



Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

REGIMENTAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

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

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Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to

LdSH(RC) Regimental Society

PO Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5



Strathcona Family

Colonel of the Regiment

Colonel Greg Hug

Perseverance – while I first learned about the Regimental motto when I joined the Regiment in June of 1974, our motto was reinforced to me during a winter exercise with 1 PPCLI in January 1975 in the Ghost River area west of Calgary. It was a very cold week with highs of -25 °C and lows of -35 to -40 °C with long winter nights. To break up the tedium of being in a hide all night the squadron commander decided to challenge the troop leaders with an encoding test. Using CANFORANCODE, he asked us what our Regimental motto was. I had to leave my warmish Arctic tent to man the radio in my icebox of a Lynx to receive and answer the message. I was slower to respond than **Lt. Bear Moffat** but I won the competition because I spelt perseverance correctly. The real perseverance that night was not attacking the squadron commander’s tent.

As most of you are aware by now, I had a catastrophic accident in early February that has left me paralyzed. I want to assure all of the Regimental family that our Regimental society is still being run effectively through the strong leadership of all of the members of the Board of Directors. I am unable to chair the meetings going forward, I will continue to be involved and provide guidance and input where appropriate.

On a more personal level, I was pleased that **Maria** was able to participate in the Moreuil Wood activities in mid-March in Edmonton. I am making progress in my recovery, with notable milestones being the ability to talk after a month in hospital, and most recently the ability to eat food in early April. Much of my progress has been the result of the overwhelming support and well-wishes that I have received from so many members of the Regimental family. I have not been able to respond to each of you individually as I would have liked but please accept my sincere thanks for all of your messages of support over the past two months.

The Regiment is in the field in Wainwright undergoing intensive test exercises to confirm that they are at a state of high readiness and ready to undertake operations anywhere in the world in the next year. I am convinced that they will exceed the standards due to their leadership, comprehensive training earlier this year, and the Strathcona spirit.

As with every year there will be changes this coming summer with a new CO, RSM, and many others within the Regiment. The strength of our Regimental family will ensure that we have a smooth transition and continue to meet the high standards going forward.



Commanding Officer

Lieutenant-Colonel Josh Major

This newsletter article, my final one as the CO, comes from the deepest, darkest part of the Wainwright training area as the Strathcona Battle Group (BG) conducts Combat Team day and night live fire training. It is also incredibly late for submission (16 days to be exact!!!). Despite my best intentions, I was inevitably drawn away from writing by live fire training, BG dry training, and firing 0.50 caliber sniper rifles. It is snowing pretty hard now, so it seems like a good time to finally get this to **Kathy**.

Before continuing with the usual updates on Regimental activities, I would like to say a few words about the unfortunate accident involving the Colonel of the Regiment. Many details and updates have been sent to keep the Regimental Family apprised of the situation. A very special mention to **Col (ret’d) Mike Appleton** and **Bear Moffat** for their efforts in assisting the Hug family and keeping people updated on the situation. I was fortunate to be able to visit the CoTR in the hospital and spend about an hour with him and **Maria**. I was struck by his determination, spirit, and perseverance. Although he still has a long and difficult road ahead, his strength is an inspiration. We wish him and **Maria** all of our support as they continue on their journey.

The Regiment continues with its aggressive training pace as it prepares to be declared operationally ready to deploy

to meet the demands of the Government of Canada. The Strathcona BG has successfully conducted Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE II, Ex STEELE BEASTS, and Ex PROMETHEAN RAM. Each of these exercises has served as a building block to the next and have positioned the BG to excel during Ex MAPLE RESOLVE. In addition to these High Readiness training events, the Regiment also conducted Ex STEELE WINTER that saw members of the Regiment conduct winter survival training (complete with a rabbit as their only food) before honing their winter mobility skills. As part of our commitment to ensuring soldiers participate in exciting and relevant training, the Regiment has sent personnel on exercises in Chile, Germany, Poland, Quebec, and the United States over the past four months.

In addition to the high training tempo, the Regiment also organized and participated in a number of sports and developmental activities. The Regiment was the OPI for an extremely successful Ex STRONG CONTENDER. We displayed our strength and determination with a third place overall finish and gold medals in curling and ball hockey. Prince of Wales activities continued with multiple Command Team challenges, Sport Competitions, and inspections. After dominating the competition for three years, B Sqn was defeated by an impressive A Sqn. Due to the reputation and initiative of some of our members, the Regiment also hosted multi-platinum heavy metal band **Megadeth** for an afternoon prior to their Edmonton concert. While we are renowned for working hard, we certainly showed the band members we also play hard with several of our members participating in a post-concert private party (details of which might never be truly known). We also had several members go to Whistler to participate in a Bobsleigh camp with the Canadian Bobsleigh team. This event certainly tested the courage and determination of our members. We reciprocated with some field trg for the team and we had the great privilege to show them (led by two time Olympic Gold Medallist **Kaillie Humphries** and Bronze Medallist **Chris Le Bihan**) our soldier skills and professionalism. It was a great time and a true bond has been established between our organizations. They vowed to have their revenge after section attacking up a hill by scheduling another camp in Calgary that will include full strength training, Bobsleighbing, and skeleton runs. Thankfully, I will not be around.

All of these accomplishments require time, energy, and dedication. We have all spent many weeks from home during the past year on Road to High Readiness training. There is no way we could maintain our level of excellence without the tremendous support of our families. Your strength in managing the home front while we train to be ready to fight tonight is humbling. Please accept my thanks for allowing us to excel. This thanks also extends to the members of our extended Regimental family. You have allowed us to provide our soldiers with unparalleled support. The strength and importance of the Regimental Family was, and continues to be, on full display in support of Col Hug and Maria. It is something that sets us apart and makes me truly proud to be a Strathcona.

