

## *The Korean War Veteran*

*Internet Journal - January 29, 2012*

### **The Sergeant Major Gets Final Orders**



**Regimental Sergeant Major Ed Hansen, who joined the Canadian Army as a boy soldier in 1943 at age 14½ died today, January 29, 2012, in Victoria, British Columbia.**

Ed Hansen's first love was the Canadian Army, his second was his wife, Linda.

Ed's career in civilian life was as distinguished as the 28 years that he spent in the military and he is known widely throughout Canada, albeit mostly by veterans of his beloved Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and their families.

Too young to serve overseas in World War Two he joined the regular army after that war ended and was serving with the PPCLI when its 1st Battalion became an airborne unit in 1948.

Ed was proud to earn the coveted cherry beret of a parachutist. He was a 22-year old sergeant and jump master when he went to Korea with the 1st Battalion of the PPCLI in the autumn of 1951.

He served for 14 months as the battalion's signals sergeant. On one memorable three-man patrol he went along with a wireless set with Sergeant Rocky Prentice, the sniper sergeant who was trying out a new infrared night sight fitted to an American carbine. With them was Sergeant Sam Urquhart, also a sniper sergeant.

While Ed waited halfway up the forward slope of an enemy hill, Prentice and Urquhardt moved forward. Just yards from enemy soldiers Prentice told Urquhardt to switch on the power pack to the infrared sight. The system emitted a loud static sound and threw colourful sparks.

They raced back to Hansen and the three withdrew laughing loudly. The enemy soldiers were stunned and never fired on them. With Ed Hansen's passing, now all three of them are gone.

Ed Hansen returned to Canada after 14 months of service in Korea, then went back to Korea a second time and served for an additional 15 months.

He was in Korea last in 2008, as a delegate on the Veterans Affairs Pilgrimage to Korea, which marked the 55th anniversary of the end of the Korean War.

During his career, he also served in the PPCLI contingent of the Canadian Airborne Regiment.



In 1976 he founded the PPCLI Warrant Officers and Senior NCO's Club, which operated out of his own home. He insisted that wives of the veterans be given membership and at its zenith the club had 400 members.

Attrition has taken it down to around 200 and with Ed gone, who knows if it will go on.

A fine soldier, he once told a reporter for the Victoria Times Colonist that although he had retired from the Canadian Army, he did not feel like a civilian.

He was honoured with the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation Award and he also received the coveted Caring Canadian Award from Canada' Governor General.

It is a sad day for his family and many veteran comrades.

