back yard. It was acknowledged in Manitoba that the lawn behind the Poole residence was by far the greenest in the Province. During subsequent years in the Royal Canadian Navy, Comrade Poole developed a fondness for curried rabbit stew, as well as other more sophisticated passions.

During the early months of the war the Canadian Navy was in dire straits. New blood was needed and the Navy began to comb those areas where sailors are most likely to be found. Manitoba being their first and obvious choice, young Poole answered the call. It was a decision, he was heard to say in later years, that the Navy never regretted. Following the war, the now Lieut. Commander received various degrees at the University of Manitoba and Osgoode Hall, and began a number of serious pursuits in London, one of which was law.

To salute Comrade Poole for his many services to VIMY, a tribute has been written expressly for this issue by one of our finest writers, Major Gabian T. Firestep, V.D. and Scar. Readers will recall the Major's grand analysis of bridge building presented some months ago. His offering today is a thoughtful attempt to define justice and mercy as interpreted by civil as opposed to military authorities.

Following the article are a few letters which have been received by the Editor over the past several years requesting help. Commander Poole has cheerfully agreed to answer them. We are confident that his advice will be generous.

THE LAW - MILITARY vs CIVIL

By Major Gabian T. Firestep, V.D. and Scar.

As this issue pays tribute to one of the leading legal figures among our members it was felt fitting that a short article comparing the administration of justice by the armed forces with that prevailing in civilian life should be included. As the other services never reached the high standards of the army in this regard the army practice only is discussed. Of all soldiers the engineers showed the greatest imagination and diversity in military crime, therefore an example is given from the records of a Field Company, RCE.

The events described took place during attendance at a Bridging School on the River Thames in England. The unit was billeted in a number of houses along the river.

Major Bailey-Panel the Company O.C. found it necessary to hold orderly room at 1000 hrs. on Saturday, 21 November, 1943, to deal with two offences committed the previous evening. This involved considerable inconvenience for the Major on two counts. He had a week-end rendezvous arranged in London and he had also had a slight disagreement with the local police. This concerned a serious experiment in the climbing qualities of a jeep by driving it up the Town Hall steps with a female observer-passenger. Being, however, like all senior, sapper officers, a very conscientious soldier he put his personal problems aside and determined to deal justly but firmly with the accused.

Both cases were covered by Section 40 of the regulations and arose out of disturbances in the billets the previous night.

The first case involved Sapper Cordage, a rather resourceful former peanut vendor from Toronto. His fall from grace followed a binge on a mixture of Ruby Red Wine and Surgical Spirits. This was very popular among engineers. While the flavour was somewhat exotic, the resulting improvement in outlook and feeling of omnipotence made the drink very popular. The purchase of the ingredients had been financed by the sale of about 400 lbs. of lead sheet removed from the roof of the sun porch of one of the billets.

The other case involved Sapper Holdfast, a miner from Kirkland Lake. While being a very good worker, he seemed to lack the proper feeling of respect toward higher authority. He had visited the town for a few beers with some cronies. Before leaving the billets he had picked out his spot on the floor, laid out his palliasse and blankets and neatly stacked his kit.

The following verbatim account of the orderly room procedures was obtained from company records and from an eye-witness account by one of the participants.

Case 1. - Sapper Cordage.

As a preliminary, Company Sergeant Major Picket lined up all those taking part, then "Accused, escort and witnesses, Attention! Take off your hat, Cordage and get that silly grin off your face. Right turn, quick march, Le-ry Le-ry Le-ry - Mark time, Halt, Left turn. STAND STILL!" The Orderly Corporal reads the charge, then the first witness, Sergeant Bowline gives evidence - "Sir, as Orderly Sergeant on the night of the 20th November, I was inspecting the billets for lights-out when I was notified of a disturbance in No. 1. Platoon quarters. On arriving there at 2330 hrs. I saw the accused with a rifle with bayonet fixed running up and down the room screaming 'Bring on your bloody Sergeants'. I warned him to stop at which he said 'Come near me you pot-bellied brown-nosing three-striper and I'll gut you'. With the assistance of Corporal Brown and Lance Corporal Green I disarmed him and placed him under arrest. He then started to cry and call for his dear old mother. He was drunk, Sir." The evidence of the two Junior NCOs corroborated this and with appropriate dignity the O.C. turned to the accused. "This is a very serious charge, Cordage. Have you anything to say". "Sir" replied the accused. "I know I shouldn't drink but I heard from a friend yesterday that my wife had run away with another man and my kids were in an institution. It upset me so bad I felt I had to have a drink. I know you have been very kind to me, Major Panel, Sir, and I am very sorry to let you down like this, you being such a wonderful O.C. and all. If you give me another chance, Sir, I promise it will not happen again, Sir." The Major, of course, astutely realizes that this is a case where justice must be tempered with mercy, "Well now, Cordage, I feel very sorry for you but you realize a soldier has to do his duty under all circumstances. What do you think would happen to this unit if I got drunk every time I had problems and God knows I have enough. See the Chaplain about your domestic

and thank you for your good advice. I know you are a very kind officer but whatever you do to me I know I will deserve it". The Major is now convinced that this man has potential and that severity would be wrong. "Very well, Cordage, I am going to give you two days C.B. but I warn you I shall not be so lenient in the future." "Oh thank you Sir, I promise that I will give up drink altogether". "I am glad to hear that -- did you say something Sergeant Major -- alright carry on." While the C.S.M. is marching out the party the Major reflects how important an understanding of human nature is to a Company Commander.

Case 2. - Sapper Holdfast.

After the preliminaries the evidence is heard. First witness is Lance Corporal Rose, the Company Sanitary Corporal. "Sir at 2350 hrs. on the 20 November I was sleeping in my billet. I was wakened by the accused who had turned on the lights and was kicking at me and my equipment and using bad language. When I asked him what he was doing he said 'Move over you honey-bucket scraping bastard* before I murder you'. He dumped me on the floor and threw my kit all over the room. Sergeant Bowline then arrived and the accused was very abusive to him, Sir". Sergeant Bowline then gave his evidence which was as follows "Sir, on the night of the 20 November I was on duty as Orderly Sergeant. At 2350 hours I was near headquarters platoon billets and hearing a disturbance I investigated. I saw the accused scuffling with Lance Corporal Rose and warned him to keep quiet. He turned and said 'Sergeant! this stinking dung-walloper stole my bloody bed and he ain't going to get away with it. Anyway I would like to know why we can't have proper beds like the Officers and Sergeants. This is a poor bloody outfit if you ask me'. I placed him under arrest and he used a good deal more bad language. He was drunk, Sir".

The Major knew this was a different case and should be dealt with severely. He realized this was the kind of cheeky sod who would cause all sorts of trouble. Probably a Communist. Well, he wouldn't put up with this.

"Have you anything to say Holdfast". "No". "SIR" shouted the S.M. "Sir" growled Holdfast. The Major was now convinced he must show no weakness. "Now Holdfast, this is a serious charge. If it wasn't for the excuse of the drink you could be charged with a very serious offence. Furthermore, I don't

that there is a war on. People are being killed and wounded every day and you complain about a little discomfort. Of course the Officers and Senior NCOs have to have these little extra comforts. They take all the responsibility and have to work hard all hours of the day and night. You fellows think because you put in twelve hours a day on the river you're badly treated. I should like to see you with my job, then you would realize what work is. Will you accept my punishment". "Yes Sir" "Then I am going to give you twenty-one days C.B. and fine you seven days pay. In view of your offence it is only fitting that you should spend the twenty-one days on sanitary fatigue under Lance Corporal Rose. Let me warn you, however that any repetition of this will result in very severe punishment. My advice to you, Holdfast, is to leave drink alone completely since you obviously do not know how to control it".

Points to be observed.

Note how favourably this compares with its civilian counterpart. The dignified controlled entry of the participants into the presence, the crisp factual evidence. No cross questioning, no foolish legal arguments, just plain honest, unvarnished facts. How succinctly the Sergeant sums it all up - "he was drunk Sir". No nonsense about being under the influence, or being impaired. No fooling about with breathalysers or tests, just straight out "drunk".

It is also interesting to note how the O.C. reaches his decision, a refreshing mixture of acceptance of good evidence, a deep knowledge of human psychology and a warm human instinct. The accused gets an opportunity to speak, not of course to refute the evidence. This is factual and can not be refuted. He does however get a chance to divulge any extenuating circumstances. It is interesting in this case to note how the two accused react. The first man admits his fault and reveals a deep personal tragedy. The other obviously a brutish fellow, says nothing.

Note also how the O.C. dispenses wise fatherly advice calculated to have a beneficial effect on all but the most hardened. It is again interesting to note how differently this is received by the two men.

When we come to the passing of sentence, here we see how

suitably the O.C. picks the punishment. He is not impressed that the first accused has a crime sheet like a telephone book and the second is blank. He shrewdly realizes the potential of these men and decides accordingly. The imagination shown in assigning Holdfast to work for Rose is magnificent.

Summation.

Surely there is a lesson here for modern jurists! Would not a thorough study of many thousands of such cases show how poorly our present practice compares with this. A Royal Commission should be appointed to study the whole problem before many of the records are lost and those who practised this admirable type of justice have passed from among us.

It is amazing that the benefits of this system have not been universally realized. Even those with experience of the process were slow to realize the potential of the system. For the record an on-the-spot account of the reactions of the participants in this drama was made and is summarized here.

Major Bailey-Panel - "Don't know why the NCOs and Officers cant keep their damn men in order. Now I will have to take a chance and get driven to London in the staff car. God I need a beer. Hope the CRE doesn't get to hear about last night.

CSM Pickett - "So that bugger Cordage bee-essed the old man again. If he didn't have such a hangover and wasn't so keen to get to that old blister in London he'd remember that Cordage used the excuse that his wife was dying of cancer three weeks ago. It's a crime what they're using for Majors nowadays".

SPR Cordage - "Well I put it over the old man again but that sod Pickett is out to get me. I got to get downtown as I have an offer of a quid a pair for those rubber boots I lifted out of the bridging stores".

SPR Holdfast - "That old lush sure put the boots to me. His silly bloody lecture was worse than the punishment. As for Lance Bloody Corporal Rose I'll fix that bastard".

So it is that mankind misses its greatest opportunities for

* Editor's Note. - Readers may be surprised at the frequency with which this rather reprehensible word recurs. Let it be clearly understood that the word is not used here in today's accepted sense of a derisive, albeit friendly, slur - but rather in the traditional Shakespearean meaning of an unusual fellow, a person of unconventional lineage.

P R O G R A M

HOTEL LONDON

APRIL 9, 1965

1800 hours.....Gathering.

1930 hours.....Dining.

2100 hours.....His Honour Judge Bruce J. S.
MacDonald, O.B.E., Q.C.

2130 hours.....Re-Gathering.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

A minimum of two Pocket Books or their equivalent for distribution at Westminster is a condition of entry.

VIRTUE EXTOLLED.

Dear Comrade Poole,

It does my heart good to see this fine old Journal regaining its pristine propriety. I do enjoy good wholesome and insirational literature. That smutty material infesting our newstands is the curse of our society. Let's keep our Journal clean boys, suitable for all members of the family, and uplifting too.

By the way, old Comrade, my Wife threw out all my old copies and I just can't find the name of that fellow who sells those used rubbers and footwear, especially the youths sizes.

Can you help me?

Yours perplexedly,

(name withheld on request)

Dear Ben,

I have forwarded your inquiry to Major Clendinning who maintains an ample file on such matters.

Your friend.

Comrade Bill.

UNIT REUNION.

The following notice is published:

25th Anniversary of the 133rd Mobile Bath Unit will be celebrated Saturday night, June 20th. Comrades will parade to Riley's Boarding House, Clarence St., for delousing exercise, thence to Joe Jeffery's Pool. If Pool is being used by somebody else, Comrades will advance to the usual spot at the Blind 4th. Former Scrubbers and Suds men especially welcome.

Case of the Midnight Fiddler.

Dear Comrade Poole,

I am M. Gustave Buchner, notary of Beaumont, District of Rosee, Belgium. I wish to state that a Violin Case bearing the name "Capt. E. H. Shuttleworth, 1919" has been found beneath the bed of Mme. Marie Helene Margareta Bernice Anna-Constanza Catherine au Clairmont de Vichy Soisse, Spinster of this Village, recently deceased.

I am advised by many reliable and interested parties that during the hot summer of 1919, the owner of the Violin Case was wont to play his fiddle for the enjoyment of the Mme. at the midnight hour - but, alas - on the last such occasion, he was surprised by the unexpected entry of the Papa of the Mme. The Captain is reported to have escaped with his fiddle intact, but, regrettably without his case, which now may be claimed, upon payment of the parcel post charges.

Your servant.

Gus.

Dear Gus,

For 45 years Capt. Shuttleworth has found it prudent to hang up his Fiddle in the Tool Shed, when not in use. The Captain respectfully declines your thoughtful offer, and is of the opinion he would like to forget this whole painful affair. In any event the Captain was under the impression that it was Mme's cousin for whom he performed, and in afterthought he feels that he was indeed taken in on that eventful night.

Your faithful servant.

Cmdr. Poole.

LETTERS AND NOTICES TO THE EDITOR.

A SCIENTIST'S DILEMMA.

Dear Comrade Poole,

As a busy executive of M.M. Dillon & Co., I can state that we are now completing our first space vehicle.

This is not a Government project. The Brigadier has been given to understand that there is music in the spheres, and he intends to find out about it, no matter what the out-of-pocket expense.

We plan to shoot the Brigadier and Dick into orbit very shortly, but Dick points out a problem which arose during the recent Russian effort. One of the Cosmonauts, it is alleged, had to go so badly during the flight that he jumped out of the Capsule and stood on his head for awhile outside just to relieve the pressure. Dick says he sure doesn't want that to happen to him, what with the Rubber Suit, and Television Cameras and all.

Can you help us?

Yours hopefully,

W/C G. M. Burns.

Dear W/C G. M. Burns,

I recommend equipment produced by EMCO and tested by Comrades Stevens and Weldon on a recent trip to Africa. If you can squeeze it in the hatch, you would be well advised to take it along. Call Charlie Ivey and ask for Catalogue item No. 3472 for Safari use.

Your friend,

Comrade Bill.

VIMY BRANCH
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE - 1965

Hon. President	Brig. M. M. Dillon
Hon. Vice-Pres.	Brig. R. H. Beattie Col. I. Leonard Lt/Cmdr. W. R. Poole Capt. Harry Wooster
President	Lt.Col. W. R. Buchner
Vice-President	Maj. J. O. Hewitt
Secretary	Capt. W. J. Roadhouse
Treasurer	Lt. W. J. Robinson
Executive Committee	Capt. B.I. Baldwin Lt. Walter E. Bell Maj. A. E. Clendinning F/L M. H. Dawson S/L Hugh McAlpine Maj. J. W. Nolan Maj. J. B. Stratton Lt. T. O. Robinson.
Past President	Capt. A. M. LeBel
Chaplain	Maj. K. B. Keefe
Auditor	W/C Gorden McDougall

PAST PRESIDENTS

1929-30	M. M. Dillon	1948	H. F. Davison
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VIMY WEEK-END

published spasmodically under the C.N.R. overpass



PRESIDENT CALLS SNAP ELECTION FOR NOVEMBER 5th, 1965

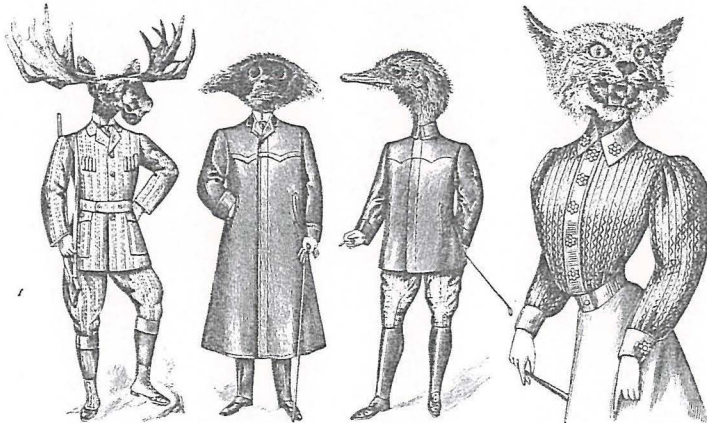
The editorial staff brings out the issues in this special edition.

Comrade President William R. Buchner of the Vimy Branch has called for an election of officers by reason of scandal permeating the ranks of the present executive.

In an interview with your editor, within minutes of his surprise announcement, the President informed your editor that he had been shocked to learn that applicants for membership in Vimy were being screened by a special committee. New applicants were being subjected to aptitude and suitability tests, and even intelligence tests. "Jeepers", said Comrade Buchner, "for all I know, they are even given a Wasserman. Perhaps we ought to try to improve the quality of the membership in the future, but what worries me is they may make these tests retroactive."

What has disturbed the President is that not only can he not find out who sits on the screening committee, but he cannot get copies of the tests, or the results. "The present executive has been powerless to help me. They are stunned by the whole thing. I have no alternative but to put the matter to the membership at large by calling this general election."

In interviews with various members of Vimy, your editor has concluded that the issues are still cloudy, but it is expected by 2100 hours on November 5th, 1965, almost total obliteration of the issues will insure an unbiased electorate with no dangerous notions whatever of the issues.



the screening committee are incensed!

ORDERS

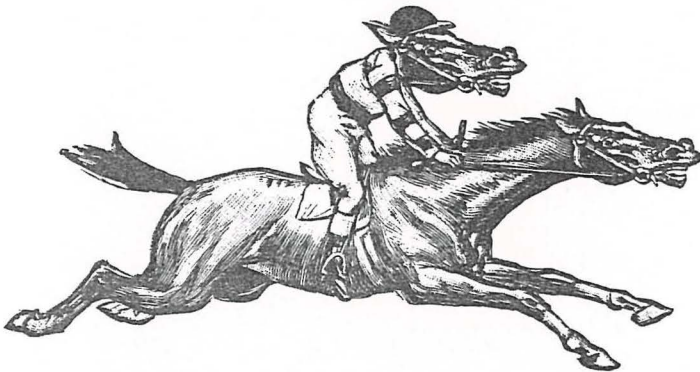
HOTEL LONDON

NOVEMBER 5, 1965

1800 hours..... Grouping
1930 hours Foraging
2100 hours
2130 hours Re-grouping

2 Pocket Books for Westminster Hospital or \$1.00.

Cenotaph Parade, Sunday, November 7, 1965.



Parade at 1330 hours at Dundas Street Armouries to Cenotaph.

PAST PRESIDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO WEAR THEIR MEDAL

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1946	R.H. Beattie	1962	Capt. N. McBeth
1947	G.W. Foote	1963	Col. C.C. Ross
		1964	Capt. A.M. LeBel

VIMY

BRANCH No. 145
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

P.O. BOX 121
LONDON, ONTARIO

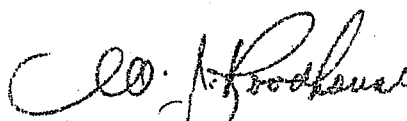
April 22, 1966.

Dear Sir and Comrade:

It is a pleasure to enclose with the compliments of Vimy Branch, a print of each photograph taken by the Free Press, in which you appear.

We hope that this will serve to remind you of a pleasant event and the important part you had in making it successful.

Yours sincerely,



W.J. ROADHOUSE
Secretary

WJR/jc
Enc.

Brig. R.H. Beattie
Maj. George Blake
Mr. Jack Brooke
Mr. Thomas Hedger
Mr. Charles Hoare
Maj. J.O. Howitt
Capt. Jack MacGillivray
Mr. Charles Middleton
S./M. Jack Nokes
Maj. Gen. D.C. Spry
Mr. H.L. Thomas
H./Col. J.G. Thompson
✓ Capt. Harry Wooster



left to right - Mr. Jack Stevens, Col. D.B. Weldon, Hon. Duff Roblin.
Stevens speaks to Roblin: "Old Doug. and I are getting close ^(Premier of Manitoba)
to planting time and we want to be planted under a CONSERVATIVE
Government".

This print courtesy of VIMY BRANCH, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
of which Comrades Stevens and Weldon were both Charter Members
and Past Presidents.

LFP
14 JULY, '67

VIMY RIDGE

1867

1917

1967

150,000 Frenchmen fell in a single year of fighting for Vimy Ridge, but at the end, the long, sinister hogsback was still in the hands of the Germans. In 1916, the British took over and the battle went underground, to a war waged in the darkness of narrow tunnels and mineshafts deep below the surface. The Germans counter-attacked from the crest and took the British mineshafts. When the four divisions of the Canadian Corps assembled for the last assault in 1917, Vimy Ridge had earned a reputation for blood-soaked invincibility, the impregnable German Gibraltar of the Western Front.

Behind the precision of the Canadian assault lay months of planning and preparation. Before the ground battle could begin, the air battle had to be fought and won - in face of crack German fighter units like the Richthofen 'Circus' specially assembled to stop British reconnaissance aircraft. Overwhelming artillery power had to be brought in and registered on its targets in advance. And when this fantastic 'set-piece' battle began, the most incongruous elements were involved - tanks and infantry, aeroplanes and cavalry, kite balloons and gigantic naval guns.

Precisely 50 years ago - Easter Monday 1917 - the Canadian Corps attacked. Alexander McKee later noted: "In spite of the blizzard, the attack - for the first time in the war - went forward like clockwork. Coupled with the accuracy of the creeping barrage was the fantastic dash and elan of the Canadians." Another wrote soon afterwards: "Vimy was from first to last an outstanding example of the way to win a battle. As such it must always be regarded."

For the Germans, it was the first faint writing on the wall. For Canada the capture of the Ridge marked the day her regiments became an army.

VIMY BRANCH - ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

P R O G R A M

HOTEL LONDON

APRIL 14, 1967

1800 hours

Fall In

1930 hours

Messing

2100 hours ...

Major General Hugh Andrew Young C.B. , C.B.E. , D.S.O. , C.D.

General Young was born in Winnipeg.
Proceeded overseas with the 251st BN,
later served with 44th BN, at Arras
and Vimy.

His subsequent service with the Canadian
Army continued from 1924 - 1945.

2130 Hours

Re-Grouping

VIMY ORCHESTRA - Selections from the Masters

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A minimum of Two Pocket Books or their equivalent
for distribution at Westminster is considered as the
Password for this important engagement.

VIMY BRANCH
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE - 1967

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		Lt. /Cmdr. W. R. Poole
		Capt. Harry Wooster
		Col. D. B. Weldon
		J. H. Stevens, Esq.
President	Maj. J. W. Nolan
Vice-President	Lt. Walter E. Bell
Secretary	Capt. W. J. Roadhouse
Treasurer		Lt. W. J. Robinson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Capt. B. I. Baldwin	George M. Hobart , Esq.
Lt. Walter E. Bell	Lt. T. O. Robinson
F/L M. H. Dawson	Maj. J. B. Stratton
Lt. D.D.C. McGeachy	Lt. Col. W. R. Buchner
	S. S. Gregory, Esq.
Past President Major J. O. Howitt
Chaplain Major K. B. Keefe
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1948	H. F. Davison	1965	Lt. Col. W. R. Buchner
		1966	Major J. O. Howitt

The Wimpy Week- End

Drill Manual



presents

LT. COL. ARTHUR H. BIRKS, D.S.O., E.D.

Ottawa - London

Gunner

Soldier of Fortune

Analyst

“let the various arms
go their own pace”

"Collecting diamonds used to send me", Col. Birks recently noted to Lieut. T. O. Robinson. "What intrigues me now is the art of marching. It's unbelievable. The only advance in forty years may turn out to be the green apple quick-step." The recollection of Ken Ingram, racing in column of route through Longwood orchard, brought a sudden mist to T. O. 's eyes. The Col. quietly thumbed through "Corporal to Field Officer", and continued, "fundamentally, it all boils down to this:

1. Marches divide into two types:
 - i. "War". When tactical considerations are paramount.
 - ii. "Peace". When comfort of the troops is of the first importance.
2. "War" Type --
 - i. Tactical requirements are paramount. The comfort of the troops should be considered.
3. "Peace" Type --
 - i. When possible, subalterns should increase comfort of men and animals.
 - ii. Do not start from billets less than one hour after dawn, or before the men are up.
 - iii. Let the various arms, etc., go their own pace:
 - (a) Infantry 2-1/2 to 3 miles per hour
 - (b) Artillery 3-1/2 to 4 miles per hour
 - (c) Cavalry and Cyclists 5 to 6 miles per hour
 - (d) Tractor-Drawn Art. F.W.D. 5 miles per hour
 - (e) Lorries 6 miles per hour

NOTE: Although Cavalry and Cyclists are shown at the same speed, one likes to go down hills fast and up hills slowly, the other vice-versa.

4. The Platoon Commander .. A Platoon Commander must see that his men's boots are in good repair, that they have clean socks without holes or darns, that their equipment fits, that their waterbottles are filled and that they have had a hot meal on occasion.

During the march, he is responsible for march discipline (pace, covering, dressing, quick falling in and out at halts, no smoking while marching, no excessive drinking, no stragglers, minimal uncouth noises).

He should encourage singing during the march. During halts he should find out if any of his men have blisters, chafed feet, lesions of any kind, and if so, how they got them.

Never deceive men as to how far they have to go; give reasons, even if non-existent, for a long march.

5. When fording a river: Infantry can take a depth of 3', but Cavalry can take a depth of 4'.
6. Watch out for level crossings. They may upset your calculations. "

Lieut. Robinson felt that VIMY Members would be interested in Col. Birks' analysis.

VIMY BRANCH - ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

P R O G R A M

HOTEL LONDON

NOVEMBER 10, 1967

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1800 hours | - Reception to honor the Integrated |
| 1930 hours | - Le Grand Repas |
| 2000 hours | - 'Airs from the Bilge Pumps' |
| | Vimy Orchestra and Chorale |
| 2030 hours | - Report of the Nominating Committee |
| 2031 hours | - Treasurer's Report |
| 2032 hours | - President's Accounting |
| 2033 hours | - Motions off the Floor |
| Adjournment | |

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

1. Fall in at 1000 hours, Saturday, November 11th, in front of the Armoury, under command of the Incoming President.
2. Major George Blake will be the marker. Capt. Joseph Jeffery says that George is the best right marker the Branch ever developed .
3. Latecomers must always be sensitive to the blank file.
4. Dress: Mandatory, with Red Poppy pinned to chest.
5. Lt. Cmdr. W. R. Poole will be responsible for decorum and singing.
6. Gp. Capt. V. P. Cronyn will be responsible for Cmdr. Poole.
7. Majors Bowen and Keefe will establish policy on blisters, chafing, lesions.
8. Acting Lt. Bill Hagarty will be responsible for recruits and family groups.

