

Lt Col Alan Webster MBE, MiD, CD (1908-2004)



Alan was born 13 March 1908 in Coed Talon, Flintshire, Wales and immigrated with his family to Canada in 1911. He graduated in engineering from the University of British Columbia in 1933 and joined 6 Field Engineer Squadron as an Officer Cadet in 1935. Alan also served with 17th Fortress Coy and 11 Dist Engr HQ in Victoria during the 1930s. Lieutenant Webster was accepted for active duty on the strength of 6 Field Company on 07 September 1939. He served at Debert and went overseas with the 6th in 1941. He then transferred out of the 6th and later served with different engineer units over the next three years, becoming a Captain in March 1942 and a Major later that year. In 1944-45 he commanded 8th Field Park Company in England and France as well as 1st Mechanical Equipment Company.

On his return to Vancouver area after the war he worked with the Federal Government Public Works Department until his retirement in 1972. Remaining with the Militia, he first commanded 22 Field Squadron RCE in New Westminster in 1946. In 1949 he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel to command the 7th Field Engineer Regiment that included the 6th and 22nd Field Squadrons and 54 Field Park Squadron. During his time as the regimental commander he formed a regimental pipe band and commanded the largest militia unit on the BC Mainland. On completion of his 3 years as the regimental commander he retired from the Army.

Alan however remained active in the Military Engineers Association of Canada and was National President in 1952 and 1953.

Along with his wife Edith Alan he was a passionate tennis player. They joined the New Westminster Tennis Club in 1937 and founded the White Rock Tennis Club in 1968. For his dedication to the sport Tennis Canada awarded him their Distinguished Service Award in 2001.

Edith passed away in 1995 and Lt Col Alan Webster passed away at 95 on 5 January 2004. He was survived by his daughter Barbara, his son Bruce, his daughter-in-law Brenda and two grandchildren.