

CSMMI *Journal*

WINTER 2024



Finding Hugh
Pg. 2935



RCAF 2024 Centennial
Pg. 2959



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CSMMI *Journal*

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President's Message

*Mike McLean
Interim President, CSMMI*

Dear Members,

As I sit and write this message, I realize that 2024 is rapidly approaching its conclusion! It has no doubt snuck up on many of us rather quickly. So much to do and so little time!

Looking back on this past year, it sure has been a successful one for the Club. We continue to grow the monthly shows, working hard to make them bigger and better for all, not only from a selling and collecting standpoint, but also as a welcome social occasion. We had another outstanding installment of the CSMMI Annual Two-Day Show in June which,



despite the obstacles of the hotel construction, still managed to deliver a lot of fun! I was so happy to see so many of our members enjoying themselves, in the hall, at breakfast, and even at the bar. I was extremely gratified to greet our members who travelled from very far away to be with us, not only from Eastern and Western Canada, but our US members, and even a few from England! I can't even begin to express how much joy it brings me to see so many members come together for this event.

As we count down to 2025, no doubt many of you will be anxious to plan for the coming show season. I am happy to announce that the Annual Show will again be at the Burlington Holiday Inn, with all of its renovations finally completed. The dates for the event will be Friday June 20th and Saturday June 21st, so mark your calendars! Registration will be open the first week of January 2025. Details and registration documents will be posted on our website at www.csmmi.com and we will continue to update you as the season progresses. It is my hope to see as many of you there as possible, and I encourage many

Continued on page 2933

who have never attended the Annual General Meeting to join us this year. It's sure to be an event to remember!

Looking forward, 2025 will be a special year for us, as it is the 60th Anniversary of the CSMMI! What started in Milton Ontario back in 1965 with 18 members has grown into an organization with members all around the globe, sharing an interest in collecting and studying militaria. I am proud to lead such an organization into its Diamond Anniversary. That momentum is the key to success. A club like ours can't grow without help from its members. I call on CSMMI members to consider volunteering to help the Society. This could be helping at a show, recruiting friends who are like-minded collectors, or even writing an article or two for the Journal. Consider attending the monthly shows, rent a table and sell some militaria you don't want anymore.

I would be remiss if I didn't lastly extend to the entire Executive Committee my gracious thanks for all of the effort they put in to making this Club what it is on a daily basis. Their tireless effort enables us all to enjoy the shows and Journals as well as our many online services.

The Holiday Season is upon us, and as I conclude this President's message, I wish you all the very best, a smooth transition into 2025!

Keep well, be safe, and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

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The Canadian Society of Military Medals & Insignia (CSMMI) became incorporated in the Province of Ontario on November 25, 1998. The Corporation Number is 1320571 Ontario Inc. The CSMMI is subject to the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010, S.O. 2010, c.15, and is governed by a Board of Directors / Officers, regulated by the CSMMI By-Laws 2024 and the CSMMI Constitution 2024.

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Vacancies

The Leadership team is recruiting members to train for the position of Treasurer and to fill up to four positions for Members at Large. Interested individuals shall notify the Secretary, Bill Alexander (info@csmmi.com), and outline interest and any special skills. Note: Members at Large may lead tasks and be advisors to the Executive Committee, but do not carry any voting rights.

FINDING HUGH

Lieut. H J Bedell 1st Field Regiment,
Royal Canadian Horse Artillery

by David Bluestein

A winding journey that ended with a son seeing his father for the first time, and meeting a family he never knew he had - all this from a medal group...

David Bluestein



When I received this unassuming and simple group there was not a single piece of research with the medals, which I thought was great as I was excited for the challenge of discovering his story myself. The medals were a little rough around the edges. The memorial cross was missing its circular suspender and box, and the Birks plaque was missing its purple envelope. Both medals show some wear and left me wondering where they've been all these years. They were attributed to Lieut. H J Bedell 1st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.

The pursuit to finding Hugh evolved slowly over time. Hugh Jarvis Bedell was born in the small village of Woodstock in rural New Brunswick Canada on June 1, 1917. He joined the army on February 17, 1940 and very quickly rose through the ranks supported by his previous service in the local militia. Hugh had some considerable education for his day studying civil engineering at Louisiana State University in the United States. He was working as a bridge inspector in the US before the war.

Hugh was a good fit in the artillery with his surveying background and was before long commissioned to the rank of Lieutenant. Hugh was sent to Italy in 1943 attached to a survey company of RCHA. He was not afraid of danger and a good challenge and was often well ahead of his battery as a forward observation officer surveying and calling in targets to the guns well behind his position. Hugh also took a special interest in German land mines and became well known for his expertise in this area. Hugh dug and disarmed dozens if not hundreds of land mines to the astonishment of his colleagues with an almost complete disregard for his own safety. He eventually took on the unofficial role as the land mine expert in his unit.

As you might imagine this nail-biting and dangerous work eventually caught up with Hugh. On the morning of November 17 1944 Hugh was surveying a forward position in advance of his battery. He had unearthed a land mine and was attempting to move it into a Jeep for further inspection when the unthinkable happened - it exploded. The terrible blast killed both Hugh and his driver, L/Bdr. Ron Taylor of Kingston. Both Hugh and Ron were fittingly buried side by side at Cesena War Cemetery Italy.

And so my research ended, or so I thought.

I decided to place a phone call to the local library in Woodstock New Brunswick. I knew that Woodstock is still a very small town and thought it couldn't hurt to ask a librarian if they might know anything about Hugh Bedell.

