

## 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance



COPYRIGHT 2012 FJB Air

Printed and Bound in Delta, British Columbia, Canada  
Minuteman Press – Debra and Nick Losito Owners

CANADIAN CATALOGUING IN PUBLICATION DATA

BLATHERWICK, F.J. (Francis John), 1944 -  
12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance

ISBN 978-0-9810504-2-3

1. Military History – Canada
2. Canadian Forces Health Services History

Suggested Retail Price: \$25.00



### COPYRIGHT NOTICE

The contents of this publication are owned by the FJB Air and all rights thereto are reserved under the Pan-American and Universal Copyright Conventions. However, all parts of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, without the prior written permission of FJB Air – just please give us credit. The book is part of Canadian heritage and as such should be shared.

## Militi Succurrimus

**Honorary Colonel John Blatherwick, CM, OBC, CD, MD, FRCP(C), LLD(Hon)**  
**2006 to 2012**

**Cover by Douglas Blatherwick**

### INTRODUCTION

In thinking about what I could leave the unit after my six years as the Honorary Colonel, I realized that one of my goals had been to produce a history of the unit. I sat down one Friday and started working on it and by Sunday I had it 75% written thanks to material that Adrian French had sent me – I say written as I had basically copied material from others but I did still had to sort it out! I have switched tenses often in the history - that wasn't my intention but I did. I wrote a lot of it in the present tense and so my perspective on the history pervades the book. However, you will get a sense of the past and present in the book and I hope that you enjoy it. Ben Roth gave me the HCol (emeritus) title!

John Blatherwick  
Honorary Colonel (emeritus)  
12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance

## INDEX

### Page

- 02. Tylere Couture's Adventures (excerpts from his log)
- 05. 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance – Who we are
- 05. The History of the Canadian Forces Health Services / Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps
- 05. Fenian Raids 1864 and 1870
- 05. Northwest Rebellion 1885
- 06. Army Medical Services 1889
- 07. South African War – Nickerson Victoria Cross
- 08. The Canadian Army Medical Corps is born 02 July 1904
- 07. Field Ambulance 1906
- 08. WWI – 1914 to 1919 (Private Mike Pearson)
- 09. WWI Canadian Army Medical Corps Victoria Cross Awards – Srimger and Hutcheson
- 10. A Canadian Medical Victoria Cross Awards – Young and O'Rourke
- 11. Canadian Victoria Cross recipient - Sinton
- 11. 1919 to 1939 (Post WWI)
- 11. 1939 to 1945 (WWII)
- 12. 1945 (Post WWII)
- 13. CF Trauma Training Centres and Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit at Kandahar Airfield
- 14. Canadian Forces Dental Services
- 15. 12 Vancouver Field Ambulance in WWII – *HMS Letitia*
- 16. Sinking of the United States Navy Destroyer *USS Ingraham*
- 17. Invasion of Normandy
- 19. The Battle for SOGEL, Germany
- 21. 12 Vancouver Field Ambulance Post World War II
- 21. 12 Medical Company, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps
- 22. United Nations and NATO missions
- 23. OP Podium CFMS Contribution to the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver
- 24. Freedom of the City of Vancouver 14 April 2007
- 25. 12 Field Ambulance Personnel in Afghanistan
- 26. Afghanistan in Photos
- 28. Life in Afghanistan – Captain Sandra Robinson
- 31. December 2011 Unit Christmas Photo

### Appendixes

- 32. Appendix 1 - Honours and Awards to the 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance in World War II
- 32. Appendix 2 - Honours and Awards to the 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance Post WWII
- 34. Appendix 3 - CFHS Members who hold the Polar Medal
- 37. Appendix 4 - Canadian Military Medical Heroes – Reade, VC; Douglas, VC; Banting, KBE, MC
- 38. - Canadian Military Medical Heroes – McCrae
- 39. - Canadian Military Medical Heroes – Pope, Leeson
- 40. - Canadian Military Medical Heroes – Topham, VC – RSM Nan Lu Commissioned
- 41. Appendix 5 - Commanding Officers
- 42. Appendix 6 - Commanding Officer's biographies – LCol Ben Roth
- 43. - Commanding Officer's biographies – LCol Rod Needham
- 44. - Commanding Officer's biographies – LCol Dave Lowe
- 45. - Commanding Officer's biographies – LCol Rod Wegener, Adrian French, Brian O'Connor
- 47. - Commanding Officer's biographies – LCol Sheila Delaney / Major John Garry & Michael Warrington
- 42. - Commanding Officer's biographies – Major Ivan Nohel
- 49. - Commanding Officer's biographies - Colonel Ernie Bowmer, KSJ, MD, CD
- 52. - Commanding Officer's biographies – LCol Hugh Stansfield
- 53. - Commanding Officer's biographies – LCol Cec Robinson
- 54. Appendix 7 - Regimental Sergeant Majors
- 54. Appendix 8 - Regimental Sergeant Major's Biographies – CWO Peter Van Rienen and CWO Wayne Gibson
- 55. - Regimental Sergeant Major's Biographies – CWO Nan Lu and CWO Scott Stewart
- 56. Appendix 9 - Honorary Colonels
- 57. Appendix 10 - Honorary Lieutenant-Colonels
- 58. Appendix 11 - Biographies of the Honoraries – HCol Tony Grasset
- 59. - Biographies of the Honoraries - HCol Michael Sanderson
- 60. - Biographies of the Honoraries - HLCol Rob Watt
- 62. - Biographies of the Honoraries - HLCol Tom Speed
- 59. - Biographies of the Honoraries - HCol John Blatherwick
- 73. Appendix 12 - Surgeon Generals
- 74. - Surgeon General / Colonel Commandants / Colonel-in-Chief RCAMC / CFHS
- 77. Appendix 13 - Serving Members of 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance 2005 to 2012

## This book is dedicated

to my wife  
to our children

Carol Elaine Blatherwick (the real doctor in the family)  
Lieutenant(N) James Edward Blatherwick, RCN  
David Allan Blatherwick and his wife Jennifer plus their children,  
Alec, Elizabeth, Hope, Katherine, and Nicole  
Douglas Stephen Blatherwick and his wife Lamor, Aerial and Caelan  
Paula Judy Hanson and her children Krista, Stephanie, and Travis

## And the Men and Woman of 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance Past and Present

### With thanks to:

- Adrian French – curator extraordinaire of the museum and for digging out great material for the book.
- Jeff Pope – for getting the photos from Afghanistan for the book and the walls of the 12 Field Ambulance
- Jenni Doty for getting me photos and information
- Scott Stewart for helping with the RSM information and Mark Arden
- Dave Lowe, Rod Needham and Ben Roth for their assistance
- Henry Kwok for providing material
- Bruce Holvick for sharing his photos with me, many of which are included in the book
- Tyler Couture, David Andersen, Justin Johnson, Chris Buckley, Wayne Wohlgemuth, Colin Terry Afghan photos <sup>1</sup>



### These are excerpts from Tylere Couture's time in Afghanistan starting in February 2008 (Task Force 1-08)

From CFB Edmonton, we were bussed down to the International Airport, and loaded into an Airbus CC-150 Polaris. After a couple quick fuel stops in Goose Bay, Labrador, and Köln, Germany, we arrived in Camp Mirage, a Canadian support base in the Middle East. From there I was lucky enough to enjoy the flight into Kandahar Airfield (KAF) on one of our new C-17 Globemasters, as opposed to a versatile but vomit-inducing CC-130 Hercules. Other than all the guys in arid army uniforms, this was the first sign we weren't on just any normal long flight halfway around the world.

---

<sup>1</sup> We were visiting a village south of Kandahar City and I stopped to chat with these kids. I asked them what they were learning in school, and they told me they were learning to read and write. So, I asked them to write something in my notebook. In the picture, I am reading the Pashto they wrote back to them. My role was Kandahar City CIMIC (Civil Military Cooperation) Team Leader. I received the Task Force Commander's Commendation for my work. **(Captain Tylere Couture)**

Tylere moved to Vancouver Island to take a teaching position and is now attached to 11 (Victoria) Field Ambulance

Particularly, when the announcement over the intercom came, “please fasten your seatbelts as were prepare for a combat landing”...huh? As it turns out, in an aircraft as large as the C-17, a combat landing isn’t too much different than a normal civilian landing, except for a steeper dive and a few shallow bobs and weaves. And they turned the lights out, which made it a little more exciting too.

We were immediately hit by our first big shock in Kandahar. Now about 2am local time, and 24 hours into our trip, it was freezing. By about 5am we had finished clearing into the base, and were shown to our bunks in the transient quarters. Rather than give in to sleep, most of us decided to fight the jet lag and stayed up until our next briefing at 1300. Our first stop, of course, was the famed KAF Tim Horton’s trailer where we got a shot of moral boost, then I met up with a friend from Victoria, Warrant Officer Bob Macdonald, who gave us a quick tour the massive place. KAF is a multi-national base of over 12,000 soldiers about 15km southwest of Kandahar City. It is also home to the soldiers of 11 other nations.

By mid-afternoon, we were finally ready to head out to our much smaller Camp Nathan Smith (CNS), where the 250 soldiers and civilians of the Provincial Reconstruction Team are stationed. Expecting the butterflies to hit on my first trip outside the wire, I was amazed that nothing of the sort happened, in fact I almost felt like I was back in Wainwright on our training exercise. Despite it being a soldier’s secondary duty to complain, it now became obvious how effective our pre-deployment training was. As we entered the city - a sprawl of mud huts with vendors lining the roadside - a small group of about five children waved to us calling for their friends who were soon pouring out of nearby huts to join in. Another small group of children down the road were jumping up and down giving the thumbs up, except for one little punk who tossed an experimental stone our way. The locals pulled over and watched us go by, no doubt a common scene for many for decades. After about half and hour we reached the gates of CNS in the northwest sector of the city. I finally got some sleep.

Twice now I have visited the University of Kandahar. In the chancellor’s vision, it is a thriving centre of research and higher education, where world class professors come to study the unique culture and history of southern Afghanistan. In reality, this former Taliban training ground is a large, nearly empty plot of land, with a string of eleven dormitories and an enormous blue mosque along a single road. These dormitories have been fitted to serve as an administrative building, lecture halls, and a faculty of education, medicine, engineering, and agriculture. A few hundred meters further down the road, two empty female dormitories sit. In many parts of the university’s land, Kuchis (Afghan nomads) have raised their tents and people displaced from fighting in rural districts have erected crude mud homes.

The first time we arrived, the few students outside looked on in curiosity. After dismounting from our vehicles, a small group including myself approached the students, the crowd of which was quickly growing. I asked in Pashto if any of them spoke English, and several responded “yes”. I spoke a few greetings in Pashto, as I now always do, but this crowd wasn’t as easy to impress. They asked me where I learned the language, and when I explained that I studied it from a book in Canada, I could tell they were sceptical. They started testing me, assuming I had only memorized a dozen phrases, so I asked one of the students what subject he was studying at the University, but I did not understand his reply. I asked them what it was in English, and they said “Bekar”. I asked him to describe what thing a “Bekar” studied and they laughed at me as they explained he was the guy who made bread in the morning...the baker.

The first time I met Dr Totakhail, the Chancellor of Kandahar University, I was originally expecting to discuss only a list of projects he had requested help with from the KPRT, instead, I found myself in a philosophical discussion about education’s role in the future of Afghanistan. The Chancellor passionately portrayed his vision for the University, and explained how it was the key to southern Afghanistan progressing from the backward era in which it currently resides. He said that a generational change is required, but “if we do not educate our sons and daughters, we will be left with only another generation of the same.” He articulated his hope for professor/student exchanges with Canadian universities, and the creation of a research facility where scholars would come from around the world to discuss Afghanistan’s unique history. He apologized to me when he excitedly began to discuss other projects he was coordinating with other funding agencies such as the World Bank, and he was visibly proud when he told me that this year, several of his students were accepted into masters programs in neighbouring countries.

## **12 (Vancouver) FIELD AMBULANCE**

### **Who we are**

12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance is a Canadian Forces Medical Reserve unit in Vancouver which serves 39 Brigade but is not part of the Brigade. It belongs to the Canadian Forces Health Services Group (which is part of the Chief Military Personnel department). The unit is based at the Jericho Garrison at 4050 West 4th Avenue in Vancouver.

Our members are soldiers first – medical personnel second. Most of the members have a civilian job and are part of that group that Sir Winston Churchill is purported to have said, “The Reserve soldier is twice a citizen, serving their country in their civilian role and serving their country in their military role”. For the past six years (February 2006 to February 2012), the author has been proud to be the Honorary Colonel of this outstanding group of dedicated men and women.

The Mission of the Canadian Forces Health Services Group is “Understanding and Caring - For those who serve anytime anywhere”. The Vision is “We are a professional military health service trusted for our expertise. We understand and respect the unique needs of those who serve anytime, anywhere. The excellence of our care makes us proud to serve”. The mission of the CFHS is “To provide full spectrum, high quality health services to Canada’s fighting forces wherever they serve.”

To understand the history of 12 Field Ambulance, we must look at the history of the 24th Medical Company and the history of the Canadian Medical Services as a Corps - the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. The History of the Corps, is the history of the Company, is the history of the Field Ambulance.

### **The History of the Canadian Forces Health Services / Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps**

At the beginning of the Canadian Military History, the Medical Services consisted of the Regimental-Surgeon, who was a Personal Servant of the Commanding Officer, usually without any military training. He carried the rank of Surgeon-Major, and the equipment, supplies, etc. of his trade were his problem and usually inadequate. With the withdrawal of the British Regiments, many Surgeon-Majors stayed in Canada, and there together with some medical men from the United States, who came to Canada with the “Loyalists” after 1783, provided the only Medical Services in Canada both Army and Civilian.

### **FENIAN RAIDS 1866 - 1870**

The Fenian Raids of 1866 and the Red River Expedition of 1870 demonstrated the need of the Militia to have more efficient medical services than the part-time civilian Surgeon-Majors employed by the battalions could provide. The Surgeon-Major frequently serviced both sides of a conflict and were unassisted by other ranks, other than the occasional voluntary help from civilians, such as medical students.

### **NORTHWEST REBELLION 1885**

The first all Canadian military force was raised in 1885 to put down the rebellion in what is now the province of Saskatchewan. Here the real problem of casualty evacuation became recognized by Ottawa. The Commanding Officer of the contingent wrote, “The sick are a regular anchor”. The campaign bogged down until an inventive medical officer rigged stretchers of canvas, and hides to transport the sick. The medical officers reported on such problems as winter clothing, boots, rations, and water bottles.

Colonel Darby Bergin (a Member of Parliament) was appointed Surgeon-General and instructed to organize a medical service. He served until





1896 as the Surgeon-General. Ottawa approved the establishment of two field hospitals in civilian establishments and the military medical services of Canada began. Within seven days of taking over, the first field hospital was on its way to Winnipeg from Ottawa. Other Ranks needed to assist the physicians were recruited by calling on volunteers from medical students. Nurses were used based on the experience of the Crimea and were placed in hospitals in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon. Casualties were evacuated from the field hospitals 50 miles by wagon and 1100 miles by barge.



However, from the end of the actions in Saskatchewan, the medical serves again deteriorated to the status of part-time Regimental Surgeons. In 1896 **Sir Frederick Borden**, a former medical officer, became Minister of Militia and Defence (CFB Borden was named after him). **Surgeon-Major J.H.L. Neilson** was appointed Director-General of the Medical Staff in 1898. His office was a railed off corridor end in Ottawa which was at the same time, his office, stores, and reserve stores depot. In 1889, the Canadian Army Militia Medical Service was created. This resulted in the appointment of a part-time Principal Medical Officer in each Military District. He was

responsible for the medical training in the District, and the medical facilities at the summer camps.

### ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES 1889

The regimental medical component planned in 1889 was a stretcher-bearer section, under the Regimental Surgeon with a Corporal Medical orderly attached. In addition, authority was given for 1 Bearer Company to each Brigade and 3 Field Hospitals to a Division with proportional allotments to the cavalry and independent brigades. The Bearer Company consisted of 3 medical officers, 61 other ranks and 10 wagons. They were entitled to train for 9 days at Headquarters and 3 days at Camp. The Field Hospital consisted of 100 beds with 4 medical officers and 40 men plus a quartermaster. Training was provided for 12 days at camp plus providing the medical services at camp. Base Hospitals were formed in civilian hospitals.

One Bearer Company was organized in Halifax in time to see the beginning of the Canadian commitment in South Africa. In all, the Medical Services formed #10 Canadian Field Hospital in South Africa and sent 7 Medical Officers with Regiments plus 16 nurses. All saw considerable action handling 1,000 casualties in an 83 day period. From this engagement the Medical Services developed such things as an improved hospital tent (the Hubert Tent), a Light Wagon, and efficient lighting using Acetylene.

**Nursing Sister Georgina Fane Pope** was awarded the Royal Red Cross (First Class) for her services in South Africa. Her medals are shown below.



Lieutenant-Colonel **George Stirling Ryerson** was made a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John for his services.

Lieutenant (later Major-General) **William Henry Snyder Nickerson, VC, CB, CMG** of the Royal Army Medical Corps received the Victoria Cross <sup>2</sup> in South Africa and was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath and Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in WWI. He was born in Dorchester, New Brunswick.



Major-General The Honourable **Sir Marie-Joseph-Eugène Fiset, KT, CMG, DSO, KStJ, ED, MD**, born in Rimouski, Quebec, was a physician in the rank of Major with the Royal Canadian Regiment leaving Quebec on 30 October 1899 and arriving in Cape Town, South Africa in November 1899. He received the Distinguished Service Order for his services in South Africa as well as three times Mentioned-in-Despatches. He left the army after returning from South Africa to train as an Ear, Nose and Throat

---

<sup>2</sup> At Wakkerstroom, on the evening of the 20th April, 1900, during the advance of the Infantry to support the Mounted Troops, Lieutenant Nickerson went, in the most gallant manner, under a heavy rifle and shell fire, to attend a wounded man, dressed his wounds, and remained with him till he had him conveyed to a place of safety. Nickerson's replica medals are on display at the Halifax Citadel Military Museum and a painting of the event shown above..

Surgeon. However, he rejoined the Army Medical Services becoming the Adjutant and then the Director-General of Medical Services. On 22nd December 1906, he became the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence a position he held throughout WWI. He retired on 31 March 1924 to become a Member of Parliament. In December 1939, he retired as a Member of Parliament and became the 18<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec serving until October 1950.

### **The CANADIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS is BORN 02 JULY 1904**

As a result of the experience in South African, General Order #98 of 2 July 1904 announced a re-organization of the Military Medical Services in Canada, which in future was to consist of:

1. The Army Medical Department under the Director-General of Medical Services (Colonel Fiset);
2. The Medical Staff – a Regimental Medical Officer for each District (8 medical officers);
3. The Army Medical Corps (Permanent and non Permanent) to include medical officers, nursing officers, other ranks and dental surgeons (36 non-commissioned orderlies and storesmen);
4. The Regiment Medical Services which gave the medical officers a combatant rank. The medical officers had authority over the stretcher-bearers and patients. In 1906, the medical staff came into the Army Medical Corps and in 1900; the Regimental Medical Officers also came into the Corps.

### **FIELD AMBULANCE 1906**

In 1906 the Bearer Companies and Field Hospitals were re-formed into a combination of both and called Field Ambulances. The question of sanitation, which prior to this time was nobody's business, became the responsibility of the Commanding Officer of the Field Ambulance and was in effect administered by the medical officers. At the 1906 summer camp in Nova Scotia, a model hygiene set-up was demonstrated by the Regimental Medical Officer and put into effect throughout the camp. Within 3 days, sickness was reduced in the camp.

### **WORLD WAR I – 1914 to 1919**



In 1914, the Medical Corps consisted of 20 Permanent Forces medical officers, 5 nursing sisters and 102 other ranks. The non permanent active militia (NPAM) medical staff had on paper 6 cavalry field ambulances, 15 Field Ambulances and 2 Clearing Hospitals. By 1918, the Canadian Army Medical Services (CAMC) had 68 units serving 425,000 Canadian Troops in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces (CEF). The CAMC sent 4 Hospital Units to Gallipoli and 4 to Vladivostok. A young man name Lester Bowles Pearson, better known as **Private 'Mike' Pearson, the 14th Prime Minister of Canada**, served in Greece as a stretcher bearer.<sup>3</sup>



When the First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) went overseas, the 1st Canadian General Hospital (raised from the CAMC reserves) deployed to France. On 21 October 1914, as most of the 1st Contingent was training in Britain, the 1 CGH was treating patients in France. By the time the 1st Canadian Division arrived in France arrived in the Ypres

<sup>3</sup> In 1915, Pearson went to Salonika in northern Greece to serve as an orderly in a Canadian Field Hospital supporting the 10th Division, which was fighting the Bulgarians. In 1916, he trained in the Royal Flying Corps as a pilot. He was given the name 'Mike' while with the RFC as it was determined by his comrades that Lester was no name for a fighter pilot. His medals above include the Companion of the Order of Canada, the Order of Merit (OM) and the OBE (first type) plus his WWII medals and four commemorative medals.



area, the hospital had already treated nearly 3,000 patients. Members of 1 CGH received the 1914 Star; most of the other members of the 1st Canadian Division received the 1914-1915 Star as they didn't get to the continent until 1915.

World War I saw the CAMC treated 540,000 Hospital cases. The CAMC enrolled 21,453 members (3,147 nursing sisters) during WWI of which 1,325 casualties and 504 who died. On 15 April 1915 the CAMC treated 5500 gas casualties and treated 134,000 gas casualties between 3 September and 16 October 1916 at the "Somme". Two CAMC medical officers and two stretcher bearers received the Victoria Cross in WWI and 325 other awards were made to the Corps.

