



KEN FAUGHT/TORONTO STAR

SAD MEMORIES: John McIntosh and Florence Tillson of the Oshawa Naval Veterans Club prepare for ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of Battle of the Atlantic.

Service starts ceremonies marking Battle of Atlantic

By Murray James-Bosch
TORONTO STAR

On May 2, Florence Tillson will go to Oshawa harbor to cast a wreath in the water that will flow over her father's grave.

A merchant seaman, James Morton Wright was lost at sea on May 5, 1942 when his ship was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

"I was 8 years old at the time. I remember two men in civilian clothing came to our house and asked to speak to my mother. They brought a minister with them as well and they gave her the news that my father had been lost at sea," the 89-year-old Oshawa resident said.

Starting this Sunday, Tillson and her fellow members at the Oshawa Naval Club will join other veterans' associations across the country in a week-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic — the longest continuous battle of World War II.

Ceremonies will begin at the club on Viola St. with a memorial service and re-dedication of the HMCS Oshawa battle honors and name plate. Throughout the week, an open house will be held to allow the public an opportunity to view a large collection of photographs and other memorabilia.

On May 2, the annual Battle of the Atlantic memorial parade will leave the Jubilee Pavilion parking lot and travel along Simcoe St. S. to Oshawa harbor for a special burial-at-sea commemoration service. There, wreaths will be laid in memory of the naval and merchant seamen and air force personnel who lost their lives in the battle.

In May, 1943, the Allied High Command felt it had reached a turning point in the effort to supply its forces in Europe. The Allied navies had begun to win their battle with the German U-boats, which had wreaked havoc earlier in the war by sinking thousands of merchant and naval ships in the Atlantic.

From 1939 to 1945, the Royal Canadian Navy grew into the world's third largest fleet — from six destroyers and fewer than 2,000 personnel to 471 warships and more than 105,000 men and women in service.

Earl Myers, a member of the

Oshawa Naval Club, signed up for the navy in 1941 as a 17-year-old and served on the HMCS Snowberry, a corvette escort for merchant ships.

"It was an experience you won't ever forget. It was hard-living. After about 10 days at sea, everything went mouldy on you. You would end up after two weeks eating hardtack and jam and drinking tea," he says.

His ship sailed a convoy route that travelled from St. John's, Nfld. to Boston, New York and down to Trinidad and back. Myers, 69, said leaving port at St. John's was a tense time, with German submarines lurking nearby, looking for an easy kill before the ships hit open water.

"I remember that particular area was infested with subs. We would take a convoy of about 25 to 50 ships and every night Jerry would get at least one or two. You had to rely on each other; it was life or death sometimes."

Harold "Hub" Harmar, 78, served on the HMCS Oshawa, manning the depth charges, explosives dropped overboard to sink submarines. The ship took part in the capture of a U-boat near Greenland.

"She was hiding behind an iceberg charging her batteries. One of our aircraft found her and wired us. We simply went over to where the plane was circling and captured her," Harmar said.

Life at sea was more often monotonous than exciting, he said, with the crew sitting around for long periods of time, talking and playing cards to ward off boredom.

"Sometimes, if it got too damn quiet, they would ring the action stations just to get you going."

For some, the most memorable part of the Battle of the Atlantic came when it was over. Whitby resident Ken Jones was 19 years old and on board the Oshawa on VE (Victory in Europe) Day, May 8, 1945.