Following dismissal, the Vimy Platoon will attend the Hotel London for the Oyster Stew. The Oyster Stew is the final ceremony of the Vimy Year. All comrades who march are requested to fall in.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A minimum of Two Pocket Books or their equivalent for distribution at Westminster Hospital is the Password for the November 10 operation.

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ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
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		Capt. Harry Wooster
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		J. H. Stevens, Esq.
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Vice-President	Lt. Walter E. Bell
Secretary	Capt. W. J. Roadhouse
Treasurer		Lt. W. J. Robinson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Capt. B. I. Baldwin	George M. Hobart , Esq.
Lt. Walter E. Bell	Lt. J.T. O. Robinson
F/L M. H. Dawson	Maj. J. B. Stratton
Lt. D.D.C. McGeachy	Lt. Col. W. R. Buchner
	S. S. Gregory, Esq.
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VIMY WEEK-ENDER

Orchestra To Be Honoured

The Editor has been informed that the members of Vimy Branch will gather to do honour to THE ORCHESTRA. Inside this illustrated issue of the Week-Ender you will find a pre-war photograph of THE ORCHESTRA. Concert Master, Comrade Harry Wooster, has written to the Editor, and his letter is produced in the Letters to the Editor Column.

It is understood that members of Vimy will fall in at the Hotel London, (members are asked not to embarrass the management by falling out of the Hotel London) for the following programme :

Thursday April 25th, 1968 - Hotel London

1800 hours - first toast to THE ORCHESTRA

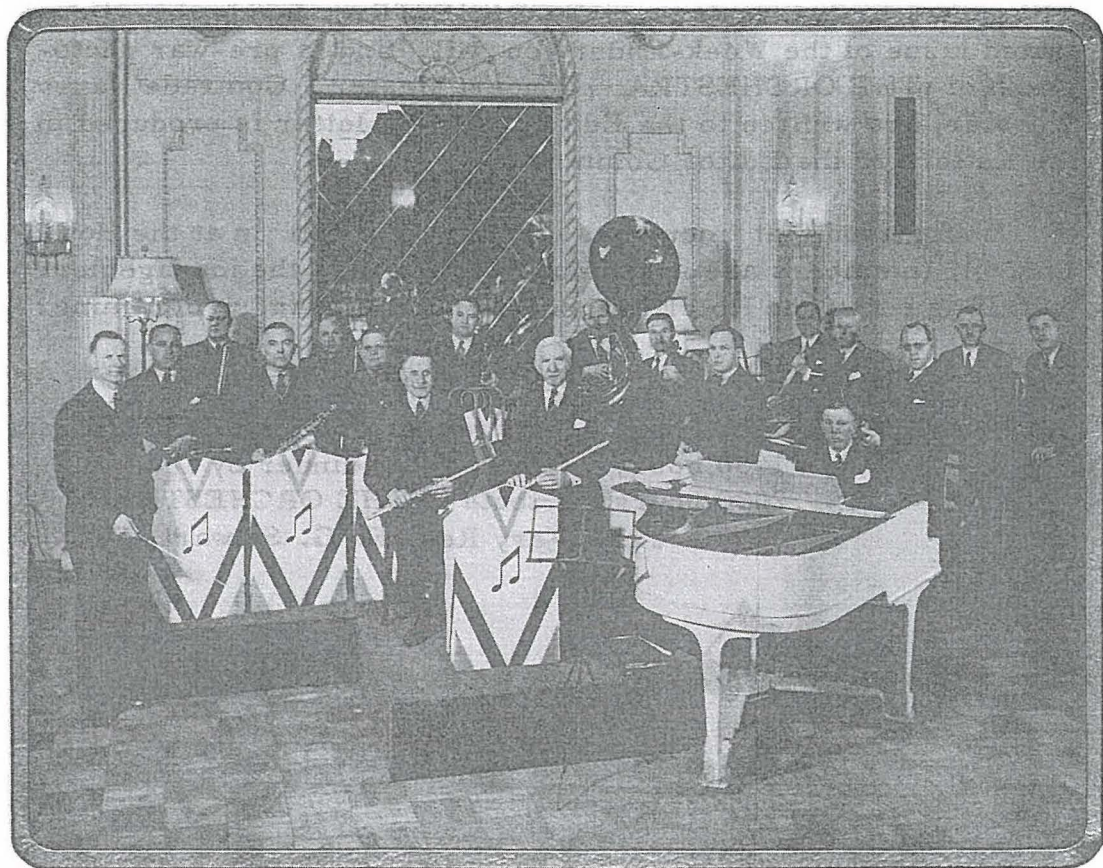
1930 hours - music to eat dinner by

2030 hours - tribute to THE ORCHESTRA

2100 hours - Very Rev. F. G. Stewart, D.D.



Editor's Note: Members are requested to bring two Pocket Books for distribution at Westminster Hospital.



Dear Mr. Editor:

Vimy has had music at every meeting since the beginning. In the first orchestra, Wally Armour played piano, but he moved from London, so Harry Hadwin took over and played right up to his death last year, except when he was overseas in World War Two. The late Bert Weir filled in until after World War Two. Personnel of the early orchestra were as follows:

Harry Hadwin	- piano
Murray Dillon	- violin and conductor
Ed Shuttleworth	- violin
Harry Wooster	- violin
Gordon Thompson	- drums
Ken Ferguson (deceased)	- trumpet
Jim Campbell	- trombone
Roger Gardiner (deceased)	- flute

Gardiner was at one time with the Boston Symphony Orchestra where his training in the Vimy Orchestra stood him in good stead.

The aforementioned members were later joined by

Duncan Carswell (deceased)	- violin
Harry Jolly (deceased)	- trumpet
George Blake	- violin
Bert Thomas	- trombone
Jim Bach	- cello
Harry Jarvis (deceased)	- violin

Many of the present members will be unaware of the fact that many concerts were put on by THE ORCHESTRA at Queen Alexandra Sanatorium and Westminster Hospital.

With Ken Ingram as our Master of Ceremonies, we put on white ties and tails to play a full evening's concert at Beal Tech Auditorium, which raised the money to buy the red poppy boxes for the Legion. During the temporary interruption of Vimy dinners from 1939 to 1945, we played some two hundred times for the troops.

Musically yours,

Harry Wooster

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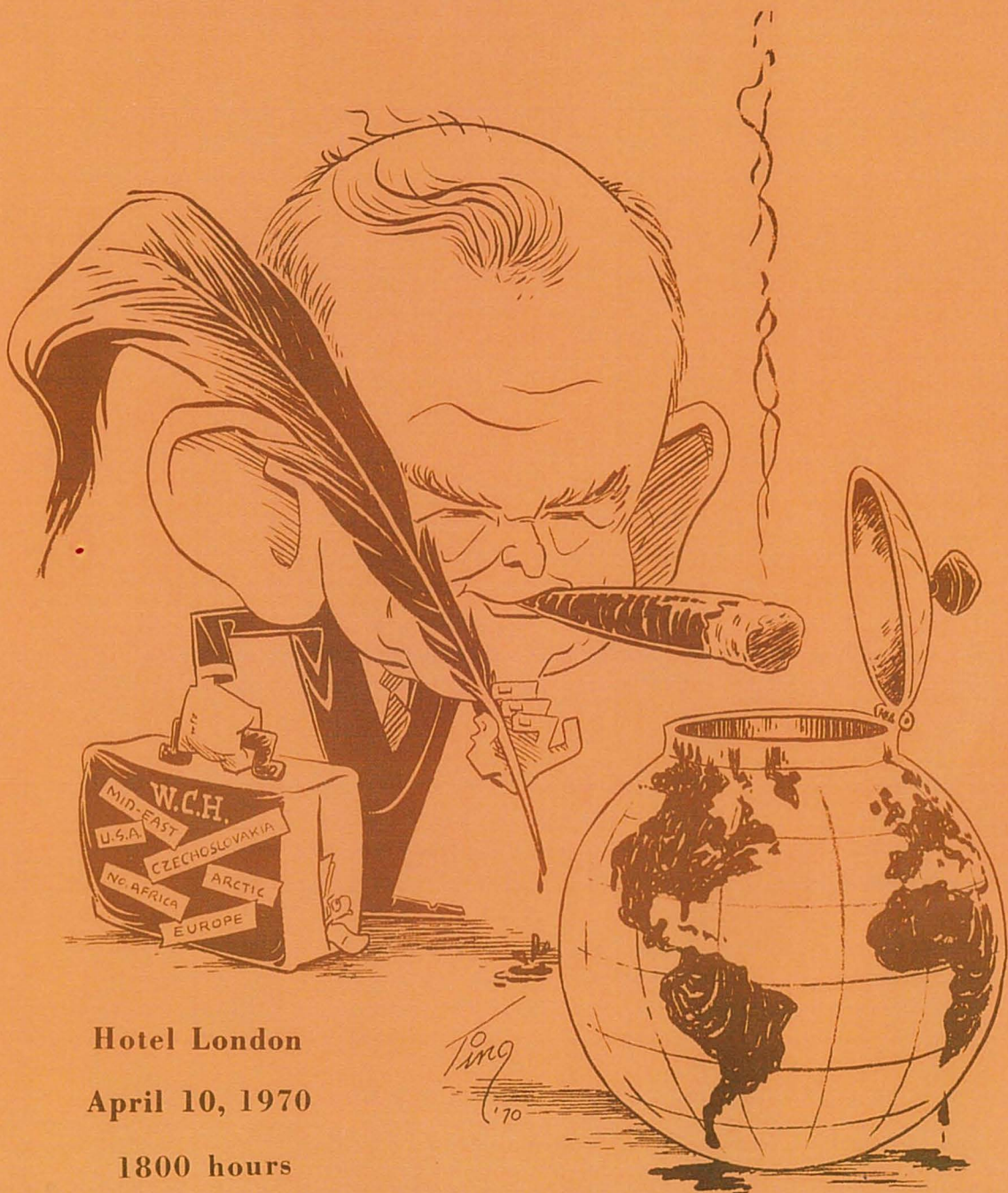
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VIMY WEEK-ENDER



Hotel London
April 10, 1970
1800 hours

BRANCH EDITORIAL

Guest speaker, W. C. Heine, has a great story to tell on his visits to distant lands, seas, airs.

This pattern wears well for Vimy audiences. The military are travellers - often highly seasoned. W. R. Poole's pamphlet, "Facing the North Beyond the Fourth" is excellent post breakfast fare, --- racy --- Partner W. E. Bell travels oft to Flint, Michigan, enters wry notes in the firm's diary on sights west of Port Huron --- Arva, long a hunter's paradise, now well in hand -- G. W. H. Bartram's 1947 almanac on tides in Johnston's Harbour still the pride of the Bruce --- R. C. Armstrong's forays in Pottersburgh (1929-30) thrice banned from Hotel London Newstands.

Cavalry men get about. "Travelled lots in the early days," muses A. Spencer, "Now I just bring the world to me." N. Emory, troubled aye with map reading when mounted, takes the dog along now. "Got lost on the Bruce Trail near Orangeville --- Had devil of time getting back for dinner without Rover." "Been places", declares I. Leonard. "Would raise hackles on the brisket, a-horse, a-foot, or ah-so. Nowadays, elevator ride to the board room lights my fire." "I'll buy that", chimes in T. Lawson, although not a horseman.

Engineers are migratory M. M. Dillon -- "Always restless in the spring, and often in the summer and winter, too," --G. E. Humphries - "Enjoyed the world's fauna for years, now dig flora in the greenhouse."

Airman G. M. Burns leans to space ships, has working model, wants door to door financing -- problems though --- Chamber Committee is relectant. R. P. Buist is demanding first go at the throttle.

Infantrymen are born transient. George Foote whistles by heart "Tomorrow is a Brave New World", (Fifth Dimension - Dicey Label). The two Urquharts, B.A. and D.J., know the old town of York inside out, and are often recognized. Innes Hammond

can find his way around Detroit with his eyes closed - did it once he thinks. Ed Shuttleworth sticks to the Westminster Highlands, but son Ed visits Popocatepepl often and writes extensively. "Ed's not worth a frickled fret on the violin anymore," says Ed, "but his travelogues rank with W. R. Poole's." W. R. isn't much on the violin either. R. M. Dillon, H. K. Ingram, H. F. Davison, H. L. Hayman, J. E. Jennings, and H. W. Hockin have seen, made, forgotten vigorous scenes all over the country's hostelryes.

Sailors are scientifically curious. J. Jeffery spent some shining hours, betimes cracking a difficult code, navigating the headwaters of the Rideau Canal. J. B. Nash, infrequently out of bounds, saw the world, claims people are the same all over. John A. Lewis, hotly disputes this theory - had personally observed several important differences even before Med. School.

How many members recall T. O. Robinson setting his singles engine monoplane astride the North Pole in 1919? It's a fact. His log book describes the landing as though it were but 51 years ago -- "Climbed out of cockpit -- sank into ten feet of snow -- deeply moved -- very unsettling -- could not locate pocket diary -- found diary -- fountain pen frozen tight -- sight of pole impressive -- not what I expected at all -- not at all -- felt humble -- doffed hat - felt numb -- replaced hat -- autographed pole -- inscribed humorous remark related by Rus's Beattie -- returned to plane." Years later, interviewed comfortably atop Westmount overlooking the crystal clear Thames --- T.O. on pollution at the N.P. -- "Sure could have used some." --- On drugs at the N.P. -- "Not much hemp around but snow abundant." On bilingualism at the N.P. "Be a good ten years yet. C.B. is working on it now."

No Vimy man has ever visited the South Pole.

A philosophic note from A. J. Ostle -- "The far reaches of the mind are truly astonishing." K. B. Keefe -- "Montreal's not bad, either.

So be it. Whatever Bill Heine has to say, it'll have to be good. This audience has got around.

VIMY BRANCH

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

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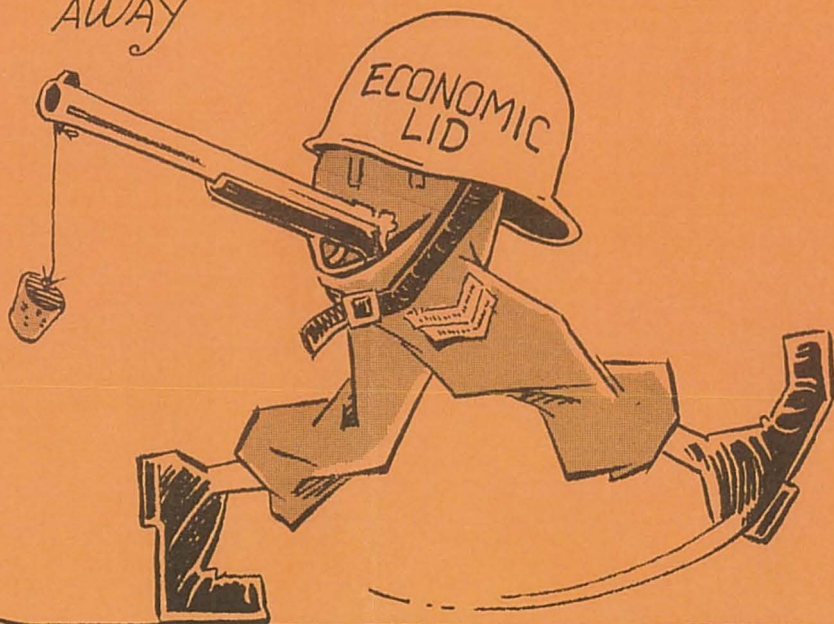
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1950	H.L. Hayman	1969	Capt. B. I. Baldwin

NEW
ARMIES
NEVER
DIE,
THEY
JUST
PHASE
AWAY

VIMY WEEK-END



Operation Order No. 42

SECRET

Attack. Hotel London

Time. 1800 Hrs., November 6, 1970

Personnel. All Ranks of Vimy Branch #145
Royal Canadian Legion

Strategy

Main unit will advance to the point marked "X" on the map - where they will find advance party has established headquarters.

Continuity of Movement

At point "A", troops will form into single file, and giving the password "Think Poppy" (plus wearing a copy of the Flanders Field Flower) will proceed through Opening supplied by Dillon's Engineers, and up the stairs to first landing. A bearing will be taken from this point (S by W. 1/8s) to a point 3' to port of the elevators, then west to TOLL gate, where the Weary Troops will deposit two paperback books, or One Dollar in lieu thereof.

Before proceeding further, all ranks will sign the register, and receive a ticket of leave, introducing himself to all buglers and Brigadiers.

Note to all Ranks

The convener of SPIRITUAL Support will be stationed at Toll gate, and all ranks arriving will be greeted with joy and relieved of their burdens, receiving compensation commensurate to their Offering.
Yea Man. cool, cool it.

Dues

A few blokes are AWOL in dues. If you are one of them - about face - return thru Toll gate to cry on Pimblett's shoulder, or tell it to the Padre.

Occupation

After passing the Toll gate, troops will then spread out and take up strategic positions that will enable them to have a clear view of point "X". This is essential as the heavy tanks will try to surround the enemy

so as to divide the rich booty among themselves. This must not happen.

Rations

Flexible refreshments will be issued at 1800 Hrs. This is a parade.

"Never was so much expected of so little."

Medical

Casualties are not anticipated as the striking force of the great MacNish and other spirits are so reduced that the only possible accident might be that of drowning. (What do you want, good grammar or good taste?)

Assembly

All Ranks will arrange own transportation to battle area marked "P" on map and proceed on foot to point "A" where they will form up as instructed in paragraph, "Continuity of Movement O.O. No. 42".

Rations -- Solid

Prime and sustaining rations will be issued at 1930 Hrs. This is an optional parade, but must be attended at once - ON TIME - and by all ranks.

Music

Bert Thomas will lead his Vimy orchestra following the march past of the heavy tank brigade. The Vimy orchestra will play your favourite tunes and songs. Bill Poole has been appointed Sgt. -at-arms. If you don't sing, he will collect One Dollar from you, and turn the proceeds over to the Boys' Club.

Appendix to above Orders

Armistice Day - November 11, 1970

Vimy Branch will fall in on marker at 1000 Hrs. in front of Armoury entrance. Wear your medals, tall hats, bowlers, berets, or what have you.

After the dismissal of the Parade in the Armoury, Vimy members are invited, by kind permission of The Mess President of the Garrison Officers Mess, to a delicious Oyster Stew. Tariff - One Dollar - Isn't that nice? Vimy members only, PLEASE.

Support the Poppy Fund ... Support the Legion Boys' Memorial Club...
Support for Books for Westminster Hospital...
Support your VIMY BRANCH...

VIMY BRANCH

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VIMY WEEKENDER

Hotel London

Friday 16 April 1971

1800 hours



We salute

Comrade George Frederick Kingsmill B.S.A., L.L.D., M.B.E.



STUDENT
O.A.C. post graduate thesis
"The Bee's Tongue"



SOLDIER
Sergeant, anti-aircraft battery
World War 1



FARMER
Champion Ayrshire breeder



MERCHANT
Kingsmill's Limited, founded 1865



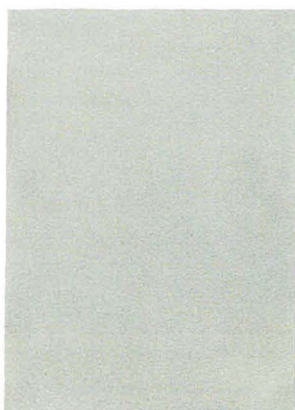
PATERFAMILIAS
Fred Jr. learns the "facts of life"



BELL RINGER
and Keeper of the clock
St. Paul's Cathedral



EDUCATIONALIST
Chancellor - Huron College



PHILANTHROPIST
(anonymous)



HOBBYIST
Hon. Life Member, London Camera Club

VIMY BRANCH
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

83rd SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

HOTEL LONDON
FRIDAY, 16 APRIL 1971

1800 hrs. GEORGIAN ROOM

R e c e p t i o n

Books for Westminster Hospital
2 Pocketbooks or \$1.00 will be
collected at entrance.

Dues - 1971 dues (\$15.00) will be received
by the Secretary-Treasurer.
Dominion Command will mail the Legion
Magazine only to paid-up members.

1930 hrs. CRYSTAL BALLROOM

Chairman - Lt. W. J. Robinson
M u s i c - Vimy Orchestra

Dinner - Roast Beef

Guest Speaker - F/L W.B.T. Smiley
Department of English
Midland District Secondary School

2130 hrs. GEORGIAN ROOM

Afterglow

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1937	Capt. R.I. Watt	1959	Lt. Col. R.M. Dillon
1938	Capt. C.H. Ivey	1960	Lt. Cmdr. W.R. Poole
1939-40	G.F. Kingsmill, Esq.	1961	Lt. Col. G.E. Humphries
1941	J.H. Stevens, Esq.	1962	Capt. N. McBeth
1942	Major L.T. Hayman	1963	Col. C.C. Ross
1943	Col. J.I. Carling	1964	Capt. A.M. LeBel
1944-45	Capt. E.H. Shuttleworth	1965	Lt. Col. W.R. Buchner
1946	Brig. R.H. Beattie	1966	Major J.O. Howitt
1947	Capt. G.W. Foote	1967	Major J.W. Nolan
1948	Sqn. Ldr. H.F. Davison	1968	Lt. W.E. Bell
1949	Col. G.W. Little	1969	Capt. B.I. Baldwin
1950	H. L. Hayman	1970	Major J.B. Stratton
1951	Lieut. J.B. Nash		

WHERE VIMY MEMBERS HAVE HUNG THEIR HATS OVER THE YEARS



3. Hotel London – SE corner of Dundas and Wellington, London 1937 to early 1972 when building razed

Hotel London, where Vimy had met since departing Longwood Inn in 1937, came tumbling down in 1972 as part of urban renewal and members lost another dear old friend. Later it was rumoured that some members forgot and wandered pathetically up and down the hoardings searching vainly for the entrance to the old hotel.



"WELL, IF YOU KNOWS OF A BETTER 'OLE, GO TO IT "

VIMY WEEKENDER



FRIDAY 9 NOVEMBER 1973

1800 HRS. HOLIDAY INN

HONOURS
and
AWARDS NIGHT

SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER 1973

1400 Hrs. ARMOURIES

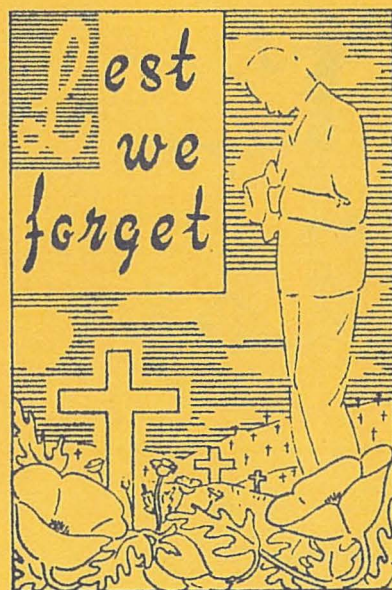
Remembrance Day Parade

1440 Hrs. CENOTAPH

Remembrance Day Service

1545 Hrs. RENDEZVOUS

Garrison Officers' Mess



PROGRAMME

- 1800 hrs. Happy Hour - Chamber of Commerce Club
 (via east elevator - Holiday Inn)
 Admission: 2 pocket books (or \$1.00)
 for Westminster Hospital.
- 1930 hrs. Dinner - Holiday Inn
 Music - The Vimy Orchestra
- 2030 hrs. Annual Meeting
- 2130 hrs. Afterglow - Chamber of Commerce Club



OFFICERS - 1973

Honourary President
Honourary Vice-Presidents

Brig. M.M. Dillon
Brig. R.H. Beattie
Col. Ibbotson Leonard
Lt. Cmdr. W.R. Poole
J.H. Stevens, Esq.
Col. D.B. Weldon
Capt. H.W. Wooster

President
Vice-President
Secretary-Treasurer
Chaplain

Capt. W.J. Roadhouse
Lt. Col. L.S. Lauchland
Capt. Harold Pimblett
Major K.B. Keefe

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Lt. Col. W.R. Buchner
F/L M.H. Dawson
S/L W.H. Hall-Holland
Lt. Col. Jack Harris
Lt. Col. J.P.C. Macpherson

W/C G.W. Manning
Lt. D.D.G. McGeachy
Lt. T.O. Robinson
Lt. W.J. Robinson
Major J.B. Stratton

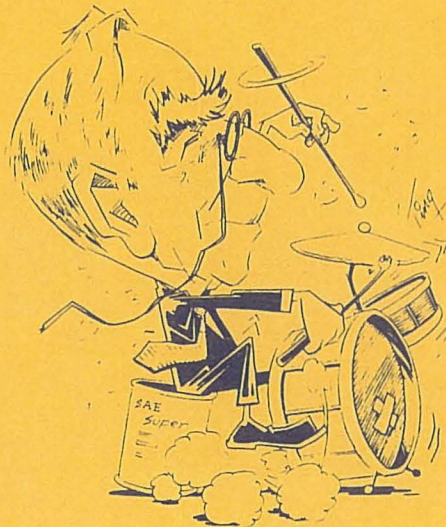
H O N O U R S

From it's founding 45 years ago, Vimy Orchestra has been a unique organization of talented and enthusiastic musicians. During World War II, it made a valuable contribution to the entertainment of active service men and women. For 45 years it has played a leading part in the Vimy meetings.

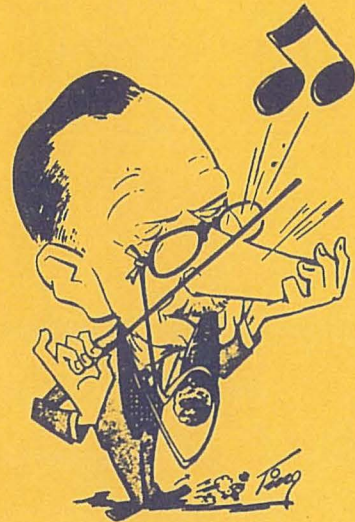
In grateful recognition of the dedicated efforts of the three original members to whom the achievements of Vimy Orchestra are mainly due, we salute Murray Dillon, Gordon Thompson and Harry Wooster.



BRIG. M. M. DILLON
Founder and Conductor
Emeritus



COL. J. G. THOMPSON
Master Drummer



CAPT. H. W. WOOSTER
Honourary Conductor

A W A R D S
for continuous membership in
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

25 YEARS

1973 - E.H.A. Carson, J.B. Cronyn, D.M. Gunn, J.B. Hay,
H.W. Hockin, K.B. Keefe, S.G. Mackness,
E.D.L. Miller, J.W. Nolan, I.D. Patterson.

