

# THE/LE BULLETIN



## Message from the President

By Stuart Beaton, President OMMC

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who participated in our annual conference and course held in London this past May, and especially Georgiana for coordinating the local scene, David for guidance, and Richard for shepherding our very precarious finances at the time. At one point in early 2013 we did not know whether we would be able to actually hold our conference, but by much hard work and perseverance, we were able to hold quite a successful one.

We now have a full board of directors and I would like to welcome Rory and Leon aboard to fill out our managing group. We are still not out of the woods with regards to our charity registration, but all the necessary paper work has been done thanks to David and Richard, and the year end for 2012 has nearly been resolved.

Have a enjoyable summer with your family and loved ones.

Stuart Beaton

This is the fourth and final installment of Karen Storwick's search for the truth behind a dinner of a Christmas dinner in the Second World War. It picks up at the tail end of her trip to Italy and her return to Canada.

## The Mystery of the Christmas Dinner Photo Revealed

By Karen Storwick, Director of Communications, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

The local library is housed in the old convent that the Canadians used as a First Aid Post. I found a local publication with the Christmas dinner photo. The caption reads, "Pranzo di Natale nei pressi della chiesa di S. Maria di Constantinopoli". The translation: "Christmas Dinner close to the church of S. Maria di Constantinopoli. Good evidence but I still needed more concrete proof versus local legend.

On returning to Canada, I tried in vain for the next several months to find an Italian translator to help me call overseas to talk with the old Abbot of the church. I also enlisted the help of a fellow historian in Ortona to search the Municipal archives for photos and original architectural plans for the church to see if I could find proof that the old Medieval wall in the photo actually surrounded the Oratory. All to no avail.

Then, by chance, while editing the English subtitles of the film, "Ortona, Bloody Christmas", a remarkable image flashed across the screen. The film was an Italian documentary and there was footage of the Christmas dinner which I had never seen in any Canadian production. Stored in the Italian archives, it was filmed by a French Canadian Army Newsreel camera team. I obtained an unedited copy of the footage, and watched with great delight as I realized this was the definitive proof.



Rare and only known photo of the Seaforth's inside the church at the time of the dinner.

The footage begins with Canadian troops singing Christmas carols in the Oratory, in front of the medieval wall and surrounded by foliage. The cameraman pans to the cook preparing the meal in the kitchen. Soldiers line up inside the church for soup. Others walk outside to grab their two bottles of beer. The Seaforths are caught on camera inside the church, seated at long rows of tables set with china and tablecloths. Outside in the Oratory, men from a variety of units, including Seaforths, are seated at tables set up in a large square. They look up, wave and smile at the camera. The camera finally pans to a cheerful looking soldier bringing his plate through an arched doorway and stepping back inside the church.

Ernie Bagstad, who was in Dog Company, remembers being ushered over to a place setting at the inside right table before they closed the square with another table structure. He remembers eating out of his mess tin. You can find him in the top inside right corner reaching for the tin.

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I was told by fellow historian, Ken MacLeod, that Seaforth Acting Company Seargent Major Jock Gibson, also Dog Company, had always claimed that he looked up during dinner and someone took a photo. You can see Jock at the top left corner of the table.

William Challen, a Seaforth private who enlisted in the army in Windsor, Ontario also attended the Christmas dinner in Ortona. Family members have identified him in the lower inside corner of the photograph. William was killed in action while the unit was on patrol north of Ortona on 27 January 1944.

The riddle now solved, Ernie's memories have been substantiated may he rest in peace. Some of the Seaforths from Dog Company apparently didn't make it inside the Church for dinner that day and were ushered outside to the Oratory to enjoy their meal. It is worth noting that the Seaforths inside the church were unaware of a dinner being served simultaneously, outside the church. Conversely, the men eating outside seemed equally unaware of dinner being served inside. There was enough distance between the two settings that any one soldier would have had to make a significant effort to wander over to the other dinner. So focused were they on their brief retreat from war raging around them, they had little time to stop and take note of their surroundings. What wasn't lost on any of them was the poignancy of that moment of true Christmas spirit in the midst of one of the most vicious battles of the Second World War.



The famous Christmas dinner photograph.

## Request for Information/Research - WWI Nursing Sisters

From Sheila Yeomans, [s.yeomans@telus.net](mailto:s.yeomans@telus.net)

"My project with Dr. Lorne Hammond of the Royal BC Museum is centered around nursing sisters and WW1. The Museum has been given two WW 1 nursing sisters uniforms from Royal Jubilee and St. Joseph's Hospitals. Both are located in Victoria.

