

Canadian Forces Medical Services Celebrates 100th Anniversary

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The focus for the front cover of *CJHP* in 2004 will continue to be important Canadian medical institutions and discoveries. In future issues we will cover topics ranging from the first college of pharmacy to the history of the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada.

This year marks an incredible milestone for the members of the Canadian Forces Medical Services. On July 2, 1904, the Canadian Forces Medical Services was created to care for members of the Canadian Armed Forces. From duty during World War I, World War II, and Korea to current deployments in Bosnia and Afghanistan, the Canadian Forces Medical Services has evolved to meet the needs of the military population. Since the formation of the medical corps over 100 years ago, sacrifices have been made, honours have been proudly earned, and Canada and her citizens have been well served. Whether a World War, a peacekeeping or peacemaking operation, or a local disaster, the military medical community has been there to provide vital medical services. The men and women of the military medical community eagerly anticipate moving into the next century of medical service to the military community.

Pharmacists are part of the Canadian Forces Medical Services. There are several reports of Canadian military pharmacists' involvement, both abroad and in Canada, as early as World War I. Early in the history of the medical services, pharmacists were enrolled as noncommissioned officers and held the rank of private or staff sergeant. Toward the end of World War II, the professional status of pharmacists was recognized and they obtained the status of commissioned officers.

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Wartime pharmacy. Top: Two Italian prisoners of war assigned to work in the pharmacy section of the 5th Canadian General Hospital under the supervision of military pharmacists (Italy, 1944). Centre: Military hospital pharmacists filling a prescription for a military patient in the pharmacy of the 5th Canadian General Hospital (Taplow, England, 1940). Bottom: Sergeant G. Chapman and Sergeant Cliff Smith wearing their pharmacy aprons in the pharmacy of the 5th Canadian General Hospital (Taplow, England, 1940). Photographs courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Retired Cliff Smith.

