

## Appendix 5

## Commanding Officers

Rank	Name	Dates	Decorations	
<b>WWII</b>				
<b>12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance</b>				
LCol	<b>BALDWIN, Sid</b>	1941 to 1942		
LCol	<b>TIEMAN, Eugene Edward ('Tuffie')</b>	1942 to 1943	OBE SBStJ	<sup>1</sup>
LCol	<b>CAVERHILL, Mervyn Ritchie ('Merv')</b>	1943 to 1944	OBE	
LCol	<b>McPHERSON, Alexander Donald ('Don')</b>	1944 to 1945	DSO	Psychiatrist
<b>Post-War</b>				
<b>12 Field Ambulance</b>				
LCol	<b>CAVERHILL, Mervyn Ritchie ('Merv')</b>	1946 to 1946	OBE	
<b>CO #66 Canadian General Hospital (Which was merged with 24 Medical Company)</b>				
LCol	<b>HUGGARD, Roy</b>	1946 to 1947		
<b>24 Medical Company</b>				
LCol	<b>MacLAREN, R. Douglas ('Doug')</b>	1947 to 1950		
LCol	<b>SUTHERLAND, William H. ('Bill')</b>	1950 to 1954		
LCol	<b>ROBINSON, Cecil ('Cec') Ernest G.</b>	1954 to 1958	CD QHP	Internal Medicine
LCol	<b>STANSFIELD, Hugh</b>	1958 to 1961	SBStJ CD	<sup>2</sup>
LCol	<b>BOWMER, Ernest John ('Ernie')</b>	1961 to 1966	MC CD	Director Prov Lab
<b>OC Medical Platoon 12 Service Battalion</b>				
Major	<b>NOHEL, Ivan</b>	1976 to 1979		
<b>12 (Vancouver) Medical Company</b>				
Major	<b>NOHEL, Ivan</b>	1979 to 1981	CD	
Major	<b>WARRINGTON, Michael ('Mike')</b>	1981 to 1983	OSStJ CD	GP North Van
Major	<b>GARRY, John</b>	1983 to 1986	CD	MHO Richmond
LCol	<b>DELANEY, Sheila</b>	1986 to 1988	CD	Nurse <sup>3</sup>
LCol	<b>O'CONNOR, Brian</b>	1988 to 1991	CD	MHO North Shore
LCol	<b>FRENCH, Adrian</b>	1991 to 1995	CD	
LCol	<b>WEGENER, Roderick ('Rod') Charles</b>	1995 to 2000	CD	
<b>12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance</b>				
LCol	<b>LOWE, David ('Dave') Michael</b>	2000 to 2008	CD	ESM Peace Officer
LCol	<b>NEEDHAM, Rodney ('Rod') Earl</b>	2008 to 2010	CD	Teacher in Surrey
LCol	<b>ROTH, Ben William Lloyd</b>	2010 to 2014	CD	USA MSM
LCol	<b>FARRELL, Paul</b>	2014 to 2016	CD	ex RAMC
LCol	<b>McCLELLAND, Heather</b>	2016 to present	CD	Nursing Officer

<sup>1</sup> Colonel Tieman remained in the RCAMC after the war and was the Command Surgeon Eastern Army Command in 1954; he was made a Serving Brother of the Order of St. John as per *London Gazette* of 07 January 1955 in the rank of Colonel;

He received the OBE as per *Canada Gazette* of 17 March 1945 in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel after he left the unit

<sup>2</sup> Later the Honorary Colonel of 12 (Vancouver) Service Battalion

<sup>3</sup> Sheila Delaney was a Major when she first commanded the unit and was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel half way through her command

## COMMANDING OFFICER'S BIOGRAPHIES

### Lieutenant Colonel Heather E. McClelland, CD, RN, BScN



Lieutenant Colonel Heather McClelland was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1964. She was raised and initially educated in Ottawa, Ontario, but graduated in 1982 from Parklands Secondary School in Sidney, British Columbia. In 1983, after completing two years of Air Cadets, she joined HMCS Malahat for their Summer Youth Employment Program. Discovering she did not have sea legs, she transferred to the 11 (Victoria) Medical Company, now 11 (Victoria) Field Ambulance, as a private soldier in the trade of Casualty Aide in March 1984. After 33 years of service, Lieutenant Colonel McClelland remains an active member of both 11 (Victoria) and 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulances and holds the position of Commanding Officer to both.

LCol McClelland was employed as a non-commissioned member of the primary reserves until accepting her commission as a Lieutenant CFR officer on 1 April 1999. During her time as an NCM, LCol McClelland completed all her reserve medical assistant training to the level of QL 6B. She also had the opportunity to cross-train in the supply, finance and administration trades, completing the QL 4 in each area. LCol McClelland held full-time positions within her reserve unit as both the supply NCO and the Administration clerk, holding each position for several years.

In addition to holding full-time unit positions, LCol McClelland worked with the reserves in a number of different areas, completing full-time contracts as an instructor on Basic Training, JR Leadership, medical trade qualification courses and general service courses. She worked at the Militia Training Detachment in Nanaimo as a standards NCO for two years, and during that time completed her Senior Leadership Course finishing as top candidate. Her last full time position held as a non-commissioned member was on a Class C contract with the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre Detachment Victoria where she was employed as a recruiter, ending that contract as the senior recruiter for the Victoria office, and one of the senior trainers for the Western Recruiting Area.

Upon accepting her CFR in 1999, LCol McClelland completed all her occupational and career courses which allowed her to fill positions in the unit including Medical Platoon Commander, Administration Officer, Clinical Training Officer, Adjutant and Deputy Commanding Officer. She was deployed to Operation Podium, the largest domestic operation in Canada, in support of the 2010 winter Olympics where she filled the position of Adjutant for the health service unit supporting the 5000 military troops. She received the Commanders coin for her dedication, leadership and commitment to the Health Services Unit.

