

LdSH (RC) Society  
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LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE (ROYAL CANADIANS)

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, No. 2 Newsletter Editor: 'Mucker' Al Langan

Fall, 2002

## Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

Summer 2002 marked a change in the leadership of the Strathconas. LCol **Jim Ellis** handed over the Commanding Officer position to LCol **Jamie Cade** and LGen **Jim Fox**, the Colonel of the Regiment appointment to me. Jim Ellis has moved not far away to Land Force Western Area HQ in Edmonton. Jim Fox, after almost ten years of loyal and dedicated service as our Colonel, has returned to retirement in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, although I suspect that it will not be a long respite.

I want to thank Jim for the excellence of his guidance and leadership for the whole of the Regimental family. For those who are not aware of all that he has done, let me mention a few that seem to me to have really strengthened the fabric of the Strathcona family. He set in place the whole approach to the celebrations of our first 100 years of service and kept the momentum going. Relations with **HRH Prince Charles**, our Colonel in Chief, are very close and we now have mechanisms for his recognition of outstanding service by individuals and superior performance by the Squadrons of the Regiment. By encouraging better commu-



Col Mark Egener

nications among Strathconas everywhere by means such as this *Newsletter*; the **Strathcona website**, the publication of the series of histories, by supporting the reunions he has helped to bring us all closer together. For these and many, many other actions the Strathconas have been very well served by his stewardship and we are all grateful.

The Change of Command parade was ingeniously arranged by the **RSM, (CWO) Dave Biener**, to camouflage the thinned ranks due to "**RECCE**" Squadron's deployment in **Afghanistan** and "**B**" Squadron's block leave prior to service in **Bosnia**, with tanks, Coyotes, other Regimental vehicles, the Mounted Troop, the Historical Vehicles Troop, the Strathcona Pipe and Drum Band, the Artillery Band and hundreds of spectators. **Her Honour**, the **Lt. Governor of Alberta, Lois Hole**, MGen **Clive Milner**, Colonel Commandant of the Armoured Corps and Col. **Stuart Beare**, the Brigade Commander officiated. The event was well attended by Strathconas, in uniform and retired, and their

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## Comments from the Commanding Officers Hatch

With my "stuff" stowed neatly in the CO's office and LCol **Jim Ellis**' "junk" on its way to Goodwill, it is appropriate I begin by thanking everyone who came to the Change of Command parade on 18 July and the many others who provided kind words of support. It is comforting to begin the "best job in the Army" with such encouragement. I also wish to thank, LCol **Jim Ellis**, a good friend who left me a well led, disciplined and professional Regiment.

As usual, the **Regimental** pace has not slowed. June saw the Regiment deployed in **Kananaskis Country** on **Op GRIZZLY** (support to the **G8 Conference** for security). Security was so effective; the troops referred to it as the "big camping trip". "**B**" Squadron, the **Prince of Wales Squadron**, under the command team of Major **Scotty Long** and SSM **Joe Ramsay**, is no longer ours as they are now under operational command of **1 PPCLI** in preparation for their deployment to **Bosnia** in October. Their war-fighting training in **Wainwright** proved extremely realistic for a winter tour



LCol J. Cade CD

as the August temperatures rarely rose above single digits.

"**RECCE**" Squadron arrived home on 28 July to a stunning display of patriotism and appreciation from the citizens of **Edmonton** and the **Nation** as a whole. Padre **Tracey Moore** also returned from **Camp Snoop**, **Qatar**, where he was part of the Combat Service Support Company supporting the Battle Group in Afghanistan. It goes without saying how proud we are of the **Strathcona** involvement in the War Against Terrorism.

Earlier in August, I had the good fortune to attend the Armoured Officer Graduation ceremonies in CFB Gagetown. Assisting me with the "badging" of our new officers was **John Swanton**, a WWII Strathcona. In between LCol "**Spike**" **Hazleton's** legendary social events, I was able to speak to, under the watchful eye of CWO **Russ Ells**, the largest contingent of Strathcona's outside the Regiment. Of note, they also

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# Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters

Howdy **Mucker**, **Old Guard** and all **Strathconas** past and present. Having recently returned from attending the Change of Command parade and ceremonies in **Edmonton** I would like to say what an impressive event it was. Thanks to **Kathy Stephen's** (CO's secretary) arrangements on request of both CO's, past and present. I was given the VIP treatment all the way, from the time I was met at the airport until I was escorted to **Kelowna** by a former Commanding Officer LCol **D.N.D. Deane-Freeman** and his charming wife **Jeanne**.

My many thanks to (my shadow) Capt **Stu MacLean** and the staff car driver MCpl **Derrick Osmand** for ensuring that I was in the right place at the right time. To see the new Commanding Officer LCol **Jamie Cade** the son and third generation **Strathcona**, of my PF buddy (Colonel (ret'd)) **Jack Cade**, was the highlight and purpose of my attendance. A family history that I doubt could be repeated. The family event, later that evening at the hotel, added to the pride of both the Cade families, especially when his three younger sisters roasted their brother Jamie. My congratulations to all, it made me extremely proud to be a **Strathcona** as I'm sure it did to all others that attended the parades and ceremonies.

