

Legion of Frontiersmen Notebook

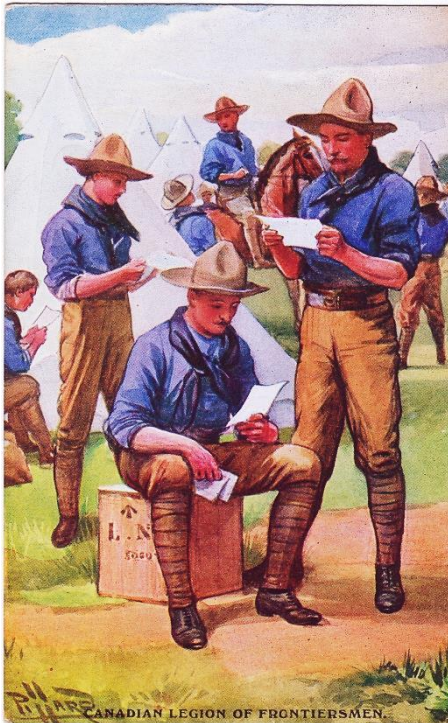
Includes over 30 pages with maps, charts, images and about 300 referenced historical entries

Part I - General Information

Part II - Referenced Timeline

Part III - Uniform and Accoutrements

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Foreword

This is a personal notebook. Hopefully, this cache of information from a Canadian perspective assists with understanding the enigmatic Legion of Frontiersmen. This document is not intended for commercial reproduction nor is it intended for sale; however, the reader is most welcome to use this information as a starting point for further research. Please credit the original sources of information noted.

Four decades ago I began to hear stories about the Legion of Frontiersmen from First and Second World War veterans. These accounts seemed questionable so I began a long process of investigating these claims and looking for informative sources. – To my surprise much of the verbal lore was confirmed with news quotations, documents, photos or addressed in rediscovered Frontiersmen publications.

Concurrent to my efforts, the members of the History and Archives Section, Legion of Frontiersmen [Countess Mountbatten's Own] willingly discussed their respective efforts to rediscover and preserve a very unique piece of Imperial history. Spearheaded by the Legion Historian, Geoffrey A. Pocock [*Outrider of Empire, University of Alberta Press*] a great deal of material has been placed online - see *The Frontiersmen Historian*. Additionally, the University of Alberta has been most helpful as the repository of Legion of Frontiersmen related documents.

Finally, the grammatical errors and technical writing irregularities have been inserted to see if you are paying attention.

Barry William Shandro
January 2017



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*Countess Mountbatten's Own
Legion of Frontiersmen*



Part I - General Information

Lest We Forget

The Legion of Frontiersmen was formed in 1904 as a volunteer force to act on behalf of the Crown, particularly along the frontiers of the British Empire. In many cases they were the only ready force available in distant regions. From Shanghai to Natal to the Dominions, the Legion of Frontiersmen were willing to train for and act on behalf of the Empire during an emergency. In response to the First Great War call-to-arms members volunteered for overseas duty or carried out home front service. As well national or overseas service was the aim of Frontiersmen as the Second World War unfolded. As the social and political ideals evolved throughout the 20th century, the Legion of Frontiersmen's patriotic ideals and goals evolved to reflect this. – In the process thousands of Frontiersmen served and thousands were casualties.



“All gave some; some gave all.”

Attributed to combat veteran HW Osterkamp.

While casualty counts for the Legion of Frontiersmen in the First World War vary, this 1919 appraisal of casualties is insightful. J. Suffern, captain of the New South Wales command stated “out of the 13,500 members over 12,000 have been on active service and of this number nearly 6000, or 50%, have been killed or incapacitated by wounds or sickness.” *THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 1919.*



War Memorials

Hastings Lake, Strathcona County, Canada – Rural location is 45 km east of Edmonton on Highway 14.

http://www.strathcona.ca/files/files/at-lls-2015-03-24-report-13_2.pdf



Note - In the 1980s, a small memorial marker sponsored by the Legion of Frontiersmen [Canadian Division] was placed at Glenwood Memorial Garden cemetery in the 'Whitcroft' neighbourhood of Sherwood Park, Alberta.

National Park, New Zealand

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/national-park-war-memorial>

Ashburton, New Zealand

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/ashburton-legion-of-frontiersmen-war-memorial>



Patron

The Right Honourable, The Countess Mountbatten Of Burma



Countess Mountbatten's Own Legion of Frontiersmen

A uniformed association formed in 1904-05, to provide Mounted Rifles, Scouts & Guides on the frontiers of the British Empire.

Today, committed to service in the community, to thoughtful patriotism, commemoration, mounted forces reenactment and historical study.



Correspondence extracts dated 09th December, 1983:

To: Brigadier Fitchette, Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth [*"Countess Mountbatten's Own"*].

From: The Right Honourable, The Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

I feel truly honoured that you should invite me to become Patron of the Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth and, although I have reached the point where I cannot normally undertake any more commitments, I would like to make an exception in this case and accept your kind invitation for two reasons. They are, as you are aware of course, firstly that my grandfather, Prince Louis of Battenberg, was a Founder Member of the Legion of Frontiersmen and secondly, I am the Colonel-in-Chief of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry for which I see in the History of the Legion that they provided 650 of the "Original" recruits when the Patricias were raised in August 1914. I feel these two facts, together with the interest my father showed in the Frontiersmen in the letter he wrote in 1976 are excellent reasons to make me accept your invitation!

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

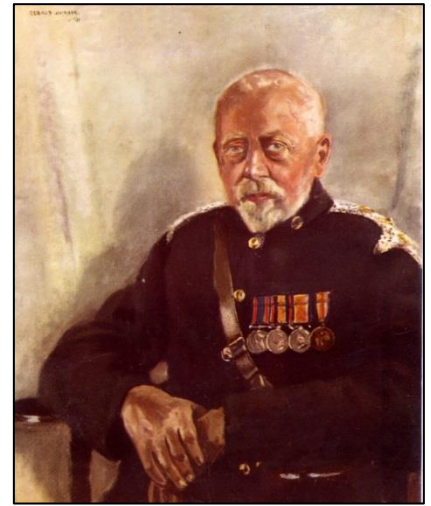
Mountbatten of Burma

Founder

Roger Pocock, Author and Adventurer

One of the British Empire's most patriotic civil associations, the Legion of Frontiersmen, was founded by author, adventurer, NWMP constable and soldier Roger Pocock. He began assembling campaign veterans, patriots and men with Imperial frontier experience as an irregular armed force. Their original purpose was to provide mounted rifles, pioneers, scouts, guides and intelligence in support of British Imperial interests.

The early Legion of Frontiersmen reflected Kipling's poem "*The Lost Legion*" and these largely unknown Frontiersmen have both an honourable and a colourful early history. Events within this eccentric Legion have ranged from rifle smuggling to hijacking cars onto the PPCLI troop train, to attempting the first flight around the world. Characters varied from common scoundrels to royalty; including a posthumous Victoria Cross recipient who had both a wife and a fiancé! These men wore medals from Imperial campaigns and they represented a wide range of British, colonial, and foreign military forces.



Patriots of the Empire



The Legion of Frontiersmen was founded in London, on Christmas Eve 1904. On 26 December 1904 a letter was published in British newspapers suggesting an organization of Imperial campaign veterans, adventurers, patriots and men with experience of in the world's frontier regions. This irregular force titled the Legion of Frontiersmen was to react as a force until the regular Imperial troops could be deployed to the area of conflict, or to immediately enlist if called upon.

At inception the LOF had the support of influential persons including Lord Lonsdale, The Earl of Onslow, Prince Louis of Battenberg of the Admiralty, Canada's Sir Sam Steele, officials of several Civil Forces, Municipal Police, Fire Brigades, etc. and such bodies as the Federated Malay State Volunteers, the Newfoundland government, and the army of the Sultan of Jahore.

The Legion had three classes of membership. "A" class pledged to uniformed service in defence of the Empire including overseas service. "B" class pledged to uniformed service as scouts and guides in support of local/regional operations. "C" class non-uniformed membership pledged to support the aims and objectives of the L.O.F.

The Auckland Star, 1912 reported, "The organization has about 100 squadrons and maritime branches in the United Kingdom, Mediterranean, Canada, British Columbia, Newfoundland, Brazil, Peru, West Indies, Solomon and Fiji Islands, Transvaal, Cape Colony, British East Africa, Nigeria, Egypt, Manchuria, Tientsin, Shanghai, Hongkong [sic], Philippines, Straits Settlements, Burma, Australia and is now helping to raise 12 squadrons and one maritime branch in New Zealand." -Not mentioned were Argentina and Falkland Islands.

At the "call to arms" of 1914, Canadian members of the LOF had been active in the Yukon, the regions of Victoria, Vancouver, Nelson, Vernon, Lac St. Anne, Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Moose Jaw, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa-Kingston, Montreal, and various locations in the Dominion of Newfoundland.

Recruiting Poster

THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN

IS-A

FIELD INTELLIGENCE CORPS

recognized by His Majesty's Government,

CIVIL, SELF-SUPPORTING, SELF-GOVERNING.

Membership is limited to men of good conduct who have Frontier, Military, or Sea Training.

Particulars, with Form of Application, may be obtained from



OR FROM

THE SECRETARY,

The Legion of Frontiersmen,
6 Adam St., Adelphi, London, W.C.

Hon. Sec. Maritime Branch:

ERSKINE CHILDERS,

7 John St., Adelphi.

An Imperial Defence Scheme

As reported in the TIMARU HERALD [NZ], "LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN", page 2, 16 July 1906.

Mr Hall-Jones received by last mail from England a letter from the secretary of the "Legion of Frontiersmen" asking his assistance in bringing the organisation under the notice of colonials eligible for enrolment.

The object of the movement is the organisation of a civilian, self-governing body of frontiersmen throughout the British Empire "for the promotion of Imperial interests in time of peace, and whose services shall be available, if called upon, for Imperial defence in time of war." The scheme was laid before the Secretary of State for War, who expressed his sympathy with the, aims and. objects, stating that he recognised the Legion as a purely private organisation, which, should a suitable occasion arise, he might be able to utilise.

"Frontiersmen" are defined as including men trained and qualified by previous military service, or by working, hunting, or fighting in wild countries, or at sea, who do not, or cannot, serve in the existing military forces of the Empire, and who are not prepared, by reason of temperament or vocation, to submit themselves to the ordinary routine of military discipline, except in time of war. The executive council is confident there is a wide field for enrolment amongst

1. men on the fringe of civilisation where auxiliary forces do not exist;
2. men whose vocation fits them for military pursuits, but whom no military pay or career will induce to give up the free life and prospects of the frontier in time of peace; and
3. men debarred by age or physical disqualification from arduous military service, but fitted by previous experience and training to act as advisers and guides. The occupations mentioned in the schedule are as follows: soldier, explorer, prospector, miner, naturalist, civil or mining engineer, official in mounted police, trader, packer, stage-driver, mail-rider, freighter, voyageur, cowboy, stockman, rancher, horsebreaker, planter, guide, scout, hunter, ranger, trapper, forester, lumberman, pearler, sea-hunter, seaman, sea apprentice, sea engineer, special or war correspondent.

The subscriptions are as follows:

Class A - pledged to military service in time of war, if and, when called upon, 10s 6d;

Class B - prepared to act as guides, or local assistants and advisers, if and when called upon, £1 1s;

Honorary - in sympathy with the aims and objects of the Legion, not less than £2 2s.

Local councils and commands, which will be organised by commissioners sent to the different regions for the purpose will also raise funds by voluntary subscription for their own needs. The local councils and all leaders of local commands shall be elective. When fully equipped the Legion is expected to be able to furnish in time of war the following services:

1. Pioneers, craftsmen in all trades of military value.
2. Guides, men familiar with the seat of war and the language spoken.
3. Scouts.
4. Bodies of irregular horsemen or mounted rifles.
5. An intelligence department.

It is hoped, as the movement develops, to establish a club in London, a system of organised sports and a mutual benefit association, while frontiersmen selected for service in time of Avar will receive the same status, pay, rations, etc., as obtain in the regular army with bonuses for particular or daring work.

The chairman of the General Council is the Earl of Lonsdale, and on the council are Generals French, Brabant, Hutton, Rimington, etc. The colonies (represented are Natal, Cyprus, Victoria, British Columbia, Cape Colony, Lagos, Tasmania, and West Australia. Captain E. S. Grogan, who was in New Zealand a year or two ago, is named amongst the explorers and travellers.

In forwarding these particulars to the Premier, the secretary (Mr. C.C. Kenrick) states that the British Government has given the Legion absolute freedom of action.so that it is free to govern itself within the lines laid down. Six thousand subscribers are already assured, and it is expected 30,000 will be enrolled. As soon as possible badges will be forwarded to all elected members.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Legion of Frontiersmen - Countess Mountbatten's Own

1. Is the Legion of Frontiersmen part of the any Armed Force?

- No.
- It is a civil association; however, at times it has fulfilled a policing or a military role at the request of authorities.

2. Why was the Legion of Frontiersmen formed?

- At its inception 1904-05 Imperial veterans and men familiar with the frontier readied for voluntary, self-equipped service as Mounted Rifles, Scouts, Guides, Pioneers, and Intelligence gathers for the benefit of the British Empire. They were also pledged to respond immediately to any "call to arms" and thousands did so.
- Accurate historical information is online at www.frontiersmanhistorian@info or via the University of Alberta's Library System.

3. Title and Authenticity?

- As the old British Empire evolved, the original and authentic *Legion of Frontiersmen* addressed the political realities and the title was extended in the 1960s to become the *Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth*, and amended in the 21st Century with the honour "*Countess Mountbatten's Own*".
- Founded in 1904-05 the Legion of Frontiersmen has been governed by an elected Governing Council, its Rules & Regulations and led by an elected CEO (styled "Commandant-General").
- It is from this association that Frontiersmen enlisted into Great War formations that included 25th Royal Frontiersmen Fusiliers, 3rd Belgium Lancers, Remounts, Dominion and colonial battalions. Following the Great War the LOF aided the South African government during a crisis, had affiliation with the RCMP, had an Air Defence formation, and was tasked with pre Second World War gas attack training. Wartime activities included ARP and auxiliary constable duties. Civil Defence, auxiliary policing, and community service efforts were pursued post WW2.

4. How is the Legion of Frontiersmen organized?

- Since inception in 1904-05 it has been governed by an elected Executive Council.
- In the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malta and USA Commands have functioned with a large degree of autonomy, subject to the Rules & Regulations, the authority of the Executive Council via the Commandant General (CEO), and the laws of the land. Each Command is responsible for a structure - usually Frontiersmen organize as squadrons and troops.

5. What is the time commitment for the Legion of Frontiersmen?

- This varies among the units; however an individual should consider making time for a selected community service in particular, periodic meetings or courses, social gatherings and important parades such as Queen's Birthday, Belgium Day, and Remembrance Day.
- Local units decide goals and issue an annual agenda outlining events.

6. Is there a rank or title?

- 'Frontiersman' (Frontierswoman) is the only true rank or title.
- LOF ranks or appointments are terms used by the membership and they have no application beyond the association.

7. Is a uniform is worn?

- Yes, as the occasion demands. It can be as basic as wearing the association necktie with business suit or blazer.
- Since inception 1904-05 it has had a distinct uniform and has been rank-structured with elected leaders.
- The traditional uniform is worn by units like the Mounted Troop in England and the Prairie Region Mounted Troop in Canada during equestrian events, heritage and commemorative activities.
- Prospective members of Mounted units are advised that the uniforms, equipment and a good horse can be challenging to acquire, transport and maintain.

8. Who are the members of the Legion of Frontiersmen today?

- Persons willing to maintain the LOF's established tradition of democratic patriotism and service. In recent years the individual member has been expected to apply his/her unique skills towards voluntary community service.
- Often Frontiersmen have had military, police, and/or emergency services training.

9. How do I become a member of "Countess Mountbatten's Own" Legion of Frontiersmen?

- Swear or Affirm allegiance to the Crown (Canada).
- Complete an application form and pay an Annual Subscription.
- Uniform, train and equip yourself at your own expense.
- Follow the Rules & Regulations of the association.
- All members are required to submit a police security check.

10. Example of a Canadian unit?

Prairie Region Mounted Troop: Mounted Troop was formed in 2003 within Countess Mountbatten's Own Legion of Frontiersmen. Members are committed to service in their respective communities and some have been fortunate to receive the Sovereign's medals for their respective community services. As recreation members have pursued marksmanship, sport parachuting, saddle making, trail riding and research. Mounted Troop is managed by an elected officer holding tenure for a two-year period.

Raison d'être

- to preserve the mounted rifles heritage of western Canada.
- to enjoy cavalry and equestrian activities as recreation.
- to volunteer for service work within their respective communities.
- to remember those fallen in service of the Crown and Canada.
- to function under the auspices of the authentic and original Governing Council founded 1904-05.

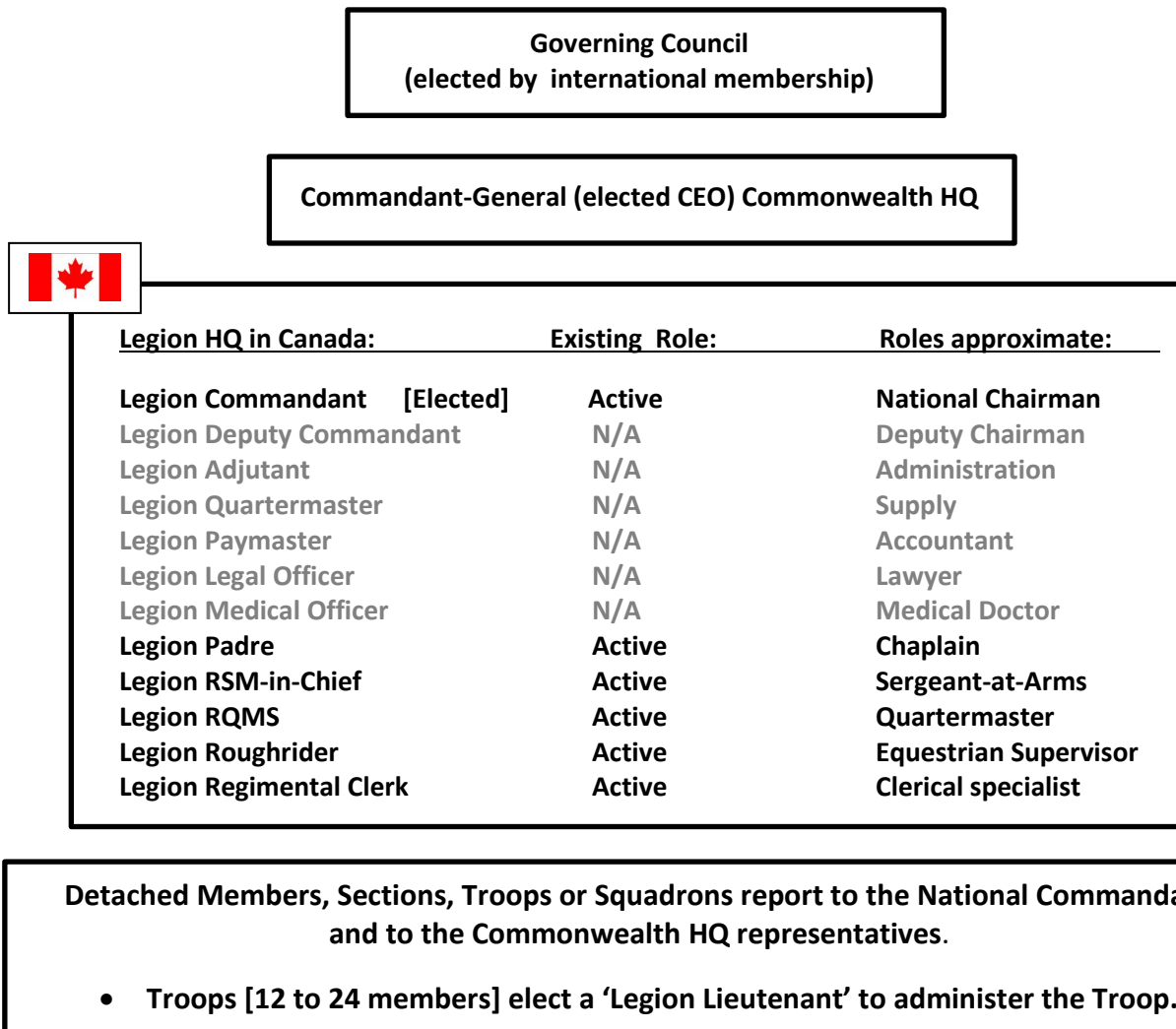
Photos below: LOF Roughrider, and LOF troopers as 35th Central Alberta Horse & 19th Alberta Dragoons.



21st Century Structure - Legion of Frontiersmen

Uniformed Association Founded 1904-05 and
Honoured with the title Countess Mountbatten's Own in 21st Century

- Uniquely, the association has traditionally followed a semi military platform governed by elected leaders.
- Below is an approximation of the Organizational Structure as it would apply to Canada. This is modified to meet the functional realities of what is now a very small organization.
- 'Active' indicates an existing role of Canadian members. N/A reflects a 'non active' position at this time.



Countess Mountbatten's Own Legion of Frontiersmen began as a uniformed association in 1904 in defence of the British Empire's frontiers. Today its membership follows a century-plus tradition based upon the army organizational platform.

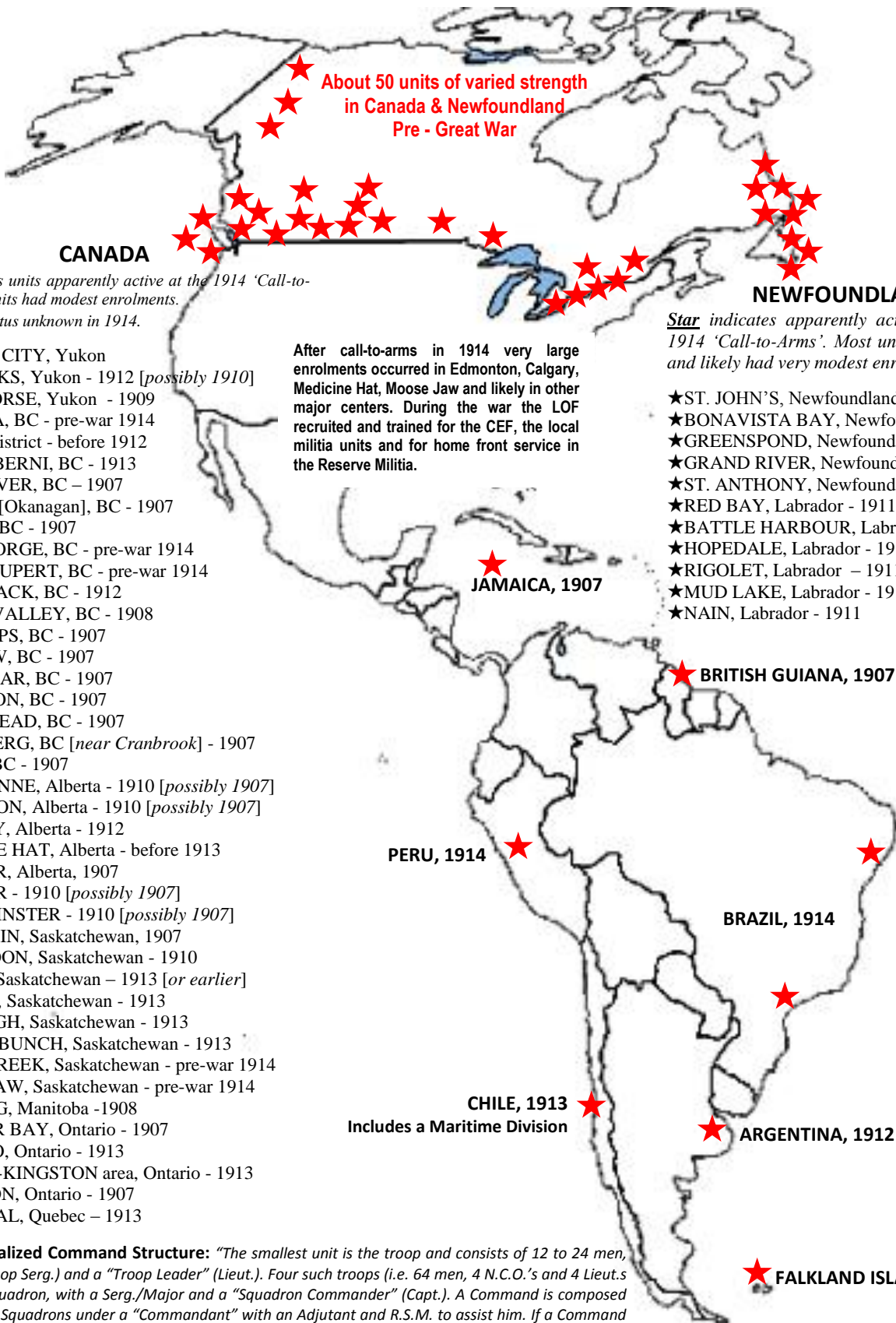
Countess Mountbatten's Own Legion of Frontiersmen forms units usually called Troops or Squadrons depending upon membership numbers. Detached members maintain contact via modern communications.

The only true rank is the egalitarian term "Frontiersman" (Frontierswoman). As a compliment within the association, a troop leader is usually styled "Legion Lieutenant" and this elected person manages the Troop. In the numerically larger Squadron the compliment "Legion Captain" often describes the elected manager. These complimentary titles have no authority beyond the association.

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN – NORTH and SOUTH AMERICA, JANUARY 1914 ★

Locations placed upon a 21st century map.

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About 50 units of varied strength in Canada & Newfoundland Pre - Great War

CANADA

★ indicates units apparently active at the 1914 'Call-to-Arms'. Most units had modest enrolments.

- - unit status unknown in 1914.

- ★ DAWSON CITY, Yukon
- - CARMACKS, Yukon - 1912 [possibly 1910]
- ★ WHITEHORSE, Yukon - 1909
- ★ VICTORIA, BC - pre-war 1914
- ★ COMOX district - before 1912
- ★ PORT ALBERNI, BC - 1913
- ★ VANCOUVER, BC - 1907
- ★ VERNON [Okanagan], BC - 1907
- ★ NELSON, BC - 1907
- ★ FORT GEORGE, BC - pre-war 1914
- ★ PRINCE RUPERT, BC - pre-war 1914
- - CHILLIWACK, BC - 1912
- - NICOLA VALLEY, BC - 1908
- - KAMLOOPS, BC - 1907
- - FAIRVIEW, BC - 1907
- - CASTLEGAR, BC - 1907
- - SILVERTON, BC - 1907
- - ARROWHEAD, BC - 1907
- - WATTSBERG, BC [near Cranbrook] - 1907
- - FERNIE, BC - 1907
- ★ LAC ST ANNE, Alberta - 1910 [possibly 1907]
- ★ EDMONTON, Alberta - 1910 [possibly 1907]
- ★ CALGARY, Alberta - 1912
- ★ MEDICINE HAT, Alberta - before 1913
- - RED DEER, Alberta, 1907
- - STETTLER - 1910 [possibly 1907]
- - LLOYDMINSTER - 1910 [possibly 1907]
- - MOOSOMIN, Saskatchewan, 1907
- ★ SASKATOON, Saskatchewan - 1910
- ★ REGINA, Saskatchewan - 1913 [or earlier]
- ★ ASQUITH, Saskatchewan - 1913
- ★ BENGOUGH, Saskatchewan - 1913
- ★ WILLOW BUNCH, Saskatchewan - 1913
- ★ MAPLE CREEK, Saskatchewan - pre-war 1914
- ★ MOOSE JAW, Saskatchewan - pre-war 1914
- ★ WINNIPEG, Manitoba - 1908
- - THUNDER BAY, Ontario - 1907
- ★ TORONTO, Ontario - 1913
- ★ OTTAWA-KINGSTON area, Ontario - 1913
- ★ HAMILTON, Ontario - 1907
- ★ MONTREAL, Quebec - 1913

After call-to-arms in 1914 very large enrolments occurred in Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Moose Jaw and likely in other major centers. During the war the LOF recruited and trained for the CEF, the local militia units and for home front service in the Reserve Militia.

NEWFOUNDLAND

★ indicates apparently active units at the 1914 'Call-to-Arms'. Most units were isolated and likely had very modest enrolments.

- ★ ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland - 1911
- ★ BONAVISTA BAY, Newfoundland - 1911
- ★ GREENSPOND, Newfoundland - 1911
- ★ GRAND RIVER, Newfoundland - 1911
- ★ ST. ANTHONY, Newfoundland - 1911
- ★ RED BAY, Labrador - 1911
- ★ BATTLE HARBOUR, Labrador - 1911
- ★ HOPEDALE, Labrador - 1911
- ★ RIGOLET, Labrador - 1911
- ★ MUD LAKE, Labrador - 1911
- ★ NAIN, Labrador - 1911

★ JAMAICA, 1907

★ BRITISH GUIANA, 1907

★ PERU, 1914

★ BRAZIL, 1914

★ CHILE, 1913
Includes a Maritime Division

★ ARGENTINA, 1912

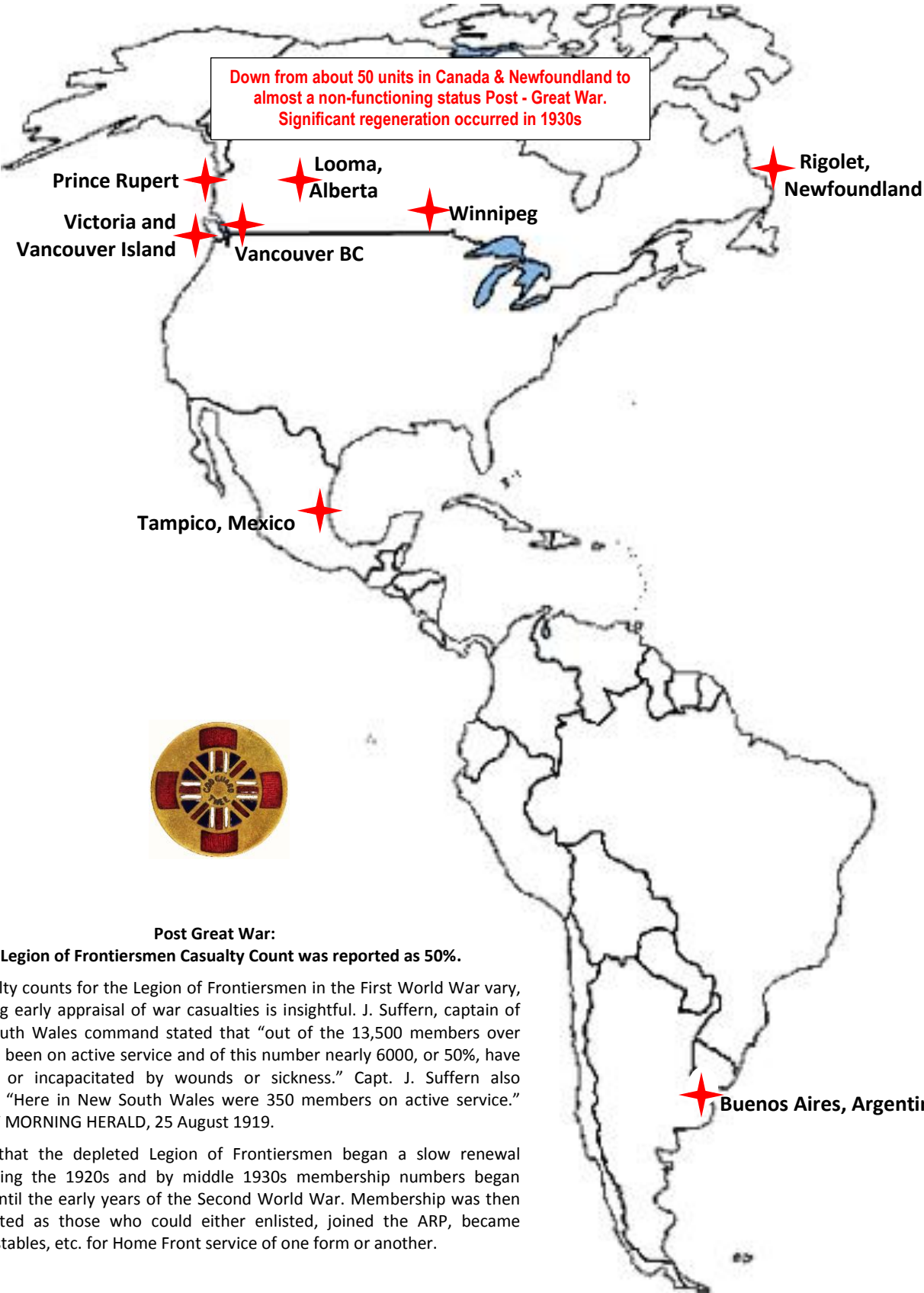
★ FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1912

Legion's Idealized Command Structure: "The smallest unit is the troop and consists of 12 to 24 men, an N.C.O. (Troop Serg.) and a "Troop Leader" (Lieut.). Four such troops (i.e. 64 men, 4 N.C.O.'s and 4 Lieut.s compose a Squadron, with a Serg./Major and a "Squadron Commander" (Capt.). A Command is composed of 2 to 4 such Squadrons under a "Commandant" with an Adjutant and R.S.M. to assist him. If a Command has over 200 active members mounted, or over 400 infantry, the O.C. ranks as Chief Commdt. (Lt.Col.), but otherwise as a Sub-Commdt. (Major)." [Gov't. registration document Alberta, 1916]

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN – NORTH and SOUTH AMERICA, JANUARY 1923



Locations placed upon a 21st century map.
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Post Great War:

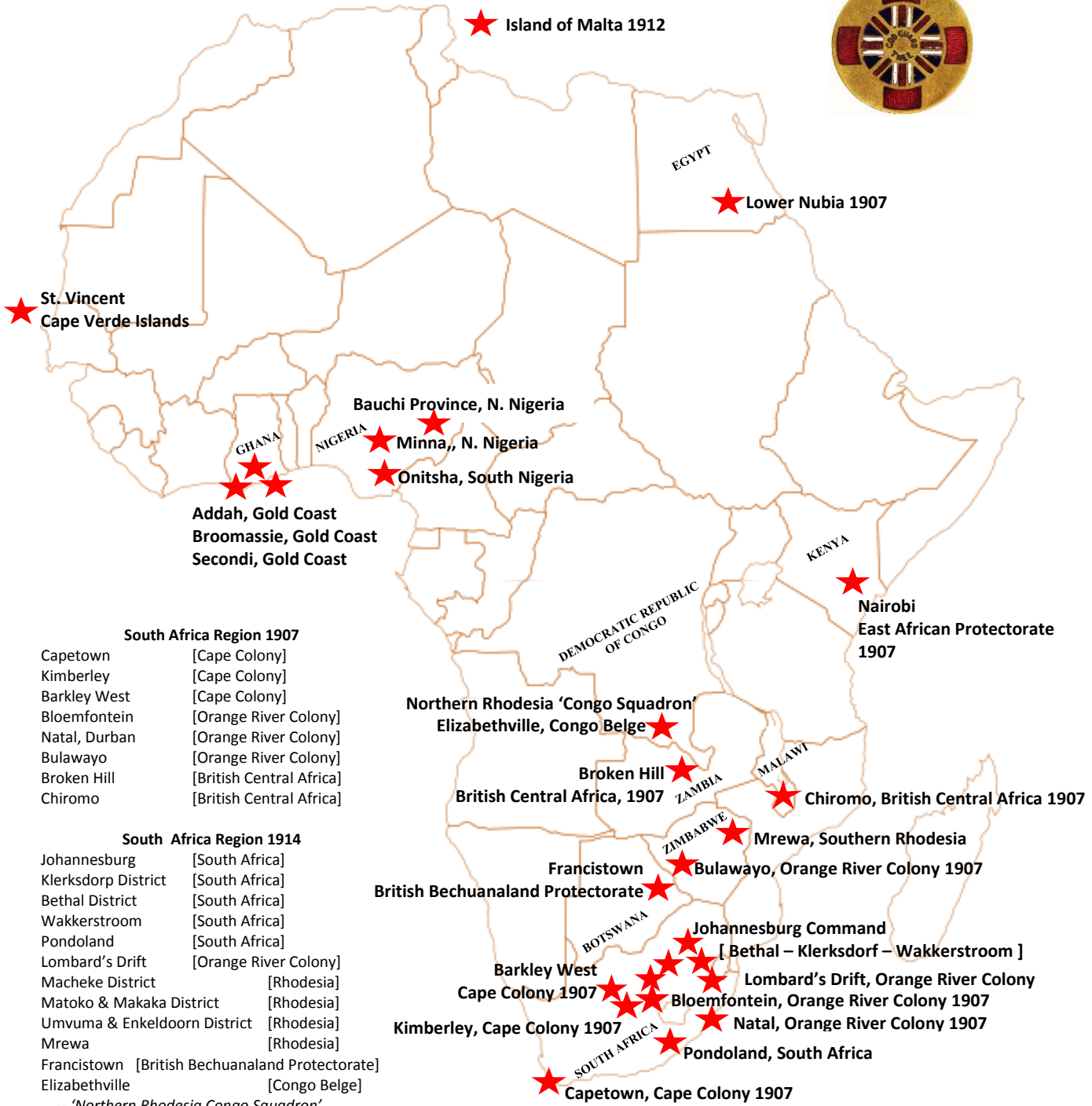
The Legion of Frontiersmen Casualty Count was reported as 50%.

