

Canadian
Pamphlets
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Renouf, Edwin Charles
The 58th Regiment, Westmount
Rifles, Canada Militia, 1914.
[Montreal, 1970]



**THE 58th REGIMENT
WESTMOUNT RIFLES**

CANADA MILITIA

1914

*58th Regiment Westmount Rifles, Canada Militia.
Inspection by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught,
April 1915, on Fletcher's Field, Montreal.*

*Eric L. Renouf
1970*



The 58th Regiment—Westmount Rifles

CANADA MILITIA

Unbrigaded, 4th Divisional Area; authorised G.O. 2,
November 1914.

Headquarters, WESTMOUNT, P.Q., 1st Batt., 8 comps.



Honourary Lieutenant-Colonel: John McKergow, Mayor of Westmount

Lieut.-Colonel commanding: Frank W. Fisher

Second-in-command: Captain Courtland M. Strange

Adjutant: Captain Walter C. Hagar

Instructor of Musketry: Captain Wm. Drysdale

Quartermaster: Lieutenant B. P. Richardson

Paymaster: Captain Percy S. McKergow

Medical Officer: Lieutenant W. H. Smyth, CAMC

Company Commanders: Captains Miles Birkett, David McGill, Charles G. Macartney, A. E. Middleton Hope, W. B. Clark, A. S. Laing, A. McLean, Kenneth Campbell.

For overseas commissions (23rd Bn.)—Lieuts. Edwin C. Renouf, Len A. Johnston, Maurice N. Burke, Norman A. Edwards, Harry H. Keller, G. L. Dobbin.

Other 58th appointments: Lieutenants A. W. Cockrane, H. Lyle, F. J. Cockburn, A. F. McGoun, John F. Pierce, William H. Harling, Robert Bickerdike, jun., Bertram E. Hards, Arthur S. Birchall, T. Kelly Dickinson, Norman S. Birkett, F. W. Wiggins, H. C. Howard, C. de Wolfe Reid, W. F. Henry, W. Garth Thomson, Will H. Harrison, Frank Sumner, E. W. Parker, P. C. Armstrong, Robert Bertram, A. S. Bertram, Ernest Walton, E. John Vessey, J. H. Sim, H. D. Suckling, J. M. Morphy, G. D. C. Dobbin, J. M. Jones, C. A. Ablett, C. D. Anderson, A. Smart, C. E. Bickerdike, G. A. O. Brown.

Later appointments: Lieutenants George Morris, Cecil A. Sutton, Norman M. Mowat, Wesley Dodwell, St. Clair Holland, G. K. Robinson, H. J. Wilson, W. A. Ramsay, F. H. Mingie, H. L. Doble, C. M. Hall, R. B. Williamson, J. L. Stevenson, C. W. Stroud, F. G. Robinson, T. C. Cooke, E. J. Donnelly, J. H. Davy, A. T. Ekers, R. M. Hannaford, A. F. Hudson, H. K. Gorham, F. E. Cronyn, D. C. Tennant, J. R. Norris.

The 58th Regiment—Westmount Rifles

CANADA MILITIA

ON THE OUTBREAK of the First Great War in August 1914 some young citizens of Westmount, including St. Clair Holland, Alfred C. Hannaford and H. C. Howard, members of the Westmount Y.M.C.A., requested Lieutenant-Colonel Frank W. Fisher (formerly Officer Commanding the 3rd Victoria Rifles), to organise a regiment for overseas or home defence.

At a meeting early September it was decided to request permission from the Department of National Defence in Ottawa to form a unit in Westmount.

Authority was granted in September to organise a militia regiment under the designation of the 58th Regiment Westmount Rifles for home service.

In the meantime recruiting had been active and officers and staff appointed provisionally.

Early 1915 Lieut.-Colonel Frank Fisher was authorised to organise a battalion for overseas service under designation of the 23rd Westmount Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force.

This necessitated change in command of the 58th Regiment. Captain Strange was promoted to Major and later to Lieut.-Colonel. Major William T. Rodden joined the unit as second-in-command.

