

THE / LE BULLETIN



Volume 30, No. 3

An Important Note from Your Editor

My first issue of the Bulletin was the Autumn 2012 edition. It is only fitting that almost exactly 10 years later, this will be my last.

As OMMC grows and evolves, so will the Bulletin. It has run for 50 years, and has changed from type-written pages to digitally-produced print copies, and now to PDFs. The Bulletin has been a connection point between member museums, and this point will not change.

The Board and the Communications Committee, chaired by Jeremy Neal Blowers, will be moving toward an e-mail based newsletter, similar to a clipping service, so that the content that members send in will be linked directly to your source, and readers can access museum websites, social media, or third party articles. This will be a great way to connect with each other.

Please enjoy this final edition and know that even though this version of the Bulletin is winding down, the new incarnation will serve us even better. It has been an honour to work with all of you in this role.

Sincerely,
Bethany
(Former) Editor

Une note importante de votre rédactrice en chef

Mon premier numéro du Bulletin était celui de l'automne 2012. Il est tout à fait approprié que, presque exactement 10 ans plus tard, ce soit mon dernier.

L'OMMC grandit et évolue, tout comme le Bulletin. Il existe depuis 50 ans et est passé de pages dactylographiées à des copies imprimées produites numériquement, et maintenant à des PDF. Le Bulletin a été un point de connexion entre les musées membres, et ce point ne changera pas.

Le conseil d'administration et le comité des communications, présidé par Jeremy Neal Blowers, vont s'orienter vers un bulletin électronique, semblable à un service de coupures de presse, de sorte que le contenu envoyé par les membres sera lié directement à votre source, et que les lecteurs pourront accéder aux sites Web des musées, aux médias sociaux ou à des articles de tiers. Ce sera un excellent moyen de se connecter les uns aux autres.

Profitez de cette dernière édition et sachez que même si cette version du Bulletin touche à sa fin, la nouvelle incarnation nous servira encore mieux. Ce fut un honneur de travailler avec vous tous dans ce rôle.

Sincèrement,
Bethany
(Ancienne) Rédactrice en chef

Honours and Awards to Our Membership

By Georgiana Stanciu, Honours and Awards Committee Chair

The OMMC Board of Directors has recently created the Honours and Awards Program. Managed by the Honours and Awards Committee (HAC), this program recognizes outstanding accomplishments by OMMC membership. As the 2022 OMMC conference brought us together in Sackville, New Brunswick, Honours and Awards were presented for the first time ever, at the mess dinner held at Mount Allison University. Individuals with remarkable achievements, and outstanding projects were brought forward. As the Chairperson of the HAC, I was honoured to introduce the new program, but also to invite all the recipients to accept their awards.

In the category Special Projects, awards are possible as recipient and honorable mention. The award targets mainly projects and assignments conducted by membership organizations, individually or in partnership with other professionals in the field of museums, heritage, or any other expertise that may be needed.

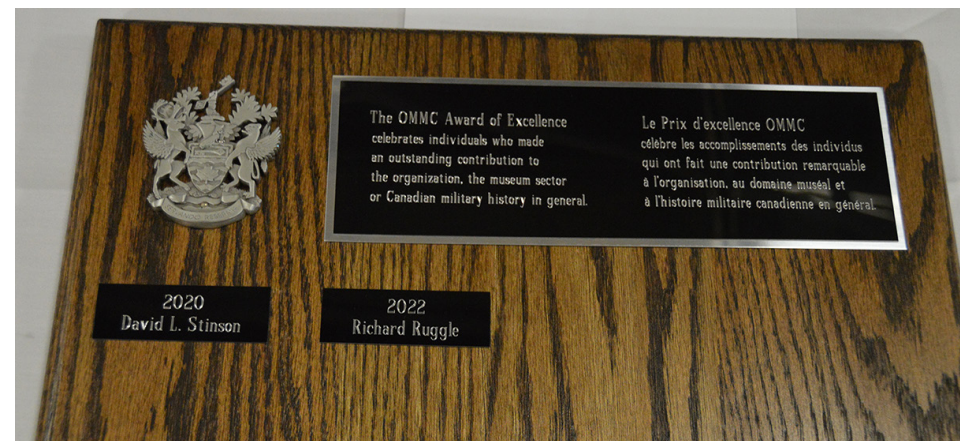
The prizes presented in this category reveal our members' commitment to inclusion and community engagement. The recipient for OMMC Special Projects 2022 is Mitch McFarlane for "Project Uplift" at the Ontario Regiment Museum, Oshawa, ON. In the words of the nominator, this project "allowed those with physical disabilities the ability to be loaded and ride safely, enjoying the same experience as others, in an armoured vehicle or "tank ride."



