



# EME Journal


Issue 1/2008

The Magazine of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Branch

## EME remembers its HEROES



# Army News




Craftsman Thomas McMurray (left) and Cpl Stefane Manseau warily advance while still maintaining the best possible speed on their way to a repair call, during Mobile Repair Team drills at CFB Borden.

Front Cover - Cpl Patrick Taillon and his C9 maintain security over the in route, during Mobile Repair Team drills held during the common QL5 EME training at Canadian Forces School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

Cpl Taillon and his peers, students at Canadian Forces School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, are participating in a Mobile Repair Team (MRT) drill at CFB Borden.

Photos : Sgt Brad Phillips, Army News



After welding their projects together, the students use a press to test the strength of the weld during their QL-3 Materials Technician Course.

A student stitches up a seam with a sewing machine during the Materials Technician Course.

# EME Journal

The Magazine of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Branch



Branch Formation: 15 May 1944  
Branch Motto: Arte et Marte  
Branch Patron Saint: Saint Jean de Brébeuf  
Branch Colonel Commandant: Col (retired) J.G.G. Nappert, CD  
Branch Advisor: Col D.L. Wingert, CD  
Branch Chief Warrant Officer: CWO J.R.D. St-Jean, CD

## Production Team

Editor-In-Chief: Col D.L. Wingert, CD  
Managing Editor: Col N. Eldaoud, CD  
Editor: Maj B. Durand, CD  
Branch Information O: Lt S.J.R.N. Payant  
Production manager: Lt M.J.L. St-Maurice  
Infography: Mr. Roger Saillant  
Editing Team: Mr. K. Randall, Mr. J.P. Plat, Mrs C. Nobert and Mrs D. Dufour  
Distribution Team POC: MCpl E. Saïd

## This Issue

### Page Subject

2	Branch Advisor's Message
3	Branch Chief Warrant Officer's Message
4	Remembering Our Heroes
6	The Everyday Hero
7	Past heroes Cpl William (Bill) Oliver Pearson
9	Mr. Robison's Military Career and his Life as a Civilian
10	EME Branch joins the Army
11	EME Branch Life on FOBs
12	CFSEME 2007 Westover Shore-to-Shore Relay
14	Memories of a Wartime craftsman
16	EME Remembering our Heroes - William Donald Roche

### Page Subject

17	My first mission in Afghanistan
18	Wound Stripes Awarded to EME Heroes
20	Builders of our Branch
22	EME Heroes : General A.G.L. McNaughton
24	Raymond Carrier & Jos Bilocq - Nationalist RCEME Heroes
25	2 RCR Honours EME Soldiers
26	202 WD support for our troops in Afghanistan
28	NSE supports mentoring efforts in Afghanistan
30	Digitizing EME Heritage Documents
31	Last Post
32	Murphy's Law

## Call for Articles Edition 2-2008

### Theme for the next issue : **EME Remembers its Heroes**

We invite you to send your stories relating to the above mentioned theme (maximum of 800 words). Other articles that are non-related to the theme are welcomed as well, and will be published if space is available. We also invite you to send **photos** to accompany your articles, and if you do, **please send them in a distinct JPEG format** file rather than directly in the 'MS Word' document used for the text. The photos must be at least 300 dpi (dots per inch), and 5"x7" of size or more to qualify for the cover page. Depending on the size of the photos, it might be necessary for you to send them in more than one e-mail (MS Outlook can take only 5 Mb per e-mail).

The author of the article and people portrayed in the photos should be identified, without exception at the end of the article as follows: Rank, initials, family name, trade and unit.

**The deadline for submitting your article is September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008.** The Journal staff reserves the right to select articles and to modify the texts according to the space available.

Internal E-mail: [+EME.Journal@202DA@Montreal](mailto:+EME.Journal@202DA@Montreal). External E-mail: [EME.Journal@forces.gc.ca](mailto:EME.Journal@forces.gc.ca)

## Branch Advisor's Message

By : Col D.L. Wingert, EME Branch Advisor



I have read a lot of articles passed to me during the last year on the subject of EME heroes. In this edition of the Journal, we

have published but a few articles for you to enjoy. It is important in every family that we understand our heritage. I, however, will not try to match the Branch CWO's wisdom on this matter. For once (or maybe this is the second time), I acknowledge that he is not wrong.

Rather, in this short article I want to advise you that I will be retiring from the Regular Force this Fall. I left home 35 years ago and I admit that I didn't follow all of my mother's 'instructions' as I left her arms. The scary thought is that I willingly listened to many of those crusty EME senior NCOs. Like the expression - you are what you eat, I became someone else. I may have been one of those 'snotty nosed' Lts with all the grand ideas but you accepted me for what I was and slowly, very slowly I was guided patiently by the more mature EME family members. In some cases I wish I would have learned faster what I know today. After all, it sure would have been nice to have avoided some of the pain, like those 21 extra duties won during my first week in the K lines in Gagetown. But, as I said earlier, I learned something from even that

experience.

I have had the honor to meet many of you through the years and I know that you all have great potential to succeed in your every career aspiration. All you have to do is follow those more mature EME senior NCOs or officers. They may have the odd wart or two, but then don't we all. Thankfully, it isn't the efforts of one hero that will make the difference but rather it is the collective EME family that has brought us successfully to what we are today.

I pass the baton to a new Branch Advisor and willingly accept my new responsibilities as an EME Branch 'grandparent'. I look forward to telling you my version of our roots and to sit back and watch you, the younger members of the family, prosper.

With my utmost respect, Arte et Marte.



## Military service medal



During roto 4 in Afghanistan, many military members distinguished themselves with out of the ordinary accomplishments. This was the case with Cpl Couture, weapon tech. While being part of the NSE Maint Coy, he saw himself honoured with the military service medal (MSM). The medal was awarded to him in recognition of his extreme determination, his remarkable commitment and the impact of his performance on the operability of the artillery in general and particularly X battery throughout the last year and particularly during the mission.

See his story in the next edition.

By :Capt Richard Lacerte, CmdtA Maint Coy, NSE Roto 4

## Branch Chief Warrant Officer's Message

By: CWO J.R.D. St-Jean, Branch Chief Warrant Officer



### Heroes

This theme is certainly one of actuality. We all have our own interpretation of what a hero is.

As a kid, my personal hero was my father and he probably still is but for society in general, a hero is someone who either accomplished extraordinary exploits or someone they admire for their achievements or qualities... At least, according to the dictionary. In most cases, they read about them in the newspaper or watch them on the evening news only to forget them in a relatively short period of time. Unfortunately, heroes are often heroes of the day.

In the military, our definition of a hero is more conducive with acts of bravery or acts that really stand out from "normal" duty. Our Branch history is filled with tales of past heroes as documented in "Canada's Craftsman at 50" and other fine publications. Their heritage has been a source of inspiration for us all and we do our best to keep their memories alive.

What is truly amazing to me is the fact that I am surrounded by modern day heroes. I must admit that, although I was keeping it for myself, I always felt that the next generation of soldiers was not as mentally tough as people from my own generation. I had doubts that, if push came to shove, they just

would not have what it takes to take it to the next level. Probably just like our war heroes saw soldiers of my own generation at the time. How wrong I was. For having seen it with my own eyes and heard about it from their leaders, today's EME soldiers have nothing to envy from any generation. Tales of EME soldiers accomplishing acts of bravery under sustained fire, being wounded in combat (either physically or emotionally) or simply being part of a convoy and seeing things no human should see made me reflect on what drives our people to surpass themselves under such extreme conditions. In the end, our brave soldiers of today are exactly the same as our brave soldiers of yesteryears. Humans driven by a sense of duty and survival that no one but our brothers and sisters in arms can comprehend.

As I am serving my last few years in the military and by extension, the EME Branch, I feel blessed that my successors will have the distinction of being heroes. May you, brave soldiers of today, never be forgotten.

## Medal of military valour



Corporal Erik Poelzer will be awarded the Medal of Military Valour for actions taken on September 24th, 2007.

Corporal Poelzer was an ARV Crew Commander deployed with C Sqn LdSH(RC) as part of the R22R Task Force 3-07.

Corporal Poelzer received his Medal on June 27th, 2008, at the Citadel in Quebec City, as part of the 400th anniversary of Quebec celebrations.

Corporal Poelzer is from Hinton, Alberta, and is currently serving with "HQ Sqn LdSH(RC)."

# Remembering Our Heroes

By : MCpl J.L. Messer, 3 ASG Maint Coy

“Remembering our Heroes” is a noble endeavour. But how do we as ordinary people accomplish that goal? Much like everyone else in Canada, we get up every morning and go to work. However, we are different. Our lives are unlike any others. We are members of the Canadian Forces. Whether we are an Infantryman, Mechanic, Crewman, Airman, Cook, Sailor or Weapons tech, we are the same inside. We prepare, teach, and train. We kiss our families goodbye, not knowing if we will see them again. We can be gone for days, weeks, or even months at a time. We pack the same kit, walk the same patrols, and eat the same food. We sleep, joke, play cards and huddle together in the cans when the rockets rain down. When it's all said and done, we are someone's hero.

There are the honest to goodness heroes we remember. We have our corps recognized heroes, the most noteworthy in my mind being WO Trevor “Trapper” Allen who always brings a huge smile to my face when I think of him. Trapper, God rest his soul, was truly one of the toughest and bravest men I have ever met. The first time I met Trapper was in the Oromocto Legion. I was, which for those who

know me to be very rare, in fact speechless, held fast in complete and utter awe, as he regaled me with his stories.

