

CSMMI *Journal*

SPRING 2022



SS John W. Brown
- History of a
Liberty Ship
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CSMMI *Journal*

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President's Message

Bryan Patterson, President, #953

As I write this message, I am realizing how much of a fluctuating situation COVID-19 is. We were scheduled to have a show and sale in January that subsequently had to be cancelled. The City of Burlington shut down all of its facilities until further notice to curb the impacts of the Omicron variant.

Our monthly meetings, on the third Sunday of each month, are still scheduled for February through May at the Burlington Seniors' Centre. Our website, Facebook page and eblasts will keep us all up to date on any changes to the scheduling.



As we had already gone to press, we were unable to mention in the Winter 2021 issue of the Journal the great loss to the society with the passing of Rudy Sauro on November 18, 2021. Rudy's wise counsel to all of us will be sorely missed AND It is with deep regret that we announce that a founding member of our Society, Floyd Migory, passed away on December 14, 2021. Floyd was a rock for our society during some tough times when we could very well have floundered. Obituaries for both Rudy and Floyd are included in this issue of the Journal.

A tremendous compliment was paid to the Society by the executor of Rudy's estate and Rudy's wife Barbara. They reached out and asked for our assistance with the liquidation of some of the militaria assets of Rudy's collection. They were concerned that they did not have the expertise to effectively realize the true value of the items.

In my tenure as President, this is the third time an executor of an estate of one of our members has asked for assistance. I will write an article on the process involved in a later issue of the Journal. I feel it is a very important value-added asset for any member of the Society.

If you have not yet reserved a table or two for the Annual Two-Day Show and Sale in June I would suggest you do so quickly as most tables are already spoken for. We are not quite sure of the COVID-19 protocols we will be using at the time, but we will follow the government and health guidelines to ensure the event can proceed safely.

The Executive Committee continues to keep the Society moving in the right direction. I would like to give a special mention to Lawrence Stasiuk and Bill Alexander for their guidance and perseverance with the publication of the Journal in a timely manner.

Let's hope 2022 will be a spectacular year for all of us. We are not out of the woods yet folks, so keep diligent. Stay safe.

CSMMI Executive

CSMMI 2021 – 2022 Executive Officers

President	Bryan Patterson
Vice President	Mike McLean
Secretary	Bill Alexander
Treasurer	Andy Traverser
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Advertising	Terry Wallace
Annual Show Convenors	Bryan Patterson Mike McLean
Journal Editorial Team	Bryan Patterson Bill Alexander Ken Keegan Lawrence Stasiuk Terry Wallace
Journal Production	Irene Romagnoli
Membership Secretary	Ken Keegan
Monthly Bourse Convenor	Bryan Patterson
Webmaster	Lawrence Stasiuk

SOCIETY AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The Canadian Society of Military Medals and Insignia (CSMMI) was founded on March 21, 1965 for the purpose of advancing the study of military orders, decorations, medals, insignia, accoutrements, documents and all related militaria.

The Society seeks to encourage popular interest and to gather and publish information in all matters related thereto, along educational and historical lines. It also seeks to foster the preservation of such honours, awards, insignia and items of military interest for future generations.

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Floyd Migory

Diane Migory

Bud Migory

Will Migory

IN MEMORIAM

FLOYD MIGORY #L15



We are sad to announce that Floyd Migory passed away on December 14th, 2021. Floyd was one of the 18 founding members of the Society when it was organized in 1965 and assigned membership #15. He was a member of the CSMMI for 56 years and energetically supported the organization until his passing.

He was a fixture at any get-together the society had, and, it is said that Floyd did not miss a monthly or annual show for 55 years. His loyalty, trustworthiness, and contribution of time and experience to our Society over these many years have been invaluable. He successfully led many special projects and served as vice president from 2005-2006 and president from 2007-2010. Floyd was bestowed with the Silver Medal of Service to the Society and a Life Membership Award (#L15) in 1992, which were richly deserved.

Floyd is predeceased by his sister Diane Migory #L70, is survived by his brother Bud Migory #L16 and nephew Will Migory #1642. Our friend will be missed.



RUDY SAURO #L97

CSMMI lost one of its greatest supporters on December 18, 2021 with the passing of Rudy Sauro. Rudy had been a member of our Society since December 1966, joining the CSMMI a year after it began in 1965. With the society membership #97, he was considered one of our “original” members.

A retired jeweller, Rudy has been collecting and restoring medals since the early 1960s. He was also very active in the numismatic world and an active member of the Ontario Numismatic Association. Rudy is a prime example of a person who turned his hobby into a thriving business adventure after his retirement.

He was actively engaged in his trade until just a couple of months before his passing at the age of ninety. He was a regular dealer at the CSMMI monthly and annual shows, as well as, at other militaria and numismatic shows in Ontario. He was also regarded as one of the experts in mounting medals and badges.

He will be remembered as the quiet genius in our field, a man who listened more than he spoke, gave wise council when asked and was a mentor to many military collectors over the years. Rudy was honoured by the CSMMI with a Life Member designation #L97 at the 2019 annual general meeting. He is survived by his wife Barbara. Rudy will be sorely missed by us all.

CANADIANS WITH THE DUNSTERFORCE – 1917/18

Ken Cox #1738

On Christmas Eve 1917, while in command of the 1st Infantry Brigade on the Northwest Frontier of India, Colonel (later Major-General) Lionel Dunsterville received secret orders to present himself to army headquarters at Delhi India. Upon reporting he was informed that he was to proceed overseas on special work to:

“organize, train and eventually lead the Armenians, Georgians and Tartars for the prevention of the spreading of German propaganda to Afghanistan and thence to India, the protections of the Baku oil fields, the prevention of the Cotton crop stored at Krasnovosk getting into German hands and to provide an additional force to operate against the Turks from the East and to hold the Batoum-Tiflis-Baku-Krasnovosk line to Afghanistan”.

