



Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

REGIMENTAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society, PO Box 10500 Station Forces Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

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LdSH(RC) Regimental Society

PO Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5



Strathcona Family

Colonel of the Regiment

Colonel Greg Hug

Our Regiment has been busy and will continue to be busy for the next several months. I expect that you will learn more about the coming events in other articles in this Newsletter. I will leave it to the CO to brief you on potential operational tasks.

This article will focus on Society matters. There have been two significant developments that should be of interest to you. Firstly, the Board has instituted three new committees to provide detailed analysis and recommendations to the Board of Directors to assist in their decision-making. These committees are strategic planning, governance, and finance. In addition, the Board will be creating a heritage committee and a communications committee in the next few months. These committees are composed of a member of the Board of Directors as well as representatives from the Regimental family. You will hear more about these committees and their work as they evolve over the next few months. I will look forward to more Regimental Family volunteers stepping forward to assist with these committees.

The Moreuil Wood 2018 committee has been working for some time on the events to take place in 2018 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood. There should be more detail on the events planned in the Spring Newsletter.

Secondly, there have been changes in the guidelines for charities both within DND and the Canada Revenue Agency. The new direction has resulted in the need for us to split and monitor the funding for Regimental and Society operations more clearly than we have in the past. We will need to make better use of non-public funds to support activities for our soldiers and their families. Donations can be made to the Society for Society operations such as the Newsletter, Museum, Historical Vehicle Troop, Pipes and Drums Band, or the Ceremonial Mounted Troop. Donations can also be made to the unit non-public fund account to support activities such as the family day, all ranks dinner dance, or the children's Christmas party. In both cases, charitable donation receipts will be provided. When making a donation, you will need to specify where you would like the money to be used.

In my first article in the newsletter as your Colonel of the Regiment, I highlighted four areas of focus. We need volunteers to contribute to the committees that we have created that are creating the next few months. We also need volunteers to assist in managing the Association's activities including branches and chapters. I would ask that you let us know of your interest as soon as practicable.

On a personal note, I continue to reside in the ICU in the Ottawa Hospital. My diaphragmatic pacer operation at the end of July went well. Although the “pacing” started off slowly I am now “pacing” for 15 hours a day. The next stage of my recovery should see me leaving the hospital and moving to a handicap friendly house. Again, many thanks for your well wishes and many visits over the past several months.



Commanding Officer

Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Lubiniecki

The past four months have simply passed by far too fast. It seems as though only yesterday I stood with **RSM Clarke** in front of the Regiment at the Change of Command parade, having taken over from **CWO Tony Batty** and **LCol Josh Major**. The feeling of pride, a sense of humbleness, and the excitement of command remain, but what I hadn’t counted upon that day was the realization that the hourglass had been reset and our time with the Regiment was fixed. I continue to struggle with identifying something that I can do for the Regiment to continue to advance it forward, in keeping with the intentions and efforts of my predecessors. I am not referring to my legacy, but rather a manner in which the Regiment can continue to develop and train world-class soldiers for operations at home and abroad, strengthen the Regimental Society, support the Associations across Canada, and reinforce the bonds with the Regimental family.

I am confident that the soldiers who wear our Regimental Cap Badge remain well positioned to respond to the call from the Government of Canada for operations and this is exemplified by the preparations now underway for a potential deployment to the Ukraine as well as discussions on a deployment to Latvia as part of the 1 PPCLI Task Force. While not confirmed at this time, the Regiment is leaning forward to ensure that we are ready to deploy. As I have outlined in my most recent ENews, the training conducted in Wainwright in Sept-Oct served as a continuation / confirmation of the hard-work, excellent training, and validation that the Strathcona Battle Group conducted in the spring of 2016 as part of 1 CMBG’s Road to High Readiness.

The Regimental Society continues to evolve over the years, re-structuring itself to ensure its efficiency, that it remains in line with changing policies and federal legislation, and that it is always in a position to support the Regiment as a whole. The work being conducted by the volunteer members on the Board of Directors and their supporting staff allows the Society to operate at a level unparalleled by any other Society in the CAF. We are extremely fortunate to have on the Board a number of civilian members (some retired Strathconas, others long-time friends of the Regiment) who offer their time, expertise, council, and much more to ensuring that the Society continues to remain current and relative as we move forward in the Regimental timeline.

The Association, in my humble opinion, need a greater level of support across Canada. We have been so very fortunate to have been able to count upon the leadership of many retired Strathconas in a vast number of communities to lead these regional Associations, however, membership is not on the rise when one compares it to retirement and releases from the Regiment. We need to encourage new membership into the Associations and this is an endeavour undertaken by the RSM to raise the issue with soldiers as they depart the Regiment. We cannot rely upon the same people year after year to retain the reigns within their region, we owe it to them to support them through new membership, a passing of the torch, and allow them time to enjoy their retirement years as “attendees” of events and not always as the “OPI’s” of them. So I challenge you to be proactive and take the first step of identifying who is the lead in your regional Association, establish contact with them, and make a concerted effort to get out to your first event and support your local chapter.

When I speak of the Regimental Family it is truly all-encompassing, from spouses and families of the soldiers, to friends of the Regiment, to supporters of the Regiment/Society/Associations, the list is truly very broad but it is perhaps the most close to the morale and welfare of the soldiers as their immediate families are directly affected. From the Regimental Family Day to the Kids Christmas Day, the Strathcona Ladies and a Taste-of-Home, every Strathcona and their families are impacted by the efforts, generosity, and commitment of the Regimental Family.

I have purposefully focussed this Newsletter away from the current situation (CURSIT) at the Regiment as the last ENews was focussed on a synopsis of recent and upcoming activities. In closing, the Regiment is only a small part of the Strathcona family. We will always look to preserve our heritage, customs, and traditions, but we will continue to look forward and always strive to better ourselves in all aspects (as I have outlined above).



Regimental Sergeant-Major

Chief Warrant Officer Rob Clarke

Several months ago (23 June to be exact) I had the unbelievable privilege of becoming the Regiment's 53rd RSM. It is a daunting appointment to say the least, and one that spans almost 117 years of history, heritage and family, so it goes without saying that I'm both humbled and proud to be sitting in the "big chair."

That said, before I attempt to describe my first few months settling into the prestigious seat, I would like to thank **CWO Tony Batty** and **LCol Josh Major** for a great 2015 – one in which I served as the TQMS. Through a privileged lens, I was able to understudy the RSM (“bending his ear” on a daily basis) and because of it, found the transition much easier than it would have been otherwise. Where being set-up for success is one thing, becoming successful takes hard work. So thank you both for taking the time and letting me follow along as you led the Regiment through an incredible few years – producing a well-oiled and battle-ready machine.

I would also like to thank several other folks that welcomed me into the new role with open arms – namely **Kathy Batty**, who continues to politely steer when my wheels stray from the track plan, **CWO (Ret'd) Peter Wonderham**, who's sage advice is just as relevant as it was in 1993, and to several others, to include current Col of the Regt, **Col (Ret'd) Greg Hug, Kurby and Kristell Court** from Spruce Meadows and former Col of the Regt, **MGen (Ret'd) Cam Ross**. Thanks to their patience, advice and much appreciated guidance, I truly feel as if I'm not alone – and can see that the broader Regimental family is as strong as ever.

After a comprehensive handover which felt like being handed keys to a finely tuned and polished race car, I was joined on the parade square on that pristine summer morning by long time leader, fire team partner and friend, CO designate **LCol Mark Lubiniecki** and several dozen family members and friends. I'll admit, the day (and week for that matter) was a complete blur, and using the 'race car' analogy once again, I can only describe it as sticking your head out a window traveling 200 mph while trying to memorize street signs - fun while you're doing it.....but you're left wondering 'what the hell just happened?' once the wheels roll to a halt.