After Op Podium, LCol McClelland returned to the unit and worked as the full time Operations Officer and Acting DCO for 2 years. LCol McClelland also worked part-time internationally, from 2006 to 2012, with the US Air Reserves International Junior Officer Leadership Development program (IJOLDs) as a facilitator and team leader at the request of the US Program Director. She received the 3-star Generals coin twice for her leadership and commitment to Junior Officer professional development during her time with the program. In 2011 she was appointed as the Assistant Secretary General (ASG) for the Canadian delegation of the Confederation of Inter-allied Reserve Medical Officers (CIOMR) completing a three year commitment. She sat on the First Aid committee and acted as a FA competition judge for the Military Competition each summer in addition to representing the Canadian delegation at all cultural events and Military commemorative activities during her appointment.

LCol McClelland completed an Associate of Arts Degree in Anthropology from Camosun College in 1999 before graduating with distinction from the University of Victoria in June 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She completed the two year Joint Command and Staff College in June 2015 through the

Canadian Forces College and is currently enrolled at Royal Military College to complete the Masters in Defence Studies in 2018.

LCol McClelland was promoted to her current rank and appointed the Commanding Officer of 11 (Victoria) Field Ambulance in April 2015. Subsequently she was appointed the Commanding Officer of 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance in July 2016 and currently splits her time between the two independent units. She will be the first Commanding Officer of the combined 11 and 12 Field Ambulances some time in late 2018 or early 2019 – 39 Brigade Field Ambulance.

LCol McClelland worked in the civilian health care field as an RN before accepting a position at WorkSafeBC as a Case Manager in 2011. She and her husband, William Lamb, have a blended family of one grown daughter and three grown sons. She is the proud Grandmother of 2 amazing boys. Lieutenant Colonel McClelland lives in Sidney, British Columbia. Her hobbies include scrapbooking, reading, outdoor activities, physical fitness and spending quality time with her family and friends.

In April 2018, LCol McClelland was named an Honorary Aide-de-Camp to British Columbia's new Lieutenant-Governor, The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC.



**Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Paul FARRELL, CD**



Major Farrell began his military career in the British Army in 1974 at the University Officer's Training Corps at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. After graduation as a physician from that university in 1980, he was given his commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps and served with the 253<sup>rd</sup> (Northern Ireland) Field Ambulance. He then served as the Regimental Medical Officer with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry as a locum in Cyprus. During the Falklands War in 1982, he was a Junior Specialist Anaesthetist at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital. From 1982 to 1989 he was a member of the Royal Army Reserve Officer List.

In 1982 he moved to Nassau, Barbados where he studied and practiced paediatrics, neonatology and emergency medicine. From 1984 to 1989, Dr. Farrell studied and practiced emergency medicine and anaesthesia as well as being qualified in ACLS and ATLS. He obtained his Diploma in Anaesthesia in 1989. He moved to Kamloops, British Columbia in 1989 where he was a General Practitioner and a Palliative Care Physician. He has also acted as an auditor for the British Columbia Ministry of Health.

In 2005, he joined the Canadian Force Health Services Reserve as a PRL (Primary Reserve List) Medical Officer in Kamloops attached to 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance. Since joining 12 Field Ambulance, he has used his skill on several exercises acting as a medical officer and offering his expertise in mass casualty incidents and casualty simulation. In 2012 he became the Deputy Commanding Officer for 12 Field Ambulance and the 39 Canadian Brigade Group Surgeon.



On 08 December 2013, LCol Ben Roth and Major Paul Farrell signed the change of command documents that become effective 06 January 2014.

Major Farrell has been married to Stephanie since December 1983 and they have 3 adult children, Caitlin, Sarah and Jonathan and also a grandson Caleb. He is the Clinical Director of Tascmet Clinical Effects, a Mass Casualty training company. Major Farrell is the President Elect of the World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine. He had hoped he would be able to wrap up his work in Kamloops and move to the lower mainland but this was not possible.

He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 2015 and retired in 2016.



John Blatherwick and Paul Farrell, Sogel Dinner March 2014

## Lieutenant-Colonel Ben ROTH, CD

Ben has 29 years service in the Canadian Forces and 10 years in the Reserve Forces – 39 years in uniform, the last 3 as the Commanding Officer of 12 Field Ambulance. He began his military career as an infantry officer in the mid-1974, became a logistician in 1982, and has served in a variety of command, staff and instructional positions both in Canada and abroad. Postings have included CFB Petawawa, CFB London (Ontario – Royal Canadian Regiment), CFB Calgary, Ottawa (for less than one year), CFB Halifax and Vancouver. He served as a Staff Officer at CFB Lahr, Germany and with Canada's NATO Brigade. He served in Cambodia as a technical advisor with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre. His final posting prior to retirement for the permanent forces was as the Canadian Liaison Officer to the US Army Combined Arms Support Command in Fort Lee, Virginia. He received the USA Meritorious Service Medal for his work at Fort Lee.



Following retirement from the Regular component of the Canadian Forces in 2003, Major Roth completed two years of study in public relations, then started work in the PR field as National Program Coordinator for the non-profit Tetra Society of North America, simultaneously volunteering as provincial Public Information Officer for the B.C./Yukon St. John Ambulance Brigade. From 2006 to 2010, he was employed by the RCMP as the Head of Logistics for the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit, where he was responsible to plan and direct logistics support for the 6,000-plus member Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics Security Force. He also continued to serve as an Army reservist as Operations Officer and Deputy Commanding Officer of 12 (Vancouver) Service Battalion.

Lieutenant-Colonel Roth is a graduate of the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff College, holds a B.A. from the University of Manitoba, a Diploma in Public Relations from Kwantlen Polytechnic University, and a Certificate in PR from the University of Victoria. Among his military awards are the Canadian Forces Decoration and the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal. Ben and his partner Jannette<sup>4</sup> live in Surrey, have three adult children, and are inordinately proud of their granddaughter.

