

# WEST SIDE SIGNAL

## Official Bulletin of Toronto's Oldest Amateur Radio Club

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#### Club Historian

Position vacant

### Meetings

Meetings held at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month, at the home of David VE3SB 1043 Royal York Rd between Bloor and Dundas at Kingsgrove Ave. No meetings in July or August. Visitors always welcome.

### Club Nets

#### FM Net

Wednesday 8:00pm  
VE3SKY repeater 146.985 Mhz

#### CW Net

Sunday 10:00am 3.567 Mhz

#### SSB Net

Sunday 11:00am 7.075 Mhz

### Issue No.154 Nov 2012



### Next Meeting

The Karecki Residence  
1043 Royal York Rd at Kingsgrove  
Etobicoke

**Tue Nov 20th 2012**

**Tue Dec 18th 2012**

**Tue Jan 15th 2013**

**Tue Feb 18th 2013**

**Tue Mar 19th 2013**

**Tue Apr 16th 2013**

**Tue May 21st 2013**

### CLUB NEWS

Some sad news to pass to the membership this month. Maureen Neal, the lovely wife of Ron VE3DBY passed away in her sleep September 9th. I'm sure all members join me in passing on heartfelt condolences to Ron on his sad loss.

The WSRC held a meeting on October 20, one week later than usual due to a request by Bill VE3PA and Bert VE3NR. Ron VE3DBY, whom we have not seen in a while thought he could not make it due to a prior commitment. Fortunately for us he managed to attend along with Bill VE3PA, Bert VE3NR, Phil VE3FZL, Michael VE3PA and

David VE3SB. Six attendees is probably a new record at our new meeting location. We all expressed sympathy to Ron for the loss of his beloved wife Maureen. He looked after her for a long time in very trying circumstances. Michael collected the club dues for the new year. We decided to hold our 75th anniversary on weekday Monday to Thursday in April. Since Phil had commitments in mid April, it will probably be in early or late April. Michael said he would contact Sal and Tony who still work for a living so they would have time to schedule a long afternoon lunch hour. The restaurant agreed upon was The Old Mill, which apparently serves an excellent lunch buffet. Michael has been very busy at work and home and promised to find time to get his VHF and HF packet nodes up and running again. A computer failure has taken them off the air. In show and tell we were fortunate to have a demonstration of Bill's new Elecraft KX-3 reputed to be the best QRP radio and weighing about 1 Kg including 8 AA cells for portable power. It is very nice indeed although Bill is still on the bottom of the learning curve. He also took advantage of a discount from Elecraft on the Buddipole antenna. It has a 16' self supporting mast and two centre coil loaded arms that can be arranged in a variety of ways. He said he had made a few contacts from his back porch and was quite happy with it. The meeting went on until we all had to go home. It was the best we have had in a long time.



"We can truly say that the whole circuit of the earth is girdled with the graves of our dead... and, in the course of my pilgrimage, I have many times asked myself whether there can be more potent advocates of peace upon earth through the years to come, than this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war."

**King George V, Flanders, 1922**

## **CANADIAN HEROES**

*Author unknown*

In the beginning, there were no uniforms, boots, kit or weapons for them, save a few well-worn leftovers from WW1. It did not matter. The men came anyway, possessed of the same spirit which had carved this country out of an unforgiving wilderness only a few generations before. From the city and the farm, from the small town, the mine and the vast wasteland of the Canadian Shield, they brought with them a unique, quiet determination to finish the job their fathers had begun only a few years before. Their Monarch and their Nation had asked them to help; they set aside the tools with which they had carved a life and a living out of a harsh world, and prepared to face an uncertain future whose only acceptable object was... Victory. ....and our soldiers marched on, first to England in 1939, and thence to hitherto unknown environs such as Hong Kong, Dieppe, Sicily, Italy and Normandy. It is not generally well known that until April 1945, a scant few weeks before the end of the war in Europe, the First Canadian Army was comprised entirely of volunteer troops. Canadian formations in both Italy and Northwest Europe who consistently fought well under strength through the balance of their wars, while hundreds of thousands of healthy, uniformed troops languished at home at the behest of a government lacking the will to impose overseas conscription. This, too, was as uniquely Canadian as was the tenacity and endurance of our fighting men themselves: the volunteers of the Canadian Army Overseas. They did this country proud, and it's unlikely their kind will ever be seen again.

