

# THE MESSAGE MUST GET THROUGH:

**Bruce Carruthers  
and the Birth of the  
Canadian Signaling Corps**







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## Bruce Carruthers and the Birth of the Canadian Signaling Corps

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### Sifting Through the Evidence

#### Primary Document Analysis Student Worksheet

Examining primary documents can be a challenge if you have never examined them before. A Primary Source refers to a document that reflects the first hand life experience of the person in question. They are very important for historians to learn about the past but are not always clear in what they mean. Primary document analysis requires *interpretation*. We need to figure out what this particular source is trying to say to us.

When first looking at the document, you want to try to identify what kind of document it is; such as certificates, letters, poems, photographs, newspaper articles, etc and try to discover as much information about the person as possible. Look for dates, places, people's names, events to build a biographical sketch of the person's life.

This file tells the story of Wallace Bruce Mathews Carruthers, a Canadian soldier of the South African War (also known as the Boer War) and the founder of the Canadian Signalling Corps. Your task is to find out as much as possible about him as a person. The following questions have been prepared to provide you with an idea of what researchers look for. Answer them and you will have an idea of what a portion of Bruce Carruthers' life was like.

### Sifting Through the Evidence

#### Primary Document Analysis

When engaging with a primary document it is important to remember a number of key questions:

**1. What kind of document is it?**

- Is it a letter?
- Is it a photograph?
- Is it a certificate?
- Is it a newspaper article?
- Is it an essay?
- Is it a government document?

**2. What are its parts?**

- Is there an author?
- Is there a date?
- Are there locations mentioned?
- Who is mentioned within the document?

**3. Time to Analyze**

- What is it talking about?
- Can you summarize in your own words the content in the document?
- Can you explain why it was written?
- What is the historical context? Or What was happening at that time in history?



**Assignment:** For this exercise, choose two documents from your folder and perform an analysis of those documents using the questions above.

Primary Document Name	What Kind of Document?	Name the Parts	Analysis

Now that you understand how to interpret a primary document, use this knowledge to answer the Research Questions about Bruce Carruthers' Life using all the documents in your folder.

**Assignment:** Along with the other members of your group, look through and examine the Primary Source Documents & Materials in this file. Read the following questions, and answer them accordingly. Be sure to note the source of your answers.

**Fill Out Your Answers in this Table**

Research Question	Answer	Source
When did Bruce Carruthers enroll in RMC?		



When did Bruce Carruthers graduate from RMC?		
After passing the course of Instruction in Army Signalling, Carruthers was qualified to act as a _____ in Army Signalling		
What year was Carruthers qualified to instruct the Cavalry Pioneers?		
In 1893, Bruce Carruthers was appointed which rank? What was the Battalion number and regiment?		
How old was Bruce Carruthers when he volunteered for the Boer War in 1899		
Read the poem "At the Battle of Hardt River"; summarize the role of Bruce Carruthers in three-five lines.		
What are the six forms of communication available in the fields according to Carruthers?		

What forms of communication are the enemy likely to want to destroy?		
Why are mounted orderlies and cyclists dangerous forms of communication in hostile countries?		
According to Carruthers, which method of communication is advantageous?		
Carruthers states 10 situations where visual signalling could be used. What are they?		
When does visual signalling fail?		



During the South African War (Boer War) when did the authorities realize the need for signalling?		
What prize did the City of Kingston give to Bruce Carruthers upon his return to Kingston in July 1902?		
Which group had the superior numbers during the Battle of Hardt River, The British/Canadians or the Boers?		
Describe the events at The Battle of Hardt's River.		
Who was Carruthers married to?		
What was General Order 167?		
When did Bruce Carruthers die?		



# THE MESSAGE MUST GET THROUGH:

Bruce Carruthers and the Birth of the Canadian Signaling Corps

## Primary Documents

### AT THE BATTLE OF HARDT RIVER, 1902

A thrill of joy – yet sadness fills each heart  
For our brave Canadian stand at (Kleinhardt)  
Where they fought the Boers that day  
Till scarce a man was left they say  
They've won glory for Canada and flag

Bruce Carruthers' little band of men  
(By the hundreds) they charged – they fought to take them then  
His shot the leader kills  
"Back – No Surrender" how it thrills  
He's won glory for Canada and flag

Remember Evans dying on the veldt  
Firing his last shot of a hundred in his belt  
Smashing rifles while Grim Death  
Still struggles for his breath  
He's won glory for Canada and flag

All Nations praise, some envy as they cheer  
Hearts knit to the Mother Country have no fear  
Our Anglo Saxon blood  
We'll win glory for Canada and flag

To those mourning lost ones (among) the brave  
Our Empire weeps with you (oer) their graves  
We'll write each honoured name  
On our country's roll of fame  
They've won glory for Canada and flag





7479 <sup>Serjt</sup>  
RCR

A Attestation &  
Pay  
Nat Archives  
Canada

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JA

OATH TO BE TAKEN IN PRESENCE OF ATTESTING OFFICER

I Bruce Carruthers swear that I will  
well and truly serve Our Sovereign Lady the Queen, in the Cana-  
dian Volunteers for Active Service, until lawfully discharged,  
and that I will resist Her Majesty's enemies and cause Her  
Majesty's vessels to be kept on land and on sea, and that I will,  
in all matters appertaining to my service, faithfully discharge  
my duty according to law. So help me God.

Bruce Carruthers

\*\*\*\*\*

I Bruce Carruthers hereby declare  
that I am willing to serve wherever Her Majesty the Queen may  
direct, in the Canadian Volunteers for Active Service, under  
the provisions of the Militia Act of Canada, so far as it  
applies, under the Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Army,  
and Army Act, for the term of six months or one year if required,  
or until sooner lawfully discharged or dismissed, at the rate  
of pay fixed for the Permanent Corps of Canada, until landed  
in South Africa, and after disembarkation to serve in Her Majes-  
ty's Regular Forces at the rate of pay fixed by the Royal  
Warrant for the pay of the British Army, and I have accordingly  
taken the above Oath of Allegiance.

Signed Bruce Carruthers

Witness

C. Thompson <sup>Capt</sup>

Edmund Jones

Attesting Officer.

Capt. C. R. Ryt

DSIGS  
1963

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Box 157  
ARCHIVES

THE LATE MAJOR W. B. M. CARRUTHERS

The late Major W.B.M. Carruthers is recognized as the founder of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, as it owes its existence to his foresight and determination.

Major Carruthers was born at Kingston in 1863, graduated with honours from the Royal Military College of Canada in 1883 and immediately accepted a commission in the British Regular Army as a lieutenant in the 21st Hussars. Nine years later he was commissioned in the 14th Battalion, The Princess of Wales' Own Rifles, Canadian Militia, and rose to the rank of captain. On the outbreak of the South African War, he reverted to the rank of sergeant to be able to go on active service with the Royal Canadian Regiment. He returned with the Regiment to Canada in November 1900, was discharged, but re-enrolled one year later as senior lieutenant with the 2nd Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles, which was being raised for service in South Africa.