While casualty counts for the Legion of Frontiersmen in the First World War vary, the following early appraisal of war casualties is insightful. J. Suffern, captain of the New South Wales command stated that “out of the 13,500 members over 12,000 have been on active service and of this number nearly 6000, or 50%, have been killed or incapacitated by wounds or sickness.” Capt. J. Suffern also commented “Here in New South Wales were 350 members on active service.” THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 25 August 1919.

It appears that the depleted Legion of Frontiersmen began a slow renewal process during the 1920s and by middle 1930s membership numbers began escalating until the early years of the Second World War. Membership was then again depleted as those who could either enlisted, joined the ARP, became Special Constables, etc. for Home Front service of one form or another.

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN – AFRICA, JANUARY 1914 ★

Locations placed upon a 21st century map
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LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN – AFRICA, JANUARY 1923

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LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN – ASIA and AUSTRALASIA, JANUARY 1914



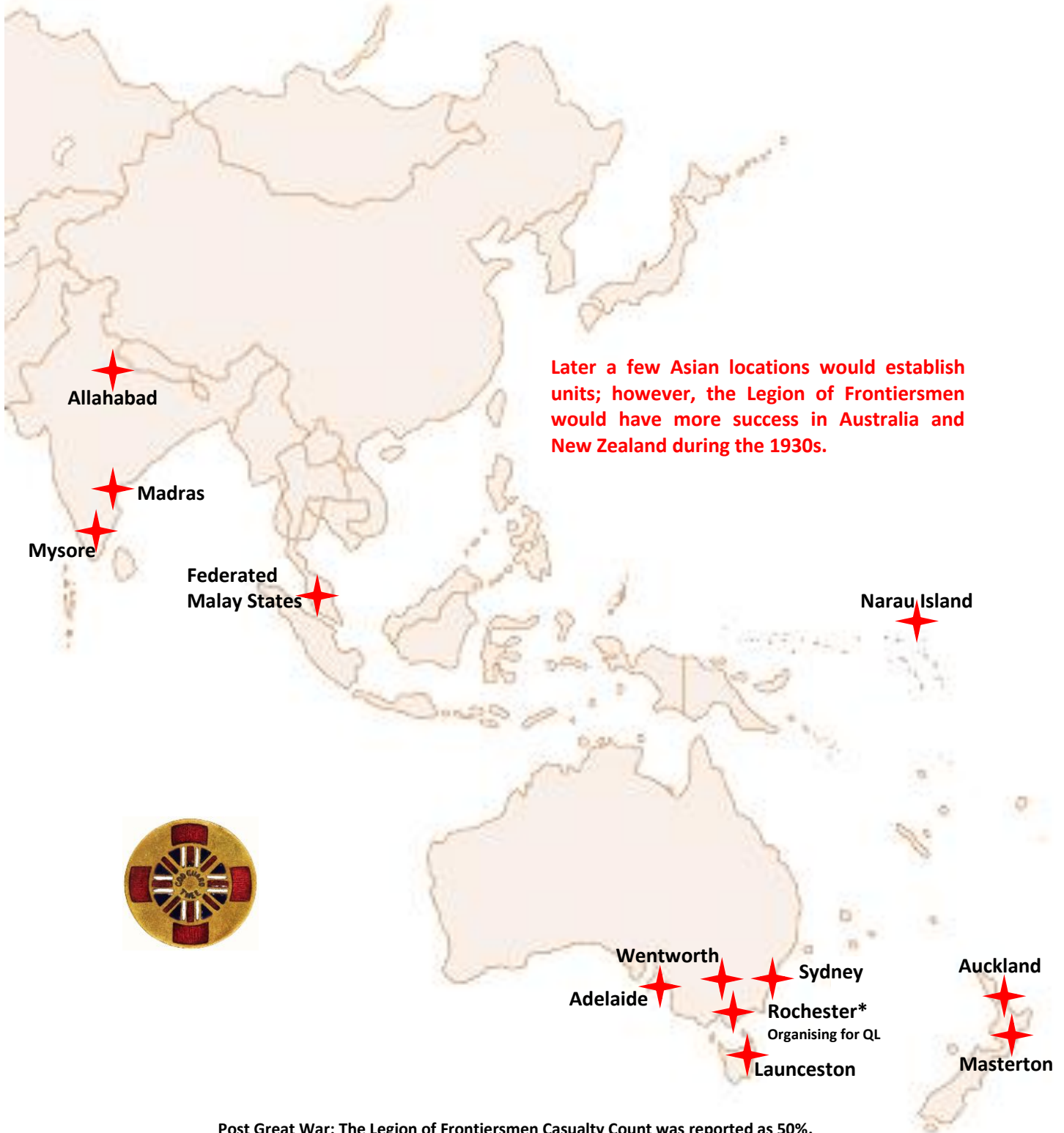
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LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN – POST GREAT WAR FAR EAST, JANUARY 1923

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Later a few Asian locations would establish units; however, the Legion of Frontiersmen would have more success in Australia and New Zealand during the 1930s.

Post Great War: The Legion of Frontiersmen Casualty Count was reported as 50%.

While casualty counts for the Legion of Frontiersmen in the First World War vary, the following early appraisal of war casualties is insightful. J. Suffern, captain of the New South Wales command stated that “out of the 13,500 members over 12,000 have been on active service and of this number nearly 6000, or 50%, have been killed or incapacitated by wounds or sickness.” Capt. J. Suffern also commented “Here in New South Wales were 350 members on active service.” THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 25 August 1919.

It appears that the depleted Legion of Frontiersmen began a slow renewal process during the 1920s and by middle 1930s membership numbers began escalating until the beginning year or so of the Second World War. Membership was then again depleted as those who could either enlisted, joined the ARP, became Special Constables, etc. for Home Front service of one form or another.

Terminology [Revised 2017]

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The reader should understand these terms or concepts:

- **Command** referred to units of a geographical region under a “Commandant” or leader who reported to Imperial HQ, and it was usually a size incorporating squadrons. A “Squadron” was composed of four “Troops”. In a 1916 document registered in Alberta “Command” status required a numerical strength of more than 64 Frontiersmen, 4 NCOs, 4 Lieutenants, a Squadron Sergeant-Major, and a Squadron Leader [“Legion Captain”]. Refer to pages 22-23.
Note. Only recently has it become clear that usually two or more organized Squadrons in a geographic area were under the direction of a ‘Commandant’ who reported to the CEO at Imperial HQ. Refer to pages 22-23.
- **Sub-units** were individual units varying from Section to Troop to Squadron strength that were isolated in a geographic area and reported directly to the CEO at Imperial HQ until multiple Squadrons in a geographical area came under the direction of a regional ‘Commandant’. Refer to pages 22-23.
- **Commandant** referred to the leader of two or more Squadrons in a geographic region. i.e. Prior to 1920 Commandants would have overseen areas such as Southern Alberta Command [Medicine Hat region], Central Alberta Command [Calgary region] and Northern Alberta Command [Edmonton region].
- **Sub-commandant** referred to the leader of a more geographically isolated unit of Squadron strength or less.
- **King’s (or Queen’s) Commission** is both a document and the authority to command men in the Sovereign’s military forces. Many with “commissions” have served “in the ranks” as Frontiersmen or as NCOs. As a courtesy and as an acknowledgement, the commissioned officer status may be shown in brackets. Example follows: Frontiersman (Colonel) John Smith or Frtn. (Col.) John Smith.
- **Civil Commission** was both a document and an acknowledgement from Legion of Frontiersmen Imperial Headquarters to assume a Legion Officer’s responsibility for his unit. It has no official governmental status, although it appears that in the early years of the Legion this “civil commission” was accorded some social status. A surviving copy is in the Nelson BC Archives and a more formalized “civil commission” issued from HQ in Calgary circa 1916 is deposited in the University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives.
- **Ranks** form the organizational platform used by the Legion of Frontiersmen and was based upon the Imperial era British Army. Unique to the Legion of Frontiersmen are the traditions of elected officers and equality in the Mess and off duty.
- **Officer** status in particular must be clearly designated to the public with the prefix “Legion” or the suffix “LF”. Examples follow: Legion Captain John Smith or Captain (LF) John Smith. Today NCOs should also follow the same pattern of identifying themselves, although this was not a common practice early on.
- **Senior Officers (Major and above)** were not generally acceptable in the Legion under its greatest Chief Executive Officer, Lt. Col. D.P. Driscoll DSO. The officer rank of Legion Captain was usually the highest Legion rank allotted to a Frontiersman who did not have the King’s Commission with the substantive military rank of Major or higher. This is relevant today, as rarely do LF squadrons have the numeric strength to warrant senior officers for management.
- **Trooper** has often been used to describe the beginning rank within the Legion.
- **Legionaire** [sic] has been used before the Second World War to describe a member of the Legion of Frontiersmen.
- **Frontiersman** (and also Frontierswoman) is the ONLY TRUE RANK within the Legion of Frontiersmen. In the 1930s the Air Commands of the Legion differentiated themselves as an “Air Frontiersmen”. All ranks and positions defer to the legally constituted authorities of the Crown /nation and its Armed Forces.
- **IHQ** refers to Imperial Headquarters based in England.
- **CHQ** is a common abbreviation for Commonwealth Headquarters is reflective of the post WW2 title change of the British Empire to the Commonwealth of Nations.
- **DHQ** is a common abbreviation for the Dominion Headquarters of the Canadian ‘breakaway’ formation, the “Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division)” independently established in 1939.
- **LF** is a common abbreviation for Legion of Frontiersmen
- **LOF** is a common abbreviation for Legion of Frontiersmen
- **Frtn.** or a slight variation, is a common abbreviation for the rank of Frontiersman or Frontierswoman.

Idealized Command Structure

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- **Officers** - The Legion of Frontiersmen was established early in 1905 and was mainly composed of men who had seen service in South Africa and in various other Imperial campaigns. It soon became a quasi-military body and as such the military's hierarchical organization was both fitting and appealing to the membership. Frontiersmen understood that the officers of this unique organization were to be elected and that a central Headquarters carried out administrative functions. A review of early historical sources makes it very clear that pending adequate numeric strength (64 -72 persons), a rank of Legion "Captain" was the designation available by election. Majors and Colonels did exist but they appear to have usually been Commissioned Officers of His/Her Majesty's forces with those substantive officer ranks.

- Lieutenant-Colonel D.P. Driscoll, DSO the Chief Executive Officer of the Legion of Frontiersmen in 1913 makes this notable statement:

"The Chief Executive Officer desires to call attention to the practice recently indulged in by the members of some sub-units of giving ranks such as Lieutenant-Colonel and Major to men whom they are desirous of honouring. This is exceedingly ridiculous and would soon ruin the Legion. We have no right to adopt or confer such ranks, and thereby prostitute these sacred titles which officers earn after many years of service in the Army, and which are only conferred by His Gracious Majesty our King on the recommendation of the War Office."

This point about officer status requires review as the current Legion of Frontiersmen, while still using the traditional military platform, has apparently turned its back on the original concept regarding the assignment of senior officer ranks.

- **Legion's Idealized Command Structure** - In 1916 the Calgary Command did register the Legion of Frontiersmen (Canada) with the Alberta provincial government. In doing so, they outlined the Legion's idealized organizational structure as quoted below:

"The smallest unit is the troop and consists of 12 to 24 men, an N.C.O. (Troop Serg.) and a "Troop Leader" (Lieut.). Four such troops (i.e. 64 men, 4 N.C.O.'s and 4 Lieut.s compose a Squadron, with a Serg./Major and a "Squadron Commander (Capt.). A Command is composed of 2 to 4 such Squadrons under a "Commandant" with an Adjutant and R.S.M. to assist him. If a Command has over 200 active members mounted, or over 400 infantry, the O.C. ranks as Chief Commndt. (Lt.Col.), but otherwise as a Sub-Commndt. (Major)."

Further, it was stated that peacetime units would be organized on the basis of Mounted Infantry regiments of minimum strength, the exceptions being specialized units like Maritime Branch and Intelligence units.

- **Rank and File** – Members were organized following the British Army's rank structure for enlisted men.
- Refer to **Terminology [Revised 2017]** preceding on page 20.
- Refer to **Administrative Structure** following on pages 22 and 23.

Administrative Structure

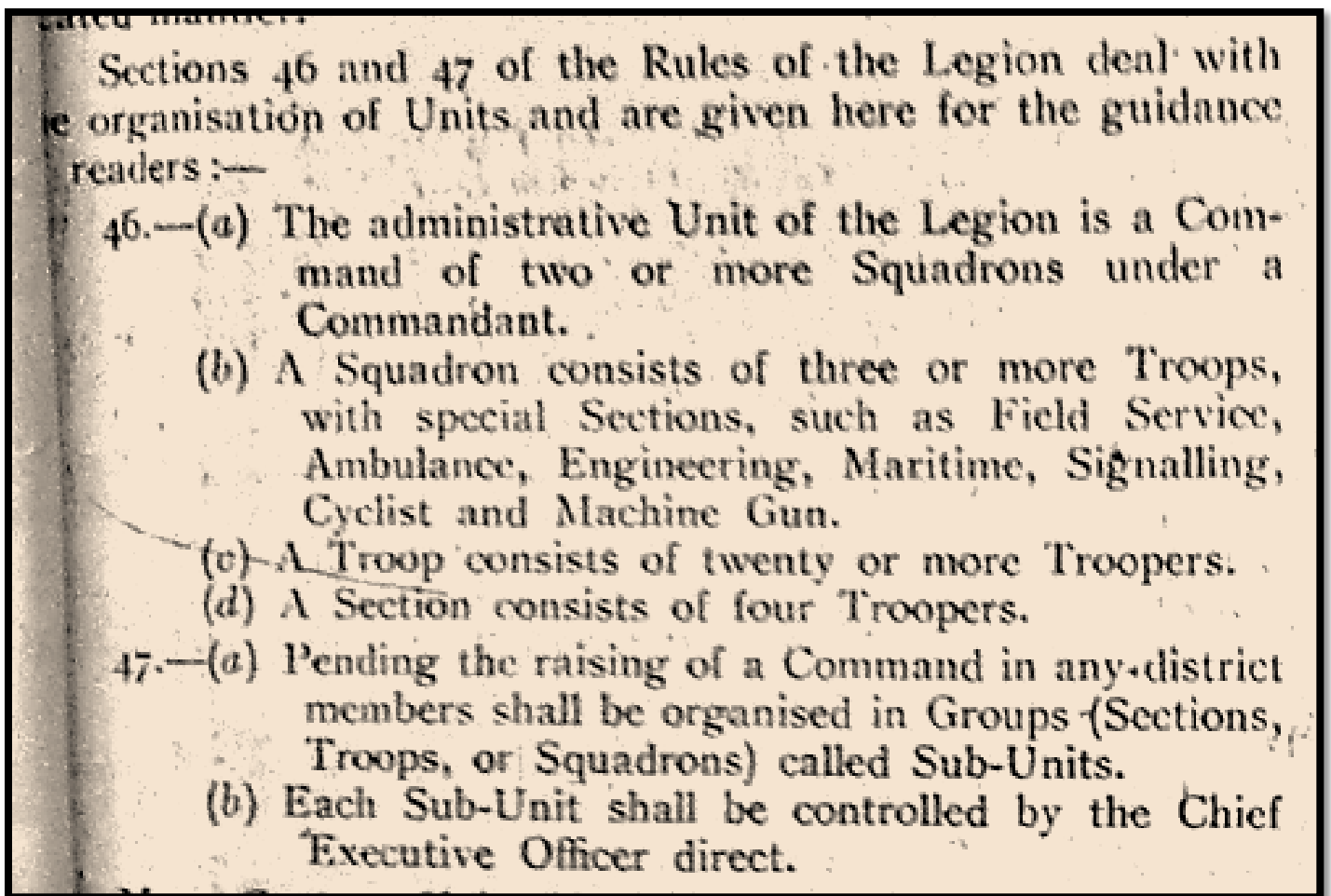
Reference – **THE FRONTIERSMAN**, War Number, 1918

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This magazine extract of 1918 clarifies the previously confusing terminology of “command” vs. “sub-unit” for Legion historians. It is apparent that although this extract was in the 1918 issue of **THE FRONTIERSMAN** it was representative of the Legion’s organizational layout prior to the Great War 1914-1918 and likely onward for some time after the war.

Note that Section 46, *Rules of the Legion*, specifies the structure of the administrative ‘Command’ for a geographical area.

Also note that Section 47, *Rules of the Legion*, specifies that a group of Frontiersmen in a geographical area where an administrative ‘Command’ does not exist [due to a lack of numbers], such a group shall be designated a ‘Sub-Unit’ under direct control of the ‘Chief Executive Officer’ at Imperial Headquarters.

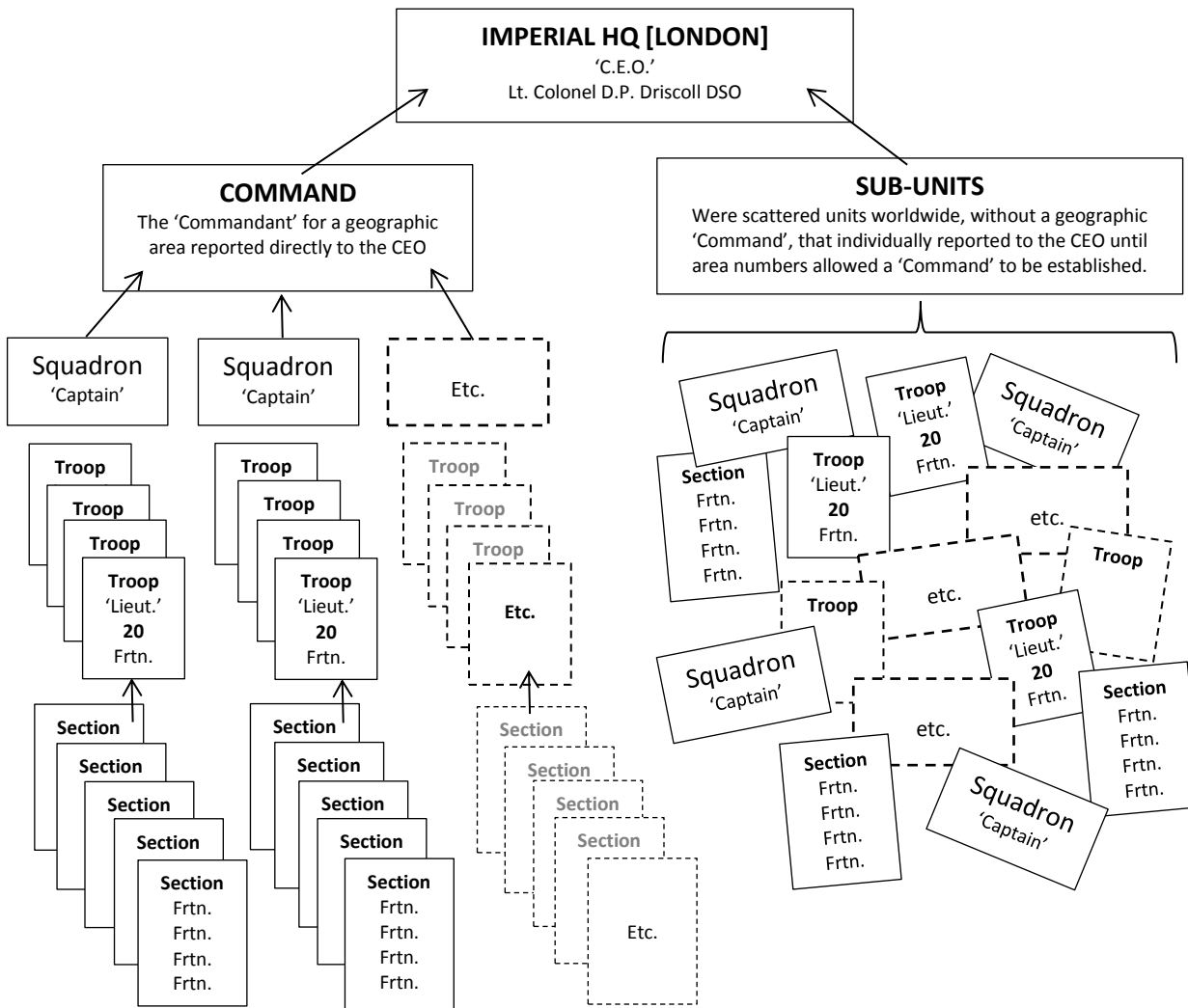


See the next page for a graphic Organizational Chart interpreting Section 46 and Section 47 of the *Rules of the Legion* circa 1905 to 1920s.

Organizational Chart circa 1905 to 1920s

Graphic Interpretation of Section 46 and Section 47 of the *Rules of the Legion* printed in THE FRONTIERSMAN, 1918.

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*Countess Mountbatten's Own
Legion of Frontiersmen*



Part II - Referenced Timeline

A Referenced Timeline, Legion of Frontiersmen in Canada and the British Empire

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❖ 1904

1904 - Founded in London, 24 December 1904. The Legion of Frontiersmen was founded in London, according to Founder Roger Pocock, on Christmas Eve 1904. Immediately following on 26 December 1904 a letter in British National newspapers suggested an organization to organize Imperial campaign veterans, adventurers, patriots and men with experience of in the world's frontier regions. The Legion was to act as an irregular force of mounted rifles, scouts, guides, pioneers (military labourers and craftsmen with fighting ability) and especially intelligence gatherers. This new Legion of Frontiersmen was to react as a ready force until the regular Imperial forces could be deployed to the regions; or to immediately enlist if called upon. The Founder was author, adventurer, and former North West Mounted Policeman, Roger Pocock. A lack of status and rank as a gentleman in Edwardian society impeded his efforts and acceptability. He would eventually receive a commission as an older officer assigned to a WW1 Labour battalion and become an Acting Captain. In many sources this captaincy is wrongly attributed to his work as a scout in the earlier South Africa war where the rank he achieved was corporal of Irregular Scouts. **Various Sources.**

❖ 1905

1905 – Inaugural Dinner. Lord Lonsdale hosted the Inaugural Dinner on the 10 April 1905. “It was in every way a strangely mixed company that sat down to dinner with Earl Lonsdale at his town house the other evening. Cowboy rubbed shoulders with peer, miner and stockman. Novelist and soldier sat side by side, and trooper and general were at the same table.” **LOS ANGELES HERALD, “Sportsmen Form Unofficial Army”, page 02, 24 April 1905.** [and various other sources].

1905 – Founder Roger Pocock, April 15th 1905. Detailed correspondence with the Royal North West Mounted Police [stamped “Office of The Comptroller April 29 1905 R.N.W.M.P.”] outlines the Legion scheme. He received a wish for success combined with a mildly negative comment about the romantic nature of the scheme. Pocock replied May 18 [stamped May 29 1905 by RNWMP] informing of support from Lord Lonsdale, The Earl of Onslow, Prince Louis of Battenberg of the Admiralty, “and several of the Civil Forces, Municipal Police, Fire Brigades, Commissionaires, Salvage Corps, rural Police, etc. here are already won, besides such units overseas as the Federated Malay State Volunteers, and the army of the Sultan of Jahore.” **RNWMP letter photocopies, University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives**

1905 – Frontiersmen, Strange Company for Nobility – The scheme of the Legion of Frontiersmen and the Inaugural Dinner hosted by Lord Lonsdale was commented upon in an early era Manitoba newspaper. **THE VOICE [Winnipeg], “Frontier Men”, page 05, 21 July, 1905**

1905 – Organizing Officer for Canada. Albert Dean-Willcocks [*or name unhyphenated*] the “Organiser for Canada” of Montreal wrote to the RNWMP about the Legion of Frontiersmen scheme. In the reply from the RNWMP it states: “I do not think the ranchers and settlers of the North West would become willing to become members of the Legion and pay \$5.00 per annum for the privilege.” The reply further states “it would be difficult to keep up interest in the Legion”. Finally the respondent for the RNWMP says, “All that could be accomplished is actually in existence to-day in our north West, except the sentimental idea of being a link in a chain of Frontiersmen throughout the British Empire.” Little else is known about Albert Dean-Willcocks [*or Albert Dean Willcocks, unhyphenated*]; however, his and other organizers’ efforts moved on to great success, despite this first mildly negative response, culminating with official RCMP affiliation in 1936. **RNWMP letter photocopies, University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives.**

❖ 1906

1906 – Legion Badge. “The successful candidates will be entitled to the use of the legion's clubs, camps, and badge. The badge is an absolute necessity in order that men of the legion may have means of identification in places where they are strangers, and the form suggested is a metal token of about the size of a crown piece, to be worn in civil dress under the lapel of thin coat, and in legion dress uniform on the right breast, level with any war medals. The design approved for the face is the Union Jack in enamel, charged on the Cross of St. George, with the text “God guard thee”- this being the device upon Gordon's signet ring. By displaying the badge in places where he is unknown the frontiersman will be welcomed to the brotherhood, and can, if he so elect, attach himself to the local branch for service.” **NEW ZEALAND HERALD, “The League [sic] Of Frontiersmen”, page 7, 09 March 1906.**

Note LOF medallion symbols. It would appear that the precedent for wearing LOF medals on the Right breast and apart from the Sovereign's medals had been set as this 1906 NZ article pointed out regarding the “metal token”. bws/author

1906 – South Africa Command is formed. An informal Email from academic researcher Anne Sampson dated December 13, 2016 to the Legion Historian comments in passing, “I was covering material from 1903 to 1913 and we know from documents I found in Pretoria a couple of years ago the LoF was founded there in 1906”. **Reference details are pending.**

1906 – “Enrolled for Sport, Prepared for War” [an early motto]. The raison d’être of the LOF was to support the Empire in time of conflict and through training competitions maintain a needed skills efficiency. “The competitions suggested are: (a) Loading a pack horse, single-handed and double-handed, (b) From "reveille" to "march" for pack outfit, (c) Scouting for hidden treasure, (d) Long distance races, 100 miles and upwards; loss of horse to disqualify team, (e) Mr. Kipling's scalp hunting, wherein rival units seek to take prisoners, who pay ransom to winning side, (f) Revolver shooting at walk, trot, and charge, also at moving target, (g) Rifleshooting under various conditions, (h) Roughriding, roping, polo, push-ball, and other tests of horsemanship, (i) Rough, driving over obstacles, (j) Drilling a foot of rock, cutting a log, (k) Tug-of-war and lifting a gun. (l) Games played at the military tournament and at athletic gatherings. (m) Swimming (n) Ju-jitsu, boxing, wrestling, (o) V.C. and Lloyd-Lindsay race, (p) Spooling and tracking, signalling, ambushade, farriery, and reconnaissance.” **NEW ZEALAND HERALD, “The League [sic] Of Frontiersmen”, page 7, 09 March 1906.**

1906 – Edmonton, Canada. The first news article noted about the Legion of Frontiersmen in the area outlines the scheme in general terms. **EDMONTON BULLETIN, The Legion of Frontiersmen, page 5, 28 June, 1906.**

1906 – Assault-at-Arms Training. The preparation for war was a serious undertaking of the early Legion of Frontiersmen, be they in England or Canada. As an example from England, the fourteenth of November memorandum from Commandant Long to all commands in the Home Region invites Frontiersmen to an Assault-at-Arms contest at Manchester scheduled for January of 1907. Competitions scheduled were ju-jitsu, wrestling, weight-lifting, fencing and other military and athletic exercises. **MANCHESTER ARCHIVES AND LOCAL STUDIES, File Reference: M540/1/7.**

1906 – Natal Uprising. “As an instant of its alertness, the Legion claims to have been twenty-four hours ahead of the Press with the news of the rising in Natal. Its honorary organizer on the spot, Captain Gordon Huntley, rode his pet mare twenty eight miles and killed her, to wire to headquarters, “Native rising instruct”, this being the first announcement in London”. **C.B. Fry, MAGAZINE OF ACTION AND OUTDOOR LIFE, Volume VI, No. 31, October 1906. Credit Geoffrey A. Pocock, L.O.F. Historian.**

1906 – Natal Legion of Frontiersmen. Referring to the L.O.F. as a force, it was stated “that such men, from their special training, can be of great use to the Empire, was demonstrated by the members of the South African command, who were on the field in the Zulu rebellion of 1906 nearly twelve hours before the news of the rising reached the military authorities of the district”. **AUCKLAND STAR, Legion of Frontiersmen, page 11, 05 June 1912.**

1906 – Natal. “May 12 Services of 500 Legion of Frontiersmen Offered”. Details about the actions of the local Legion of Frontiersmen and of the 500 Legion of Frontiersmen offered are not known at this time. **www.naval-military-press.com/pdf/1843422190.pdf “A Diary of Day to Day Operations In The Field As Told Through Official Dispatches”, page 12.**

❖ 1907

1907 – Official News Publication of the Legion of Frontiersmen. At a meeting of the Executive Council held in London 23 May 1907, the publication THE NORTHERN COMMANDS GAZETTE [“Northern Commands” meaning commands in the North of England] became the news for the entire Legion and was retitled THE GAZETTE, becoming THE FRONTIERSMAN a short time after. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, Legion Notes, page 28, 26 June 1907.**

1907 – Dublin, Ireland. A 34 page pamphlet was published by Dublin HQ, 3 Dame Street, of the Legion of Frontiersmen for the inaugural meeting held on January 21st, 1907. **Source - <http://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000258825>**

1907 – Singapore Maritime Division. “The Admiralty has given the Legion of Frontiersmen full authority to organise a Naval Branch, and to generally equip and train men for sea service, either from a naval or mercantile point of view.” **THE SINGAPORE FREE PRESS AND MERCANTILE ADVERTISER, Singapore Rice Trade, page 5, 08 February 1907.**

1907 – Burma Maritime Division. This L.O.F. maritime division was likely started in about 1907 as was the Singapore division mentioned above. See the 1910, Burma entries of this Timeline. **Arnold Wright, TWENTIETH CENTURY IMPRESSIONS OF BURMA, page 175, 1910.**

1907 – First L.O.F. Commandant in Canada, Maurice H. Marsden. Sometime prior to 26 June 1907 “A command has been inaugurated at Vancouver, British Columbia, which takes rank as senior Legion Command in the Dominion, the Acting Lieutenant Commanding being Maurice H. Marsden”. Although there were claims made regarding S.W. Caws of Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta, etc. they are inaccurate. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, Legion Notes, page 28, published 26 June 1907.**

1907 – First L.O.F. Command in Canada, Vancouver BC. Sometime prior to 26 June 1907, “A command has been inaugurated at Vancouver, British Columbia, which takes rank as senior Legion Command in the Dominion, the Acting Lieutenant Commanding being Maurice H. Marsden”. Although there were claims made regarding Nicola Valley, Nelson, and Lac Ste. Anne, those claims are inaccurate. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, Legion Notes, page 28, published 26 June 1907.**

1907– Second L.O.F. Command in Canada, Nelson BC Command. To date it appears that the second Canadian LOF command to formally take shape was under E.C. Wragge the Organizing Officer of Nelson BC, located in the rugged Kootenay region. His Civil Commission is Number 29, dated 08 April 1907 and issued from LF headquarters in London, England. This well documented command at Nelson BC records its first general meeting on July 01. This command’s unique file of records in Canada outlines the activities of this early era LOF command. By 1909, about 77 members were enrolled. This Command elected leaders, and intended to liaise with the 102nd Regiment of the pre-war Canadian Militia. The Nelson Command was documented from 1907 to 1914 by E.C. Wragge, a lawyer in Nelson, and appeared to have evolved along two distinct formations, one being mounted rifles and the other being scouts & guides. **Nelson BC Archives [Copy of the file at University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives].**

1907 – Edmonton AB, Organizing Officer. J.V.E. Carpenter is noted as the Organizing Officer in Edmonton Alberta and he also becomes a captain in the newly formed 101st Edmonton Fusiliers of 1908. An Edmonton Command probably started, but it does not appear dynamic until 1914; likely due to Canadian Militia recruiting locally for both the 19th Alberta Dragoons and the 101st Edmonton Fusiliers. **THE NORTHERN COMMANDS GAZETTE, unspecified pages. See University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives.**

1907 – Organizing Officers in Canada. The Northern Command [UK] documents indicate that 19 Organizing Officers were active from Yukon Territory, the west coast, the Kootenay region, the prairies to Thunder Bay, Ontario. Of these Organizing Officers a very interesting figure was Judge W.B. Gray (Buckskin Billie). Born as William Brigham in 1852, he took his stepfather’s surname and later in Canada he was also known as Buckskin Billie. He trained in England to be a doctor and went to finish his studies in Winnipeg. He became fascinated with the idea of being a cowboy and abandoned medical studies to become a rancher at Pine Creek near Calgary. After different ranching experiences in Alberta he settled in Stettler and became the first Town Clerk then eventually the Police Magistrate. “Buckskin Billie” a 1907 Legion of Frontiersmen Organizing Officer, later the respected Judge Gray, died at age 94 in 1947. Unfortunately, the provincial archival records do not mention any role as an Organizing Officer of the Legion of Frontiersmen nor is

there any indication of W.B. Gray forming an LOF Command. **THE NORTHERN COMMANDS GAZETTE, unspecified pages. See University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives, Glenbow Museum Photo Archives, and Royal Alberta Museum Archives.**

1907 - Peter Gunn MPP claims to be first Canadian Legion of Frontiersmen member. In a speech to Edmonton Command LOF, Peter Gunn MPP (Member of Provincial Parliament in Alberta) stated that he was the first Frontiersman to enroll in Canada with C.H. Dunn of Wabamun being the second. Furthermore, he stated [now known to be incorrect] that Stanley Winther Caws of Lac Ste. Anne was the first commandant in Canada. It is more likely that Gunn and Dunn were respectively first a second L.O.F. in Alberta. **EDMONTON MORNING BULLETIN, "Frontiersmen Are Willing To Join The Reserve Militia", 09 May 1916. [cross reference with] THE FRONTIERSMAN, Legion Notes, page 28, published 26 June 1907.**

1907 – Stanley Winther Caws, Lac Ste. Anne AB. This early-era commandant, was recorded as Caws, Cawes, and Caus. He was a tattooed Boer War veteran and "remittance-man" (often the "black sheep" paid by the family to stay out of England) who formed the first Legion of Frontiersmen unit in Alberta. He enlisted 1914 in the 19th Alberta Dragoons in Strathcona (now part of Edmonton), transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and was killed in action. After Stanley Winther Caws was killed in action his captured crewman reported that Caws was given a military burial by the Germans. S.W. Caws has been wrongly identified as the "first Commandant" etc. due to speeches made by Peter Gunn MPP (Alberta) and a report in the 1916 Regina newspaper, as quoted: "Another noted member of the Legion was Lieutenant S.W. Caws. He was the first organizer of the first command of the Legion in Canada, and was the first commandant officer located at Lac St. Anne, Alberta." [Legion records indicate Maurice H. Marsden of Vancouver Command was Canada's first commandant]. **SOLDIERS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR, CEF Attestation Papers Online. REGINA MORNING LEADER, "Legion of Frontiersmen [etc.]", page 03, 17 June 1916. THE FRONTIERSMAN, Legion Notes, page 28, 26 June 1907.**

Information about Stanley Winther Caws follows. Extracts from a regional history book, describe S.W. Caws and the Legion of Frontiersmen and the frontier homestead region of Lac Ste. Anne Alberta:

- "After the Boer war 1899-1902, numbers of Englishmen who had taken part in the campaign came out to Canada, and our Municipality received her share of Boer War Veterans."
- "Buller Butler and Stanley Caws were in the country west of Lac Ste. Anne in 1906, and may have put in squatter's stakes on the land in the Stanger area where they later filed on homesteads, but had no shacks or houses up until well into 1907".
- A Dutch pioneer settler stated, "I often met Caws and Butler, our nearest neighbors for a long time. In those days 12 or 14 miles was very close."
- Caws' kindness and generosity was illustrated when he secretly paid boarding costs of a newly arrived young Englishman who couldn't manage the rough life of a pioneer. He paid and instructed the host to have the young man do chores for boarding costs and to let the young man feel that he was earning his board. In a fit of anger the paid host told the sensitive young man that was being supported by Caws' generosity. Sadly, the tenderfoot committed suicide.
- "A club was formed by the young men around Lac Ste. Anne – homesteaders, as well as packers, surveyors and freighters. They called themselves the "Legion of Frontiersmen" and met together for good fellowship. On occasion they came as far as Cause's [Caws'] shack at Stanger for a meeting. They built a hall at Lac Ste. Anne as a club room and for parties and dances. Many years later, the Frontiersmen had settled down on their farms, after some were killed in the First Great War, and others more transient had departed, the hall was bought by the resident priest after the log church burned, and it is the Present Roman Catholic Church at Lac Ste. Anne."
- "The first public hall was the one built by the Legion of Frontiersmen in Lac Ste. Anne in 1910 or 1911."
- The regional history book comments that Caws and two friends initially came to Lac Ste. Anne from a district called Rabbit Hill south of Edmonton, now within of today's large city. When they came out in winter of 1906-07 the snow was three feet deep at all times and heavily crusted by Chinook winds making it difficult for horses to paw for food. As well, horses were eaten by grizzly bears. At 11:00 a.m. on New Year's Day 1907 the Hudson Bay Company trading post recorded a temperature of 68 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

Lac Ste. Anne and District Historical Society, WEST OF THE FIFTH: A HISTORY OF LAC STE. ANNE MUNICIPALITY, pages 29, 59, 62, 68, 195, 202, 207, published 1959.