### WWI CANADIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS VICTORIA CROSS AWARDS

**Captain Francis Alexander Caron Scrimger, VC** born in Montreal and serving with the CAMC attached to the 14th Battalion (Royal Montreal Regiment). He received the Victoria Cross for the following action:

*"During the Second Battle of Ypres on 25 April 1915 at Saint-Julien, Belgium, Captain Scrimger was in charge of an advanced dressing station in a farmhouse near Wiltje on the St. Julien-Ypres Road. The advancing enemy were bombarding the area with an intense shelling. The German infantry were within sight. Scrimger directed the removal of the wounded under the heavy fire. Captain Scrimger and a badly wounded Captain Macdonald were the last men left at the station. Scrimger carried the wounded officer out of the farmhouse to the road. The bombardment of shell forced Scrimger to stop and place Macdonald on the road. Scrimger then protected him with his own body. During a lull in the gunfire Scrimger again carried Macdonald toward help. When he was unable to carry him any further, he remained with the wounded man until help could be obtained."*



**Captain Bellenden Seymour Hutcheson, VC** was born in Mount Carmel, Illinois, USA, but renounced his American citizenship (and reclaimed it after the war) to serve in the CAMC in WWI. He also received the Military Cross. His citation for 02 September 1918 reads:

*"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on September 2nd, when under most intense shell, machine-gun and rifle fire, he went through the Quéant-Drocourt Support Line with the battalion. Without hesitation and with utter disregard of personal safety he remained on the field until every wounded man had been attended to. He dressed the wounds of a seriously wounded officer under terrific machine-gun and shell fire, and, with the assistance of prisoners and of his own men, succeeded in evacuating him to safety, despite the fact that the bearer party suffered heavy casualties. Immediately afterwards he rushed forward, in full view of the enemy, under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, to tend a wounded serjeant, and, having placed him in a shell-hole, dressed his wounds. Captain Hutcheson performed many similar gallant acts, and, by his coolness and devotion to duty, many lives were saved."*

Photo at left



**Private John Francis Young, VC** was born in Kidderminster, England on 14 January 1893, and came to Canada as a young man. He died of tuberculosis in Ste-Agathe, Quebec on 7 November 1929. He enlisted in the 87th Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, serving as a stretcher-bearer. Private Young was awarded the Victoria Cross for his conduct on 2 September 1918 during the fighting for the Drocourt-Quéant Line, near Dury in France. On that day, his company suffered heavy casualties from German shell- and machine gun fire. His citation reads:

*"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack at Dury-Arras sector on the 2nd September, 1918, when acting as a stretcher-bearer attached to 'D' Company of the 87th Bn., Quebec Regiment. This company in the advance over the ridge suffered heavy casualties from shell and machine-gun fire. Private Young, in spite of the complete absence of cover, without the least hesitation went out, and in the open fire-swept ground dressed the wounded. Having exhausted his stock of dressings, on more than one occasion he returned, under intense fire, to his company headquarters for a further supply. This work he continued for over an hour, displaying throughout*

*the most absolute fearlessness. To his courageous conduct must be ascribed the saving of the lives of many of his comrades. Later, when the fire had somewhat slackened, he organised and led stretcher parties to bring in the wounded whom he had dressed. All through the operations of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th September, Private Young continued to show the greatest valour and devotion to duty.” (London Gazette, no.31067, 14 December 1918)*

**Private Michael James O’Rourke, VC, MM** was born on 19 March 1878 in Limerick, Ireland. He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force as a stretcher-bearer, and served with the 7th Infantry Battalion. O’Rourke received the Military Medal for his conduct in the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

O’Rourke earned the Victoria Cross for his courage and devotion to his comrades over a three-day period, from 15 to 17 August 1917, during the fighting for Hill 70, near Lens in France. O’Rourke died in Vancouver, British Columbia on 6 December 1957. His citation reads:



*“For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during prolonged operations. For three days and nights Pte. O’Rourke, who is a stretcher-bearer, worked unceasingly in bringing the wounded into safety, dressing them, and getting them food and water. During the whole of his period the area in which he worked was subjected to very severe shelling and swept by heavy machine gun and rifle fire. On several occasions he was knocked down and partially buried by enemy shells. Seeing a comrade who had been blinded stumbling around ahead of our trench, in full view of the enemy who were sniping him, Pte. O’Rourke jumped out of his trench and brought the man back, being himself heavily sniped at while doing so. Again he went forward about 50 yards in front of our barrage under very heavy and accurate fire from enemy machine guns and snipers, and brought in a comrade. On a subsequent occasion, when the line of advanced posts was retired to the line to be consolidated, he went forward under very heavy enemy fire of every description and brought back a wounded man who had been left behind. He showed throughout an absolute disregard for his own safety, going wherever there were wounded to succour, and his magnificent courage and devotion in continuing his rescue work, in spite of exhaustion and the incessant heavy enemy fire of every description, inspired all ranks and undoubtedly saved many lives.”*

(London Gazette, no.30372, 8 November 1917)

Of interest, but not a member of the CAMC, **Captain (later Brigadier) John Alexander Sinton, VC, OBE**<sup>4</sup> of the Indian Medical Services, was born in Victoria, B.C. also received the Victoria Cross. On 21 January 1916 at the Orah Ruins, Mesopotamia, Captain Sinton, then 31 years old, attended to the wounded under very heavy fire.



Sinton’s citation for the Victoria Cross reads:

*“For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Although shot through both arms and through the side, he refused to go to hospital, and remained as long as daylight lasted, attending to his duties under very heavy fire. In three previous actions Captain Sinton displayed the utmost bravery.”*

<sup>4</sup> His OBE was awarded as per the London Gazette of 10 June 1921 to Captain & Brevet Major (T/Major) John Alexander Sinton, V.C., M.B., Indian Medical Services. A 1947 photo of him in his Brigadier uniform and of the London Gazette announcing his award of the VC is below.

### 1919 to 1939 (Post WWI)

- 1919 CAMC reverted to 1914 status  
Permanent Force Component being the  
**Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps** (03 November 1919)
- 1922 Provided medical services for the Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force
- 1927 Provided medicals for all pilots including civilians
- 1931 61 out of 81 Non-Permanent Medical Units rated moderately poor
- 1932 Provided medicals for the Unemployment Camps (170,000 men)
- 1933 Provided medicals for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- 1936 The Non-Permanent Component became the **Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps (NP)**
- 1938 Provided administration for the Dental Corps

### RCAMC WORLD WAR II 1939 – 1945

The Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps Permanent consisted of 166 all ranks, of whom 7 were on the staff at Ottawa. The RCAMC (NP) had 190 Officers at summer camp with 24 Field Ambulances, 12 Field 'Hygiene Sections', 6 Casualty Collecting Stations, and 18 Reserve General Hospitals plus the Basingstoke Neurological Hospital. The medical stores were reported in good condition but equipment was largely obsolete.

The Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force raised their own medical units in WWII and the RCAMC served the Canadian Army. A training centre for the RCAMC was established in Camp Borden.

The Field Ambulances served with distinction with each of the Canadian Division. By 1945, the RCAMC had five Casualty Collecting Station, 28 General Hospitals, 3 Convalescent Hospitals and a General Hospital specializing in neurology and plastic surgery. Members of the RCAF as well as burn victims from the army (especially tanks) were treated at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, Sussex by Sir Archibald McIndoe and **Wing Commander Ross Tilley**, CM, OBE (photo at right). Tilley had been a member of the RCAMC prior to WWII and was transferred to the RCAF early in the war. McIndoe and Tilley pioneered new plastic surgery techniques for treating burns and also for treating the psyche of burn patients. The Guinea Pig Club was formed from their patients and integrated into the pubs in East Grinstead to get them back to a normal life as much as possible.



### RCAMC 1945 (Post WWII)

The RCAMC school in Camp Borden was made a permanent Corps School and a Permanent Field Ambulance was established there as well. One effect of the war was the recognition of the need for non-medical officers. Prior to 1939, only 3 non-medical officers had been commissioned and post-war 1/3rd of all male officers were non-medical. These included instructors, quartermasters, pharmacists, bacteriologists and stretcher-bearer officers. Non-medical officers commanded some units.

In 1959, the Canadian Forces Medical Services was established to centralize administration of medical support to the RCAF, RCN and Canadian Army.

In 1968, the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force were unified to form the Canadian Armed Forces. The medical branch already had a unified administration. However, as the uniforms became available, all medical members wore the green uniforms. The motto of the CFMS *Militi Succurrimus* (We hasten to aid the soldiers) was approved in 1981.

In the First Gulf War in 1991, Canada contributed 4,500 members including the First Canadian Field Hospital based in Al-Qaysumah, Saudi Arabia as part of Op Friction. Captain Dennis Haynes, the current (2012) Deputy Commanding Officer of 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance served with the 1st Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment in 1991 and was detached to 1 Canadian Field Hospital and deployed to Saudi Arabia during the **First Gulf War**.<sup>5</sup>



In 1995, the Canadian Forces Medical and Dental services were united under the Surgeon General. The Surgeon General's title was changed to Chief of Health Services and later downgrades from a Major-General / Rear-Admiral rank to Brigadier-General / Commodore as the Director of Medical Services. It was further downgraded to the rank of Colonel in June 2000 (with a non physician Major-General as the Director General). The Surgeon General position was again made a General Officer / Flag Officer rank in June 2004 when **Hilary Jaeger** was promoted to Brigadier-General. When **Commodore Margaret Kavanaugh** retired in July 2007, the Surgeon-General and Director of Health Services positions were combined into one reporting to the Chief of Military Personnel and remained a Brigadier-General / Commodore position.

Constant changes to the structure and role of the Canadian Forces Health Services in the 1990's and early 21st Century weakened the regular and reserve force. The name of the organization was changed in 1995 from Canadian Forces Medical Services (CFMS) to Canadian Forces Health Services (CFHS) when the Dental Branch was made a part of the CFHS. However, the demands made on military health services by the Afghanistan conflict forced the CFHS to change for the better. Lead by **Hilary Jaeger** and **Commodore Hans Jung** (as Deputy Surgeon General and later as the Surgeon General), the CFHS rose to the challenge taking the lead at the Role 3 Military Hospital in Kandahar and providing a strong regular and reserve medical force in Afghanistan throughout the mission.<sup>6</sup>



The addition of CF Trauma Training Centres at hospitals such as Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) and the Royal Columbian Hospital provide an excellent training ground for anaesthetists, general surgeons, trauma surgeons, emergency room surgeons, specialized nurses, and Non-Commissioned members to practice their skills in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan or other missions. Physicians like **Commander Ross Brown**<sup>7</sup> at VGH deployed several times for short periods of time to utilize their skills; 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance recruited trauma nurses from VGH to deploy to Kandahar.

<sup>5</sup> Captain Dennis Haynes, DCO, 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance wearing his Gulf War Medal (1st medal)

<sup>6</sup> Commodore Margaret Kavanaugh, OMM, OSU, CD – Brigadier-General Hilary Jaeger, OMM, OSU, MSM, CD, QHP – Commodore Hans Jung, OMM, CD, QHP

<sup>7</sup> Commander Ross Brown, OMM, CD



**Lieutenant(N) Jeff Lee**,<sup>\*</sup> the VGH Detachment Training Officer for the CF Trauma Training Centre deployed with the 2005 Disaster Response Team to the earthquakes in Pakistan, has served two operational tours as a Critical Care Nursing Officer at the Role 3 Hospital in Kandahar, Afghanistan and commanded the five volunteer VANOC Medical Teams at the Whistler venue for the 2010 Olympics. 12 Field Ambulance recruited trauma nurses from VGH to serve in Afghanistan.

Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit at the Kandahar Airfield (KAF) was under Canadian command from the fall of 2005 to October 2009. The United States Navy assumed responsibility after that. Originally a multipurpose building, the plywood structure that used to house the Role 3 was chosen for the hospital because it stood at the edge of the airfield. ("Role 3" is NATO jargon for a hospital designed to provide military patients with a wide variety of intensive therapy for a limited period of time.) The KAF hospital became a cutting-edge trauma facility delivering life-saving care to patients of all kinds: not only Canadian and coalition military and civilian personnel, but also Afghan soldiers, police and civilians. The original hospital was closed on 23 May 2010 and moved into the hospital's new quarters right next door.



At its peak in 2007 the Role 3 Military Hospital in Kandahar provided approximately 900 surgeries. Multiple surgeries were frequently performed on the same patient to save life and limb. Surgeries were performed for battle and non-battle injuries on Canadian soldiers, Coalition troops and Afghan civilians. Approximately 1,300 Canadian soldiers, Coalition troops and Afghan civilians were admitted to the Role 3 Intensive Care Unit and ward beds in 2007. 98% of the casualties treated at the Role 3 during 2007 survived their injuries. An average of 35 patients was seen daily at the walk-in clinic (next door to the Role 3 trauma facility) between August 1st and December 31st 2007. Most patients were civilian contractors, coalition troops and some Afghan civilians. There were over 4,000 physiotherapy appointments made. The dental clinic (with two Dental Officers) saw approximately 3,000 patients in 2007. A TV series was made about the hospital.

### CANADIAN FORCES DENTAL SERVICES

The mission of the CFDS is to enable the CF to fulfill its operational role by providing high quality, operationally focused dental care, at home and abroad. The CFDS was led by a Director General Dental Services, Brigadier-General as an independent unit. However, with the reduction in General Officer / Flag Officer ranks in 1995, the position was downgraded to a Colonel and placed under the Canadian Forces Health Services (ending 58 years of 'dental' autonomy in the CF). In 2003, the Surgeon-General position was restored to the rank of a Brigadier-General leaving the Director of Dental Services as the only CF professional / technical authority not established at a General rank. 1 Dental Unit is commanded by a Colonel and consists of a small headquarters in Ottawa and 26 dental detachments, including two in Europe. The six largest detachments are designated specialist centres and are commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel. These clinics have a periodontist, a prosthodontist, and an oral maxillofacial surgeon on staff, in addition to general dentists. Smaller clinics are commanded by Majors or Captains. Many clinics employ Advanced general Dentistry specialists to provide and co-ordinate specialty dental care. CF Members are entitled to comprehensive dental care at public expense. Dental Staff in the Canadian Army always wore Canadian Army uniforms and provided dental services to the RCAF and RCN as well as the Canadian Army.

---

<sup>\*</sup> HLCol Michael Sanderson, MSTJ with Lieutenant(N) Jeff Lee MSTJ, Commander King Wan, CSTJ, CD and Major Wendy MacKenzie, MMM, CD at the Change of Command parade in October 2010.

## COLONEL COMMANDANTS of the CANADIAN FORCES DENTAL CORPS / SERVICES

<b>LOTT, Frank Melville</b>	BGen	CBE ED	1947 - 1954
<b>CAMERON, George Lynch</b>	Colonel	DSO OBE VD	1954 - 1958
<b>EDGEcombe, John Frederick</b>	Colonel	OBE	1960 - 1965
<b>WANSBROUGH, Elgin McKinnon</b>	BGen	OBE MM ED CD	1965 - 1970
<b>BAIRD, Kenneth Martin</b>	BGen	OBE CD QHDS	1974 - 1978
<b>KEARNEY, Bertrame Patrick</b>	BGen	MBE CD	1978 - 1982
<b>COVEY, George Ross</b>	Colonel	MBE CD QHDS	1983 - 1985
<b>THOMPSON, William Rae</b>	BGen	MMM OStJ CD QHDS	1985 - 1990
<b>BRICK, J.C.</b>	Colonel	CD	1991
<b>NEILSON, Jardine</b>	Mr	--	2000 - 2003
<b>MacINNIS, William A.</b>	LCol	CD	2003 - 2009
<b>CURRAH, John Robert Ellwood</b>	Colonel	CD	2009 - 2011
<b>LANCTIS, Victor Joseph</b>	BGen	MStJ MB CD DDS QHDS	2011 – present <sup>9</sup>

## COLONEL IN CHIEF CANADIAN FORCES DENTAL SERVICES

**DUCHESS of GLOUCESTER**

**HRH**

**GCVO**

**01/2006 - present**



<sup>9</sup> HRH The Duchess of Gloucester and BGen Victor Joseph Lanctis, MStJ, MB, CD  
**2010 Unit Christmas Photo**

## 12 Vancouver Field Ambulance <sup>10</sup>

In World War I, the medical unit from Vancouver was sent to the 5th Canadian Division and stationed with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. After WWI, Colonel Leeson setup as a reserve RCAMC unit and the title was the 12th Field Ambulance. The unit won the “Mary Otter” Trophy in 1938 for the best medical team in Canada. **Private George Shoebbotham** was a member of that team.

The 4th Canadian Infantry Division was mobilized in 1941 with three field ambulances: 12th, 15th and 15th. Later that year it became the 4th Canadian Armoured Division. The 15th Field Ambulance remained as before. The 12th became the 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance (light meaning it was equipped to be fast moving to keep up with 4 CAD), and the 16th became the 16th Canadian Field Dressing Station

On mobilization, **Lieutenant-Colonel Sid Baldwin** was appointed Officer Commanding Canadian Light Field Ambulance (CLFA) and Major Merv Caverhill became the second-in-command. On 06 June 1941, Major Caverhill went to the Vancouver General Hospital looking for medical officers. **Drs. Bill Bie, Rod Whitman and Tom McMurtry**<sup>11</sup> all joined the Field Ambulance that day. They all became life long friends as did their wives. Later, **Captain Darwin Oliver** joined the unit, but unfortunately he died soon after from a rapidly growing malignancy. **Captain Dave B. Collision** joined about that time as well. Dave was an Obstetrician / Gynaecologist who would later be promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel.

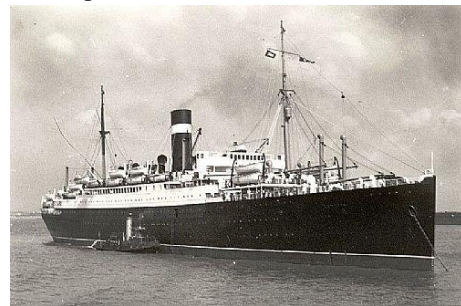
During the ensuing weeks, LCol Baldwin was supervising the medical exams of enlisting men at the Old Hotel Vancouver. He hand picked likely looking candidates for the 12th. The result was that we got a core of excellent enlisted men for our unit. The unit gradually came up to full strength and was housed in the Seaforth Barracks.

The Quartermaster was Captain Harold Davenport. The head of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps section was **Captain Lynch** (no not, Sergeant Gray!). Later RCASC officers were Quartermaster Lieutenant (later Captain) **Dick Whittington** and transport officer Lieutenant (later Captain) **Cliff Middlemiss**. The initial **Regimental Sergeant-Major** was “**Jock**” **Stewart** (no not Scott). Jock served us in action and was always a tower of strength.

In the fall of 1941, the unit moved to Camp Valcartier, Quebec and continue with basic training as before.

In late November 1941 the unit moved to Camp Debert, Nova Scotia, which had just been vacated by the 5th Canadian Armoured Division. During about nine months there, more training continued with lecturers and long route marches which relieved some of the boredom and helped improve physical fitness. There were two gas chamber exposures. One of these necessitated alcohol to control after effects. It was quite popular! The city of Truro, Nova Scotia, was 18 miles away and helped lessen boredom for those who could get there.

On 21 August 1942 (two days after Dieppe) the unit left camp and proceeded to Halifax where the unit boarded the troop ship *HMS Letitia* (a former cruise liner and then a Royal Navy Armed Merchant Cruiser; later in the war a Canadian Hospital Ship). The *HMS Letitia* left the next day in convoy escorted by destroyers of the US Navy.

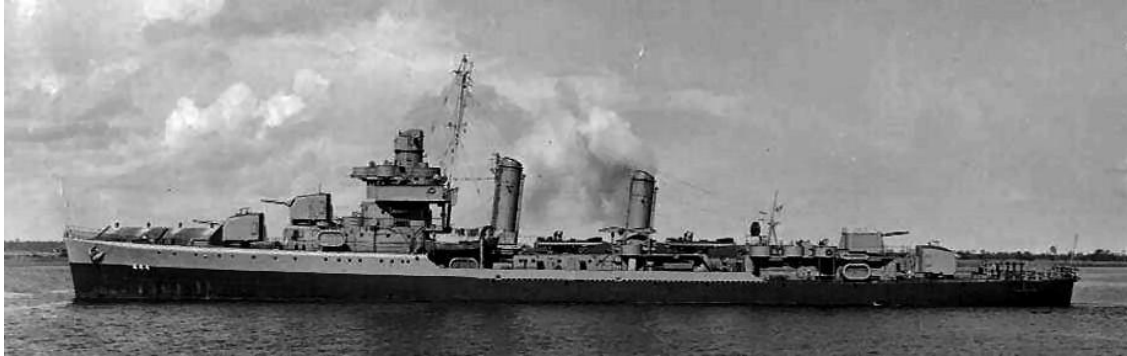


---

<sup>10</sup> This description of the unit in WWII was written by Dr. Thomas S.G. McMurtry and is came from the 12 Field Ambulance Museum courtesy of LCol Adrian French, CD

<sup>11</sup> I learned of Dr. T.S.G. (‘Tom’) McMurtry’s connection to the unit when I wrote this book. An interesting connection I have with him is that his son started medical school at the University of Alberta in Edmonton with my wife and I in 1965. He was named Tom as well. He didn’t graduate with us transferring to UBC for second year medicine. The younger Tom graduated from UBC in 1969 and went on to become a cardiologist in the Okanagan. He unfortunately died at a very young age.

## SINKING of the UNITED STATES NAVY DESTROYER *USS INGRAHAM* <sup>12</sup>



During the evening of 22 August 1942, *HMS Letitia* failed to react to an order to perform an emergency zig-zag. The USN Destroyer *USS Buck* was sent to correct *Letitia's* actions. This set in motion a chain of events that led to a collision between *USS Ingraham* and Oil Tanker *SS Chemung*, setting off depth charges on the *Ingraham*. As a result of this, the *Ingraham* sank with the loss of 218 hands (11 survived). There was a further collision between *SS Awatea* and *USS Buck*.<sup>13</sup> Some ex-miners of the Lake Superior Motor Battalion volunteered to go down and shore up the bulk heads of the *SS Awatea* and the ship limped home successfully.

The Convoy sailed southeast to latitudes where it was quite hot and the ocean had numerous jelly-fish. It was a smooth and unremarkable trip and eventually going Northeast we were elated to be met by Sunderland Flying Boats somewhere off the coast of Ireland. They escorted us up the Irish Channel and the Firth of Clyde to Clydebank where we debarked and were transported by rail to Bordon, Hampshire. We ultimately were stationed at “Malthouse Farm” near Bordon.

### 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance in Britain 1942

Thus began life in England for the unit - further training, and trying to keep busy awaiting the war on the continent. Some four months later the unit moved to Hove, near Brighton. It was a popular move with the members because the social amenities were excellent. About this time **LCol Baldwin** left to command 2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station and **LCol E.E. “Tuffie” Tieman** became the Officer Commanding. They were both fine leaders. Tieman had been in the army as a Medical Officer prior to the war. He was stricter than Baldwin but always fair.

One day while stationed at Hove College, the unit about to start an operation when German planes came in low under the radar and surprised everybody. All the operating staff had to rush forward, grab the patient off the operating table and into a place of safety. Nobody was wounded in the incident but the incident sure startled the patient.

---

<sup>12</sup> The American destroyer *USS Ingraham* sank after a violent collision with the Navy oil tanker *SS Chemung* in pea-soup fog off the coast of Nova Scotia. The *Ingraham* was part of task Force 37 escorting Convoy AT-20 to the United Kingdom. An internal explosion caused the ship to blaze from stem to stern. It was all over in a flash, the burning wreck vanishing beneath the waves taking the lives of 218 of her crew. There were only 11 survivors, one officer and ten men, all rescued by the *Chemung's* boat crews.

<sup>13</sup> The *USS Buck* was escorting a convoy during a dense fog off Nova Scotia on 22 August 1942. The *USS Buck* was struck starboard side aft by the New Zealand troop-transport *Awatea* while trying to escort another vessel to her correct position in the convoy. The impact broke *Buck's* keel and sliced about two-thirds through the fantail. Seven sailors were killed in the collision. As the starboard propeller was wrecked, and the port propeller damaged, the destroyer maintained steerageway only with difficulty as the crew tried to secure the fantail with lines and wires. When the port propeller fell off a few hours later, leaving the destroyer helpless, the fantail was cut loose since wave action was battering and chafing the hull. To make matters worse, as destroyer *Ingraham* (DD-444) closed to assist she was mortally damaged by a collision with oiler *Chemung* (AO-30). After rescuing the survivors from *Ingraham*, the oiler managed to take *Buck* under tow until relieved by *Cherokee* (AT-66). *Buck* reached Boston on 26 August, where she underwent repairs until November. Upon completion of yard work she returned to Atlantic convoy escort duty that winter, guarding convoys to European waters into June 1943, when she was ordered to the Mediterranean for patrol duty out of Tunisian and Algerian ports.