The honorable mention was presented ex aequo to Kathleen Haggarty from the Loyal Edmonton Regiment Museum, "an amazing collections manager who really does the right thing all the time"; and to Nate Blackmore, who received this award for his "inspirational leadership" as manager of the PPCLI Museum at the Military Museums in Calgary.



The other category of the program is the OMMC Award of Excellence. This award is for a meritorious individual whose extraordinary services are unique to the OMMC. This category proved to be challenging to assess, so difficult that for the first presentation, the Honours and Awards Committee decided to present an Honorary for a previous year and a recipient for 2022.





The first honorary OMMC Award of Excellence was presented for 2020, to the former secretary of the OMMC, David Stinson whose extraordinary commitment to the survival and welfare of the organisation may not be underestimated.



Last, but not least, the OMMC Award of Excellence for 2022 was awarded to Richard Ruggle, the OMMC Treasurer between 2013 and 2022. In the words of his nominators, “during his time on the OMMC Board, Richard has proven to be an unfailing source of stability for the board through challenging financial times” and “Richard could always be relied upon to furnish the financial savoir-faire we desperately needed”.

Before closing this short notice, it is important to recognize all those who made the program and the awards ceremony possible: Greg Gallant, a generous pioneer the idea of an awards program, George Romick for his efficient management of the logistics. Two other OMMC members contributed to the program: Eric Ruel and Brad Frogatt. On all their behalf, warm congratulations to the OMMC HAC 2022 recipients and many thanks to all those who took the time to nominate their peers thus helping our program to come alive.

To our membership, we welcome your nominations before 1 February 2023 and we thank you to help us continue this wonderful program! Please do not hesitate to contact the committee by using the email ommchac@gmail.com.

Book Review: Ralph Douglas Clark, Atlantic Telegraph Operator, a Family Memoir

By Richard Selby

Ralph Douglas Clark Atlantic Telegraph Cable Operator: A Family Memoir by Peter Bela Clark. Published by Friesen Press, Victoria, BC. This review was originally published in the Cable and Wireless Pensioners' Association newsletter, Spring 2022. Reprinted with permission.

Like his father, Ralph Douglas Clark ("Doug") became an Atlantic telegraph operator who worked for Western Union at their station in Canso, Nova Scotia, after his training which commenced in 1910. Western Union operated several Trans-Atlantic telegraph cables from Canso, including some to Ireland and the UK.



This book is partly based on materials left by Doug. Using these and other resources, the author traces his father's life from when he joined Western Union at age 14, through his early years of training and working at Canso. He then grasped the opportunity to transfer to a station in Panama until the outbreak of the 1st World War. Doug signed up with the Canadian Engineers and was accepted into the 4th Divisional Signal Company.

His knowledge of Morse and his excellent handwriting put him in good stead, but he still had to learn new skills,

such as bareback horse riding. He soon discovered that military communications was not only telegraph, but included pigeons, motorcyclists, telephone, wireless and visual communication.

Doug's postings took him to various locations along the western front. Along with his technical knowledge, visual morse was vital in signalling when the telegraph and telephone cables had been destroyed. Mention is also made of the introduction of wireless in the trenches in the later years of the war.

Whilst returning to Canada after the war, Doug was able to take some leave in the UK, where he visited his Western Union colleague in their Penzance office.

