

*The music and oral traditions of the  
Canadian Military Engineers.*

# Chimol

741

*La musique et les traditions orales du  
Génie militaire canadien.*

A hand-drawn Inuktitut syllable consisting of three parts: a 'h' character, a triangle character, and a vertical bar character.

Chimo: The engineer greeting or toast is derived from an Inuktitut greeting meaning “ Friend”.

"Chimo"

*Chimo: Le salut du génie out toast provient du salut traditionnel inuit Inuktitut “ami”.*

2003 marks the 100th birthday of the Canadian Military Engineers (CME). This CD commemorates our history in our songs, our poetry and our writings and missives. We welcome everyone to join in our centennial celebrations and enjoy our rich oral heritage.

*2003 marque le 100e anniversaire du Génie militaire canadien (GMC). Ce CD commémore notre histoire dans nos chants, nos poèmes, nos écrits et missives. Nous souhaitons la bienvenue à tous ceux qui veulent se joindre à nos célébrations du centenaire et apprécier notre riche patrimoine oral.*

All the participants directly involved with the making of this recording are former or serving military engineers, or are friends or family members of military engineers. Christine Preece, Jesse Grondines and George Jordan did the readings. Don Corbett provided the harmonies, lead-guitar, and drums on the songs with Bryne McDonnell providing some additional background vocals. Georges Hebert was the recording engineer who gra-



ciously added some lead & bass guitar. Gary Silliker contributed the lead vocals and 12-string guitar accompaniment, while his son Shamus Silliker provided background tunes on the shuttle pipes. Mr. Chuck O'Hara of Reel Time Recorders, Halifax, was the remastering engineer.

*Tous les participants directement impliqués dans la réalisation de cet enregistrement sont des ingénieurs militaires à la retraite ou actifs, des amis et des membres de la famille des ingénieurs militaires. Christine Preece, Jesse Grondines et George Jordan se sont occupés des lectures. Don Corbett a fourni les harmonies, la guitare soliste, les tambours pour les chansons et Bryne McDonnell les voix de fond supplémentaires. Georges Hebert, ingénieur du son, a gracieusement offert la guitare soliste et basse. Gary Silliker s'est occupé des solos de voix et d'accompagnement de guitare à 12 cordes tandis que son fils, Shamus Silliker, fournissait la musique de fond avec les flûtes. M. Chuck O'Hara de Reel Time Recorders, Halifax, était l'ingénieur de production.*

The Camp Chilliwack bugle calls were re-mastered from the original vinyl recording done at the CHWK "Voice of the Fraser Valley" radio studio, in Chilliwack, on 23 April 1963. The bugle calls are presented in the order they were played during a normal working day at Camp, and later Canadian Forces Base, Chilliwack BC. The 1969 recording of "Wings" (by W.J. Newstead), and "Sapper Patrol" (by Major A. Young) by the Royal Canadian





Engineer (RCE) Band, under the direction of Captain Leonard Camplin, have also been re-mastered for this project. The various pops, 'scratches' and 'hisses' are evidence that the re-mastered recordings have travelled a long way and received much play over the years. The Canadian Forces Central Band provided "Wings" and the "Canadian Military Engineer Branch Call".

*Les clairons du Camp Chilliwack ont été réédités à partir de l'enregistrement original sur vinyle effectué au studio de radio de CHWK "Voice of the Fraser Valley", à Chilliwack, le 23 avril 1963. Les clairons étaient joués dans l'ordre normal d'une journée de travail au Camp et continuent à l'être à la base des Forces canadiennes, Chilliwack, C.-B. Les enregistrements de 1969 de "Wings" (par W.J. Newstead), et de "Sapper Patrol" (par le major A. Young) par la*

*Musique du Royal Canadian Engineer (RCE), sous la direction du capitaine Leonard Camplin, ont aussi été réédités pour ce projet. Les 'bruits', 'grincements', et 'sifflements' sont evidence que les vieux disques de vinyle ont été usés à force d'avoir été utilisés au cours des années. La Musique centrale des Forces canadiennes a fourni "Wings" et le "Canadian Military Engineer Branch Call".*

