



Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

REGIMENTAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING/FALL 2019

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

In this Edition

2	COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT
3	CO AND RSM ANNUAL REGIMENTAL UPDATE
5	REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION UPDATE
6	HUG PERSEVERANCE AWARD
7	THE FIRST MOREUIL WOOD CELEBRATION IN MONTREAL (ST-JEAN)
7	SPRING 2020 EDITION DEADLINE
8	MUSEUM SURVEY
8	KINGSTON BRANCH OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
8	LOST TRAILS
9	LIFE AFTER THE UNIT - STRATHCONA'S STILL MAKING A DIFFERENCE
10	ITALIAN BATTLEFIELD TOUR
10	THE INTERNMENT OF ALBERT MCBRIDE
12	YOUR PHOTOS
14	ROYAL CANADIAN ARMoured CORPS BLACK HAT LUNCHEONS
15	VISITING SGT RICHARDSON'S GRAVE
15	CP RAIL/REGIMENTAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION
16	LAST TRUMPET CALL

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to

LdSH(RC) Regimental Society

PO Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5



Colonel of the Regiment

BGen (Ret'd) Craig Hilton

There is much to report since the last edition, but let me begin by marking the passing of a truly great Strathcona, Lieutenant-General Jim Fox. Jim was known by many, respected by all and his guiding hand successfully steered our Regimental Family for decades. It was very clear at the recent ceremony to celebrate Jim's life, held in his village of Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, that his neighbours held him in equal esteem as we Strathconas. Filing past our two Strathconas Mounted Troop sentries, they filled the community hall to pay their respects to Carolyn and sons David and Daniel. It was a testament to a true Gentleman and gifted Leader, or as Jim described himself "a simple soldier from Nova Scotia", who meant so much to so many. May we each aspire to the example he has set. Rest Easy General Jim.



*Lieutenant-General James Arthur Fox,
CMM, SBSIJ, CD, Dr. of ScMil*

The year to date has been active and memorable. The Moreuil Wood Parade in March saw the Guidon paraded for the first time bearing our latest Battle Honour: Afghanistan. The desert combat uniforms of the Guidon Party combined with the First World War uniforms of the Vigil to create a visual historical image of The Strathcona's century-plus service to the Nation - a very powerful message indeed.

2019 also marked the 75th Anniversary of Melfa River, the most intense tank on tank battle fought by the Canadian Army in the Second World War. Well aware, as we tend to be, of the Melfa exploits of RHQ Recce Troop, some of us have been less aware that the Regiment had over 40 percent of it's tanks struck or destroyed and suffered 38 All Ranks killed in action.



By way of commemorating this most significant anniversary, Major (Ret'd) Jim Grey sponsored the Regimental Society to engage the renown British artist Clare Villar to create an outstanding Melfa River Commemoration - Roll of Honour artwork that uniquely captures the significance and sacrifice of our most costly Second World War victory. Thank you Jim for assuring this piece of our history stands proudly preserved for the benefit of future generations of Strathconas.

Staying with the Melfa 75th, special mention must be made of the May pilgrimage to the Battle Site in Italy by a dozen of our soldiers. The Regimental Society assisted with funding support and while in situ, the troops were joined by Regimental Association (BC Branch) member Dave Letson who provided his perspective, gravesite wreaths for our Fallen and occasional adult supervision to our Team. The journey left a deep impression on our soldier-participants who have gained a much deeper sense of themselves as Strathconas.

Another regimental milestone was passed in June with the Change of Appointment of the Regimental Sergeant Major. Our Regiment has been served by outstanding RSMs throughout its long history and this recent change confirmed that we remain firmly on that track. In the presence of a great turnout of the Brigade-wide leadership, joined by strong representation from both the Calgary and Edmonton Association membership, the Regiment formed a hollow square to say farewell to CWO Rob Clarke and welcome CWO Kevin King. Reflecting on the quality and constant example of active Leadership provided by RSM Clarke over the past three years, and knowing full well the character and



calibre of RSM King, it's no wonder that Strathcona's ride tall in the saddle and will continue to do so in the years to come. The sincere thanks and best wishes of the entire Regimental Family go out to these two exceptional Leaders as they continue in the service of us all.

And finally, looking ahead, it is now confirmed that the Commanding Officer will be taking RHQ and a slice of the Regiment to Latvia in January, where he will assume command of a NATO composite Battle Group as part of the current Operation REASSURANCE in the Baltic States. This deployment is expected to be of six months duration, which would see the group returning home by end June. Pre-deployment training is currently underway and we can expect the first SITREP from Theatre in the Spring 2020 Newsletter edition. In the meantime, the Regimental 2IC will be holding the fort with the balance of the Regiment - and no doubt tackling a healthy 'things to do' list!