To my surprise the librarian was able to open a door that led to some amazing research developments. He managed after some days of searching to find several photographs of Hugh taken for his high school graduation. Though he was

some ten years younger in the photo's than he would have been in Italy, these were a wonderful addition to my research.

Woodstock New Brunswick Library



Hugh Jarvis Bedell High School Graduation photos

The CVWM



A young Hugh Bedell with his dog

The librarian also told me that the family still lived in the area and he would share my contact information with them.

A few days later I received an email from a gentleman who is the nephew of Hugh Bedell and happened to also be the family historian. He had in his possession a large collection of letters written by Hugh from a period of 1936 to 1944. To my absolute joy not only was he willing to share these with me he had expertly transcribed them into type!

The letters quickly added so much dimension to what was up to now a name impressed on a medal, it

transformed Hugh Bedell into a real person, with a personality and soul. The words painted a picture of a happy go-lucky and ambitious young man who

valued education and his family. After having been immersed in his words page after page covering year after year I felt as though I came to know Hugh, and I liked him immediately!

The letters also told of a love story while Hugh was stationed in England between 1941 - 43.

Hugh met Bertha Elizabeth Posner of Ditton Surrey England in 1941. The two had a whirlwind romance, and were married on February 11, 1942. They had a baby boy, Stephen Maxwell born on February 19, 1943. Hugh's excitement jumped off the pages of his letters as he described his son.

From a letter to his brother Jamie on March 6, 1943:

Stephen Maxwell Bedell was born on Feb 19th, a week premature, and a serious menace to his Mother's health. There were some unexpected complications and it was a near thing for Betty for a while. How, however, she is well out of danger and making good progress toward recovery. The kid is doing fine, strong and healthy, and Betty writes that he has my appetite, lung-power, and color of hair.

Lieut Bedell embarked for service in the Mediterranean Theatre on October 24, 1943 from the United Kingdom. His record confirms he disembarked in Italy on November 3rd but fails to mention in its simple listing of facts – how colourful this event actually was. Hugh's ship was torpedoed on its way to Italy and he had to abandon ship jumping into the Mediterranean Sea.

‘...By the time you have received this I shall be well on my way to destination X. I think you will understand – you probably know as much about it as I do (the army being what it is). I'll send you the new address as soon as I get it. Meanwhile all the best.
Hugh

(Letter to his brother Jamie October 14, 1943)

Another letter details his rather eventful arrival in the Italian theatre:

‘...Since the story has hit the papers I think I can tell you that we were torpedoed in an air attack on the way down. I had to get over and swim for it but suffered no damage other than a clip on the head and sundry bruises and contusions. However, I lost everything I owned except my battledress pants, my glasses, fountain pen, and pocket book. I threw my watch to a nursing sister who was in a boat, but we were picked up by different vessels and I haven't been able to locate

her yet. I'm using a borrowed watch at present and expect I'll be able to get a G.S. issue when I get to the regiment which I hope may be soon.' (Letter from Hugh to Jim January 14, 1944).



Forward Observation Post of 'B' Battery, 1st Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery near Potenza, Italy September 24, 1943. This is the work Lt Hugh Bedell was doing.

Once finally there, the fighting in Italy was hard and dangerous. The Germans were committed to fighting for every inch of ground as the Canadians fought their way through the many villages, towns and olive groves on their way to Rome.

As they pushed from the south to the north of Italy over a 20-month period, Canadians faced difficult battles against some of the German army's best troops. They fought in the dust and heat of summer, the snow and cold of winter, and the rain and mud of the spring and fall. (Canada Remembers the Italian Campaign Veterans affairs).

These words from Hugh in a letter to his brother on January 14, 1944:

‘This is for you personally as I didn’t want to put it in the letter to be sent on to Munnie, as it would cause her unnecessary worry. Altho’ it may seem a bit previous to mention this, it has been recently drawn to my attention quite forcibly that in this theatre of operations they are playing for keeps and people do get hurt now and then.

In the possible event of anything happening to me, there is something I would like you to do for me. There is someone who has been a very good friend to me for a long time and whom I would like to have informed if by any chance I become a casualty. You will be notified through the usual channels and I’d appreciate it an awful lot if you would let her know. The address is below. For obvious reasons you are the only one I’d care to entrust this job to. Don’t jump to any conclusions tho’, I’ll tell you the whole story “apres la guerre”.
Yours Hugh

This last letter written by Hugh only weeks before his death is haunting and ironic as he discusses his many close calls with land mines. These are his last words:

R.H.Q 1 Cdn. Fd. Regt. RCHA CMF
Italy 21 Sep 44

Dear Jamie:

It’s been a quiet night so far – the first one for a long time so I’ll try to catch up on my correspondence. I have had a couple of very nice letters from Kay, and a later one from Munnie. W.P. seems to have had a pretty hard time of it, but Munnie says he is a good deal better now. This has been a really tough show all the way. Most of the old-timers agree that it has been worse than Ortona or Cassino and I know that the Hitler and Gustav Lines were nothing compared to the Rimini - San Marino affair.

However I think we are thru’ the worst of it and nothing but the weather can stop us now. We have all had some close shaves but my closest was running 50 yds. into a minefield on a night recce. When I stopped I had a Holzmine 18” in front of my front wheel and I disarmed 14 of them on the road I had just passed over. Had run over three of them without hitting the pressure plate.