I had previously heard about the “Recovery under fire”, which was drilled into us repeatedly during EME Common training. Detailing how during the Korean War, Trapper, while under direct fire from enemy snipers, courageously completed an 18-hour recovery of a tank dozer of the Lord Strathcona's Horse. However, some like me, until that night in the legion, may not fully realize its true significance which, even to this day, is a benchmark in bravery and honour for our Corps. It is just one of several documented honours obtained over two wars by Trapper. And I, at the time a lowly craftsman, was lucky enough to be sitting face to face with this real life hero.

My point is, these numerous feats of duty and bravery were in Trapper's mind, just another day on the job. He did not feel he was a hero or even brave by any means. His belief was that he was just doing what any other soldier should do. Trapper tended to do that a lot during his distinguished career. He felt the only reason that anyone knew what he had done, was that someone important just noticed him

doing it. And I, without a doubt, believe it because I see it everyday.

I have heard many stories from the soldiers returning from tours. They all remember it in their own way. A few remember more than they wish to. These stories all share one common trait: they all have heroes. They all have the person who helped them through the dark times, the one who made them laugh when they couldn't even muster a grin, the clerk who fixed it so they could make the flight on HLTA, the neighbour back home who supplied the digital camera so video of the baby's first steps could be sent overseas, or the tech that showed them shortcuts to get the LAV off and running hours sooner so soldiers could get the so much needed and deserved rest. Little things you might say, but at that time it meant the whole world to someone.

So how are we to remember our heroes, to keep that feeling alive? From Trapper's measure it's easy, be someone's hero. Just be there when you're needed. Do the best job you can, all the time. Do what you say you will. Do it right the first time, even if it takes an extra 5 minutes. That's a lot better than rushing it and having it stop when the Enemy's eyes are on it. If you

## Remembering Our Heroes (continued)

don't know what you're doing, stop and ask someone who knows how to help. An MWO, whom I still believe knows everything there is to know about the world, told me once he didn't in fact know everything. He just asked about anything he didn't fully understand. That way he got to know who the true Subject Matter Expert (SME) was. By the way, thanks Bill.

Trust me. Do those little things and you will be someone's hero.

As time passes, some memories vanish but some will never fade. Some of the friends you ate and drank with just last year will have drifted away, or in some cases been taken away from you all too soon. These are the heroes we will remember.

In today's world, our tours have gotten more dangerous and difficult, but we persevere. The job does not change, only the places we work in. Where we are doesn't really matter, we will get the job done.

Whether, it is at home in Canada, or overseas in KAF. We remember our heroes. Some may not be on the evening news or have received the Order of Canada, but they still are our heroes. They are the men and women who maintain the LAV IIIs, the Coyotes, the RGs and the

Leopards. They align the sights so the rounds fire true and they program and test the guidance systems that make sure the enemy can be stopped with that first round. They work tirelessly through the night to keep *equipment* working.

They work in the heat, the cold, the rain and snow. They are everywhere. By Skill and by Fighting is their motto and way of life.

Arte et Marte



# The Everyday Hero

By : Art B. MacNabb, 3 GSS, Svc tech, Maint Coy

Heroes, we have all heard the word before but what does it mean to be one? Is a hero someone who puts their life on the line to protect and save others, or someone who does their job to the best of their abilities day in and day out? How hard is it to be a hero? I'm sure all of us at one time or another wondered just what being a hero entailed. Here in the EME world, is the definition of a hero different than in the civilian world or from other branches of the Canadian Forces? How do we remember our heroes? Some may think that my questions are many and maybe unimportant, but I disagree. I think knowing what a hero is and how we remember them is of the utmost importance. Hopefully by the time you finish reading this article you will agree with me, if by chance you didn't before you came across this piece of literature.

Depending on whom you ask, a hero could be a mentor, a parent, a friend or a teacher. A hero could be someone grand and wonderful or someone plain as day. A hero could be anyone who gives guidance and support, a friendly smile or a tough push in the right direction. Some heroes don't know that they are perceived as such, others say that they are or were just doing their jobs. To be a hero does one have to go above and beyond what is expected? I think not, but heroes often do. Just

by being a parent you are your child's hero, much the same with being an EME soldier. By simply guiding and leading one's subordinates to be the best that they can be and by teaching good work and leadership ethics, anyone can be a hero.

I know a lot of younger people are gung-ho and would rather shoot first and ask questions later. These same people may not think that someone who guides others to take the "higher road" is on par with the soldier who clears out an enemy position single handed. Much the same with the EME tech who puts in that little extra care, effort and time to make sure he/she has done the job to the best of his/her abilities. You may not agree, but the better we in the EME world do our job, the better the people we are supporting can do theirs. That one extra turn of a wrench, weld, diode or fuse could potentially mean life or death for the person operating that piece of equipment.

If you have ever asked an old veteran if he was a hero, he would probably say that he was just doing his job and that the real heroes didn't make it back. To me this old veteran is a hero, and likely to many of you who read this. Some days I come to work with more pride than normal. These are the days that I have put some extra thought into what our veterans have done for us. I personally do not think that one day a year is enough to

honour these brave men and women. These veterans have risked everything and a great many of them do not come back. Many of the veterans that do come back from tour are still paying the price for being heroes to the rest of us. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is one of the tolls our heroes could have to pay. Some pay for our freedom physically while others suffer mentally.

Our heroes range from what many people would not normally consider a hero to the soldier who sacrifices everything. The soldier who puts a little extra care into his or her job, the leaders who try and push us in the right direction and the veterans who have seen things that only come to the rest of us in nightmares are all heroes. If you see a car with a "Support our Troops" bumper sticker, chances are that you are a hero to the owner simply because you wear the uniform of the Canadian Forces. Heroes can be many different things and heroes wouldn't recognize themselves as such but like beauty, heroism is in the eye of the beholder.



## Past Heroes Cpl William (Bill) Oliver Pearson

By : Fred Martin, Mat Tech (Sgt retired)

Taken from a text honoring Corporal Pearson : Corporal William Oliver Pearson, BC(NL), Building, CFB Borden

Cpl. Pearson was a genuine Craftsman. Through his courage and dedication he honoured his trade and his Corps and without any doubt, personified our moto:

ARTE ET MARTE

(by skill and by fighting).

Today we honour him in return by dedicating this new training facility in his name. By doing so, we will immortalize his accomplishment so it will always be remembered and so his story can inspire the future



All EME personnel who have done training at CFSEME since 1992 have either heard of or done training in the "Pearson" Building and all Mat Techs have spent many months learning welding there. Most people might be aware the building is named after William (Bill) Oliver Pearson but besides a few pictures in the entrance of the building not much else was generally known.

Corporal William Oliver Pearson, BC(NL) was born on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1897. During WW I he enlisted in the Canadian Army in Regina on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1918 as a member of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police Draft. He served in the United Kingdom in the Canadian Tank Depot at Bovington from September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1918 until his

return to Canada the following May. During the inter-war years, he raised a family and worked as a welder for a construction company. Early in World War Two, Corporal Pearson re-enlisted in the Canadian Army and was posted to the 3rd (New Brunswick) Coast Brigade (Royal Canadian Artillery) as a gunner. At this time there was a critical shortage of technical people for the Engineering Branch of the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps

(RCOC(E)). This situation resulted from the fact that in the first enlistments of the 1939/1940 period, priority had been given to the "fighting unit" over the technical corps. The Blitzkrieg soon changed all that and the importance of equipment and its maintenance suddenly became a high priority. Therefore, in early 1941 fighting units were scoured and men with technical skills were posted to technical units and transferred to the RCOC(E). Later on when the Royal

## Past Heroes Cpl William (Bill) Oliver Pearson (continued)

Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME) was formed on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1944 from the RCOE, they were transferred to the new Corps.

Consequently in 1941, he was posted to the 75th Light Aid Detachment and attached to the 21st Armoured Regiment (Governor-General's Foot Guards) on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1942. A month later, he went overseas with that unit and remained with them until the end of the war. He quickly showed his versatility qualifying as both a gas and electric welder. It was in this capacity that Corporal Pearson distinguished himself.

Successful support of an armoured regiment in battle depends upon, among other things, a skilled technician with a natural flair for improvisation and a knowledge of expedients and Bill Pearson had both these attributes.

In the spring of 1944, while preparing for the invasion of Europe, a competition was held for the design of a protective floor for the Humber Scout Cars. Pearson's design was selected from the entries of the LADs and brigade workshops. His patterns and installation procedures were used to modify all the scout cars in Canadian Armoured Division. His reward was the expression of gratitude of at least two scout car drivers from the Regiments'

Reconnaissance Troop for saving their legs, if not their lives.

### What type of soldier was Cpl Pearson?

His award of the Bronzen Kruis (Bronze Cross) by the Netherlands Government on the 7th of December 1945 was given for "behaving gallantly and tactfully opposite the enemy, and showing an outstanding devotion to duty during the operation for the liberation of the Netherlands enemy occupied territory."

Pearson's citation describes his performance and proficiency as a technician: On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1944, near Wouwsche Plantage, the command tank of the Regiment developed trouble requiring either a welding job to be done immediately or the tank to be removed from the battlefield. It was vitally important that this command vehicle remain in action. The Regiment was holding firm on an exposed left flank; however, accurate shelling and antitank fire had already eliminated one complete squadron. Realizing the necessity of his work and fully aware of the danger that faced him, Corporal Pearson drove his 'soft-skinned' 15cwt welding truck forward to the command vehicle.

Although enemy shelling was heavy, Corporal Pearson, with utter disregard for his own personal safety,

completed the welding job on the command vehicle. This task took almost two hours but when the Regiment moved forward into action Corporal Pearson had the command vehicle ready for action despite difficulties under which he laboured. His citation ended with; "This is but one of the many instances when Corporal Pearson showed devotion to duty and disregard for personal safety that enabled the necessary vehicles and weapons to be available for action against the enemy. His work, whether in the workshop or under fire, has always been of the highest calibre. The difficulties under which he was required to work and the calm, cool efficient manner in which he carried out those duties was a source of inspiration to all members of the Regiment."