Other milestones to follow in 2020 will be an expected Change of Command, likely in July, and as recently announced by National Association President Brad Norman - a Regimental Association Reunion 2020 will be held in Edmonton during 11-12 September. So we have much to look forward to in the coming regimental year.

As 2019 draws to a close, my special thanks and gratitude go out to the Serving Regiment and our ERE members who provide exemplary service to the Nation, and to all those in the wider Regimental Family who actively contribute of their time and encouragement to support and sustain them. My sincere best wishes to you and yours for the Holiday Season and the coming New Year.

CO and RSM Annual Regimental Update

LCol Eric Angell & CWO Kevin King

(Editors' Note) As all are aware, we were unable to publish a Spring Edition of the Newsletter. However, we feel that the report that the CO and RSM had submitted in the Spring contained a lot of information of interest to our readers so we have taken the liberty of incorporating this into this issue and call it an Annual Regimental update.

With 2019 well underway, and Spring (finally) taking root across the prairies, the Regiment found itself with very little (read: no) time to stop and smell the proverbial 'roses.' A common theme thanks to our continuing journey along the 1 Brigade 'Road to High Readiness,' but a promising theme nonetheless as numerous deployment opportunities wait at journey's end for several of our soldiers – and I must say, it'll be nice when the hard work and dedication pays off for our team.

To begin the year, your Regiment started with stout showings at the annual Ex STRONG CONTENDER Brigade sporting competition; capturing several medals and proudly restoring ourselves as a bonified threat within the Brigade. Impeccable results, especially given the current maintenance demand on our enormous vehicle fleet, so well done to all that represented the red and green!

Pausing just long enough to hang a few new sporting banners in the gym, the Regiment quickly launched onto Ex UNIFIED RESOLVE II; a two-week Brigade level computer-based exercise which confirmed the Regiment's ability to lead a Battle Group within a virtual battlespace. Ironically, there was nothing 'virtual' about the weather though, as the mercury dipped well-below -35 the entire time! Good thing the majority of it took place within the warm confines of the Garrison Drill hall, or there would have been virtually nobody in attendance!

Concurrently, the Regiment took pity on both A and B Sqns and sent the bulk of their soldiers to sunny Fort Hood, Texas to participate in Ex STEELE BEASTS; what has now become an 'annual' (when budgets allow) endeavour. There, successive Sqns mounted M1 Abrams tank simulators for week-long traces and team-building. An impressive venue to be sure, as our soldiers get incredible value in the vast array of simulators, sharpen core skills, and most importantly, get the chance to work as Troop and Sqn formations without wasting an ounce of fuel. Needless to say, the scenery, warm weather, and cheap tacos didn't hurt either.

Following two successful exercises, all with Leopard II repairs in full swing in order to meet our looming Spring training mandate, several members of the Regiment were honoured to make the trip to Ottawa in order to say thank you and farewell to Col Greg and Maria, and to welcome our new Col of the Regt, Col Craig Hilton. With the Ottawa



Army Officers' Mess chosen as the venue for its superb location and vast history, several familiar faces made the trip, filled the venue to capacity, and joined us for what was a fitting and poignant change of appointment ceremony. You and Maria personify perseverance – thank you Col Greg. BGen Craig, welcome back to the family you never left - the Regiment is in respected hands with you as our Col of the Regt.

As the month of March slowly inched us towards a well-deserved Spring Break, the Regiment geared down and took pause as we celebrated the Battle of Moreuil Wood with a dinner & dance, sports day, and the annual parade. Not to be overshadowed by last year's centennial, this year's ceremony was highlighted by the parading of our Guidon with the newly emblazoned Afghanistan Battle Honour – which was proudly marched onto parade by MWO Tod Hopkin, Medal of Military Valour recipient for actions in Afghanistan in 2007. An amazing accomplishment by all those that answered the call in Afghanistan between 2002-2010, and it was great to see the Regiment's WW1 history celebrated alongside a history that our current soldiers were part of. A great day was shared by all.

The Regiment then began consecutive deployments to Wainwright in order to complete the mandated gateways that will see our Strathcona ('War Pigs') Battle Group confirmed for deployment to Latvia in early 2020. Where Ex ORNERY RAM included dynamic and challenging live fire ranges up to Combat Team level, the next phase saw dry training at both the Battle Group and Brigade levels leading into Ex MAPLE RESOLVE 19 through the end of May. Concurrently, a small contingent of deserving soldiers were rewarded with a trip to Italy to celebrate the Melfa 75th. The trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity for the small team of soldiers.

The end of June and beginning of July saw the deployment of many of your soldiers, including the teams for the training missions to both Lebanon and Jordan. We also deployed a Coyote Recce Troop to Latvia as part of Rotation 12 of Operation REASSURANCE. These Strathconas were hand-picked for these missions and are "knocking it out of the park" and overcoming the myriad of challenges that come with overseas deployments. I ask that you keep both them and their families in your thoughts.