Ben served in the Cambodia Mines Clearance Mission training Cambodians to removed land mines. Ben told me that two Canadian Officers convinced the Canadian Government to keep this operation going when the UN was planning to shut it down. He described how they trained the Cambodians to remove land mines. They would go to an area and start out clearing a mine field. Quickly, a small town grew up around where they were working. After a couple of weeks, the town suddenly expanded into the 'cleared' mine area. They would have liked to have had time to go back and check that the area was cleared but there was already a village there. As they 'cleared' the mines further, the town expanded further. This was most gratifying for the UN officers to see the Cambodians reclaim their land. One small problem, they went back to the area they had first cleared a month later and the town was gone. The local war lord had 'reclaimed' it for himself. All mine clearing stopped while the UN explained to the Cambodian government that this was not what was intended and it had to stop. The mine clearing resumed when the matter was resolved and the Cambodians were allowed to return to the land.<sup>5</sup>



Ben's medals include the Peacekeeping Medal, the Special Service Medal with bar NATO, the United Nations Special Service Medal (For the Cambodian Mine Action Commission), the CD and bar and the United States of America Meritorious Service Medal.

He moved to Hamilton in January 2014 to become the Logistics Administrator of the Hamilton Emergency Medical Service working with former Honorary Colonel Michael Sanderson. He bought a house in Hamilton near the airport but will keep his house in Surrey and return there in 5 to 7 years.

<sup>4</sup> Jannette also served in the Canadian Forces including service in Germany when Ben was posted there.

<sup>5</sup> I have corresponded with Major Dave Buck, New Zealand Army over the years regarding medals. Major Buck served 22 years in the Canadian Forces and then got stuck in a desk job in Ottawa. One day the New Zealand Army Attaché and he were talking and the Attaché told him that the New Zealand Army needed an expert on mines clearance. Dave joined the New Zealand Army. He has now earned his long service medal with the New Zealand Army. He sent me a photo of his medals and one of them was the UN SSM (which Ben Roth also has) so I asked Dave what he got it for – Cambodian Mines Clearance Mission. So I asked him the obvious question, did he know Ben Roth? Yes he did – he took over from Ben when he went to Cambodia. He only met Ben once for the handover but knew about this legendary officer in the Canadian Forces. It is a small world.

### Lieutenant-Colonel Rodney ('Rod') Earl NEEDHAM, CD

By day, Rod teaches grade 7 for the Surrey School District at W. E. Kinvig Elementary School. He is an active coach who has coached teams at both the elementary and high school level in soccer, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and rugby. By night, weekends and holidays, he serves his country in the Canadian Forces Reserves.



Rod enrolled in the Canadian Forces Reserves at 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance in 1985 at the age of 17. He progressed through the ranks from Private to Master Warrant Officer over the next 14 years holding such positions as Regimental Quartermaster, Training Officer and Acting Regimental Sergeant Major (while at the same time completing two Bachelor's Degrees, the first in Human Kinetics; the second in Education from UBC). In 1999 he was commissioned and promoted to the rank of Captain as a Health Care Administrator (HCA). Over the next 11 years held the positions of Medical Platoon Commander, Recruiting Officer, Adjutant, Operations Officer and Deputy Commanding Officer (DCO).

Rod was appointed Commanding Officer of 12 Field Ambulance in January of 2008 stepping down in October of 2010. He currently (2012) serves as a Provincial Liaison Officer for the Canadian Forces Liaison Council. LCol Needham is a graduate of Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, having completed his Joint Reserve Command and Staff Program. He is also a graduate of the NATO Staff Officer course in Germany. The highlight of his career to date was serving on Operation Podium from September 2009 to April 2010 as Deputy Commanding Officer of the Canadian Forces Health Services Unit (for which he took a leave of absence from teaching).<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> Rod with his parents, brother, wife Leah and daughters Stephanie and Danielle at his Change of Command

Below left: Rod with the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Walter Natynczyk, CMM, MSC, CD and Sergeant Gray at CFB Borden

Below right: CWO Nan Lu, Rod and MGen (now LGen) Stuart Beare, CMM, MSC, CD at the GGFG Cartier Drill Hall in Ottawa Home of the GGFGs

## Lieutenant-Colonel David ('Dave') Michael LOWE, CD

In his civilian career, David is an Officer with the Canadian Border Service Agency with over 30 years experience. He is employed looking for narcotics and contraband in sea containers and has personally responsible for a significant number of narcotic seizures. He is an instructor of both x-ray machines and container inspector and a mentor for new CBSA officers. In December 2007, he received the Peace Officer Exemplary Service Medal. (photo at left)



David joined 12 Vancouver Medical Company when it was still part of 12 (Vancouver) Service Battalion on 08 May 1980. He served in every position open to a commissioned officer in the Unit including Regular Support Officer. He graduated from Staff College in 1991 and then completed the Joint Reserve Command and Staff College course in 2002. CF customs and traditions had always played an important in his goals. He started the Annual Sogel Dinner to commemorate 12 (Vancouver) Light Field Ambulance being the only medical unit that came under direct attack by a German Patrol in World War II in the town of Sogel

He served as Deputy Commanding Officer for five years and then Commanding Officer for eight years – a normal tour of a Commanding Officer is 2 to 4 years. While CO, his unit received the Freedom of the City of Vancouver. He lead the medical support to 39 Brigade through several Exercise Cougar Salvos and had nine of his unit members serve on Task Force 01-8 in Afghanistan.

Dave was supposed to go on a United Nations Tour in the Sudan. He arranged for time away from his civilian work and did pre-deployment training losing considerable wages in doing so. At the last minute, the UN cancelled his particular portion of the mission outside of Khartoum. While not being able to take part in this endeavour, he still volunteered and sacrificed money and seniority in his civilian job to prepare for this Canadian Government supported activity.

After his tour as Commanding Officer of 12 Field Ambulance, David has taken the position with Joint Task Force Pacific as the Senior Liaison Officer. In this role, he is responsible for coordinating military support during a disaster with his civilian counterparts and advising the Commanding Maritime Forces Pacific on military requirements. David is responsible for the Lower Mainland area of the province in this position.<sup>7</sup>

Michael's medals include the EIIR Golden Jubilee and EIIR Diamond Jubilee Medals, CD and bar and the Peace Officers Exemplary Service Medal and Bar. Dave retired from the Canadian Forces in 2012.



