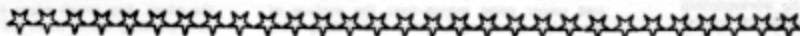


**CANADIAN**

**MILITARY MEDALS  
&**

**INSIGNIA JOURNAL**



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# HOW MEDALS ARE MADE

By Ron Abbott

**W**HEN a Legion member puts up his medals for a ceremonial parade he can be just as proud of the workmanship in them as he is of the service which entitles him to wear them. These medals, although turned out by the hundreds of thousands at the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa after two World Wars, are nevertheless individual works of art.

For World War II veterans the Mint manufactured the War Medal 1939-45, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal, the Defence Medal, and the eight campaign stars. The 1939-45 Star, the Atlantic Star, the Air Crew Europe Star, the Africa Star, the Pacific Star, the Burma Star, the Italy Star and the France & Germany Star. The Mint also made nearly 30,000 Centennial Medals, a number of which are proudly possessed by Legion members recognised for their valuable service to Canada.

## Painstaking Care Used

**E**ACH medal produced by the Mint since it went into operation in January, 1908, has been made with painstaking care. Skilled artists, designers and master craftsmen have worked on them and the final stages of manufacture have been carefully carried out by hand.

The tradition of painstaking workmanship is still upheld at the Mint today. When we visited the fortress-like grey stone building it was busy turning out the Canadian Forces Decoration.

These are manufactured at the rate of about 1,000 a month. Proof that production standards are as high as ever is the fact that not once has one of these medals ever been rejected during the frequent inspections carried out by the Department of Defence Production.

The Canadian Forces Decoration was instituted in June, 1950, after approval by King George VI. It is awarded to all ranks of both the Regular and Reserve Forces who complete 12 years of service and a bar is awarded after each subsequent 10 years of service. The medal is a light gold in colour since the alloy used in its manufacture is 88 percent copper and 12 percent zinc. It has 10 sides, each of which represents one of the provinces of Canada.

## Obverse has Likeness of Queen

**T**HE obverse consists now of a likeness of Queen Elizabeth II, while the main features of the reverse are a crown at the top flanked by a small fleur-de-lis on either side, maple leaves in the centre and the inscription "service" at the bottom. Possession of this decoration is indicated by the initials "C.D."

The original design of the Canadian Forces Decoration was done by an artist and executed by Tom Shingles, former chief engraver at the Mint. Myron Cook, the present chief engraver, carried out the necessary re-modelling when Queen Elizabeth was crowned in 1952.

When new working dies are required the engraving department craftsmen take Mr. Cook's clay sculpture and produce from it a plaster concave (intaglio) mould. This is the first of the great number of painstaking steps required to turn out finished medals. Into this intaglio mould they pour an acrylic mixture (the same type of plastic used for dentures) which gives them a cameo cast which is used for their working model. After a few finishing touches by hand, this hard and accurate model, about eight inches in diameter, is put on the three-dimensional pantograph.

On this reducing machine a rounded carbide tracer point moves over the surface of the large cameo cast, rising and falling with its contours and transferring them mechanically to a tool which cuts an exact replica of the original into a steel blank. This operation alone requires 28 hours for the first rough cut and another 40 hours for the fine cut which

brings out the detail. The result is an intermediate reduction of the Canadian Forces Decoration in steel from which, by the same process, a reduction the exact size of the medal is made in steel.

A working punch is then produced through further painstaking steps by skilled craftsmen involving hydraulic presses which deliver pressures up to 1,000 tons, and careful hand work such as lathe turning, milling and polishing. Working dies, good for about 300,000 impressions, are made from this punch for the actual manufacture of the medals.

## Dies Go to Engraving Dept.

**T**HE working dies go from the engraving department to the medal division of the Mint. Percy Lecuyer, chief of the coining and medal division; and D.C. "Doc" Greene, the craftsman in charge of medal production, both have a special interest in the manufacture of military medals because of their own long service overseas during World War II. Mr. Lecuyer served with the R.C.A.F. in administrative capacities in England, North Africa, Italy and India, and was discharged as a flight lieutenant early in 1946. Mr. Greene was a Chief Petty Officer with the R.C.N., was sunk in H.M.C.S. *Jervis Bay* in 1940, and served more sea time before being invalided out of the Navy in 1946.

Although there are dozens of steps in the production process, Mr. Greene and the men under him take meticulous care during each one. The first step in the manufacture of the

medal is the cutting of blanks out of sheets of Tumbine, an alloy of 88 percent copper and 12 percent zinc. Before the first blow, the blanks are annealed at 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit for 25 minutes to soften them.

They are then "sawed", which means they are punched under a 25-ton drop hammer with a special die which thins them out slightly at the centre and raises the "flot" or rim of the metal. The blank is then annealed again, and "pickled" in a hot solution of 50 percent sulphuric acid and 50 percent water.

## Drop Hammer Used

**T**HE actual medal dies for the obverse and reverse sides are put in the drop hammer and the blanks are hammered with three blows of 263 tons to impress the designs into their alloy metal. The medal is then annealed, given three more blows, annealed, three more blows, annealed, and then given a thorough cleaning before the final three blows.

From this stage onward the medals really get special attention. They are fed individually by hand into a special press which cuts out the space for the ribbon, then into a cutting machine which trims the excess metal from the edges. Any rough edges are then removed on a grinding wheel. Next, the medals are hand-polished on a buffing wheel and filed by hand in the areas that the buffer can't reach. Four different files are required to reach the hard-to-get-at surfaces.

