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June 25 1987

Hastings County Historical Society
P O Box 1418
Belleville, Ont.
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Dear Sirs I enclose the report of the history of Madoc Model School and Madoc Public School. It is written entirely from memory, my brother and sisters and my first children all received their early education at Madoc School.

Would you add in the paragraph on the history of Mr Colin Kufca. I did not have the information at the time of writing the history. It is possible there were more persons who were very successful during their life.

I hope this report will receive your approval.

Yours truly
Wilfrid A Forestell

July 15/87

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P.O. Box 1418
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spelling corrections

This report is written by Wilfr[↓]ed A. Forest[↓]ell of Madoc.

He was on Madoc Board of Education and was Chairman of the building committee when the new school was built and also when the addition was built.

He was a member of the committee who collected the money for the bell tower and had the honour of ringing the bell in the new tower for the first time.

One of the historic buildings in Madoc was the Madoc Model School opened in 1882. It was a training school for teachers and operated to 1924.

The building was also Madoc Public School, which was demolished, and a new school built in 1957. Later, an addition was built, and when area boards were established, another addition was built.

The teachers in training from 1882 to 1924 taught practice lessons to the pupils of Madoc School.

Then in 1882 when the Model School was opened the minister of Education, a Mr. Crooks, was coming for the grand opening. The train broke down a couple of miles south of Moira Lake. He finally arrived at Madoc School by horse and buggy. When he asked, what the little hamlet where the train broke down was called, he was told it had no name. He said, "Name it after me", and the place was named Crookston.

The writer started to school in 1911, and late that fall there was a Federal Election. The Liberal Government under Sir Wilfred Laurier had brought in a proposed Free Trade Agreement, with the United States, for a trial period of ten years.

The conservatives under Sir Robert Borden was opposed to the bill and their slogan was, "NO TRUCK AND TRADE WITH THE YANKEES." Borden won, no free trade was carried out.

Elections in those days were more of interest to the common people than they are now. Possibly it was the staff of the school who got the pupils interested and an election was held in the school with a candidate for each party. Hot debates and discussions were held and in the election in the school, the bill was defeated.

Now seventy six years after, free trade is being discussed, again and it is the conservative party who are advocating free trade. Conditions today are very much different than they were then.

In the late fall of 1916 a fire broke out in one of the heat ducts heading to the upper floor. There was excellent fire drills in those days and the pupils were all out in 2 minutes after the alarm was made.

The Madoc Fire Brigade was hampered by lack of man power and poor equipment. The older boys formed a bucket brigade and carried water from Milligan's well. A grade eight boy took charge of fighting the fire and group directions, and by the time the Madoc Fire brigade got operating the fire was out.

The girls in the senior grades threw the pupils coats, caps and rubbers out of the window and it resulted in a mad scramble to sort out whose coats and caps were in the pile of clothes.

A new Public School was built in 1957. When the old school was demolished, the plaque on the bell tower and the bell were saved and put in storage till January 1983. The municipal board of Ontario ruled if the bell tower was built on the new school, it had to be paid for by donations, no tax payers money could be used.

An organization was formed of people, pupils and many who were interested and went to work to collect money for the bell tower. We were told it would take about ten thousand dollars to complete the project.

December 1983 saw the completion of the tower and the bell from the Model School installed. The date on the bell is 1878.

A grand bell ringing ceremony was planned for the first day of school, January 2, 1984, to start Ontario Bicentennial year.

A program was planned and a bell ringing ceremony was held at the request of Board Chairman, Tom Burnside, I was the first to ring the bell.

A lunch was served after the program and a celebration cake, made in the form of the old Model School was cut and served to the large crowd who came for the special occasion. That day the cost of the tower was all paid for.

The bell is dedicated to Peace in the World and every school day the bell is rung to remind the people the need to offer a prayer that peace will prevail and a third world war would be averted.

Second thoughts that would be of interest

- noted people who received their early education at Madoc School is Allan Roy Dafoe, Doctor who attended the birth of the Dion Quintuplets near North Bay about fifty years ago.
- Honorable John Foot. The hero of Diepe winner of the Victoria Cross.
- *Dr.* McIntosh, Principal of Queens University many years ago.
- Arthur Phelps, In the early days of Television was Chairman of a program on C.K.W.S. in Kingston.
- Albert Tucher and Walter Rupert were men of distinction in the United States but I do not know the positions they held.

