



# HELMET LINER GAZETTE

## Sacrifice Medal



Obverse-Avers



Reverse-Revers

### Background

The Sacrifice Medal was created to recognize a member of the Canadian Forces, a member of an allied force, or a Canadian civilian under the authority of the Canadian Forces who, as of October 7, 2001, died or was wounded under honourable circumstances as a direct result of hostile action.

### Applications

A commanding officer will submit an application through the usual military chain of command for eligible members of their unit.

## Sacrifice Medal

**Description:** the Medal consists of a silver circular medal that is 36 mm across, has a claw at the top of it in the form of the Royal Crown, and is attached to a straight slotted bar.

- On the obverse of the Medal appears a contemporary effigy of Her Majesty the Queen of Canada, facing right, wearing a Canadian diadem composed alternately of maple leaves and snowflakes, and circumscribed with the inscriptions “ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA” and “CANADA”, separated by small maple leaves, and
- on the reverse of the Medal appears a representation of the statue named “Canada” -that forms part of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial - facing right, overlooking the horizon. The inscription “SACRIFICE” appears in the lower right half of the Medal.
- The Medal is suspended from a watered ribbon that is 32 mm in width, consisting of a 10-mm black stripe in the middle that is flanked by 11-mm red stripes, on which are centred 1-mm white stripes.
- The bar to the Medal is in silver with raised edges and shall bear a centred, single silver maple leaf overall. The Medal shall be engraved on the edge with the service number, rank, forename initials and surname of any military recipient or with the forenames and surname of any civilian recipient.

**Wearing:** The Medal shall be worn following the Royal Victorian Medal (R.V.M.), in the [order of precedence](#) in the Canadian Honours System. For more information on the wearing of orders, decorations and medals, click [here](#).

### Related Information

For more information, please see the Department of National Defence Web site for Canadian Forces Honours and Awards: [http://www.forces.gc.ca/hr/dhr-ddhr/eng/home\\_e.asp](http://www.forces.gc.ca/hr/dhr-ddhr/eng/home_e.asp)

## A gift that recalls a rare occurrence

*by Steve Fortin*

Finding similar cases would be difficult because fathers and sons receiving the same decoration in different wars is not a common occurrence. A recent ceremony held at the Canadian War Museum (CWM) marked the very special donation of the medals awarded to two generations of the Byce family.



Mr. Rick Byce and about 40 family members attended the ceremony to donate medals awarded to his grandfather, Henry Charles Byce, for his service during the First World War, and to Charles Byce, in recognition of his Second World War service.

Henry Charles Byce, a native of the municipality of Westmeath, Ont. (east of Pembroke), was decorated for his acts on August 8 and 9, 1918, in the Amiens sector of France during the First World War. According to the citation published in the *London Gazette*, Sergeant Byce and his company were under enemy machine gun fire. Although wounded during the attack, Sgt Byce led an assault on the enemy post, seized the weapons and took 31 prisoners.



His son received the same decoration for heroism March 2, 1945, in the Hochwald Forest sector, in Germany, during the Second World War. Acting Sergeant Byce was commanding a C Company platoon as part of an advance. After occupying several buildings, he and his troops came under attack by an enemy force that included four tanks. A/Sgt Byce destroyed one of the tanks himself, but although the other three reached his troops' positions, under his orders, his men stopped and dispersed the enemy infantrymen accompanying the tanks. Although the enemy invited A/Sgt Byce to surrender, he refused. Instead, he covered his men and kept firing on the enemy, killing seven and wounding 11, enabling C Company to withdraw from its position and rejoin its regiment.

These were not the only military awards the father and son received. In addition to the DCM, the second-highest award for gallantry in action (after the Victoria Cross) for all ranks below commissioned officers, the elder Byce also received France's *Médaille militaire*, the second-highest decoration for bravery awarded during the First World War. His son received the Military Medal on the recommendation of his field commander-in-chief in recognition of his acts of bravery during the Second World War.



"The DCM was awarded 1 984 times," says Eric Fernberg, the CWM's dress and insignia collection manager, explaining the importance of the medals being donated to the museum. "During the Second World War, only 162 people received it. As for France's *Médaille militaire*, it was created in 1852 and is second in importance only to the French Legion of Honour, which makes it sort of the French equivalent to the DCM. Only 55 Canadians

received it during the First World War."

Charles Byce, born in the northern Ontario town of Chapleau while his father was serving in Europe, is one of the many Canadian Métis who served during the Second World War.

*With files from the Canadian War Museum*

## A new colour for an old regiment

*by Cpl Isabelle Provost*



SHERBROOKE, Quebec — The Fusiliers de Sherbrooke received their new Queen's Colour April 19 from Pierre Duchesne, Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec.

Brigadier-General Stanley Johnstone, CF Chaplain General, blessed the Queen's Colour and the regiment in Saint-Michel Cathedral.