The medals are also given a "bright dipping" in an acid solution to improve their appearance. They are finally wrapped in tissue paper and put into their white cardboard boxes, as near to perfect as they can be made. The current order for 30,000 of the Canadian Forces Decoration is being made for the Department of Defence Production and an inspector of this department checks them before they are delivered. As mentioned earlier, none of these medals have ever been rejected. Last year it produced 5,000 bars to the Canadian Forces Decoration for award to servicemen with 22 or 32 years of service.

E. F. Brown, Acting Master of the Royal Canadian Mint, is in overall charge of medal production as well as all the other activities of the Mint.

For 38 years a branch of the Finance Department, it is being converted to a Crown corporation in the Government's reorganization to give it more flexibility in meeting expansion needs. A new Mint, costing \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000, is to be built in the Ottawa area, for completion in the early 1970's. Its present quarters have become so overcrowded that a branch plant was established recently in neighboring Hull.

legion april 1969

## ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL RESERVE OFFICER'S DECORATION

809

## MEDAL ROLL

R.W. Irwin

Name	Rank	Date Approved
H.I. Preedy	Pay Lieut Cdr	30/11/1938
J.A. O'Dowd	Pay Lieut Cdr	28/11/1938
C.H. MacDonald	Lieut Cdr	22/11/1939
C.G. Williams	Chief Skpr	16/ 6/1940
C.T. Hinchcliffe	Lieut Cdr (E)	29/ 1/1941
C.H. Bromley	Lieut Cdr	30/ 7/1942
G. Barrie	Cdr	9/ 1/1943
R.I. Swanburg	Act Capt	24/12/1942
J.M.B. de Marbois, OBE	Capt	20/ 2/1943
F.E.B. More	Lieut	24/ 5/1943
J.J. Deslauriers	Lieut Cdr	9/ 7/1943
W. Redford	Lieut Cdr	2/ 7/1943
E.G. Skinner	Cdr	6/ 7/1943
R.F. Harris	Cdr	28/ 7/1943 (Replaced
O.C. Robertson	Cdr	27/ 9/1943 13/9/45)
A.G. King	Lieut Cdr	5/11/1943
J.A. Bedard	Skr Lieut	6/12/1943
A.M. Henderson	Lieut Cdr	25/ 3/1944
A.T. Morrell	Lieut Cdr	24/ 4/1944
J.M. Lambkin	Lieut Cdr	7/ 9/1944
J.L. Diver	Lieut Cdr	17/ 5/1944
J.E.M. Marshall	Act Cdr	7/12/1944
C.R. Boggs	Pay Lieut Cdr	7/12/1944
G.H. Stephens	Cdr	23/12/1944
N.V. Clark	CC	23/12/1944
G.O. Baugh	Act Cdr	2/ 1/1945
D.C. Wallace	Cdr	19/ 1/1945
W.G. Carr	Lieut Cdr	15/ 3/1945
N. Rattenbury	Act Cdr	24/ 4/1945
T. MacDuff	Lieut Cdr	20/ 4/1945
J.E. Moore	Skr Lieut	17/ 5/1945
J.H. Langille	Lieut	10/ 8/1945
W.C. Halliday	Act Cdr	17/ 1/1946
A.S.E. Sillett	Act Cdr (S)	5/ 4/1946
I.E. Abbott	Skr Lieut	6/ 5/1946
H.R. Northrup	A/Captain	2/ 5/1946
C.E. Grant	Cdr (S)	15/ 2/1946



The insignia of membership in the Order of Canada comprise:

- (a) the *badges* of COMPANION, OFFICER and MEMBER.
- (b) three corresponding *miniatures*, i.e., small size replicas of the badges.
- (c) three corresponding *lapel buttons* (men) and *brooches* (women).

This brief guide to when and how the insignia are worn has been prepared for ease of reference by persons appointed to the Order.

### General

There is no hard and fast rule, but it is customary to wear the *badge* of the Order — and other decorations and medals as well — on ceremonial occasions and at those events when DECORATIONS are called for in the text of the invitation or notice received from the host or the sponsor.

Decorations are not worn at informal gatherings but it is appropriate to wear — indeed, all members are urged to wear regularly — the *lapel button* or *brooch* as a mark of their membership in the Order.

### COMPANION and OFFICER (men)

The *badges* of COMPANION and OFFICER when received at the Investiture are suspended from a wide ribbon of sufficient length to pass over the recipient's head. Following the Investiture, it is customary to remove the wide ribbon and substitute a short length of narrow (miniature width) ribbon which is more easily and neatly fastened or tied at the back of the neck.

When worn with formal clothes i.e., full evening dress (white tie), dinner jacket (black tie), morning dress, whether tailcoat or short black (director's) jacket, the ribbon should be passed under the turn-down shirt collar or around the wing-collar under the tie. The ribbon should be adjusted so that the badge hangs about an inch below the knot of the tie (see figures 1 and 2).

Members in these two categories, who have, as well, the neck badge of any other order should wear only one with civilian clothing. The occasion should determine which badge is appropriate.

### MEMBER (men)

The *badge* of MEMBER is worn on the left breast suspended from its proper ribbon.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Honourable Secretariat  
Government House  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A1

When worn with other decorations and medals, all should be mounted on a medal bar in their proper precedence.

### Miniatures (men)

With evening dress, decorations and medals are worn in miniature size, fastened by a brooch pin on the left breast, usually on the lapel of the tailcoat or dinner jacket. A *miniature* of the COMPANION or OFFICER badge is worn in addition to the neck badge, by those who possess one or more other decorations and medals. (see figure 1).

### COMPANION and OFFICER (women)

The *badge* is worn on the left side, suspended from a length of ribbon fashioned into a bow. Other decorations and medals are worn above the badge of the Order (see figure 3).