I write this article as **LCol Mark Lubiniecki** returns to Ottawa after having spent some time in the field with the Regiment. Our troops will be in excellent hands as **Mark** is a tremendous leader and soldier. He and **MWO Clarke** are just the right people to lead the Regiment during High Readiness and I wish them all the best. Thank you all for your support over the past two years. It was greatly appreciated and I look forward to interacting with you in the future.



Tales from the Big Chair

Chief Warrant Officer Tony Batty

I am pleased to say that the weather this spring has been unlike last year with the stereotypical white outs and sub-zero temperatures.

It goes without stating the obvious that the Regiment has been hard at it, as we are mid-way through the throes on the road to high readiness. Black Hat week came and went in November where during that time of professional development the Career Manager came to either shatter or bolster individuals’ career aspirations.

Then, all in total control, the Regiment enjoyed the bounty of the Soldier’s Christmas

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Dinner and in true fashion, sports were held prior to. Unfortunately this year the Officers regained some lost face as the Sarcee Room took the horse's ass trophy. Although it has to be said that perhaps this was due to the aging process that allowed the “sports challenged” to be successful.

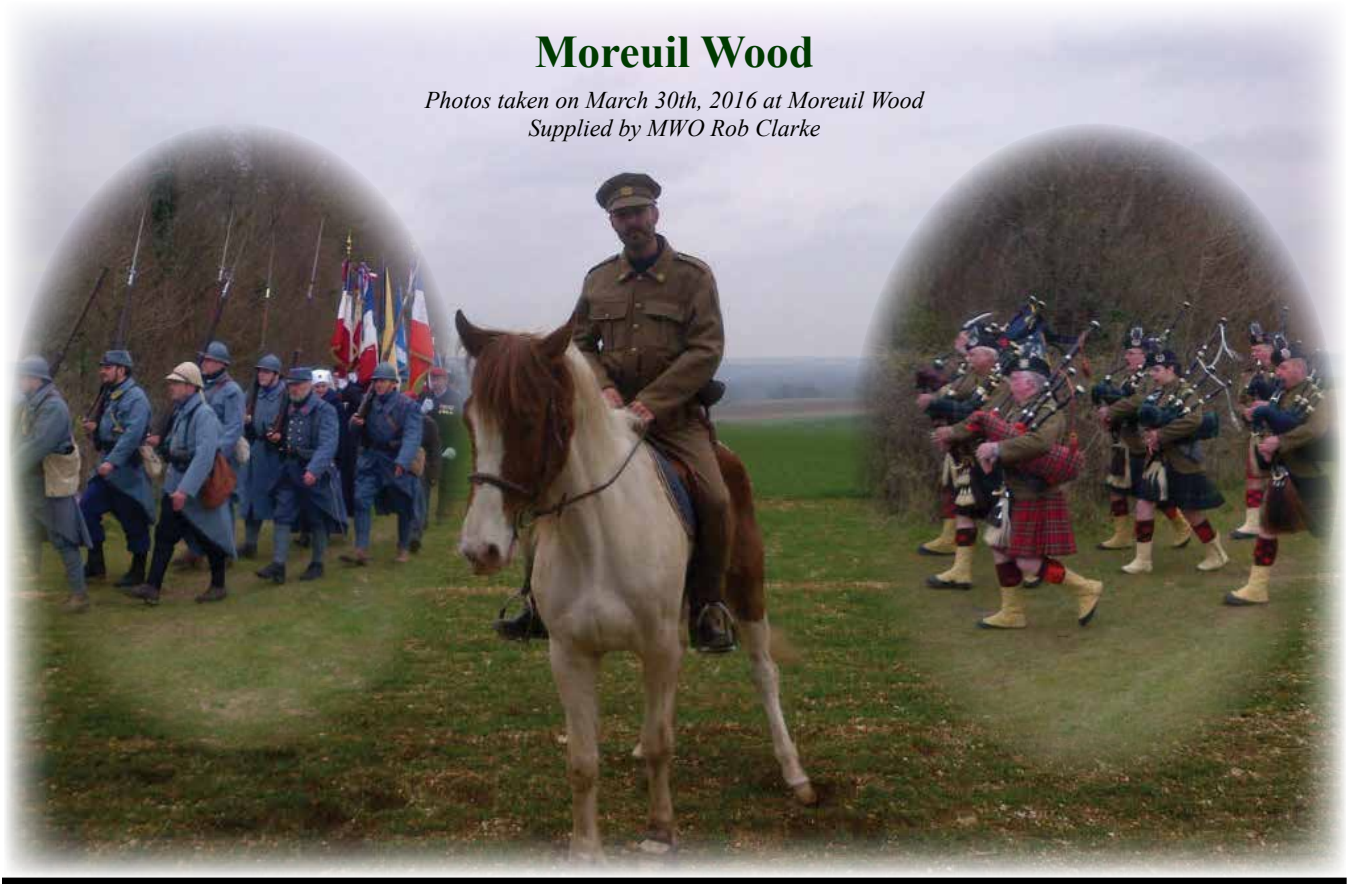
Early in the New Year, the CO and I went to visit the 3rd Armoured Regiment in Brazil. The intent of this visit was to set up another Reciprocal Unit Exchange (RUE) to allow the soldiers to cross train and gain great experience with Brazilian counterparts, who also use the Leopard 2. I am pleased to say the visit was a great success, although only 48 hours in length, and I am certain that the soldiers selected will enjoy their time when selected to participate.

After the whirlwind tour of Brazil the CO and I travelled to Texas, where soldiers belonging to the LdSH(RC) Battle Group (BG) were in attendance. The LdSH(RC) BG contained soldiers from A Coy 1 PPCLI, B Coy 2 PPCLI and 1 RCHA. Over a 2 week period the BG enhanced its skills and spent valuable time learning how to work as a viable fighting unit in a simulated environment. Again we were hosted admirably by the 3rd Armoured Cavalry Division.

Immediately following Texas, we returned to Edmonton to prepare for Moreuil Wood, and the CO and I went on a leader’s Recce to Wainwright, which perhaps is why the Mariner Room had such a poor showing during the annual Moreuil Wood Sports day! The Recce was in preparation for Exercise Promethean Ram, as the exercise name alludes there will be a consummate amount of fire and manoeuver during the April/May time frame.