During the early fall of 1943, there was a huge exercise in Suffolk and Norfolk. When it was over, the unit was re-located to East Grinstead. At this time, **Major Caverhill**<sup>14</sup> (right) was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and took command of the unit with **Major J.A.C. (“Lofty”) Thomson** becoming the second-in-command. He was a very popular and efficient officer. East Grinstead was the location of the famous burn treatment centre under the direction of **Mr. McIndoe** who revolutionized the treatment of burns. The stay in East Grinstead was another period of relative inactivity and waiting. In May 1944 the unit moved under canvas and was introduced to V1 and V2 bombs but none were dropped near East Grinstead.



The successful invasion of Normandy was a great relief for the men and the unit was to join the battle on D + 30. The unit marshalled on D29 in the Thames estuary and the next day proceeded uneventfully to France. The *T.S.S. Louis Pasteur*, a French Ocean Liner from Compagnie de Navigation Sud-Atlantique, took them over to the war zone. During the next few days, the members became aware of all that was going on around and got their first taste of trying to sleep in slit trenches under chandelier flares with the odd bomb dropping nearby. During these few days, members of the staff (including RCASC members) designed a new set-up for the ADS (Advanced Dressing Station). This consisted of placing 2 lorries back to back some 25 to 30 feet apart and attaching steel cables to each lorry. A large tarpaulin was placed over the cables and a large Red Cross over that. Thus there were 4 bays at the sides of the lorries, one of which was the entrance for the casualties where documentation was done by clerks. Another was the exit bay and the other 2 were for storage of various supplies. In the centre were stretcher trestles where the care of the wounded took place. The whole interior was lit by our own electricity generator.

On 10 August 1945, 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance, as part of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division, went into service at Cintheaux, a few miles south of Caen, and the ADS set up proved to be very efficient. The first lone casualty was a burn case and **Nobbie Clark** was carefully applying a picture perfect St. John's Ambulance type of dressing. **Jock Stewart** shouted from the admission bay, “For heavens sake Nobbie, get a move on – there’s another load here.” Casualties came in steadily for the next few days and **Captain McMurtry** was immensely proud of the job everyone was doing: the stretcher bearers, the clerical staff filling out casualty and I.D. forms, the nursing orderlies treating the wounded, ambulance orderlies and drivers. The largely unnoticed service corps staff under **Captain C.C. Middlemiss** kept all the vehicles in good working condition. The cooks kept up their end also.

On 14 August 1944, the ADS shut down preparatory to taking part in the drive toward Falaise. That afternoon the RAF planned to use heavy bombers in close support for the first time. It was a timed run at a certain speed from the French Coast to dropping of the bombs. It was to last 2 hours. The initial run was on target but as the Germans lobbed smoke bombs onto the allies forward line, the RAF bombs kept falling shorter and shorter and eventually were dropping bombs near the unit; more particularly, on the 1st Polish Armoured Division to the left. Although the unit was closed, it quickly set up the Advanced Dressing Station and handled some 100 casualties. The unit still managed to keep the drive to Falaise on time but the Officer Commanding was criticised by the Assistant Director of Medical Services for opening the ADS. The injured Polish troops were glad they did!

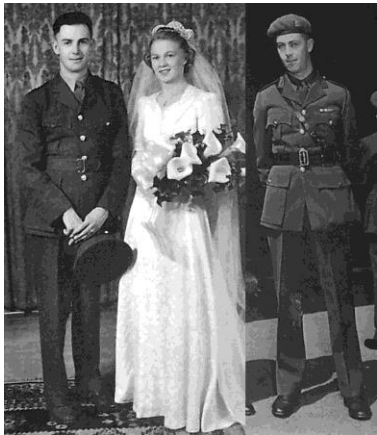
As an aside, the United States Army Air Force B-29's bombed the 2nd Canadian Corps Ammunition Dump on 8 August 1944 not far from the unit as well. At the mess that evening, the 12 CFLA officers were critical of the Americans. The **Dental Officer, Captain Jolley**, who had served in the Italian Campaign, said: “Think nothing of it. In Italy when we bombed; the Germans ducked. When they bombed; we ducked. When the Americans bombed, everyone ducked.”



<sup>14</sup> Lieutenant-Colonel Caverhill commanded the unit throughout the Northwest Europe campaign and again commanded the unit on his return to civilian life. He died at a very early age in 1948.

At Falaise, there were many casualties and, as evacuation routes were doubtfully secure, they had to be held until morning. There were 5 stretcher cases in each ambulance and many others, plus walking wounded in the ADS. They were Poles and Germans as well as Canadians.

The next phase of the battle was chasing the retreating enemy. There were several short stops without having to handle casualties. Near Antwerp, the Division paused and the 12 CFLA was involved in evacuating casualties from the battle of the Scheldt Estuary. Many of these were foot injuries from “shoe mines”.



The next phase was the battle of the Leopold Canal. The unit set up in Maldegem, Belgium, a few miles from the canal. The ADS was setup in a school there. **Ken Clarke's** ‘A’ Section was evacuating casualties from Regimental Medical Officer to the unit. It was a long difficult battle. First an infantry battalion was unsuccessful; next the 10th Infantry Brigade tried and were unable to get a foot hold on the other side of the canal. Then the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division moved in and succeeded. The ADS continued to handle all the casualties. The unit was evacuating to an Field Dressing Station with a field surgical unit commanded by major “Bam” McLaughlin (later Professor and Head of Surgery at the University of Western Ontario). He made a special trip to Maldegem one day to congratulate the Officer Commanding on the high standard of work our nursing orderlies were doing, particularly their application of *Thomas Splits*.<sup>15</sup>

After Maldegem, the unit settled in for the winter near s’Hertogenbosch in Holland and were mainly inactive. No. 8 Canadian General Hospital was nearby. The only excitement was in December 1944 when Field Marshal Von Rundstedt attacked in the “Battle of the Bulge” pushing back the U.S. Forces with many casualties. There was fear that the Germans might launch a parachute attack from the general area of Utrecht landing behind the Canadian Army. The 4th Canadian Armoured Division moved at the end of December to be prepared for this and the 12 CLFA moved on 31 December 1944 to a small town in Belgium. The ADS was set up in a school but there were no casualties to treat. New Years Eve was celebrated with Belgian beer. Later the unit moved back to s’Hertogenbosch.

During this time, **Major Thomson** was posted to a Canadian Military Hospital and **Major Jack Wright** (of Canadian tennis fame) took his place. Somewhat later LCol Tieman was promoted to full Colonel on being appointed Assistant Director of Medical Services (ADMS) of the 3rd Division. **Lieutenant-Colonel Don McPherson** became the Officer Commanding 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance (CLFA). He was a psychiatrist and was a very fine man. He seemingly didn’t know the meaning of the word ‘fear’ and nearly drove his jeep driver crazy as he reconnoitred near the forward lines.

In the spring of 1945, the allies began a wide offensive to push the enemy back to the Rhine. One day the 12th Field Ambulance received orders from the Director of Medical Services to proceed at a specified time next morning to an 8 figure map reference to be prepared to set up an Advanced Dressing Station. Thus began our part in the battle of the “Hochwald Forest”. The advance party found this reference to be on the forward slope of a hill and the only allied personnel there were artillery spotters. The Field Ambulance stopped short of that to await further decisions. While the unit waited at the side of the road, the 22nd Canadian Armoured Regiment passed though us and **Lieutenant-General Guy Simmons** came by in his armoured scout car. 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance had been the ferocious troops at the front of the assault! The unit managed to get the ADS set up in the area where they remained for several days with a steady flow of casualties.

---

<sup>15</sup> Major Ken Clarke and his bride Elna on their wedding day in 1940. Ken was a medical graduate of the University of Alberta and later a Professor at the university. Photo on the right is Ken with the South Alberta Regiment. His citation for the Military Cross is under honours.

After the Germans were pushed back across the Rhine, the 4th Division moved back to Breda in Holland to rest and refit. **Dr. McMurtry** left the unit at this time and has only second hand knowledge of the battle of Sogel where the unit achieved fame. Over the final months of the war, various medical officers left and came. At the time of the rush to Falaise, the unit was saddened by the death of **Captain Jake Mandel** from shrapnel as he was driving his jeep. Jake was a particularly fine person in every way whom **Dr. McMurtry** had known from their University of Saskatchewan days.

### **The Battle for SOGEL, Germany**

12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance was in support of the 4 CAD during the battle of the Hochwald Forest in April 1945 near the German town of Sogel. On 10 April 1945, they made Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps history becoming the only field ambulance to engage the enemy in combat.

On the night of Saturday 7 April 1945, The Lincoln & Welland Regiment departed Delden to catch up to the rest of the Division already advancing into Germany. The trek was very hard under heavy road traffic and a road surface which was breaking up. On April 8th the Regiment had caught up to the Regiment near Meppen, Germany. The next day the Lincoln and Welland Regiment was given its orders to participate in attacks on Sogel and Werlte, Germany in order to clear the road northeast to Oldenburg, 80 km away. It was the Lincoln and Welland Regiment's primary job to mop any pockets of resistance which were encountered on the way. By noon on the 9th, the Regiment moved into Sogel. There were light casualties as they cleared the south half of the town. On the evening of the 9th the orders, were made to attack Werlte at first light on the 10th. Early on Wednesday, the 10th of April, the Lincoln and Welland Regiment moved east in company with tanks of the Governor General's Foot Guards.

At approximately 0800 hours on 10 April 1945, the 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance's Advanced Dressing Station was disturbed by the burst of machine-gun fire in the streets. It became obvious at once that the village was being counter-attacked with 30 or more German paratroops infiltrating their position. Immediately both officers and men of the unit took up arms and proceeded to defend the ADS. The Commanding Officer quickly organized two platoons, and placed them at the approaches to the dressing stations. They held off the enemy with weapons borrowed from the wounded - at the time medics didn't carry weapons. Some of the enemy came within 10 yards of the ADS and were killed. Under fire, some of the personnel made their way to other parts of the town to obtain Bren guns and hand grenades from the small handful of infantry that were left behind in the town. They then returned to the ADS to distribute the badly needed weapons. With all this activity going on, bullets whistling through the windows of the building, the unit carried on with their medical work, administering treatment to casualties, and clearing them through the ADS. Two of the stretcher bearers working under direct enemy fire, were wounded. The gallant defence of the unit continued from about two hours before the enemy was driven off following which a troop of Canadian tanks arrived and blasted the houses from which the enemy were sniping. Five unit members were wounded in the encounter, one of them seriously. Of the enemy, a number were killed and other wounded.

The Commanding Officer, **LCol Alexander Donald ('Don') MacPherson**, received the **Distinguished Service Order**<sup>16</sup> for his leadership in this action; **Corporal Forrest Francis Thompson** was awarded the **Military Medal**. He was a dispatch rider attached to 12 Field Ambulance and his citation reads that Private Thompson,<sup>17</sup> "Armed only with a Sten gun, moved from house to house, personally accounting for several Germans".

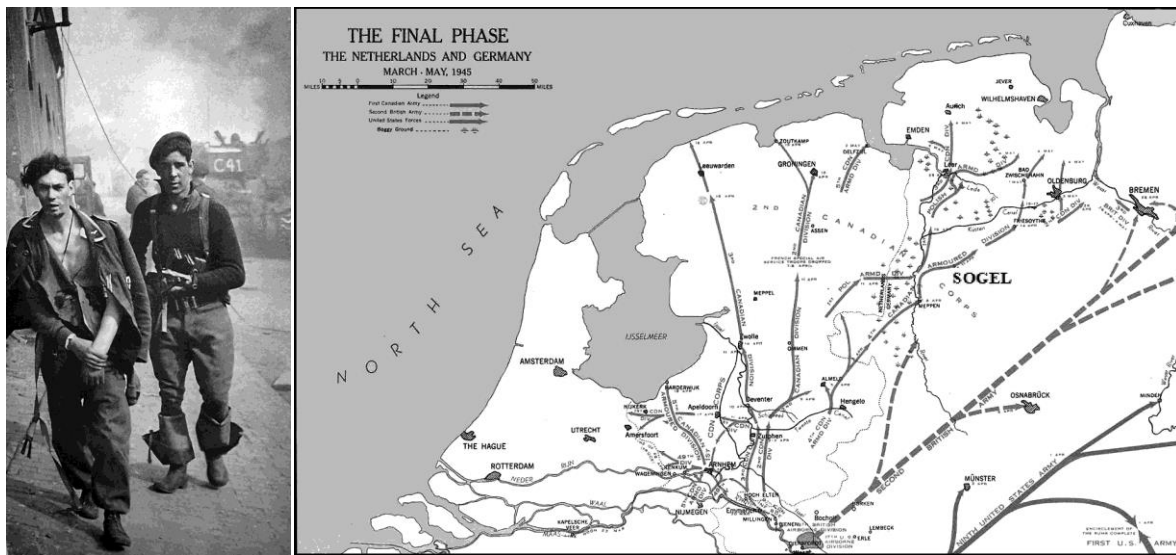
---

<sup>16</sup> **Citation for the DSO:** "In the early morning hours of 10 April 1945, then the Advanced Dressing Station (ADS) of 12 Cdn Light Field Ambulance was located in SOGEL, Germany, MR3471, in the centre of 4 Cdn Armoured Brigade fortress position, an enemy counter-attack reached the centre of the town. In violation of the rules of war, the enemy fired indiscriminately at all Medical Corps personnel and patients in and about the ADS which was plainly marked by Red Crosses. LCol MacPherson, realizing the seriousness of the situation, quickly organized his RCASC personnel into two sections and covered all approaches to the ADS. Then a squadron of tanks came to his assistance. LCol MacPherson personally directed their efforts and the enemy was repulsed in this section with 11 killed and 14 prisoners taken. During the entire action, the RCAMC personnel of the Advance Dressing Station continued to render efficient medical attention to all casualties in the vicinity. LCol MacPherson's actions during the attack were beyond mere praise and his swift and efficient organization of his unit, and utter disregard for his personal safety, under constant enemy small arms fire, not only saved the casualties in the ADS at the time, but helped to protect HQ 4 Canadian Armoured Brigade which was immediately in the rear."

Another story from 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance is about unit personnel during the Northwest Europe campaign acquiring enemy pistols as souvenirs. One member of the unit was showing off his Luger to a buddy during a rest period when there was a bang and the owner had accidentally shot his chum in the leg. Luckily, the wound was not serious. The wounded man was patched up and shipped off to Britain for further treatment. The victim actually wrote to the CO asking him not to punish the shooter because as a result of his medical evacuation to Britain the victim had unexpectedly been able to be present at the birth of his first child!

Another story told by **Nobbie Clark** was he and **George Shoebathan** going on a mission and obviously reading their map incorrectly. They were confronted by an armed German sentry who was aiming his weapon at them in a very professional manner. However, the German sentry did not shoot at them. Instead he simply said, “Turn around, go back the way you came .... Or I must shoot you”. George was immediately convinced by the wisdom of this enemy advice and lost no time in following the sentry’s instructions to the letter and taking their departure back to whence they came.

At the cessation of hostilities in WWII, the unit was stationed on an estate near Varel in Germany. From there they were repatriated to England and then to Canada.



**Citation for the Military Medal to Corporal Forrest Francis Thompson:** “At first light on 10 April 1945, the Germans put a strong counter-attack on the village of SOLGEL, Germany MR8751. The ADS of 12 Cdn Light Field Ambulance was situated in a building called the Hotel Jensen. It was shortly apparent that the enemy had infiltrated from the NORTH, SOUTH and EAST. The enemy paratroopers occupied buildings all around the ADS and proceeded to snipe the medical personnel as they worked on casualties. Defence parties were organized. Private Thompson, a dispatch Rider, immediately volunteered to assist in the clearing of the houses. Armed only with a Sten Gun, he moved from house to house, personally accounting for several Germans. On no less than three occasions, he went back for more ammunition for his party, crossing and recrossing the bullet swept street with complete disregard for his personal safety. When the clearing parties reached a house in which the enemy seemed to be firmly established with automatic weapons, Private Thompson placed himself in an exposed position and by accurate fire support enabled the remainder of the party to dispose of the enemy. When four tanks arrived to assist the medical personnel, Private Thompson returned to his unit to assist in the evacuation of casualties. The initiative and daring of this soldier, above and beyond his normal call of duty, is a splendid example of bravery and deserving of high praise and commendation.



## 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance after World War II

The 12th Canadian Light Field Ambulance reverted to a Reserve Unit after the war. The Light was dropped from the name and it was called the 12 Canadian Field Ambulance. It was commanded by the former wartime Commanding Officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Caverhill** with a strength of 12 all ranks. The Commanding Officer was one of the original 12 CLFA members who had served as a Stretcher-Bearer Officer. The **RSM** at the time was **WO1 Del Fraine**, who was also an original member of the unit, starting in the Orderly Room when he was a Sergeant. The unit began in 1946.

Where it was housed is a little unclear as my two references conflict. The summary of **Cec Robinson**, who was there, is probably the more correct one and that is that the unit was based in the Shaughnessy Armouries on West 27th Avenue near Oak Street. This former church building also housed a unit of the Dental Corps and the Intelligence Corps. In Colonel Bowmer's account, the unit was housed in the dirty little 'H' Hut in the back of the Seaforth Armouries. I suspect those dirty little 'H' hut were the Shaughnessy Barracks, a collection of temporary buildings erected during the Second World War referred to in the Irish Fusiliers history. At any rate, in 1947, the Unit was moved from their dirty little hut to three small rooms in Headquarters, British Columbia Militia Area at the Jericho Garrison. The parades were once a week but for some reason, the unit did not catch fire, and the evenings were spent playing darts and having a good time.

Command of the unit passed to Lieutenant-Colonel MacLaren. The St. Mary's Priory site was remade into one of the best equipped medical armouries in Canada. With the move to the new armoury (Bessborough Armoury), the Number 66 General Hospital, commanded by **Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Huggard**, was retired and all members transferred to the 12 Canadian Field Ambulance. This brought the unit some much needed life and the unit began to train hard. They quickly won the Ryerson Trophy as the best Medical Unit in Canada. The unit was renamed 12 Medical Company, RCAMC at about this time.

Unfortunately, the history by then LCol Ernie Bowmer that I have taken much of this from ends here

## 12 Medical Company, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps

In 1969, the medical unit became attached to the 12 (Vancouver) Service Battalion. As part of an austerity program in 1970, the unit was disbanded along with all militia medical units across Canada and there only existed a medical station within 12 Service Battalion. They were part of the Service Battalion when it occupied the RCAF hangar at the Vancouver Airport. In 1979, the Reserve Medical Companies were re-established. The unit was raised as 12 (Vancouver) Medical Company in 1979 move to its present location at Jericho Garrison later that year.

The unit has grown over the years to a strength of between 80 and 90 members. It includes members who do not live in the Vancouver area but who are members of the unit and train in their home areas and participate with the unit on weekend exercises and on major exercises such as Cougar Salvo with 39 Brigade. The unit is a demanding life to add to one's civilian life. There is at least one night a week that most members are required to attend (Thursday night which gives them plenty of room in the building as 39 Brigade parades on Wednesday night). However, there is at least one weekend exercise per month during the training year plus requalification programs for military and medical qualifications. There are also courses to be taken for promotion and command. To keep the system going, the Canadian Forces Health Services require instructors at the School in Borden to be able to handle the large number of reservists needing training and so people are required for training purposes. Personnel also have to qualify attain their basic military skills before taking any military medical training. There are never enough basic courses available so instructors are required for this training as well. All in all, it leads to a very full life but a hectic life.

The unit has been involved in support to the firefighters in the Okanagan in 2003, to the G8 Security conference in 2002 and to Op Podium, the Canadian Forces Health Services contribution to the 2010 Olympics. Members of the unit have served in the former Yugoslavia and in Afghanistan. They have also served on several United Nations operations and in the First Gulf War.

## UNITED NATIONS / NATO TOURS

**Master-Corporal Wayne Wohlgemuth** served in Afghanistan (see previous page) and with the United Nations (UNPROFOR) and NATO forces in the former Yugoslavia.

**CWO Nan Lu** also served with the United Nations (UNPROFOR) and NATO forces in the former Yugoslavia.

**Sergeant Alex Borthwick, CD** served with the United Nations in Cyprus.

**Sergeant Pierre Ouellet, CD**, served in the United Nations Observation Mission in Iraq & Kuwait after the First Gulf War and in the NATO mission in the former Yugoslavia (as well as in Afghanistan)

**Sergeant Richard Sanders, CD** served in the United Nations mission in Cyprus and the NATO mission in the former Yugoslavia (as well as Afghanistan)

**Sergeant Robert Garceau, CD** served in the United Nations mission in Cyprus and in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights (as well as in the First Gulf War).

**Sergeant Daniel Suboski, CD** served with the NATO forces in the former Yugoslavia

**Captain Dennis Haynes, CD**, current Deputy Commanding Officer, completed a United Nations peacekeeping tour in Cyprus with the RCR. Dennis was then posted as Operations Officer, Canadian Contingent, United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, Golan Heights in 1987. In 1991 he was detached to 1 Canadian Field Hospital and deployed to Saudi Arabia during the First Gulf War.<sup>18</sup>

**Lieutenant-Colonel Ben Roth** served holds the United Nations Special Service Medal for his tour with the Cambodian Mine Clearing Mission.

**Chief Warrant Officer Scott Stewart** served a 6 month tour in Bosnia as a Civilian Military Liaison Officer for the PPCLI earning the NATO medal with bar Former Yugoslavia.



<sup>18</sup> Left to Right: Corporal (now M/Cpl) Wayne Wohlgemuth, Chief Warrant Officer (now Captain) Nan Lu, Sergeant Borthwick, Sergeant (now LS) Pierre Ouellet, Sergeant Richard Sanders and Sergeant Robert Garceau – Bottom row: Sergeant Ouellet, RCAF + remustered RCN LS Ouellette – Captain Dennis Haynes – CWO Scott Stewart - LCol Ben Roth and his Janette (who wears the Special Service Medal bar NATO + CD)

This is not a complete list of those who served on UN Tours and NATO missions.

## OP PODIUM

### Canadian Forces Medical Services Contribution to the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver

**Lieutenant-Colonel Rod Needham**, then Commanding Officer of 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance, took a sabbatical from teaching in Surrey and became the Deputy Commanding Officer of the CFHS contribution to Op Podium. The Commanding Officer was a navy medical officer based in Victoria so for the first four months of the operation (September 2009 to January 2010), Rod was the on site person in charge of the operation. He and his small staff had to get all the equipment in place, all of the accommodations for the medical staff, attend all the meetings, send briefing notes to the CO in Victoria and to the Commander of 1 Canadian Forces Health Services HQ in Edmonton and to the Surgeon General.



