



EX-SERGEANT

(MAJOR-GENERAL)

HILLIAM

then war broke out in South Africa, and Supt. S. B. Steele was detailed to organize the Canadian Mounted Rifles. When they sailed from Canada, Sergeant Hilliam was present among them as squadron sergeant major. In action he was leader of scouts in a column commanded by Colonel (later Major-General) Rimington.

On May 21, 1949, with the death of Major-General Edward Hilliam, CB, CMG, DSO and Bar, Canada lost one of her truly great soldiers of World War I. He was 84. His passing also occasioned a loss to the Force, for as Reg. No. 2983, Edward Hilliam spent seven years in the NWMP, advancing from constable to corporal and then to sergeant.

Lost in the more recent fame of Simmonds, Hoffmeister, Vokes, Spry, Foulkes and other noted Canadian soldiers of World War II, the name of Hilliam is probably unknown to the modern generation. But old-timers will remember him as a career soldier—one of the last of the “old guard” of Queen Victoria’s time.

General Hilliam was born in Spalding, Lincolnshire, England, and joined the famous 17th Lancers (Death-or-Glory Boys) when a young man. After ten years Imperial Army service he came to Canada and engaged in the NWMP at Ottawa on Dec. 4, 1893, being posted to Regina for training. Several years of police work at various points, including Cranbrook, B.C., Lethbridge and Calgary, Alta., followed,

In his book “Forty Years in Canada” Steele records Hilliam was one of the best instructors he had ever known, an opinion shared by Colonel Rimington. In 1900 Hilliam decided to stay in South Africa, and was granted his discharge from the NWMP on November 30.

But police work of a type encountered in a semi-military unit similar to the NWMP, appealed strongly to this soldier-adventurer and he joined the South African Constabulary. His experience and long training in military organizations were recognized and he was commissioned a captain. For some years he was in charge of a training depot in the Northern Transvaal where Steele was again his officer commanding. In a letter from South Africa Steele said: “His (Hilliam’s) service out here has been distinguished in peace and war . . . he has made the depot a great success . . . his command always equalling the best cavalry of the army, and I think, surpassing them.”

Later, as a civilian, the ex-sergeant returned to Canada, but when war was declared, Aug. 4, 1914, he again donned uni-