

**12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance Unit Christmas Photos 2006, 2007 and 2011**



## Appendix 1

### Honours and Awards to the 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance in World War II

Rank	Name	Corps	Award	Canada Gazette Date /
LCol	<b>CAVERHILL, Mervyn Ritchie ('Merv')</b>	RCAMC	OBE	15/12/1945
LCol	<b>MacPHERSON, Alexander Donald</b>	RCAMC	DSO (Sogel)	23/06/1945
Captain	<b>CLARKE, Kenneth Andrew Connal</b>	RCAMC	Military Cross	09/12/1944
Captain	<b>CLARKE, Kenneth Andrew Connal</b>	RCAMC	MID	11/02/1945
Captain	<b>FRASER, John Humphreys</b>	RCAMC	Military Cross	17/03/1945
Captain	<b>FRASER, John Humphreys</b>	RCAMC	MID	03/02/1945
Captain	<b>JOLLEY, Harry Myer</b>	CDentC	MBE	15/12/1945
Captain	<b>MEGILL, Arthur Hugh</b>	RCAMC	MID	31/03/1945
Captain	<b>MCMURTRY, Thomas</b>	RCAMC	C-in-C Certificate	---/---/1945
WO1/RSM	<b>STEWART, John MacNeill</b>	RCAMC	MBE	29/06/1945
Sergeant	<b>CAMERON, John W.</b>	RCAMC	MID	08/11/1945
Sergeant	<b>MILLAR, William J.</b>	RCAMC	MID	08/11/1945
Private	<b>THOMPSON, Forrest Francis</b>	RCASC	MM (Sogel)	23/05/1945
Private	<b>OELRICH, Richard</b>	RCASC	MID	18/02/1945
Private	<b>HOLLOWAY, James Jeffrey</b>	RCAMC	MID	11/02/1945
Private	<b>CORBEIL, Paul Felix</b>	RCAMC	MID	11/02/1945
Sergeant	<b>YOUNG, James William</b>	RCASC	C-in-C Certificate	08/12/1945
Corporal	<b>CHARLTON, K.H.</b>	RCAMC	C-in-C Certificate	08/02/1946
Corporal	<b>PARNELL, Geoffrey</b>	RCAMC	C-in-C Certificate	19/01/1945
Corporal	<b>SHOEBOTHAN, George M.</b>	RCAMC	C-in-C Certificate	21/09/1945
Corporal	<b>TWEEDALE, Samuel</b>	RCAMC	C-in-C Certificate	14/08/1945
Private	<b>HEWETT, Harold F.</b>	RCASC	C-in-C Certificate	---/02/1946
Private	<b>NESTERUK, Carl</b>	RCASC	Military Medal (MM)	10/11/1945
Private	<b>WIEBE, Henry</b>	RCAMC & Lincoln & Welland Reg	C-in-C Certificate (not an MM)	---/---/1946



**Captain Kenneth Andrew Connal Clarke** received the Military Cross in 1944 for his actions during the advance from CAEN to FALAISE.

**Military Cross Citation:** "For the Operation on 14 / 15 August 1944, during the advance from Caen to Falaise, Captain Clarke commanded three sections of 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance, where were under command of 4 Canadian Armoured Brigade. His Casualty Collecting Station (CCP) was established on 14 August at RENEMESNIL MR H52 Sheet 7F/4 on the Brigade start line. As the advance proceeded he appreciated that the early establishment of a CCP in ROUVRES MR 1648, was essential for the efficient clearing of casualties and proceeded into the town to personally recce a site. On the outskirts of town, which was not yet taken, he established contact with the regiments his CCP was serving. He found that casualties were high because of the shelling and great difficulty was being experienced in collecting them. He sent for one of his sections and with no regard for his own safety under the heavy shellfire, proceeded in the town and commenced collecting and nesting casualties personally. The section he had ordered forward could not get up so, with whatever incidental unit transport he could find, he evacuated casualties until he had temporarily cleared the area. In the evening, one of his sections managed to get forward and he established a

Casualty Clearing Post (CCP) in the Regimental Action Post (RAP) of one of the regiments. During the morning of 15 August, he moved this CCP forward to LENDON and, again under constant shellfire, cleared 200 casualties of 3 Canadian Infantry Division and 4 Canadian Armoured Division. During the morning, direct hits were made on his CCP, which here was clearing casualties direct since it was in advance of the RAPs and was the farthest forward medical installation on the front of the two Divisions. There can be no doubt that this officer's determination and cool deployment of his section so far forward resulted in the saving of casualties that would otherwise have been lost. His calm and utter disregard for his own safety was an inspiration to all ranks with whom he came in contact."

