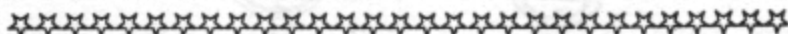


CANADIAN
MILITARY MEDALS
&
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PIONEER RECOGNITION MEDALS

of the

CANADIAN CONFEDERATION CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

By Larry Gingras, F.R.N.S.



In order to take part in the Dominion-wide centennial celebrations of 1967, the government of British Columbia set up the Canadian Confederation Centennial Committee of British Columbia with administrative offices in Victoria under the general chairmanship of Mr. L.J. Wallace. Throughout the province 412 communities organized their own local centennial committees but this was later reduced to 384 due to the merging of several adjacent committees for more efficient administration.

Almost 350 commemorative projects were carried out during the centennial year financed by per capita grants from the Federal and Provincial Governments and the local communities. As a result of these commemorative projects a wide variety of community assets have been accumulated valued in excess of \$15,000,000.

One of the primary concerns of the Centennial Committee was to provide recognition for the pioneers and the natives whose lives spanned a period of great growth and development. With this in mind the Committee decided to strike a specially designed medal to be presented to "Any person who was either born in Canada or a resident of Canada prior to January 1, 1892." It was however, "not necessary that such a person shall have had continuous residence in Canada since that date but must be a resident of British Columbia NOW."

I found a number of conflicting statements regarding the number of medals presented. For example: A press release from the Canadian Confederation Centennial Committee of British Columbia, dated December 14, 1966 states:

There are 8,528 Canadian Pioneers now living in British Columbia. This number of applications for Pioneer Medals has been received and approved by the British Columbia Centennial Committee..... The Provincial Centennial Committee had expected more applications. "I feel many who are qualified have not applied", L. J. Wallace, general chairman of the Provincial Committee, said today. "There will be disappointed pioneers when presentation ceremonies are held next year. This is unfortunate but unavoidable. Applications closed November 19th....."

A letter from the Centennial Committee of British Columbia dated March 11th, 1968 (four months after the closing date for applications) contains the following paragraph:

Just over 12,000 Pioneer Medals were presented to those persons who qualified for this award which was completed in 1967.

The matter was finally cleared up recently by Willard E. Ireland, Provincial Librarian & Archivist for British Columbia, who had served on the Centennial Committee. Mr. Ireland points out that the letter of March 11th, 1968 was only a rough estimate, and that the news release of December 14, 1966 was probably the count as of that date, "but we continued to accept valid applications long after the original registration date. From the records now available a total of 10,949 medals were issued --- 5382 females, 5567 males. No medals were presented to distinguished persons and the Archives did receive two medals".

The medals were struck by Pressed Metal Products of Vancouver, and the metal used is referred to as being a composition. There is no record of them being struck in any other metal. They have an oxidized silver finish with a muted navy blue ribbon to signify the role played by British Columbia as Canada's Pacific Maritime province.

As a reminder of our early association with Canada, the obverse depicts Alexander Mackenzie near Bella Coola, some 260 air miles N.N.W. of Vancouver. Mackenzie, a partner in the North West Company, made several expeditions to the Canadian north-west. In 1793 he crossed the Rockies and reached tidewater near Bella Coola on July 22nd, and is credited with being the first white man to reach the Pacific by land from Canada.

On the reverse we see a large "100" indicating, of course, 100 years of confederation. The geometric maple leaf above is also emblematic of Canadian Confederation and below is the floral emblem of British Columbia, the Dogwood.

My sincere thanks to Mr. Gordon Dickie and to Mr. Willard Ireland for their kind co-operation in making important information from their files available to me.

R.W. Irwin

Following the visit of Prime Minister King to Great Britain in 1941 Canada agreed to form and maintain a Corps of Canadian Fire Fighters to serve in the United Kingdom. For administration it was under the Department of War Services. It was the only wartime unit outside the jurisdiction of the Department of National Defence.

Recruiting began in March 1942 to a strength of 406, three remained at Headquarters and 403 went overseas by December 1942. They took a four week course in England and then replaced National Fire Service personnel at six stations: Southampton - 2; Portsmouth - 2; Plymouth - 1; Bristol - 1, and H.Q. at London.

Those that lost their life and were awarded Canadian Memorial Crosses were:

T-112 S.FM. John Stewart Coull
T-145 L.FM. Robert Lloyd Sinclair
T-212 S.L. Alfred Lapierre
T-305 S.L. Lawrence Eile Woodhead

The Memorial Crosses were extended to the fireman by Order-in-Council PC 5263.

Other awards to the unit were: 1 OBE; 1 MBE; 2 BEM, and 3 Royal Humane Life Saving Certificates.

Their discharge badge is a silver button with an impeller in red enamel in the center, the official insignia of the National Fire Service of the United Kingdom, encircled by the words CANADIAN FIRE FIGHTERS, 1942-45; the whole surmounted by an Imperial Crown. Those who served overseas had a scroll below with the word OVERSEAS. Each badge has the mans regimental number on the reverse.

YUKON FIELD FORCE

The Yukon Field Force was sent to Dawson, Yukon to assist in the maintenance of law and order during the gold rush. The force left Ottawa May 6, 1898 for Fort Selkirk in the Yukon District where barracks were erected. Some were returned to their parent units in August 1899. The force was comprised of the following:

Lt Col T.B. Evans	15 NCO's and men of R.C.D.
Maj D.D. Young	46 NCO's and men of R.C.A.
Capt E.W.G. Gardiner	129 NCO's and men of R.C.R.I.
Surg Maj G.F. Foster	1 Armourer
Hon Capt H.E. Burstall	4 Nurses
Hon Capt J.H.C. Ogilvy	8 Civilian artificers
Hon Capt H.C. Thacker	3 Engineering assistants
Lieut L.G. Bennett	
Lieut C.A. Pearce	
Lieut L. Leduc	
Maj D.C.F. Bliss S&T	
Maj A. Talbot Paymaster	
Mr H. Carry, CE	

















The following is the Medal Roll for Canadians who had served in a Canadian Corps prior to joining the South African Constabulary. This portion of the roll is for the clasps for Cape Colony and Orange Free State. The Roll was prepared in accordance with General Order 37(6) dated October 5, 1901.

"A" Division (Western), Johannesburg

	Capt	Lawless, W.T.	2 RCR	Cpl
	Lieut	Hampson, G.	2 RCR	Sgt
	Lieut	Irvine, A.B.	1 RCR	2009 Cpl
	Lieut	King, W.B.M.	C Bty	Capt
A121	TSM	Allan, D.	CMR	disch
111	3CTr	Barriess, P.	SH	504
1882	Cpl	Davies, H.B.	CMR	89 Tr
1643	TQMS	Eagleson, S.H.	1 RCR	7489 Sgt
1430	3CTr	Esson, C.	2 CMR	96 Pte
115	Cpl	Fisher, C.	SH	disch
212	3CTr	McLaughlin, S.	2 CMR	
1737	3CTr	Mills, C.A.	2 RCR	7075
117	Cpl	Saxby, H.W.	SH	155
1789	2CTr	Thomas, W.H.	2 RCR	2486 Sgt Saddler

"C" Division (Eastern), Heidelberg (H.Q.)

	Capt	Fall, P.	Lieut	SH
	Capt	McGiveren, W.L.	7360 Pte	2 RCR
	Lieut	Atwater, J.T.R.	2 RCR	8055 Pte
C	Lieut	Lightbourne, O.R.	2 RCR	1695 Pte
1562	2CSgt	Chapman, G.	RCR	7913 Pte
1556	3CTr	Carney, J.J.	RCR	7912 Pte
1558	3CTr	Cooper, W.J.	RCR	7825 Pte
2126	3CTr	Creighton, C.M.	RCR	7918 Pte
1464	Cpl	Campbell, J.	CMR	C228 Tpr
1465	Cpl	Church, J.H.	CMR	B387 Tpr
1362	TSM	Durie, J.	CMR	90 Pte
1363	3CTr	Dunlop, E.	1 RCR	7482 Pte
1575	Cpl	Hennessey, B.P.	2 RCR	6328 Pte
1573	3CTr	Hammond, A.	2 RCR	7933 Pte
2101	3CTr	Hammond, W.H.	2 CMR	164 Pte
1577	3CTr	Hunter, W.	2 RCR	7928
1672	1CTr	Harris, J.H.	2 RCR	1892
1673	3CTr	Hill, F.J.	RCFA	487 Dr.
1676	2CTr	Irwin, F.B.	RCRI	7648 Pte
1389	3CTr	King, M.B.	E RCA	555 Dr
1583	S Sgt	Kitchen, W.	2 RCR	7948 Pte
1500	3CTr	Kelly, W.D.	CMR	B388 Dr
1596	3CTr	Monteith, J.	2 RCR	7831
1693	Cpl	Moore, F.A.	RCRI	7659
1694	3CTr	Murphy, D.	RCRI	7667
1697	3CTr	McDonald, M.		7888
1691	2CTr	McLean, H.L.		7964
1701	3CTr	McNab, F.		8118
2127	3CTr	McCalla, J.C.		7220
1408	Cpl	Neville, H.S.	CMR	232

2141	Cpl	Biscoe, B.A.R.	SH	
1702	Cpl	Nash, F.B.	RCR	7676
1704	3CTr	Porteous, A.	CFA	764
1611	S Sgt	Redmond, C.T.	2 RCR	7835
1612	3CTr	Roberts, A.	2 RCR	7981
1615	3CTr	Ryan, J.T.	1 CMR	419
1719	3CTr	Robertson, J.M.	RCRI	7835
1416	QMS	Smythe, G.	CMR	43
1616	1CTr	Schofield, A.M.	2 RCR	7982
1623	2 Sgt	Strange, E.H.	2 RCR	7991
1721	Cpl	Snyder, W.H.	CMR	405
1626	2CTr	Turner, R.M.	2 RCR	7995
2	TSM	Willson, J.D.	2 CMR	330
1733	2 Sgt	Wandless, J.F.	RCRI	8011
1735	2CTr	Wayne, J.F.	RCRI	8001

"E" Division

722	3CTr	Harley, Thomas	2 CMR	Recruited in England
855	Cpl	Webb, H.S.	SH	1623 Tpr Recruited in Eng.
1854	L Cpl	Dickson, R.T.	CMR	Recruited in Canada
1880	3CTr	Bellamy, G.A.	CMR	326 Pte
1900	3CTr	Press, Arthur	SH	
1908	1CTr	Souvie, A.	CMR	Farrier
1933	2 Sgt	Platt, J.H.	RCR	5112 Pte
1971	1 Cpl	Graham, G.J.	2 RCR	
2027	Cpl	Key, Walker	CMR	
2036	T Cpl	Barrett, G.A.	25 Elgin	Driver
2064	3CTr	Couse, H.	D RCA	
2121	TQMS	Ingermills, P.C.	2 RCR	
2123	T Cpl	Hogan, R.J.	RCR	
2124	Cpl	Cairns, S.J.	2 RCR	7467 Pte
2127	Cpl	Pear, E.W.	2 RCR	Cpl
2128	Cpl	Parker, H.F.	2 RCR	Pte
2129	3CTr	Ramsey, F.	2 RCR	
2130	3CTr	Bouck, L.	1 RCR	7821 Pte
2158	1CTr	Robinson, A.	C RCA	Dvr
2166	1CTr	Smith, H.	CMR	134 Pte
2187	1CTr	Woodcliffe, G.W.	2 RCR	
2193	1CTr	Gervan, J.E.	RCA	260 Dvr
2207	TSM	Little, R.H.	2 RCR	7568 Sgt
2208	3CTr	Low, J.W.	CMR	Tpr
2210	3CTr	Lyon, D.A.	D RCA	
2224	TSM	Eustace, J.D.F.	2 RCR	
2225	TQMS	Glober, A.R.	2 RCR	7932
2226	Far Sgt	Miller, L.R.	2 RCR	
2227	2 Sgt	Hurley, J.	2 RCR	
2229	Cpl	Cameron, A.A.	2 RCR	
2230	3CTr	Jones, H.G.	2 RCR	
2232	Cpl	Jenkins, C.L.	2 RCR	7942
2234	Cpl	Mills, T.	2 RCR	
2235	Hos Cpl	Smith, C.L.	2 RCR	
2236	3CTr	Cleary, W.F.	2 RCR	
2238	3CTr	Bennett, G.B.	2 RCR	
2242	3CTr	Blaikie, H.	2 RCR	

Pte Recruited in Can.