There were other changes: Captain Alfred G. T. Lefevre, R.M.C., succeeded Captain Walter Hagar as Adjutant and Lieut. E. C. Renouf succeeded Captain Kenneth Campbell as Company Commander.

A large number of officers and other ranks joined the 23rd Bn. and after the unit embarked for overseas some enlisted in other branches of the service.

The "58th" officered and manned a company of the 60th Victoria Rifles Bn. under the command of Captain E. John Vessey of the Bank of Montreal. Captain Vessey was killed in action.

Some officers of the "58th" were appointed to the 87th Bn. Canadian Grenadier Guards C.E.F. on formation. Others joined the 87th as reinforcements. Some paid the Supreme Sacrifice on the battlefield!

When the 87th returned home after the war the unit was commanded by a former "58th" officer, Lieut.-Colonel Robert Bickerdike, D.S.O.

In 1915 the 58th Westmount Rifles paraded with the Divisional troops for inspection by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General. Parade state: 541 all ranks.

The regiment was commanded by Lieut.-Colonel C. M. Strange, with Major W. T. Rodden second-in-command, and Lieut. E. C. Renouf, Adjutant.

Shortly afterwards the last named officer was seconded and engaged in shipping Western troops for overseas through Montreal Harbour, until appointed Captain-Adjutant of an overseas battalion and later Company Commander; after the unit was "broken-up" in England, he reverted to Lieutenant so as to proceed immediately to the field of operations in Belgium and France. In 1950 this officer, from the R.O., attached temporarily to Montreal H.Q., conducted Newfoundland reinforcements for the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery in Korea.

In 1939 on the outbreak of the second great war when the Royal Montreal Regiment was mobilised for overseas, two former members of the 58th and Reserve of Officers were appointed to the R.M.R. Depot — Major Donald MacRitchie, E.D., (who served in the 23rd Bn. and the 14th Bn. overseas) as Commanding Officer and Captain Edwin C. Renouf (served in Royal Jersey Artillery) as Adjutant. The Depot recruited and equipped reinforcements for the battalion overseas and also for the famous Royal 22nd Regiment — le vingt-deuxième.

These two officers (at different periods) in 1942-43 served as Disciplinary Officers at Ste. Annes Military Hospital — in command of all ranks of the services and German prisoners of war.

The R.M.R. Depot for a while controlled a Provisional Officers Training School at the Westmount Armoury for reinforcement to the Regiment overseas. Eventually fifty-five candidates qualified for commissions at the Three Rivers Machine Gun Training Centre and joined the regiment or the M.G. holding unit overseas. One of these officers is, in 1970, Major-General A. James Tedlie, D.S.O., C.D., Deputy-Chief Forces Development, Ottawa.

On the conclusion of the first great war an effort was made to hold on to the officers and men who had served overseas so as to bolster the home unit — the 58th. Lieut.-Colonel Frank Fisher was requested to return as Commanding Officer, but the "14th Bn." later R.M.R., having been recruited as a composite battalion from the 65th Carabiniers Mont-Royal (later named Fusiliers), the 3rd Victoria Rifles and the 1st Canadian Grenadier Guards, did not have a "home base" and it was arranged to amalgamate with the 58th Westmount Rifles so as to have a home in Westmount.

During the war these three Montreal militia regiments had recruited battalions for overseas service — designated the 24th Victoria Rifles, the 60th Victoria Rifles, the 244th Victoria Rifles, the 150th Carabiniers Mont-Royal, the 163rd Carabiniers Mont-Royal, the 87th Canadian Grenadier Guards, the 245th Canadian Grena-

dier Guards. The Royal 22nd Bn. C.E.F. was partly recruited at the 65th Armoury and several 65th officers were appointed to the now Permanent Force unit.

The 23rd Bn. (Westmounts) had been disbanded overseas and the man-power reinforced other Quebec units which were short owing to casualties, so Lieut.-Colonel Frank Fisher took command of the 14th Bn. R.M.R. in France for a while and later the 23rd Reserve in England. In April 1918 he was in command of the 1st Depot Battalion 1st Quebec Regiment C.E.F. which included two other officers of the 58th — Capt. W. B. Clark and Lieut. H. C. Howard.