As more troops arrived for security, particularly at remote sites, the need to ensure that they had medical care when needed was paramount. The military was a backup to the full security team lead by the RCMP and municipal policing units but still had a large contingent on hand spread over a large geographic area. The Olympic and Para-lympic games went off well and the Canadian Forces Health Services acquitted themselves admirably.

28% of 12 Field Ambulance staff served full-time or part-time on the exercise. The Members were:

<b>Needham, Rodney ('Rod') Earl</b>	LCol	Deputy CO for the CFHS Op Podium <sup>19</sup>
<b>Pinard, Jacques M.</b>	Captain	Staff Officer
<b>Delling, Karl-Torben Lloyd</b>	Lieutenant	
<b>Quinlan, Lesley K.D.</b>	Lieutenant	
<b>Gray, Trevor Richard</b>	Sergeant	
<b>Suboski, Daniel P.</b>	Sergeant	
<b>Andersen, David Edward</b>	Master Corporal	
<b>Chu, Norman Lok-Wen</b>	Master Corporal	
<b>Doty, Jennifer ('Jenni') Barbara</b>	Master Corporal	
<b>Klimas, Ashley C.</b>	Master Corporal	
<b>Yu, Joyce</b>	Master Corporal	
<b>Chan, Joyce Ka Yan</b>	Corporal	
<b>Kwok, Peter Yun Lam</b>	Corporal	
<b>Lefevre, Timothy Alfred</b>	Corporal	
<b>Sun, Si Qi</b>	Corporal	
<b>Tieu, Martin Huang</b>	Corporal	
<b>Vilardi, Dominique Toni</b>	Corporal <sup>20</sup>	
<b>Wang, Q.</b>	Corporal	
<b>Wu, Matthew Ka-Ming</b>	Corporal	
<b>Wohlgemuth, Wayne Allen</b>	Corporal	
<b>Soncek, Annie Victoria</b>	Corporal	
<b>Dagg, K.P.</b>	Private	
<b>Hung, Jachin Hao Min</b>	Private	
<b>Jang, Suk Won</b>	Private	

**Sanderson, Michael** HLCol <sup>21</sup>



<sup>19</sup> Lieutenant-Colonel Rod Needham with his wife Leah.

<sup>20</sup> Corporal Dominique Vilardi and Master-Corporal Jenni Doty

<sup>21</sup> Michael Sanderson was the Executive Director of the Lower Mainland Ambulance Service and provided all the Olympic ambulance services to the 2010 Olympics.



**FREEDOM of the CITY of VANCOUVER**  
**14 April 2007**



**Honorary Colonel Ernie Bowmer, MC, CD** wanted the unit to receive the Freedom of the City of Vancouver. This is the highest honour that a city can bestow on a unit. When I became the Honorary Colonel, I knew how to get that done as I worked for the City as their Medical Health Officer. I went to the **Mayor, Sam Sullivan**, and explained what I wanted to happen. They had not done a Freedom of the City for a unit for some time but I had been a member of HMCS Discovery when they received the Freedom of the City and so knew the drill. Sam agreed and took it up in camera to ensure there was support. I then wrote a request to **Counsellor Peter Ladner** to make a formal request to the City Council in Camera.

The process went quite smoothly with the City co-operating fully. On the day of the event, it was sunny and just a little chilly. The unit formed up in the covered public parking lot (it was a Saturday) with three Companies on parade. The music was provided by the Band of the 15th Field Artillery. The Canadian Forces Health Services colours had been sent from Ottawa to Vancouver for the parade. A mounted contingent of five Vancouver City Police Officers and the senior police officer that day met the 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance parade lead by **Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Lowe, CD**. The Police Commander and LCol Lowe marched from the front of the city hall where the parade was held up by the horses. Using the heel of his sword, Dave knocked three times on the huge city hall doors. The door was opened by the Chief Constable who inquired what was desired. He then escorted Dave inside the city hall where the Mayor and eight of his City counsellors were waiting for them (and me too!). Dave asked for permission to receive the Freedom of the City which the Mayor granted; City Council having already voted on it. Dave and the Police Chief then proceeded outside. Because Mayor Sullivan was in a wheel chair, he and I had to take a bit of a circuitous route to get outside to the back of the city hall. LCol Lowe, having received permission, had been escorted back to his unit and marched them around to the back of City Hall with the six mounted police officers leading. They had been formed up for inspection. LCol Lowe, the Mayor, members of City Council and the Honorary Colonel, then inspected the parade.

What does it mean in real terms – it gives the unit the *right* “to march through the streets of Vancouver with their bayonets fixed, drums playing and their colours flying.”



**FREEDOM of the CITY of VANCOUVER**  
**14 April 2007 <sup>22</sup>**



<sup>22</sup> Top: Mayor Sam Sullivan, LCol Dave Lowe and HCol John Blatherwick talk with spectators. Mayor Sullivan with members of the Unit. Below: Corporal Alex Hargott, Lieutenant Lesley Quinlan, Lieutenant Jeff Pope, Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Lowe (Commanding Officer), CWO (now Captain) Peter Van Rienen, RSM march past with "Drums playing, Bayonets Fixed and Colours Flying".

## 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance in AFGHANISTAN

The following Members of 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance have served with the Canadian Forces Health Services in Afghanistan. That means that almost 20% of the unit have served at least one tour in Afghanistan and some have served multiple tours.

**Captain Tylere Couture**  
**Captain Louise Kurtze**  
**Captain Peter Van Rienen, CD**  
**Captain Jacques Picard, CD \***  
**Sergeant Douglas Fraser, CD**  
**Sergeant Elizabeth Newman, CD \***  
**Sergeant Kevin Wade, CD \***  
**Sergeant Pierre Ouellette, CD \***  
**Sergeant Richard Sanders, CD \***  
**Sergeant Daniel Suboski, CD**  
**Master Corporal Jenni Doty, CD**  
**Master Corporal Ashley Klimas (2 tours)**  
**Master Corporal Justin Johnson**  
**Master Corporal Colin Terry**  
**Master Corporal Wayne Wohlgemuth, CD**  
**Corporal David Edward Andersen**  
**Corporal Chris Buckley**  
**Corporal Alexander ('Alex') John Hargott \***  
**Corporal Christopher ('Chris') Thomas Picard**  
**Captain James Dunwoody (PRL Physician / Lions Gate Hospital Trauma)**



## AFGHANISTAN in PHOTOS <sup>23</sup>



**Master-Corporal Colin Terry** working on a young Afghan boy's foot. This photo was taken while on foot patrol a few km N of the Dand District Centre. Our patrol had been conducting random vehicle check points along a main road leading to Kandahar City. These local boys had been riding their bicycle and had fallen off accidentally and the little one had abrasions on his ankle. I cleaned and dressed the injury with help from our language assistant (translator). The patrol commander, through the language assistant, told the boys to inform their parents that they had been treated by an "ISAF Doctor". I received no increase in pay for this promotion.

<sup>23</sup> \* Not a member of unit when deployed

Medal shown is that of Captain Tylere Couture. The bar to the General Campaign Star (GCS) was abolished on 17 March 2010. The General Campaign Star and General Service Medal were modified so that the existing bars were abolished and replaced with theatre or service-specific ribbons thus allowing the use of bars to recognize multiple rotations where appropriate. The Red – thin white – Green – thin white – Red ribbon continues to be used for Afghanistan.



## AFGHANISTAN IN PHOTOS



**Corporal David Andersen**



**Master Corporal Justin Johnson**



**Chris Picard photos**

Counter clockwise from the top left: Chris in front of the blast crater that detonated in front of my Bison; Chris with an interpreter; my rear unloading an injured Canadian Forces Member; and Chris in a gaggle loading the same injured Canadian Forces member onto a helicopter. (**Corporal Chris Picard**)

## AFGHANISTAN in PHOTOS



Photo taken in a Coyote Armoured Recce Vehicle in Kandahar City, when Wayne was Patrolling from FoB Frontinac, near the Arghandab Dam, to the PRT in Kandahar City.

Above left, Wayne promoted to Master-Corporal December 2011

(Master-Corporal Wayne Wohlgemuth)



Chris Buckley was in the HLTA relief ambulance that travelled and operated in all CDN AOR's relieving in place the other crews that went on leave. Most excellent opportunity to work with all deployed Canadian units. Never a dull moment. (Corporal Chris Buckley, Task Force 3-09, Oct 2009 - April 2010, OP HYDRA, Kandahar, Afghanistan)



**LIFE IN AFGHANISTAN**  
**One Nurse's Story – Captain Sandra ('Sandy') Robinson**

This story came to me via e-mail that went through five people and the fifth thought I might like to hear what it was like in Kandahar. This is Captain Sandra Robinson's e-mail home. I went back through the chain to ask if I could use her e-mail in a book I was doing (on Environmental Health Officers) and her message came back saying that I could. In April 2010, Michael Sanderson, Rod Needham and I were at the 1 Canadian Forces Health Service meeting and mess dinner in Edmonton and this beautiful young Captain came up to me and asked if I knew who she was. I said I didn't and she said she was Sandy Robinson. Nope – still didn't click. And then she said, you used my e-mail in a book and sent me a copy of the book. Sandy, a nurse, is now based at CFB Comox. This is how she saw Afghanistan.

Wow, I actually have a full day off, how relieving! I didn't get up until 1130 this morning, and it wasn't a stretch to sleep in that long, yippee.....of course I did laundry until about 0100 and then read a book until 0200 so 1130 really isn't that long! Why was I doing laundry until that late you ask? Well, there are some laundry facilities for people if you don't want to send your laundry to be done (and to all turn a dusty grey colour) and they are usually very busy until later at night, so I now have clean laundry that smells like Lavender Vanilla thanks to the Downy sheets that Heather sent! All of the girls want to use them, cause they smell so nice! It is amazing that we are excited about Downy sheets!!!!

OK, so Kandahar in the last week.....well, let me tell you that what you hear on the news about what we do only comprises about 25% of our workload! The news never mentions the Afghan patients from any of the following groups....Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, Locals, and Bad Guys, we get them all.

Monday was horrific. The cement factory on the other side of the base had an explosion when they were mixing gasoline with asphalt....so we had 11 burn (really burned) patients just show up unannounced at our back door. Usually we have warning that casualties are coming as they have to come through the gate, so usually we have time to prepare, this time they just showed up and there were only 3 nurses at work as it was 2130. So, we all got our 911 page which means Mass Casualties, and turned up at the hospital. This was the first time for us that a mass cas had been called when the casualty were already there, it was different. I could smell them from outside and when I went inside it was crazy. People were arriving, patients and their friends were screaming, and it was like a scene from a wax museum where someone had turned up the heat.

The charge nurse on the evening shift looked at me and said, Sandy - go to trauma bay 4 -he's got an IV and has had 100 of Fentanyl....so it was just me with this patient who had 90% body surface area burns, airway \ inhalation injuries.....was quite awake and alert (until we sedated him)....for about 8 minutes, until a doctor came to my bay....I don't think I've ever been happier to see a Doctor (a Danish orthopedic surgeon actually named Anne-Marie). We carried on together putting in various tubes, lines, etc, and making him comfortable until an anesthetist arrived and we intubated. He died the next day.

The next day also saw a Canadian soldier die in my trauma bay. That day I was never so happy to see a Padre, for what else can you do but grab the Padre to do something when you can't do anymore yourself. We had 5 patients (3 Canucks and 2 US) come in the morning, one of them died (as above) and then three more Canadians came in the afternoon, but they were all fairly healthy, just a few superficial shrapnel wounds. The next day we had 4 Afghans show up in the trauma bays with gun shot wounds for two of them (they were bad guys) and two locals whose house had fallen on them when the Taliban fired a rocket at it. They were fine, one of the bad guys died, and one is still around. By this time the hospital was full and we were running like crazy to keep up. Now things have slowed down a bit, but that was the third second Monday in a row that we have had a mass cal. Now every second Monday we hold our breath and wait for the pagers to go off. Crazy.

Enough sad stuff, our team is great, and life is moving on. The team members have started to go on leave and come back with great stories. Tony and I will be heading for New Zealand within a months time and will be staying for 18 days. I have a few days off on either end of our trip to relax in a different location and will totally, incredibly enjoy a nice glass of Merlot.....it will be the most earned glass of wine in my life!

I'm even considering going to the Roman Catholic service on Sundays as they have real wine in their communion offerings! Just joking, my mom's dad (Dack) would roll over in his grave if I went to a Catholic service, being the Orangeman that he was! Besides, I always work on Sundays.

So, our trip is going to be great. We have rented a camper in New Zealand and will be doing a self-drive "Lord of the Rings" tour which takes in all of the amazing scenery in NZ. If you have seen the movies you know what I'm talking about. We will stay in a hotel (and I will definitely go to a spa) for the first two days and the last day, and the in-between part we will be camping all over the place. I can't wait to cook my own healthy food and sit on the beach with Tony and a glass of wine (am I fixated on wine right now or what). The only thing missing from our camping trip will be Hamish...apparently, Tony put me on speaker phone the other day and I spoke to Hamish, he licked the phone cause he knew it was me....I think he might have even gone looking for me when he heard my voice...how cute!

The CDS was here last week, what an amazing man. He gave each of the hospital staff one of his coins, which you don't just "get". They are only given out to people whom he believes do amazing work. He was telling us that he meets every Canadian soldier who comes home when they have been injured and that barring none, they rave about the care they have received in our little plywood hospital and rave again about the care they receive in Landstuhl, Germany. He says they don't say much about the care they receive at home. I think this is because they are special to us, and we sort of understand what they have been through. It must be difficult for them to be in a regular hospital where they are just one of the patients surrounded by other patients who (unless they are vets) have no comprehension of what these guys have been through. What a learning curve that must be for everyone involved. Last night I went to Canada House to call Mom and Dad, and Peter Newman from Global news was sitting there on the deck, he was filming the news from there, how cool is that? He said that North Korea had test fired its first nuclear missile underground, wow, that is the first current piece of news I have heard about the rest of the world, besides celebrity gossip, which really isn't news...but does increase morale and keep us laughing!

Yesterday was Thanksgiving. As we are on an American camp it was actually Columbus Day, so the mess had Turkey and stuffing and real (vice their usual out of the box powdered) mashed potatoes....nothing like moms at all. We brought our own Happy Thanksgiving napkins (thanks to Judy Muir for those!) and a paper turkey (thanks to Heather) to sit on the table....we passed the turkey to other tables of Canucks as we left, it was fun, we had our own little celebration, the food sucked, but we still had fun.

Our last Maxillofacial Surgeon painted a mural on the concrete barricades (for protection from shrapnel \ blasts) of a lake surrounded by mountains and palm trees at night, with a full moon....and in front of the moon he painted a witch on a broom. He was from Wales and was talking about Welsh women being very sixth sense. We call our patio "the Witch Way Home" which is appropriate. There are corn brooms hanging from the ceiling and it is just fun. Someone actually found a little cactus plant to sit on the table. It is a perfect place for a Halloween party, so I think well just have to have one!

So, whats next? Well, the bazaar is on Saturday again, maybe I'll go to that. Last week Jen and I bought some antique oil lamps that look like the kind you rub on the side to make the Geni (I dont know how to spell that word) come out. They were very inexpensive and looked old and authentic...however, these Afghans are tricky, they know how to dye tones and make them look real just to get some cash. They have some neat things there though and it is a change of pace to go shopping. I have enough Halloween decorations and candy (thanks to many people) now to plan our very own Halloween party which will be fun. We have a patio outside of our barracks that has been made with desert cam nets, wooden pallets, an old patio table, a massive cable spool for a table, and some camp chairs.

That's about all of the excitement I can think of for now. I hope everyone is doing well. Take care and I will try to write again soon.

**12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance Unit Christmas Photos 2006, 2007 and 2011**  
**Next Page**





## Appendix 1

### Honours and Awards to the 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance in World War II

Rank	Name	Corps	Award	Canada Gazette Date /
LCol	CAVERHILL, Mervyn Ritchie ('Merv')	RCAMC	OBE	15/12/1945
LCol	MacPHERSON, Alexander Donald	RCAMC	DSO (Sogel)	23/06/1945
Captain	CLARKE, Kenneth Andrew Connal	RCAMC	Military Cross	09/12/1944
Captain	CLARKE, Kenneth Andrew Connal	RCAMC	MID	11/02/1945
Captain	FRASER, John Humphreys	RCAMC	Military Cross	17/03/1945
Captain	FRASER, John Humphreys	RCAMC	MID	03/02/1945
Captain	JOLLEY, Harry Myer	CDentC	MBE	15/12/1945
Captain	MEGILL, Arthur Hugh	RCAMC	MID	31/03/1945
Captain	MCMURTRY, Thomas	RCAMC	C-in-C Certificate	---/---/1945
WO1/RSM	STEWART, John MacNeill	RCAMC	MBE	29/06/1945
Sergeant	CAMERON, John W.	RCAMC	MID	08/11/1945
Sergeant	MILLAR, William J.	RCAMC	MID	08/11/1945
Private	THOMPSON, Forrest Francis	RCASC	MM (Sogel)	23/05/1945
Private	OELRICH, Richard	RCASC	MID	18/02/1945
Private	HOLLOWAY, James Jeffrey	RCAMC	MID	11/02/1945
Private	CORBEIL, Paul Felix	RCAMC	MID	11/02/1945
Sergeant	YOUNG, James William	RCASC	C-in-C Certificate	08/12/1945
Corporal	CHARLTON, K.H.	RCAMC	C-in-C Certificate	08/02/1946
Corporal	PARNELL, Geoffrey	RCAMC	C-in-C Certificate	19/01/1945
Corporal	SHOEBOTHAN, George M.	RCAMC	C-in-C Certificate	21/09/1945
Corporal	TWEEDALE, Samuel	RCAMC	C-in-C Certificate	14/08/1945
Private	HEWETT, Harold F.	RCASC	C-in-C Certificate	---/02/1946
Private	NESTERUK, Carl	RCASC	Military Medal (MM)	10/11/1945
Private	WIEBE, Henry	RCAMC & Lincoln & Welland Reg	C-in-C Certificate (not an MM)	---/---/1946



**Captain Kenneth Andrew Connal Clarke** received the Military Cross in 1944 for his actions during the advance from CAEN to FALAISE.

**Military Cross Citation:** "For the Operation on 14 / 15 August 1944, during the advance from Caen to Falaise, Captain Clarke commanded three sections of 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance, where were under command of 4 Canadian Armoured Brigade. His Casualty Collecting Station (CCP) was established on 14 August at RENEMESNIL MR H52 Sheet 7F/4 on the Brigade start line. As the advance proceeded he appreciated that the early establishment of a CCP in ROUVRES MR 1648, was essential for the efficient clearing of casualties and proceeded into the town to personally recce a site. On the outskirts of town, which was not yet taken, he established contact with the regiments his CCP was serving. He found that casualties were high because of the shelling and great difficulty was being experienced in collecting them. He sent for one of his sections and with no regard for his own safety under the heavy shellfire, proceeded in the town and commenced collecting and nesting casualties personally. The section he had ordered forward could not get up so, with whatever incidental unit transport he could find, he evacuated casualties until he had temporarily cleared the area. In the evening, one of his sections managed to get forward and he established a

Casualty Clearing Post (CCP) in the Regimental Action Post (RAP) of one of the regiments. During the morning of 15 August, he moved this CCP forward to LENDON and, again under constant shellfire, cleared 200 casualties of 3 Canadian Infantry Division and 4 Canadian Armoured Division. During the morning, direct hits were made on his CCP, which here was clearing casualties direct since it was in advance of the RAPs and was the farthest forward medical installation on the front of the two Divisions. There can be no doubt that this officer's determination and cool deployment of his section so far forward resulted in the saving of casualties that would otherwise have been lost. His calm and utter disregard for his own safety was an inspiration to all ranks with whom he came in contact."

**Captain Harry Jolley**, Canadian Dental Corps was made a **Member of the Order of the British Empire** at the end of the war. He was born in Toronto on 01 May 1909 and graduated with honours in 1930 from the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Toronto in 1930. He practised dentistry in Toronto until his enlistment. He was commissioned in the Dental Corps in November 1940 having served in the Canadian Officer's Training Corps since September 1939. In October 1942, he went overseas. He served with the First Division in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. After serving in the Mediterranean, he returned to England in March 1944, and landed on the continent in July 1944 with the 4th Canadian Armoured Division as a member of 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance.



**Citation for Captain Harry Jolley's MBE:** "It was largely due to his careful instruction that officers of his company were properly trained in field work upon their arrival in France in July 1944. Captain Jolley landed in France with 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance and has been with that unit throughout the entire northwest European campaign. His devotion to duty has been unexcelled and he has rendered outstanding service to 12 CFLA as well as to other neighbouring troops. During operations he took an active part in the advance dressing Station and his services there were invaluable. On one occasion when the ADS was attacked, he personally led stretcher bearing parties while clearing the street of casualties. This officer's conduct at all times, his outstanding professional ability and his devotion to duty were an inspiration to all ranks."

**Warrant Officer 1st Class / RSM John McNeill Stewart** was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1945.

**Citation for MBE:** RSM Stewart has been the RSM of this unit since February 1944. He landed in Normandy with the unit in July 1944 and served with it continuously through the battles around CAEN, on the FALAISE ROAD, the pursuit through France and the fighting in Belgium and in Holland. He has always been a most efficient Warrant Officer and, though a strict disciplinarian, enjoys the respect and affection of the NCOs and Ors under him. No small part of the efficient functioning of the unit is due to his efforts. At all times he has shown an intense devotion to duty most especially under shell-fire and bombing. At HUIJERGEN on November 1-2, while the unit ADS was under shell fire from 88s, this WO, with total disregard to danger, supervised the collection of military and civilian casualties from the vicinity while the shelling was going on, not stopping until all casualties were attended. He distinguished himself in a similar manner at CYNTHEUX under bombing in August 1944. His coolness and efficiency in the face of danger have been an inspiration to all ranks and have largely contributed to the smoothness and efficiency of receiving and evacuating casualties. The morale of the unit has always been excellent, due in no small measure to this Warrant Officer's tireless efforts. It is beyond doubt that RSM Stewart's conscientious, perseverance in his duties and his unflagging eagerness to serve have played a large part in the successful operation of this unit.

