

# CSMMI *Journal*

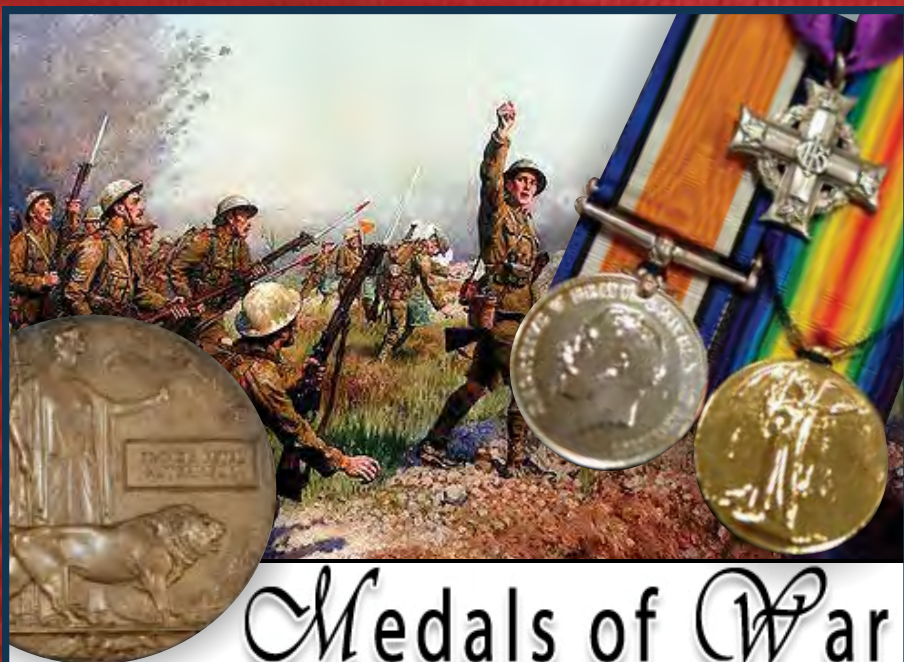
WINTER 2021



**"T" is for Tunneller**  
**Page 2449**



**Sweetheart Pillows**  
**and Trench Art**  
**Page 2451**



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# CSMMI *Journal*

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# President's Message

*Bryan Patterson, President, #953*

As I write this message, 2021 is winding down. Like everyone else, I am going to stumble into year 2022 with expectations that somehow our world dilemma will sort itself out and we can endeavor to get back to some form of normalcy, whatever that may look like.



The executive committee have had a series of zoom meetings during 2021 and we have considered any and all ways that the AGM and monthly meeting might get back on track for next year.

We have reached out to, and are going to attempt to get the monthly meetings at the Burlington Seniors' Centre going again in January 2022. I will be meeting with the Holiday Inn folks in the next weeks to make sure that whatever they need us to do to for the AGM to proceed, will be done.

There will be a whole new protocol to follow at each of the two venues and we will learn what that involves and make plans accordingly.

## **Announcements:**

- 1 The Society is going to implement a certificate and a medal for long service to the society. A member with fifteen years of service to the society will receive a certificate of long service; a member with twenty-five years of service to the society will receive a long service medal; additional increments of five years service will qualify for a bar to the CSMMI LSM.
- 2 A new feature of the Journal will include book, video, movie or media reviews – a short, one or two paragraph review of a book you think other members might be interested in, or an interesting website you have found, or any other material of interest to a military collector. Please share any information you have found that could be interesting or helpful to our members.
- 3 Ken Keegan reported that we have four Junior Members on our roster. My two lads were members when they were nine and eleven and still talk about the times when I took them to our monthly show and sales events. It costs nothing for a junior membership.

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Consider signing up your kids or grandchildren. My youngest boy used the fact that he was a member of CSMMI on his resume when applying for jobs when he was in high-school. It got him interviews at least twice.

The society's financial health remains in excellent condition considering the times we are in. Our treasurer, Andy Traverse, reported that our bank balance as at September 09, 2021 is \$22,010.51. Good work Andy!

Bill Alexander is managing and promoting the society's Facebook page. Membership is currently at 1,401. Bill will continue to make sure the FB page is promoting membership in the C.S.M.M.I., soliciting articles and advertising the benefits of the society. Thanks, Bill, for your efforts.

If you haven't recently been there, visit our website ([www.csmmi.com](http://www.csmmi.com)). Lawrence Stasiuk is doing a stellar job keeping it current and up to date. Thanks Lawrence.