His command encompassed an area inhabited by no fewer than eighteen distinct ‘races’ and at least forty-eight different languages and dialects.

The Russian forces in the Caucasus region had collapsed following the Bolshevik revolution and there was real fear that the Ottoman Turks and Germans could take advantage of the situation and capture the Baku oil fields in Persia. British forces in Mesopotamia were already too busy so it was decided to create a new force of 300 volunteers whose main function was to primarily organize the local tribes and protect the oil fields.

On January 3rd, 1918 the Australian, Canadian, South African and New Zealand Corps Commanders received a request from Dunsterville’s second in command, seeking their cooperation in organizing *“a very important and difficult mission”*. They wanted 150 officers and 300 NCOs possessing *“the spirit of adventure, undoubted courage, and the ability to quickly estimate difficult situations.”* The request went on to state that the officers and men must be of strong, character, adventurous spirit, especially good stamina and capable of organizing, training and leading irregular troops. Command felt that Dominion troops would be better suited because they had proven themselves as strong, reliable troops of independent nature.

On January 5th, Canadian Corps commander General Currie sent a message to his brigade commanders asking for volunteers to partake in *“a hazardous enterprise in a foreign theatre of war.”* The officers who volunteered were given no other specific details. The fifteen officers selected, in turn, were asked to

suggest the names of NCOs who showed strong leadership and who might work well in organizing and leading a force of irregulars. Twenty-nine supposedly self-reliant and distinguished NCOs were hand-picked. Of the 44 selected, 3 were deemed unfit and the remaining 41 volunteers reported to their respective Battalion orderly rooms, etc. where they subsequently received transportation to London. When the men assembled in the Tower of London they were informed that all officers below the rank of Captain would be promoted to Captain and all non-commissioned men below the rank of Sergeant would be made acting Sergeant.

Dunsterville's intelligence officer reported that the volunteers appeared to him:

“as a hardened band of adventurous soldiers, fit to go anywhere and do anything, men who had lived on the brink of the pit for three years and come back from the Valley of Shadows of Death... they were the cream of the fighting men from the South African contingent and from the magnificent Australian and Canadian Divisions. I do not recall a single officer or NCO who had not won at least one decoration for bravery”.

The Force which was eventually sent to the Caucasus was referred to as The Baghdad Mission, The Hush-Hush Army and finally as Dunsterforce. Other high-ranking officers referred to it as some kind of forlorn hope or at least a sacrificial battalion. In London the Force was further augmented by some British soldiers, fourteen Russian officers and one Persian.

T.C. Winegard in *The First World Oil War*, states that there was no doubt it was an eclectic and diverse group of men. *“There were sailors, professional soldiers, engineers, bankers, farmers, cowboys, police officers, students and skilled tradesmen among other pre-war vocations. Many had seen service in the Boer War, others in the Boxer Rebellion. Canadian Leon Bedat had served in the Spanish-American War and the Boxer Rebellion with the U.S. Navy, and had spent 14 months with Venezuela rebels. Others had participated in the Klondike gold rush, some had led safaris in Zululand while another claimed to have been on the staff of the Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa”.*

That's not to say that everyone was pleased with the 300+ men who volunteered. Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel Warden complained the average soldier under his leadership was a very lively party and that he did not care for many of the offices and NCOs. In his diary, he stated... *for incompetence and unqualified ignorance of his duties in war, the average English officer is easily the winner first place...* and the colonials were very drunken and were really hard tickets. Warden was convinced that some of the Canadians were selected in order to get rid of them and not for efficiency in their units. For instance, Sgt. Roy Casey was approached for the mission while in the custody of military police

Continued on Page 2469

awaiting court martial for repeat offences of absent without leave, and drunken and disorderly conduct. Given the choices he volunteered.

After a long journey the men disembarked at Basra on March 2nd, 1918 and arrived in Baghdad between March 19th to 28th. It would be almost seven months before Dunsterville's force would reach Baku. Ultimately Dunsterforce would be augmented by Brigadier-General Percy Sykes and his seven thousand-odd South Persian Rifles and Colonel Lazar Bicherakov the fiercely anti-Bolshevik Ossetian Cossack Russian Commander and his twelve hundred loyal Cossack cavalry who fought for whichever side paid enough.

Newspaper reporter, Lisa Smedman reported that the personal diaries of Dunsterforce members all detailed the horrific plight of the Persian people. They alluded to the piles of dead, with the living too weak to perform the required and customary Islamic burial. Their first-hand accounts describe cannibalism and other horrific excesses brought on by famine, drought and war. The mission really was a "forlorn hope" due to lack of resources and military jealousy.

Following the Turkish attack on Batu and the subsequent retreat, one officer wrote, *"I never expected to witness such chaos among British military, especially the regulars"*. He wrote, *"Baku could have been held by good sound management and organization but Gen. Dunsterville was not capable of doing either and his staff was far worse. Not the slightest move was made to meet the enemy during last night and when the attack developed nobody bothered to find out how it was going until I went out."* After the retreat from Baku, on Sept. 22nd, the War Office ordered that Dunsterforce be dissolved. The only Canadian casualty was Sgt. Donald John MacDonald of Calgary who died of smallpox after being evacuated to India.