### MEMBER (women)

The *badge* of MEMBER when it is the only decoration the recipient holds is worn on the left side suspended from a bow. When worn along with other decorations and medals, however, all should be arranged side by side (see figure 4).

### Full-size decorations and miniatures (women)

With daytime or evening dress the *badge* of COMPANION or OFFICER (full-size) is worn. In addition, other decorations and medals (full-size) are worn with daytime dress but in *miniature* size with evening dress. A *miniature* of the COMPANION or OFFICER badge should be included with other *miniatures* and worn in addition to the full-size badge. (see figure 3).

### Note for members of the Order wearing uniforms

The uniformed services regulate the manner in which decorations and medals should be worn. Military personnel are advised to consult C.A.F. Dress Regulations.

Women in uniforms of military pattern wear the badges of the Order in the same manner as men.

# New Order of Canada medals

The Order of Canada was founded by Lester B. Pearson in Canada's 100th year, 1967.

In October, 1977, to mark the first decade of the order, souvenir medals were presented to new members at the investiture at Government House.

They were also given to four Companions of Canada who'd been at the first ceremony ten years before. They were engineer Chalmers Jack Mackenzie of Ottawa; John A. MacAulay, lawyer and honorary president of the Art Gallery of Winnipeg; scientist Leo-Edmond Marion of Ottawa; and Frank R. Scott, a former dean of law at McGill, one of the founding members of the New Democratic Party and author of six volumes of poetry.

Now the medals are being sent to all companions, officers and members of the Order of Canada.

Of the 1,120 who have won the honor 940 are alive.

The medals are made of gilded tombac and Webster's Dictionary describes tombac as an alloy of copper and zinc used in making cheap jewelry.

They measure 1 7/16 inches. One side shows the profiles of Governor-General Leger and Mrs. Leger; on the other side is an owl with outspread wings and a crown over a maple leaf. The designer was artist Alex Colville of Wolfville, N.S.

Mr. Pearson wanted the honor granted to outstanding Canadians, as Canada's answer to the British system of rewarding citizens with titles.

So the honors would go to deserving Canadians rather than political cronies the job of selecting honorees was given to the Governor-General and he is advised by a group of seven headed by the Chief Justice of Canada. This council in turn is guided by a 15-member honors secretariat and Roger Nantel, director of the secretariat, was quoted recently as saying, "No one receives this award unless I am personally satisfied that he has earned it."

The honors come in three levels: companion, officer and member.

The number of companions can never exceed 150. Only 40 may be appointed each year to the category of officer, and only 80 to member.

The souvenir medal is the same for everyone.

I asked the cost of the medals. The answer was, "The cost is not available as it is in the over-all budget of Government House."

Of the 150 Companions of the Order of Canada who can use the initials CC after their names the

Torontonians include Eric R. Arthur, Thomas J. Bata, Dr. Charles Best, Claude Bissell, Vincent Bladen, John R. Bradfield, Bishop Howard H. Clark, Robertson Davies, Mrs. Egmont L. Frankel, H. Northrop Frye, Walter Lockhart Gordon, John M. Gray, George Ignatieff, Gordon Lightfoot, Robert McClure, John C. Parkin, Louis Quillico, John P. Robarts, John J. Robinette, Joseph Sedgwick and J. Tuzo Wilson.

The North Bay Nugget, Monday, May 31, 1971



Detect and Destroy. The motto of the Canadian Forces Air Defence Command, celebrating 20 years of service June 1. The bird on the badge, the jaeger, is indicative of the defending aircraft and the rays of lightning represent radar and other electronics of the command.



## SHIPS' BADGES IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

The ship's badge symbolizes the individual identity of the ship or establishment for which it was designed and is an object of pride to the officers and men who serve therein.

The history of this colorful insignia goes back more than 500 years, to the fighting ship of mediaeval times.

In those days there was no navy as we know it today. To wage war at sea, the King hired merchant vessels and converted them into men-of-war. The fighting was done at close quarters by armor-clad soldiers wearing loose-fitting coats, bearing the heraldic badges of their noble houses, over the suits of armor. The family "trademarks" were also painted on their shields and on the standards they carried into battle. This was how the soldiers recognized friend from foe.

Two identical copies of each badge design, in color, are prepared for the signatures of the approving authorities. One of these is issued to the ship concerned, the other is retained at Naval Headquarters for permanent record and reference.

The patterns and castings for the badges are made from the approved designs and are then painted in correct heraldic colors.

The official ship's badge is 18 inches wide and 24 inches high. It is cast in bronze. Special badges, about eight inches across, also cast in bronze, are made for ships' boats. The smaller badges have no naval crown or name plate, but are contained within a rope frame with a cluster of three maple leaves at the top. These are issued for all ships' boats over 16 feet in length and are a necessity at busy landing places for purposes of identification.

Ships' badges are now becoming historically significant and a practical and important element in the Heraldry of Canada, as well as of the Royal Canadian Navy.

Sallying out to sea, they took all this colorful paraphernalia with them, transforming the merchantman into a gaily caparisoned fighting ship.

The modern ship's badge is a descendant of the ancient household badge. But today it is designed to incorporate features of the name of the ship, or establishment, or the story behind the name.



The aircraft carrier Bonaventure, for instance, has a badge on which wavy bars represent the sea, a horseshoe stands for good luck, and a mythical monster (the wyvern) with fish tail and wings is an apt symbol for an aircraft carrier.

