

## Elmer George Peters (1920-2003)

Elmer was born on 18 August 1920 and raised in the Mennon district of north-central Saskatchewan. He attended Embury School, a one-room rural school where he completed nine grades of his early education, and then continued to work on the farm with his father until World War II began. On 9 October 1941, he joined the Saskatoon Light Infantry, later transferring to the First Special Service Force, an elite attack force using paratrooper tactics. In 1943, Elmer was sent to the Aleutian Islands and then to Italy where he participated in establishing the Anzio beachhead. On 20 February 1944 he was wounded, then repatriated and hospitalized. The following October he was discharged from the army and provided with an extensive rehabilitation program. On 9 November 1945 Elmer married Ruby Aikins in Regina, and on 3 May 1946 Elmer accepted an appointment as a technician at the then Dominion Entomological Laboratory, in Saskatoon. There he worked in programs investigating the many aspects of the biology and control of grasshoppers in Western Canada. As well, he was responsible for annual surveys of the abundance of grasshopper adult and egg populations, analysis of the data, and preparation of outbreak forecast maps. The high quality of Elmer's work played a major part in much needed forecast accuracy, and in developing improved measures for protecting crops from grasshopper damage. Elmer retired from the work force on 29 December 1975.



Elmer was a Charter Member of the Saskatoon Nutana Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, and was an active participant in many Legion activities. He was an avid outdoorsman, was great on fishing, and he and Ruby, with daughter Joyce and son Casey, enjoyed many camping expeditions. Curling was another of Elmer's favourite recreations. Following his retirement, Elmer and Ruby frequently went south to warmer climes during part of the winter but always returned to Saskatoon. In later years disabling illness made many activities increasingly difficult for Elmer, and he died in Saskatoon on 28 January 2003.

— Bob Burnage, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan