

LIEUTENANT MILTON FOWLER GREGG, VC, CBE, MC*

Page 1 of 3

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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.

Lt. Milton Fowler Gregg: Milton Fowler Gregg was born in Mountain Dale, New Brunswick on April 10, 1892. He attended the local public school, the Provincial Normal School in Fredericton, before going on to study at Acadia University and Dalhousie University. Before enlisting, he taught school in New Brunswick. At the age

of eighteen, Gregg joined the 8th New Brunswick Hussars militia regiment.

In September 1914, he enlisted as a private in the 13th Battalion (Black Watch), with whom he



sailed overseas, and served as a stretcher-bearer in France. In 1916, while in hospital in England recovering from a wound, he was recruited for the Imperial Officers' Training School, received his commission as a lieutenant, and was posted with the Royal Canadian Regiment upon graduation. He was awarded the Military Cross for his actions at Lens in 1917, a Bar to his Military Cross in the Battle of Arras in 1918, and he was again wounded.

VC Citation: Lieutenant Gregg earned the Victoria Cross for his actions from September 27 to October 1, 1918 while serving with The Royal Canadian Regiment near Cambrai in France.

"For most conspicuous bravery and initiative during operations near Cambrai, 27th September to 1st October, 1918.

On 28th September, when the advance of the brigade was held up by

fire from both flanks and by thick, uncut wire, he crawled forward alone and explored the wire until he found a small gap, through which he subsequently led his men, and forced an entry into the enemy trench. The enemy counter-attacked in force, and, through lack of bombs, the situation became critical. Although wounded, Lt. Gregg returned alone under terrific fire and collected a further supply. Then rejoining his party, which by this time was much reduced in numbers, and, in spite of a second wound, he reorganised his men and led them with the greatest determination against the enemy trenches, which he finally cleared.

He personally killed or wounded 11 of the enemy and took 25 prisoners, in addition to 12 machine guns captured in this trench. Remaining with his company in spite of wounds, he again on the 30th September led his men in attack until severely wounded. The outstanding valour of this officer saved many casualties and enabled the advance to continue."

The London Gazette, January 6, 1919

Post War: After the war, Gregg went into business for himself. He then went on to work for the Soldiers Settlement Board, as well as selling advertising for the Halifax Herald. In 1934, he was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons, in Ottawa. With the outbreak of the Second World War, Gregg served with his old regiment, the Royal Canadian Regiment, in England until April 1942. He was promoted to colonel, and made commander of the Officers'

Training School in Brockville, Ontario. In 1943, he was made brigadier and commandant of the Canadian School of Infantry in Vernon, British Columbia, which he held until the end of the war.

Following the end of the Second World War, Gregg served as President of the University of New Brunswick, before being elected to Parliament in 1947. During a ten-year career as Member of Parliament, he served as Minister of Fisheries, Veterans Affairs and Labour. After losing in the 1957 election, Gregg went on to become the United Nations' representative in Iraq, the administrator of UNICEF in Indonesia, and the Canadian High Commissioner in Georgetown, British Guyana. He retired in 1968.

Gregg died in Fredericton, New Brunswick on March 13, 1978.

Gravesite: He is buried at Snider Mountain Baptist Church Cemetery, Snider Mountain, New Brunswick.



Gregg's Grave, Snider Mountain Cemetery

LIEUTENANT MILTON FOWLER GREGG, VC, CBE, MC*

Page 3 of 3

Medal Location: His medal is held by the Royal Canadian Regiment Museum, Wolseley Barracks, London, Ontario.

Post Script: In addition to Gregg, seven other members of the Canadian Corps won the Victoria Cross in fighting around the Canal du Nord between September 27 and October 9, 1918. They were Capts. J. MacGregor and C.N. Mitchell; Lts. G.T. Lyall, S.L. Honey, G.F. Kerr, and W.L. Algie; and, Sgt. W. Merrifield.

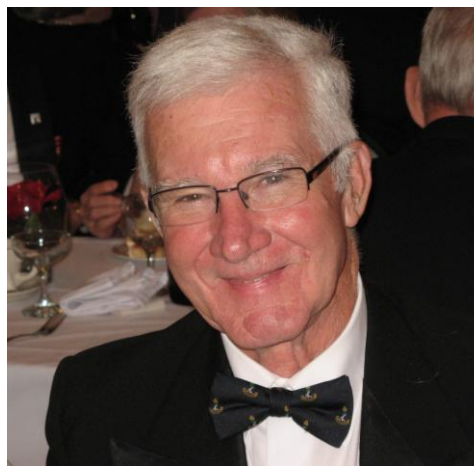
The University of New Brunswick opened the Brigadier Milton F. Gregg, VC, Centre for the Study of War and Society which is devoted to excellence in the study of war as a complex social phenomenon.

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