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HALTON HILLS, ONTARIO - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2nd, 1991

## A true officer and gentleman escorted to final resting place

Colonel John Roaf Barber ED, CD, MA was the epitomy of the phrase 'An Officer and a Gentleman' say friends of the man who died suddenly last Thursday at his home in Georgetown at the age of 87.

"When they coined that phrase 'An Officer and a Gentleman', they must have had the Colonel in mind," said former Mayor of Georgetown, Steamer Emmerson. "I soldiered for him and anyone one of us in his regiment would have gone to the wall for him."

Bill Collier, who also served with Col. Barber as part of the Lorne Scots Regiment in 1941, said "he was a very fine man and highly regarded by his men and in military circles in Canada as well."

Col. Barber had a long and respected history with the military, evident by the large gathering of Lorne Scots and Royal Canadian Legion members who mourned the man at his funeral service Monday at Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown.

His military career began in the High School Cadet Corps from 1918-1923. He was born in Georgetown, the son of John Roaf Barber (1841-

1917) and Alberta Barber, nee Bessey (1874-1906), and attended Georgetown High School.

After graduation, he entered University College at the University of Toronto in 1923 and graduated with a BA in 1927 and an MA in 1929. During this time, he was commissioned in the Lorne Scots Regiment (formerly the Halton Rifles) in Oct. 1925.

In June 1940, he was called to active service with the rank of Major and served overseas from June 1941 to April 1947. In April 1945, he was eventually promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

He returned to reserve status and was appointed Commanding Officer of the Lorne Scots in Feb. 1949, retiring from command in Dec. 1954. He continued to serve on the primary reserve, Ottawa, and was promoted to Colonel in 1972.

He was appointed Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel 1957-63 and Honorary Colonel 1963-82.

Mr. Emmerson recalls that even though Col. Barber went on to become a well-respected man in the military, he never forgot the men he led to war.

"After I left the regiment, I met Col. Barber in England," remembers Mr. Emmerson. "he was standing with all the brass and even though I was just a buck private, he introduced me to them all."

He was also generous with his men said Mr. Emmerson, who told how many of the privates would go to Col. Barber to borrow money and he would always give them some so they could enjoy a night at the pub.

Halton Region Chairman, Peter Pomeroy said he was saddened to hear about the Colonel's death. "He was one of kind. He represented what Canada was all about in the 1940's and before," he said adding "our community owes a great deal to veterans like the Colonel."

Col. Barber was also respected outside of the military, just for the type of man he was.

John McNally, a member of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, was a friend of the Barber family and remembers Col. Barber as a "gentleman."

"He was a very kind person. I remember when I was growing up, he used to take me for boat rides and I guess he knew what I'd really like to do was drive the boat so he'd



Colonel J.R. Barber

let me take the wheel and steer his boat."

Col. Barber was also respected as a businessman in the Halton Hills community. His business history began in 1929 when he was on the permanent staff of the Hart House Theatre until 1931. He then became a member of the Toronto Stock Exchange until 1944. In the meantime, he became a partner in Amos, Barber and Company from 1934-38.

In 1950, he purchased Elmer C. Thompson Insurance and Travel Agency and 10 years later, entered into partnership with J. Murray Henley to form Barber and Henley Ltd. Insurance. He retired from active participation in the company in 1980 but remained a director with the company.

In his spare time, Col. Barber was a member of the Royal

Canadian Military Institute in Toronto, the Empire Club in Toronto and the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, Georgetown.

Col. Barber was married to Sybil Mary, nee Jones in 1949. There were no children and Sybil died in December 1986.

Halton Hills Mayor, Russ Miller said the town will miss Col. Barber. "He was one of the finest gentlemen I ever had the privilege of meeting."

Noel Duignan, MPP for North Halton said "the town of Halton Hills will sadly miss Col. Barber for his contributions and the time and effort he put into the community."

Col. Barber was buried at Greenwood Cemetery near his father, John Roaf Barber who led Georgetown's early industry with the Barber Paper Mills.



Members of the Lorne Scots Honor Guard fire a volley of shots over the gravesite of Colonel John

Roaf Barber in true military tradition. (Herald Photo)

## Board trustees toe fiscal line

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald

Georgetown's Halton Board of Education trustee, Dick Howitt, was one of 11 trustees who voted to reject a policy which would have increased their driving allowances.

Trustees at the board's Sept. 26 meeting had the chance to increase their travel reimbursement on board business to 30.5 cents per km from 1990's 30 cents per km and increase itinerant teacher's monthly flat allowance to \$61 from \$60 in 1990.

But 11 of the 14 school trustees at the meeting voted against the increase.

"Even though it was a small increase, I voted against it because I think it's time once again, to send the message that we have to hold the line when it comes to increases in our budget," said trustee Howitt.

He also felt the board's mileage rate was "sufficient" in comparison to mileage rates in industry.

In the evenings' agenda, the boards' superintendent of business services, Jerry Jenkins, included a list of mileage allowances from nearby boards and businesses which revealed:

-the highest mileage allowance is

45.1 cents per km paid by the City of Mississauga

-the lowest is 26.6 cents per km paid to employees of the Hamilton Board of Education

-the Halton Roman Catholic School Board pays 29.125 cents per km

-the Regional Municipality of Halton offers its employees 33 cents per km

-the Town of Oakville pays 33.9 cents per km; Town of Milton 31.5 cents; City of Burlington 37.6 and Town of Halton Hills 33.5 cents per km

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