**Captain Harry Jolley**, Canadian Dental Corps was made a **Member of the Order of the British Empire** at the end of the war. He was born in Toronto on 01 May 1909 and graduated with honours in 1930 from the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Toronto in 1930. He practised dentistry in Toronto until his enlistment. He was commissioned in the Dental Corps in November 1940 having served in the Canadian Officer's Training Corps since September 1939. In October 1942, he went overseas. He served with the First Division in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. After serving in the Mediterranean, he returned to England in March 1944, and landed on the continent in July 1944 with the 4th Canadian Armoured Division as a member of 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance.

**Citation for Captain Harry Jolley's MBE:** "It was largely due to his careful instruction that officers of his company were properly trained in field work upon their arrival in France in July 1944. Captain Jolley landed in France with 12 Canadian Light Field Ambulance and has been with that unit throughout the entire northwest European campaign. His devotion to duty has been unexcelled and he has rendered outstanding service to 12 CFLA as well as to other neighbouring troops. During operations he took an active part in the advance dressing Station and his services there were invaluable. On one occasion when the ADS was attacked, he personally led stretcher bearing parties while clearing the street of casualties. This officer's conduct at all times, his outstanding professional ability and his devotion to duty were an inspiration to all ranks."

**Warrant Officer 1st Class / RSM John McNeill Stewart** was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1945.

**Citation for MBE:** RSM Stewart has been the RSM of this unit since February 1944. He landed in Normandy with the unit in July 1944 and served with it continuously through the battles around CAEN, on the FALAISE ROAD, the pursuit through France and the fighting in Belgium and in Holland. He has always been a most efficient Warrant Officer and, though a strict disciplinarian, enjoys the respect and affection of the NCOs and Ors under him. No small part of the efficient functioning of the unit is due to his efforts. At all times he has shown an intense devotion to duty most especially under shell-fire and bombing. At HUIJERGEN on November 1-2, while the unit ADS was under shell fire from 88s, this WO, with total disregard to danger, supervised the collection of military and civilian casualties from the vicinity while the shelling was going on, not stopping until all casualties were attended. He distinguished himself in a similar manner at CYNTHÉUX under bombing in August 1944. His coolness and efficiency in the face of danger have been an inspiration to all ranks and have largely contributed to the smoothness and efficiency of receiving and evacuating casualties. The morale of the unit has always been excellent, due in no small measure to this Warrant Officer's tireless efforts. It is beyond doubt that RSM Stewart's conscientious, perseverance in his duties and his unflagging eagerness to serve have played a large part in the successful operation of this unit.