I am really excited about next year and our society events that will happen during 2022!!!

Keep safe.  
Bryan

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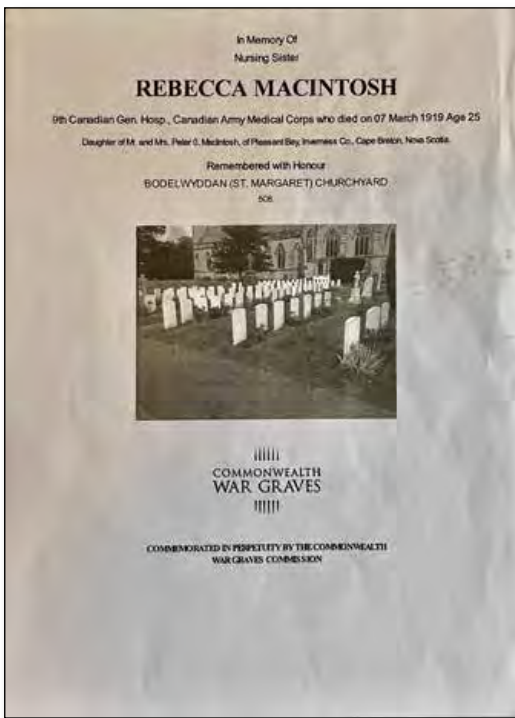
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# NURSING SISTER REBECCA MCINTOSH: A GREAT WAR CASUALTY

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*Dean W. Mario #1258*

I have greatly enjoyed Terry Wallace's interesting series on Canadian nursing sisters who died in the Great War. Some years ago, I came upon a real photo postcard which illustrates the sad interment of another nurse, Rebecca McIntosh.



*Fig. 1- CWGC memorial certificate*

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She was taken on strength at Halifax, Nova Scotia on 5 April 1917. At the time of her death from pneumonia on 7 March 1919, at age 25, she was serving with the 9th Canadian General Hospital (originally the Shorncliffe Military Hospital) at Kimmel Park, Ryhl, Wales. (In operation from 17 December 1918 to 26 June 1919).

According to Nelson Mercier, Nursing Sister McIntosh was awarded the British War Medal, and her family the Memorial Cross and the Memorial Plaque. Her

According to her Officer's Declaration Paper, Nursing Sister Rebecca McIntosh (Canadian Army Medical Corps), was born at Pleasant Bay, Inverness County, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia on 29 June 1892. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Peter O. McIntosh and her brother, J.P. McIntosh of Bridgewater, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia was listed as her next of kin. She listed her address upon attestation as Truro, Nova Scotia.

She was taken on strength at Halifax, Nova Scotia on 5 April 1917. At the time of her death from pneumonia on 7 March 1919, at age

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memorial plaque was sold by Jeffery Hoare Auctions on 16 April, 2000 and again in the firm's 2016 Sale #119 for \$8,000 plus the 15% buyer's fee.

She is buried at Bodelwyddan (St. Margaret) Churchyard, Clwyd. She rests with over eighty other graves of Canadian soldiers who died in the repatriation camp at Kinmel Park in 1919, largely from disease or influenza. Also visible on the card are the grave markers of 724241, Pte.(Spr.) Joseph Henderson (d. 27 January 1919), 639181, Pte.(Spr.) John Hilton Towsley (d. 30 January 1919), and 490597, Pte.(Spr.) Alfred George Smith (d. 2 February 1919). All were members of the 11th Canadian Railway Troops.



*Fig. 2- Bodelwyddan (St. Margaret) Churchyard, Clwyd*

---

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorial certificate showing the churchyard (Fig. 1) and the postcard (Fig. 2) are illustrated.

References:

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=155330>

[https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/75424/BODELWYDDAN\\_\(ST\\_MARGARET\)\\_CHURCHYARD/](https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/cemetery-details/75424/BODELWYDDAN_(ST_MARGARET)_CHURCHYARD/)

Wigney, E.H. Ed. The C.E.F. Roll of Honour. Ottawa, ON: Eugene Ursual, 1996, p. 499.