When the dust finally settled, and **Tony's** Scimitar (thanks BATUS!) rolled over the crest towards its next bound, I was left to navigate a busy, yet typical, summer schedule which included frequent trips to Spruce Meadows, the Calgary Stampede, participation in the MCpls' and Calgary Chapter's golf tournaments, the Strathcona Fishing Derby and several other local ceremonies and events – all well attended and all showcasing our strength, unity and Regimental pride. Something you don't necessarily see as a young soldier – but something you do when you have the privilege of attending them all. My first observation and message to the masses? Whether retired, serving, young or old, attend everything you can.



As the next few months unfolded as they typically do through September/October with the Family Day, Ex Mountain Man, Worthington Challenge and Ex STEELE SABRE (all fantastic articles you can read about on the webpage) it goes without saying that we've had an incredibly busy few months poised for deployment as a high readiness Regiment. Through them all, and several other notable Regimental and Squadron endeavours, to include numerous social events organized by the Strathcona Ladies, our soldiers performed extremely well and showcased what Canada's only tank Regiment is capable of, all the while maintaining the momentum created by our predecessors.

With that though, and not to take anything away from ‘new addition’ articles that you’ll find in the following pages which will highlight and update all of you with regard to the Strathcona Mounted Troop (SMT), the Regimental Pipes & Drums and the Historical Vehicle Troop (HVT), I would just like to mention a few things that I’ve noticed since becoming RSM.

First off, where our Regiment shines when we roll across the battlefield showcasing firepower, mobility and shock action, I've also come to realize that our Regiment is far more diverse than I ever truly understood. I mean, I knew we had a riding troop and a fledgling band that we called the pipes & drums, but I never really understood what it meant to be a part of those small groups of soldiers that work long hours behind the scenes showcasing where we've come from, what we do, and where we're going as a Regiment. Whether you're practicing the bagpipes (much to the chagrin of anyone within a 3 miles radius) or busting your knuckles on an aging Centurion out behind the tank barn when everyone else is gone home, everyone plays a role in the broader family. I recognize that and it is appreciated.

Caring for horses, something I never truly understood until the CO and I visited the stables one early morning to assist with loading prior to a much anticipated road trip, was something I thought contrasted with being a soldier and only served to add ‘pageantry’ to any given ceremony. Wrong again, as I soon found out, as these soldiers embody the very same troop camaraderie, teamwork and discipline that we expect within any sabre squadron. Needless to say, both of us walked-away thoroughly impressed and made a point to attend several other local rides throughout the season – something I encourage every Strathcona to do at least once a year.

Now, after several fast-paced months in the seat, a Corps Conference, field time, and several thousand air miles under my belt, I look forward to the next few months as the Regiment prepares for what is shaping-up to be another cycle of operational deployments; something we haven't experienced since 2010. So, while we wait for government to confirm the Op UNIFIER training mandate in the Ukraine, it goes without saying that our soldiers want to deploy, and if all comes to fruition, the several we already have deployed around the world in such places like the Ukraine, Jerusalem, Iraq and Kuwait, will be joined by several more – with a strong and proud family behind each and every one. Driver advance.

Lost Trails

Spring 2016 Newsletters which have been returned by Canada Post as undeliverable and Strathcona Enews recipients whose emails have bounced since November 2015. If you have updated contact information on these individuals, please let us know.

BOISMENU M - Enews (Sept 2015)

BOWES R - Enews (Jun 2016)

CONLON R - Enews (Nov 2015)

HINKLEY W - Enews (May 2016)

HUTCHINGS M - Enews (Jan 2016)

LAST T - Enews (Dec 2015)

MOHR H - Enews (Feb 2016)

OAKLEY BD - Germany

RHYNDRESS RL - Enews (Sept 2016)

ROY CD - Enews (Jun 2016)

SEYMOUR V - Enews (Nov 2015)

SHARP G - Enews (May 2016)

SMITH BM - Electronic Newsletter (Nov 2015)

WARD GD - Ft Charlotte, USA

YIRUSH B - Enews (Jun 2016)

Regimental Association

Peter Wonderham

Once again I am extremely pleased to report that your Regimental Association's "old guard" is doing well. To be honest, when you are fully retired not a lot changes except for walking a little more crookedly and taking longer to think about morning PT. We are no longer posted, promoted, or deployed and of course our Sergeant's Major remain the same, so you see nothing much changes.

Our numbers have declined somewhat. We now stand at 265. Down slightly from last year. Unfortunately, and very sadly, due to many of our friends and fellow members passing on. On this point during our 5 yearly meetings we pay special tribute to each and every one who leaves our ranks. We do remember them.

Our meetings have indeed kicked off. We have no problem with attendance and some of the younger crowd have asked to hold more frequent informal gatherings. Nice. It is always nice to see a big crowd enjoying sandwiches and refreshments following the meetings. I am also aware of the Regional Branch meetings, especially those in Edmonton under Tom Falls our Second Vice. These meetings also draw good numbers.

I am pleased to hear that each of our Branches and their respective executive/chapter heads have been busy doing what our forefathers in the Association set out to do many years ago and that is to foster camaraderie within the ranks of the "Old Guard". During 2016 your branches from Victoria to Oromocto have organized Meet and Greets (Kingston, John Stuckart and Chris Rankin) commemorative dinners, (Moreuil Wood, Kingston special thanks to Russ Ells, Kevin Mulhern and Chris Rankin) Melfa River BBQs (Tom and Carole Martineau). Events in Victoria, Golf tournaments and luncheon Calgary (Brad and Jen Norman and Family) and the Spruce Meadow Skybox day. Gatherings that are becoming very popular are the "wing nights" organized in main through Face book by Brad Norman (Calgary) and Alex Graf (Edmonton). The mini reunion in Penticton coordinated by Bill Woods and his group, (probably his wife Pat) drew a big crowd in September. Well done Bill and Pat and thank you to all those Branch Executives and event Coordinators country wide for a job well done and much appreciated by hundreds.

I am confident that in 2017 we will continue to gather and enjoy each other's company in a variety of venues. In Calgary I know we are already planning to host a dinner on 31 March 2018 commemorating the 100 years since the end of the Great War and the Battle of Moreuil Wood. Details will follow.

I have opened discussions with the Regimental 2IC and hopefully the Edmonton Branch can produce the volunteer base required to create and host a "Gathering" in June 2018, in Edmonton. The intent would be to create an event (golf tournament, meet and greet, audience for parade and a dinner) supporting a Change of Command and/or Change of Appointment of Colonel of the Regiment. As you can surely appreciate timing and volunteerism are major factors to consider. I think the interest would be there!

Our next meeting will have passed by reading time, however, our Annual General Meeting is on 17 January 2017. This is the time most attendees check their shoeshine but also the time we ask for volunteers and vote in New Executive. On that note I am confident you will always have an executive to serve you, however the current gents



are getting tired and a change would be welcome in all positions. Nominations are welcome from any Geographic location.

You are busy...I will close by thanking all current members for your support, our National Executive for their continuing support and hard work, as well as each member of our extended Branch committees. Without you we would not have an Association.



The Regimental Pipes and Drums

Sergeant Kyle Chubak

The past five months have seen a lot of changes for the Pipes and Drums. The band had a busy summer, starting with the Change of Command parade. This was the last parade for the outgoing Drum Major, **Sgt Joe Gushue**, who has been posted to the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School as well as for the outgoing Pipe Major, **MWO Cordell Boland**, who is currently deployed on Op UNIFIER. As always, the band was in tune and looked great, a testament to the hard work put in by all.

After losing some great members and musicians the band had to quickly regroup for Spruce Meadows. With the newly-appointed Drum Major, **Sgt Kyle "Chewy" Chuback** and Pipe Major, **MCpl Izaak Koolman**, in charge, practice began. After only a couple weeks of practice, the Pipes and Drums set off for Calgary and Spruce Meadows. Spruce Meadows was the last parade for two more of our members: **Sgt Colin Davidson**, our Pipe Sergeant, who was posted to CFB Wainwright; and **Lt Stephanie Clubine**, our swing tenor drummer, who is currently taking a maternity leave of absence.