Officially, the use of heraldic ships' badges did not come into being in the Royal Canadian Navy until 1946. Previously, the commanding officer of a ship was permitted to devise and pay for his own ship's badge. This resulted in many amusing and interesting designs.

Most of the insignia of ships commissioned during the Second World War consisted of cartoon paintings on gun shields or bridge superstructures with reproductions of Popeye, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Daisy Mae, Mounties, Indians, cowboys, and even Sir Winston Churchill, cigar and all.



In the Royal Navy, heraldic badges were first issued in 1919. They were enclosed in four differently shaped frames according to the type of ship. Battleships had a circular frame; cruisers, a pentagon; destroyers and submarines, a shield; aircraft carriers and miscellaneous ships, a diamond-shaped frame.

This practice was discontinued when, in the course of time, a name previously borne by a ship of one type, a destroyer perhaps, was given to, say, an aircraft carrier. The Admiralty Badge Committee recommended the use of the circular frame and in 1945 the Royal Navy decided to adopt this form permanently for all badges.

A few months later this policy was applied to the Canadian badge, with one difference -- at the bottom of the surrounding rope pattern there was to be a small cluster of three maple leaves.

RCN badge designs are approved, on the recommendation of a Ships' Badges Committee, by the Chief of Naval Staff and

the Minister of National Defence, and are then signed by His Excellency, the Governor-General of Canada.



By D. V. Warner.

NOW that the war in South Africa is over, and our men have returned, Canada, as an integral portion of the Empire, has a just right to be proud of the noble manner in which her sons have borne their part in the conflict. They have not only done their duty on all occasions so as to win the admiration of prominent British generals, but four of their comparatively small number have so distinguished themselves as to be awarded for "conspicuous bravery" that most coveted of all decorations open to all classes of Britain's defenders, without regard to rank.

It will, no doubt, be interesting to many Canadians at this time, to those of us, especially, who have a more or less pronounced "race prejudice," to know that a negro native of this Dominion won the Victoria Cross during the Indian Mutiny, within a few years after the institution of the order; and for an act of bravery which was remarkable both for the number of lives which depended upon it, and for the coolness which characterized it throughout.

William Hall, the subject of this sketch, was born in Summerville, Hants Co., N.S., in 1832. His parents were extremely poor; and the boy, showing more independence than is usually found among young coloured men in this country, shipped before the mast in 1844, sailing in a small vessel from Hantsport, the nearest shipping port to his native village. The following six years were spent in the merchant marine of Nova Scotia. During this time Hall served in vessels of various rigs, and visited most of the well-known ports of the world, developing finally into a strong, active young man, and, for his years, a seaman of experience. For about eighteen months he served in the

American Navy, then, once more, for a few months only, in a trading vessel.

The winter of 1852 found him in Liverpool, England, where on February 2nd, at the Recruiting Office in Red Cross Street, he enlisted in the British Navy as a seaman, and was appointed to the *Rodney*, Captain Graham, a vessel of 90 guns then lying in Portsmouth Harbour. With a number of other young naval recruits he proceeded to London, and thence to Portsmouth, where he and his fellow volunteers were under orders to report on board the receiving ship *Victory*. Nelson's famous flagship, after so many years of service in the front rank of Great Britain's "wooden walls," was still in use at that time, although in a somewhat humbler capacity.

For two years the *Rodney* was attached to the Channel Fleet; when, at the beginning of the trouble in the Bosphorus, which resulted in the disastrous Crimean war, she was ordered to the Mediterranean, and joined the fleet at Malta. During the long naval campaign which followed, Hall was present at the bombardment of Odessa, where, as he himself expresses it, "we chastised the Russians for not recognizing the flag of truce," and later on at the siege and fall of Sebastopol.

At the conclusion of the Crimean war there were many changes made in the crews of the vessels forming the war fleet. New men were drafted to fill the numerous vacancies, and the survivors were, in many cases, transferred to other vessels. Seaman Hall, who had gone through the whole campaign without a serious wound, was transferred to the frigate *Shannon*, which was then under orders to sail for Singapore, from which port she was to have the honour of conveying

814 to Hong-Kong, Lord Elgin, ex-Governor-General of Canada, who had, on account of serious complications in China, been then recently appointed Plenipotentiary Extraordinary to that country. At Singapore the *Shannon* was gaily decorated with flags, and when the distinguished Minister was brought on board a salute of twenty-one guns was fired; and, as a special mark of honour to the representative of Her Majesty, all the yards were manned.

From Hong-Kong the *Shannon* proceeded to Calcutta. The terrible Indian Mutiny had then broken out, and several British warships then cruising in Eastern waters were ordered to various ports in India. After lying for a short time at Calcutta, hurried orders were received by the captain of the *Shannon* to send as many men as could be spared overland to Lucknow. Accordingly two hundred and fifty seamen and marines, including Hall, were selected from the ship's company, and ordered to co-operate with the relieving forces under Colonel, afterwards Sir Henry, Havelock. Besides being well supplied with small arms, the men took eight of the ship's guns. The use of naval guns on land, which has been such an important feature of the war now happily over, was recognized at that time, although the effectiveness of the cannon was slight when compared to the frightful execution wrought by their successors of to-day.

The march to the besieged city was, as we all know, long and accompanied with great loss of life. The naval guns were frequently found to be of great service. Each of them was operated by six men, numbered from one to six, beginning with the captain. If the officer in charge of a gun happened to be killed or wounded, man No. 2 took charge of the weapon, and so on. This arrangement prevented any confusion when a man was disabled, each man having a number and knowing what to do if his comrade holding the next lowest number was put out of action.

