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Volume 60 Issue 22



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November 18, 2021

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2PPCLI host 1CMBG Comd during Ex Page 4



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Ceremony held for Indigenous veterans Page 8



Premier visits Base

During a recent visit to the Westman area, Manitoba's 24th premier Heather Stefanson made a stop at CFB Shilo to meet with the Base's Command Team. She was greeted outside HQ by BRSM CWO Jeremy Abrahamse (shaking her hand) and BComd LCol Chris Wood. Afterwards, she signed the Base's guest book (inset) along with Spruce Woods MLA and Minister of Education Cliff Cullen. The two provincial politicians then met for under one hour as Premier Stefanson used her visits to connect with local leaders and high-ranking members of community groups to set the tone for her new administration.

Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag



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The Shilo Stag is produced every second Thursday.

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday prior to the week of publication. Submissions can be sent to the Stag via email at stag@mymts.net, dropped off at the Stag office located in CANEX or via Inter-base mail.

Submitting articles and photos for print:

- Please submit articles as a MS Word Document.
- Include the author's full name, rank, unit and contact information.
- Include photos with your articles whenever possible, however, do not embed photos in word documents.
- Please submit photos as high resolution jpegs (if scanned 300 dpi), digital images or in hard copy format.
- With photos, include a cutline which names the individuals in the photo; what's taking place; and the name, rank, and unit of the photographer.

• • •

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Canadian Army looking for feedback on operational clothing, equipment

Stag Special

The Canadian Army (CA) is looking to modernize nearly everything a soldier wears or carries on their body with the goal of improving the form, fit, and function of all operational clothing.

This includes uniforms and outerwear; protective equipment such as ballistic helmets, ballistic vests and plates; and load carriage systems like tactical vests, rucksack and patrol packs.

In support of these initiatives, Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) is conducting a survey which will look at who is not being accommodated with the current operational clothing and equipment sizing systems and examine the reasons why.

The Canadian Army's operational equipment and clothing fit survey is open to CA members across all L1s and will be available Nov. 30. The purpose of this study is to survey members of the Canadian Army to:

- determine acceptability of fit and comfort of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) issued operational clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE),
- evaluate the relationship between body sizes, shapes, clothing, and personal equipment fit acceptability, and
- gain a better understanding of how these items are issued to personnel.

As proper fit is important for performance as well as injury prevention, the CA is urging maximum participation of soldiers of all ranks and trades IOT help with the specification of the next generation of soldier operational clothing and equipment. All ranks and trades in the CA are highly encouraged to participate in this survey.

The study can be found online at the links below and will



Operational clothing like uniforms and outerwear; protective equipment such as ballistic helmets, ballistic vests and plates; and load carriage systems like tactical vests, rucksack and patrol packs are part of this survey for those military members in the Canadian Army.

Photo Kimberley Kielley/Shilo Stag

take approximately one to two hours to complete.

As we recognize the length of the survey, if you require a break at any time, you can close the survey web page and return to where you left off provided you are using the same computer, user account and browser.

If possible, complete all questions related to a single item of clothing or personal equipment before closing the survey.

The survey asks about the following operational equipment and clothing: combat shirt, combat pants, tactical assault vest, fragmentation protection vest, rucksack, small pack, helmet, and ballistic eye wear.

The survey includes questions relating to demographics, body type, issuing of specific CAF clothing and equipment, as well as, the fit and comfort for each item.

Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/KitFitSurvey>

Canada Post offers free regular parcel service for families of deployed soldiers

Shilo Stag

Want to mail a regular parcel to your deployed loved one overseas?

If so, Canada Post is offering free regular parcel service from Oct. 13 to Jan. 14, 2022.

For the 16th consecutive year Canada Post will provide free regular parcel services for family and friends of deployed CAF/DND members.

Parcels will be delivered free of charge from any Canada Post retail outlet, such as the venue inside CANEX, to designated CAF Bases, and then will be forwarded through the CAF postal system to military members overseas.

Additionally, Canada Post will continue to provide free delivery of letters — less than 500 grams — to deployed troops until Dec. 31, 2022.

This offer is restricted to those operations served by the following addresses:

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To ensure the proper customs declaration forms and correct addressing information, all letters and parcels must be deposited at a Canada Post retail outlet.