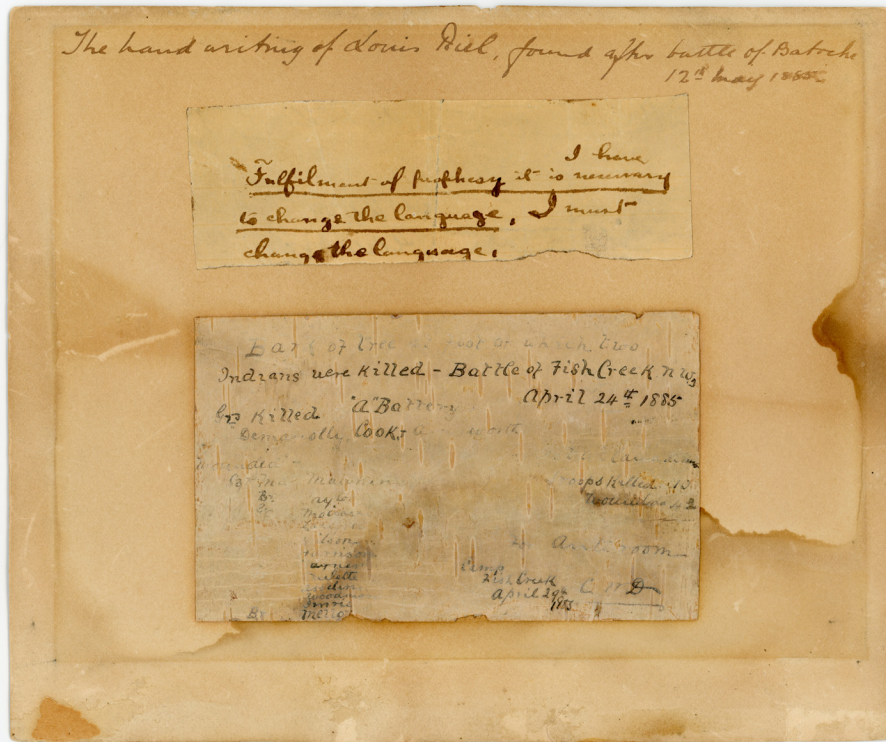
Doug resumed his work with Western Union on his return and stayed with them for the rest of his working life.

Peter Bela Clark did not follow the same career, and this reviewer misses some of the technical and operational aspects which would have been interesting, however this book is clearly laid out, well researched, and richly illustrated. It offers a good view of how telecommunications influenced the life of a young man from a small Canadian town in the first part of the 20th century.

The Riel and Drury 1885 Notes

By Andrew Oakden, Royal Canadian Artillery Museum

The RCA Museum has two handwritten notes from the North-West Rebellion or North-West Resistance. Louis Riel purportedly wrote the first note found after the Battle of Batoche, dated 12 May 1885. Captain Charles W. Drury wrote the second note on birch bark after the Battle of Fish Creek, dated 29 April 1885. Both are exceptional discoveries that help explain a controversial moment in Canadian military history.



The handwritten notes from the 1885 uprising are in relatively good condition considering someone glued them to cardboard at least fifty years ago. Today, we would never glue artifacts to a display mount because doing so would likely damage them over time. The fountain pen ink has faded in parts, probably due to prolonged exposure to light and water damage, and it may not be easy to display these artifacts in the future due to conservation

concerns.

On the back of the cardboard, it says: "Presented to the RCA Museum by 1 RCHA." We have no presentation date, but it likely occurred in the 1960s. We have an article from Reader's Digest, Explore Canada 1974 Edition citing the two 1885 notes on display at the RCA Museum. Clive Prothero-Brooks, the museum's long-term collection manager, confirmed they were on display until 2002.

On the Riel note, the script says, "I have fulfilment of prophecy - it is necessary to change the language. I must change the language." Above this text, museum staff confirmed that Louis Riel wrote the note found after the Battle of Batoche on 12 May 1885. Riel added a religious element to the uprising, which is evident in the note's subject matter.

The Drury note reads in part: "Bark of the tree at foot of which two Indians were killed - Battle of Fish Creek. N.W. - 24 April 1885." The words used to reference First Nations have changed during Canadian history. In this case, the message contains a now derogatory term; however, one hundred years ago, this was not considered as such. The author was Captain Charles W. Drury, the acting commander of A Battery, who later became a Major-General and RCA Great Gunner known as the Father of Modern Artillery in Canada.

The Drury note represents an eyewitness statement of the military casualties during the Battle of Fish Creek. The reported dead included three from A Battery: Gunner Ainsworth, Gunner Cook, and Gunner Demanoyilly - these were the first Permanent Force battle casualties in Canadian military history. Drury then lists the names of wounded gunners and the number of overall troop losses and signs it: Camp Fish Creek - April 29, 1885, CWD.

From the perspective of a military museum, we want visitors to remember and re-evaluate the 1885 uprising. These historical figures, such as Louis Riel and Captain Drury, have important stories to tell with far-reaching historical consequences. However, the aftermath of the uprising, including the execution of Louis Riel and the marginalization of Métis and First Nations, remains a polarizing and controversial moment in Canadian history.

T-33 Jet Journeys from Cold Lake to Calgary

By Wanda Stacey, Cold Lake Air Force Museum

Over the course of Sept. 6-7, 2022, a Canadair CT-133 made an epic trek from the Cold Lake Air Force Museum to the Air Force Museum of Alberta at The Military Museums in Calgary. It made for an unusual sight, travelling down the highway.

