

This Issue's
Theme:
Upholding
Tradition



100 YEARS
BATTLE HONOURS:
SIBERIA, 1918-1919

WORD
Scramble

GAMES INSIDE!
DECODING ACTIVITY
& QUIZ INSIDE!



MEDAK POCKET
WHEN PPCLI HELD THEIR
GROUND

THE MARGUERITE

The Official Youth Newsletter of the PPCLI Museum & Archives



"Remember tradition does not mean that you never do anything new, but that you will never fall below the standard of courage and conduct handed down to you. Then tradition, far from being handcuffs to cramp your action, will be a handrail to guide and steady you in the rough places."

~ Field Marshal Sir William Slim!

Letter From the Editor

Welcome to the second issue of *The Marguerite: Official Youth Newsletter of the PPCLI Museum & Archives*. The theme for Vol. 1, Issue 2, is "Upholding Tradition," and focuses on the ways in which PPCLI has upheld tradition since its founding in August, 1914. So being, contributions include a summary of the 260th Battalion in Siberia, 1918-1919 (Page 6); a spotlight on Lieutenant Hugh McDonald McKenzie, VC (Page 8); as well as our feature article "Medak Pocket," which details the courageous stand taken by PPCLI members during a peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslavia (Page 4). September 2018 marks 25 years since this engagement. We also have an article about an upcoming exhibit about Canadians serving in the Vietnam War. Make sure to keep a look out for our games and highlights as well!

We hope you enjoy this issue reading about the First in the Field!

~The Editor

A Patricia Weighs In

Answered by: James Morgan

Question: What would you say are the mainstays of PPCLI's "character" (in other words, that which is preserved through tradition)?

As simple as it is to soldiers to understand [what defines their regiment's character], it is hard to adequately explain. The Regiment flows through our veins. It is a bond that is created through the trials and tribulations of becoming a soldier of a particular regiment. Extremely hard work goes into earning the cap badge we wear. This is true of the other regiments, but the soldiers of those regiments, like us Patricias,

~ September 1993 ~
Medak Pocket



Conflict: Croatian-Serbian Conflict

Where: Former Yugoslavia

Significance: Incident during UN Peacekeeping tour where PPCLI members faced Croatian troops while attempting to stop "ethnic cleansing" of Serbian civilians. Awarded the Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendation for professionalism in the line of duty.

Names of Note: Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Calvin, Major Drew

think their Regiment the best.

When [the soldiers before us] went into battle, they fought not so much for their country, although this was likely their initial reason for joining; rather, they fought for the soldier that stood beside them in the trenches, their brothers. You may hear us refer to each other as "brother". It is a brotherhood that we belong to. In particular, our Regiment is our brotherhood.

We understand that the soldiers that went before us, and indeed the ones we even know in the present, gave their all for their brothers, their brotherhood...the Regiment. Traditions created by the Originals have been passed on and upheld to this date. Do new traditions arise? Yes they do. Some change, as does the Regiment. You can hold on to the initial traditions, but you have to be able to adapt as the times and situations change.

A bar was set by the generations of soldiers before us, throughout the different conflicts and eras. But in years to come, the soldiers today will be looked upon as setting a new bar too. We have brought forth what was started by others, strive to maintain what feats they have done, and in so, perpetuate what has gone on before, but adapted it to our current needs.

The loyalty to my brothers is as important as our loyalty to the Regiment. It is one in the same. My greatest fear was to let a brother down in battle, which made me, and others, not falter. The traditions we hold were created by brothers, but from earlier times. To forget those traditions is tantamount to faltering, letting "them" down. Their hardships help us understand and deal with our own tough situations. They guide our actions in whatever we encounter in the present and will do so in the future.

Last Quarter We Asked —What Would You Do...?

An officer in the Machine Gun Corps at the Battle of Passchendaele, you are leading your men when you see a band of PPCLI soldiers struggling in the wake of enemy fire from a German pillbox. Do you...