Mail deposited in street letter boxes will not be delivered.

For more information visit www.forces.gc.ca/write-to-the-troops/index.page

Meanwhile, closer to home your CANEX Post Office will be open every Saturday during the Christmas season.

According to CANEX manager Rick Kehler, this change providing extra service to Base residents using the post office will start Nov. 13 and run until Dec. 18.



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Transgender Day of Remembrance — Nov. 20

Continue steps towards inclusiveness

Stag Special

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual observance Nov. 20 which honours the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

It was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honour the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998.

The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death, and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Despite recent political victories, increased transgender representation in the media, and promotion of new policies that protect transgender rights, transgender people still face disproportionate rates of discrimination compared to other communities.

In the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), the Defence Team Pride Advisory Organization is encouraging employees to join the day of remembrance and embrace inclusivity at work and in the community at large, and help end discrimination and violence towards this marginalized group.



Cpl Vincent-Gabriel Lamarre

"Transgender Day of Remembrance is key to shifting public opinion on transgender people in the Forces," explained transgendered military member Cpl Vincent-Gabriel Lamarre.

"On Nov. 20, let's talk about how we can create an accepting work environment for trans people and acknowledge the injustices they have faced. Show your solidarity and be open minded

for the occasion."

Cpl Lamarre began a gender transition a few years ago with the support of his family and military hierarchy. It is crucial to understand the difference between sex and gender, said Cpl Lamarre.

Sex refers to the biological elements of a person, while gender refers to the social construct of femininity and masculinity in a specified culture and time period. Understanding this distinction is crucial so as to not limit gender to just reproductive organs.

Moreover, it is important to use the correct terms such as "gender confirmation surgery" or "gender transition" rather than "sex change," because some trans people decide to keep their reproductive organs.

People need to respect trans people's pronouns and gender identity, even when the individual is not immediately present in a conversation.

"Being a trans person means living in a world where physical appearance and gender expression are continuously judged and analyzed. People will label you based on what they see and this can be really harmful to some people," explained Cpl Lamarre.

"French itself is a very binary language, meaning there are masculine or feminine words, and it makes it harder to be inclusive. Some non-binary people turn to English as a result because it is easier to be inclusive."

Micro-aggressions impact trans people significantly. They are forms of prejudice experienced in either verbal communication or through subtle physical gestures.

They are often done subconsciously and between people of various ethnicities, cultures, beliefs, or genders. Even though there is usually no malicious intent behind these gestures and comments, they remain negative and antagonizing.

Micro-aggressions can also make those who face them feel rejected and can potentially cause mental health issues.

False compliments are in fact micro-aggressions. For example: "you look like a real woman/man" or even "you're pretty/good looking for a trans person." Your respect towards trans people should never be linked to their conformity or their adherence to society's norms.

"Trans identity and acceptance does not depend on how much they have transitioned or how far they have gone medically, socially, or legally with their transition."

— Cpl Vincent-Gabriel Lamarre

Cpl Lamarre suggests some concrete actions which can be added to social interactions.

"You must adapt your vocabulary to respect a trans person, such as using feminine or masculine grammar and using their

correct name.

"Avoid anything that could possibly remind them of their former self, who they do not identify as anymore.

"Don't worry about getting things perfect, we all make mistakes. If the intention is good, the trans person will understand that it takes some time to adapt."

Are you unsure of which pronouns to use? Just ask, and then use those pronouns from that point on and encourage others to do the same.

Do not guess a trans person's gender based on their appearance. Transgender and non-binary people may not have the appearance and physical characteristics that we typically assume of them.

In fact, several trans and non-binary people live their lives without everyone around them knowing how they identify.

"Keep in mind that trans-identity does not have to be linked to a medical transition: some people only transition socially by changing their name, pronouns, and clothes, and not medically by taking hormones or having operations," said Cpl Lamarre.

"Trans identity and acceptance does not depend on how much they have transitioned or how far they have gone medically, socially, or legally with their transition."

Cpl Lamarre regularly holds conferences on his gender-transition process with educational groups and organizations dedicated to improving knowledge about the LGBTQ+ community.

Through his conferences, he stresses the importance of mental health and physical wellbeing for all the members of the Defence Team within the CAF.