The pace for the Pipes and Drums slowed down after summer block leave with members focusing on courses and exercises in Wainwright. This would not last long. As with every November, our busy schedule returned and the Pipes and Drums needed to get practicing and recruiting some new members. Recruiting went very well, adding new pipers and drummers to fill out the ranks. The first couple of weeks in November were busy as usual with **Cpl Sean Coughlan**, **Cpl Adam Davies**, and **MCpl Cameron Davidson** representing the band on Veterans Night at the Senior NCO's Mess. The next task was a familiar one - Remembrance Day at the Kingsway Legion, continuing a tradition of playing there since it opened in 2013. Remembrance Day was followed by a new event, the No Stone Left Alone Gala Dinner at the Fairmont Hotel MacDonald in Edmonton.

The year was a good one for the Pipes and Drums, albeit one with a lot of changes. With some new members, we look forward to carrying on this proud tradition and supporting our Regiment.



Your Dispatches

The Story of the Jacket

The jacket in question from the Spring 2016 Your Dispatches was a team hockey jacket. During the 84/85 season we had undoubtedly the best team on CFB Calgary. When the season had ended, the jackets appeared, with 'Straths' on the crest.

As far as I know, this was a cost saving measure due to the charge per letter and the length of the regimental name. It was the brain wave of several of the hockey players, but did not meet the approval of the RSM of the Regiment because of the crest. Afterwards I, the coach, was given a jacket by a fired-up and very proud team, I was called onto the carpet by the RSM, jacket in hand, and asked for an explanation.

After 5 minutes at attention, and after being berated by the RSM, I tried hard to explain the teams' good intentions. I left the RSM's office with my tail between my legs. I was told that the jackets were not to be worn in public, but the team never heard that, and wore them proudly, as did I.

Jim Chamberlain

Thanks for clarifying that, Jim. Fortunately, that was probably the only time in your career that you were hauled up by the RSM. Yeah, right!! **Ed**

I'd like to preface this "note" with a healthy hello to all Straths, present, past and future.

I served from 1976 to 1983 in the Corps, 3 of them with the Straths (Reece sqn) and the remainder in A Sqn RCD Lahr.

I just received a hard copy of the Spring 2016 newsletter in the mail, as I had neglected to update **Kathy**

with my new email. I tended to skim the e-editions, because of the simple fact, if I had a hard copy in my hands, I would most likely read "The Last Trumpet Call".

I have a personal problem with this, as my father was a CSM in the Cameronian Scottish Rifles during the war, and a reserve RSM here in Canada after the war, so he was quite intrigued with the goings-on of past regimental friends and associates.

My problem is, that I would watch him read his newsletters from Glasgow, and always see the cloud move over his face while reading the "obits" as my mom would call them. They seemed to darken his otherwise playful spirit, and I swore, I would just let the past be the past when I retired. I did not want that "feeling".

I get that it is inevitable, we all gotta go, "no one gets outa here alive" but we all handle the passing of old friends and comrades differently. I avoid funerals, and never read obits. Ok...pants on fire...I do, but sneakily, with guilt, as I promised my wife and kids...and myself, that I would not. I have had more than one friend or colleague who has passed away, that I had been pondering reconnecting with, only having to have lost that opportunity, and now they are gone. We did not get to tip that beer, tell those lies all over again, throw a line in, or just catch up.

I realize, I did not spend a lifetime with the Regiment, as so many of you fine gentleman did, so I do not know most of you now. But for the ones I do remember, and were good friends, fine mentors and teachers of skills and life, I thank you.

Over the years since leaving the Regiment, I have randomly bumped into...in no particular order...my very old friend **Kevin Mulhern**, **Tony Schnare**, **Clive Addy**, and randomly the entire riding troop (sans mounts) at Pearson International. I had a brief stint with the troop until it was discovered I had a wicked allergy to horses, although some would claim it was only "**Spartan**" I was allergic to.

Anyway, its great to see the group shot including "**Dickie**" **Kitcher**, ("GET OUT OF MY *&^!! QM YOU COMICAL *&^%!"), **Freddie Berge** ("ok then Sir, what were YOU doing in that Gastof?), **Clive Milner** (my 1st C.O. in Lahr) and **Cam Ross** (my Reece sqn OC). I loved reading the letter from Radar! Yes, Sarcee was a "thing" lol.

Anyway, I hope this finds you all hale and hearty...speaking of Hale.. as in **Brian Hale**...did he survive Germany? We, the entire troop do apologize, belatedly, for being your troop sir...really, we were just trying to "show you the ropes"... we never intended for you to collect ROO cups...really...as impressive as it was. I think only **Mike Cessford** was your only competition...well... maybe **RB**...or **Davies**. Anyway sorry!

Dave Johnstone

Thanks, Dave. You will stir up a lot of memories with your letter – hopefully all good ones. Your comment about missing the opportunity to reconnect before it is too late will hit home with many of us. Another good reason for holding a Regimental Reunion soon! By the way, you have sent in your new email address to Kathy haven't you? This could also help remind others to do the same because email does save the Regimental Society money. **Ed**

Recently staying in Crete with a British friend married to a Greek, she showed me the letters home of a forebear killed in the Boer War, typed up for the family, but never published. **Captain George Vernon Clarke**, Royal Horse Artillery, wrote on 24 June 1900 from Standerton in the Transvaal:

"A new Colonial Corps has appeared on the scene, the most curious looking of all the irregular Cavalry. They are the Strathcona Horse or Canadian cow-boys. They have wooden stirrups, high pommels, lassoes and bits of string and rope hung about their saddles. They seem to have very good horses, which I believe, they brought out with them.

In case you wanted to include this fascinating little vignette in your magazine, the family would have no objection.

John Doble

17/21L Exchange Officer 1967-69

Many thanks, John. These little Regimental tidbits are always welcome. This is also a "collectable" Newsletter as you have made two appearances. Perhaps it is time for a "live" one? **Ed**

Hi, I would like to know if any of my fellow soldiers (NCOs) and maybe Officers like **Capt O'Keefe** are still around?

I would like to communicate via mail to my fellow friends and soldiers. Please put my name on your nominal roll so people who knew me, can phone or write to me!

Ned Harju

307-532 Court St N
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 4X8

Ned, yes, many of them are still around but, due to privacy regulations, we cannot provide names and addresses. However, as you have provided your contact info, hopefully you will hear from some of them soon. **Ed**



Your Photos



My name is Jim Keegan and I am from Liverpool England. I have lived in Canada since 1967, but while on a trip back to Liverpool, whilst walking through a graveyard, I came across the following gravesite. Your website mentions his name, but not the location of his grave. I thought you might like the photo. Cheers **Jim Keegan**



Just finished this build of a 1/35 Leopard 2A4m and 'placed' it onto the plains of Canada on exercise, thought you may be interested in seeing it.

All the Best

Steve Brodie UK

More photos are available to view

www.britmodeller.com/forums/index.php?/topic/235006215-dirty-canadian-cat/

Your Photos...continued



Former MCpl Tyler Burrows, who was attached posted to LdSH(RC), and Dave Scandrett as part of the Honour House, Tour of Honour.
Photo by David Scandrett



Thought you might be interested in knowing that myself CPL (retired) C. Edwards and CPL (Ex B SQN) J. Taylor (both regimental top drivers in our respective D&M courses) were visiting the U.K in July and had the opportunity to take part in a live demonstration at the Bovington tank museum with an ex CF Leopard C2, CFR 137.
Interestingly they had stencilled 23A on the fuel hopper bins which just so happened to be Taylor's old callsign.
Photos by Chris Edwards



On 3 Nov, at the Black Hat luncheon celebrating the RCD Battle of Leliefontein, Colonel Georges Rousseau, the Colonel Commandant, presented Dave Letson the Colonel Commandant's Commendation. The citation read: "Presented to Major David Letson for long distinguished service to the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, over a period of seven decades. His dedication has focused on the continued association, esprit and fellowship of regular, reserve, and friends of the Corps through the organization of biannual social events." Dave has been instrumental in providing leadership in organizing the biannual gatherings of the over 50 black hatters from Vancouver Island and the mainland. Members of LdSH, RCD, 12RBC, 8CH, FGH, and other regiments and armoured wannabes gather at the Sidney Yacht Club twice annually for Moreuil Wood in March and Leliefontein in November. Formerly with the BCR, Dave served as a Strathcona 1951-1965 and then as a Garry (Fort Garry Horse) until retirement in 1984.