In April 2020, the Cold Lake Air Force Museum was first approached by the Air Force Museum of Alberta to see if we would consider a transfer of this jet aircraft to enhance their Cold War Exhibit. Since we already had one T-33 on display in our air park (tail #133508), it was decided that T-33 #413 would have a great home in Calgary. This aircraft had been used by the Aerospace Engineering Test Establishment (AETE) at CFB Cold Lake as an ejection seat testbed, and had been on display at the Cold Lake Air Force Museum for over a decade.



It was a challenge to determine the best way to lift and transport the aircraft. The tip tanks on the wings were removed and loaded separately. The engine had been removed years ago and was stored separately. Proper lifting points had to be determined, and the center of mass was different, since the engine was no longer inside. It had to be lifted via crane over a small guard shack and a perimeter fence, onto a waiting truck bed, as the gate was too narrow to accommodate the wingspan. The winding, narrow road up Radar Hill to the Cold Lake Air Force Museum had to be closed during the move.



This was a wonderful example of a multidisciplinary team of civilian and military personnel coming together to work on a historic and unique project, and it was a great learning opportunity for many of the younger Canadian Armed Forces members to work with a vintage aircraft.

The story of this jet is far from over! It will certainly be exciting to see this T-Bird enjoy a new role in bringing the Cold War era to life at the Military Museums. Our sincere thanks to everyone who made this idea a reality!

Valour Canada Update

By Aaron Curtis, Valour Canada

For the past few months Valour Canada has been focused on creating virtual tours and scheduling autumn educational presentations for youth.

New Virtual Tour: Naval Museum of Alberta

Valour Canada is excited to announce the launch of the Naval Museum of Alberta virtual tour. Highlights of the tour include twin Oerlikon guns, an Enigma Machine, Hammerhead USV, and the Battle of the Atlantic. NMA VT will fit arm-in-arm with our redesigned HMCS Haida tour.

To browse our virtual tours, please visit valourcanada.ca/virtual-reality/.



Valour Canada History & Heritage Scholarship

The aim of Valour Canada's History and Heritage Scholarship (VCHHS) is to support Canadian high-school students in their college or university pursuits by providing an engaging, thought-provoking, and memorable scholarship contest. This year's VCHHS competition finished in mid-June and we are proud to announce our 2021-22 winner, Iqra Jamil, Calgary, Alberta, who covered Calgary's Central



2021-22 Scholarship winner, Iqra Jamil, receives a \$1500 award from Valour Canada's new President, John Q. Adams.

Memorial Park. Our runner-up, Minnie Deng, Guelph, ON, looked at the memorial in her high school, Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute, John McCrae's alma mater. Iqra and Minnie will receive \$1500 and \$750, respectively, and their winning videos will be posted to our YouTube VCHHS playlist in early December.

Valour Canada's In-Museum Youth Education Program

Valour Canada's The Character of our Canadian Military History (CCMH) program is ready for autumn presentations in Calgary at The Military Museums (TMM) in October and November; we've also got some early autumn presentations lined up in partnership with the Ontario Regiment RCAC Museum, the Niagara Military Museum, and the soon to be open to the public Legion Experience Museum in Etobicoke. It looks like it's going to be a busy fall, perhaps even similar to those pre-pandemic days!

If you would like to learn more about how your museum can add a free, youth-targeted education option to its programming repertoire please contact Valour Canada's lead educator, Aaron Curtis at aaron.curtis@valourcanada.ca.

Honouring Indigenous Veterans

By LCol (ret'd) Dale Watts, CD and Major (ret'd) Ervin Gerbrandt, CD, 38 Service Battalion Combat Service Support (CSS) Museum

An estimated 7,000 to 12,000 Indigenous veterans fought or served in the Canadian military during the two World Wars, in Korea, on UN peacekeeping missions and in Afghanistan. Treated relatively equally while serving, they returned home and often had to continue fighting to acquire rights and benefits other non-Indigenous veterans took for granted.

As Remembrance Day approaches, in the spirit of reconciliation, the CSS Museum Board decided to recognize Indigenous contributions to Canada by developing a feature display to honour Indigenous veterans. This took a surprising amount of work, but some financial support from the Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage Community Museum Support Project Fund helped alleviate concern about the cost.

There are two parts to the project: (1) a feature display cabinet; and (2) programmed kiosks. After researching display designs and numerous Indigenous veterans to feature, the Board approved a display design and four Indigenous veterans based on several selection criteria including: locality, proximity, CSS trade, gender and currency.