### **Authors/Composers**

**Salute to the Engineers:**

Corporal Claude Radley, RCE

**Sappers - the Perfect Corps:** Rudyard Kipling

**Tripwires and Gridiron Glory:**

Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Hartford, CME

**Why the Engineers do not Carry Colours:**

Captain Charles Stone, RAE

**Engineer Prayer:** Major Hugh Macdonald, CCC



The Sinai Lament, Live, Move and Work  
and Air Sappers (parodies): Captain Gary Silliker, CME  
Canadian Engineers, Hurrah for the CRE,  
1942, When the Saints go Marching in,  
Jump Sappers, Old King Cole, The Engineer Song,  
The Sapper, and Ode to the Engineers: authors unknown

*Auteurs/Compositeurs*

*Salute to the Engineers: Caporal Claude Radley, RCE*  
*Sappers - the Perfect Corps: Rudyard Kipling*  
*Tripwires and Gridiron Glory: Adjutant chef Daniel Hartford, GMC*  
*Pourquoi les Ingénieurs ne portent pas de Couleurs: Capitaine Charles Stone, RAE*  
*Prière des Ingénieurs: Major Hugh Macdonald, CCC*  
*The Sinai Lament, Live, Move and Work*  
*et Air Sappers (des parodies): Capitaine Gary Silliker, GMC*  
*Canadian Engineers, Hurrah for the CRE,*  
*1942, When the Saints go Marching in,*  
*Jump Sappers, Old King Cole, The Engineer Song,*  
*The Sapper, et Ode to the Engineers Auteurs inconnus*



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Headquarters Maritime Forces Atlantic, 1 Construction Engineer Unit, 3rd Field Engineer Squadron, 9e Escadron du Génie, 12 Wing, 14 Wing, 14 Airfield Engineering Squadron, Canadian Forces School of Military Engineering, Canadian Forces Central Band, Mapping and Charting Establishment, and the National Archives of Canada.

***Le soutien pour ce projet a été fourni par les organisations suivantes :***

*Quartier général des Forces maritimes de l'Atlantique, 1re Unité de Génie de Construction, 3e Escadron du Génie, 9e Escadron du Génie, 12e Escadre, 14e Escadre, 14 Escadron du Génie de l'air, École du Génie militaire des Forces canadiennes, Musique centrale des Forces canadiennes, Service de cartographie et les Archives nationales du Canada.*



# Salute To The Engineers

Now the Lord of the Realms has glorified the Charge of the Light Brigade,  
And the thin red line of infantry, when will its glory fade?  
There are robust rhymes of the British Tars and classics on Musketeers,  
But I shall sing till your eardrums ring of the muddy old Engineers.

Now it's all very well to fly through the air, or humour a heavy gun,  
Or ride in tanks through the ranks of the broken and shattered Hun,  
And its nice to think when a U-boat sinks, of the glory that outlives years  
But whoever heard a vaunting word for the muddy old Engineers.

Now you must not feel as you read this rhyme that a sapper's a jealous knave  
That he joined the ranks for a vote of thanks or in search of a hero's grave  
No, your mechanized is all right for you and your Tommy has damn few peers  
But where in Hell would the lot of them be if it weren't for the Engineers?

Oh they look like tramps, but they build your camps and sometimes lead the advance  
And they sweat red blood to bridge the flood, to give you a fighting chance  
But who stays behind when it gets too hot? To blow up the roads in the rear?  
Just tell your wife that you owe your life to the muddy old Engineers!

No fancy crest is pinned on his breast; if you read what his hat badge says  
Why "Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense," is a queersome sort of phrase,  
But their modest claim to immortal fame has probably reached your ears,  
The first to arrive and the last to leave are the Glorious Engineers.

written by *Corporal Claude Radley, RCE*