Mercier, N. "The World War One Memorial Cross to Canadian Nursing Sisters". OMRS Journal, Whole No.266 (Vol.44, No.1, March 2005) page 13

JHA Catalogue, Sale 119, 31 January 2016, lot 269



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# FROM THE ARCHIVES: THE FIRST NAVAL CASUALTIES OF WORLD WAR TWO

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*Harvey Mitchell #L1*

*The following article was originally published in the CSMMI Journal, Winter 1983, Volume 19, Number 1, page 6.*

**H**.M.S. Oxley was one of the first group of “O” Class submarines and was launched in June of 1926. She had a displacement of 1,350 tons, 1,870 tons submerged and had a top speed of 15 knots on the surface and 9 knots submerged. Her armament consisted of 1-4” gun, 2 machine guns and 8-21” torpedo tubes, 6 in the bow and 2 in the stern. Her complement was 54 officers and men. Like her sister ships the Oberon and Otway, she had been plagued with a bad electro-mechanical problem. In the case of the Oxley, the failure of other equipment was to seal her doom.

When war was declared with Germany on the 3rd of September 1939, the Oxley was based with the 2nd Submarine Flotilla at Dundee in Scotland. All the available reservists had been called up, the Royal Navy had commissioned all those ships including the submarines in the Reserve Fleet and those given a patrol area, put out to sea. Their duty was to guard against a German invasion, inspect neutral shipping, sink any German merchant warships but to give a fair warning to any German merchant shipping before sinking. This was to provide their crews a chance to escape on their boats and thus save civilian lives.

On September 10th, the Oxley along with her sister ships in the 2nd Submarine Flotilla were patrolling a line stretching west-southwest off Stavanger outside Norwegian territorial waters. The Oxley, Spearfish, Sturgeon, Seahorse and Triton had missed the breakout of the pocket-battleships Graf Spee and Deutschland. They had been bombed by their own aircraft of the Royal Air Force and Spearfish had been attacked by a U-boat.

September 10th, must have been one of those days of poor visibility when the Captain of the Triton sighted a submarine on the surface. He rang “Action Stations” and set up his plot of attack. There should be no British submarines on his patrol station but he must have had some doubts because he challenged by signal lamp 3 times and fired a recognition grenade. Receiving no response, he fired his torpedoes and the Oxley blew up in a spray of broken metal. Of

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the Oxley crew, only the Captain and a rating survived to be picked up by the Triton. These survivors were likely those on the bridge of the Oxley at the time. Fifty Three officers and men died.

In a subsequent enquiry, it turned out that the Captain of the Oxley had tried to return the recognition signals by his signal lamp and concussion grenade, but both had failed. More-so than any other type of warship, the crew of a submarine have to be not only highly trained but decisions and a response made in splits seconds. That the crew of the Oxley was comprised of so many reservists would possibly indicate that their drill was not entirely up to perfection at this early stage of the war.

The following list is the crew, officers and men who lost their lives that day on September 10th, 1939, just seven days after war was declared. Perhaps it will pay those who collect Naval Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to see if any of the names in their medal collections correspond with those on this list. I did with success.

LIEUTENANT: R.P. COPPINGER, R.N.
LIEUTENANT: F.K. MANLEY, R.N.R.
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E.R.A. W. GRAHAM: P/MX 49892
STOKER, P.F. GREGORY: P/KX83851

P.O. TEL. R.M. GROOM: C/JX133959  
P.O. STEWARD, F.A.J. GYNES: P/LX20007  
A/B. G.J. HENDERSON: C/JX134554  
P.O. COOK. C.J. HICKEY: C/M38178  
STOKER 1. H. HOLT: R.F.R. P/KX76324  
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STOKER 1. W.G. HUNTER: R.F.R. D/KX76701  
STOKER 1. J.W. JACKSON: R.F.R. D/KX76978  
STOKER 1. M. JORDAN: R.F.R. D/K66610  
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L.STOKER. C. MILLER: R.F.R. P/KX76722  
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ELECTRICAL ART. 2. C.R. MITCHELL: C/MX45921  
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A/B. N. SANDERS: P/J73151  
A/B. L. STEVENSON: R.F.R. P/J100806  
L.TEL. R.A.S.H. THOMAS: R.F.R. P/J111595  
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STOKER 1. C.L. WATERS: C/KX84422  
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L.S. H.R. WILSON: P/JX131810  
A/B. H.E. WEBB: R.F.R. P/J111488  
L.S. L. WOODWARD: P/J 97242  
E.R.A.3. W.N. WORTH: D/MX31189

### Sources:

Brasseys Naval Annual, p.137. London Daily Express: Nov. 9, 1939, p.4.

Mars: Alistair, British Submarines at War 1939-1945 Chatham, Kent, W&J Mackay Ltd. 1971.