I am to research the two women plus contextualize the times in which the women worked. What happened after the war? Did most women return to nursing, get married, etc. Were women shell-shocked and was there a place for female vets?"

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Sheila at the e-mail above.



## Lieutenant Colonel Tom P. Gilday, DSO, MID, ED

By Terry Whitty, Executive Director, Army Cadet League of Canada

Lieutenant Colonel Tom Pope Gilday joined the Canadian Grenadier guards in 1932. His father and uncle had been in the Guards in the first World War. A great skier and swimmer, he soon found himself seconded to the First Special Service Force the famous "Devil's Brigade". His real part was played in the 1968 movie by Cliff Robertson. His time in the FSSF is featured in "Testaments of Honour" by Blake Heathcote. He passed away quietly in Toronto in 2001 at 91 years.

Use the QR code to learn more about LCol Gilday.



Le lieutenant-colonel Tom Pope Gilday a rejoint le Canadian Grenadier Guards en 1932. Son père et son oncle avait été dans le regiment dans la première guerre mondiale. Un grand skieur et nageur, il se retrouva bientôt détaché auprès du "First Special Service Force" la célèbre «Devil's Brigade». Sa partie réelle a été joué dans the 1968 film par Cliff Robertson. Son temps de la FSSF est en vedette dans «Testaments of Honour» par Blake Heathcote. Il est décédé tranquillement à Toronto en 2001, à 91 ans.

Utiliser le code QR pour apprendre plus d'information de Lcol Gilday.



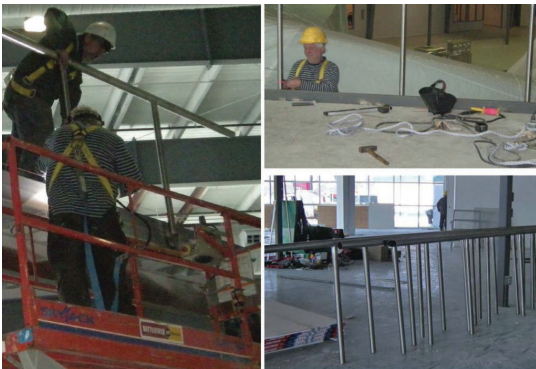
## A New Look for the National Air Force Museum of Canada

Barb Neri, Public Relations NAFMC

When the wooden wall that was to separate the construction zone from the operational museum went up in early December, both staff and volunteers of the National Air Force Museum of Canada collectively held their breath in anticipation of what was to come. Facing several months of renovations that necessitated the closing of the 60,000 sq ft Main Expansion Area, including the Museum cornerstone exhibit Halifax NA337, personnel were understandably concerned of the potential impact on visitor attendance and donations. When you're only a mere six months from realizing the final completion of a 10 year project, excitement reigns!



The "Wooden Wall", behind which the magic happened.



Arguably one of the largest and most exciting projects completed during this time was the finishing of the mezzanine area. The mezzanine level had previously been inaccessible and was not in use. With the area now ready for visitors, the NAFMC can now utilize the additional 15,000 sq ft of display and exhibit space.

Other projects accomplished during the renovations included: three new enhanced offices, a new education room, a new coatroom for visitor use; new drop ceilings in key areas; an extensive new sound and PA system; two new washrooms; water fountains; revamped snack bar and kitchen prep areas; entry vestibules for both the airpark and main doorways; and soon (we hope) a working elevator to the mezzanine.



Top: Building the mezzanine.

Bottom: New conference and education room.

The six months of construction passed far too slowly or quickly, depending on who you talk to, but when the wall was removed on May 10, 2013 everyone agreed that those 26 weeks were well spent. The finished project is stunning!

As magnificent as the renovations and construction turned out, there are still many more months of work ahead for the NAFMC staff. Slowly exhibits and displays will be moved from the current gallery to allotted spaces in the Expansion Area. New displays, like a two storey Great Escape diorama, new exhibits and new aircraft need to find their places in the Hall. Curator Kevin Windsor has a plan, but it will take time and effort to implement it. He is however very optimistic of the final outcome. "We want people to be knocking at the door at 10 a.m., stay for lunch...and then be crying at 5:00 p.m. that they don't want to leave." said Windsor. "We want the Museum to be a full day experience – a destination."

And it will be. Just watch and see!

## Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry – 100th Anniversary

Karen Storwick, Director of Communications  
PPCLI Museum and Archives



Central to Canada's national identity has been its distinguished record of military service in two World Wars, Korea, Peacekeeping, and Peace Support Operations around the world and most recently in Afghanistan. The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) is one of the most storied regiments in the Canadian Forces. The Patricias have participated in every major Canadian conflict since the Regiment's founding in the First World War (1914-1918). Attracting patriotic volunteers from across the land, the PPCLI is a truly national regiment in structure and character. The Regiment's reputation of 'First in the Field' was established from its early actions in the First World War.

This reputation has remained true through every operation since. The Patricias have the distinction of being the last privately raised regiment in the Commonwealth, funded by a \$100,000 grant from Captain Andrew Hamilton Gault of Montreal.

PPCLI helped forge Canadian identity in the Great War through service and sacrifice in significant battles such as Frezenberg, Vimy, and Passchendaele. During the Second World War, the Regiment was at the forefront of Canada's fight against Nazism and served valiantly in Sicily, Italy and North-West Europe. As Canada became a key partner in the newly established United Nations, the Patricias went to Korea, earning a US Presidential Unit Citation for their gallant defence in the Battle of Kapyong. Reflecting emerging core Canadian values, the PPCLI participated in peacekeeping operations in Cyprus, and fought to stop ethnic cleansing and promote stability in the Balkans. When the nation called again in the fight against terrorism, the PPCLI responded and deployed to Afghanistan in 2002, where the Regiment continues to serve to this day.

As the 100th Anniversary of the PPCLI draws near, the Regiment continues to train and prepare itself for domestic and international operations. In 2014, the PPCLI will commemorate a century of service, and rededicate itself to another 100 years of service to Canada. Many events and celebrations are planned to mark this historic occasion in both Edmonton and Ottawa, the birthplace of the Regiment, and in Frezenberg where the PPCLI endured its first trial by fire. The proud history of the PPCLI is reflected in a new generation of soldiers from all corners of the country, ready to serve Canada as did their predecessors in the regimental family. Hamilton Gault's legacy has come full circle, with his initiative becoming one of the most celebrated regiments in Canadian military history.

We look forward to commemorating our accomplishments with the people of Canada and paying tribute to those who have sacrificed so much for our Regiment and Canada. All events are open to the public and we welcome members of OMMC to join us in our 100th Anniversary commemorations. Th registration information for all events is under the 100th Anniversary section at [www.PPCLI.com](http://www.PPCLI.com).



## Canadian Military Preservation Society (CMPS) - Museum

By Allan Kerr

The Canadian Military Preservation Society collection was started in 1962. The building and collection are owned by Sharon and Allan Kerr with a gun store on the ground floor and the museum above it. There are currently talks with the City of Edmonton as part of an ongoing City museum study about the development of a military museum in a modern airport hanger which is slated for demolition. The fall-back position for the collection is donation to the Royal Alberta Museum, who will graciously accept the artifacts. Private funds, up to \$20,000 per year, are available for special projects and/or artifacts. The museum is open from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm, Monday to Saturday.

The 4,000 square foot museum displays militaria during the period 1812 to 1962 including all the firearms, swords and campaign medals. One of the main features is its collection of homefront posters with over 500 First and Second World War posters on display. Equally important, the museum houses over 200 original uniforms, dating from 1880 to 1980.

The museum has over 20 displays that expand on the story provided by various artifacts. Tailored to engage everyone in learning about Canada's history, the displays cover both military and civilian efforts during wartime. Our very rare "Children in War Time" collection examines the marketing efforts directed at children during war to garner their support, understanding and sacrifice on both the home front and abroad. The Canadian Women's Army Corps exhibit is an excellent representation of the beginning of a long road to empowerment and equality forged by brave, industrious women who found a renewed sense of purpose as they helped Canada with the war effort.

In 2005, the website "World War II: The Homefront in Alberta" was created (with the Alberta Government and Royal Alberta Museum) and contains articles and over 3,000 images of items in the CMPS collection. High definition images are available of all items on request. The site can be found at: <http://wayback.archive-it.org/2217/20101208161609/http://www.albertasource.ca/homefront/gallery/searchimages.php> These images will be entered into PastPerfect in 2014. The balance of the collection will be completed by 2015. The inventory of the 5,500 publications in the collection was completed to a library standard in 2011.



CMPS display at the Calgary Gun Show, 2013.