1907 – British East Africa. “The first unit of the Legion of Frontiersmen was formed in British East Africa in 1907.” The Legion would remain active in the region until shortly after Kenyan independence in 1963 when ordered to stand down by the new government of Kenya. **Baron Bertram Francis Gurdon Cranworth, PROFIT AND SPORT IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA, 2nd Edition, 1919.**

❖ 1908

1908 – Nicola Valley, British Columbia. A small, yellow 16 page British Columbia Command handbook published 1974 incorrectly states: “The Frontiersmen were first organized in British Columbia in 1908 in the Nicola Valley”. And “The first Vancouver Squadron was formed in 1910”. Refer to previous Timeline entries 1907 – First L.O.F. Commandant and Command, Maurice H. Marsden of Vancouver. **Percy Smith, LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN OF THE COMMONWEALTH HANDBOOK, page 15, published 1974.**

1908 – Manitoba. Five Frontiersmen from the “old country” settling in Manitoba held an organizational meeting at the St. George hotel in St. Boniface. E. Druary-Allen [E. Allen] was made the Organizing Officer with Mr. Frank Kerr as the honorary Secretary-Treasurer. **MINNEDOSA TRIBUNE, Empire Legion of Frontiersmen, page 04, 23 April 1908**

1908 – Canadian Militia [the Army] allows L.O.F. to establish. The Adjutant-General, Colonel F.L. Lessard of the Canadian Militia wrote on February 12, 1908 to the Secretary, Legion of Frontiersmen in London that the Legion of Frontiersmen may proceed in Canada provided that: a) the organization does not interfere with Militia recruitment, b) drilling [training] be carried out with the permission of the Militia Officer Commanding the Command or District at such times and places agreed to by him, c) Headquarters approval is required for the pattern of uniform, d) no public expense is involved, and d) if organized into a Civilian Rifle Club they must adhere to appropriate regulations. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, 1908 letter reprint, page 157, September 1912.**

1908 – July 01, Nelson BC Command records its first general meeting. These are the only known surviving documents in Canada of such meetings. By 1909, 77 members were enrolled. This Command elected leaders, and intended to liaise with the 102nd Battalion Canadian Militia. The Nelson Command was documented from 1907 to 1914 by E.C. Wragge, a lawyer in Nelson, and appeared to have evolved along two distinct formations, one being mounted rifles and the other being scouts and guides. **Nelson BC Archives [Copy of the file at University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives].**

1908 – 101st Regiment Edmonton Fusiliers and Lieutenant Colonel F.W.F Carstairs. It is known that J.V.E. Carpenter was the Legion of Frontiersmen Organizing Officer for Edmonton and subsequently became an officer in Canada’s newly forming 101st Regiment. F.W.F. Carstairs, a veteran of African and Indian campaigns, would quickly become the long serving CO of the 101st Regiment Edmonton Fusiliers. Years later F.W.F. Carstairs accepted honorary membership in the Legion of Frontiersmen as #26271. F.W.F. Carstairs was assigned to CHQ Squadron of the Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division). This honorary L.O.F. member’s death at age 85 was also mentioned in LF(Can.Div.) history. **Captain HG Kennedy, HISTORY OF THE 101ST REGIMENT EDMONTON FUSILIERS 1908-1913, published 1913. THE FRONTIER NEWS, page 06, February 1939. A. Mack, HISTORY OF THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN, page 175, published c1970.**

1908 – England, uniformed Guard of Honour. In England at this time during the official visit to Leeds by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra: “The Guard of Honour in the station yard was composed of Frontiersmen, in their peculiar uniform, consisting of slouched hat, blue shirt, and khaki breeches and putties [sic].” **LEEDS MERCURY, Wednesday, 08 July 1908. Credit L.O.F. Historian Geoffrey A. Pocock.**

Note: Historian, Geoffrey A. Pocock comments that the guard was likely commanded by Major Patrick Forbes who had just been appointed to take over from founder Roger Pocock to run the Legion. This is the first time Frontiersmen wearing puttees are noted. Usually the uniform footwear was leather leggings and boots. The Strathcona boot seems to have come into use later and Roger Pocock had his own boots made with a softer leather ankle. The early Frontiersmen did not generally wear a jacket preferring the shirt. The patrol jacket seems to have come in during the 1920s for parade wear, leaving the shirt still for working dress. When fascist “Blackshirts” began marching, the Legion of Frontiersmen

ceased wearing the shirt order, for fear of being mistaken for what the Founder Roger Pocock called "politicians in uniform". bws/author

Note: Regarding the uniform, the Legion of Frontiersmen's Founder Roger Pocock stressed that comfort and practicality in the field. Worldwide, a uniform could vary somewhat due to climate and availability. Surviving old photographs readily illustrate this. The original LF uniforms were far more practical than the restrictive and colourful military uniforms of the Victorian era. bws/author

1908 – Cowboy Wedding and Revolver Fusillade. An unusual wedding took place at Shepperton, England, where "Cowboys and broncho-busters whooped up and revelled" at the nuptials of the widow Mrs. Skerry to Capt. Morgan, a joint proprietor of the School for Colonial Instruction, the local "Cowboy College". The news reported, "All professional cowboys available, as well as several bold and rollicking members of the Legion of Frontiersmen, assembled outside the church to do them honour, firing revolvers at every opportunity". Founder of the L.O.F. Roger Pocock was in attendance and was referred to as "Daddy" Pocock – confirming his nickname in South Africa he was always called Daddy or Dad because of his greying beard and limp – as he had written in his book "A Frontiersman". Gunfire, lasso roping, galloping and bucking horses presented a most unusual English wedding scene. A large group of "daintily-dressed ladies ... unanimously declared that they had never attended a more delightful wedding in their lives." **Source: Geoffrey A. Pocock, Legion Historian. DAILY MIRROR [?], "Cowboy Wedding At Shepperton", 09 December 1908.**

❖ 1909

1909 – Antarctic Explorer, Ernest Shackleton. Three types of Legion of Frontiersmen membership existed in Canada and elsewhere during the early years of the association. As an example, among the notable men of the British Empire was the famed Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton. His membership in the Legion of Frontiersmen is confirmed and described in the following 1909 New Zealand [Manawatu – Wanganui region] news: "Legion Frontiersmen, Christchurch, April 29, Lieut. Shackleton of the British Antarctic expedition, having written intimating that he would be glad to be enrolled as an honorary member of the Legion of Frontiersmen, the acting commissioner for the Legion for New Zealand has accordingly enrolled him." **FIELDING STAR, page 03, 30 April, 1909. [Source, Geoffrey A. Pocock].**

Note: The earliest application forms indicate that Honorary Membership was a fully inclusive membership but usually non-uniformed membership status, signified by the presentation of the Legion's numbered "button badge". bws/author

1909 – Legion of Frontiersmen Application Categories. In 1909 the Legion had three classes of membership. "A" class pledged to uniformed service in defence of the Empire including overseas service. "B" class pledged to uniformed service as scouts and guides in support of local/regional operations. "C" class non-uniformed membership pledged to support the aims and objectives of the L.O.F. All classes of service, A, B, and C were full status Legion of Frontiersmen. **Nelson BC Archives L.O.F. APPLICATION FORM. This application form photocopy is held in University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives.**

1909 – Yukon Territory. In letters regarding Legion of Frontiersmen, "Camp No. 1 White Horse" [sic] Yukon Territory receives permission from the RNWMP to use the RNWMP "machine gun" for training purposes. **RNWMP Letter photocopy, University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives**

❖ 1910

1910 – Air Warfare. The Legion Paymaster and Maritime Division member, Harold R. Ingersoll, forewarns in one of the earliest aeronautical magazines, "There will be aerial raids, destruction of dockyards, arsenals, forts water, gas and other works and factories, and even the bombardment of towns and cities, all of which have a greater moral effect, at less cost, and employment of fewer men, than an invasion or coastal attack." **FLIGHT, Official Organ Of The Royal Aero Club Of The United Kingdom, No. 76 (No.24, Vol.II), page 454, 11 June 1910.**

1910 – Rangoon, Burma. An active unit of the LOF was apparent in Burma by this date. A telegram from Rangoon reported the death of Mr. Campbell due to the effects of a bullet ricochet while training with the Legion of Frontiersmen locally. Campbell was the chief officer of the Nepaul [sic], a steamer of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company. **THE STRAITS TIMES, “Social and Personal”, page 08, 28 September 1910.**

1910 – Burma Maritime Division. Commander G.A. Rose R.I.M., “At the present time he is the Honorary Commandant of the Burma Maritime branch of the Legion of Frontiersmen.” G.A. Rose R.I.M. [Royal Indian Marine] was a distinguished civil maritime officer, the principle port authority officer, commander of troop transport ships, etc. **Wright, Arnold, TWENTIETH CENTURY IMPRESSIONS OF BURMA, page 175, 1910.**

1910 - Saskatoon Command. later retitled “B” Squadron North Saskatchewan Command, formed about May 1910, leader R. Boulton (drowned July 1914), secretary T.E. Potts. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 4, War Number 1918.**

1910 – Lac Ste. Anne Squadron. 35 miles west of Edmonton, formed about June 1910, squadron leader S.W. Caws (killed in action First World War), secretary D. M. Rourke, Troop No.1 led by N. Seton, Troop No.2 led by W. McLeod, Troop No.3 led by J. Yates, and Troop No.4 led by H. Appelle. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 4, War Number 1918.**

1910 – Carmacks, Yukon Territory. This is the address on the enrolment form of Victoria and Vancouver Island First World War era commandant S. Rowlinson. L.F. Form 6, numbered 517, the Legion of Frontiersmen Certificate of Enrolment states: “This is to certify that Seymour Rowlinson of Carmacks Yukon Territory has this day been enrolled as a Member, Class A, of the Legion and his Badge, Legion No 4435, has been forwarded herewith. Headquarters: 6 Adams Street, London, W.C. Dated 30th day of May 1910, [signed] T. Watson[?] Captain, Secretary Legion of Frontiersmen.” **CERTIFICATE OF ENROLLMENT [copy compliments Carol Miller granddaughter of Seymour Rowlinson] University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives.**

❖ 1911

1911 - Lac Ste Anne, Alberta. Sub-unit Officer Commanding, Stanley Winther Caws, reports: “... our Sub-unit here is in a prosperous state, and at present it looks as though we will be able to get a decent little Squadron going soon. We have branches at Wabamun Lake and the North Paddle, and I hear that an effort is to be made to start a Troop in Edmonton. The Lac Ste. Anne Sub-unit is the senior organization in Alberta, and we hope that in time Lac Ste. Anne will be recognized as being the Legion Headquarters for Alberta. We have to contend with great difficulties in our work, as nearly all our boys are on the trails (at present our crowd is scattered between the Gold Coast of Africa and the Arctic circle), and we can seldom raise more than ten to fifteen. However, six of us have our ranches close together [in a] row, and we are making an effort to do some regular work.” **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 28, February, 1911.**

1911 – Labrador and Newfoundland, First Commandant. The L.O.F. in the Dominion of Newfoundland formed about April 1911 by A.W. Wakefield of Battle Harbour. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 3, War Number 1918.**

1911 – Labrador and Newfoundland Command. The L.O.F. in the Dominion of Newfoundland formed about April 1911 by A.W. Wakefield of Battle Harbour. It is reported that Wakefield is the Commandant (on active service First World War) and the secretary is F.E. Heath of Rigolet. The formal structure of this command is noted as: “A” Squadron St John’s leader E.W. Vere-Holloway (commanded LF gunners, St. John’s harbor First World War); No.1 & No.2 Troops responsible to Vere-Holloway with Troop No.3 leader Joseph Walters of St. Anthony’s, and Troop No.4 led by Mr. Hutchins of Bonavista Bay. “B” Squadron leader was A.W. Wakefield of Battle Harbour, with No.5 Troop led by J. Ford of Nain, No.6 Troop led by T. Evans of Hopedale, No.7 Troop led by H.I. Paddon of Grand River, and No. 8 Troop led by H.B. Williams of Red Bay. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 03, War Number 1918.**

1911 – Other Labrador and Newfoundland Units. Regarding Newfoundland (previously mentioned) “The branch at Battle Harbour with the assistance Dr. Seymour Armstrong and Martin Spencer established sub-units at St. Anthony (50 men) and other Labrador communities of Grand River, Mud Lake, Nain, and Red Bay.” **University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives (Untitled 18 page paper circa 1998 by Nelson J. Sherrin).**

1911 – Hamilton Squadron. Formed about April 1911, leader A.T. Potts (on active service First World War), secretary D. Dodds. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 03, War Number 1918.**

Note: An old photograph shows some of Hamilton Squadron wearing navy colored shirts with shoulder chains, bandannas, gauntlets, khaki riding breeches and riding boots with spurs, with wide brimmed slouch hats evident. **Dean Bruckshaw, L.O.F. photo archivist.** bws/author

1911 – Okanagan Squadron. Formed about April 1911, headquartered at Vernon, BC and led by Legion Captain J.P. Audy (killed in action WW1). His full, legal name is Prosper John Theodore Audy. No. 1 Troop under command of Legion Lt. H.C. Verral is at Vernon with No.2 Troop listed as Nelson. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 04, War Number 1918.**

1911 - Vancouver Squadron. Vancouver Command started in 1907, see the previous Timeline entry for 1907. A later report incorrectly states that Vancouver Squadron formed about May 1911. The dominant pre-war leader became Legion Capt. G.H. Sloan (killed in action WW1) who transferred from Hamilton Squadron as “extra Organising Officer”, with J. Miller as secretary.

No.1 Troop is Vancouver city,

No.2 Troop (Boatmen) is Vancouver city based with Legion Lt. C. Plowman in charge,

No.3 Troop is located in New Westminster, and

No.4 Troop is located in North Vancouver.

THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 28, 26 June 1907. THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 87, May 1912. THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 04, War Number 1918.

Note: Unique in Canada is Vancouver Squadron’s No.2 Troop (Boatman). No other Legion of Frontiersmen unit in Canada is known to be solely comprised of boatmen or to have been designated for water or sea-borne service. The Colony of Newfoundland, later a Canadian province as of 1949, with its strong maritime tradition undoubtedly had men superbly capable of sea-borne service. bws/author

1911 – Imperial Headquarters. Imperial HQ gains public recognition as the following quote indicates. “One cannot help looking back with pride to the Pageant of the Empire spectacle which was a feature of the Festival of Empire demonstrations at the Crystal Palace during the month of Their Majesties’ Coronation in 1911. Therein our beloved leader, Colonel Driscoll, D.S.O. took part with 70 or 80 typical frontiersmen, and among these 70 or 80 representatives of our Legion were no less than 200 war medals and decorations.” **F.V. Longstaff scrapbook files, British Columbia Museum, NZ newspaper column titled “LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN” by “FRONTIERSMAN”, 29 July 1920.**

1911 – Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Whitehorse Troop is reported as incorrectly dated as being formed in 1911 and led by Legion Captain P. Jameson. Refer to previous Timeline entries for 1909. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 04, War Number 1918.**

Note: It is evident from 1909 correspondence to the RNWMP regarding machine gun use for training that the Legion was active before this date. bws/author

1911 – Brisbane, Australia. Major G.H. Heaney VD, formerly the LOF commandant of Cape Colony, was in 1911 the Organizing Officer in Brisbane and had as of the second annual general meeting secured a membership of 130 members. “The following officers were elected, subject to acceptance of office - Patron, Lord Denman (Governor-General of Australia), vice-patrons, His Excellency Sir William MacGregor, Colonel Vinn King ... [etc.]” **THE BRISBANE COURIER, “Imperial Frontiersmen”, page 09, 30 October 1911.**

1911 – Cape Colony, South Africa. At the second annual general meeting at the Royal Hotel in Brisbane “A tribute was paid to Major G. H. Heaney VD ... In Cape Colony Major Heaney held a very high office as commandant of the Capetown command, which turned out 500 strong.” **THE BRISBANE COURIER, Imperial Frontiersmen, page 09, 30 October 1911.**

❖ 1912

1912 – Carmacks, Yukon Territory. Yukon Camp No.1 is at Carmacks with the Commandant being F. Harbottle. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 87, May 1912 and cross reference with Carol Miller documents previous Timeline entry 1910.**

1912 – Dawson City, Yukon Territory. The Dawson Troop formed in about October 1912 and led by Legion Lieutenant A. Hart. Later, in 1914 the volunteer enlistment role drawn up in Dawson City that included the Royal North West Mounted Police and members of the Legion of Frontiersmen stated: “We the undersigned, as a token of our loyalty to the British Empire hereby declare our willingness to respond to such a call as may be made by The government of the Dominion for volunteers from the Yukon to take up arms on behalf of Canada and the Empire ...” [news reference missing]. A Legion report indicated that A. Hart made his way from Dawson to England so that he could enlist with the 25th Royal (Frontiersmen) Fusiliers as a private, although he was offered a commission.(invalidated, First World War). **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 26, War Number 1918.**

1912 – China. “Those who followed closely the recent affairs in China will remember the thrilling story of how a little band of members of the legion, led by a young man named Sowerby, a former Canadian trapper and explorer, entered a city full of Chinese who were mad with blood-lust, and how this little band, eight all told, rescued European women and children, gathered up others from other parts of the disturbed district, and led them to safety”. **OTAGO DAILY TIMES, [online retrospective of 100 year old news] 20 April 2012.**

1912 – North China Command. “On Sunday 28th April 1912, The North China command of the Legion was well represented in an official photograph at Tientsin. Originated by Major Higginson D.S.O., D.A.A., C.M.G. of the British Troops in China, in took the ... [extract ends]”. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page [?], 18 November 1918.**

1912 – Advertisements. Somerville’s Rare Old Scotch (6 and 10 Years old), purveyors to the House of Lords, The Treasury, and other government offices, is advertised as the “Only” Scotch Whiskey supplied to the Legion of Frontiersmen. Legion Rules and Regulations cost one penny, post free. A Legion full dress uniform included a black (navy) serge shirt for 10/6, a Stetson hat 5/6, riding breeches 21/-, waist belt 2/6, cavalry cloaks made to measure 15/6, gauntlets 4/6 for total cost, 2 (pounds) 19/6. A patrol jacket complete to measure cost 17/6. Mess Dress, complete sold for 2 [pounds] 15/6. All prices advertised in by Silverstone & Son, High-Class Tailor & Cutter of London in October 1912. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 191, October 1912.**

1912 – Mud Lake, Labrador. A troop photo of Frontiersmen with rifles posed at “present arms.” **Northwest Territories Archives.**

1912 – St. John’s, Newfoundland. “A branch of the Frontiersmen was established in St. John’s in 1912 by E.W. Vere-Holloway and was made up of ex-members of the boys’ brigades who qualified.” **University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives, Nelson J. Sherrin, unpublished and untitled 18 page paper c1998.**

1912 – St. John’s Commandant, Newfoundland. Walter Frederick Rendell, active with the Church Lads Brigade, assumed command of the Legion of Frontiersmen in St. John’s. He then enrolled into the Newfoundland Regiment as a Captain and Adjutant, proceeded overseas. Was wounded in Gallipoli 1915, and wounded in France 1916. Lieutenant Colonel Walter Frederick Rendell was awarded the CBE in 1919. Later in the Second World War he served with the Home Guard. A 1914 photo clearly shows Rendell in the L.O.F. uniform as one of the officers in the newly forming Newfoundland Regiment. **University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives, Nelson J. Sherrin, unpublished and untitled 18 page paper c1998, and CANADIAN GREAT WAR PROJECT [online].**

1912 – Chilliwack Valley, British Columbia. The sub-unit secretary J. Worrall reports that the sub unit is invited by the local Militia Corps in to take part in a camp on Vancouver Island. Also noted is a registration number, “6009 Frontiersmen G.L. Snow is granted leave of absence to proceed to California.” **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 143, August 1912.**

1912 – Vancouver Command. On 11 September 1912, this unit under Legion Lieutenant G.H. Sloan aided by the Adjutant Lieutenant F.E. Dorchester has decided to open a section for dismounted men. In order to do this Lt. C. Plowden reverts from adjutant to Second Lieutenant in charge of the Dismounted section, while Second Lieutenant E.P. Waldo is in charge of the Mounted section. The Quartermaster Sergeant and secretary for Vancouver is J. Miller and the unit's Press Agent is T. Thomas. Messers A.P. Brown and Company of 849 Pender Street West are appointed regimental tailors. A news report describes F.E. Dorchester as "an out-and-out Imperialist of some prominence", E.P. Waldo "ex-Munster Regiment served in Africa", and C. Plowden "besides holding his majesty's commission for 18 years, is also, a Colonel by a commission from the King of Greece". The news report states that: "There are other ex-officers acting as troopers" and it goes on to say "We hope the Command here will reach a thousand strong in the next few months." **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 205, November 1912.**

1912 – Vernon and Okanagan Command. Under Organizing Officer Lt. Prosper J. Audy, P.O. Box 441 of Vernon had a meeting on October 05 establishing an Annual Subscription of \$5.00, lists standards of eligibility, and details of the uniform to be worn: stiff brim Stetson with leather hatband and Legion crest & monogram, navy color shirt with shoulder chains, silk blue with white "bird's eye" (polka dot) pattern bandanna, khaki (any shade) breeches or trousers with high brown riding boots, brown fringed gauntlets and regulation Legion holster. As well as smoking concert was to be held at the Oddfellows' hall in Vernon on October 23rd at 8:15. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 223, December 1912.**

1912 – Comox, British Columbia. Captain S. Bates of Aspen Grove BC is Officer Commanding, Comox District, Vancouver Island. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 223, December 1912.**

1912 – Calgary Command. Formed about June 1912 by V.J.C. Eccles, and Command Staff listed includes Col. G.E. Sanders CMG, DSO (on active service First World War); Lt. Col. P.J. Daly CMG, DSO (on active service First World War); Capt. V.J.C. Eccles (killed in action First World War), Lt. Col. J. Drummond. "A" Squadron leader is Legion Capt. J.C. Page (on active service First World War) with Troops No.1, No.2, No.3, No.4 led by Lieutenants Miller, Watson, Donalson [sic], and Gilson respectively (all of whom are on active service First World War). "B" Squadron's Troops No.5, No.6, No.7, No.8 are led by Lieutenants Lake, Emery, L'Amy, and Hogg respectively, (all of whom are also on active service First World War). **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 43, March 1913. THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 04, War Number 1918.**

1912 – Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. "A" Squadron Moose Jaw (later in South Saskatchewan Command by March 1913) was formed about December 1912, leader F.T. Flavell. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 03, War Number 1918.**

1912 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This sub-unit held its annual meeting in December 1912 at its HQ, Boulton's Garage, 2nd Avenue North. "Captain Boulton in his opening speech, spoke of the splendid advance the Saskatoon Sub-unit had made in the past twelve months, and also how the Unit increased, considering that in January of 1912, there were only six in the Troop. There were now one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Sergeant-Major, one Sergeant, one Corporal, and 54 Troopers, beside the band. There are also two honorary members who have made up their minds to join the Legion" As well a mix of Troopers and NCOs was elected to positions on the Executive Council with two Troopers elected to positions of Secretary and Treasurer. Reviewing the recent past parade for, and inspection by the visiting Duke of Connaught; Captain Boulton and all Frontiersmen had been complimented. The Duke of Connaught said: "Captain Boulton, you have one of the finest bodies of men I have met in my travels through Canada". As well the Sub-unit's padre Lieutenant E.P. Goulding was reported married in Dublin, Ireland. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 26-27, February 1912.**

1912 – Fiji. By 1912 a "special service corps" of Legion of Frontiersmen was noted in the New Zealand press. **MARLBOROUGH EXPRESS, page 2, 29 May 1912.**

1912 – Falkland Islands. The Organising Secretary was Ernest N. Boothroyd (WW1 enlisted 3/1st Yorkshire Dragoons). Members noted were: R. Douglas, L.T. Barnes late of the Royal Navy (October 1902 to 1912) working as a policeman, A. Matravers (also known as McTavers), Later, all four sailed on the SS Freshfield on September 1, 1915 from Stanley to England. **THE FRONTIERSMEN, page ?, October 1912.**

Note: The late NZ LOF Historian, Bruce Fuller commented that The Roll of Honour shows Louis Barnes – Ernest Boothroyd – Archie McTavers suggesting that they had been killed. This NZ historian noted that a 1918 source [likely THE FRONTIERSMAN] identified the Organising Officer as Frontiersman A.E. Smith; however, after WW1 the Falklands L.O.F. unit ceased to exist. bws/author

1912 – Argentina. An Argentine unit of the L.O.F. was officially established on November 1, 1912 by the Organising Officer E W Benson (WW1 served as a Lieutenant, Bedfordshire Regiment attached to R.E. Signals and awarded MC). The unit's Organising Secretary was Malcolm Pulbrook (WW1 served as a driver in the R.E.). Later, of the twenty-seven members on the Nominal Roll in 1914, twenty three travelled to England in August and September to enlist. **Holder, Arthur L., ACTIVITIES OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY IN ARGENTINA DURING THE GREAT WAR, 1920.**

1912 – New Zealand. Slow progress in recruiting initially; however, "In 1912 New Zealand began to hear of it, and inside 12 months the right kind of men were falling over one another looking for the Legion's application forms. The Legion was fortunate in finding several splendid organisers in Poverty Bay, Hawke's Bay. Wairarapa, Wanganui, Northern Wairoa and other places, and the foundations of no less than eight splendid squadrons had been laid by the time the Great War broke out. [For the Great War] They volunteered to the man. They made incredible sacrifices to get to the war. There were some 1700 members in New Zealand, and over 1200 went on service, the rest being over age or medically rejected; and the methods by which some men get to the front after being refused admission to the forces would fill a book. Not one Legionary waited for conscription. **HAWERA AND NORMANDY STAR, Legion of Frontiersmen, page 7 Volume XLVIII, 29 October 1924.**

1912 – Vancouver Maritime Section. A report about the Auckland squadron meeting gives some insight about Canada's LOF maritime section. "During the course of the meeting the commandant welcomed Captain Archer, of the Canadian maritime section of the legion, also Sergeant-Major Lett, of the Birmingham command, and Trooper Clarkson, of the Royal Canadian Dragoons. Captain Archer briefly but clearly advocated the forming of a maritime section on the same lines as at Vancouver, for the defence of Auckland Harbour. He particularly desired yachtsmen, motor boat owners, sailors, and others acquainted with sea life" to take a part in this game." **NEW ZEALAND HERALD, "Legion of Frontiersmen, page 05", Volume XLIX, Issue 15120, 10 October 1912.**

❖ 1913

1913 – Hong Kong. "His Excellency the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Henry May, has been pleased to recognize the Legion in Hong Kong as a reserve squadron of the Volunteer Defence Force". **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 56, April 1913.**

1913 – Shanghai. A news article from New Zealand makes references to the Legion of Frontiersmen's June issue of their official gazette listing a number of interesting details including reference to the "third annual dinner of the Shanghai sub-unit". This small bit of information confirms a functioning Shanghai as of 1911 or earlier. **NEW ZEALAND HERALD, "Legion of Frontiersmen", page 10, 24 July 1913.**

1913 – Mongolia. The Chinese government sent telegraphers to inspect Mongolian stations and lines because of damage done by Mongolian raiders. Among these telegraphers was a Mr. Grant, a Frontiersman, dispatched with three Chinese attendants. They were captured by the Mongol raiders, and Grant was told he could make his way as the Mongols would only kill the three Chinese assistants. Grant refused to abandon the Chinese so he too was shot after reportedly saying "You can kill me but never frighten me." **Story confirmed by cross referencing FRONTIERSMEN JOURNAL, September 1913 with OTAUTAU STANDARD AND WALLACE COUNTY CHRONICLE, A Scotchman, page 02, 30 Mahuru [lunar month Aug-Sept] 1913.**

1913 – The Government of Newfoundland. Exemption from Customs was granted on all arms, ammunition, and other equipment for use of the Legion. St. John's Rifle Club grants privileges to the Frontiersmen and annual subscription to it for \$3.50 instead of the regular \$7.00. St. Anthony's Troop, officer commanding, Lt. C.M. Spencer reported that applications are "coming in fast" and that the unit has adopted as a uniform "Sailor suit, brown scarf." **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 11, January 1913.**

1913 – Labrador [Newfoundland]. "The honour of gazetting the 8000th member fell to Labrador Frontiersman H. G. Webb, of that country, receiving badge No. 8000." **NEW ZEALAND HERALD, The Legion Of Frontiersmen, page 10, 12 September 1913.**

1913 – Vancouver Command. Visitor Trooper Tom Burrows of Fiji, the world's champion club swinger was greeted. A big concert was planned by the British Columbia Empire Club, at which the Command will receive a flag. The first mounted parade had been scheduled for about the end of January. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 27, February 1913.**

1913 – Rank and Leadership. A Vancouver newspaper, details the Legion's aims, history, officers and so on. Importantly, the very unique way that rank structure was and still continues to be within the Legion is reported: "Whilst in uniform or on parade, discipline is discipline, yet from colonel to the latest-joined trooper they are equals." The article continued, "Position counts for little in this democratic organisation (sic), except so far as it will help the aims of the Legion, and the Legion itself. Many erstwhile officers, indeed, gladly serve as troopers." Referring to the Chief Executive Officer of the Legion of Frontiersmen, the report continued with a description of the CEO. "Col. Driscoll is well known throughout the Empire in connection with the Driscoll Scouts. He obtained his present rank in actual war service, having always been an irregular who has been on the spot when the Empire had fights to win. A better Commandant would be hard to find." Regarding the local Vancouver officer commanding, Lt. G.H. Sloan who came from Hamilton: "He is an unusually keen officer, and no one could mistake him for aught but a soldier. He served as a scout and guide with French's column in the South Africa War, being an ex-Scots Grey." Other officers of Vancouver Command include Lt. Waldo who held a commission in the Royal Munsters in South Africa and a recent transfer from Burma Command, Lt. Hocking. **VANCOUVER SUN, Local Legion Of Frontiersmen Is A Patriotic Organization, page?, date ?, 1913 reprinted in THE FRONTIERSMAN, page?, date ?, 1913.**

1913 – Chilliwack Valley Troop. This unit formed about January 1913, the Organising Officer being H. Hastings. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 4, War Number 1918.**

Note: This conflicts with an earlier report about Chilliwack Valley 1912, listed previously. bws/author

1913 – Airships and Air Reconnaissance. The citizens of Calgary, Alberta were proposing the building of an "airship" to be called the "Calgarian" for the defence of Great Britain. No doubt the Legion of Frontiersmen would rally to this cause. The Frontiersmen then took the concept a step further and Calgary command advocated the training of "aerial scouts" for air reconnaissance; a concept of some foresight given the evolution of the war to come. **CALGARY NEWS-TELEGRAM, pages 12, 13, 15, 18, March 1913 and CALGARY NEWS-TELEGRAM, page 07, 14 May 1913.**

1913 – Winnipeg Squadron. This unit formed about March 1913, leader E.C. Laver, adjutant M. Langfier, secretary E.C. King. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 03, War Number 1918.**

1913 – Toronto Troop. This unit formed about February 1913, leader W.H. Slater (invalided WW1), secretary J.S. Warren. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 03, War Number 1918.**

1913 – Montreal Troop. This unit formed about March 1913, leader C.H. Macnutt (on active service WW1). **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 03, War Number, 1918.**

1913 – Southern Saskatchewan Command. This unit formed about March 1913, leader F.T. Flavell of Moose Jaw, Southern Saskatchewan Command Organizer. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 03, War Number 1918.**

1913 – "A" Squadron, North Saskatchewan Command. Located at Askwith [Asquith] 25 miles west of Saskatoon this unit formed about June 1913, secretary T. Fairbrother. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 04, War Number 1918.**

1913 – "B" Squadron, South Saskatchewan Command. Located at Willow Bunch and HQ at Bengough (75 miles south of Moose Jaw) this unit was formed about August 1913, led by A.L. Dove MC (on active service WW1), medical officer [Dr.?] Ireland. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 03, War Number 1918.**

1913 – Criticism by Australian Labour Council President [a man of self-stated "unimpeachable veracity"].