## Appendix 2

### Honours and Awards to the 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance Post WWII

Rank	Name	Unit	Award	/
HCol	<b>BLATHERWICK, Francis John</b>	HMCS Discovery	Member of Order of Canada	CM
HCol	<b>BLATHERWICK, Francis John</b>	12 Field Ambulance	Member of Order of BC	OBC
HCol	<b>BLATHERWICK, Francis John</b>	HMCS Discovery	Commander of Order of St. John	CSJ
HCol	<b>BOWMER, Ernest John (Ernie)</b>	RAMC	Military Cross	MC
HCol	<b>BOWMER, Ernest John (Ernie)</b>	St. John Ambulance	Knight of the Order of St. John	KStJ
HCol	<b>GRASSET, Anthony ('Tony') V.</b>	St. John Ambulance	Knight of the Order of St. John	KStJ
HCol	<b>GRASSET, Anthony ('Tony') V.</b>	British Army	Efficiency Medal	-----
LCol	<b>LOWE, Dave</b>	Cdn Border Svc Agency	Peace Officer Exemplary Service Medal	-----
Major	<b>MacKENZIE, Wendy</b>	12 Field Ambulance	Member of the Order of Military Merit	MMM
HCol	<b>SANDERSON, Michael</b>	Ontario Ambulance Svc	Member of the Order of St. John	MSJ
HCol	<b>SANDERSON, Michael</b>	Ontario Ambulance Svc	Ambulance Exemplary Service Medal	-----
LCol	<b>STANSFIELD, Hugh</b>	24 Medical Company	Serving Brother of the Order of St. John	SBStJ
CWO	<b>STEWART, Scott</b>	12 Field Ambulance	Member of the Order of St. John	MSJ
CWO	<b>STEWART, Scott</b>	New Westminster Police	Police Officer Exemplary Service Medal	-----
LCol	<b>ROTH, Ben</b>	Logistician CF	Meritorious Service Medal USA	-----
LCol	<b>WARRINGTON, Michael ('Mike')</b>	St. John Ambulance	Officer of the Order of St. John	OSJ
HLCOL	<b>WATT, Robert ('Robb') Douglas</b>	Canadian Herald	Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order	LVO
HLCOL	<b>WATT, Robert ('Robb') Douglas</b>	Canadian Herald	Officer of the Order of St. John	OSJ

24



<sup>24</sup> Ben Roth (USA MSM), Michael Sanderson (MStJ ESM) Rob Watt (LVO OSJ) John Blatherwick (CM CSJ OBC), Scott Stewart (MStJ ESM)

### CFHS MEMBERS - POLAR MEDAL

**Colonel Arthur Richard ('Dick') Cecil BUTSON, GC, OMM, CStJ, CD**<sup>25</sup>



Commanding Officer and Honorary Colonel of the 16 (Hamilton) Medical Company, **Colonel Dick Butson** received Britain's highest civilian gallantry decoration, the George Cross, and was an Officer of the Order of Military Merit in Canada plus a recipient of the Polar Medal.

**Dick Butson** was born in Hankow, China on 24 October 1922 (and is still alive in Hamilton in 2012). I assume he was born in China for the same reason HCol John Fraser of the Seaforth Highlanders and former speaker of the House of Commons, told me he was born in China – to be close to his mother! Dick was a

medical student at Cambridge University in WWII and a despatch rider with the Home Guard being awarded the Defence Medal for these services. He received his MB, B.Chir. in 1945 and his MA in 1946 from Cambridge.

Britain had compulsory National Service at the time and he noticed that there was a position for a physician to join a Combined Forces Expedition team to the Antarctic. He was one of five physicians who applied and on his selection panel was one of his former professors. The professor asked him if he was the young man who had scaled the wall of one of the University buildings – and he was. His love of hiking and mountain climbing plus a friendly professor on the committee helped him get selected.

In 1947, **Dr. Butson**, now a Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps, joined the Falklands Islands Dependencies Survey. Several of his companions on this expedition had been extensively decorated in WWII and proved to be life-long friends (Dick at this time had only the Defence Medal ribbon on his tunic).

On the evening of 26 July 1947, at Grahamland, Antarctica, an American member of the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition fell into a crevasse some 6 miles from their base. Two teams were sent to the rescue but the hazards of crossing a heavily creviced glacier were much increased by darkness and it was not until 0400 on 27 July that the crevasse into which the American had fallen was located. Dr. Butson immediately volunteered to be lowered into the crevasse where he found the man tightly wedged 106 feet down and suffering from shock and exhaustion. After getting under the man, the crevasse shifted one more time putting them both in great danger. For nearly an hour, Dick chipped away the ice from his position below the American and finely freed him. The American was brought to the surface and placed in a tent while Dick took another hour to chip himself free. On getting to the surface, he provided medical care to the American and helped pull him to the base on a sledge.

**Captain Butson** was awarded the **Albert Medal in Gold for Saving Life on Land** for this exploit. He also received the **Polar Medal with bar Antarctic 1947**, which was gazetted on 17 July 1953 (6 years later). Dick once told me that the curious thing about the rescue was that despite meeting the American on several occasions later, the American never once thanked him.

<sup>25</sup> Photo shows HCol Ken Hedges, who received his Polar Medal for a Trans Arctic expedition, Dick and Eileen Butson with their medals in June 2009 at CFB Borden for the rededication of the CFHS Memorial.

After his stint in the Antarctic, Dick returned to the RAMC, finished his National Service time and received his MD from the University College Hospital Medical School in London, England.<sup>26</sup> He began training as a surgeon in England and emigrated to Canada to complete his surgical training in Montreal. He received Fellowships in Surgery from Canada, England and the United States.<sup>27</sup> He moved to Hamilton in 1953 and started his surgical practice and became a Clinical Professor at McMaster University in 1970. He was Chief of Staff and Head of Surgery at St. Josephs Hospital in Hamilton.

Dick married **Eileen Callon** on 30 June 1967. They have two daughters and one son. Eileen is a nurse and she served in the RCAMC (Militia) attaining the rank of Major. She also held the WWII Defence Medal.

In 1956, Dick joined the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry unit as Regimental Medical Officer. In 1972, he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and made Commanding Officer of 16 Medical Company. After five years as the Commanding Officer, he was promoted to Colonel and became the Area Surgeon for Central Militia Area Headquarters. Dick was a very active medical officer setting up many fine training programs and exercises for his units. He developed a militia surgical parachute team qualifying as a Canadian Forces parachutist himself.



In 1971, the living Albert Medal holders exchanged their Albert Medals for the George Cross. He received the Canadian Forces Decoration in 1968 and bar in 1978. He was active in St. John Ambulance serving as Ontario's Provincial Surgeon and received the Commander (CStJ) of the Order in 1989. He now wore the all blue GC ribbon, the all black CStJ ribbon and the all white Polar ribbon – a unique combination! Dick's Alberta Medal is displayed at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Great Britain with the Albert Medal of Richard Walter Richards.<sup>28</sup> The medals are turned every six months to show the Obverse and Reverse.

### **Honorary Colonel Ken HEDGES, CStJ (MID)<sup>29</sup>**

Ken spent his early childhood years in the Fiji islands. With the outbreak of WW2, the family returned to England. Ken left school just before his 15th birthday to enrol as a cadet with the nautical training ships, *HMS "Worcester"* and the *"Cutty Sark"* off Greenhithe in the Thames Estuary, from which he graduated two years later. (Franklin's expedition to the Northwest Passage had set out from Greenhithe in 1845 and it was another *HMS "Worcester"* alumnus, **Lt. "Birdie" Bowers**, who later succumbed with Scott of the Antarctic during their fateful return from the South Pole in 1912.)

Following a brief career first as an Apprentice Deck Officer with P & O, then as an Instructor with the "Outward Bound Sea School", Ken returned to his studies, graduating from the University of Liverpool Medical School in 1962. He was commissioned in the Royal Army Medical Corps and completed postgraduate studies in tropical medicine. During the period 1964-1967, having successfully passed the selection course for 22 Special Air Service Regiment (SAS), Ken qualified as a military parachutist and compressed air diver. After undertaking further SAS training he deployed on four operational tours in the jungles of South East Asia and the South Arabian Desert (now Yemen).

<sup>26</sup> In England, you receive the M.B. when you graduate from Medical School. The M.D. is received for presenting work on a particular aspect of medicine after you have graduated – a truly graduate degree.

<sup>27</sup> FRCS(C) in Canada; FRCS (Eng.) in England; FACS in the USA

<sup>28</sup> Australian science teacher who joined Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition in December 1914 as a physicist

<sup>29</sup> History from the Canadian Forces Health Services Web Site

It was from the SAS that he was invited to join “The British Trans Arctic Expedition”. This expedition successfully completed the first crossing of the surface of the Arctic Ocean, traveling 6,000 km from Alaska to Spitzbergen via the North Pole by dogsled with logistic support from 435 Squadron RCAF, the US Naval Arctic Research Laboratory and the Royal Navy. The 476 day journey was featured in contemporary editions of the Guinness Book of World Records. All four members of the crossing party were elected Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society (FRGS) and named Men of the year in 1969. In 1970 the four men were each awarded the Polar Medal in an investiture held by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at Buckingham Palace, the citation for which reads:

*“Conferred upon those who took an active part in an expedition which made notable advances in the exploration of Polar Regions and underwent the hazards and rigours of severe conditions in excess of 12 months.”*



Following specialist training and accreditation in both Public Health and Occupational Medicine, Ken again volunteered for active duty, serving as a Regimental Medical Officer during a time of intense urban conflict, confronting armed elements of the IRA in the “no go” areas of Londonderry. During a four month operational tour, in addition to retrieving victims of assassination and booby traps, he undertook a total of sixteen rescue missions of both civilian and military victims of riot, sniper fire, ambush and improvised explosive devices.

Ken was awarded a “**Mention in Despatches**” in the Operational Gallantry List for Northern Ireland: “*I am charged to record Her Majesty’s high appreciation.*” (Signed: Secretary of State for Defence)

Ken’s twelve year military career with the British Army culminated with his appointment as Senior Specialist in Public Health and Occupational Medicine at Army Headquarters, Northern Ireland with a deployed strength of 18,000 troops. It had become the longest campaign in the history of the British Army. Ken married Dawn in 1974. Dawn had served for ten years with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in London, New York and Amsterdam. Ken and Dawn came to Canada in 1975. Sadly, Dawn passed away in 2004. Her life had become an inspiration for her young family over a number of years during which she displayed a spirited response to what proved to be a terminal illness.

In 1979, while Director of Occupational Health for Nova Scotia, Ken joined the Canadian Forces Primary Reserves. In 1981, Ken moved to Saskatchewan as a consultant in Health Protection for the provincial government and in 1982 became the medical director of Syncrude Canada Ltd. based in Edmonton. He became the Alberta Provincial Surgeon for St. John Ambulance that year and in 1988 was appointed the Deputy Chief Surgeon for St. John Ambulance. In 1993, he was made a Commander in the Order of St John (CStJ) in recognition of volunteer services for the Order. In 2010 Ken was awarded the distinction of Emeritus Status by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario: “*conferred in recognition of a record of exemplary service spanning more than twenty five years*”, a considerable part of which had been spent in the underserved areas of central and northern Ontario and Nunavut.

In September 2010, upon the recommendation of the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Minister of National Defence approved Ken’s appointment as the **first Honorary Colonel of the Canadian Forces Health Services Training Centre.**



### Canadian Military Medical Heroes

#### Surgeon Herbert Taylor READE, VC, CB

Reade was born on 02 September 1828 in Perth, Upper Canada. He died on 23 June 1897 at Bath in England having attained the rank of Surgeon General in the British Army and received the honour of Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB).

He was 28 years old, and a Surgeon in the 61st Regiment (later The Gloucestershire Regiment), British Army during the Indian Mutiny. At the Siege of Delhi for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross on 14 to 16 September 1857.



“During the siege of Delhi, on the 14th of September, 1857, while Surgeon Reade was attending to the wounded, at the end of one of the streets of the city, a party of rebels advanced from the direction of the Bank, and having established themselves in the houses in the street, commenced firing from the roofs. The wounded were thus in very great danger, and would have fallen into the hands of the enemy, had not Surgeon Reade drawn his sword, and calling upon the few soldiers who were near to follow, succeeded, under a very heavy fire, in dislodging the rebels from their position. Surgeon Reade's party consisted of about ten in all, of whom two were killed, and five or six wounded. Surgeon Reade also accompanied the regiment at the assault of Delhi, and, on the morning of the 16th September, 1857, was one of the first up at the breach in the magazine, which was stormed by the 61st Regiment and Belooch Battalion, upon which occasion he, with a serjeant of the 61st Regiment, spiked one of the enemy's guns.”



#### Assistant Surgeon Campbell Mellis DOUGLAS, VC

**Campbell Douglas** was born on 05 August 1840 in Quebec City. On 07 May 1867, he was 26 years old, and an assistant surgeon in the 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment of Foot (later The South Wales Borderers), British Army during the Andaman Islands Expedition when he was awarded the Victoria Cross. This was one of a very few VCs that were awarded ‘Not in the Face of the Enemy’ which interestingly often were associated with Canada (including the only Victoria Cross awarded in Canada for moving a boxcar loaded with dynamite away from a town). He became a Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Army and served in the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. He died on 31 December 1909.

“On 7 May 1867 at the island of Little Andaman, eastern India, in the Bay of Bengal, Assistant Surgeon Douglas and four Privates (David Bell, James Cooper, William Griffiths and Thomas Murphy) of the 2/24th Regiment risked their lives in manning a boat and proceeding through dangerous surf to rescue some of their comrades who had been sent to the island to find out the fate of the commander and seven of the crew, who had landed from the ship *Assam Valley* and were feared murdered by the cannibalistic islanders.”

#### Major Sir Frederick Grant BANTING, KBE, MC, DSC, LLD, MD, MRCS, LRCP

**Dr. Banting** was born on November 14, 1891, at Alliston, Ontario, Canada. He is best known for receiving the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1923 for the discovery of insulin. However, before he became famous for his research, he was a medical officer in the Canadian Army Medical Corps in the rank of Captain as a member of the 13th Field Ambulance serving in the North of France who received the Military Cross.

“Near Haynecourt on 28 September 1918, when the medical officer of the 46th Canadian Battalion was wounded, he immediately proceeded forward through intense shell fire to reach the battalion. Several of his men were wounded and he, neglecting his own safety, stopped to attend to them. While doing this he was wounded himself and was sent out notwithstanding his plea to be left at the front. His energy and pluck were of a very high order.”

In 1934, he was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (civil) (KBE) for his discovery of insulin (Canada Gazette of 23 June 1934 / London Gazette of 04 June 1934).

He was back in uniform in WWII serving as a liaison officer between the British and North American medical services. Banting headed the RCAF's Number 1 Clinical Investigation Unit (CIU). He was en route to England to conduct operational tests on the Franks flying suit developed by his colleague Wilbur Franks when he was killed in an airplane crash on 21 February 1941 in Newfoundland at the age of 49. His partner, Dr. Charles Best, served in the RCNVR during WWII as a Surgeon Captain.

**Banting's medals include:** KBE (1st type civil), Military Cross (GV), British War Medal, Victory Medal, CVSM & Bar, 1939/1945 War Medal, King George V Jubilee medal and the King George VI Coronation medal. His WWII medals (CVSM & 1939/1945 War Medal) are not shown below.



**Lieutenant-Colonel John Alexander McCRAE, BA, MD**  
*Author of *In Flanders Fields**

**Major John McCrae** was born in Guelph, Ontario on 30 November 1872. He served in the Guelph militia resident and then with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada while he worked on his B.A. at the University of Toronto in 1892 – 1893. He was promoted to Captain and commanded a company of the Regiment. He was a resident master in English and Mathematics in 1894 at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. He returned to the University of Toronto and completed his B.A. and completed his medical degree there as well. McCrae served in the artillery during the Second Boer War, and upon his return was appointed professor of pathology at the University of Vermont, where he taught until 1911; he also taught at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec.

In WWI, McCrae was a field surgeon in the Canadian artillery and was in charge of a field hospital during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915. McCrae's friend and former student, Lt. Alexis Helmer, was killed in the battle, and his burial inspired him to write the poem, "*In Flanders Fields*", which he wrote on 03 May 1915 and first published in the magazine *Punch*.

From 01 June 1915 until his death, McCrae set up and commanded No. 3 Canadian General Hospital at Dannes-Camiers near Boulogne-sur-Mer, northern France. On 28 January 1918, while commanding No 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill) at Boulogne, McCrae died of pneumonia with "extensive pneumococcus meningitis", probably secondary to Influenza 'A'.

His medals, which are now displayed in the Canadian War Museum, include the Queen's South Africa Medal for the 2nd Boer War, the 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

### **Matron Georgina Fane POPE, RRC**

First Nursing Matron of the Canadian Army Medical Corps and Service in South Africa

**Georgina Pope** was born on 01 January 1862 into a prominent Prince Edward Island family, her father being William Henry Pope, one of the Father of Confederation. She trained in New York City to become a nurse

She was the senior of the four nurses go overseas with the troops at the beginning of the South African War. She and the other three were given the rank, pay and benefits of a Lieutenant. For five months Georgina Fane Pope worked at British hospitals just north of Cape Town. She then went to Kroonstadt, where she and another nursing sister took charge of the military hospital, caring for more than 200 patients, and most with enteric fever.



At the end of 1900, Georgina Fane Pope returned to Canada and was put on reserve status.

In 1901, the Canadian Army Nursing Service was made official, and Georgina Fane Pope was one of its seven members. In 1902, Georgina Fane Pope went back to South Africa and served in a hospital in Natal until the end of the South African War. She was the first Canadian awarded the **Royal Red Cross** by Queen Victoria for her nursing service in the South African War in 1903.

In 1906, **Georgina Fane Pope** became a member of the new permanent Canadian Army Medical Corps and worked at the Garrison military hospital in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1908, she was appointed Nursing Matron, the first in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. By 1914, she was responsible for a handful of permanent staff and up to 80 reservists.

In 1917, Georgina Fane Pope again went overseas, this time to serve in England and France in World War I. She was sent back to Canada in 1918, suffering from health problems and retired to PEI. She died on 06 June 1938 in Charlottetown, PEI and was buried with full military honours.

### **Colonel Lavell Hall LEESON, SBStJ, MD**

He was an ENT specialist in Vancouver for 40 years. Lavell was born in Douglas, Manitoba and graduated in Medicine from McGill University in 1915. He served in WWI with the CEP at the 17th Stationary Hospital in Malta, Gallipoli, Egypt and India.

After WWI, Colonel Leeson **organized the 12th Field Ambulance** in Vancouver. In 1920, he founded the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Vancouver.



During WWII, he served overseas in charge of medical services with the 3rd Canadian Division.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>30</sup> In the bottom photo, Colonel Leeson is walking with and talking to King George VI.



## Corporal Frederick George Topham, VC

He was a **medical orderly** with the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion in WWII. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for the following action.



On 24th March, 1945, Corporal Topham, a medical orderly, parachuted with his Battalion on to a strongly defended area east of the Rhine. At about 1100 hours, whilst treating casualties sustained in the drop, a cry for help came from a wounded man in the open. Two medical orderlies from a field ambulance went out to this man in succession but both were killed as they knelt beside the casualty.

Without hesitation and on his own initiative, Corporal Topham went forward through intense fire to replace the orderlies who had been killed before his eyes. As he worked on the wounded man, he was himself shot through the nose. In spite of severe bleeding and intense pain, he never faltered in his task. Having completed immediate first aid, he carried the wounded man steadily and slowly back through continuous fire to the shelter of a wood.

During the next two hours Corporal Topham refused all offers of medical help for his own wound. He worked most devotedly throughout this period to bring in wounded, showing complete disregard for the heavy and accurate enemy fire. It was only when all casualties had been cleared that he consented to his own wound being treated.



His immediate evacuation was ordered, but he interceded so earnestly on his own behalf that he was eventually allowed to return to duty.

On his way back to his company he came across a carrier, which had received a direct hit. Enemy mortar bombs were still dropping around, the carrier itself was burning fiercely and its own mortar ammunition was exploding. An experienced officer on the spot had warned all not to approach the carrier.

Corporal Topham, however, immediately went out alone in spite of the blasting ammunition and enemy fire, and rescued the three occupants of the carrier. He brought these men back across the open and although one died almost immediately afterwards, he arranged for the evacuation of the other two, who undoubtedly owe their lives to him.

This N.C.O. showed sustained gallantry of the highest order. For six hours, most of the time in great pain, he performed a series of acts of outstanding bravery and his magnificent and selfless courage inspired all those who witnessed it.

### 01 March 2012 Parade – Commissioning of RSM Nan Lu

Photo at left:

Top: Lieutenant James Lee, Padre  
 Lieutenant Hai Vu  
 2nd Lieutenant Leslie Braun  
 CWO Nan Lu (20 minutes later Captain Nan Lu)  
 Lieutenant Heejin Jennifer Ryu  
 Bottom: LCol Ben Roth (Commanding Officer)  
 HCol John Blatherwick (retiring Honorary Colonel)  
 HCol Michael Sanderson (new Honorary Colonel)  
 HLCol Rob Watt (new Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel – first



## Appendix 5

## Commanding Officers

Rank	Name	Dates	Decorations	/
------	------	-------	-------------	---

## WWII

## 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance

LCol	BALDWIN, Sid	1941 to 1942		
LCol	TIEMAN, Eugene Edward ('Tuffie')	1942 to 1943	OBE SBStJ <sup>31</sup>	
LCol	CAVERHILL, Mervyn Ritchie ('Merv')	1943 to 1944	OBE	
LCol	McPHERSON, Alexander Donald ('Don')	1944 to 1945	DSO	Psychiatrist

## Post-War

## 12 Field Ambulance

LCol	CAVERHILL, Mervyn Ritchie ('Merv')	1946 to 1946	OBE	
------	------------------------------------	--------------	-----	--

CO #66 Canadian General Hospital  
(which was merged with 24 Medical Company)

LCol	HUGGARD, Roy	1946 to 1947		
------	--------------	--------------	--	--

## 24 Medical Company

LCol	MacLAREN, R. Douglas ('Doug')	1947 to 1950		
LCol	SUTHERLAND, William H. ('Bill')	1950 to 1954		
LCol	ROBINSON, Cecil ('Cec;') Ernest G.	1954 to 1958	CD QHP	Internal Medicine
LCol	STANSFIELD, Hugh	1958 to 1961	SBStJ CD <sup>32</sup>	
LCol	BOWMER, Ernest John ('Ernie')	1961 to 1966	MC CD	Director Prov Lab

## OC Medical Platoon 12 Service Battalion

Major	NOHEL, Ivan	1976 to 1979		
-------	-------------	--------------	--	--

## 12 (Vancouver) Medical Company

Major	NOHEL, Ivan	1979 to 1981	CD	
Major	WARRINGTON, Michael ('Mike')	1981 to 1983	OSTJ CD	GP North Van
Major	GARRY, John	1983 to 1986	CD	MHO Richmond
LCol	DELANEY, Sheila	1986 to 1988	CD	Nurse <sup>33</sup>
LCol	O'CONNOR, Brian	1988 to 1991	CD	MHO North Shore
LCol	FRENCH, Adrian	1991 to 1995	CD	
LCol	WEGENER, Roderick ('Rod') Charles	1995 to 2000	CD	

## 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance

LCol	LOWE, David ('Dave') Michael	2000 to 2008	CD	ESM Peace Officer
LCol	NEEDHAM, Rodney ('Rod') Earl	2008 to 2010	CD	Teacher in Surrey
LCol	ROTH, Ben William Lloyd	2010 to 2014	CD	USA MSM
LCol	FARRELL, Paul	2014 to 2016	CD	ex RAMC
LCol	McCLELLAND, Heather	2016 to present	CD	Nursing Officer

<sup>31</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>32</sup> Later the Honorary Colonel of 12 (Vancouver) Service Battalion

<sup>33</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.<sup>34</sup>



---

<sup>34</sup> LCol Heather McClelland with RSM CWO Mark Arden, MMM, CD (2018 Sogel photos by Bruce Holvick)

### Major 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. Paul Farrell was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 2015.