30 YEARS

1969 - A.M. LeBel, T.O. Robinson
1972 - G.W.H. Bartram, Albert McClelland
1973 - S.C.H. Martin

35 YEARS

1969 - J.E. Jennings
1970 - H.F. Davison
1972 - Archibald McCausland

40 YEARS

1969 - S.W. Archibald
1970 - N.B. Emory, L.O. Pocock, R.I. Watt
1971 - E.D. Redfern, K.E. Taylor, H.W. Wooster
1972 - D.A. Anderson

45 YEARS

1969 - J.H. Stevens
1970 - C.B. Hancock, E.B. Nelles
1971 - W.E. Foster
1972 - E.E. Reilly
1973 - R.H. Beattie, M.M. Dillon, H.K. Ingram, C.H. Ivey,
G.F. Kingsmill, L.E. Mills, J.G. Thompson,
W.M. Veitch, D.B. Weldon, J.L. Willis.

50 YEARS

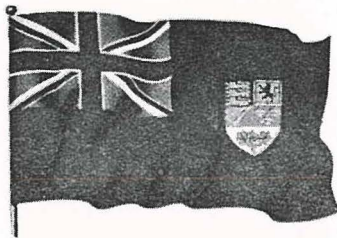
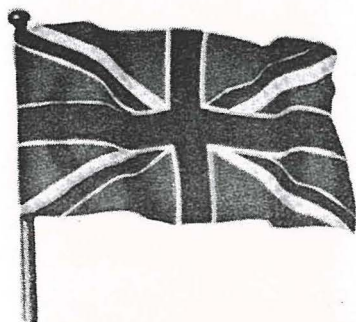
1971 - G.N. Bruce, G.W. Foote, Harold Pimblett
1973 - E.N. Chesham, Ibbotson Leonard

VIMY DINNER

Celebrating Fifty Years of Service

in

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION



W.W.I



W.W. II



Friday, April 9, 1976

1800 Hours

Downtown Holiday Inn - 299 King Street

Photographs courtesy of the Royal Canadian Regiment Regimental Museum, London, Ontario.

Vimy welcomes our guest speaker, Major General Daniel Charles Spry, C.B.E. , D.S.O. , C.D. , the Honourary Colonel of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

General Spry served in London prior to World War II as a Junior Officer with the Royal Canadian Regiment. In Sicily he took command of the regiment and continued in that command until being promoted to command the First Canadian Infantry Brigade in Italy. In August of 1944, he took command of the Third Canadian Infantry Division and served in that capacity up to the crossing of the Rhine in March 1945.

Since the war he has served as the Canadian military member on the United States-Canada Permanent Joint Board on Defence and as Vice-Chief of the general staff. As a civilian he has held the position of Chief Executive Commissioner, The Boy Scouts of Canada and at present is consultant to The Canadian International Development Agency.

Vimy is honoured on the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of The Royal Canadian Legion to welcome General Spry back as a distinguished Canadian and as Honourary Colonel of a regiment so closely associated with the City of London.



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH No. 145

PROGRAMME

HOLIDAY INN - DOWNTOWN - 299 KING STREET

1800 Hours	Happy Hour
1930 Hours	* Dinner
2100 Hours	Major Gen. D.C. Spry, CBE, DSO, CD.
2130 Hours	Happy - MK 11

Vimy Orchestra playing our Tunes of Glory.

**During the dinner hour we shall honour
three distinguished Vimy Members
who are Golden Anniversary Recipients**

**Commander G. Nigel Bruce
Captain George W. Foote
Captain Harold Pimblett**

Do not forget - Two pocketbooks for Westminster Hospital.

VIMY BRANCH



OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE - 1976

Honourary President
Honourary Vice-Presidents

President
Vice-President
Secretary-Treasurer
Assistant Secretary
Chaplain
Past President

Brig. M.M. Dillon
Brig. R.H. Beattie
Col. Ibbotson Leonard
Capt. Norman McBeth
Lt. Cmdr. W.R. Poole
Col. D.B. Weldon
Capt. Harry Wooster

Lieut. D.D.C. McGeachy
Lt. Col. J.P.C. McPherson
Capt. Harold Pimblett
Major David Renwick
Col. The Reverend K.E. Taylor
Major The Reverend K.B. Keefe

EXECUTIVE

Lt. Col. W.R. Buchner
Major J.P. Cook
F/O J.N. Given
Lt. Col. Jack Harris

Major R.S. McNab
W/C G.W. Manning, M.D.
Capt. D. E. Parnell
Major John Stratton

PAST PRESIDENTS

1929-30 Brig. M.M. Dillon
1931 *Capt. J.G. Gillanders
1932 *Col. G.E. Reid
1933 Lt. Col. H.K. Ingram
1934 Major L.E. Mills
1935 Lt. Col. D.B. Weldon
1936 *Major D.J.H. Ferguson
1937 Capt. R.I. Watt
1938 *Capt. C.H. Ivey
1939-40 *G.F. Kingsmill, Esq.
1941 *J.H. Stevens, Esq.
1942 *Major L.T. Hayman
1943 *Col. J.I. Carling
1944-45 *Capt. E.H. Shuttleworth
1946 Brig. R.H. Beattie
1947 Capt. G.W. Foote
1948 *S/L H.F. Davison
1949 *Col. G.W. Little
1950 Lt. Col. H.L. Hayman
1951 Lt. J.B. Nash
1952 *S/L J.E. Jennings

*Deceased

1953 Major D.J. Urquhart
1954 Capt. Joseph Jeffery
1955 *Lt. G.W.H. Bartram
1956 W/C G.M. Burns
1957 *Lt. Cmdr. F.N.D. Carmichael
1958 Capt. H.W. Hockin
1959 Lt. Col. R.M. Dillon
1960 Lt. Cmdr. W.R. Poole
1961 Lt. Col. G.E. Humphries
1962 Capt. Norman McBeth
1963 *Col. C.C. Ross
1964 Capt. A.M. LeBel
1965 Lt. Col. W.R. Buchner
1966 Major J.O. Howitt
1967 Major J.W. Nolan
1968 Lt. W.E. Bell
1969 Capt. B.I. Baldwin
1970 Major J.B. Stratton
1971 Lt. W.J. Robinson
1972 W/C G.A. MacDougall
1973 Capt. W.J. Roadhouse
1974 Lt. Col. L.S. Lauchland
1975 Major K.B. Keefe

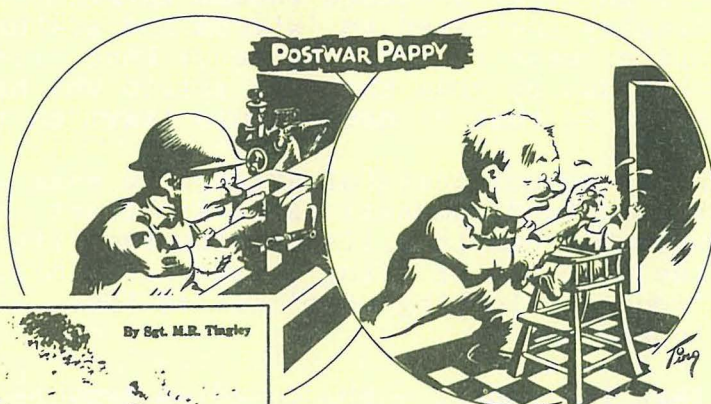
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

VIMY BRANCH No. 145

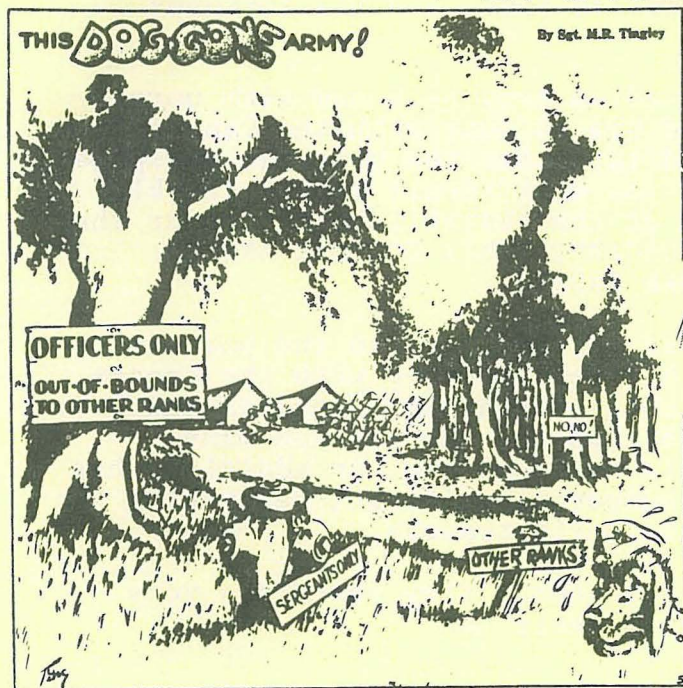
SPRING ASSEMBLY!



"...AND THAT'S THE PLATOON YOU'RE RELEASING FOR ACTIVE SERVICE!"



By Sgt M. R. TINGLEY



HOLIDAY INN - CITY CENTRE, 299 KING STREET
FRIDAY, APRIL 20th, 1979 1800 hours

OUR GUEST SPEAKER ... M. R. (TING) TINGLEY

The year 1921 will not go down in the history books as a complete disaster, even though the citizenry of Ontario voted for prohibition ... for, in the city of Montreal, Mr. & Mrs. Tingley were delivered of a son in the person of Merle Randolph Tingley, the First.

Throughout his formative years, his smile widened - the twinkle in his eye brightened - his wit sharpened - and his physical presence loomed larger ... in short, young Tingley increased in 'wisdom and stature'. Alas, however, his prowess in spelling never kept pace and 'tis said to this day by some that the reason why he draws pictures today is that he never could learn to spell.

After an unsuccessful attempt to make a career on the square (and compass) as an Architect, he entered into a somewhat unholy alliance with the Fifth Estate, took on the cognomen of 'Ting', associated himself with a 'squiggly-looking worm' called Luke, and his fortunes looked up.

That is - until - the Canadian Army beckoned with unrelenting zeal and assigned him to duty with the Canadian Army magazine 'Khaki' and later for the overseas newspaper, The Maple Leaf. Many of you will recall with a chuckle his good-natured joshing of the 'Establishment' under the titles of "OCCUPATIONAL OSCAR", "This DOGGONE ARMY", "KHAKI TOON", and "POSTWAR PAPPY".

Ting joined the Free Press in 1947 but, in the postwar years, he has continued his relationship with the troops, travelling around the Globe entertaining Canadian and U.S. Servicemen in world trouble spots. He has won many prestigious awards for his Cartoons and, in addition, has been recognized for his humorous writings, describing his experiences during his world travels.

Ting is married and has two sons. Vimy extends a very sincere "welcome" to one of their own.

PROGRAMME

HOLIDAY INN - CITY CENTRE - 299 KING STREET

VIMY BRANCH #145 - GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY YEARS 1929 - 1979

1800 Hours 'UP SPIRITS'

Prince of Wales Room, 3rd Floor

1930 Hours DINNER *

Victoria and Albert Room, 3rd Floor

(The President, F/O JOHN N. GIVEN, in Command)

2100 Hours M. R.(TING) TINGLEY
Esq.

2130 Hours Afterglow

Prince of Wales Room, 3rd Floor

* * * * *

VIMY ORCHESTRA PLAYING TUNES OF GLORY

under the direction of Tom Hedger

* * * * *

Remember to bring two entertaining Pocketbooks with you
for our Comrades at Westminster Hospital. Levy of \$1.00
in lieu of the books.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL BE GRACIOUSLY RECEIVED BY THE
PAYMASTER.

* * * * *

*

\$15.00 - includes 1 complimentary drink.

VIMY BRANCH NO. 145

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE - 1979

Honourary President:	Capt. Harry Wooster
Honourary Vice-Presidents:	Capt. Norman McBeth
	Lt. Comdr. W. R. Poole
	Col. D. B. Weldon
President:	F/C J. N. Given
Vice-President:	Lt. Col. Jack Harris
Secretary-Treasurer:	Wm. G. Reid, Esq.
Chaplain:	Col. The Reverend K. E. Taylor
Past President:	Major J. P. Cook

DIRECTORS

Lt. Col. W. R. Buchner	Capt. D. E. Parnell
Lieut. Innes Hammond	Major W. F. Stott
W/C G. W. Manning, M.D.	Major J. B. Stratton
Major R. S. McNab	Lt. Col. T. Williamson
	F/Lt. G. E. Wilson

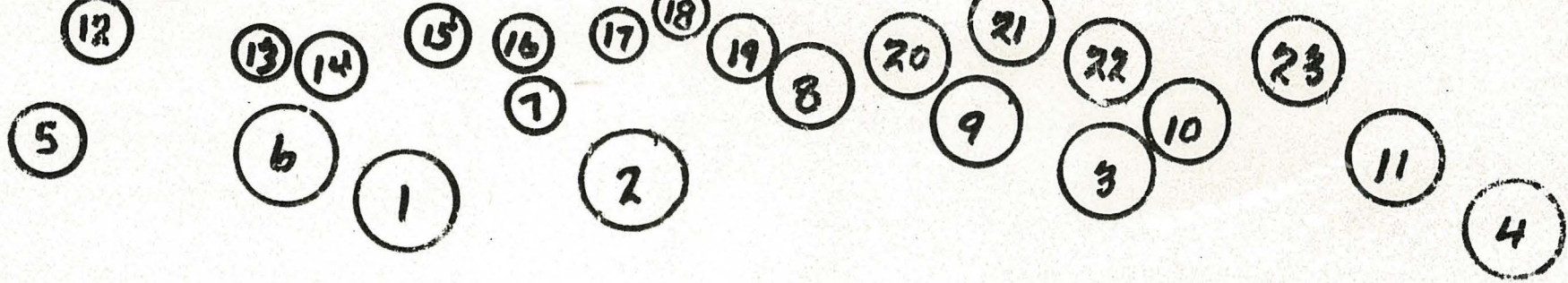
PAST PRESIDENTS

1929-30	*Brig. M. M. Dillon	1956	W/C G. M. Burns
1931	*Capt. J. G. Gillanders	1957	*Lt. Cmdr. F.N.D. Carmichael
1932	*Col. G. E. Reid	1958	Capt. H. W. Hockin
1933	*Lt. Col. H. K. Ingram	1959	Lt. Col. R. M. Dillon
1934	Major L. E. Mills	1960	Lt. Cmdr. W. R. Poole
1935	Lt. Col. D. B. Weldon	1961	Lt. Col. G. E. Humphries
1936	*Major D. J. H. Ferguson	1962	Capt. Norman McBeth
1937	Capt. R. I. Watt	1963	*Col. C. C. Ross
1938	*Capt. G. H. Ivey	1964	Capt. A. M. LeBel
1939-40	*G. F. Kingsmill, Esq.	1965	Lt. Col. W. R. Buchner
1941	*J. H. Stevens, Esq.	1966	Major J. O. Howitt
1942	*Major L. T. Hayman	1967	Major J. W. Nolan
1943	*Col. J. I. Carling	1968	Lt. W. E. Bell
1944-45	*Capt. E. H. Shuttleworth	1969	Capt. B. I. Baldwin
1946	*Brig. R. H. Beattie	1970	Major J. B. Stratton
1947	Capt. G. W. Foote	1971	Lt. W. J. Robinson
1948	*S/L H. F. Davison	1972	W/C G. A. MacDougall
1949	*Col. G. W. Little	1973	Capt. W. J. Roadhouse
1950	Lt. Col. H. L. Hayman	1974	Lt. Col. L. S. Laughland
1951	Lt. J. B. Nash	1975	Major K. B. Keefe
1952	*S/L J. E. Jennings	1976	Lieut. D. D. C. McGeachy
1953	Major D. J. Urquhart	1977	Lt. Col. J.P.C. Macpherson
1954	Capt. Joseph Jeffery	1978	Major J. P. Cook
1955	*Lt. G. W. H. Bartram		

- 4. Holiday Inn, 299 King St.(east of Wellington St.), London – 1973 until building razed in early 1980's for construction of London Conference Centre - - no photo available**



- 5. Mocha Temple – Colborne St., (north of Queen's Ave.,) London early 1980's to present**



✓ Hedger to distribute

THE VIMY ORCHESTRA

11 April, 1980

- ✓ 1. Earl Robilliard
- ✓ 2. Bill Bending
- ✓ 3. Tom Hedger
- ✓ 4. Bill Clarke
- ✓ 5. Jim McMurran
- ✓ 6. Nick Ryen
- ✓ 7. Vilio Sandrin
- 8. Ernie Jackson
- ✓ 9. Norm Johnston
- ✓ 10. Jim Bolton
- ✓ 11. Percy Welch
- 12. Gordon Thompson
- ✓ 13. Jerry Carter
- ✓ 14. Sam Mackness
- ✓ 15. Ken Symons
- ✓ 16. Dick England

- ✓ 17. Bill Warntz
- ✓ 18. Raymond Neal
- ✓ 19. Bill Brown
- ✓ 20. Charlie Keele
- ✓ 21. Ken Wickens
- ✓ 22. Harold Eastwood
- ✓ 23. Tom Brooks
- 24. Harry Wooster
- 25. Dick Dillon

ABSENT

- Jim Bach
- ✓ Ken Byron
- ✓ John Hames
- ✓ Joyce Roadhouse

Compliments of

Vimy Branch,
Royal Canadian Legion,

and in appreciation of
your contribution to the
semi-annual meetings of
Vimy members.

Jack Harris, President,
Vimy Branch, R.C.L.

Tom Hedger, Conductor,
Vimy Orchestra

Friends and Comrades

A history of
Vimy Branch 145
Royal Canadian Legion
London Canada



Second Edition
March 1929 to December 2006
By Bill Corfield
2009 Update by Malcolm Kay

Friends and Comrades

VIMY BRANCH #145
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
LONDON, CANADA

*Friends
and
Comrades*

**VIMY BRANCH #145
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
LONDON, CANADA**

**A HISTORY OF THE BRANCH
AND ITS PURSUITS
MARCH 1929 - DECEMBER 1983**

Published by the History Committee
of Vimy Branch, Royal Canadian Legion
in conjunction with Corfield Associates

Printed by Selby Young Printing
London 1983

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In appreciation

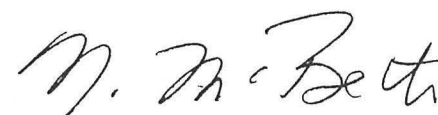
Hundreds of veterans have enjoyed the comradeship of Vimy Branch, Royal Canadian Legion, since 1929.

Each one has given to it something of his life and experience. Of such contributions this recounting has been constructed. As many members and former members as possible have been recognized by name or likeness. Inevitably there may be some omissions, but none through lack of gratitude.

Vimy's Officers and Executive have been supportive in the most positive of ways. The current and past presidents have extended themselves to make this work a fact. Members have contributed materials without which the flavor of Vimy would be lost. Many provided freely the finest of editorial judgement.

None of this could have been attempted, let alone achieved, without the splendid generosity of our membership. Our financial sponsors are in excess of 70. We are particularly grateful to the Ivey and the Lawson foundations.

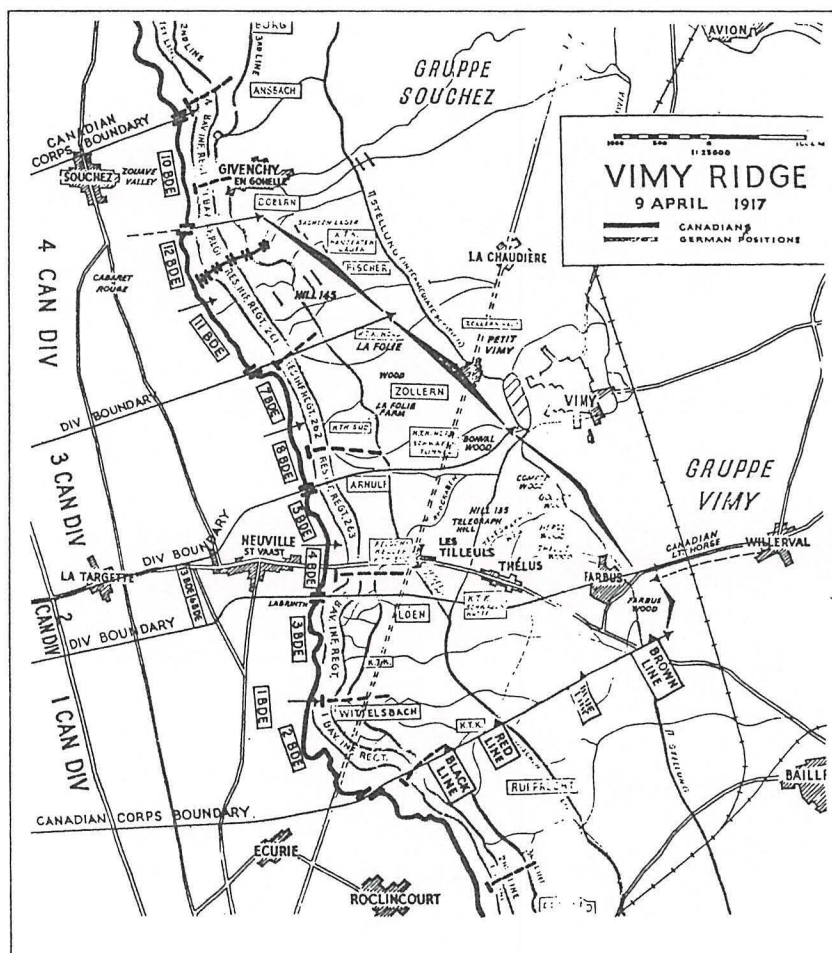
To all donors and contributors goes our collective thanks.



N. McBeth
Chairman
History Committee

November 1983

THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE



By the spring of 1917 The Great War had dragged into its fourth year. Soldiers of the allied armies had been wading through mud most of that time and wondered what was great about it. They had few victories to help them forget their wet socks and gaps in their ranks.

Then came the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

THE BATTLE OF VIMY RIDGE

Vimy was a village in France about 60 miles south-east of Calais in the Arras sector of the Western Front. The area was important militarily because its row of hills (The Pimple, Hill 145, Hill 135) commanded the plains of Douai to the north east. The Germans had therefore mightily fortified not only their positions on Vimy Ridge, but rearward defences as well.

In 1915 some 150,000 French soldiers fell in snow and mud but failed to win the sinister hog's back. In 1916 the British took over but after another year had little to show for their casualties. By early 1917 the Vimy sector had earned a reputation for bloodsoaked invincibility.

Then the Canadians were told to have a go.

For the first time in the war the four Canadian divisions were brought together under one commander, later known as Viscount Byng of Vimy. He deployed airplanes, artillery, tanks, infantry, cavalry, kite balloons and gigantic naval guns to mount one massive unified push.

On Easter Monday, April 7, 1917 the assault began. For six bloody days the mutual massacre continued along a six-mile front. By dawn on the seventh day, the impregnable German fortress lay in the hands of the Canadian Corps.

The Allies had their first victorious news in a long time.

Of the 100,000 Canadians who struggled up Vimy Ridge, 3,600 died and 7,000 were wounded. That bloody, snowy, muddy but flawlessly executed battle forged Canadian regiments into a national army and gave Canada a sense of pride that lives to this day.

For the veterans of Vimy Ridge and The Great War, comradeships bonded by the horrors of conflict and mutual survival had a deep and personal meaning which they cherished long after their uniforms had become souvenirs.

Friends and Comrades

*And so, good friends, good night, adieu
We'll toast the past, but plan anew
And honour comrades, now so few
The finest men we ever knew
All friends no foes*

. . . . At Lambeth

*Lines From The Vimy Feast
Friday, April 6, 1962*

Canadian veterans were proud of their nation's wartime contribution to victory. As soon as they were home they got together to recall those days of glory and remember their friends who didn't return.

Organizations sprang up all over the country. The largest in London was The Great War Veterans Association. One of its active members was Captain Murray Dillon, a veteran of the Vimy campaign who won the Military Cross with the 135th Middlesex Battalion.

Some years before his death in 1979 he wrote about the birth of the Canadian Legion and the formation of Vimy Branch:

"In 1925 Earl Haig visited Canada and convinced veterans' organizations to band together as the Canadian Legion of The British Empire Service League. The Great War Veterans' Association became Branch Number 2 Canadian Legion. A considerable number of ex-officers, myself included, joined in 1926 and 1927. At that time the membership was very large.

"During the period 1927-28 the ex-officer members had a fair representation on the executive. I had the honour of being elected one of the vice-presidents and other members of the executive were Col. Ibbotson Leonard, Lt. Col. W.H. Kippen, Major D.J.H. Ferguson and Sgt. Major Lisle Mills.

"Later in 1928 considerable differences of opinion arose between the other ranks and ex-officers. The executive meetings often ended in a regular Donnybrook. At the next election of officers, all the ex-officer types were voted out of office and as a result practically all the officers resigned their membership.

"Early in 1929 John Roper, then Dominion President of the Legion, came to London and at a small informal gathering in the Officers Mess at the Dundas Armoury suggested that we form a new branch, similar to the Sir Arthur Currie Branch in Montreal. Membership in this particular branch consisted of ex-servicemen in business and the professions.

"These comrades had several meetings, decided to call their organization Vimy Branch, since many had engaged in that epic battle, and applied for membership in the Canadian Legion. The charter for Branch Number 145 arrived in March 1929 bearing the names of its founding members:

Col. Ibbotson Leonard	Captain M.M. Dillon
Lt. Col. E.G. Shannon	Captain J.M. Watt
Lt. Col. W.H. Kippen	Captain D.B. Weldon
Lt. Col. Charles Grafton	Captain Harry Dickinson
Major D.J.H. Ferguson	Lieutenant M.P.A. Hare
Major H.K. Ingram	Lieutenant Lloyd Chapman
Captain A.M. Dillon	Lieutenant George Cogdon

The first meeting of Vimy Branch was at Longwood Inn, an historic wayside hostel in Lambeth at the junction of Highway Number 2 (then Ontario's main street) and the road to St. Thomas. It had achieved a tradition of warm hospitality from those days when horse-borne and carriage-borne travellers dallied for good food and liquid refreshment.