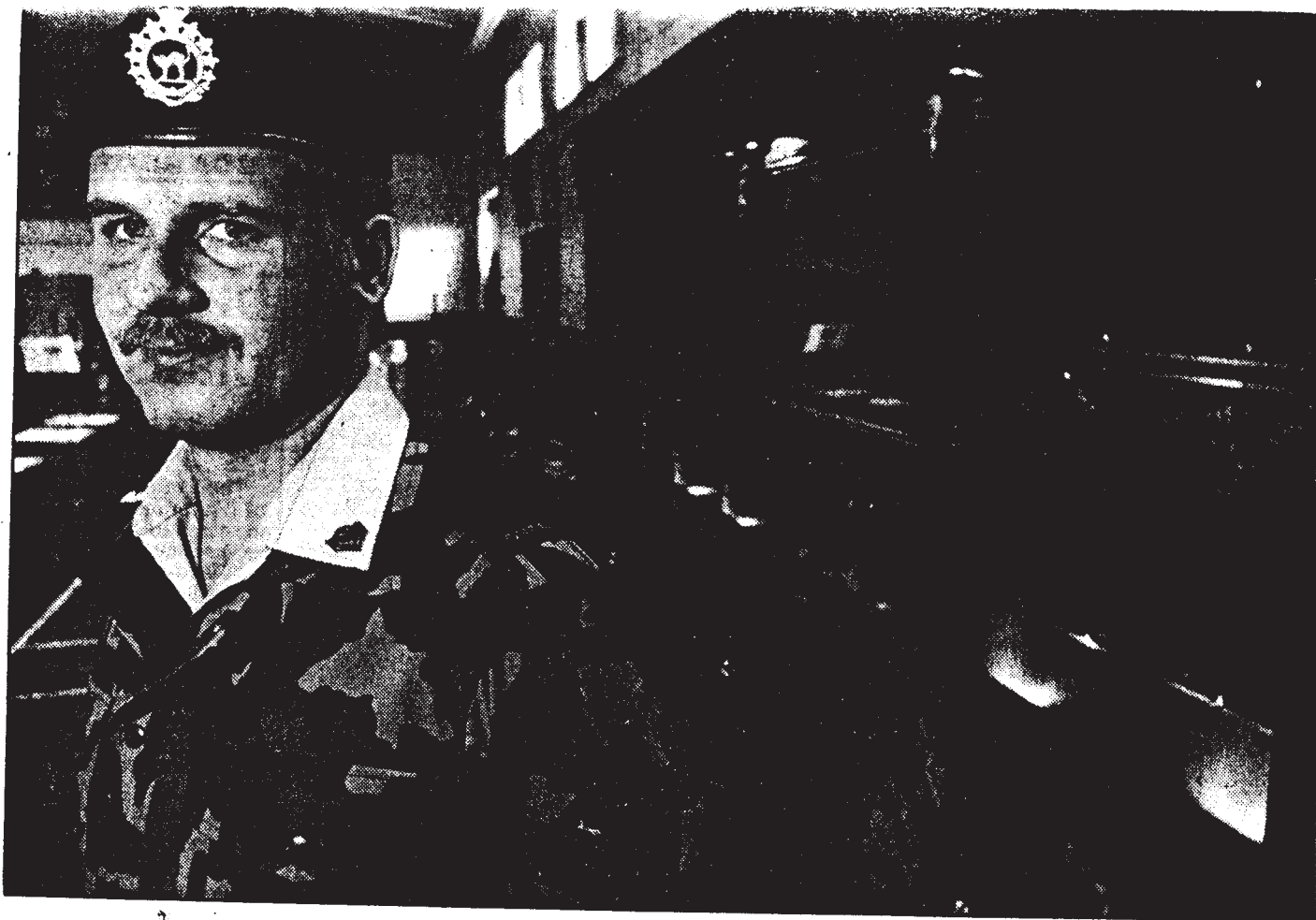
"After blowing the ship's sirens until the engine room complained that the steam pressure in the boilers was way down, we left harbor," he said.

On May 10, southeast of Newfoundland, his convoy was notified of a nearby German submarine flying the black flag of surrender, and was ordered to intercept it.

"I remember being astonished at the apparent youth of the sub's

crew, some of whom seemed to be well-junior to me," he said.

His said his most memorable moment of the war came one night in June on the last return trip to Halifax from New York.



RICHARD LAUTENS/TORONTO STAR

FROM THE HEART: Militia member Rick Spratley, whose hobby is carpentry, volunteered his time and talents to building a replacement for the regimental cenotaph at R. S. McLaughlin Armouries.

Militia member builds cenotaph

By Murray James-Bosch
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

It may not have been the ultimate sacrifice, but veterans in the Ontario Regiment Association will remember Sgt. Rick Spratley's generosity all the same.

The association decided last February to replace the regimental cenotaph at its Oshawa headquarters in the R. S. McLaughlin Armouries on Simcoe St.

Hearing that the veterans were considering tenders for the job, Spratley, a member of the militia regiment, volunteered to build the new monument.

"It was a lot of work and sometimes I cursed and swore, but it was a privilege," says Spratley, 32, a maintenance manager for the Durham Region Housing Authority. Spratley's hobby is carpentry.

"Every one of those guys whose names are on the cenotaph gave their lives so we could have the country we have today. My part was a small sacrifice compared to what those people gave."

Made of wood and glass 2.7-metres tall by 6.4-metres wide (9 by 21 feet), cenotaph

took about 260 hours of work on weekends, Spratley estimates. His work saved the regiment's association about \$2,000.

By the time construction was completed in mid-September, the association had raised \$23,000 from members and fundraising events to pay for the monument.