During the dedication of the Pearson building, Mrs. Alice Cull, Bill Pearson's daughter said, " We were really honoured, flabbergasted actually, when we were approached with the idea of using Dad's name, Dad was an ordinary man and a good father who never talked much about the war. He would probably just humbly smile in his modesty if he knew of this. He just did his job, never expecting any special treatment." Cpl William Pearson died at work with a torch in his hand at age 64 in Richmond BC, he truly exemplified what an EME soldier is suppose to be!

# Mr. Robison's Military Career and His Life As a Civilian

By : MCpl J.L. Weir, 3 ASG Tech Svcs Maint Coy

Hello all EME personnel, and those that wish they were, I am writing to you so that I can bring to your attention Mr. John Robison.

3 ASG Tech Svcs Br, Maintenance Coy, Workshop Group, recently celebrated Mr Robison's 70th Birthday party with a barbecue at bldg K-4, with Col K. Chadder (Comd 3 ASG), CWO J.S.R. St-Amour (RSM 3 ASG), LCol M.M. Regush (CO Tech Svcs Br) and CWO B.G. Biggar (RSM Tech Svcs Br).

Mr. Robison is a man who epitomizes the spirit of the EME soldier. Imagine, 70 years old and still turning wrenches for SPV platoon at bldg K-72, with an "I'm never going to retire" attitude.

Mr. Robison started his career as Private Robison at CFB Borden in 1954 with the Borden Svc Corps,



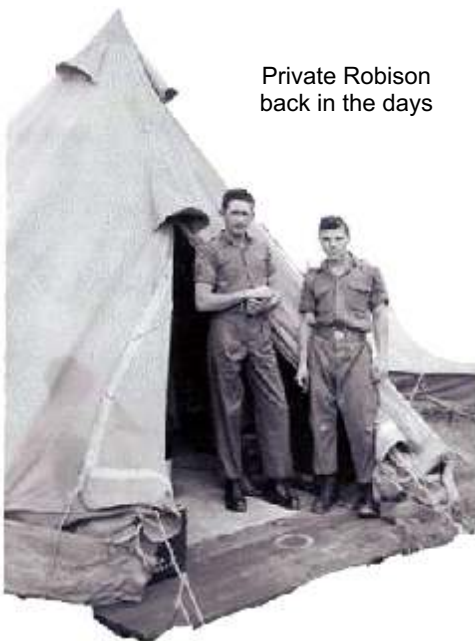
70 years old, and still going strong.

where he spent two years in the apprentice training program. In 1956 he went to 1 Tn Coy Svc Corps for a year (probably installing horseshoes). In 1957, he deployed to Germany for two years and in 1959 he came for the first time to CFB Gagetown where he worked at bldg K-10, during which time he rebadged to REME. In 1961 he married his wife of now 47 years, Annette and was then posted to the Black Watch as a maintainer until 1968. He then went on his second tour to Germany. In 1970 the Fort York Commandos moved to Baden and he was posted back to CFB Gagetown where he was employed at the Combat Arms School until 1972. He then worked two years with 2 RCR and then with 3 ASG Maint Coy from 1975 to 1982, which included one tour at Cypress and one tour in Alert. In 1982 he was posted to CFB Petawawa as the ETQMS of the FRG where he stayed until his retirement from the military on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 1983.

On Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, 1985, Mr. Robison became one of our much valued

civilian mechanics here at CFB Gagetown. As a mechanic in this trade with 28 years and 189 days of service, his experience and technical expertise are unparalleled. In 2005, Mr. Robison received the CO's Commendation in recognition for outstanding performance, professional conduct, and dedication to service in Maintenance Company and Technical Service Branch. That was three years ago, and he is still going strong with no plans to retire in the foreseeable future. He can be found at any given time going out of his way to ensure the fleet that he maintains stays functional and safe on the road. He is an excellent role model for the young and old soldiers of today.

So to you Mr. Robison, **happy 70th**, Arte et Marte and long live to the Corps!



Private Robison back in the days

## EME Branch joins the Army

By : Sgt Brad Phillips, reporter, Army News

BORDEN, Ontario –  
“This is an historic day”  
and with those words  
Col Mike Jorgensen  
Commander of the  
Combat Training Center  
Gagetown along with  
Col Stew Moore the  
Commander of the  
Canadian Forces  
Support Training Group  
signed the documents  
to formally recognize  
the transfer of command  
authority for Canadian  
Forces School of  
Electrical and  
Mechanical Engineering



Colonels Mike Jorgensen (left) and Stewart Moore sign the transfer of command authority, officially making CFSEME one of the Army's newest schools.

from the Commander,  
Canadian Forces Support Training  
Group to the Commander, Combat  
Training Centre, effective April 1<sup>st</sup>,  
2007.

The EME Branch has long lobbied to  
become part of the Army and as of  
April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 this transformation will  
take place with the ceremonial  
documents being signed at  
Regimental Company of the  
Canadian Forces School of Electrical  
and Mechanical Engineering  
(CFSEME) on March 23, 2007. After  
the signing, the staff and students of  
CFSEME were treated to a town hall  
information session with Col Mike  
Jorgensen and Col Stew Moore.

At the town hall the two Colonels  
praised the work that had been done

by CFSEME and reassured those in  
attendance that the hard work done  
up to the present time had been of  
the highest caliber and the change  
from Training Command to the Army  
was not due to any shortcomings but  
in fact quite the opposite.

When asked what the Army will bring  
to CFSEME, Col Jorgensen said “The  
Army would really like to have a more  
direct impact on the training of EME  
Soldiers. The Army will want to put a  
more operational bite, if you will, onto  
the training.”

Col Jorgensen pointed out that the  
direct impact on the individual  
soldiers would be negligible, but  
equipment shortages such as C7  
rifles with the optical scopes and Tac  
vests for the soldiers were high

priorities to ensure training at the  
school reflected what the soldiers on  
operations are using.

Lieutenant-Colonel C.A. Moore,  
Commandant of CFSEME was very  
optimistic about the transfer of  
command and when asked if the long  
standing rumour of CFSEME moving  
to Gagetown was in the works  
because of the transfer of command,  
had this to say, “Given the facilities  
that we have here, we're in an ideal  
location for right now”. He also stated  
that, “Being separated from  
Gagetown doesn't harm us in any  
way. We can still work together with  
the Combat Training Center.”

## EME Branch Life on FOBs

By : Cpl Tommy Pion, Weapons Technician, Maint Coy NSE 3-07

After nine months of intensive training, here we are in Afghanistan! After recovering from the jet lag and climate shock, we took over from our compatriots from the previous

there is no lack of work. Conditions are harsh, but for technicians carrying out tasks like these it's part of the normal challenge. Tasks that are routine in Valcartier often become

Here in the field, we become aware of how important our trades are. Of course, we do feel the fatigue and the countless hours of work, but all our efforts are aimed at only one goal: to save lives with operational equipment. Besides plying our trades, we all have a second vocation during our stay: that of soldiering. We have to travel in convoys (Combat Logistics Patrol) and suffer the stress of moving among the various forward operating bases. We have to put into practice military knowledge acquired from the courses and exercises we completed in Texas and Wainwright before our deployment. We now realize the value of that training.

Time passes very quickly on forward operating bases. We have very little time to do the necessary repairs and to keep our equipment operational so that current operations are not adversely affected, so we must always be prepared to work long hours to support the members of the Task Force at all hours of the day or night.

ARTE ET MARTE

rotation. Whether you are a weapons technician, materials technician, electro-optics technician or vehicles technician, the days here are far from routine.

As part of Task Force 3-07, many Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Branch members find themselves out in the field, in the area of operations or at the different forward operating bases (FOBs) providing sustainment for the manoeuvre elements. The technicians have a big job maintaining all the Task Force's equipment. Everyone agrees that

much more complicated when you have to cope with a hostile environment. Because of the heat and the fine dust, we are obliged to maintain and repair vehicles, weapons and electronic systems more frequently.



## CFSEME 2007 Westover Shore-to-Shore Relay

By :Maj Ray Wong, OC Veh Coy, CFSEME

On May 31, CFSEME dispatched a 13 person team to participate in the first annual Westover Shore to Shore Relay. The team included representation from Artisan, Vehicle and Regimental Coys and CFSEME HQ, and CFSTG HQ and BCE, and covered ranks from civilian to MCpl to Maj. The Relay was in support of the Westover Treatment Centre which is located at Thamesville, ON, approximately 60km southeast of Sarnia. The Centre provides residential treatment for men and women addicted to alcohol and drugs. Our relay team camped out the first evening approx 30 minutes from the start point in preparation for the departure the following morning for the gruelling relay that would take participants from Port Stanley located on Lake Erie across 303 km of paved and gravel roads and pathways to Grand Bend located on Lake Huron. As there were almost 60 teams, they were broken down into three waves based on average estimated run times, with the slowest wave starting at 0800 hrs, followed by the middle wave at 0900 hrs and the third or fastest wave at 1000 hrs. Being neither hares nor tortoises, we ran in the middle wave.

Teams were limited to a maximum of 12 runners and a minimum of 6 to cover the 36 legs of the relay. With 11 runners, 8 of us ran three legs each, while 3 ran four legs each. The legs

ranged in length from about 7 km to a long 14.3 Km stretch, and from flat to hilly terrain. Perhaps the toughest part of the relay was the oppressive heat as the temperature was in the low 30s (in the shade) during the day, with little cloud cover and the air was almost still! In spite of the heat, MCpl Denise Smith proudly wore her knit ankle warmers in EME colours throughout her relay legs! Our team included support personnel who were very briefly seconded to the race organization, but primarily were there to provide support for our team. As there were only a few major water stations on the entire route, it was left

up to each team to ensure their runners were kept well hydrated! In addition to providing water along the way, each of our two support vehicles had to drop off runners for the subsequent legs and pickup runners as they completed their assigned leg. Due to miscommunication from the race organization which led us to believe that water would be provided on the first leg, our first runner out of the blocks at 1000 hrs, Grace Frampton from BCE, completed the first leg of 11.7 km, without any support vehicle, which meant no water! Fortunately, a few runners offered her some water along the way



## CFSEME 2007 Westover Shore-to-Shore Relay (continued)

and with dogged determination she completed the leg, to the pride and amazement of the team. Grace, way to go! The relay continued non-stop through the night and ended mid-afternoon on June 2 07. There were a few limited opportunities to lay out a blanket in a rest area and get a brief shut-eye while waiting to run a leg. However, most of the rest or sleep anyone had was in the van as it shuttled to various runner exchange points. You can appreciate that the cramped confines of a van didn't make for the most comfortable sleep! While some food was available at a few of the five staging areas and the finish, most of us munched on granola bars, fruit and jujubes to keep us going. Some of the fortunate ones managed to stop long enough to grab a Tim Horton's coffee! However, most of the race was along roads devoid of any shops or restaurants so we survived with what we had in the support vehicles.

Despite the fatigue felt by all of us, we heartily cheered each of our teammates on throughout the relay!



Just outside the town of Grand Bend, all team members joined our last runner, MCpl John Hibbert, for the final ½ km of the last leg, crossing the finish line at the beach together! It was wonderful close to a challenging relay, being cheered on by other runners and spectators as we ran through the town together to the finish line. All members of the team are commended for their esprit-de corps, drive, determination, and of course, buckets of sweat they poured out, in completing the relay. Perhaps the biggest sacrifice for the team was made by Maj Paul Hallett. Despite being in the process of moving into a

house that weekend, he stayed on the team (so others wouldn't have more legs to run) while leaving his wife to handle the moving duties! What a brave man! Though our muscles may have ached afterwards, all of the team members indicated their desire to participate in the event again next year.

Arte et Marte (By Skill and By Fighting)

## Memories of a Wartime craftsman

By : Art (ret) Clifford Brown

This was my home infantry unit. There were 12 other Stewiacke men in the unit, three of them in the Anti-tank Platoon along with me. I had six, 6 pounders to maintain.

During preparations for the invasion, I received the same instructions, ammunition, grenades, and the same rations as other unit personnel.

One of the first things I did was to put some fun in gun drill. I made brackets and mounted a Bren gun on the barrel of a 6 pounder and as each gun crew went through their drill they could fire the Bren gun when they pulled the trigger on the 6 pounder, and they kept score of the hits on a target.

The LCTs that took the Anti-tank



Platoon carriers and guns over to France had only so many bunks, so I was sent over to "C" Coy as their craft had some extras. I sailed with them from Southampton on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1944, arriving at the beach

approximately 0930-1000 hrs June 6<sup>th</sup>. The Sgt Armourer was on the same boat and I was off and ashore before him, and always kidded him that I was the first of our Corps ashore on D Day. Our boat was in and started to unload as the other LCT nosed in. The 8th Cdn Inf Bde had most of the town of Bernières-sur-Mer cleared and they had no RCEME personnel in the assault units (first wave of infantry).

When the Bn moved into battle at 1700 hrs I was with the reserve Lt of the Anti-tank Platoon. We did patrols that evening until midnight and spent the rest of the night in an open field to watch for paratroopers that were expected. Next morning we were back on patrol again and the four of





## Memories of a Wartime craftsman (continued)

us captured three Germans that were by-passed by the infantry the evening before.

The morning of June 8<sup>th</sup>, those that were LOB moved up to the Bn as they had lost most of the rifle coys the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup>. I went to the Anti-tank Platoon as a gun number and was with the crew that had knocked out two armoured cars and a half track the day before. The Sgt and a Pte won the MM for their action, so I felt pretty good to be helping them. They had looked at me back in England, a 20 year old kid setting the sights on the gun with a piece of string and a church steeple, and now I figured I was a pretty good fitter. When we moved into the line that morning, the truck that brought us up the few miles was hit on the radiator and me being in the front of it, found a large piece of shrapnel in my small pack when I went to shave the next morning. I had been leaning against the front of the canvas cover for balance, when we were moving.

I spent the next 30 days on that gun and also made my rounds to the other five guns. During the period June 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, they were not sure if the Germans had some of our uniforms taken from prisoners on June 7<sup>th</sup>, so when they would see a guy with Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps on his shoulder they would hold me at gun point until I could convince them that I was in the same

army, and us Corps troops sometimes had to do front line duty as well as them, as I went through their coy lines to where the guns were. With hundreds of reinforcements in, no one knew each other. The evening of the 11<sup>th</sup>, my Sgt fixed things up for me as I got a North Nova hat and badge, and shoulder flashes, and then I could go any place with them without question. I wore these with pride until I left them in Dec. My Christmas present was to go back to 9 CIB Workshop, where we slept in an unheated school house and were shelled every day, trying to set the gas works on fire where we worked.

The first time the Bn was out on rest July 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, I was presented with a beret and a RCME cap badge and shoulder flashes, but didn't sew them on until Dec. That's the first I knew they were forming a new Corps (there is a Mr. Campbeill living in Lincoln, N.B. who was one of the first in the new HQ, RCME).

The North Nova Scotia Highlanders had 850 casualties the first six weeks in France, more than half the total for the 11 months they were in action.

The casualty identification tag we all carried on D Day, the typed instructions, and the commando knife issued to me are all in the museum at GFB Gagetown.

When you are attached for all purposes to an infantry battalion during a war - they sure mean for all purposes.

I go to the North Novas reunions in Aug each year, and feel that I'm really one of them.



F86444. Cfn Clifford Brown. Born Stewiacke, N.S., Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, 1924. Enlisted 30<sup>th</sup>, Jan 1942. Overseas Aug 27<sup>th</sup>, 1943. RCOC/RCME.

Attached to the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, 9<sup>th</sup> Bde, 3rd Div, Mar 1944.

## EME Remembering our Heroes - William Donald Roche

By : Eng04, KD MacDonald, Engineer, DGLEPM/DAVPM 5

How have I been touched by heroes? My life started out filled with brave soldiers – my grandfathers and my father all served in the military – protecting this country and my way of life. I grew up with a sense of comfort and knowledge that I was protected, not just from the monsters under the bed but monsters half way around the world. My heroes never spoke about their time served, about the gruesome things they must have witnessed or the hardships they endured. They only spoke of comradery, a sense of purpose and a love of the job.

My grandfather was EME. It was always my dream to know as much as he did – we used to go on the MENSA website every month and see who could find the answer to the monthly puzzle first. Needless to say, even as an engineer myself, I was always one step behind Gramps. He often handed down military and engineering textbooks to me - It was fascinating to look through and see the notes he wrote in the margin and to hear the few stories he did like to tell. One of the most memorable was the time he spent in Egypt and how he helped me learn to put together my “puzzle” ring. What I remember most about my hero has little to do with his time as an EME officer but more about the person he was – which was obviously shaped by his time in the military. Every summer, as



a child, I would spend several weeks at his house in Lanark County. Nan and Gramps would take me to corn roasts, strawberry festivals, Snow Road Church and on road-trips into Perth. I would spend my days chasing bugs, playing in the garden with Nan and helping Gramps with whatever project he was working on out in the barn. Gramps always made pancakes in the morning. He would use his great beaters and froth up the eggs, butter and milk. He would make enough for everyone to have a huge stack and then he would make my one pancake. Well, it usually didn't even fit on the plate it was so big. We, of course, used real maple syrup, since they lived in the Maple Syrup Capital of Ontario. Every Easter, St. Patrick's Day and other holiday we were there for, I chose the

colour of the mashed potatoes. Yes, Gramps would use food colouring – I remember green, blue and pink potatoes...funny, they don't taste any different. Halloween around Wilbur was a hoot too. I used to dress up and go from front to side to back door and ring the bell to Trick or Treat. I would then go to the front to side to back door to Trick or Treat. I would then go to the .... Are you dizzy yet? One of the best memories is spending Christmas in the country: the real fire, real tree and family all gathered around in our pyjamas. We would open presents, have a wonderful turkey dinner and always some eggnog with fresh nutmeg. It always snowed there before Christmas, so we would play outside too and enjoy the day.

These are just a few of the memories I have of my hero – all of which, it is easy to see, demonstrate how he learned a thing-or-two from being an EME officer and how it helped him to be an amazing grandfather! I cannot thank him enough for his generosity, gentle soul and patience. I think the army shaped him; his experience defined him and his nature nurtured him. Thank you to an amazing man for everything he taught his granddaughter!

In memory of William Donald Roche  
1922-2007

## My first mission in Afghanistan

By : Cpl Robichaud, Veh Tec, ESN, FOIA ROTO 4

I would like to share with you my experience as an NSE mechanic since I arrived in Afghanistan. I had barely recovered from jet lag when my platoon commander came up to me and said: "Cpl Robichaud, we need you for a special task." And a heliported task at that! Wow! This mission was just right for me, so you can imagine how I felt. I was to go and lend a hand to a reconnaissance platoon set up on a mountain that our forces had just so gallantly captured from the insurgents. After receiving all the relevant information about my mandate and once the countdown began, I was only 48 hours away from my first heliported mission to one of the hottest spots in southern Afghanistan, to provide maintenance support for the reconnaissance platoon. My primary responsibility was to repair the equipment and vehicles they needed for their operations.

