

**THE  
CRIMEAN  
WAR**

## THE VICTORIA CROSS

The Victoria Cross is the highest decoration for bravery under the British flag. It is also probably the only British decoration which owes its origin and design entirely to royalty.

The ideal of an award for valour came to Queen Victoria in May 1855 after she had spent an hour or so with veterans of the Crimean War. So moved was she by this experience that she wrote to her uncle, the King of the Belgians: "I own I feel as if they were my own children; my heart beats for them as for my nearest and dearest; one must revere and love such soldiers as these." It was immediately after this that Her Majesty decided that there should be a specific decoration for those who performed heroic deeds on the battlefield, and so the Victoria Cross came into being.

The ideal was entirely the Queen's, including the method of award. The design was suggested by her husband, Albert, the Prince Consort. Very plain, and in itself of no intrinsic value, the medal quickly became the most coveted honour among the fighting men of the Empire.

The Queen watched every detail of its creation. The wording "For Valour" was her own choice. The Secretary of State for War, Lord Panmure, we are told, suggested the inscription "For the Brave", but Her Majesty vetoed this. She said that it might be interpreted to mean that only those who won the Cross were brave and not every man who went into battle. She felt that the words 'For Valour' covered the situation much more properly, and thus it was decreed. The first official announcement of the creation of the award was made by Royal Proclamation on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 1856.

The decoration, which is presented by the Sovereign, consists of a bronze cross pattee one and one-half inches across with raised edges. On the obverse, in the centre, is a lion, passant, guardant, standing upon the Royal Crown, while below are the words 'For Valour' on a semicircular scroll. The reverse also has raised edges and the date of the act for which the Cross is awarded is engraved in a circle in the centre.

The Cross is suspended by means of a plain link from a V which is part of a clasp ornamented with laurel leaves through which the ribbon passes and on the back of the clasp is engraved the rank, name and unit of the recipient. The ribbon which is one and one-half inches wide was originally blue for the Navy and claret for the Army, but the latter colour was adopted for all services during the First Great War.

The Cross was originally made from the metal of Russian cannon captured at Sevastopol during the Crimean War. It takes precedence over all other decorations and is worn nearest the buttons of the tunic.

Until the year 1902 the Victoria Cross was not issued if the winner died in the process

of winning the decoration. However in 1902 Edward VII decreed that Victoria Crosses earned by men who died in action would be presented to the next-of-kin. This order was made retroactive to include all former winners of the Cross.

When originally instituted, the Victoria Cross was awarded only to those who performed deeds of great gallantry in the face of the enemy, but two years later, in 1858, it was decreed that actions of great bravery performed not in the face of the enemy were also admissible. However, there have been only six such awards, one of them to a Canadian, Dr. C. M. Douglas. Interestingly enough, one of these Crosses was won in Canada by Private Timothy O'Hea, a member of an English regiment who by his courageous action averted disaster during a fire in an ammunition train at Danville, Quebec, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1866.

In 1881 the qualification for the V.C. was returned to its original reading: 'Conspicuous bravery or devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.' In 1940 King George VI instituted the George Cross as an award for heroic action not in the face of the enemy.

Victoria Cross winners below the rank of officer receive a grant of ten pounds a year with an additional five pounds for each Bar to the Cross. In 1898 it was decreed that the grants should be increased to fifty pounds a year if the holder was in very reduced circumstances.

Sixteen (16) Canadians won the Victoria Cross during World War II.

25<sup>th</sup> October 1 854

**ALEXANDER ROBERT DUNN**

11<sup>th</sup> (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars

Alexander Robert Dunn was born in York, Upper Canada, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1 833. He received his early education at Upper Canada College, where his medals and ceremonial sword are still displayed, and later continued his education at Harrow in England. He joined 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars in March of 1852, and the following year was commissioned as a lieutenant. He saw action during the Crimean War, and it was at Balaclava in "The Charge of the Light Brigade" that awarded him the Victoria Cross. In 1855 Dunn took his discharge and returned to Toronto. Three years later rejoined the army as a major, and helped organize the 100<sup>th</sup> Royal Canadian Regiment of Foot. He went to Gibraltar with the regiment, and in 1861 became Commanding Officer. In 1864 he transferred to the 33<sup>rd</sup> (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment, and joined them in India. He was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun during a hunting expedition and was buried at Senafe, in Abyssinia, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1868.

**CITATION**

"[Lieutenant Dunn] For having in the Light Cavalry charge on the 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1854, saved the life of Sergeant Bentley, 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars, by cutting down two of three Russian Lancers who were attacking from the rear, afterwards cutting a Russian Hussar, who was attacking Private Levett, 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars."

The London Gazette, 24<sup>th</sup> February 1857

**THE  
BURMA  
CAMPAGN**

14<sup>th</sup> September 1857

**HEBERT TAYLOR**

**READE**

The Gloucestershire Regiment

Herbert Taylor Reade was born in Perth, Upper Canada, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1828. He received his education in Quebec and later in Dublin, Ireland. In November of 1850 Reade was appointed assistant-surgeon of the 61<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot (The Gloucestershire Regiment), and joined the regiment on the Peshawar Frontier in India. It was during the Indian Mutiny that he earned the Victoria Cross. In later years Reade rose to the rank of surgeon-general, and was made a Companion of the Most Honourable Order to Her Majesty Queen Victoria. He died at Sunnylands, Park Gardens, Bath, Somerset, on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1897.

**CITATION**

"During the siege of Delhi, on the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 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 of six wounded.

Surgeon Reade also accompanied the regiment at the assault of Delhi, and, on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1857, was one of the first up at the breach in the magazine, which was stormed by the 61<sup>st</sup> Regiment and the Belooch Battalion, upon which occasion, he, with a sergeant of the 61<sup>st</sup> Regiment, spiked one of the enemy's guns"

The London Gazette, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1861

**THE  
INDIAN  
MUTINY**

1 6th November 1867

## **WILLIAM HALL**

Naval Brigade (Royal Navy)

William Hall was born in Horton's Bluff, Nova Scotia, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 1827. He was the son of one of a group of slaves who had been rescued from slavery by a British frigate during the war 1812. Hall attended school at Horton's Bluff, but joined navy at an early age. He served as an able-seaman aboard H.M.S. Rodney during the Crimean War. For his bravery in action he was decorated three times. During the Indian Mutiny he was "Captain of the Foretop" on board the Shannon. While with the Shannon, Hall participated in the relief of Lucknow, where the heroic action which awarded him the Victoria Cross was largely responsible for the relief of that city. Hall stayed with the Royal Navy, serving on four other ships, and finally returned to Nova Scotia with the rank of petty officer in July of 1876. In Halifax on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 1901, Hall was given a place of honour in a parade of British veterans during the visit of the Duke of York, later King George the Fifth. His impressive array of medals-The Victoria Cross the Crimean medals and the Indian Mutiny Medal-attracted the attention of the Duke, who shook hands with Hall and inquired about his service. William Hall died in Hantsport, Nova Scotia, in 1904. He was buried in an unmarked grave, but in 1947 the Hantsport Branch of the Canadian Legion, British Empire Service League, erected a cairn to his memory, and in Halifax the coloured branch of the Legion was named in his honour.

### **CITATION**

"Lieutenant (now Commander) Young, late gunnery officers of Her Majesty's ship "Shannon", and Able-Seaman Hall, "Captain of the Foretop" of the vessel, were recommended by the late Captain Peel for the Victoria Cross, for their gallant conduct at a 24-Pounder gun brought up to the angle of the Shah Nujiff, at Lucknow, on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1857.

The London Gazette, 1<sup>st</sup> February 1859



7<sup>th</sup> May 1867

## CAMPBELL MILLIS DOUGLAS

The South Wales Borderers

Campbell Mills Douglas was born in Quebec City, on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1840. He was educated at St. John's and at Laval University, then went to the University of Edinburgh, from which he was graduated as an M.D. in 1861. In May of 1863 he joined the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot as assistant-surgeon. While serving with this regiment, he was awarded the Victoria Cross for the gallant action described in the citation. In 1872 Douglas transferred to the Royal Artillery, and ten years later he had reached the rank of surgeon-lieutenant-colonel. Later he returned to Canada and set up a medical practice in Lakefield, Ontario. In 1885 he came out of retirement to serve as a medical officer during the Riel Rebellion. Dr Douglas died in Wells, England, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1909.

### CITATION

"For the very gallant and daring manner in which, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, 1867, they risked their lives in manning a boat and proceeding through a dangerous surf to the rescue of some of their comrades, who formed part of an expedition which had been sent to the Island of Little Andaman, by order of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, with the view of ascertaining the fate of the commander and seven of the crew of the ship "Assam Valley." who had landed there, and were supposed to have been murdered by the natives.

The officer who commanded the troops on the occasion reports: "About an hour later in the day, Dr. Douglas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and four Privates referred to, gallantly manning the second gig, made their way through the surf almost to the shore, but finding their boat was half-filled with water, they retired. A second attempt made by Dr. Douglas and party proved successful, five of us being safely passed through the surf to the boats outside. A third and last trip got the whole of the party left on shore safely back to the boats. It is stated the Dr. Douglas accomplished these trips through the surf to the .

shore by no ordinary exertion. He stood in the bows of the boat, and worked her in an intrepid and seamanlike manner, cool to a degree, as if what he was

then doing was an ordinary act of everyday life. The four Privates behaved in an equally cool and collected manner, rowing through the roughest surf when the slightest hesitation or want of pluck on the part of any one of them would have been attended by the gravest results. It is reported the seventeen officers and men were thus saved from what must otherwise have been a fearful risk, if not certainty of death."

The London Gazette, 17<sup>th</sup> December 1867

**THE  
BOER  
WAR**

5<sup>th</sup> July 2, 1900

**ARTHUR HERBERT LINDSEY RICHARDSON**

Lord Strathcona's Horse

Arthur Herbert Lindsey Richardson was born in Liverpool, England, in 1873. In 1898 he emigrated to Canada, where he worked on a ranch for some time before joining North-West Mounted Police. At the outbreak of the Boer War, Richardson joined Lord Strathcona's Horse, and saw action in South Africa, where he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Little is known of Richardson's subsequent activities until his return to England in 1916, where he worked as a labourer in Liverpool for many years. He died in Liverpool on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 1932.

**CITATION**

" On the 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1900, at Wolve Spruit about fifteen miles north of Standerton, a party of Lord Strathcona's corps, only 38 in number, came in contact, and was engaged at close quarters, with a force of 80 of the enemy.

When the order to retire had been given, Serjeant Richardson rode back under heavy cross-fire and picked up a trooper whose horse had been shot and was wounded in two places and rode with him out of fire.

At the time that this act of gallantry was performed, Serjeant Richardson was within 300 yards of the enemy, and was himself riding a wounded horse."

The London Gazette, 14<sup>th</sup> September 1900

7<sup>th</sup> November 1900

**HAMPDEN ZANE CHURCHILL COCKBURN**

Royal Canadian Dragoons

Hampden Zane Churchill Cockburn was born in Toronto, Ontario, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1867. In due course he attended Upper Canada College, where his Victoria Cross and other medals are still on display. He continued his education at Rugby in England, at London University and at the University of Toronto, eventually becoming a barrister in Toronto. In 1899 he went to South Africa with the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion (later the Royal Canadian Dragoons) as a lieutenant, and the following year was awarded the Victoria Cross on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. He later rose to the rank of captain. On his return to Canada he was appointed a major in the Governor-General's Bodyguard in recognition of his service in South Africa. In later life Cockburn moved to Western Canada, where he died on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan.

CITATION

"Lieutenant Cockburn, with a handful of men, at a most critical moment, held off the Boers to allow the guns to get away; to do so he had to sacrifice himself and his party, all whom were killed, wounded or taken prisoners, he himself being slightly wounded"

The London Gazette, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1901

7<sup>th</sup> November 1900

**EDWARD JAMES GIBSON HOLLAND**

Royal Canadian Dragoons

Edward James Gibson Holland was born in Ottawa, Ontario, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 1878. He was educated at Model School and the Ottawa Collegiate Institute. At the age of seventeen he joined the Militia and served with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment and the 5<sup>th</sup> Princess Louise Dragoon Guards from 1895 to 1897. In 1899 he served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion in South Africa, where he was awarded the Victoria Cross on the 7<sup>n</sup> of November 1900. In 1901 he was granted a commission in the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, and became a full lieutenant in the following year. In 1904 he became a major in the 13<sup>th</sup> Scottish Light Dragoons. In 1914 he was a major commanding the Borden Motor Machine-gun Battery. He proceeded to France with this unit on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 1915. In October of the following year he returned to Canada and was transferred to Corps Reserve. Prior to his death in June 1948, he made his home in Cobalt, Ontario.

**CITATION**

"Serjeant Holland did splendid work with his Colt Gun, and kept the Boers off the two 12-pounders by its fire at close range. When he saw the enemy were too near for him to escape with the gun-carriage, as the horse was blown, he calmly lifted the gun off and galloped away with it under his arm"

The London Gazette, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1901

7<sup>th</sup> November 1900

## **RICHARD ERNEST WILLIAM TURNER**

### **Royal Canadian Dragoons**

Richard Ernest William Turner was born in Quebec City on the 25<sup>c</sup> of July 1871. He was educated at Quebec High School and in private schools; then entered business in the wholesale merchant field. At the outbreak of the Boer War, Turner joined the Royal Canadian Dragoons as a lieutenant. While serving with the Dragoons in Africa he was awarded both the Distinguished Service Order and the Victoria Cross, the latter on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1900. Richard Turner's subsequent career was equally distinguished. From 1905 to 1907 he was commanding officer of the 10<sup>th</sup> Queen's Own Canadian Hussars. From 1907 to 1912 he was brigade commander of the Eastern Townships Cavalry Brigade. In June 1914 he was made full colonel. In 1915, in France, he was raised to the rank of brigadier-general. In August of that year he took command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division with the rank of major-general, and one year later he became lieutenant-general commanding Canadian forces in the British Isles. In addition to his British decorations, which included a knighthood, Turner received the Cross of Commander of the French Legion of Honour, the Croix de Guerre with Palms and the Order of the White Eagle of the Russia with Sword. Since the First World War, General Turner has served his country in many capacities. He was one of the founders of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League. He retired to Quebec City, where he died on June 19, 1961.

### **CITATION**

"Later in the day when the Boers again seriously threatened to capture the guns, Lieutenant Turner, although twice previously wounded, dismounted and deployed his men at close quarters and drove off the Boers, thus saving the guns.

The London Gazette, 23 April 1901

**THE  
FIRST  
WORLD  
WAR**



1<sup>st</sup> February 1915

**MICHEAL O'LEARY**

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Guards

Michael O'Leary was born in Macroom, Ireland, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 1889. He came to Canada and joined the Royal North-West Mounted Police at Regina on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1913. He was given a free discharge from the Royal North-West Mounted on the 22<sup>n</sup> September 1914 in order to rejoin his regiment in Ireland, in which he had signed in as a recruit in July 1910. Following being awarded the Victoria Cross at Cuinchy he was granted a commission in the Connaught Rangers. For some time after the First World War he was employed by a well-known hotel in the West End of London. In the Second World War he served as a captain in the Royal Pioneer Corps. He still lives in London, England.

**CITATION**

"For conspicuous bravery at Cuinchy on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1915. When forming one of the storming party which advanced against the enemy's barricades he rushed to the front and himself killed five Germans who were holding the first barricade, after which he attacked a second barricade, about sixty yards further on, which he captured, after killing three of the enemy and making prisoners of two more.

Lance-Corporal O'Leary thus practically captured the enemy's position by himself, and prevented the rest of the attacking force from being fired upon."

The London Gazette, 18<sup>th</sup> February 1915

22<sup>nd</sup> April 1915

**FRANCIS ALEXANDER CARON SCRIMGER**

Canadian Army Medical Corps

Francis Alexander Caron Scrimger was born in Montreal, Quebec, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 1 880. He received his M.D. from McGill University in 1905, and then did post-graduate medical studies in Europe. Captain Scrimger was the original medical officer of the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Montreal Regiment, with which regiment he was serving when he was awarded the Victoria Cross during the second battle of Ypres. He eventually became chief surgeon of Number 3 Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. After the war he returned to Montreal, and accepted an appointment as assistant-surgeon at the Royal Victoria Hospital. In 1936 he became surgeon-in-chief. Francis Alexander Caron Scrimger died in Montreal on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1937. He is buried in Mount Royal Cemetery.

**CITATION**

"On the afternoon of 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1915, in the neighbourhood of Ypres, when in charge of an advanced dressing-station in farm buildings which were being heavily shelled by the enemy, he directed under heavy fire the removal of the wounded, and he himself carried a severely wounded Officer out of a stable in search of a place of greater safety. When he was unable alone to carry this Officer further, he remained with him under fire till help could be obtained.

During the very heavy fighting between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April, Captain Scrimger displayed continuously day and night the greatest devotion to duty among the wounded at the front."

The London Gazette, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1915

23<sup>rd</sup> April 1915

**Frederick Fisher**

13<sup>n</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Frederick Fisher was born in St. Catherine's Ontario, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 1896. He was educated at Westmount Academy and McGill University. An enthusiastic sportsman, Fisher excelled in tennis, football, swimming and shooting. He was a member of the Montreal Athletic Association. He enlisted in the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Highlanders of Canada on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1914, when he was just eighteen years of age. The action described in the citation took place during the first battle of Ypres. Lance-Corporal Fisher has no known grave. His name appears on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres

**CITATION**

"On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915, in the neighbourhood of St. Julien, he [Lance-Corporal Fisher] went forward with the machine-gun, of which he was in charge, under heavy fire, and most gallantly assisted in covering the retreat of a battery, losing four men of his gun-team.

Later, after obtaining four more men, he went forward again to the firing-line, and was himself killed while bringing his machine-gun into action under very heavy fire, in order to cover advance of supports."