If you have any questions or want to be involved with the Defence Team Pride Advisory Organization, get in touch at LGBTQ2DTPNational-LGBTQ2REFDNational@forces.gc.ca



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Ex KAPYONG SPADE includes CoA for new RSM CWO Peter Dunwoody

Kimberley Kielley

Shilo Stag

A significant event in 2PPCLI history occurred with the Change of Appointment (CoA) from RSM CWO Brett Perry to CWO Peter Dunwoody while troops were in the field on Ex KAPYONG SPADE.

1CMBG Comd Col Wade Rutland and BdeSM CWO Robert Clarke were on hand to present former QMSI MWO Dunwoody with his promotion to CWO.

CWO Perry relinquished his role as 2PPCLI RSM during the signing of the scrolls and weapon handover to RSM Dunwoody. This signified the completion of one warrior's mission and the beginning of another.

Troops stood silently on the Manitoba prairies in the rain as speeches and presentations occurred while the families of the RSMs sat under a canopy, witnessing the hand-over.

CWO Perry handed his rifle to CWO Dunwoody. A dagger was then presented to CWO Perry. The two men looked solemn as the significance of the event settled over the crowd.

2PPCLI CO LCol Jesse van Eijk spoke kindly of both RSMs, bidding CWO Perry good-bye and welcoming CWO Dunwoody into his new role with the Battalion.

2PPCLI was presented with a set of mounted tomahawks by CWO Perry as his parting gift.

LCol Rutland and CWO Clarke presented CWO Perry with a mounted branding iron as a parting gift from 1CMBG.

As flowers and gifts were exchanged between the families, CWO Perry placed his helmet on his head for the last time as a soldier dressed in a Ghillie suit — then helped his family into a G8 before leaving the training area.

2PPCLI soldiers honed an array of infantry skills during annual fall Ex KAPYONG SPADE, including C7 proficiency in the RTA.

Photos Kimberley Kielley/Shilo Stag

“The upcoming months at 2PPCLI will involve preparations for, and the execution of Ex FRIGID KAPYONG, multiple serials of Primary Combat Function [PCF] courses and the commencement of pre-deployment training in the spring for our upcoming deployment to Latvia on Op REASSURANCE.”

— Capt John Rudderham

2PPCLI soldiers hone infantry skills

Kimberley Kielley

Shilo Stag

Ex KAPYONG SPADE provided 427 2PPCLI soldiers an opportunity to hone their infantry skills in the RTA.

Soldiers were on their fall exercise qualifying up for the requisite Individual Battle Task Standards (IBTS), according to Operations Officer Capt John Rudderham.

Individual weapons handling and Level 2 (section level), live fire and movement by day and night were also included in the exercise which lasted 18 days.

“The intent of the Ex was to undergo training which focused on investing in our fundamental dismounted infantry skills at the section level,” said Capt Rudderham.

“Training during the Ex consisted of individual navigation refresher training, weapons handling on the service rifle, light machine gun [LMG], general purpose machine gun [GPMG], Carl Gustov 84mm recoilless rifle, M72 short range anti-armour rockets, grenades, and 9mm pistol.”

Soldiers then conducted live-fire and movement in pairs before advancing on to section level live-fire attacks while white space was used to develop and hone standard operating procedures (SOPs) at the platoon level.

All platoon activities were done with blank ammunition, he said.

Everyone was successful in achieving the required qualifications needed to advance to the next level of training.

This meant setting the conditions for the Battalion to begin more complex training this winter and next spring as they prepare to deploy to Latvia as part of the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) battle group in support of Op REASSURANCE.

While visiting the troops and attending the Change of Appointment (CoA) ceremony, 1CMBG Comd Col Wade Rutland and BdeSM CWO Robert Clarke completed their own IBTS requirements for the 9mm pistol.

“The upcoming months at 2PPCLI will involve preparations for, and the execution of Ex FRIGID KAPYONG,

multiple serials of Primary Combat Function [PCF] courses and the commencement of pre-deployment training in the spring for our upcoming deployment to Latvia on Op REASSURANCE,” he said.

Ex KAPYONG SPADE was highly successful, with troops achieving the required qualifications needed to advance to the next serial of training, according to Capt Rudderham.

CO LCol Jesse van Eijk was unavailable for comment as he and newly appointed RSM CWO Peter Dunwoody left Nov. 1 for California to observe Ex STRIKING BAT 21 at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms (29P).