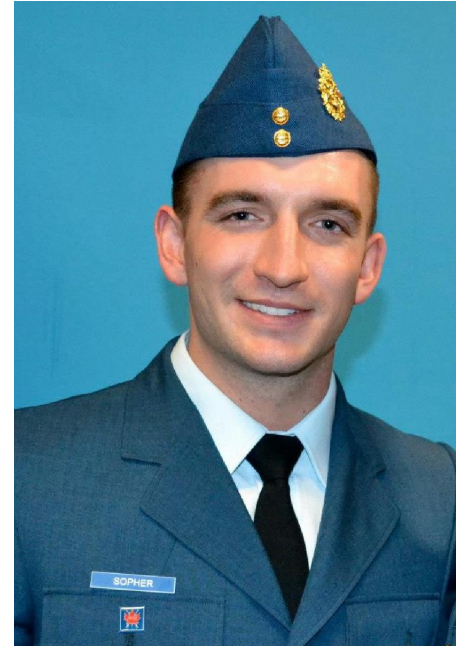
Future plans for the CMPS include a Virtual Museum, proposed for 2014/15 and a completed inventory of the 5,000 items in the collection (started using PastPerfect Software for Museum Collections and the Canadian Parks Service Classification System for Historical Collections).

The CMPS Society Cultural Memory Documentation and Interpretation Project will identify Edmontonians who served in the military in World War Two and beyond, and will videotape oral histories that will be used to create a series of documentaries comprising programming for the Battle Scars series broadcast on Shaw Cable. Another major project proposed by CMPS in cooperation with Hype TV, the Royal Alberta Museum and the Alberta Government will be submitted for funding in September with production scheduled for 2014 if our application is approved.

## On the Job Training as a Second Lieutenant in Comox

By 2Lt Darren Sopher, Comox Air Force Museum

Starting in the military without previous experience in Cadets or Reserves wasn't quite as bad as one might think. Training with ordinary individuals through the harsh winter months, whether it was dealing with a frozen gas mask valves, jamming magazines or numbing fingers has been a hurdle that was shared by all. I learned the importance of teamwork and pushing yourself to the limits of every task and about a state of mind where your exhaustion has already been surpassed and whatever is left, no matter the situation, you remain responsible for your troops. The true hearts of our leaders are tested at how one self can overcome their own issues and take on those of others before themselves. Realizing that the other military members have been through the same endeavours and needed to work at it in the same manner makes adopting a 'disciplined' way of life easier. You get to meet people from all corners of the country with backgrounds that would be unheard of in other workforces. It has been an experience like no other. To the people from Combe Platoon - L12, our training days were ones for the books!



Getting a posting confirmation to 19 Wing Comox after my Basic Military Officer Qualification was a joyful moment in my military career. If anyone can say something about this military base, it would probably be down the lines of 'living in paradise' or 'a vacation spot.' Arriving in February, you do get some sense of grey since the rainy months of winter are still in effect. Working into summer, you can see that there is a natural basin of incredible weather that brings on the spring/summer seasons where this town and Base really come alive with activity.

Working at the Comox Air Force Museum for 19 Wing Comox has been an amazing time to meet the military veterans who made our history and hear about the times of old in the forces. The pure excitement and truth behind all of the stories, whether comical or morbid is fascinating to a young member like myself and every new military officer should have the opportunity to be in the presence of our very own veterans. The decades of military history that can be found in the Comox Air Force Museum is simply astounding and I have been able to witness the wartime artefacts being brought in by the next generations to preserve our vibrant history. Seeing the joy of the common families - some brought even to tears - who find their loved ones throughout our military history is almost a daily occurrence and as our museum manager would say, "Today, was a good museum day!"

It is a strong belief of mine that being part of a well connected and friendly workplace is hugely important. The museum is its own community in itself and the volunteers become like your regular everyday 'work family'. There hasn't been a single person that I wouldn't want to sit and have a conversation with, as the variety and character of every individual who helps and works at the museum, provides more amusement to each new day. I will be spending the summer getting more involved and learning about our aircraft restoration projects that are an ongoing challenge, but through the hard work of these volunteers, each project turns into a monument to our aircraft history.



## “Wait for me, Daddy” Visits the Vancouver Island Military Museum

By Pat Murphy, VIMM

Described at the time as the most famous Canadian picture of the Second World War, as well as one of the most famous of all wartime pictures ever taken, “Wait for me, Daddy” has a very definite Nanaimo connection.