As to be expected, your Regiment was busy during the summer, well for most of it anyway! It seems like only yesterday that the Regiment celebrated the change-of-appointment of our Sergeant-Major (RSM) to Chief Warrant Officer Kevin King and transitioned into at the end of the day, where the Regiment's tempo never seems to slow, we're proud to say that our soldiers' commitment to excellence remains just as predictable. The Regiment stood on-guard as the Immediate Reaction Unit (IRU) throughout the summer. We came close to deploying for the Alberta wildfires on the tail end of our deployment to Wainwright for Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE, but thankfully the weather changed and the danger dissipated. Due to the large number of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group soldiers that are currently deployed overseas, the Strathconas remain the lead for IRU until January 2020.

The RSM and I, along with key staff (13 in total), deployed to Latvia for a month between mid-September and mid-October. While there we filled the role of Observer Controller Trainers for the Canadian Maneuver Training

Centre (CMTC). CMTC was there to validate the training of the current in-place Battle Group on Operation REASSURANCE, based on 2 PPCLI, through the Integrated Capstone Exercise (ICE). Immediately following ICE, our team conducted a tactical recce and Leadership Development Programme in order to prepare for our own upcoming deployment.

The RSM, Regimental Operations Warrant Officer, Regimental 2IC, Colonel of The Regiment, and I participated in the Armoured Corps Conference from 23-25 October 2019 in Ottawa. Once again, the Conference proved to be a linchpin in ensuring the three Regular Force Armoured Units (plus the school!) are in synch with all things related to careers, postings and training requirements. We also had the opportunity to discuss areas of interest for the Reserve and to identify link-ups and shared opportunities for training. The Conference culminated in an impressive mess dinner at Cartier Square Drill Hall. It was a grand “family reunion” with many old war-horses showing up from the Ottawa and Kingston area.

In my last e-news update I mentioned that we have been receiving a good number of young, keen, good-looking Troopers from the Armoured School this year, we are up to 58 of them to be exact. Rest assured we have been putting them to work! Primary Combat Function courses (tank/Coyote/Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle gunners/drivers etc.) were conducted and led into our fall Regimental Exercise Steele Sabre 2019, which included continuation pre-deployment training. It was an awesome opportunity for young leaders to test their skills and drills and as always your Strathconas rose to the challenge. The exercise included Troop and Platoon combined live-fire and Squadron and Company combined dry training. It is opportunities like these that remind me why I love the Army!

Task Force Steele, the Battle Group that will deploy to Latvia in January 2020, officially stood up on 21 October 2019. In addition to many Strathconas and enablers including Intelligence, Maintenance, Signallers, etc. we also welcomed a Mechanized Infantry Company from 1 PPCLI and a 81mm Mortar Platoon from 41 Canadian Brigade Group. As mentioned, the Battle Group will deploy in January and return in July 2020. In theatre, we will be joined by our brothers and sisters-in-arms from Spain, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Albania and Montenegro. Together we will form the NATO enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group 20-01.

Demonstrated by countless hours of knuckle-busting maintenance to put the full force of Canada’s only tank Regiment on the battlefield, or painstaking detail applied to ceremony as we fittingly honour our history, your Regiment is in fine form and ready for the deployments to Jordan, Lebanon, Latvia, Ukraine and Iraq that wait on the horizon. It goes without saying that our soldiers will be ready, so stay tuned for updates and stories. We remain busy and operational tempo is high, but rest assured, your soldiers continue to bring honour and reputation to the Regiment through their hard work and perseverance.

Regimental Association Update

MCpl (Ret'd) Brad Norman



We have been very busy since the last newsletter and I will fill you in on what’s going on. I have had the chance to speak to a lot of our members both at our meetings, online and in person and they are excited on what’s going on with the Regiment and the Association.

On August 10 our annual family golf tournament was held at Shaganappi Golf Course. It was attended by 48 golfers who had a lot of fun on the course and those who were available attended the



Horton Legion for some eats and prizes. Of note I advised those in attendance that this would be my last golf tournament to organize and requested a member to step up to take on the task. I thought for sure that there would be crickets and silence in the room however Jason "CHUCKY" Moran immediately stood up and stated he would continue on with organizing this important family event. I am currently getting all the information together so that Chucky can continue with this important event.