The exercise is a RCAF-led exercise focused on training air crews to complete aeromedical evacuation (AE) tasks, Capt Rudderham said.

“2PPCLI has provided a Force Protection platoon [from our Bravo Company] which provides security to aircrew/aircraft during the conduct of AE tasks in contested environments.”



New 2PPCLI RSM CWO Peter Dunwoody (left) presented outgoing RSM CWO Brett Perry (above) with a dagger during a CoA ceremony in the field. 1CMBG Comd Col Wade Rutland completed their IBTS requirements (right) for the 9mm pistol.



Then Sgt Samuel Agustin deployed to Afghanistan in 2009

Soldier realizes his calling after chance meeting with chaplain

Kimberley Kielley
Shilo Stag

The image captured by Royal Air Force photography Sgt Gemma Bibby in Afghanistan shows then Cpl Samuel Agustin on his knees praying over his fallen comrades' coffins in the back of a C-130 Hercules.

It was December 2009 and Agustin was deployed there as a reservist with CAF.

"I was praying for their families," he said.

He remembers their names like it was yesterday: Taylor, Chidley, McCormack, Miok and Calgary Herald journalist Michelle Lang.

"It was tough," as he recalled that day, while sitting in his office at the Faith Centre on Base.

Newly promoted Capt Agustin is CFB Shilo's latest padre to arrive at the Faith Centre. He brings more than 20 years of experience to the role. He's been a CAF member since 1997, having been deployed to Afghanistan for eight months in 2009 to 2010 during Roto 309.

Twelve Canadian soldiers died during his tour, Capt Agustin reflected.

He remembers the grim task of clean-up after the IED (Improvised Explosive Device) exploded.

"We never had time to deal with it because we could be attacked," he said. "You're doing all this and picking up pieces. You're keeping an eye out for safety and everyone else ... the whole situation was awful.

"After that, once that situation was done, then we had to go to the next thing, and the next thing and we had the next patrol."

Capt Agustin was a driver/gunner before he remustered to become a military chaplain.

"My job was to protect," he offered.

While hoping to win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people, Capt Agustin had to protect the people he was working with as well.



Wainwright he realized his calling.

"At that moment, it felt like the clouds parted, and angels sang," he said, smiling. "A little ray of sunshine was on that officer's Chevette, you could hear the angelic voices — aaaahhhhhh — this is it. I think this is the whole point and purpose of me joining the military is to become a chaplain."

But, he had to relate to the soldiers on their level. And he couldn't do it if he didn't stand beside them during their darkest hours.

His hope was to become a soldier first in order to relate to the men and women he served beside. As a reservist, he went to school to learn how to minister to the troops.

The verse from the First Corinthians 9:22 is a verse he lives by.

"That has been my big life verse in ministry ... that I need to be one of them. And so I did."

Throughout his military career, Capt Agustin has been attached to different units including 1PPCLI, 2nd Bn, Lord Strathcona Horse Bn, firefighting in BC, security at the G8 Summit in Kananaskis and operational tours in Afghanistan.

He switched to Regular Force in 2016 and continued his studies as a military chaplain.

He received his CD more than 12 years ago, and is awaiting his first clasp in recognition for his time served.

He and his wife Janice and two children live on Base.

Seven months ago, he delivered his baby girl in the parsonage at the church he was assigned to in Cochrane, Ont., while in training to become a padre. His military training kicked in, he said, as the midwives on the other line congratulated him for safely delivering his baby girl.

Capt Agustin is glad to be back in his home province, closer to family, at least for the next 18 months as he learns the ropes of a military padre.

"For me, being in this role will hopefully make me be a better chaplain," he said.

"Because I would know the kind of stressors and the lifestyle and the experiences they've [soldiers] gone through or are going through and I can relate to them. And hopefully be that ear to hear what they're going through."



Prior to flying home, Royal Air Force photographer Sgt Gemma Bibby captured this poignant moment when then Cpl Samuel Agustin was praying for his four fallen comrades in Afghanistan on a military transport aircraft.

"We would do convoys constantly, being part of CIMIC, Niner Tactical and PRT Transport. We ended up driving from Base to Base. IEDs would go off all the time. We would get contacts from the Taliban. Our vehicles got shot up so many times."