## Appendix 2

### Honours and Awards to the 12 (Vancouver) Field Ambulance Post WWII

Rank	Name	Unit	Award	/
HCol	<b>BLATHERWICK, Francis John</b>	HMCS Discovery	Member of Order of Canada	CM
HCol	<b>BLATHERWICK, Francis John</b>	12 Field Ambulance	Member of Order of BC	OBC
HCol	<b>BLATHERWICK, Francis John</b>	HMCS Discovery	Commander of Order of St. John	CStJ
HCol	<b>BOWMER, Ernest John (Ernie)</b>	RAMC	Military Cross	MC
HCol	<b>BOWMER, Ernest John (Ernie)</b>	St. John Ambulance	Knight of the Order of St. John	KStJ
HCol	<b>GRASSET, Anthony ('Tony') V.</b>	St. John Ambulance	Knight of the Order of St. John	KStJ
HCol	<b>GRASSET, Anthony ('Tony') V.</b>	British Army	Efficiency Medal	-----
LCol	<b>LOWE, Dave</b>	Cdn Border Svc Agency	Peace Officer Exemplary Service Medal	-----
Major	<b>MacKENZIE, Wendy</b>	12 Field Ambulance	Member of the Order of Military Merit	MMM
HCol	<b>SANDERSON, Michael</b>	Ontario Ambulance Svc	Member of the Order of St. John	MSStJ
HCol	<b>SANDERSON, Michael</b>	Ontario Ambulance Svc	Ambulance Exemplary Service Medal	-----
LCol	<b>STANSFIELD, Hugh</b>	24 Medical Company	Serving Brother of the Order of St. John	SBSStJ
CWO	<b>STEWART, Scott</b>	12 Field Ambulance	Member of the Order of St. John	MSStJ
CWO	<b>STEWART, Scott</b>	New Westminster Police	Police Officer Exemplary Service Medal	-----
LCol	<b>ROTH, Ben</b>	Logistician CF	Meritorious Service Medal USA	-----
LCol	<b>WARRINGTON, Michael ('Mike')</b>	St. John Ambulance	Officer of the Order of St. John	OSStJ
HLCol	<b>WATT, Robert ('Robb') Douglas</b>	Canadian Herald	Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order	LVO
HLCol	<b>WATT, Robert ('Robb') Douglas</b>	Canadian Herald	Officer of the Order of St. John	OSStJ



<sup>1</sup> Ben Roth (USA MSM), Michael Sanderson (MSStJ ESM) Rob Watt (LVO OSStJ) John Blatherwick (CM CStJ OBC), Scott Stewart (MSStJ ESM)

### CFHS MEMBERS - POLAR MEDAL

#### Colonel Arthur Richard ('Dick') Cecil BUTSON, GC, OMM, CStJ, CD <sup>2</sup>



Commanding Officer and Honorary Colonel of the 16 (Hamilton) Medical Company, **Colonel Dick Butson** received Britain's highest civilian gallantry decoration, the George Cross, and was an Officer of the Order of Military Merit in Canada plus a recipient of the Polar Medal.

**Dick Butson** was born in Hankow, China on 24 October 1922 (and is still alive in Hamilton in 2012). I assume he was born in China for the same reason HCol John Fraser of the Seaforth Highlanders and former speaker of the House of Commons, told me he was born in China – to be close to his mother! Dick was a

medical student at Cambridge University in WWII and a despatch rider with the Home Guard being awarded the Defence Medal for these services. He received his MB, B.Chir. in 1945 and his MA in 1946 from Cambridge.

Britain had compulsory National Service at the time and he noticed that there was a position for a physician to join a Combined Forces Expedition team to the Antarctic. He was one of five physicians who applied and on his selection panel was one of his former professors. The professor asked him if he was the young man who had scaled the wall of one of the University buildings – and he was. His love of hiking and mountain climbing plus a friendly professor on the committee helped him get selected.

In 1947, **Dr. Butson**, now a Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps, joined the Falklands Islands Dependencies Survey. Several of his companions on this expedition had been extensively decorated in WWII and proved to be life-long friends (Dick at this time had only the Defence Medal ribbon on his tunic).

On the evening of 26 July 1947, at Grahamland, Antarctica, an American member of the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition fell into a crevasse some 6 miles from their base. Two teams were sent to the rescue but the hazards of crossing a heavily creviced glacier were much increased by darkness and it was not until 0400 on 27 July that the crevasse into which the American had fallen was located. Dr. Butson immediately volunteered to be lowered into the crevasse where he found the man tightly wedged 106 feet down and suffering from shock and exhaustion. After getting under the man, the crevasse shifted one more time putting them both in great danger. For nearly an hour, Dick chipped away the ice from his position below the American and finely freed him. The American was brought to the surface and placed in a tent while Dick took another hour to chip himself free. On getting to the surface, he provided medical care to the American and helped pull him to the base on a sledge.

**Captain Butson** was awarded the **Albert Medal in Gold for Saving Life on Land** for this exploit. He also received the **Polar Medal with bar Antarctic 1947**, which was gazetted on 17 July 1953 (6 years later). Dick once told me that the curious thing about the rescue was that despite meeting the American on several occasions later, the American never once thanked him.

