

for longevity, adding the key was also being married for decades to wife Catherine until her death in 1993 and being a father to sons David and John, both in their 60s.

Clemett was just 16 when he lied about his age and enlisted. His three older brothers Albert, James and Jack were already overseas and he wanted to join them. "In 1915 I was working in a woollens mill in Peterborough when a man came up and asked us to join the army."

He jumped at the chance and enlisted as a private with the 93rd Battalion in Peterborough and later transferred to the town of Lindsay's 109th Battalion. In England, authorities found out his age and tried to keep him from the action. "I ended up in the forestry corps, helping with supplies for the guys at the front," he said.

While in France, "the Germans were making a big push and to draw strength they took 20 men from the forestry corps," he said.

The day was Nov. 11, 1918, Armistice Day. The war was over. In the summer of 1919, he said, he never forgot the "warm day" in July when his train rolled into Union Station bringing him home. "They discharged me right there," he said. "You got off the train a soldier and you walked out a civilian."

He worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway and later got on with the town of Leaside (later amalgamating into Toronto) as a meter inspector where he retired in 1965. "I am really going to miss him," said Kaczanowski, adding he played piano until he was 105 and was at the cottage at 106. "He was a wonderful man."

He really was. It's true no one gets to live forever but the freedom we enjoy because of great Canadians like Lloyd Clemett hopefully will.

Lest We Forget

Valour Of Four Soldiers Recognized

For the first time in Canadian history, the Star of Military Valour and the Medal of Military Valour have been awarded to soldiers of the Canadian Forces.

The Canadian military valour awards were created in 1993 and consist of the Victoria Cross, the Star of Military Valour and the Medal of Military Valour. The Victoria Cross was originally created by Queen Victoria and has previously been awarded to Canadians by Britain. When Canada created its own valour awards, a Canadian Victoria Cross was established but has not yet been awarded to anyone.

The four soldiers received their awards for actions taken during their recent tours in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. The Star of Military Valour is Canada's second highest award for valour, second only to the Victoria Cross. It was awarded to **Sergeant Patrick Tower** for distinguished and valiant service in the presence of the enemy.

The Medal of Military Valour is the third-highest award in the honours system and it is awarded for an act of valour or devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy. Three soldiers received this award. They are **Sergeant Michael Thomas Victor Denine, Master Corporal Collin Ryan Fitzgerald** and **Private Jason Lamont**.

Chief of Defence Staff General Rick Hillier said shortly after the ceremony, this is certainly a significant milestone in Canadian military history. "Today is a great, proud and historic day for the Canadian Forces and for Canada," said Hillier. "These are among the very highest honours we have to offer for those who show courage in the presence of the enemy. More than that, this is also a first. Today is the very first time these awards have been given--the first time the high standard has been met--since they were created some 14 years ago.

"You need only to read the citations for these soldiers to understand the meaning of true heroism: running across open terrain under heavy enemy fire to give aid to wounded and stranded comrades; clearing burning vehicles from a roadway under fire to allow others to get to safety; taking exceptional



From L to R: Cpl Lamont, MCpl Fitzgerald, CDS Gen Rick Hillier, Sgt Denine, Sgt Tower

and resourceful measures under the worst possible pressure to suppress enemy fire and save the lives of fellow soldiers."

As Hillier said, the citations tell the story. They follow in their entirety.

Sergeant Patrick Tower

Sgt. Tower is recognized for valiant actions taken on Aug. 3, 2006, in the Pashmul region of Afghanistan. Following an enemy strike against an outlying friendly position that resulted in numerous casualties, Sgt. Tower assembled the platoon medic and a third soldier and led them across 150 metres of open terrain, under heavy enemy fire, to render assistance. On learning that the acting platoon commander had perished, Sgt. Tower assumed command and led the successful extraction of the force under continuous small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire. Sgt. Tower's courage and selfless devotion to duty contributed directly to the survival of the remaining platoon members.

Sergeant Michael Thomas Victor Denine

Sgt. Denine deployed with 8 Platoon, C Company, 1 Princess

Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry during Operation Archer in Afghanistan. On May 17, 2006, while sustaining concentrated rocket-propelled grenade, machine-gun and small arms fire, the main cannon and the machine- gun on his light armoured vehicle malfunctioned. Under intense enemy fire, he recognized the immediate need to suppress the enemy fire and exited the air sentry hatch to man the pintle-mounted machine-gun. Completely exposed to enemy fire, he laid down a high volume of suppressive fire, forcing the enemy to withdraw. Sgt. Denine's valiant action ensured mission success and likely saved the lives of his crew.

Master-Corporal Collin Ryan Fitzgerald

M.Cpl. Fitzgerald deployed with 5 Platoon, B Company, 1 PPCLI Battle Group in Afghanistan. He is recognized for outstanding selfless and valiant actions carried out on May 24, 2006, during an ongoing enemy ambush involving intense, accurate enemy fire. M.Cpl. Fitzgerald repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire by entering and re-entering a burning platoon vehicle and successfully driving it off the roadway, permitting the remaining vehicles trapped in the enemy zone to break free. M.Cpl. Fitzgerald's courageous and completely selfless actions were instrumental to his platoon's successful egress and undoubtedly contributed to saving the lives of his fellow platoon members.

Private Jason Carl Allan Lamont

Pte. Lamont deployed with the Health Support Services Company, 1 PPCLI Battle Group during Operation Archer. On July 13, 2006, an element of the reconnaissance platoon came under heavy enemy fire from a compound located in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, and was isolated from the rest of the platoon. During the firefight, another soldier was shot while attempting to withdraw back to the firing line and was unable to continue. Without regard for his personal safety, Pte. Lamont, under concentrated enemy fire and with no organized suppression by friendly forces, sprinted through open terrain to administer first aid. Pte. Lamont's actions demonstrated tremendous courage, selflessness and devotion to duty.