"This event reinforced our sense of belonging towards the Queen," said Second-Lieutenant Joey Thibault, Fusiliers de Sherbrooke public affairs officer. "It also created ties with the people of Sherbrooke who came out to watch the ceremony today."



The celebration was an opportunity to reflect on the spirit of the regiment, the importance of its service and the lives sacrificed on the battlefield. The event was also a reminder of the courage the members have shown since the regiment was founded, and their loyalty to their country.

The Sherbrooke Hussars and 62nd Field Regiment (62 Fd Regt), The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery, participated in the ceremony. 62 Fd Regt welcomed the lieutenant-governor with a 15-gun salute. A single blank was fired in front of the cathedral at the end of the ceremony.

"This is a very important event, and it was prepared with care," said Lieutenant-Colonel Éric Beaudoin, commanding officer of the Fusiliers de Sherbrooke. "The regiment worked extremely hard for months to make this ceremony a success."

Preparations intensified in the weeks leading up to the official presentation of the Colour. A number of reservists working outside the regiment helped out for the occasion. The civilian population was invited to attend the celebration and become acquainted with military traditions.

A change of Queen's Colour is a very rare event. Since the regiment was founded in 1910, there have been only three Queen's Colour ceremonies, including this one.

The regiment will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2010.

For more information about the Fusiliers de Sherbrooke, go to [www.armee.gc.ca/fusiliers\\_sherbrooke/](http://www.armee.gc.ca/fusiliers_sherbrooke/).

## Second World War soldier identified

Private Ralph Tupper Ferns, a Canadian soldier killed in France in 1944, will soon be laid to rest.

His remains were found in March 2005 in a quarry in Haut Mesnil, 18 km north of Falaise, by residents who also found a badge from the Royal Regiment of Canada. Pte Ferns, from Toronto, died in the battle of the Falaise Gap in August 1944, two months after Allied troops landed in Normandy.

"We are thankful that Pte Ferns' family will finally have some closure and be able to see him laid to rest with the honour he deserves," said Defence Minister Peter MacKay. "Private Ferns' service and contribution to the Canadian Forces and to Canada in the Second World War will not be forgotten."

The Directorate of History and Heritage determined that historical, anthropological and dental evidence combined to indicate that the remains found were those of Pte Ferns. Veterans Affairs Canada has made contact with members of Pte Ferns' family, and will provide on-going support to family members as arrangements are made and carried out for the final interment.

"Once again, we are reminded of the value of a single human life," said Veterans Affairs Minister Greg Thompson, "and the debt of gratitude we owe to all those who have sacrificed their lives for our tomorrow. Pte Ferns paid the ultimate price so that others might live free."

Pte Ferns will be laid to rest at the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery in Normandy, France.

## Hello? Hello? Can you hear me?

*by Steve Fortin*

Visitors to the Military Communications and Electronics Museum (MCEM) at CFB Kingston are reminded of scenes in the movie "Gallipoli" by Australian director Peter Weir. It is impossible to forget the final scenes, when Archy, a young soldier from the Australian 8<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment, tense and focussed, waits for the whistle telling the next wave to go over the top to face fire from Turkish line. In the meantime, Archy's best friend, Frank, sprints back and forth, carrying orders from the CO to the line commanders and hoping for the order for Archy's line to stand down. The order comes, but too late - the communications break down.

From the very first exhibit in the MCEM, visitors find themselves immersed in the history of Canadian military communications. The museum in its current incarnation, with fairly new buildings and facilities, has been welcoming visitors since May 1996. More than 930 square metres are reserved for exhibiting military communications equipment and mementos dating from 1850 to today.

When the MCEM was originally founded in 1961, it was called the Museum of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. In the wake of the unification of the CF in 1968, the Communications and Electronics Branch was created by the merger of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, the Air Force Telecommunications Branch, one Royal Canadian Navy trade and two Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers trades.

Visitors to the museum step back into time as they view exhibits that are arranged chronologically to show how communications and electronics have changed over the years. Through various objects and reconstructions, visitors can see what radio communication stations in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories looked like in the early 1920s, when the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals had the mandate to establish a transmission system in many northern communities.

Communication has been at the forefront throughout Canada's military history, but it was still in its infancy, and rudimentary, before Confederation. For the most part, letters, messengers and liaison officers were used, while signalling devices were used over short

distances. Military communications technology evolved after Confederation, however, as the Government took over the responsibility of defending Canada. MCEM exhibits trace the history of Canadian military communications from pre-Confederation through the First World War and the time of Arctic exploration, on through the Second World War, the Korean War and the Cold War to peacekeeping operations in which the CF participated as members of NATO (such as in the Balkans).