The London Gazette, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1915

24<sup>th</sup> April 1915

**EDWARD DONALD BELLEW**

7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Edward Donald Bellew was born in Bombay, India, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 1882. He was educated in England at Bludell's, Twerton' Clifton College, Bristol, and at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Before coming to Canada he served with the Royal Irish Regiment in England and in India . Prior to his enlistment in the Canadian Army in the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1914, he was employed with the Public Works Department of the Canadian Government on harbour engineering projects in Vancouver and New Westminster, British Columbia. Captain Bellew was the first officer of the Canadian Expeditionary Force to be awarded the Victoria Cross, but he was a prisoner of war until the early part of 1919 and did not know that he had been awarded the Victoria Cross-until the announcement appeared in a Vancouver newspaper after his return to Canada. His post-war activities consisted of surveying and engineering construction work in British Columbia. At present he lives in retirement in Monte Creek, British Columbia.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty near Keerselaere on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1915, during the German attack on the Ypres salient. Capt.(then Lieut.) Bellew as Battalion Machine-Gun Officer, had two guns in action on the high ground overlooking Keerselaere. The enemy's attack broke in full force on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> against the front and right flank of the battalion - the latter being exposed owing to a gap in the line. The right Company was soon put out of action, but the advance was temporarily stayed by Capt. Bellew, who had sited his guns on the left of the right Company. Reinforcements were sent forward, but they in turn were surrounded and destroyed. With enemy in strength less than 100 yards

from him, with no further assistance in sight, Capt. Bell and Sgt. Peerless, each operating a gun, decided to stay where they were and fight it out. Sgt. Peerless was killed and Capt. Bell was wounded and fell. Nevertheless he got up and maintained fire till ammunition failed and the enemy rushed the position. Capt. Bell then seized a rifle, smashed his machine-gun and fighting to the last, was taken prisoner."

The London Gazette, 15<sup>th</sup> May 1919

24<sup>th</sup> April 1915

**FREDERICK WILLIAM HALL**

8<sup>TH</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Frederick William Hall was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1885. Several years before the First World War he moved to Canada, where he was employed with a firm in Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1914 he enlisted with the 106<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and later went to France with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the famous "Little Black Devils." Sergeant Hall has no grave. His name is inscribed on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

**CITATION**

"On 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1915, in the neighbourhood of Ypres, when a wounded man who was lying some 15 yards from the trench called for help, Company Sergeant-Major Hall endeavoured to reach him in the face of a very heavy enfilade fire which was being poured in by the enemy. The first attempt failed, and a Non-commissioned Officer and private soldier who were attempting to give assistance were both wounded. Company Sergeant-Major Hall then made a second most gallant attempt, and was in the act of lifting up the wounded man when he fell mortally wounded in the head.

The London Gazette, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1915

15<sup>th</sup> June 1915

**FREDERICK WILLIAM CAMPBELL**

**1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion**

Frederick William Campbell was born in Mount Forest, Oxford Country, Ontario, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 1 867. He attended school in Mount Forest and then turned to farming. Later he became a Public School Trustee and Director of the Mount Forest Agriculture Society. During the Boer War he served with the 30<sup>1</sup> Wellington Rifles and was awarded the South African Medal with four Bars. As the citation records, he was awarded the Victoria Cross at Givenchy in 1915. Lieutenant Campbell is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Boulogne, France.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1915, during the action at Givenchy.

Lieutenant Campbell took two machine-guns over the parapet, arrived at the German first line with one gun, and maintained his position there under very heavy rifle, machine-gun and bomb fire, notwithstanding the fact that almost the whole of his detachment had then been killed or wounded.

When our supply of bombs had become exhausted, this Officer advanced his gun still further to an exposed position, and, by firing about 1000 rounds, succeeded in holding back the enemy's counter-attack. This very gallant officer was subsequently wounded, and has since died."

The London Gazette, 23 August 1915

16<sup>th</sup> September 1916

**JOHN CHIPMAN KERR**

49<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

John Chipman Kerr was born in Fox River, Nova Scotia, on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1887. He was educated at Fox River School and at St. John Commercial School. John Kerr and his brother Roland were homesteading at Spirit River, Alberta, when war was declared. They immediately set out for Edmonton leaving behind a note tacked to the door of their shack which read: "War is Hell, but is homesteading?" On the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 1916, John 'Chip' Kerr was awarded the Victoria Cross while serving with the 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion during the Battle of the Somme. Roland Kerr was killed in France in 1917. At present John Chipman Kerr resides in Port Moody, British Columbia.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery. During a bombing attack he was acting as bayonet man, knowing that bombs were running short, he ran along the parapet under heavy fire until he was in close contact with the enemy, opened fire on them at point-blank range, and inflicted heavy loss.

The enemy, thinking they were surrounded, surrendered. Sixty-two prisoners were taken and 250 yards of trench captured.

Before carrying out this very plucky act one of Private Kerr's fingers had been blown off by a bomb.

Later with two other men, he escorted back the prisoners under fire, and then returned to report himself for duty before having his wound dressed.

The London Gazette, 26<sup>th</sup> October 1916



8 "October 1916

JAMES CLELAND RICHARDSON

16<sup>l</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

James Cleland Richardson was born in Bellshill, Scotland, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1895. He was educated at Bellshill Academy, Auchinraith Public School, Blantyre, and John Street School, Glasgow. In civilian life he was an electrician. The action in which Piper Richardson was awarded the Victoria Cross took place at Regina Trench on the Somme on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 1916. He was not originally detailed for the attacking force, but he requested permission to accompany his comrades. He was only eighteen years of age. It is reported that when he requested to play his company over the top he asked 'Will I gie them wund?'

CITATION"

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when, prior to attack, he obtained permission from his Commanding Officer to play his company "over the top".

As the Company approached the objective, it was held up by very strong wire and came under intense fire, which caused heavy casualties and demoralized the formation for the moment. Realizing the situation, Piper Richardson strode up and down outside the wire, playing his pipes with the greatest coolness. This effect was instantaneous. Inspired by his splendid example, the company rushed the wire with such fury and determination that the obstacle was overcome and the position captured.

Later, after participating in bombing operations, he was detailed to take back a wounded comrade and prisoners.

After proceeding about 200 yards Piper Richardson remembered that he had left his pipes behind. Although strongly urged not to do so, he insisted on returning to recover his pipes. He has never been seen since, and death has been presumed accordingly owing to the lapse of time."

The London Gazette, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1918

27 March 1917

**FREDERICK MAURICE WASTON HARVEY**

Lord Strathcona's Horse

Frederick Maurice Watson Harvey was born in Athboy, Ireland on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1888. He is also the holder of a Military Cross. The action described in the citation took place in front of the village of Guyencourt, France, on 27\* March 1817. During the Second World War Frederick Maurice Watson Harvey attained the rank of brigadier and was District Officer Commanding for Alberta. He now resides near Calgary, Alberta.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

During an attack by his regiment on a village a party of the enemy ran forward to a wired trench just in front of the village and opened rapid fire and machine-gun fire at a very close range, causing heavy casualties in the leading troop.

At this critical moment, when the enemy showed no intention whatever of retiring and fire was intense, Lieut. Harvey, who was in command of the leading troop, ran forward well ahead of his men and dashed at the trench, still fully manned, jumped the wire, shot the machine-gunner and captured the gun.

His most courageous act undoubtedly had a decisive effect on the success of the operation."

The London Gazette, 8<sup>th</sup> June 1917

9<sup>th</sup> April 1917

**THAIN WENDELL MACDOWELL**

38<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Thain Wendell MacDowell was born in Lachute, Quebec, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 1890. His early days were spent in the Brockville area, where he was educated at Brockville Collegiate Institute. He later attended the University of Toronto from which he received his B.A. in 1914. He enlisted almost immediately after graduation and was commissioned in the 38<sup>th</sup> Battalion, with which unit he went to France. In 1916 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order on the Somme, and the following year was awarded the Victoria Cross at Vimy Ridge on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April. Since the First World War Major MacDowell has served as an executive of several mining and chemical companies. From 1923 to 1928 he acted as private secretary to the Minister of National Defence at Ottawa. He was on the lieutenant-colonel retirement list. Thain Wendell MacDowell died at the age of 69 on March 28, 1960 at Nassau Bahamas.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and indomitable resolution in the face of heavy machine-gun and shell fire.

By his initiative and courage this officer, with the assistance of two runners, was enabled, in the face of great difficulties, to capture two machine-guns, besides two officers and seventy-five men.

Although wounded in the hand, he continued for five days to hold the position gained, in spite of heavy shell fire, until eventually relieved by his battalion.

By His bravery and prompt action he undoubtedly succeeded in rounding up a very strong enemy machine-gun post."

The London Gazette, 8<sup>th</sup> June 1917

9<sup>th</sup> April 1917

**WILLIAM JOHNSTONE MILNE**

16<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

William Johnstone Milne was born in Rambusnetham, Scotland, on the 21st of December 1892. The action described in the citation took place as the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Scottish went forward in the Canadian Corps attack on Vimdy Ridge on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1917. Private Milne has no known grave. His name appears on the Vimy Memorial in France.

**CITATION**

"For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in the attack. On approaching the first objective, Private Milne observed an enemy machine-gun firing on our advancing troops. Crawling on hands and knees he succeeded in reaching the gun, killing the crew with bombs and capturing the gun. On the line reforming, he again located a machine-gun in the support line, and, stalking this, second gun as he had done the first, he succeeded in putting this crew out of action and capturing the gun. His wonderful bravery and resource on those two occasions undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades, Private Milne was killed shortly after capturing the second enemy gun."

The London Gazette, 8<sup>th</sup> June 1917

9<sup>th</sup> April 1917

**ELLIS WELLWOOD SIFTON**

18<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Ellis Wellwood Sifton was born in Wallacetown, Ontario, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 1891. The action described in the citation took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, 1917, during the attack on Vimy Ridge. Lance-Sergeant Sifton is buried in Lichfield Crater Cemetery, half a mile east of Neuville-Saint-Vaast, France.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During the attack on enemy trenches [Lance-] Sjt. Sifton's company was held up by machine-gun fire which inflicted heavy casualties. Having located the gun he charged it single-handed, killing all the crew.

A small party advanced down the trench, but he succeeded in keeping these off until our men had gained the position.

In carrying out this gallant act he was killed, but his conspicuous valour undoubtedly saved many lives and contributed largely to the success of the operation."

The London Gazette, 8<sup>th</sup> June 1917

10 April 1917

**JOHN GEORGE PATTISON**

50<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

John George Pattison was born in Woolwich, England, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1 875. He received his education at the Clifton Road School in Deptford. In 1906 he came to Canada and lived for a while in Rapid City, Manitoba, then he moved to Calgary, Alberta, where he was employed by a public utility company until his enlistment. In May 1916 he enlisted in the 137<sup>th</sup> Battalion, where he was joined by his son, Henry, who had already joined the 82<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, but was transferred to the 137<sup>th</sup> at his father's request. Pattison Senior was sent on draft to the 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which played an important part in the capture of Vimy Ridge. It was during this action that he was awarded the Victoria Cross on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1917. He was killed two months later in the attack on the generating station at Lievin, near Lens. He is buried in La Chaudiere Military Cemetery, Vimy, France. The Geographical Society of the Province of Alberta has named a mountain in the Jasper Park area in his honour.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery attack.

When the advance of our troops was held up by an enemy machine-gun, which was inflicting severe casualties, Private Pattison, with utter disregard of his own safety, sprang forward and, jumping from shell-hole to shell-hole, reached cover within 30 yards of the enemy gun.

From this point, in face of heavy fire, he hurled bombs. Killing and wounding some of the crew, then rushed forward, overcoming and bayoneting the remaining five gunners.

His valour and initiative undoubtedly saved the situation and made possible the further advance to the objective."

The London Gazette, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1917

3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917

**ROBERT GRIERSON COMBE**

27<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Robert Grierson Combe was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, on the 5<sup>1</sup> of August 1880. He attended Aberdeen School from 1894 to 1897, and later served his apprenticeship in pharmacies in Aberdeen and London. He came to Canada around 1906 and joined the staff of a drug store in Moosomin, Saskatchewan. Two years later he opened his own store in Melville, Saskatchewan, which he operated until his enlistment in 1915. He was granted a commission and was posted to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Battalion at Prince Albert. Proceeding overseas, he qualified as major and was placed on the instructional staff. Later, at his own request, he reverted to the rank of lieutenant and joined the 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France. Illness forced his return to England for a time, but he was soon back at the front, this time with the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He served with distinction in that unit until his death, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 1917. The action described in the citation took place near Acheville, three miles from Vimy Village. Lieutenant Combe has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Vimy Memorial at Vimy Ridge. A life-size oil painting of Lieutenant Combe is hung in Ottawa's Peace Tower, and a lake in Northern Saskatchewan has been named in his honour.

**CITATION**

"For conspicuous bravery and example. He steadied his Company under intense fire, and led them through the enemy barrage, reaching the objective with only five men.

With great coolness and courage Lieut. Combe proceeded to bomb the enemy, and inflicted heavy casualties. He collected small groups of men and succeeded in capturing the Company objective, together with eighty prisoners.

He repeatedly charged the enemy, driving them before him, and, whilst personally leading his bombers, was killed by an enemy sniper.

His conduct inspired all ranks, and it was entirely due to his magnificent courage that the position was carried, secured and held."

26 The London Gazette, 27<sup>th</sup> June 1917

2<sup>nd</sup> June 1917

## **WILLIAM AVERY BISHOP**

Royal Flying Corps

William Avery Bishop was born in Owen Sound, Ontario, on the 8<sup>1</sup> of February 1 894. He received his education at Owen Sound Collegiate Institute. During his second year at the Royal Military College in Kingston war broke out. He enlisted with the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles at Toronto and went overseas with them a few months later. In 1915 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an observer and in 1917 he became a pilot. As a pilot "Billy" Bishop accounted for seventy-two enemy planes and two balloons, including twenty-five enemy machines in twelve days and five on his last day in action. The action described in the citation took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1917. At the end of the war he held the rank of lieutenant-colonel and had been awarded the Victoria Cross, the Flying Cross, the French Legion of Honour and the French Croix de Guerre. In the Second World War he served in the Royal Canadian Air Force as director of recruiting from 1940 to 1945, attaining the rank of air-marshal. He was made a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, and also received an LL.D. from the University of Toronto. In his business life Air-Marshall Bishop is a director of a large oil company and also a director of a mining corporation. He now resides in Montreal, Quebec.

### **CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery, determination and skill. Captain Bishop, who had been sent out to work independently, flew first of all to an enemy aerodrome; finding no machine about, he flew on to another aerodrome about three miles south-east, which was at least twelve miles the other side of the line. Seven machines, some with their engines running, were on the ground. He attacked these from about fifty feet, and a mechanic, who was starting one of the engines, was seen to fall. One of the machines got off the ground, but at a height of sixty feet Captain Bishop fired fifteen rounds into



it at very close range, and it crashed to the ground

A second machine off the ground, into which he fired thirty rounds at 150 yards range, and it fell into a tree.

Two more machines then rose from the aerodrome. One of these he engaged at a height of 1,000 feet, emptying the rest of his drum ammunition. This machine crashed 300 yards from the aerodrome, after which Captain Bishop emptied a whole drum into the fourth machine, and then flew back to his station. Four hostile scouts were about 1,000 feet above him for about a mile of his return journey, but they would not attack. His machine was very badly shot about by machine-gun fire from the ground.

The London Gazette, 11<sup>th</sup> August 1917

16<sup>th</sup> August 1917

**HARRY BROWN**

10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Harry Brown was born in Gananoque, Ontario, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 1898. The events described in the citation took place during the second day of the fighting for Hill 70, the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 1917. Private Brown is buried in Noex-les-Mines Communal Cemetery, four miles south-east of Bethune, France.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery, courage and devotion to duty. After the capture of a position, the enemy massed in force and counter-attacked. The situation became very critical, all wires being cut. It was of the utmost importance to get word back to Headquarters. This soldier and one other were given the message with orders to deliver the same at all costs. The other messenger was killed. Pte. Brown had his arm shattered, but continued on through an intense barrage until he arrived at the close support lines and found an officer.

He was so spent that he fell down the dug-out steps, but retained consciousness long enough to hand over his message, saying "Important Message." He then became unconscious, and died in the dressing-station a few hours later.

His devotion to duty was of the highest possible degree imaginable, and his successful delivery of the message undoubtedly saved the loss of the position for the time and prevented many casualties."

The London Gazette, 17<sup>th</sup> October 1917

15 "August 1917

## MICHAEL JAMES O'ROURKE

7<sup>1</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Michael James O'Rourke was born in Limerick, Ireland, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1878. He was awarded the Military Medal for services in the Monquet Farm Sector during the Battle of the Somme on the 8<sup>n</sup> September 1916. He was awarded the Victoria Cross the following year during the Hill 70 fighting of the 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August 1917. He resided in Vancouver, British Columbia. Micheal O'Rourke died December 1957, at Vancouver, British Columbia.

### CITATION

"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 to safety, dressing them and getting food and water.

During the whole of this 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-gun and snipers, and brought in a comrade. On 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 save many lives."

The London Gazette, 8<sup>th</sup> November 1917

18<sup>th</sup> August 1917

**FREDERICK HOBSON**

20th Canadian Infantry Battalion

Frederick Hobson was born in London, England, in September of 1875. He served in the South African War (1899-1902) with the Wiltshire Regiment. The action described in the citation took place during the Hill 70 fighting on the 18th of August 1917. Sergeant Hobson's burial-place is unknown. His name appears on the Vimy Memorial at Vimy Ridge.

**CITATION**

"During a strong enemy counter-attack a Lewis gun in a forward post in a communication trench leading to the enemy lines was buried by a shell, and the crew, with the exception of one man, killed.

Sgt. Hobson, though not a gunner, grasping the great importance of the post, rushed from his trench, dug out the gun, and got it into action against the enemy who were now advancing down the trench and across the open.

A jam caused the gun to stop firing. Though wounded, he left the gunner to correct the stoppage, rushed forward at the advancing enemy and, with bayonet and clubbed rifle, single-handed, held them back until he himself was killed by a rifle shot. By this time, however, the Lewis gun was again in action and reinforcements shortly afterwards arriving, the enemy were beaten off.

The valour and devotion to duty displayed by this noncommissioned Officer gave the gunner the time required to again get the gun into action, and saved a most serious situation."

The London Gazette, 17<sup>th</sup> October 1917

18 August 1917

## OKILL MASSEY LEARMONTH

2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Okill Massey Learmonth was born in Quebec City, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1894. He was educated at St George's School and Quebec High School. On graduation he entered the service of the Union Bank of Canada, and later was employed by a private estate on Anticosti Island. At the outbreak of war he was on the staff of the Provincial Treasurer's Department at Quebec. He enlisted in 1914 as a private and on arrival in England transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, where he served in the ranks with great distinction for some time before being granted a commission in June 1916. Major Learmonth was the holder of a Military Cross. The action described in the citation took place during the fourth day of the Hill 70 fighting, the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 1917. Major Learmonth's memory is commemorated in Quebec City by Learmonth Avenue and the Okill Learmonth Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. He is buried in Noxes-les-Mines Communal Cemetery four miles south-east of Bethune, France.

### CCITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery and exceptional devotion to duty. During a determined counter-attack on our new positions, this officer, when his company was momentarily surprised, instantly charged and personally disposed of the attackers. Later, he earned on a tremendous fight with the advancing enemy. Although under intense barrage fire and mortally wounded, he stood on the parapet of the trench. Bombed the enemy continuously and directed the defence in such a manner as to infuse a spirit of utmost resistance into his men.