A white shrapnel scar sits slightly indented at the back of his head. Another grim reminder of his time in Afghanistan.

Three years and what seemed like a lifetime later, Capt Agustin discovered he was suffering from Post Traumatic

Stress Disorder (PTSD) and red tape, fellow soldiers turned to him for advice and support.

They could relate to the easy-going Manitoba prairie boy.

Capt Agustin harkens from a Christian background. Raised in Winnipeg, he says he grew up in the church.

He joined CAF in 1997 as a reservist with the Fort Garry Horse Reserve Unit at McGregor Armoury in Winnipeg when he was 17. It was after a chance meeting with a military chaplain on his way back from basic training at CFB

Stress Disorder (PTSD).

He calls it a biological response to non-stressful situations.

"I wasn't sad or mad," he said, noting the tears were out of his control.

As he began wading through the PTSD forms



Before his promotion to captain, the Base's newest padre Samuel Agustin set up his digital camera to videotape the ceremony at the Faith Centre. BComd LCol Chris Wood allowed his wife Janice to apply his new rank (inset) as part of the promotion ceremony.

Photos Jules Xavier/Shilo Stag

PPCLI soldier from Great War identified

Stag Special

The Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) have confirmed the identification of a previously unknown grave as being that of LCpl Morgan Jones Jenkins, a Canadian soldier of the Great War who was buried as an unknown soldier at the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, in Haucourt, France.

"The identification of LCpl Jenkins offers an opportunity for all Canadians to remember those who served during the First World War, and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to Canada," said Minister of Defence Anita Anand. "To the family of LCpl Jenkins — please know that I and Canadians across our country will always remember the ultimate sacrifice of LCpl Jenkins. Lest we forget."

LCpl Jenkins was born in Pontypridd, Wales on May 14, 1886 to a minister and his wife who would lose two other sons in the First World War — Sgt David Jones Capenhurst Jenkins, who served with the 5th Battalion, CEF and 2Lt Richard Jenkins, who served with a British unit, the Manchester Regiment.

After immigrating to Canada, he studied at the Manitoba Agricultural College before enlisting in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) in Saskatoon, and joining the 3rd University Company, based out of McGill University.

The company sailed for England on Sept. 4, 1915. Over-



LCpl Morgan Jenkins

seas, he was transferred to Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), wounded, promoted, and assigned to the Canadian Corps' intelligence service for 18 months.

Having rejoined PPCLI, the 32-year-old was declared Killed In Action (KIA) on Aug. 28, 1918, during the Second Battle of Arras, following a difficult advance on Jigsaw Wood, a position used by the enemy to defend the Fresnes-Rouvroy Line in France.

The CAF have notified the family of LCpl Jenkins' identification and are providing them with ongoing support. 2PPCLI CO LCol Jesse Van Eijk was part of that identification team which met with the PPCLI soldiers' next of kin Aug. 28 in Regina, Sask.

A headstone rededication ceremony will take place at the earliest opportunity at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery in France.

The Canadian Armed Forces Casualty Identification Program (CAFCCIP), within the Directorate of History and Heritage, identifies unknown Canadian service members when their remains are recovered.

The program also identifies service members previously buried as unknown soldiers when there is sufficient evidence to confirm the identification.

"While unmarked graves are an unfortunate reality of the brutal fighting on the Western Front, those graves contain

"While unmarked graves are an unfortunate reality of the brutal fighting on the Western Front, those graves contain the remains of real people that gave their lives in service of their country. The identification of Lance Corporal Jenkins is an important reminder of that."

— Lawrence MacAulay

the remains of real people that gave their lives in service of their country," said Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence Lawrence MacAulay.

"The identification of Lance Corporal Jenkins is an important reminder of that, and I'm glad he will now receive the recognition that his service to Canada deserved."

Quick Facts

- LCpl Jenkins is commemorated on the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, erected in memory of Canadian soldiers killed in France during the First World War who have no known grave.

- In May 2019, the Directorate of History and Heritage received a report from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) detailing the potential identification of Grave 12, Row A, Plot 5 in the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, in Haucourt, France. Independent researchers had raised the possibility this grave was that of LCpl Jenkins.