<sup>7</sup> Dave (retires in 2012) works with Lieutenant(N) James Blatherwick (the author's son) on the Joint Task Force Pacific Liaison Officer role. The role of this group is to liaise with civilian counterparts in emergency management so that in the event of a disaster, the military will be able to contact the civilian authorities and provide the Admiral in Esquimalt with an accurate update on the events unfolding. Dave is the head of the Lower Mainland team.

**Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Lowe at the Freedom of the City**

**Dave at his Jericho desk**

**Lieutenant-Colonel Roderick ('Rod') Charles WEGENER, CD  
1995 to 2000**



Rod is unusual for Vancouver – he was actually born in Vancouver at the Grace Hospital in 1954. However, his father was in the RCAMC and so he was an army brat moving to Montreal for grades 1 to 5; finishing grade 5 at CFB Kingston; and then going to Regina for grades 6 to 12. Rod joined the Medical Corps in Regina as a Private; his father moved back to the lower mainland as the Chief Clerk of 74 Comm Group in 1974 and Rod, then a Corporal joined the Medical Section of 12 Service Battalion. Rod was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1973; promoted to Lieutenant in 1975 and promoted to Captain in 1977. In 1979, Rod was one of 8 medical personnel (Dave Lowe, Adrian French, and Scott Stewart being 3 others) who formed 12 Medical Company when it broke away from the Service Battalion. Rod was the Logistics Officer for the new Company and had the fun of setting up the equipment for the new unit. He was promoted to Major in 1987 and to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1995 when he took over command of 12 Medical Company. When he left the unit, Major Freer had him work with the Army Cadets and he commanded the British Columbia Regiment's Cadets from 2001 to 2002. He retired after that and currently lives in Langley.

**Lieutenant-Colonel Adrian FRENCH, CD**



Adrian was born in the South of London, England in 1940. He remained in England for the next 25 years coming to Canada in 1965. He went to Simon Fraser University in 1966 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1970. After graduation, Adrian joined Canada Immigration and remained with them until 2001.

In 1976, he joined the 12 Medical Company as an Acting Lieutenant, Medical Administrative Officer. He served in many roles over the course of the next 15 year and became Commanding Officer of the unit from 1991 to 1995. And that was all that I could get out of this very modest man. He was a much beloved Commanding Officer.

Adrian continued to serve the Medical Company / Field Ambulance as one of the founders of the *The Vancouver Museum of Military Medicine, The Bowmer-Shoebottom Museum*. He has been the curator of this museum for more than a decade. In addition to turning this museum into a first class military museum, he has donated \$85,000.00 of his own money to the development of the museum with no expectation that he could recover any of this money. Much of the information for this book has come from the displays that Adrian has set up in the museum. 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance owes much of the unit history to this fine, unassuming man.

**Lieutenant-Colonel Brian O'CONNOR, CD**



Brian was born in Toronto and graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1970. He had joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1967 while in medical school and after interning in 1971, joined the Royal Canadian Regiment in London, Ontario. Brian did two tours in Lahr, Germany, the second as the Commanding Officer of the Field Ambulance. In 1984, after 16 years in the military, Brian took his release and moved to the Edmonton Department of Community Health. In 1987, we were fortunate in Vancouver to secure him as the Medical Health Officer for the North Shore where he continues (2012) to serve as the MHO. I always described Brian's role on the North Shore as the most difficult job. While most of the province's MHOs had the provincial health department to support them and those of us in the city jobs {Vancouver, Richmond (John Garry), and Burnaby} had the city bureaucracies to support them, Brian was on his own doing his own finances, personnel, recruiting and being the medical health officer for the three municipalities on the North Shore as the head of the North Shore Health Department. Brian also agreed to become the Commanding Officer of the 12 (Vancouver) Medical

Company in 1988. To his surprise, it was a very difficult job. While CO of the Field Ambulance in Germany, he had a DCO, RSM and senior officers and NCOs who knew their jobs and when he needed something done, he simply asked and it was done. He didn't have a budget (that he was aware of at any rate and certainly didn't have to account for it) and his RSM handled all the personnel matters. Not so in 12 Medical Company! Just as on the North Shore Health Department, he was responsible for the budget, responsible for discipline, responsible for – well everything. While the Field Ambulance in Germany had fulltime staff, 12 Medical Company was a part-time position which the regular force expected to operate like a full time unit. Brian worked very hard at this “part-time” position.

A few of the military stories Brian told me over the years as we have been colleagues as Medical Health Officers in the Lower Mainland.

***But I have a wife and Infant Daughter!*** I joined the Canadian Forces while a first year medical student when the prospect of actually having to pay back the 3 years was well off on the horizon at about 4-5 years distant. When my intern year was done I was posted to an infantry battalion in London Ontario as the Unit Medical Officer and I was certainly apprehensive about embarking on a life that I knew very little about. On my first day I went to the base, reported to the adjutant (I'm pretty sure that was a smirk!) and was ushered into the office of the Commanding Officer. His nickname was “Shiny John” and indeed it was quite impressive to see him in his finery. He was extremely pleasant and welcomed me to his unit. As we sat there he started to explain to me some of the things I would be soon involved in as the new unit medical officer. One of the events was a full-scale exercise to take place in New Brunswick for which we would be deployed for about 5 to 6 weeks and live in the field in tents etc. Immediately I responded that I would not be able to go as I had a wife and infant daughter and so many other obligations and so would sit this one out. To his credit he took this in stride knowing that the challenge of breaking in another naïve and spoiled medical officer was the task that lay ahead for him and his officers. I am certain that they all had a great chuckle after I had left the building and the adjutant who became a good friend would embarrassingly remind me of my ridiculous behaviour whenever he could. I still cringe when I think of how this must have seemed so ridiculous and ignorant for an individual who was now in the regular army. I did go on the exercise and did live, uncomfortably, in the field for the 6 weeks and actually came to understand the ‘army’ way of life. I served with the field ambulances in Germany and all in all had a 16-year career in the Canadian Forces.