On October 1, 1940, members of the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles) were marching down 8th street in New Westminster towards a troop ship that was destined for a secret location. A photographer from the Vancouver Province Newspaper, Claud Detloff took the picture and it made the front page of the paper the next day. The secret location the ship was heading for was rumored to be Hong Kong however, such was not the case. The troop ship was heading for a port just 2 hours away - Nanaimo.

Nanaimo was a very active and important military training centre and the troops would be spending the next several months living in tents fine tuning their combat skills and preparing for operations in Europe.

The 5 year old boy featured in the picture was Warren “Whitey” Bernard; his mother is reaching for him as is his father Jack Bernard. The picture and the emotions it evoked with viewers was recognized by the Canadian Government as an image that could prove useful in war bond drives. Whitey Bernard remembers traveling to concert halls with famous celebrities assisting with war bond drives. “The picture went everywhere,” Whitey says, “it appeared in ‘Life’ magazine and many popular Canadian magazines including other newspapers and ‘Time’ and ‘Newsweek’ in the United States. A copy of this photograph hung in every school in B.C until the end of the war.”

Whitey Bernard who lives in Tofino had dropped off his Uncle's medals for mounting recently at the Vancouver Island Military Museum and his photograph was taken with the famous picture holding his uncle's medals in the ‘Canadian Army’ section of the museum.

Recently Whitey was informed by officials from New Westminster that the picture will be the basis for a War Memorial that will be erected just a few feet from where the original photograph was taken.



Whitey Bernard standing with his uncle's medals next to the famous photograph.

## Social Media Marketing We Can All “Like”

By Bethany Aitchison, Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence

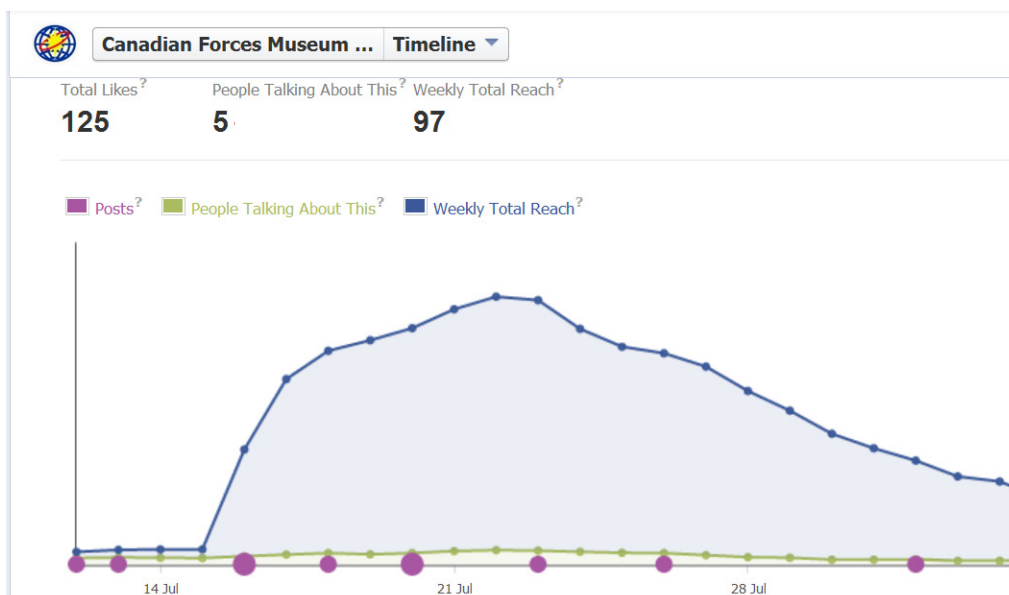
As museums, we all strive to become valuable institutions in our communities. Part of the battle at the Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence is the most basic form of communication and integration: advertising. Even though our museum has been open since 1998 (with a closure from 2008-2011), we still constantly hear the “We didn’t even know this place existed!” reaction when people walk through the doors. I’m sure many of us are in the same boat.

While free media such as PSAs and participation in community military events are essential and beneficial, we tried a new tactic to reach people who may not otherwise be aware of us. After a consultation with a local marketing and communication firm who freely offered their services, we dove headfirst into the world of Facebook Ads.

These advertisements are either along the right side of your Facebook profile and News Feed, or right in the News Feed itself. The level of customization of your ad is highly flexible and can target people in any age range, education level, location and other listed interests. You can specify when the campaign will run and what your total and daily budgets are. The ad is connected to another web address, which could be either your museum’s Facebook page or the actual website.