Our Calgary Chapter of the Regimental Association enjoyed a day out at Spruce Meadows the "Masters" on 7 Sept 2016. With great weather, Spruce Meadows always fantastic hosting, and wonderful camaraderie we had a splendid day enjoying world class horse jumping. Pictured from Left: Chuck and Fran Hills, Peter and Susan Wonderham, Roy Jardine, Joyce and Howie Owen, Judy Henwood, Lindsay and Margaret Esson, Rick Williams (ringmaster), Al and Arlene MacDonald, Peter Hauenstein. Not in the photo but enjoying the day in the Skybox were Bruce Henwood, Inez Jardine, Garnett and Gloria Spence, Major Al Wong, the Regimental 2IC, and CWO Rob Clarke, the RSM.

News and Advice from Captain (Ret'd) Douglas Gardner

After 5 years of retirement, 6 years of duty in Colorado and only picking up Regimental information from Newsletters and very active social media forums, I thought it was time for a Sitrep. Since we retired in Sep 2010, **Alannah** and I have been on the road. We spend most of our time between our son's home in Edmonton and our daughters' home in Denver, Colorado. Additionally, we like to travel overseas to ensure we miss any possibility of having a snow flake ever land on us again. Our travels have brought us to southern Texas and the Rio Grande Valley where we have a harbor site for our RV. Overseas, we have travelled extensively through the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia and several short trips into Mexico. Check out our Facebook travel page at "Philippines and Beyond".

So now that I have grabbed your attention let's talk about a real and sometimes devastating issue. We all have been exposed at some level to a situation that has affected our lives. During my tour as the SSM HQ and later as the RSM, the Regiment identified the need to train select personal in mediation and conflict resolution. One of these individuals was **WO (Ret'd) Steve Critchely**, I have known **Steve** since we served together in Cyprus in 1979-80. Our friendship over the past 30 plus years has continued and has brought us together once again. When **Steve** completed his first qualification as a mediator it was very obvious to me and the leadership of the Regiment that he had found a venue to focus his tireless drive to help soldiers and their families. Last year, **Steve** asked me to become part of his Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) program called "CAN PRAXIS".

Since those initial courses, **Steve** has developed his skills and knowledge and brought results to many of our fellow brothers and sisters-in-arms. His EQUINE THERAPY program has proven successful in helping soldiers, first responders, families and friends back to a healthier life and brought stability to their families.

So now, as one of the appointed Directors' for "Can Praxis" a nonprofit organization, I think it is very important that I bring this valuable resource to the attention of as many people as possible.

So what is "Can Praxis"? It is Equine Therapy designed for veterans diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or Operational Stress Injury and for their spouse/partner or family member. It is a national nine day program based in Alberta, divided into three phases, each of which is three days long.

The program is available to you and your spouse/partner or family member at no cost to you. Did I say that loud enough "At no cost to you". Funding is by donation from national organizations that support the program and believe in the successes of "Can Praxis".

Spring 2017 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2017 Strathcona Regimental Society Newsletter is

7 April 2017.

Submissions should be forwarded to newsletter@strathconas.ca

Or mailed to:
Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)
Regimental Society Newsletter
PO Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

Attention: Kathy Batty

"Can Praxis" has moved forward due to the great support from **BGen Trevor Cadieu**, **CWO Bill Crabb**, and significant donations from Wounded Warrior, Glenfiddich and Veterans Affairs to point only a few of the many program supporters. The program has also been involved with or received interest from the United Kingdom, Australia, Israel, Uganda and most recently from the US consulate in Calgary.

Should you have any question about this program please take the first step at www.canpraxis.com or Facebook at www.facebook.com/CanPraxis

"Take the first step, no more, no less and all will be revealed"

Strathcona Mounted Troop

Captain Erica Young

The 2016 Ride Season for the Strathcona Ceremonial Mounted Troop (CMT) proved to be another successful season. The Troop took part in every major Spruce Meadows tournament, including the National, Continental, Pan-American, North American, and the Masters competition where the Troop took centre stage as the main act throughout the tournament. The Troop additionally toured Alberta and BC, performing over 25 Musical Rides.

Highlights from this year's season include performing for the Touchmark Retirement community, here in Edmonton, where the Troop had the opportunity to meet many veterans and hear their remarkable stories. Additionally, this year the Troop began a new program in which they visited elementary schools across Alberta. The Troop gave educational classes on the history of the Troop and the Regiment, as well as classes specific to the horses themselves. Of course, we also performed a musical ride (or two!) for each school as well. This season, the Troop visited 12 schools and we are hoping to continue the program next year.

The Troop has also begun implementation of the World War I uniform and equipment project, which is funded partially by a grant received from the Alberta Lottery Fund. In preparation for Canada's 150th anniversary, and the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood, the Troop can now conduct performances in full WWI uniforms and are advertising as such for next year. Equipment and tack is expected to begin arriving early in the New Year.

The Troop is already receiving countless offers for performances for the 2017 ride season and preparations are underway. CMT has received five new members and our Basic Equine Ride Course, designed to take these newbies from amateur to professional riders, began on 14 November. We have high expectations and I know these soldiers are up for the task! The course will continue until April, when the Troop will switch to Musical Ride practice. **Insiders tip:** expect an all new, revamped Musical ride for next season!



*Cpl Prosser teaches the students of Virginia Park school about horses. The students were tasked with drawing horse and rider afterwards.
Photo taken by Larry Wong.*



Capt Young on Shogun rides in front of the students of Virginia Park School in Edm, AB. Photo taken by Larry Wong



The Interior Branch of the Regimental Association

Bill Wood

The Interior Branch of the Regimental Association had another successful reunion September 16-18, 2016 in Penticton, BC. There were 56 people registered. As well as interior members, people came from Vancouver Island (thanks to **Dave Letson** who forwarded the registration form to Island members). **Howie Owen** made sure the Calgary members were informed. A Meet & Greet was held Friday evening, Saturday was a free day for wine tours, street market, the Casino or just touring the area. Dinner was on Saturday evening. We toasted the Queen, The Regiment and the Ladies. **Rollie Keith** gave a history lesson on the beginning of the Armoured Corps and how it evolved into today. It was interesting and entertaining. He concluded with a toast to the Corps.

Captain Jeff Daley, RSS from the Kelowna area, gave a power point presentation on the current situation with the Regiment which was enjoyed by all. Well done, Jeff!! The turkey dinner was excellent, followed by a cake with Strathcona colors, prepared by Safeway Bakery. The door prize was won by **Ray Bartlett**, brother of **Bob**, the \$100 bill was won by **Bill Bailee**, (who gave it back to help cover expenses), and the 50/50 draw was won by **Pat Kazimer**. Thanks to all who joined us. It was a great weekend!

Association Annual Golf Tournament

Brad Norman

At 1300 hrs on August 20 I arrived at the Shaganappi Golf course to ensure the course had the flights times and I was able to attach the rules of play to all score cards for easy access for our golfers.

The sun gods were on our side this year as it was nice and hot with scattered clouds. As we were waiting to tee off I was very pleased to see familiar faces along with others I have not seen in a long while.