**In their twilight years, we remember them as those whose spirits personified the best that Canada had to offer.**

Our veteran Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Merchant Seamen are aging rapidly, ladies and gentlemen. In a few short years there will be few left, and the roles of our men and women in the Second World War will fade ingloriously into the realm of forgotten history. It's up to us to preserve their memories, and the memories of their fallen comrades from other conflicts. The Balkans, Middle East, Afghanistan to name a few.

**We must not forget these men and women, for they have served us well.**

**Let us remember the following WSRC members who served and thankfully returned**

**Tom Atkins VE3CDM R.N. (SK)**  
**Ev Brown K4EF R.C.A.F. (SK)**  
**Earl Chiswell W0IAK R.C.A.F. (SK)**  
**Bill Loucks VE3AR R.C.N. (SK)**  
**Al West VE3UT R.C.A.F. (SK)**

## **EXCERPTS FROM MY FAVOURITE CHURCHILL WWII SPEECHES**

What General Weygand has called the Battle of France is over. I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilization. Upon it depends our own British life, and the long continuity of our institutions and our Empire. The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be freed and the life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands .

But if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of perverted science. **Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves, that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, This was their finest hour.**

Winston Churchill June 1940

The gratitude of every home in our Island, in our Empire, and indeed throughout the world, except in the abodes of the guilty, goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, are turning the tide of the World War by their prowess and by their devotion.

**Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.**

Winston Churchill Aug 1940

## **WAR**

### **It Brings Out The Best And The Worst In Man**

You're a 19 year old kid. You're critically wounded and dying in the jungle somewhere in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam .. It's November 11, 1967. LZ (landing zone) X-ray.

Your unit is outnumbered 8-1 and the enemy fire is so intense from 100 yards away, that your CO (commanding officer) has ordered the MedEvac helicopters to stop coming in. You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns and you know you're not getting out.

Your family is half way around the world, 12,000 miles away, and you'll never see them again.

As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day. Then - over the machine gun noise - you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter. You look up to see a Huey coming in. But.. It doesn't seem real because no MedEvac markings are on it. Captain Ed Freeman is coming in for you. He's not MedEvac so it's not his job, but he heard the radio call and decided he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire anyway. Even after the MedEvacs were ordered not to come. He's coming anyway, and he drops it in and sits there in the machine gun fire, as they load 3 of you at a time on board. Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire to the doctors and nurses and safety. And, he kept coming back!! 13 more times!! Until all the wounded were out. No one knew until the mission was over that the Captain had been hit 4 times

in the legs and left arm. He took 29 of you and your buddies out that day. Some would not have made it without the Captain and his Huey. Medal of Honor Recipient, Captain Ed Freeman, United States Air Force, died last year at the age of 70, in Boise, Idaho **May God Bless and Rest His Soul.**

*This didn't make headlines in any newspaper but the drunken antics of those "Hollywood Heroes" always do.*

## THE POPPY

Each November, Poppies blossom on the lapels and collars of over half of Canada's entire population. Since 1921, the Poppy has stood as a symbol of Remembrance, our visual pledge to never forget all those Canadians who have fallen in war and military operations. The Poppy also stands internationally as a "symbol of collective reminiscence", as other countries have also adopted its image to honour those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

This significance of the Poppy can be traced to international origins.

The association of the Poppy to those who had been killed in war has existed since the Napoleonic Wars in the 19th century, over 110 years before being adopted in Canada. There exists a record from that time of how thickly Poppies grew over the graves of soldiers in the area of Flanders, France. This early connection between the Poppy and battlefield deaths described how fields that were barren before the battles exploded with the blood-red flowers after the fighting ended.

Just prior to the First World War, few Poppies grew in Flanders. During the tremendous bombardments of that war, the chalk soils became rich in lime from rubble, allowing "popover rhoes" to thrive. When the war ended, the lime was quickly absorbed and the Poppy began to disappear again.

The person who was responsible more than any other for the adoption of the Poppy as a symbol of Remembrance in Canada and the Commonwealth was Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian Medical Officer during the First World War.

Lieutenant-Colonel McCrae was born on 30 November 1872 in Guelph, Ontario. At age 14, he joined the Highfield Cadet Corps and, three years later, enlisted in the Militia field battery. While attending the University of Toronto Medical School, he was a member of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

With Britain declaring war on Germany on 4 August 1914, Canada's involvement was automatic. John McCrae was among the first wave of Canadians who enlisted to serve and he was appointed as brigade surgeon to the First Brigade of the Canadian Forces Artillery.