The Force performed well in the battle for Baku oil fields and did some great humanitarian work. However, of his adventures with the force, Sgt. A. J. Foster would write, *"I have absorbed so much of cruelty, lawlessness, disregard for human life and other people's property; recklessness bred of the trenches that it stands to reason what portions of these things are going to remain as part of me? Particularly my outlook on life."* Canadian Lt-Col. John Wightman who eventually returned to Vancouver in March 1920 after serving with the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force, following his service with the Dunsterforce, would write how disillusioned he was with the British army. He would complain that the NCOs he was put in charge of, particularly the Australians, were an *"undisciplined mob"* and that many of the Canadian officers and men probably were selected to get rid of them and not for any efficiency in their units.

On the other hand, reporter Lisa Smedmen of the *Vancouver Courier* newspaper would write the following of the men who served with the Dunsterforce:

“The men of Dunsterforce succumbed to cholera, malaria, dysentery and sandfly fever. They ducked bullets from sniping tribesmen and incurred the wrath of local mullahs when they violated Moslem customs. They traveled by truck, camel, horse and mule, backed up by armoured cars and a handful of airplanes, marched on foot for days on end while eating only iron rations and mildewed chapattis, and attempted to build roads and bring famine relief to the locals. Ultimately, they participated in the Battle Baku and escaped by the skin of their teeth while under fire from gunboats.”

Whether they were “really hard tickets” or as Nicholson’s official history of the CEF states, “they had marched into a maelstrom”, these men must have been quite brave. When the Force was finally disbanded the Canadian volunteers were offered employment in Mesopotamia, North Persia and Siberia, or they could return to their units on the Western Front. The fact that one-third accepted this new employment was a credit to those men who volunteered.

Canadians in Dunsterforce (source *Vancouver Courier* newspaper):

Bedat, Leon, sergeant, 207973	McCue, William Donaldson, sergeant, 28649
Brophy, William Thomas, sergeant, 642141	MacDonald, Donald John, sergeant, 435026
Burbidge, Geoffrey? C., captain	McLean, J.H., captain
Campbell, Clifford George, sergeant, 54027 (54007)	McWhirter, David Ferguson, sergeant, 907032
Casey, Roy, sergeant, 75341	Murdock (Murdoch?), William John, sergeant, 477622,
Chambers, Walter, captain	Murray, James (“Jimmy”), sergeant, 117035
Clark, Robert, sergeant, 5068	Murray, Peter S., captain
Cummings, Wilfred Elmer, sergeant, 5175	Newcombe, Harold Kenzie, major
Estabrooks, Raymond, sergeant, 69257	Parsons, Frederick Carey, sergeant, 311931
Fisher, J.M., captain	Pegg, Thomas Henry, sergeant, 107475
Gathey, Alfred Prat, sergeant, 922428	Petrie, William L., captain
Gilmour, Adam Harrison, captain	Ramsey, Alex Miller, sergeant, 102194
Hamilton, Samuel, sergeant, 79130	Ridgeway, Tom, sergeant, 219
Harrison, Robert, captain	Roberts, Guy Burland, captain
Hodgson, Thomas, captain	Swanwick, Alfred, sergeant, 414761
Hopkins, Gordon Scott, captain	Trevor, William Edward, sergeant, 791221
Jackman, William Tooley, sergeant, 210619	Vanden Berg, John William Henry, major,
Lawrence, John, sergeant, 187362	Warden, John Weightman, lieutenant-colonel
Leeds, John, sergeant, 439749	Weidmark, Lorne Festus, sergeant, 132824
Lewis, Cecil John, captain	
Longhurst, Frank, sergeant, 198310	
Mahar, Ambrose James, sergeant, A44193	

Continued on Page 2471

NOMINAL ROLL.

Lt-Col. Warden, J.W. D.S.O.
 Major Newcombe, H.K.
 Capt. Vandersburg, J.H.
 Capt. Lewis, C.J.
 Capt. Sillmour, A.H. M.C.
 Capt. Burbidge, G.C. MC.
 Capt. Roberts, G.B. MC.
 Capt. McLean, T.H.

 Lieut. Hopkins, G.S.
 Lieut. Chambers, V.
 Lieut. Harrison, B.
 Lieut. Petrie, W.L.
 Lieut. Hoagson, T. MC.
 Lieut. Fisher, J.H.
 Lieut. Murray, P.S.

5175 Sgt. Gumpings, W.R.
 923428 Pte. Gately, A.R.
 444193 Cpl. Mahar, S.J.
 435026 Pte. MacDonald, B.J.
 117035 Cpl. Murray, J.
 907032 Pte. McWhirter, D.F.
 107475 L/C. Fogg, T.H.
 28649 Sgt. MacCue, W.D.
 132834 Cpl. Weismark, L.F.
 54007 Cpl. Campbell, C.
 219 a/Br. Ridgway, T.
 791221 Pte. Trevor, W.E.
 311931 Dvr. Parsons, P.C.
 642141 Pte. Brophy, W.T.
 102194 Pte. Ramsay, A.N.M.
 187362 Pte. Lawrence, J.
 414761 Pte. Swanlock, A.
 69257 Pte. Esterbrooks, R.
 5066 Cpl. Clark, R.
 196310 Sgt. Longhurst, F.
 75341 A/Sgt. Casey, R.
 439749 Sgt. Leeds, J.
 201619 Cpl. Jackman, W.T.
 207973 A/Sgt. Bedat, L.
 79130 L/Sgt. Hamilton, S.
 477622 L/Cpl. Murdick, W.J.

102nd Bn.
 Man. Regt.
 C.M.G.C. Canada
 2nd. C.M.R.
 6th Bn.
 10th Bn.
 5th Bn.
 3rd Bn.

 E.C.R. Canada
 2nd Bn.
 5th Bn.
 16th Bn.
 14th Bn.
 18th Bn.
 31st Bn.