Payment is both simple and reasonable. Charges only occur when a user clicks on your advertisement. You offer your maximum “price per click” (Facebook will suggest a range for you based on your local competition), but depending on what the other companies are charging per click, your price per click will fluctuate. For example, we listed our maximum bid at \$0.40 a click, but we were charged as low as \$0.19 on some days.

To put all of this in perspective, for \$0.40 a click and a two-week campaign, we reached almost 12,000 people in the North Bay region, had almost 300 new people visit our website and gained 37 more “Likes” on our Facebook page. All this in two weeks and for under a hundred dollars.



The drastic increase of Facebook interest, peaking about a week after the campaign started and tapering towards the end.

## The Regimental Colours of the 62nd Regiment, Saint John Fusiliers

By Adrian Gaudet, Assistant Curator, New Brunswick Military History Museum

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Regiment in Saint John has existed in the area in one form or another since 1859 when it was a volunteer company and the Fusiliers can trace their heritage back to these early companies. It was not until 1882 that they became the 62<sup>nd</sup> Saint John Fusiliers. The regiment was known as the 62<sup>nd</sup> until March 15, 1920, when they were redesignated as the Saint John Fusiliers. The regimental motto was "Sempur Puras" or "always ready". In a ceremony at Barrack Square in Saint John on May 24, 1867, the 62<sup>nd</sup> received their colours. The colours were made in New York for around \$300 by Tiffany & Co. after the ladies in Saint John raised the money to have them made for the 62<sup>nd</sup>. The colours are made of silk and continued to serve as the regimental colours until the regiment was redesignated in 1920.

While the regiment itself did not see a lot of active combat during its history, its members were both active and honourable. It was used as a recruiting and training group for many Canadian regular soldiers. Members of the regiment also trained a paramilitary group of women for the South African war in which a number of members of the regiment fought but the regiment itself was not sent out. One of the unit's members, James Peters, is credited with taking some of the first live-action war photographs during the North West Rebellion.

As with many regiments, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Regiment had members who were pillars of their community. This can be seen in Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Tucker who was a leading business man in Saint John from 1883 until his death in 1914. In his will he donated a large plot of land which would go on to become what is now the University of New Brunswick Saint John Campus.

The set of colours that we have in the New Brunswick Military History Museum was donated by Saint James Anglican Church in Saint John. Previously the colours had been put up to die in the church before they decided to donate them to the museum in order to preserve them. To this end the colours will be displayed in one of the museum's exhibit cases in the Timeline Gallery when we reopen in the fall.



## Featured Artifacts

### Distinguished Conduct Medal of Sergeant Major John Caldwell Richards, Lord Strathcona Horse Royal Alberta Museum

Victorian era Distinguished Conduct Medal awarded to John Caldwell Richards for actions and service during the Boer War. The obverse bears a trophy of arms rather than the effigy of Victoria. One of only sixteen DCMs awarded to Canadians during this conflict, it is only the second to be held publicly.

Richards joined the North West Mounted Police in 1883 and served with the force during the 1885 Northwest Canada campaign; he was mentioned in dispatches for “daring and dash”. He retired from the force in 1916 as a Major; he died in 1929.



### OP PODIUM 2010 Olympic Patches Canadian Forces Museum of Aerospace Defence

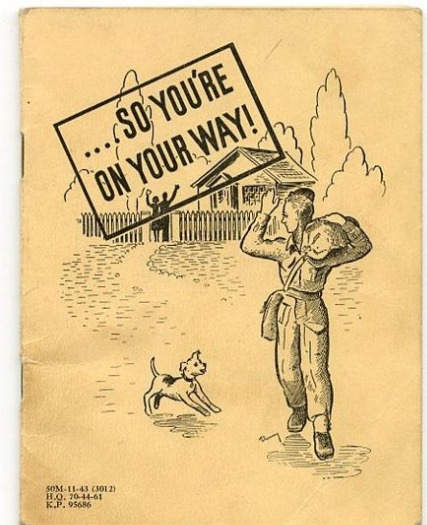
Patches given to Air Force personnel who assisted with the air defence component of the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver. While the mission as a whole was controlled by the RCMP, military personnel from all three services were involved in security.

These patches were donated by a MCpl working as a radar technician on a tasking from 4 Wing, Cold Lake. This is an example of the many operations undertaken in modern air and aerospace defence.



