

Colonel H.A.J. (Hugh) Hutchinson (1936-2015)

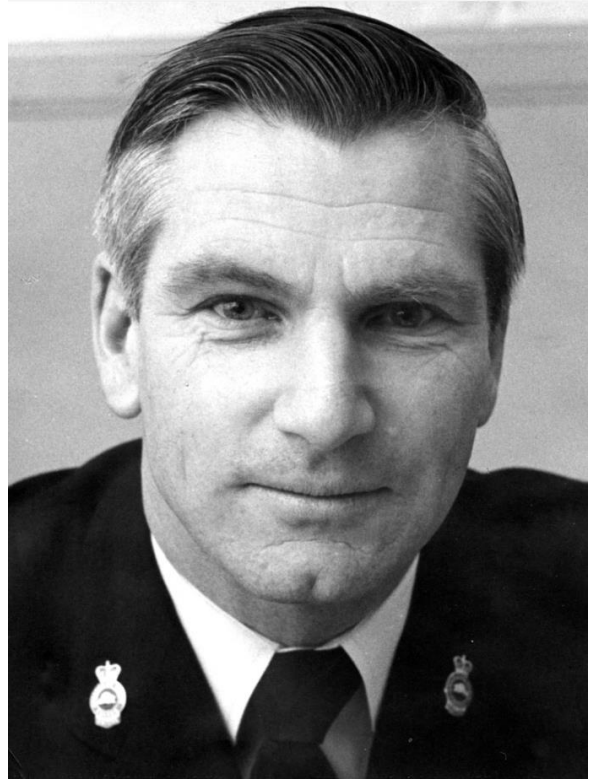
Colonel Hutchinson was born in New Zealand, graduating from the University of New Zealand with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) degree in 1961.

He served with 5 Independent Field Squadron, Royal New Zealand Engineers, from 1955 to 1966 being commissioned in February 1960.

In 1961 and 1962 he was seconded for training to the Royal Australian Engineers and, from 1962 to 1966, served with 12 Field Squadron Tasmania in the rank of captain.

Having emigrated to Canada, Col Hutchinson joined 6th Field Engineer Squadron Royal Canadian Engineers from 1966 to 1974 serving as Troop Officer and Unit Training Officer.

In August 1969 he graduated from the Militia Command and Staff College Kingston, subsequently being promoted to the rank of major and being appointed Commanding Officer of 6th Field Engineer Squadron in October 1970.



During Col Hutchinson's tenure as Commanding Officer 6th Field Engineer Squadron, the unit developed its engineering activities and was involved in joint training with US Army Engineer units in Washington State. At the same time a close relationship was initiated between the Squadron and the Royal Monmouth Royal Engineers (Militia), the senior unit of the UK Territorial Army. This led to an exchange of officers and men for training and injected many new ideas for unit training, recruiting and retention.

Having completed his tenure as Commanding Officer, Hugh transferred to the Primary List in January 1974; eight months later being appointed Senior Staff Officer Operations and Training (Vancouver Militia District). In March 1975 he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and the following September was transferred to the position of Senior Staff Office Logistics and Administration.

Col Hutchinson was promoted to Colonel and appointed Commander of the Vancouver Militia District in September 1983.

Hugh's engineering work took him to many parts of the world from Australia to Canada to Asia to North Africa. His specialty in hydro engineering gave him opportunities to be a part of the building of hydroelectric Dams in Tasmania, Australia and Mica, British Columbia as well as the construction of the Great Man Made River Project in Libya.