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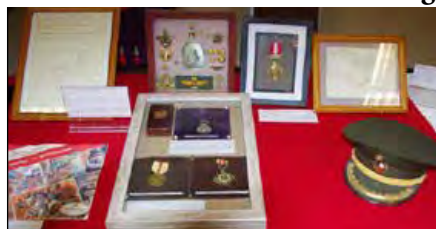
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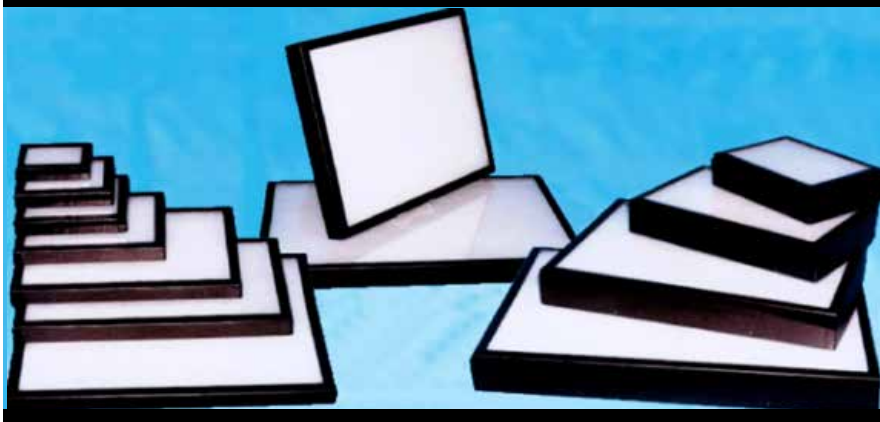
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# "T" IS FOR TUNNELLER

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*Bill Alexander #721*

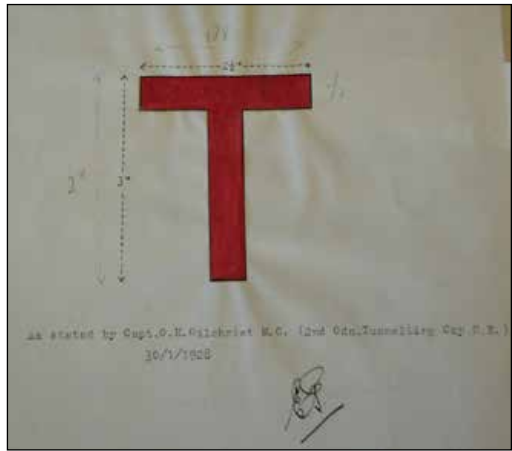
*Revised © 2020*

**D**uring the First World War, many tactical innovations were developed to break the stalemate created by trench warfare. Mining, by tunnelling under the enemy trenches, placing and detonating charges was a technique adopted by both sides in France and Flanders. In the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), dedicated tunnelling companies were formed by the Royal Engineers and the engineers from the Dominions and colonies. Tunnelling Companies were responsible for tunnelling, mining, and counter mining activities, including removal of enemy mines and booby traps, as well as other regular engineering jobs as required.

Canada, a nation rich in mining operations, was a source of experienced miners and quickly recruited four companies. Organized in 1916, the Canadian Engineers (CE) tunnelling company establishment was initially 14 officers and 225 other ranks; this would grow to 19 officers and 550 other ranks by 1918. Three CE tunnelling companies were sent to the western front under command of the imperial Controller of Mines (Army). The fourth company was converted to a depot and supplied personnel to the other three. The first three companies were deployed to the front as British Expeditionary Force assets and were not under command of the Canadian Corps.



*Fig. 1: Examples of "T" No 1 Company and No 2 Tunnelling Company patches*



*Fig. 2: Drawings and samples held in archive files for Canadian Engineer Tunnelling Companies.*

No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 Tunnelling Companies CE were operating in France and Flanders when the BEF and Canadian Corps began adopting battle signs for wear on the uniform. Introduced to facilitate identification of the soldier's unit, these patches of coloured or embroidered cloth were worn centered on the back of the tunic, or on one or both sleeves. This practice was extended to the Canadian tunnelling companies who used the simple profile of the letter "T" for their design. Each company had a unique "T", differing in construction or colour or size. No 1 Tunnelling Company wore a "T" shape profile in black material sewn to a red rectangular patch. It has also been suggested the "T" shape in black was worn by itself. The Acting Officer Commanding (O.C.) No. 1 Coy reported the patch was adopted with the approval of Xth Army Corps on July 2, 1917. No. 2 Coy wore a red "T", 3 inches high by 2 1/2 inches across the top. The "T" was 1/2 inch width. Capt. F.A. Brewster reported