In Brian's early days in the military, he was sent to CFB Armstrong, a radar site in northern Ontario. On the train to Armstrong, he wrote his mother a letter (which she still has) telling her of all the reasons he should not be going to a remote place like Armstrong and what does the military think it's doing sending a nice Toronto boy to a desolate, isolated post. During his six weeks in Armstrong, he learned to love the place. Brian's medals include the Special Service Medal with bar NATO and the CD.<sup>8</sup>



<sup>8</sup> Brian with his CFHS flag; Brian and Medical Health Officer colleagues of the Administrative Council in December 2007: Elizabeth Brodtkin – Eric Young – Veronic Ouellet - Mavis Chu - Patty Daly – Roland Guasparini – John Carsley – Nadine Loewen – James Lu – Reka Gustafson – John Blatherwick kneeling - Suni Boraston – Brian O'Connor

### **Lieutenant-Colonel Sheila DELANEY, CD**



Sheila was the first nurse to command the unit taking over from John Garry in 1986. In 1987, she was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. She turned over the unit to Brian O'Connor in 1988. She went to England shortly after this to look after her mother and we don't have any other history on her.

### **Major John GARRY, CD**



Upon completion of his medical studies in Dublin, Major Garry was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1962. He began a five year Short Service Commission as the Medical Officer at the British Nuclear Testing grounds, Maralinga Range, South Australia, 1963. He then served with the Berlin Brigade from 1964 until 1967 acting as the Regimental Medical Officer to a number of infantry units including the 1st Battalion Royal Green Jackets. After ending his Royal Army Medical Corps career, he immigrated to Canada and became a Medical Health Officer in British Columbia. While Medical Health Officer in Kamloops, British Columbia, he was the Regimental Medical Officer for the Rocky Mountain Rangers. On moving to Richmond as the Medical Health Officer, he became a Medical Officer with 12 (Vancouver) Service Battalion. He was the Commanding Officer of the unit from 1983 to 1986.

John's son was an officer in the 12 Service Battalion. He wanted to become a physician like his dad and did so in an unusual way. He was not able to get into medical school in Canada so he went to Ireland where his father trained. He completed his first two years there and then went to the USA where he completed his training. He practiced medicine in the USA for many years but in 2010 returned to the Lower Mainland and joined the Medical PRL through 12 Field Ambulance.

### **Major A. Michael WARRINGTON, CD**



Major Warrington enlisted as a volunteer in the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington, England, in 1942. Trained in tanks, he went to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in early 1944. In Normandy and Northwest Europe he was a Troop Leader in Recce Troop, 1st Royal Tank Regiment, 7th Armoured Division (Desert Rats). Knocked out by a Panzerfaust in Holland, he and his driver were wounded and two of his crew were taken prisoners. After service in Egypt he was demobilized in 1947 and commenced medical studies at London University, England, qualifying in 1953. He immigrated to Canada and in 1974 became the Regimental Medical Officer for the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), a light armoured reconnaissance regiment based in Vancouver. In 1981 he became the Commanding Officer of 12 (Vancouver) Medical Company. In 1985 he became the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the unit. Michael has kept the

Unit Association running for many years as a strong supporter and as the Chair up to 2011. In his civilian career, he was a much respected Family Physician in North Vancouver.

The most recent history of the Canadian Forces Health Service gives credit to Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Grasset as the person to suggest the Motto of the CFHS, *Militi Succurimus*. Tony did not propose the name but submitted it to the CFHS. The person proposing it was Michael Warrington. A Canadian Medical Association Journal<sup>9</sup> note in 2007 has a statement from Michael. "In 1976, while serving as

<sup>9</sup> Canadian Medical Association Journal 06 November 2007, Volume 77, No. 10

medical officer in the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), I was asked by the area surgeon, LCol Anthony Grasset, if I had any ideas for a motto for the CFMS. We had both studied medicine at Middlesex Hospital in London, UK. The hospital's motto *Miseris Succerrere Disco* (I am learning to succour the distressed) was inspired by a quotation from the *Aeneid* by Virgil (70-19 BC) at the part where Queen Dido says to Aeneas when he was cast upon her shores: '*Non ignara mali, miseris succurrere disco*' (Knowing something of misfortune myself, I am learning to succour the distressed). I suggested that we adapt this motto. On 10 August 1988, the CFMS adopted *Militi Succurimus* (We succour the soldier) as its motto."

LCol Warrington's medals include: Officer of the Order of St. John - 1939/1945 Star – France and Germany Star – Defence Medal – 1939/1945 War Medal – CD (EIIR) <sup>10</sup>



### Major Ivan NOHEL, CD

Ivan was born in Czechoslovakia in 1936. His parents fought with the non-communist underground during WWII which did not make his family popular with the new government after the war. To become more bourgeois, he trained as a mechanic. After completing his training, he applied to medical School and graduated from the Medical School in Prague in 1960. He had to go into the army and was put as a medical officer with the Border Guard. During the "Prague Spring", he left Czechoslovakia just before the Russian invasion.

He spoke no English at the time but did get a job at the Vancouver General Hospital. He ultimately got his credentials accepted and trained in Internal Medicine. He remained in Vancouver and became an Internist at St. Paul's Hospital.



He wanted to serve his new country and joined the Medical Company then part of 12 Service Battalion. They had difficulty getting him in as he had been an officer in the army of a communist country. They eventually succeeded in getting his security clearance and Ivan went on to command the unit while it was part of the Service Battalion and was the first commanding officer when it became 12 Medical Company.

