

## A grim view of the past



This Tuesday is Remembrance Day. To many students this means a day off from classes. But in actual fact Remembrance Day is designated as the day that we, as Canadians, remember with respect those men and women who participated in the war. Their sacrifice enabled us to live in a democratic and free country.

In theory this is what Remembrance Day is all about. In reality there is a very small grouping of Canadians who adhere to the thoughts behind this significant occasion. The lack of interest however, is not necessarily a reflection of disin-

terest or disregard towards such a dramatic event but rather it is caused by a move away from the reality of the situation. We represent a generation of children who have grown up enjoying the "fruits" of the war. It is people like our grandparents and the people of their generation who lived through and can still remember the hardships and the pain that surrounded them during the wars. Our parents, as young children may still recollect the depression and resultant strain on family life. For those that fought overseas there are the memories of death, bloodshed, hunger and fear. At home

in Canada their families were forced to cope with the poor economy. Money was almost non-existent; food and other

necessities were rationed and could only be purchased with foodstamps. Although it made

living difficult, there was the added frustration of never knowing what was happening to those

people fighting in the war - whether they be husbands, brothers or just a friend.

The picture presented is grim, and many of you may have heard stories that are similar to those

described above. Sometimes we tend to become impatient with the story tellers' constant narration on the same themes.

But the next time you are in conversation with someone who is sharing their war experiences, watch closely. Their voices and especially their eyes will reflect the cold realities of days we may never have to experience.

If we don't experience the hardships of war, it is these people whom we have to thank. Therefore, the next time we scoff at the notion of Remembrance Day, let's try to understand, rather than try to make excuses for not knowing.

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