This will be my final article for the newsletter as I hand over the reigns of RSM to **MWO Rob Clarke** this June. I am still amazed at how fast the last three years have flown by. I look forward to hearing of the continuous success of the Regiment in the coming years.

If you are able to attend the Change of Command/Change of Appointment parade on June 23rd, I look forward to seeing you then. If not, then I do sincerely hope our paths will cross again. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve as your Regimental Sergeant-Major.



Moreuil Wood

*Photos taken on March 30th, 2016 at Moreuil Wood
Supplied by MWO Rob Clarke*

Regimental Association

Peter Wonderham

I am intentionally leaving this update short as it would be nice to fill our pages with stories and letters from Association/Old Guard members. To that end I would appreciate and encourage members to put some of their thoughts on paper so we can all enjoy them. Embellished or not a good story from the past always bring back many fond memories. I truly look forward to the next edition.

The Association is well. We have 272 on our books for the 2016 year. Numbers are slightly down, however, new members are coming on board every day. (keeps **Slider** busy running back and forth to the PO Box). We still miss attracting the busy new fellas but this will happen with time.

We will remember and miss those member who left us in 2015. We have always made a special effort at each meeting to pay our respects to those proud Strathconas. Their names are published in our meeting minutes and those are posted on our Association website.

Our meeting in January drew a good crowd and the Regimental Association Executive was voted in for the 2016 year. There were not a lot of change in the executive. We remain, as myself president, **Howie** Vice, hard pressed by a vote off with **Brad Norman** our Secretary and **Clair Lane** as our figures man. With a nod from **Mary**, **Slider** will stay on as Membership Chairman of his committee. We also had a great addition to our executive with **Tom Falls** currently chairman of the Edmonton Branch coming on as the 2nd Vice for the Regimental Association. Thank you to all of them.

I believe all who get the "Enews" are kept up to date with the events put on by Chapters in Victoria, Kingston as well as the Ottawa group. I should also prepare you for the next big Golf/Dinner extravaganza held in Calgary, 20 August 2016 and chaired by the "Rain Man" **Brad Norman** and his spousal committee. I am also very pleased with a long standing initiative headed in Calgary by **Brad** and in Edmonton area by **Alex Graf** of a "wing night". These are put on as time and group availability permits and "forms harbour" of many mid generation Members to local pubs for an informal gathering with wings and beverage. I know the next one in Calgary is 15 April at the "Point and Feather".

I would on behalf of all members thank the RSM, **Mr. Batty** for all he has done for our Old Guard and of course the soldiers. A "thank you and farewell" luncheon is planned in Calgary. More details will be forthcoming as **Mr. Batty** advises us of his handover schedule.

In closing this update, the Association has written the Colonel of the Regiment a couple of short "get well" notes and on behalf of all of us we wish **Colonel Greg Hug** a speedy and full recovery as our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family.

Lost Trails

*Fall 2015 Newsletters which have been returned by Canada Post as undeliverable.
If you have updated contact information on these individuals, please let us know.*

BENSON MC - Pine Lake, AB

PITTS H - Victoria, BC

BRADLEY C - Edmonton, AB

SANFORD EJ - Bremerton, WA USA

GEORGE W - Calgary, AB

SCANDRETT D - Surrey, BC

LEASK J - Medicine Hat, AB

SMITH B - Calgary, AB

MCKENZIE EL - Nanaimo, BC

STANLEY TJ - Winnipeg, MB

OLSON H - Edmonton, AB

WHITE JR - Ottawa, ON

Your Dispatches

The article written by **Major (Retired) Brian Cameron** about his service and his subsequent trials and tribulations and what he was finally about to find a way to handle his PTSD was well written, was eye opening and well overdo. I want to thank him for stepping up to describe what he went through and how it affected him for years before coming forward to find what he needed. I also want to thank the editorial staff for putting it into the Newsletter. How many others are out there with PTSD who don't know where to turn or want to keep to themselves? We need more members with the courage to step forward as **Brian** did to explain what they are going through that will in the end show others that they are not alone and that there are people and ways out there for them to turn to in there time of great need. I am also happy to see that the Units in the 3rd Division is working with Aboriginal youth on the Bold Eagle project. They need to learn from their elders of the pride in their heritage and direction to something that they can achieve. It is long overdue because many Aboriginals served in WW1, WW2, Korea and many since so that we all have the freedoms and lives that we have and that they should also have. Thank you again.

Clair Lane

Well said, **Clair**. We too are hoping that we will get more contributions such as those we printed in our last Newsletter from **Brian** and **Wayne Federation**. These help foster understanding and hopefully will encourage all of us to do more to support our colleagues who suffer this tragic disorder. **Ed**.



Hi there. In your Fall 2015 Newsletter, you had an article by **Brian Cameron**. I'm the "**Bob Black**" he mentions in the article and I would like to reconnect with **Brian**. If you could give him my email address, I would appreciate it. And kudos for an excellent newsletter.

Bob Black
bobbblack@me.com

Thanks for the note **Bob**. We have sent an email to **Brian** with your email address and hope the two of you have the opportunity to connect. **Ed**

Dear folks,

My name is **Tim Marshall** and I am a former 8 CH and RCD junior officer based in Petawawa from 1985 to 1988 and my ERA was with the Tank Project in Ottawa until I left the military on a medical release in 1991. I am trying to remember the name of an WWII RCAC vet I hosted at a mess dinner sometime while at Royal Military College from 1981 to 1985; He may have been a Strathcona and I will try to relate the details as I remember from talking with this gentleman.

I may be wrong, but I think his last name was **Shackleton**. He had survived a number of Shermans being knocked out, nine or more if I recall correctly. He also served in some capacity in the Middle East as we spoke at length about his impression of Arab and Israeli combat ability. I don't recall meeting him any time after that.