That was why some 30-40 spirited veterans descended upon it with jovial enthusiasm in their Fords, Maxwells, Buicks and sundry horseless carriages. Murray Dillon wrote that the meeting was not without its problems:

"There was no beverage room or cocktail lounge nor was it possible in 1929 to obtain such a thing as a banquet license. It was, however, legal to have possession of liquor in a hotel bedroom. As the original membership of the branch was, on the whole, comprised of very law-abiding citizens, the executive individually registered for several bedrooms in order that a few aperitifs could be served before dinner. The bedrooms were on the small side so that there was always considerable congestion in the upstairs corridors and it was necessary for most members to drink their aperitifs standing in the hall.



Longwood Inn at Lambeth where Vimy Legion held its inaugural meeting in 1929 and twice-yearly dinners until 1936.

"This slight infraction of the liquor regulations was legalized by the presence of High County Constable Wharton, who, resplendent in a uniform of his own design, not only lent dignity to these inaugural proceedings, but also occasionally assisted in serving the drinks."

Despite these troublesome details, Vimy Branch assembled and after dinner elected an executive, the manner of which in time, escaped Murray Dillon's memory and all comrades present.

President	- M.M. Dillon
First Vice-President	- J.G. Gillanders
Second Vice-President	- G. Eric Reid
Secretary	- Lisle Mills
Honourable Treasurer	- John M. Watt
Members	- H.K. Ingram, D.J.H. Ferguson, R.I. Watt, C.H. Ivey and Sergeant Major Hurrell

A meeting of the executive was held shortly after the initial dinner at which certain decisions were made:

- There would be two meetings a year.
- The meetings would take the form of a dinner on dates which would coincide as closely as possible with the anniversaries of the Armistice and the Battle of Vimy Ridge.
- That the branch would never at any time seek to acquire a club room.
- That it would be a good idea to have music or some form of entertainment at the dinner meetings.

- (e) That the executive would carry out all the business of the branch and would call upon any member to render assistance to any veteran in need or for any other cause in which the branch was interested.
- (f) That the officers and executive be nominated each year by the Nominating Committee.

These decisions were incorporated in the Minutes and constitute the only written record of any constitution which the branch ever had.

Murray Dillon, Vimy's first president, founded a consulting engineering company which became one of the largest in Canada. In his writings about the Legion, he overlooked his own accomplishments but paid tribute to several of the originals:

"I have attempted very briefly to pay some slight tribute to those who were responsible for the destiny of the branch in its earlier years. They were all good soldiers and good citizens and the world was a much better place for their having lived in it.

"J.G. Gillanders, D.F.C., the original First Vice-President, was a partner in the law firm of Ivey, Elliot and Gillanders. Gill, as he was known to his friends, was a great personality, highly regarded by everyone. Latterly, he became a Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario and during the past war served on the board dealing with service exemptions.

"He worked hard during his lifetime but was able to relax on occasions. Driving with him was an experience. On occasion he thought he was in the cockpit of a Camel and tried his damndest to get enough ground speed to take off.

"G. Eric Reid, D.S.O., was known as Buster to his many friends. He was a scintillating and forceful character who gave freely of his time and money to help veterans during the depression.

"He was responsible for the Eric Reid Memorial Home for veterans which provided a good place to live for the vets who were on very small pensions.

"Buster Reid was also responsible for obtaining many jobs for pensioners and was actively interested in the work of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Red Cross.

"His home on Wharncliffe Road was a rallying point for the members en route to meetings at Longwood Inn.

"He was elected Vice-President of the Ontario Command of the Canadian Legion.

"D.J.H. (Duncan) Ferguson was a Scotsman who served in The Great War with the Winnipeg Highlanders. He was always a great worker in the Legion and for the benefit of the veterans. A stout fellow, all the way through, Duncan could be relied upon to do a job.

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1929-30



Founding President - Brig. M. M. Dillon

The Presidents of Vimy Branch are saluted in a passing parade throughout these pages commencing, as is fitting, with the charter president and continuing to the present.

"L.T. (Tommy) Hayman was a gunner in The Great War and afterwards a Civil Engineer. He was a member of a prominent London firm of general contractors. As a professional engineer and a member of a well-known London family of builders - he built well.

"During his term as President he participated as Master of Ceremonies at the Sunday concerts in the YMCA. He was a quiet and conscientious character with very definite opinions but one who could be depended upon to rise to the occasion when the occasion demanded.

"No history of those early years of Vimy Branch would be complete," Murray wrote "without a brief sketch of Longwood Inn.

"It was operated by Jimmie Carrol and his wife. It was difficult at times to say who was the boss. However, Mrs. Carrol provided us with very good dinners for prices ranging from 75 to 85 cents.

"During the 1930's the individual tariff for dinner including drinks ranged from \$1.10 to \$1.25. This was possible due to the fact that beer was always donated by a friendly brewery and certain agents for distilleries were privileged at times to present premium bottles.

"The procedure for organizing the dinner meetings was as follows: The executive would appoint a committee which would arrange with the management of the Longwood Inn as to the date, menu, and a per capita charge. A notice in the form of an Operation Order would be mailed to all members. A few days before the dinner a telephone committee would phone each member to ascertain whether or not he would be attending. When the results of the survey were known, Longwood Inn would be informed as to the number of dinners to be prepared and the liquor committee would then go into action and secure the necessary supplies and arrange for the delivery of same.

"On the night of the dinner the total cost of food and drink was definitely established and this figure supplied to the Hon. Treasurer John Watt whose responsibility it was to collect it from the members attending.

"In this capacity John Watt was most efficient. He collected from the individual on the basis of what he considered was the member's ability to pay. John's judgment was excellent and he always collected enough to balance the budget.

"The dinner meetings were conducted in the same manner as they are today - Toast to Fallen Comrades - the Reigning Monarch, Grace, etc., the exception being that there was no head table and no guest speaker. On the completion of the dinner any unexpended portion of the liquid refreshments was smuggled downstairs and a sing song ensued along with various individual songs, dances, and recitations given by the members.

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1931



Capt. J. G. Gillanders

1932



Col. G. E. Reid

1933



Lt. Col. H. K. Ingram

1934



Sgt. Maj. L.E. Mills



Longwood Inn being demolished in 1956.

"Capt. John Gore, M.C., D.C.M., M.M. (5'2") - a terrific character - always led the multitude in the singing of "I don't want to march like the Infantry". As he was so short, it was difficult to see him in the crowd. Therefore he gave many of his songs and the occasional dance using the dining room table as a platform.

"During Buster Reid's term as President we invited a German general to talk to us. After the first hour he managed to reach the stage of the British retreat from Mons. At this point the President banged the table and declared an intermission for liquidation. After the intermission our German general friend very rapidly finished the war. In view of this episode, we took a very dim view of speakers.

"One of the most active sessions occurred at one of the April meetings. Comrade R.I. Watt and I were delegated to look after the liquid refreshments. We thought that it would be a good idea and a change, to have a punch instead of whisky. We arrived at a formula consisting of overproof rum, brandy, dry red wine and fruit. This brew was allowed to blend in R.I. Watt's cellar for several days. The fruit was removed and the contents decanted into bottles. Instructions were given to the servers to dilute with water and ice and to pour a bit of native champagne into each punch bottle. A pharmacist member also contributed a quantity of pure grain alcohol to provide a little extra fortification.

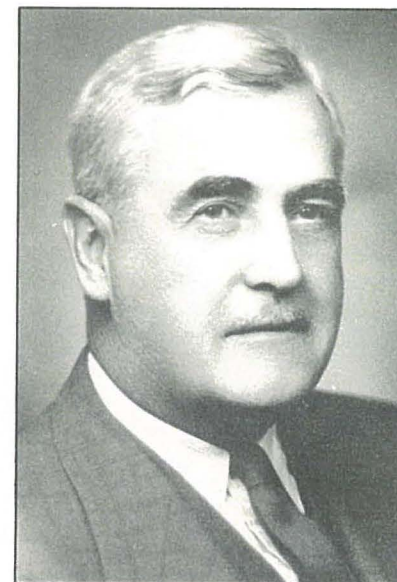
PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1935



Lt. Col. D. B. Weldon

1936



Major D. J. H. Ferguson

1937



Capt. R. I. Watt

1938



Capt. C. H. Ivey



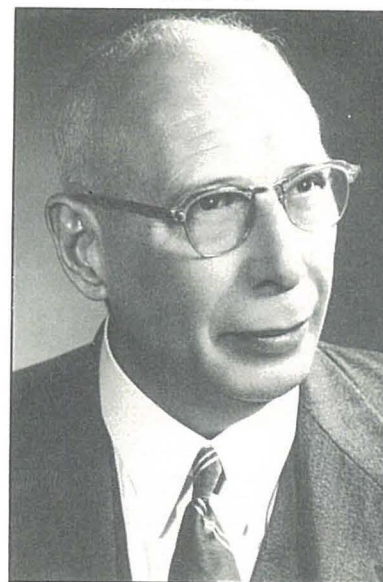
In 1935 when The Depression made the going rough for many veterans of The Great War, Vimy Branch held picnics for veterans at Ed Shuttleworth's farm and Vimy Orchestra was there: (left to right) an unidentified musical veteran, Ted Shuttleworth, Roger Gardiner, Harry Wooster, Ed Shuttleworth, Murray Dillon, Dick Dillon, Howard Hayman, Jim Campbell.

"The boys enjoyed the drink very much but some complained that it did not have enough 'wallop'. Bob Watt was a bit miffed at this criticism and told the punch bowl attendants to serve any complainers straight out of the bottle without dilution. The results were highly disastrous. The High County Constable, the host and his wife, and the kitchen staff all got completely sozzled. A small war started in the kitchen and there was much noise and the crashing of crockery. Some members had difficulty in getting home. Some did not get home until breakfast time as they visited a barn dance being held at Col. McKewn's farm. Fortunately, the Colonel was a member of the Branch. It was definitely decided that in the future no mixed drinks would be served."

Murray Dillon's humorous recollections prove there is indeed more truth than fancy in John Sweetenham's comments apropos of the Canadian Corps. He quotes Lloyd George's eloquent 1919 tribute to the troops. . . "There they lived, always in the presence of death, always in the midst of horror, always on a rack of torture. . ." But, Sweetenham writes. . . "An old veteran will never tell you of this. He would rather forget - and he cannot. And so he will prefer to talk to you of the good

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1939-40



G. F. Kingsmill, Esq.

1941



J. H. Stevens, Esq.

1942



Major L. T. Hayman

1943



Col. J. I. Carling



Jack Stevens, George Humphries, Verse Cronyn.

old things, the estaminets behind the lines, and of 'alcoholidays' in Blighty and Paris, London and Brussels and other esoteric centres be they convivial as a peasant's hut or majestic as a mansion".

Longwood Inn earned, it would seem, in its own way and in its own time, the right to blossom as another 'esoteric centre'.

Generalizations of this nature are not always perfectly correct. J.C. Smith, a veteran of The Vimy affair, noted some years ago, that in his outfit it was not unusual to find a man kneeling in his devotions, usually with a small shower of military boots around him, all of which were retrieved in suitable time.

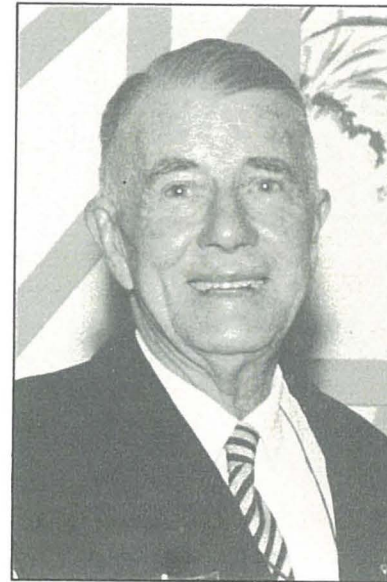
Another interesting point that Sweetenham makes is that in the main these men were agrarians, or if not, but slightly removed from the good earth that nourished them and their forebears. So that, when conditions in the field required, in their view, some straightening out, they took that task to themselves, using skills and creativity known to them in their civilian ways of life, and in the doing of it not always conforming to the detail of a military manual.

Returning to Murray Dillon's writings, we learn that members of the Branch were very active in the Red Cross, in organizing and administering the Poppy Fund, in creating and sustaining the local

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1944-45

1946



Capt. E. H. Shuttleworth



Brig. R. H. Beattie

1947

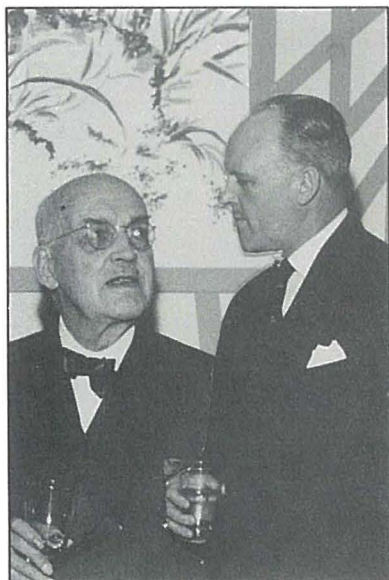
1948



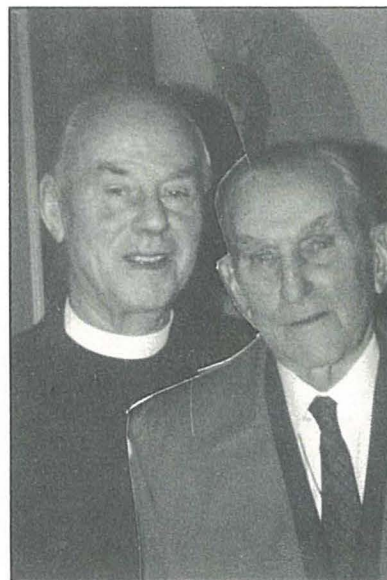
Capt. G. W. Foote



S/L H. F. Davison



Ibbotson Leonard, Fred Clift



Ken Taylor, Gordon Thompson

Corps of Commissionaires, and particularly in finding jobs for veterans out of work. During World War II the Branch was also very active in the service club established in the Y.M.C.A., which Harry Wooster describes later.

The manner in which much of Vimy's community work was done is best illustrated by an incident during Fred Kingsmill's term as President:

A donation of \$500 was suggested for relief due to a disaster in Northern Ontario. The matter was brought up at a dinner meeting and a vote taken which was unanimous. The President noted that it was a good thing the motion was passed because the cheque had already been sent.

Similarly it is recalled by many that the practice of 'passing the hat' was a fortuitous means of financing projects that otherwise might have gone sadly unnoted. Russ Beattie observed on one occasion that a memorial to veterans standing in Manor Park had been vandalised. So, 'the hat was passed' and the memorial restored.

When television was in its black and white infancy, 'the hat was passed' and the veterans in Westminster Hospital found themselves with several on their doorsteps.

Many members excelled at 'passing the hat', sometimes because it required seduction of a hat from the admirably bestowed maiden who guarded the hats in the old Hotel London. Sometimes, someone went home without a hat.

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1949



Col. G. W. Little

1950



Lt. Col. H. L. Hayman

1951



Lt. J. B. Nash

1952



S/L J. E. Jennings



Fred Kingsmill, an anti-aircraft gunner in The Great War was saluted by the branch in 1971 and Ting drew this cartoon.



In 1944-45 when troops were returning on troop trains passing through London some \$5,000 was raised to build a reception centre at the C.N.R. Station. George Foote, then Zone Commander, was in charge of the campaign and although some donations were made by other branches, the bulk of the money came from members of Vimy.

The anonymity of many Vimy members in giving of themselves and their means to all members of the community during the 30's and early 40's is one of the unique characteristics of the Branch. Comradeship in wartime experience, when vital, then moves into the life of the community.

And so, with the end of World War II, a new era dawned for Vimy.

NEW FRIENDS AND COMRADES

In the early years, members of Vimy Branch were mostly former soldiers with a scattering of Royal Navy and Royal Flying Corps veterans because Canada had no flying service and but a small navy during The Great War. However, World War II graduated a new generation of veterans who served with the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force as well as with the Canadian Army.

They had the same desire to keep alive the friendships of service life and to join with comrades to preserve the standards and freedoms for which they had fought.

Vimy Branch welcomed them warmly.

They added new voices to the singing and unusual new words to some of the tunes. They kept reasonably well in step in the Armistice Day parades and eventually became leaders as First War veterans completed their tours. Squadron Leader Hi Davison became the first RCAF officer to become President of Vimy (1948). In 1951 Lieutenant Jack Nash established the same record for the Navy.

Vimy Branch, having become multi-service in character, enjoyed the friendly rivalry of service traditions. The navy, borrowing from its British ancestry, claimed seniority. However as far as London's military history is concerned, if the word is used with the sole definition of age, then the army is undoubtedly the senior service because it was here first. In fact the army was here before London took shape.



Ed Shuttleworth on Old Turpentine

Militia companies were formed in Western Ontario in the late 1700's to protect the isolated settlements. Hundreds of local volunteers helped British regulars to repel invaders from the United States during the War of 1812.

Because Britain was recalling its garrisons, the Canadian Militia Act was passed in 1855 to encourage the formation of volunteer units. Soon there were cavalry troops in London and neighbouring towns; a field battery at London; and infantry companies at Guelph, London, Woodstock, St. Thomas and Stratford.

The infantry unit in London, which received official status in 1866, passed through numerous name changes, eventually becoming The Canadian Fusiliers (City of London) Regiment.

Canada established a permanent infantry school in 1883. Wolseley Barracks, completed in 1886, became its headquarters. This unit evolved into The Royal Canadian Regiment, Canada's premier infantry regiment. The Canadian Fusilier (City of London) Regiment in more recent years became the Fourth Battalion RCR in reserve.

Vimy members were prominent in ceremonies marking the 100th anniversary of The RCR on Canada Day 1983: Tom Lawson, Honourary Colonel of the Regiment, Alex McIntosh, Honourary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fourth Battalion, Wally Stott, President of the RCR Association. Each in his own way brought Vimy with its memories to the proceedings on that hot, sunny anniversary.

London's cavalry tradition traces its origin to the 1st London Volunteer Troop of Cavalry, which was formed in 1856 and consolidated during 1872 with other troops from St. Thomas, Courtright and Kingsville into the 1st Regiment of Cavalry. Redesignated in 1892 as the First Hussars, the unit sent a detachment to the South African War in 1900. During The Great War the Regiment was initially mobilized as the 7th Canadian Mounted Rifles and later formed part of the Canadian Light Horse.

After maintaining its identity as peacetime militia, the unit was mobilized on September 1, 1939, restructured in 1940 as the 1st Canadian Cavalry Regiment (Mechanized), and the following year as the 6th Canadian Armoured Regiment (1H). Landing their tanks on the Normandy beaches on D-Day, June 6, 1944, the Hussars fought gallantly across Europe to reach the heart of Europe by VE-Day in May of 1945. "Holy Roller", a Regimental Headquarters Sherman which is one of only two such Canadian Army tanks to survive this journey up Maple Leaf Route, is now a memorial in London's Victoria Park.

Current or former members of Vimy who served as Commanding Officers of the Regiment include Ibbotson Leonard, Clifford Reason, Rupert Crouch, Tom Sanderson, Alex C. Spencer, Ron Back, Brandon Conron, Albert Shepherd and George M. Campbell. George W. Robinson commanded the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade during



Maj. Gen. A.C. Spencer



Col. A.B. Conron



Col. T.F.G. Lawson



Brig. Gen. A.R. McIntosh



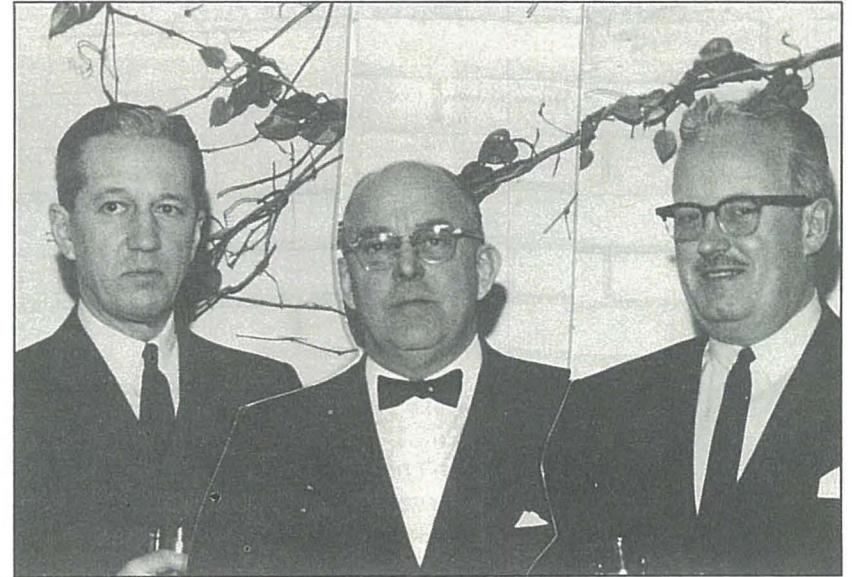
Bruce Urquhart, George Foote



World War II in which the Hussars were grouped throughout North West Europe. Vimy also claims their present Honourary Colonel, James G. Thompson, as well as his two immediate predecessors, Brandon Connon and the late J. Gordon Thompson, drummer extraordinaire.

Although the Canadian Navy was formed in 1910, London had little or no connection with it until the war preparations of 1938 caused "half a ship's company" to be authorized as a reserve unit for training and recruiting. In 1941 a building on Richmond Street between Carling and Queens Avenue was commissioned HMCS Prevost and became London's Reserve Naval Division. The name perpetuated HMS Lady Prevost, a 230-ton 12-gun schooner which fought against the United States fleet on Lake Erie during the War of 1812. That ship had been named after the wife of the Governor-General of Canada, Sir George Prevost.

John Rooke Hunter was the first commanding officer of London's naval establishment which sent hundreds of recruits into the service during World War II and continued as a reserve force until the mid-1960's.



Joe Nolan, Howard Hayman, Don Urquhart

Although Canada had no air force during The Great War, thousands of Canadians joined the Royal Flying Corps or the Royal Naval Air Service, which were later combined to form the Royal Air Force. Among members who flew during that war were John Gillanders, Hi Davison, Jack Jennings, T.O. Robinson, and Verse Cronyn, who was London's first pilot. Verse paid his own tuition in 1914 learning to fly under Canada's first pilot, J.A.D. McCurdy. He was shot down in France in 1917, returned to Canada and brought the first military aircraft to London in June 1918, landing on the parade square at Wolseley Barracks.

The R.C.A.F. was formed in 1924 but London had no component until the start of World War II. Construction of an airport east of London commenced in August 1939 and the Elementary Flying Training School graduated its first pilots in August 1940. Number 4 Air Observers School joined the pilot school at Crumlin at the end of 1940 and graduated navigators as part of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

London adopted #420 Bomber Squadron of the R.C.A.F. during the war which was reformed as Number 420 City of London Reserve Fighter Squadron in 1948 under Don Haylett and later, Vimy member Gordon Burns. The permanent force station at London became a training centre for officers of NATO countries until 1958.

George Manning, another Vimy Legion member, was Commanding Officer of the RCAF Reserve Medical Unit.

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1953



Major D. J. Urquhart

1954



Capt. Joseph Jeffery

1955



Lt. G. W. H. Bartram

1956



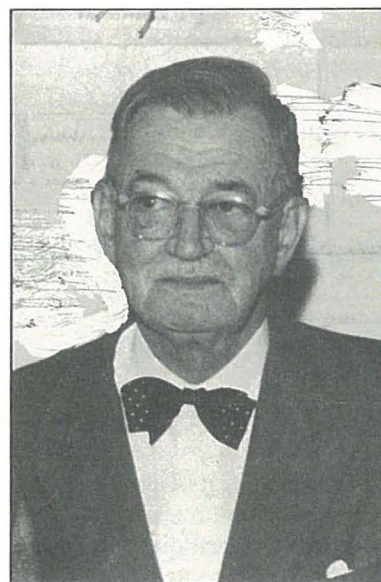
W/C G. M. Burns

VIMY ORCHESTRA

From that first meeting at Longwood Inn in 1929, music has formed a memorable part of Vimy dinners. In fact, the idea for an orchestra originated that first night, as Murray Dillon recalled:

"Music at that first meeting consisted of just the piano being played rather indifferently by the newly-elected president. Two members, Ed Shuttleworth and Edgar Westby volunteered to bring their violins to the next meeting. Before then I discussed music with Harry Wooster and we decided to recruit more players and have a real orchestra.

"Jim Bach, a friend of mine, played the cello; Roger Gardiner, a patient at Westminster Hospital, was a fine flutist, having played in the Boston Symphony Orchestra; Tommy White, a veteran, was a fine clarinetist; two militia officers, Ken Ferguson, originally played a trumpet with Lombardo, and Grant Maloney played a very sweet trombone. Then we discovered a very versatile pianist, one Wallie Armour, who had been playing professionally in Toronto. We also found that Gordon Thompson was a most competent drummer. It was then that the Orchestra was complete with strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion.



The original leader of Vimy Orchestra Murray Dillon who, as a consulting engineer, conducted as casually with a slide rule as with a baton.



Vimy Orchestra Leader into the 1980's - Tom Hedger

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1957



Lt. Cmdr. F. N. D. Carmichael

1958



Capt. H.W. Hockin

1959



Lt. Col. R. M. Dillon

1960



Lt. Cmdr. W. R. Poole



Vimy Orchestra played for servicemen as well as Vimy Branch dinners during World War II. In the Crystal Ballroom of the Hotel London in 1943, musicians paused and posed: (left to right) Harry Wooster (leader). Saxaphones - Al Keene, Andy McCormick, Fred Hoffman. Trombone - Bert Thomas. Trumpet - Harold Bentley. Flutes - Dominic Cortese, Alex Calder. Horn - Albert Lucas. Drums - Gordon Thompson. Violins - Billy Bending, Stan Byfield, Harry Jarvis, Tom Burton, George Blake, Ed Shuttleworth. Piano - Bert Weir.

"This particular combination played on a number of occasions for the patients at Westminster Hospital and the Byron Sanatorium. In the early 1930's there was a need for new Poppy boxes for the Annual Poppy Day sale and there was no money available with which to buy them. The Orchestra put on two concerts, one in the auditorium of Central Collegiate, and another in the Beal Technical School. On this last concert, I must comment. Believe it or not, we had an augmented orchestra of 51 players. There were players from the RCR band, Al Keen's orchestra, and players from two Sunday School orchestras. The London Male Chorus and the London Little Theatre also participated in the programme. The printed programme was a masterpiece. (See Appendices)

"We never had a chance to rehearse this large organization as a group but were able to have a couple of rehearsals in bits and pieces and, most important of all, were able to give them a bit of liquid refreshment before they started. The liquid refreshments were smuggled into the sacred precincts of the Technical school by one Robert I. Watt, who, I might add, at that time, was a teetotaler and therefore, could be trusted.