The amalgamation of the 14th Bn. and the 58th was approved by Ottawa and Lieut.-Colonel C. M. Strange was posted as Commanding Officer for a few days and then was succeeded by Major C. Basil Price of the 14th Bn. (later Major-General, C.B., D.S.O., D.C.M., V.D.). The new unit was designated "The Royal Montreal Regiment" and Lieut.-Colonel Fisher was appointed Honourary Lieutenant-Colonel.

(This was the regiment which proceeded overseas in 1939 under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. Eric Slessor, with Major H. W. Wood, second-in-command and Captain J. A. Calder as Adjutant (later C.O.). The Colours of this Regiment were destroyed during the London "blitz". A second regiment was raised in 1939 for home service under the command of Lieut.-Colonel J. Ernest McKenna, M.C.)

Over the "Main Gate" of the Westmount Armoury are the badges of the regiments connected with the city: the 58th Westmount Rifles (militia), the 23rd Battalion (Westmount) overseas 1914-1918; the Royal Montreal Regiment representing the 14th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1918; the Royal Montreal Regiment 1939 overseas, and the "home" units.

Official designation:

THE ROYAL MONTREAL REGIMENT

1st Westmount Battalion (14th Battalion C.E.F.)

2nd Reserve Battalion (23rd Battalion C.E.F.)

Affiliated with The Prince of Wales Own of Yorkshire, British Army.

HONOURS: 14th Bn. R.M.R. C.E.F. 1914-1918:

Victoria Cross: Captain F. A. C. Scrimger, M.O.

Victoria Cross: Lieutenant G. B. McKean, M.M.

Many other decorations were awarded Officers and men.

Great credit is due the City of Westmount for financial help and backing the subscription list which realised \$30,000.00 to cover cost of uniforms and other supplies for the "58th" as the overseas units had priority.

Another effort by the city of Westmount was in 1939 by "finding" funds for the Royal Montreal Regiment overseas — controlled by the Reserve Officers Association.

In 1954 the City of Westmount conferred on The Royal Montreal Regiment "the privileges, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the City on all ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, colours flying, and bands playing."

(The illuminated scroll bears the badges of the R.M.R., the 58th Westmount Rifles, the 23rd Westmount Battalion C.E.F., and the 14th West Yorkshire Regiment of the British Army.)

A document supplied by the Public Archives in Ottawa shows that in 1914 a recruiting office for the 23rd Westmount Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force was staffed by Captain Walter C. Hagar, Lieutenants Edwin C. Renouf and Robert Bickerdike, Sergeant L. Hagar, Privates C. W. S. Baker, John F. Pierce, C. H. Lyons, S. Nops.

In the spring of 1916 the 58th Westmount Rifles supplied a detachment for guard duties at the British Remount Depot at Dixie where some 8,000 horses had been "corralled" prior to shipment overseas. Lieutenant St. Clair Holland was in command and when the station was closed later in 1916 this officer transferred to the Canadian Artillery and served in France and Belgium with the Divisional Ammunition Column and the 11th Siege Battery.

Another document records that the 58th Westmount Rifles were "called-out" for special service in 1917 and supplied guards for the armouries in District Four.

Staff included: Lieut.-Colonel C. M. Strange, Captain Miles Birkett, Second-in-command; Captain W. H. Harling, Adjutant; Captain Percy S. McKergow, Paymaster; Captain W. H. Smyth, Medical Officer; Lieut. S. A. Richardson, Quartermaster; Lieut. J. R. Norris; Regimental Sergeant Major G. R. Knight; Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant C. W. Baker; Orderly Room Sergeant W. E. Shepley; Pay Sergeant W. Coupland; Armourer Sergeant A. J. W. Pilcher; Sergeant L. Langevine, Drums; Sergeant C. W. Houston, Stretcher Bearers; Staff Sergeant W. Parker.

