CAPTAIN PERCY CARRUTHERS BAND

Military Cross and Two Bars

French Croix de Guerre with Palm
C.E.F. IDENTIFICATION PATCHES

Such patches, usually worn by all ranks, were for the purpose of easy identification of units and formations within the Allied Forces, specifically the C.E.F. Usually worn at all times, they were affixed to the upper left and right arm of the uniform. There would be times, for security purposes prior to an attack for instance, that all such identifying patches would be temporarily removed so that, if upon being taken prisoner, the enemy would be unable to identify the opposing formations.

In the case of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, each Division and unit (battalion), or other formation, had a different patch shape and colour. The materials, as shown, and size of the Divisional patch was approximately 3"x2"; and the battalion designation - a circle, semi-circle, triangle or square of approximate 1" dimensions - was oriented as shown.

The colours varied according to the formation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Divisions of the C.E.F.:</th>
<th>Bn's &amp; Bde's of ea. Division:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Division - Red</td>
<td>1st Brigade - Hunter green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Division - Royal blue</td>
<td>1st Bn - Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Division - French grey</td>
<td>2nd Bn - Semi-circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Division - Hunter green</td>
<td>3rd Bn - Triangle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4th Bn - Square</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Brigade - Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5th Bn - Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>etc</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The red rectangle (Divisional) and green semi-circle (Battalion) patches on the following page represent the 2nd Battalion (1st Brigade) of the 1st Division (in which Capt. Band served) of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.
CAPTAIN PERCY CARRUTHERS BAND

1. Military Cross and Two Bars

5. French Croix de Guerre with Palm

1914-15 Star; British War Medal; Victory Medal
TO: Woodruff Band
      Margaret Band Taylor
      Robert Band

FROM: Douglas G. Higgins
      June 1st, 1961
      Toronto

PERCY CARRUTHERS BAND - 17 May 1961

The day we all met at Woody's house in St. Catharines, I asked your mother's permission to record your father's war service during World War I. It is now complete, with one copy for each of his children.

I first met P.C. Band in the mid 1920's and learned from him two very important things (1) the viewpoint of an Infantry Officer and (2) the fun of collecting and finishing pine.

In recent years, we had not seen either Percy or Margaret very often, until the evening courses at the Museum, when all the old enjoyment of his friendship was reawakened, and a typical P.C.B. remark started us both into gales of laughter (after listening to the experts tell the class how to deal with antique furniture and the art of preserving the patina, Percy said "Doug, we might as well admit it - we are both lye men, and to hell with this little dab of this and a little rub of that".

Then again, this spring at Dr. Clark Noble's famous sale, we had another hearty laugh together. It was, however, on April 7th, 1961 that we revived World War I. I invited twenty-five friends who had been active at Vimy Ridge, April 9th, 1917, to join with me in looking at a series of original photographs which had been put on slides - Percy came, Fred Wilkinson (The Bishop of Toronto) came and J.M. Macdonnell, M.P. came. I mention these three only because P.C.B. was a Military Cross + two bars (Infantry) F.H.W. was Military Medal + two bars (Signals) and J.M.M. was a Military Cross (Artillery).

(continued)
There were Gunners, Drivers, Colonels and rear rank privates — a wonderful group of fighting men if I ever saw one. When I was through showing the pictures, Percy rose and made a little speech of thanks — and afterwards, he asked me how I put these old pictures on slides and made them appear so real and full of life.

I spoke to him several times on the telephone during the next month and learned much I had never known about his war service. He asked me if I would help him put some of his records on slides, which I promised to do. The day before he died, I called to ask Marg and him to come to our farm and view our efforts of 35 years of Canadians — the collection of which he had taught us to appreciate and enjoy. There was no one home.

On May 19th, 1961, the day we attended the Service in St. Catharines, the Toronto Telegram published the attached, which I thought described perfectly Percy’s service to his country. I then reread the history of the 2nd Canadian Battalion and found what I think is a perfect description of his service in this famous Unit:

"Captain Percy Carruthers Band, M.C. with two Bars, Croix de Guerre with Palm — was an officer whose buoyant spirit and gallantry mirrored the vibrant soul of the Battalion. Blythe of heart, yet endowed with a fine sense of responsibility, he gave inspired leadership of No. 3 Company"

The other documents and the Battalion shoulder patches complete the record as far as words are concerned, but I would like to close with this personal observation, as one who claimed him as a friend, who had much the same length of service in the Army — he, Infantry; I, Artillery — both hitting full stride right up to the end.