<sup>10</sup> Michael Warrington and his wife at the Freedom of the City and the Change of Command Parades – far right is Bruce Holvick (Assistant Curator of the Museum, ex member) who took some of the photos in this book

**Lieutenant-Colonel (later Honorary Colonel) Ernest (“Ernie”) John BOWMER, KStJ, MC, CD, MD**



Ernie Bowmer was born at Newcastle Upon-Tyne, England in 1916. He received his medical degrees (M.B., ChB.) from the University of Liverpool in 1938. After graduation, he was a general practitioner in Chester and Liverpool for two years before joining the Royal Army Medical Corps<sup>11</sup> as a Lieutenant on 03 July 1940. His initial assignments were in Britain and he was promoted to Captain one year later (03 July 1941).<sup>12</sup> In 1943, he was sent to the Middle East where he was attached to the 4th Indian Division, 7th Indian Infantry Brigade, 17<sup>th</sup> Indian Field Ambulance. While serving with the Indian Army, he held the rank of Captain but because the Indian Army rates of pay were higher than the British Army, he was paid at the rate of a British Major. From the Middle East, the Division moved to Italy and Ernie found himself organizing the medical support for the action at Casino, Italy in December 1943. Captain Bowmer was awarded the Military Cross for his actions at Casino. His Citation reads:<sup>13</sup>

**“During the operations in the hill area NORTH of CASSINO from 15 to 19 February 1944, this officer showed outstanding courage and devotion to duty under the most difficult and hazardous conditions.**

**From the 15th to 17th February, while preparations were being made for the Brigade attack on the monastery of MONTECASSINO, Ernie personally organized and laid out the system of medical evacuation for the Brigade. This had to be done over an area of very steep and precipitous country which came under intense enemy shell and mortar fire during this period. Captain Bowmer worked day and night without rest and often under direct enemy fire. At the same time, a considerable number of casualties were being inflicted on units of the Brigade while they were moving into position. Captain Bowmer was constantly on the spot where the enemy fire was thickest and the brigade’s casualties were heaviest, both giving assistance to the Unit Medical Officers and working on his own. His conduct and personal gallantry during this period were of a very high order while his organizing skill was outstanding.**

**After the attack on the monastery of MONTECASSINO on the night 17 / 18 February, this officer again showed the most extraordinary personal courage and devotion to duty. Casualties during the night had been very heavy in three battalions and their evacuation from forward positions, now more than ever exposed to intense machine-gun, mortar and shell fire, became a most serious and urgent problem. For two days and night Captain Bowmer worked unceasingly without any thought of rest, food or his own personal safety. He assisted unit medical officers, organized stretcher parties, rendered first aid and reported frequently to Brigade Headquarters on the progress of the evacuation. His movement to and from the Forward Action Posts brought him constantly under the heaviest fire from all weapons both day and night, but he was not in the least deterred. He set a magnificent example and inspired all those working with him with a determination to complete the task. There is no doubt that the skill and devotion to duty of this officer were directly responsible for saving a large number of lives. His personal bravery and endurance under intense enemy fire were beyond all praise and became a byword throughout the whole Brigade.”**

After Casino, Ernie continued with the Indian Army in India until June 1944 when he was invalided home with diphtheria. He took eleven months to recover from post-diphtheria paralysis which affected his right side, particularly his right arm and elbow. The British Army was not particularly sympathetic towards him and he was encouraged to get back to active duty quickly.

He decided to stay in the postwar army and was given a permanent commission in the rank of Captain on 03 July 1945 with seniority to 03 July 1941.<sup>14</sup> His first posting was to the Far East, Rangoon, where he

<sup>11</sup> London Gazette of 23 July 1940 - To be Lieutenant RCAMC Ernest John Bowmer, M.B. (129127) 03 July 1940

<sup>12</sup> London Gazette of 14 November 1944 RAMC Short Service Commission - Lieutenant (War Subs. Captain) Ernest John Bowmer, M.C., (139127) from Emergency Comm., 3rd July 1940 and to be Captain, 3 July 1941

<sup>13</sup> London Gazette of 18 July 1944 Awarded the Military Cross - Captain Ernest John Bowmer, M.B., M.R.C.S. (139127) RAMC Wirral

was the Commanding Officer of 40 British physicians on the first British ship into Ceylon where he was to provide Cholera vaccine for the population. He worked at the 49th Indian General Hospital, at a place just outside Rangoon called Insein (and it was!). There his duties were to take care of the RAPAI (Repatriated Prisoners of War and Internees). He saw every form of tropical medicine known to man and thus began a love of tropical medicine. His accommodations were at the Silver Grill, a former prostitute home where the poor rum called *'Idewati Water'* passed as liquor. He moved up-country from Rangoon where he was made the Officer Commanding at Meiktila where the 49th Indian Hospital was moved.

In 1946, he was the Senior Medical Officer for the Japanese Surrendered Personnel in the North Burma area. He was given a truck and told to visit all 22 camps twice in six weeks to ensure the health of the surrendered personnel.

After this position, he went to Singapore as DADMS/OPS<sup>15</sup> and Plans at General Headquarters Far East Land Forces where he spent 18 months.

Back in England near the end of 1947, he went to the Army Staff College Camberley for a year which occupied all of 1948. He was promoted to the rank of Major on 03 July 1948.<sup>16</sup> He continued in 'school' at the RAMC Senior Officers course at Millbank where he studied the five main branches of military medicine: psychiatry; surgery; medicine; pathology and public health. He then spent three months at the Westminster Hospital getting practical experience. He followed this training with six months at the Specialists Pathology Course followed by six more months at a Public Health Laboratory.



With his specialists training over, he became the pathologist at the Tidworth Military Hospital Hampshire in 1950. He then moved to Everlyigh, the Army Vaccine Laboratory (David Bruce Lab) where he was second-in-command and became the gram negative rod specialist plus responsible for blood transfusion services and the manufacturing of TAB<sup>17</sup> for the British Army and Royal Air Force.

In November 1951, he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and sent to the Microbiological Research Department to carry out research. Over the next two and a half years that he spent there, he produced the antitoxins for Clostridium Botulinum C, D and E and stabilized the antitoxins for A and B.

In 1954, he was posted to the Middle East to Siad, Egypt where he was the Senior Bacteriologist, War Office Enteric Team (WOWET). He studied Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever outbreaks amongst the troops in the Canal Zone. One large outbreak of paratyphoid was traceable to sewage from the hospital leaking into the water supply of the Signals Regiment. Unfortunately the senior officer was not much interested in proper epidemiology and research and was content to just treat cases!