- a) Remain with your men and carry on; there's nothing you can do
- b) Remain with your men but send word for reinforcements
- c) Hand over command to an NCO and lead a raid on the pill box
- d) Order an NCO to lead a raid and save the Infantry company

Answer:

c) Hand over command to an NCO and lead a raid on the pill box

See Page 8 to learn about the Victoria Cross Recipient who helped his former Regiment at the Battle of Passchendaele, 1917.



Medak Pocket

By: Ms. Paula



In the late summer '93, Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Calvin, commanding 2PPCLI, arrived in the Medak Pocket of the Croatian region. While creating a buffer zone (also known as the demilitarized buffer zone) between the Serbian civilians and the Croatian troops, 2nd Battalion patrols were regularly fired on.

On 9 September 1993, Croatian troops launched an all-out attack on the Medak Pocket. Many times the Croatian troops attempted to remove the Serbian population from the Medak Pocket area.

The day before the "The Medak Pocket Agreement" was to go into effect, Lieutenant-Colonel Calvin reviewed the operation plans with his subordinate officers and NCO's (Non-Commissioned Officers). The operation was to go into four phases starting on 15 September.

Unfortunately, implementing this new agreement did not go as planned. 15 September was the day that the PPCLI held their ground against a Croatian assault. The Croatians launched the assault by using mortars and heavy machine gun fire. Some of the PPCLI positions were under constant fire for 12 hours straight. When a ceasefire was brokered by the United Nations, the Croatians backed off from the PPCLI positions.

In the morning hours of 16 September, members of the 2nd Battalion could see smoke rising from several villages and heard explosions as well as occasional bursts

of automatic rifle fire on the Croatian side. The members of the 2nd Battalion couldn't do a thing except listen helplessly to the shooting and explosions in the villages. When the Croatians left, Lieutenant-Colonel Calvin sent out patrols to search for any evidence of what the Croatian troops were suspect of doing against the Serbian civilians.

Not long after 2PPCLI convoy left, under the command of Major Drew, they found themselves unable to enter the buffer zone in the Medak Pocket because of the obstacles that the Croatian troops had created. The Croatian troops were protected by a minefield as well as tanks. All were pointed at the Patricias. The Senior Croatian officer Brigadier General Mezic, the senior liaison officer to local Croat Operational Zone Commander General Ademi, absolutely refused to allow the convoy to pass. All weapons from the Croatian troops and the Patricias were ready to engage. Throughout this very tense standoff, which lasted for over an hour, these highly trained and disciplined Patricias maintained their cool as the Croatian troops grew increasingly uneasy.

When Lieutenant-Colonel Calvin arrived on the scene, he had a very heated argument with the ranking Croatian officer Brigadier General Mezic. Finally Lieutenant-Colonel Calvin had enough. He went before 20 international journalists and media crew, making sure the camera crews were filming the Croatians' very obvious interference with United Nations efforts to make peace, and told them what the Croatian Police were doing on the other side of the buffer zone. When Lieutenant-Colonel Calvin finished with the journalists and media crew, the Croatians troops cleared the roadblock and the 2PPCLI convoy continued on that they could reach most of the villages before the evidence could be erased. The standoff had wasted precious time as evidence was being destroyed.

2PPCLI was awarded the Commander-in-Chief Unit Commendation for their courage and professionalism in carrying out their duties in former Yugoslavia. Their actions were noted as having been under extreme peril, facing enemy artillery, heavy machine gun and small arms fire, as well as anti-tank and anti-personnel mines; and holding their ground while driving the Croatian troops back. The members of the 2nd Battalion PPCLI were presented with this commendation in Manitoba, 1 December 2002.

~ ~ ~

Did You Know?

**This September marks 25 years since
the stand-off at Medak Pocket.**

Battle Honours: Siberia, 1918 - 1919

By: Myrna Adamec

260th Battallion. CEF



Organized: 1 November 1918 (G.O. 128/1918)

Service: Component of the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force.

Strength: 42 Officers and 984 Other Ranks, 520 of which were drafted under the Military Act of 1917.