“Dear Worker, — I should be glad to have room to express some hostile but none the less justifiable views concerning that being-boomed, bombastic body labelled 'The Legion of Frontiersmen.' It is a Jingoistic collection of tin pin [soldiers]. I met this brand of indomitable warriors in Fiji, and I can describe it with unimpeachable veracity, as a fosterer of an objectionable form of [Imperialism] and devotion to [England]. This corps of alleged [soldiers] goes in more for the Luncheon Biscuit drill than for the hard work training article. It is repudiated by the Australian Defence Department, and is regarded as a delightful joke by the military officials. There is no room for such a body in Australia where we have our citizen army. Therefore, its presence is unnecessary, unreasonable and unendurable. As president of a Labor Council (Mildura), I have advised Laborites to avoid it as the small pox. May it be long quarantined. — As a last word — Its members are mostly anti Labor, and so are a possible, menace to the workers during some future industrial unrest. [signed] HAROLD L. DALE.” **THE WORKER, (Wagga NSW) page 23, 14 August 1913.**

Note: Ironically, the labour leader’s bombast seems equivalent to the jingoistic bombast that he finds “objectionable”. Realistically, the veteran soldiers who formed much of the command structure of the early LOF would have readily aided the Crown/State in a conflict, be it domestic or foreign. Also noteworthy, the poorly equipped and insufficiently trained colonial forces likely felt threatened and affronted by the Legion of Frontiersmen. These experienced campaign veterans and unorthodox imperial adventurers were relatively unfettered by entrenched Edwardian protocol and rigid social status. As for the “tin pin” soldiers and their “Luncheon Biscuit drill”, thousands enlisted often becoming the NCO backbone or officers of newly formed expeditionary forces of the First World War. bws/author

❖ 1914

1914 – LOF Aircraft Reconnaissance vs. Mounted Patrols. “B Troop of the Surrey Squadron has an interesting report in the February Gazette as follows:—'On Saturday, December 20 a small movement was carried out in Brooklands between the Byfleet troop on the one side and Lieutenant F. Merriam of the Legion aeroplane section, on the other. The object was that the troop which was commanded by Corporal J. F. Addis-Price was to endeavour, split up into small parties to reach unobserved the Bristol School of Aviation, on the Brooklands grounds. The chief executive officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Driscoll was present.” **NEW ZEALAND HERALD, Legion of Frontiersmen, page 12, 19 March 1914.**

1914 – Edmonton. Justus Duncan Willson was Commandant of the Legion of Frontiersmen who in 1915 commanded and recruited Legion of Frontiersmen into 'D' Company, 49th Battalion C.E.F. Robert H. Palmer Sub-Commandant of the same Frontiersmen Command “ joined Lieutenant Colonel Griesbach’s 49th Battalion as a company commander”, later becoming Lieut. Colonel Robert Palmer, D.S.O. 49th (Edmonton) Battalion. **EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN, “Legion of Frontiersmen”, 15 August 1914,** and **Matthew K Barrett, 29 July 2016** [<https://matthewkbarrett.com/2016/07/29/the-old-man/#more-2869>].

1914 – “C” Squadron, South Saskatchewan Command. Located at Maple Creek (between Swift Current and Medicine Hat) was formed about January 1914, leader A.I. Dawes. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 03, War Number 1918.**

1914 – Medicine Hat Squadron. Formed about 1914 [pre-war], secretary E.D. Gower. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 4, War Number 1918.**

1914 – Two L.O.F. Units, Overseas Before Canadian Army. 50 Legion of Frontiersmen from Regina meet with Kitchener and go to Southampton; while Victoria’s L.O.F. “Elliot’s Horse” (including Vancouver L.O.F.) proceed overseas to Britain weeks before Canadian Army arrives 14 October 1914. **See Regina L.O.F. and Victoria L.O.F. in this Timeline.**

1914 – Yukon Territory. A volunteer enlistment role was drawn up in Dawson City that included the Royal North West Mounted Police and members of the Legion of Frontiersmen. It stated: “We the undersigned, as a token of our loyalty to the British Empire hereby declare our willingness to respond to such a call as may be made by the government of the Dominion for volunteers from the Yukon to take up arms on behalf of Canada and the Empire ...” [news reference missing]. It is known that Andrew Hart, the local commandant, traveled to England to enlist in the LOF unit, The 25TH

Royal [Frontiersmen] Fusiliers. "Andy Hart, former chief of the Dawson fire department, is now a scout in the Legion of Frontiersmen serving in East Africa." **FAIRBANKS [Alaska] DAILY TIMES, page 02, 09 July 1916.**

1914 – Yukon Gift To Assist War Distressed Belgium Jews. Captain P. Jameson, of the Legion of Frontiersmen, donates to Belgium relief and war effort. "A unique gift is to be sold, for the benefit of the Belgian fund in Auckland. It is a complete set of chessmen, made, from the tusk of a pre-historic animal, the mastodon, and along with it is another set made partly from mastodon tusk and partly from moose bone. This latter set is to be sold for the benefit of the fund started on behalf of distressed Belgian Jews by the London Jewish Mission. The gifts are from Captain P. Jameson, of the Legion of Frontiersmen, lately from, Yukon, Alaska, a pioneer of the famous Yukon field, and hunter and trapper for many years inside the Arctic Circle. The mastodon tusk was unearthed inside the Arctic Circle, at Fort Yukon, by Captain Jameson, and the chess sets were cut out by him in the long winter nights, the work occupying two years. Articles describing these chess sets have been published in Canadian and American magazines. The exact manner of the disposal of the gifts has not yet been decided. It is hoped chess players or the public will subscribe to present them to the museum, and in the meantime they have been left in charge of the editor of the Auckland Weekly News. Captain Jameson has placed no price on either set but he naturally hopes to see them bring a substantial sum to the help of the Belgians, whose noble sacrifice has meant so much to the British Empire." **EVENING POST, "An Interesting Gift", page 09, 10 November 1914.**

Note: See previous Timeline entries "1909-Yukon Territory" and "1911-Whitehorse, Yukon". Captain P. Jameson is credited with forming Whitehorse troop in 1911; yet it in 1909 "Camp No. 1 White Horse" Yukon troop had permission from the RNWMP to utilize their machine gun for training purposes. It is most likely that Capt. P. Jameson actually initiated Whitehorse troop in 1909. bws/author

1914 – Calgary. Just prior to the outbreak of the Great War Calgary Command was attempting to raise "a fighting Battalion of Frontiersmen with horses, accoutrement, batteries, transport, medical equipment, parts" by canvassing via letter for \$250,000.00. This does not occur as members join Canadian Expeditionary Force battalions once war is declared. **Glenbow Museum, letter, 04 August 1914.**

1914 - \$50,000.00 Given To Legion Of Frontiersmen. Senator Patrick Burns, western Canadian rancher, entrepreneur, and philanthropist supported the Legion of Frontiersmen war efforts. "During World War I he and his company contributed \$50,000 to equip the Legion of Frontiersmen." **DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY ONLINE, 1931-1940 (Volume XVI) "Burns, Patrick".**

1914 – Calgary Militia Rivalry With Legion of Frontiersmen. In 1914 the LOF appears to have been recruiting men and canvassing for equipment for overseas service. This was apparently proceeding more rapidly than Canadian Government planning and execution of mobilization. Capt. Daily DSO [formerly 19TH Hussars] and a leading officer of the Legion of Frontiersmen accused the local Calgary Militia [Army] of "petty jealousy" regarding the Legion of Frontiersmen and that "the militia had been bucking the Frontiersmen for the last two years". Furthermore the Militia had already had in effect poached 228 members of the Legion of Frontiersmen. - Ironically, the Militia that had made efforts to demean the Legion of Frontiersmen for 2 years actively recruited [poached] Frontiersmen for their own ranks. **CALGARY DAILY HERALD, page 05, 12 August 1914.**

Note. After the initial flurry of activity in the Calgary, events settled into a pattern of Legion of Frontiersmen enlisting in various Canadian Expeditionary Force formations. Notable in Calgary was the LOF rush to enlist in the PPCLI and subsequently in the 31st Battalion CEF. bws/author

1914 – WW1 Air 'Ace' Thomas Frederic (Tommy) Williams, M.C., M.M.V. Born in 1885, in Ontario, T.F. Williams joined the Legion of Frontiersmen at Calgary at the outbreak of WW1, then resigned to enlist in the C.E.F. Eventually he received a commission in the Royal Flying Corps and destroyed fourteen German aircraft in aerial combat. He was awarded the Military Cross (M.C.) and the Italian government decorated him with the Valore Militare Medal (M.M.V). Tommy Williams went on to a long and distinguished aviation career in Canada. In 1971, at age 87 he performed one last solo aerobatic flight for 30 minutes, with loops, rolls and a spin and after 56 years of flying was at that time recognized

as the world's oldest active pilot. In 1974 Tommy Williams became a Member of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in Edmonton, Alberta.

1914 – Calgary Women offer service as L.O.F. Nurses. “Enthusiasm is seen on every side among the women of Calgary in the matter of offering their services as nurses on the battlefield. At the headquarters of the Legion of Frontiersmen letters have been received from every part of the province [Alberta], and already eighteen volunteers have applied for enrolment. ... Among the eager applicants are Mrs. Daly, wife of Captain Daly [Calgary Command], an experienced nurse in the South African war, and Miss Laurie Coates, who gained her experience through her work in connection with Dr. Grenfell's mission on the coast of Labrador. ... As Major Duncan Stuart [Calgary Command] said, the assistance of women on the battlefield are invaluable. ... Mrs. Daly was appointed president of the committee ... Those who have applied so far include: Miss F. W. Allison, a graduate of Victoria hospital, Kelso; Miss E. M. Allison (Belleville hospital), 1343 Fourteenth avenue west; Miss Charlotte A. Yeomans (Illinois Training college), 836 Third avenue west; Miss Margaret Duncan (Glasgow General), Scottish Nursing home; Miss Lizzie M. Fream (Calgary General), Miss W. McLeod (Calgary General), Mrs. Alice Daly (South Africa British Services hospital); Miss Alicia Richardson, (Edinburgh Royal infirmary), Scottish Nursing home; Mrs. A. McLeod (Victoria hospital), 140 Fourteenth avenue west; Miss Agnes Galbraith Luke (Calgary General), High River; Miss Mabel Smith[?] (McLean hospital), 363 Sixth avenue west; Miss Lila Middleton (Y.W.C.A.); Miss E. M. Fancott (Y.W.C.A.); Miss Rosina Vening, Mrs. F. M. French, 735 Fourth avenue west; Miss Margaret Macfarlane (Calgary General); Miss Laurie Coates (Grenfell Mission, St. Timothy hospital); Dr. L. B. Yeomans (Michigan), 836 Third avenue west; Miss Willie G. Marshall, Mount Royal college. **CALGARY HERALD, Women Show Ambition To Serve Empire As Nurses, page 12, 07 August 1914.**

1914 – Regina L.O.F., First Overseas before C.E.F. 50 men of the Regina Command of the Legion of Frontiersmen promptly make their way directly to London and meet with Lord Kitchener convincing him of their readiness for action. A letter dated 22 September 1914 states: “... we not only had the pleasure of seeing this great soldier in person but of having our services accepted. We are leaving for Southampton in a day or two.” It would be four more weeks before the first Canadian contingent officially arrived in England on October 14. **THE CALGARY HERALD, Services of Western Frontiersmen Accepted By War Minister, page 12, 06 October 1914.**

1914 – Prince Rupert, BC. A report from the northern most port on Canada's west coast follows, “Many volunteers joined the Legion of Frontiersmen at Prince Rupert on Saturday.” **THE OMINECA MINER, [third unnumbered page], 08 AUGUST 1914.**

1914 – Victoria (and Vancouver) L.O.F. “Elliot's Horse”, First Canadians To Reach Firing Line[?]. Two enigmatic LF groups rush to the front. A surviving untitled partial document produced by Calgary Command comments “Just as the Vancouver Command of the L.F. (“Elliot's Horse”) was the first military unit from Canada to reach the firing line, so the first and yet only South African contingent to get to the front was the Cape Town Command of the Legion of Frontiersmen which went by public subscription as “The People's Legion”. Calgary Command, **Untitled partial document, Loose pages 01 [02 and 03 missing], 04,05,06,07,08,09, published by Calgary Command, 1915. [University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives].**

1914 – Victoria, Elliot's Horse. Victoria lawyer R.T. Elliot and Victoria citizens raised a private unit called “Elliot's Horse”. Most of Vancouver Command, some sixty members, travelled to Victoria to amalgamate with Elliot's Horse. This unit was both equipped and transported by private funding to England, reporting for war service as a unit. Reports vary but it appears that in England the unit was disbanded and members went to serve in various British formations, while some persons were reported stranded in England. According to one source 40 went to the Belgium Army and only 15 survived the war. While Legion of Frontiersmen under the *nom de guerre* of British Colonial Horse [“BCH” shows on old photos] did form a platoon within the 3RD Belgium Lancers, a connection to Elliot's Horse is not apparent as of current research. There have been unproven considerations that some of the 50 Regina Command L.O.F. and/or Elliot's Horse [basically L.O.F.] may have gone into the French or Belgium armies. **CALGARY DAILY HERALD, page 04, 17 NOVEMBER 1914. THE FRONTIERSMAN (Corps of Imperial Frontiersmen, Hamilton, Ontario), page 12, December 1951. Untitled partial**

document, Loose pages 01 [02 and 03 missing], 04,05,06,07,08,09, published by Calgary Command, 1915. [University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives].

1914 – Victoria, BC, 50th Gordon Highlanders. Seymour Rowlinson wrote in 1914 that upon declaration of war Victoria BC Command under Legion Captain Gray-Donald was drilling three nights a week at Beacon Hill Park. Capt. Gray-Donald asked the Commanding Officer if the Frontiersmen could enlist in his 50th Gordon Highlanders. "Colonel Currie said he would be only too pleased to have our members under him and granted to them a special distinction the privilege of wearing their own uniforms; and I have seen photographs taken in France of our men wearing Stetson hats with the L.F. badge." Rowlinson further wrote that on the 28th of August 1914 that only about six men are left to carry on. Driscoll the CEO of the Legion appoints Rowlinson a Legion Lieutenant at the request of Victoria Frontiersmen who were in England with the CEF. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 30, War Number 1918.**

1914 – Winnipeg, Manitoba. "Despite the fact that many of their members have left for active service with some of the local military units, the Legion of Frontiersmen of Winnipeg are steadily drilling and preparing for the call to arms. The Legion of Frontiersmen is composed of older men than those who, as a rule, are members of the active Militia. The local organisation has been in existence in Winnipeg for two years and previous to the outbreak of war was 100 strong and thoroughly drilled. The organisation is divided into two divisions, one being men who are able to volunteer for active service, the other men who are ready at a moment's notice to turn out for home defence. The corps is a self-supporting one, the men furnishing their own uniforms and equipment, and in time of service when they are a mounted corps, their own horses. Many of the members of the Legion of Frontiersmen throughout Western Canada have joined the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry. They have opened a recruiting office in Winnipeg, and as the organisation is recognised by the British War Office, they are hoping for an early call to arms. The Legion of Frontiersmen originated in "Driscoll's Scouts" who played an important part in the South African campaign". [Note Error re: Driscoll's Scouts. The 1904-05 LOF beginnings were under of Roger Pocock in London, UK]. **THE DEVON AND EXETER GAZETTE, Beyond Age But Ready, Canada's Frontiersmen, 29 September 1914, transcribed by Legion Historian Geoffrey A. Pocock.**

1914 - Hamilton, Ontario. An early issue of The Frontiersman magazine shows a captioned photo of C. Leadbeater, D. Dodd, T.H. Buckholder, D.S. Blackie, J. Anderson, W.H. May, W.Wood, A.J. Potts (Capt), J Ratcliffe. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, pre-WW1 date [?], 1914, found in The British Library by Legion Historian Geoffrey A. Pocock.**

1914 – Toronto. "Frontiersmen met last night and increased their numbers from 20 to 40...The organization is not confined to servicemen. They will admit surveyors, cowboys, bushmen, and any men who have had experience in frontier service. They will do duty as irregular cavalry and will do scouting and transport work... An executive meeting will be held at the home of secretary J.S. Warren, 122 Howland Avenue". **THE TORONTO WORLD, page 07, 05 August 1914.**

1914 – Ottawa-Kingston. A paragraph in page one of the three page 1975-'76 report by Legion-Colonel Noel Hyslop TD, Commandant Eastern Canada Command refers to a 1914 Legion of Frontiersmen Troop joining the 4th Canadian Hussars, later part of the 8th Canadian Mounted Rifles: "The history of Frontiersmen units in the Ottawa-Kingston areas goes back to before the 1914-18 War. In 1914, a whole Troop joined the 4th Canadian Hussars (militia) – later to become part of the 8th Canadian Mounted Rifles overseas. The 4th C.H. was reformed shortly after W.W.1 and amalgamated with IV Princess Louise's Dragoon Guards in the mid 1930s. The regiment was finally disbanded about ten years ago. It is particularly gratifying to be able to form a Troop of "A" squadron in the Kingston area, one of the principal [sic] recruiting areas of the 4th Hussars ..." **LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN OF THE COMMONWEALTH EASTERN CANADA REPORT 1975-76, three pages by Legion-Colonel Noel Hyslop TD. Research by Geoffrey A. Pocock, 2010.**

1914 - Newfoundland & Labrador Command membership was described as follows: "The Legionaires (sic) included many men with war medals and much experience." In a commentary about Newfoundland legionnaires dated 22 December 1917, Lt. Col. E.R. Johnson, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Legion of Frontiersmen wrote that "the pre war total of over 150" made up the Newfoundland Command. At the outbreak of war Legion Capt. W.A. Wakefield attempted to have the entire command go to England to be under Lt. Col. Driscoll's leadership. As this was not feasible,

“He advised all Frontiersmen under his command, between 19 and 35, who had no dependents, to join either the Royal Naval Reserve or the newly formed Newfoundland Infantry Regiment. Captain Wakefield himself joined the Infantry Regiment in September 1914...the older members of the Command have been and still are on Home Defence Artillery Duty, under Legion Lieut. Vere-Holloway, at St. John’s, as a portion of the colony’s armed forces. Recruitment for the Command has continued steadily since August 1914, and a small but steady stream of Legionaires (sic) has gone to the Infantry Regiment overseas.” **THE FRONTIERSMAN, PAGE 31, War Number 1918.**

1914 – Newfoundland Regiment. Most of the Legion of Frontiersmen in Newfoundland and Labrador joined the newly formed Newfoundland Regiment: “the Newfoundland Regiment First-500 had many who were Frontiersmen (perhaps 200)”. With the remainder serving in the Merchant Marine or Royal Navy Reserve, Lieutenant E.W. Vere-Holloway, with Sgt. Russell and remaining Frontiersmen gunners manned the naval gun protecting the entrance to St. John’s harbour. As they were under the command of the Royal Navy Reserve, the Frontiersmen gave up their colonial slouch hats and wore the brimless naval caps with the LF uniform. Lt. Vere Holloway and Sgt. Russell wore the standard army uniform with a Frontiersmen badge with a bugle “not unlike the badge of the Durham Light Infantry of the Imperial Army”. **Nelson J. Sherrin, unpublished and untitled 18 page paper, c1998. Frontiersmen Held The Fort in 1916-1918 by Michael P. Murphy, unpublished 7 page paper also tagged “Newscene 11”.**

1914 – Samoa Occupation Force. At the immediate outbreak of hostilities an advance force left New Zealand to capture a German wireless station at Samoa. At Suva Harbour, ten [also reported as “a dozen” and “a detail of”] Legion of Frontiersmen from Fiji were taken aboard the Moeraki “at the request of the Governor of Fiji”, and they were attached to the 3rd Auckland Regiment. The 5th Wellington and 3rd Auckland regiments provided the three infantry companies for the operation. **THE WAR EFFORT OF NEW ZEALAND, page 33, S. J. Smith, 1923** and **NEW ZEALAND IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-1918, page 51, Stephen John Smith, 1924.**

Note: Fiji. As early as 1911 a “special service corps” of Legion of Frontiersmen is noted in the New Zealand press. **MARLBOROUGH EXPRESS, page 0, 29 May 1912.**

1914 – Samoa Garrison Duty. NZ Soldiers, after initial invasion and occupation duty in Samoa request transfer to the European front and in response for the New Zealand government: “The Hon. J. Allen made an announcement ... I propose to give an opportunity to 500 men between the ages of 40 and 57 to volunteer, for service in Samoa to relieve some of the garrison there Preference will be given to those who have served as volunteers or who have seen active service, and then members of rifle clubs, National Reserve, Legion of Frontiersmen, etc., and others who have a keen active interest in defence questions at the present time.” **COLONIST, New Zealand’s Part, page 06, 27 November 1914.**

1914 – China, Kiao Chau Naval Base. A news report briefly mentions that the Legion of Frontiersmen “assisted the Japanese, in the taking of Kiao Chau, Germany's Far East naval base.” This Imperial German concession was also called Kiautschou-Bucht and was located on the Jiaozhou Bay in China. **THE REGISTER [Adelaide], “Legion of Frontiersmen”, page 4, 29 August 1916.**

1914 – Kenya. Effective August 12, 1914 the Legion of Frontiersmen were gazetted as “Field Service Members” and are formally part of the colony’s military force. One of the six squadrons of the East African Mounted Rifles was formed by the Legion of Frontiersmen. **KENYA GAZETTE, “The East Africa Volunteer Reserve Amendment Ordinance 1914.” C.J. Wilson, EAST AFRICAN MOUNTED RIFLES.**

1914 – Cape Command, South Africa. Writing to the Mayor of Capetown, Captain E. Beardmore and Captain J.E. Pearson the Chief of Staff, both of the Legion of Frontiersmen corresponded with civil officials. The Mayor was asked to confirm the LOF offer to the Minister of Defence of 250 [later 268] men ready within 48 hours of notice. It was stated that Cape Command is comprised of Field Artillery, Mounted Infantry, a Machine Gun Section, Riflemen, Scouts, and a Motor & Intelligence section. The men who volunteered are between 30 to 45 years of age. Some 40% were married but had already made necessary family arrangements. The unit is officered by former Irregular military Officers. The NCOs were selected based upon past services. The men were reported as medically fit and prepared to accept military regulations,

pay, and training. **CAPETOWN ARCHIVES, letters, late August to 05 September 1914. Research compliments Anne Samson [U.K. writer and historian], 2014.**

1914 – Sydney, NSW, Australia. “The Legion of Frontiersmen has offered 300 men for service with the Imperial Light Horse, and a squadron for service with the expeditionary force.” **THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, The Legion of Frontiersmen, page 10, 24 August 1914.**

1914 – Ceylon. Lieutenant D. G. Heslop of Columbo, reported “This Command only started on August 10 last, but I have already forty men enrolled, of whom 16 belong to Class A [for overseas service].” He further stated “I have no doubt ... I could get 100 men immediately.” A deputation had been sent to His Excellency the Governor and training with the army began. The forty members of the Columbo unit began drilling under the instruction of Subadar [Captain] Sundar Singh of the 28th Punjabis. The Adjutant, Captain Burrows of the 28th Punjabis was to examine Frontiersmen in signaling classes and to certify those who were efficient. A sub-unit of the Legion was reported in Kalutara and discussion for the development of a frontline contingent had begun. Legion Lieutenant Heslop proposed jungle training, scouting and trekking at a camp on Moon Plains, Nurawa Ellya, for the new year. **THE STRAITS TIMES, page 10, 16 October 1914. CEYLON OBSERVER (Weekly Edition) 09th 15th 24 September 1914 and 06th, 15 October 1914.**

1914 – Ceylon Recruiting Advertisement. “LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN” [title] “To those desiring to join the Ceylon contingent of the Legion of Frontiersmen and are resident in the F.M.S. or Straits Settlements, application should be made to Lieut. Heslop, Columbo, at once. None but British-born subjects need apply, ages between 21 and 40.” **THE STRAITS TIMES, page 05, 27 November 1914.**

1914 – Remounts, England, Initially Staffed by L.O.F. Lt. Col. Driscoll wrote to Seymour Rowlinson of Victoria, BC command: “I have a large number of our men in the remounts depots training horses. This enables them to keep employed until such times as they are called out for mounted duty. It also enables me to find a place for the many men who are coming constantly from overseas, so if you know of any men who care to come across they may be sure of getting into something as soon as they report to me.” **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 30, War Number 1918.** See also local English newspaper archives and old photos to verify Remounts work.

1914 – PPCLI and the Legion of Frontiersmen. “... it is a well known fact that the Patricias was largely composed of Frontiersmen.” **The Edmonton Bulletin, “City Legion of Frontiersmen Is Doing Good Work”, page 06, 27 August 1915.**

1914 – PPCLI, L.O.F. Rush to Enlist. At the declaration of war the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry began recruiting and within days is overwhelmed by volunteers, especially members of the Legion of Frontiersmen; and it is the Legion officers who are recruiting for PPCLI in Edmonton, Calgary, Moose Jaw and likely other locations. Based on legion-lore and recent research it is very logical to consider that hundreds, about 50% of the original PPCLI members of 1914 were Legion of Frontiersmen. A published letter written by Lt. Col. D.P. Driscoll DSO the CEO of the Legion of Frontiersmen, then on his way to British East Africa as Commanding Officer of the 25th Royal Frontiersmen Fusiliers states: “It is a source of great satisfaction to find so many colonial contingents so strongly represented; nearly 50 per cent of Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry are members of the Legion.” In the **MALTA CHRONICLE**, 24 March 1915 a published letter written by Lieutenant Colonel D.P. Driscoll DSO the CEO of the Legion of Frontiersmen then on his way to British East Africa as the Commanding Officer of the 25th Royal [Frontiersmen] Fusiliers: “It is a source of great satisfaction to find so many colonial contingents so strongly represented: nearly 50 percent of Princes Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry are members of the Legion”. Later in 1918 D.P. Driscoll DSO wrote: “Again who does not swell with pride and emotion when we think of the grand work performed by the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Battalion, which was rushed straight across in time of peril and who sacrificed themselves almost out of existence to save the Empire; over 50% of this battalion were members of the Legion”. [Note the discrepancy in Driscoll’s two reports, 1914 vs 1918; nonetheless indicating that hundreds of Frontiersmen were accepted into the original PPCLI ranks]. **Cross reference: News of the time from Calgary, Edmonton, Moose Jaw, Malta, NZ Wanganui Chronicle, page 04, 1 May 1915. A CITY GOES TO WAR, page 04. FIRST IN THE FIELD. PPCLI NOMINAL ROLE. Letters by theCEO of the Legion of Frontiersmen and verbal lore. THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 26, War Number 1918.**

1914 – PPCLI, Recruiting From Legion of Frontiersmen. The PPCLI of August 1914 was looking for veteran soldiers. An obvious source for a large number of veteran soldiers was the already established Legion of Frontiersmen. In 1914 the Legion of Frontiersmen had these men in large numbers and were already training for military service, this being their mandate. Reflecting upon the news of the day it is obvious that PPCLI's commander Lieutenant-Colonel Farquhar knew of the Legion and wanted Frontiersmen assistance and enlistment. Lieutenant Colonel Farquhar contacted the Legion of Frontiersmen in Moose Jaw, Calgary, Edmonton, and likely other Legion Commands to assist with PPCLI formation. As one example note the following: "Lieut.-Col. Farquhar last night wired to the Legion of Frontiersmen, who have 1700 names on their list, asking for 400 men to be entrained for the east within 48 hours. The most seasoned will be selected from those enrolled, and sent". **EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN, Morning Edition, front page, 11 August 1914.**

1914 – PPCLI, Edmonton Command. The article "Princess Patricia's Regiment to Entrain Tonight" and also subtitled "300 Ex-Servicemen To Go From This City" mentions that Captain McKinery was recruiting in response to Lt. Col. Farquhar's telegram requesting 300 men from Edmonton for the PPCLI. **EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN, 12 August 1914.**

1914 – PPCLI, Recruiter Capt. McKinery, former Staff Officer for D.P. Driscoll DSO in South Africa War [Driscoll was the Commanding Officer and CEO of the Legion of Frontiersmen in 1914]. It is very interesting to note that Capt. McKinery would be very familiar with the CEO of the Legion of Frontiersmen and no doubt the men of the Legion. "Capt. McKinery was staff officer to Colonel Driscoll, commanding "Driscoll's Scouts", a special corps operating with permission of Lord Kitchener, under Sir Leslie Rundle, in the South African campaign." **EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN, First Installment of Volunteers Leave, pages 01 - 02, 13 August 1914.**

1914 – PPCLI, Telegram To Moose Jaw Legion of Frontiersmen. "Get all men [referring to Legion of Frontiersmen] ready for infantry medically examined immediately. Enlistment is for one year or the war. Pay at Canadian rates. Get as many men as possible. Probably leaving Tuesday or Wednesday." **MOOSE JAW EVENING TIMES, 11 August 1914.**

Note: The Legion of Frontiersmen had established a number of commands and sub-units throughout Canada since its inception of 24 December 1904. Telegraph communication between western units of Vancouver, Nelson, Calgary, Edmonton, and Moose Jaw was occurring in August of 1914. Regarding PPCLI enlistment, the Moose Jaw Command received a telegram from Calgary Command. The Moose Jaw Evening Times quoted a portion of the telegram, and the portion quoted is identical to the more fully quoted telegram text that Edmonton Command had received from Lt. Col. Farquhar. Logically then, the significant commands of Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg and others as well, would have been contacted by Calgary Command or by Farquhar directly. Both LOF and PPCLI lore tell of men riding to the nearest rail station and leaving their horses at the hitching rail as they rush to enlist in PPCLI. [Refer to Hodder-Williams, 1923].
bws/author

1914 – PPCLI "Original", Leader of Moose Jaw Legion of Frontiersmen. "The frontiersmen [Legion of Frontiersmen] provided men for Canada's crack regiment, the Princess Pats, and in this regard the Moose Jaw command under [Legion] Lieut. Gerald Hanley attracted a great amount of attention by literally taking possession of a C.P.R. train and making the railway carry them east." This LOF officer became Sergeant Gerald Hanley, Regimental No. 1003, a PPCLI "Original". Subsequently, he was wounded May 8, 1915 and struck off strength May 17, 1915 owing to sickness or wounds. **MORNING LEADER [Regina Saskatchewan], page 12, 20 April 1916**

1914 – PPCLI, L.O.F. Member Abandons Homestead to Enlist. Ernest Roper of Bittern Lake in central Alberta joins PPCLI. Frontiersman E. Roper is a rare documented example of the hundreds of Legion of Frontiersmen who flocked to the ranks of the original Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He left Canada with the first contingent in October, 1914 and was killed in action January 9th, 1915. **THE BITTER 'N SWEET: The History of Bittern Lake – Sifton District, page 499, published by The Bittern Lake – Sifton History Book Association, Bittern Lake, Alberta, 1983.**

1914 – PPCLI, Three Hundred One [301] Men Sent From Edmonton For Selection. To make up this total of 301 men, batches of men over a three day period, August 12th the first contingent of 120 men, August 13th the second contingent of 116 men and August 14th the third contingent of 65 men entrained from Edmonton to Calgary for PPCLI selection.

The newspaper reporting these numbers stated that the “utmost care” had been taken to insure accuracy. **THE MORNING BULLETIN, page 04, 25 November 1915.**

1914 – PPCLI, L.O.F. Statistical Sample. An Edmonton newspaper article mentions that Capt. McKinery of the Canadian Militia – former Staff Officer in South Africa to D.P. Driscoll DSO – was recruiting men in response to Lt. Col. Farquhar’s telegram requesting 300 from Edmonton for the PPCLI. The 47 Legion of Frontiersmen names listed were compared to the nominal roll “originals” in the two volume PPCLI history by Ralph Hodder-Williams. This “first batch” of the total to come from Edmonton presents a rare statistical example: of the 47 LF mentioned as entrained from Edmonton, 21 of these LF became “originals” in the PPCLI, or 44% of these Legion of Frontiersmen volunteers made it into the PPCLI ranks. Certainly, a percentage based on one sample could not be extrapolated into a conclusive statement; yet, it adds to the circumstantial picture forcing one to seriously consider the Legion verbal lore claiming that hundreds of LF had served as PPCLI “originals”. **EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN, “First Installment of Volunteers Leave”, pages 01 - 02, 13 August 1914.**

1914 – PPCLI, L.O.F. Senior Officers Instrumental In Recruiting and Organization. It is known that the Edmonton Legion Commandant Justus Duncan Willson was recruiting for PPCLI. It was also reported in Calgary that Major Duncan Stewart of Calgary Legion Command and Colonel G.E. Saunders also of Calgary Legion Command are responsible for transportation and rations regarding PPCLI recruitment. News reports indicate hundreds of Calgary Frontiersmen are available for recruitment. Further it has been reported that eighty-three or more Moose Jaw Command Legion of Frontiersmen joined the PPCLI troop train by force (photo of this group in Ottawa survives), but contrary to commonly reported PPCLI history, this colourful group appears not to have joined PPCLI in mass as the commonly known photo of Moose Jaw L.O.F. suggests. bws/author ...see next entry...