Ernie had met Dr. Dolman, Director of the British Columbia Provincial Laboratory in 1953 and had been offered a job by Dr. Dolman at the time. Ernie's wife Elsie had asked him where Canada was when he discussed it with him so he did not pursue it any further. However, as military life in the Canal Zone proved uninteresting, Ernie opened negotiations with Dr. Dolman in 1955.

Ernie's last job in the Royal Army Medical Corps was as Commanding Officer of the Command Medical Laboratory, Middle East Land Forces, Nicosia, Cyprus. There was a visit from Field Marshal Lord Harding, former Chief of the General Imperial Staff, during this period. One tragic event happened during the Field Marshal's visit when a bomb intended for him went off at the Officer's Mess well after the Field

<sup>14</sup> London Gazette of 07 August 1945 - Captain E.J. Bowmer, M.C., M.B., (139127) - Effective 3 July 1945 Permanent Commission retaining present seniority.

<sup>15</sup> DADMS / OPS & PLANS = Deputy Assistant Director Medical Services / Operations and Plans

<sup>16</sup> London Gazette of 06 July 1948 - Captain E.J. Bowmer, M.B. (139127), to be Major 03 July 1948

<sup>17</sup> TAB = Typhoid A & B vaccine

Marshal's visit, killing several British Officers and almost killing Ernie's second-in-command, Major May MacKenzie Munro.

In January 1956, Lieutenant-Colonel Bowmer retired from the RAMC after 15 ½ years service. He had no army pension but a gratuity which was enough to get him to Vancouver and to buy a small house. As British Columbia did not have reciprocity with the British Council, Ernie registered to practice medicine in Newfoundland. Later in 1956, Dr. Dolman retired and Ernie became the Director of the Provincial Laboratory, a post he held until 1980.

Once in Vancouver, Ernie volunteered to work with the local militia units. He immediately got caught in the classic 'Catch-22' scenario: he couldn't join the Canadian Army until released from the British Army and he couldn't get released from the British Army until accepted by the Canadian Army! Finally the impasse was bridged and Ernie joined the British Columbia Regiment as a Regimental Medical Officer. He still retained his Lieutenant-Colonel rank but was told by the Commanding Officer that when he was on duty, he was a Major; and only socially was he a Lieutenant-Colonel. Ernie spent five years with the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own).

In 1961, Cec Robinson was the ADMS / Western Command and Hugh Stansfield the Area Medical Officer Advisor. Ernie accepted the position of Officer Commanding the 24th Medical Company. A fire had destroyed their armoury at Shaughnessy but on 15 December 1961, 24 Medical Company plus the Irish Fusiliers, 61 Dental Unit, REME, Ordnance and Intelligence reoccupied the armoury.

In 1965, "Corporal" Paul Hellyer, Minister of National Defence, axed many of the reserve and active units and Ernie moved from 24 Medical Company to 12 Medical Company as part of the 12 Service Battalion in the RCAF hangars at Vancouver Airport. In 1966, Ernie retired from the RCAMC. He served as the President of the Defence Medical Association of Canada in 1969.

Ernie was back in uniform in 1981 as the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of 12 Medical Company until 1984. He was then made the Honorary Colonel of the unit in 1984 a position he retained until 2001. During this period of his military career, he was the driving force in creating the Medical Museum for 12 Medical Company at Jericho.

In his civilian career as the Director of the Provincial Laboratory, Ernie was a much loved member of the Public Health community. A very approachable man, he helped young Medical Health Officers greatly with his advice. Two things I learned from Ernie Bowmer that have stuck in my head:

1. Don't look for something if you don't want to find it;  
(good public health advice and kept me out of trouble more often than you would think);
2. Swimming pools are just dilute sewage!

In 1985, I was faced with a botulism outbreak at the White Spot Restaurant on West Georgia near the entrance to Stanley Park. We began our investigation on a Friday night and all day Saturday. During this period, I advised the White Spot management that they should get their own medical advisor in the matter so that they could stay abreast of the developments in the cases. They asked me for advice on whom that person could be and I vaguely remembered that Ernie Bowmer, now retired from the Provincial Laboratory, had a knowledge of Botulism. It wasn't until I wrote this biography that I learned that he was a world leader having developed three of the antitoxins against botulism and stabilized the other three antitoxins.

On the Sunday morning, Ernie joined our team working on the outbreak and we went over the cases we had to date, what we knew about the possible source and where we were going next. It was a regular Rick Castles – Kate Beckett session with all the details laid out on a white board while the members of the team try and break the case. After about two hours, Ernie got up to the board and wrote – Garlic Oil. He then started listing things to be considered in looking for the source such as 'grown in the ground', pH of oil perfect for growing, and anaerobic conditions perfect for growing botulinum toxin. We quickly had the pH of the garlic oil tested and it was right in the perfect range for growing *Clostridium Botulinum*. We ultimately were able to produce *Clostridium Botulinum* from the jars of Garlic Oil but were never able to actually produce toxin. Ernie had solved the biggest problem. The pH for Garlic Oil produced or imported

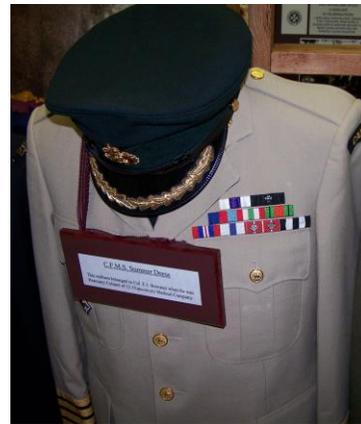
into Canada was changed to a range that did not promote the growth of Clostridium Botulinum and it was emphasized on the jars that they must be stored in a refrigerator. I recommended Ernie to the Pan Pacific Hotel management when we had another botulism outbreak the next year but this time I was sure it was the mushrooms which was subsequently proven. The So-chef in one of the kitchens had been growing his own mushrooms at home under perfect anaerobic conditions. Ernie's help was once again greatly appreciated.