 4th Bn. Canada
 107th Pioneers, Can.
 14th Bn. Canada
 10th Bn. Canada
 1st C.M.R. Canada
 5th Bn. Canada
 2nd C.M.R. Canada
 16th Bn. Canada
 42nd Bn. Canada
 18th Bn. Canada
 4th D.A.C. Canada
 47th Bn. Canada
 47th Bn. Canada
 75th Bn. Canada
 54th Bn. Canada
 24th Bn. Canada
 25th Bn. Canada
 26th Bn. Canada
 1st Pld. Coy. Canada
 18th Bn. Canada
 29th Bn. Canada
 52nd Bn. Canada
 3rd Bn. Canada
 17th Res. (R.C.F.S.)
 31st Res. (31st Bn.)
 E.C.R. Canada

Extracted and
 selected by
 17/9/49

"Dunsterforce" Dunsterville Column.
 Sail. Southampton, Eng. 29-1-18.
 Arrived. Basrah, Egypt. 2-3-18.
 Home Road

Fig. 1 - Nominal Roll "Dunsterforce" Dunsterville Column, 29-1-18

NOMINAL ROLL OF CANADIANS IN "DUNSTERFORCE"

1st CANADIAN DIVISION.

Lieut.	CRAMERS,	W.	2nd Canadian Battalion
Capt.	ROBERTS,	G.B.	3rd Canadian Battalion
Lieut.	WELAN,	J.H.	3rd Canadian Battalion
Lieut.	HARRISON,	R.	5th Canadian Battalion
Capt.	GILMOUR,	A.H.	8th Canadian Battalion
Capt.	BURBIDGE,	G.	10th Canadian Battalion
Lieut.	HODGSON,	T.	14th Canadian Battalion
Lieut.	PETRIE,	W.L.	16th Canadian Battalion
201819.	Cpl.	JACKMAN,	W.T. 3rd Battalion
2187.	Sgt.	CUMMINGS,	W.E. 4th Battalion
907032.	Pte.	MCWHIRTER,	D.F. 5th Battalion
438026.	Pte.	MACDONALD,	D.J. 10th Battalion
444193.	Cpl.	MARAN,	A.J. 14th Battalion
28649.	Sgt.	MCNEE,	W.D. 16th Battalion
922428.	Sgt.	GATTEY,	A.F. 107th Pioneer Battalion
8068.	Cpl.	CLARK,	R. 1st Field Company, C.E.

2nd CANADIAN DIVISION.

Lieut.	PIERCE,	J.H.	18th Canadian Battalion
Lieut.	MURRAY,	F.B.	31st Canadian Battalion
84007.	L/Sgt.	CAMPBELL,	G. 18th Battalion
187302.	Pte.	LAURENCE,	J. 24th Battalion
414761.	Pte.	SHAWWICK,	A. 25th Battalion
09287.	Pte.	ESTABROOKS,	N. 26th Battalion
198310.	Sgt.	LOWHURST,	F. 26th Battalion
78541.	Cpl.	CASKEY,	R. 29th Battalion

3rd CANADIAN DIVISION.

Lieut.	HOPKINS,	G.S.	Royal Canadian Regiment
Capt.	LEWIS,	G.J.	2nd C.M.R. Battalion
477622.	Sgt.	MURDOCK,	W.J. Royal Canadian Regiment
132824.	Cpl.	WEIDMARK,	L.F. 42nd Battalion
117038.	Cpl.	MURRAY,	J. 1st C.M.R. Battalion
107478.	L/Cpl.	FRIS,	T.H. 2nd C.M.R. Battalion
439749.	Sgt.	LEWIS,	J. 52nd Battalion

4th CANADIAN DIVISION.

Lt. Col.	FARMER,	J.W. "D.S.O."	102nd Canadian Battalion
791221.	Pte.	TREVOR,	S.E. 47th Battalion
102194.	Pte.	HAMMAY,	A.H. 54th Battalion
642141.	Pte.	BROTHY,	W.T. 78th Battalion
311931.	Pte.	PARSONS,	F.C. 4th C.D.A.
219.	Srd.	RIDGWAY,	T. 4th C.D.A.

CANADIAN MACHINE GUN CORPS.

Major	VAN DEN BERG,	J.W.R.T.	
Major	BERGONNE,	H.K. (sen. Sgt.)	joined in England
207973.	Pte.	HEMAT,	L. (17th Mes.) M.C.M. joined in England
79130.	L/Sgt.	HAMILTON,	G. (31st Mes.) 31st M. joined in England

- = 10-3-18 } M.P.s
 - = 15-3-18 } M.P.s

Fig. 2 - Nominal Roll of Canadians in "Dunsterforce", 1st Canadian Division.
 Source: Library and Archives Canada - Dunsterforce file