*Continued on Page 2454*

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# SWEETHEART PILLOWS AND TRENCH ART

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*By Michael McHenry #1746*

**W**hat do soldiers recovering from wounds, those assigned to rear echelon units, or those awaiting discharge have in common? You are correct, they have TIME; which, if left unchecked, rapidly can turn to boredom and frustration. And as any RSM would so attest, soldiers with time on their hands tended to have disciplinary problems that in specific instances contributed to rioting, heavy drinking, and disorderly conduct to name only a few.

Studies indicate that the mental condition of wounded soldiers waiting long periods for transportation home worsened with prolonged periods of inactivity. To preclude these long periods of inactivity, and produce a worthwhile memento which could be sent home, soldiers during World War I produced “Sweetheart Pillow Cushions” in large numbers. These varied in designs, sizes, and had varying themes. (Figures 1 and 2).



*Fig. 1: Sweetheart pillow cushion*

Normally made in the shape of hearts, cigarette silks and cards, colored round headed stick pins in various sizes, yarn, roping and tape were used to craft designs on the cushions. The vast majority featured the Regimental cap badge to which the crafting soldier belonged. Names of Mothers or girlfriends, the



names of battlefields, and hometown names feature prominently on many cushions.

Once the demand became obvious, French merchants were quick to produce and sell “Sweetheart Pillow” kits to soldiers, which contained a diagram of the cushion, assembly instructions in English and all of the necessary materials for construction. Kits were also sold by YMCA and similar facilities, hospital canteens, and Post Exchanges or Navy & Army Canteen Board canteens. Completed cushions were then boxed and posted to loved ones at home. Period pictures show many of the cushions framed in shadow-boxes and hanging over family mantles.

A second way to combat boredom was the fabrication of “Trench Art”, which proved to be a creative way that soldiers in engineer units, workshop units, prisoners-of-war, or local civilians and refugees could make and often sell artistic items. With a ready supply of spent artillery shells, military equipment, or scrap metal, the crafters made Trench Art items such as lighters, lamps, vases, ash trays, matchbox covers, and elaborate crucifixes, to name only a few items. Beginning in 1914, many of these items were often useful in the trenches while later in the war and after 1918, semi-mass production allowed many Trench Art items to be profitably sold to ex-soldiers and civilian battlefield tourists returning to visit the battlefields.



*Fig. 2: Sweetheart pillow cushion*



*Fig. 3: Canteen with “American Eagle” and “France” engravings*

surrounding the engravings, and the canteen cap, have also been expertly etched to highlight the engraving. The skill of the engraving, and the patience that it took Private Tesch to complete his engraving, only make me ponder what the rest of the story was?

The fabrication of Trench Art continued into World War II, Korea and Vietnam with the major addition being the crafting of aircraft; the Trench Art Huey helicopter made by South Vietnamese civilians from used American Coke cans, then sold to G.I.s, being the most prolific.

Pictured at Figure 3 and 4 is a World War I American soldier’s canteen which was repurposed and engraved by Private Edward Tesch, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He engraved his name and hometown on the bottom of the canteen. On the face of the canteen, Private Tesch engraved the “American Eagle” with “France”, “AEF” (American Expeditionary Force) and “1918-1919”. On the rear of the canteen he engraved “Theresa Casenave A.N.C.” (Army Nurse Corps) with the “Caduceus” for the medical corps, and “B.H. (Base Hospital) 54”. Note that all of the spaces



*Fig. 4: Canteen with A.N.C. (Army Nurse Corps) engravings*

the badge had first been worn 7 June 1917 when assisting in the operations of 23rd Division. Authority had been given by the GOC of the 23rd but only for that operation. No. 2 Coy had applied to the Controller of Mines, 4th Army for permanent authority. No. 3 Coy sent examples of their patches to the Canadian Historical Section in March of 1918. It was a “T” 1 inch high, 1 ½ inches across the top, and again, ½ inch width. The submission noted the authority was Fourth Army HQ, No/ 21/24 dated 1/3/1918. A diagram of the insignia worn during the war was submitted to the Historical Section in 1928. Image evidence shows the “T” patches in wear on the sleeves of the uniform.