<sup>2</sup> Photo shows HCol Ken Hedges, who received his Polar Medal for a Trans Arctic expedition, Dick and Eileen Butson with their medals in June 2009 at CFB Borden for the rededication of the CFHS Memorial.

After his stint in the Antarctic, Dick returned to the RAMC, finished his National Service time and received his MD from the University College Hospital Medical School in London, England.<sup>3</sup> He began training as a surgeon in England and emigrated to Canada to complete his surgical training in Montreal. He received Fellowships in Surgery from Canada, England and the United States.<sup>4</sup> He moved to Hamilton in 1953 and started his surgical practice and became a Clinical Professor at McMaster University in 1970. He was Chief of Staff and Head of Surgery at St. Josephs Hospital in Hamilton.

Dick married **Eileen Callon** on 30 June 1967. They have two daughters and one son. Eileen is a nurse and she served in the RCAMC (Militia) attaining the rank of Major. She also held the WWII Defence Medal.

In 1956, Dick joined the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry unit as Regimental Medical Officer. In 1972, he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and made Commanding Officer of 16 Medical Company. After five years as the Commanding Officer, he was promoted to Colonel and became the Area Surgeon for Central Militia Area Headquarters. Dick was a very active medical officer setting up many fine training programs and exercises for his units. He developed a militia surgical parachute team qualifying as a Canadian Forces parachutist himself.



In 1971, the living Albert Medal holders exchanged their Albert Medals for the George Cross. He received the Canadian Forces Decoration in 1968 and bar in 1978. He was active in St. John Ambulance serving as Ontario's Provincial Surgeon and received the Commander (CStJ) of the Order in 1989. He now wore the all blue GC ribbon, the all black CStJ ribbon and the all white Polar ribbon – a unique combination! Dick's Alberta Medal is displayed at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Great Britain with the Albert Medal of Richard Walter Richards.<sup>5</sup> The medals are turned every six months to show the Obverse and Reverse.

### **Honorary Colonel Ken HEDGES, CStJ (MID)<sup>6</sup>**

Ken spent his early childhood years in the Fiji islands. With the outbreak of WW2, the family returned to England. Ken left school just before his 15th birthday to enrol as a cadet with the nautical training ships, *HMS "Worcester"* and the *"Cutty Sark"* off Greenhithe in the Thames Estuary, from which he graduated two years later. (Franklin's expedition to the Northwest Passage had set out from Greenhithe in 1845 and it was another *HMS "Worcester"* alumnus, **Lt. "Birdie" Bowers**, who later succumbed with Scott of the Antarctic during their fateful return from the South Pole in 1912.)

Following a brief career first as an Apprentice Deck Officer with P & O, then as an Instructor with the "Outward Bound Sea School", Ken returned to his studies, graduating from the University of Liverpool Medical School in 1962. He was commissioned in the Royal Army Medical Corps and completed postgraduate studies in tropical medicine. During the period 1964-1967, having successfully passed the selection course for 22 Special Air Service Regiment (SAS), Ken qualified as a military parachutist and compressed air diver. After undertaking further SAS training he deployed on four operational tours in the jungles of South East Asia and the South Arabian Desert (now Yemen).

<sup>3</sup> In England, you receive the M.B. when you graduate from Medical School. The M.D. is received for presenting work on a particular aspect of medicine after you have graduated – a truly graduate degree.

<sup>4</sup> FRCS(C) in Canada; FRCS (Eng.) in England; FACS in the USA

<sup>5</sup> Australian science teacher who joined Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition in December 1914 as a physicist

<sup>6</sup> History from the Canadian Forces Health Services Web Site

It was from the SAS that he was invited to join “The British Trans Arctic Expedition”. This expedition successfully completed the first crossing of the surface of the Arctic Ocean, traveling 6,000 km from Alaska to Spitzbergen via the North Pole by dogsled with logistic support from 435 Squadron RCAF, the US Naval Arctic Research Laboratory and the Royal Navy. The 476 day journey was featured in contemporary editions of the Guinness Book of World Records. All four members of the crossing party were elected Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society (FRGS) and named Men of the year in 1969. In 1970 the four men were each awarded the Polar Medal in an investiture held by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at Buckingham Palace, the citation for which reads:

*“Conferred upon those who took an active part in an expedition which made notable advances in the exploration of Polar Regions and underwent the hazards and rigours of severe conditions in excess of 12 months.”*



Following specialist training and accreditation in both Public Health and Occupational Medicine, Ken again volunteered for active duty, serving as a Regimental Medical Officer during a time of intense urban conflict, confronting armed elements of the IRA in the “no go” areas of Londonderry. During a four month operational tour, in addition to retrieving victims of assassination and booby traps, he undertook a total of sixteen rescue missions of both civilian and military victims of riot, sniper fire, ambush and improvised explosive devices.