It took each team roughly 2 hours to complete the nine holes and as per the joining instructions all players were welcomed to the Horton Legion for prizes and a quick snack. I have to mention a few key prizes that were generously donated – a Spruce Meadow's Box for the Master's, a pass for two (any day) to the Shaw Charity Classic, golf for two at the prestigious Heritage Point Golf Classic, golf for two at Vulcan and High River and numerous hats, sweatshirts, balls and numerous gift cards. I will be honest, a week before the tournament I was low on prizes and with the assistance of other members we were able to ensure we had enough prizes for everyone to go home with something. We all enjoyed a supper provided by the Legion as we shared stories of previous tournaments. Once again **Slider** sold the 50/50 tickets with the winner, **Cpl Richard Santi** of the Regimental team, receiving \$166.00.

I started out the little banquet by thanking all of our sponsors because if it wasn't for them I could not make this tournament a huge success. Our President, **Peter Wonderham** addressed all the players and family members who were in attendance and thanked them for their yearly dedication for making this tournament a success. I then had the great pleasure of turning the floor over to **RSM Rob Clarke** who gave everyone an overview of what the Regiment has been busy doing in the last year and what is to come in the future. It was great to see the Regiment represented so well this year with the RSM and his wife **Kim**, **SSM Rob Baglole** and the Regimental Team that consisted of **Sgt Mansfield**, **MCpl Gaudreault**, **MCpl Agnew**, and **Cpl Santi**. I had the pleasure of speaking with all the Regimental team and learned they were all Sigs. They did state; "this is what a family is like as we are being treated like one of you and speaking with former members of the Regiment is a real treat".

Congratulations to the Regimental Team who won with a score of -6. They were presented with the trophy by myself and had first crack at the prizes.

The longest drive (male) prize was presented to **Rick Brown**, longest drive (female) prize was presented to **Sandy Brown**, the longest putt prize was presented to **Kim Clarke** and the "closest to the pin" prize winner was **Kim Borgerson**.

I am already planning for next year and here is hoping Mother Nature cooperates again with some nice weather. Thanks to all for your participation and dedication to this family event.



*Interior Branch of the Regimental Association Reunion
September 16-18, 2016*



*The Regimental Team for the Association Golf Tournament
August 20, 2016*

Sky-High Strathconas

John Doble

On 29 June 2016 an impromptu Regimental Reunion took place at the top of the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Although recently overtaken as the tallest building in the world by the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, since their construction in 1998 the Petronas are still the world's tallest twin towers. Strathcona **Gary Foster** and **Captain John Doble**, ex 17/21 Lancer exchange officer with the Strathconas, were attending the 42nd conference of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Servicemen's League, a once-every-five-years gathering of delegates, who care for the soldiers and widows of Commonwealth veterans who have served the Crown. Representing respectively Canada and Swaziland, the two, accompanied by their wives, discussed old comrades and compared notes at an altitude of 1,483 ft (452m) above the city.



The Editor wonders what other exotic locations have witnessed similar such unscheduled reunions?

Beer Call with the CO and RSM in Ottawa

Major John Kim

On 12 October 2016, **LCol Mark Lubiniecki** and **CWO Rob Clarke** paid a visit to Ottawa to share in some pints and cheer with fellow Strathconas posted to the Capital. Leveraging on the Command Team's trip to Ontario for the annual Armoured Board in Kingston, the traveling duo took the opportunity for a much appreciated social call in Ottawa. At the behest of **MWO "I'm going to tell people but not show up myself" L. Hill**, a beer call was sent out via Strathcona Enews to all Strathconas in Ottawa.

A sizable crew showed up to the Brother Beer Bistro in the popular Byward Market to drop tools and pick up a cold one to rehydrate after work. Present from Ottawa were **LCol D. Chenette**, **Maj M. Onieu**, **Maj E. Angell**, **Maj M. Mallette**, **Maj B. Corbett**, **Maj J. Kim**, and **Capt (ret'd) Brian Hicks**. From outside Ottawa were **Capt J. Brown**

from Petawawa, and Edmonton Garrison's very own PMC, **Maj S. Cooper**. The agenda for the evening was to accomplish what Strathconas do best outside of work: socialise and experience the joie de vivre. Conversations ranged from fishing trips to leaky boats, shooting from wild game to clay, and from finding out what one another's been up in the last couple of years to planning the next get-togethers.

Face-time with serving Regimental officers is always a cherished and welcomed moment for those not serving in Edmonton and it is rare that both the CO and RSM could grace us with their presence. After five hours of merriment and cheer and promises for next time, people went on their separate ways... well, most went on their separate ways; there were the last three (as there always is) that kept the night going, bar-hopping along Elgin St. and filling their tummies with more of "the good stuff," hearts with camaraderie, and minds with fond memories.



Bereaved Families of the Korean War Veterans

Susan Bittner

*Editor's Note: In our Regimental history, Always A Strathcona, on page 210, there is an entry from "B" Squadron's War Diary for 20 August 1952 that reads in part: "We suffered our first fatal casualty today. At 1245 hrs, **Tpr (Trooper) L G Neufield**, operator in (tank) 3B, was killed by a mortar as he crawled under his tank."*

My sister **Beth Couture** and I were privileged in October to attend the 71st UN Memorial Cemetery (UNMCK) in Busan, Korea. We were part of a group of 23 persons invited by the KVA to attend ceremonies in Busan and Seoul over a period of 8 days. Hailing from Canada, the UK and Australia, we represented 14 family members killed in action in the Korean War of 1950-53. We were treated royally by the S Korean Gov't, visiting and touring both cities, participating in cultural events, and enjoying the best of hotels and food of the Korean people. We were deeply touched by the beautifully-kept graves of thousands of soldiers from 21 countries at Busan and the honour displayed at the National War Museum in Seoul. Most importantly for me was to see the prosperous display of happiness, health and wealth of the South Korean people which came as a result of winning this war against evil intrusion of communistic rule. Truly, the victory of this battle gave voice that their sacrifice indeed was not in vain!

A special thanks goes out to **Al McBride** (our uncle's comrade in Korea), and his wife **Isabelle** who advised me of this marvelous trip! O God be the glory!

In memory of our Uncle **Leonard George Neufield**, SH62331



The 1974 Turkish Invasion of Cyprus

George Patenaude

On 20 July 1974, Turkey invaded the island of Cyprus in what was referred to as Phase 1. Canada's contingent to the peacekeeping force (UNFICYP) at the time was the 1st Commando of the Airborne Regiment out of Quebec. The invasion was a result of a coup by EOKA, (supporters of union with Greece) types who were somewhat undisciplined, well armed and had little or no respect for UN soldiers. Fighting in and around Nicosia and other areas of Cyprus between the Greek National Guard and Turkish Cypriots was significant and put the Canadian Airborne Contingent in extreme danger.

Movement on the Green Line within the city was fluid and the Commando was fortunate not to have taken casualties as it continued to do its job with great professionalism. The situation required additional troops and firepower to support the 1st Commando and it was decided to bring in the 2nd Airborne Commando from CFB Edmonton. One of the additions to this increase was an LdSH(RC) reconnaissance troop from CFB Calgary.

This troop was to be led by non-other than a young Lieutenant named **Cameron Ross**. I was among this group of guys, some of which were: **Jim Hodgson**, **Gerry Salmon**, **Tiny Perry**, **Mac Cains**, **Rod McDougall**, **Rick Turner**, **WO Welsh** and many other "Ross" picks. We joined up with the 2nd Airborne Commando in Edmonton and headed to Cyprus. I was thinking on the way over that being this my third tour to Cyprus - maybe I should be in the real estate business there! Oh well, carry-on and see where this one takes you. We had to land in Larnica as the Nicosia airport was closed due to exploded airplanes and other debris.