1914 – PPCLI, L.O.F. Ottawa. Legion of Frontiersmen, “western cavalrymen”, arrive in Ottawa, “some in khaki regimentals, some in mufti”. Not all LF can enlist in the PPCLI and it appears that the LF remaining were assigned remounts duty. The news of the day reports that the Legion of Frontiersmen “will be utilized to break 700 horses which are now being assembled at Lansdowne Park, and later can be enrolled with the artillery units as drivers.” Calgary news of the time reported: “The Moose Jaw Frontiersmen who came to Ottawa at their own expense, so anxious were they to get to the front, are being drafted into various Ottawa units. They are joining the local artillery corps, and the Forty-third.” [30th Field Artillery Regiment and 43rd Duke of Cornwall’s Own Rifles] **TORONTO STAR, page 19, 20 August 1914 and CALGARY DAILY HERALD, front page, 21 August 1914.**

Note: The Legion of Frontiersmen from Moose Jaw doing Remounts work could subsequently be joining the 30th Field Artillery Regiment [remaining so named post war] or the local 43rd Duke of Cornwall’s Own Rifles [re-organized to become the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa]. bws/author

1914 – PPCLI, L.O.F. Enlistment Numbers. Substantial LF involvement with the original PPCLI at the call to arms is further indicated by evaluating news of the day in Edmonton, Calgary, and Moose Jaw; the regimental history of the LERs by Stevens and subsequent PPCLI nominal roll by Ralph Hodder-Williams, 1923. In relation to the information presented one is reminded that in 1915 Lieutenant Colonel D.P. Driscoll DSO of the 25th Royal (Frontiersmen) Fusiliers, and LF Chief Executive Officer, wrote that “nearly 50%” of the Patricia’s are from the Legion of Frontiersmen. In 1918 Driscoll again wrote about the L.O.F. enlistment into the original PPCLI saying, “over 50%” were from Legion of Frontiersmen. Colonel Louis Scott DCM, a WW1 “Patricia” dominated the Legion of Frontiersmen from 1930 to his death decades later and at no time was there any repression of the traditional Frontiersmen lore about PPCLI enlistment. Nor did Louis Scott DCM express disagreement with the First World War era news headlines from Vancouver and Regina of 600 hundred of the original PPCLI being from the quasi-military Legion of Frontiersmen. These are compelling points regarding regiment formation; yet, ignored when one reviews history books about the PPCLI. As well, if there is any veracity to the concept of to “oral traditions” or “oral history” the old legend of 600 Legion of Frontiersmen volunteers in the original PPCLI formation requires thoughtful discussion. **DAILY MALTA CHRONICLE, 24 March 1915. THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 26, War Number 1918. REGINA MORNING LEADER, page 03, 17 June 1916. News clipping, Longstaff files, BC Archives. etc.**

1914 – Lord Strathcona’s Horse, L.O.F. Squadron [?]. A reflective quotation made in 1933 regarding Lord Strathcona’s Horse follows: “In 1914 on the outbreak of the Great War, a contingent of the Canadian Command of the Legion joined Strathcona's Horse and formed their own Legion Squadron distinguished from the other Squadrons by a distinctive flash”. More research of LdSH and Valcartier documents during the period of August to October 1914 is required. **FRONTIER POST, Autumn 1933.**

Note: Many LF arrived in Ottawa attempting to join PPCLI, but not all could do so. Units then available for Frontiersmen focused on immediate mounted duty would be: remounts, artillery (drivers), and possibly Strathcona’s Horse who were manning-up in Valcartier? More sources are needed to verify the reflective 1933 quote about recruitment of L.O.F. into the Lord Strathcona’s Horse of 1914. The regiment was 120 strong at the outbreak of war and had to man up to strength in Valcartier. The war diaries online begin mid-October 1914, after they had been brought up to strength. Other sources need to be traced to indicate how the Strathcona’s were the brought up to strength. bws/author

❖ 1915

1915 – 36th Peel Regiment, Canada. Two hundred and eighty (280) members of the Legion of Frontiersmen had enlisted in with the 36th Peel Regiment for active service. They were to go overseas with the third contingent. **TORONTO WORLD, Frontiersmen Enlisted In The Peel Regiment, page 07, 07 January 1915.**

Note, regarding regimental numbering: The Canadian volunteer militia pre- WW1 had a series of numbered regiments each drawing from a county or region. Once mobilization for overseas war service occurred these county regiments remained at home as training units sending men to the newly numbered Canadian Expeditionary Force regiments; therefor, the 36th Peel Regiment IS NOT the 36th Battalion CEF. As another example of this confusing numbering situation, the 49th Hastings Rifles of the Canadian volunteer militia in Ontario has no connection at all to the frontline 49th Battalion CEF from Edmonton Alberta. bws/author

1915 – PPCLI, Manitoba Frontiersman, Killed In Action. – A rare news account identifies a Frontiersman in the ranks of PPCLI. Archie J. Robins, a constable with the Brandon City Police joined the Legion of Frontiersmen at the outbreak of war and with four other police officers travelled to Regina and subsequently enlisted in PPCLI. **BRANDON DAILY SUN, Pte. Archie J. Robins, page 01, 26 July 1915.**

1915 – Frontiersman, blind P.O.W. – Peter McPhail a Frontiersman enlisted in Edmonton and went to war with the first Canadian contingent and was reported missing after the battle at Langhemarcq. His brother A.C. McPhail, a Brandon area horse breeder, said the he may be repatriated in a disabled prisoner exchange. **BRANDON DAILY SUN, Peter McPhail, page 01, 18 August 1915.**

1915 – 7000 On Active Service. Lieutenant-Colonel D.P. Driscoll DSO, commanding the 25th Royal (Frontiersmen) Fusiliers enroute to British East Africa, writes as the CEO of the Legion of Frontiersmen that “some 7000 men of the Legion are on active service”. He then states “nearly 50 per cent of Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry are members of the Legion”. **DAILY MALTA CHRONICLE, 24 March 1915. Credit: Legion Capt. B.N. Tarpey MBE, Malta L.O.F. Historian.**

1915 – Lee-Enfield Rifles Issued at Malta. The 25th Royal (Frontiersmen) Fusiliers appear to have been first issued “old Territorial rifles” at Waterloo station prior to embarkation for British East Africa. Upon arrival at Malta Lieutenant-Colonel D.P. Driscoll DSO was able to convince the commander of the arsenal who had served with him in South Africa to issue the 25th Royal (Frontiersmen) Fusiliers the latest service rifles available. Malta based Legion Captain B.N. Tarpey MBE writes, “The old rifles issued at Waterloo station were probably the Lee-Metford type and the rifles issued at Malta would have been the British Lee-Enfield No 1 Mk 111 (1903 or No 11 (1907) 0.303 inch rifle which were issued virtually to all British soldiers on the Western Front (and many elsewhere). The name Lee-Enfield was derived from the designer (James Lee an American) and its manufacturer (The Royal Small Arms Factory based at Enfield London).” **Sources: Legion Historian Geoffrey A. Pocock, and Legion Capt. B.N. Tarpey MBE.**

1915 – L.O.F. Commandant Buried With Full Military Honours By Germans. Royal Flying Corps Lt. S.W. Caws, South African war veteran [Legion Captain, Lac Ste. Anne Commandant and Sergeant 19th Alberta Dragoons] was killed in aerial combat and his crewmate Lt. Wilson was taken prisoner after their aircraft crashed behind enemy lines. Caws and Wilson, likely flying a B.E.2c, engaged three German aircraft, downed two of them before the third enemy aircraft killed Caws. Lt. Wilson stated that the German Army buried one of Canada's earliest L.O.F. Commandants, Stanley Winther Caws, with full military honors. After the war his gravesite is untraceable. Lieutenant Stanley Winther Caws, 10th Squadron, 1st Wing, Royal Flying Corps who died on Tuesday, 21st September 1915, age 36 is remembered at Arras Flying Services Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. **REGINA MORNING LEADER, 17 June 1916. Commonwealth War Graves Commission. L.O.F. Historian Geoffrey A. Pocock regarding aircraft used by Caws and Wilson.**

1915 – Rifle Smuggling. Edmonton's Mayor wrote to the District Officer Commanding Military district No. 13 appealing for rifles to assist the Legion of Frontiersmen Home Guard, but his request is refused due Canadian Expeditionary Force requirements for them. Mayor W.T. Henry writes to Legion Colonel H.J. Munton about this and states "we will have to work along some other lines." Edmonton (Northern Alberta) Command was reported as having engaged in rifle smuggling from the USA to equip themselves with weapons for training. **Letter in Edmonton City Archives. THE [Edmonton] JOURNAL, "Frontiersmen Find Long Lost Rifles", 26 September 1940. A. Mack, HISTORY OF THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN [etc.], published by HQ the Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division), Regina, c1970.**

1915 – L.O.F. Commandant Recruits and Commands D Company, 49th Battalion CEF. Edmonton Command's Commandant Justus Duncan Willson was appointed the Officer commanding "D" Company of the 49th Battalion CEF, later the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, and all recruits who were Legion of Frontiersmen were directed to "D" Company. Allegedly, "D" Company recruits from outlying areas were men "four axe hafts across the chest and two axe heads between the eyes". **Stevens OBE, Lt. Colonel. G.R. A CITY GOES TO WAR, page 17, published 1964 and Recruiting Poster 49th Battalion CEF.**

Note: The significant Legion of Frontiersmen contribution to the 49th Battalion has often been omitted due to an apparent lack of historical knowledge. In Loyal Edmonton Regiment publications one notes the capital "F" in Frontiersmen is usually changed to the lower case, thereby eliminating credit where credit due. While each company A,B,C,D recruited unique bodies of men: A, "sportsmen from about the city Edmonton"; B, "Scotchmen"; C, "men from outlying districts"; and D, "Frontiersmen" becomes reported as the generic "frontiersmen" which is basically wrong information. "Frontiersmen" with capital "F" means the distinct quasi-military body of men known as the Legion of Frontiersmen under the Legion Commandant J.D. Willson who became the D Company Commander. bws/author

1915 – L.O.F. Sub-Commandant R.H. Palmer, C. O. of the 49th Edmonton Bn. CEF. Leaders of Edmonton's Legion of Frontiersmen Justus Duncan Willson and Robert H. Palmer both became Company Commanders during formation of the 49th Bn. CEF. Sub-Commandant R.H. Palmer after enlistment and service is promoted to command the battalion as Lieut. Colonel Robert Palmer, D.S.O. 49th (Edmonton) Battalion. **EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN, Legion of Frontiersmen, 15 August 1914. Matthew K Barrett, 29 July 2016, <https://matthewkbarrett.com/2016/07/29/the-old-man/#more-2869>**

1915 – L.O.F. Pipe Band Enlists in 49th [Edmonton] Battalion CEF. The Legion of Frontiersmen "Pipe Band was formed within the 49th Bn during the early weeks in Edmonton. It was led by Pipe Major George (Geordie) Garden. Garden had raised his pipe band early in 1914 for the Legion of Frontiersmen. The Pipe Band arrived at the 49th Bn's Armoury on January 5 and enlisted that day." **REMEMBER, NEWSLETTER OF THE LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY MUSEUM, page 03, January 2015.**

Note: A poorly reproduced photo appears of a Frontiersmen piper marching along a roadway in A. Macks c1970 publication **The History of the Legion of the Frontiersmen with Particular Reference to The Legion of Frontiersmen, Canadian Division.** bws/author

1915 – Edmonton L.O.F. and Women's Volunteer Reserve. Mrs. Justus Duncan Willson, formerly nursing sister Lieutenant Flora Kathleen Fitzmaurice, and the wife of the Edmonton Commandant of the Legion of Frontiersmen died

in England. She had followed her L.O.F. Commandant husband, promoted to Major Justus Duncan Willson of the 49th Edmonton Battalion overseas. A military service in England was held for her, one of the first women to have been commissioned in the British Army. In attendance were officers and men of Edmonton based units including members of her husband's 49th Battalion CEF. She had been decorated with the Order of St. John for conspicuous courage during a typhus plague in Ireland and received both the Queen's and King's medal for South African war service. The night before her memorial parade in Edmonton's river valley, ladies likely associated with the LF as was the late Mrs. Willson, were reported to have formed a "Women's Volunteer corps" that paraded with the Legion of Frontiersmen at the memorial service. This body of women, the Women's Voluntary Reserve appeared associated with the Edmonton Command home guard's efforts. Sometime later, it is known that the W.V.R. led by the 101st Regiment's Bugle Band, "presented a very smart appearance in their khaki uniforms" as they paraded to Government House for inspection by the Lieutenant Governor on October 13, 1915. **Edmonton City Archives news clippings: "Mrs. Justus D. Wilson ...", "Canadian Lady's Death, Impressive Memorial..." circa July 1915. EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN, page [?], 13 October 1915.**

1915 – Edmonton L.O.F. 350 Men, 400 Women for Home Defence. Commandant Munton and Sub-Commandant Hill-Male are identified as Legion of Frontiersmen leaders at the south Edmonton summer social attended by approximately 500 citizens. The newspaper reported "The Frontiersmen of the city now have enrolled about 350 men and 400 women. During the program much criticism was expressed of the indifference in official quarters to the need and importance of home defence". **EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN, "Frontiersmen Hold Picnic At South Side Park", page [?], 26 August 1915.**

1915 – Circle Cross League. A women's branch of the Legion of Frontiersmen first formed in New Zealand, in May, 1915, in response to a paragraph in the Auckland news, "Wanted, some ladies who would be willing to take charge of frontiersmen who have nobody to look after them." This appeal was made by Captain D'Esterre, the LOF Staff Officer for New Zealand thus starting the Circle Cross League. The name was a reference to the badge style. Their motto was taken from Kipling: 'To our own kind in their common need.' With permission of the poet. Miss Compton a driving force in the CCL received Kipling's wishes for success wishes for the League's success. **OTAGO DAILY TIMES, 11 June 1924, and the National Library of New Zealand.**

Note. Also see 1920 - Circle Cross League following in this Timeline. bws/author

1915 – Edmonton L.O.F. Operations. Edmonton Command (also referred to as Northern Alberta Command) under Commandant H.J. Munton had five parade locations, had uniforms available through Ramsey's Department Store, assisted unemployed Frontiersmen to find work, and had social events for members. "Orders for the week posted at Dominion Cigar Store, Limited, corner of First and Jasper, and Deschenes, Limited, corner of Jasper and McDougall." **EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN, Military Orders, page 02, 27 September 1915.**

1915 – L.O.F. Commandant in Officers' Escort of Lieutenant Governor. The Legion of Frontiersmen Commandant H.J. Munton of Edmonton, with Major Hislop and Major Hopkins of the 66th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force, Lieutenant Malholt, and Major D.L. Redman the aide de camp, wounded veteran of 10th Battalion, form a military escort at the investiture of the Province of Alberta's new Lieutenant Governor Robert George Brett M.D. Interestingly, the local Commandant of the Legion of Frontiersmen had military status enough to have been placed within an officers' escort for the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta's investiture. **EDMONTON DAILY BULLETIN, Investiture Of New Governor Is Brilliant Affair, front page, 21 October 1915.**

1915 - Victoria Volunteer Mounted Rifles. Under the command of Lieutenant John Briant Howes of the Victoria Volunteer Mounted Rifles formally transferred all rank and file into the Victoria Sub-Unit, Legion of Frontiersmen. The letter was signed by John Briant Howes, Lieutenant for the Victoria Volunteer Rifles; and by S. Rowlinson, Lieutenant, Legion of Frontiersmen. **Copy of Letter held by Carol Miller granddaughter of Seymour Rowlinson, University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives.**

1915 – Gallipoli, Newfoundland and Labrador Frontiersmen. Page 5 of an untitled partial document produced by Calgary Command comments “One result of the Dominion policy of giving the Legion no practical recognition was that the FRONTIERSMEN contingent from Labrador and Newfoundland now fighting in the Dardanelles, after training in Scotland, had to go so far afield as to the Governor-General of New Zealand to get leave to join an overseas contingent.” And, it also comments that “The Frontiersman” is no longer available due to the war, so a local magazine has offered to produce a column called “Frontiersmen Notes”. **Untitled partial document, Loose pages 01 [02 and 03 missing], 04,05,06,07,08,09, published by Calgary Command, 1915. [University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives].**

1915 - Victoria, BC Command Rebuilding After Initial Rush To Colours. Under newly promoted Legion Captain Seymour Rowlinson, the first returned Legionary [sic] from Victoria is “No. 6557 Trooper E.E. Long...a veteran of the Boer War, and possessor of the King’s and Queen’s medals.” The Victoria Volunteer Reserve Squadron of Mounted Rifles organized in June 1915 trained with Legion of Frontiersmen and reportedly 70 men at a time were on parade. Eventually Victoria Mounted Rifles became part of the new Victoria Command under Captain Rowlinson. Returned soldier Sgt. J.W. Taylor with much South African experience was appointed to command the city squadron. Legion Captain Rowlinson took the opportunity to engage Colonel Andrew C. P. Haggard DSO an honorary Legion member in the formation of the Veteran’s Club of British Columbia. At the inaugural ceremonies 15 returned soldiers were present. By the end of the war years Victoria Command, headquartered at The Veterans’ Club of BC in the Camosum Building in Langley [meaning Langley Street], includes all of Vancouver Island. The Commandant is listed at Legion Captain S. Rowlinson. The staff officer and “A” Squadron leader is Legion Captain J.W. Taylor (invalided from WW1 service). Legion Captain S.R. Bates (on active service WW1) was Squadron leader for “B” Squadron. “A” Squadron’s Troops No. 1,2, & 3, are in Victoria while Troop No. 4 is in Saanich. “B” Squadron’s Troop No. 5 is located at Cowichan, No.6 at Duncan, No.7 at Port Alberni with Legion Lieutenant C.T. Hilton M.B.,B.Sc. commanding; and Troop No. 8 is located at Comox. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, pages 30 & 31, War Number 1918.**

Note, regarding Legion Capt. J.W. Taylor of Victoria BC Command, 1915. Email of 22 April 2012 from John W. Taylor, grandson of Legion Captain J.W. Taylor, mentioned, follows: “Thank you for taking the time to write to me. He was on the Jamison Raid, captured and sentenced to death. It was commuted, and then he became involved in the Boer War. He and his brother were both Captains of their respective units. I believe it was Bethune’s Rifles. He was blown off his horse in the Battle of Colenso and pronounced dead. His brother happened upon the scene as he was being buried, and stopped after placing a mirror under his nose to see if he steamed it up. He was in a coma for 10 days and returned to his unit about a month later. After the war he married the niece of Dr. David Livingston and moved to Victoria, British Columbia. In 1915 he lied about his age (46) and went off to Europe where he fought and was wounded in the second battle of Ypres. He returned home and died about 12 years later from wounds and the poison gas he suffered during WW1. He accomplished a lot more but it is a long story. Nice chatting with you. Cheers for now. **John Taylor [grandson].**” bws/author

1915 – AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, FIJI. In response to a critical query, a member in No. 1 Troop of Sydney’s Legion of Frontiersmen provided some early Great War information about the Legion’s efforts as follows.

“The headquarters of the Legion in Sydney is at the Royal Naval House, Grosvenor street, city, at which place every Thursday evening, at 7:30, drill is held, both in peace and war time. Also, there is an office at Room 21 Rawson-chambers, Rawson-place, near the Central Railway Station, where any evening the adjutant or trooper on duty will be pleased to give all information to any genuine inquirers.

As to what the Legion has done, would like to point out for the benefit of all ... that they were thanked by the commandant of the Allied forces for their work in China at the time of the Boxer rebellion. Also that they form the first line of defence in Bermuda, British East and West Africa, where they are fighting the Germans at present; and Fiji, from whence a hundred men were recently sent to the Expeditionary Forces of New South Wales and New Zealand. All these men were members of the Legion. Furthermore, I may state that every man in the howitzer battery of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force now present in Egypt is a Legionary. No doubt, as there were a number of Frontiersmen in France and Belgium recently, there must have been some casualties, although I hope not.

As to whether any have gone to war, the Sidney sub-unit alone has supplied about 100 men out of a total of 250 men or thereabouts." [etc.].

EVENING NEWS [Sidney], "Legion of Frontiersmen. What Has It Done? The Questions Answered", page 4, 08 Jan 1915.

1915 – India. The Legion of Frontiersmen are mentioned as follows: "The older and harder men of long service in India are bitter and heart broken over being refused active work in the army. Then there is the Legion of Frontiersmen – men from 40 to 55, who have served the empire as such men only can - they are begging for work. There are 400 of them or more, and it seems criminal that they cannot be used. From their experience and fitness they would be splendid for base work at Nairobi or along the lines of communication in France or Belgium." **NEW YORK TIMES, 10 May 1915.**

Note: The late NZ Historian Bruce Fuller commented: "The claim of 400 in India is odd in that looking through lists of signed up members prior to 1914 shows barely any. The 400 likely consisted of men who belonged to LOF outside India but then went there to work or whatever. The item does not qualify where the numbers came from. It could also mean "East Indies Command" which covered places like Burma, Borneo, etc. India was in the E.I. Command. From what records I can find it appears the highest Legion rank in India was that of Captain." bws/author

Note: Also to be considered is the possibility of rapid growth just prior to and as a result of the Call to Arms. A pattern of LF growth (and large enrolments claimed) in Alberta at the time is an example. bws/author

1915 – Imperial Communications Interrupted. At some point in 1915 the L.O.F. magazine THE FRONTIERSMAN, source of Empire wide communication and information, had to cease due to the war. Effort to maintain local communication the L.O.F. relied upon local printed sources as this brief quote by Calgary command indicates, "The Frontiersman [magazine] is no longer available due to the war, so a local magazine has offered to produce a column called "Frontiersmen Notes". **Untitled partial document, Loose pages 01 [02 and 03 missing], 04,05,06,07,08,09 published by Calgary Command, 1915. [University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives].**

❖ 1916

1916 – Leadership and Numbers. "The Legion has its centre in London, with Headquarters at 6 Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C., where Lieutenant- Colonel E. R. Johnson, a retired Regular officer, is the Acting Chief Executive Officer. The membership has risen to over fourteen thousand, most of the recent increase being in Australia and New Zealand." **THE SPECTATOR, The Legion of Frontiersmen, page 15, 24 February 1917.**

1916 – South Australia, Governor as Patron. "Little had been heard in this State of the Legion of Frontiersmen before the inaugural meeting held in Adelaide in February of this year; but since that time the local membership has greatly increased, and it is now proposed to form a South Australian command under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor, whose record of service as a frontiersman in Nigeria affords a good example of the endurance and perseverance regarded as the essential requirement of members of this corps." **THE REGISTER (Adelaide), "Legion of Frontiersmen", page 04, 29 August 1916.**

1916 – More Frontiersmen to East Africa. "In 1916 the Council of the Legion organized and sent out a draft of three hundred more Frontiersmen to East Africa." **THE SPECTATOR, The Legion of Frontiersmen, page 15, 24 February 1917.**

1916 – Edmonton L.O.F. Military Enlistments to 1916. A continuous flow of "legionaires" enlisted for service with the Edmonton raised C.E.F. battalions, and they were reputed to be of great assistance with the training of other C.E.F. recruits. "Most won their stripes at once, and the most efficient N.C.O.'s of the first battalions to be recruited here were the Frontiersmen." In his little known book, Legion Brigadier A. Mack, himself a WW1 veteran, quotes a letter from Canadian Division HQ files replying to the request for L.O.F. recruits. An Northern Alberta Command letter to the Commanding Officer of the 218th "Irish Guards" Battalion C.E.F. states "We have been approached by many Officers of various Battalions now being recruited for Active Service to use our influence to persuade our members to join their

particular Battalion. The stand we take is to advise all our members fit for Active Service to join the Battalion of their choice, refraining from making any specific recommendations. It may be of interest to you to know, that of this date [1916], over 1400 Edmonton Frontiersmen have already joined Overseas Forces and if we were to favour one Battalion it would be obviously unfair.” **A. Mack, HISTORY OF THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN [etc.], published by HQ the Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division), Regina, c1970.**

Note. The letter referred to in the statement above remains in Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division) files – the files being currently held privately and unavailable to the general public, despite repeated attempts to have them placed in University of Alberta archival system. bws/author

1916 – Alberta Commandants. Provincial leaders gather in May after Edmonton’s “Commandant Munton of the Legion of Frontiersmen, who is recruiting for the 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion...” releases his leadership duties. The new Commandant is the notable P.C.H. Primrose who is meeting with Honorary Commandant Dennis and Commandant Lt. Col. John Drummond both of Calgary; as well as Major Hill-Male and Captain Esmond of Strathcona Command (south side Edmonton). Major Hill-Male is reported giving lectures on military law and the south side Frontiersmen are parading with the area company of the 101st Edmonton Fusiliers. **EDMONTON MORNING BULLETIN, May 1916.**

Note: Lieutenant Governors. His Honour P.C.H. Primrose the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, 1936-37 and His Honour John C. Bowen the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, 1937-50; were both members of the Legion of Frontiersmen. bws/author

1916 – Medical Section, Nursing Training 1st in Canada. Edmonton Command’s medical section of Frontiersmen were active in stretcher-bearer drill, first aid, and very uniquely a home nursing program. On the first of May the news reported, “The ambulance section of the Frontiersmen has become very efficient in its work, under the direction of Sergeant W. Rogerson.” Much to the interest of the local St John Ambulance association and the public in general, the Legion of Frontiersmen are promoting and enrolling men into possibly the first men’s home nursing course in Canada. “It is hoped that this home nursing class will be, if possible, a bigger success than the very successful first aid class recently held under the auspices of the Frontiersmen. This is the first men’s home nursing class ever got together in the whole Dominion of Canada....” Later the Legion of Frontiersmen put on a display for an unnamed officer of the Women’s Volunteer Reserve. Other news reports indicate that the Legion’s ambulance section is a very successful unit involving a number of local medical doctors. As of August 1916, Edmonton’s LF medical section had provided at least 20 medical Frontiersmen for enlistment in the Canadian Army Medical Corps, one of whom had been killed in action. **EDMONTON BULLETIN, May 1916. EDMONTON BULLETIN, 12 February 1917.**

1916 – United Farmers of Alberta Mounted Infantry Corps. This agricultural association is recruited by the Legion of Frontiersmen to provide mounted rifles in Edmonton and in outlying areas around the City of Edmonton. “Capt. Rice Sheppard stated 600 men had signed up out of the U.F.A. for a mounted corps.” This UFAMIC reported formations in Edmonton, and in the outlying rural villages and districts of St. Albert, Bremner, Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Winterburn, Horse Hills, Belmont Park, Clearwater, and Leduc. The distinct unit badge consists of a gold shield surmounted by the King’s crown, with the Legion’s circular Union badge at the center of the shield. The letters UFA (top) MIC (bottom) are on the shield as well. Along with this group the Frontiersmen recruit units from other employment groups as well: the Wholesalers’ Platoon, the Edmonton City Dairy workers, and even the sporting clubs like the Curlers’ unit. **EDMONTON BULLETIN, 09 May 1916. EDMONTON BULLETIN, 10 February 1917.**

1916 - Winnipeg Legion of Frontiersmen. The following Edmonton newspaper quote provides some commentary about the Winnipeg LF Command. “So far information obtained to the effect that Winnipeg Council passed a resolution calling on government assistance in providing arms for the Frontiersmen and Home Guard.” **EDMONTON BULLETIN, May 1916.**

1916 – Alberta Politician claims first L.O.F. member. Peter Gunn M.P.P. (Alberta) stated that he was the first Frontiersman enrolled in Canada and C.H. Dunn of Wabamun Lake, Alberta is the second to enroll. Stanley Winther Caws

of Lac Ste. Anne is credited by Gunn as the first of the LF commandants in Canada. **EDMONTON BULLETIN, 09 May 1916. REGINA MORNING LEADER, 17 June 1917.**

Note: These gentlemen were the first Frontiersmen in the Province of Alberta, but not in Canada. See previous 1907 entry identifying Maurice H. Marsden of Vancouver BC as first commandant in Canada and Vancouver as the first command. bws/author

1916 – Registration In Canada. To formalize L.O.F. operations in Canada, Organizers from the Legion Of Frontiersmen (Canada), "Hereby declare their intention to form themselves into a Body Corporate and Politic under Chapter 66 of the Ordinances of the Northwest Territories: in force in the Province of Alberta, to be known by the name of The Legion of Frontiersmen, (Canada)." This declaration and government registration was signed by: Denis Erskine-Tulloch, Frank A. Robinson, Herbert B. Monk all of Calgary, by Charles G. Parkyn of Prince Albert, and by George B. Hanley of Moose Jaw. It is unconfirmed, but this registration was deemed invalid as it occurred without Imperial Headquarters authorization. (A review of the 1916 news is required to reference this). The next registration of the Legion of Frontiersmen with the province of Alberta occurred in 1933. **ALBERTA GOVERNMENT REGISTRIES.**

1916 – Frontierswomen. The aforementioned 1916 corporate registration in the Province of Alberta provides for a position designated as Matron of the Red Cross within the Legion of Frontiersmen. Such a title illustrates a role for women within the Alberta Legion of Frontiersmen as nursing sisters or for the provision of assistance to those in the field. **ALBERTA GOVERNMENT REGISTRIES.**

1916 – E.B.R.M. and Model 1876 Winchester Carbines. These carbines were given to the Legion of Frontiersmen morphed into the politically correct Edmonton Battalion Reserve Militia, by the Royal North West Mounted Police, for the duration of the war. Collectors may note carbines stamped NWMP-LOF-APP or stamped LOF-APP from this era. The APP stamp would indicate use of the same carbines by the newly formed Alberta Provincial Police of 1917. **EDMONTON MORNING BULLETIN, 19 August 1916.**

Note. One may safely speculate that the Alberta Provincial Police and the Legion of Frontiersmen had very good rapport. This would be due to the efforts of Edmonton Commandant P.C.H. Primrose of the Legion of Frontiersmen, one of the three men responsible for establishing the APP in 1917. Cross reference: **A.J. Mair, E.P.S. THE FIRST 100 YEARS, page 61. EDMONTON BULLETIN, May 1916.** bws/author

1916 - Montreal Patriotiste Regiment. In a news article by Calgary columnist Jack Peach, he comments about this Legion of Frontiersmen initiated unit. Research into this is required. *Specific reference required.*

1916 – 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion C.E.F. Recollections of No.255927, Private Charles Shepard Taylor, 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion C.E.F. were recorded by Dominion Commandant A. Mack of the Legion of Frontiersmen. Taylor reported that the British were buying large quantities of horses from many countries. Much of the stock was untamed and there was a growing need for personnel capable of training mounts for the war effort. An original (unnamed) member of the PPCLI recovering in hospital was briefed as to the need for suitable horsemen. He (unnamed) was dispatched to western Canada. Southern Alberta was the prime location for cowboys; however, they were needed to ensure the beef supply for the war effort. The focus was then shifted to Saskatchewan and recruiting started in Moose Jaw. Charlie Taylor was able to join the 210th Frontiersmen Battalion despite his poor eyesight, because fitness was secondary to good horsemanship. Interestingly, although the 210th was raised as an infantry battalion, the men of the 210th Frontiersmen Battalion were referred to as "Troopers" instead of the customary "Privates". **Mack, A., HISTORY OF THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN [etc.], published by HQ the Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division), Regina, c1970.**

1916 – 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion CEF. "The Legion are successors of the 1st Frontiersmen, who are best known as the Princess Patricia's, a gallant corps of fighters who were ready soldiers when the great call came." **REGINA MORNING LEADER, page 03, 17 June 1916.**

1916 – 210th “Frontiersmen” Battalion C.E.F. Recruitment for a new overseas battalion begins in Saskatchewan and south eastern Alberta drawing heavily from the Legion of Frontiersmen units in the regions of Moose Jaw and Medicine Hat. The badge, unique in British Empire, features the enamelled Union Flag “button” upon the overall badge. Esprit de corps is boosted via an active sports program (green and white hockey uniform colours) and a mascot bear cub named “Teddy” under the care of Bugler Oldfield. The fate of “Teddy” is not known. Once overseas the 210th Battalion was broken up with most men going to the 46th CEF and the 1st CMR. Frontiersmen: W. Bruce (KIA), W.H. Walker (KIA), H. Wensley, C.G. Smith and J.T. Hollonquist are known to have received their “wings” in the Royal Flying Corps. At the war’s end Capt. C.G. Hollonquist DFC (& Italian Legion of Honour) was an “Ace” having downed six aircraft. The 210th Battalion’s second-in-command, O.M. Maitland received the D.S.O. and the 210th Battalion’s regimental sergeant-major J. E. Sturley was recommended for the VC, subsequently receiving the DCM for valour. A partial list awards to Frontiersmen of the 210th include: 1 DCM, 1 DFC, 2 MC’s, 5 MM’s (1 with bar), 1 Belgium Croix de Guerre, 1 Italian Legion of Honour, and many promotions in the field (10 identified). **VARIOUS SOURCES [see U of A archives]. BOOKLET “Souvenir 210th Battalion, C.E.F. Reunion”, 28 January 1920.**

1916 – 210th “Frontiersmen” Battalion C.E.F. Recruitment for a new overseas battalion begins in Saskatchewan and south eastern Alberta drawing heavily from the Legion of Frontiersmen units in the regions of Moose Jaw and Medicine Hat. The badge, unique in British Empire, features the enamelled Union Flag “button” upon the overall badge. Esprit de corps is boosted via an active sports program (green and white hockey uniform colours) and a mascot bear cub named “Teddy” under the care of Bugler Oldfield. The fate of “Teddy” is not known. Once overseas the 210th Battalion was broken up with most men going to the 46th CEF and the 1st CMR. Frontiersmen: W. Bruce (KIA), W.H. Walker (KIA), H. Wensley, C.G. Smith and J.T. Hollonquist are known to have received their “wings” in the Royal Flying Corps. At the war’s end Capt. C.G. Hollonquist DFC (& Italian Legion of Honour) was an “Ace” having downed six aircraft. The 210th Battalion’s second-in-command, O.M. Maitland received the D.S.O. and the 210th Battalion’s regimental sergeant-major J. E. Sturley was recommended for the VC, subsequently receiving the DCM for valour. A partial list awards to Frontiersmen of the 210th include: 1 DCM, 1 DFC, 2 MC’s, 5 MM’s (1 with bar), 1 Belgium Croix de Guerre, 1 Italian Legion of Honour, and many promotions in the field (10 identified). **VARIOUS SOURCES [see U of A archives]. BOOKLET “Souvenir 210th Battalion, C.E.F. Reunion”, 28 January 1920.**

1916 – Letter from the Front to Victoria BC Command. The following quoted letter from Capt. J.C. Agnew, Canadian Signal Service was sent from France to Major F.V. Longstaff of Victoria Command. The letter is oddly dated “France 24.Feb.1916. (1917)” and states “I met Colonel Driscoll some years ago on his visit to Vernon. He was making a pack horse tour through the Kootenays along with one of the Cecils, and stayed for about ten days. He gave some interesting lectures to the locale [sic] branch which I attended with the local O.C., J.P. Audy who poor chap was killed at Ypres while I was stationed there in the ramparts.” This interesting letter from the front suggests that the Legion of Frontiersmen’s CEO, Lt. Col. Driscoll DSO, had traveled to Canada prior to the Great War. **F.V. Longstaff, B.C. ARCHIVES**

Note and Correction. According to Geoffrey A. Pocock, historian and Roger Pocock biographer, it is most probable that Agnew was confusing Driscoll with Legion Founder Roger Pocock, who had visited Vernon a number of times during his regular travels in Western Canada. bws/author

1916 – Provost Sergeant 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion, C.E.F. Killed. Charles W. McGhee the record recruiter of 1506 Canadian soldiers and a battalion Provost Sergeant died in Moose Jaw and a 210th Battalion private soldier was charged with manslaughter. Provost Sergeant Charles W. McGhee “wore the Khedive Bronze Star, the Old Veterans’ Medal, Egyptian Medal and two clasps, and the South African Medal and one clasp.”(Another source stated the Zulu Campaign Medal vs. the South African Medal). He was also the composer of the popular recruiting song “Your King and Country Need You”. McGhee had four sons in the army, 3 in the 210th and one son in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. **EDMONTON MORNING Bulletin, 28 December 1916. Booklet: “Souvenir 210th Battalion CEF Reunion”, 28 January 1920.**

1916 – Christmas, 25TH Royal [Frontiersmen] Fusiliers. Described as “a tough lot ... that came from everywhere under the sun”. Formed in England in February 1915 for East African service, they landed at Mombasa in May and were in

action by June 1915. The battalion was established largely by the Legion of Frontiersmen under its CEO Lieutenant-Colonel D.P. Driscoll DSO. It doubtlessly was one of the most eccentric and colourful formations in the Great War. "By Christmas of 1916 only 60 of the original 1,166 members of the 25th Royal Fusiliers were still in the field." Since their arrival in East Africa in 1915, guerrilla warfare, disease and parasites decimated the battalion. The non-combatant environmental casualties of 1916 were 30 to one combatant casualty. One member of the battalion stated, "I wish to hell I was in France! There one lives like a gentleman and dies like a man. Here one lives like a pig and dies like a dog." Despite the obstacles of guerrilla warfare, military shortages, medical insufficiency, 'old school' enmity towards the irregular Frontiersmen and severe environmental hardship; the Frontiersmen distinguished themselves in the field during East African campaign. **THE GREAT WAR LETTERS OF ROLAND MOUNTFORD, page 121-122, copyright 2009. ISBN 978-1906510-794.**

❖ 1917

1917 – Edmonton Battalion of Reserve Militia. P.C.H. Primrose (RNWMP Superintendent, LOF Commandant, Police Court Magistrate, Board Member founding Alberta Provincial Police), the officer commanding, Edmonton Battalion Reserve Militia comments as follows about the Edmonton Battalion of Reserve Militia ["R.M." in local news reports]: "The formation of the Edmonton Battalion Reserve Militia was absolutely necessary in order to give governmental sanction to the Legion of Frontiersmen that they might complete their usefulness...to train men who had to stay at home to be of service in case of trouble arising. By being a body of trained men it frees more men of military age and fitness for actual overseas service. There is no use in loyal citizens saying that when trouble comes he will be there, because without training he would be of no earthly use". **EDMONTON MORNING BULLETIN, page 12, 10 February 1917.**

1917 – 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion C.E.F. "Soldiers Attack Restaurant". This news is buried in an Edmonton newspaper's second section. "One hundred dollars damage was done to the Maple Leaf café, a Greek restaurant, in Moose Jaw, Thursday night when members of the 210th battalion made a raid on the restaurant, emptying a tray of candies and cases of bottled soft drinks on the floor and confiscating a number of boxes of high grade candies." **EDMONTON MORNING BULLETIN, second section front page, 24 February 1917.**

1917 – King's Colours to 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion C.E.F. Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan accompanied by his wife Mrs. Lake present the colors to the 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion C.E.F. on the Collegiate Campus at 2:30 pm 16 March 1917. Mrs. Lake formally presented the King's Colors to a kneeling officer, and a similar ceremony saw the Regimental Colors presented to Mrs. Seaborn, the wife of the battalion's commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel Seaborn. The Colors were then paraded to the front and center of the 210th (Frontiersman) Battalion and they were saluted by all present. The Following event of the proceedings was the trooping of the colors. "The Maple Leaf Forever," having been sung the ensigns with the colors and the escort, headed by bands, were marched across the grounds and then through the lines, the troops standing at the salute. The Lieutenant-Governor took his position beneath the flag and took the salute. The men went by in excellent order and were loudly applauded. At the conclusion of the march past the whole battalion advanced in to line of review order with colors at the front and again the royal salute was given." **THE DAILY NEWS, 16 March 1917.**

1917 – 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion C.E.F. Colours Deposited. Headline: "Ancient Ceremony of Depositing Colors Of Unit Going To Front Took Place At St. Andrew's – 210th Colors Left With Elders". **MOOSE JAW EVENING TIMES, 31 March 1917.**

1917 – 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion C.E.F. Broken Up. The 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion is broken up in England, all enlisted men revert to the rank of private, all the officers including Lt. Col. Seaborn reverted to the rank of lieutenant; and were reassigned as reinforcements to units in the field. **Moose Jaw archives document: Aylott, F.G., "A Short History of the 210th Bn. (Frontiersmen)", 1984.**

1917 - '18 – Distinguished Conduct Medal. John Evelyn Sturley the former Regimental Sergeant Major of the 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion and most others of the 210th are reassigned to the 46th Battalion CEF as a private soldiers. He subsequently is promoted to the rank of sergeant in the field. Sgt. J.E. Sturley single handedly charges an enemy machine gun position bayoneting all entrenched there. This former Frontiersman RSM is recommended for the Victoria Cross, and he subsequently received the very prestigious Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for his valour in action. **Moose Jaw Public Library documents: Aylott, F.G., “A Short History of the 210th Bn. (Frontiersmen)”, 1984 Souvenir 210th Battalion C.E.F. Reunion [booklet], page 05, 28 January 1920.**

Note: The soldier’s last name is STURLEY – it is misspelled in Aylott’s short history. bws/author

1917 – NZ Female Physician, Dr. Jessie A. Scott, Hon. Legion Lieutenant. The Legion of Frontiersmen honour Miss J.A. Scott M.D. from Auckland, as recorded in the New Zealand news of the era.