On several occasions this very brave officer actually caught bombs thrown a him by the enemy and threw them back. When he was unable by reason of his wounds to carry on the fight, he still refused to be carried out

of the line, and continued to give instructions and invaluable advice to his junior officers, finally handing over all his duties before he was evacuated from the front line to the hospital where he died.

The London Gazette, 8<sup>th</sup> November 1917

21<sup>st</sup> August 1917

ROBERT HANNA

29th Canadian Infantry Battalion

Robert Hanna was born in Kilkeel, County Down, Ireland, on the 6<sup>1</sup> August 1887. He received his education in the local schools and engaged in farming until he came to Canada in 1905. When war broke out he was logging in British Columbia. He enlisted in the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1914. The action described in the citation took place during the second stage of the Hill 70 fighting, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1917. After his discharge in 1918 he returned to logging, running a logging camp until 1938, when he turned to farming at Mount Lehman, British Columbia and where he on June 15, 1967 died.

#### CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when his company met with most severe enemy resistance and all the company officers became casualties. A strong-point, heavily protected by wire and held by a machine-gun, had beaten off three assaults of the company with heavy casualties. The Warrant Officer under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, coolly collected a party of men, and leading them against this strong-point, rushed through the wire and personally bayoneted three of the enemy and brained the fourth, capturing the position and silencing the machine-gun.

This most courageous action, which displayed courage and personal bravery of the highest order at this most critical moment of the attack, was responsible for the capture of a most important tactical point, and but for his daring action and determined handling of a desperate situation the attack would not have succeeded.

C.S.M. [Company Sergeant-Major] Hanna's outstanding gallantry, personal courage and determined leading of his company is deserving of the highest possible award." The London Gazette, 8<sup>th</sup> November 1967



21<sup>st</sup> August 1917

**FILIP KONOWAL**

47<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Filip Konowal was born in Podolsky, Russia, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1888. In his youth he worked in his father's stone-cutting business as an apprentice. Then he served for five years in the Russia Army, becoming an instructor in bayonet fighting. He came to *Canada* in April 1913, and enlisted in the 77<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Ottawa in 1915. In England in 1916 he was transferred to the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion. The action described in the citation took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1917. The objective was the Green Grassier, an immense expanse of slag-heaps thrown up from the many mines of the Lens area which was infested with enemy machine-guns. Corporal Konowal was an expert in this kind of fighting. Today Filip Konowal is employed on the staff of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. He lived in Wrightsville, Quebec, and died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 1959.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and leadership when in charge of a section in attack. His section had the difficult task of mopping-up cellars, craters and machine-gun emplacements. Under his able direction all resistance was overcome successfully, and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. In one cellar he himself bayoneted three enemy and attacked single-handed seven others in a crater, killing them all.

On reaching the objective, a machine-gun was holding up the right flank, causing many casualties. Cpl Konowal rushed forward and entered the emplacement, killed the crew, and brought the gun back to our lines.

The next day he again attacked single-handed another machine-gun emplacement, killed three of the crew, and destroyed the gun and emplacement with explosives.

This non-commissioned officer alone killed sixteen of the enemy, and during the two days' actual fighting carried on continuously his good work until severely wounded."

## **PHILIP KNOWAL, HERO**

Mr. Philip Konowal in the later years of his life was engaged in humble tasks about the Centre Block, a slight, bent man with a scarred face who might be carrying a mop or a pail.

He had friends in high places who made a point of keeping contact with him. One was Major General Pearkes and another Brigadier Gregg, Cabinet ministers in different governments, who regarded him as a comrade.

These three travelled together to ceremonies honouring heroes. All had been awarded the Victoria Cross in World War I and through the storms of a troubled life Philip Konowal never lost the respect given a very brave man. In mourning his death today, generals- who salute the VC ribbon-soldiers of less exalted rank and everyone who admires courage will praise the memory of a little corporal who fought like a tiger.

Editorial in the Ottawa Journal June 6, 1959

10 October 1917

**PHILIP ERIC BENT**

The Leicestershire Regiment

Philip Eric Bent was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the 3<sup>d</sup> of January 1891. He enlisted with the Royal Scots on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 1914, and was granted a temporary commission in the Leicestershire Regiment as second lieutenant the following month. He was promoted, to lieutenant in June 1915 and to temporary captain in April 1916. His permanent commission was granted while he served with the Bedfordshire Regiment, but he transferred back to the Leicestershire Regiment as acting-lieutenant-colonel in the fall of 1916. In June of 1917 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. The action described in the citation occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 1917, at Polygon Wood, Belgium.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery, when during a heavy hostile attack, the right of his command and the battalion on his right were forced back. The situation was critical owing to the confusion caused by the attack and the intense artillery fire.

Lieut-Col. Bent personally collected a platoon that was in reserve and, together with men from other Companies and various regimental details, he organized and led them forward to the counter-attack after issuing orders to other officers as to the further defence of the line. The counter-attack was successful and the enemy was checked. The coolness and magnificent example shown to all ranks by Lieut.-Col. Bent resulted in the securing of a portion of the line, which was of essential importance for subsequent

operations. This very gallant officer was killed whilst leading a charge which he inspired with the call of "Come on the Tigers!"

The London Gazette, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1918

26<sup>th</sup> October 1917

**THOMAS WILLIAM HOLMES**

4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion

Thomas William Holmes was born in Montreal, Quebec, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 1898. A few years later he and his parents moved to Owen Sound, Ontario, where he attended Ryerson School. He enlisted in December 1915 in the 147<sup>th</sup> Battalion and later was transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles. The action described in the citation took place during the opening of the fighting by the Canadian Corps for the capture of Passchendaele on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 1917. Following his discharge, Thomas William Holmes lived for a period of time in Owen Sound, and then became a chauffeur for the Toronto Harbour Commission, a position he held for fourteen years until illness forced him to retire. He died in Toronto on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 1950, after spending ten years in hospital. He is buried in Owen Sound.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and resource when the right flank of our attack was held up by heavy machine-gun and rifle fire from a "pill-box" strong point. Heavy casualties were producing a critical situation when Pte. Holmes, on his own initiative and single-handed, ran forward and threw two bombs, killing and wounding the crews of two machine-guns. He then returned to his comrades, secured another bomb, and again rushed forward alone under heavy fire and threw the bomb into the entrance of the "pillbox", causing nineteen occupants to surrender.

By this act of valour at a very critical moment Pte. Holmes undoubtedly cleared the way for the advance of our troops and saved the lives of many of his comrades."

The London Gazette, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1918

26 October 1917

**CHRISTOPHER PATRICK JOHN O'KELLY**

52<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Christopher Patrick John O'Kelly was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1896. He was a student at St John's College, Winnipeg, in 1915, at which time he enlisted in the 144<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was later granted a commission in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. In September of 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross, and on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October the Victoria Cross during the Passchendaele fighting. He was accidentally drowned at Lac Suel, Ontario, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 1922.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery in an action in which he led his company with extraordinary skill and determination.

After the original attack had failed and two companies of his unit had launched a new attack, Capt. O'Kelly advanced his command over 1,000 yards under heavy fire without any artillery barrage, took the enemy's positions on the crest of the hill by storm, and then personally organised and led a series of attacks against "pill-boxes", his company alone capturing six of them with 100 prisoners and 10 machine-guns.

Later on in the afternoon, his company repelled a strong counter-attack, taking more prisoners, and subsequently during the night captured a hostile raiding party consisting of one officer, 10 men and a machine-gun.

The whole of these achievements were chiefly due to the magnificent courage, daring and ability of Capt. O'Kelly."

The London Gazette, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1918

26 October 1917

**ROBERT SHANKLAND**

43<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Robert Shankland was born in Ayr, Scotland, in 1887. He came to Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1911, and was one of the first to enlist in the Cameron Highlanders of Canada in 1914. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal at Sanctuary Wood in June 1916, and was commissioned on the Somme in the fall of 1916. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 1917, he was awarded the Victoria Cross during the fighting for the Bellevue Spur, one of the main lines of defence before Passchendaele. He resided in Vancouver, British Columbia, and died on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 1968

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and resource in action under critical and adverse conditions.

Having gained a position he rallied the remnant of his own platoon and men of other companies, disposed them to command the ground in front, and inflicted heavy casualties upon the retreating enemy. Later, he dispersed a counter-attack, thus enabling supporting troops to come up unmolested.

He then personally communicated to Battalion Headquarters an accurate and valuable report as to the position on the Brigade frontage, and after doing so rejoined his command and carried on until relieved.

His courage and splendid example inspired all ranks and coupled with his great gallantry and skill undoubtedly saved a very critical situation."

The London Gazette, 18<sup>th</sup> December 1917

29 October 1917

**CECIL JOHN KINROSS**

49<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Cecil John Kinross was born in Stirling, Scotland, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 1896. He received his education at the Birmingham Grammar School, Birmingham, England. Later he came to Canada and took up farming at Lougheed, Alberta. He enlisted in the 51<sup>st</sup> Battalion in October of 1915 and then transferred to the 49<sup>th</sup> Battalion. The action described in the citation took place during the attack on Passchendaele between the 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October 1917, Following his discharge Cecil John Kinross returned to Lougheed. And died in June, 1957.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery in action during prolonged and severe operations.

Shortly after the attack was launched, the company to which he belonged came under intense artillery fire, and further advance was held up by very heavy fire from an enemy machine-gun. Pte. Kinross, making a careful survey of the situation, deliberately divested himself of all his equipment save his rifle and bandolier and, regardless of his personal safety, advanced alone over the open ground in broad daylight, charged the enemy machine-gun, killing the crew of six, and seized and destroyed the gun. His superb example and courage instilled the greatest confidence in his company, and enabled a further advance of 300 yards to be made and a highly important position to be established.

Throughout the day he showed marvelous coolness and courage, fighting with the utmost aggressiveness against heavy odds until seriously wounded."

The London Gazette, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1918

30<sup>th</sup> October 1917

**HUGH MacKENZIE**

7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Machine-gun Company

Hugh MacKenzie was born in Inverness, Scotland, on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 1885. The action described in the citation took place on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1917, during the attack on the very difficult ground around Friesland, Meetcheele and Graf in Belgium. In another action MacKenzie was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal. Lieutenant MacKenzie's burial-place is unknown, but his name is inscribed on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and leading when in charge of a section of four machine-guns accompanying the infantry in the attack.

Seeing that all the officers and most of the non-commissioned officers of an infantry company had become casualties, and that men were hesitating before a nest of enemy machine-guns, which were on commanding ground and causing them severe casualties, he handed over command of his guns to an N.C.O., rallied the infantry, organised an attack, and captured the strong position.

Finding that the position was swept by machine-gun fire from a "pill-box" which dominated all the ground over which the troops were advancing, Lt. MacKenzie made a reconnaissance and detailed flanking and frontal attacking parties which captured the "pill-box", he himself being killed while leading the frontal attack.

By his valour and leadership this gallant officer ensured the capture of these strong points and so saved the lives of many men and enabled the objective to be attained."

The London Gazette, 13<sup>th</sup> February 1918



30<sup>th</sup> October 1917 GEORGE

HARRY MULLIN

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

George Hairy Mullin was born in Portland, Oregon, on the 15 August 1892. While he was still very young his parents brought him to Moosomin, Saskatchewan. He attended the Moosomin Public School and later the Moosomin Collegiate. He enlisted in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion at Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1914 and transferred to the P.P.C.L.I, early in 1915. During the Vimy Ridge fighting he was awarded the Military Medal. The action which awarded him the Victoria Cross took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> October in 1917, in the fighting around Graf and Meetcheele during the attack on Passchendaele Village. Following the war he returned to farming, and also served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Assiniboia Militia, attaining the rank of major. During the Second World War he joined the Veteran's Guard of Canada as a Sergeant-at-Arms for Saskatchewan. He was among those representing Saskatchewan at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in June of 1953. He died on April 7, 1963 at Regina, Saskatchewan.

#### **CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when single-handed he captured a commanding "pill-box" which had withstood the heavy bombardment and was causing heavy casualties to our forces and holding up the attack. He rushed a sniper's post in front, destroyed the garrison with bombs, and crawling on the top of the "pill-box" , he shot the two machine-gunners with his revolver. Sgt. Mullin then rushed to another entrance and forced the garrison often to surrender.

His gallantry and fearlessness were witnessed by many, and, although rapid fire was directed upon him, and his clothes riddled with bullets, he never faltered in his purpose and he not only helped to save the situation but also indirectly saved many lives."

The London Gazette, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1918

3 0<sup>th</sup> October 1917

**GEORGE RANDOLPH PEARKES**

5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion

George Randolph Pearkes was born in Watford, England, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 1888. He received his early education at Berkhamsted School. Later he attended the Staff College at Camberley and the Imperial Defence College. He was living in Canada when war broke out, and was among the first to enlist as a private in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was granted a commission in France and went to the 5<sup>1</sup> C.M.R., winning rapid promotion to lieutenant-colonel. The action described in the citation took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October 1917, during the fighting before Passchendaele. Lieutenant-colonel Pearkes was also awarded the Military Cross at the Somme in 1917, and the Distinguished Service Order at Amiens in 1918. After the war he remained in the Permanent Force, holding many important posts. He was a General Staff officer an Royal Military College, Kingston, from 1929 to 1933; Director of Military Training at National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa, from 1935 to 1938; and District Commanding Officer of the Canadian Infantry Brigade, and in July 1940 became General Officer Commanding the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division. In September of 1942 he returned to Canada to take over as Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Command, which post he retained until 1945. He was made a Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bat (C.B.) and received the United States Order of Merit for his achievements during the Second World War. In 1945 he was elected to the Federal Parliament as member for Nanaimo, British Columbia, a post he still holds. He resides in Victoria, British Columbia.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and skilful handling of the troops under his command during the capture and consolidation of considerably more than the objective allotted to him, in an attack.

Just prior to the advance Maj. Pearkes was wounded in the left thigh. Regardless of his wound, he continued to lead his men with the utmost gallantry, despite many obstacles.

At a particular stage of the attack his further advance was threatened by a strong point which was the objective of the battalion on his left, but which they had not succeeded in capturing. Quickly appreciating the situation, he captured and held this point, thus enabling his further advance to be successfully pushed forward.

It was entirely due to his determination and fearless personality that he was able to maintain his objective with small number of men at his command against enemy counter-attacks, both his flanks being unprotected for a considerable depth meanwhile.

His appreciation of the situation throughout and the reports rendered by him were invaluable to his Commanding Officer in making dispositions of troops to hold the position captured.

He showed throughout a supreme contempt of danger and wonderful powers of control and leadership."

The London

Gazette, 11th January, 1918

6<sup>th</sup> November 1917

**COLIN FRASER BARRON**

3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Colin Fraser Barron was born in Baldavie, Bannfshire, Scotland, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 1893. He came to Canada in March 1910, taking a position with a Canadian railroad in Toronto, Ontario. He enlisted in 1914 in Toronto and went overseas with the 3<sup>r</sup> Battalion. The action described in the citation took place on the 6<sup>l</sup> November 1917. The strong-point which Corporal Barron captured was known as "Vine Cot". It guarded the Goudberg Spur before Passchendaele Village. During the Second World War Colin Barron served with the Regiment of Canada in Canada, Iceland and Britain. He now lives in Toronto, where he is employed on the staff of the Toronto jail.

**CITATION**

"For conspicuous bravery when in attack his unit was held up by three machine-guns. Corporal Barron opened on them from a flank at point-blank range, rushed the enemy guns, single handed, killed four of the crew and captured the remainder. He then, with remarkable initiative and skill, turned one of the captured guns on the retiring enemy, causing them severe casualties.

The remarkable dash and determination displayed by this N.C.O. in rushing the guns produced far-reaching results, and enabled the advance to be continued."

The London Gazette, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1918

6<sup>th</sup> November 1917

**JAMES PETER ROBERTSON**

27<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

James Peter Robertson was born in Albion Mines, Pictou, Nova Scotia, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 1883. While still a child he moved with his family to Springhill, Nova Scotia, where he received his early education. In 1899 the Robertsons moved to Medicine Hat, Alberta, where Peter entered the services of a Canadian railroad. He was an engineer when war broke out. Early in 1915 he joined the 13<sup>th</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion in Lethbridge, Alberta, and later, transferred to the 27<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion. The action that awarded him the Victoria Cross took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 1917, during the attack on Passchendaele. Private Robertson is buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, Belgium.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and outstanding devotion in attack.

When his platoon was held up by uncut wire and a machine-gun causing many casualties, \*Pte. Robertson dashed to an opening on the flank, rushed the machine-gun and, after a desperate struggle with the crew, killed four and then turned the gun on the remainder, who, overcome by the fierceness of his onslaught, were running towards their own lines. His gallant work enabled the platoon to advance. He inflicted many more casualties among the enemy, and then carrying the captured machine-gun, he led his platoon to the final objective. He selected an excellent position and got the gun into action, firing on the retreating enemy who by this time were quite demoralized by the fire brought to bear on them.

During the consolidation Pte. Robertson's most determined use of the machine-gun kept down the fire of the enemy sniper; his courage and his coolness cheered his comrades and inspired them to the finest efforts.

Later, when two of our snipers were badly wounded in front of our trench,

he went out and carried one of them in under very severe fire. He was killed just as he returned with the second man."

The London Gazette, 11<sup>th</sup> January 1918

20<sup>th</sup> November 1917

HARCUS

STRACHAN

The Fort Garry Horse

Harcus Strachan was born in Borrowstounness, West Lothian, Scotland, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1887. He was educated at Royal High School and at Edinburgh University. He came to Canada in 1908 and in 1915 joined the Canadian Cavalry, serving in the ranks of The Fort Garry Horse until he was commissioned as lieutenant on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1916. He was awarded a Military Cross for courageous action in a raid on enemy outposts south of St Quentin in May of 1917, and the Victoria Cross for the action described in the citation which occurred at Masnieres, France, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1917. Lieutenant Strachan was promoted to captain in 1917 and to major in 1918. Following demobilization, he joined the Militia as an officer of the 19<sup>th</sup> Alberta Dragoons. In 1926 he transferred to the 15<sup>th</sup> Canadian Light Horse, and went on Reserve in 1927. In September of 1939 he became lieutenant-colonel commanding the 15<sup>th</sup> Alberta Light Horse, and in 1940 he accepted an appointment as major in the South Alberta Regiment, Canadian Active Service Force. In July 1940 he became lieutenant-colonel commanding the Edmonton Fusiliers, C.A.S.F. He returned to Reserve on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 1944, and went on the retired list on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1946. When he was not on active service, Harcus Strachan was in the employ of a Canadian bank. He retired to Vancouver, British Columbia, and died on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1982 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

#### CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery and leadership during operations.

He took command of the squadron of his regiment when the squadron leader, approaching the enemy front line at a gallop, was killed. Lieut. Strachan led the squadron through the enemy line of machine-gun posts, and then, with the surviving men, led the charge on the enemy battery, killing

seven of the gunners with his sword. All the gunners having been killed and the battery silenced, he rallied his men and fought his way back at night through the enemy's line, bringing all unwounded men safely in, together with 15 prisoners.