We made the trip to Nicosia by truck with loaded SMG's in hand. Once there we waited for and finally received our

Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

Lynx's from Germany. The Lynx was a reconnaissance version of an M113 APC with a crew of three. It carried a fixed-mounted .50 cal for the crew commander and a .30 cal mounted outside the operator's hatch. We also carried a LAW, some grenades and SMG's. We quickly painted a big white UN sign on them and began patrols.

Phase 2 was interesting, especially with the 3 a.m. wake-up-call of loud booms and wall shaking concussions. We were now in the middle of a war as Turkish Super Sabres came over our quarters to strafe Greek positions near the Nicosia airport and Turkish troops and tanks began to close in on the city from the North. At this point, as we are receiving request after request from airborne outposts to assist in their extraction, I'm really thinking that with my family at home and the money I'm making to do this, there must be another way to make a living.

The Turks must have had some 300 tanks throughout the north part of island by now and were desperately wanting to take over half of Cyprus, including the Nicosia airport. We were tasked to support the Airborne in defending the airport from either Greeks or Turks. Unfortunately no one in the Airborne figured out that a Lynx versus a tank isn't much of a fight, (scary at times). The Airborne did have decent fire power with 106mm Recoilless Rifles and mortars and fortunately, after considerable challenges by the Turks, they didn't have to use them.

We, the Straths, were involved in many near misses and saw a lot of the fighting incidents too numerous to mention in this short story. A few examples were: assisting the rescuing of two of the Airborne soldiers who were stranded on the roof of the Corona Hotel; the loss of a Lynx to a land mine, (the crew was shaken up but otherwise okay); a Lynx was written-off having taken fairly close mortar fire while moving to the airport to support the Airborne contingent; and, what could have developed into Phase 3, when a lynx patrol was stopped by an aggressive Turkish Army unit challenging their right to go through the area. This eventually brought in the Airborne with their 106mm Recoilless Rifles, mortars, and two more Lynx. I was **Gerry Salmon's** operator and I remember the dust rising as four Turkish tanks began approaching, and my saying to **Gerry**, "should be interesting to see how we fair with the 50 cal's against those things". **Gerry** never stuck for words, smiled and said, "the tracers should scare them". The issue was resolved after about twelve hours and we were able to continue to carry on the patrols in that area.

On return in December, **Rod McDougall** was quoted by the national media as saying, "the Calgary men performed brilliantly while endangered by all the elements of conventional warfare". Also in the same news report, was written, "these men return as the first battle veterans since the Korean War ended in 1953".

The Canadian Airborne Regiment suffered two killed and thirty wounded. We were very fortunate not to have suffered any wounded or killed.

I dedicate this short story to my wife of fifty years, my children and the incredible guys I served with during that short chapter in the Regiment's history.

A Veteran And His PTSD Service Dog

Major (retired) Brian Cameron And Trooper

Nightmare Protection

It was a dark and stormy night (as usual), I could feel my eyes getting heavy as I drifted off to that dreadful sleep. Was tonight going to be just a disruptive sleep or was I in for a full fledged nightmare?

I could see myself running among the rubble of a shelled out village. There was something familiar, but then again maybe it was just a shelled out village. I could hear and see the explosions and bullets whizzing over my head. I could smell the smoke and fear in the air. Everything was getting closer as I quickly ducked into the remains of an old house. My heart was racing, my breathing heavy, I looked up and saw the hollow faces of other soldiers staring at me. Someone, who looked familiar but then again maybe not, passed me a helmet "put this on it'll protect you" rang out in my ears. I seem to remember putting the helmet on, the snugness closed around my head, I immediately felt secure, protected, safe.

I felt something gently touching my cheek. I thought it was sweat or maybe a tear. I could feel my mind racing as I tried to make sense of it. I felt myself slipping away from this unreality as the fog of sleep slowly starting to lift. There definitely was something wet touching my cheek. As my eyes fluttered open in a half sleep world I could just make out my PTSD Service Dog "TROOPER" ever so gently licking my face. As I came closer to reality, I realized **TROOPER** was on my pillow wrapped around my head, like a helmet, gently waking me up.

This was no mean feat for a 2 ½ year old Chocolate Labrador that weighs 60 lbs to come up on my bed, walk between my wife and myself, do her duty of protecting me without waking my wife. I soon realized how grateful I was, for had it been my wife, who realized I was having yet another disruptive dream, I'm sure it would have been a quick elbow to my back and a stern "your dreaming again Wake Up !". Thank goodness it was different tonight, but this was truly the result of the close bonding, that developed over the last 1 ½ years of training with my PTSD Service Dog, my Protector, my Buddy. My wife has been a great supporter and the truth be told I couldn't have made it this far without her, but right now it was my four legged team member, who was there to take the pressure off my wife and help me through that dark night.

The uniqueness of the program at Vancouver Island Compassion Dog Society is that they match rescue dogs with Veterans with PTSD. We both go through the 52 week training program together. We learn from each other, as a tremendous bond develops and makes us a "team". It's a great feeling to know someone has your back.

Last May **Trooper** and I got certified as a "Service Dog Team" through the BC government with their new legislation for Service Dogs. Throughout our time together we have worked on natural (like the reaction when I was having a nightmare) and teachable actions such as fetching my medications, warning me when someone comes up behind me or realizing it is time to leave a situation because I'm overwhelmed and starting to shut down. There are a host of other things that are too numerous to mention right now.

I've had PTSD for the past 20 years. It's like a roller coaster, I have some good and bad days, weeks and years. I found the hardest thing to do is ask for help. I am always fighting the concept that I am not the person I was before. I was always the person that was there to help and support others, certainly not the one that was getting the help. I finally found out that it was ok to ask and accept help. I am lucky to have a very supportive wife and now a 4 legged buddy that I know has my back as well. I am also lucky to realize that there are a lot of people who aren't judging my situation, but rather are willing to provide genuine support and be on my team. As they say "all you have to do is ASK and it shall be PROVIDED". It's hard to do when you have PTSD but I can assure you it is well worth the leap of faith.

Memories of Major W.J. (Danny) McLeod MC CD

Peter Baltgailis

It appears that many Strathconas either do not know, or have forgotten, that **Danny McLeod** commanded our Recce Squadron in Germany from January 1959 until its return to Canada in November of that year. In his remembrance of **LCol Ian Grant**, for example, **Col Ian Barnes** assumes that **Major Grant** was the CO for the squadron's entire tour (Newsletter Fall 2009). I pointed out this error in the 2011 Fall newsletter.

As a former member of our Recce Squadron at Fort Chambly I would like to share with you some of my memories involving **Danny McLeod's** tenure as the CO. First off, I should mention that I had to ensure that the events I was going to dwell on actually took place during **Danny's** command, and not while **Major Grant** was the CO. At times I found it difficult to place some of the occurrences that happened in Fort Chambly in their correct context, because I also served with the Fort Garry Horse Recce Squadron from 1962 to 1965 under **Major (later Col) D.A. Nicholson**. The locale was the same, the units similar except for the addition of helicopters, and like myself, a number of personnel from the Strathcona Squadron had returned to Fort Chambly wearing the Fort Garry Gate Badge, including the CO. As a captain, **Major Nick** had been our Battle Captain in 1959, after finishing his stint as Exchange Officer to the 17/21 Lancers in Paderborn.