In late spring I was advised by the Colonel Of the Regiment that the Reunion was a go and I spoke with Mr. Tom Falls in Edmonton who has graciously taken on the task of being the lead in organizing the event in Edmonton as it is hard for me to do it 300 km away. The dates will be September 11 and 12 with majority of the events occurring on base at CFB Edmonton. In speaking with Tom he agreed that he will be reaching out to Slider and Mary to continue the tradition of the 50/50 draw so ensure to bring your change as you never know what Slider will have. I have had

members ask why is it only 2 days, why is it on Base and not at a hotel? The answers are, we will start off on Friday and those in attendance will leave on Sunday, once again we are in the organizing stage and Tom and his team are all over it. As for being on the Base and not at a big hotel. Once the crew was in the final organizing stage with a hotel my understanding is that the hotels started to ask for more money and the prices were increasing, they were asking for more than we were willing to give. The 20 dollars a year that we all pay for our memberships does not cover stuff like that and, as I stated, the guys are doing the best they can with what they have. If you are willing to assist in volunteering in the organizing of the event please reach out to Tom Falls and I am sure he will put you to work.

The most important item I have to touch on is that I have had to send way too many messages to all of you regarding the passing of members. I had one person state to me that when he sees an email pop up from me he immediately says to himself, "oh oh who passed away". As disheartening as it for me to send those emails I feel that is one of my tasks that I find is important. It gives us all a chance to reminisce and to think about our fallen members and say a prayer for the families that are going through that hard time. So please understand that I will continue to send those messages and please take a moment when you receive them to think about all of our members. Just so you are aware, I do reach out to the family and pass on our condolences.

Hug Perseverance Award

During the Change of Appointment Ceremony on 13 March 2019, the outgoing Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel (Retired) Greg Hug, announced a new Regimental Award. The following is his text announcing the award.

The Hug Perseverance Award will be presented as and when merited on an annual basis.

This award will recognize an individual member of the Regiment/Regimental Family, both serving and retired, who has overcome a significant challenge yet continues to serve, participate and/or contribute to the Regimental Family and Society. The challenge can be related to physical or mental adversity.

While serving as Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Hug suffered a catastrophic injury that resulted in him being a quadriplegic. The support and encouragement of the Regimental Family was an instrumental motivator as he sought to improve his quality of life. In many ways, his determination could be seen as the epitome of our Regimental motto, Perseverance. In creating this award, Colonel Hug hopes to recognize the efforts of others within the Regimental Family who must overcome adversity. The selection of the deserving individual will be made by the Colonel of the Regiment, Senior Serving Strathcona, Commanding Officer, Regimental Sergeant Major, Association President, and Society Secretary. Nominations will be solicited via Strathcona eNews.

The First Moreuil Wood Celebration in Montreal (St-Jean)

By: Sgt Alwani

On 8 March 2019, Strathconas posted to the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School (CFLRS) celebrated the Battle of Moreuil Wood for the first time in Quebec rather than having to travel to either Ottawa or Kingston to commemorate with the Regiment. In attendance were members from all three regular force armoured regiments and the Royal Canadian Hussars and The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment). Honoured guests included Honorary-Colonel of the Royal Canadian Hussars, LCol (ret'd) Bernie Ciarroni, former President of the RCAC Association and his spouse, Mrs. Lynn Harper-Ciarroni, , as well as Capt Robin Thibault of the Black Watch. In charge of organizing and overseeing the event was Major John Kim. Other Strathconas and their spouses included WO Joel Ribert, Sgt Aly Alwani, and Sgt Max Gironne. Representing The Royal Canadian Dragoons was Sgt Kyle Hiltz and the 12e Régiment Blindé du Canada, Sgt Samuel Néron-Dufour.

The 101st anniversary of the Battle was celebrated at le Club Saint James de Montreal, the oldest private club in Canada to which Lord Strathcona belonged as a member prior to founding his own private club, The Mount Royal Club, also located in Montreal. We were greeted by the Maître de hôte, M. Denis, who took us straight to the lounge - good choice! Maj Kim broke the ice with everyone by buying the first rounds and making introductions and commemorating the historical battle. What followed was a private tour of the Saint James Club. A few highlights of the club were the wine cellar at the member's dining room, a silver duck cooker valued at \$25K, and the numerous banquet and conference rooms. Further, M. Denis informed all of the guests that former Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, was at the club just a day prior... then came time to eat, WO Ribert recommended the Zibo! Restaurant just a 10 minute walk from the club- it was an awesome choice. During dinner and wine, all of the Black Hats told war stories and expressed how everyone was looking forward to returning to regimental duties. The motto at CFLRS is Apprendre à Servir but for me personally, it will always be Perseverance!



Spring 2020 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2020
Strathcona Regimental Society Newsletter is

April 10, 2020

Submissions to be forwarded to
newsletter@strathconas.ca

On behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment and the Regimental Society Board of Directors, we are asking the entire Regimental Family (Serving and Retired) for their thoughts and feedback related to our Museum. The Board of Directors of the Regimental Society has hired an outside consultant, Ms. Karen Ludbrook Young, to look at our current gallery over the next several months. Her task is to provide a needs assessment to guide future exhibitions and program development for the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Museum. Her report, which will be provided to the Board of Directors will provide observations, recommendations and potential future development plan for our Museum.