In April 1915, John McCrae was stationed near Ypres, Belgium, the area traditionally called Flanders. It was there, during the Second Battle of Ypres, that some of the fiercest fighting of the First World War occurred. Working from a dressing station on the banks of the Yser Canal, dressing hundreds of wounded soldiers from wave after wave of relentless enemy attack, he observed how "we are weary in body and wearier in mind. The general impression in my mind is of a nightmare."

In May, 1915, on the day following the death of fellow soldier Lt Alexis Helmer of Ottawa, John McCrae wrote his now famous work, an expression of his anguish over the loss of his friend and a reflection of his surroundings – wild Poppies growing amid simple wooden crosses marking makeshift graves. These 15 lines, written in 20 minutes, captured an exact description of the sights and sounds of the area around him.

Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae left Ypres with these memorable few lines scrawled on a scrap of paper.

His words were a poem which started, "In Flanders fields the poppies blow..." Little did he know then that these 15 lines would become enshrined in the innermost thoughts and hearts of all soldiers who hear them. Through his words, the scarlet Poppy quickly became the symbol for soldiers who died in battle. The poem was first published on 8 December 1915 in England, appearing in "Punch" magazine.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

His poem speaks of Flanders fields, but the subject is universal – the fear of the dead that they will be forgotten, that their death will have been in vain. Remembrance, as symbolized by the Poppy, is our eternal answer which belies that fear. Sadly, Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae died of pneumonia at Wimereux, France on 28 January 1918. He was 45 years old.

*Every year around November 11th, members of The Guelph Amateur Radio Club operate a special event station from McCrae House, the birthplace of Lt.Col John McCrae and at 11.00am on the 11th a short service is held on the grounds where a student from a local school recites the famous poem "In Flanders Fields" Visitors are welcome and will find it interesting to view some of the artifacts from WW I*

## THE GALLANT 51ST

Most of you probably know I'm a sucker for poetry about the heroics of the military. The following is a poem I heard many years ago about the 51st Highland Division it was recited by a Scottish soldier in the China Fleet Club Hong Kong and I've been trying for many years to obtain a copy of it. I was finally successful last week after regularly Googling it since the Internet came on the scene. It helps if you know how the Highland Scotsmen speak Hi. The 51st were a division in the British army made up of Highland regiments, The Seaforth Highlanders The Cameron Highlanders, The Gordon Highlanders, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and The Black Watch. Their battle honours are many but they are probably most famous for the rearguard action at Dunkirk where they held off the might of the German army which allowed over 330,000 British and French troops to be evacuated from the beach.

They wore auld ragged flannels, wi' a faded khaki shirt,  
They signed the brew in Leven Street, and tell't the clerk 'nae work',  
But when the Nazi painter splashed Europe ower wi' red,  
They changed their rags for Argyll Kilts an' marched awa' instead,  
And on the beach at Dunkirk they withstood a hell o' fire,  
An' oor tears o' pride were mingled for the laddies o' the shire,  
But even in the watter, wi' the battle at its worst,  
They kent the tune the pipers played, 'The Gallant Fifty First'.



The remanent o' that army frae Mull o' Haldane tae Dalquhurn,  
Left some pals oot there, upon the baech who never will return,  
Tho' some were taken prisoner, to the country o' the Hun,  
They are waiting, aye and watching, for the day their pals will come,  
When the pipes play, 'Hieland Laddie', the Argylls marching through Berlin,  
And the prison gates are open, letting oot oor kith and kin,  
When thy're hame among their ain folks and the honours are disbursed  
Ye'll find them aye abume them a', 'The Gallant Fifty First'.

They sent them aff tae Egypt and the 'Tallies turned and ran,  
An' tho' they didna hae the tanks, they fought as Scotsmen can,  
Until the day they got the tools, tae help them dae their graft,  
T'was then the battle started, and Auld Rommels crew went daft,  
They chased them near six hunner miles, thro' desert mud and sand,  
Where'ere the was a job tae dae, the Kilties lent a hand,  
Whenever they got in a jam, an' things just looked their worst,  
In the thickest o' the battle was, 'The Gallant Fifty First'.