Continued on Page 2473

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	REMARKS Taken from Official Documents
Date	From whom received				
19.4.17	46th Reg	Wisch C.C. Staff	Eksonville	19.4.17	VC 577. 4th. 1917 P 220 90
27.8.17	26th Reg	S.O.S. to 25th Reg	Bahatt	26.8.17	P 220 202
27.8.17	26th Reg	Remtd to Regiment 25th Proceeding (C/O to 25th)	26th Reg	26.8.17	P 220 202
18.9.17	25th Bn	T.O.S. from 26th Reg	Field	27.8.17	P 220 103
15.1.18	"	Granted 9th Bn Staff	"	28.9.17	P 201
20.1.18	26th Reg	Red posted from 26th Reg + on Comm War Office	"	15.1.18	P 20 26 (26th Reg. Field 29/17)
7.2.18	"	App. A/Sgt with pay entirety of war office	St Armand	15.1.18	P 150. 33
24.4.18	26th Reg	Embarked at Southampton 29-1-18. 2nd. 2nd. 2nd. 2nd. 2-18. 2nd. 2nd. 2nd. 2nd.	St Armand	28.3.18	Head 8.
7.4.19	26th Reg	Excess to War Office on leave from 2nd. 2nd. 2nd. 2nd.	St Armand	13.4.19	-79
14.4.19	27th Reg	T.O.S. from 26th Reg	"	13.4.19	-91 91 / 14-5-19
6.5.19	"	205 Lo. 2nd. 2nd. 2nd.	"	6.5.19	-102
		Salva 55-8-84 d	"	14-5-19	
9-7-19	M.S.B	T.O.S. from 14th Reg	"	6-5-19	-128
14.5.19	"	S.T.S. to Canada	"	14.5.19	-137

Fig. 3 – Casualty/Service Form for Alfred Swanwick indicating his transfer to the Dunsterforce. Source: Library and Archives Canada.

Sources: Winegard T.C., *The First World Oil War*, U.of T. Press, 2016, Smedman, L., *Dunsterforce*, *Vancouver Courier*, newspaper, Nicholson, G.W.L., *Can. Exp. Force, 1914-1919*, Ottawa 1962, Murrury, W.W., *Canadians in Dunsterforce*, *Can. Defence Quarterly*, 1931.

CSMMI Journal

ARTICLES WANTED

You DON'T need to be an author, you just share your knowledge, or history; tell a story about a great find or a significant person.

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REFLECTIONS ABOUT NOVEMBER 11TH

By Gail Patterson #1898

I could never understand my brother's fascination with war. He turned 15 during the summer when he went off to Camp Ipperwash. He entered as a private and by the end of the summer, he was a Sgt. Major. He didn't get a medal, but he did get a very impressive inscribed baton. Said fascination led him down a path where he collected and read anything he could related to WW 2. He was obsessed (my humble opinion). I know for a fact, he saw the movie, *Saving Private Ryan* seven times!

Over the years, his collection of the history, artifacts, uniforms, and probably even the artillery of WW2 grew and he became well known in those circles. Whenever I visited, the first thing I saw upon entering his home was his assortment of prized medal acquisitions, in frames, hanging on his wall... sacred hangings, sort of like crucifixes.

As time went on, I forgot about his hobby and at about the same time, he had stopped showing me his medal collection. Coincidence? Maybe...or maybe because I wasn't much of an audience. His passion failed to capture the interest of this baby boomer who wanted any thoughts and reminders of the horrors of war just to stay away.

I realize now, that deep down, I felt afraid and maybe even a little guilty. I couldn't imagine what it must have been like to have lived through the many atrocities, and to have had to come face to face with the reality of countless lost lives. I still have a fear of history repeating itself, of another Hitler, Nazi Germany, the camps, the death... ending up in my backyard.

Fast forward about 40 years. It was November 11th. I had journeyed back to Canada and was staying with my brother. He invited me to watch Ottawa's televised ceremony of the placing of the wreath. I thought, why not? Let me grab my knitting. Well... there was no knitting that day.

Immediately, I was taken aback at how moved this otherwise rather stoic brother of mine was by the ceremony. I was seeing, in real time, his compassion, as he watched the aged veterans march, or be helped to march, in wheelchairs behind the flags. I witnessed the reverence and the sorrow he felt. I kept looking, back and forth from him to the T.V. and back again.

I then had what I now know was a spiritual awakening because, suddenly, I

Continued on Page 2475

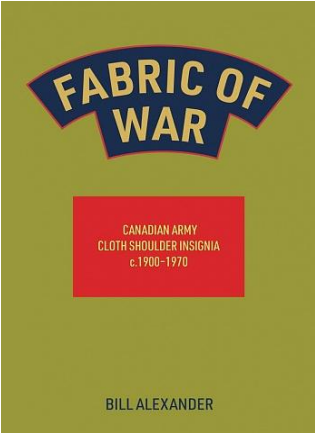
understood. My guilt and fear evaporated, and was replaced with an overwhelming feeling of humility, gratitude and respect. The veil had been lifted and I could see the soldiers, both the fallen and those still living, as heroes not just as tragedies caught up in the times. They were just ordinary young men and women, who had left loved ones behind, who had tucked their dreams away, and in too many cases, had paid the ultimate price, for my freedom.

The sadness and appreciation I felt that day has stayed with me. Today, I look forward to November 11th each year. I see it as a day of contemplation, a retreat of sorts. I can't go to the graves, but I can go to the memorial, and I do. It is the only holiday that really makes sense to me. The day that makes me stop, and give thanks and feel a depth of gratitude and an appreciation I can't feel any other time or in any other place.

November 11th precedes the major "holidays" of Thanksgiving* and Christmas. It's quite different in that is not about gifts, indulgences, stress, and spending money I don't have. It is about the poppies, and reciting the poem In Flanders Fields to myself. It's about when I get to take a day to reflect, to be in gratitude, to remember; to have the privilege to stand with those remaining veterans and their families at the cenotaph at the Civic Center.

When I visit my brother now and see those medals on the wall, I think they actually are crucifixes. Because, just like the image on the cross, they remind us of those who also died, so we could live the lives we live.

* The author resides in the USA.



Fabric of War
Canadian Army Cloth Insignia
c.1900-1970

Researched & compiled by Bill Alexander
Published by Friesen Press 2019

Fabric of War is the essential reference for the history and development of Canadian shoulder titles, and a must have for collectors and historians of Canadian militaria.

