

Did you know?

Time Capsule

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Have you ever wondered how the CF service pin came about? Most of us have one and seldom wear it. I've seen them worn on business suits and formal wear. I received mine upon release, it came in a small white box with no fanfare and I'm lucky I didn't lose it on the way home. It virtually sits by itself on a shelf. But what's interesting the idea came from a member of the Airforce, some of you might know of him. What's also interesting it was never made retroactive prior to unification as the CD was approved in 1949.

The article

Lapel pins, long an identifying mark for service organizations, are now being issued to former CF members. Every member of the Regular and Reserve forces who has served since Feb. 1, 1968 and has been awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration-CD- is now entitled to the Canadian Forces Service Pin on release.

The pin is circular and bears the central device of the CF badge. It is the brainchild of retired Maj. Andy Renault, a former nuclear defence specialist and air weapons control officer. Before retiring he saw the need to recognize military service once personnel hung up their uniforms for the last time. He proposed they be issued a lapel pin to give them something more visible, tangible and portable than their certificate of service.

During the approval process, it was suggested that the CF service pin come in three grades-bronze, silver and gold-to correspond with the first, second and subsequent awards of the CD.

The folks who look after personnel records at NDHQ estimate that some 53,000 released and retired CF service personnel have earned the right to wear the pin since unification on Feb. 1, 1968.

According to Maj. Don Ernst in the NDHQ directorate of personnel administration, the pin is very popular item. "We've issued about 400 per week since the program started in the middle of August," he says, "demand is increasing weekly," He also advises that former CF members interested in applying for the pin should write to NDHQ/ DPers A, giving their full names, SIN, dates of service, release date and CD status.

Current members of the CF who have been awarded the CD will be given their pins at the same time as they are given their certificates of service.