There is no particular reason for the request other than just being upset with myself for not remembering the man's name. I sometimes enjoy discussing WWII Canadian Army history with old friends with whom

I served in peacetime. If you could help me or further direct me, I would be most grateful.

Thank you in advance.

Tim Marshall
tim.marshall.t23@gmail.com

Tim, we are sure the Strathcona gentleman you met was **Maj (ret'd) Norman (Moe) Shackleton**. **Moe** lived in Kingston for many years after retiring from the Army and was very involved with the local equestrian community. Unfortunately, **Moe** passed away a decade or so ago but there is still a large number of people in Kingston who remember him well. **Ed**.

Please find enclosed a cheque, being donated in tribute to my father, **Henry Dick Watson**, who passed away on November 17th, 2015. My father was a war veteran and spent his full career in the military and was a lifelong supporter of the Strathconas.

Diamond Watson-Hill

Diamond, many thanks for your donation. Your father had many friends in the Strathconas and throughout the Armoured Corps. He is sadly missed by all. **Ed**.

Dear Editors,

Have just completed the fall 2015 Newsletter and it remains a welcome arrival in the post. It was interesting to find a picture of my son **Mark** in that issue, who is now also retired from the regiment. My grandson and I had a great time climbing all over one of the Regiment's tanks at the Calgary Stampede last year. He treasures the photo of us taken by the very helpful crew that was on hand.

My wife Lynn and I continue to enjoy our retirement in a good hull-down position here in south-western Alberta.

Keep up the great work,

Rick Bell
rbellmaj@gmail.com

Good to hear from you, **Rick**. Hopefully your grandson will be the third generation Strathcona! We hope you have many more years in that hull-down position because the next position comes with a lot of overhead cover. **Ed**.

To whom it may concern.

My father **James Mahony Jesson** (regimental number 552288) was a Trooper in the Strathcona Horse through most of WW1. Can you confirm for me which battles he took part in, especially Moreuil Wood.

Thank you. The information will be very helpful as I have almost completed a family history.

Regards

Denis Mahony Jesson

Unfortunately, **Denis**, our archives do not provide us with the level of detail that would enable us to identify the soldiers involved in each battle. Have you obtained a copy of your father's service record from the National Archives? There may be some information there. **Ed**.

I was in a Charity Shop in Victoria BC last week and there I saw a "Glass Bottomed Pint Pewter Mug" with your Regimental Crest on it and also engraved on it is the following: -- PRESENTED TO **L T F. G. LEGG** BY THE REGIMENTAL OFFICERS ON POSTING 6. SEPT.64-- and I bought the mug and am wondering who Lt Legg is? I am an Englishman and very interested in history and it would be nice to know the history of Legg and the mug.

Tony Joseph
denisehebden@yahoo.com

For many decades it was a tradition in the Strathconas (and many other units) to present an officer with a pewter mug on his departure from the Regiment on posting or release. That practice has now lapsed,

so some day those mugs may become rare and valuable but not at the present time – I have about 20 myself and am under spousal pressure to find a home for them. If anyone has information on **Lt. Legg**, please contact Tony at the above email address. **Ed**

Editor;

I just noticed in the Fall 2015 issue that **J. Lank** of Barrie was cited in the LOST TRAILS section. I think that may have been **RSM Joe Lank** and I expect he must have been included in the LAST TRUMPET CALL section some time ago. In case he was not, I found the following on-line:

LANK, Joseph - (Rank on Retirement R.S.M. (W01) Fort Garry Horse, Formerly LDSH (R.C.) 1 Jun/37 – 1 Oct/57) - Passed away at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie on Tuesday, September 12th, 2006. Joe Lank of Barrie in his 87th year. Beloved husband of Ruth and predeceased by his son Ronald. Cremation has taken place.

One of the really interesting aspects of my own service with the Regiment was that my Dad (**George Tomlinson**) served with the Regiment during WWII, first in A Squadron and later as the QM. My service was post war and many of his WWII pals were still in the service and I got a kick out of meeting so many of them. One of them was **Joe Lank** whom I met while in Borden. The last time I saw Joe was in a diner in Angus. I was touring some of my old digs in Ontario and Joe was on his way home from Borden. The first thing he said to me was; "I've just come from burying "**Perky**". That was our "**Perky**", **Major Edward J.Perkins**, of Melfa River fame. It was a chance meeting but I have such a fond memory of the incident. We had a great talk and the event caused me to recall my visit to

Perky's orchard along with my Dad some years earlier. **Perky** was a quiet spoken unassuming man who hardly seemed like the 'hero' we've come to see him as.

Rod Tomlinson
rltomlinson@shaw.ca

Thanks, Rod. We make those occasional boo-boos to keep out readers alert. But seriously, **Joe** was a good soldier and totally likeable character who served the Strathconas and Fort Garrys well. We should have caught that error and recognized his passing earlier. Mea culpa. **Ed**.

My name is **Peter Robertson CD2** retired and I am seeking help in tracking down an old friend and colleague **Derald Carroll**. I had the pleasure of working with **Derald** in C squadron and Recce Squadron in the late 70's and early eighties..... wow I'm getting old. I appreciate any help that can be sent my way in locating an ole pal. My contact info is peterjohn651@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Peter Robertson

Peter, hopefully **Derald**, or someone who knows him, will see this and contact you. **Ed**.

Fellow Strathconas:

Read the newly published book "IN FLANDERS FIELD", (KNOPF Publications), it is a collection of fantastic Canadian articles from **Margaret Atwood** to **Jon Vance** honouring the service of Canadians on the 100th Anniversary of the poem of the same name.

An outstanding book which expresses the Regimental concept of service both by serving members and their families.