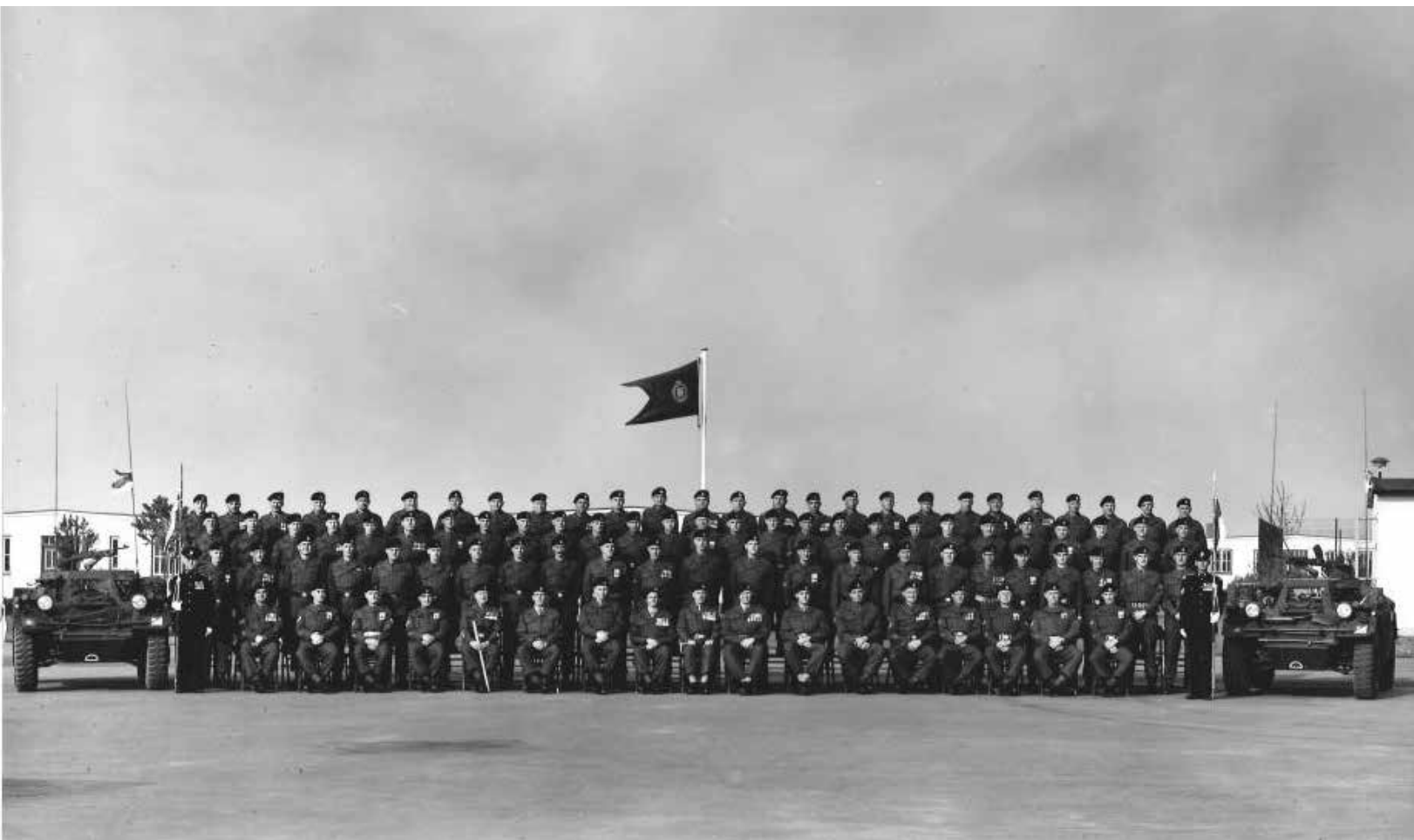
Back to my story. In January 1959, **Major Grant** was posted back to Canada on his promotion to LCol and **Major McLeod** arrived to take over the squadron. What a difference in personalities! **Major Grant** had been very much the British type of senior officer: formal, reserved, a strict adherent to military and social decorum. **Ian Barnes** remembers him having many of the traits and idiosyncrasies of a British gentleman, including long hair and a polka-dotted handkerchief in his serge uniform sleeve – an excellent description – that is how I remember **Major Grant**. I also recall that **Major Grant** addressed only his officers by their first names, never using first names when communicating with other ranks. **Major McLeod**, by contrast, was what I would call the Canadian home-grown variety of officer who preferred a more informal approach. Flamboyant would be a bit too strong an adjective in describing **Danny** – outgoing, dynamic and energetic are better descriptors. In today's parlance you could also call him a jock: physically fit, a non-drinker and non-smoker, an excellent hockey player and all-around athlete. During his command the social differences between officers and other ranks became less marked. **Danny** habitually used first names when talking to the NCOs and men in informal situations.

For all their differences in personality and style of command they had two things in common: both were perfectionists who set high standards for the squadron, and both were decorated veterans of WW2. **Major Grant** had won the DSO in Italy while serving with the Three Rivers Regiment; **Major McLeod** was awarded the MC while serving with the South Alberta Horse in Northwest Europe.

Writing these lines, I noticed my tendency to drop the rank when talking about **Major McLeod**. To me he will always be **Danny McLeod**. On the other hand, it would never occur to me to refer to **Major Grant** as **Ian Grant** – the difference in their personalities is still reflected in the way I talk about them.

Memory Number One: The making of the squadron photographs.

Sometime in the spring of 1959 **Major Danny** decided there should be a pictorial record of our stay in Germany. The first, a typical military group picture, was taken on the parade square outside the SHQ building. The officers and ORs are arranged in four rows: in the first row sitting, legs crossed except for the CO in the center, the other three rows standing in ascending tiers. The assembly is flanked by two Ferrets. Two sergeants in blues holding lances stand on the flanks: **Benny Burgoyne** on the left, **Pat Patterson** the right. I am standing in the second row, number



seven from the left. In the rear, the Squadron pennant is blowing left in a fresh breeze. It is actually held open by two fine wires (**Danny's** decree) since the day was calm. Note that the Ferrets are still armed with the .303 Bren – the .30 cal Browning is still to come.

Photograph number two was a more ambitious project involving the squadron vehicles as well as the personnel. (See 2010 Fall Newsletter). The vehicles form the backdrop for the troops lined up in front. **Danny** arranged and supervised the entire production. The shot was to be an oblique view from above. The roof of the officers' mess provided the platform for the camera. The preparations before the arrival of the photographer were extensive and detailed. The siting of the vehicles was first carefully planned on paper, paying attention to both spacing and symmetry. Their locations were then laid out and marked with chalk on the pavement. It looks like most of the B vehicles made it into the picture: we are, however, two scout cars short. They were in various stages of repair in 4 Field Workshops next door. Two Ferrets, minus their engines, were towed over for the photo. Note that all the vehicles look freshly painted. They are not. They have been wiped with a mixture of gasoline and oil, with a dash of olive paint: **Danny's** recipe. A volatile mixture, as **Tpr Zimmerman** found out when he dropped a wrench across the battery terminals of his scout car while shining it. Fortunately he did not incur serious damage to himself: his beret blew off and he lost his eyebrows and moustache.

The photographer, **Herr Streil** from Soest, enjoyed a thriving business taking pictures of 4CIBG units. Arriving in due time he and his assistant set up his camera on the roof of the officers' mess. It was an impressive contraption on a wooden tripod with movable bellows and a black cape under which **Herr Streil** would disappear to adjust the optics. **Danny**, too, took turns under the cape to survey the scenario. **Herr Streil's** English was quite adequate, but **Danny** had me up there as his personal interpreter --- I speak German – to make sure his instructions had been understood. Do Germans roll their eyeballs? If they do, **Herr Streil** would have had ample cause. Der Herr Major ist sehr anspruchsvoll” -- (“the Major is very demanding”) -- he confided to me sotto voce. When everything was ready, we lined up in front of the vehicles, **Danny** called us to attention, **Herr Streil** took several exposures,

and then it was over. The crippled scout cars were towed back to Workshops, the squadron vehicles dispersed to their regular jobs and locations, and all of us returned to our normal routines. I believe that most members of the Squadron bought copies of both photographs – they came attractively framed and ready to hang at what I remember to be a reasonable price. I still have mine.