Dr. Colin Dafoe, see items and letters,

- Mrs. G. J. Fleury of Belleville, mother of Rev. G. J. Fleury of Madoc was a student in the Model School in the 1920's and later came back as a staff teacher in the Public School. She passed away in early April 1987 at the age of 94.

- In the early 1920's a new state prison was built in St. Louis Missouri. It was supposed to be escape proof. Some of the worst inmates from other prisons were brought to this prison to be sure of keeping them under control. There was a rumor and it was believed by many to be true that a man whose parents lived in Madoc, got his early education in Madoc School and was the first person to escape from this prison and he was later picked up by our town policeman.

Madoc doctor helped Tito's men in Yugoslavia's resistance fight

Toronto Star
Saturday June 20 1980

By Ron Lowman

IN the bottomless treasure chest of World War II stories that gleam through the patina of the years, an occasional diamond glitters. This particular gem is about a Canadian.

Dr. Colin Dafoe from Madoc, Ont., a major in Britain's Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), parachuted from a DC-3 Dakota aircraft into the mountains of Yugoslavia in May 1944 and marched, fought alongside and operated on wounded partisans of Marshal Tito's Communist bands. His mission was code-named Toffee.

The partisans called him "Sir Major Dafoe," and affectionately, "Tata" (Father, or Daddy). His hospital wards and operating theatres in the forests and mountains were often made out of wood and parachute silk, and no sooner had he and his staff settled in than enemy forces approached and the order would come, "Pokret!" (get going — fast!).

Unexpected attack

Tito's guerrillas hit when the enemy least expected them and withdrew when attacked. When Germans, Chetniks (Gen. Draja Mihailovich's royalist forces), or Ustashi (German allies) bore down on them, the partisans struck camp in minutes and marched all night if necessary, with a rearguard covering the column. Often Dafoe was in the middle of an operation when the dreaded "Pokret!" was heard.

Although not a Communist himself, Dafoe's six bloody, bullet-strewn months with the guerrillas echo the exploits of another Canadian doctor, Norman Bethune.

Communist Bethune, whose name is revered to this day in China, soldiered with the partisans in Spain's Civil War and with Mao Tse-tung's Eighth Route Army on the famous Long March. He died after contracting

The Parachute Ward: A Canadian Surgeon's Adventures in Wartime Yugoslavia

by Brian Jeffrey Street
Lester & Orpen Dennys, 320 pages, \$24.95

blood poisoning during a battle-field operation on Nov. 12, 1939.

Dafoe, a relative of Dr. Allan Roy Dafoe, who delivered the Dionne quintuplets in May 1934, died a mysterious death long after his war against the Germans was finished.

Holidaying with his wife, Charlotte, also a doctor, he vanished July 29, 1969, in Waterton Lakes National Park, near the British Columbia-Alberta-U.S. border. The Mounties searched for him and, on the U.S. side of the border, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted their own investigation.

When a former Special Operations Executive (SOE) agent from World War II vanishes under mysterious circumstances, all sorts of alarm bells ring. After all, the Yugoslavs were charging that Dafoe had been murdered by gunmen of their wartime enemies, either the Chetniks, or the Ustashi.

It was not until 1972 that his skull, positively identified by dental records, was found in the Rockies, just north of the U.S. border. Cause of death? Impossible to determine.

Exquisitely detailed

Author Brian Jeffrey Street has done an excellent job of weaving a story from Dafoe's own "exquisitely detailed" journals, which he wrote in the summer of 1945, soon after his return from Yugoslavia. Interlaced with these are interviews in Yugoslavia, where he is remembered with great affection.

Gen. Kosta Nadj, who commanded the partisan units to which Dafoe was attached, said:



Bloody months: For six bloody months, Dr. Colin Dafoe of Madoc, Ont., above, treated wounded resistance fighters in WW II Yugoslavia. Author Jeffrey Street, left, wove together Dafoe's diaries and interviews in Yugoslavia.

Victory and the Order of Merit. Such high honors, the book says, are rarely bestowed on foreigners.

The British were not very helpful about a man who was, although a Canadian, one of their own officers. Author Street says a number of official documents about Dafoe's mission and his wartime service were unavailable because of the Official Secrets Act "or were unaccountably missing."

Drew blank

And efforts to trace the identities and whereabouts of other agents who served with him in Yugoslavia drew a blank. Someone, Street suspects, went through Dafoe's official life with a broom and swept up after him.

The book is a welcome addition to the library of Canadian exploits in World War II.

□ Ron Lowman covers the military beat for The Star.