The next morning I lifted 30 of them before we could get

through a 100' strip of road. Lousy with them. There were lots of Schumines in the Gothic and a few up here but very few Tellers. A lot of road mining and demolitions done with aircraft bombs.

I'm suppose to be the reg'l mines officer and now have quite a collection of switches and mines. I suppose you will have moved to France by now or soon. Certainly sorry to have missed that campaign – those break-thru's were pretty spectacular, though from the report I don't believe his divisions in France were as good as he has here. The Paras and P.G.'s are bloody marvellous soldiers and really do fight it out to the last gasp even when there is no hope of any relief.

Fire orders coming in.

So long.

Hugh



*Painting, CANADIAN FIELD GUNS NEAR ORTONA By Charles Comfort.
Canadian War Museum*

November 17th was an especially sad day for the RCHA. Lt. Hugh J. Bedell, the RSO, and his driver L/Bdr. Ron Taylor were killed by a new type of mine. They had gone forward on a preliminary survey of the gun area to be occupied by the regiment in relieving 3rd Fd Regt with Porter Force. Having some knowledge of mines, Bedell

had removed one of this type for inspection by experts. It exploded while being lifted from the Jeep. (Regimental History By Major GD Mitchell)

After the mine explosion on November 17th Bertha received word by telegram that Hugh had been killed in action:

THAMES DITTON
23 NOV. 44
KINDLY FORWARD = CAPT J B BEDELL C/O CERU
CAO ENGLAND
JUST INFORMED HUGH KILLED
MINE EXPLOSION LEAVE YOU CABLE
YOUR MOTHER = BETTY+

And with that, the letters stopped. Hugh was gone, and my short friendship was over. I remember distinctly the morning I finished reading Hugh's letters on a park bench in July, and getting to the telegram and realizing he's gone - they were only words, but they really had for a short time brought him to life that day.



*Lance Bombardier Ronald Taylor
1st Field Regt. RCHA,
who died with
Lieut Hugh Bedell
November 17, 1944.*

*Son of Frederick James Taylor and
Lottie Louisa Taylor;
husband of Phyllis May Taylor,
of Kingston, Ontario, Canada.*

Age 26 years.

Lt. Hugh J. Bedell Killed In Action

Word has been received by Mrs. W. P. Jones that her youngest son Lt. Hugh Jarvis Bedell, was killed in action in Italy on Nov. 17. Lieut. Bedell was 26 years of age and a graduate of Woodstock High School and the Carleton County Vocational School. When war broke out he had completed his second year at the University of Louisiana. He enlisted with the 1st Canadian Survey Regiment, proceeding overseas in 1939. He has been in Italy for 18 months. Besides his mother, he is survived by his wife and young son in England, two brothers, Lieut. James Bebell, with R. C. E. in France; QMS J. D. Bedell in Saint John, and one sister, Mrs G. A. Peabody of Woodstock.

This short article was published in The Sentinel Press on November 30, 1944. This was the only article or notice of Hugh's death I could find.

The Bedell family in New Brunswick had some correspondence with Stephen in England for a short time after the war and then they lost contact. The family historian had tried to find Stephen in recent years but was unsuccessful, and began to consider that he may have since died. This was further reinforced when he noted that Hugh's medals were for sale online.

I had no photograph of Hugh Bedell's grave in Italy, so I decided to try and get one!

I put a request on a British Ex-Pats in Italy discussion forum and asked for assistance with my quest. There were one or two well-meaning responses from people who said they would try, which was great, but nothing came of it. However, one morning all that changed and marked the start of the next chapter in the developing story. I received an email from Julie who was responding to my post on the discussion forum.

She identified herself as the wife of Stephen Bedell - Hugh's son!

She explained that they were embarking on a trip to Italy and would be happy to take a picture for me. They were of course curious as to my interest in Hugh Bedell.

And boy oh boy, did I have a lot to tell them!

I sent them Hugh's letters, details of his service, and the circumstances of his death. I also asked if they might not mind sharing a photo of Hugh with me? Much to my surprise they had no photographs of Hugh Bedell! I couldn't imagine that Stephen had NEVER seen a photo of his father! I was honoured to send the few photos of Hugh Bedell that I had sourced from the Woodstock New Brunswick Library.

Stephen and Julie thanked me for all the information and explained that Bertha never remarried and always spoke of Hugh in loving terms. Stephen described his mother as a strong woman who regarded her lost husband as a Hero.

Stephen and Julie very kindly sent me several wonderful photos of Hugh's grave from their trip. None was more emotive than the one of Stephen standing next to his father's stone. Once the newborn baby that Hugh had so excitedly welcomed into the world in 1943, now a grey

Photo property and courtesy of Julie Bedell



Stephen Bedell next to his father's grave, Lt. H J. Bedell, RCA

haired 76-year-old man (in 2018). Stephen and Julie left a plastic covered piece of paper at the grave with the details of Hugh's death that I had sent them, along with a small wooden cross with the following words written on it:

'It's taken 70 years to say goodbye. Your son Stephen.'

Photo property and courtesy of Julie Bedell



Gravesites of L.BDR. R F. Taylor, RCA and Lt. H.J. Bedell, RCA

Ron Taylor, on the left and Hugh Jarvis Bedell on the right - side by side forever. Brought a tear to my eyes.

I had put Stephen and Julie in touch with the Bedell family in Canada which later apparently led to a reunion. They travelled from the UK to meet their long-lost Canadian family in New Brunswick in 2018.