2243	3CTr	Borden, C.N.	2 RCR
2260	3CTr	Dowing, W.	1 RCR
2262	3CTr	Farrer, D.B.	2 RCR
2264	1CTr	Fitzgerald, A.E.	2 RCR
2292	3CTr	Munnis, M.A.	2 RCR
2301	1CTr	Pierce, H.M.	2 RCR
2313	3CTr	Sutton, G.J.	2 RCR

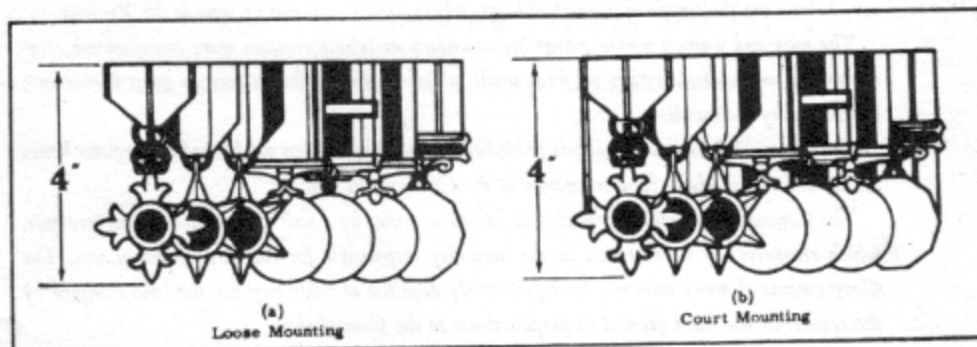
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MEDAL ROLL - CANADIAN POSTAL CORPS

Captain W.R. Ecclestone, Hamilton, Ontario	CC	OFS	TR
Sergeat Rowan Johnston, Brandon, Manitoba	CC	OFS	
Sergeant Joseph Lallier, Coaticorke, Que.	CC	OFS	TR
Sergeant Thos B. Bedell, Andover, N.B.	CC	OFS	TR
Sergeant Kenneth A. Murray, Woodstock, Ont.	CC	OFS	TR

(6) In mounting orders, decorations and medals either of the following methods may be used:

- (a) Loose mounting - the ribbons of the orders, decorations and medals, with the required length of ribbons exposed, are sewn over a brooch pin bar, the badges hanging free.
(Figure 1)
- (b) Court mounting - orders, decorations and medals are mounted as for loose mounting, but on a special frame brooch, the width of which will be determined by the number of orders, decorations and medals; the overall length, 4 inches. The ribbon is extended over the back of the frame and up the front and sewn so that it covers the frame behind the medals. The medals are sewn to the frame which should reach approximately to their centre. This method of mounting prevents the chipping of enamelled surfaces.
(Figure 1)



METHOD OF MOUNTING ORDERS, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION was established by Royal Charter of 21st May 1917, the terms of which are further defined by a Supplemental Charter of 8th June 1964. Its duties are to mark and maintain the graves of the members of the forces of the Commonwealth and Empire who died in the two World Wars, to build memorials to the dead whose graves are unknown and to keep records and registers.

The work was founded upon principles which have remained unaltered: that each of the dead should be commemorated individually by name either on the headstone on the grave, or by an inscription on a memorial; that the headstones and memorials should be permanent; that the headstones should be uniform and that there should be no distinction made on account of military or civil rank.

The whole cost of the work is shared by the partner governments—United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Pakistan—in the proportion of the numbers of their graves.

Almost all the war cemeteries and memorials are maintained by the Commission's own staff. The care of the war graves in civil cemeteries and churchyards is mostly entrusted to local authorities, who maintain them in agreement with the Commission.

The headstones are 2 feet 8 inches in height; at the top of each is engraved the national emblem or the service or regimental badge, followed by the rank, name, unit, date of death, age and the appropriate religious emblem; and at the foot, in many cases, an inscription chosen by the relatives. In some cemeteries stone or bronze plaques on low pedestals are used instead of headstones, notably on the Gallipoli Peninsula, in Macedonia and in the Far East and the Pacific.

Where climate permits the headstones stand in narrow borders, where polyantha roses and small perennials grow, in a setting of lawn, trees and shrubs. Two monuments are common to the cemeteries: the Cross of Sacrifice set upon an octagonal base and bearing a bronze sword upon its shaft; and, in the larger cemeteries, the Stone of Remembrance, having carved upon it the words from the Book of Ecclesiasticus: *THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE*. Large cemeteries have shelters or entrance buildings, where visitors can rest or consult the Register.

The men and women whose graves are unknown or whose remains were cremated are commemorated on memorials ranging from small tablets bearing a few names to great monuments bearing many thousands.

Cemetery and Memorial Registers published by the Commission are housed in Register boxes on site and are available for consultation at the Commission's offices.

The Commission's work is protected in foreign countries by a series of international agreements, which recognise the Commission as the authority responsible for the care of the graves. The Governments of many countries have generously acquired at State expense the land occupied by the cemeteries and have granted its perpetual use to the Commission.