The proceeds from this concert were sufficient to pay for the poppy boxes and a bit over for the fund.

"The orchestra also performed at banquets during the dinners given at noon on Christmas Day during the 1930's in the Hotel London for the veterans who were down and out. These dinners were sponsored by the Red Cross and run by the Executive of the Vimy Branch who along with other legion members, acted as waiters and served the boys with food and beer. The orchestra played for all these occasions and it was remarkable to see the difference in the boys after the dinner and a few beers. All sorts of volunteer talent appeared and the whole gang really enjoyed a sing-song. Some of them came in with nothing on but an undershirt under a tattered overcoat and in some mysterious way, they left fully clad.

"Some time in 1934 Wally Armour left the City and we acquired a new pianist – Harry Hadwin. Like some of the original group, Harry joined the Armed Forces in 1939 and was out of circulation during the war period."

When Murray Dillon rejoined the army in 1940, Harry Wooster assumed the baton. He continues the story:

"Young servicemen in London had nothing to do on Sunday nights having, I presume, done it all on Saturday night, so we offered Vimy Orchestra to entertain them in the YMCA. Ed Shuttleworth arranged for his Kiwanis Club to provide a Master of Ceremonies and entertainers. During the war a total of 103,747 men and women in uniform attended."

"On week nights we played at Westminster Hospital, the R.C.A.F. Technical School at St. Thomas and the R.C.E.M.E. School at Western Fair Grounds. Adult members began leaving for military service so we recruited teenagers. Then they went into the service so we searched for more musicians. The Kiwanis Club gave us great support and bought the music. Bert Weir became our pianist.

"I must pay tribute to the near perfect attendance at our concerts by Harry Jarvis, Ed Shuttleworth, Gordon Thompson, Bert Thomas, Alex Calder, George Blake, Jim Campbell, Harold Bentley, Andy McCormick, Fred Hoffman, Julius Cohen, Dunc Carswell and Dominic Cortese. If they had not been so faithful, it would have been impossible to put on so many shows successfully. Ed Shuttleworth often led the sing songs and conducted the orchestra with his usual enthusiasm.

"Other members of Vimy Branch were often called on to act as Master of Ceremonies at these concerts and I recall the fine jobs done by Innes Carling, Jack Stevens, Fred Kingsmill, Ken Ingram and others. Tommy Hayman during his term as our president had to M.C. many shows and it was inspiring to see how professional he was.

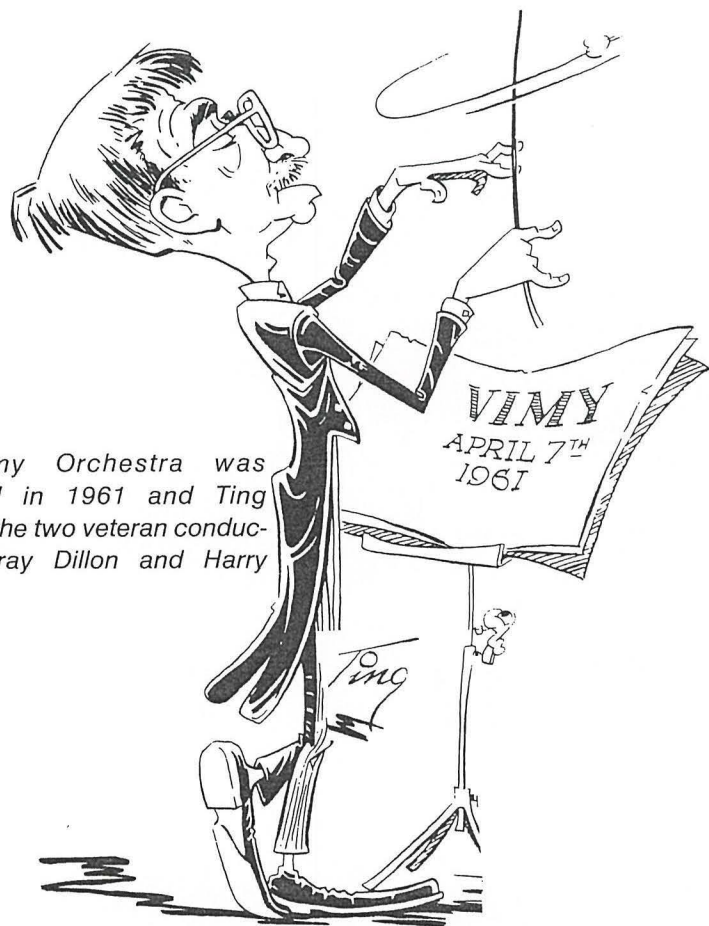
"At each concert the attendance by the armed forces was over the 500 mark which was all who could get in the "Y" with standing room only. We put on well over 200 concerts – all without benefit of the liquid stamina we were accustomed to at the Vimy dinners.



Vimy Orchestra playing in Hotel London for Vimy Dinner of April 1966. Left to right George Blake, Gunther Loffleman, Harry Wooster (conductor), Tom Hedger, Charles Middleton, Bert Thomas, Charles Hoare, Jack Brooks, Jack Nokas, Gordon Thompson.



The tunes of glory mellowed the banquet hall of the Shrine Club when Vimy Legion met there in 1980. Members, moving generally from left to right are: Jim McMurran, Gordon Thompson, Harry Wooster (conductor emeritus), Dick Dillon, Jerry Carter, Nick Ryen, Sam Mackness, Earl Robilliard, Ken Symons, Vilio Sandrin, Dick England, Bill Bending, Bill Warntz, Raymond Neal, Bill Brown, Ernie Jackson, Charlie Keele, Norm Johnston, Ken Wickens, Harold Eastwood, Tom Hedger (leader), Jim Bolton, Tom Brooks, Percy Welch, Bill Clarke.



The Vimy Orchestra was honoured in 1961 and Ting depicted the two veteran conductors Murray Dillon and Harry Wooster.

"On a few occasions since 1945 the orchestra played some Armistice services in churches. These were not highly successful. One service in St. Paul's Cathedral resulted in a competition between the organ and the orchestra. The organist sent the conductor a note which read "I can't hear the organ". The conductor wrote on the reverse side of the message "I can't hear the orchestra".

"At another service in Cronyn Memorial Church, the organist changed the key of one of the hymns whereupon our pianist Harry Hadwin whispered out of the side of his mouth: "The son-of-a-gun double crossed us". We decided that church services were definitely not for us;

- (a) Sunday mornings after a tough Saturday night are not conducive to a proper mood.
- (b) There is no opportunity to take on this essential spiritual nourishment prior to performing.



Captain Harry Wooster

"At this writing (1963) the members of the orchestra are as follows:

Conductor – M.M. Dillon

Associate Conductor – Harry Wooster

Violins – Norman Alexander, George Blake, Jack Brooke, R.M. Dillon, Tom Hedger, Harry Jarvis, H.O. Moyer, E.H. Shuttleworth, H. Wooster.

Cellos – J.R. Bach, Chas Middleton

Bass – Robert Chapman

Clarinet – Charlie Hoare

Saxophone – Al Keene

Trumpets – Harold Benley – Leonard Macdougall

Trombones – James Campbell, H.L. Thomas, Martin Boundy*

Euphonium – Martin Boundy*

Tuba – Martin Boundy*

Percussion – J. Gordon Thompson

Pianist – Harry Hadwin

* Martin Boundy is very versatile – however, he cannot play all three instruments at one time."

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1961



Lt. Col. G. E. Humphries

1962



Capt. Norman McBeth

1963



Col. C. C. Ross

1964



Capt. A. M. LeBel

REMEMBRANCE

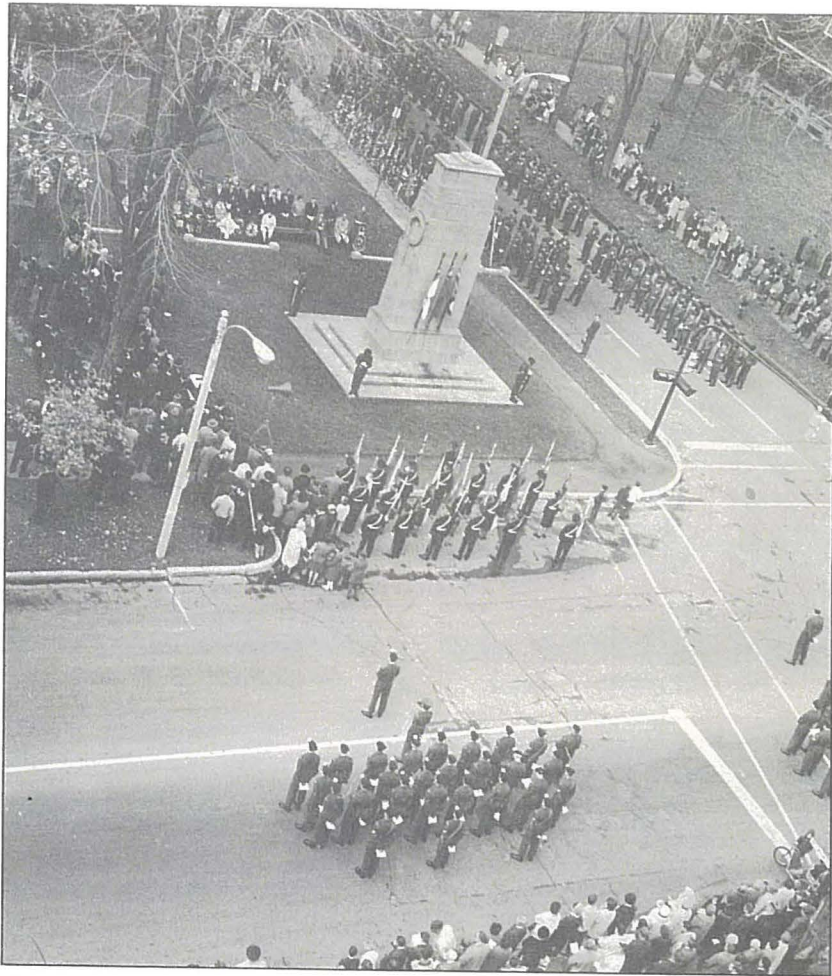
In 1919 the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, long supportive of the armed forces, commenced planning a memorial to the men and women of London who paid the supreme sacrifice during The Great War. The ladies suggested a hospital for sick children. Londoners supported this concept enthusiastically and the hospital opened adjacent to Victoria Hospital in October 1922.

There remained a feeling, however, that a cenotaph also was needed where services might be held to commemorate the Fallen, particularly on Armistice Day.

Again, the I.O.D.E. took the lead. With support of many organizations and the Canadian Legion, the decision was made in 1925 to erect a smaller replica of the cenotaph standing in Whitehall, London, England. The plans were purchased in 1929 from Sir Edward Lutyens, the architect of that memorial. The depression delayed construction but on Saturday, November 10, 1934, the impressive structure was dedicated at the south-east corner of Victoria Park. Hundreds of citizens, veterans, militia and permanent force troops attended. The band of the Royal Canadian Regiment played. The choir of St. Paul's Cathedral under George Lethbridge sang.



A wooden replica was used for Armistice Day services until the sandstone memorial was completed in Victoria Park in 1934. It was placed in the centre of Dundas Street just east of Wellington Street in front of City Hall. Dundas Armoury is in the background.



A view of the cenotaph and 1965 Remembrance Day ceremony from the roof of the London Life building.

Rev. Canon T.G. Wallace of St. James Westminster Anglican Church gave the prayer of invocation. Rt. Rev. Charles Seager, Anglican Bishop of Huron and Rt. Rev. John T. Kidd, Roman Catholic Bishop of Huron, led the dedication ceremony. Mrs. John D. Detwiler, Regent of the Municipal Chapter I.O.D.E. released the Union Jack to unveil the sandstone column quarried at Queenston in the Niagara Peninsula.

The next day, Sunday, November 11, 1934, the first Remembrance Day service was held at the new memorial. The two Canadian Legion branches in London paraded, No. 2 Branch and Vimy Branch, joined by a third branch from the neighbouring village of Byron. Vimy members Ed Shuttleworth and Jack Gore were Parade Marshalls.



Vimy Branch marching off November 11, 1962 from Dundas Street Armoury, under command of President Norm McBeth.

The Vimy Branch membership of 1934 is included in the appendices to preserve the names of those veterans who promised, on that occasion "We will remember them."

Following World War II Russ Beattie, Vimy President in 1946, gave enthusiastic leadership to both the Remembrance Day ceremonies and the Poppy Fund. Member D.B. Weldon headed the Poppy Fund Committee in 1934. Again in the appendices, as part of the publication "The Light", will be found an excellent summation by D.B. Weldon of what the Poppy Fund was formed to do, and has done so without interruption. Others deeply involved in later years included Harry Wooster, Ted Foster, Ed Shuttleworth, John Howitt and most recently L.S. Lauchland.

The Remembrance Day Parade Committee was headed in subsequent years by Bill Buchner, Bruce Urquhart, John Cook, Tom Burdett, Jim Moran, Joffre Wolfenden, Hugh McKay, Al Lacointe and Padre Ken Keefe.

Marching to the service at the cenotaph each November has been a source of pride for successive members of Vimy who, in concert with

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1965



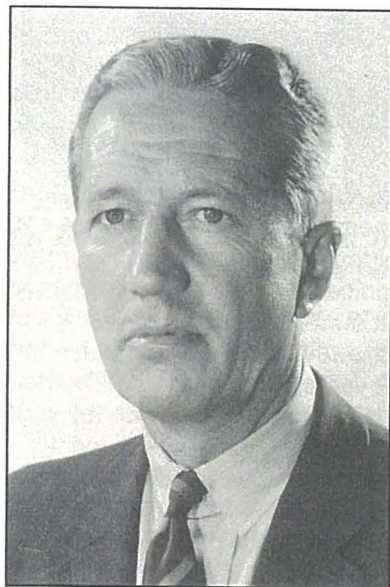
Lt. Col. W. R. Buchner

1966



Major J. O. Howitt

1967



Major J. W. Nolan

1968



Lt. W. E. Bell



Vimy members, President Gerry Wilson leading, pass London City Hall on the way to Remembrance Day services November 11, 1982.

all veterans, pledge not only to keep alive the sacrifice of fallen comrades, but also to remind new generations of the freedoms which they preserved.

Vimy parades on Remembrance Day have their unique flavour. The 'files on parade' vary from start to finish, always have done, always will - as legs, backs, and timing sag a little. To locate a blank file on the run, successfully, is a test of military skill and comradely assistance. To keep in step is a mental and physical challenge, particularly if there is a band in front and pipes to the rear. The changing stride of the Vimy President often adds a third dimension. To many, the experience revives memories of other parades in younger days where the hop, skip and jump were far more facile but less humorous to the sergeant major.

One President, in tune with the times if not the glories, prefaced his order "By the left, Quick March", with one more fitting—"Tighten trusses!"

Add to these physical challenges, if you will, the plight of President Joe Nolan in the 1967 parade, marching but seven paces behind the fife and drum band of the "Young Conquerors" dressed in their orange uniforms.

Finally, visualize the parade, having successfully returned to Dundas Armoury for dismissal, with much fidgeting in the ranks, stamping of cold feet, blowing of wet noses, wringing of chilled fingers, ribald comments on the inability of comrades in the front ranks to keep step, amongst other frailties, self-conscious fumbling with flowers passed on the march by warm and friendly Hollanders, until the parade marshal

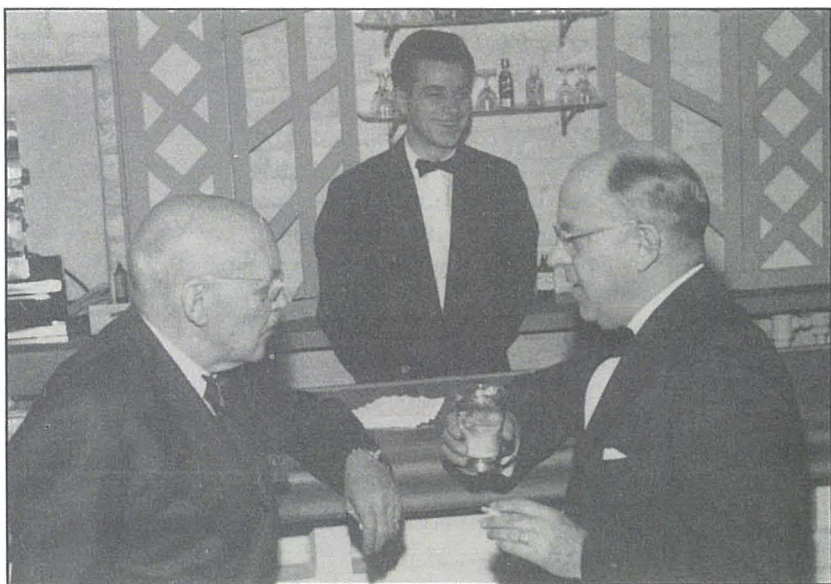
delivers his approving benison. The Colours are marched off, the parade is dismissed and members move expectantly toward their reward.

For many years, one reward for turning out in uncertain November weather was hot oyster stew, craftfully prepared and served by Sergeant Major Tom Payne, highly respected steward of the officers mess for many years.

But, deep down, the true reward was the satisfaction of marching with friends and comrades, the Regular Forces, the young Cadets and the Scouts and the Guides, and keeping the pledge "To Remember".



Brandy Connon (back to camera) (clockwise) Fred Vine, Sam Lerner, Bill Roney, Jack Sumner, Tom Burdett, John Cook, Ted Rankin.



Innes Carling and Howard Hayman

WORDS AND MUSIC

For more than half a century, successive leaders of Vimy Branch have seen no reason to tamper with the succinct guidelines of its founders.

In keeping with the spirit of those founders, the levity of the meetings has never been dulled by stodgy agenda, still less by formal reports. While serious speakers are apt to receive uncertain attention, some of the more memorable guest appearances are noteworthy.

At the April meeting of 1958, a General Henri Le Clair, veteran of the French Army spoke about the United Nations force which had fought in Korea. His statements were so derogatory that Bob Watt stormed out of the meeting. Alan Johnston, former Mayor, Member of Parliament, army officer, decried his remarks in a loud emotionally-accented voice. A near riot almost erupted in the Crystal Ballroom of the Hotel London. Jack Stevens then assumed control and revealed that the speaker was an executive-cum-actor friend from Montreal who had duped the membership delightfully. Everyone had a good laugh at themselves.



1958 speaker Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the inventor of British radar, with Dick Dillon, Bill Hockin and Bill Poole.

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1969

**Capt. B. I. Baldwin**

1970

**Major J. B. Stratton**

1971

**Lt. W. J. Robinson**

1972

**W/C G. A. MacDougall***John Howitt, Dan Spry, Russ Beattie.*

Some do recall, however, that Doug Weldon, having relished a lengthy chat with the imposter earlier in the evening, was uniquely perturbed with his long-time friend Stevens for not having been informed of the sinister deception.

At the November meeting that same year, members were on guard against hoodwinking and laughed knowingly when the speaker was introduced as Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the British inventor of radar. They then listened spellbound. It was indeed Watson-Watt.

The Branch saluted five winners of the Victoria Cross at its meeting in November, 1962: Lt. Col. David Vivian Currie, Lt. Col. John Keefer Mahony, Major Frederick Albert Tilston, Captain Charles Smith Rutherford and Corporal Frederick George Topham. Lt. Col. Mahony joined Vimy after retirement from the Canadian Army and became its secretary in 1977. (Another V.C. winner graced the rolls of Vimy, in the person of Brig. Milton Gregg during his tour of duty as the first Warden of Medway Hall, U.W.O., from 1959 to 1962.)

The November meeting of 1968 marked a half century since the end of The Great War. Vimy Branch saluted 'the old Sweats' (now affectionately formed into "The Select Prostate Platoon") at a Table of Honour. Each received a commemorative copy of the book, 'Vimy Ridge' by Alexander McKee.



Reg Lamon, Tim Stewart



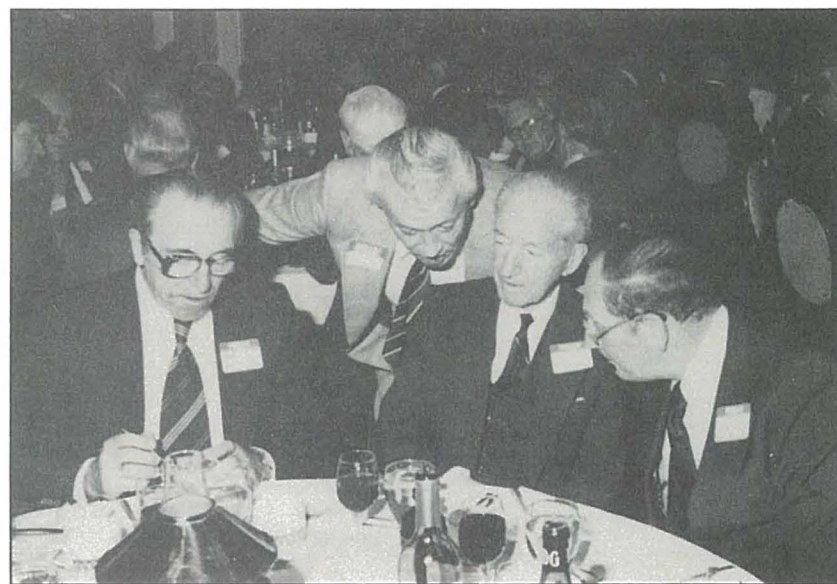
Bill Dunbar, Barry Nelligan

In 1969, President Ben Baldwin called for the integration of veterans of the two wars into one cohesive comradeship such as was being considered for the armed forces. When this was hooted down by both camps, he asked if they would at least sing the same words to the "tunes of glory" rendered by the Vimy Orchestra.

Other outstanding speakers include General Sir Neil Ritchie, Commander of the British Forces at Tobruk, author Leonard Brockington, former Chancellor Queens University, Ontario Lieutenant-Governor The Honourable J. Keiller MacKay, and Mr. Justice Samuel Hughes. Noted Vimy members who spoke include Dr. D. Carlton Williams, former President, U.W.O., and Brig. Milton Gregg, V.C., former Minister of Veterans Affairs, and former President, University of New Brunswick.

The minutes allegedly state, according to Bill Moore, that in thanking The Hon. J. Keiller MacKay following a somewhat lengthy address, John Stevens commenced his remarks in this fashion:—"Sir, never before, in the long history of Vimy Branch, have so many men sat, for so long, with their legs crossed so tightly . . ."

Flight Lieutenant Bill Smiley spoke in 1971, not so much because of his military knowledge, but because of the humor expressed in his weekly newspaper column. He disclosed among other revelations that the requirement to become a senior officer hinged on the ability to tie one's shoe laces under all stress conditions. That was why the RCAF flight boots had zippers.



Bill Magee, Padre Ken Keefe, Nigel Bruce (who received 50-year Canadian Legion Service Medal in 1971), Roy Yates.

Commander Nigel Bruce and Captain George Foote were gonged for 50 years membership in the British Empire Service League and the Royal Canadian Legion in 1971.

Hotel London, where Vimy had met since departing Longwood Inn in 1937, came tumbling down in 1972 as part of urban renewal and members lost another dear old friend. Later it was rumoured that some members forgot and wandered pathetically up and down the hoardings searching vainly for the entrance to the old hotel.



"WELL, IF YOU KNOWS OF A BETTER 'OLE, GO TO IT"



Innes Hammond, Dick White, John Robarts, John Cronyn.

The April 1980 speaker, identified as "Naval Person" (wartime code name of Prime Minister Churchill) turned out to be an old friend and member, The Honourable John P. Robarts, who had moved from a boyish lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy to be Prime Minister of Ontario.

This emphasis on matters naval launched the idea of having a service theme for each meeting. The November 1980 dinner had a salute to the air force and the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The army saluted "all members and former members of all army units" at the April 1981 session, with the air force flying back into the searchlights in 1982. The army marched forward in 1983 to salute The Royal Canadian Regiment which was celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Since President Wally Stott was also Chairman of The R.C.R. Centennial Committee, member Tom Lawson Honourary Colonel of The Regiment, and member Alex McIntosh Honourary Lieutenant Colonel of The Fourth Battalion RCR, it was appropriate that the speaker be Lieutenant Colonel Strome Galloway, author and soldier admired for his leadership both in peace time and with the Regiment throughout the Italian and North-West Europe campaigns.

Vimy programs traditionally have relied upon the humour of its members, which bubbles forth from unexpected sources and on unusual occasions.



Bill Reid, Bill Robinson, Jack Mahony, V.C., Bill Buchner.

The introduction of new members is but one example. The late Jack Stevens, turned these serious ceremonies into entertainment long before "roasts" became popular on television. To be derogatory, kindly, humorous and sincere all in the same breath is a high hurdle indeed. He accomplished it with such success that a tradition was added to Vimy proceedings.

No introduction was quite complete without a competent 'marker' to keep the applicants in line, hands out of pockets, no fiddling. George Foote was unexcelled in this exercise.

Successive introducers of new members have continued to enliven. There was repetition, of course, the most traditional from year to year going something like this:

Introducer: You have a distinguished military career. I note from your application, you have five children.

Applicant: Yes I do, and another due shortly.

Introducer: You are married?

Applicant: Oh yes sir.

Introducer: Thank God. Vimy is relieved about that.

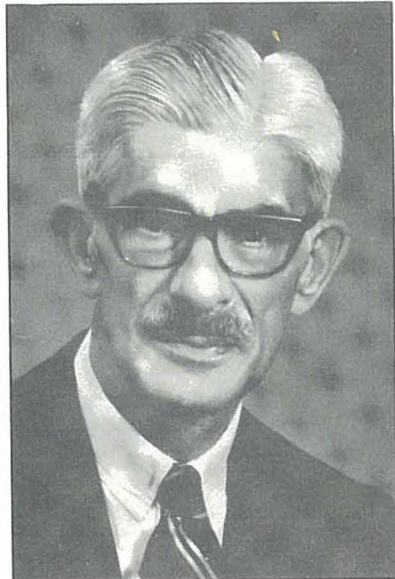
In recent years one of the most preposterous of introductions was performed by Jack Harris on the occasion of Padre David Ragg's induction. It conjured up mental images that, it is alleged, could be seen only on pay-television's "bluest" movies.