Aye,

Bill Henry

Thanks for the heads up, **Bill**. **Ed**

Good Day

I am a former Strath, having served in 1979-1980 when the regiment was stationed in Calgary. I recently got in to a discussion with someone about this. I had told him that at the time the LdSH were at Sarcee barracks and the PPCLI were stationed at Currie barracks. He is insisting that there was no such thing as an army regiment stationed at Sarcee, and that Sarcee is only a housing complex. Is there any way you can show me how to find out more about this, and the history of the Straths there, so I can show this person I am not making it all up?

When I served my immediate Corporal above me was **Corporal Gardner** who later became RSM (June 98 – Nov 2000) and I also served with former Commanding Officer **D.C. Hilton** (Feb 98- June 2000) who was a Second Lieutenant at the time.

One never forgets what it means to have been a Strathcona. I still remember my days there and my time as a Strathcona. I even have a couple of articles in the Strathconian, including a poem entitled “Ode to a BZT” which I penned while I was in Cypress. Of course being relatively short, wearing glasses at the time, and being known as the go to person for information I was nicknamed Radar.

Robert Howell
r.howell@tempbridge.ca

Bob, here is the full story for you to pass on to your "Doubting Thomas" friend - and for everyone else who has forgotten the Calgary Garrison history. **Ed**.

In 1910 the government leased a parcel of land from the Sarcee Indian Reservation near the future site of Currie Barracks and established the Sarcee Camp and training area. The 10th and 50th battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force were raised and trained at Sarcee Camp, which grew enormously during the First World War.

The camp, however, did not become a permanent military camp until 1957, when it was re-named Sarcee Barracks. In 1958, The Lord Strathcona's Horse relocated to Sarcee Barracks from Currie Barracks. In 1968, Sarcee Barracks and Currie Barracks were merged into one base to become Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Calgary, although the names Sarcee and Currie continued to be used.

Sarcee Barracks was re-named Harvey Barracks in 1981. The same year, the Sarcee Training Area was returned to the Tsuu T'ina First Nation, although the Army continued to lease part of the training area from 1985-1996. In the mid 1990s, a reorganization and consolidation occurred within the Canadian Military. Several bases were either downsized, merged or closed and as a result, CFB Calgary closed on 21 June 1997. 1 CMBG (and the Strathconas) relocated to CFB Edmonton's Griesbach Barracks, subsequently re-named as Steele Barracks.

I served with **Lt PA Neatby** in Korea, my last battle with **PA Neatby** was on hill 355 Oct 1952 when the Chinese hit us hard on Oct 23, at that time we had a near hit in front of the tank by a 122 mm incoming shell. I always remember him as a fine officer he had replaced **Lt Ward** who also was a fine officer. At one time acting as a loader for **Pap Ryan** on three rounds gunfire I was worried I would not do it right and lose my fingers in the breech housing. I often wonder what created the Neatby pace stick and if he is still alive? I also remember having to clean the horse stables in Calgary for being late on parade. But as an old strat, I love horses.

Bruce Wareing
rbwareingcd@hotmail.com

MGen Phil Neatby is very much alive and well and living in Kingston, ON. **Gen Phil** served as our Colonel of the Regiment from 11 Nov 82 to 11 Nov 86. On leaving this appointment he presented the Neatby Pace Stick which is awarded annually to the Warrant Officer on Regimental Duty who has achieved the highest standard of general proficiency. **Ed**

We've all spent good and not so good times at CFB Borden; nice to read about some of the history behind it.

Follow the link to get information on the 100 years celebration and history of CFB Borden.

<https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/100-years-of-canadian-forces-base-borden-270280>.

Regards

Digger
J. R. Digger MacDougall

Thanks for bringing this to our attention, **Digger**. Hopefully some of our Ontario-resident Strathconas at least will be able to visit our old training centre this year for a trip down memory lane. **Ed**



I recently bought this jacket at a thrift store and am wondering if anyone can ID/date it for me?

Debbie Reid

OK, **Debbie**, we will put the memories of our readers to the test by publishing this. We will probably get several different answers so we will send them all to you and let you pick the one you like best. **Ed**

Your Photos



As you can see he is still going strong. **MWO Tom Holland, Chris Kitching, and Maj Dossev** visited **HCol John Swanton** on the occasion of his 95th birthday. He was dressed as always, formally with regimental insignia. He received cards from **LCol Major** and the Cmdt as well.

He gave a short speech to thank us for coming and mentioned some of his history. As he said, he thought when he joined the Army they would put him in the Hussars as he was from New Brunswick. He and some others were in a tent in Italy, just having arrived, when someone came and got them all and said they were going to join the Strathcona's because they had lost several men. John stated that it wasn't until he arrived at the Regt, that he realised it was "**the**" Regt in the Armour Corps. A quaint way to put it. After that he couldn't say enough about how happy it made him to be a member.

It is great to see "**Col John**" looking so fit and healthy. He has been a great supporter of the Strathconas in Gagetown as well as members of the Corps in general. **Ed**.



City Sqn picture from Cyprus 1988
provided by Sean Cowperthwaite Retired WO 1985-2005

Thanks, **Sean**. You can bring back memories but not your youthful looks. Right? **Ed**.

Your Photos...continued



L to R: MCpl Francis Graham, MCpl Jason Loykowski, Maj Fred Hayward, MCpl Travis Paskuski and Sgt Gordon Carnevale
Wainwright AB

Some scary sights! The Lotus Land Lancers had a tremendous Moreuil Wood gathering at the Sidney Yacht Club organized by Dave Letson. The photo taken by Paul Ellard. It was great having the Milners and Gervais out west (house hunting trips?).

FRONT ROW (L to R) Patti Ross, Heather Dean, Shirley Milner, Sandra Gervais, Gwen Patterson, Claudette Lake
STANDING (L to R) Paul Ellard, Clive Milner, Darrell Dean, Bill Donaldson, Adele Donaldson, Richard Kitcher, Jim Gervais, Dave Sproule, Bernie McNicholl (F), David Scandrett (R), Peter Furnell, Paul Philcox, Fred Berge, Rollie Keith, Roy Cooper, Gary del Villano, Pat Patterson, William Hampson, Georges Bordet, Cam Ross, Stephanie Lake, Gene Lake, Dave Letson, Ted Swansburg, Paul Crober.