Ken was awarded a “**Mention in Despatches**” in the Operational Gallantry List for Northern Ireland: “*I am charged to record Her Majesty’s high appreciation.*” (Signed: Secretary of State for Defence)

Ken’s twelve year military career with the British Army culminated with his appointment as Senior Specialist in Public Health and Occupational Medicine at Army Headquarters, Northern Ireland with a deployed strength of 18,000 troops. It had become the longest campaign in the history of the British Army. Ken married Dawn in 1974. Dawn had served for ten years with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in London, New York and Amsterdam. Ken and Dawn came to Canada in 1975. Sadly, Dawn passed away in 2004. Her life had become an inspiration for her young family over a number of years during which she displayed a spirited response to what proved to be a terminal illness.

In 1979, while Director of Occupational Health for Nova Scotia, Ken joined the Canadian Forces Primary Reserves. In 1981, Ken moved to Saskatchewan as a consultant in Health Protection for the provincial government and in 1982 became the medical director of Syncrude Canada Ltd. based in Edmonton. He became the Alberta Provincial Surgeon for St. John Ambulance that year and in 1988 was appointed the Deputy Chief Surgeon for St. John Ambulance. In 1993, he was made a Commander in the Order of St John (CStJ) in recognition of volunteer services for the Order. In 2010 Ken was awarded the distinction of Emeritus Status by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario: “*conferred in recognition of a record of exemplary service spanning more than twenty five years*”, a considerable part of which had been spent in the underserved areas of central and northern Ontario and Nunavut.

In September 2010, upon the recommendation of the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Minister of National Defence approved Ken’s appointment as the **first Honorary Colonel of the Canadian Forces Health Services Training Centre.**

### Canadian Military Medical Heroes

#### Surgeon Herbert Taylor READE, VC, CB

Reade was born on 02 September 1828 in Perth, Upper Canada. He died on 23 June 1897 at Bath in England having attained the rank of Surgeon General in the British Army and received the honour of Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB).

He was 28 years old, and a Surgeon in the 61st Regiment (later The Gloucestershire Regiment), British Army during the Indian Mutiny. At the Siege of Delhi for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross on 14 to 16 September 1857.



“During the siege of Delhi, on the 14th of September, 1857, while Surgeon Reade was attending to the wounded, at the end of one of the streets of the city, a party of rebels advanced from the direction of the Bank, and having established themselves in the houses in the street, commenced firing from the roofs. The wounded were thus in very great danger, and would have fallen into the hands of the enemy, had not Surgeon Reade drawn his sword, and calling upon the few soldiers who were near to follow, succeeded, under a very heavy fire, in dislodging the rebels from their position. Surgeon Reade's party consisted of about ten in all, of whom two were killed, and five or six wounded. Surgeon Reade also accompanied the regiment at the assault of Delhi, and, on the morning of the 16th September, 1857, was one of the first up at the breach in the magazine, which was stormed by the 61st Regiment and Belooch Battalion, upon which occasion he, with a serjeant of the 61st Regiment, spiked one of the enemy's guns.”



#### Assistant Surgeon Campbell Mellis DOUGLAS, VC

**Campbell Douglas** was born on 05 August 1840 in Quebec City. On 07 May 1867, he was 26 years old, and an assistant surgeon in the 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment of Foot (later The South Wales Borderers), British Army during the Andaman Islands Expedition when he was awarded the Victoria Cross. This was one of a very few VCs that were awarded ‘Not in the Face of the Enemy’ which interestingly often were associated with Canada (including the only Victoria Cross awarded in Canada for moving a boxcar loaded with dynamite away from a town). He became a Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Army and served in the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. He died on 31 December 1909.