LCol 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 planned to wrap up his work in Kamloops and move to the lower mainland. Circumstances prevented this and he has retired in Kamloops after leaving the Canadian Forces in 2016.

35

---

<sup>35</sup> LCol Farrell's photo in mess kit by Bruce Holvick

## 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>36</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>37</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>36</sup> Jannette also served in the Canadian Forces including service in Germany when Ben was posted there.

<sup>37</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>38</sup>



<sup>38</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>39</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>39</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-Shoebotham 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>40</sup>

<sup>40</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>41</sup> note in 2007 has a statement from Michael. "In 1976, while serving as

<sup>41</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 Succurrere 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 Succurrimus* (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>42</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>42</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>43</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>44</sup> In 1943, he was sent to the Middle East where he was attached to the 4th Indian Division, 7th Indian Infantry Brigade, 17th 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>45</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>46</sup> His first posting was to the Far East, Rangoon, where he

<sup>43</sup> London Gazette of 23 July 1940 - To be Lieutenant RCAMC Ernest John Bowmer, M.B. (129127) 03 July 1940

<sup>44</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>45</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>47</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>48</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 Everelyigh, 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>49</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>46</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>47</sup> DADMS / OPS & PLANS = Deputy Assistant Director Medical Services / Operations and Plans

<sup>48</sup> London Gazette of 06 July 1948 - Captain E.J. Bowmer, M.B. (139127), to be Major 03 July 1948

<sup>49</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>50</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 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 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.

<sup>50</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

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 was appointed on July 1, 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>51</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.

---

<sup>51</sup> British Columbia Medical Journal, Vol. 52, No. 2, March 2010, page(s) 98 Obituaries

## Appendix 7

### Regimental Sergeant Majors

Rank	Name	Dates where known	Decorations	/
WO1	<b>STEWART, John McNeill</b>	02/1944 to 06/1945	MBE	
WO1	<b>FRAINE, Del</b>	06/1946 to 1951		
WO1	<b>TUFTS, Ernie</b>	1951 to	EM CD	
WO	<b>BENSON, Gail</b>			
WO	<b>GREGOR, Sid</b>			
MBdr	<b>CULVER, Shane</b>		Acting RSM	
WO	<b>GREENWOOD, Teresa</b>		CD	
WO1	<b>FERGUS, Gordie</b>		CD	ex Seaforth
PO	<b>PATMORE, Dwayne</b>		CD	
WO2	<b>MEEHAM, Don</b>		CD	
CWO	<b>FROST, Ken</b>	- 1995	CD	ex Air Force
CWO	<b>STEWART, Frederick <u>Scott</u></b>	1995 - 2001	MStJ CD	
CWO	<b>GIBSON, Wayne L.</b>	2001 - 2005	CD	
CWO	<b>VAN RIENEN, Peter</b>	2005 – 2008	CD	
CWO	<b>LU, Nan</b>	2008 – 2011	CD	
CWO	<b>STEWART, Frederick <u>Scott</u></b>	2011 – 2016	MStJ CD	
CWO	<b>ARDEN, Mark H.</b>	2016 – present	MMM CD	

## Appendix 8

### REGIMENTAL SERGEANT MAJOR'S BIOGRAPHIES

#### Major (former CWO) Peter VAN RIENEN, CD

Peter is an Electrodiagnostic Neurophysiology Technologist (honest) at the Vancouver General Hospital - a highly specialized medical technician.

In his military role, Peter has 30 years of service including the appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major of 12 Field Ambulance. In 2008 he took his commission as a Captain. He then took time out from his family and his civilian job to serve on Roto 8 Operation Athena in Kandahar as a CIMIC (Civil Military Co-operation) Operator. This role put him “outside the wire” for much of his tour exposing him to danger throughout his tour. He is now Commander of the Medical Platoon for the Unit. Peter’s medals include the General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon, EIIR Diamond Jubilee Medal and the CD and one bar. Peter was promoted to Major in 2017.



#### Chief Warrant Officer Wayne L. Gibson, CD

Wayne was born on 28 January 1954. He served as the Regimental Sergeant Major for 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance from 2001 to 2005. Wayne died in Terrace at a very young age (54) on 11 June 2008 while still serving on duty with the Canadian Forces. Wayne is survived by his loving spouse Linda Basque; son Jason; daughter Lisa; his parents Leonard and Patricia; brothers Jim (Lynette) and Bill; sister Lynn; several nieces and nephews, his special nephew Kevin whom he adored and his girl, Holly The Dog.





### **Captain (former CWO) Nan LU, CD**



Nan is a Civilian Forensic Specialist with the West Vancouver Police Department (yes CSI).

She has served for 25 years in the Canadian Forces and until this 2011 was the Regimental Sergeant Major for 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance, the senior non-commissioned member in the unit. She then took over as the Operations Officer for the unit and was commissioned as a Captain in 2012.

Nan is a mother – while pregnant, she continued to serve as the RSM for 12 Field Ambulance. She has taken time out of her civilian career to do two tours with the Regular Force – the first with the United Nations in the Former Yugoslavia and the second with the NATO Forces in the Former Yugoslavia. Her medals include the Special Service Medal with bar NATO, Peacekeeping Medal, United Nations former Yugoslavia Medal (UNPROFOR), the NATO Medal with bar former Yugoslavia, and the CD.

### **Chief Warrant Officer Frederick Scott STEWART, MStJ, CD <sup>52</sup>**



In his civilian occupation, Scott was a Police Officer with the New Westminster Police Department and a member of the Integrated Street Patrol Unit in the Lower Mainland.

He began my military career with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada in 1975 and transferred to 12 Medical Platoon of 12 Service Battalion just before Christmas 1977. Shortly after he moved to the Service Battalion, the Medical Platoon became 12 Medical Company. After the move to Jericho, he rose in the ranks to become the Acting Regimental Sergeant Major under LCol O'Connor. He had a tiny office on the first floor near the Quartermaster at Jericho and until the unit moved upstairs where they are presently. He became the

permanent RSM and served in that role until 2001.

However, he did not just serve in Canada. He went to Germany with the Canadian Forces Health Services in 1984 and worked in Preventative Medicine in the field. In 2002, he served a 6 month tour in Bosnia as a Civilian Military Liaison Officer for the PPCLI. He was pivotal in building an agricultural veterinary clinic, a medical clinic and a soccer pitch. His main job was to “normalise” relations between NATO/EU monitors and the local police.

He was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer in 1995. After ending his RSM stint with 12 Field Ambulance, he served as a Liaison Officer for Joint Task Force Pacific and was the lead liaison officer for the Northeast Region Emergency Operations Centre. The job of the liaison officers is to know the civilian counterparts in British Columbia so that in event of a disaster, they can liaise quickly and advise the Commander Maritime Command Pacific of events and any requirements for military support to the civilian authorities. When 12 Field Ambulance needed an experienced RSM in 2011, they turned to Scott Stewart and he has taken over his former position with the unit until 2016. He was now doing two jobs in the Reserve forces, his liaison position and his RSM position. He is a volunteer on the Board of Directors for the Gateway Theatre, on the Branch executive of the St John Ambulance in New Westminster, on the St John Ambulance Provincial Volunteer Committee and is a member of the Steveston Rotary Club.

---

<sup>52</sup> CWO Scott Stewart with Lieutenant-Colonel Rod Needham and HLCOL (now HCOL) Michael Sanderson

## HONORARY COLONELS

<b>Ernie Bowmer</b>	1984	to	2001
<b>Tony Grasset</b>	2002	to	2006
<b>John Blatherwick</b>	2006	to	2013 (February)
<b>Michael Sanderson</b>	2012	to	2015

### **Honorary Colonel Ernie Bowmer, MC, KStJ, CD, MD, FRCP(C)**

Received the Military Cross at Monte Casino in Italy during WWII  
 Outstanding postwar career in British Army where he developed three of the six Botulism anti-toxins  
 Commanded 12 (Vancouver) Medical Company  
 Later became head of the Provincial Laboratory of British Columbia until he retired

### **Honorary Colonel Anthony ('Tony') Grasset, KStJ, CD, MD**

Served in WWII with the Royal Berkshire Regiment including service in North Africa  
 Long time Family Physician in West Vancouver  
 Regional Surgeon in British Columbia with the militia

### **Honorary Colonel Francis John Blatherwick, CM, CStJ, OBC, CD, MD, FRCP(C), LLD**

39 years in the Canadian Forces including time in the Governor General Foot Guards,  
 the RCAF, the RCAMC and RCNVR / Maritime Command  
 36 years a Medical Health Officer in British Columbia, the last 23 as the Chief Medical Health  
 Officer in Vancouver / Vancouver Coastal Health

### **Colonel Michael Sanderson, SBStJ** <sup>53</sup>

Executive Director of the Lower Mainland B.C. Ambulance Service  
 Responsible for all ambulance services at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics  
 Former Sea Cadet



<sup>53</sup> Remembrance Day at UBC Memorial Gym 2011 has LCol Rod Needham, HLCOL (now HCOL) Michael Sanderson, LCol Ben Roth, the new HLCOL Rob Watt and LCol Dave Lowe all together. My three Commanding Officers and two Honorary Lieutenant-Colonels at 12 Field Ambulance

### HONORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONELS

<b>Ernie Bowmer</b>	1981	to	1984
<b>Mike Warrington</b>	1985	to	1988
<b>Tony Grasset</b>	1988	to	2002
<b>Tom Speed</b>	2002	to	2006
<b>Michael Sanderson</b>	2007	to	2011
<b>Robert ('Robb') Watt</b>	2012	to	2018 (ongoing)

#### **Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest ('Ernie') John Bowmer, KStJ, MC, CD, MD, FRCP(C)**

See note previous page under Honorary Colonels

#### **Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Warrington, OStJ, CD, MD**

Commanded 12 Medical Company 1981 to 1983

Long time Family Physician in North Vancouver

Responsible for the CF Health Services Motto: Militi Succurimus

Troop Leader in Recce Troop, 1st Royal Tank Regiment, 7th Armoured Division (Desert Rats) WWII

#### **Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony ('Tony') Grasset, KStJ, CD, MD <sup>54</sup>**

See note under Honorary Colonels

#### **Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Speed, CD**

Minister in North Vancouver

Kept the Defence Medical Association Group in Vancouver going for many years

#### **Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Sanderson, SBStJ**

See Note under Honorary Colonels

#### **Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Robert ('Robb') Watt, LVO, OStJ**

First Canadian Herald

Canadian Herald Emeritus

Citizenship Court Judge



<sup>54</sup> CWO (now Captain) Peter Van Rienen, HCol Tony Grasset and HCol Mike Warrington at Freedom of the City and Sogel Mess Dinner in 2007



**Biographies of the Honoraries <sup>55</sup>**

**Honorary Colonel Tony Grasset, KStJ, CD, MD**

HLCol 1988 to 2002

HCol 2002 to 2006

Tony was born in London, England and educated at Mount St. Mary's College near Sheffield. In March 1939, he enlisted in the British Territorial Army, The Kensington Regiment. He was posted to Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and shortly after the outbreak of WWII passed out as a Second Lieutenant, Royal Berkshire Regiment (May 1940). He was lent to the Bristol Aeroplane Company as Assistant Defence Officer during the Battle of Britain period.

Returning to the Royal Berkshire Regiment, he landed in Algiers, North Africa in December 1941 and served with the 56 Recce Regiment of the 78th British Division in North Africa. He remained with the 78th British Division when they went to Sicily and Italy. In 1944, he was posted to Headquarters of the Eighth Army as GSO III. In 1945, he was a member of the Military Mission to the Italian Army which was tasked with training Italian forces to fight with the Allies until the end of hostilities. He then served with the Allied Screening Commission (Italy) whose task was to investigate and acknowledge Italians who aided escaped Allied POWs. He was released from the British Army in September 1946.

Tony once told me that the best advice he every received was from a grizzled veteran was: "Don't worry about the bullet that you hear, it hasn't and can't kill you. You'll never hear the one that will kill or maim you!" After that piece of advice, he stopped worrying.



Returning to school after the war, he went to medical school and graduated from the Middlesex Hospital (London, England) in 1954. After his internship, he joined the resident staff of the American Hospital in Paris (France) from 1955 to 1961.

He moved to Canada in 1961 and was appointed the Chief Resident at Shaughnessy Hospital. At this time he enrolled in the RCAMC (Militia) and served as a Regimental Medical Officer. He was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel in 1974 and served until December 1981 as Area Surgeon (Pacific). He served as President of the Defence Medical Association from 1985 to 1987.

After his term as Chief Resident at Shaughnessy Hospital, he became a General Practitioner in West Vancouver. He was on the staff of Lions Gate Hospital and the Honorary Staff of Shaughnessy Hospital. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the BC Corps of Commissionaires. He was very active in the work of St. John Ambulance (member of the Provincial Medical Advisory Board and Vice-Chair of the North Shore Branch). The first aid section found in the Yellow Pages of the telephone directories was due to his hard and determined work. While he is credited in the most recent history of the CFHS <sup>56</sup> with proposing the CFMS Motto, *Militi Succurrimus*, it was actually Mike Warrington who suggested the motto and Tony just forwarded it to the Surgeon General in Ottawa.

Tony's medals include: Knight of the Order of St. John, 1939/1945 Star, Africa Star with 1st Army clasp, Italy Star, Defence Medal, 1939/1945 War Medal – EIIR Silver Jubilee Medal – Efficiency Medal (GVI) – Canadian Forces Decoration (EIIR) and the Service Medal of the Order of St. John

<sup>55</sup> The biographies of the HCol Bowmer and HLCol Warrington are found under Commanding Officers

<sup>56</sup> Canadian Forces Medical Services – Introduction to its History & Heritage 2003

**Honorary Colonel Michael SANDERSON, MStJ, BA, MSc**

HLCol 29 December 2008 to 29 December 2011

HCol 29 December 2011 to 29 December 2014



Michael served in the Sea Cadets and went with a Canadian group of ships to Australia as a cadet spending three months at sea.

Prior to moving to Vancouver, Michael has moved through a range of paramedic, educational, supervisory, management, and executive roles since first starting as an ambulance attendant in Port Hope Ontario in 1974. These postings include Manager Pembroke and District Ambulance (1980-1987), Director Peterborough District Ambulance (1987-1990), Director of Paramedic Service Royal Victoria Hospital Barrie (1990-2001).

Educational experiences include his initial "Casualty Care Attendant" training at CFB Borden, the Humber College Ambulance and Emergency Care (Paramedic) program with Honours; completion of the American Ambulance

Association Ambulance Service Management Program, the Ontario Police College Ambulance Service Investigators' Course, and the Canadian Hospital Association Departmental Management Program. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (Sociology) from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University as well as a Master of Health Sciences (Health Administration) from University of Toronto. Most recently he completed the inaugural Simon Fraser University / Health Care Leaders Association of BC Leaders for Life Certificate program.



Michael served as the Executive Director of the British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) Lower Mainland Region from March 2001 to 2011. He was responsible for ambulance service delivery to more than 2.6 million British Columbians in an area of more than 90,000 square kilometres with an annual response volume in this diversified area exceeding 400,000. With the 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Games operating entirely within the Lower Mainland Region his role included designation as the Provincial lead for EMS provision to the Games, a responsibility off without a hitch. He provided yeoman service during the long BC Ambulance strike putting in

many extra hours to keep the service going.

Michael represented the BCAS on the Board of Directors for E-Comm. Professional memberships include the EMS Chiefs of Canada and the Canadian College of Health Service Executives. Honours and awards include admission as a Member of the Order of St. John (MStJ 2000), the Governor General's Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal (with bar), and appointment as Honorary Lieutenant Colonel 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance. He was appointed as the Honorary Colonel on 29 December 2011 for a period of three years.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>57</sup> Top Photo: Michael in CFHS Mess Dress with Surgeon General Commodore Hans Jung and HCol (in his Captain(N) uniform) John Blatherwick in Ottawa; Below Photo: HCol Michael Sanderson with HCol John Blatherwick (until 12 February 2012 and then he expired – it said so on his ID card) and LCol Ben Roth at New Year's Day Levee 01 January 2012.

During his time as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel for the 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance, Michael raised over \$2,500.00 in Tim Horton coupons for the members of 12 Field Ambulance serving in Afghanistan. He also made available training opportunities for the Field Ambulance with BC Ambulance.

In 2010, Michael became the President of the Canadian Chiefs of Ambulance Services. He and his wife love to ride their motorcycles and in the summers will put on 1,000's of miles driving to Ontario and other places. His medals include the Member of the Order of St. John and the Ambulance Service Exemplary Service Medal and bar.

A change in Michael's civilian employment had him move to Ontario where he became the Deputy Chief of Ambulance Services for the Niagara Region and in 2014 the Chief of the Paramedic Services for Hamilton and the Honorary Colonel of 23 (Hamilton) Field Ambulance as of 23 January 2014.

**Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Robert ("Robb") Douglas WATT,  
LVO, OStJ, BA, MA, FRHSC, FHS (Hon), AIH**

Robb was born in 1945 in Picton, Ontario, in Prince Edward County, the son of an NCO in the RCAF and a farmer's daughter. His maternal grandmother was very proud of her Loyalist heritage and passed her fascination with the County's history on to me. When his father returned to his birthplace on the North Shore in 1953, his father added to his historical interests by recounting tales of his boyhood in the Scottish Lowlands near Linlithgow in an area right beside the site of the northernmost Roman wall. He even had some Roman coins he had dug up in a field next to the schoolhouse where his father was the headmaster.

58

By the time he finished High School in West Vancouver, history seemed the best choice for a degree, which he began at UBC and completed, with an MA in Canadian history, at Carleton University in Ottawa in 1968. After teaching briefly at Capilano College, he returned to Ottawa and began a career lasting nearly four decades in what he call "applied history", first at the Public Archives in Ottawa and then, returning to the Coast, as City Archivist in Vancouver, then Curator and ultimately Director at the Vancouver Museum.

In 1972, Robb met his wife Alison and we were married the next year in the Temple Church in London, made much more famous now by Dan Brown in the 'Da Vinci Code'.

In the light of his subsequent career, one story from the late 60s deserves particular mention. While training at the Public Archives, Robb was mentored by Bob Rosewarne, the newly appointed head of exhibits for the Archives, who encouraged me to join the then fledgling Heraldry Society of Canada. Robb can still remember his comments as he dropped the membership leaflet on his desk. "Robb", he said, "With your interest in history and love of art, you should join this. It's a good group". Little did he know at the time what this would ultimately lead to? Like most people, historians included, Robb thought heraldry was a purely antiquarian matter that had died out when the last knight hung up his lance, so he was startled to discover that it had a contemporary face and new coats of arms were being regularly granted, including to the City of Vancouver in 1969.



---

<sup>58</sup> Robb Watt outside of Buckingham Palace after receiving the Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO) from HRH The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles. With him is his daughter Catherine, son Michael and wife Alison.



In the years between 1970 and 1988, Robb enjoyed a rich and varied professional career and the pleasures and fascinations of becoming a parent, with the birth of our son Michael in 1982 and daughter Catherine in 1985. While City Archivist, he worked to bring order to the mass of material collected by the indefatigable and often irascible Major J.S. Matthews. Shortly after succeeding him, Pierre Berton visited me at the office, then in the Library Building on Burrard. From his comments it became clear that the Major and Robb hadn't really hit it off and Pierre often left the premises a very frustrated researcher. Robb was evidently a breath of fresh, young and professional air.



Robb carried his enjoyment of organizing and giving access to archival heritage over to the City Museum in the shadow, literally and figuratively, of the Planetarium. His love affair, still going strong, with art and stained glass, unfolded there, as did his determination to save some of Vancouver's neon. Most fortunately for Robb, he began to learn something of the extraordinary material culture of the First Peoples of the Northwest Coast and of the renaissance in Northwest Coast art, then getting firmly underway. Peggy Martin, our gift shop manager was one of his guides and he remains proud that the Museum, with the help of Bill Reid was able to develop a goldsmith's Jubilee workshop in 1977 in one of our galleries, which matched the artistry of a young English goldsmith, Peter Page, with six of the finest up and coming young First Nations artists, all suggested by Bill Reid.

During this same period Robb served as editor of the Material History Bulletin, with an Ottawa colleague and as President of the B.C. Museums Association, both experiences which brought me into contact with some of the best museologists and material historians in Canada. A term on the City's first Heritage Advisory Committee, introduced me to dangers which threatened Vancouver's built heritage and the challenges of saving important structures like the Orpheum.<sup>59</sup>

Volunteering took several forms, serving as a president or Director of a number of heritage groups but also as a technical consultant for a number of area municipalities which wanted to acquire an official coat of arms. These included Richmond, the City of North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Campbell River, Delta and Port Moody. This activity dramatized for me the anomaly of Canadian institutions having to use the Crown's older heraldic offices in London and Edinburgh to receive official heraldry. His position on the executive of the Heraldry Society of Canada gave me a front row seat on developments in Ottawa regarding the possibility of creating a Canadian Heraldic Authority. That this came to pass is due largely to the advocacy of a BC First Nations woman, Teresa Nahanni and to the Hon. David Crombie, who pushed the concept in cabinet when Brian Mulroney was Prime Minister. The full story is far too long to tell here, but miraculously, the Authority was created by Royal Letters Patent in 1988. Robb had the great good fortune to be chosen as the first Chief Herald of Canada by Governor General Sauvé on 4 June that year.

For a little over 19 years Robb watched as his colleagues and he were able to take this very old and beautiful European idea and make it live and flourish in Canada. Our heraldry is now widely considered to be among the finest in the world, a pioneering effort in terms of gender equal symbolism, a symbol system that accords a special place to the ancient symbols of our first peoples, a system which recognizes in hundreds of new grants, the rich multicultural character of our people and the tremendous accomplishments of our institutions. Robb was privileged to create new heraldry for recipients in every province and territory and shaped and attended hundreds of heraldic ceremonies from sea to sea to sea.

Retirement as Chief Herald came at the end of June 2007 but the Governor General let me down very gently by giving me a new title, Rideau Herald Emeritus, a beautiful new badge of office and above all, the chance to continue some involvement in this unique cultural experiment.

<sup>59</sup> Robert Watt wearing his chain of office as the Chief Herald of Canada (Photo by Sergeant Eric Jolin, Office of the Governor General)

Robb, as I told him, “failed retirement” and took up a new challenge the next year as a Citizenship Court Judge. He holds 2 to 3 Citizenship ceremonies each week. On 29 December 2011, Rob became the Honorary Colonel of 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance for 3 years to 29 December 2014.