"Cost is one thing, but, really, it's priceless," says Don Chapman, 73, the association's secretary-treasurer who joined the regiment in 1940 as a gunnery instructor.

The centrepiece of the monument is a banner displaying 20 of the 32 battle honors earned throughout its 126-year history.

Honors for Vimy, Ypres, and Flanders mark distinguished battles during World War I as an infantry regiment. During World War II, it won more honors than any other armored regiment in Canada while fighting in Sicily and northern Europe.

Ed Keetch, Ontario's lightweight boxing champion in 1946, joined the regiment in 1942 and served as an instructor in

hand-to-hand combat.

"It makes me feel very humble . . . their sacrifice was supreme. When I look at those names I get weak in the knees and it brings tears to my eyes to think of all those young men who are gone," he says.

Oshawa-based legions will hold a joint remembrance service at Memorial Park on Simcoe St. S. on next Wednesday at 11 a.m.

The Pickering-based Royal Canadian Legion 606 will hold a service this Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Cenotaph near Valley Farm Rd.

The Ajax-based Royal Canadian Legion 322 also will hold a service Sunday at St. Andrew's Hall on Exeter St.

Members will march from the Hunt St. branch and, depending on the length of the parade, start the service between 1:20 and 1:45 p.m.

The Whitby Royal Canadian Legion branch 112 will march from its Byron St. headquarters at 10.45 a.m. on Wednesday and arrive at the Dundas St. Cenotaph for a ceremony at 11 a.m.

Fitting tribute Friend says goodbye with special flypast

BY MURRAY JAMES-BOSCH
THE NEWS EDITOR

It was a great gesture for a great friend. Oshawa resident, Lloyd Perry, 71, recently died of a heart attack. As an 18-year-old, he had joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) during the Second World War, eventually attaining the rank of pilot officer, wireless airgunner.

Last week, while family and friends gathered for his burial at Groveside Cemetery, at precisely 2:55 p.m., a Harvard MK IV – the exact type of plane Lloyd trained in – swooped down from the sky, zooming over the heads of his loved ones as they stood by his gravesite.

Trailing a plume of smoke, the plane performed a wing flip salute, then circled around to make another pass over the crowd in a fitting farewell tribute.

"It was the nicest thing that could have been done," Joy Perry, Lloyd's wife, told The News.

"He was in the airforce and trained in those types of planes." Joy extends her gratitude to family friend, Ray Lunn, who organized the tribute.

President of Oshawa's Aeronautical, Military and Industrial Museum, Lunn was driving to Lloyd's funeral when he came up with the last-minute idea to honour the friend he'd known for 45 years.

He stopped by Oshawa's municipal airport and asked Hannu Halminen, owner of ROAERO, a company specializing in warbird and barnstorming rides, to fly his Harvard over the cemetery. Selflessly,

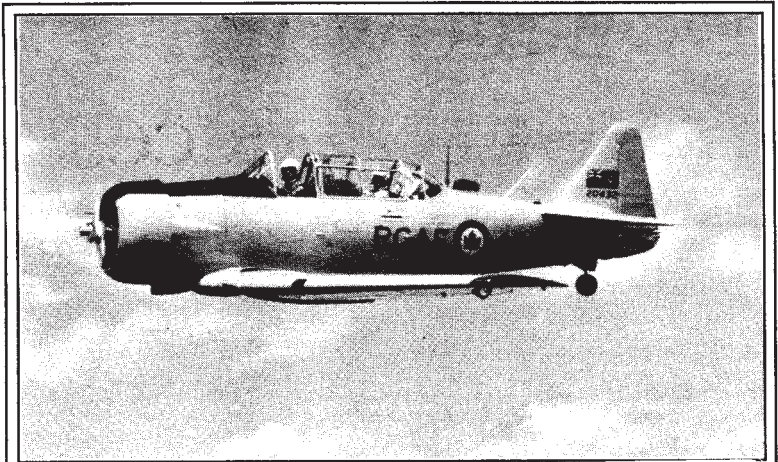
See OSHAWA P3



LLOYD PERRY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1996

The N



HARVARD GRADUATE: this Harvard MK IV, shown above, is a fighter trainer and was used to train Air Force and Navy pilots in WWII. Restored to its original RCAF condition, the plane, owned by ROAERO, is based at Oshawa Airport.

Oshawa resident's love of flying followed him throughout the years

FROM PAGE 1

Halminen, who also owns Halminen Homes in Courtice, readily agreed to do it for free.

"Lloyd just loved those Harvards," Lunn said.

"Everybody was standing there in awe. Did that ever bring tears."

Lloyd, who lived on

Alexandra Street, had been retired from the Oshawa Public Utilities for the past 23 years.