The day I left, I took only my personal gear because my tools and the parts I needed to do the job were to follow the next day. Strangely enough, I wasn't feeling nervous as I took my place on board the Black Hawk-type helicopter, but once in the air, I must confess that I wondered what was awaiting me, despite all the information I had received over the

previous days. I felt I was headed for the complete unknown. The flight was tactical and very methodical, with machine gunners handling security. When I saw that mountain off in the distance, right in the middle of nowhere, I immediately realized the importance this strategic site had taken on. It was a vital piece of real estate for our operations. The mountain permits constant observation for kilometres in all directions, including the roads used for combat logistics patrols (CLPs) and by battle group (BG) elements.



As soon as I had landed, the team in place very quickly briefed me on what was happening, the upcoming operations, and the equipment I had to work on. I was rapidly integrated into the team and was now a proud member. The staff promptly escorted me to my new quarters, which were right in the middle of a shelter

secured by an earthen wall. Once I got over the horrible shock of having to sleep there, another important issue arose. The simple fact of having all the bottled water I wanted back at base camp made me realize that not everyone was so lucky, and that we too often take for granted things as essential as water. A patrol had to be organized so the guys could go down the mountain to get water. We very quickly learned to appreciate this fluid that is so important for life in a land as hot as where we now found ourselves.

On my second day, I was in a hurry to get my tools and start working. A helicopter arrived to bring supplies but the pilot found the landing too risky and had to return without leaving anything. So much for my tools and parts! I had to wait several more days before receiving my shipment of parts and getting to work. I had a number of

vehicles to repair, including one on which I had to replace the water pump. I particularly felt how important my work was when I had to repair the two generators that kept all the security systems functioning. This task was definitely the greatest challenge of my stay because of the critical importance of these two

*continued page 29 ...Mission*

## Wound Stripes Awarded to EME Heroes

By : Lt L.R. Zimmerling, 2 Svc Bn

One narrow gold braid stripe is worn for each occasion that a soldier is injured as a result of hostile action; it is received for honourable circumstances in an operational area, when a soldier requires medical treatment beyond that provided by local first aid. It follows a precedent that was set in the First and Second World Wars where the Canadian Forces (CF) would award 'wound stripes' to battlefield casualties, a dress distinction that recognizes a physical or mental injury received as a result of armed conflict. All ranks of the CF, members of foreign military forces on exchange duties with the CF, as well as Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency and contract employees, are eligible for this distinction.

On the 22nd of January 2008, the members of 2 Service Battalion gathered in a parade to honour three of their fellow soldiers with wound stripes for the injuries that they suffered while serving on

operations in Afghanistan. Two of the soldiers, MCpl Keeping and Cpl Giza, are EME vehicle technicians. They are the first members of the Battalion to receive this recognition since the Battalion was formed in 1968 and it marks a distinct change in combat operations. At one time, Combat Service Support (CSS) was relatively secure behind friendly lines, with little risk of direct confrontation with the enemy; now CSS elements are deliberately targeted by insurgents on today's asymmetrical battlefield.

MCpl Keeping was serving on a Combat Logistics Patrol (CLP) returning from a Forward Operating



MCpl Keeping

Base (FOB) in Sperwan Ghar, when on the 5th of December 2006, the



## Wound Stripes Awarded to EME Heroes (continued)

CLP was targeted by a suicide bomber as he entered the city of Kandahar. A bomber sitting in a minivan on the side of the road detonated his Suicide Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (SVBIED) between two of the vehicles, leaving behind a smoking crater and scattered wreckage. The force of the blast blew the ballistic glass windshield, weighing over 50kgs, into the vehicle cab hitting MCpl Keeping in the chest and landing on his left leg. Even though he was in significant pain throughout his body, MCpl Keeping chose to remain in theatre.

On the 9th of March 2007, Cpl Giza was on a CLP returning from Patrol Base Wilson to Kandahar Airfield (KAF). On the western outskirts of

Kandahar City, an SVBIED was detonated as his vehicle pulled alongside. The blast disabled his vehicle but neither he, nor his driver were seriously injured and they quickly returned to duty. Cpl Giza was deployed to Mas'um Gar and on the 11th of June 2007 he was tasked to recover a disabled RG-31 to Sperwan Ghar. While on route to Sperwan Ghar one of the LAV III escorts was disabled by an IED. Quickly assessing the situation, Cpl Giza hooked the RG-31 to another vehicle in the convoy and recovered the LAV III with his wrecker. After dropping the casualties at Sperwan Ghar the convoy began its return trek to Mas'um Ghar, but just outside of Sperwan Ghar Cpl Giza's wrecker was struck with an IED. He instantly



felt pain in his feet and flames on the back of his neck. Realizing that the wrecker was on fire he and his driver dismounted and ran from the vehicle towards the Bison Amb. This was a prudent move as the M72 and grenades on the wrecker began being set off by the fire and heat.

Both soldiers demonstrated courage and tenacity in the face of danger and uncertainty. They are in fact modern day EME heroes, among so many other soldiers whose actions remain unknown and unrecognized. Our EME soldier-technicians are holding true to our motto, making a difference overseas by skill and by fighting.



## Builders of our Branch

By : Murray Johnston

**Heroes show exceptional bravery or are admired for their exceptional qualities.**

To us back home in Canada, our Craftsmen in Afghanistan are heroes. We know of the harsh violent conditions under which they work, travelling in convoys or doing recovery on the IED-strewn roads in Afghanistan, or working long hours in the EME workshop to keep all equipment operationally fit, no matter what. They reflect that well-known request for help, "Call the RCEMEs".

Today our Branch image is a valued team of front-line soldier-technicians. But building that image has been a long, slow struggle to develop an equipment repair and recovery system, a set of regimental traditions that inspire Craftsmen and a training system that sustains required skill levels. It has required the courage of many Craftsmen over a long time to make the required changes at critical times under difficult circumstances. We should look upon them as heroes too. Here are the stories of five of them.

Colonel Norm Sherman was the EME Branch Advisor in the mid-1930s. Having noticed the continuing advances in equipment technology, he realized that the Canadian Army had to have a system of field workshops, which were part of field formations and were close behind the front lines. This would reduce the time that equipment was out of action because backloading to static repair facilities in the rear areas would no longer be needed. So he set up several Army Field Workshops in 1936 on a part time, summer time only, reserve basis. It was a small, shaky start, largely on his own initiative. But when 2 Army Field Workshop was mobilized in September 1939, its small nucleus was quickly expanded and became part of 1st Canadian Infantry Division that went overseas in early 1940. Today's EME field units can trace their histories back to Colonel Sherman's idea.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alex DeMaio was what today would be the G3 (Maint) at Headquarters, 1st Canadian Infantry Division in 1944. During the campaign to capture Rome, the rapid advances of the division were too fast for him to keep second-line workshops close to the forward units. So he set up a system of Advance Workshop Detachments to operate just behind the front lines. These detachments, made up from his

second-line and third-line shops, included transport, tools, shop equipment, technicians and communications. His report in the Division's war diary of this concept of repair "as far forward as possible" is the basis of the field maintenance system we so successfully use today.

During unification of the Armed Forces in 1968 Brigadier-General Bert Mendelsohn was what today would be DGLEPM. The loss of the RCEME Corps was a blow to the morale of all Craftsmen, particularly those who worked on the workshop floors. The main symbol of their esprit de corps was their RCEME Horse badge. General Mendelsohn had been told to get a new badge that excluded all of the symbols of the RCAF and RCEME badges. He delayed the issue of the new badge to the extent that the Branch was on the verge of being threatened with having to wear the CF badge. Only then was the Wankel Badge issued. But he had bought sufficient time for the Branch to begin rebuilding esprit de corps before the shock of a new unwanted badge.

Chief Warrant Officer Don Campbell was the Branch Chief Warrant Officer from 1966 to 1976. During this period, the unification of the Canadian Forces forced tradesmen from other branches to enter the EME Branch, while many former craftsmen had to

## Builders of our Branch (continued)

join other branches. In addition, the morale of those remaining in the branch plummeted. CWO Campbell worked patiently and hard to re-ignite RCEME esprit de corps in this disparate group. In so doing he became an inspiration and role model to many craftsmen. During a difficult time it was the essential start to rebuilding the Branch's morale and image.

