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Victoria Cross Background: The Victoria Cross (VC), instituted in 1856 by Queen Victoria, is the Commonwealth's highest military decoration for valour. It is awarded in recognition of the most exceptional bravery displayed in the presence of the enemy, although in rare instances the decoration has been given to mark other courageous acts.



Since its inception during the Crimean War, the VC has been awarded 1,356 times, 300 of them posthumously. Depending on which of a variety of sources is cited and on the selection criteria applied, somewhere between 94 and 98 Victoria Crosses have been awarded to Canadians or to others serving with the Canadian Forces.

A distinctly Canadian version of the medal was introduced in 1993. To date no one has been awarded the Canadian medal.

Cpl. Herman James Good: Herman James Good was born in Big River, New Brunswick, on November 29, 1887. He was educated at the local public school and involved in lumber operations in the area. He enlisted on June 29, 1915, in Sussex, NB. He first

served with the 5th Battalion, then the 2nd Pioneer Battalion, before being transferred to the 13th (Royal Highlanders of Canada) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.



Good was wounded on three occasions prior to the events of August 8, 1918.

VC Citation: Corporal Good was awarded the Victoria Cross for his heroism on August 8, 1918, the opening day of the attack by the Canadian Corps at Amiens.

"For most conspicuous bravery and leading when in attack his company was held up by heavy fire from three machine guns, which were seriously delaying the advance. Realising the gravity of the situation, this N.C.O. dashed forward alone, killing several of the garrison and capturing the remainder.

Later on Cpl. Good, while alone, encountered a battery of 5.9-inch guns, which were in action at the time. Collecting three men of his section, he charged the battery under point-blank fire and captured the entire crews of three guns."

The London Gazette, September 27, 1918

Post War: At the end of the war, Good returned to the Bathurst area,

and was involved in farming and lumbering. For twenty years, he served as the district's Fish, Game and Fire Warden.

Herman James Good died on April 18, 1969, in Bathurst, New Brunswick, following a five-year illness.

Gravesite: His grave in St Albans Cemetery, in addition to a family stone, has a veteran's marker with the Victoria Cross emblazoned on it; the only one in New Brunswick and only one of five in Canada. At the cemetery entrance along the Salmon Beach Road is a cairn with a plaque outlining how Corporal Good won his Victoria Cross.

In a fitting tribute on August 9, 2006, a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone was erected in his name at the Saint Albans Cemetery in Bathurst, replacing the simple black marker identifying his grave.



Good's Grave, St. Alban's Cemetery

Two CF-18 Hornets performed a fly-over at the ceremony, one of the pilots being the husband of Good's great-granddaughter.

Medal Location: His medal is not held publicly.

Post Script: In addition to Good, nine other members of the Canadian Corps earned Victoria Crosses between 8 and 13 August—Lieutenants Jean Brillant and James Edward Tait, Sergeants Robert Spall and Raphael Louis Zengel, Corporals Alexander Picton Brereton, Frederick George Coppins, and Harry Garnet Bedford Miner and Privates John Bernard Croak and Thomas Dinesen.

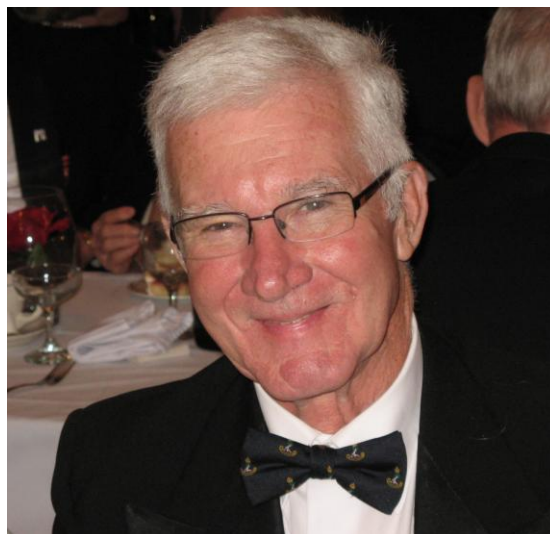
Herman Good laid the cornerstone for Branch Number 18 of the Royal Canadian Legion, Bathurst, NB in the 1960s. A couple of years later, it was named for this Bathurst native son. A museum is located in the Legion building and contains artefacts from the First World War, the Second World War, the Korean War, the Gulf War, and has a First World War Trench Exhibit.

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