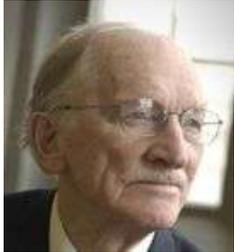




In Memoriam

HOFFMAN, Douglas Weir (Doug/Hoffy) (1920 - 2013) Age: 93

UNT D STAR (OAC) 1942



HOFFMAN, Douglas Weir February 16, 1920 - June 26, 2013 In his 94th year at the Elliott Community in Guelph, Ontario. Thank you to the staff of the Elliott for their sensitive care during his years of residency there. Born in Toronto, the eldest son of the late Cora (Kerr) and Russell Hoffman. Papa Doug is survived by his wife Frances Ann (Noxon), his children Susan Kemp (Crispin), James and Michael (Linda Clay); grandchildren John, Jenny and Iain and several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his daughter Barbara and his brother Donald. A veteran of World War II, Douglas

was a teacher and much enjoyed his tenure as a professor at the Universities of Guelph and Waterloo. Known by many for his work in soil survey and rural planning, he was also active as an executive member in a number of clubs and community organizations. Cremation has already taken place. Should you wish, the family would suggest a donation to the Alzheimer Society of Canada or to the Elliott Community. Friends are invited to share their favorite stories and memories of Doug at:

www.gilbertmacintyreandson.co

Doug Hoffman was distinct in many ways, not the least of which was his being in the very first UNT D Intake in the Fall of 1942. That was the experimental group formed at STAR, of 8 OAC Guelph students, all seniors, 7 of whom were already experienced COTC Cadets, Doug being one of those. Their success guaranteed that the green light was given to the formal beginning of the UNT D program the following year. 25 years and 8,000 Cadets later, the Program ended with another "accidental" intake of 8 Cadets, again mostly from STAR.

He held a BSA and MSA from Guelph and a PhD from UWaterloo in 1973. He was a Professor and Director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, where he also served briefly as Acting Dean. He was a well published expert in rural planning, soils mapping and land evaluation.

He entered Active Service in the RCNVR during or after his first stint of UNT D Summer Training in 1943. His Wartime story appeared in a UGuelph Alumni Newsletter in 2008 and also appears on p38 of the 2013 version of UNTiDy Tales. We don't know if his Fairmile service was on the Lower Deck or whether he held a Temp. Commission. The text of the story appears below;

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A sailor's story

Doug Hoffman arrived at the Ontario Agricultural College in 1939, a city kid attracted by rural life and an inexpensive education.

"I chose OAC for a number of reasons," says Hoffman. "One was the fact that it was very inexpensive. For \$22 a month, we would get three meals a day, a room of our own and all of our classes. We also had someone who washed our sheets and pillowcases once a week. They drew the line at underwear." He came to OAC at a time when Canadians were still feeling the effects of the Depression, but it was the Second World War that had the bigger impact on his OAC career. His enrolment coincided almost to the day with Hitler's invasion of Poland Sept. 1, 1939.

By Sept. 10, Canada was at war, and OAC president George Christie tried to convince his new students that the best way they could serve their country was by staying at school. Still, he encouraged them to join the war effort in conjunction with their studies as a precursor to active duty at graduation.

"The most important thing in the day was classes, then we would follow up with COTC (Canadian Officers' Training Corps) or football practice," recalls Hoffman. "If football was scheduled first, you still

had to do the COTC. We were required to go fairly often, five days a week for two hours. We would always go away for two weeks of camp in summer, usually in London. I can remember the last time I went to London, we ended up having tear gas sprayed all over the place so we'd become accustomed to it. It was harsh training."

Slated to graduate in 1943, Hoffman didn't cross the stage at War Memorial Hall until 1946 because his war service interrupted his studies. He joined the University Naval Training Detachment established in 1942 by Prof. A.W. "Jack" Baker.

"We went down to Hamilton to train for one day to find out if we were officer material, and all of us were successful," says Hoffman. "So we trained at the boathouse where Gordon meets the Speed River. We had no boats, but we would train there."

After a series of training stops, he would eventually serve on Fairmiles, one of the smallest warships used by the Royal Canadian Navy. It had a wooden hull of 34 metres.

"We sailed the Labrador coast, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Rumour had it there was a German radar relay station on the coast of Labrador. We never found it."

WAC
December 29, 2017