



*The Royal Canadian Legion  
Zone F1  
Karaoke Challenge*



*Zone F1 3rd Annual Karaoke Challenge  
Bowmanville Branch 178  
2006 Winner  
Angie Kelly*



*“Congratulations to a great Singer”*

*Angie Kelly proudly displays the winners plaque presented to her  
by Whitby Branch 112 1st Vice President Doug MacLean*

I've said this before, where else in life can you have your moment in the spotlight without proving that you have any discernable talent. What other venue lets you live out your dream of singing Shania Twain, Neil Diamond, George Jones, Alabama or for me the Eagles?

What other form of self-expression not only allows us to act a little silly, but actually encourages it? Well the answer is Karaoke, it is unbelievably popular and most of our members love it?

It was unfortunate, but maybe to no one's surprise that the Ajax branch did not win AGAIN this year, but what the heck, we had some pretty stiff competition. The judges had some very difficult decisions to make and made the right ones. Congratulation to this year's well deserved champion, Angie Kelly a wonderful singer from Branch 178 in Bowmanville.

Once again it was a great day. There were absolutely no losers. The biggest winners were all of the members of the various branches in our Zone who came out to support each other and have a great time. Special thanks go out to everyone involved at the Whitby Branch for being such great hosts, and to all of our great performers. As expected J & J Entertainment did their usual magic in supplying the music keeping the event running smoothly.

It was a flawless day, a fun day, and it once again showed what Comradeship is suppose to be all about.

Bruce Sharpe



## *The Royal Canadian Legion Zone F1 A Famous Canadian War Hero*



### *Tommy Prince*



Tommy Prince was one of Canada's most decorated war heroes, serving in World War II and the Korean War. When I spoke to many members of our branch with regards to writing this article and putting his portrait on the front cover of this edition, most were unaware of whom one of our greatest heroes really was.

Born Thomas George Prince at Petersfield Manitoba Canada on October 25, 1915, he was the son of Henry and Arabella Prince of the Brokenhead Band at Scanterbury, Manitoba. Growing up, Prince became a superb marksman with exceptional tracking skills, learned from countless days spent hunting in the wilderness around his Indian reserve.

At the outbreak of World War II Prince volunteered to fight with the Canadian Army, and served from June 3, 1940 until August 20, 1945. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Engineers, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, and the 1st Special Service Force formed by combining Canadian and American troops to train at Fort Harrison near Helena

Montana forming what became known as the famous "Devil's Brigade."

Tommy, and the other men of this unit were chosen for their rugged outdoor backgrounds, and received the most rigorous training schedule under live fire ever undertaken by an army unit. All members of this elite squad, similar to the American Green Berets starting in the 1960's, were trained to be paratroopers and received intense instruction in stealth tactics, hand-to-hand combat, the use of explosives for demolition, amphibious warfare, rock climbing and mountain fighting, and as ski troops. They have been described as the best small force of fighting men ever assembled. As a member of the Devil's Brigade, Prince was involved in fierce combat duty and numerous dangerous missions in Italy and France.

He was awarded the Military Medal, for his heroics at Anzio Italy, in an event that in 1968 was turned into a Hollywood film titled *The Devil's Brigade*. It was at Anzio that his unit got the name "Devil's Brigade." The diary of a dead German soldier contained a passage that said, "The black devils are all around us every time we come into the line." The soldier was referring to them as "black" because the brigade's soldiers smeared their faces with black boot polish for their covert operations in the dark of the night.

Tommy was decorated again for his valor while fighting in France, and in 1944 was summoned to Buckingham Palace in London England, where King George VI presented him with his Military Medal and on behalf of the American President, the United States Silver Star. In all, Tommy Prince was decorated nine times. The most of any aboriginal soldier in the war. With the end of the fighting, Prince was honorably discharged in June of 1945, and returned to his home in Manitoba where he set up a small, but successful business. He married Verna Sinclair, with whom he would have five children.

In 1946 he was elected chairman of the Manitoba Indian Association. Entrusting his business to friends, Prince devoted a great deal of time working with the government to improve the conditions for Native peoples. Unfortunately, his friends mismanaged his small business and he ultimately lost everything.

In August of 1950, Prince re-enlisted in the Canadian Army to fight with the United Nations troops in the Korean War. Re-instated with his previous rank of Sergeant, Prince was part of the first Canadian regiment to arrive in the war zone. For conduct during one of the toughest actions of the war, he was one of the ones awarded the United States' Presidential Unit Citation for distinguished service. Wounded in action, he received the Korea Medal and the United Nations Service Medal. Following the Korean truce, he remained in the army, working as an instructor of new recruits in Winnipeg until his discharge in 1954.

Adjusting to civil life had not been easy for him after WW II. With painfully arthritic knees as a result of the long, harsh conditions during his military service, his capabilities were limited. Add to that the discrimination against the Native people. His life became increasingly difficult, ultimately ending in his estrangement from his family.

In June of 1955, Tommy Price made the news for his heroism in saving a man from drowning at the Alexander Docks in Winnipeg. But his personal life kept deteriorating. Alcoholism overtook him, resulting in his final years being spent virtually alone, living in a Salvation Army hostel. Regrettably he passed away on November 25, 1977 at the Deer Lodge Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He was interred in the Brookside Cemetery.

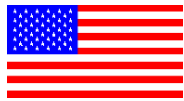
It certainly is a shame that little is known of this great Canadian. He spent almost his entire life fighting for our country, and the issues he believed in. Hopefully someday, as luck may have it, he will get all of the recognition he deserves.