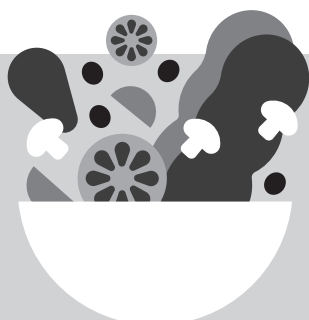
- Following extensive archival research by the CWGC and the Directorate of History and Heritage, the identification was confirmed in November 2019 by the Casualty Identification Review Board, which includes representatives from the Canadian Forces Forensic Odontology Response Team and the Canadian Museum of History.

- The Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorates the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two world wars. Using an extensive archive, the Commission works with their partners to recover, investigate, and identify those with no known grave to give them the dignity of burial and the commemoration they deserve.

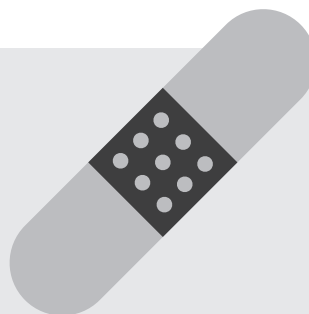
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Lest we forget

1RCHA's C Bty was part of the Brandon Wheat Kings Remembrance Day game held at Westoba Place. Besides C Bty having a flag party for the WHL tilt versus the Lethbridge Hurricanes, they also took part in the opening faceoff. *Photo supplied*

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(BTL chaplain)



LETTER HOME FROM FRANCE

Editor's Note: During the First World War Pte Cecil Minary served in the CEF, beginning his military training at Camp Hughes prior to being shipped to England for further training. He saw his first action soon after Canada's involvement in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in France. His great-great-niece Kendra Minary has spent the COVID pandemic going thru the original letters he wrote home from England and France prior to being KIA on Aug. 28, 1918. The Lewis gunner died on the battlefield after his crew was hit by a German artillery shell. The Stag will share Kendra's great-great-uncle's letters with our Stag readers to give you a peek at what a soldier was contemplating with pencil and paper while in the UK training or in France in a trench waiting for the next attack or counter-attack. Cecil's letters are transcribed as they were written, so this includes his spelling, grammar and punctuation. Of note, from his letters home he rarely described his clashes with Fritz, instead preferring to enquire about life on the family farm or what his family and friends were doing back in Manitba. Unlike some some soldiers who would share their war stories in their letters, Pte Minary had his own distinct writing style no matter if it's his dad, sister or a relative. He also made the job of Army censors easier by not including war details which would be blacked out. That's the reason why his letters are "somewhere in France" once he left England for the Western Front.

Where's Willie?

Somewhere on the pages of this newspaper is a picture of Willie, the Wheat Kings' mascot. Tell us on what page, in what particular advertisement Willie was found and correctly answer the following skill-testing question for your chance to win two tickets to an upcoming Wheat Kings home game in Brandon.



Entry Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Page #, ad: _____

Answer skill-testing question:

Where did MCpl Cara Sandve grow up in Saskatchewan?

Clip your entry form, scan it or use your iPhone camera and e-mail it to stag@mymts.net or drop it off at the Stag's office at CANEX. Draw will be made on the Monday prior to game day.

Visit your RCA Museum

Canada's national artillery museum

For information dial 204-765-3000 ext 3570

or visit www.rcamuseum.com

Soldiers appreciate letters from Canada

829297
South Camp
A Coy 144th Batt. C.E.F.
Seaford Sussex
c/o The Army Post Office
Nov 10th 1916
London England

Dear Annie + all the rest

I received your welcome letter and also one from Berta Prette last evening so yesterday was not bad at all, that is right as you said keep writing all along for a letter from Manitoba is better than a day of drill.

The weather has cleared up a little, it has accually (sic) passed two days with out raining but of course it is wet yet, I guess it will be a lot warmer here than at home now, there has been no frost at all latley (sic) and we run around here at noon and evenings in our short sleeves yet, and also they are busy seed-ing around here now, and do you know the make of a seeder it was I saw yesterday, a Massey Harris.

Well Annie I may be in France by the time you receive this, they have asked for a draft of five hundred from the Battalion and they asked for volanteers (sic) and this whole Battalion volunteered (sic) to go, so I think they are taking it out of A and B Companys, We were up for Medical Examination yesterday afternoon I passed OK the draft is sopposed (sic) to go next week, but then they may change things yet.