Disbanded: 15 November 1920 (G.O. 215/1920)

Perpetuated by: Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry



"A Machine Gun Officer, Siberia" by Colonel Louis Keen

The 260th Battalion, Canadian Rifles, Canadian Expeditionary Forces (Siberia) was formed on 1 November 1918 in Victoria, B.C. They, along with the 259th, were named the "Canadian Rifles" to indicate they were not regional in composition and their sphere of influence was not the Western Front in the First World War. The force embarked for Russia on 29 December 1918 on the SS *Protesliaus* at Gordon Head, arriving in Vladivostok 15 January 1919. They served with the 16th Infantry Brigade in eastern Russia. It was disbanded on 15 November 1920. In 1997 the PPCLI agreed to perpetuate the 260th Battalion and become official safe-keeper of the Battalion's heritage. The PPCLI now carry the Battle Honour Siberia 1918-1919.²

The British commander was Canadian General James Hemsley. Despite the Treaty of Brest-Livstok (between Russia and the Central Powers in which they agreed to cease hostilities) the Germans continued to press on in the Eastern front and posed a threat to vast amounts of Allied

material stockpiled at Archangel and Murmansk in the north and Vladivostok in the east.

The British Secretary of State for the Colonies sent a telegram to the Duke of Devonshire, the Governor General of Canada, laying out the requirements for the Canadian contingent.³

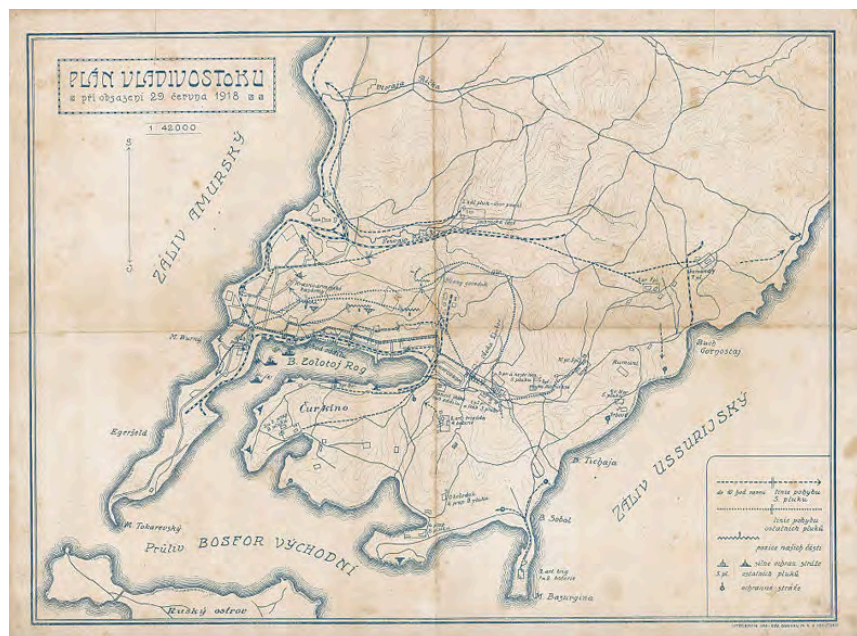
Conscripts enrolled under the Military Service Act, had to be employed to make up the total complement of the force. The majority of the brigade consisted of two Infantry battalions, the 259th Canadian Rifles and the 260th Canadian Rifles, two batteries of Artillery, a machine gun company, and a squadron of Cavalry drawn from the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. The 260th Battalion was drawn from the other provinces; one company from Atlantic Canada, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, and was commanded by LCol F. C. Jamieson.⁴ According to a handwritten nominal roll in PPCLI Archives, there were 56 Patricias in this contingent.

On 12 April 1919, Bolsheviks surrounded the village where Russian troops were holding prisoners. It was feared that the Bolsheviks would capture the whole village and endanger the mine in the vicinity. The Japanese commander called for an Allied force to rescue the Russians in the village, but the Americans refused to take part.⁵ The Canadians sent a company from the 259th Battalion to be part of the rescue force.⁶

However, when they arrived at the village on 19 April, the Bolsheviks had already dispersed, and the force returned to Vladivostok two days later without having fired a shot.