The Sepoys were continually hovering on the flanks of Colonel Havelock's men, and the *Shannon's* contingent suffered much from their annoying attacks. Each time, however, they succeeded in repelling the enemy with but slight loss, until one day, long to be remembered by the survivors.

As the British forces approached nearer and nearer to Lucknow the attacks of the Sepoys became more and more determined. On the day mentioned above the enemy fought desperately, and nearly succeeded in surrounding the British. The men of the *Shannon*, finding themselves hard pressed, endeavoured to gain a position nearby, where there was a ruined building surrounded by a high stone wall, their object being to use the building as a temporary fort and refuge for the exhausted men. In order to effect this they directed the fire of some of the guns against the walls. Breaches were finally made in the thick walls, through one of which the men, after heavy loss, dragged a gun, and from that point of vantage began to use it with effect to cover the retreat of their comrades.

This gun now occupied such a commanding position that the Sepoys, seeing the havoc it caused in their ranks, directed their fire to the spot so as to make it in a few minutes a very perilous situation. The men operating the weapon fell rapidly, and the officer in charge of the corps finally gave orders to abandon the piece.

Seaman Hall was then acting as "No. 2" at one of the other seven guns, but seeing the importance of the piece in the breach, he left his position and hurried across the intervening space to assist in working it. The two survivors of the original crew took courage when they saw help coming, and the officer in charge of the gun, Lieut. Salmon, shouted, "Ah, Hall! you're a man." Three more deserted their original positions, and the gun's crew was once more complete. Against the express orders of the commanding lieutenant, the gun continued its work of destruction for



several minutes longer, until the Sepoys drew off with heavy loss. Of the six heroes who saved the corps from annihilation but three were left alive. They were Lieut. Salmon, now prominent in our navy as Rear-Admiral Sir Nowell Salmon, K.C.B., and Seamen Robinson and Hall. Each man was recommended for and subsequently received the Victoria Cross.

After many years of faithful service in Her Majesty's navy, Hall was honourably discharged with a good pension, and after knocking about the world for a short time longer, finally settled on a small farm about four miles from the village of Hantsport, N.S., where he has lived quietly for the past twenty-four years.

Among the few heroes who have won this highest distinction which our sovereign bestows "for intrepid bravery in the face of the enemy" there are none who have merited the decoration better than our Canadian hero, none upon whose particular act of daring greater issues hung; and, as I will proceed to illustrate, none who are more modest in speaking of the occasion when they won the honour.

The old veteran lives in a little farmhouse overlooking Minas Basin. The property is protected from heavy winds by a row of spruce trees bordering the road, so that only the upper windows can be seen when driving past. For a small farm it is well stocked with cattle and poultry, and there is a two-acre orchard of thrifty young trees adjoining the house. The proprietor of the place was busy sharpening a scythe when I called to see him one afternoon early in September last.

"It's rather late for haying, isn't it?" he observed, when I had taken the place of the small boy who was turning the stone, "but I just want to get a little salt hay off the marsh."

"By the way," I said, after a few turns of the stone, "haven't you been in the British navy?"

"Yes; I served a good many years in the navy," he replied; then, lifting the scythe from the stone, and carefully feeling the edge, "I think she'll cut

that grass all right now, thank you; it doesn't require a very sharp scythe."

"Better sharpen the point a little more," I suggested; then, when the scythe had again been applied to the stone, "I hear you have the Victoria Cross," I said.

"Yes; I won the 'Cross' in India in '57, time of the Mutiny, you know."

In the course of the afternoon I obtained the account of the old sailor's life, which I have already given. He described minutely incidents which seemed to me to be of no particular importance, such as the reception in honour of Lord Elgin at Singapore. He had said very little about the march to Lucknow, not mentioning himself except as belonging to the *Shannon's* contingent, and was describing the character of the Sepoys, and the distressing scenes in the Residency during the relief, when I interrupted him with—"but I want to hear about the way you won the Cross; I've heard about the Relief of Lucknow."

"Oh!" he answered, with evident impatience, "that was way back on the march; I almost forgot about that."

After talking with him all the afternoon I obtained from him the account which I have given. When he had brought his story down to the time when he was pensioned off, and settled down to a more peaceful occupation, near his old home, he surprised me by saying, "Thank you very much for taking note of me."

Of course I hastened to point out that the gratitude was all on my part, and then asked if I might see the Cross.

"See it, yes; come right in;" and we walked through the hall into a neatly furnished sitting-room, on the walls of which hung pictures of British war-vessels of fifty years ago. The old sailor stepped to the mantel, and taking down a small cardboard spool box, emptied the contents on the table. The blue ribbon from which the Cross was originally suspended is missing, having been "borrowed" by a relic-hunter several years ago; and it is now

attached by wire to a heavy watch chain, and bears the date "16 Nov., 1857." There were three other commemorative medals in the collection, two of the Crimean war and one of the Indian Mutiny.

"It's nothing to have a Cross now; they're as thick as peas," the old man said.

"Do you know," I said, "that there are thousands of officers in the British army and navy who are longing to

possess the medal that you have won; many of them, too, holding very high rank."

"Well," he answered slowly, "it isn't worth very much to a man after all, only ten pounds a year. If it wasn't for my regular navy pension of forty pounds a year besides I don't know how we'd get along here. The farm is small, and my two sisters live with me, you know."

## THE CANADIAN MAGAZINE

### COMMONS DEBATES

October 30, 1978

#### NATIONAL DEFENCE

##### MEDAL IN RECOGNITION OF NATO SERVICE

**Mr. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. It is now three years since the government agreed with a motion I introduced in the House to establish a medal in recognition of NATO service. In the last three years there have been a number of undertakings by the minister's predecessor and himself to bring forward this medal. I should like to ask, once again, when some progress will be reached in the production of this medal in recognition of service in NATO.