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1973

**Capt. W. J. Roadhouse**

1974

**Lt. Col. L. S. Lauchland**

1975

**Major K. B. Keefe**

1976

**Lieut. D. D. C. McGeachy**

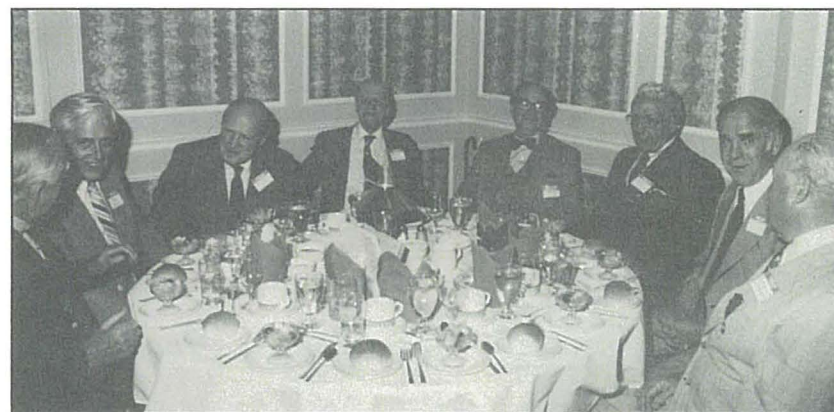
The annual impassioned exhortations for members to bring books for the enjoyment of veterans in hospital invariably produced allegations that certain more proper members found this a happy way to void their libraries of salacious materials.

Treasurers' Reports, formal affairs indeed, while making oblique references to the branch's financial health, tend to be awash with vagrant but more vital information. (Who, for example, ever took vasectomies seriously, let alone understood the word, until one treasurer in the early sixties undertook to explain it?)

Impromptu voices from the floor are plaintive or raucous and mostly ignored. Who can forget Bill Poole's perennial pleas for a chorus from Chu Chin Chow?

Musing about these matters, Past President Bill Robinson concluded that if the appellation 'dry' can be applied to humor, then the opposite must be 'wet', or as in case of wine 'sweet'. Vimy has enjoyed all three varieties, in abundance. As to the 'dry' type, Robinson felt that if you had to guess about it, being neither blatant nor slapstick, McBeth's humor over the years could well be referred to as 'really parched'.

As to music at the meetings, sometimes on a par with the orchestra was the enthusiasm of the chorale, the chorale being the entire body of men singing lustily at their tables. A more select and, if possible, more uninhibited group known as the 'Glee' Club would gather around the piano at the meeting's end. For a number of years Bill Robinson has been the hub of the latter group, seated solidly at the piano, resplendent in Regimental cravat of the Royal Ulsters, belting out the



When the friendly rooms of Hotel London became only memories in 1972, Vimy moved to the Holiday Inn. From left to right John Stratton, Carl Williams, Arthur Birks, Harry Wooster, Bill Poole, Nelles England, Warren Wilkins, George Humphries.



John Given presiding.



Bill Corfield gave publishing advice to the history committee

older favourites, which somehow get interspersed with unusual limericks, usually about a girl named 'Sue'. Two other talented pianists, indeed there were more, who starred for years in this role were Harry Hadwin and a comrade - First War - named Stevenson.

A random poll of current members indicates that 'Tipperary' is the perennial favorite preferred by Cal MacMillan, Gord Campbell, Jim MacPherson, Walter Cunningham, the MacDonalds, H.G. and J.C.F., Ron MacNab and W.C. Robinson. On the other hand, Barry Nelligan, Bert Carson, Joe Nolan, Bill Roney, Bill Magee, George Casey, Bill Doohan, Bob Mahar, Bob Merrick, and Roy Yates tend towards 'Loch Lomond'. Doug Parnell, Trevor Davies, Joyce Roadhouse, Ivan Startup, Doug May, Max Lees, Freddie Vine and Murray Wilson thoroughly enjoy 'Roll Me Over', although our music critic has noted that Joyce inclines to hum some of the words. 'I've got six-pence' inevitably extracts a war-time 'pub' fervor from a large group prominent within which are Sam Lerner, Joe Jeffery, Freddie Clift, Ab Mowry, John Winder, Jason Gardner and Don McGeachy.

Amongst duets and solos, few can compare with 'Waltzin' Mathilda' as rendered by Arthur Birks and Riley Wilson, or John Lewis' soaring tenor as he dreams of many an Eisteddfod in the valleys of Wales, or Bob Roberts' impressive basso in "A Policeman's Lot is Not an 'appy One".

Airmen also have their classicists. So when Bob Ivey convenes with pilots like Messrs. Lee, Hall-Holland, Corfield, Grigg, and Nixon, they sing with fervor the opening lines from Birnbaum's renowned opera 'Humming Birds': "If I had the wings of an angel over these prison walls I would fly etc."

As to favorite songs of the individual services, none is more popular with Navy personnel than 'Friggin' in the Riggin'. Dick White swears this is known in U.S. circles too. Army graduates join in somewhat diffidently, as they aren't completely sure what the words mean, although the tune is all right. In their turn they, being familiar with the problem, are quite content, with 'Rats, Rats, in the Quartermasters Stores'. 'Pack Up Your Troubles' falls into the same category. Air Force veterans, being a pretty sentimental but earthy lot, hover between 'I Wish I Was Single Again', and 'There Is A Tavern In Our Town'.

To generalize, it may be said that the variations of the old themes, especially as to verbiage, lean towards the Freudian aspect of human nature, rather than against it. But singing, being so large a part of service life, brings to each Vimy meeting not only personal memories, but re-affirmation of comradely values which, mayhap, diminish slightly as the years take over.



John Stratton, George Manning, Mel Pryce, Gerry Wilson, Jack Hay.

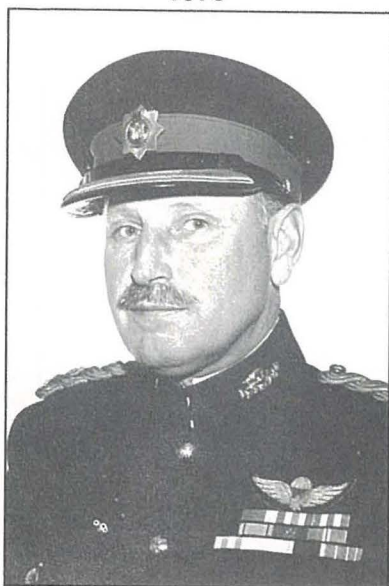
PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1977



Lt. Col. J. P. C. Macpherson

1978



Major J. P. Cook

1979



F/O J. N. Given

1980



Lt. Col. Jack Harris

A MEMORIAL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Although members of Vimy Branch enjoyed the comradeship of their twice-yearly meetings, they also did many good things. The Canadian Legion Memorial Boys Club is a major example.

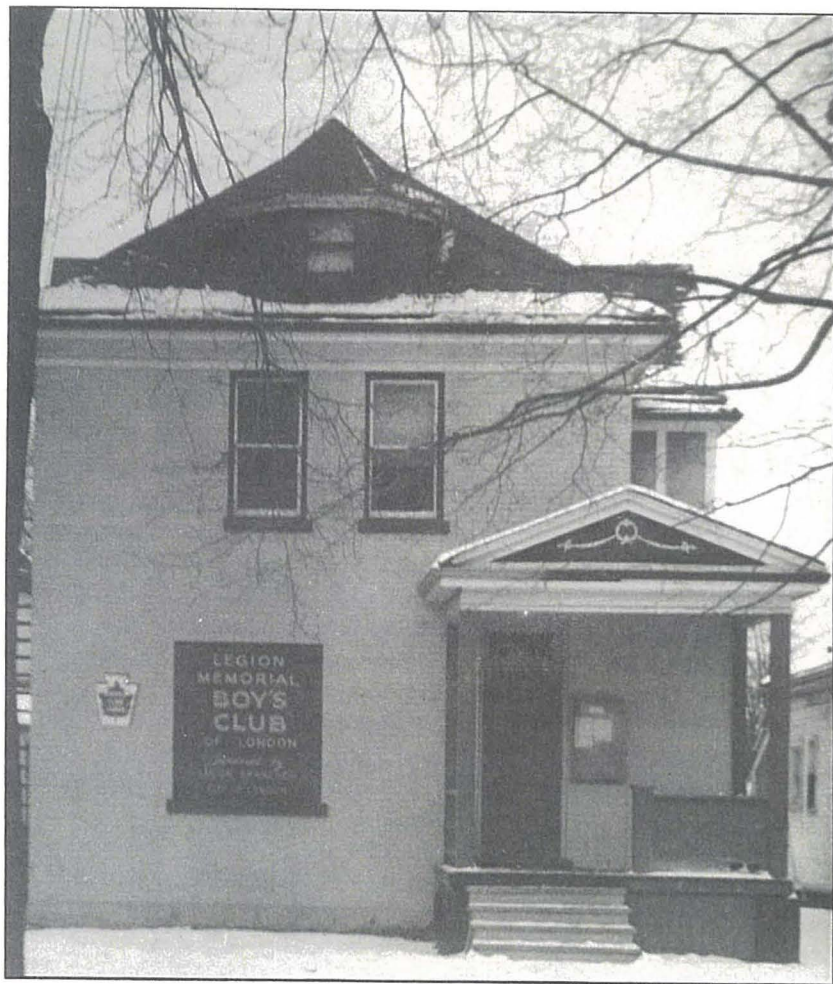
The first Boys' Club was founded in Great Britain in the early 1900's to help boys become better men. Boys' Clubs formed in the United States and reached Canada in the 1920's.

Trevor Moore, who in the late 1950's was a Vice-President of Imperial Oil Limited and President of the Boys' Clubs of Canada, discussed the organization with Jack Stevens, who outlined the plan to several Vimy Branch friends including Gordon Thompson, Charlie Ivey, Doug Weldon, Verse Cronyn, Russ Beattie, Bill Poole, Ken Ingram and others. The response was positive. The need for a Boys' Club was evident because Roosevelt Branch which had been operating a club for boys since 1956, had found their facilities and resources too limited.

Jack Stevens felt the need for action. On May 29, 1962 he invited executives of legion branches in London to be his dinner guests at the London Club. Fraser Woodhouse represented the Boys' Clubs of Canada, Canadian Legion Area and Zone Commanders W.E. Bugler and W.H. Jones were included. It was agreed after lengthy discussion to create a representative committee to ask all branches to support a Boys' Club in the core area of the city. Vimy members made up a large proportion of that committee, which obtained approval from the seven branches. The following executive was then elected:

President	Gordon Leghorn	Roosevelt Branch
Secretary	Gordon Bartram	Vimy Branch
Directors	Max Hudson	Duchess of Kent Branch
	Herbert Lush	No. 2 Branch
	Bert Weir	Victory Branch
	Robert McKeown	Tweedsmuir Branch
	Pat Whiting	Coronation Branch
	Lien Macaguir	Polish Veterans Association
	William Poole	Vimy Branch
	Jack Stevens	Vimy Branch

The executive agreed to take over responsibility for the Roosevelt Branch Boys under the name of the Canadian Legion Memorial Boys' Club, and commence an immediate campaign to secure a club house.



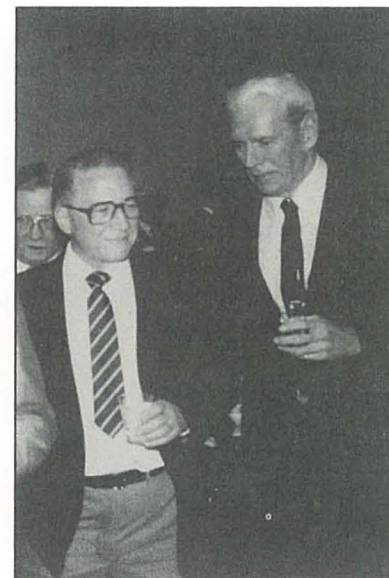
The Canadian Legion Memorial Boys' Club on Simcoe Street in London which opened in 1964.

In 1964, through the sole good offices of Jack Stevens, the executive acquired a 40-year-old house on Simcoe Street and had it remodelled. There was a games room and lounge on the main floor, a carpentry shop in the basement, clubroom and office on the second floor. Almost immediately there were 40 members, which was just the beginning.

Members of the Legion branches volunteered to help the boys but within a year membership had grown to 230 and some days 125 boys used the club. A paid leader and staff were needed. Bob Fallis, an RCAF veteran and Vimy Branch member became fulltime director from 1965 to 1973 and recalled:



Boys Club is fun



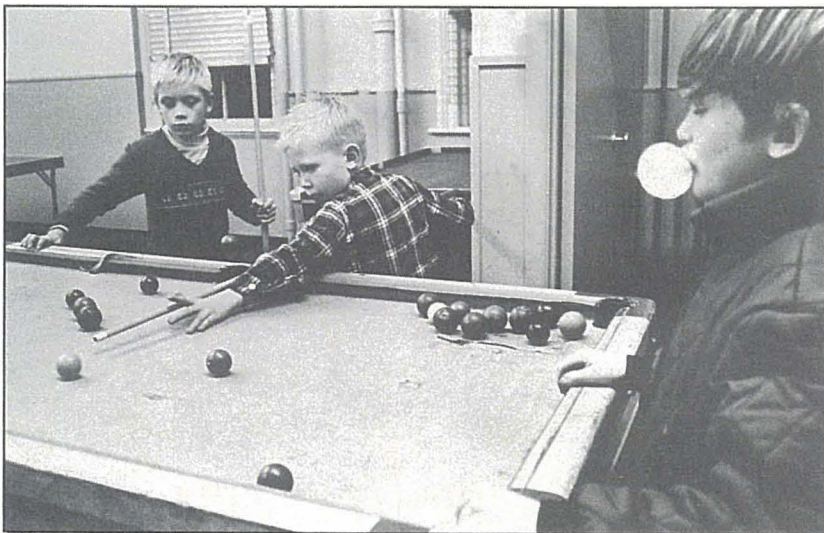
Bob Decher, Bob Fallis

"The boys needed this outlet for their energies. They enjoyed the friendships they made with other boys and most of them appreciated the guidance the adults tried to give without imposing too many restraints. The clubhouse was crowded with youngsters who had nowhere to go and by 1967 it became obvious we needed something bigger and better."

Jack Stevens again took the initiative and obtained pledges from all the other Legions. Then he conducted a personal campaign amongst his friends, most of them members of Vimy. The capital fund campaign was well along by 1968 when a building became available at an attractive price. Union Gas Company sold its surplus warehouse and service centre on Horton Street to the Boys Club for \$100,000. The building had been constructed in 1880 as a school, then became a cigar factory and later the Union Gas centre. It was remodelled to provide metal and woodworking shops, auto and bicycle repair shops, photography laboratory and a lounge with a stage for amateur theatricals. The club opened in the spring of 1969.

"The membership took off," Bob Fallis remembered. "Within a few months we had over 300 members. We kept the dues at \$1.00 a year for seniors and 50 cents a year for the younger ones because we didn't want any boy not to be able to come because he couldn't afford it."

"Members of the Legion financed our operating costs by running bingos and we were always able to get most of our bills paid from volunteer fund raising. Vimy Branch led the way in these efforts."



Boys enjoying the Simcoe Street clubrooms.

By 1971 the Canadian Legion Memorial Boys and Girls Club (the name amended to reflect expanded membership) had over 500 members with 250 to 300 coming in every day. The executive decided to complete the second phase of the plan.

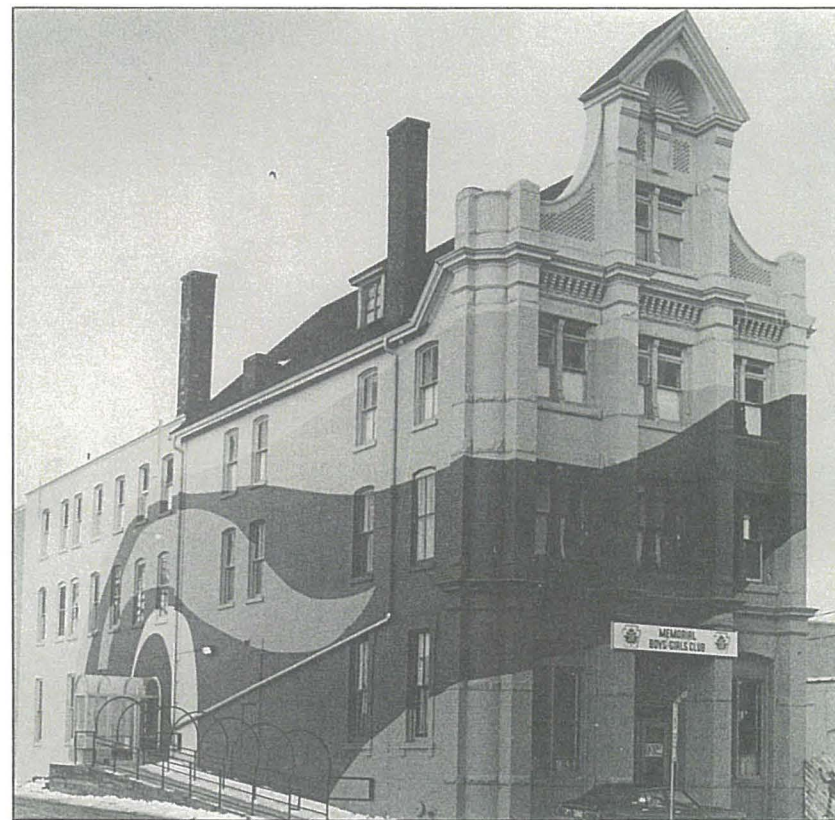
Once again Jack Stevens worked his magic and \$500,000 was raised to build a gymnasium, and swimming pool. Don Smith, President of Ellis-Don Construction, made his contribution by building at cost.

On November 21, 1974 the addition was officially opened but Jack Stevens was absent. He had died the previous May. His widow, Alice Stevens, while declaring the club open, told the boys and girls to "remember the veterans who have done so much for your country and yourselves to maintain freedom and happy living."

A few months before his death Jack Stevens had asked several close friends to promise him the Boys Club would be finished. He had been Honourary President since 1961.

The gymnasium and pool were dedicated to the memory of Vimy members Col. George W. Little and Col. William H. Kippen. The Ladies Auxiliary of Tweedsmuir Branch furnished the lounge and stocked the library.

Membership was over 1200 in 1977 and, although the Legion branches continued to give support and the boys raised money through a variety of projects, the club joined the United Way in 1977 so that it could receive part of its operating funds from this annual charitable campaign.



The Canadian Legion Memorial Boys and Girls Club moved into this building on Horton Street in 1969.

Many Vimy members have given of their time and means over the years to the Memorial Boys' Club: Gerry Wilson, Pat Patterson, and John Stevens have served several terms as President; Ben Lowry, Walter Bell, John Howitt, Doug Parnell, Gordon Bartram, and others have served on the executive; many Vimy members have become involved in the activities of this very worthwhile community and youth undertaking.

Bob Fallis, now retired, knows the project is a great success: "The club has saved a lot of young people and helped them to go straight. I have met some of the members who are now men and women and they have told me how much the club meant to them. Members of all Legion branches can be proud of this community project, and particularly Vimy Branch because Jack Stevens and others put an idea into action."



Participating in the opening of the expanded clubrooms in 1974: Gen. Douglas Peachier, Toronto, President of the Boys Clubs of Canada; Mayor Jane Bigelow, Alice Stevens (Widow of J. H. Stevens), Don Smith, Contractor.

UNE RAISON D'ETRE

Over the years the customs and flavor of Vimy Branch have not changed. Casualties there are indeed. Yet by reason of the profiles its members project, new recruits are attracted to the ranks annually. Happily, from these new members, under traditional stimuli, there arise spontaneously, gems of insight rivalling those refined in the inner fires that raged betimes during early hours at Longwood Inn.

For them in particular this volume may be of particular interest, striving as it does to pay appropriate tribute to the past.

Commenting on Vimy Branch and its unique relationship with the past, Padre David Ragg observes: "All through life we move from group to group of companions who become our friends. They may be business associates, people with whom we share worship or recreation. In each of these communities there is something special.

"However, when we come to Vimy, vast new dimensions are added. A common cause brought us there, lives were given for that cause, lives and ways of life were mightily changed by the devastations and triumphs of that cause, and memories were created. Such memories of time past reaffirm one of the great lessons I learned during and after my years in service to that cause — the importance and strength of comrades".



Jim Macpherson, Joyce Roadhouse, J.M. Seneshen, Douglas Murray, Gord Swan.

PAST PRESIDENTS' PARADE

1981



Major R. S. Macnab

1982



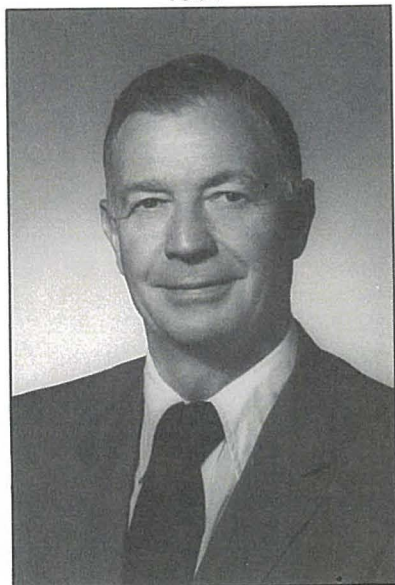
F/L G. E. Wilson

1983



Major W. F. Stott

1984



WO 1 John Stevens

In his memoirs, Sir Winston Churchill expresses his attitude toward the past in characteristically broad and sweeping terms: "The human tragedy is that after all the exertions and sacrifices of millions of people in a righteous cause, peace and security lie beyond our grasp. It is my hope that pondering upon the past may give guidance in the days to come, may enable a new generation to repair errors of former years ... and thus govern, in accordance with the needs and glory of man, the awesome unfolding scene of the future".

Wisdom, service and comradeship thus emerge as three of the bases upon which the Vimy structure strives to rest.

The fourth – Remembrance – is perhaps best set out in the words of Sir Arthur Currie, Commander of the 1st Division at the Vimy battle, and a prime architect of the victory. Near the end of his life, he wrote: "The recollections that crowd upon us the pictures that so vividly arise, cannot be classified in words some being too sacred to be clothed in speech." (Currie was born near Strathroy).

In 1919 Captain Siegfried Sassoon, M.C., Royal Welch Fusiliers, chose a song in which to clothe his recollections. It seems one particularly suited to the Vimy experience, as we all have known it:

EVERY ONE SANG

Every one suddenly burst out singing;
And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom
Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark green fields; on; on;
and out of sight.

Every one's voice was suddenly lifted,
And beauty came like the setting sun.
My heart was shaken with tears, and horror
Drifted away ... O, but every one
Was a bird; and the song was wordless; the
singing will never be done.

APPENDIX "A"**EXECUTIVE OF VIMY BRANCH**

Honourary President	Harry Wooster
Honourary Vice-Presidents	Norman McBeth John Mahony V.C. Bill Poole Joyce Roadhouse

1983

President	Wally Stott
Vice-President	John Stevens
Secretary-Treasurer	Bill Reid
Chaplain	The Rt. Rev. David Ragg
Past President	Gerry Wilson
Directors	Innes Hamond Bill Moore Reg Lamon Hugh Murray Bill Magee Barry Nelligan Alex McIntosh Mel Pryce Bill McKegney Warren Wilkins

1984

President	John Stevens
Vice-President	Alex McIntosh
Secretary-Treasurer	Bill Reid
Chaplain	The Ven. J.G. Morden
Past President	Wally Stott
Directors	Reg Lamon Mel Pryce Bill Magee Warren Wilkins Bill McKegney Sam Lerner Bill Moore Don Palmer Hugh Murray Tom Lawson

APPENDIX "B"
HONOUR ROLL

This Honour Roll shows members of Vimy Branch who have received Royal Canadian Legion Service Awards over the years with their year of joining either the British Empire Service League or the Canadian Legion.

50 Years

G.N. Bruce	1921	D.B. Weldon	1928
Harold Pimblett	1921	W.M. Veitch	1928
G.W. Foote	1921	J.G. Thompson	1928
Ibbotson Leonard	1923	L.E. Mills	1928
E.N. Chesham	1923	R.W. Croxton	1930
W.E. Foster	1926	R.I. Watt	1930
E.E. Reilly	1927	H.W. Wooster	1931
D.G. Ross	1927	Thomas Sanderson	1933

45 Years

J.H. Stevens	1924	R.H. Beattie	1928
E.B. Nelles	1925	S.W. Archibald	1929
C.B. Hancock	1925	L.O. Pocock	1930
J.L. Willis	1928	N.B. Emory	1939
G.F. Kingsmill	1928	E.D. Redfern	1931
C.H. Ivey	1928	K.E. Taylor	1931
H.K. Ingram	1928	D.A. Anderson	1932
M.M. Dillon	1928	R.T. Brain	1938

MEMBERS OF VIMY LEGION



Some of the members who assisted in the preparation of Friends and Comrades: left to right seated - Joyce Roadhouse, Bill Reid, Wally Stott, John Stevens, Gerry Wilson. Standing - Bill Moore, Tom Hedger, John Given, Hugh Murray, Norm McBeth (Chairman of History Committee), Warren Wilkins, Reg Lamon, John Cook, Bill Robinson, Bill Buchner, Bill McKegney, Alex McIntosh, Bill Magee.

