

Press Release

Marymount Academy  
November 6, 2013  
For Immediate Release

Marymount Students Meet a Hero - Mr. Canavan

Remembrance Day is not just one day or one minute at Marymount Academy.

On November 6, the students at Marymount joined together in assembly and heard first hand what it was like to be sent away from home, from your family, from everything you knew, straight into the ravages of war.

“...happened to be smoking a cigarette at the time. And we hopped out, got into this slit trench and a bomb went off so close that I couldn't see daylight. It blew the cigarette right out of my mouth. And I thought, good heavens, this is the end of the war.”

Mr. Alan Canavan is a World War Two veteran who enlisted in the summer of 1941. He served overseas during the Normandy and the Northwest Europe campaign with the intelligence section of the 7th Reconnaissance Regiment (17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars), the reconnaissance unit of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division.



Now, at the age of 92, Canavan faced the assembly of students and told them of the horrors of being in a foreign country with bombs falling around you, eating rationed food - a small pat of margarine straight into the mouth because he had nothing to spread it on - watching his friends fall beside him, but having to move on. In one case, he was

severely reprimanded for using his own bandage to bind the wound of another soldier - "I did what I felt I had to do".

The room was so quiet, you could hear a pin drop. Canavan brought the realities of war to the students, dispelling any thought of grandeur and heroism. When he came home to Canada, unlike in the US, there was no special welcome, no parades, he went right back to work.



The lessons learned by the students from Canavan's talk are invaluable. They bear repeating, and should not not be forgotten, for the students are the future.

Remembering our Veterans continues with official ceremonies on November 11, 2013, in the school and with some students attending Remembrance Day in Ottawa.

Marymount Academy - A World of Possibilities.

For more information:

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