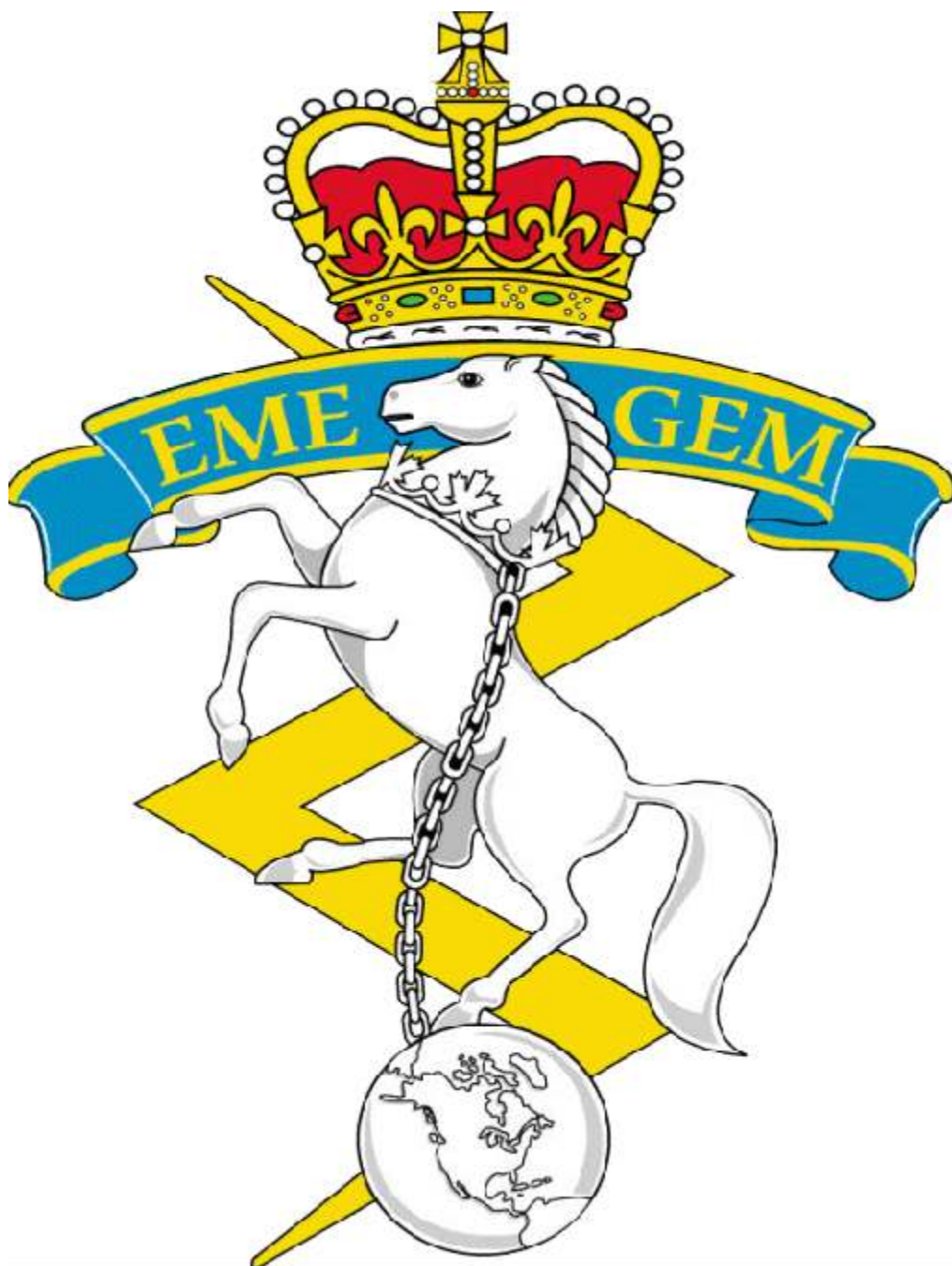
Chief Warrant Officer Ron Roy was Branch CWO from 1988 to 1991, a time when craftsmen on the workshop floors were getting restless. They wanted the Horse Badge back. The matter got to high levels in NDHQ, where the branch was accused of wanting a badge change because a few old senior officers wanted it. To that CWO Roy hotly retorted that it was the craftsmen on the shop floors who wanted it. That was the deciding argument. The badge was approved. However, obtaining the new badge through DND channels would have taken a long time. The only other option was for each craftsman to buy his or her first badge. To let a contract to make the badges required payment in advance. The only source of funding was the RCEME Officers' Fund. CWO Roy said that the craftsmen would buy their badge. So, on his word, the Fund loaned the money to the branch. Six months later with the loan fully repaid, the first re-badging

parade was held in Ottawa. It was a tremendous boost to Branch esprit de corps.

We admire these craftsmen. Their courage to stand-up and make changes helped build a branch that

inspires all craftsmen and provides them with an organization and system in which to perform superbly - as they continue to do in Afghanistan.

Arte et Marte



## EME Heroes: General A.G.L. McNaughton

By : 2lt A.R. Mills

When one speaks of greatness, there is often much dispute of what it truly means to be great. Is it to influence others to try and better themselves? To push forward into the unknown and forge a new path? Or simply to always try to exceed what it is you have done in your life and accomplish new goals? Whatever the definition may be, there are few who could argue that General Andrew G.L. McNaughton did not surpass this standard, as he was one of the most acclaimed Canadians of the 20th century and perhaps, the most distinguished engineer to have ever served in the Canadian Forces.

Born in 1887 in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, Andrew G. L. McNaughton soon discovered a love



of science and technology. He attended McGill University in Montreal, where he completed both a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in physics and

engineering (1910 and 1912 respectively). While attending the university, he enlisted in the Militia in 1909, and was soon deployed in 1914 as an officer with the 4th Battery of the Canadian Expeditionary Corps to fight in WWI.

While serving overseas, McNaughton applied his keen scientific knowledge and insight to artillery techniques. In a war in which artillery would become the dominant arm, this new approach quickly led to decisive victories, and resulted in a very quick advance through the ranks for McNaughton. Although wounded twice, he continued to lead his troops in battle, and by the end of the war he had attained the rank of Brigadier General and was in command of the Canadian Artillery Corps.

After the Great War, McNaughton assumed the role of Chief of the General Staff (which is today called the Chief of the Land Staff). His main focus was mechanizing the armed forces, as well as modernizing the Militia. During these efforts, he helped develop a northern radio signals system using improved survey techniques based on aerial photography. Although this helped communication systems significantly, it was not nearly as important as his contribution to the development of the



cathode ray detection finder, which would become the major component of radar systems.

After leaving the military for a period and assuming the position as the head of the National Research Council of Canada from 1935-1939, McNaughton once again joined the army when WWII broke out. Deploying overseas as the General Officer Commanding the 1st Canadian Infantry Division, he quickly developed the unit into a corps, and eventually an army. In 1943 he resigned his command, only to be appointed as the Minister of Defence in 1945.

Although by this point in his life he had already accomplished much more than most people could dream, he was not yet finished leaving his mark on Canada. After the war he became Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations, and served on the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission. He was also the first Colonel Commandant of the RCEME



## EME Heroes: General A.G.L. McNaughton (continued)

Branch from 1946-1964, which remains by far the longest tenure of the position in Branch history. In addition to all of the formal organizations of which he was part, he also displayed his unwavering patriotism by fighting to safeguard Canadian natural resources and against the Columbia River Treaty, which flooded fertile farmland in order to regulate water flow into downstream sections of the river located in the U.S.

After 53 years of service with the public service of Canada, General McNaughton died in 1966 at the age of 79. He had spent his entire life serving the country that he loved, compiling a resume of accomplishments that can never truly be measured. For this, several places and organizations around the country have dedicated various

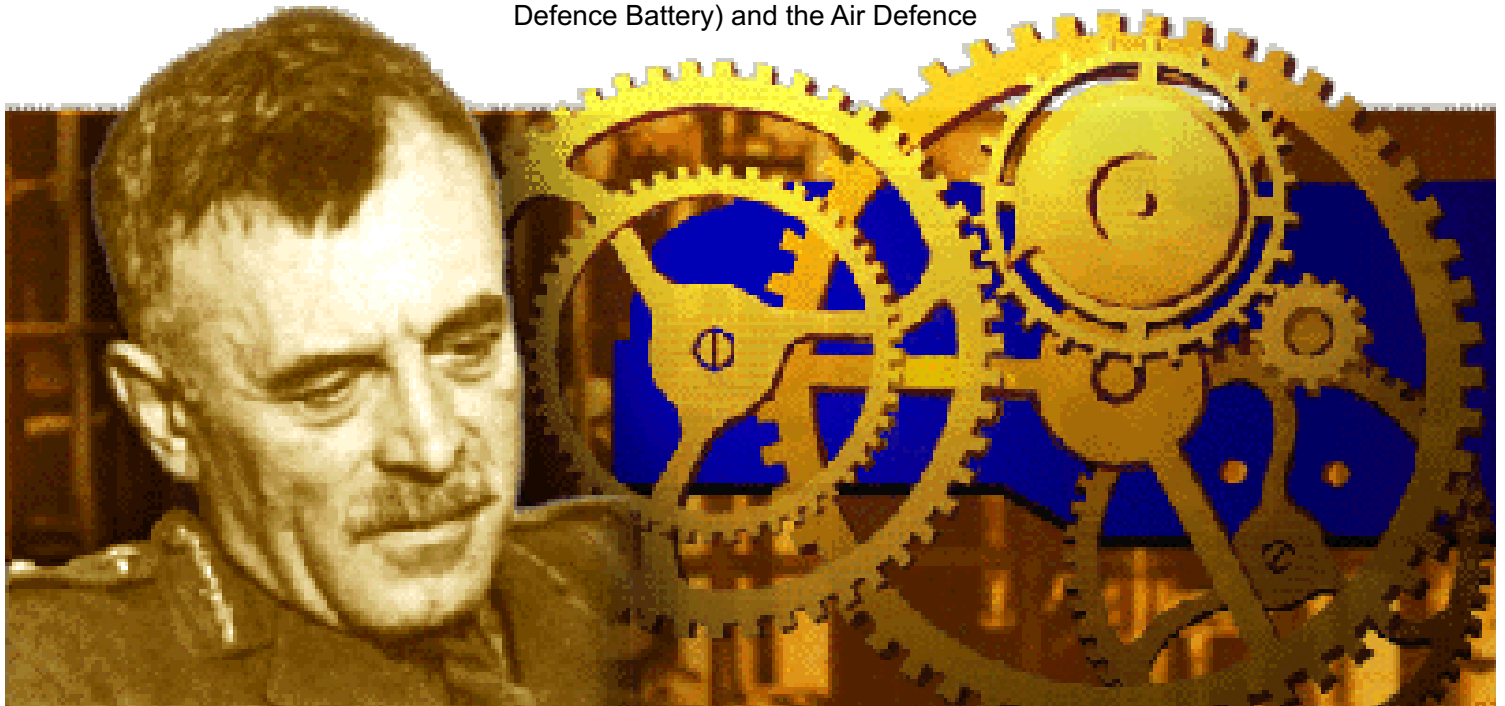


buildings and monuments in his honour.

One such dedication can be found in Chatham, N.B. Until 1996, the air defence community of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery had both an operational unit (119 Air Defence Battery) and the Air Defence

Artillery School, which taught artillery and maintenance, at CFB Chatham. Since General McNaughton was the most prolific gunner in Canadian history, and had links to the artillery as well as to the maintainers, the Regiment honoured his memory by dedicating the main building of the school to his name.