You are asked to complete the survey by 20 December 2015. It can be found at

We do want to hear what you have to say. We can only make an informed decision if we have your input. We do look forward to hearing from you.

At the Kingston Moreuil Wood 2019 Dinner, our Branch Vice President, John Stuckart, announced he is leaving the Executive of the Kingston Branch of the Strathcona Association.

John's service to the people of our Regiment has been an inspiration and his common sense approach and sense of humour will be missed by the Executive. On behalf of the Kingston Strathconas, thank you John!

*Fall 2018 Newsletters which have been returned by Canada Post as undeliverable and
Strathcona Enews recipients whose emails have bounced since October 2018.
If you have updated contact information on these individuals, please let us know.*

SCHALL Scott - Enews (November 2018)

Life After the Unit - Strathcona's Still Making a Difference

MCpl (Ret) Jon McDougal

As I looked through the 100th Anniversary of “The Battle of Moreuil Wood” Strathconian and, seeing all the great achievements of members still serving, I thought I should share this story to let people know that there is still life after leaving the Regiment and you can still help those in need.

Matthew Oostvogels, a former serving Strathcona who served with distinction was on the first Leopard C2 deployment to Afghanistan on ROTO (0306), his OC being the current Senior Serving Strathcona, Brigadier-General Trevor Cadieu. During his deployment he observed and tried to learn as much as he could about leadership, planning, and big picture thinking, and he took his experiences with the locals back home to create an organization from the ground up to work with other international groups to alleviate the plight of child soldiers. “Teach Peace Development” was born to work alongside other organizations such as Romeo Dallaire’s Child Soldiers Initiative based out of Dalhousie University, Wounded Warriors Canada to name a few, and its mission is to educate front-line individuals like teachers who have contact with children on a daily basis to break the cycle that no child should be used and abused as a weapon of war.

After participating in the Veteran Trainers to Eradicate the use of Child Soldiers (VTECS) program in 2016, which equipped him to train military, police and Prison workers in the areas that use child soldiers as well as his first-hand experiences, Matthew created Teach Peace Development. The team has been built on the common belief that no child should be used and abused as a weapon of war. Matthew wanted to have a diverse team to help with the mission so he recruited fellow Strathcona’s along with educators to build his Teach Peace Development team. The other former serving Strathcona’s that joined his team are Major (Ret) Elizabeth England – CD, M.A., B.A. , Head of Planning, and MCpl (Ret) Jon McDougal, Director of Communications. The team’s objective is to teach teachers how to use preventive measures to ensure that their students are proactive and safe in their schools and communities.

As a not-for-profit organization we are seeking to work alongside other organizations abroad to conduct strategic missions in communities that need our help the most. Despite our differing cultural backgrounds and the challenges of distances to where the help is needed the most, the Teach Peace Development team is trying to overcome these challenges, so it is with a warm heart we would like to thank the Regimental family for helping us become the people we are today through lessons learned and mentoring, so never underestimate where life may take you as a Black Hatter.

For further information on Teach Peace Development you can find us at: www.teachpeacedevelopment.org

Jon, thank you for sharing this wonderful story with us. Hopefully our carrying this story will encourage others in the Regimental Family to “pick up the torch”. Ed.



Italian Battlefield Tour

Dave Letson



Just a note to give a short report on my trip with the Royal New Westminster Regimental Association on their tour of the Italian Campaign. The tour visited eleven of the sixteen war cemeteries in which Strathconas were interred, and as a result I was able, with the help of the “Westies”, to place a small wreath of remembrance at the Cross of Sacrifice at each, and individual markers, consisting of a Canadian Flag and a representation of the shoulder patch worn at the time at each Strathcona grave.

Of the 91 Canadians left interred in Italy only the individuals in Bari, Naples, Padua, Minturno, and Caserta were left unmarked.

WestJet and Lufthansa transported the wreaths and Speedpro Signs of Sidney, BC, made up the “shoulder titles” all at no charge. Branch 37 of the Canadian Legion, Sidney, provided the poppies.



On a personal side, it was great to meet the party from the Regiment, even if it was for such a short time /and I hope they liked the CCB lapel pins I was able to leave with them.

The Internment of Albert McBride

Mrs. Isabelle McBride



Brandon and I arrived in Seoul on June 11, to be met with all the pomp and ceremony that we could only have imagined!! As soon as we were out of the plane, Albert’s ashes were taken to be packed and covered with his name and picture. We went immediately to Immigration, where we were cleared and returned to the ramp. Here the Flag party of Republic of Korea (ROK) Military was already in place. First came the bearer of the ashes and another Military member carrying a framed picture of Albert, taken just after he returned from the lines, all cleaned up with a new uniform, new lanyards, new shoulder flashes, and two (for the very first time) ribbons.