The operation which resulted in the silencing of an enemy battery, the killing of the whole battery personnel and many infantry, and the cutting of three main lines of telephone communication two miles in rear of the enemy's front line, was only rendered possible by the outstanding gallantry and fearless leading of this officer."

The London Gazette, 18<sup>th</sup> December 1917



21<sup>st</sup> March 1918

**EDMUND DE WIND**

15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles

Edmund De Wind was born in Comber, County Down, Ireland, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1883. He received his education at Campbell College, Belfast, and then worked in two branches of an Irish Bank. In 1910 he came to Canada, and entered the services of a Canadian bank working in branches in Toronto, Yorkton, Humbolt and Edmonton. In 1914 he enlisted in the 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Calgary Regiment) as a private. From September 1915 to April 1917 he served in the machine-gun section of the 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion in France; then he was commissioned with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. Lieutenant De Wind has no known grave. His name appears on the Pozieres Memorial at Pozieres, France. In 1948 Mount De Wind in Alberta was named in his memory.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1918, at the Race Course Redoubt, near Grougie.

For seven hours he [2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant De Wind] held this most important post, and though twice wounded and practically single-handed, he maintained his position until another section could be got to his help.

On two occasions, with two N.C.O.'s only, he got out on top under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, and cleared the enemy out of the trench, killing many.

He continued to repel attack after attack until he was mortally wounded and collapsed. His valour, self-sacrifice and example were of the highest order."

The London Gazette, 15<sup>th</sup> May 1919

27<sup>th</sup> March 1918

**ALAN ARNETT MCLEOD**

Royal Flying Corps

Alan Arnett McLeod was born in Stonewall, Manitoba, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1899. Three days after his eighteenth birthday he reported to the Flying Corps Training Centre at Long Branch, Ontario, and in November of the same year he was in France, one of the youngest officers on active service. He was only eighteen years of age when he was awarded the Victoria Cross on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 1918. When he recovered from his wounds he returned to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where, in November of 1918, he died of influenza.

**CITATION**

"While flying with his observer(Lt. A.W. Hammond, M.C.), attacking hostile formations by bombs and machine-gun fire, he was assailed at a height of 5,000 feet by eight enemy tri-planes, which dived at him from all directions, firing from their front guns. By skilful manoeuvring he enabled his observer to fire bursts at each machine in turn, shooting three of them down out of control. By this time Lt. McLeod had received five wounds, and while continuing the engagement a bullet penetrated his petrol tank and set the machine on fire.

He then climbed out on to the left bottom plane, controlling his machine from the side of the fuselage, and by side-stepping steeply kept the flames to one side, thus enabling the observer to continue firing until the ground was reached.

The observer had been wounded six times when the machine crashed in "No Man's Land", and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. McLeod, notwithstanding his own wounds, dragged him away from the burning wreckage at great personal risk from heavy machine-gun fire from the enemy's lines. This very gallant pilot was again wounded by a bomb whilst engaged in this act of rescue, but he

persevered until he had placed Lt. Hammond on comparative safety, before falling himself from exhaustion and loss of blood."

The London Gazette, 1<sup>st</sup> May 1918

30<sup>th</sup> March 1918

## **GORDON MURIEL FLOWERDEW**

### **Lord Strathcona's Horse**

Gordon Muriel Flowerdew was born in Billingham, Norfolk, England, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 1885. He was educated at Framlingham College, Suffolk. In 1903 he came to Canada, where he lived at Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Queensbay, Kootenay Lake, and Walhachin, British Columbia. In 1914 he enlisted in the 3<sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> British Columbia Horse, later transferring to Lord Strathcona Horse. The cavalry charge described in the citation took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 1918, north-east of the Bois de Moreuil in France. Lieutenant Flowerdew died of wounds on the following day. He is buried in Namps-au-Val British Cemetery, eleven miles south-west of Amiens, France.

### **CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and dash when in command of a squadron detailed for special service of a very important nature.

On reaching the first objective, Lieut. Flowerdew saw two lines of the enemy, each about sixty strong, with machine-guns in the centre and flanks, one line being about two hundred yards behind the other. Realizing the critical nature of the operation and how much depended upon it, Lieut. Flowerdew ordered a troop under Lieut. Harvey, V.C. to dismount and carry out a special movement while he led the remaining three troops to the charge. The squadron (less one troop) passed over both lines, killing many of the enemy with the sword, and wheeling about galloped at them again. Although the squadron had then lost about 70 per cent of its members, killed and wounded, from rifle and machine-gun fire directed on it from the front and both flanks, the enemy broke and retired. The survivors of the squadron then established themselves in a position where they were joined, after much hand-to-hand fighting, by Lieut. Harvey's party. Lieut. Flowerdew was dangerously wounded through both thighs during the operation, but

continued to cheer on his men. There is no doubt that this officer's great valour was the prime factor in the capture of the position."

The London Gazette, 24 April 1918

27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April 1918

**GEORGE BURDON MCKEAN**

14<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

George Burdon McKean was born in Wellington, England, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1888. The action described in the citation took place on the night of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> of April 1918, in the Gavrelle sector in front of Vimy Ridge. McKean was awarded a Military Cross and a Military Medal. Lieutenant McKean survived the war only to be killed in an accident in England on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1926, when he was struck by pieces from a broken circular saw in a saw-mill which he had acquired.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during a raid in the enemy trenches.

Lt. McKean party, which was operating on the right flank, was held up at a block in the communication trench by most intense fire from hand grenades and machine-guns. This block, which was too close to our trenches to have been engaged by the preliminary bombardment, was well-protected by wire and covered by a well-protected machine-gun 30 yards behind it. Realising that if this block were not destroyed, the success of the whole operation might be marred, he ran into the open on the right flank of the block, and with utter disregard of danger, leaped over the block head first on top of the enemy. Whilst lying on the ground on top of one of the enemy, another rushed at him with fixed bayonet; Lt. McKean shot him through the body and then shot the enemy underneath him, who was struggling violently. This very gallant action enabled this position to be captured. Lt. McKean's supply of bombs ran out at this time, and he sent back to our front line for a fresh supply. Whilst waiting for them he engaged the enemy single-handed.

When the bombs arrived he fearlessly rushed the second block, killing two of the enemy, captured four others and drove the remaining garrison,

including a hostile machine-gun section, into a dug-out. The dug-out, with its occupants and machine-gun, was destroyed. This officer's splendid bravery and dash undoubtedly saved many lives, for had not this position been captured, the whole of the raiding party would have been exposed to dangerous enfilading fire during the withdrawal. His leadership at all times has been beyond praise."

The London Gazette, 28<sup>th</sup> June 1918

10<sup>th</sup> May 1918

**ROWLAND RICHARD LOUIS BOURKE**

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Rowland Richard Louis Bourke was born in London, England, on the 28th of November 1885. He attended several Roman Catholic teaching orders in London, and then came to Canada in 1902. At the outbreak of the First World War he tried to enlist in the Canadian fighting services, but was rejected by all branches because of defective eyesight. He then went to England and succeeded in joining the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as a sub-lieutenant. By sheer persistence he managed to take part in the two attacks on Ostend, being awarded the Distinguished Service Order in the first attack on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1918, and the Victoria Cross in the second attack on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1918. At this time he was lieutenant in command of M.L. 276. He was later promoted to lieutenant-commander for services in action and also made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. During the Second World War he served in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve on administrative work in Canada. He retired to Esquimalt, British Columbia, and died on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, 1958.

**CITATION**

"Volunteered for rescue work in command of M.L. 276, and followed "Vindictive" into Ostend, engaging the enemy's machine-gun on both piers with Lewis guns. After M.L. 254 had backed out Lieut. Bourke laid his vessel alongside "Vindictive" to make further search. Finding no one he withdrew, but hearing cries in the water he again entered the harbour, and after a prolonged search eventually found Lieutenant Sir John Alleyne, and two ratings, all badly wounded, and in the water, clinging to an upended skiff, and he rescued them. During all this time the motor launch was under very heavy fire at close range, being hit in fifty-five places, once by a 6 in. shell, two of her small crew being killed and others wounded. The vessel



was seriously damaged and speed greatly reduced. Lieut. Bourke, however, managed to bring her out and carry on until he fell in with a Monitor, which took him in tow. The episode displayed daring and skill of a very high order, and Lieut. Bourke's bravery and perseverance undoubtedly saved the lives of Lieut. Alleyne and two of the "Vindictive's" crew."

The London Gazette, 28<sup>th</sup> August 1918

8<sup>th</sup> June 1918

**JOSEPH KAEBLE**

22<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Joseph Kaeble was born in St Moise, Quebec, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1893. He was educated in the village school at Sayabec, Quebec, but left school at the age of seventeen to engage in lumbering operations. He enlisted on the 15<sup>1</sup> of March 1915, with the 189<sup>th</sup> Battalion from the lower St Lawrence, later being posted to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion with which he served nearly two years. The action described in the citation occurred on the night of the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> of June 1918, at Neuville-Vitasse, France. Kaeble had been awarded a Military Medal earlier. Corporal Kaeble is buried in Wanquetin Communal Cemetery Extension, seven miles west of Arras, France.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and extraordinary devotion to duty when in charge of a Lewis gun section in the front line trenches, on which a strong enemy raid was attempted.

During an intense bombardment Corp. Kaeble remained at the parapet with his Lewis gun shouldered ready for action, the field of fire being very short. As soon as the barrage lifted from the front line, about fifty of the enemy advanced towards his post. By this time the whole of his section except one had become casualties. Corp. Kaeble jumped over the parapet and holding the Lewis gun at the hip, emptied one magazine after another into the advancing enemy, and although wounded several times by fragments of shells and bombs, he continued to fire, and entirely blocked the enemy by his determined stand. Finally, firing all the time, he fell backwards into the trench, mortally wounded. While lying on his back in the trench he fired his last cartridges over the parapet after the retreating Germans, and before losing consciousness, he shouted to the wounded about him: "Keep it up, boys, do not let them get through! We must stop them!"

The complete repulse of the enemy attack at this point was due to the remarkable personal bravery and self-sacrifice of this gallant non-commissioned officer, who died of his wounds shortly afterwards."  
The London Gazette, 16th September 1918

8<sup>th</sup> August 1918

**JEAN BRILLANT**

22<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Jean Brillant was born in Assametquaghan, Matapedia County, Quebec, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1890. He was educated at the Classical College of Rimouski and at St Joseph University, New Brunswick. On leaving school he joined the Militia and served with the St Lawrence Fusiliers. In 1915 he enlisted for overseas service with the 189<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which later merged with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in France. The action described in the citation occurred on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1918, east of Meharicourt during the Battle of Amiens. Lieutenant Brillant died of wounds on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August. In Montreal and Rimouski, Quebec, his memory is honoured in Jean Brillant Avenue and in the Jean Brillant Branch (Quebec No. 27) of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League. He is buried in Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Fouilloy, France.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and outstanding devotion to duty when in charge of a company which he led in attack during two days with absolute fearlessness and extraordinary ability and initiative, the extent of the advance being twelve miles.

On the first day of operations shortly after the attack had begun, his company left flank was held up by an enemy machine-gun. Lt. Brillant rushed and captured the machine-gun, personally killing two of the enemy crew. Whilst doing this, he was wounded, but refused to leave his command.

Later on the same day, his company, was held up by heavy machine-gun fire. He reconnoitred the ground personally, organised a party of two platoons and rushed straight for the machine-gun nest. Here 150 enemy and

fifteen machine-guns were captured. Lt. Brillant personally killing five of the enemy, and being wounded a second time. He had this wound dressed immediately and again refused to leave his Company.

Subsequently this gallant officer detected a field gun firing on his men over open sights. He immediately organised and led a "rushing" party towards the gun. After progressing about 600 yards, he was again seriously wounded. In spite of this wound, he continued to advance for some 200 yards more, when he fell unconscious from exhaustion and loss of blood.

Lt. Brillant's wonderful example throughout the day inspired his men with an enthusiasm and dash which largely contributed towards the success of the operations."

The London Gazette, 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918

8<sup>th</sup> August 1918

**JOHN BERNARD CROAK**

13<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

John Bernard Croak was born in Little Bay, Newfoundland, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 1892. He attended the New Aberdeen Public School in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, and later worked in the mines there. The action described in the citation took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918, during the opening of the Battle of Amiens. Private Croak is buried in Hangard Wood British Cemetery, Hangard, France.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery in attack when having become separated from his section he encountered a machine-gun nest, which he bombed and silenced, taking the gun and crew prisoners. Shortly afterwards he was severely wounded, but refused to desist.

Having rejoined his platoon, a very strong point, containing several machine-guns, was encountered. Private Croak, seeing an opportunity, dashed forward alone and was almost immediately followed by the remainder of the platoon in a brilliant charge. He was the first to arrive at the trench line, into which he led his men, capturing three machine-guns, and bayoneting or capturing the entire garrison.

The perseverance and valour of this gallant soldier, who was again severely wounded, and died of his wounds were and inspiring example to all."

The London Gazette, 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918

8<sup>th</sup> August 1918

HERMAN JAMES GOOD

13<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Herman James Good was born in South Bathurst, New Brunswick, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 1888. He was educated in the local public school and later engaged in lumbering operations in the Bathurst area. The action described in the citation took place in the vicinity of Hangard Wood on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1918, during the first day of the Canadian Corps attack in the Battle of Amiens. Herman James Good was a game, fish, and fire warden for the Bathurst district. Herman James Good died at Bathurst, New Brunswick on the 19 April, 1969.

#### CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery and leading when in attack his company-was held up by heavy fire from three enemy machine-guns, which were seriously delaying the advance. Realising the gravity of this situation, N.C.O. dashed forward alone, killing several of the garrison, and capturing the remainder. Later on Corporal Good, while alone, encountered a battery of 5.9-inch guns, which were in action at the time. Collecting three men of his section, he charged the battery under point-blank fire and captured the entire crews of three guns."

The London Gazette, 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918

8<sup>th</sup> August 1918

**HARRY GARNET BEDFORD MINER**

58<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Harry Garnet Bedford Miner was born in Cedar Springs, Ontario, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1891. He attended school in the district of Selton and later Highgate School in Oxford Township. He enlisted in the 142<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in November 1915 and later transferred to the 161<sup>st</sup> Battalion. He joined the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France in November 1916. Being awarded the Victoria Cross at Demuin, east of Amiens, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1918, he also was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for his activities in the Lens area in 1917. He is buried in Crouy British Cemetery, Crouy-sur-Somme, France.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack, when despite severe wounds he refused to withdraw. He rushed an enemy machine-gun post single-handed, killed the entire crew and turned the gun on the enemy.

Later, with two others, he attacked another enemy machine-gun post, and succeeded in putting the gun out of action.

Corporal Miner then rushed single-hand an enemy bombing post, bayonetting two of the garrison and putting the remainder to flight. He was mortally wounded in the performance of this gallant deed."

The London Gazette, 26<sup>th</sup> October 1918



9<sup>th</sup> August 1918

**ALEXANDER PICTON BRERETON**

8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Alexander Picton Brereton was born in Oak River, Manitoba, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 1893. He attended school at Oak River, Hamiota and Strathclair. Prior to his enlistment he worked on a farm. The action described in the citation took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1918, east of Amiens. Following his discharge in 1919, Alexander Brereton returned to farming and later acquired six hundred and forty acres of land in the Elnora district of Alberta, where he resided. During the Second World War he served as company quartermaster sergeant with a unit at Red Deer, Alberta. Alexander Picton Brereton died on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, 1976.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery during an attack, when a line of hostile machine-guns opened fire suddenly on his platoon, which was in an exposed position, and no cover available. This gallant N.C.O. at once appreciated the critical situation and realised that, unless something was done at once, the platoon would be annihilated. On his own initiative, and without a moment's delay, and alone, he sprang forward and reached one of the hostile machine-gun posts, where he shot the man operating the gun and bayoneted the next one who tried to operate it, where upon nine others surrendered to him.

Corporal Brereton's action was a splendid example of resource and bravery, and not only undoubtedly saved many of his comrades' lives, but also inspired his platoon to charge and capture the five remaining posts."

The London Gazette, 27h September 1918

9<sup>th</sup> August 1918

**FREDERICK GEORGE COPPINS**

8<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Frederick George Coppins was born in London, England, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1889. The action described in the citation took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1918, at Hackett Wood, east of Amiens, France. Frederick George Coppins resided in California, where he died in April, 1963.

**CITATION**

"For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during an attack when his platoon came unexpectedly under the fire of numerous machine-guns. It was not possible to advance or retire, and no cover was available. It became apparent that the platoon would be annihilated unless the machine-guns were silenced immediately. Corporal Coppins, without hesitation, and on his own initiative, called on four men to follow him and leapt forward in the face of intense machine-gun fire. With his comrades he rushed straight for the machine-guns. The four men with him were killed and Corporal Coppins wounded. Despite his wounds, he reached the hostile machine-guns alone, killed the operator of the first gun and three of the crew, and made prisoners of four others, who surrendered.

Cpl. Coppins, by this act of outstanding valour, was the means of saving many lives of the men of his platoon, and enabled the advance to continue.

Despite his wound, this gallant N.C.O. continued with his platoon to the final objective, and only left the line when it had been made secured and when ordered to do so."

The London Gazette, 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918

9<sup>th</sup> August 1918

JAMES EDWARD TAIT

78<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

James Edward Tait was born in Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, in 1888. He was employed with a government survey party in the Kettle River district in North-West Canada when war broke out, and it was some time before the news of the hostilities reached him. He enlisted in Winnipeg, Manitoba, was granted a commission in the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and went overseas in September 1916. He was sent to France to join the 78<sup>th</sup> Winnipeg Battalion in time for the Vimy Ridge fighting, where he was awarded the Military Cross on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1917. The action which awarded him the Victoria Cross occurred during the Battle of Amiens in the following year. Lieutenant Tait is reported to be buried in Fouquescourt British Cemetery, Fouquescourt, France.

#### CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack. The advance having been checked by intense machine-gun fire, Lt. Tait rallied his company and led it forward with consummate skill and dash under a hail of bullets. A concealed machine-gun, however, continued to cause many casualties. Taking a rifle and bayonet, Lt. Tait dashed forward alone and killed the enemy gunner. Inspired by his example his men rushed the position, capturing twelve machine-guns and twenty prisoners. His valorous action cleared the way for the battalion to advance.