J. W. Adams
A. E. Alway
W. J. Bailey
J. R. Bach
B. I. Baldwin
A. J. Baker
L. G. Barnes
W. E. Bell
A. H. Birks
J. H. Blackwell
D. J. Bonner
J. E. Box
R. T. Brain
I. S. Brake
D. W. C. Brent
F. S. Brien

J. H. K. Broughton
H. M. L. Brown
H. G. Bunston
W. R. Buchner
T. H. Burdett
G. M. Burns
S. M. Busby
T. O. Cadham
G. M. Campbell
H. R. G. Campbell
D. V. Carroll
J. H. Cartlidge
C. B. Carruthers
G. A. Casey
C. B. Caswell
M. W. Chalmers
G. M. Claxton

VIMY MEMBERS

F. A. Clift
G. W. Coburn
A. B. Conron
A. H. Constant
J. P. Cook
R. Cook
W. E. Corfield
J. B. Cronyn
G. B. Coulter
W. R. Cunningham
W. T. Cunningham
S. C. Davies
T. L. Davies
R. Decher
A. H. De Mille
R. M. Dillon
W. P. Doohan
D. H. Dover
W. H. Dunbar
R. Earl
J. W. Egerton
N. J. England
R. H. Epps
R. R. Fallis
W. H. Feasby
T. T. M. Ferris
John Ficklin
J. B. Fisher
W. H. Fleming
G. W. Foote
W. R. Fry
J. C. Gardner
H. J. Gauvin
H. M. Gibson

G. H. Gill
J. N. Given
T. C. Greenlees
J. F. Green
E. A. Green
F. S. Gregory
C. F. Grigg
R. W. Gunton
W. Hall
W. H. Hall-Holland
R. L. Hallett
R. Hamilton
I. Hammond
A. J. Hanes
A. J. Harris
K. A. Hart
J. B. Hay
H. L. Hayman
T. L. Hedger
K. Heggie
J. L. Herman
A. F. Hern
A. E. Hetherington
G. M. Hobart
H. W. Hockin
C. R. Hollingsworth
W. I. Howell
J. O. Howitt
A. C. Humphries
G. E. Humphries
C. R. Ivey
P. J. Ivey
G. E. Jackson
G. D. Jefferson
A. E. Jeffery

VIMY MEMBERS

J. J. Jeffery	W. J. Magee
E. H. A. Carson	R. H. Mahar
G. E. Jenkins	G. W. Manning
D. W. B. Johnston	J. W. Martin
L. N. Johnson	D. P. May
A. R. Johnston	N. McBeth
G. C. Jutras	A. McClelland
K. B. Keefe	D. D. C. McGeachy
R. E. King	A. R. McIntosh
G. Klein	W. S. McKegney
C. N. Knight	R. McLeod
R. J. Lamon	S. J. McParland
R. A. Langdale	D. B. Meltzer
R. C. Langman	B. Merrick
L. S. Lauchland	W. W. Middleton
D. Lauder	E. D. L. Miller
T. F. G. Lawson	J. H. Moore
A. M. Le Bel	W. E. Moore
E. W. Lee	J. G. Morden
G. D. Lee	A. A. Munro
H. M. Lees	W. S. Murdoch
S. Lerner	D. H. Murray
J. A. Lewis	H. G. Murray
J. M. Liston	J. B. Nash
B. H. Lowry	T. B. Nelligan
J. K. Mahoney, V.C.	J. Newton
H. G. MacDonald	G. R. Nixon
J. C. F. MacDonald	T. A. Nixon
G. A. MacDougall	J. W. Nolan
H. G. Mackie	E. W. Oddleifson
S. C. Mackness	D. F. Palmer
C. M. MacMillan	A. G. Parnell
R. S. Macnab	D. E. Parnell
J. P. C. Macpherson	I. D. Patterson
D. C. Macdonald	J. C. Peirone

VIMY MEMBERS

B. G. Pentland	F. S. Stevens
V. C. Petrowski	J. M. Stevens
H. Phipps	P. C. Stevenson
E. Pickett	C. A. Stewart
R. W. Pike	T. B. Stewart
R. H. Pimblett	D. A. Stickland
G. W. Piper	W. F. Stott
W. R. Poole	J. B. Stratton
H. A. Porter	V. C. H. Stuart
R. W. Porter	J. H. Sumner
C. P. Potter	G. W. Swan
M. C. Pryce	C. A. Thompson
T. D. B. Ragg	J. G. Thompson
R. W. Rankin	W. H. Thomson
D. J. Read	B. J. Thorpe
F. P. Reeves	M. R. Tingley
W. G. Reid	B. A. Urquhart
D. D. Rice	D. J. Urquhart
E. J. Rider	F. M. Vine
B. G. Riggs	C. A. Vogel
W. J. Roadhouse	R. A. Waring
R. G. Robarts	C. F. Way
F. W. Roberts	D. B. Weldon
W. G. Robinson	B. K. West
W. J. Robinson	A. R. White
W. O. Roney	J. H. White
F. H. Rowland	W. W. Wilkins
T. Sanderson	J. D. Williamson
J. M. Seneshen	D. G. Wilson
P. S. Sills	G. E. Wilson
K. Singleton	P. A. Wilson
A. Smith	W. G. M. Wilson
C. R. Somerville	J. S. Winder
M. H. Stanley	H. K. Wooster
I. R. Startup	R. L. Yates

APPENDIX 'C'

In prefacing his written account of Vimy's birth and subsequent growth, Brigadier Dillon wrote: "Due to circumstances resulting from the declaration of war in 1939, practically all the records of Vimy were destroyed. I have, therefore, been forced to draw largely on my memory".

What the 'circumstances' were is not entirely clear. A few documents, however, have come to light in the intervening years, several of which are reproduced in the following appendices. They are of interest because they affirm the attitudes and social ambience of Vimy men during the 'between the War years'.

In 1934 a publication entitled 'THE LIGHT' acted as a formal program for a 'Grand Benefit Concert', presented at the H.B. Beal Technical School. The document, in rather tattered form, was uncovered by 1984 President John Stevens in his late father's papers. Reproduced in its entirety and original form, it is appended as an unbound exhibit adjacent to the book's back cover.

Of particular interest are the names of the 1934 members and the character sketches of several obviously prominent ones. Father-son connections with present members are very noticeable. Of interest too are the quality of humour (which has changed little), the involvement of the membership in community and business affairs during the depressed 30's, and the compactness of the whole group.

Whether other editions were published is not known, nor are the editors, although Major M.F. Gladman and Bob 'Ignaceous' Watt are highly suspect.

Major Gladman was, however, responsible for the Operation Order of 1936, which seems to have coincided with the Italian venture into Ethiopia.

VIMY BDE. No. 145, Canadian Legion
B.E.S.L. Operation Order No. 13

Very Secret
Copy No. 1,
14th April, 1936

Ref. Map Addis Lambetha 50/50

1. INFORMATION - 13th semi-annual conference of Vimy will be held in the Blue Room, Longwood Inn, Lambeth at 19.00 hrs. on Friday, April 17th, 1936.
2. INTENTIONS (Honourable)
 - (a) To extend farewell and good wishes to General Ross.
 - (b) To greet Brigadier Stewart and show him a fine body of men.
 - (c) To revive on a small scale the battle reported to have taken place at Vimy 18 years ago.
 - (d) To see if we can still take it.

3. METHOD OF ASSEMBLY

Each member will assemble himself at 18.45 hrs. at each or all of the following "Messes", Can. Fus., 1st Hus., 11th Bde. C.A., at the Armouries and Can. Engrs., 2 M.G.C. and Div. Sigs. at Annex. He will then pull himself together and wangle a ride, unless he prefers to walk.

4. STARTING POINT

The head of the column will pass Bustereid's Farm gate as though it were standing still. Precaution - a strong detachment will be posted here to prevent Bustereid from emerging and joining in the operations.

5. FINISHING POINT OR BEGINNING OF THE END

At Hotel Longwood at 19.00 hrs. All pilgrims will be greeted by the Negus John Watt of Ethiopia, complete in baggy trousers. On payment to him of a sum of money each will be given a ticket admitting him to Valhalla by way of the front stairs. After enjoying the beauties (scenic & liquid) of the Happy Hunting Ground, pilgrims will advance to the Banquet Hall where a most delightful repast will be served by the handmaidens of the Harem. To make this experience doubly enjoyable, and incidentally to drown out noises made by pilgrims while inhaling soup or crunching celery, they will be soothed by the enchanting strains of the Vimy Orchestra operating under the vibrant baton of Myhrr Y D'Illon. (Gaelic)

6. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

All troops must be mechanized and all joints thoroughly oiled either before or during the conference.

7. DRESS

Optional: with the exception that dress suits, dinner jackets, pajamas or complete nudity are positively barred.

Intercommunication - Brigadier Ferguson X - Y days	Met. 7300
B.M. Gladman do	Met. 1224
Advanced H.Q. Z day 1700 to 1800	Met. 2429

M.F. GLADMAN,
Bde. Maj.

APPENDIX 'D'

Major M.F. Gladman's Operation Order was recorded as No. 13. Regrettably, the previous 12 and succeeding orders have been lost to antiquity.

However, copies of the post-war orders are on file. During the late 40's and early fifties, they tended to be fairly serious and much to the point. In the late 50's, under the title of the Vimy Week-Enders, a more jovial note commenced to be struck.

No mention of the Week-Enders would be complete without reference to the great humor and insights of Merle "Ting" Tingley, Vimy's official and unofficial war artist. Enjoying perhaps a greater level of freedom

within the Vimy orbit than at his daily task, unworried by the likelihood of libel or humbug, Ting has given to countless Week-Enders that dash of brilliance and comedy that made them pre-eminent amongst the country's more classy journals. Throughout this issue will be found caricatures and thoughtful cartoons illustrative of his art.

Following are excerpts from the 1958 issue, entitled "The Vimy Parade", following which are some selected lines from the 1962 issue, by which time the editors had waxed lyrical.

THE VIMY PARADE

BRIGADIER R. H. BEATTIE, M.C., E.D.
on a white horse

Band of the Royal Byron Horse Marines

Jeep bearing Private John H. Stevens
(Steering Committee from EMCO at the wheel)

CNR Red Cap Band followed by
Mr. Donald Gordon

Three Aberdeen Angus Bulls from Arva Winter Fair

Flower girls strewing rose petals

Float depicting "F R A T E R N A L L O V E" with
Ex-Major W. R. Buchner and Brig. T. G. Gibson

More flower girls - just strewing

Brigadier M. M. Dillon, M. C.
on a Brown Horse
(Courtesy Silverwoods)

Captain Harry Wooster
on foot
(Courtesy Mr. Diefenbaker)

Tabors
Sackbutts

Deacon Harry Jarvis, D.D.
with

THE VIMY ORCHESTRA

Captain Bentley Baldwin with
local contingent of Chinese Dragoons (in chains)

Harps
Dulcimers

Lady in Cerise known as Tillie from
the One Day Cleaners

Float depicting "Municipal Wisdom"
with four Stuffed Owls

Floral Tribute to Local Unwed Mothers

One Rooster

Presidents: Eisenhower, Hockin and Hall
in Tights and with arms akimbo

Band composed of Girls from the Home of the Good
Shepherd playing, "All the Nice Girls Love a Sailor"

Tom-toms
Tom-toms

Captains Watt and Jeffery

Float with local successful Conservative Candidates
on a manure spreader

Float with local unsuccessful Liberal Candidates
in a Bennett buggy

Float with local successful Liberal Candidates
in absentia

The Crumlin String Quartette
playing
"UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME"

Bulls

Float from Board of Education with
Lt. Shuttleworth clad in a roofer's ensemble
and waving banner marked
"Roofing Secrets Above"

Bull:

Col. W. H. Kippen, D.S.O., M.C.
bearing large banner with picture of Mr. R. B. Bennett

Flower girls - Dressed in Pink

Major A. R. Douglas, Q.C.
bearing even larger banner with picture of
Mr. W. L. MacKenzie King

More Flower Girls - Dressed

*

Col. D. B. Weldon, M.C., leading
"Midland Queen" Grand Champion
Handicap Class - Lobo Annual Fair

*

Col. George Little, M.V.O., M.C. and Col. Arthur Birks, D.S.O.
sneezing and headed for the door

*

Tuba & Tambourine Band from Guelph Reformatory
(ON LEAVE)

*

Legionaires blowing Horns for Guest Speaker

*

The Guest Speaker
Sir Robert Watson-Watt

The Ghost of Longwood Inn muttering
"For God's Sake, Nell's back"

*

R.C.A.M.C. Blue Bonnett Glockenspiel Band

*

Float depicting "H O P E"
Faith Healers
Head Shrinkers

Chiropractors
Osteopaths

Sooth-sayers
Witch Doctors

Three Delegates from
London Academy of Medicine

*

MAJOR T. LOGAN TOWERS

*

Tipstaffs

Tipstaffs

Tipstaffs

*

Flower Girls Strewing Lavender

*

Long Low Black Cadillac Car with Lt. T. O. Robinson
concealed in rear seat furtively reading
"Life Insurance - The Modern Racket" by Edwin C. Guillet.
James A. Campbell of the London Life at the Wheel

*

Float by London Branch W.C.T.U. with
Capts. V. P. & John Cronyn distributing leaflets entitled
"There Is No Booze in Labatts"

*

Goosestepping elderly delegation from
the Hitler Youth Movement

*

Col. R. B. Crouch
(with Lantern)

The Parade will Assemble at the Bar in the
Georgian Room
Hotel London
on
Friday, November 7th, 1958
at
1830 Hours (6:30 P.M.)

APPENDIX 'E' The Vimy Feast



If I could have my way for a day
I'd prepare a feast in just this way
There'd be no reason for my scheme,
Except the logic of a dream.
And to this feast I would invite
Only the faithful - the elite
Of all the men I'd ever seen,
At Vimy Dinners since 1919.
I'd invite Charlie Ivey and Brownie, too,
And Nell, of course, wouldn't you?
C.C. Ross and Doctor Fry,
T.O. Robinson in his reddest tie.
I'd ask General Spencer and Arthur Birks
In Highland kilts complete with dirk.
This feast now years long overdue,
Would centre round a barbecue.
Around a giant of a steer,
The sire, they say, of Weldon's cheer

A critter who came out of the West,
But after all he was the best.
Now the biggest bull I ever saw,
Was on a farm near Neepawa.
I'd ship him all the way to Arva.
To get him fat, just to serve ya.
Three courses only - that's all,
The Bull, soup-stew and alcohol.
With wines and sauces yet to learn
I'd roast and baste him to a turn.
But long before we begin to eat
The crackling hide and succulent meat,
I'd load the Inn with wines select,
From every nation, express collect.
Labatts, Lovenbrau, ale in kegs
Dewars, Teachers and Johnnie Beggs.
Plymouth Gin and Gordons Dry,
Bulloch-lade and Seagrams Rye.

Black and White and rare Three Star
 Glenlivet, White Horse and Old Parr.
 With Haig and Haig and Canadian Club,
 The richest stock from bar and pub.
 The best imported from every scene
 With Rum rushed from the Caribbean.
 Vintage Port and Chambertin
 Amber Hock and Nierstein.
 Chablis, Mersault and Grand Crop,
 As well as Chateaufort du Pape.
 Liebfraumilch and Montrachet
 Muscatell and Beaujolais.
 And if this failed to please Old Fin,
 I'd have a case of bathtub gin.
 Now the real foundation for this spree,
 Would be our Nell with witches three.
 With John H. Stevens and of the fewest,
 Let's not forget old R.P. Buist.
 We'd all assemble at the Longwood Inn
 Including, of course, Colonel Kippen.
 There'd be Brandy Connon and Major Lill,
 And in from Glencoe, Lionel Mill(s).
 Colonel Buchner and Brigadier Beattie,
 And Richard Dillon, M.C., E.D.,
 Soon the wine would start to flow
 As if we were in Erieau.
 We'd be singing and dancing – that's for sure
 With Jake and Buddie and William Moore.
 Then round the table, step by step
 With Poppy-king – John Howett.
 And as the bull turned on his spit,
 Above the charcoal mammoth pit,
 I'd have the cooks forming fours
 Starting to prepare the second cours(e).
 I'd ask Charlie Thompson now to brew
 His epicurean fish menu.
 For having drunk an hour or two
 We'd have a stew, I think would do.
 And as the smoke began to clear.
 And Legionnaires began to hear
 The sound of Gordon Thompson's drum;
 Summoning all to re-appear.
 And watch the making of the stew,
 As Charlie, stripped, began to brew.
 He toiled and sweat as time was spent,
 And in a mighty cauldron went
 Cargoes of spice and condiment;
 Oysters fished from Bering Strait,
 He tossed them in by the crate.
 Boston scrog without the shell,
 Winkles, cod and clams as well.
 Sturgeon from the Hebrides,
 Shrimps and crabs and eels, all these.

From Erieau about 20 trout,
 He tossed right in with Guinness stout.
 The curried quarter of a tail,
 Hewn from an Iceland whale.
 Livers from some fat racoons,
 Which he had shot with Lyle Doon.
 An ox's heart and pancreas,
 A bull moose that had died of gas,
 While eating toadstools near ungava
 And just to rhyme, some ducks from Java.
 Flippers fresh from the Azores,
 And fresh cut kidneys by the scores,
 Together with some pollywogs,
 And kippered hocks from centipedes,
 And hind-legs of huge bullfrogs,
 Caught in hundreds in the reeds
 Of London's murky Byron Bog.
 Planked tuna, shad and terrapin,
 And red-gut salmon, captured so
 Inside the O at Erieau
 Baby shrimps and Eastern clams,
 Peacock tongues and luscious yams.
 And wine as cold and white as snow,
 Stashed for years at Erieau.
 For Vimy's throat, arid with thirst,
 I'd smite the barrels till they burst,
 And push the spiggots of the Vats,
 Till flagons, kegs and barrels all
 Were drained of their ambrosial,
 And dry as Medway's river flats.
 And now, we thank you all for flowered jests
 With which we toast our grateful guests
 And for a feast with such a glow
 As other Londoners can never know.
 And comrades by the score can shine
 And talk and drink – perchance to dine:
 McBeth conferring with Art LeBel,
 Or playing leapfrog with our Nell,
 What a regiment we would make!
 Surely make the Russians quake,
 With Murray Dillon and Ivor Brake
 In line ahead of Major Blake.
 And in the ranks along with Nell,
 Our new Treasurer, Walter Bell,
 Clendinning, Burns and Brown as well,
 And Colonel Alfred T. Howell,
 Georgie Humphries, OBE,
 And with him Lt. Don McGeachy.
 And so good night, comrades adieu;
 We'll drink tonight, but plan anew
 And honor comrades, now so few
 The finest men we ever knew
 All friends – no foes At Lambeth.

APPENDIX 'F'

THE WEEK-END DRILL MANUAL

On occasion, the Week-End reminded members of the enduring values of basic training. Exerpts are presented from one such issue, written by a redoubtable Engineer, Lt. Col. G.E. Humphries. It explains in layman's terms the intricacies engaged in by sappers (mostly) in the erection of bridging. While some 8 different species of bridges were reviewed, all of them fascinating, probably the two most common are the following:

THE BAILEY BRIDGE

The Bailey Bridge consists mainly of panels and transoms. At the same time it is important to recognize that all equipment bridging has male and female parts, which makes it more understandable to the sappers.

Panels are pieces which form the main trusses and their main characteristic is that they are too heavy. A panel is handled by six sappers and each one (i.e. the panels) has a male end and a female end. When the male end of one panel is properly inserted in the female end of the preceding one, it is secured by a steel pin. One sapper holds the pin in position while another drives it home with a sledge hammer. Being a rather important operation, it was felt necessary for an NCO to hold the pin and another to strike. Due to the consequent shortage of NCOs, this practice was discontinued and should be avoided.

Transoms are pieces which go crosswise between the trusses. Their main characteristic is that they are even heavier than the panels. They are handled by eight sappers who would rather do almost anything else. An officer acting as bridge commander soon gets accustomed to receiving numerous suggestions from his transom parties regarding novel destinations for transoms, many of them concerning his anatomy.

There are about thirty other parts of the Bailey Bridge but these are of lesser importance and many of them can be, and usually are, left out of the bridge.

IMPROVISED BRIDGING

This type of bridging finds most favour among engineers for the following reasons:

- It requires careful planning and procurement of stores. Consequently it cannot be built in a hurry.
- It requires the employment of materials and labour from other than Engineer resources which is good for morale.

These bridges can be built from any material. This requires a survey of what are known as Local Resources. For this purpose engineer recce parties are formed usually headed by an NCO. The manual lists items to look for such as timber, steel beams, cement, aggregate, mechanical equipment, tools etc. The engineers with typical ingenuity extend this somewhat and the recce parties usually interpret the requirements to include the following, with priorities approximately as stated:

Women, Booze, Timber, Food, Steel Beams, Women,
 Cement, Wine, Aggregate, Food, Mechanical Equipment,
 Women, Tools, etc.

In general the supplies arrive just about in accordance with the above list.

APPENDIX 'G'

A TYPICAL TREASURER'S REPORT

The late Aubrey Clendenning, Secretary for many years, recorded the 1958 Report in his minutes. Excerpts are offered herewith:

Feelings of security within our generation are a must. Professionals and comrades alike, generally, practice at it. A golden few become golden masters of the art. A comrade who is not secure tends to wobble, ... perhaps indulging in various ways, before breakfast ... running up astonishing bills ... forgetting to pay them; worsening and remembering to pay them. Or he may take another tack and dissolve in tears when confronted with a stunning disappointment.

Our Banker, Comrade Stan Goodwin found himself recently periously close to that predicament. He is in Newfoundland tonight, but has authorized the recounting of his story if it will be beneficial. It will be beneficial.

A few mornings ago, I met in my office with Sheriff Russ Beattie and two of his largest Bailiffs. Placed before me was an N.S.F. cheque issued and signed by myself on Vimy's behalf and on Vimy's account. The bailiffs, having already carted out my typewriter, were wrestling with my secretary, who was shrieking quite out of context, perhaps not so much in terror as in simple enjoyment. Russ misunderstood.

Clemency swept over his story features. He removed his black homburg and cried "Stand Easy". My secretary came to a reluctant attention. We sat down and talked. Shortly thereafter, we went up to see Comrade Stan Goodwin.

It was ten o'clock. The Bank staff was assembled at ease in front of the huge curtains on the west wall. Comrade Stan was just concluding the customary morning prayers for the needy, for the second time ... that Providence might direct their feet his way. The staff burst into the final stanza of "The Wayward Boy" and, as the voices ebbed, Stan reached up and pulled a cord. As the great curtains slowly parted, a fine cascade of shiny new pennies showered onto the rotunda floor. We all scrambled for them in a splendid scrimmage. "Gad", Stan said, "I'd like to see them do that at City Hall Branch".

All this was commonplace enough, but then occurred the phenomenon which prompted my opening remarks. As we told our Comrade of the problem which brought us there, his right eye slowly moistened. In a trice a silver tear had slopped off his chin onto Russ' hat ... then another and another until it was evident that the Comrade was weeping with a compassion that bode no good for the Sheriff's homburg. At first it was quiet, then uncomfortably noticeable to the tellers. With all the splashing and soggy sniffing, it became undignified.

We were compelled to prod him, not unkindly, into his office. There he quickly removed from his lower righthand desk drawer, almost as tho' it were pre-arranged, a bottle ... half empty for it was only half full - of Newfoundland Mildew. It became, so to speak, our morning coffee break. And with that, miraculously, the tears stopped, and the feeling of security reigned supreme as before.

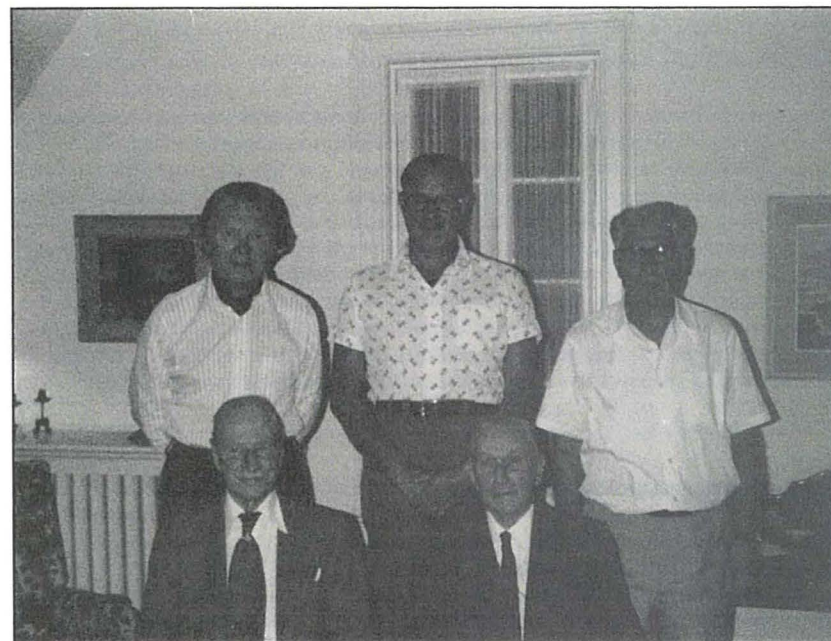
After a suitable hiatus Comrade Goodwin looked us straight in the eye, or so it seemed, and said, "Working capital is what you need". At that Russ clapped his hat on his head and walked out. Russ had thought he had said that what Vimy needed was working capitalists. It upset him. There was concern in the air that morning.

Our Executive Committee reviewed Stan's revelation and found it to be true. Twenty-nine years ago, our Branch was founded by a handful of men. Today we have over 300 members. During all these years our annual membership fee has remained stationary at \$5.00.

It will not bore you with details as to what happens to the fees. You are all surely aware of our good works, our expanded activities ... which, to coin a phrase, are legion ... our plans for the future ... and the small ironies of life. Now, as I present this resolution to raise our annual fees from \$5.00 to \$7.00, can I anywhere find a seconder?

Enthusiastically seconded by D.B. Weldon. Passes unanimously.

APPENDIX 'H'



This sextet, with Jim Bach missing because he had to return to France, gathered to tape their memories of Vimy Orchestra: Standing are Dick Dillon, Tom Hedger, Joyce Roadhouse. Sitting - Harry Wooster and Gordon Thompson.

MUSICOLOGY - VIMY STYLE

The post World War II period was marked by a rapid increase in Vimy membership and a shrinking in the size of Vimy Orchestra. Death accounted for the loss of several stalwarts - Ed Shuttleworth, Murray Dillon, George Blake, Bert Thomas, Charles Middleton, Alex Calder, Harry Hadwin, Jim Campbell, Harry Jarvis - and new additions were few. By the late 1960's Murray Dillon and Harry Wooster had both retired from active conducting and Bert (Trombone) Thomas carried on until his death. Fortunately Tom Hedger, violinist in the Vimy Orchestra, was persuaded in 1973 to take on the job of conductor. Tom is a long-time member of the London Promenade Orchestra which consists of congenial souls who practice every Monday and play gratuitously for charitable organizations, veterans' affairs, etc. Tom has drawn on the membership of this orchestra to supplement the surviving members of Vimy Orchestra to the great benefit of Vimy Branch and its music.

In August 1979 Joyce Roadhouse arranged a meeting with Harry Wooster, Gordon Thompson, Tom Hedger, Dick Dillon and Jim Bach to reminisce about Vimy music. Here are excerpts from the taped conversations:

BACH:

I arrived in London during 1931, fresh out of university with a job as an engineer in London – and with a cello under one arm and a canary cage under the other. I was fortunately referred to a temporary home, that of Mrs. Kreitzer, mother of Freddy Kreitzer of Lombardo's orchestra. I immediately enlisted in the London Symphony Orchestra, then a mere shadow of its present competence.

The arrival of a cello player, even a lousy one, set up ground tremors that reached the ears of Murray Dillon and before the end of 1931, I was enrolled into Vimy (or I should say hijacked!). The rarity of cellists in London accounted for the acceptance in the Symphony, but also my immediate appointment as first desk cellist in Vimy – until many years later when we managed to coax another guy – a Scot as I recall him – giving us a bit more horsepower to override Gordon Thompson and his drums right behind us.