They have cancelled all the weekend passes this week on account of that so no London for me this time, and wait till I tell you, I have got one crime against me now, on Monday we were out on Battalion drill and there was a comical incident happened in the ranks and I forgot myself and smiled, the Company Sergeant Major Tynden saw me so I was brought up for orderly room and got two days C.B. that means that I could not leave the Battalion lines and had to answer to defaulters (?) call when ever it was blown.

We were out for an all days route march today in full marching order from 8:15 to 4:30 and only had two half slices of bread and one piece of cheese with some water for dinner and then I gave half of one of those slices to a fellow who had none, being to slow I guess at breakfast to get any, so you can imagine what supper felt like, I am going to eat another good one after this letter is finished.

O I forgot to tell you but four platoon came out

best in the medical inspection only one man turned down and he was not old enough not being nineteen, also we had one inspection on Tuesday last by a General Tanding and four platoon came out being the cleanest and neatest dressed, the sergeant Major has offered up his crown if they will take him over and go as a private in four platoon.

Say but it makes me home sick to read about the boys playing pool at home and also how comfortable you all must be with that furnace and the gasoline lap, not like hear (sic) when they are afraid to show a light after dark and before we can light one all the windows have to be closed and covered up.

I am sorry it snowed and stoped (sic) that good hunt for the boys were sure to have a good time, I just wish that I was there to go with them it gives me a funny feeling to think of it, some one is playing keep the home fires burning on the piano now of course this is in the Y.M.C.A. hut.

So Bertha Minary has been asking for my address and I hope she soon gets it, for every letter from Canada is worth a pound over here.

Well Annie I am glad you all enjoyed yourselves at your show in town, concerts are quite a common thing to me now as I am to one nearly everything as there is one in the Y.M.C.A. every evening, they come from Brighton every night but the best part of it is that for half an our before they begin some one plays the piano and we all sing keep the home fires burning, are you from Dixie, I am going back to Tennessee, pack your troubles in your old kit bag and a dozen others for I've learnt (sic) a lot more songs now and you should hear me sing I can make noise any way and that is the main thing.

Now Annie be sure and tell me how that concert at Chesley came out and I want to know what items were on the programme and all the parts you ones took.

Tell Mr Hendersen that I am fine and dandy, getting better every day and am in fine trim to play a first class ball game right now it was to bad that he could not see me that day at Camp, but we'll hope for luck and that it is only propponed (sic) for awhile.

Say Annie what is this about Mrs Stinson I am awfully curious to know the next time that you have anything like that give it in full for we never get any Canadian knews (sic) here.

Well Annie I guess this is all for this time
With love to all
From Cecil.



MCpl Cara Sandve (above) from 11 CF H Svcs C salutes during the morning ceremony, while 2PPCLI's Sgt Mahekan Ahenakew (left) drummed a traditional drum while singing traditional songs at Canoe River Memorial Park.

Photos Kimberley Kielley/Shilo Stag

Indigenous veterans' sacrifice remembered during ceremony

Kimberley Kielley
Shilo Stag

It was the first of many memorials as CFB Shilo remembered fallen Indigenous veterans on a cold, blustery November day at Canoe River Memorial Park.

A handful of Indigenous military members and veterans along with Base officials gathered to commemorate the day, with traditional drumming, as speeches were short, but pointed.

Sgt Mahekan Ahenakew from 2PPCLI drummed a traditional drum while singing traditional songs. MCpl Cara Sandve from 11 CF H Svcs C delivered a speech written by Indigenous advisor MWO Sheldon Quinn of 3Div.

WO Matthew Keddy and MWO Jamie Gillman were instrumental in organizing the event, with a team of civilians and military members assisting in making the memorial flow seamlessly.

It was the first time MCpl Sandve had participated in such a memorial in her 11-year career as a Med Tech.

"It felt really good," she said, reflecting on the day. "It was an honour to present the history of Indigenous Veterans' Day."

MCpl Sandve stood in the cold along with her comrades and spoke of the history of Indigenous people in Canadian military history.

For more than 200 years, aboriginal Canadians have been

part of military history, according to MWO Quinn's research. Thousands of Indigenous people served during both World Wars as well as the Korean War. Sgt Tommy Prince — one of the most decorated aboriginal soldiers in Canada — was a member of 2PPCLI at the Battle of Kapyong.