"He was always a great guy for creating things. He had a really active life," said Lunn.

Lloyd never did get to see action overseas, however, his interest in flying followed

him throughout the years.

"He always had a great interest in what was going on out at the airport," Lunn added.

"He was one of the first of many local guys that got their training out there."

After retirement, Lloyd kept himself busy by building homes in Durham and Clarington. He also set up a business, which will carry on, that installs laundry equipment in apartments.

"He loved golfing," said Joy, who added that Lloyd's favourite restaurant was McDonalds.

Lloyd Perry is also survived by two children, Shawn and Joyceln, both of Whitby, and five grandchildren.

Carrier of the Week

The News Carrier of the week receives one free dinner at South China Buffet and a free Banana Split at Dairy Queen.



Resident wants the Ottawa in Oshawa



ANNETTE BUCHKOWSKI/TORONTO STAR

NAVAL GAZING: John Maule, president of the Canadian Naval Historical Society, displays a photo of the HMCS Ottawa, the warship he wants to bring to Oshawa.

By Murray James-Bosch
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

An Oshawa resident is hoping city council will give buoyancy to his scheme to turn a Canadian warship into a local tourist attraction.

John Maule, president of the Canadian Naval Heritage Foundation, has been working for three years to save the destroyer HMCS Ottawa from the scrapyards by bringing it to Oshawa.

He says he has a "semi-commitment" from the Harbour Commission and continues to monitor defence department plans for the ship.

"It would be a boon to the city as a tourist attraction and provide naval cadets with a modern ship for learning and instruction," Maule said in an interview.

He recently brought the idea to council's executive committee and was asked to return in the fall with an update and more information about costs.

The Ottawa, 111 metres (366 feet) long and 12.8 metres (42 feet) wide, was built in Quebec in 1956 and carries more than 200 crew members.

Used primarily in an anti-submarine role, the ship is moored in Halifax and will soon be taken out of service to make way for frigates being built by the federal government.

It would cost about \$1 million to buy the Ottawa and build a permanent mooring site in Oshawa harbor, Maule said.

Councillor Brian Nicholson, a member of the executive committee, said more information is needed

before council will be able to make a decision. "It has some merit and would enhance the harbor but it's also a matter of keeping an eye on the effect on the taxpayer," he said.

There are some 36 sites in the United States where retired warships are on display to teach the public about that country's maritime history and it's time Canadians did the same, Maule said.

"It would be a great way to educate the public. This country doesn't blow its own horn enough," he said.

HMCS Haida, about the same size as the Ottawa, has been moored at Ontario Place since 1971 and drew close to 100,000 visitors last year.

Apart from attracting tourists, the destroyer also provides a valuable service to Royal Canadian Sea Cadets who take part in youth training programs on board, according to retired Cmdr. Robert Willson, captain of the Haida.

Students from Metro and Scarborough boards of education also visit the ship as part of their curriculum and learn about its involvement in the Second World War and the Korean War.

Bringing the Ottawa to Oshawa would provide cadets with a more modern ship on which to train, Willson said. The Haida was taken out of service in 1963.

"Thousands of young men and women have had the chance to spend a night or six weeks on board. It has given them confidence in their abilities and knowledge about Canada's history," he said.

**Remembrance Day Service
Confederation Park
Peterborough, Ontario**





RICHARD LAUTENS/TORONTO STAR

NUMBER ONE: Brian Case's OAC French students at L'Amoreaux Collegiate have some fun showing how proud they are of their teacher for winning a prestigious award for outstanding language teaching.

Teacher honored for speaking in tongues

By Murray James-Bosch
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Brian Case doesn't mind if teenagers speak a whole different language half the time.

After 27 years of teaching, he still believes the more languages students master, the better their over-all grades will be.

"What we're doing is not saying that French is good for them — we're saying that language learning is good for them.

"The more variety they have, probably, the more creative they will be and industry and business are crying for the fact that we aren't producing children that are imaginative and creative," Case says.

A teacher at Scarborough's L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute since it opened in 1973, he was recently awarded the Helen B. St. John award for outstanding modern language classroom teaching in Ontario.

The annual award is handed out by the Ontario Modern Language Teachers Association. Its board of directors selects a winner from nominations submitted by any of its 2,000 members.

"It is a teaching award from teachers. So

it's not a popularity award," Case says.

There will always be students who get good grades easily, he adds, but the challenge is in motivating those who have to work harder.

"Teachers think that, if they get from chapter one to 10, they're fine. We have to focus more on the process because we have such a range of kids in class," he says.

