Harley McCurdy in Uniform, COA104 - Circa Early 1940s

Harley McCurdy of East Zorra Township was one of many Oxford County veterans who served during the Second World War. McCurdy enlisted at age nineteen on April 21, 1942. He was transferred to H.M.C.S. Cornwallis in Nova Scotia for training and eventually assigned to the H.M.C.S. Mayflower. He took part in convoy duties in the North Atlantic and along the coast of Great Britain before his involvement in D-Day. McCurdy played a pivotal role in the Normandy Landings in 1944. He was one of the seamen who aided in the towing of merchant ships from Scotland which were sunk to create a breaker wall for American ships. Once the ships were moored they were able to unload. McCurdy and the rest of the crew on board looked on as the large seaborne invasion unfolded.

Oxford County
Growing stronger together

Ed Bennett at Training in England Pre-Dieppe, COA44

Circa 1942

Edwin Bennett was known for his role in commanding three tanks with the 14th Calgary Army Tank Corp in the raid on Dieppe in 1942. He received training in England before the Dieppe raid and a collection of his photographs from the training camp were donated to the Archives. Here he is flashing a "V" for victory. After the failed raid in Dieppe, Ed was wounded and captured as a prisoner of war by the Germans. While wounded he was cared for by Sister Agnes-Marie Valois a nursing sister at the Hotel-Dieu in Rouen. Bennett was temporarily blinded so he never saw the Sister's face, but recognized her voice years later upon meeting again. They remained life-long friends.

SERVING KING AND COUNTRY

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Embro

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Woodstock

WM. DUTTON
Woodstock

SIDNEY DYKES, ELGINS
Woodstock

L. CLARKE EATON, ELGIN
Woodstock

. A. EDWARDS, R.C.A.F.
Curries

L. B. EDWARDS, R.C.O.C.
Woodstock

CARL EKINS, R.C.N.
Woodstock

A. ELLIOTT, R.C.N.
Woodstock

ART ELLIOTT, R.C.A.F
Woodstock

ELLIOTT, 99TH BTY.
Woodstock

FRED EMBURY, R.C.A.S.C.
Ingersoll

BORLEY ENTWISTLE, R.C.N.
Norwich R.R. 1

ALLAN ERLE, R.C.E.
Woodstock

C. FAIRBANKS, ELGINS
Beachville

MAJOR ARTHUR FARMER
Woodstock

TED FARMER, R.C.R.
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HARRY FARRELL, R.C.O.C.
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A page in the Woodstock Sentinel-Review featuring local men serving "king and country."—27 June 1942.