The veterans are: Sergeant Tommy Prince, MM; Private David Kejick, DCM; Nursing Sister Edith Monture; and Corporal Charles "Checker" Tompkins. Tommy Prince, from the Ojibwe Brokenhead Reserve in Manitoba, was a Second World War and Korean War veteran, one of the most highly decorated Indigenous soldiers in Canadian history. David Kejick, from the Ojibwe Shoal Lake First Nation, received a Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery and had the Kenora, Ontario, armoury named after him in 2018. Edith Monture, from the Mohawk Haudenosaunee Six Nations near Brantford was the first Indigenous registered nurse in Canada. She served in the US Medical Corps in the First World War. Charles Tompkins, Métis, enlisted in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps in the Second World War but became a Cree code talker attached to

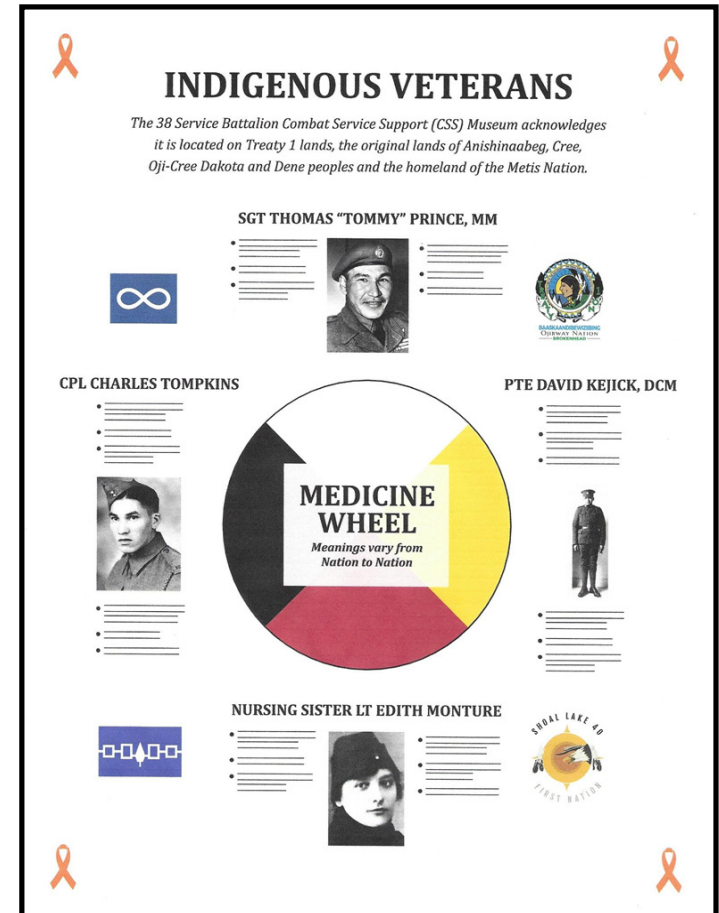
the US 8th Air Force for two years. A fifth veteran featured on a side wall, LGen Joe Paul, recently became the first Indigenous Commander, Canadian Army, in Canadian military history.

The display features the four veterans with career highlights on the left or top of their photo and an Indigenous translation on the right or bottom.

A medicine wheel, common to many Prairies Indigenous tribes, is situated in the centre. Reserve affiliations are shown adjacent to each veteran. An orange ribbon to acknowledge many veterans who experienced residential schools is situated in each corner.

When complete, the kiosk program will feature (a) floor plans for Minto Armouries to locate museums, museum offices and washrooms; (b) a floor plan for the CSS Museum; and (c) photos and bio-sketches for 21 Indigenous veterans, including the five featured.

The initial visitation plan is to offer tours for local schools that have a high Indigenous student population with the expectation the display will also attract adult Indigenous visitors.



Members of the Royal Canadian Artillery conduct a 96 gun salute during a memorial service for Queen Elizabeth II at the Alberta Legislature Building Grounds, September 19, 2022.

Photo: Corporal Djalma Vuong-De Ramos, Canadian Armed Forces photo



Des membres de l'Artillerie royale canadienne tirent une salve d'honneur de 96 coups lors d'un service commémoratif organisé à la mémoire de la reine Elizabeth II, sur le terrain de l'édifice de l'Assemblée législative de l'Alberta, le 19 septembre 2022.

Photo : Caporal Djalma Vuong-De Ramos, Forces armées canadiennes

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