I was happy to hear that this had happened. Imagine all this from a medal group.



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A Credit to the Force: SERGEANT CUDLIP of the North West Mounted Police

By Jim Godefroy #1383

As a collector of medals awarded to Canadians, I am always drawn to a group that holds the promise of an interesting story. I was fortunate, several years ago, to purchase a pair of medals consisting of a North West Canada Medal without clasp named to 589 Constable A.J. Cudlip, and a Queen's South Africa Medal with clasps Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Johannesburg and Diamond Hill, named to 67 SEJT. A.J. CUDLIP, THE CANDN: M.R. This combination of awards, while not rare, is certainly seldom seen, and as this was the first group that I had purchased to a member of the North West Mounted Police (NWMP), I was eager to research Cudlip's service further.

Author's Collection



Medals of Sergeant A.J. Cudlip, North West Mounted Police and The Canadian Mounted Rifles

I began by checking his South African War service record, available online at the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) website. It revealed that Cudlip's given names were Albert James, and that he had joined the Canadian Mounted Rifles at Macleod, North West Territories (NWT) (now Alberta), on 5 January 1900. He was 37 ½ years old, and indicated he had 17 years previous service in the North West Mounted Police. His birthplace was given as St. John, New Brunswick, and he was single. His physical description suggested his appearance was the stereotypical image of a mounted policeman, almost 6' 2" tall, with light brown hair, blue eyes, and a strong and sturdy physique. His papers, happily, included correspondence about his medals for service in South Africa and the

North West Rebellion, and confirmed that he had received both in September 1902, while serving in Dawson City, Yukon Territory.

Armed with the information that he had been born in New Brunswick, I next turned to Daniel Johnson and Byron O’Leary’s *New Brunswick Men at War: The South African War 1899-1902*. This useful little volume contains a collection of biographies of New Brunswick men who served in South Africa. Cudlip’s biography was substantial, and it revealed that his father, the Honourable John Waterbury Cudlip, was a member of the New Brunswick Provincial Assembly. His biography only mentions one source, the Dawson City Sun, and some of the details, such as a suggestion that he was an excellent horseman and the terror of American smugglers during the time of prohibition in the North West Territories, cannot be independently corroborated. What was there, however, suggested that if even half of it were true, Cudlip had enjoyed a remarkable career.

Further internet research turned up two puzzling references to Cudlip, possibly related, and yet not seeming to track with what I had learned so far. One was mention of his death in the Yukon, after a fall into the Yukon River, in 1907 – Johnson and O’Leary’s biography suggested he had died in 1912. Another was reference to his involvement, with two other mounted policemen from Fort Saskatchewan, in a drunken home invasion of an Edmonton brothel owner, Nellie Webb, in October 1888. Johnson and O’Leary’s biography painted a model picture of Cudlip, and it seemed difficult to square their description of him with his participation in a drunken attack on a civilian. Regardless, what I had learned so far suggested Cudlip’s life’s story would be far from boring.

My next research step was to consult Cudlip’s NWMP service record from LAC. The 304-page file provided a wealth of new information. It confirmed that Cudlip had applied to join the NWMP on 7 April 1881, aged 18 years and 6 months, and enrolled with a five-year contract on 23 June 1881 at Ottawa, Ontario. He was recommended for promotion to Corporal by Superintendent W.M. Herchmer, Commanding E Division, headquartered at Calgary, NWT, on 20 March 1886. His re-engagement paperwork, completed at Fort Saskatchewan on 23 June 1886, suggested he had already held the ranks of Corporal and Sergeant, the latter from 31 March to 22 August 1885, before being reduced to Constable again. While his conduct was described as ‘very good’, he was only given a one-year re-engagement. This time frame covered his service during the North West Rebellion (or North West Resistance, as it is more commonly known today). A check of Donald Klancher’s medal roll of the NWMP who served in this campaign indicated that Cudlip was serving at Prince Albert, NWT (now Saskatchewan) during this period as a Corporal. It is difficult to tell what action he may have seen during the campaign, which

ran from the outbreak of hostilities on 26 March 1885 until the final defeat of groups involved in the fighting on 3 July. A letter from Cudlip claiming his medal notes that he served in 'E' Division under Colonel Irvine and was at Prince Albert when the conflict began. The NWMP men stationed at Prince Albert were not involved in any of the major battles. This said, they scoured the countryside surrounding the area, and kept several Indigenous groups which might have joined the fray from linking up with the Métis forces; in this regard, they performed a valuable service. Members of the NWMP who had not been under fire in the major battles during the campaign for which the 'SASKATCHEWAN' clasp was granted were not originally deemed eligible for the North West Canada Medal. This perceived injustice, given the award of the medal without clasp to members of the Canadian Militia who had performed similar duties, led to petitions from serving and retired NWMP members who argued that they should also be eligible. Political pressure from the Legislative Assembly of the North West Territories sought to reverse this decision, and this ultimately led the Canadian Government, by Order in Council on 20 August 1900, to extend eligibility for the medal to all members of the NWMP who served in the Force prior to the date of cessation of hostilities in the North West on 3 July 1885. Cudlip's medal, part of this later distribution, is named, as is typical for these awards, in impressed lettering of the same style as that seen on the Canada General Service Medal awarded to Canadians.