Later when the enemy counter-attacked our positions under intense artillery bombardment, this gallant officer displayed outstanding courage and leadership, and though mortally wounded by a shell, continued to direct and aid his men until his death."

The London Gazette, 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918

9<sup>th</sup> August 1918

RAPHAEL LOUIS ZENGEL

5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Raphael Louis Zengel was born in Fairbault, Minnesota, on the 11th of November 1894. When he was still very young he and his widowed mother moved to a homestead in Saskatchewan. When war broke out he was working on a farm near Virden, Manitoba. In December of 1914 he enlisted in the 45<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and on arrival in France in 1915 he was drafted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He took part in many trench raids and one of these exploits awarded him the Military Medal on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1917, at Passchendaele. The action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1918, during the Amiens fighting east of Warvillers. Raphael Louis Zengel resided in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, until his death in 1977.

#### CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when protecting the battalion right flank. He [Serjeant Zengel] was leading his platoon gallantly forward to the attack, but had not gone far when he realized that a gap had occurred on his flank, and that an enemy machine-gun was firing at close range into the advancing line. Grasping the situation, he rushed forward some 200 yards ahead of the platoon, tackled the machine-gun emplacement, killed the officer and operator of the gun, and dispersed the crew. By his boldness and prompt action he undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades.

Later, when the battalion was held up by very heavy machine-gun fire, he displayed such tactical skill and directed his fire with destructive results. Shortly afterwards he was rendered unconscious for a few minutes by an enemy shell but on recovering consciousness he at once continued to direct harassing fire on the enemy.

Sgt. Zengel's work throughout the attack was excellent, and his utter disregard for personal safety, and the confidence he inspired in all ranks, greatly assisted in bringing the attack to a successful end."

The London Gazette, 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918

12<sup>th</sup> August 1918

**THOMAS DINESEN**

42nd Canadian Infantry Battalion

Thomas Dinesen was born in Rungsted, Denmark, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 1892. He was educated at Rungsted State School and at the Polytechnical School, Copenhagen, graduated as a civil engineer in 1916. After having tried in vain to enlist in the French and the British armies he went to America in 1917. He was unable to enlist in the United States forces, but through the Canadian Recruiting Office in New York he enlisted in the Canadian Army as a private in the Black Watch. In France he was sent to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. The action which awarded him the Victoria Cross took place at Parvillers during the battle of Amiens on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 1918. He also was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for the same action. He received his commission as first lieutenant on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1918. Following the war Thomas Dinesen moved to Kenya Colony where he was engaged as a farmer and civil engineer from 1920 to 1925. The he returned to Denmark, where he pursued a literary career. His present address is Vaenget, Hilleroed, Denmark

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous and continuous bravery displayed during ten hours of hand-to-hand fighting, which resulted in the capture of over a mile of strongly garrisoned and stubbornly defended enemy trenches.

Five times in succession he rushed forward alone, and single-handed put hostile machine-guns out of action, accounting for twelve of the enemy with bomb and bayonet. His sustained valour and resourcefulness inspired his comrades at a very critical stage of the action and were an example to all."

The London Gazette, 26<sup>th</sup> October 1918

12<sup>th</sup> August 1918

ROBERT SPALL

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

Robert Spall was born in Suffolk, County, England, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 1890. When he was two years old his parents moved to Canada. Just prior to the First World War he was working in an office in Winnipeg. In August 1915 he joined a draft of the 90<sup>1</sup> Winnipeg Rifles and later transferred to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. The action described in the citation took place near Parvillers, France, on the 12<sup>1</sup> and 13<sup>1</sup> of August 1918, during the advance in front of Amiens. Sergeant Spall has no known grave. His name is inscribed on the Vimy Memorial in France.

CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice when, during an enemy counter-attack, his platoon was isolated. There upon Sgt. Spall took a Lewis gun and, standing upon the parapet, fired upon the advancing enemy, inflicting very severe casualties. He then came down the trench directing the men into a sap seventy-five yards from the enemy. Picking up another Lewis gun this gallant N.C.O. again climbed the parapet, and by his fire held up the enemy. It was while holding up the enemy at this point that he was killed.

Sgt. Spall deliberately gave his life in order to extricate his platoon from a most difficult situation, and it was owing to his bravery that the platoon was saved."

The London Gazette, 26<sup>th</sup> October 1918

26<sup>th</sup> August 1918

**CHARLES SMITH RUTHERFORD**

5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles

Charles Smith Rutherford was born in Haldimand Township, Ontario, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1892. He was educated at Dudley Public School and spent his early years on the farm. He enlisted in The Queen's Own Rifles on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1916, and shortly afterwards transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles. Lieutenant Rutherford was awarded the Military Medal at Passchendaele in 1917 and the Military Cross at Arville on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1918. The action described in the citation took place at Monchy-le-Preux, France, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 1918. When the Second World War broke out Charles Smith Rutherford enlisted in the Veteran's Guard of Canada as a lieutenant. Since demobilisation in 1946 he has been postmaster at Colborne, Ontario.

**CITATION**

:For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty. When in command of an assaulting party Lt. Rutherford found himself a considerable distance ahead of his men, and at the same moment observed a fully armed strong enemy party outside a "Pill-Box" ahead of him. He beckoned to them with his revolver to come to him, in return they waved to him to come to them. This he boldly did, and informed them that they were prisoners. This fact an enemy officer disputed, and invited Lieut. Rutherford to enter the "Pill-Box", an invitation he discreetly declined. By masterly bluff, however, he persuaded the enemy that they were surrounded, and the whole party of 45, including two officers and three machine-guns, surrendered to him.

Subsequently he induced the enemy officer to stop the fire of an enemy machine-gun close by, and Lt. Rutherford took advantage of the opportunity to hasten the advance of his men to his support.

Lt. Rutherford then observed that the right assaulting party was held up by



heavy machine-gun fire from another "Pill-Box". Indicating an objective to the remainder of his party he attacked the "Pill-Box" with a Lewis gun section and captured a further 35 prisoners with machine-guns, thus enabling the party to continue their advance.

The bold and gallant action of this officer contributed very materially to the capture of the main objective and a wonderful inspiration to all ranks in pressing home the attack on a very strong position."

The London Gazette, 15<sup>th</sup> November 1918

27<sup>th</sup> August 1918

**WILLIAM HEW CLARK-KENNEDY**

24<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

William Hew Clark-Kennedy was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1879. He was educated at St Andrew's College, Southborough, Kent, and came to Canada in 1902 to the Canadian office of a Scottish life assurance company, which he joined in 1896. Prior to this, he had served as a lieutenant in the Imperial Yeomanry and the Rhodesian Horse during the South African War. In 1914 he enlisted in the Royal Highlanders of Canada in Montreal, and went to France with the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, C.E.F. He served throughout the war, was four times Mentioned in Dispatches, and besides the Victoria Cross he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1915 and a Companionship in the Order of St Michael and St George in 1917. He also received the French Croix de Guerre. In November of 1945 he retired from the insurance business after fifty years' service. He now resides in Montreal.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and skilful leading on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August 1918, when in command of his battalion.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> he led his battalion with great bravery and skill from Crow and Aigrette trenches in front of Wancourt to the attack on the Fresnes-Rouvroy line. From the outset the brigade, of which the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion was a central unit, came under very heavy shell and machine-gun fire, suffering many casualties, especially amongst leaders. Units became partially disorganized and the advance was checked. Appreciating the vital importance to the brigade front of a led by the centre, and undismayed by annihilating fire. Lt. Col. Clark-Kennedy, by sheer personality and initiative, inspired his men and led them forward. On several occasions he set an outstanding example by leading parties straight at the machine-gun

nests which were holding up the advance and overcame these obstacles.

By controlling the direction of neighbouring units and collecting men who had lost their leaders, he rendered valuable services in strengthening the line, and enabled the whole brigade front to move forward.

By the afternoon, very largely due to the determined leadership of this officer and disregard for his own life, his battalion, despite their heavy losses, had made good the maze of trenches west of Chersiy and Chersiy Village, had crossed the Sensee River bed, and had occupied Occident Trench in front of the heavy wire of the Fresnes-Rouvroy line; under continuous fire he then went up and drove his line until far into the night, improving the position, giving wonderful encouragement to his men, and sent back very clear reports.

On the next day he again showed valorous leadership in the attack, on the Fresnes-Rouvroy line and Upton Wood. Though severely wounded soon after the start he refused aid, and dragged himself to a shell-hole, from which he could observe. Realising that his exhausted troops could advance no further he established a strong line of defence and thereby prevented the loss of most important ground. Despite intense pain and serious loss of blood he refused to be evacuated for over five hours, by which time he had established the line in a position from which it was possible for the relieving troops to continue the advance.

It is impossible to overestimate the results achieved by the valour and leadership of this officer."

The London Gazette, 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918

1<sup>st</sup> September 1918

CLAUDE JOSEPH PATRICK NUNNEY

38<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Claude Joseph Patrick Nunney was born in Dublin, Ireland, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1882. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal at Vimy Ridge in April 1917 and the Military Medal at Avion in the same year. Private Nunney died of the wounds noted in the citation on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. He is buried in Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Aubigny-en-Artois, France. His medals and decorations are in display at the armoury in Cornwall, Ontario.

CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery the operations against the Drocourt-Queant line on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1918.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, when his battalion was in the vicinity of Vis-en-Artois, preparatory to the advance, the enemy laid down a heavy barrage and counter-attacked. Pte. Nunney, who was at this time at company headquarters, immediately on his own initiative proceeded through the barrage to the company outpost lines, going from post to post and encouraging the men by his own fearless example. The enemy, were repulsed and a critical situation was saved. During the attack on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September his dash continually placed him in advance of his companions, and his fearless example undoubtedly helped greatly to carry the company forward to its objective.

He displayed throughout the highest degree of valour until severely wounded."

The London Gazette, 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1918

**BELLENDEN SEYMOUR HUTCHESON**

Canadian Army Medical Corps

Bellenden Seymour Hutcheson was born in Mount Carmel, Illinois, on the 216<sup>th</sup> of December 1883. He attended the Mound City High School and later graduated from North-Western Medical School, Illinois. He enlisted in the 97<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, and went overseas with them. He was awarded a Military Cross. After the war he returned to Cairo, Illinois, to accept as position on the staff of St Mary's Hospital. He also acted as surgeon to two American railroads. Dr Hutcheson died in Cairo, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1954. He is buried in the family plot at Mount Carmel.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on September 2nd, [1918], when under most intense shell, machine-gun and rifle fire, he went through the Queant-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 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 sergeant, 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."

London Gazette, 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1918

**ARTHUR GEORGE KNIGHT**

10<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Arthur George Knight was born near Lewes, Sussex, England, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 1886. A few years later he moved with his parents to Mead Vale, Redhill, Surrey, and attended St John and the Redhill Technical and Trade School. He then became an apprentice with the building firm in Redhill. In 1911 he came to Canada where he worked as a carpenter prior to the outbreak of war. Rejoined the 46<sup>1</sup> Battalion in December 1914, went overseas in the following year, and was sent to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France. He served a total of three years in France before he was fatally wounded. Sergeant Knight was awarded the Croix de Geuerre by the Belgian Government in November 1917 for his outstanding service. The action which awarded him the Victoria Cross took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1918, at Villers-lez-Cagnicourt, France. Knight and Sussex Crescents in Coventry Place, Regina, Saskatchewan, are named in his honour. He is buried in Dominion Cemetery, Hendecourt-lez-Cagnicourt, France.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery, initiative, and devotion to duty when, after an unsuccessful attack, Sgt. Knight led a bombing section forward, under very heavy fire of all descriptions, and engaged the enemy at close quarters. Seeing that his party continued to be held up, he dashed forward alone, bayoneting several of the enemy machine-gun-gunners and trench mortar crews, and forcing the remainder to retire in confusion. He then brought forward a Lewis gun and directed his fire on the retreating enemy, inflicting many casualties.

In the subsequent advance of his platoon in pursuit, Sgt. Knight saw a party of about thirty of the enemy go into a deep tunnel which led off the trench. He again dashed forward alone, and, having killed one officer and

two N.C.O.'s, he captured twenty other ranks. Subsequently he routed, single-handed, another enemy party which was opposing the advance of his platoon.

On each occasion he displayed the greatest valour under fire at very close range, and by his example of courage, gallantry and initiative was a wonderful inspiration to all.

This very gallant **N.C.O.** was subsequently fatally wounded."

The London Gazette, 15<sup>th</sup> November 1918

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1918

**WILLIAM HENRY METCALF**

16th Canadian Infantry Battalion

William Henry Metcalf was born in Waite Township in the State of Maine, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 1885. He attended grammar school in his home township. He was awarded the Military Medal for his services on the Somme on October 1916. The action which awarded him the Victoria Cross took place on the 2<sup>n</sup> September 1918, during the second Battle of Arras. On receiving his discharge he returned to Maine, where he has made his living as a mechanic. He resided in Portland, Maine, and died August, 1968.

**CDITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty in attack, when, the right flank of the battalion being held up, he [Lance-Corporal Metcalf] realized the situation and rushed forward under intense machine-gun fire to a passing Tank on the left. With his signal flag he walked in front of the Tank, directing it along the trench in a perfect hail of bullets and bombs. The machine-gun strong points were overcome, very heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and a very critical situation was relieved.

Later, although wounded, he continued to advance until ordered to get into a shell-hole and have wounds dressed.

His valour throughout was of the highest standard."

The London Gazette, 15<sup>th</sup> November 1918



2<sup>nd</sup> September 1918

CYRUS WESLEY PECK

16<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Cyrus Wesley Peck was born in Hopewell Hill, New Brunswick, on the 36<sup>th</sup> of April 1871. He was educated in the public schools of Hopewell Hill. In 1883 his family moved to New Westminster, British Columbia. He later went to Skeena, B.C., where he engaged in salmon canning, saw-mill and towing operations. Later he set himself up as a broker and general agent. During his military career he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and was Mentioned in Dispatches five times. The action which awarded him the Victoria Cross took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1918, near Cagnicourt, France, during the second Battle of Arras. Lieutenant-Colonel Peck represented Skeena in the House of Commons in the early years after the war, and in 1924 went to the British Columbia Legislature as member for the Islands. Later he acted as aide-de-camp to two of Canada's Governors-General. He now resides on Vancouver Island.

CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery and skilful leading when in attack under intense fire.

His command quickly captured the first objective, but progress to the further objective was held up by enemy machine-gun fire on his right flank.

The situation being critical in the extreme, Colonel Peck pushed forward and made a personal reconnaissance under heavy machine-gun and sniping fire, across a stretch of ground which was heavily swept by fire.

Having reconnoitred the position he returned, reorganized the battalion, and, acting on the knowledge personally gained, pushed them forward and arranged to protect his flanks. He then went out under the most intense artillery and machine-gun fire, intercepted the Tanks, gave them the

necessary directions, pointing out where they were to make for, and thus paved the way for a Canadian Infantry Battalion to push forward. To this battalion he subsequently gave requisite support.

His magnificent display of courage and fine qualities of leadership enabled the advance to be continued, although always under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, and contributed largely to the success of the brigade attack."

The London Gazette, 15<sup>th</sup> November 1918

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1918

**WALTER LEIGH RAYFIELD**

7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Walter Leigh Rayfield was born in Richmond-on-Thames, England, on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1881. He was educated in the London schools before coming to Canada. When the First World War broke out he engaged in the real estate business in Vancouver. He enlisted in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion (British Columbia Regiment). Apart from being awarded the Victoria Cross, Corporal Rayfield was also made a member of the Royal Order of the Crown of Belgium in recognition of his splendid services. On his return from overseas he spent some time in hospital in Vancouver, and later took up farming as a means of improving his health. He took a deep interest in politics, and on one accession ran for member of the Federal Parliament, being defeated by a narrow margin. He moved to Toronto, Ontario, and for some time was Sergeant-at-Arms in the Provincial Government. Later he was made Deputy-Governor of the Toronto Jail and finally became Governor of the Jail. He was also an officer in the Queen's York Rangers. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February he died very suddenly in his home in Toronto. At his request he was buried in the Soldier's Plot of Prospect Cemetery, Toronto, Ontario.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty, and initiative during the operations east of Arras from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September 1918.

Ahead of his company, he rushed a trench occupied by a large party of the enemy, personally bayoneting two and making ten prisoners.

Later he located and engaged with great skill, under constant rifle fire, an enemy sniper who was causing many casualties. He then rushed the section of trench from which the sniper had been operating, and so demoralized the by his coolness and daring that thirty others surrendered to him.

Again, regardless of his personal safety, he left cover under heavy

machine-gun fire and carried in a badly wounded comrade.

His indomitable courage, cool foresight, and daring reconnaissance were invaluable to his Company Commander and inspiration to all ranks."

The London Gazette, 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918

2<sup>nd</sup> September 1918

**JOHN FRANCIS YOUNG**

87<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

John Francis Young was born in Kidderminster, England, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1893. He joined the 87<sup>th</sup> Battalion in 1915. After the war he returned to previous position with a tobacco company in Montreal, Quebec. A few years later he developed tuberculosis and after a lengthy period in hospital at Ste. Agathe, Quebec, he died on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1929. He is buried in Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack at Drury-Arras sector on the 2<sup>n</sup> of September, 1918, when acting as a stretcher-bearer attached to "D" Company of the 87<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 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 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 organized and led stretcher parties to bring in the wounded whom he had dressed.

All through the operations of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> September Pte. Young continued to show the greatest valour and devotion to duty."

The London Gazette, 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918

27<sup>th</sup> September 1918

**SAMUEL LEWIS HONEY**

78<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Samuel Lewis Honey was born in Conn, Wellington County, Ontario, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 1894. He attended the Continuation Schools of Drayton and Princeton, and while under seventeen years of age took on the task of teaching school at the Six Nation's Indian Reserve at Brantford, Ontario. He later graduated from the Normal School at London, Ontario, taught school in Huron County, and then attended Walkerton High School, where he won a scholarship. He resumed teaching in York County, but his teaching career and his immediate plans to enroll in Victoria College were brought to an end by his enlistment on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1915. He enlisted with the 34<sup>th</sup> Battalion as a private, and went overseas in October of 1915 as a sergeant. In 1915 he was an instructor in physical training and bayonet fighting after taking a course at Aldershot. In August 1916 he went to France as a sergeant in the 78<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 1917, he was awarded the Military Medal for his activities during raids on enemy trenches and on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, after the battle of Vimy Ridge, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallant leadership after most of the officers of his company were put out of action. Immediately afterwards he was recommended for a commission and returned to the Officers' Training School in England. In October 1917 he rejoined his unit in France, remaining with it until his death on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1918. He is buried in Queant Cemetery, France.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery during the Bournal Wood operations, 27<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1918.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> September, when his company commander and all other officers had become casualties, Lt. Honey took command and skillfully

reorganized under severe fire. He continued the advance with great dash and gained the objective. Then finding that his company was suffering casualties from enfilade machine-gun fire he located the machine-gun nest and rushed it single-handed, capturing the gun and ten prisoners.