### WWII Preparation Booklet The Army Museum

This booklet is full of do's and don'ts of heading off to WWII. It is filled with good advice, including reminders to bring “good woolen socks your mother knits” and advice on how to care for them, a reminder that “the Army still fights without beards”, and a suggestion that you bring “a few bars of chocolate” and to keep “one reserve bar in your pocket all the time”.



## 92-Year-Old WWII Soldier Gets His Missing Duffel Bag Back — 7 Decades Later

Reprinted with permission of the Associated Press

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. — A World War II veteran who served in France during the war has been reunited with his Army-issued duffel bag nearly seven decades after it went missing.

To his surprise, 92-year-old William Kadar of Merrillville opened a carefully wrapped package Tuesday to find his drab green duffel bag inside. The folded up bag is still stenciled with his name and serial number.

Kadar tells the Post-Tribune he last saw the bag soldiers use for toting their gear in November 1944, a month before he was captured by the Germans. At the time, the now-elderly veteran was held for months, losing 80 pounds and going through what the Post-Tribune called a “harrowing” experience.

His granddaughter, Arleen Haas, says a letter in the package says a 16-year-old French boy found the bag in his grandfather’s house, tracked Kadar down and sent it to him. The Post-Tribune has more information about how the bag made its way back to Kadar:



WWII veteran William Kadar with his recovered, seven-decade old military bag (Photo Credit: Stephanie Dowell/Sun-Times Media)

*Haas said the bag was found and kept by a family in Rehaupal, France until a 16-year-old boy found it in his grandfather’s house. Haas said the boy’s great-great grandparents were killed when their house was bombed by the Germans, so the boy’s grandfather — who was 10 at the time — was scarred by his memories as a civilian in wartime. At first the boy was reluctant to return the bag since it was a symbol of his family’s history. [...]*

After Haas, too, served in the military, some actions she took to examine her grandfather’s war experiences ended up paying off. The Post Tribune continues:

*Haas served 10 years in the Army, and she got to retrace her grandfather’s footsteps while stationed in Germany. Haas collected the travels in a scrapbook for Kadar. Back in the states, she wanted more information on Kadar’s war experience and tried to connect him with fellow veterans in his unit. Haas tried to find a fellow officer that Kadar remember, but the man died recently before the two were able to meet. She put Kadar’s name and service information on a military forum, and someone contacted the family about the duffel bag.*

*“(The boy’s) uncle, Herve, contacted the Texas Military Museum first,” Haas said. “A woman there, Lisa, found me through a website, Yuku. We had both used the website to post information regarding veterans. I had posted trying to find information on his unit and find other veterans who may know my grandpa. She saw this and connected me with the French family.”*

Haas says her family hopes to speak to the boy who gave the bag back through Skype soon.

## Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Head Raddall, DSO (Part II)

By Don Zorniak, Royal Winnipeg Rifles Museum

The opening day of The Hundred Days Offensive was on August 8. Beginning with a swift attack east of Amiens the regiment reached and occupied Caix Wood and the village of Caix. Their objective for the next morning was the village of Rosieres, but owing to circumstances on the 1st Division's right, several of their units had to change front, and during the night of August 8, the regiment was moved to Hospital Wood, on their right, with orders to attack towards Warvillers in the morning.

This meant storming Hatchet Wood, on a prominence in the rolling Picard grain fields, commanding a wide field of fire on all sides. It could not be by-passed for that reason. Matters on the Canadian right remained uncertain until after noon on August 9, when Colonel Raddall received orders to attack. The wood was held by about 400 fresh German troops, with numerous machine guns, and the regiment had no tank support.

He sent one company to circle and attack the wood from the left, another to do the same from the right. The attack from the front had to be pressed hotly, to keep the Germans' attention away from the flanking companies, and Raddall went forward with the front attack.