Forgotten was the means test, depression an' the dole,  
orr laddies had a job tae dae, and did it heart and soul,  
In tanks, or planes or on the sea, wherever Huns conspire,  
Ye'd bet yer bottom dollar, there were laddies frae the Shire,  
For like the hills enduring, the lads could tak' what came,  
Endure the worst the Hun could dae an' rise and fight again,  
And so the hale wide world shall ken when freedom bends are burst,  
Ye've got tae hand it tae the Scots, 'The Gallant Fifty first'.



## THE MENIN GATE MEMORIAL

Everyday at 8:00PM buglers from the Ypres Fire Department parade at the Menin Gate Memorial to sound the Last Post and Reveille to honour the Commonwealth troops who perished in the "Great War" while defending Belgium and particularly the town of Ypres . This ceremony has been a daily event since it was commenced in the spring of 1929 except for a period of four years during WWII May 4th 1940 to September 6th 1944 when the ceremony was carried out at The Military Cemetery Brookwood in Surrey England. When the town of Ypres was liberated by Polish forces on Sept 6th 1944 the Firemen were back at the Menin Gate sounding the last post while fighting was still going on in other parts of the city . Around the world most countries recognise their veterans on one day of the year, they call it Armistice Day, Remembrance Day, Veterans Day or some other suitable name but in the City of Ypres (Leper) Belgium they honour these Heroes every single day of the year. This year, as they did last year, the British Legion are planting poppies in Flanders Fields surrounding the Menin Gate. Not real poppies but cardboard cut-outs which they had distributed in the UK requesting they be returned with a donation if possible. On the reverse side was space to add names of people you wish to honour. My sister received one and returned it after adding my Dad's name (he was gassed during WWI) and a good friend of ours who was a Spitfire pilot shot down and killed in North Africa. Now we can say once again "In Flanders fields the poppies blow"

*Ed note; Brookwood Cemetery contains the bodies of 12 of the holders of the VC, one of them, William Kenny was awarded his for bravery at Ypres October 1914*

### Part of the speech of Lord Plumer of Messines at the unveiling of the Menin Gate, 1927

"One of the most tragic features of the Great War was the number of casualties reported as,

**"missing, believed killed."**

when peace came, and the last ray of hope had been extinguished, the void seemed deeper and the outlook more forlorn for those who had no grave to visit, no place where they could lay tokens of loving remembrance and it was resolved that here at Ypres, where so many of the missing are known to have fallen, there should be erected a memorial worthy of them which should give expression to the nation's gratitude for their sacrifice and their sympathy with those who mourned them. A memorial has been erected which, in its simple grandeur, fulfils this object, and now it can be said of each one in whose honour we are assembled here today:"

**"He is not missing; he is here!"**



## **AUSTRALIAN TELEPHONE GREETING**

This is the actual message you get when you phone the Australian  
Social Services/Benefit Office! Fantastic....

'GOOD MORNING, WELCOME TO "CENTRELINK" THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL SERVICES  
AND BENEFITS OFFICE'

"Press '1' if you speak English."

"Press '2' to disconnect until you can.."

Have a nice day.

### **EVER WONDER**

Why you don't ever see the  
Headline 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

Why

'abbreviated' is such a long word?

Why the time of

Day with the slowest traffic is called rush hour?

Why isn't there

Mouse-flavored cat food?

Why didn't Noah

Swat those two mosquitoes?

Why they sterilize the

Needle for lethal injections?

If con is the opposite of

Pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

### **A FEW WORDS FROM PHIL MAKU VE3FZL**

You are correct in saying that I have not been heard from lately. I have not been around ham activities or on the air. I was very busy traveling for my engineering activities and also pleasure. I figure that I better do it now while I have my health. I recently took a transatlantic cruise which included a visit to Cornwall England which is where Marconi had his station to send the letter S across the Atlantic in 1902. The other end of the voyage was in St. John's Newfoundland. I visited Signal Hill there which was the other Marconi station. A ham shack is located in the top floor of Cabot Tower. Believe it or not they have a Heathkit DX 40 on display on the top shelf of the station. I remember using one to get on the air for my first QSO. It was provided on loan with a VF1 VFO from the club to get people started. I used it for a very short while. Just long enough to get my first and only citation for transmitting off frequency due to spurious emissions. The main rig currently in use is a Kenwood TS-450. Nothing fancy there.