We are pleased to see that this very popular gathering of BC Black Hats is continuing as an annual event. Ed.



Strathcona's in Wainwright

Sgt Gordon Carnevale

Even though we are away from the regiment we still keep try and keep the regimental traditions alive. For we are greatly outnumbered by the infantry it is easy to be forgotten or lost amongst the sea of green berets. We black hatters stick together as much as possible to remind ourselves of our traditions.

For most, Moreuil Wood events mean traveling back to the mother ship and are a good chance to see and talk with old friends. But not all Strathcona's can always attend. So under the idea of Major Fred Hayward, we came up with a way that we could include as many Strathcona's in Wainwright as possible and held our own 98th Celebration for Moreuil Wood. We came up with the best way possible to integrate not only Strathcona's but also our brothers from the east (RCD's) and of course the few Fort Garry Horse that we have here to help us Celebrate the gallantry that is Strathcona History. On 15th Mar 2016 at the Warrant and Sgt's Mess we gathered and listened to MWO Marcel Chenier give a brief on the battle and the importance it plays in our history. It was a good reminder that just because were not at the regiment that were not still a part of it. This year has seen an improvement in Strathcona events starting last year with Remembrance Day and now with Moreuil Wood.

Back Row: Cpl Grant Skaarup, MCpl Travis Paskuski, MCpl Francis Graham, Cpl Ben Kroker,
Sgt Mike McGarity, Cpl Allistar Gordon, Cpl Dave Symington.

Front row: Sgt Ryan Torney, Capt Charles Prince, MWO Marcel Chenier, Maj Fred Hayward, Capt Matt Hoffart, Sgt Gordon Carnevale



Diaries of a UN Soldier

***WO Marvin MacNeill, CD** served with the Regiment during deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina with UNPROFOR in 1994 and in 1999 with Recce Squadron while in Kosovo with KFOR. He maintained a diary while so deployed which he has shared with others on Facebook. With his permission, excerpts from his diary are being shared with our readers. Installment One was printed in the Fall 2014 edition of the Newsletter, Installment Two was printed in the Spring 2015 and Installment three was printed in the Fall 2015 edition. We are indebted to Marv for sharing his diary with us. As this will be the last instalment that we will publish, we are hoping that someone will come forward with a similar series from Afghanistan. (Ed.)*

Installment Four

*****SUNDAY 12 JUN 1994***** The 2330 to 0230 was once again very quiet mostly in part due to the bad weather. I spent tonight’s shift with MCpl Phil Ward. The fog was still around the OP so we had to do roving patrols around the area to make sure everything was secure. I went to bed after my shift and was up today at 0900. We spent the day cleaning up around the OP and got everything ready for the hand over with the next patrol. We continued on with the OP shift throughout the day and the Tp WO finally arrived at 1700. We did a quick hand over brief and loaded the garbage and our pers kit onto the trucks and then we were on our way back to Visoko. The ride back to the camp was at times pretty scary today going back down the mountain due to all the rain we were having. After the 2 ½ hour “death ride” down we made it back to camp just in time to catch the tail end of dinner. Afterwards, I went back to my tent and unpacked my kit and went for a shower. I spent the rest of the evening in the Junior Ranks and had a few beer thanks to Jean Chrétien! I packed it in and went to bed around 2200.

*****MONDAY 13 JUN 1994***** I was up this morning at 0700, did my morning routine and went for breakfast. It was nice to eat at the kitchen again after eating rations most of the past week. We were on the vehicles for 0830 and we did a quick check of the vehicles and made sure that all the TOW systems still worked. After the checks we were let go at 0930 to get some pers adm done this morning. We were on state “Orange” today (frag vests, helmets and pers weapons carried) due to the British Sector Commander, General Sir Michael Rose, was coming to our camp. At 1115 I went for lunch and by noon we were mounted on the MLVW trucks getting ready to go back to the over watch position at OP Romeo 1. We finally arrived at Romeo 1 at around 1400 after a short delay with the BiH checkpoint that was located on the road heading up to the OP. (We had to explain to the local soldiers that we were simply replacing the troops and not sending additional troops up to the position.) There had been an agreement while we were gone as well, to save wear on our own vehicles and the local roads it was easier to conduct the change around in this manner. Romeo 1 had become a mud bog with the tracked vehicles doing a handover every 24 hours plus all the rain did not help matters. We continued on the rest of the day with our over watch task.

*****TUESDAY 14 JUN 1994***** During my shift from 2300 to 0200 both sides started fighting again. All the shots I heard were mostly small arms fire. During my shift I watched the shift change of the BiH soldiers and noticed a large increase of the number of soldiers and weapons in their fighting positions. The number of soldiers appeared to have doubled since the last time we were on Romeo 1. They are starting to work on their defences in the trench lines and bunkers. After my shift I just went to sleep in the back of my vehicle as we were being replaced this morning at 0800. The replacement patrol did not show up until around 1130 today due to the fighting had picked up in the area and the trucks were not allowed to leave camp. We finally made it back around 1230 and closed up the vehicles and went for lunch. After we ate, we went to the vehicle park and cleaned up the mud that was all over the vehicles. With the troop rotating in and out the same vehicles for about a week it took us a few hours to get them back in shape. When the vehicles and weapons were cleaned we went back to our tent and I spent the rest of the afternoon cleaning my own pers kit. After dinner I went for a shower and found some mail had arrived today. I got my second parcel from mom and a bunch of other letters from my family. I just bagged out the rest of the night since sleeping in the carrier last night was not very good.

*****WEDNESDAY 15 JUN 1994***** Our patrol was up at 0600 this morning. Went for breakfast and were on the vehicles by 0730. We were taking another patrols (72) vehicles out to the range at Kiseljak this morning to test fire and boresight their weapons since they were tasked up at OP Kilo Foxtrot. The drive only takes about an hour to get there. It was such a nice day to go for a drive through the valley today. We got to the range, had a quick brief and fired the weapons. The FCS techs came along and adjusted the guns to the sights so they were shooting on target.