In May, shortly after the taking of the squadron photographs, we received an invitation from the 17/21 Lancers to attend their Bicentenary Parade and the post-parade celebrations. I was a member of the contingent that went to Paderborn. The parade, which included the Consecration of the Guidon, was spectacular. When it comes to military ceremonial the Brits are hard to beat. The Lancer's band was particularly impressive. **Major Dan** badly wanted a band for our upcoming Brigade inspection, but as a minor unit we were not entitled to the Brigade band for the parade. Here was an opportunity for a solution. He approached the CO of the Lancers with our problem, and **LCol Satterthwaite** graciously offered the services of his band. Thus we were the only minor unit that year to march to the music of a band during the Brigade inspection: 24 bandsmen in dress blues under the baton of Bandmaster **WO1 E.C. Harris** played Soldiers of the Queen as we marched past **Brigadier Cameron** on the reviewing stand at Fort Chambly. We advanced in Review Order to the strains of the British Grenadiers and presented arms to the sounds of the General Salute. The parade was an unqualified success, in large part due to the efforts of **SSM Bill May** who made us pound the parade square for many hours in preparation for the event.

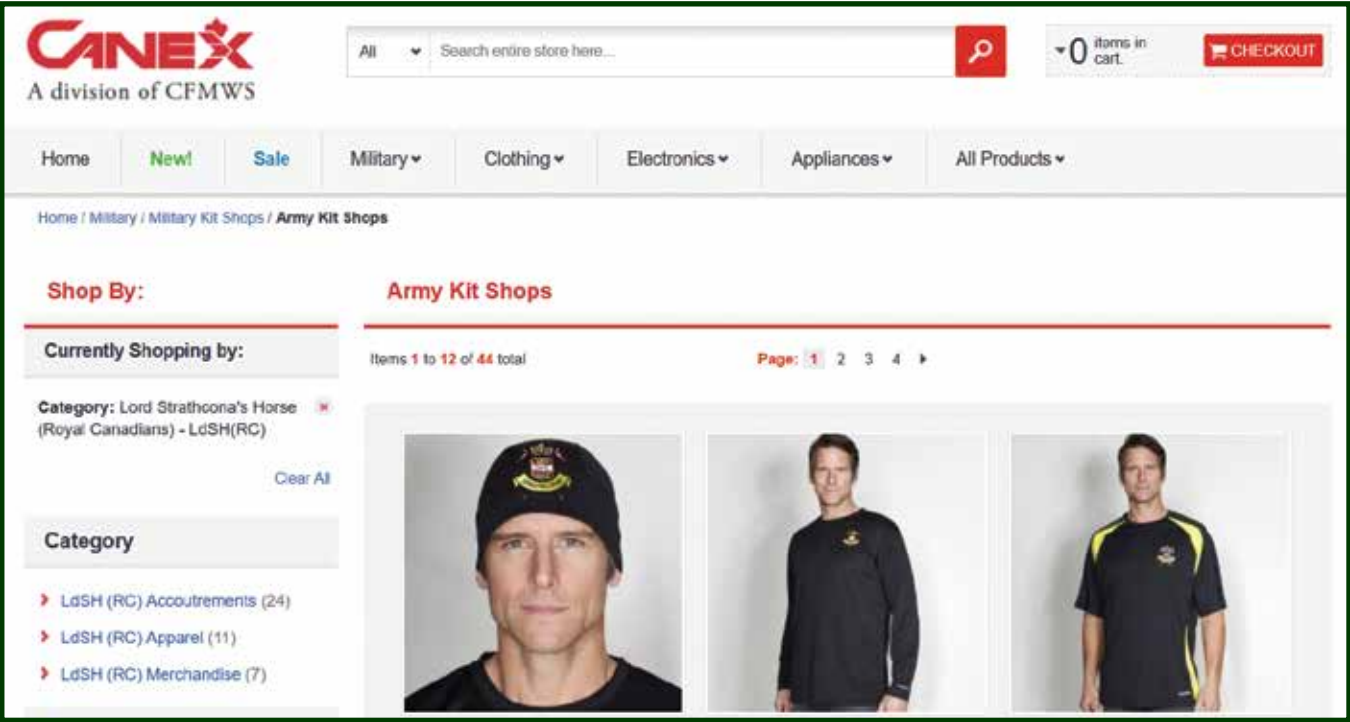
Have you ever tackled an unfamiliar obstacle course in total darkness? We did it during a squadron exercise in the Arnsberg hills, south of Soest. **Danny McLeod** had obtained permission from the commandant of the Belgian Reconnaissance Regiment stationed in Arnsberg to use their sports field for an overnight bivouac. We arrived at the Belgian barracks later than planned, around 0300 hrs. **Danny** decided that there was no point of bedding down at that point. For something to do, he put us through the obstacle course he had discovered on the perimeter of the sports field. It was total pandemonium. By touch and with the help of flashlights, cigarette lighters and matches, all of us, including **Danny**, miraculously made it without serious injury. The only ones to avoid the ordeal were the people of B Echelon whom we had left behind. By rights I should have been with them. I was the Storeman Clerk Corporal in charge of the QM paperwork. **Major Dan**, however, was a firm believer that everybody should gain experience in the field, and on a number of occasions, when I could be spared, I acted as a locum for an absent Ferret crew commander.

The commotion we created woke the Belgian garrison. Lights went on and curious heads appeared in the windows staring in disbelief. Later, in the barracks washroom, I exchanged a few words with a Belgian trooper. He thought we were fous furieux – stark-raving mad. After a breakfast of cold C rations we mounted up and continued the exercise.

I must not forget to mention hockey. **Danny** arrived at the height of the Brigade hockey season and it was natural for him to put on his skates. There were two leagues: one comprising the major units, the other the minors. The Fort Chambly Huskies were a minor team with players from Recce Squadron, 4 Field Workshops, and 4 Ordnance Field Park. **Danny's** skills as a player and leader helped the Huskies make it to the playoffs, after a lacklustre start. He and his old Regimental teammate **Len Camponi**, one of our troop sergeants, were the top scorers. Attendance at the games increased noticeably. It was a pleasure to watch the two working together on the ice.

In October, the advance party of the 8th Hussars arrived and we started the turnover of our vehicles and equipment. In a brief ceremony symbolizing the turnover **Major Danny McLeod** handed over the Squadron Pennant to **Major H.I.T. Macleod**, their CO. Shortly after that we bade auf Wiedersehen to Germany and left by train from Soest to Rotterdam. The SS Empress of Britain took us home to Quebec City.

I am glad to have been able to shed a bit of light on the largely neglected chapter of **Danny McLeod's** career.



Strathcona Merchandise

Many members of the Regimental Family have asked how they can purchase Strathcona Apparel or Merchandise since we no longer have a Kitshop within Regimental lines.

If you are interested in purchasing Regimental Apparel or Merchandise, we encourage you to visit the Canex website: www.canex.ca/military/military-kit-shops/army-kit-shops.html?cat=779

How Can You Help

The Regimental Society is a registered charitable organization. If you are interested in donating, you can find more information on our website: strathconas.ca/how-can-you-help



LAST TRUMPET CALL

• **BENSON, Curtis** 28 April, 2015, Pine Lake, AB

DIXON, Albert 23 March, 2016, Age 87, Vancouver, BC

CHERRY, Douglas 16 June, 2016, Age 83, Calgary, AB

KARWANDY, Frank 26 September, 2016, Age 89, Surrey, BC

MCLEAN, Frederick (Bud) 11 July, 2016, Age 93, Calgary, AB

MILLER, Gary 30 March, 2016, Age 84, Victoria, BC

REID, Henry 16 October, 2016, Age 89, Calgary, AB

SMITH, George 12 July, 2016, Nanaimo, BC

WESTERGARD, Ewald (Wes) 5 May, 2016, Age 85, Mission, BC

YEE, Garvin (George) 15 October, 2016, Age 60, Surrey, BC

In Loving Memory of Wives

ALCOCK, Lorraine (Mike) Medicine Hat, AB

RADLEY-WATERS, Pat (Sydney) Kingston, ON

Our apologies for lack of details in some cases