This officer arrived for his second tour in South Africa in February, 1902, and returned to Canada in June of that year. In those few months he participated in the action near Hart River. On 31 March a reconnaissance party was marching to the junction of the Brakefruit and Hart rivers when it overtook a much larger enemy force. Lt Carruthers was commanding Nos 3 and 4 Troops of E Squadron as the rear guard when the Boers attacked with rifles and light artillery and drove in one defence post. Carruthers immediately had his men dismount and although there was no cover, they held the enemy at bay for some time. Their action, in which 17 of the 21 troopers under Carruthers were either killed or wounded, won from the Officer Commanding the highest praise as he described the "invaluable courage and devotion to duty" of Bruce Carruthers and his party. Carruthers had so distinguished himself that he was mentioned in despatches, and promoted to captain on the Unattached List "in recognition of services in South Africa".

After his return to Canada, Capt Carruthers began his campaign to persuade the military authorities to establish a separate signalling service, presumably as a result of his experiences with communications in the recent highly mobile war in South Africa. As early as April 1903 Lord Dundonald had remarked in public on the need for "a better system of Signals" in the army.

On the surface 1903 seemed an unpropitious time to press for such an innovation as a signal corps. Canadians were bound to return to their unmilitary tradition now that hostilities had ceased, and the great government-sponsored campaign to peopple the Canadian west was already absorbing much of their interest and energies. Nevertheless, the war had aroused some enthusiasm for soldiering, and Lord Dundonald's reforms in the Canadian Militia were made with a view to meeting any future hostilities in Europe. But military signalling was still a matter of visual signals, by flags, lamps and heliographs operated by anyone interested. Telephone and telegraph communications were already in the capable hands of the engineers, and wireless, which had been used in military operations for the first time in South Africa, was still regarded as an unproven novelty, or even as a toy. Forward signals then, in the sense of a trained body of specialists, did not exist in any army of the Empire. It was Capt. Carruthers' aim to create such an arm, and to the extent that the Canadian Signal Corps made this a reality, it is largely his monument.

As a result of his representations, General Order 167 of 1903 was issued, authorizing the formation of a "Signalling Corps" with an establishment of 18 officers and 84 other ranks. From this modest beginning grew the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals of to-day.

.../2

Biography  
D Sigs 1963  
C&E Museum  
Archives  
Box 157



In 1904, Capt. Carruthers was promoted to Major and appointed Inspector of Signalling.

At the same time, Capt FA Lister, RCR, who had completed a course at the British School of Signalling, Aldershot, was made Assistant Inspector of Signalling. These two men were to share the duties of Inspector, Carruthers having the western Military Districts, and Lister the eastern Districts. The next step was the establishment of Signalling Corps Headquarters in Carruthers' home town, Kingston, Ontario.

The Inspector of Signalling became responsible to the Militia Council for the supervision of all signalling instruction and practice in Canada, for the inspection of Signallers and equipment in all Permanent Force and Active Militia units, for an annual report on unit efficiency, and for the scale and suitability of all signalling equipment.

In 1905 the work of the new Corps in training signallers really got under way. Training was with heliograph, lamp, flags, and semaphore, and detailed efficiency standards were laid down for those who hoped to receive specialists' pay.

Provision was made for qualifying signallers and maintaining a uniform system of signalling by offering six or eight-week courses at the various permanent headquarters, under the supervision of the Inspector of Signalling. All of this training was based on British Army signalling procedures.

A major reorganization of the young Corps occurred in 1906. The positions of Carruthers and Lister were clarified by making the former Assistant Adjutant-General for Signalling and the latter Deputy A.A.G.S. The Signalling Service of the Canadian Militia was defined as consisting of the Signalling Corps including a regimental staff drawn from the Permanent Force, and regimental signallers of the Permanent Force, city and rural corps.

The choice of the distinguishing uniform colour--French grey--and the design of the Corps badge was Carruthers' tribute to the regiment of his first commission, the 21st Hussars, redesignated in 1897 the 21st (Empress of India's) Lancers. Crossed flags had replaced crossed lances, "CSC" had been substituted for "XXI", and the Corps motto replaced the regimental name on the scroll. The Canadian Signalling Corps now possessed distinguishing dress and badges--a sign that it had come of age.

On 21 October 1910, almost seven years to the day since his Corps was established, Bruce Carruthers died in his native Kingston.

Directorate of Signals  
Army Headquarters  
19 Apr 63

MILITARY C & E MUSEUM  
CURATOR  
CFB KINGSTON  
PO BOX 17000 STN FORCES  
KINGSTON ON K7K 7B4

Biography  
D Sigs 1963  
C&E Museum  
Archives  
Box 157

CANADIAN SPECIAL SERVICE FORCES.

SOUTH AFRICA, 1899-1900.

Particulars Respecting :

No. 4449 Sergh. Carruthers, W.B.M.  
Corps 2nd Special Service-Battn. R.C.R.  
Enlisted at Ottawa, Ont.  
On 10th Oct. 1899  
Age 35  $\frac{8}{12}$  years.  
Birthplace Kington, Ont.  
Former Corps 14<sup>th</sup> B. W. O. Rifles.  
Trade or Calling Gentleman.  
Religion C. E.  
Next of Kin (Brother) - John B. Carruthers,  
Banker, Kington, Ont.  
Address of next of Kin  
Married or Single Single,  
Number and age of Children

Remarks:

Queen's Medal with five Clasps  
Paardeberg  
Drifontein  
Johannesburg  
Cape Colony  
S. A. 1902

P. T. O.







Victoria

by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India, &c.  
 To Our Trusty and well beloved William Bruce Macleod Esquire, Greeting.  
 We, expressing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage, and good Conduct, do by these Presents constitute and Appoint you to be an Officer in Our Lord's Forces from the 19th day of August 1853. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge your Duty as such in the Rank of Lieutenant or in such higher Rank as We may from time to time hereafter be pleased to promote or appoint you to, of which a notification will be made in the London Gazette, and you are at all times to exercise and well discipline in Arms both the inferior Officers and Men serving under you and use your best endeavours to keep them in good Order and Discipline. And We do hereby Command them to Obey you as their superior Officer, and you to observe and follow such Orders and Directions as from time to time you shall receive from Whomever your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in pursuance of the Trust hereby reposed in you.

Given at Our Court, at Saint James's the First day of August 1853, in the Forty-second Year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

William Bruce Macleod Esquire, Gent.

Lieutenant

Land Forces

W. B. Macleod

*Edward Re D.*

13

*Edward*

by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, &c.