“Dr. Jessie Scott, who was made an honorary lieutenant of the Legion in recognition of her noble work in Servia [Serbia], has been spending a furlough in London, and sends greetings to legionaires [sic] of the New Zealand division. She was entertained at lunch by H.R.H. Prince Alexander, Crown prince of Servia, and his brother Prince George. Dr. Scott writes: “Things being so slack, I was glad to take the opportunity of returning to England for a little. I hope to go back to the Servians before very long and I want to go. The more one sees of these brave people the better one likes them. I have taken a great fancy to the beautiful Balkan countries. Our hospital is was about 100 miles up country, in the direction of Monastir, and I didn’t get many opportunities of visiting Solinika, but I met a number of New Zealanders. The base censor is a New Zealander, and he arranged a New Zealand dinner at which I was present. About 30 attended and we had a very jolly time.” The Serbian Crown awarded her the Order of St. Sava for her military hospital work during the First World War. **Quotation from unnamed N.Z. newspaper clipping, column titled “Legion of Frontiersmen” written by “Frontiersman” dated 3.5.17. F.V. Longstaff scrapbook files, British Columbia Museum.**

Note: The late Bruce Fuller, New Zealand L.O.F. historian identified the news reporter as Ernest Gladhill d’Esterre who wrote for the AUCKLAND STAR and the AUCKLAND ILLUSTRATED. The officer, Captain E. G. d’Esterre was the Organising Officer for New Zealand’s North Island. He was also the Legion leader who offered the NZ LOF en masse to the NZ Government for war service in 1914; and after the Great War he was the force behind the NZ Legion of Frontiersmen Memorial at National Park. bws/author

Note Correct Name: Dr. JESSIE A. SCOTT (female physician) not “L.A. Scott” as incorrectly recorded in an older Canadian LF history published c1970. bws/author

c. 1917 – NZ Nurse, Legion of Frontiersmen First World War to 1964. Sister ETHEL PRITCHARD M.B.E., nee Ethel Watkins Taylor, was selected as one of the first 50 nurses to serve overseas with the New Zealand Army Nursing Service. She joined the Legion of Frontiersmen in London and maintained a lifelong interest in the L.O.F. After the Great War she maintained an active and involved in her community wellbeing, including work with St. John Ambulance and other women’s associations. As well as receiving the British War Medal 1914-18 and the Allied Victory Medal 1918; she would also be awarded the medal of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire MBE in 1949 for her extensive community service. Although unconfirmed at present, Ethel Pritchard likely had also had received the Order of St. John and possibly the Service Medal of St. John. The Legion of Frontiersmen service medal, first awarded circa 1951, was also presented to Sister Ethel Pritchard. **Ref. www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/5p38/pritchard-ethel**

❖ 1918

1918 – NZ, Legion of Frontiersmen Casualty List. A rare account of named Frontiersmen returned from the front or on service follows:

“ADAMSON, P L, Tauranga; CANAVAN, S J, Northern Wairoa; FORSYTHE, W A, Hamilton; HILL, P S, Riverton; HUTCHISON, T, Auckland; JONES, J A, Mahoenui; LOISIL, E A, Gisborne; McMAHON, J M, Ngaruawahia; NOBLE, R, Hawkes Bay. HESEBECK, Frontiersman, Raurimu – died of wounds. Was always a keen and enthusiastic member, joining the Legion in

1912 and he carried the spirit and traditions of the Brotherhood with him to the front. He was liked by all who knew him and was deservedly popular in his battery. In his last letter he spoke of a Legion meeting in a dug-out on the Western Front and referred to many well known members as being present. FARRINGTON, Frontiersman, Canterbury – who went to the Front as a private, has now gained his commission. MCGREGOR, Sergeant Ken – died of sickness at the Palestine front. He joined the Legion soon after the departure to war and went to the front with the Wellington Mounted Rifles. The Legion has lost another good member and his comrades at the front have lost a sterling soldier and a fine Frontiersman.” **AUCKLAND WEEKLY NEWS, pages 17, 51, 14 Feb. 1918.**

1918 – Another NZ LOF Female Nurse Identified. “Miss E Grant, Auckland, has been admitted to honorary membership in recognition of splendid work done for the Legion.” **AUCKLAND WEEKLY NEWS, pages 17 and 51, 14 February 1918.**

1918 – Compliments to Legion’s character vs Military Chauvinism. “A doctor recently returned from the Front after much service, expressed this opinion of the Legionnaires: “They are the finest, cleanest, straightest crowd of men I ever met. They never had half the credit they deserved for the work they did.” This was quoted by way of contrast to the opinion of a drawing-room military officer who prior to the war declared the Legion was a crowd of drunken swashbucklers. That officer, by the way, has not yet reach[ed] the Front!” **AUCKLAND WEEKLY NEWS, page 51, 14 February 1918.**

1918 – Medicine Hat, Alberta Frontiersmen. Legion Captain B. Oxley, Organising Officer for Southern Alberta and subsequent Major in the 210th Frontiersmen Battalion CEF (while training in Canada) corresponds with New Zealand Frontiersmen. No. 920 in the Legion, Captain B. Oxley, writing from Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, sends greetings to New Zealanders. He remarks:

“I am an old-time New Zealander, and have lived in every part of it, from Auckland to the Bluff. Also, I was a personal friend and fellow-miner of Dick Sedon, afterwards Prime Minister. I was in one of the Kumara ‘rushes’ with him, and I was also in the wreck of the Tararua, at Waipapa Point, which made such a sensation at the time. You will see that I am one of the Old Brigade, - the first thousand in the Legion. Also, sadly the ranks of the first thousand have grown sadly less since the time of De Hora, Pocock, and others. For two years I was acting commandant of the whole of Southern Alberta, a district larger than the South Island of New Zealand. I sent nearly 400 Legionnaires into the first Canadian Expeditionary Force, and then I helped raise the 210th Frontiersmen Battalion, in which I was a major, and we trained at Camp Hughes. The badge of this regiment is the Legion badge. I was told, however, that owing to my age I could not be allowed to go to France, so I had to resign and see the regiment go without me. All my four sons are fighting in Flanders. A copy of the AUCKLAND WEEKLY NEWS, sent to me by London headquarters of the Legion, has brought the most intense yearning for ‘God’s Own Country’ again. I’d love to see some of the old spots once more. Is the Waikato Light Horse still in existence? Do you remember the threatened Maori trouble, was it at Orepuki, somewhere around 1880? Wouldn’t I like just one more pig-hunt on the Hokonuis or up at Wakatipu! It sure sounds ‘kapai’. Well, well, I guess we old-timers are getting old, though I don’t feel it yet. It’s a time of worry for us all just now. My daughter, a girl of 14, was in Germany when war broke out. She was at school there, and was interned, but, thanks to the United States Ambassador, we got her safely home. I’d like to hear from some old-time New Zealanders in the Legion. Tenakoe!” **F.V. Longstaff scrapbook files, British Columbia Museum. Quotation from unlabeled N.Z. newspaper clipping, column titled “Legion of Frontiersmen” written by “Frontiersman” dated 13 June 1918.**

Note: The late Bruce Fuller, New Zealand L.O.F. historian identified the news reporter as Ernest Gladhill d’Esterre who wrote for the AUCKLAND STAR and the AUCKLAND ILLUSTRATED. The officer, Captain E. G. d’Esterre was the Organising Officer for New Zealand’s North Island. He was also the Legion leader who offered the NZ LOF en masse to the NZ Government for war service in 1914; and after the Great War he was the force behind the NZ Legion of Frontiersmen Memorial at National Park. bws/author

1918 – Africa. Legion of Frontiersmen Colonists. “Cape Colony, Natal, Rhodesia and the Transvaal sent several hundred Legionnaires [sic] to various campaigns. Most of these have laid down their lives in France, South West Africa and East Africa.” **THE FRONTIERSMAN, The Legion of Frontiersmen Outside The British Isles, page 26, War Number 1918.**

1918 – Great War Casualties of 6000 [other estimates are 9000 casualties]. The following information is written prior to war's end by Lt. Col. D.P. Driscoll DSO, Chief Executive Officer Legion of Frontiersmen and Officer Commanding 25th Royal (Frontiersmen) Fusiliers. It briefly summarizes the Legion wartime contribution. In responding to the call to arms, Driscoll wrote that "some 10,000 grand men who rushed from their homes from all over the earth and from the British Isles". He further states, "Over 6000 have either given their lives or have been incapacitated from wounds or sickness; the others are still in the field." Shortly after in the early 1930s an unrecorded review of the all Legion casualties set the number at 9000 and this number is commemorated with the Legion toast "The 9000". **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 26, War Number 1918. Also refer to Edmonton City Archives, relevant news clippings c1935 and SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, page 14, 26 April 1933.**

Note: The L.O.F. Founder Roger Pocock used the number "6000" in his 1931 book published as **CHORUS TO ADVENTURERS: Being the later life of Roger Pocock.** bws/author

1918 – Great War contribution to PPCLI. Regarding Legion of Frontiersmen enlistment in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Lt. Col. Driscoll DSO writes: "Again, who does not swell with pride and emotion when we think of the grand work performed by the Princess Patricia's Canadian Battalion, which was rushed straight across in time of peril and who sacrificed themselves almost out of existence to save the Empire; over 50% of this battalion were members of the Legion." **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 26, War Number 1918.**

Note: The "over 50%" conflicts with Lt. Col D.P. Driscoll's earlier letter from Malta in 1915 in which he states that "nearly 50%" of the original PPCLI enlisted were members of the Legion. Regardless both percentages are supportive of Legion lore saying about one half of the original PPCLI were Legion members. bws/author

1918 – Great War contribution to the Newfoundland Regiment. Newfoundland and Labrador was organized by A.W. Wakefield and according to Driscoll "contributed about 100 Legionaires (sic) who have done conspicuous work in France." **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 26, War Number 1918.**

Note: Recall that at the outbreak of the Great War in 1914, that approximately 150 Frontiersmen were in Newfoundland Command and available for service. This would indicate that the remainder were in the Royal Navy, the Home Defence Artillery, or providing other colonial home front service. bws/author

1918 – 800 Frontiersmen From Distant Lands. Lt. Col. Driscoll DSO goes on to mention "at least 800 of the very best stamp" traveled to enlist from Fiji, Solomon Islands, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Siam, India, Ceylon, Aden, and Egypt. New Zealand women and men are singled out for praise supporting via parcels and letters the Frontiersmen in British East Africa. Regarding his own 25th (Service) Royal (Frontiersmen) Fusiliers he points out that of the over 2000 men that passed through the unit only 50 men survived as fit for service. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 26, War Number 1918.**

1918 – 25th (Service) Royal (Frontiersmen) Fusiliers in East Africa. Regarding his own 25th (Service) Royal (Frontiersmen) Fusiliers he pointed out that of the over 2000 men that passed through the battalion only 50 men survived as fit for service. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 26, War Number 1918.**

1918 – NZ Support to Frontiersmen in East Africa. New Zealand women are singled out for praise because of their support via parcels and letters to Frontiersmen in British East Africa via the ladies' parcel committee that evolved into an arm of the Legion of Frontiersmen known as the Circle Cross League. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 26, War Number 1918.**

1918 – Summary, Known First World War Units Enrolling Legion of Frontiersmen by B.W. Shandro [Dec 2016]. Overall, Frontiersmen enlisted in a variety of regular and irregular military units throughout the British Empire, and by war's end thousands had perished. Reports have varied from 6000 to 9000 Legion of Frontiersmen deaths. - This author believes it would be more accurate to use the word 'casualties' vs. 'deaths'. - While the vast majority of Frontiersmen

enlisted individually in a variety of the Empire's formations, research has identified some specific regiments and corps having utilized Legion of Frontiersmen, as follows:

- **OVERSEAS BEFORE THE CANADA'S MILITARY ARRIVED** – Regina Command had 50 men make their own way overseas and meet with Kitchener for assignment, while Victoria Command [Elliot's Horse] sent 80 men overseas also preceding the Canadian Army.
- **3rd BELGIUM LANCERS** – Frontiersmen formed 5 Platoon and saw action early after the declaration of war. These men serving with the 3rd Belgium Lancers were awarded the YSER Medal.
- **REMOUNTS SERVICE** – LOF with frontier skills arriving in England were placed breaking and training horses for the British Army. Eventually the Army took formal control of Remounts.
- **METROPOLITAN POLICE MOUNTED RESERVE** – A detachment of LOF served City of London as mounted constables throughout the First World War.
- **2nd KING EDWARD'S HORSE** – 60 LOF were recruited from Remounts.
- **25th ROYAL (FRONTIERSMEN) FUSILIERS** – Formed for the challenging British East Africa Campaign, the LOF was one of the most colourful, durable and eccentric battalions of the First World War. At least one subsequent draft of 300 LOF members was sent in addition to the ongoing replacements.
- **EAST AFRICAN MOUNTED RIFLES** – The LOF formed one of the six squadrons for immediate defence and service in Kenya at the call to arms.
- **BRITISH EAST and WEST AFRICA** – The LOF immediately form the first line of defence upon conflict with Germans.
- **CAPE COMMAND, SOUTH AFRICA** – Upon the declaration of war the real LOF reportedly had 268 men ready for service within 48 hours.
- **CEYLON COMMAND** – For overseas deployment, the LOF unit officer stated, "I could get 100 men immediately".
- **CHINA, KIAO CHAU NAVAL BASE** – Reference was made to LOF assistance to the Japanese during the capture of this German concession.
- **NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT** – Over 150 LOF enlisted in the Newfoundland Regiment, the RNVR and the Home Defence Artillery.
- **BERMUDA** – The LOF immediately form the first line of defence upon conflict with Germans.
- **NEW ZEALAND, OTAGO MOUNTED RIFLES** – An LOF squadron rode into the OMR camp to enlist.
- **NZEF HOWITZER BATTERY, EGYPT** – "Every man in the howitzer battery of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force now present in Egypt is a Legionary."
- **SAMOAN INVASION FORCE** – An LOF detail was assigned at request of Fiji Governor. As well it is likely that LOF members from NZ volunteered for the subsequent Samoan Garrison draft in 1915.
- **FIJI** – 100 Frontiersmen from Fiji travel to join Expeditionary forces via New South Wales and New Zealand.
- **SIDNEY, AUSTRALIA** – In reference to the first group of the local city enlistees, "The Sidney sub-unit alone his supplied about 100 men out of a total of 250 men or thereabouts."
- **PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY** – News reports of 600 LOF enlistments, Edmonton and Calgary commands assist with recruitment, rations and transport.
- **30th FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT [OTTAWA]** – Surplus LOF applicants to PPCLI enlist as Drivers [teamsters].
- **43rd DUKE OF CORNWALL'S OWN RIFLES [OTTAWA]** – Surplus LOF applicants to PPCLI enlist as Riflemen.
- **4th HUSSARS / 8th CDN. MOUNTED RIFLES, CEF** – A Kingston area troop joined 4th Hussars for overseas service.
- **19th ALBERTA DRAGOONS** – Edmonton LOF gravitate to the area's mounted unit [LOF verbal lore].
- **31st (ALBERTA) BATTALION, CEF** – Given the news and circumstances of the day, LOF leadership names noted and surplus LOF assembled this battalion would be a logical choice for significant LOF enlistment.
- **49th (EDMONTON) BATTALION, CEF** – Edmonton's LOF formed 'D' Company under their LOF Commandant, who was assigned the 'D' Company Commanding Officer. As well, the pipe band raised early in 1914 for the Legion of Frontiersmen and led by its Pipe Major George Garden enlisted 05 January 1915.
- **50th GORDON HIGHLANDERS** – The LOF recruited were granted the wearing of LOF uniforms within the 50th Gordon Highlanders, and in turn the 50th Gordon Highlanders were absorbed by the 16th Battalion, CEF.
- **210th (FRONTIERSMEN) BATTALION, CEF** – Formed at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan by the LOF recruiting primarily from southern Saskatchewan, as well as from the Medicine Hat, Alberta area.

- **EDMONTON BATTALION RESERVE MILITIA** – The LOF Northern Alberta Home Guard is reformed into the government’s politically acceptable EBRM.
- **RESERVE MILITIAS IN CANADA** – Likely LOF commands in larger Canadian centers also reformed into government sponsored Reserve Militias for home guard purposes – more research is required.
- **CANADIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS** – As a specific example, the Edmonton LOF was very active in Ambulance training and notably conducts Canada’s 1st ever Home Nursing course to men, and by 1916 has contributed at least 20 Edmonton LOF to the Canadian Medical Corps.
- **ROYAL FLYING CORPS** – Canadian Frontiersmen: W. Bruce (KIA), W.H. Walker (KIA), H. Wensley, C.G. Smith and J.T. Hollonquist of the 210th Frontiersmen Bn. CEF are known to have received their “wings” in the Royal Flying Corps. By the war’s end Capt. C.G. Hollonquist DFC & “Italian Legion of Honour” [likely M.M.V.] was an “Ace” having downed six aircraft. As well air ‘Ace’ with 14 enemy aircraft destroyed was Thomas Frederic Williams, M.C., M.M.V. of Ontario. Tommy Williams briefly joined the Legion of Frontiersmen at Calgary, then rushed to enlist in the C.E.F. Eventually he received a commission in the Royal Flying Corps and destroyed fourteen German aircraft in aerial combat. He was awarded the Military Cross and the Italian Valore Militare Medal abbreviated as the M.M.V.
- **AND MANY OTHER REGULAR & IRREGULAR SERVICES** of the British Empire.

❖ Post Great War

1919 – LOF’s Imperial Casualty Count 50%. While casualty counts for the LOF in WW1 vary, this early appraisal of war casualties is insightful. J. Suffern, captain of the New South Wales command stated that “out of the 13,500 members over 12,000 have been on active service and of this number nearly 6000, or 50%, have been killed or incapacitated by wounds or sickness.” Capt. J. Suffern also commented “Here in New South Wales were 350 members on active service.” **THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, “The Frontiersmen... 50 Per Cent Casualties”, page 05, 25 August 1919.**

1919 – In Praise of the 25th Royal Fusiliers [Legion of Frontiersmen]. A compilation of quotations follows. When the bulk of the white troops were withdrawn in the concluding stages of the campaign, the Frontiersmen were left behind, and, as Lord Cranworth explains in his interesting "Foreword," showed their unique qualities to even greater advantage: ... it became apparent that European infantry, generally speaking, could no longer compete on even terms with the native soldier. The handicap of climate became too great ... continual fever and sun sapped the 'essential guts,' ... Yet it may be said that the Fusiliers soared triumphant even over this handicap ... I have always felt that the prowess and endurance of these fine men during these last months have done more to uphold our prestige and ensure the firm future of our rule than is likely to be adequately realized." **THE SPECTATOR, “The War In East Africa”, page 17, 04 October 1919.**

1920 – 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion Memorial and Depositing of Colours. The final ceremony of the 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion took place on Wednesday, January 28, 1920, at 5.30 pm at St. Andrew’s Church in Moose Jaw when the depositing of colours took place. Unfortunately, the Church and the Colours were destroyed by fire in 1963; however, the staff heads remained and were refurbished. The Saskatchewan Dragoons, a reserve army unit, perpetuate the 210th (Frontiersmen) Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. **Moose Jaw Public Library, St. Andrew’s Church Brochure, “Depositing of Colours ... 210th Battalion”, 28 January 1920.**

1920 – L.O.F. Founder Comments about Beginnings, Union Badge, Officers. Roger Pocock the Founder of the Legion of Frontiersmen wrote, 02 February 1920, as follows: “The foundation date is Christmas Eve, 1904, the first membership forming in the Christmas week at my flat, your present office (Headquarters). The big provisional Committee development in the spring of 1905, the London Command formed about April, 1905, second in age to the Newcastle Command which became the Northern Command. It was February, 1906, before the nucleus of the big Committee was described as the Executive Council, for the purposes of dealing with the War Office. The device ‘God Guard Thee’ was from General Gordon’s ‘magic’ ring. I think I struck it as the charge on the Union Jack, but Manuel de Hora, the first Commandant for London, made the present design. The regimental number was stamped on the back, I have No. 1, also the competitive designs.” The founder Roger Pocock proceeds to criticize any Legion rank above that of Legion Captain as: “calculated to lower the dignity of the Society and to prevent the hospitality which was so readily extended when we

competed at their [British Army's] rifle ranges or engaged them in tournaments." **Roger Pocock, letter 02 February 1920 and reprinted in the Legion of Frontiersmen Journal, pages 25-26, London, June 1922. Compliments the late NZ Historian, Bruce Fuller.**

1920 – Circle Cross League [Ladies Parcel Committee]: NZ Women in the Legion of Frontiersmen. "Information received from London headquarters that the proposed formation of the Circle Cross League had been approved and New Zealand given the power to commence the establishment of this new organization. The Circle Cross League is for the ladies who have been assisting the Legion during the war, and who are prepared to organize for the purpose of doing such work in future as they carried on for the past four years, establishing nursing classes, etc. The league will have Empire headquarters at the London headquarters of the Legion and its badge will be a small replica of the center of the Legion badge, surrounded by a circle of blue enamel, the arms of the cross being carried out in white. The constitution of the league as drawn up by Miss M.E. Compton, of Hastings, president of the committee of ladies which rendered such splendid service to the legionnaires [sic] on active service has been adopted." Indications later mentioned in the article were that during the four years the "Ladies Parcel Committee" of 1915 to 1918 under Miss M.E. Compton's leadership sent comforts and packages to the members of the Legion of Frontiersmen. **F.V. Longstaff scrapbook files, British Columbia Museum. Quotation from unlabeled N.Z. newspaper clipping, column titled "Legion of Frontiersmen" written by "Frontiersman" dated 29.7.1920.**

Note: The late Bruce Fuller, New Zealand L.O.F. historian identified the news reporter as Ernest Gladhill d'Esterre who wrote for the AUCKLAND STAR and the AUCKLAND ILLUSTRATED. The officer, Captain E. G. d'Esterre was the Organising Officer for New Zealand's North Island. He was also the Legion leader who offered the NZ LOF en masse to the NZ Government for war service in 1914; and after the Great War he was the force behind the NZ Legion of Frontiersmen Memorial at National Park. bws/author

1920 – Maoris Membership and Adoption of the Norfolk Jacket, New Zealand. "The annual Dominion conference of the Legion of Frontiersmen was opened at New Plymouth, on Wednesday with a large attendance of delegates from the North Island. It was decided to invite General Sir Andrew Russell to become Commander of the Legion. A remit, that Maoris be eligible for membership, was carried by 25 votes to 4. It was decided that the present uniform, with the addition of a Norfolk jacket, be adopted. Last night the delegates were the guests of the Taranaki squadron at a banquet." **TIMARU HERALD, General News, page 12, 26 June 1920.**

1920s – Organizing Officer For Canada. Throughout the 1920s the organizing secretary was S. Bozman of Looma, Alberta. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, Winter 1928-'29, located in the British Library by Geoffrey A. Pocock, Legion Historian.**

Note. This Frontiersman was living in the rural district of Looma would have been isolated from speedy correspondence and easy access to urban populations, thus limiting effective post war re-organization in Canada. It would not be until about 1928-1930 that events for a significant LOF re-formation occur. bws/author

1922 – British Columbia. A partial copy of Orders issued by Legion Captain E.A. Hoare, Adjutant, Legion HQ in London confirm Major Seymour Rowlinson as a Squadron Leader for Victoria and Vancouver Island to be working independently under the direct supervision of Headquarters. **THE FRONTIERSMEN, Winter 1928-1929, found in British Library by Legion Historian Geoffrey A. Pocock.**

1922 – The Peel Regiment and the Legion of Frontiersmen. "On Sunday November 25th, 1922 a memorial window was dedicated in the Church of the Epiphany on Queen Street, West Toronto to the 3200 all ranks who passed through the Peel Regiment from 1914 – 1918, and the five hundred who had given their lives." The Legion of Frontiersmen was reported contributing a total of 280 men for overseas service via the regiment. **www.kw.lgs.net/-shepard/lornes.htm**

1922 – South Africa. Frontiersmen took part in the suppression of a rebellion [labour strife] in Johannesburg. General J.G. Smuts showed his appreciation by becoming a 'Trooper' in the Legion of Frontiersmen. **A. Mack, HISTORY OF THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN ..., c1970.**

1925 – South Africa, Women’s Revolver Club. “In Johannesburg there is a Women’s Revolver Club, and some of the members are remarkable shots. Being able to shoot gives one a feeling of safety, as we are outnumbered by about eight to one by the natives, and if there is any trouble, industrial or otherwise, there is a certain amount of fear. But the club was formed as much for sport as to protect ourselves. The club is under the auspices of the Legion of Frontiersmen”. **OTAGO DAILY TIMES, “A South African Visitor,” Issue 19385, 22 January 1925.**

1926 – Winnipeg, Manitoba. Major Leitch of Winnipeg is noted as having written an article on 26 August 1926 for the “Khaki Call”, the official journal of the Army and Navy Veterans of Canada. The implication of this detail is a functioning LOF body in Manitoba at the time. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, Winter 1928-’29, located in the British Archives by Geoffrey A. Pocock, Legion Historian.**

1926 – Larry B. Blaine, Edmonton, Alberta. Larry B. Blaine [Lawrence B. Blain, later RSM, 19TH Alberta Dragoons] of 9006-102 Avenue held a Smoking Concert 27 June 1926 as a farewell to Legion Sgt. (Major) R.H. Darke. Larry Blaine had originally been a member of ‘E’ (Croyden and Purley) Squadron, England. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, Winter 1928-’29, located in the British Archives by Geoffrey A. Pocock, Legion Historian.**

1928 – Larry B. Blaine, Edmonton, Alberta. Coming to Canada in the 1920s, it becomes apparent that Larry Blaine continued LOF service with other Edmonton members and he successfully recruits the dynamic Louis Scott DCM, formerly a WW1 PPCLI and post war CO of the Edmonton Regiment [49th Battalion CEF] who revitalized the flagging Legion of Frontiersmen in Canada. **Newsclipping and notation, Edmonton City Archives. THE FRONTIERSMAN, front page, February 1930.**

1928, ’29 – Western Canada Command. The HQ under the command of Louis Scott DCM was located at 715 Tegler Building, Edmonton. This location was one of Edmonton’s preeminent structures of the time. Legion officers were Capt. M. Robertson Aldridge, Capt. C.G. Flavin, Transport Officer 2/Lt. A.M. McGavin, Chaplain Rev. G.G. Reynolds [formerly PPCLI], Treasurer Lt. E.C. Taylor, Hon. Legal Advisor Frtn. E.C. Darling, Hon. Auditor Frtn. G.D.K. Kinnaird.
A Squadron Edmonton, Capt. H.S. Reynolds [formerly RFC] c/o Edmonton City Police
B Squadron Edmonton, Lt. H.H. Sterns VD, 8603-104 Street
R Squadron Signals, 2/Lt. H.G. Hearn, 11647-97 Street
FRONTIERSMAN, Winter 1928-’29, located in the British Archives by Geoffrey A. Pocock, Legion Historian.

1928, ’29 – Royal Canadian Mounted Police. ‘A’ Squadron Quebec sent Paul Bedard and Charles Pouliot on a 3 month RCMP training course at Regina. These were the first Frontiersmen admitted to an RCMP sponsored course. **FRONTIERSMAN, Winter 1928-’29, located in the British Archives by Geoffrey A. Pocock, Legion Historian.**

1929 – Renewed Imperial Interest in the Legion. A report indicates a revival of interest in the LOF goes beyond Canada. The NZ Command reported 83 new members plus 295 membership renewals for a total of 378 members with Auckland having 65 of those members. In Egypt headquarters were established in Cairo and activities included riding, shooting, soccer with a match reported between the LOF and the Welsh Guards. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, front page, February 1930.**

1932 – Historical Commentary at Reunion, Essex Squadron, England. “The reunion meeting of the Essex Squadron took place at the S E Essex Troop Headquarters, The Cliff Hotel, Park Street, Southend – Lieut C.J. Purslow organising officer of the Essex Squadron since 1914 occupied the chair and introduced the Deputy Commandant-General, General Kaid Belton, O.B.E., honoured and respected the world over (applause). He (the Chairman) was also especially pleased to welcome the 1914 members of the Legion. Of the Essex Squadron in 1914, 95% were on active service, 5% being rejected or too old; 57% were at Swaythling Remount Depot 1914-15, 27% were 25th Royal Fusiliers Frontiersmen, 35% were killed in action, died in action, or had since died. One Swaythling comrade was Lieut. W. Dartnell, V.C., (25th RF Frontiersmen). The members stood to attention while Sergt-Trumpeter Sitch played the Last Post and the Reveille. Kaid Belton said that the Legion was formed in 1904 by Roger Pocock, who was still their Commissioner. Roger Pocock was a man who started in the North-West Mounted Police at the age of 16 and he gravitated into a scout, lumberman, soldier, trapper, hunter, missionary and a pilot. It seemed to him that some great brotherhood should be formed to bring

together those people who spent their lives on the frontiers of the British Empire. Thus was the Legion of Frontiersmen formed, and from all corners of the world men rushed to join. He (the speaker) joined in 1906 in South Africa. The membership had increased to such an extent that on the outbreak of war 22,000 had actually joined. He believed that 20,000 went to the Colours in various units of various armies, and of that number some 9,000 died in action. It could be safely said that the Legion upheld their traditions – to be ready at any time and at all the time to defend the Empire in any part of the world. (applause) To do that, men had to keep themselves fit, mentally and physically, and they did it at their own expense, being entirely self-supporting. When the call came in 1914 every single Frontiersman was efficient, and the actual Frontiersmen's unit, the 25th Royal Fusiliers Frontiersmen, which went overseas, did not need training before leaving England. The same situation arose in Canada. The first unit to leave for Flanders was Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and out of 900 men 700 belonged to the Legion. In 1914 the Legion was practically disembodied. At the end of the war many were dead, many were tired, and did not return to the Legion; but now there had come to many again the old longing. Their Commandant was Col. D.P. Driscoll, DSO, who led the Frontiersmen's regiment on active service, and was still serving at over 70 years of age as Commandant of the Kenya Defence Force, having held His Majesty's commission for over 50 years. (applause)". **THE ESSEX CHRONICLE, Imperial Overseas Legion of Frontiersmen, 15 January 1932.** Transcription by Legion Historian, Geoffrey A. Pocock.