Available from: Marway Militaria Inc., web: www.marway-militaria.com
email: marway@marway-militaria.com or tel.: (204) 775-7159
or from the author: alexanderrw@gmail.com



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Bill Alexander #721

Special commemorative patches were authorized for wear on the Cadpat uniforms in 2021. These celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Regiment of Royal Canadian Artillery and the Cape Breton Highlanders.



Fig. 1: Royal Canadian Artillery



Fig. 2: Cape Breton Highlanders

In 1948, the Canadian Army adopted the Canadian Royal Coat of Arms as the insignia for the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1. Previously, the badge of rank was the British Coat of Arms.

Continued on Page 2479

THE OTTAWA JOURNAL
The Journal Publishing Company of Ottawa, Limited.
 FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1948.



NEW RSM BADGE—Canadian regimental sergeant majors soon will be sporting a new badge of rank—one that for the first time in the history of the Canadian Army will be distinctively Canadian in design. In describing the badge, Ottawa authorities said it is more colorful and differs greatly from the badge now being worn which is of Imperial design. The badge is three inches high and two and a half inches wide. It will be worn by all Warrant Officers, Class I, replacing both the RSM's badge and Conductor's (RCOC) badge.

New Badge of Rank For Sergeant Majors

Canadian regimental sergeant majors soon will be appearing in a brand-new badge of rank, markedly different from the traditional Imperial Army design.

Approval of the badge has been given by Defence Minister Claxton and it will soon be on issue in army stores. Here's how the army describes it:

"On the badge is embroidered the Canadian coat of arms supported on the left by a silver lion rampant holding a lance bearing the Union Jack, and on the right by a silver unicorn holding a lance bearing a blue banner charged with three gold fleur-de-lis.

"The Canadian coat of arms is surmounted by a silver royal helmet mantled, and a silver lion passant guardant, imperially-crowned and holding a red manie leaf in the right paw. The whole is ensigned with the Imperial Crown proper and inscribed in gold on a blue scroll below is the motto, 'A Mari Usque ad Mare'."

The badge will be three inches high and 2 1-2 inches wide and worn by all warrant officers class I, replacing both the RSM's badge and the conductor's (RCOC) badge at present in use.

The Ottawa Journal announcement April 9, 1948

Vendors Wanted

The CSMMI invites vendors to our monthly meetings & sales. In 2022, the CSMMI will run 7 shows.

February 20 · March 20 · April 17 · May 15
 September 18 · October 16 · November 20

Tables are available for rent by members at \$25.00 per table per show and non-members at \$35.00 per table per show. Vendors shall align with the core aims and mission of the Society.

Members are entitled to a free table once a year. Here's an excellent opportunity to change up your collection. If you want to set up a display, there is no charge for a table.



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SS JOHN W. BROWN - HISTORY OF A LIBERTY SHIP

Part 1

By Fred Tripp, #L464

The SS John W. Brown is one of only two operational Liberty ships that still exist. During World War II, the Brown was first laid down at the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyards at Sparrows Point in Maryland. As with all Liberty ships her construction was a picture of speed. She was started on July 28, 1942, and launched on September 7, 1942. After some post-delivery work, she was actually in service on September 19, 1942. In just 54 days, approximately 500,000 man-hours had been used, at a cost of \$1,750,000, to build her. Remarkably, on the same day that she was launched, two other Liberty ships were completed in the same ship yard. The SS John W. Brown, in a flurry of necessary administrative shipping paperwork, became the property of the Maritime Commission with her general agent being the States Marine Corporation. She was operated by the War Shipping Administration



Fred Tripp

Fig. 1 – Bow view of the John W. Brown showing the forward gun as it transited the Welland Canal between Lakes Ontario and Erie in 2000.

Continued on Page 2481

until her final operator became the United States Army's Army Transport Service.

With final delivery work taking ten more days, the Brown started her maiden voyage along the coast of New Jersey to New York City. There, she loaded her first cargo on October 6, 1942. It was to be the first of a busy career involving 13 war-related voyages.

MAIDEN VOYAGE - October 1942 - May 1943

The SS John W. Brown took on cargo that was to be sent ultimately to the Soviet Union. First, it would have to be delivered in the Persian Gulf and then be shipped overland. While cargo was being loaded in New York, a 3-inch gun was mounted on her bow replacing the 20mm Oerlikon cannon that had been mounted there initially.

Cargo	Route - 16,560 statute miles- duration about 8 months
-2 Curtiss P-40 Warhawk fighters -10 Sherman M4 tanks -200 motorcycles -100 jeeps -700 tons of ammunition -250 tons of canned pork lunch meat	15 October 1942 - Departed New York in convoy to Cuba. Joined more ships to the Panama Canal. Entered the Pacific Ocean and steamed alone down the west coast of South America, around Cape Horn and then crossed the South Atlantic to South Africa. Refueled at Cape Town then sailed north through the Indian Ocean to the Persian Gulf. After a wait to unload at Abadan and then Khorramshahr, Iran, she sailed for the return trip to the United States. She sailed south in the Indian Ocean to Cape Town, refueled and sailed across the South Atlantic to Brazil. From there, in convoy, she went to Surinam and then on to Trinidad. In both places she loaded bauxite for delivery to the United States. She then joined a convoy to Cuba and for the voyage to New York. She arrived safely home on May 27, 1943.

Arriving back in the United States, the SS John W. Brown was converted into a "Limited Capacity Troopship" at the shipyards in Hoboken, New Jersey. In the forward section, tween deck bunks were installed (five deep), as well as showers, heads, and additional electric generators. This was to accommodate her expected "passengers". Armaments were added in the form of two 20mm automatic Oerlikon cannons for improved self-defence in case of surface attack.