## *The Royal Canadian Legion* *Zone F1* *The Movie*



### *Saving Private Ryan* *The True Story*



On July 26, 1998 Steven Spielberg's World War Two epic film 'Saving Private Ryan' opened in the movie theaters. The film as we know opens with the title "Based on a true story."

The story takes place during the invasion of Normandy in World War Two. It is about the invasion of Europe in June of 1944. The invasion and the war really did happen. The film's story is that Private Ryan, a paratrooper, has been accidentally dropped behind German lines.

Unfortunately, his three brothers have already been killed. Two during the D-Day invasion, and the third in the Pacific. In order to prevent Ryan's mother having all her sons killed in the war, he is ordered from combat. The problem is he is behind the German lines. So how do they get him out?

The true story according to my research is that the Ryan character is based on an American named Fritz Niland. He lost two brothers in Normandy and a third brother, who was missing in action in Burma and presumed dead. The third brother was later found alive. Niland, (the real soldier) was dropped behind German lines as were many other paratroopers or dropped in wrong locations all over Normandy.

In the film a below strength squad of Rangers, led by a Ranger Captain (Tom Hanks) is sent behind German lines to find and rescue private Ryan. They travel through German held territory, risking life and limb. They find Ryan and a small group of Paratrooper's trying to hold onto a key bridge. But there's more! The bridge is about to be attacked by a German Panzer Group whose mission is to destroy it.

The true story is that the missing trooper Niland, spent 18 days behind German lines evading enemy patrols helped by local French civilians. He finally walked into US controlled territory on his own. When he reported as the story goes he was told, "oh, we've been looking for you." A Chaplain drove Niland down to the beach in a jeep so he could be evacuated. There was no rescue, no risking a group of men to save one, no bridge, and no Tiger tank! The German Tigers were attacking further west in the British sector.

The main part of the film's story is the rescue attempt by Tom Hanks and his fellow soldiers. Hanks is the star of the film, and this action is the main story of the film. In reality there was no rescue attempt to save Niland, because they had no way of knowing where he was. The main story of the film is about Tom Hanks and his band of brothers finding and saving Private Ryan and fighting a crucial battle in Normandy is pure fiction. The film's basis for claiming it is based on a true story are the facts, there was a missing 506th paratrooper, (Niland), and the Americans, British and Canadians did invade Normandy in June 1944.

The problem with films like this is that very quickly they are accepted as the version of what really happened in history. In future years, teachers will possibly use this film in schools to 'teach' World War Two. Too many people will accept that the entire story is true. For the vast majority of the population, this film will be the invasion of Normandy. This film is a fictional story, placed in what seems like "real history." Does it matter? Only if you think people should know the truth about our history.

By all means see the film, if you haven't all ready. After five years, the critics are still raving about it. But remember, it is not reality even though the first twenty minutes of the film is probably the best depiction of combat ever brought to the screen. The film conveys the terror, the horror, and the brutality of combat extremely well. The reality I'm sure was far worse. In the real battle for Normandy there were 237,966 Allied, and 200,000 German casualties. Saving private Ryan is a movie, not a documentary.

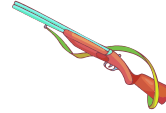
The military rule about sole surviving son's being allowed out of combat is true. It was enacted after the five American Sullivan brothers were killed in 1942 when the U.S.S. Juneau was sunk in the Pacific. The rule of the surviving son is common to many armies, the American, the Canadian, the British and the Israeli.

My reason for submitting this article is to pay tribute to the many Canadian families like my own that can relate to the movie. Like so many others with multiple losses during times of war, I also had three uncles that were with the Royal Regiment of Canada that landed in Dieppe on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1942. My uncle Claude and my uncle Roland were killed. My uncle George the youngest brother survived. He was ordered from combat and sent home.

Bruce Sharpe



*The Royal Canadian Legion  
Zone F1  
Food For Thought*



The Protest

A protest raged on a courthouse lawn,  
around a makeshift stage that they charged on.  
Fifteen hundred or more they say,  
had come to burn the Flag that day.

A boy held up the folded Flag,  
cursed it and called it a dirty rag.  
A man pushed through the angry crowd,  
with an old gun he shouldered proud.  
His uniform jacket was old and tight,  
he had polished each button, shiny and bright.  
He crossed the stage with military grace,  
until he and the boy stood face to face.

Then the old man broke the silence.  
"Freedom of speech, is worth dying for,  
Good men are gone, they live no more.  
All so you can stand on this courthouse lawn,  
and ramble on from dusk to dawn.

But before the Flag gets burned today,  
this old veteran is going to have his say.

My father died on a foreign shore,  
in a war they said would end all wars.  
Tommy and I weren't even full grown,  
before we fought in a war of our own.

Tommy died on Juno beach,  
in the shadow of a hill he couldn't reach.  
Where five good men raised this Flag so high,  
that the whole world could see it fly.

I got this bum leg that I still drag,  
fighting for this same old Flag.

There's but one shot in this old gun,  
so now it's time to decide which one.  
Which one of you will follow our lead,  
to stand and die for what YOU believe?"

The boy who had called it a dirty rag,  
handed the veteran the folded Flag.  
The crowd got quiet as they walked away,  
to talk about what they heard that day.  
So the battle for the Flag this day was won,  
by a loyal veteran with a single gun.  
Who for one last time, had to show to some,  
That these colors will never, never run.