1933 – Legion of Frontiersmen Toast. Noticed [but reference unrecorded] in a document file at the University of Alberta, and in a referenced Australian newspaper, the Legion Toast "The 9000" was adopted after the Great War. "In proposing the toast of 'The 9000', Major McMillan, M.C., asked members to drink to the memory of the 9000 Frontiersmen who sacrificed their lives in the Great War." **SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, page 14, 26 April 1933.**

1933 – Rebuilding N.S.W. Squadrons. "Before the war the strength of the New South Wales squadrons of the Legion of Frontiersmen was nearly 1000, but the war took heavy toll." ... "Squadrons and troops of Frontiersmen are already established at headquarters in Sydney and at Manly, North Sydney, Newcastle, Goulburn, Parkes, and Cootamundra." **SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, Legion's Work for Empire, page 09, 28 July 1933.**

1934 – Sydney Australia. "The membership of the legion has steadily increased during the past 12 months. Its headquarters are at 101b George street, where parades are held on Tuesday nights." **THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, Legion of Frontiersmen, page 18, 24 March 1934.**

1934 – Training Camp, Sydney Australia. "The Legion of Frontiersmen intend holding their bi-annual camp during Easter at Liverpool Military Camp. All squadrons will be assembled, and it is expected that about 100 men will be present under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Hill. The syllabus of training for the Easter camp includes a wide range of subjects, such as the function of mounted rifles, map reading, horse management, and guard mounting." **THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, Legion of Frontiersmen, page 18, 29 March 1934.**

1934 – John Chipman Kerr VC. Kerr's membership enrolment into Spirit River Troop, Alberta, was recorded. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, [issue ?] 1934.**

1935 – Founder, Roger Pocock makes World Tour. In perhaps his last adventure the Founder undertook a World Tour for the recruiting and consolidation of Frontiersmen. Pocock reported glowingly of the Legion of Frontiersmen's history and contemporary potential. He comments that although Empire-wide establishments are small in peacetime, he is confident that battalions of Frontiersmen would be available should the need arise. **TIMES, "Frontiersmen, The Legion's Outposts", page 17, 16 May 1936.**

1936 – Royal Canadian Mounted Police Affiliation. "Affiliation. Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The following extract from General Order No. 695, Part 1, week ending 26-9-36, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, is published for the information of all members: By Authority of the Honourable, the Minister in Control of the Force, The Legion of Frontiersmen is hereby affiliated with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in the same manner as Units of the Canadian Militia are affiliated with regiments of His Majesty's Forces in the United Kingdom." **Geoffrey A. Pocock, OUTRIDER OF EMPIRE, pages 312-313, University of Alberta Press 2008.**

1936 – Famous Canadian “Ace” and Bush Pilot. Capt. W.H. May, OBE, DFC was a member of the Legion of Frontiersmen. Exactly when he joined is not known; however, his membership is confirmed as follows: “Frtsm. (Capt.) ‘Wop’ May O.B.E., D.F.C., has something up his sleeve for members who are air minded. Follow the Gazette for an announcement of interest.” **THE FRONTIER NEWS, page 08, October 1936.**

Note: **Parachute Rescue Operations.** The Edmonton Aviation Museum features a display about Parachute Rescue development, the concept and application pioneered under Wop May in Edmonton, Canada during WW2. Edmonton was the major air base of the RCAF and U.S. Army Air Corps supporting the monumental building of the highway to Alaska through Canadian wilderness in defence of potential Japanese invasion. Airman flying supplies were downed in the remote, unpopulated regions. Wop May a legendary bush pilot developed the parachute air rescue concept. He was decorated by the United States of America for this innovation. bws/author

1937 – Montreal, Quebec. ‘M’ Squadron “looking spic and span” was inspected by RCMP Assistant Commissioner F.J. Mead and accompanied by RCMP Superintendent Royal Gagnon. Assist. Commissioner Mead expressed his pleasure over the large recruitment that had occurred since the first organizational meeting held the previous autumn of 1936. The parade was under the command of Legion Captain (Lieut. Colonel) J.K. Keebler DSO, with Legion Lieutenant (Lieut. Colonel) T.E. Ryder DSO, MC, VD as second in command, with Squadron Sergeant Major Peter T.T. Grant MM as adjutant. Also on parade was Captain Alexander de Livi a 25 year member of the LoF. The trumpet band of the 2nd Montreal Regiment played the march to the church service. The squadron chaplain was the Ven. Archdeacon A.P Gower-Rees MC. **MONTREAL GAZETTE, page 15 [front page, 2nd section], 10 May 1937.**

1938 – Canadian Enrolment Rapidly Rises, Then Depleted Again by War. In Canada the LOF was expanding rapidly due to the organizational talents of Louis Scott DCM in western Canada and M.L. Fitzgerald in eastern Canada. As of May 1938 there were 411 paid subscriptions reported for Canada, doubling the membership of the previous year. **THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 22, July-August-September 1938.**

Note. See 1939 LOF Fractures. Enrolments gained a great deal of momentum as the concerns of war were growing. In Canada the estimated strength of Canada’s Legion of Frontiersmen [both LF(CD) and CIF factions combined] by 1941 may have peaked at about 2000 to 2500, before rapidly declining as key officers and able men would be re-enlisted for military service as training and administrative staff, or for service in the Veterans’ Guard to oversee POW camps. Roles as Wardens in the ARP [Air Raid Precautions] and as auxiliary Constables in city police forces would utilize the LOF manpower, ultimately leaving the LOF much diminished. bws/author

1938 - British Empire Enrolment. The Legion of Frontiersmen, decimated by the Great War, had slowly re-established to just over 3600 members, an increase of 400 members from the previous year of 1937. The LOF membership numbers effective May 1938 were:

- Home [UK] – 2060
- New Zealand – 800
- Canada – 411
- South Africa – 121
- East Africa – 75
- West Africa – 29
- Australia – 64
- Tasmania – 04
- Hong Kong – 03
- Malaya – 03
- India – 35
- Various -09

THE FRONTIERSMAN, page 22, July-August-September 1938.

Note: As the prospect of war threatened, it is most likely that over the next two to three years membership increased dramatically. In Canada alone it is estimated that the overall LOF strength likely peaked at 2000 to 2500 members, see entry "1939 – Legion of Frontiersmen Fractures in Canada". bws/author

1939 – Home Guard and ARP. In Great Britain and elsewhere in the old British Empire the Legion of Frontiersmen involvement during the formative stage of the Second World War is largely a lost story requiring further research. bws/author.

1939 – King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, Visit to Canada. The Frontiersmen were a lauded and efficient auxiliary to the security and crowd control efforts of RCMP during this Royal Tour of Canada. This was to be the high point of LOF affiliation with the RCMP, as the affiliation was terminated in October 1939 largely due to organizational squabbles within the Legion. **Geoffrey A. Pocock, OUTRIDER OF EMPIRE, pages 312-313, University of Alberta Press 2008. Letters published A. Mack, HISTORY OF THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN ... , c1970.**

1939 – Legion of Frontiersmen Fractures in Canada. Although expanding, the Legion of Frontiersmen command in Canada fractures as Brigadier E. Morton's decision to "decentralize" [see 1938 Annual Report] has a negative impact when he unilaterally divides Canada into autonomous eastern and western commands under M.L. Fitzgerald and L. Scott DCM respectively. This stimulates legal and organizational maneuvering resulting in two Frontiersmen factions within Canada.

1. **Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division) est. 1939**, under Lieutenant Colonel Louis Scott DCM headquartered in Edmonton. The estimated strength would be 1000 to 1250 members during the early part of the Second World War.
2. **Canadian Imperial Frontiersmen est. 1940**, loyal to Imperial HQ in London, reactively formed under M.L. Fitzgerald and headquartered in Montreal. Reported strengths were noted at 728 uniformed members in 1940 and a letter to IHQ Fitzgerald mentions a numeric strength of 1100 members in the Corps of Imperial Frontiersmen.

Details noted but specific references were not recorded; however they are available University of Alberta L.O.F. Archives. bws/author.

1939-1945 – A detailed study on these war years remains to be done.

❖ **Post Second World War Summation**

1960s – LOF Membership [both factions] peaked at about 800 to 1000 in the 1960s. This estimate is based upon numbers recalled in a Legion of Frontiersmen [Canadian Division] Gazette c1961 stating strength of about 630 paid members, and simply estimating the rival Corps of Imperial Frontiersmen with about half the numbers. - Almost all Quebec and a few Ontario based unit left the Corps of Imperial Frontiersmen changing to the Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division). Strengths began a rapid diminishment through the 1980s.

1990s – Extremely few legitimate Legion of Frontiersmen reported to a functional HQ. Sadly, the late 20th century saw the evolution of ridiculous, self-styled claimants replete with bogus ranks, bogus titles and personal aggrandizements.

2004 – Legion of Frontiersmen Centenary. No more than Squadron strength of legitimate and properly uniformed Legion of Frontiersmen carried on in Canada.

2008 – OUTRIDER OF EMPIRE. The University of Alberta Press published Geoffrey A. Pocock's excellent book about the Founder of the Legion of Frontiersmen and the Legion that he brought to be. Thorough reading of this book is necessary for informed commentary about LOF history.

❖ AUTHOR AND RESEARCHER

Barry William Shandro B.Ed, M.Ed, SBStJ graduated from the University of Alberta and the University of Ottawa. He was commissioned into the regular army, but resigned to pursue education and graduate studies. As well he served briefly with Edmonton city police. – Overall, teaching high school was his primary career and while teaching he joined the Cadet Instructors Cadre. He instructed a variety of courses including the rigorous pre-parachutist conditioning program and qualified as a military parachutist at the Canadian Airborne Centre. Voluntary community service and family activities dominated young adult life until disabled. Life changing events occurred with modest community involvement continuing over the decades. During military, police and civil experiences he maintained an association with the authentic Legion of Frontiersmen [Countess Mountbatten's Own] and has pursued Legion of Frontiersmen historical investigation as a hobby.



*Countess Mountbatten's Own
Legion of Frontiersmen*



Part III - Uniform and Accoutrements

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN: A REVIEW OF UNIFORM REGULATIONS AND ACCOUTREMENTS

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Edmonton Canada – 01 January 2017

*Produced as a reference for
Countess Mountbatten's Own Legion of Frontiersmen
History & Archives Section and Prairie Region Mounted Troop*



This document represents four decades of personal research and observation as it relates to the Legion of Frontiersmen in Canada. This is not an official HQ regulation or directive.

Intention of this document: To present accurate information and some historical context about the authentic Legion of Frontiersmen uniform and accoutrements. Hopefully this will also help to identify those who misrepresent the Legion of Frontiersmen and ignore established protocols.



SECTIONS:

- 00.0 SOURCES AND PURPOSE
- 01.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
- 02.0 GENERAL
- 03.0 STANDARD UNIFORM
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LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN – A REVIEW OF UNIFORM REGULATIONS

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Edmonton Canada – January 2017

- 0.0 SOURCES.** The most comprehensive description of the Legion of Frontiersmen uniform is within the Legion of Frontiersmen Canadian Division regulations, first published 1941, and it acts as a platform for this document. Further sources include previous Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth dress regulations, archival photographs beginning 1905, and direct observation of Legion uniform and dress practice as applied since the 1970s. This document includes the author's personal commentary about the standards and realities of uniform versions and accoutrements of the genuine Legion of Frontiersmen.
- 0.1 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT.** This document reflects the historical regalia standards of the Legion of Frontiersmen. As the Frontiersmen veterans of the major 20th century conflicts passed on, the leadership and the followership of the Legion of Frontiersmen has struggled to maintain correct organizational presentation. While always a uniformed association, persons have usurped Legion of Frontiersmen history and regalia to create self-style uniforms adorned with ridiculous ranks and titles. Hopefully, this document presents a useful standard for regalia evaluation.
- 0.2 ASSOCIATION TITLE.** As the old British Empire evolved, the original and authentic Legion of Frontiersmen addressed the political realities and its title was extended in the 1960s to become the Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth; and amended in the 21st Century with the honour "Countess Mountbatten's Own".
- 1.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.** Ironically, the Legion of Frontiersmen uniform that today may appear to be elaborate in design was originally the result of economy, availability and practicality. It is no accident that the uniform of the Legion of Frontiersmen resembles that of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or historic formations such as the 19th Alberta Dragoons, Alberta Provincial Police, British South African Police and perhaps other frontier formations of the British Empire. All of these units' uniforms were born of the practical frontier clothing of the day in conjunction with the available clothing elements of the Imperial army. The broad brimmed colonial slouch hat and the "Stetson" common to the Canadian prairie (and today worn by the RCMP) were the practical headdress choices of the early Legion of Frontiersmen. In a short time the Stetson became the preferred headdress. The loose shirt with pockets, a useful silk bandanna and brown breeches with necessary belt and boots were commonplace work or field clothing throughout much of the Imperial frontier. The addition of useful items like gloves, riding crop, spurs and occasionally firearms presented a uniform for a body of men with both frontier and military experience. Later for reasons of formality and politics the dark blue jacket replaced the loose shirt and bandana. In a 1930s Legion magazine a padre commented about the blue jackets of ship stewards having been economical and readily adaptable for Legion purposes. Shoulder chains appeared on the shirt sleeve uniform of some of the earliest Frontiersmen, likely identifying the wearers' connection to their own past cavalry training. In 1914 a unit from the Legion of Frontiersmen joined with the 3rd Belgium Lancers at the earliest stage of the Great War and thus firmly reinforced the presence of symbolic shoulder chains on the Legion of Frontiersmen uniform.
- 2.0 GENERAL.** While the traditional uniform of the Legion of Frontiersmen may appear anachronistic in the 21st century, it acts as a formal identifier of an association rooted in the Victorian era and the uniform still holds a distinctive commemorative role. Active members have traditionally provided themselves with the basic uniform after becoming a member.

- 2.1 ASSOCIATE & HONOURARY MEMBERS – The Associate and/or Honourary members may not wear the uniform unless granted such privilege by HQ.
- 2.2 FIREARMS – The Legion of Frontiersmen is not an armed force and firearms are not carried unless members are assigned to do so by the legally constituted Authority. As an example, in 1916 the northern Alberta Legion of Frontiersmen morphed into the politically acceptable home guard called the “Edmonton Battalion of Reserve Militia” equipped with RNWMP .45/70 Winchester carbines.
- 2.3 LANCE & SWORD – Symbolic arms such as these have a ceremonial function related to the Legion’s own history.
- 2.4 SAM BROWNE – The Sam Browne belt is worn with the Dress [“No. 1”] and the Undress [“No. 2”] uniforms. It shall be removed when entering Regimental Mess rooms, canteen or any other social area, unless on a Parade of Duty. In Canada, since the RCMP affiliation of 1936 to 1939, the practice of all ranks wearing the Sam Browne belt has been followed.
- 2.5 STETSON & CAP – The Stetson is to be worn with the Dress uniform and the Cap is usually worn with the Undress uniform.
- 2.6 BERET – A rust-brown colour was selected circa 1975 to avoid confusion with the regiments and the corps of the Commonwealth forces.
- 2.7 BLUE-BROWN-GREEN – Research has confirmed the use of these as the Legion’s representational colours, although the exact historic pattern of the colours in use is not known. These are the colours on the Legion “regimental-stripe” necktie.
- 2.8 GORGETS – Historically, Brown gorgets with gold cord were worn by the Commandant General and Executive Staff Officers; while a green cord upon the brown gorget indicated general staff. [**Frontiersman, page 130, March 1927**]. Post WW2 the break-away group *Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division) est. 1939* used variously coloured gorgets for provincial commands. Generally, in Canada gorgets are no longer evident.
- 3.0 STANDARD UNIFORM.** The Legion of Frontiersmen uniform has allowed minor deviations from the standard of dress for reasons of local practicality or if the uniform conflicts with government regulations. Permission for change must be obtained from HQ.
- 3.1 UNIFORMS FOR ALL MEMBERS – The dark blue Tunic has four pockets; the top two pockets have buttons and the lower two pockets are without buttons. Two buttons are on each sleeve at cuff on outside seam. Although Open Neck collar may be permissible complete uniformity within a unit must be observed. In practice the Standing collar tunic has been the expected norm in Canada.
- 3.2 GAUNTLETS – Brown leather.
- 3.3 GLOVES – Brown preferred for officers; however, in practice Black leather for all members tended to be the practical norm in almost all instances.
- 3.4 LANYARDS, WHISTLE CORDS – The use has varied from the white revolver cord around the neck to coloured whistle cords identifying Command association, to the currently favoured practice of omitting such regalia. If whistle cords are worn they are to be worn over left shoulder with whistle in left breast pocket, cord between button and center pocket seam. Loop is not to be below the bottom edge of breast pocket.

- 3.5 OFFICER BADGES OF RANK – Badges or “pips” of Frontiersmen pattern, **L F** embossed are worn following the British Army practice.
- 3.6 OFFICER BADGES OF RANK AS INITIALLY PROPOSED – The following system of leadership designation was suggested by the Founder Roger Pocock, but it was not widely adopted and was quickly replaced by the symbols more familiar to military veterans. The originally proposed rank bars can be seen on some archival photos.
- (a) One Bronze Bar, Troop Leader, parallel to and near the base of the epaulettes
 - (b) Two Bronze Bars, Squadron Commander, parallel to and near the base of the epaulettes
 - (c) Three Bronze Bars, Commandant, parallel to and near the base of the epaulettes
- 3.7 BADGES OF RANK, W.O. I and W.O. II – Badges shall be Gold on Blue, military type worn on the right sleeve of the Tunic or Reefer (Pea) Jacket with the lowest edge of the Badge 6 1/2 inches above the extreme lowest edge of the sleeve.
- 3.8 CHEVRONS OF RANK – [traditional measurements] Chevrons of rank will be Gold on Blue, British military type and worn on the right sleeve of the Tunic or Pea Jacket with the lowest point of the Two Bar Chevron 9 1/2 inches and the Three Bar Chevron 10 1/2 inches from the shoulder seam. Badges shall be embroidered on cloth.
- 4.0 MESS DRESS UNIFORM.**
- 4.1 STANDARD MESS DRESS – The Legion of Frontiersmen mess dress uniform is a sealed pattern Mess jacket of dark blue cloth open front with wing collar or shawl collar with primrose (yellow) facing as the standard. White shirt, black bow tie, with buttons and badges in gilt are to be worn with the mess attire. In the past each Canadian province had a unique command colour for facing, but in reality it was seldom utilized.
- 4.2 ADAPTED MESS DRESS – In Canada, a suitable uniform substitute for mess dress has been the wearing of the Legion’s Service Undress, No.2 Uniform with the brown leather belt, cross strap removed. A plain white military belt replacing the brown leather is also acceptable. Uniformity among members in attendance is expected.
- 5.0 SERVICE DRESS, No.1 UNIFORM.**
- 5.1 STETSON – Khaki, hard brim, indentations are at front back and sides RCMP type and colour [“mesa brown”]. It is to be worn tilted slightly to the right eyebrow. A buckle on strap on crown is to be on the left side, with the cord to be in close contact with lower part of the back of head.
- 5.2 BERET – The beret was adopted circa 1975 for use with all uniforms when rigid headwear was not a practical option, i.e. storage on airlines or in travel bags. The Rust-brown colour was selected to avoid beret colours used by the various regiments or corps throughout UK, Canada, NZ or Australia.
- 5.3 TUNIC – Dark blue serge with Standing collar, traditional, 5 buttons down front, one button on each breast pocket and two buttons on each sleeve at cuff on outside seam has been the standard. Although Open Neck collar may have been permissible, complete uniformity within a unit must be observed. In practice the Standing collar tunic has been the expected norm in Canada.
- 5.4 CLOTH SHOULDER TITLES – Cloth shoulder titles were not initially worn on the tunic. At times various commands have authorized them to be sewn on each arm of the Tunic below the extreme lower edge of the Shoulder Chains.

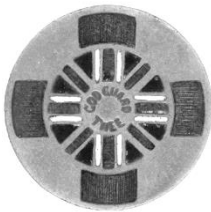
- 5.5 METAL SHOULDER PLATE “FRONTIERSMEN” – Metal shoulder plates were not mandated to be worn on shoulder chains. This appears to have evolved after WW1, with “Frontiersmen” shoulder plates looking similar to some Canadian Army shoulder plates of the WW1 era. Likely, they were replaced later by cloth titles as an economy.
- 5.6 SHOULDER CHAINS – Nickel chains sewn over epaulettes and overlapping down the arm as per cavalry uniforms. This item first appeared on the shirt sleeve uniform of some of the earliest Frontiersmen, likely identifying the wearers’ connection to past cavalry training. It would be uniformly adopted by the Legion of Frontiersmen particularly in recognition of service with the 3rd Belgium Lancers during the earliest stages of WW1.
- 5.7 BREECHES RIDING – Khaki cord with leather facings represent the ideal. The term “khaki” is practically interpreted to allow for a variety of shades and tones.
- 5.8 BOOTS – Brown boots Strathcona style or brown boots with brown leggings have been the norm. Practical necessities of equestrian competition may allow for black boots or a variance in style.
- 5.9 SPURS – Short neck Jack spurs with brown leather straps and guards, RCMP style.
- 5.10 GAUNTLETS – Brown leather gauntlet gloves.
- 5.11 GLOVES – Brown preferred for officers; however, in practice Black leather for all members tends to be the practical norm in almost all instances.
- 5.12 BELT – Sam Browne belt. Brown Leather without frog. Sling over right shoulder.
- 5.13 BELT AT MESS FUNCTIONS – When Legion uniform worn [usually Service Undress] in lieu of Mess Dress to a formal function, the Sam Browne cross strap has been removed and only the brown waist belt has been worn in Canada. A white military belt has also been used to replace the brown leather belt at mess functions. Uniformity among members is expected.
- 5.14 LANYARD, CLOSED NECK TUNIC – Current practice is that a lanyard or whistle cord is seldom worn. Use has varied over the decades. In the past when closed neck tunic is worn; the lanyard worn has been the white pistol type, double cotton cord with one sliding “turkshead” worn around the base of the collar and the end carried to the outer side of the right breast pocket after enclosing the top tunic button. Loop is to be level with the bottom of the pocket.
- 5.15 LANYARD, OPEN NECK TUNIC – The open neck tunic has rarely been acceptable in Canada. An example of open neck collar being worn is provided by “V” Squadron of Victoria BC when it functioned as auxiliary police during WW2. On the open neck tunic, a single cord lanyard of command colour was permissible around the left shoulder.

6.0 SERVICE UNDRRESS, No.2 UNIFORM.

- 6.1 CAP – Dark Blue Cloth, standard pattern, yellow piping around crown, black band, with glazed peak is worn with peak level with the eyes and not tilted to either side. The Senior Officers shall have gold braid on peak.
- 6.2 TUNIC – As for Service Dress No. 1.
- 6.3 OVERALLS – Dark blue serge, normal waist, normal pockets, normal leg length taper towards ankles with two parallel yellow stripes on outer seams, three quarters of an inch wide and three sixteenths of an inch apart down full length of the outer seam.

- 6.4 BOOTS – Quarter Wellington. Black.
- 6.5 SPURS – Swan necked, nickel, screw-on or boxed.
- 6.6 GLOVES – Brown preferred for officers; however, in practice Black leather for all members tends to be the practical norm in almost all instances.
- 6.7 BELT – Sam Browne. Brown leather without frog. Sling over right shoulder.
- 6.8 LANYARD – As for Service Dress, No.1.
- 7.0 WINTER DRESS.** During the winter months the following has been worn by ALL ranks. Date of taking into effect is directed by the local Command concerned.
- 7.1 REEFER [PEA JACKET] – Blue cloth RCMP pattern worn with shoulder brass titles “Frontiersmen”. Shoulder brass titles to be worn at the base of the epaulette on each shoulder. Note: if Brass Titles are not obtainable, approved cloth titles may be worn.
- 7.2 WINTER HAT – Brown fur RCMP pattern. Should other cold weather headdress be used, the unit is to insure uniformity.
- 7.3 GLOVES – Brown preferred for officers; however, in practice Black leather for all members tends to be the practical norm in almost all instances.
- 7.4 SEVERE WEATHER – Practical and appropriate clothing to insure safety and comfort.
- 8.0 SUMMER DRESS.** Both Summer Dress and Summer Field Dress have changed formats over the decades in keeping with the social and military trends toward comfort and a smart appearance. Traditionally Service Dress, No.1 and/or Service Undress No.2 could be worn without the tunic and with the following additions.
- 8.1 SHIRT – Current example, as worn by Prairie Mounted Troop, Canada: ‘Midnight Blue’ cloth. Collar, pockets and epaulettes are of the same colour and material. Epaulettes are not stitched down. Other geographic commands utilize shirts of other singular colours.
- 8.2 CLOTH SHOULDER TITLES – To be worn on each sleeve with curve of the title following the shoulder seam. When wearing the shirt, badges of rank will be worn by Officers and by N.C.O’s as per military custom.
- 8.3 RIBBON BARS – Ribbons are worn on Summer Dress shirts. [Section 10.0 for details]
- 8.4 HAZARDOUS SKILLS BADGES – Official military badges like pilot, diver or parachutist are permitted to be worn above the left breast pocket as per military custom.
- 8.5 TIE – Black or ‘midnight blue’. The necktie, usually a clip-on, has generally disappeared from use.
- 8.6 BELT – The Legion stable belt may worn with summer dress. Other belts may be authorized. Uniformity within each command is the expectation.

- 8.7 HEAD DRESS – Stetsons, berets or caps Forage may be worn with Summer Dress but the unit commanders must ensure uniformity of the members on the parade or duty. Note that shoulder Chains or lanyards are not worn with Summer Dress.
- 8.8 RAINCOATS – Rain Wear, etc. as required. Uniformity within each command is the expectation.
- 8.9 BADGES ON RAINCOATS – Badges of N.C.O. rank or Shoulder Titles are NOT worn on Raincoats.
- 8.10 RIDING CROPS, CEREMONIAL – Style has varied. One example is as follows [traditional measurements]: brown leather cased Crop 28 1/2 inch overall length Nickel head with 7 inch long loop. Leather width is 3/4 inch at the nickel head tapering to 1/2 inch at loop. Crops will be carried by members when so ordered by the O.C. the Unit.
- 8.11 RIDING CROPS, PRACTICAL – Personal selection of a crop is permitted for equitation competition, trail or pleasure riding.
- 8.12 EMERGENCY DRESS – In extreme weather conditions or on duties of a hazardous nature, commanders of units may authorize special articles of wear for the occasion.
- 9.0 **LEGION BADGES** were well established before the Great War era. Below are examples [not to scale] of pre Great War LOF badges and 9.0(f) the universally adopted Legion of Frontiersmen badge circa 1926. Note the following images 9.0(a) to 9.0(f).



9.0(a)



9.0(b)



9.0(c)



9.0(d)



9.0(e)



9.0(f)

- 9.1 LAPEL BADGE – The so called “button badge” was a small medallion representing the Union Flag, resting upon the Cross of St. George symbolic of England at the center of the former British Empire, later the Commonwealth of Nations. The center carries the motto “God Guard Thee”. This button badge was originally issued as a numbered lapel insignia indicating membership in the early Legion of Frontiersmen.
- 9.2 LF SCRIPT [MONOGRAM] BADGE, circa 1912 – The unembellished LF Script or LF Monogram badge was the first badge produced for the Uniform of the Legion of Frontiersmen. Early photos show it in use at the front of the colonial pattern slouch hat and/or the Canadian style Stetson, as well as on the shoulder straps and/or shoulder chains of the various early Legion of Frontiersmen uniforms.

- 9.3 LF SCRIPT [MONOGRAM] WITH WREATH, WW1 to 1926 – It is apparent that this was introduced specifically as a HAT badge. It was used to compliment either the plain LF SCRIPT [MONOGRAM] BADGES as collar badges, or the LF BLOCK LETTERED WITH WREATH collar badges. See next point [9.4].
- 9.4 LF BLOCK LETTERED WITH WREATH, WW1 to 1926 – These were collar badges and are noted as worn with the LF MAPLE LEAF BADGE of the old British Columbia Command. See next point [9.5].
- 9.5 LF MAPLE LEAF BADGE of BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMAND, WW1 to 1926 – Two known versions were produced featuring at center a beaver on a log, surrounded by the phrase “The Legion of Frontiersmen BC” all upon a naturally shaped maple leaf. Sizes and centers were very similar, but irregular maple leaf shapes differed.
- 9.6 LF MURAL CROWN BADGE, BRASS, BUTTONS – Adopted universally circa 1926. Descriptors below use traditional measurements.
- (a) HAT or CAP BADGE – The traditional measurements and description is a large wreath badge about 1 5/8 inches high by about 1 1/2 inches wide. On the Stetson it shall be worn front center with the bottom edge of the Badge 1/2 inch above the brim of the Stetson. On the Cap Forage it shall be worn on the Cap band. The Cap Badge will NOT be worn on the Fur Cap.
- (b) COLLAR BADGE – The traditional measurements and description is a Small wreath badge about 1 1/4 inches high by about 1 1/8 inches wide. To be worn on the stand-up collar Tunic with the center of the Badge 1 3/4 inches from the edge of the collar fastening. On the open-necked Tunic the Badge is worn above the notch in the lapel with the bottom and outside edge of the badge 1/4 inch from the edge of the cloth.
- (c) SHOULDER TITLES BRASS – The traditional measurements and description for Titles are 5/8 inches wide slightly curved. The top edge is 2 1/8 inches wide and the bottom edge is 2 1/2 inches wide with “Frontiersmen” in 1/4 inch raised metal letters. They are worn on the epaulettes of the Pea Jacket only 1/2 inch above the shoulder seam. NOTE. If the Metal Badges are unobtainable the Cloth Badges may be worn in lieu. See next point [9.7].
- (d) BUTTONS – The traditional measurements and description is a medallion imprint center with “Frontiersmen” in raised letters circling the face. Sizes are Large, 36 Ligne, buttons going down front are Medium, 26 Ligne, on the pockets and cuffs, with Small buttons on the cap; all Gilt colour.
- 9.7 SHOULDER TITLES CLOTH – Cloth titles were generally not used in the early era and appear to have evolved during or after WW2 with the words “Legion of Frontiersmen [etc.]” embroidered on dark blue cloth to match the tunic. Top of Badge curved to match shoulder seam, base straight. Using traditional measurements, the extreme length is 4 inches in letters 5/16 inch high. Approval to wear required from HQ.
- 9.8 BADGE BACKING IS FOR CHAPLAINS ONLY – The chaplains shall wear a backing of purple felt behind the cap and collar Badges with such backing to extend beyond the edge of the badge.
- 9.9 GORGETS – Historically, gorgets were Brown with gold cord for Commandant General and Executive Staff Officers. A green cord upon the brown gorgets indicated general staff. **Frontiersman, page 130, March 1927.**
- 9.10 STAFF OFFICERS’ GORGET PATCHES [LF Canadian Division est. 1939] –Different colours had been ascribed for different commands in the past. Details regarding dimension, cloth, etc. are omitted.
- 9.11 MEDICAL OFFICERS and MEDICAL N.C.O,s – They shall wear on each sleeve immediately below the shoulder title a circular cloth badge of 1 1/2 inches [traditional measurements] in diameter depicting a red cross on a dark blue background. This has not been worn in decades.
- 9.12 TRADE BADGES, ON SLEEVE –Officers and WOs do not wear trade badges. O.R’s entitled to wear Specialist Badges shall wear same on the right sleeve with the lowest edge of the badge 6 ½ [traditional measurements]

inches above the lowest edge of the sleeve. Generally these badges would be embroidered upon dark blue backing to match the tunic.

9.13 HAZARDOUS DUTY BADGES, LEFT BREAST – Pending proof of qualification, hazardous duties qualifications such as pilot’s wings, parachutist wings, submariner’s dolphins, etc. are worn as per respective military regulations.

9.14 PENDANT, 3RD BELGIUM LANCERS – A white enamel shield with details representing the 3rd Belgium Lancers is worn upon a black leather fob hanging from the left breast button beneath the pocket flap. It commemorates LOF in action with 3rd Belgium Lancers early in the First World War.

10.0 LEGION MEDALS. LOF medals have been used for recognition of association merit or association service. They never have had the “Official” status of the Sovereign’s medals. A comprehensive review of LOF medals is found elsewhere. Carefully note section 10.6.

10.1 MEDALS – Medals are worn in accordance with National custom and law. As medal wearing practices have changed over the decades it is important to consult the Office of the Governor-General and/or the Canadian Heraldic Authority for current protocol. When association medals are worn they shall be worn on the tunic affixed above the appropriate breast pocket. The medals are often court mounted.

10.2 RIBBONS – Ribbons are worn in accordance with National custom and law. When Ribbons only are worn they will be mounted on a suitable bar and be worn immediately above the appropriate breast pocket.

10.3 OFFICIAL MEDALS – [as listed in **Canada Gazette**]. This refers to national medals, decorations and orders awarded by our Sovereign nation under authority of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II the font of all such honours.

10.4 UNOFFICIAL MEDALS – This refers to medals issued by associations such as the Legion of Frontiersmen and other fraternal or patriotic societies. Note section 10.6.

10.5 ORIGINAL TWO MEDALS – The two association medals that are historically significant regarding Legion of Frontiersmen merit and service follow.

(a) Legion Meritorious Service Medal first issued in the late 1920s was .925 [Sterling] silver, hallmarked and had a horizontally elongated-diamond shape suspender affixed to the medal. Subsequent versions have a standard style suspender and are made of a silver coloured metal. The LMSM has historically been the premier award of the authentic Legion of Frontiersmen, est. 1904-05.

(b) Long Service and Efficiency Medal is bronze coloured metal with a loop as the suspender and was first issued in 1951 for ten years of service to the authentic Legion of Frontiersmen, est. 1904. Note the images.



10.5(a)

10.5(b)

- 10.6 WEARING LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN MEDALS – The Canadian Heraldic Authority responsible to the Governor General of Canada clearly directs that OFFICIAL and UNOFFICIAL medals shall not be intermingled.
- (a) As a result, associations in Canada have members wear respective association medals on right breast, apart from the Sovereign awarded medals.
- (b) Protocol favoured by the authentic Legion of Frontiersmen attending military events has been to omit wearing Legion medals to avoid confusion with military medals.
- (c) Legion of Frontiersmen medals are generally worn at LOF specific events like the Patron’s Birthday, Belgium Day, the Annual Dinner, etc.
- 10.7 MEDAL POSTNOMINALS – The historically significant post-nominal utilized by the authentic Legion of Frontiersmen, est. 1904-05 has been “LMSM” indicating the premier award, the Legion Meritorious Service Medal. Legion post nominal letters have no status or function beyond the association.
- 10.8 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARDS – This shall be made to Headquarters and final approval shall be at the discretion of the Commandant General and/or the Executive Council, first established in 1905.
- 10.9 MEDAL RECIPIENTS PUBLISHED – The names of award recipients shall be published in the HQ Routine Orders with the medal sent to the unit concerned and in turn, the medal shall be presented at a Regimental Parade of the Unit.
- 10.10 AWARDS REGISTER – A register of awards is to be kept at Headquarters.
- 10.11 ILLUSTRATION REGARDING LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN AWARDS – At public and military events the LF follows a policy of not wearing association medals; however, at ceremonies and events sponsored by the Legion of Frontiersmen, association medals are worn. Frontiersmen should dress placing association medals apart from Sovereign’s official medals as follows:
- Socially Accepted Canadian Protocol - Wear association medals on the right breast.
 - Less Common Protocol - Wear association medals below the Sovereign’s [official] medals.
 - At public or military ‘black tie’ events, the secondary row of LOF medals would not be worn.



11.0 CIVIL DRESS. Typically Legion of Frontiersmen have worn a navy blazer with badge, white shirt with the Legion “regimental” tie, khaki or grey slacks, polished leather shoes, all looking smart, clean and crisp at non-uniform events. A smart business suit, with the Legion “regimental” necktie may also be appropriate. Select headdress as befitting.

11.1 LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN NECKTIE – The Legion necktie was established by the 1930s, possibly earlier. The “regimental” style tie features diagonal stripes from left shoulder downwards, repeating the pattern of a Wide Navy Blue stripe over a Medium width Rust-Brown stripe over a Thin Bright Green stripe. Earlier versions of the necktie had a Brown stripe versus the current Rust-Brown [which matches the Legion beret colour adopted circa 1975]. Note the following image 11.1(a)

11.1(a)



12.0 IDENTIFYING COLOURS, Blue – Green – Brown. These colours have been utilized by the authentic Legion of Frontiersmen, established 1904-05, over the decades.

12.1 COLOURS SELECTED – An Adelaide S.A. news article from 1941 commented that the colours of the Legion flags had been a combination of “blue-green-brown”, as reflected [albeit in different order] in the Legion’s necktie. It is not clear as to the nature of this 1941 “flag” ... a camp banner?

12.2 ORIGINAL LEGION FLAG – The Legion itself has no entitlement regimental “Colours” nor battle honours. The design of the FLAG is the Legion of Frontiersmen badge of c1926 on an unadorned field as still can be seen paraded on an early British news film. A small version of the Legion Flag, the 1926 universal crest upon a brown field, made by Founder Roger Pocock is held by the University of Alberta in its archival collection. Artist’s likeness of the flag is shown. – Deviation from this original design should be avoided. Note the following image.

12.2(a)



12.3 UNIFORM COLOURS – Perhaps, uniforms and accoutrements of the earliest Legion uniforms inspired the identifying colours of the Legion. The earliest uniforms of the Legion varied. Some uniforms may have been green as Vancouver Command aspired to [but did not adopt] in its 1913 command handbook or brown tunics as Nelson Command desired. Empire wide the predominant colour selection of the Commands were dark blue shirts, with khaki-brown breeches [of various shades]. Brown leather belts, occasionally brown gauntlets, and brown boots became an expected part of the uniform colour scheme. As well, the Founder initially advocated bronze rank bars for Legion officers, as he felt that gold and silver were the purview of the Army.

12.4 RIBBON COLOURS – Regarding the Imperial HQ initiated awards scheme, the colours brown and green predominate, exception being the red and black of 12.4(c) the Long Service and Efficiency Medal est. 1951. Ribbons are set against the blue of the tunic. The medal ribbon for 12.4(a) the Legion Meritorious Service Medal has Brown stripes upon Green. The colours green and brown are predominant as well on 12.4(b) the Legion Cross of Merit ribbon. The Legion Centenary Medal 1904 - 2004 ribbon 12.4(d) is simply Brown, reflecting the overall brown colour of the original Legion Flag. Illustrations follow.