Subsequently he repelled four enemy counter-attacks, and after dark went out alone, and having located an enemy post led a party which captured the post and three guns.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> September, he led his company against a strong enemy position with great skill and daring and continued in the succeeding days of the battle to display the same high example of valour and self-sacrifice. He died of wounds received on the last day of the attack by his battalion."

The London Gazette, 6<sup>th</sup> January 1919

27 September 1918

**GEORGE FRASER KERR**

3<sup>r</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

George Fraser Kerr was born in Deseronto, Ontario, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1894. In addition to the Victoria Cross, Lieutenant Kerr had been awarded a Military Cross and a Military Medal. He died in Toronto on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1929.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and leadership during the Bourslon Wood operations on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1918. when in command of the left support company in attack.

He handled his company with great skill, and gave timely support by outflanking a machine-gun which was impeding the advance.

Later, near the Arras-Cambrai Road, the advance was again held up by a strong point. Lt. Kerr, far in advance of his company, rushed this strong point single-handed and captured four machine-guns and thirty-one prisoners.

His valour throughout this engagement was an inspiring example to all."

The London Gazette, 6<sup>th</sup> January 1919



27<sup>th</sup> September 1918

**GRAHAM THOMSON LYALL**

102<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Graham Thomson Lyall was born in Manchester, England, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 1892. He died in Scotland on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1941.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and skilful leading during operations north of Cambrai.

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1918, [Lieutenant Lyall], whilst leading his platoon against Bourslon Wood, he rendered invaluable support to the leading company, which was held up by a strong-point, which he captured, by a flank movement, together with thirteen prisoners, one field gun and four machine-guns.

Later, his platoon now much weakened by casualties, was held up by machine-guns at the southern end of Bourslon Wood. Collecting any men available, he led them towards the strong-point, and springing forward alone, rushed the position single-handed and killed the officer in charge, subsequently capturing at this point forty-five prisoners and five machine-guns. Having made good his final objective, with a further capture of forty-seven prisoners, he consolidated his position and thus protected the remainder of the company.

On October the 1<sup>st</sup> in the neighbourhood of Blecourt, when in command of a weak company, by skilful dispositions he captured a strongly defended position, which yielded eighty prisoners and seventeen machine-guns.

During two days of operations Lt. Lyall captured in all 3 officers, 182 other ranks, 26 machine-guns and one field gun, exclusive of heavy casualties inflicted. He showed throughout the utmost valour and high powers of command."

The London Gazette, 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918

28<sup>th</sup> September 1918

MILTON FOWLER GREGG

Royal Canadian Regiment

Milton Fowler Gregg was born in Mountain Dale, Kings County, New Brunswick, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1892. He was educated at the local public school, at the Provincial Normal School in Fredericton, at Acadia University and at Dalhousie University. Prior to the First World War he taught school in New Brunswick. In September 1914 he enlisted as a private in the 13<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion (Black Watch) and proceeded overseas. In 1916 he was commissioned in the field and posted to the Royal Canadian Regiment. In action he was awarded the Military Cross at Lens in 1917, a Bar to the Cross at Arras in 1918 and the Victoria Cross at Cambrai in the same year. Following the war he went into private business, and in 1934 was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms at the House of Commons, Ottawa. During the Second World War he served with the Royal Canadian Regiment in England from December 1919 to 1942. He was then promoted to colonel and sent to command the Officers' Training Corps at Brockville, Ontario. In 1943 he became brigadier and commandant of the Canadian School of Infantry at Vernon, B.C., a post he held until the end of the war. Following the war he served for several years as President of the University of New Brunswick, and then received a call to the Federal Cabinet, where he has been successively Minister of Fisheries, Minister of Veterans' Affairs and Minister of Labour, which post he now holds. He maintains residences in Fredericton and Ottawa.

CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery and during the operations near Cambrai 27<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1918.

On 28<sup>th</sup> September. When the advance of the brigade was held up by fire from both flanks and by thick, uncut wire, he crawled forward alone and

explored the wire until he found a small gap, through which he subsequently led his men, and forced an entry into the enemy trench. The enemy counter-attacked in force, and, through lack of bombs, this situation became critical. Although wounded, Lt. Gregg returned alone under terrific fire and collected a further supply. Then rejoining his party, which by this time was much reduced in numbers, and, in spite of a second wound, he reorganized his men and led them with greatest determination against the enemy trenches, which he finally cleared.

He personally killed or wounded 11 of the enemy and took 25 prisoners, in addition to 12 machine-guns captured in this trench. Remaining with his company in spite of wounds, he again on the 30<sup>th</sup> September led his men in attack until severely wounded. The outstanding valour of this officer saved many casualties and enabled the advance to continue."

The London Gazette, 6<sup>th</sup> January 1919

29<sup>th</sup> September 1918

## **JOHN MACGREGOR**

<sup>2nd</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles

John MacGregor was born in Nairn, near Inverness, Scotland, on the 11<sup>n</sup> of February 1889. He came to Canada in 1909 entering the contracting business in British Columbia. John MacGregor was not a professional soldier, but he was a superb fighting man and an extremely modest one as well. His qualities as a soldier were summed up by General Sir Arthur Currie, Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian Army, as follows; 'MacGregor ...combines good judgment with sound military knowledge and wide experience. Good power of command and leadership; he inspires men. Excellent character, good appearance, strong personality, tactful, resourceful and co-operative.' He was, perhaps, Canada's most decorated soldier. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1916 as a member of the ranks, was granted a commission and awarded the Military Cross as a lieutenant. He also was awarded a Bar to the Military Cross as a captain, and finally, the Victoria Cross. During the Second World War he once more desired active service. He enlisted unobtrusively as a private in the Canadian Scottish Regiment, but was soon promoted and was about to go to Hong Kong with the Second Battalion when plans were changed. He then became lieutenant-colonel commanding the huge training camp at Wainwright, Alberta. Following the Second World War he received a distinction which he valued most highly, the Efficiency Decoration (E.D.), awarded for his services in two wars. Lieutenant-Colonel MacGregor returned to his home in Powell River, British Columbia, where he established a concrete plant at Cranberry Lake. He died in Powell River Hospital on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1952, after a lengthy illness. Among those attending his funeral were: Major-General G.R. Pearkes, V.C., Lieutenant-Colonel C.W. Peck, V.C., and Captain Charles Train, V.C., a British Army Officer. Lieutenant-Colonel MacGregor was buried in Cranberry Lake Cemetery, Cranberry Lake, British Columbia.

## CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery, leadership and self-sacrificing devotion to duty near Cambrai from the 29<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1918.

He [Captain MacGregor] led his company under intense fire, and when the advance was checked by machine-guns, although wounded, pushed on and located the enemy guns. He then ran forward in broad daylight, in face of heavy fire from all directions, and, with rifle and bayonet, single-handed, put the enemy crews out of action, killing four and taking eight prisoners. His prompt action saved many casualties and enabled the advance to continue.

After he reorganized his command under heavy fire, he rendered most useful support to neighbouring troops. When the enemy were showing stubborn resistance, he went along the line regardless of danger, organized the platoons, took command of the leading waves, and continued the advance. Later, after a personal daylight reconnaissance under heavy fire, he established his company in Neuville St Remy, thereby greatly assisting the advance into Tilley. Throughout the operations Capt. MacGregor displayed magnificent bravery and heroic leadership."

The London Gazette, 6<sup>th</sup> January 1919

1<sup>st</sup> October 1918

**WILLIAM**

**MERRIFIELD**

4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

William Merrifield was born in Brentwood, England, on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1890. He was awarded a Military Medal for services at Passchendaele on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1917. He died in Toronto on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1943, and was buried in West Korah Cemetery, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during the attack near Abancourt on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1918. When his men were held up by an intense fire from two machine-gun emplacements, he attacked them both single-handed. Dashing from shell-hole to shell-hole he killed the occupants of the first post, and, although wounded, continued to attack the second post and with a bomb killed the occupants. He refused to be evacuated, and led his platoon until again severely wounded.

Sgt. Merrifield has served with distinction on many former occasions and throughout the action of the 1<sup>st</sup> October showed the highest qualities of valour and leadership."

The London Gazette, 6<sup>th</sup> January 1919

8<sup>th</sup> October 1918

**COULSON NORMAN**

**MITCHELL**

1<sup>st</sup> Tunnelling Company, Canadian Engineers

Coulson Norman Mitchell was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1889. He graduated from the University of Manitoba in engineering in 1912 and joined a Canadian company working on projects in Manitoba and British Columbia. Rejoined the Canadian Engineers in November 1914. He was awarded a Military Cross at "The Bluff, Ypres, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1916, and the Victoria Cross at Cambrai on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of October 1918. During the Second World War he served with the Royal Canadian Engineering at Chilliwack, British Columbia, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. At present Colonel Mitchell is an executive of a Canadian corporation. He is also active in the Canadian Legion with the 'Norman Mitchell V.C. Branch'. He lives at Beaurepaire, Quebec.

**CITATION**

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the night of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1918 at Canal de L'Escant north-east of Cambrai.

He [Captain Mitchell] led a small party ahead of the first wave of infantry in order to examine the various bridges on the line of approach and, if possible, to prevent demolition.

On reaching the canal he found the bridge already blown up. Under a heavy barrage he crossed to the next bridge, where he cut a number of "lead" wires. Then total darkness, and unaware of the position of the enemy at the bridgehead, he dashed across the main bridge over the canal. This bridge was found to be heavily charged for demolition and whilst Capt. Mitchell, assisted by his N.O.C., was cutting wires, the enemy attempted to rush the bridge in order to blow up the charges, where-upon he at once dashed to the assistance of his sentry, who had been wounded, killed three of the enemy, captured 12, and maintained the bridgehead until reinforced.

Then under heavy fire he continued the task of cutting wires and removing charges, which he well knew might at any moment have been fired by the enemy.

It was entirely due to his valour and decisive action that this important bridge across the canal, was saved from destruction."

The London Gazette, 31<sup>st</sup> January 1919

11<sup>th</sup> October 1918

WALLACE LLOYD ALGIE

20<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Wallace Lloyd Algie was born in Alton, Ontario, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1891. He was educated at Alton Public School and later entered the banking business, working in branches in Toronto and Vancouver. He is buried in Niagara Cemetery, five miles north-east of Cambrai, France.

#### CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1918, north-east of Cambrai, when with attacking troops which came under heavy enfilade machine-gun fire from a neighbouring village.

Rushing forward with nine volunteers, he shot the crew of an enemy machine-gun, and, turning it on the enemy, enabled his party to reach the village, He then rushed another machine-gun, killed the crew, captured an officer and 10 enemy, and thereby cleared the end of the village.

Lt. Algie, having established his party, went back for reinforcements, but was killed when leading them forward. His valour and personal initiative in the face of the intense fire saved many lives and enabled the position to be held."

The London Gazette, 31<sup>st</sup> January 1919



14<sup>th</sup> October 1918     **THOMAS RICKETTS**

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

Thomas Ricketts was born in Middle Arm, White Bay, Newfoundland, in April 1901. He enlisted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1916, when he was fifteen and a half years of age, and went overseas in January 1917, proceeding to France in June of the same year. He was wounded at Cambrai in November 1917, but returned to action in April 1918. In October he was awarded the Victoria Cross at Ledeghem, Belgium. He was the youngest of Canada's V.C.'s and probably the second youngest in the British Empire. Since demobilization in 1919 he resided in St John's, Newfoundland, where he is in business as a druggist.

#### CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1918, during the advance from Ledeghem, when the attack was temporarily held up by heavy hostile fire and the platoon to which he belonged suffered severe casualties from the fire of a battery at point-blank range.

Pte. Ricketts at once volunteered to go forward with his section commander and a Lewis gun to attempt to out-flank the battery. Advancing by short rushes under heavy fire from enemy machine-guns with the hostile battery, their ammunition was exhausted when still 300 yards from the battery. The enemy, seeing an opportunity to get their field-guns away, began to bring up their gun teams. Pte. Ricketts, at once realized the situation, doubled back 100 yards under the heaviest machine-gun fire, procured further ammunition, and dashed back again to the Lewis gun, and by very accurate fire drove the enemy and gun teams into a farm.

His platoon then advanced without casualties, and captured the four field guns, four machine-guns and eight prisoners.

A fifth field-gun was subsequently intercepted by fire and captured.

By his presence of mind in anticipating the enemy intention and his utter disregard of personal safety, Pte. Ricketts secured the further supply of

ammunition which directly resulted in these important captures and undoubtedly saved many lives."

The London Gazette, 6<sup>th</sup> January 1919

97

27<sup>th</sup> October 1918

### **WILLIAM GEORGE BARKER**

Royal Air Force

William George Barker was born at Dauphin, Manitoba, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1894. He was educated there and later in Winnipeg. An expert with the rifle and an accomplished horseman, Barker joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles as a private. Later he became a machine-gunner when the Mounted Rifles were converted to infantry. He crossed to France in September 1915 and served as a corporal through many weeks of static trench duty. Intrigued by the fighting in the air, he secured a transfer to the Flying Corps as an observer with the rank of corporal. In April 1916 he was promoted to lieutenant, and thereafter became an expert in all phases of Flying Corps work. He was awarded the Military Cross in September 1916 for his heroic action as an observer-gunner during a reconnaissance flight. Shortly after, he went to England to become a pilot. He returned to action in January 1917, and was soon raised to the post of flight-commander with the rank of captain. As a captain-pilot he achieved a distinguished record in the air over France and Italy, being awarded the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Order and Bar, the Military Cross and two Bars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the French Croix de Guerre, the Italian Cross of Valour, and promotion to the rank of lieutenant-colonel at the age of twenty-four, with destruction of fifty enemy planes to his credit. Lieutenant-Colonel Barker returned to Canada in the latter part of 1919, and in 1920 joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He spent the next four years overseas on liaison work with the British Air Ministry. In 1924 he resigned from the Air Force to go into the tobacco-raising business near Simcoe, Ontario. In 1930 he returned to aviation as President of an aviation corporation in Montreal. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1930, while demonstrating a new type of two-seater to the Department of National Defence at Ottawa, he was killed when his plane

crashed at Rockliffe Airport. He was buried three days later in Toronto with full military honours.

## CITATION

"On the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1918, this officer observed an enemy two-seater over the Foret de Mornal. He attacked this machine, and after a short burst it broke up in the air. At the same time a Fokker biplane attacked

98

him, and he was wounded in the right thigh, but managed, despite this, to shoot down the enemy plane in flames. He then found himself in the middle of a large formation of Fokkers, who attacked him from all directions, and was again severely wounded in the left thigh, but succeeded in driving down two of the enemy in a spin.

He lost consciousness after this and his machine fell out of control. On recover}' he found himself being again attacked heavily by a large formation, and singling out one machine, he deliberately charged and drove down in flames.

During the fight his left elbow was shattered and he again fainted, and on regaining consciousness he found himself still being attacked, but notwithstanding that he was now severely wounded in both legs and his left arm shattered, he dived at the nearest plane and shot it down in flames.

Being greatly exhausted, he dived out of the fight to regain our lines, but was met by another formation, which attacked and endeavoured to cut him off, but after a hard fight he succeeded in breaking up this formation and reached our lines, where he crashed on landing.

This combat, in which Major Barker destroyed four enemy machines (three of them in flames), brought his total successes up to fifty enemy machines destroyed, and is a notable example of the exceptional bravery and disregard of danger which this very gallant officer has always displayed throughout his distinguished career.

Major Barker was awarded the Military Cross on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917, first Bar on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1917, the Distinguished Service Order on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 1918, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bar to Military Cross on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1918, and Bar to Distinguished Service Order on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 1918."

The London Gazette, 30<sup>th</sup> November 1918

1<sup>st</sup> November 1918

HUGH CAIRNS

46<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

Hugh Cairns was born in Ashington, Northumberland, England, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 1896. He came to Canada in May 1911, and became an apprentice plumber in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He went overseas with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, later transferring to the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal at Vimy Ridge, and was awarded the Legion of Honour by the Government of France. In the City Park in Saskatoon a monument now stands in his memory, and in March 1936 the town of Valenciennes, France, in a gesture of friendship to Canada and in memory of a gallant fighting man, renamed one of its principal streets 'Avenue Sergeant Hugh Cairns'. This is believed to be the first instance of a French town paying such a tribute to the memory of anyone under officer rank in the Allied Services. Sergeant Cairns is buried in Auberchicourt British Cemetery, seven miles east of Douai, France.

#### CITATION

"For most conspicuous bravery before Valenciennes on 1<sup>st</sup> November. 1918, when a machine-gun opened fire on his platoon. Without a moment's hesitation Sgt. Cairns seized a Lewis gun and single-handed, in the face of direct fire, rushed the post, killed the crew of five, and captured the gun. Later, when the line was held up by machine-gun fire, he again rushed forward, killing twelve enemy and capturing eighteen and two guns.

Subsequently, when the attack was held up by machine-gun and field-guns, although wounded, he led a small party to out flank them, killing many, forcing about 30 to surrender, and capturing all the guns.

After consolidation he went with a battle patrol to exploit Marly and forced 60 enemy to surrender. Whilst disarming this party he was severely wounded.

Nevertheless, he opened fire and inflicted heavy losses. Finally he was rushed by about 20 enemy and collapsed from weakness and loss of blood.

Throughout the operation he showed the highest degree of valour, and his leadership greatly contributed to the success of the attack. He died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November from wounds.

The London Gazette, 31<sup>st</sup> January 1919

# THE SECOND WORLD

# WAR

19<sup>th</sup> December 1941

SGT. MAJOR JOHN ROBERTS

OSBORN

1 st Battalion The Winnipeg Grenadiers

John Roberts Osborn was born in Norfolk England on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 1899. He served in the First World War as a seaman in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and saw action at the Battle of Jutland in May 1916. At the end of the war he moved to Saskatchewan where he farmed for two years at Wapella. He then worked with the maintenance division of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Manitoba where he married and had five children. He joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers in 1933 and was called to active duty on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1939. At forty-two years of age he was the second oldest VC recipient in the Second World War. Company Sergeant-Major Osborn has no known grave but his name appears on the Hong Kong Memorial. His medal is on display at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

## CITATION

"At Hong Kong on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1941, a company of the Winnipeg Grenadiers to which Company Sergeant-Major Osborn belonged, became divided during an attack on Mount Butler, a hill rising steeply above sea level. A part of the company led by Company Sergeant-Major Osborn captured the hill at the point of the bayonet and held it for three hours when, owing to the superior numbers of the enemy and to fire from an unprotected flank, the position became untenable. Company Sergeant-Major Osborn and a small group covered the withdrawal, and when

their turn came to fall back Osborn, single-handed, engaged the enemy while the remainder successfully joined the company. Company Sergeant-Major Osborn had to run the gauntlet of heavy rifle and machine-gun fire. With no consideration for his own safety he assisted and directed stragglers to the new company position, exposing himself to heavy enemy fire to cover their retirement. Whenever danger threatened he was there to encourage his men.

