



Recognizing Veterans





Heinie Brunner—Interim Manager of Engineering

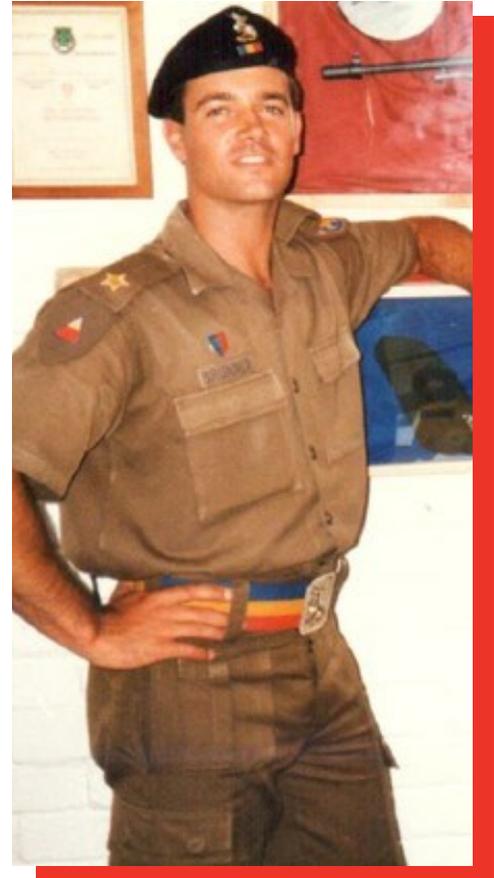
Second Lieutenant Heinie Brunner proudly served in the Technical Corps of the South African army division, in his words, “quite some time ago now, although some of the memories seem like it was just yesterday.”

He remembers arriving there fresh out of university with an engineering degree, joining his fellow bunk mates from all different paths in life.

“Initially you do not know each other at all and you just try to be first in all physical activities, or at least not last,” Heinie says, “But then you realize if one of your team members does not complete the exercise in time, everybody has to redo it.”

Soon after that realization, Heinie says there was lots of help to carry the slower people across the line, but what they did not realize was that the whole team then moved to slow as a unit and had to redo until they were fast enough as a team.

“The moral of the story here is that even at work, we can only be successful if we perform as successful Pieridae teams,” adds Heinie. “It is our leaders’ responsibility to ensure the teams are moving fast enough and it is every team member’s responsibility to support the other members to be successful as a team.”





James Millar—Director External Relations

James served four years with the Royal Canadian Navy, spending time at sea off Canada's West and East Coasts. His training and service were split between Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt In Victoria, BC and HMCS Stadacona (CFB Halifax) in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The photo on the left was taken by a local newspaper in Bathurst, New Brunswick during a brief port stop where Leading Seaman (now called Leading Sailor) Millar explained the wheelhouse and ship operations to those who toured the vessel throughout the weekend.

James uses lessons learned from his service almost daily. He believes one should always follow and respect 'chain of command' or the hierarchy where you work. You don't have to like the person in a role but you must always respect the rank, position or title an individual has.

Always know your place in that chain, have the back of your shipmates or work colleagues, and treat others as you would want to be treated.



James served on the HMCS Porte St. Louis 183 (below)





Michael Bartley - Director of Human Resources

Michael Bartley's father Percy was a wireless operator and air gunner with the British Royal Air Force (R.A.F.) in WWII.

He took part in many raids over Germany, as well engaging in a number of bombing sorties over Naples and other Italian industrial centres. From there, he went to Egypt and was in operations over Tobruk, Tripoli and other places occupied by the enemy, as well as being engaged in bombing raids in the ports of Greece.

Percy's brother Arthur also served in the R.A.F.

Like many veterans that served in times of conflict, Percy Bartley did not like to talk much about the "stories of war" he experienced. It was not until Michael was in his early twenties that he gained some appreciation for the deep connection his father had to serve his country, and a desire to remain connected with the 'community' that he cherished. This was always evident by the hundreds of Christmas cards Michael's house would receive in the mail each year from the 'chaps' who his father had served with and kept in contact with by attending annual Commonwealth Wartime Aircraft Association re-unions that took place all over the world.

"This value of supporting community and family was something that was instilled in me from an early age," says Michael.

A little while back, Michael's elderly widow neighbour Alice had a problem: her back fence was falling down and it needed to be fixed. She was always mentioning it in conversation so Michael took the initiative to round up a few neighbours and they all got together and built Alice a new fence. That fence is now a source of 'community pride' and all the neighbour's kids who helped out hopefully now have it instilled in them to one day 'pay it forward' as well.