Dr. Bowmer was fellow or member of Canadian, British and American scientific and medical societies and past president of BC Association of Laboratory Physicians, International Northwest Conference on Diseases in Nature Communicable to Man, and International Health Division (CPHA). His knowledgeable and objective contributions to the Canadian Public Health Association earned Dr. Ernest John Bowmer the Association's Honorary Life Membership in 1983. Ernie was very active in the Order of St. John chairing the advisory committee of the Order in British Columbia for many years.

Ernie Bowmer died in Vancouver on 11 November 2001 at the age of 86.

**Medals of Honorary Colonel Ernest John BOWMER, KStJ, MC, CD, MD, FRCP(C)**

Knight of the Order of St. John <sup>18</sup>  
 Military Cross  
 1939-1945 Star  
 Italy Star  
 Defence Medal  
 1939-1945 War Medal  
 EIIR Silver Jubilee Medal  
 CD (EIIR) and two Bars  
 Service Medal of the St. John Ambulance



**Dr. Hugh STANSFIELD, SBStJ, CD, MD, FRCP(C)**

Hugh was born in Ottawa in 1916. His 92 years were richly blessed with family, medicine, and the military. Born to Marilla and Edgar, he was raised with his younger and surviving brother David. Hugh he married Harriett Grace Campbell in 1946. His four children were his greatest pride: Margaret, Dorothy (Jack), Hugh (Jo-Ann), and Keith (Kathy), from whom he had 12 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Following Harriett's death in 1992, he married Bonnie Woodcock, who died in 2002. Dr. Stansfield's distinguished career in medicine began with his BSc, MSc, and MD degrees from the University of Alberta. He completed his residency in internal medicine and cardiology through McGill University in Montreal and then moved to Vancouver to practice. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Cardiology, and a Fellow and then a Governor of the American College of Cardiology. He continued in private practice until 1972, when he became Director of Professional Relations of the B.C. Medical Association. He was one of the founders of both the Canadian Heart Foundation and the B.C. Heart Foundation.



Dr. Stansfield joined the Canadian Active Army in World War II, and served overseas in 8 general hospitals in England, Holland, and Germany. After the war he served in the active reserves, becoming

<sup>18</sup> London Gazette 11 December 1975 – To be a Serving Brother of the Order of St. John – Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest John Bowmer, MC, CD, MD  
 London Gazette 05 December 1978 – To be an Officer of the Order of St. John – Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest John Bowmer, MC, CD, MD  
 London Gazette 22 April 1982 – To be a Commander of the Order of St. John – Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest John Bowmer, MC, CD, MD FRCP(C)  
 London Gazette 20 March 1990 – To be a Knight of the Order of St. John – Ernest John Bowmer

Commanding Officer of the #24 Medical Company, and Honorary Colonel of the 12 (Vancouver) Service Battalion. He was a Serving Brother, Order of St. John.

I knew Dr. Stansfield very well. When I came to the Vancouver General Hospital to do my Residency in Internal Medicine, Hugh was the head of my first ward at the VGH. He was a very friendly person who gave freely of his time to the residents. He specialized in cardiology. I later knew him through his role in the BC Medical Association and the BC Heart Foundation. Dr. Hugh Stansfield died on 10 April 2008 in Vancouver.

His son, British Columbia's Chief Judge Hugh Stansfield, died of cancer a little over a year later on 13 May 2009 at the age of 57. He had multiple myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells, in 2003. Through ongoing treatment he continued to serve as Chief Judge until a week before his death. He was admitted to Vancouver General Hospital on May 2. Stansfield had been appointed on 01 July 2005 to a five-year term as Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

### **Dr Cecil ('Cec') Ernest Gordon ROBINSON, CD, MD, FRCP(C) <sup>19</sup>**



*Cecil Ernest Gordon Robinson, MD*

Cec was born 10 June 1917 in Chichester, Pontiac County, Quebec, the second of three sons of Joseph and Ada Robinson (Clarence, Clayton and Cecil – all became physicians). Raised on a farm near Pembroke, Ontario, he graduated in medicine from Queen's University in 1943 and served with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in Britain, Italy, and northwest Europe until 1946.

Following the war, he completed his internship at VGH and received postgraduate training at Shaughnessy Hospital, Queen's University, and medical schools in London, England, and the University of Toronto; he became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1950.

Dr Robinson maintained a busy private practice in internal medicine and over the years served as assistant chief of medicine at Shaughnessy Hospital, chief of medicine at St. Vincent's Hospital, and medical director of G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre in Vancouver. He was also the first medical director of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society. In 1959 Dr Robinson was appointed clinical instructor at UBC and eventually became a Clinical Professor and then Clinical Professor Emeritus.

During his career he was also a member of numerous medical societies and associations. He was decorated for his long service by the Canadian Forces in 1952 and appointed Queen's honorary physician in 1961. He also maintained a long relationship with the militia, most recently as a Lieutenant-Colonel with the 12th (Vancouver) Field Ambulance.

In 1948 he married Ann Lucell "Sally" Boyd, and in the years following they raised eight children in a very busy home. Dr Robinson is predeceased by his wife (1991); his older brother, Dr Clarence Robinson (1993); son Denis (1952); and granddaughter Ramah (1985).

He is survived by his devoted partner of 13 years, Alice Collins, and by his brother Dr Clayton Robinson. He also leaves behind his daughter Margaret, sons Gordon (Daryl), Gary (Bernice), Sean (Sieglinde), Mark (Vivian), Donald (Wendy), and Keith (Kellie), three nieces, five nephews, 16 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Cec Robinson was a skilful, caring, and dedicated doctor to his many patients. The selfless generosity shown to patients, colleagues, and friends, and his devotion to his family will always be treasured. Dr. Robinson passed away peacefully on 5 January 2010 in Vancouver, at the age of 92 years, following a short illness.

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<sup>19</sup> British Columbia Medical Journal, Vol. 52, No. 2, March 2010, page(s) 98 Obituaries