Brandon and I followed the flag party through a Colour Guard of ROK Military (All Services). We were met by our Ambassador, Michael

Danagher, Capt(N) James Cotter, Sgt Chad Walker and representatives of MPVA and other dignitaries. Speeches and welcomes were made and there was a crowd, including classes of school children.

From the airport, we moved to The Seoul National Cemetery for a temporary enshrinement and wreath laying ceremony. Albert’s ashes were kept overnight with a ROK Military Guard.

On June 12, we moved to the Seoul National Cemetery to retrieve the urn, and proceed back catch a train to Busan. We had lunch in Busan (Shabu Shabu) - broth fondue – very tasty. We then moved to the UN Cemetery, for the Formal Interment.

The ceremony was touching and sad. A very impressive Military Ceremony! Here again, we met classes of school children. We met, shook hands and hugged every one of them. I had practiced my Korean – “Thank You” - but my mind went blank, so I just said “Thank You” and “Bonjour, Merci Beaucoup”



Brandon and I went to the UN Graves, where we placed long stemmed poppies on the Strathcona graves. From here, we went to the UN Peace Memorial Hall for lunch and a tour. I had never seen that memorial before. It was so impressive! Of course, we paid particular attention to the Canadian Exhibit.

Next, we went to the Busan Harbour, where many of you, including Albert, landed after arriving from Japan. We then relaxed for a while, until it was time to go to the Thank You Banquet at the Park Hyatt Busan Hotel where Ambassador Danagher, Capt James Cotter (N), Mrs. Cotter, Brandon, and I, the MPVA Minister, and staff enjoyed a wonderful meal, conversation and relaxation. It was time to move to the Busan Station for train trip back to Seoul. Goodbyes were said to the Embassy Staff.

We now were travelling around with the staff from the tour agency. They were a very helpful and knowing group. Our first trip with them was to the DMZ. First, a very interesting outing to the Sangseang Outpost. The Staff were most helpful and well informed. They pointed out one angle of Hill _____. I'm not supposed to identify it, because it is now in North Korea. We also saw the place, right on the compound, where NK Soldiers had tried to infiltrate. Imagine, digging a two mile tunnel, only to come out on a Military Outpost!

We said our thanks and moved to the Typhoon Observatory for another interesting visit. They had a large contour map on the floor of all the hills, rivers, etc. on the floor. They had a picture of the Strathconas crossing the Imjim. They pointed out the bridge on the Imjim that Albert crossed and traced his probable route to Hill _____ from another angle. Again the ROK Army was so well informed.

These were two Very Interesting visits.

On the way back to Seoul, we stopped for lunch in a cozy little inn in a new acreage development. Everything on the menu was from the owners' land. The roads to this inn were not even paved. Then it was back to the hotel for dinner and a rest.

Day 4 - Move to the War Memorial. Wreath laying and a Tour. Again, a very interesting way to start the day. We then went on a tour of the market, followed by a Korea BBQ lunch. Wow!!



Next came a tour of the Changdeokgung Palace – just beautiful. There is no king, so it is just a showplace.

Day 5 Breakfast with our "Team" from the tourist agency. They were just WONDERFUL!!! Time now to pack up and head to the airport for the long trip home. Brandon stayed for another couple of weeks. He wanted to see more of the Far East.

I want to express our thanks to everyone who helped make this trip possible – KVA Unit 21, Canadian Embassy and Staff Seoul Korea; Sgt. Chad Walker; MPVA Seoul; ROK Military; JIN Ji-hye; Lee Sang Ho; Lee, Emily, and Lee, Jae Hong; and TN Korea. A TRIP BRANDON AND I WILL NEVER FORGET!!!

Thank you, Mrs. McBride for sending us this very excellent report. We share your loss and are very glad that you were able to make this pilgrimage. Ed.

Your Photos



My name is Don Janzen and I live in Calgary. My sister ordered a Family Memories book many years ago (approx. 20 years) and when she received it, it had some photos and documents already inserted in the book, but they were not of her family.

They were for a family by the name of Proctor. She never made any attempts to find the owners of the photos and documents - other than with the company, and the company wasn't helpful either - she is not sure of the company contacts anymore and I suspect they have been out of business for some time anyway.

I am attaching a photo of a Certificate of Military Qualification for B.A. Proctor, a Trooper with the Lord Strathcona's Horse - Service #SM 110556, dated 9 April 1962. I believe it is Bruce A. Proctor, but I have been unable to locate him and/or any of his family, I believe he was originally from Whitehorse, Yukon as there is another document, a Baptismal for son, Keith Alexander Proctor. Is there any way that you would be able to locate Mr. Proctor and/or his family and have them contact me, to return the items from the album? If necessary, I could get them to you and you could ensure they are returned? Or if you have any other suggestions that might help locate the family?