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I have only been the minister for two of those three years. The issuance of new medals is not treated lightly, and a number of steps would have to be taken. I expect to announce in the very near future the issuance of a general service medal, rather than a specific NATO medal. A NATO medal produced by Canada would not be appropriate if it was not general throughout NATO. This general service medal will apply to the regulars and the reserves after a minimum length of service in Canada and/or abroad, with special recognition in the form of a clasp for NATO service and other types of distinguished service.



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In London, Eng., there is a quiet little Mayfair shop where all the V.C.'s are made. They are made from bronze taken from captured guns. Mr. W. Wixley is the V.C. maker.

## The V.C. Shop

BY R. F. LAMBERT

IN A TURNING off Regent Street, not a hundred yards from Piccadilly Circus, is a fashionable jeweller's shop. Its windows display beautiful objects in gold and silver which only the rich could buy. But there is one thing produced in this shop which all the money in the world could not purchase: a Maltese cross, measuring one-and-two-fifth square inches, weight an ounce troy, cast in gun metal and worth intrinsically a few pence; the rarest and most coveted decoration in existence—the Victoria Cross.

When Queen Victoria instituted the V.C. in 1856 she gave a warrant for its manufacture to the grandfather of the present director of the firm, who is himself in the R.A.F. The warrant was transferred to him on the death of his father, and from this shop have come all of the V.C.'s so far awarded. Over 50 have been awarded in the present war.

After it has been decided to award a V.C. the director of the firm receives a letter from the War Office, Admiralty or Air Ministry asking him to have a cross inscribed with the name and unit of the recipient together with the date of the action. This is done by hand on one of about a dozen crosses which are kept in reserve to meet current demands.

Originally the crosses were fashioned from metal belonging to guns captured at Sebastopol during the Crimean War. Recently this ran out, and they are now made from a slab of gun metal supplied by the War Office which will last for many years. The obverse, on which the date is inscribed, consists of a Royal Crown surmounted by a lion with the simple words "For Valour" and the cross hangs by a V to a

bar on which the name and unit of the owner are written. The whole is suspended from a ribbon, which was originally red for the Army and blue for the Navy, but which is now red for all services. It is supplied in a leather case which is worth more than the cross itself.

When the V.C. has been delivered, which is a few days before the investiture, the name of the recipient is inscribed in a ledger which is locked each night in the firm's vaults. It sometimes happens that a V.C. is put up for auction and the firm is often asked to say whether it is genuine, which they can easily do by referring to their books. Sometimes this little piece of gun metal, the least imposing of British decorations, fetches as much as £100.

Originally a man convicted of treason, cowardice or felony was deprived of his V.C. automatically, but in 1931 a decree was made which left this to the discretion of the King, acting on the advice of his Ministers. The sovereign can also restore the V.C. at will. So far very few recipients have lost their award.

The V.C. is the only British medal which can be won by all ranks, by women as well as men, and by the Indian Army as well as the British. It is the only medal which can be awarded posthumously. Neither rank, wounds nor length of service are taken into account. The sole qualification is an act of "conspicuous gallantry or devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy."

# Victoria County's lone V. C. winner

There's a very elite and, at the present time dwindling, number of men and women to the world who have received the highest military honor in the Commonwealth — the Victoria Cross. Following the second world war and the Korean conflict this select group of people numbered only 1,351. A very rare honor.

Among those 1,351 people is Private Harry Brown, a member of the 10th Infantry Battalion (Alberta Regiment) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force that saw duty during World War I in France. Private Brown died from his wounds after a courageous incident on Hill 70 (an ignominious location for one's death) on August 17, 1917. He is the only Victoria County area person to have been awarded the coveted Victoria Cross, although, unfortunately for him, it was presented posthumously.

Oddly enough there has never been much recognition of Private Harry Brown and very few people are familiar with the name. It may be because he only lived in East Emily for a short while or because he was born in Gananoque. Whatever the reason, back on Aug. 16, 1917 he was the most courageous and outstanding soldier in the field.

Though he was born in Gananoque, Harry Brown lived there for only a short while, moving to the east section of Emily in 1911 to live with his mother and stepfather, Patrick McAuliffe, on a farm just four miles from Fowler's Corners. For a short while he attended No. 7

Emily public school and a former schoolmate of his, Alvin Franks of Dominion Cres. remembers him from those days.

"He was a few years older than me at the time but I remember Harry as a big boy, broad shouldered who never backed down from anybody. Though he didn't stay too long he made quite an impression on us younger kids."

After working on his mother's farm for about five years Harry left home at Easter in 1916 to work in a munitions plant in London, Ontario, living with a married sister. Six months later he was back in Peterborough to join the army at the recruiting station at the Peterborough Armouries. He was not yet 18 years of age but because of his size and a slight fib, he was accepted and posted to the 10th Battalion. He was sent up to the front line trenches only the day before the battle for Hill 70 (near Lens, France). It was also the day before he was to die.

In official records the exploits that won Harry Brown the Victoria Cross are known as 'The Runner's Last Stride'. The story of his action on Hill 70 is contained in the official records of the battalion, and although not detailed, they are the only records about Harry Brown. It reads as follows:

"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 ut-

most importance to get word back to headquarters. This soldier (Brown) 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 duty 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."

He is buried in Noeux-Mines communal cemetery, four miles south east of Bethune, France.