Cudlip's next re-engagement contract indicated that he had served as a Sergeant from 23 June 1887 to 5 September 1888, before being reduced to Constable again, serving in the latter rank from 6 September 1888 to 22 June 1890. His conduct was described as 'fair'. Something seemed amiss, and I was beginning to wonder if Cudlip really was one of the men involved in the drunken invasion of Ms. Webb's home. The timeframe seemed to match, and he was serving at Fort Saskatchewan, approximately 36 kilometres from Edmonton, at the time of the offence – he had also been reduced from the rank of sergeant twice during his 9 years of service, and while the file had yet to reveal why, I was beginning to suspect that he might have had a drinking problem.

Cudlip's next re-engagement, signed at Medicine Hat, NWT (now Alberta) on 23 June 1890, was for three years. He managed to secure and then lose another promotion to Corporal during this time, being demoted just two weeks before his re-engagement board, and his conduct was again described as fair. Possible shades of his father's political influence begins to appear in correspondence on his file at this time; a file copy of a letter from 6 May 1891 (the author/originator sadly not indicated), in reply to an inquiry from Senator the Honourable John Boyd, indicates that Cudlip 'has been doing much better of late', and comments that 'he has ... once more got his foot on the ladder

of promotion, and, if he takes care of himself, will, I am sure, ascend rapidly.’ Sadly, he did not. The next letter on his file, dated 11 July 1895, from Superintendent S.B. Steele, Commander of D Division at Fort MacLeod, NWT (now Alberta), is addressed to the Comptroller, NWMP, in response to an inquiry from J. Douglas Hazen, the Member of Parliament for St. John, New Brunswick, about Cudlip’s progress. It confirmed my suspicion about possible alcoholism, as Steele wrote:

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 8th instant on this subject, and to reply to say that Constable Cudlip is a man of experience in the Force, who has been very steady lately, but I am sorry to say, cannot be depended upon where he can get liquor... The only thing that will save him is the ‘gold cure’ and I think that if he took it, he would be all right.

This message was passed back to Hazen, with the suggestion that Cudlip’s friends should talk to him about taking the ‘gold cure’, and that a leave of absence would be possible should he choose to do so. The ‘gold cure’ was a popular treatment for alcoholism and other addictions in the late 1890s; invented by an American physician, Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, it involved a series of injections of bichloride of gold, and boasted a supposed success rate of 50%. Cudlip decided to take the ‘cure’, and his request for a leave of absence from 27 April to 27 June 1896 was recommended and forwarded to the Commissioner by Steele.

Curiously, Cudlip did not continue his service immediately after his sabbatical, as he was released from the Force ‘time expired’ on 26 June 1896. He applied for re-engagement again on 8 September and was re-admitted on 23 September 1896 after being recommended again by Steele. Doubtlessly his attempt to kick the habit played in his favour, but he quickly ran into trouble again, his next board report indicating that he was dismissed from the Force on 7 March 1898, after having spent the period 13 December 1897 to 7 March 1898 in the guard room for intoxication while on duty. This slip-up came at a bad time for Cudlip, and occasioned a quite extraordinary exchange of correspondence. A letter dated 27 April 1899 to Mr. Fred White, the Comptroller of the NWMP, from the Minister of the Interior, Clifford Sifton, requested:

Mr. White,

Albert J. Cudlip who is in the North West Mounted Police put in a strong application to be made a Corporal. I wish you would look up his record and see if his ambition can be satisfied.

White's response to his superior's letter was quite direct. He replied:

Dear Mr. Sifton,

You have sent me an enquiry for the record of Const A.J. Cudlip of the Mounted Police, who wishes to be made a Corporal. This Constable was dismissed from the Force on the 7th March, 1898, on account of repeated violations of the regulations, and intemperance. He is a man of good family, education and ability, about whom I have had a great deal of correspondence with his friends who are anxious to see him prosper, but unfortunately his conduct was not such as to strengthen the hands of those who desired to help him.

The fact that a person as senior as Sifton, who as Minister of Interior oversaw the NWMP, would intervene on Cudlip's behalf spoke to the extent and weight of his father's political connections. That this influence could not counteract the consequences of the mistakes Cudlip made while under the influence sheds a favourable light on the improvements that had been made to the NWMP under Commissioner L.W. Herchmer. Appointed by Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonald to lead the force in April 1886, Herchmer took over an organization which had expanded, in the wake of the 1885 rebellion, from 500 to 1000 men, but which was plagued by poor morale and training, indiscipline and political interference. Attempts such as Sifton's to exert political influence to gain advantage for the relative of a colleague, once commonplace and accepted, were no longer successful.

Some men in Cudlip's situation might simply have given up and moved on, finding another way to make a living, but surprisingly, he continued to seek to serve in the Force, and earned another opportunity to do so though his work in the Canadian Mounted Rifles during the Boer War. The Canadian Mounted Rifles were largely recruited from the NWMP, and were commanded by Lieutenant Colonel L.W. Herchmer, who took a leave of absence from his position as Commissioner to deploy with the unit. Cudlip joined the unit in January 1900. Formed as a mounted unit of two squadrons, with a strength of approximately 352 men, the unit left Canada on 27 January 1900 on the SS Pomeranian, arriving in Cape Town on 26 February. It served with General E.T.H. Hutton's 1st Mounted Infantry Brigade on the march to Pretoria between 9 April and 6 June 1900, participating in actions at Coetzee's Drift on 5 May, at Zand River on 9 May, as well as several other minor actions, before entering Pretoria on 6 June. Dispatched a few days later to clear the Diamond Hills range, the unit was engaged on 12 June, before taking up line of communications and fighting patrol duties, which continued until the end

of August. They then took up the task of guarding rail garrisons and portions of the rail lines in the Middelburg area.