ROADHOUSE

The Scottish 'cellist was Charles Middleton.

BACH:

I can't recall ever missing a Vimy meeting or special concert from then to 1971.

The memories of such old-timers as Gordon Thompson and Harry Wooster are far more important than mine, and I wish too we could call up Dillon, Jarvis and Shuttleworth to help out. I was never a "member" of Vimy, having never served in the armed forces – I was making aircraft instruments instead – but Jarvis and I were upgraded spontaneously to "Honorary Membership" some time after the war when at a Vimy meeting we were presented with membership by Jack Stevens with his usual panache.

It was a touching gesture to us both, but the Brigadier (Dillon) who undoubtedly was responsible, took the frosting off the cake by explaining to us both that heretofore, as guests we had had free dinners, now as members we would bloody-well pay for our own dinner, and we did indeed from then on.

I recall at those meetings, where we played without a raised platform, my concern was that some happy legionnaire would fall over into my fiddle – and those days we not only played for dinner, but also into the small hours for sing-songs.

After Wally Armour, the all important pianist was Harry Hadwin, an old time silent movie theatre pianist who could play any tune, wartime, dance or musical, in any key, at the drop of a hat. The orchestra was fortunate in having him. Tom Chattoe, organist from Metropolitan Church filled in on occasion. Jack Chapman was a reliable bass, and on occasion his son filled in for him. Even Martin Boundy stepped down from his podium as Conductor of the London Symphony to join Vimy as a horn player.

WOOSTER:

Jack Chapman played the flute and his son played bass.

BACH:

But Murray Dillon's long history as Maestro did include a few mistakes. The first was his decision after the war that Vimy should have a rehearsal before each musical occasion. To that end he arranged a room at Wolseley Barracks (complete with staffed bar), and we were to polish up our performance. The orchestra never was the same after that. We had a spontaneity and sparkle that the rehearsals destroyed.

To me a delightful occasion was an evening concert (1934) at Westminster from the big stage there. Murray had had a complete program printed, and as usual with no rehearsals we did well. But at half time the curtain dropped in front of Murray and the microphone – and forgetting that he was still connected not only to his audience, but to the entire hospital, he said "Thank God that's over, now where the Hell is that bottle!"

WOOSTER:

This happened at Byron San and Ken Ingram was M.C.

BACH:

It was an amazing institution this Vimy Orchestra, and I hope it is yet. All of us were either amateurs or rusty professionals, and the result was damned good music of the type the Legion wanted.

We were well fed and watered and tuned up for the ceremonial entry into the old banquet hall of the Hotel London – then an impressive "Queen" – with Gordon's drum roll and then into fun music with the Brig. out front waving his stick contentedly.

WOOSTER:

The best thing about the Orchestra was the contact with members of Vimy at the meetings which were held at Longwood Inn. At first the membership was very small. Buster Reid brought a German Submarine Commander as a speaker. He talked for twenty minutes about his past history. We had all been drinking beer before the meeting and Buster interrupted the speaker, saying, "Could I interrupt this meeting for about twenty minutes so we can all go and have a leak". Longwood Inn was the scene of great parties. I remember a fellow by the name of Earl, an orderly at Westminster, got canned and ran off the road on the way home. When we came along, the car was in a muddy ditch upright and Earl was contentedly sitting in the driver's seat and still driving.

DILLON:

I seem to remember a story about Vimy Members taking the pumps out at Hook's Restaurant.

WOOSTER:

I don't remember that. You'd have to know some of the Members to appreciate this. The dining room was downstairs, and upstairs there were bedrooms used as cloakrooms. I went up to get something out of my coat and found Arnold Dillon and Lou Purdom fighting. I tried to stop them and got punched by both.

DILLON:

As a high school kid I was very conscious of the Vimy Orchestra. Just after we got our first radio, the Orchestra was going to broadcast over CJGC. Mother almost fell off her chair laughing, and said "My God, they're all tight".

It sounded awful. (CJGC was the predecessor of CFPL Radio)

ROADHOUSE:

At what date did the Branch move from Longwood Inn to Hotel London?

WOOSTER:

That's hard to figure out. The Hotel site was occupied by McCormick's biscuit factory when the Branch started. Then the factory was demolished and they used to play softball on the vacant lot. Buster Reid's father, George, was president of the company which built Hotel London.

DILLON:

Harry, do you remember the Christmas dinners? All the Legion Branches put on these dinners at Hotel London for the single unemployed veterans. That was the first time I played in the Vimy Orchestra. Some of the vets had only overcoats. We walked into the dining hall and the tables were all set up – the orchestra was playing and you could hear a pin drop, but after a few beers they started to sing. An Irishman used to sing "Rose to Tralee"

WOOSTER:

Slim McCormick was the Irishman. He also sang "If You Were The Only Girl In The World And I Was The Only Boy". He sang the girls' lines in Falsetto. When he left the party he had a bottle of beer in each pocket of his overcoat.

Ed Shuttleworth's son, Ted, who runs the Little Tree Farm, played the flute. There's a picture taken at Ed's farm where we put on a concert for the Vets at Westminster. That picture includes Ted and you, Dick.

THOMPSON:

One thing I remember about the outing at Ed's farm. Ed had an old horse there for the boys to ride. Somebody lifted its tail and threw in some turpentine. The horse took off with the rider hanging on for dear life.

ROADHOUSE:

We are now going to talk about the period 1939 to 1945. I should point out that Gordon Thompson on the basis of his obvious organizing skills, became the head of the committee to look after the troops on weekends in London.

THOMPSON:

At the outset of war there was uncertainty about entertainment for the troops. A meeting of representative citizens was called and the Citizens' Auxiliary War Services Committee was formed. I was appointed Chairman. It was decided that all activities related to the troops would be assigned to various sub committees, e.g. The Active Service Club which took over the old library building was the responsibility of Eula White and I.O.D.E. There were fifteen divisions set up. We had four concert parties touring the various camps in Military District #1. Jack Stevens was the head of this division. London Life, under Castle Graham, sponsored Concert Party #2. The Legion Branches sponsored Party #3. Vimy Orchestra played for the troops in the Y.M.C.A. every Sunday night during the war.

ROADHOUSE:

Harry, were you the conductor at that time?

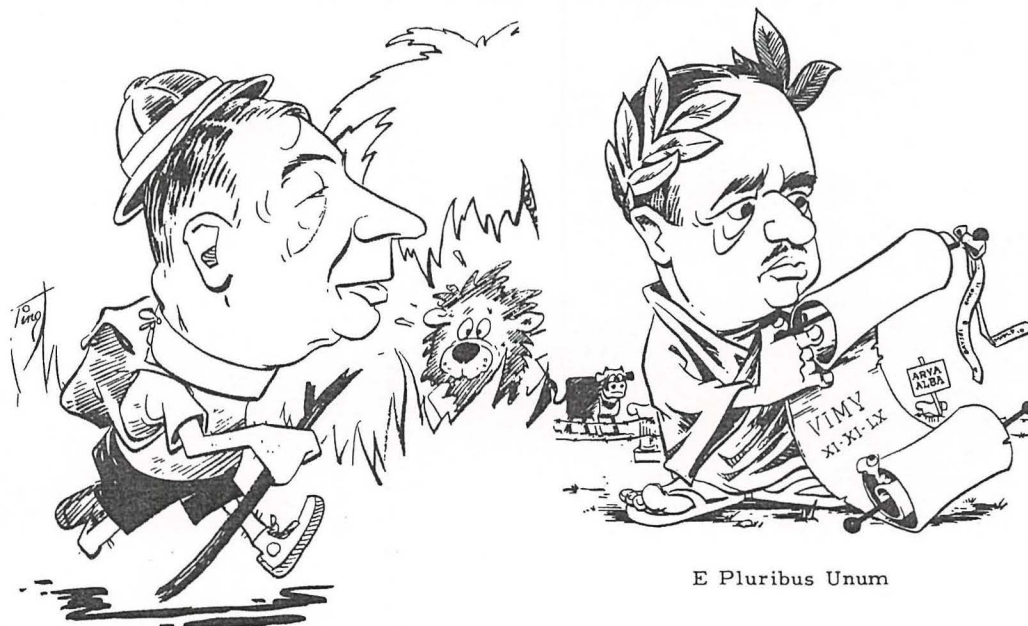
WOOSTER:

Yes, we played every Sunday night as Gordon said. Then there was a building program enlarging the Gym at the "Y" and we moved to the Masonic Temple until construction was completed. The opening night on our return to the "Y", the orchestra was augmented and the place was packed. The chairman of the evening called on the man responsible for the building program and said, "He's the drummer in the Vimy Orchestra". Gordon had to get up and speak.

ROADHOUSE:

Music now occupies an even more important place in Vimy meetings. Several of the orchestra members live in Woodstock and one commutes from Toronto. This is evidence that they have inherited the spirit and traditions of the original Vimy Orchestra.

AUTOGRAPHS OF FRIENDS & COMRADES



E Pluribus Unum



VIMY BRANCH
ORCHESTRA
APRIL, 1980



L to R DON McGEACHY - ? - ? - BILL MOORE,
BILL CORFIELD, HUGH MACKIE
VIMY DINNER - NOV. 1983



L to R NORM McBETH, BILL CORFIELD,
BILL BUCHNER, BILL ROBINSON, RON LAIDLAW

*** VIMY BRANCH NO. 145 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE 1996 ***

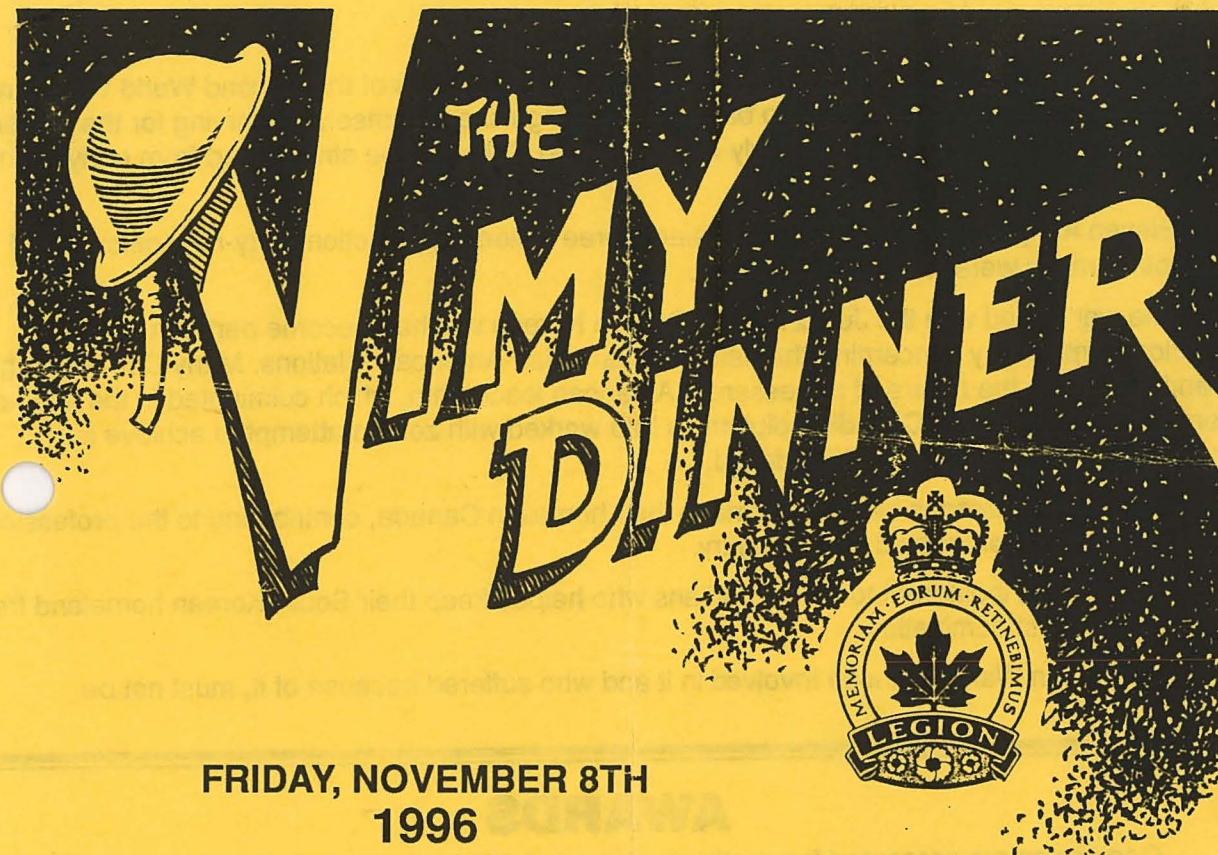
PRESIDENT: Lt. Col. D.J. Bonner
HONOURARY VICE-PRESIDENTS: Capt. Norman McBeth
 Lt. Cmdr. W.R. Poole
 W. Davis, Esq.
PAST PRESIDENT: S/Ldr. I. Williams
VICE PRESIDENT: Lt. H.K. Wooster
SECRETARY-TREASURER: William G. Reid, Esq.
CHAPLAIN: The Ven. J.N. Doidge

DIRECTORS:

F/O W.E. Corfield	S/Ldr. C.F. Grigg	Col. E. C. Quinn	Col. C.F. Way
CPO J. Driver	T.L. Hedger, Esq.	F/Lt. G. Swann	F/Lt. R.L. Yates

PAST PRESIDENTS:

1929-30 *Brig. M.M. Dillon	1963 *Capt. C.C. Ross
1931 *Capt. J.G. Gillanders	1964 Capt. A.M. LeBel
1932 *Col. G.E. Reid	1965 Lt. Col. W.R. Buchner
1933 *Lt. Col. H.K. Ingram	1966 *Major J.O. Howitt
1934 *Major L.E. Mills	1967 *Major J.W. Nolan
1935 *Lt. Col. D.B. Weldon	1968 Lt. W.E. Bell
1936 *Major D.J.H. Ferguson	1969 *Capt. B.I. Baldwin
1937 *Capt. R.I. Watt	1970 *Major J.B. Stratton
1938 *Capt. C.H. Ivey	1971 Lt. W.J. Robinson
1939-40 *G.F. Kingsmill, Esq.	1972 *W/C G.A. MacDougall
1941 *J.H. Stevens, Esq.	1973 *Capt. W.J. Roadhouse
1942 *Major L.T. Hayman	1974 *Lt. Col. L.S. Lauchland
1943 *Capt. J.I. Carling	1975 *Major K.B. Keefe
1944-45 *Capt. E.H. Shuttleworth	1976 Lieut. D.D.C. McGeachy
1946 *Brig. Gen. R.H. Beattie	1977 Lt. Col. J.P.C. Macpherson
1947 *Capt. G.W. Foote	1978 Major J.P. Cook
1948 *S/L. H.F. Davison	1979 F/O J.N. Given
1949 *Col. G.W. Little	1980 Lt. Col. Jack Harris
1950 *Lt. Col. H.L. Hayman	1981 Major R.S. Macnab
1951 *Lt. J.B. Nash	1982 F/Lt. G.E. Wilson
1952 *S/L J.E. Jennings	1983 Major W.F. Stott
1953 *Major D.J. Urquhart	1984 W/O-I John Stevens
1954 Capt. Joseph Jeffery	1985 *Brig/Gen. A.R. McIntosh
1955 *Lt. G.W.H. Bartram	1986 Surg/Lt W.W. Wilkins
1956 W/C G.M. Burns	1987 S/Ldr T.B. Nelligan
1957 *Lt. Cmdr. F.N.D. Carmichael	1988 William G. Reid, Esq.
1958 *Capt. H.W. Hockin	1989 Lt. Col. S. Lerner
1959 Lt. Col. R.M. Dillon	1990 Lt. Cmdr. W.J. Magee
1960 Lt. Cmdr. W.R. Poole	1991 Brig. Gen. W.P. Doohan
1961 *Lt. Col. G.E. Humphries	1992 Major B.A. Urquhart
1962 Capt. Norman McBeth	1993 P/O B.K. West
*DECEASED	1994 L/Col F.M. Vine
	1995 S/Ldr. I Williams



**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
1996**

FALL REUNION

MOCHA TEMPLE AUDITORIUM

468 Colborne Street • London, Ontario

1800 hours
1930 hours

Reception
Dinner

VIMY BRANCH N° 145, LONDON, ONT.

But for many, the Korean War can never be forgotten.

Eleven Army officers, 298 other ranks and three sailors fell in action. Fifty-nine officers and 1143 other ranks were wounded or injured.

Many South Koreans have since made their homes in Canada, contributing to the professional and social mosaic of their adopted country.

The Korean War, and those involved in it and who suffered because of it, must not be forgotten.

Certificates are presented for continuous membership in the Vimy Branch, Royal Canadian Legion in the year 1996.

G.B. Coulter	J.C. Gardner
A.J. Harris	R.J. Lamon
J.G. Thompson	J.S. Winder
W.W. Wilkins	Sam Lerner

D.D.C. McGeachy D.B. Weldon

D.V. Carroll

T.H. Burdett
W.T. Howell

W.E. Corfield
F.S. Stevens

R.A. Earl	J. Fickling
R.A. Langdale	E.W. Lee
W.J. Magee	G. Marshall
J.H. Sumner	

✱

Parking behind the Temple — off Queens Avenue

1930 hours We Remember
Dinner

Introduction New MembersCPO Jim Driver

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● MY REMEMBERS — November 11th — Vimy will once again honour our fallen, participating in the annual Remembrance Day Parade as a Unit. Details are not available at press time. Marchers will enjoy Chili and Coffee at the Mosque when parade is dismissed.

*The Historic Sites Committee of the
London Public Library Board*

with

The Battle of Vimy Ridge Commemorative Committee

and

Delta London Armouries Hotel

*invite you to a celebration of the
80th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and
the Commemoration of the London Armouries as an
historic London Landmark*

Monday, April 7, 1997

10:45 am

Delta London Armouries Hotel

325 Dundas Street

Luncheon to be served following the presentations

Vimy Ridge remembered in London

In the article, *The 80th anniversary of Vimy Ridge* (April 5), Pat Currie wrote that the Battle of Vimy Ridge "should be buried in the Canadian psyche in the same way Waterloo lurks in the British soul and Gettysburg is part of being American."

Sadly, this is not the case, but a few Londoners deserve full marks for trying to make it so.

For nearly a year, planners prepared a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the battle historians label the event that made Canada a nation. On April 7, in a proclamation noting the bravery and sacrifices of the 100,000 Canadian soldiers who took part, London Mayor Dianne Haskett marked April 7-12 as Vimy Commemoration Week. Coincidentally, a plaque was un-

veiled to mark the historic past of the former Dundas Street armory (now the Delta Armouries Hotel).

This brief but stirring ceremony was followed by lunch and refreshments, courtesy of the hotel. Veterans from Parkwood Hospital, military dignitaries, members of the Vimy Branch, the Royal Canadian Legion, and other guests are appreciative of the efforts of the planning committee, Haskett, the historic sites committee of the London public library and the management and staff of the Delta Armouries Hotel for the contributions they made to the success of the Vimy Ridge commemoration.

M. J. KAY

Lieutenant-colonel, retired
London

LFP - 19 Apr '97

to Brenda Brandt

. 5019

ntario • (519) 679-6111

Proclamation of the
80th Anniversary
of
the Battle of Vimy Ridge

WHEREAS, on Easter Monday, April 9th, 1917 Canadian troops under the command of Lt. General Julian Byng were victorious in the capture of Vimy Ridge. This ridge commanded the plains around Arras and for over two years had resisted both British and French attacks. Soldiers from all provinces and territories participated in the battle with the London area being represented by members of the 1st Hussars Regiment, The Royal Canadian Regiment, and the 135th Middlesex Battalion. On this day, four Canadian divisions acting as the 1st Canadian Corps assaulted and captured this strategic landmark in less than a day. During the course of the battle, 3,500 Canadians were killed and 7,500 wounded.

AND WHEREAS April 9th, 1997 marks the eightieth anniversary of this battle where Canada became a nation.

I, Mayor Dianne Haskett, do hereby proclaim April 6th to 12th, 1997 as Vimy Memorial Week.

Completed in 1905, the
London Armouries
is attributed to
Department of Public Works
architect, T.E. Fuller.
It was the home of the
militia units of the
Royal Canadian Regiment,
the First Hussars,
the Canadian Artillery,
Royal Canadian
Army Service Corps,
the Royal Canadian
Engineers and the Army
Medical Corps.

*** * PROGRAM * ***

Friday, April 4th, 1997

MOCHA TEMPLE AUDITORIUM

468 Colborne Street • London

Parking behind the Temple — off Queens Avenue

1800 hours Reception

1930 hours Dinner

The President Lt. H.K. Wooster
IN COMMAND

2100 hours Afterglow

VIMY ORCHESTRA under the direction of Tom Hedger

*** * ***

Membership dues will be graciously received by
THE PAYMASTER

*** * ***

DINNER TARIFF \$30.00 per person

VIMY

BRANCH NO. 145
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

DUES — Calendar Year 1997 — \$30.00 covers
1. Dominion Command Membership
2. Legion Magazine

The standing of Vimy Legion affairs is judged by our paid-up Membership.
Please note hereon any corrections of Name, Address and Postal Code.

PLEASE REMIT (PAYABLE) TO:
VIMY BRANCH NO. 145, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
P.O. BOX 121, STATION "B", LONDON, ONT. N6A 4V6

pd 08 Nov

Tonight we honor stout-hearted, courageous countrymen, soldiers whose names we never heard, but ones that must remain revered and never forgotten for their part in one of the bravest, certainly the most successful, of the battles of the First World War.

Many of those who survived the onslaught returned and formed Vimy Branch 145, Royal Canadian Legion. We continue to honor them for their valor, and for their traditions of comradeship.

In the winter of 1917 Vimy Ridge had been held by the Germans, since the third month of the war. It enabled them to control the western front.

In attempting to seize the ridge, the French had suffered an appalling loss of 130,000 men. The British had been repelled time after costly time. The Germans had paid a stiff price for their ground. It had to be taken by the Allies, at any cost.

At 5:30 a.m. on Easter Monday morning, April 9, 1917, in driving sleet and snow, the Canadians began their carefully planned advance towards the natural bastion. They moved quickly and steadily. An hour after the attack started, they had overrun the first line of trenches. By mid-afternoon the corps was in complete control of the crest.

Thousands of Canadian soldiers died there that day. Only one of the four who won the Victoria Cross at Vimy survived the war.

One VC winner was Ellis Sifton, in whose honor a plaque has been erected at Tyrconnel, west of St. Thomas. He single-handedly silenced a machine gun post, and allowed his company's advance to continue, before he too, was killed.

The late Captain Ed Shuttleworth, one of Vimy Branch's presidents, and a captain in Sifton's company, presided at the dedication of the plaque in 1961.

Recalling the heroism that cost Sifton his life, Shuttleworth asked:

"How many lives did he save?"

"Who knows?"

"Perhaps hundreds, perhaps thousands, perhaps the honor of Canada at Vimy Ridge."

These are the men whose heroism we honor, whose traditions of comradeship we try to continue.

(Adapted by Ivor Williams from the book Our Bravest and our Best, by Arthur Bishop.)



MORRIS LAMONT / The London Free Press

VIMY RIDGE, 80 YEARS LATER: Jim Driver, vice-president of the Vimy Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, salutes as a bugler plays the Last Post at a ceremony Wednesday marking the 80th anniversary of the First World War battle of Vimy Ridge. See story, Page B5.

10 APR. '97

Proclamation of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge

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the Canadian Artillery,
Royal Canadian
Army Service Corps,
the Royal Canadian
Engineers and the Army
Medical Corps.

FIRST WORLD WAR



Veterans stand at attention during a ceremony on the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge Wednesday at the Cenotaph in Victoria Park.

History of Vimy Ridge brought home to students

A class which studied the battle attended the ceremony.

By Pat Currie
Free Press Reporter

In the chill breath of dying winter and the promise of warmth in a spring sun, Londoners gathered Wednesday at the Cenotaph in Victoria Park to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and honor the almost 15,000 Canadians who were killed or wounded there.

No aged survivors of the First World War braved the chill, but there were many in the small but respectful crowd whose ancestors took part in the sudden storming of the ridge by the Canadian Corps on Easter Monday, 1917.

"Isn't it nice to see all these young people here," said Marilyn Millman, of Grand Bend, nodding at 24 teenagers from Stephanie Gasparotto's Grade 10 class at Catholic Central.

"Both my grandfathers fought in the war and I have cousins in the army now. We came to pay our respects," said Tammy Christ, 16.

Christ and her classmates seemed well aware that many of the soldiers who attacked the ridge 80 years ago were teenagers themselves. They stood quietly for the two minutes silence, listened to the Last Post and piper's lament, and watched wreaths being laid on behalf of Vimy Branch of the

Royal Canadian Legion and the 1st Hussars and Royal Canadian Regiment associations.

"I taught these kids about Vimy Ridge in history class last year," Gasparotto said. "I asked them if they'd attend the Remembrance Day services here last November. Some had never been at such a service before. They were quite moved by it."

Millman also feels close ties to the soldiers of the Great War — she's searching for a publisher for a book she has compiled containing letters written home from the front by her father in 1915-18.

After the short but moving ceremony, Eric Dudley of London pulled a small metal medallion, held in a wooden frame, from his pocket. The medallion shows the memorial on Vimy Ridge to 60,661 Canadians who died in the 1914-18 war.

"My father (George) was at the battle with the 2nd Canadian Pioneer Battalion. He brought this back from the unveiling of the memorial in 1936," Dudley said.

BURIED ALIVE: Major Joe Murray, commanding officer for the 1st Hussars, said his grandfather fought at Vimy with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. "He was buried alive twice in the trenches and gassed before it was all over. My wife's grandfather fought there too, with the Elgin Regiment.

"We took their great-grandsons to the memorial two years ago, and there they saw inscribed the name of a great-



Tammy Christ, 16, was among a group of Grade 10 Catholic Central students who came to honor soldiers who fought at Vimy Ridge.

great uncle who was killed taking the ridge," Murray said.

"My father was in the battle with the Royal Canadian Artillery. This was a very important battle," said Colonel Richard Cowling, of London.

Cowling is a former commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion, PPCLI, which won enduring fame in 1914-18, and of the Canadian Airborne Regiment (1982), some of whose members 10 years later won ignominy in Somalia that destroyed what was otherwise a proud unit with an exemplary record in UN pacification and peacekeeping assignments.