To Our Trusty and well beloved *B. Carruthers, Gentleman* Greeting: We, reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage, and good Conduct, do by these Presents constitute and Appoint you to be an Officer in Our *Land* Forces from the *fourteenth* day of *January* 1902. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge your Duty as such in the Rank of Lieutenant or in such higher Rank as We may from time to time hereafter be pleased to promote or appoint you to, of which a notification will be made in the London Gazette, and you are at all times to exercise and well discipline in Arms both the inferior Officers and Men serving under you and use your best endeavours to keep them in good Order and Discipline. And We do hereby Command them to Obey you as their superior Officer, and you to observe and follow such Orders and Directions as from time to time you shall receive from Us, or any your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in pursuance of the Trust hereby reposed in you.

Given at Our Court, at Saint James's, the *sixteenth* day of *August* 1902, in the *Second* Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.

*B. Carruthers, Gent:*

*Lieutenant (Temporary rank).  
Land Forces.*

*St John Brodnick*



Baltimore  
Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 1886

Lieut Carruthers  
21<sup>st</sup> Hussars.

CR 3382-3

Sir  
I am directed by the Inspector  
General of Cavalry in Ireland to  
forward to you the following extract  
from his Observations on the late  
Annual inspection.

xx  
"Pioneering and Signalling were extremely  
well done, and Lieut Carruthers deserves  
great credit for the manner in which  
he has instructed the Pioneers and  
Signallers."

Have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most obedient servant

Attest Colonel  
Lieut 21<sup>st</sup> Hussars.



## METHODS OF Communicating and Signalling in the Field

—BY—

**CAPT. BRUCE CARRUTHERS, R.O.,**

Signalling Secretary Royal Canadians,

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

---

An army in the field cannot be expected to act with any degree of success unless the General Officer commanding has a trustworthy and rapid means of receiving and conveying intelligence and orders from his headquarters to the most distant outposts through his Divisional Generals, Brigadier Generals, Officers commanding Regiments, O C. Picquets, Detached Posts and Observation Posts. These communications in the field are established by means of the following methods :—

(1) Telegraph. (2) Telephone. (3) Wireless Telegraphy. (4) Visual Signalling. (5) Mounted Orderlies. (6) Cyclists. Each of these has its advantages and its disadvantages, depending in a great measure upon the nature of the country in which the operations are being conducted. Let us consider concisely each of these methods in detail.

The telegram and telephone are universally recognized as the most rapid and most accurate of all for purposes of communication from point to point, but in times of war in a hostile country when an active and mobile enemy may stealthily swoop down upon your line of communication at any point, and in a moment destroy by a single compression of the pinchers the whole medium, it is apparent that it would not be acting discretely to rely entirely upon this single means, however perfect and satisfactory it may be when in working order.



The third method of Wireless Telegraphy I submit has not been sufficiently established to warrant its universal acceptance. Should it ever be perfected, I see in its aim and use the solution of all difficulties which present themselves under this head. Whilst scientific experimenters are searching for a practical realization of this most perfect of all systems, we must recognize in the meantime, the necessity for an application of the best means at our disposal for the accomplishment of this absolutely essential and indispensable communication above referred to.

With respect to Mounted Orderlies and Cyclists, it is evident that in many instances the nature of the country would materially interfere with their effectiveness, and the long distance fire arms makes it unsafe, under certain circumstances, for a successful transmission of what might be a most important message.

Visual signalling is the method to which I wish particularly to call your attention. It possesses the great advantage of having its line of communication not presenting many points of attack to an army, requires little transport and possesses great mobility. From the advantages above alluded to we can easily conclude that it would be of special value in the more advanced positions of the army taking up the work when the telegraph and telephone had left off, or when no other means would be employed, such as from invested positions as was at one time Ladysmith, Kimberly and Mafeking, also between columns on the march where the ground is too rough to traverse or where there are no roads. It can also be used to supplement the telegraph or telephone, either relieving it of pressure or filling a gap in the line should communication be interrupted. It thus should invariably be associated with the telegraph and telephone as an alternative method in case of accident. This principle was recognized in South Africa when possible, and to my personal knowledge Springs, in the Transvaal, was connected with Elandsfontein, near Johannesburg, by telegraph, and supplemented, in case of accident, by conveniently established Helio and Lamp, signalling stations. It is most usefully employed, (1) in the more advanced position of an army in hilly countries with unfriendly inhabitants. (2) When detachments of an army are at rest for a definite period. (3) Between outposts and advance guards and their main bodies. (4) During advance of the cavalry division covering an army, by keeping up



communication between connecting and communicating posts laterally and from front to rear. (5) Between detached posts and columns. (6) Between points of temporary importance in a defensive position. (7) Between ships and shore. (8) Between permanent station forts. (9) Between units. (10) During cavalry reconnoissance and such exigencies as might multiply in a campaign of war. In case of a fog or storm which dims the medium of sight, visual signalling fails, but under those conditions signallers if mounted could, with perfect safety, transmit any urgent message under the protection given by the fog by temporarily doing the duty of a mounted orderly, and with this contingency in view it seems most advisable to have signallers provided with horses. Besides, from my experience in South Africa, on many occasions on the line of march, when communication was required between advanced and rear guards, or flanking parties or between columns marching upon parallel roads, before we could establish communication, the column would have moved a considerable distance, and we found the work of rejoining the column most exhausting. Also, after an infantry signaller has marched 15 or 20 miles in a semi-tropical country especially, he cannot be expected at once to be in as fresh a condition, necessary for proper efficiency as a mounted signaller who can go from one post of the field to another with comparative ease and rapidity.

The different methods of communicating in the field that I have mentioned provide an army with a means of receiving and conveying intelligence and orders under varying circumstances. Should one system fail we can readily supplant it by another more suitable. To visual signalling is given the burden of the work, as it fulfils the most important conditions, and for that reason I lay particular stress upon it. Never has greater use been made of this system than during the war in South Africa, and I quote some remarks of our Brigadier General Smith-Dorien, whose opinion all military men are bound to respect, in order to impress upon you the great value of the art of signalling. My first experience with our Brigadier was on the march from Grospan to Paardeberg. I was attached to his staff on one particular day in charge of signallers, when two of our Companies under Col. Buchan were ordered to search some kopjes on the left flank where the enemy was reported to be. The General at once asked me, "Are there signallers with those Companies?" I replied,



"Yes sir. "Good" he said. "I lay it down as a principle that whenever a body of troops is detached from the main column, either on the move or at the halt, signallers should always accompany them in order that instant communication may be established." He then continued, "I never tire out the horses of my staff in conveying orders and collecting reports when signallers can be used; now Sergeant do not forget this." I can assure you, gentlemen, I did not forget these instructions, difficult as it was at times to provide trained men, for our numbers were few. I found the same value was attached to signalling by other Generals throughout the Company; no matter how large or how small were the detached bodies, it was insisted upon that signalling communications should be established with headquarters.