Harry Brown's Victoria Cross medal was awarded posthumously, of course. For many years it was in the possession of Rev. Larry McAuliffe, Harry's half brother, and himself a medal winner for his service with the American army in World War II. Following Rev. McAuliffe's death in 1962 the medal went into the possession of the possession of the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa where it remains today.

In the records of the war museum, Harry Brown is described as one of the youngest and most valiant of the VC's. — Peterborough Review.

## Another Victoria V. C. winner recalled by "Post" reader; he was Sgt. George Richardson

A. B. Tolmie of Peterborough has written "The Post" to point out that Victoria County has had at least two Victoria Cross winners. The paper is indebted to the writer for setting the record straight in the following letter:

"In your November 1st issue "Victoria County's Lone V.C. Winner", you seemer to have overlooked Pte. George Richardson, a native of County Cavan, Ireland, and who, after discharge from the army, came to Canada.

"The Order of the Victoria Cross was instituted on January 29th, 1856, at the close of the Crimean War and the first recipients of the honour were

Crimean Veterans, Cojoined with the honour and decoration was a pension for non-commissioned officers and men of £10 (pounds sterling) per year with an additional £5 for each bar.

"George Richardson, of Lindsay, won the decoration for deeds of valor on the battlefield of India at Campore in April 1859. In 1860 the coveted Victoria Cross was pinned on his breast by Queen Victoria. He was 28 at the time.

"In August 1920, Pte. George Richardson, then a resident of the County of Victoria House of Refuge, 88

years old, and nearly blind as a result of his efforts to save his wife when their home was burned a couple of years earlier (Mrs. Richardson died of shock and he went to the County Home), was invited to be guest at the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto on Saturday, which was designated "Victoria Cross and Veteran's Day."

"At that time there was said to be 540 men living who were proud possessors of the Order.

"He was promoted to Sgt. G. Richardson, V.C., transferred to Euclid Hall and last record to hand in that he celebrated his 90th birthday there."

Postcard - Courtesy of Harvey Mitchell

### At Duty's Call



THE  
127th Canadian Battalion

BORDEN CAMP  
ONTARIO, CANADA

A.M. Reg. No. 57,231

### From One of The Bunch

I am sending you our Battalion Card  
For a letter this time instead.  
We are drilling all day good and hard  
And at night we are ready for bed.  
Our Battalion is a good bunch of boys,  
Always ready for a lark or a joke;  
You hear funny sayings of things they do  
With their pay, and how some go broke.  
I am feeling alright and ready to go,  
And our boys all feel the same;  
We will get those Huns upon the run  
And spoil their nice old game.  
So I hope that you and all of yours  
Are in the best of health.  
The other things I wish to you  
Are Happiness and Wealth.



## ONTARIO MEDAL FOR POLICE BRAVERY



Premier William Davis recently announced that nominations for possible candidates for the newly created Ontario Medal for Police Bravery could be submitted on forms now circulated to Ontario police chiefs.

The medal was originally revealed in June 1975 at the annual meeting of the Ontario Association of Police Chiefs. It is anticipated that the first medal will be presented this fall.

The constitution of the medal states that the award shall be made:

- (a) to recognize acts of superlative bravery and courage performed by members of Ontario's Police Forces.
- (b) the award of the Medal may be made posthumously.
- (c) any person or organization may submit to the Secretary for consideration by the Advisory Council a nomination for award of the Medal.

The medal has not yet been struck however the description is as follows:

Obv: A gold cross with rounded ends superimposed upon a blue enameled cross edged in gold. In the angles, single stylized maple leaves in gold. A stylized trillium in a rounded white enamel rectangle is at the centre of the cross. A St. Edwards Crown is superimposed on the upper arm.

Rev: Plain for engraving the recipients name.

Desc: Size not available. Gold plated sterling silver with blue and white enamel.

Designer: Mrs Dora de Pedery-Hunt, Toronto. Manufactured by Birks.

Ribbon: Blue with two narrow gold stripes.

#### THE TORONTO STAR, Tues., Dec. 13, 1977

Ontario's new medal for police bravery was presented for the first time last night by Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon.

The recipients were Ontario Provincial Police Constable William Blahey of the Blind River detachment, Chatham police Sergeant Charles Denike, and Metro police Staff Sergeant Bill Donaldson.

"When the government first conceived the medal, it was our thought that this would be an excellent way of drawing to the public's attention the great contribution made by peace officers to the stability and security of our society," Premier William Davis told the small gathering at the investiture held at Queen's Park.

"Danger, courage, patience and often diplomacy are the commonplace ingredients of every peace officer's day," Davis said.

The awards were being made at a time "when events find the police facing intense scrutiny and

criticism from many quarters," Davis said.

Blahey, 36, was credited with saving the lives of several people in a Blind River courtroom Nov. 24,

1975 when he grabbed the barrel of a shotgun as a man tried to force his way in.

"I couldn't believe it when I saw that shotgun... but I guess it was just a natural reaction to grab it," he told The Star after the presentation.

Denike, 38, braved smoke and flames July 10, 1976 to rescue a 21-year-old man from a burning house.

Donaldson, 52, last spring walked unarmed into the branch of Banque Canadienne Nationale at King and Yonge Sts. to negotiate with a gunman holding 14 hostages with a sawed-off shotgun. The gunman was eventually persuaded to release all hostages.

**MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES—Concluded.**

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**CANADIAN NURSES.**

*Authority London Gazette, 29200, Date 22-6-15.*

*Authority London Gazette, 29422, Date 1-1-16.*

Reg't'l. No.	Rank.	Name.	Corps.
	Nursing Sister.....	McLatchey, Miss M. O.....	
	Nursing Sister.....	Charleson, Miss E. M.....	
	Nursing Sister.....	Richardson, Miss M. P.....	
	Nursing Sister.....	Rayside, Miss E. C.....	
	Nursing Sister.....	Ridley, Miss E. B.....	
	Nursing Sister.....	Nesbitt, Miss V. C.....	
	Nursing Sister.....	Strong, Miss A. C.....	
	Nursing Sister.....	Tremaine, Miss V. A.....	

**SERVICE.**

Matron.....	Campbell, Miss.....	Nursing Service.
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**FOREIGN DECORATIONS (RUSSIAN).**

**ORDER OF STE. ANNE.**

**3RD CLASS WITH SWORDS.**

Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date Gazetted.
✓ Major.....	Gault, A. H. (D.S.O.).....	P.P.C.L.I.....	Aug. 8, 1915.

**4TH CLASS, INSCRIBED "FOR VALOUR IN WAR".**

✓ Lieutenant.....	McLean, V. A.....	16th Battalion.....	Aug. 8, 1915.
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**ORDER OF ST. STANISLAS.**

**3RD CLASS WITH SWORDS.**

✓ Major.....	Ormond, D. M.....	10th Battalion.....	Aug. 24, 1915.
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**FOREIGN DECORATIONS (FRENCH).**

**LEGION OF HONOUR.**

**COMMANDER (FRANCE).**

✓ Colonel (temp. Brig.-Gen.).....	Currie, A. W. (C.B.).....	Canadian Forces.....	Sept. 10, 1915.
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**OFFICER (FRANCE).**

✓ Lt.-Colonel.....	Mitchell, J. H.....	Canadian Forces.....	Sept. 10, 1915.
✓ Hon. Colonel.....	Brooke (The Lord).....	".....	Mar. 16, 1915.
✓ Captain.....	Lalor, W. J. L.....	".....	Feb. 24, 1916.
✓ Captain.....	Gardner, S. D.....	".....	Nov. 3, 1915.
✓ Lt.-General.....	Alderson, E. A. H. (K.C.B.).....	O.C. Canadian 1st Division.	

## FOREIGN DECORATIONS (FRENCH)—Continued.

## CROIX DE GUERRE.

Reg't. No.	Rank.	Name.	Corps.	Date Gazetted.
70743	Corporal.....	Baker, W. H.....	10th Battalion.....	Nov. 3, 1915.
5310	Sergeant.....	Ferris, C. B.....	Can. Engineers.....	Feb. 24, 1916.
40217	Sergeant.....	McInnes, W.....	1st Brigade, C.F.A.....	Nov. 3, 1915.
1158	Sergeant.....	McKenzie, H.....	P.P.C.L.I.....	Feb. 24, 1916.

## THE MILITARY MEDAL.

21202	Staff-Sergeant.....	Smith, S. O.....	C.O.C.....	Feb. 2, 1916.
25540	Sgt.-Major.....	Stephenson, J. M.....	14th Battalion.....	Nov. 3, 1915.

## FOREIGN DECORATIONS (RUSSIAN).

## MEDAL OF THE ORDER OF ST. GEORGE.

## 1st CLASS.

24583	Lieutenant.....	Good, R. G.....	10th Battalion.....	Aug. 24, 1915.
	Corporal.....	Campbell, J. J.....	13th ".....	" 24, 1915.

## 2ND CLASS.

C42244	Sergeant.....	Barnacal, W.....	11th Bty., C.F.A.....	Aug. 24, 1915.
5674	Sergeant.....	Gale, T.....	Can. Div. Sig. Co.....	" 24, 1915.
13821	Sergeant.....	Johnson, J.....	5th Battalion.....	" 24, 1915.
C42001	Bty. Sgt.-Major.....	Kerry, H. G.....	4th Bty., C.F.A.....	" 24, 1915.
24789	Corporal.....	Key, R.....	13th Battalion.....	" 24, 1915.

## 3RD CLASS.

26284	Private.....	Barette, A.....	14th Battalion.....	Aug. 24, 1915.
48049	Lance-Corporal.....	Borrie, W. J.....	3rd Fd. Co., C.E.....	" 24, 1915.
19103	Private.....	Broomfield, D. J.....	4th Battalion.....	" 24, 1915.
21584	Corporal.....	Crawford, W. M.....	5th ".....	" 24, 1915.
22046	Private.....	Dunham, A. W.....	Div. Cyclist Co.....	" 24, 1915.
9101	Private.....	Perey, A.....	3rd Battalion.....	" 24, 1915.
33191	Private.....	Turner, F.....	2nd Fd. Am., C.A.M.C.....	" 24, 1915.

## 4TH CLASS.

1944	Private.....	Aitken, G. T.....	Div. Cav. Sqdn.....	Aug. 24, 1915.
30183	Driver.....	Barton, G.....	No. 2 Co. Div. Train.....	" 24, 1915.
16425	Private.....	Farmer, J.....	7th Battalion.....	" 24, 1915.
6245	Private.....	McCrimmon, H. W.....	1st ".....	" 24, 1915.
27291	Corporal.....	Reid, F. J.....	13th ".....	" 24, 1915.
6264	Lance-Corporal.....	Rouse, C.....	1st ".....	" 24, 1915.
10865	Private.....	Sheppard, A.....	4th ".....	" 24, 1915.
5753	Private.....	Stewart, H. R.....	1st Div. Sig. Co.....	" 24, 1915.
1616	Lance-Corporal.....	Thornton, J.....	8th Battalion.....	" 24, 1915.
53470	Private.....	Tompkins, C. B.....	No. 3 F. Am., C.A.M.C.....	" 24, 1915.