Johnson and O'Leary's biography of Cudlip recounts that he was part of a detachment of 80 men who were guarding a portion of the Delagoa Bay Railroad at Nooitgedacht on 1 October 1900 when they were attacked by 400 Boers. Cudlip, who was on camp guard, had the presence of mind to wrap the tether rope for the men's horses around a tree, holding it fast and preventing them from stampeding when the firing began. His action allowed a messenger to be sent to General Kelly-Kenny requesting assistance, which led to their relief within a few hours.

The Canadian Mounted Rifles' final significant action came at Leliefontein on 7 November, when they served as a special mobile unit as part of a column under General Smith-Dorrien that was engaged in a rear-guard action while pulling back towards Belfast. This action, one of the most famous that Canadian troops participated in during the war, saw three members of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, the other Canadian unit in the 1st Mounted Infantry Brigade, earn the Victoria Cross.

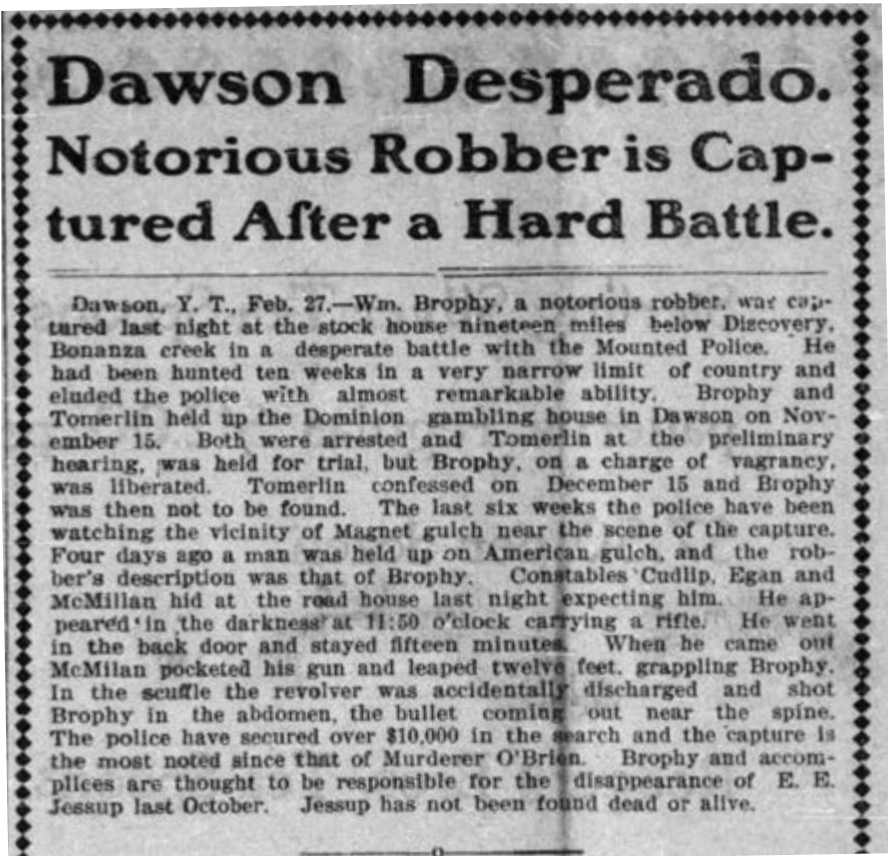
Cudlip's behaviour at Nooitgedacht gives some insight into his performance during the conflict. The impression it provides appears to be corroborated by his commanding officer in South Africa, Lieutenant Colonel T.D.B. Evans, who wrote a letter on his behalf to the Commissioner of the NWMP on 7 January 1901, stating that while he appreciated that Cudlip had been discharged from the NWMP for cause, he had proved himself an excellent and reliable soldier in South Africa, and deserved another chance to serve. Evans visited the NWMP's Comptroller, Fred White, with Cudlip on his way through Ottawa on the 2nd Contingent's return. While he gave a less firm endorsement privately, White agreed that Cudlip seemed a good man, and would do well if his bad behaviour was behind him. White wrote a letter to Major A.B. Perry at Regina stating this, but he left it up to Perry to decide whether to re-engage him or not. Perry did so, signing him up on 26 January 1901 for three years, and writing back to White that he had decided to do so, 'because of his [Cudlip's] service in S. Africa and his promise to leave liquor alone, abuse of which is his only fault'.

At this point in Cudlip's service life, it seemed that everything started to finally fall into place. He was assigned to the NWMP's B Division at Dawson, Yukon Territory in February 1901. One of his first official duties was to bring the notorious 'Kid West', serving a prison sentence in Washington State, up to Dawson to act as a witness at the George O'Brien murder trial. O'Brien's murder of three men in the fall of 1899 was the first serious crime in the Yukon, and the testimony of West, an American felon who O'Brien had unsuccessfully

elicited to join him in his murder/robbery scheme, was pivotal to O'Brien's conviction.

Cudlip backslid a little later that year, being fined \$10 for a 'breach of discipline' when he was slightly intoxicated on 9 October, but otherwise managed to remain on the straight and narrow. He next gained prominence for his role in the capture and arrest of William Brophy in February 1902. Brophy, along with two other men, Harris and Tomerlin, had robbed the Dominion Saloon in Dawson on 15 November 1901. Until Brophy's arrest, he was the Yukon's most wanted man, and his apprehension enhanced the Force's reputation for always getting their man.