Let us also for a moment consider the *moral effect*, take as example of the outposts guarding the main body at rest from surprise. The Commanding Officer at headquarters will be inspired with confidence when he knows that by a few flashes of helio by day or lamp by night, he can be informed of the whereabouts of an enemy and the direction of attack, and the Officer commanding picquet and his men realize that they can be in instant communication with headquarters and receive timely reinforcements if needed. I can assure you we signallers were the center of intense interest indeed when in times of anxiety the blinking and twinkling of our lamps or helios conveyed trustworthy information from outposts to headquarters. I honestly believe that in cases where British troops were taken by surprise and disaster ensued was due to a combination of poor scouting and careless or no signal arrangements; fortunately for our regiment we were never taken by surprise, and all credit is due to our Commanding Officer who took every possible precaution to guard against such a fate, and though we at times were worked very hard, and of course grumbled as all soldiers do, we realized that these precautions saved us in many instances from disaster.

In summing up the remarks I think you will agree with me, that no body of troops can claim to be in an efficient state ready to take the field unless it has attached to it a body of trained signallers fully equipped in every respect, and that every Battery of Artillery, Regiment of Cavalry and Regiment of Infantry should have its proper complement in our Canadian forces.



## OUR UNPREPAREDNESS BEFORE THE WAR.

Before the First Contingent left for South Africa, no provision was made for either trained signallers or signalling equipment. The authorities did not evidently recognize at the time its necessity, it was only when the Regiment arrived at DeAar and Orange River that steps were taken to organize a corps. As the Adjutant knew that I was the only experienced certificated instructor in Army Signalling with the Regiment, I was appointed Signalling Sergeant under Signalling Officer Lieut. Caldwell, and upon me devolved the responsibility of training a body of Signallers after we had actually taken the field. I hesitated to accept the position, knowing the great responsibility of its nature, the little time available and the very raw material I had to work with. I also recognized the fact that any inaccuracy in reading orders might involve great loss of life. When I first started to select men many obstacles at first put in my way. Company Officers naturally did not care to part with their best men, who alone seemed to me possible, however, in time I succeeded in getting together an intelligent lot who soon got interested in their work, and after six weeks' instruction at Belmont, where, fortunately for us, we were stationed, we were able to provide signallers for Regiment duty such as communication between picquets and headquarters, and some of the more intelligent men who had been old telegraphers, mastered the Helio and Lamps and were able to brigade duty.

I mention the above to let you know how unprepared we were, as far as signalling is concerned, before the war. I would like to ask the question, are we any better off now? I believe not. I communicate these views for the express purpose of interesting you in this important subject and giving you what information I have gained from my experience in South Africa. I consider it a duty, and I feel satisfied that if this matter is properly brought before the authorities, they will not close their eyes to its importance. Steps should at once be taken to organise Signalling Corps throughout the Canadian Militia, insisting upon every unit having its staff of Signallers. Inspectors of Signalling should be appointed in different districts, responsible that instruction is given in accordance with regulations. Later on I should like to see a School of Signalling organized with power to grant



Certificates, and in this way we would soon have a capable lot of Instructors throughout the Militia and an efficient and highly trained body of Signallers.

I trust that within a short space of time it will be an impossible thing for any body of troops leaving Canada's shores, to be without Signallers highly trained and fully equipped in every respect. Let us not leave this most important department to be established upon the field of battle under the nervous strain and excitement which is not conducive to efficient development of this art, to accomplish which requires time and much practice.

BRUCE CARRUTHERS,

Capt. R. O.,

Late Signalling Sergt. Royal Canadians while in South Africa,  
and for some years Instructor in Army Signalling 21st Hussars.



*Stanley of Preston*



# CANADA.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, QUEEN,  
Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

To OUR Trusty and Well Beloved *Lieutenant Wallace Bruce Matthews Carruthers*, GREETING:  
Reposing especial confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and Good Conduct, We do hereby constitute and appoint you, during  
Our Royal Pleasure to be *Captain* in the *14<sup>th</sup> Battalion*,  
"*The Princess of Wales' Own Rifles*"  
of Active Militia, of Our Dominion of Canada, taking rank and precedence in the said *Battalion*  
from the *Seventh* day of *April* one thousand eight hundred and ninety *three*  
and in the Militia of Our Dominion from the *Seventh* day of *April*  
one thousand eight hundred and *ninety three*

You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of *Captain* by exercising and well  
disciplining the Inferior Officers and Men of the said *Battalion*, and We do hereby command them to obey you as their  
*Captain*. And you are to observe and follow all such orders and directions as you shall from time to  
time receive from Us, or any your Superior Officer, according to Law.

Given at Our City of Ottawa, this *Twentieth* day of *April* in the year of  
Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-*three*, and in the fifty *sixth* year of Our Reign.

IN WITNESS whereof Our Right Trusty and Well Beloved, the Right Honourable Sir FREDERICK ARTHUR STANLEY,  
Baron Stanley of Preston, in the County of Lancaster, in the Peerage of Great Britain, Knight Grand Cross of Our  
Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Our Governor General of Canada, hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day  
and year last above mentioned, at Ottawa aforesaid.

By Command.

*M. A. W.* Colonel,  
Adjutant General of Militia.







WORK SHEET

## RECORD SHEET

### ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE CLUB OF CANADA

College No.	82	Name in full	Wallace Bruce Mathews Carruthers.
Date of Joining College	5 Sept 79	Date of Leaving College	26 June 83
Present Permanent Address			
Name and Residence of Parents			
John Carruthers (Father) Kingston.			
Rank in Militia or Imperial Army			
Captain			
Profession or Business followed after leaving College			
Military.			
Schools and University at which education received before and after leaving College.			
Collegiate Institute Salt, Ont.			
College Distinctions—Academic and Athletic, (Such as prizes for Studies, Decorations, "First" in sports, etc.)			
Cpl. 11.7.82. 1st Class Certificate.			

Short Sketch of Civil Career since leaving College, or Army Career	
<p><u>Civil Career</u></p> <p>Died 21-10-1910</p> <p>Author of "Methods of Communicating in the Field"</p> <p>President R.M.C. Club 1904.</p>	<p><u>Military Services</u></p> <p>1892 Lieut 21st Hussar</p> <p>South Africa 1899-02</p> <p>Russell Medal (10 Clashes)</p> <p>Kings Medal (1 Clash)</p> <p>Despatches 1902</p> <p>Wounded 1902</p> <p>Prisoner of War 1902</p> <p>14th P.W.O.R.</p> <p>2nd C.M.R.</p> <p>mil. Hiff.</p> <p>a.a.s. Signalling</p>

A Sketch of your career will be made from the above information, which will later be submitted to you for approval. You will greatly assist by giving all the possible information as promptly as possible.

Please make return in the enclosed envelope.

MILITARY C & E MUSEUM  
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Secretary-Treasurer.  
Room 612, 85 Richmond St. West, Toronto 2, Canada.

Membership  
RMC Club C  
Club Archive



CR 3582-3

925  
22.6.86

Aldershot Form 8.



## School of Instruction in Army Signalling.

ALDERSHOT, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1886.

This is to Certify that Lieut M. B. M. Carruthers  
21<sup>st</sup> Hussars has passed through a course of Instruction in Army Signalling  
at Aldershot Camp, and that he is hereby qualified to act as \* Instructor  
in Army Signalling.

\*Here state  
whether In-  
structor or  
Assistant  
Instructor.

No. of marks out of 300... 197.....

No. of words } Large flag sending ... 9. 83  
per minute } Small flag reading ... 11. 65  
                  } Lamp reading ..... 9. 23  
                  } Heliograph ..... Trained

Inspector of Army Signalling.

M. B. M. Carruthers 21<sup>st</sup> Hussars

Signature of Bearer.



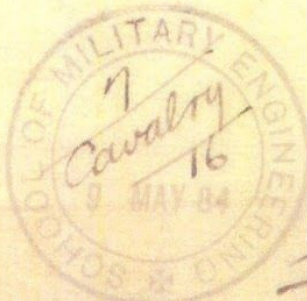


CR 3382-3  
X

## School of Military Engineering.

This is to Certify that Lieut. W.B. McArthur,  
21st Hussars passed through a course of Instruction in  
Field Works at the  
School of Military Engineering, and that the following is the report of his  
qualifications :—

Qualified to act as Instructor to Cavalry Pioneers.



W.B. McArthur  
Signature of Bearer.

[Signature]  
Colonel, Royal Engineers,  
Commandant, S.M.E.

G.T. 500 9-82\*

Z.1  
Educational  
13932



EXAMINATION FOR PROMOTION. X

SPECIAL CERTIFICATE.

CR. 3582-3  
Lieut. W. B. M. Cassuthers, 21<sup>st</sup> Hussars, on

examination for the rank of *Captain*

at *Fermoy* in *January 1887* attained

the higher standard of proficiency entitling him to a Special Certificate. *I was*

*"distinguished" in Military Law.*

MILITARY EDUCATION DIVISION,

WAR OFFICE,

*February 1887.*

*H. Dumbleton*

Director-General of Military Education.



## TWAS A STIRRING WELCOME GIVEN TO RETURNING SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS.

Swords of Honor Given the Of-  
ficers—Addresses by Surgeon  
Lieut.-Col. A. Duff and Lieut.  
Bruce Carruthers.

All the world loves a lover, but worships a hero! The truth of this adage was fully demonstrated at one o'clock, when citizens turned out in large numbers to extend a hearty welcome to returning South African heroes. The best in the land is none too good for gallant lads who go forth to battle for home and empire, and these heroes are deserving of the kindest consideration at the hands of the stay-at-homes. These veterans have braved danger, faced death, suffered hunger, loss of sleep, fatigue and all sorts of hardship incident to warfare, in order that the integrity of the British empire might be maintained and that the rights of British subjects might be established and a sullen foe taught not to trifle with the anger of the British lion.

Is it not compatible with the sense of right that citizens should become enthusiastic over the deeds of valor performed by these heroes, that they should raise their voices in loud acclaim in welcoming them home, and extend to them the freedom of the city?

The half will never be told of the deeds of self-sacrifice and heroism performed by these brave soldiers on the field of battle. Remarkable incidents of valor will come to the surface; but there are countless deeds which merit the distinction of Victoria cross that never come to light. Were all these known, there would be many Canadian veterans to-day proudly wearing the coveted decoration, which tells in silent language of brave deeds performed in the face of great danger.

The ceremonies connected with the welcome-home which began Thursday concluded to-day at noon, when crowds of citizens gathered at the Grand Trunk station and on adjacent streets to extend hearty greetings to the veterans. The officers and men of the R.C.F.A., were in attendance, but the 14th regiment was conspicuously absent, and many were the adverse criticisms heard of the non-appearance of the citizen soldiers, to which corps almost every returning veteran had belonged. Lieut.-Col. Skinner, commanding officer, was present in uniform, but he was the only representative the regiment had.

Among those on the platform were: Col. Montizambert, D.O.C., Col. Drury, C.B., Col. H. R. Smith, Hon. William Harty, mayor Shaw and members of the city council, city solicitor McIntyre, city clerk Shannon, Col. John Duff, and many other citizens of note. The men of the R.C.F.A. were drawn up in single line for the purpose of keeping the platform clear of the crowds, which surged to and fro in an effort to get near the home coming soldiers. The splendid band of the 47th regiment, under command of instructor Jacobs, was in attendance, and rendered sweet music prior to the incoming of the train. As the train steamed into the station the band struck up the national anthem, which was drowned in the cheering of the vast multitude.

The Daily British Whig no. 173  
July 25 1902 (Friday)



The crowd refused to be kept in bounds, and made a frantic rush for the front of the platform, and soon Capt. Bruce Carruthers and his comrades were surrounded by an enthusiastic throng, eager to grasp their hands; as many as six citizens clasped Capt. Carruthers' hands at once, so anxious were they to bid him welcome. His comrades were shown just as much attention, everybody being glad to see the Kingston boys return safe and sound. Ceremony was disregarded; it was a case of the stronger getting nearest the heroes, the weaker being thrust back. This sort of struggle continued for some minutes, after which mayor Shaw, with the assistance of the city clerk, succeeded in having a procession formed, and a start was made for the city buildings. The 47th band was in the lead; then came mayor Shaw, Capt. Carruthers and Surgeon-Lieut.-Col. Duff, members of the city council, returned veterans, officers, etc., all parading inside two lines of artillerymen. All along the route the massed citizens cheered lustily, waved handkerchiefs, clapped hands and made other demonstrations of pleasure. It was a thrilling spectacle.

The steps leading up to the city buildings were thronged by joyous citizens, ladies predominating, their fresh, soft-tinted garments, the fluttering of handkerchiefs and constant shifting of position presented a kaleidoscopic scene that would have sent an artist into raptures. Room was quickly made for the mayor and veterans, and when order had been created out of the chaotic mass of struggling humanity, mayor Shaw stepped forward and read this address:

### Address To The Heroes.

To Lieut. Bruce Carruthers, Surgeon Lieut.-Col. H. R. Duff, non-commissioned officers and men of the 3rd Canadian mounted rifles. We, the members of the corporation of the city of Kingston, desire to congratulate you on your safe return from the seat of war in South Africa. It is with the greatest pleasure that we recognize the efficient work which has been done by you in behalf of the empire in the war which has happily been just closed. You have assisted in bringing credit to the empire, to Canada and to our own troops, and the gallant stand made by a few Canadians at the battle of Hart's River has commanded the admiration of not only the people of Canada, but of the mother country and of the world generally. You, Lieut. Carruthers, were the leader of this band of heroes, and as you have been singled out by the commander-in-chief as having particularly distinguished yourself, we have thought we would only be expressing out the wishes of the citizens in presenting you with this sword, as a token of our admiration for the courage displayed by you.