12.5 STABLE BELT COLOURS – The stable belt colours are green and brown separated by thin yellow trim lines all in a horizontal fashion similar to illustration 12.4(b).

12.6 TARTAN, REGISTERED. [Reference No. 11168, date 20/08/2013] Available only when permission has been granted by the Command Regimental Sergeant Major. The tartan utilizes the classic Legion of Frontiersmen colours of Brown-Green-Blue with the often used primrose trim in conjunction with the colours of the Union Flag. The dominance of brown is appropriate as it reflects the original plain brown field of the crested flag used by the Legion of Frontiersmen between the First and the Second world wars.



13.0 UNAUTHORIZED GROUPS, UNIFORMS AND BADGES.

- 13.1 CAUTION – At various times, persons have registered associations claiming the title “Legion of Frontiersmen” or variant, then freely usurping the uniform and history of the authentic Legion of Frontiersmen of 1904.
- 13.2 REPORT – Report persons wearing unauthorized regalia to appropriate governing bodies and to the Legion HQ.

14.0 RELATED ARTICLES.

- 14.1 LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN EARLIEST UNIFORM
– Pages 79 to 82
- 14.2 LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN EARLY SADDLE “OUTFIT”
– Page 83
- 14.3 LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN MARITIME UNIFORM
– Page 84
- 14.4 WOMEN’S UNIFORM OF THE CIRCLE CROSS LEAGUE [LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN]
– Page 85
- 14.5 LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN AIR DEFENCE BRANCH 1930s
– Pages 86 to 87
- 14.6 ASSOCIATION MEDALS OF THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN ESTABLISHED, 1904/05
– Page 88
- 14.7 AN OFFSHOOT ASSOCIATION: LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN (CANADIAN DIVISION) ESTABLISHED 1939
– Page 89
- 14.8 LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN LINEAGE & CLAIMANTS
– Page 90

Proceed to the next page

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN EARLIEST UNIFORM, 1904-1920's

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It is important to note that in the earliest years of the Legion of Frontiersmen, the commands throughout the British Empire did not require absolute uniformity of kit – the practicality of kit in the field was of foremost consideration. Each command was expected to get approval for their uniform from Imperial Headquarters. The result were some differences in uniform style between the various Newfoundland and Canadian commands

The official magazine entitled **The Frontiersman**, page 143 issued by headquarters London, England in August 1912, has the earliest official description of the uniform worn by the Newfoundland Command:“ The following uniform has been adopted: - Navy Blue “Frontiersman’s” Shirt, Navy Blue Scarf, Navy Blue Putties, Khaki Drill Riding Breeches, Sombrero Hat.” Of note are the navy blue puttees that set the Newfoundland Frontiersmen apart from all of the other Legion of Frontiersmen. The blue bandanna is also somewhat distinctive as other Legion of Frontiersmen are noted via photo and period advertisement as often wearing the lighter tan or khaki bandanna.

Following are pre Great War descriptions other LF units.

- St Anthony’s Frontiersmen were authorized to wear a sailor suit with a brown bandanna.
- Mud Lake Frontiersmen were photographed with rifles at ‘present arms’ wearing civilian winter clothing.
- An old image c1916 shows Frontiersmen (Home Defence Artillery) who manned the guns protecting St. John’s Harbour wore sailor hats instead of Stetsons with the standard LF uniform, and
- The earliest official description found of an authorized uniform for a Canadian unit is in **The Frontiersman**, page 223 December 1912, describing the Vernon and Okanagan Command uniform as follows:

“Shirt Tunic – To be of substantial material, colour navy blue; leather buttons; nickel shoulder chains.

Breeches or (Trousers) – Any shade of khaki.

Footwear – Brown leather; any combination that affords cover as high as the calves.

Headdress – Straight brim Stetson, any shade of brown, with leather band and regimental crest and monogram.

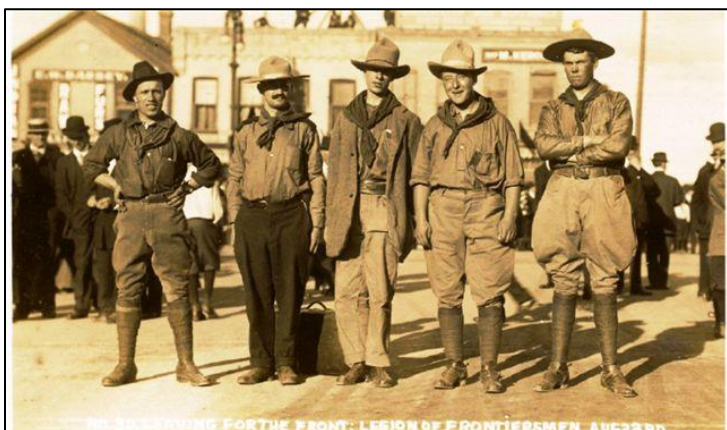
Accessories – Brown leather fringed gauntlets; silk blue and white

bird’s-eye [‘polka-dot’] neckerchief; regulation LF holster.”

- The leather fringed gauntlets and the “bird’s-eye” blue and white neckerchief are unique features of the Vernon and Okanagan Command kit. Fringed leather gauntlets were also worn by the commander of Edmonton’s 80 man parade of Frontiersmen photographed 1914 in the North Saskatchewan River valley (c.f. Glenbow Archives).



Old photographs and surviving remnants of Legion documents enable the following uniform descriptions for other Canadian commands during the Legion’s early era:



WINNIPEG circa 1914



CALGARY circa 1914

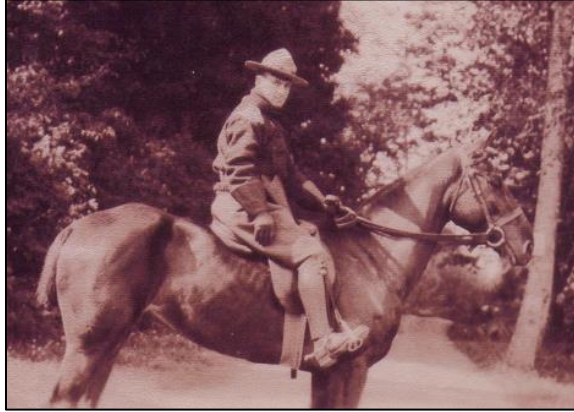
- Hamilton Command photo c1912 illustrates a uniform consisting of the navy blue shirt with shoulder chains, a tan bandanna matching khaki drill riding breeches, riding boots or boots with leather leggings and spurs, gauntlets, and stiff brimmed hat with a cleft crown.
- Winnipeg Command c1915 dress is depicted in a surviving photo of five Frontiersmen posing prior to overseas enlistment. Although there is some dress variation it is apparent that the intended uniform was to portray the frontier west.
- Regina Command & Moose Jaw Command summer photos c1914 illustrate a uniform consisting of the stiff brim Mountie-style Stetson, khaki shirt (some with shoulder chains), khaki bandannas, a variety of khaki breeches or trousers, some with gauntlets, and a variety of boots, boots with leather leggings or khaki puttees.
- Saskatoon Command winter photo c1914 illustrates a very smartly kitted-out unit. Thirteen of a twenty man group were wearing Stetsons, blue bandannas, blue shirts with chain mail, khaki breeches and high boots; one officer wearing open neck khaki tunic with Sam Browne belt, khaki breeches and high boots; one sergeant wearing high collar blue tunic with forage hat; and the remainder uniformly attired in civilian suits with civilian soft caps. One uniformed member clearly displays a holstered sidearm.
- Lac St. Anne Sub-Unit Commandant Stanley Winther Caws is pictured c1912 on a paint ('pinto') horse under western stock saddle. S.W. Caws was wearing the stiff brim Mountie-style Stetson, navy shirt, khaki bandanna, chaps (?) and boots, with rifle at ready and sidearm in holster.
- Edmonton Command photo 1914 illustrates 80 Frontiersmen on parade and uniformly clad in with bushranger hat (broad brimmed hat left side brim pinned up with circular Legion lapel button), khaki shirt, khaki bandanna, khaki riding breeches and khaki puttees (some with high riding boots or boots with leather leggings). Another photo taken a year or so later illustrates a less cohesive look; some Frontiersmen wearing Stetsons or military forage caps.



- Calgary Command description is taken from untitled 1915 command document pages that describe both a parade and field dress. The normal uniform being the Mountie-style Stetson, navy blue shirt with shoulder chains, Tan bandanna, gauntlets, khaki drill riding Breeches, riding boots with spurs. On each shoulder chain is a "LF" badge (LF monogram), and gold coloured badges of rank are worn. In the field, the kit only changes to a soft broad brimmed hat pinned up on the left (bushranger style) and to a khaki shirt with subdued badges of rank being worn.
- Nelson Command c1910 desired a uniform consisting of the Mountie-style Stetson, khaki tunic with brown buttons, the letters "LF" (the monogram) on the shoulder straps, khaki drill riding breeches, riding boots or boots with leggings. No comment was noted about bandannas; although, mention is made regarding the preference for the service caliber rifle and sidearm, as well as the preference for the stock saddle for mounted members.
- Vancouver Command photos c1914 show the usual Mountie-style Stetson, Navy Blue Shirt with shoulder chains, khaki/tan bandanna, gauntlets, khaki drill riding breeches, riding boots with spurs. Revolvers or pistols were worn in both open and closed leather holsters according to an early era photograph. Another photo is shown below.



- Victoria and Vancouver Island Command commandant Seymour Rowlinson was photographed c1915 wearing a Stetson with an uncommon 'Montana (USA) bash' versus the usual 'Mountie bash'. The uniform consisted of a dark bandanna, navy blue shirt with chain mail, breeches and riding boots. His Stetson badge is the very unique BC Command maple leaf badge, with a center disc illustrating a beaver surrounded by the words LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN BC. Interestingly, this distinctively national badge set BC Command apart from all other Commands in the British Empire. A photo c1920's of Legion Major Rowlinson illustrates the introduction of the high collar navy tunic with officers' Sam Browne replacing the rough and ready navy shirt with bandanna. The BC Command maple leaf Stetson badge is coupled with navy blue 'block letter LF & wreath' badges on the collar and Sam Browne belt.



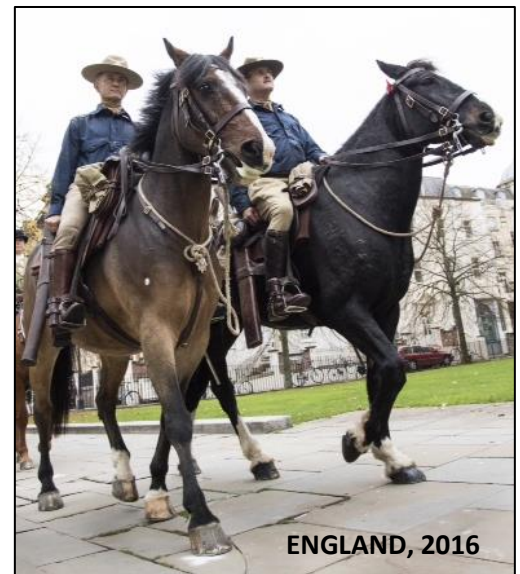
Photos - Seymour Rowlinson, WW1 era and circa 1920, compliments Carol Miller [granddaughter], Powell River BC

Generally, the early Legion of Frontiersmen uniform gravitated toward:

- Mountie style Stetson
- Bandanna often of blue or khaki
- Navy colour shirt with shoulder chains
- Brown gauntlets, Brown belt and covered holster
- Khaki riding breeches or trousers, and
- High brown leather riding boots with cavalry spurs,

As typified in the U.K. Frontiersmen on parade 2016, photo to the right.

Uniform variants like the bushranger hat, side arms, fringed gauntlets, bandannas, khaki shirts, and the cost effective puttees instead of high boots were common during the early history of the Legion. These items were dropped as the Legion of Frontiersmen uniform evolved in Canada and elsewhere. By the 1920's the high collar navy tunic had replaced the shirt and bandanna. Legion officers wore the Sam Browne and it was not worn by rank and file Legionnaires until the 1936 affiliation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

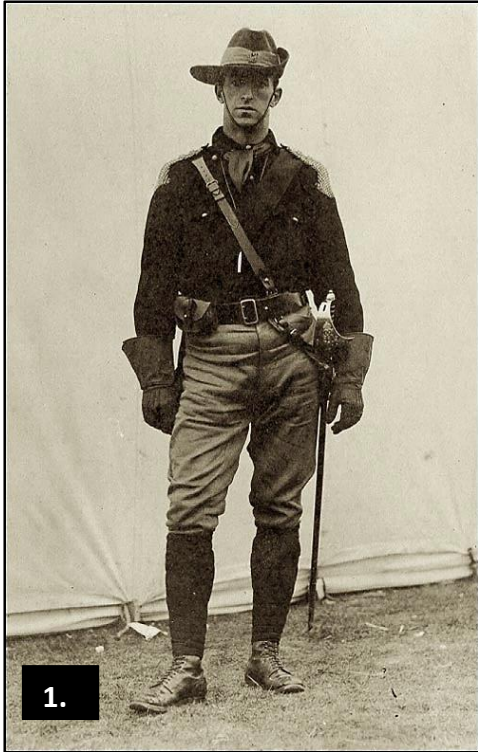


Badges were not always present on uniforms during the Legion's early era. The LF monogram badge was worn by some commands on the Stetson front and on shoulder straps or shoulder chains. As well, the ubiquitous Legion button badge – a small circular union flag superimposed upon the red St. George cross with the motto God Guard Thee at the center – would pin up the left brim of a slouch hat "bushranger style" or be worn on a civilian suit lapel. By the late 1920s a new cap badge was being worn by the Legion of Frontiersmen throughout the British Empire. This "mural crown" cap badge with matching collar badges became the standard from which subsequent variants have evolved.

The early era of the Legion of Frontiersmen uniform was characterized by the frontier style more so than a military look. Doubtlessly the Legion founder Roger Pocock was influenced by the Boer kommando, the NWMP on patrol, Strathcona's Horse on the African veldt and western roughrider. The style of the early era Imperial rangemen and frontiersmen of the Legion would give way to the military influences of the new members, the veterans of the Great War.

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN EARLIEST UNIFORMS [continued]

1. Newfoundland Command 1914
2. British East Africa, 25th Royal [Frontiersmen] Fusiliers 1915
3. Imperial HQ, Chief Executive Officer [*Lt.Col. Driscoll DSO*] c.1910
4. Standard Uniform c.1925 onwards
5. China [Maritime Officer] 1912
6. Belgium, L.O.F. with the 3RD Lancers 1914



14.2 LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN SADDLE OUTFIT

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN SADDLE OUTFIT

Reference: THE FRONTIERSMAN, "The One-Man Outfit For the Legion of Frontiersmen", pages 72 - 73, April 1913

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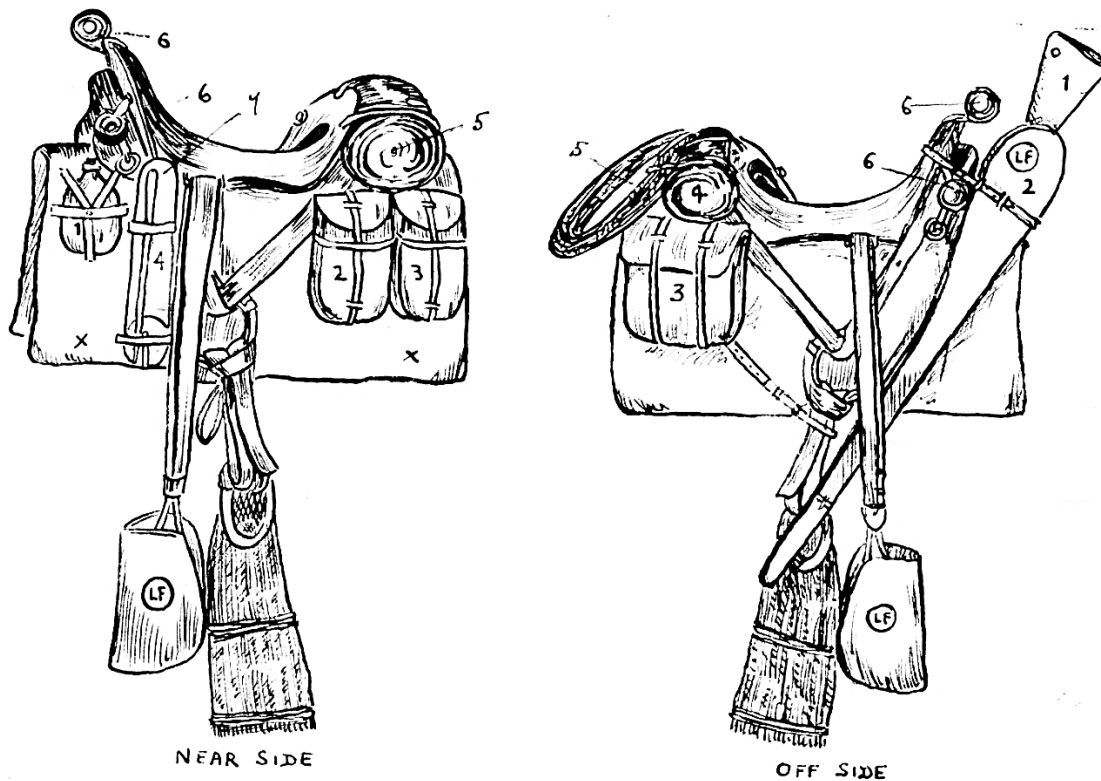
In his detailed analysis Trooper G.A.C. Hearsey, London Command 1913 states "I suggest that every Frontiersman should provide himself with

1. A short service Lee Enfield rifle and a bandolier to carry his first supply of cartridges.
2. A .45 calibre Colt automatic pistol and a cross bandolier to carry his .45 clips of cartridges on his bandolier.
3. A good pair of field glasses.
4. A watch and compass.
5. A light, strong entrenching tool such as a Willeey [sic] entrenching tool."

He continues the article focusing upon the saddle and equipment to be affixed. "As regards saddlery I suggest for the riding horse the following are essentials

1. Headstall and picketing rope.
2. Hobbles of whatever pattern fancied by the Frontiersman. ... [and details].
3. A single bit and bridle, and a single pair of reins, not joined in the middle, so that when the rider dismounted the reins would fall to the ground and check the horse moving away, as he would tread on the reins and jog his mouth. ... [and details].
4. The Saddle. ... [comments about saddle essentials and the Mexican, English and U.S. Cavalry saddles]."

This 1913 commentator continues, "I suggest that the ideal Frontiersman saddle would be a cross between the U.S. cavalry saddle and the Argentine recado." Further to this is a detailed description of the saddle structure, equipment and placement related to the numbered diagram below.



One-Man Outfit for the Legion of Frontiersmen.

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN MARITIME UNIFORM

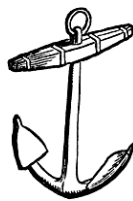
©Barry William Shandro, Edmonton Canada, August 2016

While more research is required regarding the uniform and regalia of the Maritime Division of the Legion of Frontiersmen, these 1906 images and other comments in early Legion articles indicate that Legion's maritime Frontiersmen adopted the style of the working sailor with the simple addition of the "button badge" and a bandana. Later in the 1930s the LF maritime Frontiersmen formalized the uniform in the style of the Merchant Marine.

Lowestoft Maritime Section of the Legion of Frontiersmen, 1906



Note above, the Maritime Officer (lieutenant) wears white cap cover and sleeve rank with 'Nelson's knot' or 'Executive curl'. The small Legion 'button badge' appears to be on the bearded seaman's jacket lapel and center of another seaman's cap. The distinctive bandana of an early LF uniform has been incorporated into the neck wear – in the case of LF sailors this tended to take on the style of the 20th century necktie vs the western plainsman's bandana.



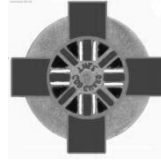
14.4 WOMEN'S UNIFORM OF THE CIRCLE CROSS LEAGUE [LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN]

WOMEN'S UNIFORM OF THE CIRCLE CROSS LEAGUE [LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN]

Barry William Shandro, Edmonton Canada, December 2016

The C.C.L. uniform OF 1927 was similar to these two examples. Main differences were

1. Dark Blue Serge Tunic.
2. Stetson, RCMP or NZ 'Lemon Squeezer'
3. Brown Gauntlets
4. Dark Blue Serge Skirt.
5. Brown Boots
6. Khaki Haversack
7. Badge [artist's interpretation]



The Women's Volunteer Reserve uniform is shown as an approximate template for the Circle Cross League uniform as well as an American uniform minus the 'Sam Browne' style belt as another possible template. [Images sourced online]



www.pinterest.com



image source unknown



www.pinterest.com

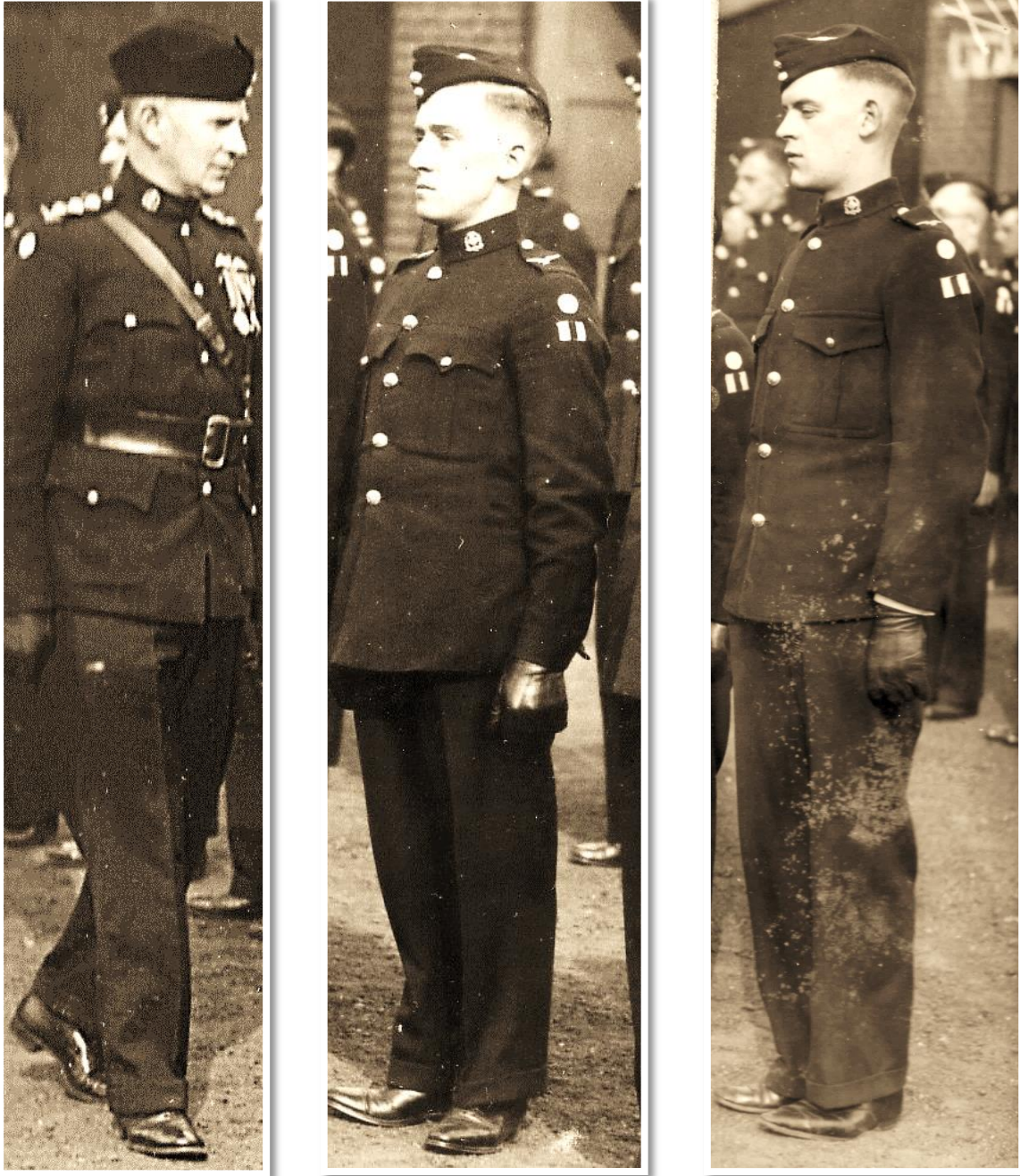
- Briefly, the Circle Cross League began as a support group in New Zealand, sending parcels and comforts to Frontiersmen serving overseas during the Great War 1914-1918. Post war this group formalized and appears to have expanded to England. Care of Frontiersmen in need and support to the Legion of Frontiersmen's aims and objectives became the role. More details will be published pending further research.
- The Circle Cross League takes its name from the design of its badge – this is believed to be similar to the L.O.F. lapel badge upon a cross. More details will be published pending further research.

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN AIR DEFENCE BRANCH, 1930s

©Barry William Shandro, Edmonton Canada, August 2016.

The Legion formed an Air unit with some nine private airplanes and based in Yorkshire working in conjunction with the Royal Air Auxiliary Force.

Air Command Uniforms - High collar deep blue patrol jacket [no chain mail] worn with matching trousers [no primrose leg stripes], side cap with LF mural crown badge.



Note, the officer wears 'pips', cross strap and belt

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN AIR DEFENCE BRANCH, 1930s

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In the 1930s, the standard No.2 Undress uniform was worn with modifications. Note following images.

- Dark Blue Sidecap - RAF style in dark blue as per LF jacket with matching trousers.



- Epaulettes [no shoulder chains] – details noted in photos indicate the image below. The insignia in period photos appears have been the RAF emblem or version of it. It may have been silver metal or white thread emblem. Note placement. A circular cloth insignia was centered about 1" [2.5 cm] below the shoulder seam. The insignia appears to have been a version of the classic LF lapel button badge.



ASSOCIATION MEDALS OF THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN* ESTABLISHED 1904-05

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*As the old Empire evolved, the title was extended in the 1960s to: Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth, and amended in the 21st Century with the honour “Countess Mountbatten’s Own”.

Association medals of the original and authentic Legion of Frontiersmen [Countess Mountbatten’s Own].



- 1. Legion Meritorious Service Medal** – established circa January 1st 1931. Initially, Standing Order No. 2/1931 directed that the LMSM was to be worn on the *RIGHT* breast, amended in General Order No. 23/1935. This is the premier silver medal was awarded for “*outstanding meritorious and distinguished service and loyalty to the Legion during a continuous period of not less than seven years*”. General Order No. 26, February 1935.
 - 2. Legion Cross of Merit** – established circa 1975. This medal is awarded to a member who over a period of years displays meritorious service furthering the authentic Legion of Frontiersmen founded in 1904.
 - 3. Legion Service and Efficiency Medal** – established 1951. This medal is awarded for ten years of efficient service to the authentic Legion of Frontiersmen founded in 1904.
 - 4. Commandant General’s Award** – established circa 1995. This small metal mural crown is a gift of the Legion’s Chief Executive Officer, and it is worn on the right side of a uniform above pocket. The ‘CGA’ recognizes exceptional services rendered to a number of other Commands as well as the recipient’s own Command.
- ❖ **Legion Centenary Medal 2004** – In celebration of the 100th year of the Legion of Frontiersmen’s founding a Legion Centenary Medal, silver in colour, was awarded to serving members in good standing. It featured a plain brown ribbon reflecting the brown field of the Legion of Frontiersmen flag designed by the Founder. This 2004 issue is the only Commonwealth HQ award of a commemorative medal in the 100 plus years of the authentic Legion’s existence.

Anomalous Medals – A debate continues within the association about older command originated medals that may still be worn by some members. The sooner that individuals delete these, the better it is for the association.

Wearing Medals – Legion of Frontiersmen medals are reserved for wear at Legion of Frontiersmen events. Protocol directs that these association medals are not to be intermingled with the Sovereign’s officially issued medals, and if at a military parade or event, Frontiersmen are directed not to display their association medals.

Caution, Misrepresentation – Unfortunately, badges and medals have been produced by a variety of self-styled groups, some questionably trading on the original Legion of Frontiersmen concept, history and uniform.

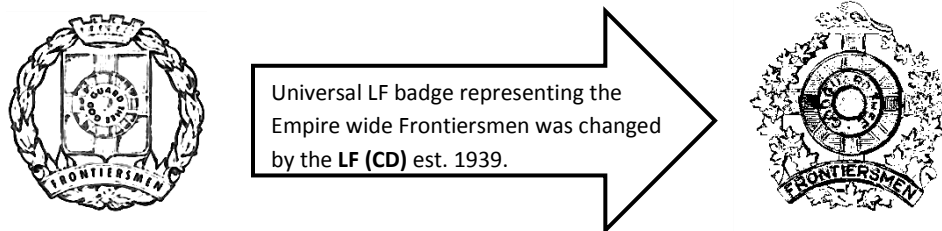
LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN (CANADIAN DIVISION) ESTABLISHED 1939

©Barry William Shandro, Edmonton Canada, October 2015.

Lieut. Colonel Louis Scott DCM unilaterally formed LF organization with Dominion HQ in Edmonton, Canada, 1939. The former PPCLI officer and Edmonton Regt. CO, Louis Scott DCM, became the driving force of Canada's successful Legion of Frontiersmen in the 1930s, unilaterally registered it as "Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division)".



- Under Louis Scott DCM the Legion of Frontiersmen depleted by WW1 gained members and efforts focused upon renewal, veteran comradeship and auxiliary policing. From 1936 to '39 the Legion of Frontiersmen affiliation with the RCMP was gazetted. It ended due to a command schism within the LOF. In 1939 Louis Scott DCM 'broke ranks' creating an organization called The Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division) vs. the original Legion of Frontiersmen, est. 1904.
- Legion of Frontiersmen universal badge [a.k.a. "mural crown badge"] of 1926 was altered to the "Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division)" badge [a.k.a. "beaver badge"] likely post Second World War as indicated below.



- Controversially, this 1939 association known as the "Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division)" or the "LF(CD)", assumed the Legion name, uniform and history of the original Legion of Frontiersmen of 1904.
- Membership expanded across Canada during the 1930s to 411 registered members by 1938 and accelerated rapidly as the Second World War began. Ontario alone had 1600 active members during 1939-45. By mid-war veteran leadership had been re-called into the active military and others would enlist for active service thus depleting the LF(CD) organizational structure. Re-organization would have to occur post Second World War.
- In 1947 the first post war national conference was called and the LF(CD) re-organized focusing on auxiliary policing, civil defence, ceremonial, charitable and social activities over the next forty years.
- Commands were in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and United Kingdom.
- The premier medal allows the post-nominal of "**CDM**" for Canadian Division Medal.
- Membership numbers of the "Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division)" peaked at about 630 in 1962, before diminishing as Second World War veterans aged out and as the functioning DHQ dissolved in the 1990s.
- **Active Dominion HQ 1939 – 1990's** with subsequent activities localized at the association lakeside retreat called 'Fort Scott', Strathcona County, Alberta. The lakeside retreat, once referred to as the "Field HQ", has been made available for use by cadets, youth and community groups, etc. as a public service.
- Numerous medals of the 1939 establishment known as the "Legion of Frontiersmen (Canadian Division)" have been issued over the decades for merit and for commemorative purposes by the various provincial commands. –*These are not awards of the original Legion of Frontiersmen formed in 1904.*

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN LINEAGE AND CLAIMANTS

©Barry William Shandro – Edmonton Canada – September 2016

- This chart is a simplified introduction to the organizations claiming to be the Legion of Frontiersmen.
- The original and authentic Legion of Frontiersmen founded by Roger Pocock in 1904 extended its title to Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth reflecting the new international reality of the 1960s. Later it was additionally granted the title honour of "Countess Mountbatten's Own".
- Presently, in Canada a small group of members commemorate the history and traditions of the authentic and original Legion of Frontiersmen.



**Commonwealth HQ and Executive Council,
London UK, Continuous 1904 to 2016**

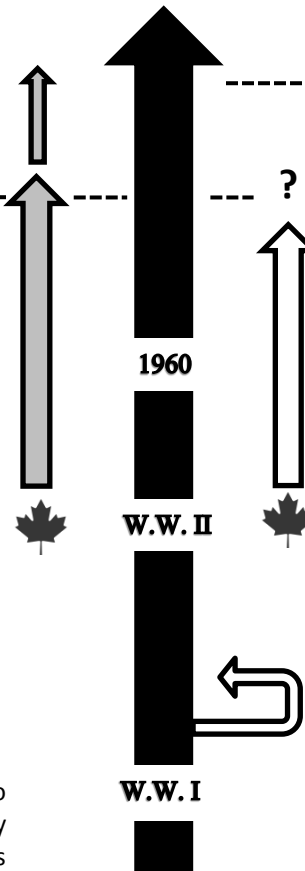
L.F. [Can Div] maintains a 155 acre lakefront property for members.

Canada-wide organizational structures were tenuous to non-existent at a national level by the **1990s**

Legion of Frontiersmen [Canadian Division]
Membership of about 630 persons in 1960s
Ref. Canadian Frontiersmen Gazette c1962

Legion of Frontiersmen [Canadian Division]
- Unauthorized by Imperial HQ -
Began **1939**, claims L.F. origins, uniform and history. Its Dominion HQ functioned into the 1990s. Currently a lakeside property is maintained for members & charitable use.

L.F. Membership badge numbering was into the 13,000s by the Great War. – To this day the L.O.F. honour the thousands of members who were casualties of the Great War.



2004 the L. F. Centenary
No more than Squadron strength of uniformed members in Canada.

Corps of Imperial Frontiersmen
Opposing the 1939 'breakaway' association, this body initially maintained loyalty to Imperial HQ in London.

**Imperial Overseas Command
1927 to c.1934**
Brief break, then directed back into the original L.F. body via the Founder Roger Pocock and Lt. Colonel P. Driscoll DSO.

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN

Founded by Roger Pocock, 24 December 1904
Granted the honour 'Countess Mountbatten's Own'

CAUTION –Self-styled inventions late 20th C. claiming to be the Legion of 'this or that'
Examples
c.1975 - Independent Overseas Command
c.1992 - L.F. of the Commonwealth in Canada
??? - Legion of the Horse
??? - Canadian Corps of Frontiersmen
??? - L.of F. Independent Command ... etc.

15.0 AUTHOR AND RESEARCHER.

- 15.1 DISCOVERING THE LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN - The author of this document became familiar with the Legion of Frontiersmen in 1978 and has to this date [2017] taken interest in its history. While looking for a lost Labrador retriever, the author wandered into the lakeside Field HQ of the Legion of Frontiersmen and was greeted by veterans of First World War, Second World War and other LOF members. Since that initial meeting, the author has continued to interact with sincere Frontiersmen who preserve a unique chapter of Canadian and British Imperial history.
- 15.2 BACKGROUND OF THE AUTHOR - Barry William Shandro B.Ed, M.Ed, SBStJ graduated from the University of Alberta and the University of Ottawa. He was commissioned into the regular army, but resigned to pursue education and graduate studies. As well he served briefly with Edmonton city police. – Overall, teaching high school was his primary career and while teaching he joined the Cadet Instructors Cadre. He instructed a variety of courses including the rigorous pre-parachutist conditioning program and qualified as a military parachutist at the Canadian Airborne Centre. Voluntary community service and family activities dominated young adult life until disabled. Life changing events occurred with modest community involvement continuing over the decades. During military, police and civil experiences he maintained an association with the authentic Legion of Frontiersmen [Countess Mountbatten’s Own] and has pursued Legion of Frontiersmen historical investigation as a hobby.