2ND VOYAGE - June 24, 1943 - August 26, 1943

Cargo	Details of Voyage
-5023 tons of food -embarked 155 US Army personnel and 151 Royal Navy personnel (survivors of a torpedoing)	Departed New York to Hampton Roads, Virginia and joined a transatlantic convoy. Entered the Mediterranean Sea through the Strait of Gibraltar and arrived at Algiers (20 July, 1943) where the cargo and personnel were unloaded. 38 US Army personnel remained on board as guards for 500 German Afrika Corps prisoners being taken to the United States. Sailed in convoy and returned to Hampton Roads where the prisoners were disembarked.

3RD VOYAGE - September 15, 1943 - March 17, 1944

Cargo	Details of Voyage
-7845.5 tons of TNT, gasoline and general cargo. -embarked 339 US Army personnel ----- November 1, 1943 -embarked 361 personnel of the US Army 1st Armored Division and 274 divisional vehicles -----	Departed Hampton Roads in convoy to Oran where she completely unloaded all cargo and disembarked all passengers. Departed Oran and made 7 shuttle trips in the Mediterranean area of operations. ----- Unloaded cargo and personnel at Naples, Italy. Returned in convoy to Oran. ----- <i>Continued on Page 2483</i>

Cargo	Details of Voyage
<p>November 22, 1943 - embarked 241 American and Free French troops. -261 tank destroyers -trucks, cars and a load of asphalt</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Unloaded cargo and personnel at Naples. Went in convoy to Bizerte, Tunisia.</p> <p>-----</p>
<p>December 16, 1943 -embarked 311 Free French personnel -958 tons of trucks, trailers weapon carriers, ambulances, cars</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>December 27, 1943 - damaged when hit by another ship at Puzzuoli Bay, Italy. Continued voyage and unloaded at Naples, Italy. Returned to Oran on January 10, 1943. Moved to Mostaganam, French Algeria.</p> <p>-----</p>
<p>January 13, 1944 -loaded 5,000 gallons of gasoline</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Transported and unloaded the gasoline at Oran.</p> <p>-----</p>
<p>January 29, 1944 -embarked 263 passengers -186 vehicles, 799 tons of supplies and engineering equipment</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Arrived at Naples on February 5, 1943 and discharged passengers and cargo.</p> <p>-----</p>
<p>When at Naples: -embarked 106 US Army personnel and 13 US Navy personnel</p> <p>-----</p> <p>February 21, 1944 -loaded cargo of scrap metal -personal effects of deceased soldiers</p>	<p>-Sailed in convoy to Bizerte. -February 14, 1944 disembarked all passengers.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-Sailed in convoy to return to the United States. -Convoy attacked by submarines in the Mediterranean Sea. -Atlantic crossing with bad weather. -Arrived in New York March 17, 1944.</p>

The SS John W. Brown was put into dry dock to repair damage from her collision (on December 27, 1943). Two more 3- inch guns were installed to help bolster her personal protection capabilities. In addition, personal quarters were prepared for an increased number of United States Navy personnel (designated as United States Navy Armed Guard) (USNAG) who were to man the ship's guns in case of surface attack.

4TH VOYAGE - April 10, 1944 - September 30, 1944

Cargo	Details of Voyage
April 3, 1944 at Brooklyn -high explosives -----	-Departed New York on April 10, 1944. -Joined convoy at Hampton Roads amid several submarine alerts. -Entered Strait of Gibraltar on April 29, 1944. -Arrived at Naples on May 8, 1944, where the cargo was unloaded. -----
May 18, 1944 -embarked 175 US Army personnel -loaded 3322 tons of gasoline and high explosives -----	-Left Naples on May18, 1944, and arrived off Anzio beachhead. -Was there at the start of the May 23 breakout. -Sailed for Naples on May 24, 1944. -----
April 26, 1944 -embarked 336 German prisoners- of-war -49 US Army personnel as guards -----	-In convoy, after some stops, to Bizerte where the prisoners and guards were disembarked on May 31, 1944. -----
June 10, 1944 -embarked 406 US Army personnel -939 tons of cargo -----	-Proceeded in convoy to Naples. -----
June 14, 1944-at Naples -loaded C rations, life preservers, and life rafts	June 24, 1944 -Proceeded in convoy to Anzio where she unloaded all passengers and cargo.

Continued on Page 2485

Cargo	Details of Voyage
<p>June 26, 1944 at Anzio -embarked 1000 French colonial troops</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>June 27, 1944, arrived at Naples. -Disembarked French colonial troops.</p> <p>-----</p>
<p>June 29, 1944 at Caligliari, Sardinia - embarked 1017 Italian troops who were fighting on the Allied side</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>-Joined convoy to Naples. -July 4, 1944 -Disembarked the Italian troops in Naples.</p> <p>-----</p>
<p>- no cargo</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>July 5, 1944 -Sailed in convoy back to Cagliari, Sardinia.</p> <p>-----</p>
<p>At Naples -cargo of ammunition - 144 Royal Air Force personnel - 759 Italian Allied troops</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>-Joined convoy back to Naples and arrived there July 9, 1944. -Unloaded cargo. -Disembarked personnel.</p> <p>-----</p>
<p>By July 29, 1944 -loaded with 314 US Army personnel</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Remained in port until the Allied invasion of southern France. -August 13, 1944 -sailed in convoy for the invasion beachhead. -Completely unloaded by August 21, 1944. -Attacked by German planes. Possibly 1 shot down by her US Navy Armed Guard gunners. -Left the beachhead August 21, 1944, in convoy, for Naples.</p> <p>-----</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Continued on Page 2486</i></p>

Cargo	Details of Voyage
<p>At Naples -Embarked 500 German prisoners-of-war -33 US Army personnel as guards</p>	<p>September 3, 1944 -Departed in convoy for the United States. -Bad weather all the way. -Arrived September 28, 1942. -Disembarked prisoners-of-war at Newport News, Virginia, on September 29, 1944. - Arrived at Baltimore on September 30, 1944.</p>



Fred Tripp

Fig. 2 – Flags flying, guns pointed skyward, the Brown steams for Lock 2 on her way to Lake Erie in 2000.