The MCEM is lucky to have a team of devoted and knowledgeable volunteers. One of these people is Dick Archambault, who fought in the Korean War. If you should meet him while visiting the museum, ask him to tell you a few stories about the 27 Canadian Infantry Brigade Signals Squadron, in which he served in Korea, and have a look at the photo of him in his younger days, with a few of his brothers-in-arms, in one of the exhibits.

### **The Enigma machine**

Among the MCEM's most unique objects is an Enigma machine, on loan from Communications Security Establishment Canada. This device became famous for its use by the Nazis and their allies during World War II. This German electromechanical invention used rotors mounted on cylinders to code information so that enemies could not decipher it.

As the story goes, in 1938, a Polish mechanic who was working in a German plant where the device was manufactured was fired when his nationality was discovered. Thanks to his notes and observations and a wooden model, the Allies got their first glimpse of the Enigma machine. The British first got hold of an Enigma machine in 1939 and immediately assigned a team of top mathematicians to decipher the intercepted codes.

This story of one of the items in the MCEM collection, together with those of many other objects on display, make it possible to reconstruct the overall history of military communication.



## **We've forgotten how to thank our veterans**

I represented the youth of Canada on behalf of New Brunswick in France recently as part of a Canadian delegation commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. During the short time I spent in Europe with 11 other youth, six First World War veterans, 37 Second World War veterans and a Victoria Cross winner, I learned many lessons that changed my perspective on life and being a Canadian.

I stood atop the Vimy memorial which is located on the highest point of the ridge, known as Hill 145. I was able to see the land the Germans had occupied 80 years before. The view is so breathtaking that words cannot convey a true appreciation of it.

I imagined being an 18-year-old Canadian in uniform during the Great War. I tried to put myself in April 9, 1917, as all four divisions of the Canadian army attacked the German-occupied Vimy ridge. I tried to comprehend what it would have been like to see my friends and brothers shot down and not be able to help them, because if I did I too would be shot down. I tried to imagine the feelings one must have experienced seeing green land for the first time in three years – something not short of amazing. As hard as I tried I could not grasp the reality of that Easter Monday 1917; only the veteran beside me remembers.

At the Vimy ceremony I was overwhelmed by response of the French people. They wanted to touch and thank their heroes, our First World War veterans. Many asked for autographs, others simply kissed them and said, "Merci. Merci beaucoup." I began handing out Canadian flags and was surrounded by people with outstretched hands. Everyone wanted a piece of Canada – a pin, a flag, a poppy. I was so proud to be Canadian.

That day, the French Minister of Veteran Affairs, Pierre Pasquini, addressed the youth. He had three messages for the jeunesse du Canada. The first was "Never forget what your grandfathers and great-grandfathers have done for you." the second was, "A country without a memory is a country without a way." Finally, he said that we will never know the horrors these men endured but we must be thankful and carry on their message.

Their message lives on in Belgium. Every night at eight o'clock at the Menin Gate in Ypres burghers play *The Last Post* as an act of remembrance for those Canadians who liberated the city in both world wars. When Mr. Spear, a 100 year-old veteran of both wars, went to lay a wreath at this gate, the crowd applauded. They did not politely applaud his presence or an achievement, they applauded to say, "Thank you. We love you," something Canadians fail to do.

Belgium remembers just as France does. France bears the eternal scars of war. Graveyards mark the countryside in the northern part of the country. It is common to see a monument on a front lawn or in a backyard – likewise a bunker next to a barn.

Farmers are constantly uncovering bones, skeletons, armaments and weapons as reminders of what happened 60 and 80 years ago. The buildings are still marked by two world wars.

Everywhere you go you encounter people who experienced war first-hand. Yes, France remembers. But Canada has forgotten. As people of this nation we have forgotten how to say thank you to our veterans. We deceive ourselves by thinking it is enough to remember them on Nov. 11, but what they did for us endures for more than one day a year.

I have been rudely awakened to the fact that, as Canadians, we daily take our country for granted. It never crosses our minds that we might not live to see tomorrow or eat another meal. Canada is a land where liberty is welcomed, yet we abuse our freedoms and demand more.

During my second day in France, I watched news coverage of Zaire and the horrendous realities happening to thousands every day due to starvation and malnutrition. I had no control over my birthplace. Yet, I was born in Canada, not Zaire. I'm Canadian - that is a privilege.

As I stood on this ground where Canada became a nation I thought of all those who died and recalled the words of a French Canadian veteran I spoke with in Ottawa. He said to me, "I didn't fight for Quebec, I fought for Canada." Those words clung to my memory as I believe all those men who died at Vimy would be turning in their graves if they knew what internal forces were threatening the country they fought to protect.

I have also learned that although I cannot remember either world war, I have a duty to become informed and then share this information with others so that they too may appreciate what it is to be Canadian. I fear however, that our country will have to be threatened by another war before we come together as Canadians. I am afraid that then and only then would we discover what it means to be Canadian. Thousands of men and women gave their lives for this nation and we must not let them die in vain. We must teach our children about war and the sacrifices Canadians made, whether it is 50 or 100 years later. We must say thank you to those men who gave us our country. I'm Canadian - that is a privilege.