Can anyone out there help identify this family and, hopefully provide us with some contact information? Ed



I am not sure whether what I am providing in the remainder of this email is proper or what the Newsletter seeks but I was impressed to provide the following for my father was a proud member of the Strathconas during his service during the Korean War. When he died in 2004 he had made sure we knew what was to be in his obituary reference his service and his Regimental tie hung proudly at his funeral service.

I have always been proud of my father and my grandfather for their service to the country but I want to encourage and affirm those who currently serve, and their families, that the honour never need die and is never taken for granted.

For George Herbert Thwaites, service of country was, throughout his life, always important but it had its original opportunity with the outbreak of the Second World War. As a boy who was raised in northern Ontario during the 1920s and during the great depression of the 1930s, the opportunity to join the military was a chance to follow his father's footsteps as one who had served Canada during the Great War. George enlisted with the Simcoe Grey Foresters in June, 1940 and would attain the rank of Lieutenant by 1943 while serving, largely out of Base Borden, Ontario where he was trained and provided training in tank warfare. Much to his disappointment he never had the opportunity to serve overseas before he was discharged from service in 1946.

With the outbreak of the Korean War he chose to quit his miner's job in Northern Ontario to again seek to serve. He was offered a return to an officer rank but he was told he would remain in Canada conducting training. He chose instead to enlist as a Trooper on August 21, 1950. By October 20, 1950 he was serving with the Strathconas as a

member of C Squadron. The squadron would train at Fort Lewis, Washington through November, 1950 until April 19, 1951 when it embarked to Korea.

George would lead Troop 4 of C Squadron while he served in Korea until the Squadron returned in June, 1952. He would hold the rank of Sergeant and was awarded a Mentioned in Dispatches for his actions in battle on November 17, 1951 near Hill 227. He was immensely proud of his Troop. He shared that the Troop was known as the "Singing Troop" and that the Troop named the tanks after various types of alcohol, all starting with the letter C.

On his return to Canada he would continue to serve with the Strathconas based in Calgary before he was appointed to represent the Regiment at the Queen's Coronation in 1953. He continued to serve through until December, 1953 when he was transferred to the Provost Corps. He would ultimately be discharged from military service in July, 1955 with the rank of Lieutenant.

He would go on to serve his community of Whitby and Oshawa, Ontario both in his professional life and in his commitment to various volunteer activities.

His commitment to service, the honour of serving in the Canadian military and his pride in having been a member of the Strathconas never faded and he died in 2004 a proud Royal Canadian.

David Thwaites

Thank you for sharing this with us, David. You have every right to be proud of your Grandfather. He served Canada and our Regiment well!
Ed.

Left to right: Lt. Stash Macdonald, Putsey, Camponi, Hadel, Anderson, Bocouetz, Costigan, Duncan, Reid, Young, Prokopetz, Thwaites, 3 in back unidentified; Kneeling: Chuback and Brown



Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Black Hat Luncheons

The group photo below is from the March lunch. It is compliments of Paul Ellard and submitted by Dave Scandrett. Good food and an eclectic mix of Regiments, those who were attached to Armoured Regiments in various important capacities and finally, the spouses who attended and endured in typical long suffering, patient fashion.

Many thanks, Dave. None of you have aged at all – must be the west Coast tropics! OK, OK – we lie!! Ed.



The focal points are the Battle of a Moreuil Wood in the Spring and Leliefontein in the Fall. We have just concluded the latter luncheon on 7 November the actual anniversary day of the RCD's great battle. There are two lunches a year at the Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club in Sidney BC for all ranks and spouses located on the west coast of BC, the Yukon and Alberta. We also get the occasional Snow-bird.

These gatherings have been going on for some 25 years The location has proved to be the most suitable as it allows Island folk and those from the Main Land to gather via BC Ferries. resulting in a convivial

lunch and a sea voyage!

We invite all to attend, Regular, Reserve and Militia including those who where attach posted to the Regiments from other Corps. As mentioned we strongly encourage spouses to attend.

Please note The Left Coast Lancers (LCL) have no Constitution, Board of Directors and no annual fees. We have minimal speeches and reciting of regimental histories as the aim is to get old and new comrades back together in the spirit of mutual support and continued contact.

I distribute the Luncheon notices via email and merely ask for an RSVP

so as to get the soup ration figured out. Finally, you pay at the Bar and we are booked into the Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club for the next two years. If you wish to attend please contact me as below.

Above is the 7 November group photo for you edification, curiosity and amusement. The pleasant, smug, out door dispositions is the result of being on Vancouver Island and not freezing our arses off in other parts of Canada.

Contact information is:

David Scandrett

tango14@outlook.com

778-245-2800

Visiting Sgt Richardson's Grave

As a young Cpl in HQ Sqn in the early 80's I had the chance to be the driver for Brig Gen (Ret) Harvey, VC on a few occasions when he visited the Regt in Calgary. Then when he was spending his last few days hospital-bound I was privileged to drive his wife to visit him several times. I then took part in the formal parade marking his service and passing.