“On 7 May 1867 at the island of Little Andaman, eastern India, in the Bay of Bengal, Assistant Surgeon Douglas and four Privates (David Bell, James Cooper, William Griffiths and Thomas Murphy) of the 2/24th Regiment risked their lives in manning a boat and proceeding through dangerous surf to rescue some of their comrades who had been sent to the island to find out the fate of the commander and seven of the crew, who had landed from the ship *Assam Valley* and were feared murdered by the cannibalistic islanders.”

#### Major Sir Frederick Grant BANTING, KBE, MC, DSC, LLD, MD, MRCS, LRCP

**Dr. Banting** was born on November 14, 1891, at Alliston, Ontario, Canada. He is best known for receiving the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1923 for the discovery of insulin. However, before he became famous for his research, he was a medical officer in the Canadian Army Medical Corps in the rank of Captain as a member of the 13th Field Ambulance serving in the North of France who received the Military Cross.

“Near Haynecourt on 28 September 1918, when the medical officer of the 46th Canadian Battalion was wounded, he immediately proceeded forward through intense shell fire to reach the battalion. Several of his men were wounded and he, neglecting his own safety, stopped to attend to them. While doing this he was wounded himself and was sent out notwithstanding his plea to be left at the front. His energy and pluck were of a very high order.”

In 1934, he was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (civil) (KBE) for his discovery of insulin (Canada Gazette of 23 June 1934 / London Gazette of 04 June 1934).

He was back in uniform in WWII serving as a liaison officer between the British and North American medical services. Banting headed the RCAF's Number 1 Clinical Investigation Unit (CIU). He was en route to England to conduct operational tests on the Franks flying suit developed by his colleague Wilbur Franks when he was killed in an airplane crash on 21 February 1941 in Newfoundland at the age of 49. His partner, Dr. Charles Best, served in the RCNVR during WWII as a Surgeon Captain.

**Banting's medals include:** KBE (1st type civil), Military Cross (GV), British War Medal, Victory Medal, CVSM & Bar, 1939/1945 War Medal, King George V Jubilee medal and the King George VI Coronation medal. His WWII medals (CVSM & 1939/1945 War Medal) are not shown below.



**Lieutenant-Colonel John Alexander McCRAE, BA, MD**  
*Author of *In Flanders Fields**

**Major John McCrae** was born in Guelph, Ontario on 30 November 1872. He served in the Guelph militia resident and then with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada while he worked on his B.A. at the University of Toronto in 1892 – 1893. He was promoted to Captain and commanded a company of the Regiment. He was a resident master in English and Mathematics in 1894 at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. He returned to the University of Toronto and completed his B.A. and completed his medical degree there as well. McCrae served in the artillery during the Second Boer War, and upon his return was appointed professor of pathology at the University of Vermont, where he taught until 1911; he also taught at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec.

In WWI, McCrae was a field surgeon in the Canadian artillery and was in charge of a field hospital during the Second Battle of Ypres in 1915. McCrae's friend and former student, Lt. Alexis Helmer, was killed in the battle, and his burial inspired him to write the poem, "*In Flanders Fields*", which he wrote on 03 May 1915 and first published in the magazine *Punch*.

From 01 June 1915 until his death, McCrae set up and commanded No. 3 Canadian General Hospital at Dannes-Camiers near Boulogne-sur-Mer, northern France. On 28 January 1918, while commanding No 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill) at Boulogne, McCrae died of pneumonia with "extensive pneumococcus meningitis", probably secondary to Influenza 'A'.

His medals, which are now displayed in the Canadian War Museum, include the Queen's South Africa Medal for the 2nd Boer War, the 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

### **Matron Georgina Fane POPE, RRC**

First Nursing Matron of the Canadian Army Medical Corps and Service in South Africa

**Georgina Pope** was born on 01 January 1862 into a prominent Prince Edward Island family, her father being William Henry Pope, one of the Father of Confederation. She trained in New York City to become a nurse

She was the senior of the four nurses go overseas with the troops at the beginning of the South African War. She and the other three were given the rank, pay and benefits of a Lieutenant. For five months Georgina Fane Pope worked at British hospitals just north of Cape Town. She then went to Kroonstadt, where she and another nursing sister took charge of the military hospital, caring for more than 200 patients, and most with enteric fever.