For the joy and pleasure he and Marg brought into the lives of Douglas and Margaret Higgins — for his personal charm and infectious personality, I shall forever be grateful and for two other things which each of us shared — we both married Margarets and learned early never to underestimate either of them and we were both self confessed "Lye men". For a life times friendship with this great man, I humbly thank God.

[Signature]

Douglas [Signature]
A CREDO FOR CANADIANS

By The RT. HON. VINCENT MASSEY

Canada is no abstraction for the statistician; not an impersonal term. It represents the sum total of individuals and their ideas and hopes and ambitions.

We shall be true to ourselves in education, in industry, in life as a whole if we keep the individual from being lost in the mass.

We look to our schools, therefore, not to generate Canadianism so much as to produce Canadians in the fullest sense of the word: Canadians conscious of their country and with convictions about its life.

What sort of person do we wish our young Canadian to be? What will he be like if he embodies the best in the Canada around him?

He will have some reverence for the past, a respect for what has gone before.
He will have kept some of the simple virtues of an earlier time which will help him to sort out the real from the counterfeit.

He will think for himself, with respect for the views of others.
He will work hard and play hard and know how to use his increasing leisure.
He will have resources within him to keep him independent of the mechanized pleasure of the age.
He will be able to laugh at the absurd and will become angry at the sight of injustice.
He will not be ashamed of good manners.
He will show an inherited instinct for freedom.
He will nurse a personal devotion to the welfare and safety of his country.
He will have a deep and quiet belief in what she is and what she can do.
What might be the credo to express his beliefs? He should be able to say:
I believe in Canada, with pride in her past, belief in her present, and faith in her future.
I believe in the quality of Canadian life, and in the character of Canadian institutions.

I believe in the Commonwealth of Nations within whose bounds we have found freedom and outside which our national life would lose its independent being.
I believe in our abiding friendship with our nearest neighbors: an honest friendship without either the subservience or the mimicry which must impair true partnership.
I believe that Canada is one and that if our minds dwell on those things which its parts have in common, we can find the unity of the whole.
I believe that with sound work, the spirit of a team and an awareness of ourselves, we can look forward to achievements beyond our imagining.
It will be said that our young Canadian has been given here a formidable list of virtues. But no lesser ideal would be worthy of his country.
For no citizen has a nobler inheritance.
(From ON BEING CANADIAN by Vincent Massey; published by J. M. Dent and Sons (Canada) Ltd.)
Department of National Defence
Army

Historical Section,
Army Headquarters,
Ottawa, Ontario.

7 June 1961.

Douglas G. Higgins, Esq.,
320 Bay Street,
TORONTO 1, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Higgins,

Thank you for your letter dated 23 May 1961 addressed to Mrs. Sorby.

We are enclosing three copies of Capt. Band's Record of Service in the CEF; three copies of a short historical sketch in narrative form prepared in the Historical Section; and three copies of each citation for Capt. Band's Honours and Awards, prepared by War Service Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

You will notice that, unfortunately, Capt. Band's second name has been misspelled as "Carruther" instead of "Carruthers" in the citations. These are, however, exact copies of the various citations as published in the London Gazette.

There is no citation available for the "Croix de Guerre" and we have sent instead the London Gazette authority for His Majesty's permission to wear the foreign decoration.

We hope that these documents will answer your purpose.

Yours sincerely,

Encl:

(G.W.L. Nicholson) Colonel,
Director Historical Section.
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

MILITARY CROSS

DEED OF ACTION

CAPTAIN PERCY CARRUTHER BAND

(2nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his company in the attack with the greatest skill and initiative under most difficult conditions. Though wounded, he remained with his men and set them an inspiring example of courage and resource.

(Authority: London Gazette No. 30530 dated 15 February, 1918).

Department of Veterans Affairs
Honours and Awards
MAY 26 1961
War Service Records
BAR TO THE MILITARY CROSS

DEED OF ACTION

CAPTAIN PERCY CARRUTHER BAND, M.C.

(2nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a successful attack on two villages. He skilfully led his company against enemy machine-gun nests, and at a critical moment, when the advance was held up, advanced in front of the assaulting waves, and reviewed the situation. As a result, the assault was successfully pushed, and the objective gained. He displayed exceptional qualities of leadership throughout.

(Authority: London Gazette No. 31043 dated 2 December, 1918)
SECOND BAR TO THE MILITARY CROSS

DEED OF ACTION

CAPTAIN PERCY CARRUTHER BAND, M.C.