We finished up pretty quick and we were on the road back to the main camp by 1000. When we arrive back at camp we closed down the 72 vehicles and went for lunch. After we ate, we got our gear together and headed down to load up on the trucks this time and begin our move back up to Romeo 1. The fighting today had calmed down so trucks were allowed to do the shift change again today. It had clouded over a bit this afternoon but at least it did not rain. We carried on with our regular routine of doing over watch in the vehicles. There was only a light amount of small arms fire happening today but we were still noticing a large amount of extra BiH soldiers on the position and they keep bringing up supplies to make better defences. We are thinking that the BiH might start an offensive soon if this keeps up!

*****THURSDAY 16 JUN 1994***** The truck with the new patrol arrived around 0900 this morning. We are trying to get the change around done earlier in the morning now so we can get maintenance done as well as some down time and rest before we head back up to the OP. We don't really sleep while at the OP we just lie down and get some rest in between the shifts. After the short drive back to the main camp, we were back around 0930 and I spent most of the morning getting all my kit clean from the mud at the OP. After lunch I went for a shower. Today there was a Dutch convoy in the camp (they often stop in to have lunch and get cleaned up before they head to the coast for supplies or to their own camps). While I was getting cleaned up, a bunch of Dutch soldiers came in for a shower. It took me a little by surprise when more than men walked in. I guess there is no separation in the Dutch Army! I really didn't mind so I just kept washing up. I did not even bother to tell them there were separate female showers either. I went back to the tent area and told the guys in the troop what had just happened. It was pretty amazing how many guys needed to go for a shower then! After dinner I went to the Junior Ranks Club and had a few drinks and watched a couple of movies. I said goodbye to a few of the guys who are heading out on block 2 leave tomorrow. Around 2200 I went to bed.

*****FRIDAY 17 JUN 1994***** We were up again at 0600 did the morning routine and were mounted on the truck to head back up to Romeo 1 for 0800. It was another quick drive through Visoko and arrived at 0830. I was on shift fist today in the vehicle because the British Sector Commander along with the Commanding Officer and the Regimental Sergeant Major were coming up to the OP for a look around the area as well to show off the TOW vehicle to the British Commander. They arrived in our location this morning around 1100 and I was tasked to provide local security for the group in other words the Brigadier’s bullet bait! They walked through the BiH trenches and I gave them a brief on our TOW vehicles and they left about an hour later. Fortunately, nothing happened the whole time they were up here. At around 1900 this evening, a Serb sniper wanted to test us and he took a shot at Cpl Aplin and missed us both by a few feet as we were doing the shift change on the vehicle. We heard the crack of the bullet pass right between us! We tried to engage but he was hiding in a good spot and we could not even pick him up on the thermal sight. We just carried on with our normal shift routine throughout the night and everyone kept searching the area where the shot came from the rest of the night. We wanted to find him bad!

*****SATURDAY 18 JUN 1994***** No one was able to find the sniper last night and the rest of the night was pretty quiet. The next patrol came up to replace us at Romeo 1 this morning at around 0830. We loaded back on the truck and headed back to the main camp. We got in about a half hour later and went up to our tents to clean our weapons and pers kit. The sun finally came out again this morning which was a real shock since it has been raining off and on for the past week! When we were finished in the morning we went for lunch then went down for a shower. (No Dutch Army convoy in today and it is always the best time for a shower in the middle of the day just after the cleaners had finished.) We were all given the rest of the afternoon off so we just hung around in the Junior Ranks Club and watched a few movies. After dinner, me and a few of the guys decided to head across camp and go to the Crystal Palace (HQ Building) to drop in on a few friends we have not even seen since we have been here and to check out what their Junior Ranks was like. We had a look around and had our two beer (I think they are a little more cautious on the beer policy over here) and we played a couple games of pool. When we were done we heard that another convoy arrived today so we headed back to the megaplex. When I got back to my tent, I had parcel number 3 from mom! I went to bed around 2130.

*****SUNDAY 19 JUN 1994***** We were up this morning and on the road back out to Romeo 1 by 0800. Today we were not heading up alone as a section of Engineers were coming to the OP with us to help

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out making a better sleeping area at the OP so at least we could have some protection if we got shot at. Someone in the HQ thought this might be a good idea! Once we arrived, the Engineer's went right to work. They had brought up an Engineer APC with a dozer that cleared an area for us along with a load of sandbags in which to start building a wall for protection. We started building around 0900 and finished up around noon. We had run out of sandbags and needed more but they were going to bring those up at a later time. We were pretty happy about this since the sun was out today and it really started to heat up in the afternoon! The rest of the day we continued on with our normal shift routine by having a soldier in each turret of the vehicle doing over watch while the third soldier was on roving sentry. The rest of the patrol just tried to stay in the shade as much as possible as it was well over 30' out today. When I was on shift at midnight I was still wearing my t-shirt in the vehicle because it was so hot!

*****MONDAY 20 JUN 1994***** The truck arrived this morning at about 0830 and we did our handover with the on-coming patrol. We loaded up and headed back to the main camp in Visoko. We arrived around 0930 headed back up to our tent and dropped off our kit. We cleaned our pers weapons for about an hour then headed downstairs to give Cpl Rich Matvij a hand cleaning the MLVW. We had to wash the truck by hand as the power washer was broken. It was caked in mud from all the travelling it has been doing driving back and forth to the OP so this took us the rest of the morning. After lunch, the afternoon was ours to just relax and get cleaned up. I actually wrote a few letters today and just went to the Junior Ranks to watch some news. After dinner I packed my kit and got ready to head back out to Romeo 1 again tomorrow.