At the end of 1900, Georgina Fane Pope returned to Canada and was put on reserve status.

In 1901, the Canadian Army Nursing Service was made official, and Georgina Fane Pope was one of its seven members. In 1902, Georgina Fane Pope went back to South Africa and served in a hospital in Natal until the end of the South African War. She was the first Canadian awarded the **Royal Red Cross** by Queen Victoria for her nursing service in the South African War in 1903.

In 1906, **Georgina Fane Pope** became a member of the new permanent Canadian Army Medical Corps and worked at the Garrison military hospital in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1908, she was appointed Nursing Matron, the first in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. By 1914, she was responsible for a handful of permanent staff and up to 80 reservists.

In 1917, Georgina Fane Pope again went overseas, this time to serve in England and France in World War I. She was sent back to Canada in 1918, suffering from health problems and retired to PEI. She died on 06 June 1938 in Charlottetown, PEI and was buried with full military honours.

### **Colonel Lavell Hall LEESON, SBStJ, MD**

He was an ENT specialist in Vancouver for 40 years. Lavell was born in Douglas, Manitoba and graduated in Medicine from McGill University in 1915. He served in WWI with the CEP at the 17th Stationary Hospital in Malta, Gallipoli, Egypt and India.

After WWI, Colonel Leeson **organized the 12th Field Ambulance** in Vancouver. In 1920, he founded the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Vancouver.



During WWII, he served overseas in charge of medical services with the 3rd Canadian Division.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> In the bottom photo, Colonel Leeson is walking with and talking to King George VI.

## Corporal Frederick George Topham, VC

He was a **medical orderly** with the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion in WWII. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for the following action.



On 24th March, 1945, Corporal Topham, a medical orderly, parachuted with his Battalion on to a strongly defended area east of the Rhine. At about 1100 hours, whilst treating casualties sustained in the drop, a cry for help came from a wounded man in the open. Two medical orderlies from a field ambulance went out to this man in succession but both were killed as they knelt beside the casualty.

Without hesitation and on his own initiative, Corporal Topham went forward through intense fire to replace the orderlies who had been killed before his eyes. As he worked on the wounded man, he was himself shot through the nose. In spite of severe bleeding and intense pain, he never faltered in his task. Having completed immediate first aid, he carried the wounded man steadily and slowly back through continuous fire to the shelter of a wood.

During the next two hours Corporal Topham refused all offers of medical help for his own wound. He worked most devotedly throughout this period to bring in wounded, showing complete disregard for the heavy and accurate enemy fire. It was only when all casualties had been cleared that he consented to his own wound being treated.



His immediate evacuation was ordered, but he interceded so earnestly on his own behalf that he was eventually allowed to return to duty.

On his way back to his company he came across a carrier, which had received a direct hit. Enemy mortar bombs were still dropping around, the carrier itself was burning fiercely and its own mortar ammunition was exploding. An experienced officer on the spot had warned all not to approach the carrier.

Corporal Topham, however, immediately went out alone in spite of the blasting ammunition and enemy fire, and rescued the three occupants of the carrier. He brought these men back across the open and although one died almost immediately afterwards, he arranged for the evacuation of the other two, who undoubtedly owe their lives to him.

This N.C.O. showed sustained gallantry of the highest order. For six hours, most of the time in great pain, he performed a series of acts of outstanding bravery and his magnificent and selfless courage inspired all those who witnessed it.

### 01 March 2012 Parade – Commissioning of RSM Nan Lu

Photo at left:

Top: Lieutenant James Lee, Padre  
 Lieutenant Hai Vu  
 2nd Lieutenant Leslie Braun  
 CWO Nan Lu (20 minutes later Captain Nan Lu)  
 Lieutenant Heejin Jennifer Ryu  
 Bottom: LCol Ben Roth (Commanding Officer)  
 HCol John Blatherwick (retiring Honorary Colonel)  
 HCol Michael Sanderson (new Honorary Colonel)  
 HLCol Rob Watt (new Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel – first