

Honorary Major William Valentine MC (1905-1980)



William Valentine was born in Northumberland England on June 8th 1905. He immigrated to Canada as a child and graduated from the Anglican Theological College at the University of British Columbia. He was posted to the Yukon Diocese of the Anglican Church and was the minister in Selkirk (1934-36), Mayo (1936-38) and Dawson City (1939-42).

In 1942 he joined the Canadian Army and on June 16th 1944 reported to the Algonquin Regiment. There he served as a regimental chaplain until the end of the war. He spent most of his time in the Regimental Aid Post (RAP) helping the doctors and medics and administering to the wounded and dying. On September 13th 1944, while the Algonquin Regiment was engaged in the battle for the Leopold Canal, he was in the RAP when it was shelled by a German 88. Five were killed and a number wounded included William Valentine. Throughout the shelling and although wounded he extracted other wounded from the RAP and worked with the doctors and medics until he was relieved. He then left the Algonquin Regiment to recover from his wounds. Once healed he immediately returned to the Algonquins. For this action and his dedication to duty he was awarded the MC.

In 1946 he became the minister for the St. Francis-in-the-Wood Anglican Church in West Vancouver and the Chaplain for the 7th Field Engineer Regiment. During his 20 years as the minister at St. Francis-in-the-Wood it grew from a congregation of 30 and 1 Sunday School student to a parish of nearly 300 families and 100 Sunday School students. He retired as the minister for St. Francis-in-the-Wood on October 9, 1965 but remained active in the church for a few more years. In October 1967, shortly after retiring, his first wife Alice passed away. He subsequently remarried and remained active in the Anglican church until his retirement in 1970.

He passed away on May 10th 1980. He was survived by his wife Margaruerita (Marge) his son Derwyn and six grandchildren.