The only positive outcome for the Canadians from this operation was the Japanese gift of 96 bottles of wine, 18 bottles of whisky, and 3 casks of sake, in grateful acknowledgement of the efforts of the Canadian troops.⁷

Consolidating all of the information, a time-line of events can be constructed. For additional details, please refer to the on-line Siberia War Diary Collection at Library and Archives Canada. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/search/Pages/search.aspx>



Vladivostok, June 1918; wikimedia

"Tip of the Spear" Person Highlight: Lieutenant Hugh McDonald McKenzie, VC



Name: Hugh McDonald McKenzie

Rank: Lieutenant

Regimental Number: 1158

Service: First World War: PPCLI Private;
Lieutenant with the Canadian Machine Gun Corps

Significance to the PPCLI: Launched an assault on a German Pill box during the battle of Passchendaele after witnessing the casualties sustained by members of the PPCLI.

Profession Before WWI: Teamster

Honours and Awards: Victoria Cross (Machine Gun Corps, 13.2.18 posthumously), Distinguished Conduct Medal (PPCLI, 14.1.16), Croix de Guerre (PPCLI, 24.2.16)

Born: 5 December 1885, Inverness, Scotland

Died: 30 October 1917, Passchendaele, Belgium

Interred: Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium, Panel 32

Extract from the "London Gazette", 12 February 1918:

" [Awarded the Victoria Cross] For most conspicuous bravery and leading when in charge of a section of four machine guns accompanying the infantry in an attack. Seeing that all the officers and most of the non-commissioned officers of an infantry company had become casualties, and that the men were hesitating before a nest of enemy machine guns, which were on commanding ground and causing them severe casualties, he handed over command of his guns to an N.C.O., rallied the infantry, organised an attack, and captured the strong point. Finding that the position was swept by machine-gun fire from a 'pill-box' which dominated all the ground over which the troops were advancing, Lt. McKenzie made a reconnaissance and detailed flanking and frontal attacking parties which captured the 'pill-box', he himself being killed while leading the frontal attack. By his valour and leadership this gallant officer ensured the capture of these strong points and so saved the lives of many men and enabled the objectives to be attained."

Quiz

- 1) Medak Pocket involved...
 - A) Canadian peacekeepers, Serbians, and Croatians
 - B) Canadian combat troops and Croatians
 - C) Canadians and Russians
 - D) Canadians, Americans, and Southern Vietnamese

- 2) Members of PPCLI were a part of the ... during operations in Siberia, 1918 - 1919
 - A) 240th Battalion
 - B) 250th Battalion
 - C) 260th Battalion
 - D) 360th Battalion

- 3) Lieutenant Hugh McDonald McKenzie won the ... for his courage in the year...
 - A) Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1916
 - B) Croix de Guerre, 1916
 - C) Victoria Cross, 1917
 - D) all of the above

- 4) An estimated ... Canadians served in Vietnam
 - A) 400
 - B) 4,000
 - C) 40,000
 - D) none: only Americans fought in the Vietnam War

- 4) Tradition can be...
 - A) a handrail to guide and steady you
 - B) handcuffs to cramp your action
 - C) outdated
 - D) pointless

Answers in next Quarter's edition! (October - December, 2018)



Tour of Duty: Canadians and the Vietnam War — A Special Exhibition in the Founders Gallery

By J. Neven-Pugh

Beginning this autumn, visitors to The Military Museums of Calgary will have the chance to see an exhibition highlighting an under-recognized period in Canadian history.

“Tour of Duty: Canadians and the Vietnam War” tells the story of the war from multiple perspectives, discussing the Americans, South Vietnamese, and Canadians who served there.

It may surprise many to learn that Canada was involved in the Vietnam War; attention is usually focused on the US, with stress being placed on both the conflict in the field and on the home front, protests spiralling out of control as the war carried on throughout the 1960's and early '70's. However, around 40,000 Canadians volunteered to serve in the US Army during this conflict; this is in comparison to roughly 30,000 Americans who refused duty (commonly known as Draft Dodgers). In addition, Canadian Peacekeepers were deployed with the Canadian Forces after both armistices in 1954 and 1973 respectively.