Riccardo Bortolotti - Managing Director, Business Development

Riccardo served in the Italian Carabinieri in the mid -1980s when he was part of their eight-man strong alpine ski racing team. One of his teammates was none other than Alberto Tomba – ‘Tomba La Bomba’ as he was known. Tomba won three Olympic gold medals, two World Championships and nine World Cup season titles.

Riccardo started skiing as a child and when he competed in his first Italian championships at the age of 11, he was very sad after the race because he didn’t make it onto the podium.

At the award ceremony, seeing tears rolling down Riccardo’s cheeks, his mum whispered in his ear “Look at that guy on the highest step of the podium, his name is “Grave” (“Grave” in Italian is “tomba”)! Would you want to stand up there for a few seconds and then carry this horrible name with you for the rest of your life? Be happy with your 5th place and your nice name, son!”

Riccardo wasn’t fully convinced, but it did help to stop his tears.

At the age of 17, right after high school, Riccardo joined the alpine ski racing team of the Carabinieri based in Selva di Val Gardena, where he spent two very intense years. Despite the idyllic sound of it, it was a lot of hard work. Riccardo trained or raced over 270 days a year and the only month he and his teammates wouldn’t be on the snow would be May.

There were eight on the team and only four to six slots available for each international race. The pressure was relentless and competition was fierce.

“Well, competition was really amongst seven of us,” recalls Riccardo. “The eighth guy soon went on to compete at a much different level. He even changed his name during the journey: with a huge amount of resilience, ambition and sacrifice he ultimately became the legendary “la Bomba” - in action below!!



Riccardo (on the left) the day he was sworn in, his mum is on the right





Joan Porteous - Senior Human Resources Advisor

Joan Porteous's family has proudly served in the military since WWII. Her uncle Elmer (Bill) Carter joined the Canadian Air Force in 1943 at the age of 17 (he exaggerated his age as many did then). Bill was preparing to go overseas but did not have the opportunity to go before the war ended.

Now at the golden age of 95, he has many stories to tell. Joan is working to write them all down to save them for future generations.

One of Joan's sons Troy joined the Canadian Army in 1997. He completed a tour of Bosnia in 2000 and was on the 1st Canadian tour of Afghanistan in 2001, After a further tour in Afghanistan, he left the military in 2011.

Trevor Porteous, another of Joan's sons, currently serves in the Canadian Air Forces in Greenwood, Nova Scotia as a Master Warrant Officer. He has served on tours and assignments in Bosnia, Libya, Afghanistan and Kuwait. Once of his proudest moments was to be chosen to stand guard at Remembrance Day services at the Canadian National Vimy Ridge Memorial in France.

Trevor's second son, Dustin Porteous, graduated from the University of Winnipeg this year and is a First Lieutenant in the Canadian Air Forces. He is waiting for admission to his course in Air Traffic Control once COVID allows.

And the family's military service through the generations continues with youngest son Jesse Porteous training as a naval cadet at the Royal Military College in St-Jean, Québec. His long-term goal is to be a Naval Warfare Officer.

"The military was there for us during the Winnipeg flood in the 80s. It was surreal to see tanks filling school yards and beside you in traffic lanes," said Joan. "These people take care of us at home and abroad on a moments notice; they have my utmost respect and appreciation. I take great pride in my family continuing this legacy of service."



From left to right: Some of the Porteous family - Troy Porteous, Trevor Porteous and Dustin Porteous.



HONOURING ALL MILITARY VETERANS

Many individuals of different races and backgrounds have served to protect our Canadian way of life and freedom for decades.

Indigenous People of Canada, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit people have a long and proud tradition of military service in Canada.

These determined volunteers were often forced to overcome many challenges to serve in uniform. One of the greatest challenges that many had to overcome was a loss of their Indigenous identity.

From 1914 to 1918, more than 4,000 Indigenous people volunteered to serve in uniform for Canada – a country that did not recognize them as citizens.

When the Second World War began in September 1939, many more Indigenous people again answered the call of duty and volunteered to join the military. Most would serve in the Canadian Army.

In recognition of their service and to remember those who were considered the 'forgotten soldiers', Aboriginal Veterans Day - on the eighth day of November - was inaugurated in 1994 and is celebrated in many communities across Canada.

To learn more about National Aboriginal Veterans Day click [HERE](#)



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