101

During the afternoon the company was cut off from the battalion and completely surrounded by the enemy, who were able to approach to within grenade throwing distance of the slight depression which the company was holding. Several enemy grenades were thrown which Company Sergeant-Major Osborn picked up and threw back. The enemy threw a grenade which landed in a position where it was impossible to pick up and return it in time. Shouting a warning to his comrades this gallant Warrant Officer threw himself on the grenade which exploded, killing him instantly. His self-sacrifice undoubtedly saved the lives of many others.

Company Sergeant-Major Osborn was an inspiring example to all throughout the defence which he assisted so magnificently in maintaining against an overwhelming enemy force for over eight and a half hours, and in his death displayed the highest quality of heroism and self-sacrifice.

The London Gazette, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1946

8<sup>th</sup> November 1942

**FREDERICK THORNTON PETERS**

Royal Navy

Frederick Thornton Peters was born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1889. He was educated at St. Peter's Private School, later went to school in Victoria, British Columbia, and from there to Naval School in England. He served as a midshipman in the Royal Navy, and during the First World War was decorated with the Distinguished Service Order and the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry in action. Following the action which awarded him the Victoria Cross on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1942, he was proceeding to England when the plane he was in crashed and he was killed. He has no known grave, but his name appears on the Naval Memorial at Portsmouth, England.

**CITATION**

"Captain Peters was in the "suicide charge" by two little cutters at Oran. "Walney" and "Hartland" were two ex-American coastguard cutters which were lost in a gallant attempt to force the boom defences in the harbour of Oran during the landings on the North African coast. Captain Peters led his force through the boom in the face of point-blank fire from shore batteries, destroyer and a cruiser - a feat which was described as one of the great episodes of naval history. The "Walney" reached the jetty disabled and ablaze, and went down with her colours flying. Blinded in one eye, Captain Peters was the only survivor of the seventeen men on the bridge of the "Walney". He was taken prisoner but was later released when Oran was captured. On being liberated from goal, he was carried through the streets where the citizens hailed him with flowers.

The London Gazette, 18<sup>th</sup> May 1943



14<sup>th</sup> December 1943

PAUL TRIQUET

Le Royal 22e Regiment

Paul Triquet was born in Cabano, Quebec, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1910. He attended Cabano Academy and later took six years of night school in Quebec City. While at school he was a member of the Cabano Cadet Corps which his father organized and trained, so he was keenly interested in military training from an early age. He enlisted as a private in the 22e Regiment on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1927 and received rapid promotion. The action which awarded him the Victoria Cross has been described as a "magnificent flash of greatness". He was also awarded a French decoration - Chevalier of the Legion of Honour - for the same action. In 1947 he retired from the active army after twenty-two years and became a district sales manager for a forest products company in Quebec until 1951, when he joined the Reserve Army as Commanding Officer of the Regiment de Levis (R.F.). In 1954 he became Colonel Paul Triquet, commanding the 8<sup>th</sup> Militia Group. Mr. Triquet retired in Florida. He died on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1980 and is buried in Quebec City.

#### CITATION

"For determined leadership and example. The capture of the key road junction on the main Ortona-Orsogna lateral was entirely dependent on securing the hamlet of Casa Berardi. Both this and a gully in front of it had been turned by the Germans into formidable strong points defended by infantry and tanks.

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 1943, Captain Triquet's company of the Royal 22e Regiment with the support of a squadron of a Canadian Armoured Regiment was given the task of crossing the gully and securing Casa Berardi. Difficulties were encountered from the outset. The gully was held in strength and on approaching it the force came under heavy fire from

machine-guns and mortars. All the company officers and 50 per cent of the men were killed or wounded. Showing superb contempt for the enemy, Captain Triquet went around reorganizing the remainder and encouraging them with the words, "Never mind them, they can't shoot". Finally when enemy infiltration was observed on all sides shouting, "There are enemy in front of us, behind us and on our flanks, there is only one safe place - that is on the objective," he dashed forward and with his men following him broke through the enemy resistance. In this action four tanks were destroyed and several enemy machine-gun posts silenced.

Against bitter and determined defence and under heavy fire, Captain Triquet and his company, in close co-operation with the tanks, forced their way on until a position was reached on the outskirts of Casa Berardi. By this time the strength of the company was reduced to 2 sergeants and 15 men. In expectation of a counter-attack Captain Triquet at once set about organizing his handful of men into a defensive perimeter around the remaining tanks and passed the *mot d'ordre, Us ne passeront pas*. A German counter-attack supported by tanks developed almost immediately. Captain Triquet, ignoring the heavy fire, was everywhere encouraging his men and directing the defence and by using whatever weapons were to hand personally accounted for several of the enemy. This and subsequent attacks were beaten off with heavy losses, and Captain Triquet and his small force held out against overwhelming odds until the remainder of the battalion took Casa Berardi and relieved them the next day.

Throughout the whole of this engagement Captain Triquet showed the most magnificent courage and cheerfulness under heavy fire. Wherever the action was the hottest he was often seen shouting encouragement to his men and organizing the defence. His utter disregard of danger, his cheerfulness and tireless devotion to duty were a constant source of inspiration to them. His tactical skill and leadership enabled them, although reduced by casualties to a mere handful, to continue their advance against bitter resistance and to hold their gains against determined counter-attacks. It was due to him that Casa Berardi was captured and the way opened for the attack on the vital road junction."

The London Gazette, 6<sup>th</sup> March 1944

16<sup>th</sup> February 1944

## **CHARLES FERGUSON HOEY**

### **The Lincolnshire Regiment**

Charles Ferguson Hoey was born in Duncan, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1914. He was educated at the Duncan Grammar School and at the Duncan High School. In April 1933 he went to England with intention of making the army his career. He first enlisted in the West Kent Regiment, won a cadetship to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst and went there in September 1935. He graduated from Sandhurst in December 1936 and, after a brief visit home to Duncan, joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, the Lincolnshire Regiment, which is now the Royal Lincolnshires following distinguished service fighting in Burma. He transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Lincolnshires, then in India and sailed for there in September 1937. He went to Burma with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in 1942 and served there until his death in February 1944. He was awarded the Military Cross in July 1943 for his outstanding service at Maungdaw during a raid on a Japanese position. Major Hoey is buried in Taukkyan Cemetery, Rangoon, Burma. His Victoria Cross is on display at the Sabraon Barrack in Lincoln, England.

### **CITATION**

"In Burma, on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 1944, Major Hoey-'s company formed a part of a force which was ordered to capture a position at all costs.

After a night march through enemy held territory the force was met at the foot of the position by heavy machine-gun fire.

Major Hoey personally led his company under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire right up to the objective. Although wounded at least twice in the leg and head, he seized a Bren gun from one of his men and firing from the hip, led his company on to the objective. In spite of his wounds the company had difficulty keeping up with him, and Major reached the enemy

strong post first, where he killed all the occupants before being mortally wounded.

Major Hoey's outstanding gallantry and leadership, his total disregard of personal safety and his grim determination to reach the objective resulted in the capture of this vital position".

The London Gazette, 18<sup>th</sup> May 1944

24<sup>th</sup> May 1944

## JOHN KEEPER MAHONY

### The Westminister Regiment (Motor)

John Keefer Mahony was born in New Westminister, British Columbia, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1911. He received his education at the Duke of Connaught High School, New Westminister and then entered the world of journalism as a reporter with the "Vancouver Province". Prior to the outbreak of war he had been an officer in the Westminister Regiment of the militia and he was among the first to enlist for active service. On the cessation of hostilities he remained in the Army until 1962 serving successively as Commandant Cadet Officer of the Western Command, Director of Publications for the Canadian Army and Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General of the Western Ontario area. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1954, Lieutenant-Colonel Mahony went to Washington, D.C. as Canadian Army Liaison Officer. He retired to London, Ontario where he engaged in youth work. At his own request, he was buried without a military funeral. He died on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 1990.

### CITATION

"On the 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1944, "A" company of the Westminister Regiment (Motor) under the command of Major Mahony, was ordered to establish the initial bridgehead across the River Melfa.

The enemy still had strong forces of tanks, self-propelled guns and infantry holding defensive positions on the east side of the river. Despite this, Major Mahony personally led his company down to and across the river, being with the leading section. Although the crossing was made in full view of and under heavy fire from enemy machine-gun posts on the right rear and left front, he personally directed each section into its proper position on the west bank with the greatest coolness and confidence. The crossing was made and a small bridgehead was established on ground where it was

only possible to dig shallow weapons pits. From 1530 hours the company maintained itself in the face of enemy fire and attack until 2030 hours, when the remaining companies and supporting weapons were able to cross the river and reinforce them.

The bridgehead was enclosed on three sides by an 88 mm. self-propelled gun 450 yards to the right, a battery of four 2cm. A. A. guns 100 yards to the left, a Spandau 100 yards to the left of it, to the left of the Spandau a second 88 mm. self-propelled gun, approximately a company of infantry with mortars and machine-guns on the left of the 88 mm. gun. From all these weapons, Major Mahony's company was constantly under fire until it eventually succeeded in knocking out the self-propelled equipment and the infantry on the left flank.

Shortly after the bridgehead had been established, the enemy counter-attacked with infantry supported by tanks and self-propelled guns. The counter-attack was beaten off by the company with its P.I.A.T.'s(1), 2" mortars and grenades, due to the skill with which Major Mahony had organized his defences. With absolute fearlessness and disregard for his own safety, Major Mahony personally directed the fire of his P.I.A.T.'s throughout this action, encouraging and exhorting his men. By this time, the company strength had been reduced to 60 men, and all but one of the Platoon Officers had been wounded. Scarcely an hour later, enemy tanks formed up about 500 yards in front of the bridgehead and in company with about a company of infantry, launched a second counter-attack. Major Mahony, determined to hold the position at all costs, went from section to section with words of encouragement, personally directing fire of mortars and other weapons.

At one stage, a section was pinned down in the open by accurate and intense machine-gun fire. Major Mahony crawled forward to their position, and by throwing smoke grenades, succeeded in extricating the section from its position with the loss of only one man. This counter-attack was finally beaten off with the destruction of three enemy self-propelled guns and one Panther tank.

Early in the action, Major Mahony was wounded in the head and twice in the leg, but he refused medical aid and continued to direct the defence

of the bridgehead, despite the fact that movement of any kind caused him extreme pain. It was only when the remaining companies of the regiment had crossed the river to support him that he allowed his wounds to be dressed and even then refused to be evacuated, staying instead with his company.

The forming and holding of a bridgehead across the river was vital to the whole Canadian Corps action, and failure would have meant delay, a repetition of the attack, probably involving heavy losses in men, material and time, and would have given the enemy a breathing space which might have broken the impetus of the Corps' advance.

Major Mahony, knowing this, never allowed the thought of failure or withdrawal to enter his mind, and infused his spirit and determination into all his men. At the first sign of hesitation or faltering, Major Mahony was there to encourage, by his own example, those who were feeling the strain of battle. The enemy perceived that this officer was the soul of the defence and consequently fired at him constantly with all weapons, from rifle to 88 mm. guns, Major Mahony completely ignored the enemy fire and with great courage and absolute disregard for personal danger, commanded his company with such great confidence, energy and skill that the enemy's efforts to destroy the bridgehead were all defeated.

The great courage shown by Major Mahony in this action will forever be an inspiration to his Regiment and to the Canadian Army."

The London Gazette, 13<sup>th</sup> July 1944

12<sup>th</sup> June 1944

P.O. ANDREW CHARLES MYNARSKI

Royal Canadian Air Force

Andrew Charles Mynarski was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 1916, the son of Polish immigrants, He was educated at King Edward and Isaac Newton Elementary Schools and at St. John's Technical School. To help support his family after his father's death, he worked for four years as a leather worker in Winnipeg. In November 1941 he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He took his training at Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta, and MacDonald, Manitoba, graduating in 1942 as a mid-upper air-gunner. He went overseas in December 1942. He is buried in Meharicourt Cemetery, France. Pilot Officer Mynarski was the first member of the R.C.A.F. to be decorated with the Victoria Cross in the Second World War. His Victoria Cross is on display at the Air Command Headquarter in Winnipeg.

CITATION

"Pilot Officer Mynarski was the mid-upper gunner of a Lancaster aircraft, detailed to attack a target at Cambrai in France, on the night of 12<sup>th</sup> June 1944. The aircraft was attacked from below and astern by an enemy fighter and ultimately came down in flames.

As an immediate result of the attack, both port engines failed. Fire broke out between the mid-upper turret and the rear turret, as well as in the port wing. The flames soon became fierce and the captain ordered the crew to abandon the aircraft.

Pilot Officer Mynarski left his turret and went towards the escape hatch. He then saw that the rear gunner was still in his turret and apparently unable to leave it. The turret was, in fact, immovable, since the hydraulic gear had been put out of action when the port engines failed, and the manual gear had been broken by the gunner in his attempts to escape.



Without hesitation, Pilot Officer Mynarski made his way through the flames in an endeavour to reach the rear turret and release the gunner. Whilst so doing, his parachute and his clothing, up to waist, were set on fire. All his efforts to move the turret and free the gunner were in vain. Eventually the rear gunner clearly indicated to him that there was nothing more he could do and that he should try to save his own life. Pilot Officer Mynarski reluctantly went back through the flames to the escape hatch. There, as a last gesture to the trapped gunner, he turned towards him, stood to attention in his flaming clothing and saluted, before he jumped out of the aircraft. Pilot Officer Mynarski's descent was seen by French people on the ground. Both his parachute and his clothing were on fire. He was found eventually by the French. But was so severely burned that he died from his injuries.

The rear gunner had a miraculous escape when the aircraft crashed. He subsequently testified that, had Pilot Officer Mynarski not attempted to save his comrade's life, he could have left the aircraft in safety and would, doubtless, have escaped death.

Pilot Officer Mynarski must have been fully aware that in trying to free the rear gunner he was almost certain to lose his own life. Despite this, with outstanding courage and complete disregard for his own safety, he went to the rescue. Willingly accepting the danger, Pilot Officer Mynarski lost his life by a most conspicuous act of heroism which called for valour of the highest."

The London Gazette, 11<sup>th</sup> October 1946

25<sup>th</sup> June 1944

**DAVID ERNEST HORNELL**

Royal Canadian Air Force

David Ernest Hornell was born in Mimico, Ontario, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1910. He received his early education in Mimico and later went to the Western Technical School in Toronto. He then joined a Canadian rubber company. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1941, receiving his pilots wings on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September of the same year. After further instruction in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island he was posted to the Royal Canadian Air Force station on northern Vancouver Island. The action described in the citation took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1944. He is buried in Lerwick Cemetery, Shetland Islands. His medal is on loan to the Air Command Headquarters in Winnipeg.

**CITATION**

"Flight-Lieutenant Hornell was captain and first pilot of a twin-engine amphibian aircraft engaged on an anti-submarine patrol in northern waters. The patrol had lasted for some hours when a fully-surfaced U-boat was sighted, travelling at high speed on the port beam. Flight-Lieutenant Hornell at once turned to the attack.

The U-boat altered course. The aircraft had been seen and there could be no surprise. The U-boat opened up with anti-aircraft fire which became increasingly fierce and accurate.

At a range of 1,200 yards, the front guns of the aircraft replied, then its starboard gun jammed, leaving only one gun effective. Hits were obtained on and around the conning tower of the U-boat but the aircraft itself was hit, two large holes appearing in the starboard wing.

Ignoring the enemy's fire, Flight-Lieutenant Hornell carefully manoeuvred for the attack. Oil was pouring from his starboard engine which was, by this time, on fire, as was the starboard wing, and the petrol

tanks were endangered. Meanwhile, the aircraft was hit again and again by the U-boat's guns. Holed in many places, it was vibrating violently and very difficult to control.

Nevertheless, the captain decided to press home his attack, knowing that with every moment the chances of escape for him and his gallant crew would grow more slender. He brought his aircraft down very low and released his depth charges in a perfect straddle. The bow of the U-boat was lifted out of the water, it sank and the crew were seen in the sea.

Flight-Lieutenant Hornell contrived, by superhuman efforts at the controls, to gain a little height. The fire in the starboard wing had grown more intense and the vibration had increased. The burning engine fell off. The plight of the aircraft and crew was now desperate. With the utmost coolness the captain took his aircraft into the wind and, despite manifold dangers, brought it safely down in the heavy swell. Badly damaged and blazing furiously, the aircraft rapidly settled.

After ordeal by fire came ordeal by water. There was only one serviceable dinghy and this could not hold all the crew. So they took turns in the water, holding on to the sides. Once, the dinghy capsized in the rough seas and was righted only with great difficulty. Two of the crew succumbed from exposure.

An airborne lifeboat was dropped to them but fell some 500 yards down wind. The men struggle vainly to reach it and Flight-Lieutenant Hornell, who throughout had encouraged them by his cheerfulness and inspiring leadership, proposed to swim to it, though he was nearly exhausted. He was with difficulty restrained. The survivors were finally rescued after they had been in the water for 21 hours. By this time Flight-Lieutenant Hornell was blinded and completely exhausted. He died shortly after being picked up.

Flight-Lieutenant Hornell had completed 60 operational missions, involving 600 hours' flying. He well knew the danger and difficulties attending attacks on submarines. By pressing home a skillful and successful attack against fierce opposition, with his aircraft in a precarious position, and by fortifying and encouraging his comrades in the subsequent ordeal, this officer displayed valour and devotion to duty of the highest order."

The London Gazette, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1944

4<sup>th</sup> August 1944

IAN WILLOUGHBY BAZALGETTE

Royal Air Force

Ian Willoughby Bazalgette was born in Calgary, Alberta, on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1918, son of an army pensioner. His family moved to Toronto, Ontario in 1923 where he received his early education at Balmy Beach School. Then his family moved to England and his education was completed at Rokeby, the Downs, Wimbledon and by private tutor. In September 1940 he received a commission in the Royal Artillery and the following year he transferred to the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. In the autumn of 1942 he was posted to No. 115 Squadron, R.A.F. for flying duties. In September 1943 he went to an operational training unit as an instructor and in April 1944 he was posted to No. 635 (Pathfinder) Squadron as a flight commander with the rank of Squadron Leader. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in Italy in July 1944. In 1949 a mountain in Jasper National Park was named after him. Squadron-Leader Bazalgette is buried in the military plot in Senantes Churchyard, Oise, France about twelve miles west-north-west of Beauvais.