Rory Cory, project manager and lead curator for the exhibit, as well as the senior curator for TMM, says that now is a pivotal time for telling these stories.

“Veterans of the conflict are aging and already starting to pass away. Since we started this project actively, we’ve already lost two veterans,” he reflected recently, “We wanted to ensure that we bring their stories to light and try to achieve a measure of proper recognition for them before it’s too late.”

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of two of the most well-known points on the Vietnam War timeline – the Tet Offensive and the battle of Khe Sanh. In addition, thanks to a detailed series by PBS, public interest in the war has peaked since last year. With a team of several volunteers actively assisting with development, including Ken Raychert, Bob MacDuff and James Baldwin, Cory has been working on the exhibit for just over ten years, stating that he began to work “more in earnest” four years ago.

Throughout this time, he says, the exhibit has evolved.

“The exhibit has grown organically as we’ve worked with the various veterans’ groups and as word has spread about the project. We were worried

initially that we wouldn't have enough artifacts to mount it. Now we have enough to almost fill the entire gallery."

Alongside more than 150 tangible items, an exhibit of protest posters of the time period will be on display, curated by the University of Calgary. In addition, there will also be a half scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in Washington, D.C., called "The Moving Wall", which has the names of all those killed in Vietnam on it, including some Canadians. The wall will be on display in the open field onsite from October 6 - 14.

In the end, though, the intangible will be the main focus, the curator stressing the importance of preserving memory and fostering new understanding.

"We hope people will come to appreciate this group of veterans better, that the veterans themselves will feel more valued, that people will understand Canada's role in the conflict better, and that generally there will be some healing, understanding, and historical perspective on a conflict that has been misunderstood and a group of veterans who served honourably but have even been reviled for their efforts. Hopefully this is possible after several decades."

The exhibit will open 27 September 2018 and run until 6 January 2019 in the Founders Gallery. Please note that photography will not be permitted. Admission is included in The Military Museums's general admission, with the Gallery open daily 9:00 - 17:00.

Answers to Last Quarter's Quiz!

- 1) The PPCLI was founded in 1914 because...
 - c) *World War One Began*
- 2) The Battle of Frezenberg was...
 - b) *8 May 1915*
- 3) Princess Patricia was...
 - d) *all of the above (namesake of PPCLI, creator of the Ric-A-Dam-Doo, & British Royalty)*
- 4) An "ace" needed a tally of ... while Canada's top ace is reported to have had...
 - a) *5, 72*
- 5) The "Red Baron" Manfred Von Richthofen is said to be the enemy of which cartoon character?
 - d) *Snoopy from Peanuts*

Unscramble the Words!

PMA _M_ _ _ _ _ IKT _K_ _ _ _ _ NGU _G_ _ _ _ _

UDRM _D_ _ _ _ _ AFGL _E_ _ _ _ _

SOTOB _B_ _ _ _ _ ODIRA _R_ _ _ _ _

LCPIP _P_ _ _ _ _ DEMAL _M_ _ _ _ _

WMOAREKT _I_ _ _ _ _

SHNEDADGRANE

H _ _ _ _ _G_ _ _ _ _

Answers in next Quarter's edition! (October - December, 2018)

Contributors: Myrna Adamec, TMM Senior Curator Rory Cory, Sergeant Nate Blackmore, Jim Bowman, Regimental Major Slade Lerch, James Morgan, Corporal Andrew Mullett, J. Neven-Pugh, Ms. Paula.

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“Battle Honours, Siberia, 1918 -1919” by Myrna Adamec

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Tip of the Spear Highlight

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“Tour of Duty: Canadians and the Vietnam War” — Special Exhibition in the Founders Gallery” by J. Neven-Pugh

Rory Cory, (senior curator for The Military Museums of Calgary), *email interview with the author*, July 2018.

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