*****TUESDAY 21 JUN 1994***** The patrol was up at 0600 this morning, we washed up and went for breakfast. We mounted up on our own vehicles this morning and headed back up to Romeo 1. We left shortly after 0800 and arrived about a half hour later. We did a quick hand over at the location and began our over watch tasking for the day. This afternoon there was a POW exchange happening down at the bridge between OP Mike and OP Papa. The local BiH soldiers were handing over soldiers that they had captured to the BSA for exchange of soldiers they had captured from the BiH. Just when this was happening some BiH soldiers started shooting at our own soldiers that were monitoring the exchange. We moved our vehicle up to gain better observation and I tried to locate the shooters. We did have authority to engage if we found them but due to the thick vegetation we were never able to locate their position. The whole situation was very tense and the reserve soldier we had in the troop started to crack under the pressure of the whole incident. Everything quieted down after a few hours and the exchange was done. We had to take the young reservist and have a talk with him about the way he acted. I know things were a little tense but you just can't act the way he did! Sgt Hoppe made him just provide local security for us the rest of the time he was up here just to keep an eye on him. He did not want him manning the weapons system for the rest of the time we were up on Romeo 1. This made our shifts a little longer as we were down one less person to man the turret so our shifts were now 3 hours at a time. Other than the odd shot the rest of the day everything was pretty normal.

*****WEDNESDAY 22 JUN 1994***** I was on the early shift from 0300 to 0600. Everything was again quiet in the early morning hours. The constant clicking noise on the thermal sight gets pretty annoying after a while and after 3 hours it is probably the longest anyone should sit behind that thing! After my shift was over at 0600 I just decided to stay up the rest of the time since reveille was at 0700. I noticed a BiH soldier Achmird was also up in the trenches and he invited me down for some Turkish coffee. It has been a few weeks since I saw him last but he still remembered my name. I really hate the taste of coffee and good thing they use small cups to serve it in. I was just being polite when I took the coffee and just dumped it when he was not looking. We just exchanged some small talk until it was time to wake up the rest of the patrol. At 0700 got everyone up, packed my kit, and waited for the next patrol to arrive. Patrol 71 arrived to replace us as 72 had gone to OP Kilo Foxtrot for their rotation. We completed the handover and left the OP. We arrived back in camp around 0900. When we got back, I dropped off my kit and wiped down my rifle. The rest of the day was ours so I went for a shower and did some laundry today. (We did have a laundry system in place where you took it to be cleaned but sometimes it is faster to hand wash things yourself since every second day we were back up at the OP.) The Tp WO came around this evening looking for a pers to escort the duty van to take the local bartenders to their homes when they were done, so I volunteered. At 2330 I went and got our troop ILTIS (jeep) and followed the duty van driving around Visoko taking the bartenders to their homes. It

was great to get out of the camp and drive something (I miss driving!) and see sights of the town I have never seen before. This only took us around an hour so when we got back I went straight to bed.

*****THURSDAY 23 JUN 1994***** We were up again this morning at 0600. I went and washed up and headed down to the kitchen for breakfast. Our patrol loaded back up on to the trucks and headed back out to Romeo 1 for 0800. We did the hand over and carried on with our normal shift rotation for the rest of the day. At 1300 we had some more visitors at the OP location. Today we had the privilege of hosting Brigadier General Jeffery, the Regimental 2nd in Command and the Officer Commanding Combat Support Squadron. During their visit the BSA (Serbians) and the BiH (Muslims) started a major firefight with each side engaging with small arms and machine gun fire. A few round were fired in our direction but missed our position so we did not have the authority to fire back. This was a real shock to the visitors up at the OP and needless to say they did not stay long. They quickly mounted up in their vehicles and headed back to the main camp. After they left, most of the shooting quieted down for the rest of the day. There is nothing like a good firefight so chase the brass off so we did not mind. We carried on with the over watch task and no other major events happened the rest of the day.

*****FRIDAY 24 JUN 1994***** We arrived back in camp a little later this morning as 71 had phone timings before they left. We did the hand over and left Romeo 1 at 0930 and headed back to the main camp. It was another hot one out today so I was pretty happy about getting off the OP. We got back around 1000, closed up the vehicles and our patrol was given phone timings for this morning. My timing was at 1030 so I just dropped off my gear at my tent and went to the phone. I tried to call as many people as I could today and I even tried to call my roommate back in Canada but everyone I tried to call was either not home or the line was busy. After a few minutes with no luck I just gave my phone time to Cpl Strayer and hoped he had more luck than I did! I was not too fussed about this since there was another opening for our troop tonight at 2300. The rest of the day I spent doing more laundry and packing kit to head back out to the OP tomorrow. During the evening I went and watched a few movies and waited around for my phone call home. This time I got through!



Fall 2016 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Fall 2016 Strathcona Regimental Society Newsletter is

4 November 2016.

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

LAST TRUMPET CALL

ALBRIGHT, Eric 24 April, 2016, Digby, NS

ATCHISON, Bill Age 83, 5 January, 2016, Calgary, AB

FALLON, Donald Age 79, 24 February, 2016, Thunder Bay, ON

FLYNN, William Age 90, 3 January, 2015, Calgary, AB

LANK, Joe Age 87, 12 September, 2006, Barrie, ON

LEHMAN, Mike ON

MILLER, Ralph 21 July, 2013, Woodstock, NB

PEARSON, Bob 18 March, 2016, Calgary, AB

RUNIONS, Thomas (Fred) Age 89, 10 April, 2016, Calgary, AB

SALMON, Gerry Age 82, 26 January, 2016, Blind Bay, BC

SOUTHERN, Ron 21 January, 2016, Calgary, AB

THOMPSON, John Age 82, 12 December, 2015, Atlanta, Georgia

VIVIAN, Ken Age 68, 28 November, 2015, Calgary, AB

WILSON, Malcolm (Lucky) 30 September, 2015

In Loving Memory of Wives

LAIRD, Renee (Robbie) Kitchener, ON

RICHARDS, Helen (Bryant) Edmonton, AB

Our apologies for lack of details in some cases