"A" Company Staff: Captain A. E. M. Hope; Lieuts. T. Kelly Dickinson, W. H. Harrison; C.S.M. W. E. Baxter; C.Q.M.S. A. J. Wilkinson.

"B" Company Staff: Captain W. B. Clark; Captain John Pierce; Lieuts. G. D. C. Dobbin, W. A. Ramsay, A. F. Hudson; C.S.M. W. D. Adams; C.Q.M.S. B. Brown.

"C" Company Staff: Captain C. G. Macartney; Lieuts. E. Walton, T. C. Cooke, H. K. Gorham, F. E. Cronyn; C.S.M. C. D. Reiffenstein; Sergt. J. H. Dougall.

"D" Company Staff: Lieuts. P. C. Armstrong, C. de Wolfe Reid, W. F. B. Henry, H. C. Howard, C. E. Bickerdike, D. C. Tennant; C.S.M. W. A. Hollingsworth; C.Q.M.S. S. R. Robertson.

Guard Commanders (Armouries): Sergt. G. A. Caron, Corpl. T. W. Sweeting; Sergt. J. H. Dougall, Corpls. H. S. Adlington and H. W. Wood; Sergt. John Allan, Corpl. Alex Adamson; Sergt. S. Harrison, Corpl. H. Shaver; Sergt. F. H. Malone, Corpl. H. J. Wright; Sergt. T. D. Hutchins, Corpl. W. B. Tingle.

SECOND CONTINGENT

23rd Westmount Battalion — C.E.F.

Men enrolled from 58th Regiment Westmount Rifles.

Ainsworth, J. C.	Cameron, A. R.	Griffin, T. T.
Aldwith, J.	Chatfield, W.	Gubbins, W. G.
Anderson, D. L.	Charlton, J. G.	Gallagher, W. J.
Basford, W. H.	Coltholpe, E.	Glazier, M.
Brown, C. M.	Draper, E. M.	Grant, D. W.
Blain, J.	Dawson, W.	Hodgson, W. D.
Burchell, J.	Decroix, A.	Houghton, T.
Burt, W.	Downey, R.	Hirsch, F. W.
Buttler, E.	Drysdale, A.	Hicklin, C. H.
Bowen, M.	Daly, T. M.	Hodson, A.
Blackmore, S.	Delaney, C.	Haselgrove, A. W.
Beeser, H.	Delaney, T.	Hood, J. S.
Bowten, S.	D'Lory, G. O.	Heap, A.
Bellamy, J. H.	Dickens, H. G.	Hewitt, H.
Barnes, E.	Dalziel, J.	Hogue, F.
Branbell, J.	Dunlop, J.	Hadley, A. P.
Baron, O.	Dyer, J. W.	Hinton, G. H.
Bond, C. H.	Edmondson, S.	Hinton, P.
Bradbury, C.	Elliott, A. M.	Hatton, J.
Bishop, E. W.	Edmond, E.	Hildreth, G.
Blake, E. R.	Etherington, P. G.	Howell, A. T.
Beagley, T. A.	Ewdie, J. O.	Hood, S. C.
Brown, F. M.	Elliott, T. E.	Issard, W. W.
Bannon, J.	Faulkner, W. B.	Jordan, H.
Baker, M.	Foley, E.	Johansson, G.
Brims, R.	Flynn, J.	Jones, W.
Bunker, J. S.	Finch, H. A.	Johnson, L.
Benson, L.	Ferguson, D.	Jones, C. W.
Cody, J.	Fowler, F.	Jamieson, G.
Cockburn, F. J.	Frost, C.	Johnston, E. R. J.
Clarke, E. G.	Fitzpatrick, R.	Jones, D.
Cartwright, G. H.	Fairbairn, J. S.	Johnson, W.
Choldcroft, C.	Flower, H. W.	Kennaught, H.
Cutts, E.	Goulden, E. P.	Kohler, W. W.
Carey, H.	Goodman, T. H. W.	Kerrigan, G.
Cardle, W.	Grundy, C. H.	King, L.
Cole, W. S.	Gibb, A. M.	Kerr, R.
Charie, C.	Gratton, C. J.	Laingdale, A.
Chartier, W.	Gilbert, P. G. B.	Laughren, F.
Colquahorn, A. G.	Graham, A. L.	Lavitte, A.