Mechanical teaching of verbs and grammar causes some students to go into a shell.

Instead, Case tries to stimulate discussion (in classes conducted only in the language being learned) by zeroing in on the attitudes and values of his students.

In the late 1970s, he began to study the backgrounds of his students, hoping to get them to talk about things that concerned them outside of school.

But, given the influence of multiculturalism and the emergence of single-parent families, Case adjusted his approach.

"I eventually learned in the early '80s not to ask them about their families," he says.

"Instead of asking about home, I'm now asking about what magazine is the most interesting, which film is the most violent and which sports team is the most popular and I

teach my grammar through what is their world."

Case's reputation is that of a consummate professional, says Heidi Gollert, the association director who nominated him for this year's Helen B. St. John award.

"He's as vital and as energetic as he was in his first year of teaching, if not more so," says the vice-principal of R. H. King Academy in Scarborough.

"He's someone who places the kids above absolutely everything. It's not that he's not a taskmaster or doesn't get a lot out of them, he's just one of those truly rare teachers that we remember in our lives. We've all had one of them and Brian's one of them."

Case says he wants his students to have the confidence to take risks in the world, such as approaching a francophone and starting a conversation.

Increasing a student's self-esteem often boosts their productivity in the classroom.

"The more languages you have, the more good you feel about yourself — that's my theme.



RICHARD LAUTENS/TORONTO STAR

WINNERS: The 13- and 14-year-old members of Uxbridge's J.G. Jazz Band just won a gold medal at a national competition. The band was created by music teacher Jenny Kanis (bottom right) six years ago.

Student jazz band tops in Canada

By Murray James-Bosch
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

They come from a small, rural Durham town, but the J.G. Jazz Band just won honors as one of the best student stage bands in the country.

Band members from Uxbridge's Joseph Gould Public School won a coveted gold medal at last week's annual MusicFest Canada, a week-long national stage band music festival, which took place in Edmonton. The band qualified to go by winning its category in the annual Southern Ontario Stage Band Festival in Oshawa in February.

The icing on their cake was band member and trumpet player Jeff Wilson being named the festival's honor award winner for his musical leadership.

"We're pretty excited," the band's founder, music teacher Jenny Kanis, said in a telephone interview from Edmonton last week. "It's the first band I've had at Gould that's won at both the regionals and nationals. That makes it pretty special."

Every year since its formation six years ago, the band has represented Uxbridge at Music-

Young musicians capture coveted medal in Edmonton

Fest Canada festivals in Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Halifax and Calgary. The band won a gold at the national competition last year as well.

Bands aren't directly in competition with each other in various age categories, but judges award very few gold medals to the 320 or so ensembles who compete each year, Kanis explained.

Each spring, she picks the most talented and enthusiastic Grade 7 and 8 students from her class audition for a chance to perform and compete in local music festivals. Rehearsals begin at the start of the following school year twice a week after school.

"It takes them a full year to get to this level," Kanis said.

When she started, "I knew zero about jazz — I started conducting with a baton. But over the years, through local music festivals, I've managed to pick up a fair bit about it," says Kanis, 32, who has a music degree

from the University of Western Ontario.

Many students in the band have been playing their chosen instrument for only one or two years but must quickly build a repertoire of 12 to 20 tunes such as *In the Mood*, *Don't Cry For Me Argentina*, *Here There and Everywhere* and *California Dreaming*.

This year's 18-piece band (13 girls and 5 boys) features six trumpets, three trombones, five saxophones, drums, bass and two keyboards. Two-hour band rehearsals are held twice a week after school with each member also practising at home.

To teach her students what it's like to be a professional musician, Kanis has each of them, along with their parents, sign a contract saying they will fulfill certain commitments such as showing up for rehearsal.

Each band member must also play a solo in a live performance, she says. This teaches

them self-confidence and boosts their self-esteem.

"They've really done well and, as a municipality, we're very proud of them," Uxbridge Mayor Gerri Lynn O'Connor says. "They're young students and they've only got one way to go and that's up."

To compete nationally, the students and their parents conduct a fund-raising campaign in and around Uxbridge each year to get the \$20,000 to \$25,000 that is needed for airfare, accommodation and entry fees. Auctions, bottle drives, chocolate sales and raffles are held. The band also performs benefit concerts and has even performed in a grocery store to raise public awareness.

The efforts of band members, both past and present, who have risen to the challenges and responsibilities of learning and performing music have been well noted, Kanis says.

"I find that, each year, I expect a little bit more and, each year, the kids come up to my expectations. If you expect them to succeed, they will."