This Series will continue in the next CSMMI Journal.

BOOK/MEDIA REVIEW

By Bryan Patterson

LANCASTER

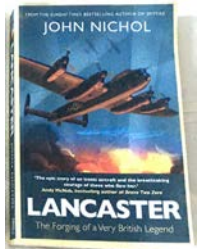
By John Nichol, published by Simon & Shuster UK Ltd, First edition 2020.

Many surviving veterans of Bomber Command were interviewed by the author providing several moving stories of unbelievable courage, controlling their fear, regrets, prison camps, families broken up and lost buddies.

Of the 7,377 Lancaster bombers, built during WWII, more than half were lost to enemy action or accidents. They were aviation icons; revered, romanced, loved. Not one of the veterans interviewed spoke badly of the Lanc, even though 55,000 of their brethren died doing their duty in them.

Much of the book deals with the design and production problems of the plane, the politics and politicians who tried to interfere with its creation, the role Canada played in the story, and the role the plane and Bomber Command played in winning the war.

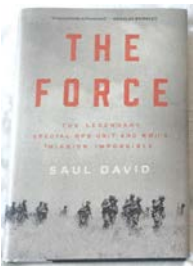
I gleaned a lot of new information from the publication. Air force enthusiasts would do well to get themselves a copy.



THE FORCE

By Saul David, published by Hachette Books Group, First edition 2019

Yet another book about the First Special Service Force, know as the “Devil’s Brigade” - a special ops unit composed of Canadian and American soldiers in the Second World War. It is a 302-page book and the battle stories don’t start until page 210 with “The Difensa Raid”. (Google it)



Mostly, the book deals with the men of the unit as a rough and ready group of lumberjacks, hunters, mountain men and explorers. Their state-of-the-art training, including skiing, rock climbing, parachuting, hand to hand fighting, and small arms skills. Also talked about, are the politics involved, the military careers enhanced and crushed, the men’s backgrounds, their family backgrounds, their personalities, their girlfriends, and their marriages.

After WWII, the unit evolved into the US Army “Green Berets” (with no official Canadian involvement).

I really liked the book. I ran into names I had met in other volumes on the same subject, but this time I learned who they were as people as well as soldiers.

Michael C. McHenry – CSMMI's Newest Fellow

By Lawrence Stasiuk #1685

The President of the Canadian Society of Military Medals & Insignia (CSMMI), Bryan Patterson, is pleased to announce that the newest recipient of the CSMMI Fellowship award, is Colonel Michael C. McHenry (retired US Army) member # 746, of Hampton, Virginia, USA.



Michael C. McHenry,
F. CSMMI

Mr. McHenry is recognized as an expert by his peers in the field of Commonwealth Army Service Corps badges and history, as well as, the Royal Corps of Transport. Michael has co-authored and published the following works:

Badges & Insignia of the Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Corps of Transport & their Predecessors, 2009 with David M. Kellock; and *Badges of the Empire's Waggoners*, 2014 with David M. Kellock.

Mr. McHenry is a long-time supporter of the CSMMI and other societies and has published articles in our Journal. He belongs to, and has written articles for the Indian Military Historical Society, The Military Historical Society (UK), and The Military Heraldry Society (UK). He has also served as a consultant to the Royal Logistic Museum concerning display topics for their new museum.

Mr. McHenry continues to research and write and currently has two related books to be published this year: a supplement to the 2014 *Badges of the Empire's Waggoners*, and a new volume tracing the Badges and Insignia of the Commonwealth Service/Logistic Corps from 1993 to Present, with David Kellock as his co-author.

The "CSMMI Fellowship" award was established by the Society in 2014, to honour persons, both within and/or outside of the Society, who have made significant contributions to the understanding of military history and collecting. The honour is bestowed upon individuals who have a demonstrated record of excellence in research, documentation, interpretation and promotion of military collecting and history. Through this fellowship,

Continued on Page 2489

the CSMMI publicly recognizes those, who over many years, have developed a reputation of integrity and expertise within the field of militaria.

The recipient of this award is entitled to be identified by the postnominal letters "F. CSMMI". Mr. McHenry is the 5th recipient of this award joining previous inductees, Warren Carroll, HM, F.CSMMI #L374, Tim Burt, F.CSMMI #L880, Bill Alexander, F.CSMMI #721, and Clive Law, F.CSMMI #1666.

The Canadian Society of Military Medals & Insignia congratulates Michael C. McHenry, F.CSMMI on his CSMMI Fellowship award.

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Advertising space will be provided, as a service, to members who are searching for items to buy, sell or trade. Name, address, telephone number, etc. are NOT included in the word count.

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WANTED TO BUY: Helmet collector looking to purchase Canadian or German helmets from both wars. Single items or whole collections considered. Phone 613 438-5672 and leave a message, or e-mail franko255@outlook.com (4)

Wanted to Buy: Brooker's Badges of the Canadian Army from 1920 to unification. Volumes 4, 5, 6. Soft cover, good condition, no notes or marks inside. Please contact: mnevess64@hotmail.com (1)

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See page 2492 for a handy order form to renew your ad

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(CSMMI form Nov 2021)



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