(2nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry)

On 30th August, 1918, in an attack on Upton Wood, north of Hendecourt, he made a daring reconnaissance to the front under heavy fire of all descriptions, obtaining valuable information. On the 2nd to 4th September, during the attacks on Cagnicourt and the Canal du Nord, he commanded a company with peculiar ability and conspicuous gallantry in the face of close-range artillery fire and concentrated and well-directed machine-gun fire. His spirit and tireless energy were a splendid example to his men.

(Authority: London Gazette No. 31158 dated 1 February, 1919)
EXTRACT TAKEN FROM LONDON GAZETTE NO. 31683 DATED 15 DECEMBER, 1919.

AWARD OF THE CROIX DE GUERRE

CONFERRED BY

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

TO

CAPTAIN PERCY CARRUTHER BAND, M. C.

2nd Infantry Battalion, Eastern Ontario Regiment,
Canadian Expeditionary Force.

His Majesty the King has given unrestricted permission to wear the Croix de Guerre, awarded for distinguished service rendered during the course of the campaign.
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

ARMY

RECORD OF SERVICE

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Captain Percy Carruthers BAND. M.C.

2. Date and place of appointment - 20-4-15, Toronto, Ont.
3. Unit - 35th Battalion.
4. Left Canada - 17-8-15.
8. To be Asst. Adjutant - 17-1-16.
9. Granted leave from 4-2-16.
11. To be Acting Adjutant - 9-7-16.
12. Proceeded Overseas to 2nd Battalion - 29-8-16.
14. Admitted to Hospital - 7-9-16.
15. Discharged from Hospital - 1-12-16.
16. Reported from General Headquarters (Wounded) - 11-4-17.
17. Granted 10 days leave - 13-7-17.
18. To be T/Captain - 16-9-17.
19. Reported from General Headquarters (Wounded at Duty) - 6-11-17.
20. Admitted to Hospital - 9-11-17.
21. Discharged from Hospital - 10-11-17.
22. Admitted to Hospital - 12-3-18.
23. Discharged from Hospital - 17-3-18.
25. Discharged from Hospital - 7-7-18.
26. Granted 30 days Special Leave to U.K. - 7-10-18.
27. Proceeded to England - 21-3-19.
30. Sailed for Canada - 14-4-19.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Bar to M.C. - L.G.31043 dated 2-12-18.
2nd Bar to M.C. - L.G.31158 dated 1-2-19.

CERTIFIED CORRECT
FROM RECORDS

Signed by
on 31 December 1940.

W.E.L.Coleman Lt.Col.,
Officer i/c Records,
for Adjutant-General.
Percy Carruthers Band

Percy Carruthers Band was taken on the strength of the 35th Battalion in Toronto on 20 April 1915 as a Lieutenant. On arrival in England, he was sent to the 23rd Reserve Battalion on 26 August of the same year. Approximately a year later, on 29 August 1916, Lt Band reached France where he was posted to the 2nd Battalion – The "Iron Second". This battalion had already taken part in some famous battles and was to go on to distinguish itself in many more: Somme, Pozières, Flers-Courcelette, Ancre Heights, Arras, Vimy, Arleux, Scarpe, Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens, Drocourt-Quéant, Hindenburg Line, Canal du Nord and finally the Pursuit to Mons.

Lt. Band was slightly wounded in April 1917 at Vimy Ridge but remained on duty. On 16 September he was promoted Captain and on 9 November 1917 he was admitted to the 2nd Canadian Field Ambulance having suffered a gunshot wound in the right jaw at Passchendaele.

Capt. Band commended No. 3 Company of his battalion and for his gallantry was awarded the Military Cross and two Bars and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

Starting the long journey home when hostilities ended, the Battalion landed at Weymouth on 21 March 1919. On 11 April there occurred a ceremony of particular interest to the Band family. Mr. Charles Walter Band of Toronto, father of Capt. Band, presented the Second Battalion with its Regimental Colour. Sir Edward Kemp, Minister of Militia, who was in England at the time, made the formal presentation and the Rev. Canon F.C. Scott, senior Protestant Chaplain of the 1st Division, conducted the ceremony of consecration. The parade which took place that day at Bramshott, was dignified and impressive, and was the Battalion's next-to-last parade. The last was in Kingston, Ontario, on 24 April 1919, where the Second was demobilized. Capt Band was struck off the strength of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 24 April 1919, upon demobilization.

Prepared in Historical Section
5 June 1961.