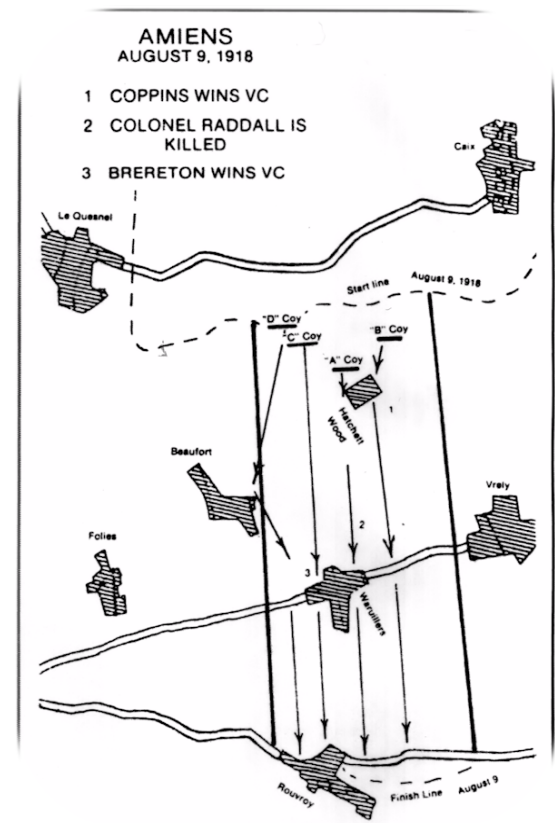
The Colonel, while kneeling in the wheat was hit and knocked down by a bullet in the right arm, which was bandaged by his runner. He then rose up again and put up his field glasses, seeking signs of progress by the flanking companies. While doing so he was hit by a burst of machine gun bullets in the chest and collapsed, and gasped to the runner, "Tell Bug (Major Saunders) to take over". In a few brief moments he was dead.

The regiment stormed into the wood from all three sides. It was a fierce scrimmage, resulting in the death of 100 German soldiers and the surrender of the rest. The regiment was in Warvillers, their objective, that night. After the battle, the regiment's padre, J.W. Whillans, brought parties to seek out the dead among the wheat and gather the bodies.

They buried Colonel Raddall, 7 other officers and 59 men there, which was to become named the Manitoba Cemetery. Total losses of the engagement also included 309 wounded and 52 missing.

Amid all the carnage on the afternoon of August 9, 1918, 2 VCs were awarded. One VC was awarded to Cpl Frederick Coppins shortly before Raddall was killed and another to Cpl Alexander Brereton shortly after Raddall's death.

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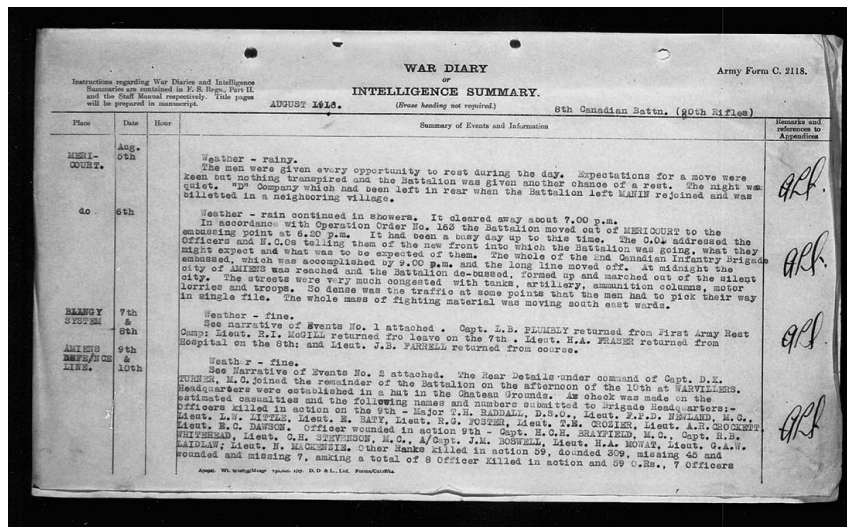
Map of Amiens, noting location of Raddall's death and the two VCs awarded. Courtesy DND



## 15

On the recent RWRA sponsored trip to France, Gerry Woodman and I had the opportunity to visit the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery (Manitoba Cemetery) where Raddall is buried. It is located 24 kilometres east of Amiens, between the road to St Quentin and Roye. The Manitoba Cemetery is situated between the villages of Caix and Beaufort. We saw no signs to even point to the location which made finding the site even more troublesome. The well-tended cemetery (which is near Hatchet Wood) is in a wheat field somewhere between here and nowhere.

Raddall's grave is flanked by those of his junior officers who also fell on the 9th of August. Canadian flags and poppies were placed by the marker on behalf of the RWRA and Museum.



## OMMC Website Update

Please e-mail your museum website addresses to webmaster,  
Bethany Aitchison at [Bethany.Aitchison@live.ca](mailto:Bethany.Aitchison@live.ca)

## The Organization of Military Museums of Canada

### Executive

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Dave Stinson: Secretary  
Richard Ruggie: Treasurer

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