To you, Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Duff, we desire also to present a sword in appreciation of the noble work done by you in the field under circumstances of extreme danger, in alleviating the sufferings of those who had the misfortune to be wounded during both campaigns in which you were engaged.



ed. With the friends and relatives of those who gave up their lives so nobly for their country, we desire to express our deepest sympathy. We trust it may be many years before Canada is called upon to assist the mother country under like circumstances. But if the time does come, we feel certain that there will be as true and loyal a band ready to march to the front as that which we have the pleasure in welcoming home to-day.

The address was signed on behalf of the citizens, by mayor Shaw and the city clerk, major J. W. Shannon.

The swords are of the latest pattern, that which Col. Duff received being of the cavalry pattern, while Capt. Carruthers' was an infantry sword. Both are of chaste workmanship, and the finest quality that could be purchased. They will be suitably engraved forthwith, as time did not permit between their arrival here and the hour of their presentation.

#### The Heroes Speak.

"The Maple Leaf Forever," sounded forth from the band, and it only required somebody to start the song to have it sung through. Applause greeted Capt. W. Bruce Carruthers, as, sword in hand, he stepped forward to reply. Capt. Carruthers looked sturdy and sinewy, thinner than usual on account of hard campaigning, but handsome withal, his sharp cut features being tanned almost the color of the leather leggings and boots he wore. He was attired in khaki and wore a broad brimmed hat with a maple leaf crest on the side, his whole appearance being one to inspire confidence and respect.

"It is with feelings of greatest pleasure that I again return to my native city," said he. "It is a double pleasure to know that we have done something that has merited the good will and respect of the citizens, nor would I be just did I not express my feelings over the honor my fellow citizens have done me to-day. When we started for South Africa our commanding officer reminded us that we had the keeping of the honor of Canada in our hands. It is for you to judge whether or not we have kept that honor unsullied. But it is easy to do brave deeds of honor when we have good, brave men under us. An officer cannot do anything himself, he must be supported by brave men and have their good-will and confidence. While I am pleased to come back with so many of my comrades, I am sorry all of them are not with me. Some of them are still in hospital in South Africa, where they underwent operations that deprived them of eyes, arms and limbs; others, who were badly damaged have been invalided to England, while still others have been left beneath the soil of South Africa, under little mounds and crosses which I know will everlastingly bind Canada and the mother country together."

With thanks for the gift of the sword, which he would always prize, Capt. Carruthers withdrew amid cheers, while the band struck up "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Cheering burst forth anew when Surgeon Lieut.-Col. Duff stepped forth bronzed and weather beaten, but looking every inch a thorough soldier.

"This is an occasion when one has much to say, but finds it impossible to say it," remarked the gallant colonel.



"You know better what I want to say than I do myself. It is a source of gratification to know that I have done my duty and that my course has met with the approval of my fellow citizens. We all felt that while we were representing Canada at the battle front, we had the honor of Kingston in our hands and we felt that we must uphold that at all hazards. While all the Canadians did well, I would like to say something more particular about the men of my own staff. First, there was Charlie Bennett, a brave, active soldier. He had charge of the pony that carried the hospital panniers at the Hart's River fight. The pony was killed and Bennett received a bullet through his hat. William Guy was another who was very much in evidence in that fight. There are plenty of brave deeds done on the field that are not recorded. Let me give you one instance: At Hart's River word reached the hospital that one of our officers was wounded. The only man who volunteered to go out and look for him was a Kingstonian. He went out and crossed the entire fire line, only to find that he had gone to the wrong end; he had to recross the whole front of that blazing line before he found the wounded officer. That brave volunteer was Dan Eby, whom I saw carrying Lieut. Markham into hospital. That was a deed that deserved more mention than it has received."

The speaker closed his remarks by kindly thanking the electors of Rideau ward for having elected him to the city council in January last, while he was homeward bound the first time from South Africa. "To receive such a hearty welcome home, to receive such a sword of honor for doing one's duty is a source of great satisfaction to me."

### Proud Of Bruce.

Before closing his speech, Col. Duff made kindly reference to the gallant fight made by Capt. W. Bruce Carruthers at Hart's River. The speaker was the first one to go out to the succour of the wounded and he was in a position to know that if any man deserved special mention, that man was Bruce Carruthers, and if anyone disputed this claim, the speaker would like to challenge him.

"For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" was rendered by the band, after which cheers were given for Capt. Carruthers, Col. Duff, and the returning non-commissioned officers and men. Carriages were then entered, Capt. Carruthers, Col. Duff, mayor Shaw and alderman Farrell in the leading one, then other veterans and aldermen in others, a carriage being also provided for Mrs. Carruthers and Mrs. John McIntyre. A procession was then formed and the heroes were escorted home, the 47th band providing music along the line of march and at the homes of the veterans.

Those who landed at noon with Capt. Carruthers were troopers E. Roberts, Rhoddy, W. Macdonnell and D. Scott, making twenty-six all told who have arrived.

The flags on the city and other public buildings were flying at the mast head. The city buildings were also decorated with streamers.



## WERE "IN AT THE FINISH."

2ND C.M.R. SAW THE WAR  
CLOSED.

The Canadians at Hart's River  
Participated in Two Big  
Drives, When 800 Boers Were  
Captured—The Brilliant Re-  
cord of the 2nd Canadian  
Mounted Rifles.

During the course of the campaign in South Africa, fragmentary reports were received of the operations of the 2nd Canadian mounted rifles. There was no complete record of the course this gallant corps pursued in the closing annals of the memorable campaign. With a view of obtaining something resembling a short history of the work of the regiment, a Whig reporter called upon Surgeon-Lieut. Col. Duff on Friday, and elicited some information that will be interesting to every Canadian. There is perhaps no man more qualified to state the facts than the brave colonel, who, besides being senior officer from Kingston, was also present at all the "drives" and engagements, and who rendered heroic service to the wounded and dying Canadian lads, often performing his duties at the side of the suffering and the dying, while brisk fire was raging around him.

The 2nd mounted rifles left Halifax on January 14th, 1902, and arrived at Durban on February 17th. From there they proceeded to Newcastle, going by way of Natal. This took them past innumerable places made historic by recent events—Ladysmith, Colenso, Majuba Hill, Laing's Nek, etc. Newcastle was reached on the 29th. Here preparations for active service were made, and soon the whole force was ready to take the field. On March 13th, the regiment left, the left wing being in command of Maj. Merritt.