Rob Watt’s medals include: Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order – Officer of the Order of St. John – Canada 125 Medal – EIIR Golden Jubilee Medal – EIIR Diamond Jubilee Medal.<sup>60</sup>



**Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Speed, CD**  
HLCol 2002 to 2006



Tom Speed was a Minister on the North Shore. When the Defence Medical Association in Vancouver began to deteriorate, Tom took over the Chair of the Division and kept it going for many years. He served as the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of 12 Field Ambulance from 2002 to 2006 but his health would not let him take the Honorary Colonel position.

Tom’s medals include: Defence Medal – Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp – 1939/1945 War Medal – Centennial Medal - EIIR Silver Jubilee – CD and two bars

<sup>60</sup> 01 January 2012 – The new Brain Trust of 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance – Lieutenant-Colonel Ben Roth, Commanding Officer, Honorary Colonel Michael Sanderson, Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel Rob Watt, Captain Dennis Haynes, Deputy Commanding Officer and CWO Scott Stewart, Regimental Sergeant Major Above: HLCol Tom Speed at the Freedom of the City ceremony

**Honorary Colonel Francis John BLATHERWICK  
CM, CStJ, OBC, CD, MD, FRCP(C), LLD (Hon)**



John Blatherwick grew up in the RCAF moving from station to station: Winnipeg, Edmonton, Namao, Calgary, Vancouver, Ottawa and back to Namao (north of Edmonton). His father was the longest serving Warrant Officer in the history of the RCAF becoming a WO2 in 1942 after joining as an Airman 2nd Class on the day WWII was declared by Canada. Earl Blatherwick received his first Warrant (as a WO1) in 1942 and decided to stay in the RCAF when he was only reverted back to WO2 and received his second Warrant in 1950. He remained a WO1 until he retired in 1970. (photo at right Brian, Earl and John Blatherwick in RCAF Uniform)

John joined the Governor General's Foot Guards in Ottawa in 1961 and wore the scarlet tunic with bearskin headdress. Following his family's move to RCAF Namao (where they moved into the same house they had occupied in 1949 when they were the first family on the base after the USAF turned the base over to Canada), he joined 107 University of Alberta Squadron. In his first summer in RCAF Centralia, he was selected the Outstanding Officer Cadet out of 270 Officer Cadets. That summer he also completed his training as a Supply Officer (now known by the fancier name – Logistics Officer). He spent the next two summers at RCAF Station Gimli and RCAF Station Winnipeg. He then transferred to 418 (Edmonton) RCAF Squadron based a stone's throw from his home at RCAF Station Namao and served with that Squadron throughout his time as a medical student at the University of Alberta (graduated 1969). He was carried on the books of the unit as their Supply Officer but in fact acted as their medical officer with one of his Professors at the University signing his aircrew medicals for him. His brother, Brian, also served in 418 Squadron and the two brothers served with their father.

In the summer of 1967, John went to the National Defence Medical Centre as a supply officer in the RCAF. While signing in, he met Commodore Yelland, the Commandant of NDMC, who said to him, "You are a medical student; you don't want to work in supply. What would you like to do in the medical area?" John replied that he would like to work in surgery. In those days, medical students didn't really get on the wards until 3rd year medicine and John had just finished 2nd year. He had never been in an operating theatre. So Colin Yelland sent him up to see Captain Dan McIver, RCN, the head of surgery. Captain McIver said, "That ward over there is yours – you do all the medicals, write all the orders, and assist on all the surgeries." While he knew how to do a history and a rudimentary physical, writing orders was something he had never done. The ward however was very basic military surgery – haemorrhoids and Pilonidal Sinuses (Jeep Driver's disease in the army). So to write the orders, he got former charts of patients with these problems and wrote his orders based on them. The nurses did ask him why he ordered three enemas for each patient which the head nurse had him cut down to one and one more if needed!<sup>61</sup>



<sup>61</sup> John in his Governor General's Foot Guard ceremonial uniform, Pilot Officer in the RCAF, ADC to the Lieutenant-Governor of B.C. in the Vancouver to Nanaimo bathtub race in the (ugh!) green navy uniform; RCN dress whites and on retirement in his navy blue uniform



It wasn't only the basic things that he operated on. He assisted on eye surgery and open heart surgery. He also took his turn on call, staying at the hospital on those nights where there was normally no physician on site. One night he was on call during EXPO' 67 and the Queen was in Ottawa. John was on call the night of 01 July 1967 and would have been the first 'doctor' the Queen would have seen if she had gotten ill. The thing about that situation was the next night when she was in Montreal, she had a miscarriage! (Officially not but that was what we had been told at the time).

When I asked Captain McIver <sup>62</sup> how he became a surgeon, he explained that on his first cruise in the Royal Navy in WWII, his ship was hit and he did six amputations in one night. He decided after that to be a surgeon and save some of those limbs. Dan was a superb surgeon. He didn't waste time picking up bleeders – he felt that the less time a patient was under anaesthesia, the better it was for the patient so John's job was to keep his field of vision clear and pick up the bleeders when they closed. Dan would have me look at the clock and when the second hand hit 12, we would start and finish a gall bladder in less than 25 minutes. When I assisted the older army surgeon, it was up to an hour as he stopped and cauterized every bleeder - long surgeries. The young Major was fast also but never close to McIver's time.



They all treated John very well. Commodore Yelland was a twin and when John bought his house in New Westminster in 1975, his twin lived one door away and was in general practice in New Westminster.

Military physicians by and large treated young people as colleagues and that was never better shown than when Dan McIver helped John. When John got home on Thursday night from NDMC in June 1967, he received a post card from his fiancée's mother which said: "Carol's surgery went fine. She will be out of the hospital soon." That was it. On Friday morning, John told Dan McIver that he had to go home to see Carol. Dan just said, "Don't do anything – I will look after it." Looking after it was spectacular. John received travel patients and special leave. He was booked on the service flight from RCAF Uplands in Ottawa to Trenton that night. However, when he arrived at the Air Movement Unit, they said there was no flight to Trenton that night. The only plane leaving was that belonging to the Air Officer Commanding Transport Command and it wasn't a scheduled flight. John's travel documents said he was on that flight. It was a magnificent Dakota aircraft with two large seats behind tables at the front of the aircraft. John boarded last after the AOC and his aide and his secretary who sat in the seats behind the AOC. The AOC motioned John to come up and sit with him in the nice big seats up front. When they arrived in Trenton, the AOC's car met the plane and he took John over to the overnight accommodations. The next morning, John was off on the Yukon flight to RCAF Station Namao. On the flight, he sat in the VIP seats at the back of the plane with three Brigadiers. Finally, one of the Brigadiers asked John where Rear-Admiral Elliot was. John explained about Dan McIver arranging this for him and they all realized that Elliot had given up his seat for John.

The story ended well. John arrived in Namao and drove down through Edmonton to Calgary. Carol was all right and came out of the hospital the next day. Carol and John arranged their wedding reception on the Wednesday and on the Thursday John had a seat on a Hercules flight back to Ottawa out of Namao. On the Friday morning, Dan asked John, "Everything all right?". "Yes", was the reply and John went back to work.



<sup>62</sup> Surgeon Captain Dan MacIver

John's son, Lieutenant James Blatherwick, First Lieutenant at HMCS Discovery, John Blatherwick in naval uniform; WO1 Earl Blatherwick, RCAF

The military did two very nice things for Dan McIver. First he received the Officer of the Order of Military Merit in his last year in the service (1973) and in his last month, they promoted him to Commodore. He had repeatedly turned down promotions which would have lead to him becoming the Surgeon General as he wanted to be a real surgeon. I asked a friend how he took his promotion and



they said he sat in his office for about 24 hours with cigars and scotch and all his friends came and visited him – he was simply delighted with the promotion.



Another story from my NDMC days concerned Colonel Keith Besley. Keith was a pilot in the RCAF in WWII, went to medical school after the war graduating from the University of Toronto in 1950. Keith joined the RCAMC and served in Korea earning a Mentioned-in-Despatches. He then trained as a Urologist and was the staff urologist at the National Defence Medical Centre when I was there. One of the first days that I was assisting him in the Operating Room, he had been rattling off a series of jokes and funny stories (just like in the movie and TV series MASH) when he suddenly popped his head up from the end of the table and said, “John, when you work at this end of the table, you have to have a sense of humour.”<sup>63</sup>

After graduating from the University of Alberta with the gold medal in surgery and the gold medal in medicine (thanks largely to my time at NDMC which put me way ahead of my classmates having run a surgical ward for four months), one of two out of 109 students to graduate Cum Laude and first in his class, he and his wife Carol, a class mate whom he had married in the summer of 1967, interned at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary (Carol’s home town). John was the head of the interns, a job that he took to ensure his schedule and Carol’s would match as much as possible to two people who were on call every second night and every second weekend. Somehow, one of the surgeons at the hospital learned that John had been in the



military and asked him to “assist” him with the medical company at the Service Battalion in Calgary. John was given the rank of Lieutenant as he was not yet fully qualified to practice medicine in Alberta until he had completed his internship. The first night he attended the Mewata Armoury, he was told that he was the Officer Commanding the medical company as the surgeon had been retired due to age and he was the only officer in the unit! So he wore his RCAMC uniform while the Canadian Forces were transforming into the one green uniform. John and Carol decided after having gone through their last winter in Edmonton which included 40 straight days of below zero Fahrenheit and five straight days of -40 (which is the same in Celsius and Fahrenheit) weather, that they would move to Vancouver.<sup>64</sup>

Thus, in July 1970, John started as a First Year Resident in Internal Medicine at the Vancouver General Hospital and Carol started doing locums in Vancouver, Burnaby and Richmond. During that year at VGH, John’s Deputy Senior Resident asked if John would “assist” him at HMCS Discovery. John started at Discovery in May 1971 and remained for 29 years, most of those years as the Principal Medical Officer (PMO). Over the course of that period, John was promoted to the rank of Commander and represented Canada for six years at the Congress of NATO Medical Officer first as Vice-President (Canada) and then as President (Canada). The CIOMR presented him with their gold medal; only the sixth one to date given.



Another thing that John did during that first year residency program was go to see the Vancouver City Medical Health Officer to tell him that they needed to set up a youth medical clinic. John was seeing so many young people in the outpatient clinics and back then you didn’t have automatic medical coverage when you came to B.C. from another province. Hepatitis and Venereal Diseases were rampant in this group of young people. Dr. Gerry Bonham said that they realized that they needed such a clinic, that they had applied for a federal grant to run one and that John was hired to set the clinic up and run it. “Not so fast – I have a residency to finish”, replied John. Gerry convinced John that he was the right person and that he should follow his passion and finish his residency later.

<sup>63</sup> Colonel John Keith Besley, KStJ, CD (MID), RCAMC and RCAF

<sup>64</sup> John and Carol off to the Military Ball in Edmonton 1967; John as a Surgeon Lieutenant in the navy in 1971.

In July 1971, John started on a career in public health. Since they didn't have the grant money yet, John was made an Assistant Medical Health Officer and began doing public health work and in particular being a school medical officer. In January 1972, the money for the clinic arrived. The clinic was called the Pine Street Clinic for the obvious reason; it was on Pine Street. It started as a single trailer and eventually became a double trailer. Today it still operates on 4th Avenue in a permanent structure and so the name was changed to Pine Free Clinic. The infamous Dr. Art Hister was hired by John to work with him and the pair had a great three years together.

John worked part-time at the clinic and continued to perform his Medical Health Officer role. He decided to make it a career and arranged with Dr. Ken Benson to join the Provincial Health Department and go to the University of Toronto and take his Diploma in Public Health (DPH). Carol and John and their two year old son Jim moved to Toronto for 8 months with John finishing first in the DPH class. John knew he could be posted to any of the Health Units in British Columbia and when he left B.C. for Toronto, Williams Lake and Nelson were open. He (and Carol) was very pleased when Ken Benson asked him if he wanted the Simon Fraser Health Unit in Coquitlam / New Westminster. John accepted on the spot; Ken suggested he ask his wife and John said, "I know she would say yes".

While in Toronto, John served as a Medical Officer at *HMCS York*. Back then, all naval reserve promotions were made on January 1st. John, Jim and Carol had come back to Vancouver for Christmas and John and Carol were over at their friend John Tyrell's house for New Years Eve and to welcome in the New Year with John Tyrell's promotion to Lieutenant-Commander. At 23:30 on December 31st, a phone call came to the Tyrell with Bob McIlwaine asking John if he knew where John Blatherwick was. "Right here", was the reply. So John B. took the phone and Bob asked him if he knew he was being promoted, which he did not. So the two Johns were now Lieutenant-Commanders when the clock struck midnight.

John wore the RCN blue uniform until this time as the regular force members received the green uniform's first. When John got back to Toronto, he went to the clothing stores at CFB Station Downsview and received his new green "Major Rank" uniform. John was concerned about what the members at *York* might think of him taking one of their promotions but on the first night back at the unit, John had nothing to worry about as *HMCS York* had gotten 13 of the 26 promotions in the naval reserve that year. In addition to John's promotion, his Principal Medical Officer was promoted to Commander, the other medical officer in the unit to LCdr and a nurse to Lieutenant. The four of them put on a mess dinner for the unit rather than ringing the bell.



After his DPH, John returned to Vancouver and *HMCS Discovery* to take up his position as the Medical Health Officer for the Simon Fraser Health Unit. It covered Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore, Unincorporated Area 'B' of the GVRD and the unique municipal health unit of New Westminster. In New Westminster, John reported directly to the City Council and City Manager as the Medical Health Officers did in Vancouver, Burnaby and Richmond.

John and Carol were living in Vancouver and expecting their second child (David) and were looking for a house in their new area. They looked at a house in New Westminster and really liked it but felt it was out of their price range. However, the more he thought about it, the more John knew he had to have that house. When they had their Vancouver house appraised, it had gone up in value by double what they had paid three years earlier and knew they could get the house in New Westminster. They put an offer on the house on a Sunday. It was three houses over from an elementary school and midway between John's two offices in New Westminster and Coquitlam. On the Monday, the Chairman of John's Health Board called and said she had the perfect house for him. He told her that he had put an offer in on Sunday. She said, "As long as it is not 59 Courtney Crescent, you won't want to buy it as I have a better one for you." It was 59 Courtney Crescent and since November 1975, John and family have lived there. They moved from the Killarney area of Vancouver 10 days after David was born – and it snowed that day.

After nine great and enjoyable years as the Medical Health Officer in the Simon Fraser Health Unit, John applied for the Medical Health Officer position in Vancouver and got the job. For the next 23 years,

through AIDS, SARS, Botulism, dirty water, influenza and a myriad of public health concerns, John was the voice and face of public health in Vancouver and often in British Columbia. He turned down the position of Provincial Health Officer even after the Premier, his former Mayor in Vancouver Mike Harcourt, called and personally asked him. The problem that the position reported to the Minister of Health and not to the legislature as was originally planned and John knew his ability to speak out would be hampered by reporting to the Minister of Health. When he had taken the Vancouver Medical Health Officer position, Gerry Bonham, now an Associate Deputy Minister in Victoria told him, “You have the best job in the world; don’t ever give it up”. John certainly came to agree with him.

For 9 months in 1992/93, John became the first and only Chief Executive Officer of the Burnaby Health Region. His deputy MHO at the time, Dr. Anne Vogel, suggested he take a leave of absence to see if the job would work out as there was an election looming. Because the health regions were new and there was no legislation in place for the appointment of MHOs, the Provincial Health Officer asked John to retain his legal appointment as MHO in Vancouver until they could sort out the legislation. When the NDP won the election, it looked like regionalization as planned would stay but the NDP decided to change the boundaries again and Burnaby was amalgamated in the Fraser Health Authority and there was no job for John. Fortunately, he was allowed to return as the Chief MHO for the Vancouver / Richmond Health Board, never having lost the official title as MHO in Vancouver. Another reorganization changed the board to the Vancouver / Richmond / Vancouver General Hospital Health Board and then to the Vancouver Coastal Health Board which brought in the North Shore and the Sunshine Coast and the Sea to Sky Highway and Bella Bella and Bella Coola. He was allowed to shape the Chief MHOs job his way and to work with a great group of MHOs, Dr. Brian O’Connor on the North Shore, Dr. Anne Vogel in Richmond, Dr. Paul Martiquet on the Sunshine Coast and Dr. James Lu from Kamloops. His colleagues in Vancouver included his ultimate successor, Dr. Patty Daly plus his classmate from medical school Dr. Lois Yelland, and a friend from the initial Pine Clinic era, Dr. Cheryl Anderson.<sup>65</sup>



<sup>65</sup> Medical Health Officers with the Vancouver Coastal Health 2006 to 2010. Top right photo has Drs. Paul Martiquet, John, and Cheryl Anderson in the back, Drs. Brian O’Connor, Patty Daly, James Lu and Reka Gustafson in the front. Brian O’Connor is in each photo.



On 01 April 1997, the naval reserve decided they didn't need or want medical personnel so John and his staff were 'retired'. However, a few months later they felt they may have made a mistake and the Commander of Naval Reserve Divisions (COND) asked John to return as the Senior Naval Reserve Medical Advisor which he did until one day before his 56th birthday in September 2000. On returning to HMCS Discovery, he completed a report for COND outlining why the naval reserve had made a mistake. One of the key reasons was that John returned four former members of the unit to active duty that held the rank of Petty Officer, all of who had failed medical examinations with civilian medical officers. One had been unable continue as a diver because his vision was now V3. John sent him to a former naval ophthalmologist who confirmed that he was V2 and still qualified to dive. One was said to have hypertension but John had his blood pressure checked at a hospital and it was just that the individual was so muscular that he appeared to be hypertensive. Two others had minor problems that could easily be corrected. The investment in training and the experience that these four individuals represented would have been a huge cost to the naval reserve. However, his report was ignored and the medical positions in the naval reserve died when John left in 2000.

That might have been the end of John's career but Tony Grasset and Dave Lowe took John out for lunch one day in 2005 and asked him to accept the position of Honorary Colonel 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance. John accepted and was appointed for a three year term starting on 12 February 2006. John only wanted to serve three years as he felt others should have the opportunity but was asked to extend a year into 2010 to cover the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. He was not extended for a year - instead he was extended for another three years. Thus he did six years as the Honorary Colonel. <sup>66</sup>



John had been extensively involved in the planning for the medical coverage of the Olympics as the Chief MHO in Vancouver having been appointed by the CEO of Vancouver Coastal and the Deputy Minister of Health as the lead person for all health care for the Olympics. He and Michael Sanderson worked closely with other agencies in Vancouver to get things rolling. Initially, Michael's office was four floors above John's at 1060 West Broadway but the BC Ambulance Service moved their offices further out on Broadway. John ultimately took over their space for his Environmental Health Officers. In 2007, John retired from his position as Chief MHO and Dr. Patricia Daly, a most competent woman took his place.

John's medals include:

- Member of the Order of Canada (CM)
- Commander of the Order of St. John (CStJ)
- Member of the Order of British Columbia (OBC)
- Special Service Medal with bar NATO
- Centennial Medal
- EIIR Silver Jubilee Medal
- Canada 125 Medal
- EIIR Golden Jubilee Medal
- EIIR Diamond Jubilee Medal
- CD and two bars
- Service Medal of the Order of St. John and two bars



<sup>66</sup> Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Lowe presenting John with his appointment certificate as Honorary Colonel of 12 (Vancouver) Field ambulance. John with General Walter Natynczyk, CMM, MSC, CD, Chief of the Defence Staff, CFB Borden. John, Rod Needham and Sergeant Gray were there for the rededication of the Canadian Forces Health Services Memorial (John was at the first dedication). General Natynczyk was there as his daughter graduated from the medical training centre at CFB Borden.



### Surgeons General or their Equivalent Appointments

#### Surgeon General of the Militia Medical Services

<b>BERGIN, Darby</b>	LCol (later Col)	MD MP	04/1885 – 02/1898
----------------------	------------------	-------	-------------------

#### Director General of the Army Medical Department

<b>NEILSON, J.L. Hurbert</b>	Colonel	MD	02/1898 – 07/1903
------------------------------	---------	----	-------------------

#### Director General of Medical Services

<b>FISSET, Sir Marie-Joseph Eugène</b>	Colonel	Kt CMG DSO KStJ ED	07/1903 – 12/1906
<b>JONES, Guy Carleton</b>	Colonel	CMG KStJ MD CM	12/1906 – 11/1917
<b>FISSET, Sir M.J. Eugène</b> <sup>67</sup>	* MGen	Kt CMG DSO KStJ ED MD	12/1914 – 09/1915
<b>JONES, Guy Carleton</b>	* MGen	CMG KStJ MD CM	09/1915 – 11/1917
<b>FOTHERINGHAM, John Taylor</b>	MGen	CMG KStJ VD MD	11/1917 - 03/1920
<b>FOSTER, Gilbert LaFayette</b>	MGen	CB KStJ MD FRS LLD	03/1920 - 06/1921
<b>BRIDGES, James Whiteside</b>	Colonel	CBE MD	06/1921 - 04/1925
<b>JACQUES, Harry Merville</b>	Colonel	DSO MD	04/1925 - 06/1930
<b>CLARKE, John Thomas</b>	Colonel	CBE CStJ MC MD	06/1930 - 09/1933
<b>SNELL, Arthur Evans</b>	Colonel	CMG DSO OStJ MD	09/1933 - 07/1936
<b>POTTER, Jacob Leslie</b>	Colonel	OStJ MD	07/1936 - 11/1939
<b>GORSSLINE, Raymond Myers</b>	Brigadier	DSO CStJ MB DPH	11/1939 - 09/1942
<b>CHISHOLM, George Brock</b>	MGen	OC CBE MC MD	09/1942 - 01/1945
<b>FENWICK, Charles Philip</b>	MGen	CB CBE CStJ MC ED	01/1945 - 03/1946
<b>THOMPSON, Clifford Shaw</b>	Brigadier	OBE MD	03/1946 - 10/1947
<b>COKE, William Lawrence</b>	Brigadier	OBE OStJ MD	10/1947 - 11/1952
<b>HUNTER, Kenneth Adam</b>	Brigadier	OBE CStJ CD MD	11/1952 - 03/1956
<b>SHIER, Stanley Gerald Umphrey</b>	Brigadier	OBE CStJ CD QHP MD	03/1956 - 10/1958
<b>TREMBLAY, Pierre</b>	Brigadier	OBE OStJ CD MD	10/1958 - 01/1959

\* Promoted to Surgeon General and made a Major-General

*DGMS Canadian Army. The medical services of the RCN and RCAF were led by separate medical directors from 1940 to 1959*



<sup>67</sup> Photo and Medals of The Honourable, Major-General Sir Marie-Joseph Eugène FISSET – He became the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec in 1939.

