

PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES



The Star of Courage
Étoile du Courage
www.veterans.gc.ca

Major General Alain R. Forand, peacekeeper extraordinaire

“There were two wounded commandos so, as I went to get these guys, I placed two machine guns and told them that if I am fired upon I will give you the order to fire. As I went down to get the first one I was fired upon, so I gave the order to fire back.” Then

Captain Alain Forand was

speaking about his rescue of two wounded soldiers of the Canadian Airborne. The lightly armed commandoes had found themselves trapped between belligerent forces as the well armed Turkish Forces advanced. Forand was awarded the Star of Courage for his rescue under fire from both sides.

Forand while with the UN peacekeeping forces in Knin, Croatia earned the Meritorious Service Award for guaranteeing the safety of approximately 1,000 Serbs who sought protection from the indiscriminate killings around them. The Major General was in command of 32 Canadians in Sector Two when he gave sanctuary to the refugees. He fed and protected them for two months in spite of the fact that the UN insisted these Serbs were not refugees. According to Calgary filmmaker Garth Pritchards, “We all knew they’d be killed if we didn’t protect them. Forand told the world “not on my watch” will they be turfed out to be killed.” In his 33 year military career Forand served with NATO forces in Germany, UN forces in the Western Sahara, Cyprus and Croatia. Garth Pritchards considers him a true Canadian hero.