*Fig. 3: Capt. Alex Young No 3 Tunnelling Coy CE.  
His formation sign is just visible on the left. (S. St Amant)*

In the early 1918 re-organization of the Canadian Corps, No. 1 and No.2 Tunnelling Companies were absorbed into the Canadian divisional engineering brigades. The insignia for the first two companies was redundant and removed. No. 3 Tunnelling Coy continued as an army troop asset, wearing the tunnellers’ “T” until the end of the war.



*Fig. 4: An unidentified sergeant wearing the No 3 Tunnelling Coy "T".*

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LAC RG 9 III DI Vol. 4711 Historical Section File 5-D-1-2. No. 1 Tunnelling Coy Regimental Badges.

LAC RG 9 III DI Vol. 4711, Historical Section File 5-D-2-1. No. 2 Tunnelling Coy Regimental Badges.

Memorandum HQ 512-19-1 to D of R, Attention War Graves Section. Ottawa 28 February 1928. After the war, the purpose of battle patches took on a new role. Identifying the remains of soldiers found on the battlefields of France and Flanders was assisted by the insignia on their uniforms.

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# BOOK/MEDIA REVIEW

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*Bryan Petterson*

In the President's Message I mentioned a new feature to be added to the Journal. A "Book/Media Review Column" which will include book reviews, website discoveries or any material that other military collectors might be interested in. Submissions are to be short, one or two paragraphs in length. Send all submissions to [bryanpatterson@rogers.com](mailto:bryanpatterson@rogers.com).

## FROZEN HELL: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939-40

by William R. Trotter, published by Algonquin books of Chapel Hill, first published in 1991.

I highly recommend this book, having read it in the last few months. It is a book about battles, savagely fought under brutal subarctic conditions. It's a "the little engine that could" type saga. Russia attacked first and thought they could overwhelm Finland by the sheer weight of massed numbers. They were wrong. In the end Finland fought Russia to a standstill. Nobody lost and nobody won, but the cost to Russia was incredible. 230,000 to 270,000 dead and 200,000 to 300,000 wounded while Finland lost 24,923 dead and 43,557 wounded in the 105-day war.

Baron Carl Gustav Mannerheim, Commander and Chief of the Finnish Armed Forces at the time is revered to this day in Finland.



Image from Amazon.ca

## HELL RIDERS:

### The Truth About the Charge of the Light Brigade,

by Terry Brighton, published by Penguin Books, first published in 2004.

Incredible details of the charge, many personal accounts given and written documents provided presented. The best book I've read on the subject. Highly recommended.

## FABRIC OF WAR –

### Canadian Army Cloth Shoulder Insignia c. 1900-1970,

researched and compiled by Bill Alexander, F.CSMMI, published by Friesen Press, First Edition 2019. Available directly from the author or through Marway Militaria

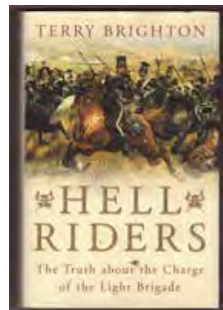


Image from Amazon.ca

This is another publication I highly recommend as a reference book that has become my "go to" source when I need info on shoulder insignia of the Canadian Army. It is 505 pages (high quality glossed paper) of outstanding write-ups and coloured images of Canadian army cloth shoulder badges in existence between 1900 and 1970. There being over 1,000 images and tables.

I predict that this publication will become the "Bible" to all Canadian army shoulder insignia collectors and researchers.



Photo by Bill Alexander

# Membership Terms Policy Update

On April 21, 2021, The C.S.M.M.I. Executive approved a policy that clarifies the terms of membership. Effective April 21, 2021, the following shall apply:

The C.S.M.M.I. annual membership commences on January 1 of the year and ends on December 31 of that year. Membership fees are due on January 1 and are payable by January 31st. Any membership not paid by this date shall be issued a notice from the Society.

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Researched & compiled by Bill Alexander

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(Please circle the appropriate heading)

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(Founded 1965)

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#### Collecting Interests

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Do you authorize the C.S.M.M.I. to publish the above information? If "Yes" is not checked, then we cannot publish the information.	Yes	No
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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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#### MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES

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The C.S.M.M.I. Journal is distributed in pdf format via email. Print journals are available on request.

Please check if you would like to receive a print Journal. I prefer a print Journal. \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Membership valid from January 1 – December 31. Annual fees due by January 31<sup>st</sup>.  
New membership starting after July 1<sup>st</sup> shall be extended to December 31 of the following year.

(CSMMI form May 2021)



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