They trekked to Volksrust. On the 19th they reached Klerksdorp, the British headquarters for that part of the Transvaal, and the base of operations for the army in the field.

Here the Canadians joined Col. Cookson's column, and on the 23rd, they started on the big drive, known as the Klerksdorp drive. The troops made eighty miles in twenty-three hours over rough and unknown country—a remarkable record. Three hundred Boers were captured, and any amount of cattle, waggon, etc., were secured. This was the hardest drive of the whole campaign. The column returned to Klerksdorp on the 26th and three days later started out again.

### Little Hart's River.

It was during this march, that the column "stumbled" upon the Hart's River fight. Three columns under Cols. Kerr, Low and Cookson, had gone out to search for the Boers. Gen. Walter Kitchener, a brother of the commander-in-chief, was in command of the brigade. The columns were in touch on the morning of the 31st. After marching all morning and not coming in contact with the Boers, the native guides were dismissed as useless. Col. Cookson sent for Lieut. Callaghan, of the Canadian scouts, and he struck the marks of the Boer guns at once. The columns then took an entirely different direction, going toward Boschpan. In some way Cookson's column got out of touch with the other columns during the night, and it was this column that bore the brunt of the desperate but brilliant fight. It was 1,291 strong, and 900 of these were Canadians, it might properly be regarded as a Canadian column.

At 2 p.m. next day the column came in contact with the Boers. The scouts reported that the enemy had 1,500 men, but since his capture, Delarey, who was in command of the Boers, has stated that 2,500 of his crafty countrymen engaged in the battle. The British and Canadians, with less than half that number, did not shrink a fight. They had found the enemy at last, and did not mean that they should escape again.

The Daily British Whig No. 174  
July 26 1902 (Saturday)



It was a stubbornly contested battle. The Boers were in the woods on both sides of the column, and thereby had a great advantage. For two hours and a half the battle raged and then the Boers drew off. The column suffered 200 casualties, fifty-nine being among the Canadians. Of the men who wore the maple leaf, twelve laid down their lives for Britain's sake—a sacrifice they did not make in vain.

#### **Carruthers' Gallant Stand.**

"Capt. Bruce Carruthers was in command of a company of Canadians," said Col. Duff, "and they made the stand of the day, separated as they were from the rest of the column. He and his gallant little band did very much to prevent the Boers from rushing the camp. As soon as he found out what a hot place they were in, Carruthers told his men to remember that they were all Canadians and that there was no such thing as surrender; they would fight it out, let the result be what it might. Thus encouraged, the Canadians, and the 28th mounted infantry as well, stood their ground and fought fiercely on until every man was either killed or wounded. Cookson said early in the fight when he saw the way in which Carruthers went to work that the Boers would not rush the camp. He gave the brave Kingstonian credit for saving the camp."

The column, as soon as the Boers were repulsed, began to entrench itself in case of a night attack, or an assault in the early morning, as was more probable. But the Boers had had enough of it, and they withdrew with their dead and wounded. Every loyal Canadian has just cause to be proud of the splendid work of the Canadians in this, one of the fiercest engagements of the latter part of the campaign. This historic battle is known by several names—Klein (Little) Hart's River, Boschbult and Boschpan.

About noon next day, Gen. Kitchen-er arrived with Col. Low's column, and relieved the Canadians. There was no further sign of the Boers. Delarey wanted to renew the attack in the morning, but his men refused to do so; they had seen enough of the Canadians. The column then marched to Dragan, and on April 15th returned to Klerksdorp, the wounded having previously been sent there. In the meantime the British destroyed all the mealie fields in the district, so



as to prevent the Boers from obtaining supplies.

### The Vryburg Drive.

Matters were quiet until May 31st when the columns started on the Vryburg drive, through the whole of the southern Transvaal to the border of Cape Colony. The troops marched 125 miles in seven days, covering fifty miles frontage all the way. This was the largest drive in the campaign. The troops participated in several small-sized engagements, and rounded up over 500 Boers on the last day. On the 16th they started back, reaching Klerksdorp on the 22nd.

On June 1st peace was declared, and the column started on the home trek. On the 17th the horses were banded in at Elandsfontein, where there was a large remount depot. On the 21st the men entrained for Durban, and three days later embarked on the SS. Winnifredian. Not a moment's time was given the Canadians in Durban, although they desired it in order to make some purchases and to pick up some relics and souvenirs of South Africa. The passage home was a pleasant one, the best of accommodation being furnished. After twenty-four days' sail on the Atlantic, the Winnifredian again landed her gallant passengers on Canadian soil at Halifax.

### Boers Welcomed Peace.

"The Boers were all glad when peace was proclaimed," said Col. Duff. "They were happy to come in and surrender their arms, and they did so readily. The intelligence department estimated the number of Boers in the field to be between 9,000 and 10,000. Before we left for home 19,200 men had surrendered. This did not include the foreign element, which had crossed the border and were far away. There were fully 90,000 Boers in the field from the beginning to the end of the campaign, and it was thought that not more than 50,000 were under arms. This shows how we underestimated the strength of the enemy."

"There were no hardships in this campaign when compared with the previous ones participated in by the Canadians. We had few night marches, and we never wanted for food. It was extremely fortunate that the 2nd C.M.R. went to South Africa. Had they not been sent, Canada would not have been represented in the last campaign, and there would have been no Canadian corps there when peace was proclaimed and the war came to an end."

### From The Battle Front.

"I tell you that little shaver Jamieson is a brick; he is a plucky little beggar and no mistake," remarked a returned veteran last evening. "How many boys of fourteen would have faced a ride from here to Halifax? Not many. Then when he got there, not being content with his ramblings, he hid himself away on the steamer and did not show himself until the boat was so far out that there was no danger of his being put ashore. That is not the only way he showed his pluck. At Hart's River during that severe engagement, he became so exasperated at the boldness of the Boers, that he persisted in shouldering a rifle and taking a place on the firing line, and we had a difficult time restraining him. He is full of grit, and would make a capital soldier if he continued in the service."

"The citizens of Kingston are a frigid sort of people," remarked a well-known merchant last evening. "It takes a lot of working up to arouse their enthusiasm. Just look at the cool reception they accorded the returning soldiers. Do you mean to say that if Capt. Carruthers or Col. Duff belonged to Toronto or Montreal they would have been allowed to return home without a fuss being made over them? Not much; their feats would have been heralded broadcast as the only incidents worthy of note that took place during the war, and when they returned home they would have been greeted with the booming of cannon, the music of brass bands and the cheers of the entire populace."



Oh, yes, that little reception tendered the veterans yesterday was all right in its way; it was Kingston's limit. The people here are afraid to turn around for fear it will cost something. I would like to suggest a banquet for the veterans; but I am afraid to do so out of fear of being looked upon as insane because of my extravagant ideas."

Trooper David Carson, one of the three sons of ex-Sergt. Robert Carson, messenger in the customs house, who enlisted for service in South Africa to fight for king and country, has returned home, looking remarkably fit after his experience. Trooper James Carson is en route home on the troopship Cestrian, while trooper William Carson, of the South African constabulary, is still in South Africa. He likes the work and is likely to remain in the dark continent.

Trooper Emerson Tiffin, of the C. M. R., was left behind at Kimberley on account of illness. His many friends here hope soon to hear of his recovery.

In his last letter home trooper E. Aiken, C.M.R., son of Capt. R. E. Aiken, stated that he expected to remain in South Africa at least six months.



17 June 2004

**This transcript, taken from a photo copy of a writing by P.R. Marshall "Two Near VC s of the South African War. Reportedly reprinted from a report submitted to "Minister of Militia and Defence Canada, by LCOL Evans commanding Officer CMR." C1902.**

"When the camp was being attacked Lieutenant Carruthers party (about 21 men to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Troops of E squadron) had moved off to the right of the farm. Sergeant Hodgins, with another party of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> troops E Squadron, was to the right of Lieutenant Carruthers. Still further to right was detached post of about 75 mounted infantry. Several hundred Boers swept down on this post on the right stampeding the mounted infantry, who galloped through the line occupied by our men. Lieutenant Carruthers assisted by Sergeant Perry, Corporal Wilkinson, Lance Corporal Bond and Private McCall, kept his men in hand dismounted them and formed into a half-moon shape to face the Boers. Sergeant Hodgins whose men were being swept off in the stampede, rallied about ten of them and dismounted to meet the attack. The splendid stand made by Lieutenant Carruthers' party, without cover of any kind against over-whelming odds, was well worthy of the best traditions of Canada and the whole Empire. Before their ammunition was exhausted 17 out of the 21 were either killed or wounded. Corporal Wilkinson, shot twice, both in the arm and body continued fighting until he was shot through the eye. He then threw the bolt of his rifle into the log grass to render it useless to the enemy. Private Evans, although mortally wounded through the bowels, exhausted his own ammunition, secured another bandolier, used it up, and as the Boers were making their final rush, he broke his rifle rendering it useless. Private Evans died shortly after being brought into camp. Private Minchin, although wounded in six places, fired his last shot when the Boers were only 25 yards off and through his rifle bolt into the grass. I have mentioned only a few individual incidents showing the spirit displayed by this party, but an equally invincible courage and devotion to duty was displayed by Lieutenant Carruthers and every one of the party with him."

DRH  
Curator





# THE MESSAGE MUST GET THROUGH:

## Bruce Carruthers and the Birth of the Canadian Signaling Corps

### Signalling Pros and Cons Student Assignment Sheet

Signalling in the early 20th century was not as easy as it is today. There were no cell phones, texting, Instagram or Tik Tok. There were methods such as despatch runners/riders that have been around since ancient times, much more recent developments such as the beginnings of Wireless telegraphy and everything in between. Each method has its pros and cons, advantages and disadvantages.

#### **Assignment:**

For this assignment, your teacher will split you into groups and assign you a method of communication to research and present. As a group, you will research the pros and cons of the assigned method of communication and will prepare an argument as to why your method is the most reliable. Each group will present their argument with visual aids (posters, drawings, photographs, Digital audio visual presentations, props, etc). The goal is trying to be as convincing as possible. Every person in the group must speak. Presentations should be no more than 5-10 mins in length. When all the groups have presented, your teacher will moderate a class discussion to come to a consensus on which method is the most reliable.

You will use *Methods of Communicating in the Field* by Bruce Carruthers as your primary resource for research. There are also links to websites that will provide you with additional information to form your argument.

#### **Links for Further Research**

##### Heliograph

<http://www.douglas-self.com/MUSEUM/COMMS/heliograph/heliograph.htm>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliograph>

##### Telegraph

<https://www.thoughtco.com/the-history-of-the-electric-telegraph-and-telegraphy-1992542>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telegraph>

##### Telephone

<https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-the-telephone-alexander-graham-bell-1991380>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_telephone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_telephone)

##### Wireless Telegraphy

<https://www.thoughtco.com/invention-of-radio-1992382>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wireless\\_telegraphy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wireless_telegraphy)

##### Begbie Oil Lamp/Signal Lamp

<http://www.telegraph-office.com/pages/Black-Watch-Signal-Unit.html>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Signal\\_lamp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Signal_lamp)  
<https://www.sofo.org.uk/exhibits/begbie-oil-signal-lamp/>

##### Despatch Runners/Riders

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Despatch\\_rider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Despatch_rider)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runner\\_\(soldier\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runner_(soldier))  
<https://www.historyextra.com/period/first-world-war/real-history-trench-runners-ww1-messengers-1917-what-like/>  
<https://www.history.com/news/world-war-i-runners-1917>

##### Semaphore

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag\\_semaphore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_semaphore)  
[http://www.themeter.net/semaphore\\_e.htm?Submit=open](http://www.themeter.net/semaphore_e.htm?Submit=open)







# THE MESSAGE MUST GET THROUGH:

## Bruce Carruthers and the Birth of the Canadian Signaling Corps

### Student's Defining Moments Worksheet

During this activity, students will explore the concept of "defining moments" (events or experiences in an individual's life, or nation's history that fundamentally shapes their present-day identity) by identifying these moments in their own lives and the life of Bruce Carruthers. Students will be required to defend their selections.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	Defining Moment #1	Defining Moment #2	Defining Moment #3	Defining Moment #4	Defining Moment #5
<b>WHO</b>  (identify anyone as well as yourself)					
<b>WHEN</b>  (identify when this took place, date, if possible)					
<b>WHERE</b>  (be specific)					
<b>WHAT</b>  (explain the event)					
<b>WHY</b>  was this a defining moment in your life? Take some time to think about it before					







# THE MESSAGE MUST GET THROUGH:

## Bruce Carruthers and the Birth of the Canadian Signaling Corps

### Defining Moments in the Life of Bruce Carruthers Worksheet:

During this activity, students will explore the concept of "defining moments" by identifying these moments in their own lives and the life of Bruce Carruthers. Students will be required to defend their selections.

	Moment #1	Moment #2
<b>WHO</b>  identify all of the important individuals involved		
<b>WHEN</b>  (be as specific as possible)		
<b>WHERE</b>  (be as specific as possible., street, city, province, north/south, etc.)		
<b>WHAT</b>  details of event/accomplishments of the individual		
<b>WHY</b>  a Defining Moment in the Life of Bruce Carruthers		