## SURGEON GENERALS of the CANADIAN FORCES HEALTH SERVICES

<b>HUNTER, Kenneth Adam</b>	MGen	OBE CStJ CD QHP MD	01/1959 – 01/1960
<b>McLEAN, Timothy <u>Blair</u></b>	Surg RAdm	CStJ CD QHS MD	01/1960 – 09/1960
<b>ELLIOT, Walter John</b>	Surg RAdm	SBSStJ CD QHS MD CM	09/1964 – 07/1968
<b>NELSON, Donald Gordon M.</b>	MGen	CStJ CD QHS MD DPH FACPM	07/1968 – 07/1970
<b>BARR, John W.B.</b>	MGen	CMM KStJ CD QHP MD CM DHA	07/1970 – 09/1973
<b>ROBERTS, Richard Howell</b>	RAdm	CStJ CD QHP MD FRCP(C) FACP	09/1973 – 04/1975
<b>LEACH, Wilson George</b>	MGen	CMM OSStJ CD QHP MD	04/1976 – 08/1980
<b>McPHERSON, Victor A.</b>	MGen	CStJ CD QHS MD FRCS(C)	08/1980 – 07/1982
<b>DUPUIS, Robert</b>	MGen	CMM CStJ CD QHP MD FRCP(C)	07/1982 – 09/1985
<b>FASSOLD, Robert ('Bob')</b>	MGen	CStJ CD QHP, MD	09/1985 – 01/1988
<b>KNIGHT, Charles Joseph</b>	RAdm	CMM OSStJ CD QHP, MD	01/1988 – 08/1990
<b>BENOIT, Jean J. ('Bennie')</b>	MGen	CStJ CD QHP MD FRCP(C)	08/1990 – 08/1992
<b>MORISSET, Joseph <u>Pierre R.</u></b>	MGen	CMM CStJ CD QHP MD MHA	08/1992 – 10/1994
<b>CLAY, Wendy Arlene</b>	MGen	CMM OSStJ CD QHP MD FRCP(C)	10/1994 – 06/1998
<b>AUGER, Claude</b>	BGen	MStJ CD QHS MD FRCPS(C)	06/1998 – 01/2000
<b>MATHIEU, M.J. Lise</b>	MGen	CMM CD CHE *	01/2000 – 04/2005
<b>CAMERON, Scott M.</b>	Colonel	OMM CD QHP, MD	01/2000 – 06/2004
<b>JAEGER, Hilary F.</b>	BGen	OMM MSStJ MSM CD QHP MD	06/2004 – 07/2009
<b>KAVANAUGH, Margaret F.</b>	Commodore	OMM MSStJ CD MD MHA CHE *	04/2005 – 07/2007
<b>JUNG, Hans W.</b>	Commodore	OMM CD QHP MD MA	02/2009 – 07/2012
<b>BERNIER, Joseph <u>Jean</u>-Robert</b>	BGen **	OMM CD QHP MD FRCP(C) Hon	07/2012 – 06/2015
<b>MacKAY, Hugh <u>Colin</u></b>	BGen	OMM CD QHP MHSc	06/2015 – 07/2017
<b>DOWNES, Andrew M.T.</b>	BGen	CD, MD, QHP	07/2017 - Current

\* Director General of Health Services (Not Surgeon General)      \*\* Promoted MGen at end of term <sup>68</sup>



## COLONEL COMMANDANTS of the Canadian Forces Health Services

<b>BARR, John W.B.</b>	MGen	CMM KStJ CD QHP MD CM DHA	11/1976 – 09/2001
<b>VAUGHN, Peter</b>	HCol	CD QHP MD	09/2001 – 06/2010
<b>MORISSET, Pierre</b>	MGen	CMM CD QHP MD, MHA	06/2010 – 05/2015
<b>LANGE, Marvin</b>	Colonel	CD, MD, FRCPC	05/2015 – Current

## COLONEL-in-CHIEF of the CANADIAN FORCES HEALTH SERVICES

<b>Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother</b>	HRH	LG LT GBE CI CC ONZ RRC DGStJ CD	07/1952 -03/2002
<b>The Princess Royal, Princess Anne</b>	HRH	LG LT GCVO QSO DGStJ CD	10/2003 - Current

<sup>68</sup> Major General John Barr, CMM, KStJ, CD, QHP MD; Major-General Wendy Clay, CMM, OSStJ, CD, QHP, MD, FRCP(C) (first female pilot and MGen in the Canadian Forces); Major-General Lise Mathieu, CMM, CD; Lieutenant-Colonel (later Brigadier-General) Hilary Jaeger, OMM, OSStJ, MSM, CD, QHP MD; Commodore Hans Jung, OMM, CD, QHP, MD, MA

## SURGEON GENERALS of the CANADIAN FORCES HEALTH SERVICES

69



<sup>69</sup> Top Row: MGen Bennie Benoit, CStJ, CD; RAdm Charles Knight, CMM, CStJ, CD; MGen Bob Fassold, CStJ  
 Middle Row: MGen Bob Dupuis, CMM, CStJ, CD; MGen Victor McPherson, CStJ, CD; MGen Wilson Leach, CMM, OstJ, CD  
 Bottom Row: RAdm Richard Robert, CStJ, CD; MGen John Barr, CMM, KStJ, CD; MGen Don Nelson, CStJ, CD  
**Major-General Wilson George Leach is a Member of the Aviation Hall of Fame**

## SURGEON GENERALS of the CANADIAN FORCES HEALTH SERVICES

**Major-General Joseph Jean-Robert Sylvia BERNIER, OMM, CD, QHP**  
**CHAIR of the COMMITTEE of CHIEFS of MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICE (COMEDS) for NATO**

Originally from Sarnia, Jean-Robert Bernier graduated from the **Royal Military College** in 1982 and served in **Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry** before studying medicine at McMaster University and in Toronto. He then served as a Regimental and Hospital Medical Officer in Germany, commanded MacPherson Hospital in Calgary, trained in medical nuclear, biological, and chemical defence with US research institutes, completed post-graduate environmental and public health programs at the US Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and served with the US National Center for Medical Intelligence at Fort Detrick. He subsequently expanded defensive medical capabilities against military threats as Head of Operational Medicine, chaired the CAN-UK-US Medical Countermeasures Coordinating Committee and the AUS-CAN-UK-US Medical Intelligence Analysts' Working Group, and was vice-chair of NATO's Biological Medical Defence Advisory Committee. After serving as Head of Occupational and Environmental Health, he led the armed forces public health agency as Director Force Health Protection. As **Director Health Services Operations**, he chaired the multi-national steering group coordinating NATO health resources in southern Afghanistan and was responsible for support to all Canadian missions, including the combat hospital in Kandahar for which Canada received NATO's highest honour for medical support. As **Deputy Surgeon General**, he chaired the Health, Medicine, and Protection research committee of NATO's Science and Technology Organization, the world's largest research network. As **Surgeon General**, Head of the Royal Canadian Medical Service, and Commander of Canadian Forces Health Services Group 2012-2015, he expanded military mental and operational health capabilities while generating the health service support to several humanitarian, development, and combat missions. He was the first person from outside continental Europe elected to chair the **committee of Surgeons General of NATO** and partner nations (COMEDS) beginning in November 2015. He transferred from the Canadian Forces Regular Force to the Reserve Force and was promoted to Major-General to take this appointment.



Major-General Bernier is a graduate of the Canadian Army Command and Staff College, the Advanced Military Studies Program, and Queen's University's Public Executive Program. He received the Royal Military College History Prize, the US Army Medical Department Center and School Commanding General's Award, an Honorary Doctor of Science from Queen's University, and is the first alumnus of the US federal health sciences university to be appointed a Surgeon General. He is an **Honorary Physician to Her Majesty the Queen**, an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit**, a Knight of Malta, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, an elect of the US national honour society in Public Health, and an Honorary Graduate of the US Interagency Institute for Federal Healthcare Executives. He serves on the Governing Council of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and on the boards of the Foundation for Civic Literacy and the Dorchester Review.

**Brigadier-General Andrew M.T. Downes, CD, MD, MPH, QHP**  
**Surgeon General / Commander Canadian Forces Health Services Group**

BGen Downes joined the Canadian Forces in 1989 as a medical student at the University of Manitoba. After completing a residency in Family Medicine in 1994, he was posted to Petawawa where he served two years with the Royal Canadian Dragoons, followed by a year posting with 2 Field Ambulance. He was then posted to Winnipeg, as a flight surgeon and diving medical officer, and in 1999, he was promoted to become the 17 Wing Surgeon. In 2001, he moved across the base to 1 Canadian Air Division Headquarters, where he served 3 years as the Aerospace Medical Programs Flight Surgeon. In 2004, he was posted to San Antonio, Texas to undertake a two year Residency in Aerospace Medicine at the US Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. This included a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Texas.





On completion of the program, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and he assumed the role of LFCA/JTFC Surgeon, in Toronto. In 2009, he moved to Ottawa where he served for a year as the CEFCOM / Canada COM / CANOSCOM Surgeon. In 2010, he was posted to the Canadian Forces Language School at Centre Asticou for second language training, which he completed in 2011. On 01 January 2012, he was promoted to Colonel and assumed the role of RCAF Surgeon. In 2014 he was briefly the Director of Force Health Protection and then appointed as Director of Mental Health in September 2014.

BGen Downes has deployed on 4 international operations: OP CAVALIER (Bosnia-Herzegovina) in 1994/95; OP MIRADOR (Italy) in 1997 with 416 Squadron in support of operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina; OP PALLADIUM (again in Bosnia-Herzegovina) in 2002/03 as the Task Force Surgeon; and finally OP ATHENA (Afghanistan) in 2008/09 as the Task Force Surgeon, Commanding Officer of the Health Services Unit, and Commander of the NATO Multinational Role 3 Hospital at Kandahar Airfield.

BGen Downes assumed the role as Surgeon General and Commander of Canadian Forces Health Services Group on 05 July 2017.

### **Brigadier-General Hugh Colin MacKAY, OMM, CD, QHP** **Surgeon General of the Canadian Forces**



Brigadier-General MacKAY joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1983 as a **Signal Officer**. He was first posted to 4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters and Signal Squadron where he served as the Assistant Operations Officer and COMCEN Troop Commander. Following his tour in Germany he was posted to 1 Canadian Signal Regiment in 1987 where he served as the Telecommunication Maintenance Troop Commander, the Unit Adjutant and completed the Advanced Signal Officer Course. He then went to the Directorate of Electronics Engineering and Maintenance where he was a Project Manager for Army Electronic Warfare equipment. In 1989 Brigadier-General MacKAY was selected for the Military Medical Training Program and went off to the University of Toronto to complete his Doctor of Medicine in 1993. After completing a Family Medicine Residency at Queen's University in 1995 he was posted to work as a General Duty Medical Officer at Canadian Forces Base Kingston. In 1996 he was able to rejoin his former unit, now named the 1st Canadian Divisional Headquarters and Signal Regiment, as the Unit Medical Officer. While there he participated in Op ASSURANCE and Op ASSISTANCE. This was followed by a promotion to the rank of Major in 1997 and a posting as the Base Surgeon at Canadian Forces Base Shilo. In 1999 he was posted to 2 Field Ambulance in Petawawa as the Officer Commanding Medical Company and the

Brigade Surgeon. While there he led the medical component of the DART during the earthquake disaster relief effort in Turkey, Op TORRENT. He was selected in 2000 to do post-graduate training in **Occupational Medicine and Public Health at the University of British Columbia** which he completed in 2002.<sup>70</sup> Upon completion of his Masters in Health Science he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and posted to the Director of Health Services Operations where he served as the Head of Operational Medicine and the Project Director of the Biological Warfare Medical Countermeasures Project. Brigadier-General MacKAY also completed the Advanced Military Studies Course at the Canadian Forces College in 2004. He deployed on Op ATHENA in 2007 as the **Commanding Officer of the NATO Role 3 Multi-national Medical Unit at Kandahar Airfield** and as the Canadian Task Force Surgeon. Upon returning from Kandahar, Brigadier-General MacKAY completed second language training at the Asticou Centre and then spent six months as the CEFCOM/Canada COM/CANOSCOM Surgeon before being promoted to Colonel and assuming responsibilities as Director Force Health Protection in July 2009.

In 2012 he assumed the position of Deputy Surgeon General. Brigadier-General MacKAY is an **Officer of the Order of Military Merit**. On 25 May 2015, he was promoted to his current rank and on 10 June 2015, BGen MacKAY was appointed Surgeon General, Commander Canadian Forces Health Services Group and the Head of the Royal Canadian Medical Service.

---

<sup>70</sup> During this period, he worked with Dr. John Blatherwick in Vancouver Coastal Health on an apparent outbreak in a daycare in Vancouver.

# Appendix 13

## SERVING MEMBERS of 12 (VANCOUVER) FIELD AMBULANCE 2005 to 2012

Compiled from Nominal Rolls of 10 November 2005 and February 2012 so some people may be missed

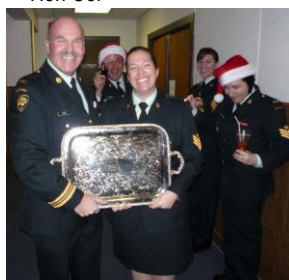
ROTH, Ben William Lloyd	LCol	Commanding Officer
NEEDHAM, Rodney ('Rod') Earl	LCol	Commanding Officer
LOWE, David ('Dave') Michael	LCol	Commanding Officer
MacKENZIE, Wendy	Major	Member Order of Military Merit
DUNWOODY, James	Captain	PRL Trauma Surgeon Afghanistan
HAYNES, Dennis	Captain	DCO / Regular Force Officer
KUNTZE, Louise	Captain	Tour in Afghanistan
LEE, James Ilyong	Captain	Padre (photo at right)
LU, Shen Nan	Captain	Ex RSM / CFR 2012
PINARD, Jacques M.	Captain	Staff Officer / Afghanistan
VAN RIENEN, Rene <u>Peter</u>	Captain	Ex RSM / Tour in Afghanistan
WICKHAM, Jaime Debra	Captain	OC General Support
COUTURE, Tylere Mason Files	Lieutenant	Tour in Afghanistan
DELLING, Karl-Torben Lloyd	Lieutenant	Nursing Officer
HOLVICK, Bruce	Lieutenant	Supporter of the unit - retired
KATO, Matsuo	Lieutenant	Interior – based in Penticton
KWOK, Henry C.	Lieutenant	Adjutant
POPE, Jeffrey ('Jeff')	Lieutenant	Recruiting
QUINLAN, Lesley	Lieutenant	To Kingston, Ontario
RYDER, Jennifer	Lieutenant	
RYU, Heejin Jennifer	Lieutenant	Medical Platoon Commander
VU, Hai	Lieutenant	2 i/c Close Support Company
WOLF, Michael Thornton	Lieutenant	
BRAUN, Leslie	2nd Lieutenant	Nursing Officer
KIM, Chung Sik ('Kevin')	2nd Lieutenant	
YANG, Derek	Officer Cadet	
STEWART, Frederick <u>Scott</u>	Chief Warrant Officer	RSM 2nd Time
KIERSTEAD, Robin-Leigh	Warrant Officer	Medical Platoon WO (Photo at right)
NOËL, Krzysztof ('Kris') Jan	Warrant Officer	CSM Close Support Company
BORTHWICK, William <u>Alex</u>	Sergeant	Ops NCO
BRENNAN, Robert James	Sergeant	Chief Clerk Regular Force
FRASER, Doug	Sergeant	MCSP Coordinator
GARCEAU, Robert Yvon	Sergeant	Recruiting
GILLIS, Kathy	Sergeant	Chief Clerk
GRAY, Trevor Richard	Sergeant	Regimental Quartermaster
JANKOLA, Lauchlan Joseph	Sergeant	
MacDONALD, David Robert	Sergeant	PAT Platoon WO
NEWMAN, Elizabeth	Sergeant	Training / Tour Afghanistan
OUELLET, Pierre	Sergeant	Training Sgt / Air Force to Navy (right)
RADFORD, W.M.	Sergeant	Finance Clerk
ROBINS, Victoria	Sergeant	Chief Clerk
SANDERS, Richard	Sergeant	Chief Clerk (RCAF) / Afghanistan
SUBOSKI, Daniel P.	Sergeant	Training Officer
TERRY, Colin Alexander	Sergeant	Medical Investigation Room
WADE, Kevin Stuart	Sergeant	PAT Platoon Sgt / Afghanistan
ANDERSEN, David Edward	Master Corporal	
CHU, Norman Lok-Wen	Master Corporal	Med Platoon Section Cdr
DOTY, Jennifer ('Jenni') Barbara	Master Corporal	Orderly Room Admin Clerk
HARRISON, Corinne Dale	Master Corporal	2 i/c Orderly Room (Photo at right)
KERR, Christopher <u>Robin</u>	Master Corporal	
KLIMAS, Ashley C.	Master Corporal	2 tours Afghanistan / to Reg Force
KWOK, Peter Yun Lam	Master Corporal	
LEUNG, K.	Master Corporal	Medical Investigation Room
MAMON, John Raycliff	Master Corporal	2 i/c Orderly Room
MARSHALL, Deborah Lynn	Master Corporal	
WOHLGEMUTH, Wayne Allen	Master Corporal	Medical Platoon
YU, Joyce	Master Corporal	PAT Platoon Section Cdr



**SERVING MEMBERS of 12 (VANCOUVER) FIELD AMBULANCE 2005 to 2012**  
 Compiled from Nominal Rolls of 10 November 2005 and February 2012 so some people may be missed

ACCETTE, Valerie Lisa	Corporal	ADAMIK, Lukas	Corporal
ANDERSON, Jennifer Ida	Corporal	BALLANTYNE, Brendan	Corporal
BUCKLEY, Christopher ('Chris')	Corporal	BURYNIUK, Mardell	Corporal
CHAN, Joyce Ka Yan	Corporal	CHOW, Sebastien Sai Leung	Corporal
CRAIGIE, D.	Corporal	CURTIS, Andrew Nathaniel Kahamarian	Corporal
EVANS, Kenneth Robert Gordon	Corporal	FAWCETT-SMITH, Garner Ross	Corporal
FENG, Sandy	Corporal	GRAJAIES, Francisco	Corporal
HARGOTT, Alexander ('Alex') John	Corporal	HARUTUNYAN, Marc	Corporal
HO, John	Corporal	HUNG, Jachin Hao Min	Corporal
JANG, Suk Won	Corporal	KENNEDY, Alex Dennis	Corporal
LAW, Ambrose	Corporal	LEE, C.J.S.	Corporal
LEFEVRE, Timothy Alfred	Corporal	LEUNG, Dominic Ka-Chun	Corporal
MACLEAN, Alexandre	Corporal	MOK, Marco Ka-Long	Corporal
NEDVED, Milan	Corporal	PICARD, Christopher Thomas	Corporal
ROSE, Madison Evergreen	Corporal	SIEDSCHLAG, Cassandra Alana Adele	Corporal
SIEGLER, Alexandra Eileen	Corporal	TAN YEE SING, Radie Boy	Corporal
TIEU, Martin Huang	Corporal	TONG, Kevin	Corporal
SONCEK, Annie Victoria	Corporal	TUNG, Anthony Chak-han	Corporal
SUN, Si Qi	Corporal	TIEU, Martin Huang	Corporal
VANDENE, Laura Marie	Corporal	VILARDI, Dominique Toni	Corporal
WANG, Q.	Corporal	WONG, Rachel Cei Wan	Corporal
WU, Matthew Ka-Ming	Corporal		
ARIF, Arif Ahmad	Private	BOCA, Alin	Private
BORUTA, Ryan	Private	CHAN, Joyce Ka Yan	Private
CHOI, David	Private	DAGG, K.P.	Private
DE TORRES, Mary Elma Catherine	Private	DOMINO, Joshua Michael	Private
DUNCAN, Sharon	Private	FENG, Han Guang Dawn	Private
GRIFFIN, Jonathan Michael	Private	HONG, Jiang Feng	Private
HOSFORD, Anthony Owen Thomas	Private	KIM, Chi-Soo	Private
KUMAR, D.	Private	LAI, Jamie You-Chun	Private
LAM, Andy	Private	LANGLOIS, Tara Leigh	Private
LEE, B.S.	Private	LEUNG, Brian King Chu	Private
LIM, Davis	Private	MOHAMED, Lhamine Diabate	Private
MUNG, Victor Wing-Dak	Private	OPUSHNYEV, Serhiy	Private
PARK, Sung Hoon ('Paul')	Private	PREFONTAINE, Nicholas James	Private
SOHI, Gurmeet Kaur	Private	STRUMPSKI, T.	Private
THOMAS, C.A.J.	Private	TRONO, Alistair Edward Datu	Private
TSUI, Y.C.	Private	VILLENEUVE, Paul Jean-Pierre	Private
TUGADE, B.A.	Private	WEAVER, Timothy Lawrence Everett	Private
WONG, Hugo Chuek Yin	Private	YEE, X.L.G.H.	Private
YING, S.K.	Private	WUYAN, Jun Liuqian	Private
YELL, Xavier Lawrence Gha Heng	Private	ZAGANAS, Christina Vasco	Private
WATT, Robert	Hon LCol	BLATHERWICK, Francis <u>John</u>	HCol
SANDERSON, Michael	Hon Col		

71



<sup>71</sup> LCol Ben Roth and then Sergeant Kiersted M/Cpl Johnny Mamom, Sergeant Trevor Gray and Lieutenant Kwok (2010 Christmas dinner)



## UNIT PHOTOS

72



<sup>72</sup> Top: M/Cpl Klimas & Friends at 2011 Christmas Party; Cpl Klimas & Friends at Freedom of the City  
 Middle: CWO Scott Stewart; Captain(N) Tim Kavanaugh, Commander 1 Health Services Group; Sergeant Trevor Gray in 3 poses!  
 Bottom: HCol John Blatherwick, Colonel Haberstock, Commander 1 Health Services Group; Private Rachel Wong, Acting Commanding Officer for Christmas Dinner; Corporal (now M/Cpl) Jenni Doty and Corporal Dominique Vilardi



**Honorary Colonel over Six Years 12 (VANCOUVER) FIELD AMBULANCE <sup>73</sup>**



<sup>73</sup> HCol John Blatherwick with Sam Sullivan and Counsellor Susanne Anton; John and LGen Andrew Leslie, CMM, MSC, MSM, CD; John receives congratulations from Premier Gordon Campbell after receiving the Order of British Columbia from the Lieutenant-Governor of BC, Iona Campagnolo  
 Middle Row: Colonel Commandant Canadian Forces Health Services MGen Pierre Morisset, CMM, CStJ, CD in RCAF Colonel uniform for Change of Command Ceremony in October 2010; John Blatherwick, Pierre Morisset and HCol Allan Scott 11 (Victoria) Field Ambulance in Ottawa.  
 Bottom Row: HCol John Blatherwick with his son, Lieutenant(N) Jim Blatherwick (11 November 2010)  
 Dr. Patty Daly, Yakima May 2008 (current Chief Medical Health Officer Vancouver Coastal Health) on Executrex visit



## JOHN BLATHERWICK'S FAMILY and FRIENDS <sup>74</sup>



<sup>74</sup> Griffon Helicopter with John in the rear seat at CFB Comox on Operation Cougar Salvo March 2007; LCol Dave Lowe, Captain Kurtze, Major Needam at Operation Cougar Salvo; John with Commander King Wan and with Staff Sergeant Bob Underhill, RCMP at Cougar Salvo 2007

### John Blatherwick's family October 2011

Back Row: Jim, Hope, Doug, Lamor, Jennifer, Dave and Carol  
Seated: Nicole on chair's arm, Stephanie, Paula with Elizabeth, Krista with Katherine, Alec