Low, G. W.	Pellan, P. J.	Scudamore, J.
Megson, A.	Quinlan, A.	Solomon, R.
Mason, H.	Reid, W. S.	Sutherland, G. E.
Morrey, S.	Ross, D. P.	Taylor, S.
Morris, C.	Randwell, J.	Tucker, G. S.
Morgan, E.	Reid, G. E.	Teakle, W.
Maultby, R.	Renabar, J.	Thompson, C. H.
Markun, F.	Richardon, H. H.	Townsend, H. R.
Mullen, T. E.	Richardson, A.	Thorpe, P.
Maguire, J. R.	Richards, F. M.	Tutill, G.
Mayer, C. V.	Refold, E.	Varley, A.
Middleton, J.	Stanley, W. A.	White, G.
Massey, T. C.	Shaw, A. F.	Williamson, A.
Mayer, J. M.	Street, R. H.	Wilcocks, G. F.
McBurney, G. W.	Stewart, E. W. H.	Wilcocks, C.
MacRitchie, Don.	St. George, P. T.	Wooler, N.
McGrother, J.	Skelton, G. F.	Waddleton, L.
McTaggart, J. A.	Sparks, T.	Whitfield, F.
McCoy, D. R.	Sharpe, W. H.	Waller, J. B.
Norton, J. A.	Smith, F.	Worrall, T. P.
Noury, A.	Smith, L. E.	Watson, J. W.
O'Brien, J.	Smith, J.	Walcot, G. F.
Oakes, F. J.	Scott, D.	Wiseman, R.
Parkes, A. J.	Scotting, J. W.	Yanepoulos, E.
Parkes, J. A.	Savage, J.	Young, W.
Patrick, J. H.	Sullivan, F.	
Percell, N.	Smith, A. A.	

(Record from the "Call to Arms" published by Southam Press, Montreal, 1914.)

Also served in 23rd Bn. C.E.F. Major John Richardson (R.M.R.), Lieut. W. Stewart Atkinson, R. A. Taylor (Artillery), John Robertson, senr.

Names received of others who served in the 58th Westmount Rifles: A. W. Roper, Arthur L. Dawe, W. P. Roper, Gilbert Paul Aspinall, Fred Taylor, A. Seaman, Herbert Rush, Gordon Beattie, Wm. F. Henry, William Adams.

Served in 24th Bn. Victoria Rifles: Pte. A. Mclachlan, killed at Vimy Ridge.

Records available show that the following were "originals" of the 58th Westmount Rifles:

- Major-General A. Ernest Walford, C.B.E., M.M., E.D.
Lieut.-Colonel A. Fred Howell, C.B.E., M.M., E.D. (R.M.R.)
Major H. W. Wood, 2 i/c R.M.R. Overseas 1939.
Major A. F. Shaw, M.C., Signals and R.M.R.
Captain F. H. Mingie, 87th Bn. Cdn. Grenadier Guards O/S.
Captain F. W. Wiggins, 60th Bn. C.E.F., O/S.
Captain C. M. Hall, 60th Bn. C.E.F. O/S.
Captain Arthur Birchall, C.E.F., Paymaster O/S.
Lieut. George Magor Worsley Dodwell, 87th Bn. C.G.G.
killed in action.
Lieut. George E. Morris, 87th C.G.G., killed in action.
Lieut. Cecil A. Sutton, 87th C.G.G., O/S.
Rifleman Brian Hards, 24th Bn., killed in action.
Ellis Ranicar Aspinall, 60th Bn., killed in action.
Captain Norman Mowat, 87th Bn. C.G.G., O/S, (R.M.R.)
Colonel W. H. Smyth, R.C.A.M.C., Staff.
Major F. G. Robinson, Provost-Marshall, M.D. 4.
Captain Thomas W. Ludlow, Staff M.D. 4.
Major Bertram E. Hards, 245th Cdn. Grenadier Guards.
Captain John Brisbane, 5th Pioneers C.E.F. (R.M.R.)
Lieut. Ernest Donnelly, 148th Bn. C.E.F.
Jeffrey C. Webster, 148th Bn. & R.C.R. O/S.
Edward M. Webster, 148th Bn. & 13th Bn. O/S.
Harry A. Robinson, 148th Bn. & 13th Bn. O/S.
Lieut. Fred Bowman, Canadian Railway Troops O/S.
Fred W. Hirsch, 23rd, 15th, S.Sergt. 3rd Med. Hospital.
To 60th Bn. O/S: Sergt. Cecil A. Bradford, Corpl. Ivan MacAdam,
A. S. Barnston, Wm. F. Dunion, Harry Gardner, Henry James
Manton, Charles S. Pattenden, Walter E. Powell, George J.
Reay, Wilfrid Roberts, Isaac Taylor, Henry Fisher.
Q.M. Sergt. Hugh M. Ashness-Wells, 1939.
Lieut. Gordon Beattie, M.C., 244th Bn. and 14th Bn.
Lieut. Wm. Sharp Baillie, 87th C.G.G., died of wounds.
Lt.-Colonel W. B. Clark, Colonial Auxiliary Forces
Medal and Decoration, R.M.R.
Lieut. Clarence Stroud, 87th Bn. C.G.G., O/S.
Lieut. Thomas Ekers, 87th Bn. C.G.G., O/S.
Lieut. Maurice Norman Burke, 23rd Bn., O/S.
Lieut. Graham Leonard Dobbin, 23rd Bn., killed in action.
Lieut. Norman Allen Edwards, 23rd Bn., killed in action.
Lieut. Leonard A. Johnston, 23rd Bn., O/S.
Lieut. Hilliard Lyle, 23rd Bn., O/S.
Major Percy K. Haldimand, British Air Force & R.M.R.
Lieut. G. Robley Mackay, 244th Bn., O/S.
Lieut. Arthur Gordon Mackay, 148th Bn., and R.F.C., killed in action.
Lt.-Colonel St. Clair Holland, C.D. and Bar, Artillery O/S.
Hon. Colonel 2nd Medium Regt. of Artillery.
Major Alfred C. Hannaford, M.C. and Bar, 87th Bn. C.G.G.,
killed in action.

REMEMBRANCE

At a public meeting of the Westmount Council held on January 16, 1919, a resolution was adopted . . .

"Recording gratitude to, and appreciation of, and pride, in the gallant men of Westmount who, to the number of not less than 1571, so willingly enlisted in their country's cause;

"That it hereby tenders its keen and heartfelt sympathy, mingled with pride, to those of its citizens whose relatives have paid the supreme price of their devotion to duty and the great ideals for which, on their part, the war was fought.

"That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the relatives of the fallen heroes of Westmount, and to every other citizen of Westmount who enlisted."

On the Cenotaph in Westmount are inscribed the names of several members of the 58th Westmount Rifles and 23rd Bn. C.E.F. who served in the various branches of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and the British Forces.

At the Victoria Hall in Westmount several hundred names are recorded of Westmounters "who served" — a gold star denoting those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

A plaque upstairs at the Victoria Hall records the names of some members of the Westmount Athletic Club who served — some of whom did not return "Home."

At St. Matthias' Church are plaques in memory of some of those who lost their lives on the battlefield or at sea.

At the Armistice ceremony each year in the City of Westmount a wreath is deposited at the Cenotaph by a member of the 58th Westmount Rifles or the 23rd Westmount Bn. C.E.F. in memory of those who served their country well overseas or in Canada.

In the Main Hall of the Westmount Armoury is a plaque bearing the inscriptions:

1914-1918 — *"In the fields of France and Belgium sleeps a Battalion of The Royal Montreal Regiment, 1172 strong;*

"To its memory this tablet and Armoury are dedicated.

1939-1945 — *"This tablet is re-dedicated in proud and grateful memory of all ranks of the Regiment, in the second Great War, who joined the Battalion of their comrades sleeping in the fields of France and Flanders."*