In the end, General Andrew McNaughton will always be remembered for his dedication to advancing Canada's place in history. From his talents as a technically brilliant engineer, to a life in politics and the often used title "Father of the Canadian Army", the effects of his extraordinary life will be felt for decades to come. Although many terms could be used to describe his life, perhaps it is most accurately summed up with "great".



## Raymond Carrier & Jos Bilocq – Nationalist RCEME Heroes

By : Col J.G.G. Nappert

The theme “Remembering our EME Heroes” makes us think first of our decorated veterans – the old ones (WW & Korea) and the new ones (Kandahar mission). They are true heroes that we must remember and continue to honour. The names and actions of many of these have been included in the pages of this year's EME calendar and no doubt in other articles in this journal. However, as a soldier of the “Cold War” period, I asked myself the question: Did I serve with “EME heroes” of the “Cold War” period? Immediately I thought of Sgt (ret'd) Jos Bilocq, a vehicle technician, with whom I served in Germany in 1969-70. He was part of the 1 R22R Maintenance Platoon that I commanded. I remember him as a dynamic individual and excellent technician but Jos Bilocq and two of his friends became heroes in my eyes in 1996-98 for their actions in defending the Canadian Flag in front of l'Hotel de ville de Québec (Quebec City Hall). His story and that of his two other accomplices, Raymond Carrier (RCEME) and Pierre Roy (Navy reserve), is not well known outside the Quebec/Valcartier region so let me recall their actions for you.

In 1990 the Mayor of Québec city, Mr. Jean Paul L'Allier, prohibited the flying of the Canadian flag in front of Quebec City Hall. To this separatist mayor, it was a symbolic retaliation for the defeat by the rest of Canada

of the Meech Lake accord that would have recognized Quebec's special place within the Canadian constitution.

In 1996 radio host André Arthur of the Quebec region dared any Quebecer to hoist the Canadian flag in front of the Quebec City Hall on Flag Day, Feb 15. A soldier of Valcartier (Mario Simard) accepted the dare and the Miami trip that went with it. The next day it was Mr. Raymond Carrier who showed-up to fly the Canadian flag. Days later he was joined by Jos Bilocq and Pierre Roy. From that time on, at least one but most often all three CF veterans raised the Canadian flag in front of Québec City's city hall, at 0600 hrs and then stood guard until 0900 hrs every week day. This was done rain or

shine and often in front of hostile groups. They persisted in raising the Canadian flag until the city rescinded its decision not to fly the Canadian flag - some 27 months later.

These three CF veterans, Raymond Carrier, Pierre Roy and Jos Bilocq, demonstrated commitment, personal courage and self-control as they faced regular verbal abuse over the 27 months. Their approach was passive resistance to this abuse. During the two year period Jos Bilocq was assaulted three times. The veterans often had to fight separatists to prevent them from removing the flag. In fact, they lost about 20 Canadian flags over the period. For their actions they were honoured in a number of ways, including being the invited guests in the raising of the



*continued page 29 ...Nationalist*

## 2 RCR Honours EME Soldiers

By : Capt R.J. Cormier, O Maint, 2 RCR, Gagetown

It has been an extremely busy time since the return of TF 1-07 to 2 RCR Gagetown, but time was taken recently to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of two of the EME soldiers posted to 2 RCR.

Sgt Wayne Coughlin was awarded a mention in Dispatches "for courage and professionalism in performing his duties while under sustained enemy fire, 2 RCR BG, Joint Task Force Afghanistan, 26 May 07". Employed



### HONOURS AND AWARDS

Her Excellency the Governor General has approved national honours for the following deserving individuals:

#### MENTION IN DISPATCHES

MCpl R.W. Coughlin - for courage and professionalism in performing his duties while under sustained enemy fire, 2 RCR BG, Joint Task Force Afghanistan, 26 May 07

as MRT Commander for L Coy, 2 RCR, Sgt (then MCpl) Coughlin was called forward to repair a disabled LAV III. In the process of replacing the drive shaft, the vehicle came under sustained enemy fire. Sgt Coughlin remained at the vehicle and completed the repairs under the most demanding of circumstances. Sgt Coughlin is a credit to the EME Branch and 2 RCR, and truly exemplifies the EME Motto "Arte et Marte."

Sgt Coughlin was not the only EME soldier recognized by 2 RCR. During the recent Soldiers Christmas Dinner, Cpl Shane Benjamin was awarded the Miller Trophy as the top Cpl in 2 RCR. This is an annual award presented to the most deserving Cpl in the entire Battalion. Competition is tough and this award is not normally given to Non RCR soldiers.

This year has seen a number of organizational changes within 2 RCR. As the trial unit for the Optimized Battle Group (OBG) a number of challenges have been placed on Lima Coy and Maint PI. Some of the major changes have been the appointment of a CSS major as the OC Lima Coy (CSS Coy) and the addition of four Veh Techs to the ever-growing Recce Coy, provided by the RCD. We are presently awaiting arrival of a troop of Coyotes and a complete echelon to support it. The four Veh Techs are

expected this summer and with them comes an MRV and a Bison MRT.

Members of Maint PI will be travelling to Germany this fall to participate in EX COOPERATIVE SPIRIT, an ABCA exercise, and upon return to Canada, the entire PI will deploy once again to the Gagetown trg area to support the Bn in an OBG Exercise.

Pro Patria  
Arte et Marte



# 202 WD support for our troops in Afghanistan

By : Lt St-Maurice, 202 DA

From the heart of Montreal, 202 Workshop Depot is pushing efforts to support our troops in Afghanistan. The multiple processes from our production program allows ADM(Mat) to send land equipment overseas at unforeseen speed.



At the mechanical process where preparation of the LAV III is done, we can count on committed technicians



the crew protection kit.

The major project process is responsible for M113 updates going overseas. We can see here M. Yves Guinois completing bar armour installation on a M113. (picture 2)

such as Cpl Pellerin, Pte Yergeau and Pte Blanchard (from left to right) (picture 1) to complete installation of

Here, Mr. Claude Leclerc and Mr. François Bussi re (from left to right) are working on a Leopard 1 frame. Road trials on Leopard 1 frames can



## 202 WD support for our troops in Afghanistan (continued)



be done on the specially installed track. (picture 4)

The electronic and fire control process is responsible for the fabrication and repair of cables that will allow the use of electronic systems of all kinds on all our vehicles plus other systems that give our soldiers in the field a technological advantage. We can observe here Mélanie Forand working on a cable. (picture 5)

Teams responsible for the TCCCS radio equipment were sent worldwide to refit vehicles with the necessary

components. In Germany, for the Leopard 2 (Jean Lacombe, 202 WD) (picture 6), in South Africa for the RG31 (from left to right: MWO Yves Rocheleau, DAVPM; Justine Haong, DASP; David Vallière, 202 WD; Jean Lacombe, 202 WD; MCpl Denis Chenard, 202 WD; Pierre Lavallée, 202 WD; Normand Lamarche, 202 WD; Capt Erik Esselaar, DAVPM; Benoît Taboïka,

202 WD; Sylvain Paradis, 202 WD (picture 7) and in France for the Armoured Heavy Support Vehicle Systems.

This is only a fraction of what is being done at 202 WD. It would be interesting to note that we are also responsible for the fabrication of add on armour plates, for 3rd and 4th line maintenance on land equipment, and also for the installation of all



personnel protection kits, communication systems, and fire control in our vehicles.



## NSE supports mentoring efforts in Afghanistan

By : Master Warrant Officer Jeannot Ouellet, OMLT, Kandak 5-1, Mentor to ANA Maintenance Company



Working as a mentor with the Operational Mentor and Liaison Team within JTF Roto 4 in Afghanistan, I am responsible for guiding and advising Afghan National Army (ANA) maintenance officers regarding the administrative, logistical and technical operation of a maintenance company, based on Canadian Forces practices and doctrines.

Having to face daunting challenges and adapt to a culture vastly different from our own, we had to adopt an approach that required tremendous patience, and in particular remember that the Afghan people, who had lived in the shadows for so long, would not find it easy to adjust to the new work methods and in particular to a new technology. It was also a great challenge to instruct the Afghan

technicians, most of whom are illiterate and find it difficult to become interested in any form of learning. To achieve this, the resources and experience of the NSE technicians have become essential factors behind our great success. After attempting to instruct Afghans with teaching aids that did not work, we used a system of pictures and in particular the support of experienced technicians.

## NSE supports mentoring efforts in Afghanistan (continued)

By drawing on their background and experience, these technicians were able to transmit their knowledge by effectively answering questions and providing guidance regarding the correct work methods to use. One important point is that the common languages used by the Afghans are Dari and Pashto, and the assistance of an interpreter highly skilled in using technical terms was essential for transmitting information easily and clearly. Recognizing that practice is vital for training, we made every effort to qualify personnel as weapons technicians on the C7 rifle, and a plan is now being drawn up to train material technicians. After gaining the confidence of the Afghan soldiers, we dared to challenge their customs by bringing into their lines, for the first time, a very competent female instructor in the person of Cpl Ryan. The point is, the Afghans were very receptive and did not demonstrate any reticence. They are friendly people and did not hesitate to invite us in for a friendly cup of tea and share their habits and customs during this training.

Today, thanks to the efforts of our members, the Afghans are demonstrating a great interest in their trades, and their skills have greatly improved. The EME members represented the Branch proudly by demonstrating their ability to pass on

their expertise and skills despite the language barrier and with a minimum of resources. At the present time, Afghan maintenance expertise is reflected in the continually increasing operational capacity of the Afghan

National Army. We wish them peace and freedom such as we have back in Canada.

