

PPCLI Fonds 138

Thomas Joseph Aherne fonds. – 1968-1996, 2017. – 72 cm of textual records and other material.

Thomas Joseph Aherne was born in Montreal, Quebec on 22 January 1958 to Michael and Margaret Aherne. He had five siblings: Mary, Breeda, James, Kathleen, and Margaret. His passions in life were learning, teamwork, taking on challenges, and teaching others. His pursuit of those passions led to a 21-year long career in the Canadian Military, where he served in the Royal Canadian Regiment, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) and the Canadian Airborne Regiment. He earned many achievements, awards, and honours. In 1984, he completed qualifications to become a course instructor. His leadership qualities and mastery of many military skills led to his appointment to the elite units Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) and Joint Task Force 2 (JTF-2). After he retired from the Canadian Armed Forces with the rank of Warrant Officer in 1997, he started his own electrical contracting business based in Calgary, Alberta. He was previously married to Pamela Jill Plummer. He later married Maureen McKee. He died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 66 on 18 October 2017.

The fonds consists of Tom Aherne's service records, certificates, newsclippings, and photographs documenting his military service and personal life, manuals and precis used in his military training, and collected newsletters.

Access to materials containing Aherne's Social Insurance Number is restricted to members of his family and military personnel to protect privacy. Documents may be made available to general researchers if the Social Insurance Number is redacted.



Pte TJ Aherne receives Top Candidate award from Brigadier MF Gregg, V.C., 1977 (PPCLI Archives F-138-13)

- Series 1 Personal Information. – 1976-1996, 2017. – 4 cm of textual records. – This series consists of Thomas J. Aherne’s records of military service, certificates and commendations, and pace to distance conversion chart.**
- F-138-1 Aherne obituary and online guestbook, 2017 Oct.
- F-138-2 Aherne personnel records. – 1976-1996. – Includes Unit Employment Record (Qualification Record Sheets & Misc. Entries), resumé, and Performance Evaluation Report. – RESTRICTED until 2078. [A2018.081.01]
- F-138-3 Driver/Operator proficiency records. – 1982-1995. – RESTRICTED until 2078. [A2018.081.02]
- F-138-4 Jump records. – 1979-1992. – Includes parachute jump record books, military freefall parachutist logbook, and individual jump record cards. – RESTRICTED until 2078. [A2018.081.03]
- F-138-5 Certificates and letters of commendation. – 1975-1989. – Includes certificates for course completion, participation, and training, a letter of commendation, and a school graduation parade program. [A2018.081.04]
- F-138-6 Conversion chart of paces to distance measurement. – [ca. 1980]. – Includes Aherne’s paces at night and day, body measurements, and equations for conversion. [A2018.081.11]
- Series 2 Military manuals and notes. – 1973-ca. 1992. – 15 cm of textual records. – This series consists of manuals and course materials used during Thomas J. Aherne’s military training and time as an instructor.**
- F-138-7 Manual of map reading. – London : H.M.S.O, 1973. – 101 p. (photocopy). – Includes illustrations and tables with the different units. [A2018.081.17].
- F-138-8 Military operations in urban terrain. – Camp Pendleton, Calif. : United States Marine Corps Division Schools, [ca. 1975]. – 70 p. (photocopy). – Coil bound instruction book with illustrations and diagrams. [A2018.081.18].
- F-138-9 Mountain operations instructor precis. - [S.l. : s.n., ca.1988]. - A coil-bound book that discusses clothing and equipment, different techniques, and navigation methods with photographs, illustrations, and tables. [A2018.081.19].
- F-138-10 Action verbs for TDC 8-9-10 = Verbes d’action pour CDI 8-9-10. – [Canada : s.n., 1989 Nov.]. – Coil bound book with definitions of verbs in both English and French. [A2018.081.20]
- F-138-11 Training design and evaluation course / Canadian Forces Training Development Centre. – 4th ed. – [Canada : the Centre, 1992 Mar.]. – An unbound book that contains modules, exercises, and checklists and guidelines to assist instructors in designing and evaluating Canadian Armed Forces courses. [A2018.081.21].
- F-138-12 Caliper reference check list books. – [Canada ; s.n., ca. 1990]. - Two caliper geopig system reference check list books with plastic sheathed pages. [A2018.081.22]

Series 3 Photographs. -1976-1990. - 1 box with 2 albums (150 photographs, 3 newspaper clippings, 3 certificates, and 1 hand drawn illustration) with 46 cm of records and 2 cm of loose photographs. - This series contains a series of photographs from Thomas J. Aherne's military career and personal life.

- F-138-13 Group portraits in soldiers in uniform, probably from military coursework. – [ca. 1976-ca. 1990]. – 12 photographs. – Aherne is identified in the photos by a blue dot. Others identified include BGen G.K. Corbould, BGen M.F. Gregg. [A2018.081.05]
- F-138-14 Bound photograph album with mixture of family and military service images and newspaper clippings. – [ca 1968-ca. 1990]. – 101 photographs, 7 newspaper clippings, 4 certificates, 1 cloth ribbon and 4 graphic prints. Aherne is identified in some of the photos by a blue dot. – Album is located in flat box. [A.2018.081.06].
- F-138-15 Photo album pages. – [ca. 1985-ca. 1986]. – 13 photographs, some featuring Aherne, of military exercises and training. [A2018.081.06].
- F-138-16 NSMATCC photo album. – 1978-1979. – 48 images of military exercises at NATO Small Arms Test Control Centre, Hammelburg, West Germany. – Album is located in flat box. [A2018.081.08].
- F-138-17 Miscellaneous photos. – [ca. 1978-ca. 1979].- 1 postcard, "Reversing Falls Rapids, Saint John", 1 sticker, NATO Small Arms Trial. [A2018.081.09].

Series 4 Collected published materials. – [ca. 1977]-1989. – 5 cm of textual records. – This series consists of published materials featuring photographs of Thomas Aherne.

- F-138-18 Mons Platoon graduation newspaper clipping. – [ca. 1977]. [A2018.081.10].
- F-138-19 Newspaper clippings. – 1981-1988. – 4 newspaper clippings: The Maple Leaf Vol.1 No.2 (1981 Jun 10), 'Operation Rendezvous' (The Intelligencer 1981 May 30), SSF Mountain School 1984, Petawawa Post (1988 Apr 27). Aherne is identified in the clippings by a blue dot. [A2018.081.12].
- F-138-20 The Royal Canadian : the newspaper of the Second Battalion the Royal Canadian Regiment. – Vol. 1, nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10. – Nicosia, Cyprus : the Battalion, 1977-1978. – Features images of Aherne. [A2018.081.13].
- F-138-21 The connecting file / the Royal Canadian Regiment. – London, Ont. : the Regiment, 1986. – Features photo of Aherne in mountain rescue training on back cover. [A2018.081.14].
- F-138-22 Sentinel : magazine of the Canadian Forces. – 1979/3. – Features images of Aherne in NATO Small Arms Trials at Hammelburg, Germany. [A2018.081.15].
- F-138-23 The maroon beret = Le beret marron. – Petawawa, ON : Canadian Airborne Regiment, 1984-1989. – 4 publication volumes from 1984 May, 1984 Nov, 1988 Fall, and 1989 Fall that include images of Aherne. [A2018.081.16].

Inventory created 2019 October by Caitlind Porter

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