However, aboriginal soldiers were not allowed to toast their fallen comrades in a Royal Canadian Legion until 1951, including Remembrance Day, unless the province the Legion was located in allowed it.

"It wasn't until the mid-1990s that Native veterans and their families were authorized to lay wreathes or have their own formed guards at the National War Memorial in Ottawa on Remembrance Day," MCpl Sandve said during the ceremony.

There are roughly 3.5 per cent of serving CAF members who are of First Nation descent. In 1994, Manitoba established Nov. 8 as Aboriginal Veterans Day. That day is now a national day of remembrance to recognize the contribution and sacrifices of Indigenous veterans in war and peacekeeping. As well, a national Aboriginal Veterans monument was unveiled on June 21, 2001 on National Aboriginal Day by then Governor General Adrienne Clarkson.

For MCpl Sandve, participating in the Base's first Indigenous Veterans' memorial service was a step in the right direction in recognition of Indigenous soldiers' contribution to the military.

She grew up at Saulteaux First Nation in Saskatchewan.

"I grew up knowing everything and having these teachings. Like ceremonies and stuff," she said.

As a teenager exposed to racism, she was embarrassed to admit her heritage.

"I was embarrassed to tell people my last name. I didn't even tell people until I joined the military. I was embarrassed to be First Nations."

She added, "I would always say I was Metis. I never said I was First Nations. And I'm full-blooded."

The path back to her heritage has been a growing process, she offered.

With CAF, MCpl Sandve hasn't seen the kind of racism she was exposed to growing up.

"We don't see it. We're just soldiers. Race doesn't come into it. We're just here to do our job."

Acknowledging Indigenous Veterans' contribution in a memorial service plus being part of the DAG [Defence Aboriginal Group] on Base will help bridge cultural gaps young Indigenous soldiers may experience during their posting.

"They see that representation and they have somebody to look up to," she pointed out.

MCpl Sandve believes being a member of the advisory group for DAG and holding a memorial service is a step in the right direction. "This tiny little step is an acknowledgement," she said. "It's not for us. It's for those who came before us and those who come next."

WO Matthew Keddy proud of his aboriginal roots

Mother pinned Aboriginal Veteran Millennium Medal to chest of veteran CAF cook

Kimberley Kielley
Shilo Stag

1RCHA's WO Matthew Keddy wears a special medal on the right side of his chest during Remembrance Day services.

It is the Aboriginal Veteran Millennium Medal (AVMM). WO Keddy is of Mi'kmaq descent. His roots lie with the Glooscap First Nations in Hantsport, Nova Scotia.

On the day he received his medal, it was his mother who pinned it to his chest. It is through her aboriginal roots which WO Keddy has his connection.

"Mom presented it to me," he recalled.

It was in honour of his grandfather, who served in the Second World War as a sniper scout with the West Nova Scotia Regiment, an army reserve unit in the Annapolis Valley.

The AVMM was created in 2000 for those aboriginal men and women who sacrificed so much in the fight for freedom and democracy, the website says.

The circular medal is made out of copper and zinc alloy. Eagle wings stretch over the thin raised edge holding an eagle staff and a spear crossed in its claws. Below the eagle, in a semicircle is an effigy of four heads facing away from the centre of the coin with the inscription: "Canadian Aboriginal War Veterans."

The red, blue, green and yellow ribbon the medal is attached to signifies the sun, the water, the vegetation which feeds us and the air we breathe.

To receive the AVMM was a proud moment for WO Keddy. "I'm proud to be aboriginal. I didn't live on a reserve, but I had access to different activities. The medal is something I wear with honour," he said.

As he embarks on his journey in discovering his aboriginal roots, WO Keddy has learned more about his mother's family.

"Learning about my family history makes me very proud," he said. "The Jeremy Clan is my family. To be part of that clan is a huge honour."

He added, "I'm proud of who I am."

WO Keddy has been a cook in the CAF for the last 21 years.

For more information on the Aboriginal Veterans Medal, visit www.ava-vets.com



Wearing his RCAF dress uniform, WO Matthew Keddy salutes during the Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony.

Photo Kimberley Kielley/Shilo Stag