Author: Melissa MacNeill, St Stephen High School, St. Stephen NB 1997

### **When the Youth are Gone**

Old men behind desks decided that  
We should go to war,  
Brave young men responded to the call to duty,  
They left farms, family, friends, and factories,  
They enlisted to dirt, death, destruction,  
And devastation,  
They gave all they had for the freedom,  
Liberty, and stability of the future,  
They sturdy youth gave their lives, making the  
Ultimate sacrifice,  
Families gave their husbands, fathers, brothers,  
Uncles, and nephews,  
They later gave tears for those who  
Were gone forever,  
We now must give them respect, honour,  
And the proud memories that they so justly deserve,  
We must also stop this from ever happening again,  
No matter what the cost,  
We must stop the fighting because what will we do,  
When all the youth are gone?

Author Bruce David MacIntosh

This poem won first place in The Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day literary contest poetry division Fredericton RC Legion Branch 4 in 2003

Unfortunately on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2007 Bruce was one of two victims that drowned in the weekend canoe accident on Grand Lake in New Brunswick, the other victim was a 26 year old soldier who lived in Fredericton NB

### **"DIP NO FLAG FOR ME"**

MY FLAGS ARE PRECIOUS TO ME,  
FOR I AM A VETERAN YOU SEE.  
SO CITIZEN, PLEASE BEAR WITH ME,  
AS I EXPLAIN THIS MATTER OF OUR FLAGS TO THEE.

MY FATHER FOUGHT UNDER THE ENSIGN FLAG.  
IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE, I TOO DID GO, UNDER THE SKY BLUE FLAG,  
MY WIFE SERVES UNDER ARMS, THE RED MAPLE LEAF FLAG,  
WE ARE PROUDLY ALL, THE DEFENDERS OF OUR FLAG.

YET THERE ARE THOSE WHO SADLY DIP MY BANNERS,  
FOR ALL KINDS OF COMMEMORATIVE MATTERS.  
SO MY FLAGS INSULTED, SO MY HEART GREATLY BATTERS,  
AS I WONDER, PRAY TELL, AT THIS ABSENCE OF MANNERS!

PLEASE CITIZEN, TREAT MY FLAGS WITH HONOUR,  
FOR I HELD THEM PROUDLY HIGH ON THE FIELD OF HONOUR,  
DEFENDING YOUR RIGHT TO HOLD MY FLAGS, WHICH YOU SO DISHONOUR,  
BY DIPPING TO GROUND, OUR MOST SACRED SYMBOLS IN SURRENDER!

PLEASE CITIZEN, PROUDLY HOLD MY FLAGS ON HIGH,  
DO NOT LET DIP OR TOUCH THE GROUND MY BANNERS FROM THE SKY.  
FOR WITH MY FLAGS TO SALUTE, YOU MUST LET FLY,  
SO YOU AND I MAY WATCH WITH PRIDE, OUR HONOUR IN THE SKY!

SO NOW THAT I HAVE EXPLAINED TO THEE,  
WHY MY FLAGS ARE PRECIOUS TO ME.  
IT IS WELL MY FATHER CAN NO LONGER SEE,  
HOW SHAMEFULLY, YOU DIP OUR FLAGS SO FREE.

OH MY FLAG SO FREE, I STILL STAND ON GUARD FOR THEE,  
AND SO, CITIZEN, IF I DIE FOR THEE, DIP NO FLAG FOR ME!  
Karl O. Morel, CD 11 November, 2007

### *A Veteran's Hope*



**Lest We Forget**



I hope there's a place way up in the sky  
Where Veterans can go, when they have to die  
A place where a guy can buy a cold beer  
For a friend and comrade, whose memory is dear  
A place where no doctor or lawyer can tread  
Nor a Veterans Affairs type would ere be caught dead  
Just a quaint little place, kind of dark, a little smoke  
Where they like to sing and have a joke  
The kind of place where a lady could go  
And feel safe and protected by the men she would know  
There must be a place where old vets go  
When their pain is finished and their walk gets slow  
Where the whiskey is old and once again we are young  
And songs about war and comrades are sung  
Where you see all the fellows you have known before and  
They call out your name as you come through the door  
Who would buy you a drink, if your thirst should be bad  
And say to the others "He was quite a good lad."  
And then through the mist, you spot an old guy  
You have not seen in years and you realise that the past has gone by  
He would nod his head and grin from ear to ear  
And say "Welcome buddy, I'm pleased that you're here,  
For this is the place where veterans come  
When their journey is over and the war has been won."  
They've come here to be happy and get a good rest  
This is heaven my son, you've passed your last test  
By R.Craven