### ... Mission

pieces of equipment. While I did the repairs, large-scale operations were taking place a few kilometres away. Artillery whistled from all sides and from up on our vantage point we were able to identify each of the targets they were aiming at. What a show! I was impressed by the power and accuracy of the artillery. Although we felt alone in the world, right in the middle of the desert, we had a sense

of security just because of simply having this view of the world from the top of this mountain. My mission lasted about ten days in all and I will have excellent memories of my participation in this task and in particular of the importance of this crucial role and the work we are doing out in the field, no matter what trade we have chosen.

### ...Nationalist

Canadian Flag in a special ceremony in Markham during Flag Day (15 Feb) 1998.

These three veterans are heroes in my eyes and amongst them are two RCEME brothers - Jos Bilocq and Raymond Carrier. I did not serve with or met Raymond Carrier but through the years I got to know Jos Bilocq well including details of the actions of the group. I also know that Jos was well supported by his wife Elizabeth throughout the flag protests. Once more it demonstrates the importance

of family support to serving soldiers. I am also pleased to learn that the EME tradition continues in the Bilocq family as their son Philippe is currently serving as a Vehicle Technician in Valcartier. Well done to these three proud Canadians.

## Digitizing EME Heritage Documents

By : Doug Knight, Major (ret'd) EME, Secretary EMEA

For the past couple of years, some retired volunteers have been engaged in digitizing our EME history. The project started as a preservation exercise, because I believed that there were only a few surviving copies of some critical RCEME and EME historical accounts, and if they were lost to fire, flood, or mice, then a significant part of our EME heritage would disappear. Fortunately, other copies have surfaced as the project proceeded, and this fear has abated, although some of the papers are 50 years old, badly faded, and will not be here 50 years from now.

At the same time, many of these documents are in Ottawa or Borden and are not easily available to members of the Corps/Branch. One example is a collection of unit histories written by all RCEME units on active service at the end of the Second World War. The original, in the Directorate of History and Heritage in Ottawa, is too faded to be scanned, and was retyped by several volunteers. This was published in digital form last year. Some pages that were missing in the original have been found, and an updated version will be issued, probably later this year.

Another major project has been the reproduction of Colonel RH Hodgson's "A History of RCEME to 1946". This consists of more than 600 pages of 11 x 17 paper, and although

it is not a history in the sense of Colonel Murray Johnston's excellent "Canada's Craftsmen", it is a great source of information on how RCEME was formed, organized, and operated during the Second World War.

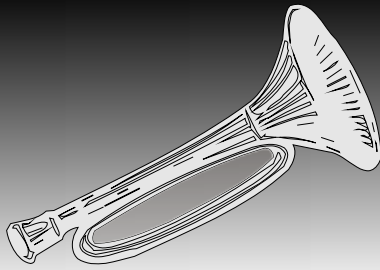
Because of the size of the document, it has been divided into sections, four of which have been issued. The fifth, RCEME in Normandy, will be issued this summer, and the last part, which is an RCEME unit genealogy, should be issued later this year.

In addition, other interesting accounts are in the process of being scanned and/or retyped. Future projects may include a history of the massive waterproofing operation for the vehicles that waded ashore in Normandy, the war diaries of the workshop and Light Aid Detachments (LADs) in Korea, and other interesting snippets of RCEME/LORE/EME history, or the equipment that we worked on.

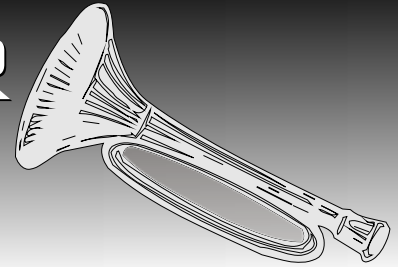
On this subject, many members of the Corps/Branch probably have interesting stories to tell (exposés?) on places, events, and people. These are also a great source of our heritage, and if these are not recorded, as people get older, many of the tales will be lost - forever. Why not write them down and preserve them? Hopefully, sometime in the not-too-distant future, there will be a central digital repository for these EME heritage stories.







# DERNIER APPEL



## **CAMPBELL, Arthur M. (Retired Master Warrant Officer 2, CD)**

At the age of 87 years, passed away at Country Haven, Almonte, Ontario on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## **LAING, John Thomas**

Order of the Eastern Star, Kingston #146 - Lifetime member Minden Lodge #585 - died peacefully in his sleep at the Helen Henderson Retirement Home on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

## **MOYER, David Douglas**

RCEME died peacefully in Clergy, May, 2007.

## **CEDERBURG, Russell A**

At the age of 85 years died peacefully at Brockville General Hospital - Charles Street Site on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## **MCLAUGHLIN, Joseph James Vincent (Moose)**

RCEME  
At the age of 78 years, died peacefully at Vernon Jubilee Hospital of Joseph James Vincent McLaughlin on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

## **ORR, Paul Lewis, CD (Retired Chief Warrant Officer 1949-1986)**

RCEME.  
At the age of 76 years, died peacefully at his home in Bolton on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

## **COLLINS, William George (formerly of Glenburnie)**

At the age of 98 years died peacefully at Trillium Ridge, on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

## **McNEIL, Russell**

Retired Canadian Forces - RCD and RCEME - Royal Canadian Legion Pembroke Br #72. Korean War Veterans Association - at the age of 79 years died suddenly on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

## **RADIES, Arthur**

At age of 77 years, died peacefully on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## **ITTERMAN, Gene**

Passed away suddenly at Kingston General Hospital on Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

## **MAGUIRE, Guy Eugene (Major, Ret.)**

At the age of 69 years, died peacefully in Fredericton on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

## **ROBERTS, Arnold Norman Parker**

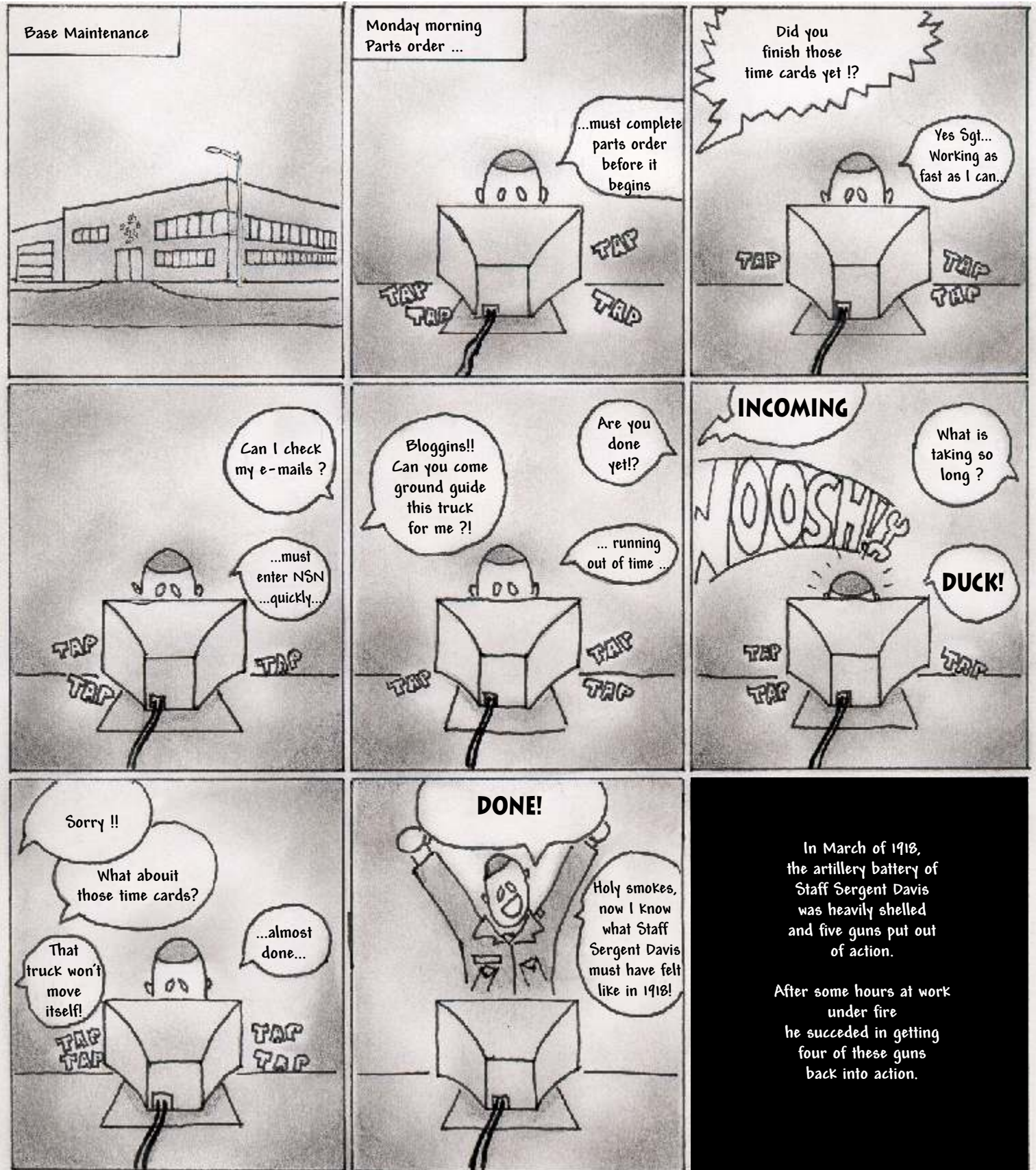
At the age of 90 years died peacefully in his sleep at Bella Senior Care Residence in Niagara Falls on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007.



# Murphy's law

The adventures of Sgt Murphy and Cpl Bloggins by Cpl A. Courchesne

## Friendly fire... Isn't



In March of 1918, the artillery battery of Staff Sergeant Davis was heavily shelled and five guns put out of action.

After some hours at work under fire he succeeded in getting four of these guns back into action.