CITATION

"On 4<sup>th</sup> August 1944, Squadron-Leader Bazzlgette was "master bomber" of a Pathfinder squadron detailed to mark an important target at Trossy St. Maximin for the main bomber force.

When nearing the target his Lancaster came under heavy anti-aircraft fire. Both starboard engines were put out of action and serious fires broke out in the fuselage and the starboard main-plane. The aimer was badly wounded.

As the deputy "master bomber" had already been shot down, the success of the attack depended on Squadron-Leader Bazalgette and this he knew. Despite the appalling conditions in his burning aircraft, he pressed on

gallantly to the target, marking and bombing it accurately. That the attack was successful was due to his magnificent effort.

After the bombs had been dropped the Lancaster dived, practically out of control. By expert airmanship and great exertion Squadron-Leader Bazalgette regained control. But the port inner engine then failed and the whole of the starboard main-plane became a mass of flames.

Squadron-Leader Bazalgette fought bravely to bring his aircraft and crew to safety. The mid-upper gunner was overcome by fumes. Squadron-Leader Bazalgette then ordered those of his crew who were able to leave by parachute to do so. He remained at the controls and attempted the almost hopeless task of landing the crippled and blazing aircraft in a last effort to save the wounded bomb aimer and helpless air gunner. With superb skill, and taking great care to avoid a small French village nearby, he brought the aircraft down safely. Unfortunately it then exploded and this gallant officer and his two comrades perished.

His heroic sacrifice marked the climax of a long career of operations against the enemy. He always chose the more dangerous and exacting roles. His courage and devotion to duty were beyond praise."

The London Gazette, 17<sup>th</sup> August 1945

18<sup>th</sup> August 1944

**DAVID VIVIAN CURRIE**

29<sup>1</sup> Canadian Armoured Reconnaissance  
Regiment (The South Alberta Regiment)

David Vivian Currie was born in Sutherland, Saskatchewan, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1912. He attended King George Public School, the Central Collegiate and Moose Jaw Technical School where he learned his trade as an automobile mechanic and welder. In 1939 he joined the militia and in January 1940 he enlisted in the regular army with the rank of lieutenant. He was promoted to captain in 1941 and to major in 1944. After the war he spent eight years in Baie Comeau, Quebec, as equipment superintendent of a paper company. In 1953 he moved to Montreal and joined a manufacturing company where he became vice-president. In 1959 Prime Minister John Diefenbaker appointed him Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons. He died in Ottawa on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1986 and is buried in Owen Sound, Ontario.

**CITATION**

"In Normandy on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 1944, Major Currie was in command of a small mixed force of Canadian tanks, self-propelled anti-tank guns and infantry which was ordered to cut one of the main escape routes from the Falaise pocket.

This force was held up by strong enemy resistance in the village of St. Lambert-sur-Dives, and two tanks were knocked out by 88 mm. guns. Major Currie immediately entered the village alone on foot at last light through the enemy outposts to reconnoiter the German defences and extricate the crews of the disabled tanks, which he succeeded in doing in spite of heavy mortar fire.

Early the following morning, without any previous artillery bombardment, Major Currie personally led an attack on the village in the

face of fierce opposition from enemy tanks, guns and infantry, and by noon had succeeded in seizing and consolidating a position half-way inside of the village.

During the next 36 hours the Germans hurled one counter-attack after another against the Canadian force, but so skillfully had Major Currie organized his defensive position that these attacks were repulsed with severe casualties to the enemy after heavy fighting.

At dusk on the 20<sup>th</sup> August the Germans attempted to mount a final assault on the Canadian positions, but the attacking force was routed before it could even be deployed. Seven enemy tanks, twelve 88 mm. guns and forty vehicles were destroyed, 300 Germans were killed, and 500 wounded and 2,100 captured. Major Currie then promptly ordered an attack and completed the capture of the village, thus denying the Chambois-Trun escape route to the remnants of two German armies cut off in the Falaise pocket.

On one occasion he personally directed the fire of his command tank on to a Tiger tank which had been harassing his position and succeeded in knocking it out. During another attack, while the guns of his command tank were taking on other targets at longer ranges, he used a rifle from the turret to deal with the individual snipers who had infiltrated to within fifty yards of his headquarters. The only time reinforcements were able to get through to his force, he himself led the forty men forward to their positions and explained the importance of their task as part of the defence. When, during the next attack, these new reinforcements withdrew under the intense fire brought down by the enemy, he personally collected them and led them forward into position again, where, inspired by his leadership, they held for the remainder of the battle. His employment of the artillery support, which became available after his original attack went in, was typical of his cool calculation of the risks involved in every situation. At one time, despite the fact that short rounds were falling within fifteen yards of his own tank, he ordered fire from medium artillery to continue because of its devastating effect upon the attacking enemy in his immediate area.

Throughout the operations the casualties to Major Currie's force were heavy. However, he never considered the possibility of failure or allowed it to enter the minds of his men. In the words of one of his non-commissioned

officers, "We knew at one stage that it was going to be a fight to the finish but he was so cool about it, it was impossible for us to get excited." Since all the officers under his command were either killed or wounded during the action, Major Currie virtually had no respite from his duties and in fact obtained only one hour's sleep during the entire period. Nevertheless he did not permit fatigue to become apparent to his troops and throughout the action took every opportunity to visit weapon pits and other defensive posts to talk to his men, to advise them as to the best use of their weapons and to cheer them with words of encouragement. When his force was finally relieved and he was satisfied that the turnover was complete he fell asleep on his feet and collapsed.

There can be no doubt that the success of the attack on and against the enemy at St. Lambert-sur-Dives can largely be attributed to this officer's coolness, inspired leadership and skillful use of the limited weapons at his disposal.

The courage and devotion to duty shown by Major Currie during a prolonged period of heavy fighting were outstanding and had a far-reaching effect on the successful outcome of the battle."

The London Gazette, 27<sup>th</sup> November 1944



21<sup>st</sup> October 1944

## **ERNEST ALVIA SMITH**

### **The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada**

Ernest Alvia Smith was born in New Westminster, British Columbia, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 1914. He was educated at the Herbert Spencer Elementary School and the T.J. Trapp Technical High School. Before enlisting in the army he engaged in contracting work. He enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and served with that unit until the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 1945. For some time following demobilization Ernest "Smokey" Smith worked in a photographic studio in New Westminster. In 1951 he re-enlisted in the Permanent Force retiring in 1964 with the rank of sergeant as a member of the Tri-Service Recruiting Unit in Vancouver and served as a sergeant at Headquarters of British Columbia Army Command in Vancouver. Ernest "Smokey" Smith was appointed a member of the Order of Canada in November 1995.

On August 3, 2005 Ernest Alvia "Smokey" Smith, died peacefully at his home in Vancouver, British Columbia, surrounded by family and friends at the age of 91. Many thousands paid their respects when he lay in state in Parliament Hill in Ottawa and his military funeral in Vancouver. His ashes were committed to the sea on August 15, 2005, as a fulfillment of one of his last wishes.

### **CITATION**

"In Italy on the night of 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October 1944, a Canadian Infantry Brigade was ordered to establish a bridgehead across the Savio River. The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada were selected as the spearhead of the attack, and in weather most unfavourable to the operation they crossed the river and captured their objective in spite of strong opposition from the enemy.

Torrential rain had caused the Savio River to rise six feet in five hours, and as the soft vertical banks made it impossible to bridge the river no tanks

or anti-tank guns could be taken across the raging stream to the support of the rifle companies.

As the right forward company was consolidating its objective it was suddenly counter-attacked by a troop of three Mark V Panther tanks supported by two self-propelled guns and about thirty infantry and the situation appeared hopeless.

Under heavy fire from the approaching tanks, Private Smith, showing great initiative and inspiring leadership. Led his P.I.A.T.(1) Group of two men across an open field to a position from which the P.A.I.T. could best be employed. Leaving one man on the weapon, Private Smith crossed the road with a companion and obtained another P.A.I.T. Almost immediately an enemy tank came down the road firing its machine-guns along the line of the ditches, Private Smith's comrade was wounded. At a range of thirty feet and having to expose himself to the full view of the enemy. Private Smith fired the P.A.I.T. and hit the tank, putting it out of action. Ten German infantry immediately jumped off the back of the tank and charged him with Schmeissers and grenades. Without hesitation Private Smith moved out on the road and with his Tommy gun at point-blank range, killed four Germans and drove the remainder back. Almost immediately another tank opened fire and more enemy infantry closed in on Smith's position. Obtaining some abandoned Tommy gun magazines from a ditch, he steadfastly held his position, protecting his comrade and fighting the enemy with his Tommy gun until they finally gave up and withdrew in disorder.

One tank and both self-propelled guns had been destroyed by this time, but yet another tank swept the area with fire from a longer range. Private Smith, still showing utter contempt for enemy fire, helped his wounded friend to cover and obtained medical aid for him behind a nearby building. He then returned to his position beside the road to await the possibility of a further enemy attack.

No further immediate attack developed, and as a result the battalion was able to consolidate the bridgehead position so vital to the success of the whole operation, which led to the capture of San Giorgio Di Cesena and a further advance to the Ronco River.

Thus, by the dogged determination, outstanding devotion to duty and

superb gallantry of this private soldier, his comrades were so inspired that the bridgehead was held firm against all enemy attacks, pending the arrival of tanks and anti-guns some hours later."

The London Gazette, 20<sup>m</sup>  
th December 1944

24<sup>th</sup> February 1945

AUBREY COSENS

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada

Aubrey Cosens was born in Latchford, Ontario, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 1921, the son of a First World War Veteran. Shortly after his birth his family moved to Porquis Junction, near Iroquois Falls, Ontario and he was educated in the Porquis Junction School. He left school in 1938 to work with his father on the railway as a second hand. He left Porquis Junction in 1939 to join the Royal Canadian Air Force but his application was rejected. Finally, in 1940 he went to Hamilton, Ontario and was accepted by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Hamilton) Regiment. He served with them in Canada, Jamaica and England; then transferred to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada in the summer of 1944 and was soon promoted from Corporal to sergeant. Sergeant Cosens is buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Queen's Rifles of Canada Regimental Museum in Toronto.

CITATION

"In Holland on the night of 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> February 1945, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada launched an attack on the hamlet of Mooshof, to capture ground which was considered essential for the development of future operations.

Sergeant Cosen's platoon, with two tanks in support, attacked enemy strong points in three farm buildings, but were twice beaten back by fanatical enemy resistance and then fiercely counter-attack, during which time the platoon suffered heavy casualties and the platoon commander was killed.

Sergeant Cosens at once assumed command of the only other four survivors of his platoon, whom he placed in a position to give him covering fire, while he himself ran across open ground under heavy mortar and shell

fire to the one remaining tank, where, regardless of the danger, he took up and exposed place in front of the turret and directed his fire.

After a further enemy counter-attack had been repulsed, Sergeant Cosens ordered the tank to attack the farm buildings, while the four survivors of his platoon followed in close support. After the tank had rammed the first building he entered it alone, killing several of the defenders and taking the rest prisoner.

Single-handed he then entered the second and third buildings, and personally killed or captured all the occupants, although under intense machine-gun and small arms fire.

Just after the successful reduction of the important enemy strong points, Sergeant Cosens was shot through the head by an enemy sniper and died almost instantly.

The outstanding gallantry, initiative and determined leadership of this brave N.C.O., who himself killed at least twenty of the enemy and took an equal number of prisoners, resulted in the capture of a position which was vital to the success of the future operation of the Brigade."

The London Gazette, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1945

1<sup>st</sup> March 1945

**FREDERICK ALBERT TILSTON**

The Essex Scottish (Highlanders)

Frederick Albert Tilston was born in Toronto, Ontario on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1906. He was educated at De La Salle High School, the Ontario College of Pharmacy and the University of Toronto. Prior to his enlistment in 1940 he was sales manager of a drug manufacturing company. He enlisted as a private but because of his age, education and experience, he was quickly promoted to sergeant and then to officer. The wounds received in the action described in the citation necessitated the amputation of both legs, but exactly one year later from the date of his injuries he returned to work for his former company in the capacity of vice-president in charge of sales. He later became president and then chairman of the board for that company. In 1963 he became Honourary Colonel of his old regiment which had been renamed the Essex and Kent Regiment. He resided in Toronto, Ontario until his death on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 1992. His family presented his Victoria Cross to the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto.

**CITATION**

"The 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division had been given the task of breaking through the strongly fortified Hochwald Forest defence line which covered Zanten, the last German bastion west of the Rhine protecting the vital Wesel Bridge escape route.

The Essex Scottish Regiment was ordered to breach the defence line north-east of Udem and to clear northern half of the forest, through which the balance of the brigade would pass.

At 0715 hours on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1945, the attack was launched, but due to the softness of the ground it was found impossible to support the attack by tanks as had been planned.

Across approximately 500 yards of flat open country, in the face of

intense enemy fire, Major Tilston personally led his company in the attack, keeping dangerously close to our own bursting shells in order to get maximum cover from the barrage. Though wounded in the head he continued to lead his men forward, through a belt of wire ten feet in depth to the enemy trenches shouting orders and encouragement and using his Sten gun with great effect. When the platoon on the left came under heavy fire from an enemy machine-gun post, he dashed forward personally and silenced it with a grenade, he was first to reach the enemy position and took the first prisoner.

Determined to maintain the momentum of the attack he ordered the reserve platoon to map up these positions and with outstanding gallantry, pressed on with his main force to the second line of enemy defences which were on the edge of the woods.

As he approached the woods he was severely wounded in the hip and fell to the ground. Shouting to his men to carry on without him and urging them to get into the woods, he struggled to his feet and rejoined them as they reached the trenches of their objective. Here an elaborate system of underground dugouts and trenches was manned in considerable strength and vicious hand-to-hand fighting followed. Despite his wounds, Major Tilston's unyielding will to close with the enemy was a magnificent inspiration to his men as he led them in systematically clearing the trenches of the fiercely resisting enemy. In the fighting, two German company headquarters were overrun and many casualties were inflicted on the fanatical defenders.

Such had been the grimness of the fighting and so savage the enemy resistance that the company was now reduced to only 26 men, one quarter of its original strength. Before consolidation could be completed the enemy counter-attacked repeatedly, supported by a hail of mortar and machine-gun fire from the open flank. Major Tilston moved in the open from platoon to platoon quickly organizing their defence and directing fire against the advancing enemy. The enemy attacks penetrated so close to the positions that grenades were thrown into the trenches held by his troops, but this officer by personal contact, unshakable confidence and unquenchable enthusiasm so inspired his men that they held firm against great odds.

When the supply of ammunition became a serious problem he repeatedly crossed the bullet-swept ground to the company on his right flank to carry grenades, rifle and Bren ammunition to his troops and replaced a damaged wireless set to re-establish communications with battalion headquarters. He made at least six of these hazardous trips, each time crossing a road which was dominated by intense fire from numerous, well-sited enemy machine-gun posts.

On his last trip he was wounded for the third time, this time in the leg. He was found in a shell crater beside the road. Although very seriously wounded and barely conscious, he would not submit to medical attention until he had given complete instructions as to the defence plan, he emphasized the absolute necessity of holding the position, and had ordered his one remaining officer to take over.

By his calm courage, gallant conduct and total disregard for his own safety, he fired his men with grim determination and their firm stand enabled the regiment to accomplish its object of furnishing the brigade with a solid base through which to launch further successful attacks to clear the forest thus enabling the division to accomplish its task."

The London Gazette, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1945



24<sup>th</sup> March 1945

**FREDERICK GEORGE TOPHAM**

1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion

Frederick George Topham was born in Toronto, Ontario, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 1917. He was educated at King George Public School and Runnymede High School. Prior to his enlistment he was employed in the mines at Kirkland Lake. In November 1945 he laid the cornerstone for Sunnybrook Memorial Hospital in Toronto. After demobilization he worked at Toronto Hydro. He died on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1974 and is buried in Toronto.

**CITATION**

"On 24<sup>th</sup> 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 on the open. Two medical casualties 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 earned 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 the 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, although one died almost immediately afterwards, he arranged for the evacuation of the other two, who undoubtedly owe their lives to him.

**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 selflessness inspired all those who witnessed it."

The London Gazette, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1945

9<sup>th</sup> August 1945

## **ROBERT HAMPTON GRAY**

Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve

Robert Hampton Gray was born in Trail, British Columbia, on the 2<sup>n</sup> of November 1917, the son of a Boer War veteran. He received his early education in a public school and high school in Nelson, B.C. and then spent a year at the University of Alberta in Edmonton followed by two years at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. In 1940 he was selected as one of seventy-five candidates for commission in the Navy. He was one of thirteen who qualified as pilots in the Fleet Air Arm. In 1941 he was a lieutenant on H.M.S. "Formidable." For his brilliant work during the attack on the German battleship "Tirpitz" in Alten Fjord he was Mentioned-in-Dispatches. In July 1945 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for aiding in the destruction of a destroyer in the Tokyo area and on the 9<sup>th</sup> August he was awarded the Victoria Cross as recorded in the citation. Lieutenant Gray has no known grave as neither he nor his plane was ever found, but his name is inscribed on the Sailor's Memorial in Halifax, Nova Scotia. His Victoria Cross is on loan to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

### **CITATION**

"For great bravery in leading an attack to within fifty feet of a Japanese destroyer in the face of intense ant-aircraft fire, thereby sinking the destroyer although he was hit and his own aircraft on fire and finally himself killed, He was one of the gallant company of Naval Airmen who, from December 1944, fought and beat the Japanese from Palembang to Tokyo. The actual incident took place in the Onagawa Wan on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1945. Gray was leader of the attack which he pressed home in the face of fire from shore batteries and at least eight warships. With his aircraft in flames he nevertheless obtained at least one direct hit which sank its objective. Lieut. R.H. Gray, D.S.C., R.C.N.V.R., of Nelson, B.C., flew off the

Aircraft Carrier, H.M.S. "Formidale" on August 9<sup>th</sup> 1945, to lead an attack on Japanese shipping in Onagawa Wan (Bay) in the island of Honshu, Mainland of Japan. At Onagawa Bay the fliers found below a number of Japanese ships and dived in to attack. Furious fire was opened on the aircraft from army batteries on the ground and from warships in the bay. Lieut. Gray selected for his target and enemy destroyer. He swept in oblivious of the concentrated fire and made straight for his target. His aircraft was hit and hit again, but he kept on. As he came close to the destroyer his plane caught fire but he pressed on within fifty feet of the Japanese ship and let go his bombs. He scored at least one direct hit, possibly more. He had given his life at the very end of his fearless bombing run."

The London Gazette, 13<sup>th</sup> November 1945