Source - Calgary Herald, 28 February 1902



Cudlip also figured prominently in the third major Yukon criminal case. Assigned to a Yukon River watch in the summer of 1902, he spotted something that looked like a body floating down stream near the Indian River detachment. Further investigation revealed that it was the corpse of a man who had been murdered, and a search of the pocket of his trousers turned up a key ring with a

Another Yukon Murder.

Another murder mystery is engaging the attention of the N. W. M. P. On Tuesday evening of last week the body of a man was found in the Yukon river twenty-two miles above Dawson city, near the mouth of the Indian river. The body was found lying within four or five feet of the bank in the mud and sand, and was taken to Dawson, where upon examination, three bullet wounds were found, one in the back, slightly below the left shoulder, passing through the body and coming out about three inches below the left nipple, another through the head and coming out in front of the right ear, while the third entered below the right eye and came out a little behind and below the left ear. The wounds were such that they could not have been self inflicted.

From a little metallic tag attached to a bunch of keys found in one of the pockets of the clothing on the body of the murdered man, his identity has been without doubt established, his name being Leon Bouthillette, of Beauce county, Quebec. The little tag found with the keys bears the name of the dead man's father.

Leon Bouthillette had been in the Yukon before and on the 16th of June left Whitehorse for Dawson, at which time the police have learned that he had \$1100 in cash with him. He left Whitehorse in a small boat and the next thing the police will attempt to learn is who was in company with the man when he left here.

That he was murdered for his money there is no doubt and the next step will be to get hold of the murderer.

tag that said 'Bouthillette, East Broughton, Beauce Co., P.Q.'. Armed with this clue, the NWMP managed to identify and locate the murderers, two men named Fournier and Labelle. This resulted in a pair of trials in Dawson in the fall of 1902 and the conviction and execution of the two murderers on 20 January 1903, further cementing the NWMP's legendary status in the Yukon.

Cudlip, meanwhile, appeared to be proving that Evans' and White's optimistic view of his future potential was well-founded, and that his bad behaviour was truly behind him. His next file entry is a letter dated 16 December 1902, written at Dawson, Yukon Territory to the Officer Commanding B Division NWMP, requesting permission to get married. His fiancé, Johanna (Annie) Tautfest, was a 27-year-old German-American from Seattle, who had been born in Russia and had immigrated to the United States with her family in 1881. His request was approved, and they were married on 15 January 1903 at Indian River, where Cudlip was serving at the time. By 1907, he had moved further down the river, and

was stationed at Forty Mile; he had also gained promotion to Sergeant again. He could have retired in 1905, having 20 years service, but chose not to do so. Possibly, as a newly married man, he was working at adding to his pension.

Sadly, on 14 March 1907, he met an untimely end. Slipping from a makeshift log bridge over the frozen Yukon River, he struck his head on the ice below. An inquiry into Cudlip's death indicated that he had been seen at Gordon's Hotel in Forty Mile before the accident and had four or five small drinks of gin there, but that he was not noticeably intoxicated. The investigation suggested that the bridge was slippery, in disrepair with a couple of rails missing, and that others had fallen from it before. Cudlip was tended to by several friends who saw the accident and put him to bed in the belief that he had simply hit his head and had a bad cut. The surgeon who saw him the next morning, when his peers realized he was in some distress, stated that he had likely suffered a brain hemorrhage as a result of a fracture to the base of his skull caused by the fall. All who were interviewed commented on their impressions of his sobriety at the time of the accident, suggesting that his drinking problem might have been known, but the observations everyone offered seemed to suggest that he was not under the influence, and had simply taken an unlucky fall. This was also the conclusion of the coroner, whose report noted there was no indication that he was not sober at the time of the accident. The NWMP's Annual Report of 1907 notes:

“The death of Reg. No 589 Sergeant A. J. Cudlip, as a result of an accident at Forty Mile, in March last, was particularly sad. He was married and living with his wife at the detachment at that place. Coming home one evening he slipped and fell off a foot bridge over the slough, striking his head on the ice below. He was unconscious when picked up and never rallied, passing away the next day. The funeral took place in Dawson and was one of the largest I have seen here. Sergeant Cudlip was one of our oldest non-commissioned officers in point of service and a man of splendid physique. He was one we could ill afford to lose, a credit to the force in every way and respected by all who knew him.”

Cudlip left his widow Annie in poor financial circumstances, with no entitlement to a pension of any sort, even though he would have received one for life had he left the Force earlier. The best the NWMP could offer her was rations for a 'reasonable period' until she was able to plan for her future, and transport back to her home if her family resided somewhere in the North West Territories. She took employment in a roadhouse instead, and eventually returned to Seattle

and remarried, appearing in the 1920 US Census as a resident there.

Albert Cudlip, despite his addiction, had a noteworthy career in the North West Mounted Police, and significant service in the Canadian Army's first overseas deployment. He earned an interesting and uncommon pair of medals, for service in two campaigns separated by geography and time, and contributed, through his policing exploits in the Yukon, to the establishment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's legendary reputation for solving crimes and bringing perpetrators to justice. I cannot help but think it is fortunate that his service medals have survived; their existence prompted me to discover his story, and to tell it so that his memory might live on.



*Sergeant Albert Cudlip's
grave, Dawson City,
Yukon Territory*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank Mark Reid, Arnie Kay and Bill Alexander for reviewing this article and providing very helpful feedback, and Tim Popp for his assistance in locating the photograph of Sergeant Cudlip's gravesite in Dawson City, Yukon.