A few years ago I was fortunate enough to be in France where I was able to visit the gravesite for Lt Flowerdew VC. This past August I had the honour to lay a wreath at Sgt Richardson's gravesite at Liverpool Cathedral, England on behalf of the Regt. I was pleased to see his gravesite is in a prominent location as you approach the Cathedral, which sees over 600,000 visitors a year. For me to "visit" with our Regt's three Victoria Cross winners was an honour and quite humbling. The laying of a Strathcona's wreath at Sgt Richardson VC gravesite is a tangible reminder that "We will remember them" and though distance and time may separate us, we are all one.

Steve Critchley WO (ret)...happily.

Great memories, Steve. Thank you for sharing them. Now you have us wondering how many other Strathconas may be able to say that they have made similar pilgrimages. Ed.



CP Rail/Regimental Society Scholarship Presentation

At a luncheon at Victoria's Union Club, MGen (ret'd) Cam Ross, on behalf of the CO and RSM, presented a CP Rail/LdSH Regimental Society scholarship cheque to Deanna Anderson-Hay. Deanna, one of three scholarship winners, is continuing her studies to be a teacher at the University of Victoria.

(L-R) MGen (ret'd) Cam Ross, LCol (ret'd) Dave Scandrett, President of the Vancouver Island Branch of Strathconas and 'Wannabes'; MWO (ret'd) Andy Anderson, father of scholarship winner; Deanna Anderson-Hay; Maj (ret'd) Letson, at 90 years of age, the 'Éminence grise' of Garry and Strathcona clans on the Island.



LAST TRUMPET CALL

ACREMAN, Roger, 24 September, 2019, Age 77, Fredrickton, NB
ARMSTRONG, William 'Bill', 25 March, 2019, Calgary, AB
BALTGAILIS, Peter, 4 March, 2019, Age 89, Slocan, BC
BARTLETT, Robert 24 August, 2019, Age 93, Calgary, AB
DAVIE, Charles 'Chuck', 27 September, 2019, Age 86, Victoria, BC
DEGRUCHY, Tom, 4 March, 2019, Age 75, Calgary, AB
DEIGHTON, Jim, 28 March, 2019, Age 77, Calgary, AB
FOX, James, 7 October, 2019, Age 83, Mahone Bay, NS
GARDAM, John, 15 September, 2019, Age 88, Nepean, ON
GARROW, Donald 'Bugs', 29 August, 2019, Age 85, Calgary, AB
GIROUX, Lawrence, 8 June 2019, Vernon, BC
HAUSER, Conrad, 29 June, 2018, Age 88, Penticton, BC
HILL, Brian, 20 September, 2019, Age 89, N Burnaby, BC
KITCHER, Richard 6 July, 2019, Age 85, Duncan, BC
LITTLE, Charlie, 4 October, 2019
MCDOUGALL, Rod, 25 March, 2019, Age 79, Calgary, AB
MCLEAN, Leslie, 23 May, 2018, Age 89, Olds, AB
MCILROY, Neil, 1 July, 2019, Age 82, Burlington, ON
MCMAHON, Roger, 11 February, 2019, Age 88, Nanaimo, BC
OICKLE, Darrell, 30 November, 2018, Age 76, Calgary, AB
QUINN, James, 9 August, 2019, Ottawa, ON
ROWCLIFFE, Charles, 3 May, 2019, Age 85, Kingston, ON
SCHNEIDER, Vernon, 7 October, 2018, Trail, BC
SCHUT, Ed, 21 May, 2019, Airdrie, AB
SIDEBOTTOM, Roy, 25 January, 2019, Age 77, Calgary, AB
SKINNER, James, 6 September, 2019, Age 93, Calgary, AB
STARK, Jeff, 14 January, 2017, Edmonton, AB
STEINKE, Roy, 27 January, 2018, Age 87, BC
SYBRANDY, Peter 'Dutchy', May, 2019, Age 83, Washington
TUTTY, Charles 'Chuck', 16 September, 2018, Age 94, Georgetown, ON
VAN DER SCHEE, Wyn, 2 January, 2019, Age 76, Kingston, ON
VANIDERSTEIN, Peter, 30 September, 2018 Charlottetown, PE
WAKELING, Alexander, 6 September, 2019, Age 86, Kingston, ON

In Loving Memory of Wives

KELSEY, Linda (Terry) - 1 December, 2017, Rockland, ON
LANE, Beverly (Clair) - 19 February, 2019, Calgary, AB
LAROSE, Mary (Robert) - 9 March, 2019, Kingston, ON

OUR APOLOGIZES FOR LACK OF DETAILS IN SOME CASES