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LET'S GET SOCIAL

by Lawrence Stasiuk #1685

The CSMMI has run a FaceBook page since October 10, 2010. It has grown to become a very active site with over 2,200 members and an average of 60 posts per week. Posts include items from member's collections, items for sale and requests for information to identify specific items. The site is administered by Mike Reintjes, Bill Alexander, Mike McLean, Ken Keegan and David Hiorth. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CSMMI>. It is free to join. So, let's get social!

Recently the CSMMI opened an account on Instagram, at CSMMI_2024. This site will provide an additional opportunity for members to showcase items from their collection or to share experiences from events. Check the CSMMI.com website for updates.

These two programs are part of a larger communications strategy that includes the csmmi.com website, the CSMMI MilArt blog, The CSMMI Journal and eblast notices. These are all designed to keep you informed and connected.



CSMMI 2025 SHOW DATES

The Board is pleased to announce the CSMMI show dates for 2025. It will be a special year as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Society of Military Medals and Insignia.

Monthly Shows will continue to be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Burlington Seniors' Centre, 2285 New Street, Burlington, ON. There will be 8 shows on the following dates

January 19, 2025

May 18, 2025

February 16, 2025

September 21, 2025

March 16, 2025

October 19, 2025

April 20, 2025

November 16, 2025

Annual Two-Day Show will be held on Friday June 20, 2025 and Saturday, June 21, 2025 at the Burlington Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Centre, 3063 South Service Road, Burlington, ON

For show and table inquiries, contact Mike McLean at skyharbour12@gmail.com.

Table registrations for the annual show will be accepted after January 2nd, 2025.

Updated show forms will be posted on the website (csmmi.com) in late December 2024.

CLASSIFIED AD REQUESTS

The CSMMI Journal features a classified ads section for members. This is a low-cost way to reach other members to sell, trade or search for that piece to complete your collection.

Classified ads form and rates are available on the CSMMI website.

See csmmi.com/journalguidelines.

Contact Ken Keegan at bcatp8@hotmail.com to place your ad.

Payment may be made by cheque sent to CSMMI Journal,
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RCAF 2024 CENTENNIAL

by Lawrence Stasiuk #1685

The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) was established on April 1, 1924 as a distinct military element. This year, the RCAF is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The RCAF 2024 Team has been curating a year-long program to showcase the past, present and future of the Force. This has included developing a special logo and tagline to commemorate the 100th anniversary: Your Air Force / Votre Force Aérienne 1924 - 2024. This was designed to connect Canadians with their Air Force.

The program includes branded merchandise, attendance at air shows and events across the nation, special displays to inform about the history and accomplishments of the past 100 years, and a history on their website. For more information visit their website at <https://rcaf2024arc.ca>.



Jacket lapel pin with the RCAF 100 logo



RCAF Centennial Command Patch

Photo credits: Lawrence Stasiuk



RCAF 100 and a nod to the NATO/OTAN 75th year anniversary



RCAF Centennial CF-18 Hornet with special centennial paint colours and branding at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.

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SITREP #7

By Bill Alexander #721

Library and Archives Canada has extensive holdings dealing with Canadian army insignia. There are some gems in the files.



The blueprint drawing for the 1923 pattern Argyll Light Infantry cap, collars and titles.

Tasking patches continue to be produced, mostly without authorization. An image of the patch worn by the Canadian medical contingent in Mali, 2018-2019.





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CSMMI By-Laws No. 2024 Adopted

The Canadian Society of Military Medals & Insignia (CSMMI) became incorporated in the Province of Ontario on November 25, 1998. The CSMMI is subject to the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA), 2010, S.O. 2010, c.15. This year, the CSMMI was required under the ONCA regulations to update its by-laws to comply with the act. A new CSMMI Constitution 2024 was created and approved at the members at the 2025 Annual General Meeting on June 21, 2024. A new set of by-laws titled CSMMI By-laws 2024 was created and adopted by the Board on September 17, 2024 that was circulated and subsequently accepted by the membership. Both of these documents are available on the CSMMI website. See csmmi.com/about/governance.

Journal Ad Rates

Advertising in any or all of the publications may be obtained at the following rates:

COLOUR COVER ADS

Back	Full page	4 ½" x 7 ½"	\$90.00
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Inserts should be of light weight paper and must be provided ready-folded for insertion in the Journal mailings. The base rate is \$ 60.00 per mailing but this may be subject to an increase should additional pages result in an increase in the costs of mailing the Journal.

CLASSIFIED ADS (RATES ARE PER INSERT PER ISSUE)

Up to 20 Words	\$4.00
21 - 40 words	\$8.00
41 - 60 words	\$12.00

Payment must accompany the advertisement. The placing of classified ads is restricted to CSMMI members. Please use form provided in the Journal.

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.

Photographs for classified ads will be printed at a cost of \$10.00 each (black and white). A SASE should be included if the return of the pictures is desired.

HOW TO ADVERTISE

Anyone interested in advertising in these publications should contact Dave Hiorth, CSMMI Advertising:

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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 (5)

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WANTED TO BUY: Canada General Service medal to soldiers in action at Ridgeway. Contact: Barry at: barrynboots@yahoo.ca (3)

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<i>The CSMMI 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. ____</i>

Note: Membership valid from January 1 – December 31. Annual fees due by January 31st.
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(CSMMI form Nov 2021)

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