Except for my impaired vision and hearing I am enjoying good health. I therefore extend a speedy recovery to all that are not, **Hugh Mackie**, **Ken Burgess**, **Stan Adams**, **Jack Cade**, **Gladys MacKay**, **Percy Buzza**, **Ray McMullen**, and many others in the same saddle.

Mucker, I am extremely pleased with your efforts in keeping up the good standard and the noticeable interest and participation from the newer members of the Regiment. It is obvious that this could not be achieved if it were not for the financial backing of donations. This applies not only to the *Newsletter*, but the many projects of the **Regimental Society**, such as the

**Museum**, **Mounted Troop** and the **Family Support Group**, etc. Keep going **Straths**; we are a terrific family. Perseverance.

**Vic Binnie**  
Kelowna, BC

*(Vic, you amplify the very essence of esprit de corps etc. A big thank you for your generous donation. Ed)*

Thank you for sending the *Newsletter*, which was special to me since **Jim's** passing in June last year. Also I am delighted that you included Jim's article and group picture about the **RECCE** troop in this edition. I am only sorry that he did not live to see it in print. Enclosed are the Information Form filled in as requested and a donation to help with the *Newsletter* expenses. Thanking you again for your thoughtfulness.

**Dorothy Adair**  
Barrhead, AB

*(Thank you for your kind comments and donation. Hope you continue to enjoy future editions of the Newsletter. Ed)*

The enclosed picture showing **Innis McKay** (with the stripes) and myself on a 48 hour pass to **Toronto**, We were both on pass from the **2nd - 2nd Armd Regt** stationed in **Camp Borden**.

Some readers may not be aware, that at one time in our history, we had two Regiments. Just after the WW2 the original 2nd Armd Regt (LdSH (RC)) had not disbanded and for the most part was still in Europe. Meanwhile, back in Canada, on the cessation of hostilities in late 1945, the Government took steps to prepare for peacetime soldiering again. So two Armd Regts, the RCD's for Eastern Canada and the **LdSH (RC)** for **Western Canada**, were formed in Camp Borden. So now we had a 1st-2nd Armd Regt still active overseas. The RCD's were in the same situation with their 1st-1st Armd Regt still overseas and the 2nd-1st

Armd Regt in Borden. Both units in Borden became part of a Post War Transition known as "Interim Force". After moving to **Calgary** we were back to a single title "**LdSH (RC) (2nd Armd Regt)**" and now a **Regular Force**.

Only a few of the original war-time **Straths** elected to stay in the service and were mainly those who had been in the **Permanent Force (PF'ers)** before the war and wanted to carry on with their careers in the Regular Force. The nucleus of the Regt formed in Borden were consisted mainly of soldiers from different overseas Armd Regts who had volunteered for the **Pacific Theatre**. They were in Borden on **VJ Day**. Then those who wanted to stay in the Army were posted to either of the two regular forces Armd regiments. Others who would make up these units were Armd personnel still in training in Borden and a few from other Training Centres.

Well '**Mucker**' that's it. Have I got you confused enough? Congratulations on your **Commendation** for the great job you do. Enclosed a donation to assist with the *Newsletter* expenses.

**Bob Bartlett**  
Calgary, AB

*(Soon got out of the confusion Bob, when I saw your donation. Appreciated. Ed)*

I was only with the **Strathconas** a short while, so I did not get to know many. From September 1943 I was in "**B**" **Squadron Headquarters** under Capt **Milroy** (he showed up on Xmas day with his crown's), and in January 44 I went to 2nd Troop. Not many of them are left, I can only think of **Des Ramsay**, **Bill England**, **Jack Hall** and of course the L/Cpl (ret'd) **Jim Spencer**. Jim and I survived when our tank was hit 30 May 44.

It was at the service for **Bob Ellerbeck** in Oct 2001 that we were informed that Jim Spencer had passed away the day before. I was at the funeral of **Harry Davidson** in Sep 2001; my younger daughter is married to Harry's nephew, so I had seen him a few times the past few years.

I see **Bert Rosler** has gone. Outside of **Bob Greene's** article I see few names I recognize. Knowing so few is partly why I haven't gone to the past couple of reunions.

The *Newsletter* is of a very high quality magazine and I believe you and the staff are to be applauded and be proud of your accomplishments. It, hopefully, continues to be beneficial to the "old" **Straths** and maybe especially for the "newer" **Straths**. Enclosed is a donation to help with its publication. Best of luck for the future.

**Jim Fargey**  
Carman, MB

*(Thanks for your kind remarks and also your generous donation. Ed)*

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## The RSM's corner

Welcome back "RECCE" Sqn. Great to have you back at home (even if you don't show up for work until some time in 2003!). Congratulations, on a job well done in **Afghanistan**. Unfortunately, by the time you start up again "B" Sqn will have already deployed to **Bosnia** so you won't get a chance to say goodbye! That of course leaves "C" Sqn to re-role from tank to Coy-

ote, so they too can go to Bosnia in Mar 03. Sometimes I think that someone in Ottawa does not want us to be together as a **Regiment** any more.

Those of us that did not deploy on **Op Apollo**, we did manage to fill in the calendar with events such as **Suffield** gun camp; Combat team live firing, Canadian vs America Cup, Op Grizzly (G8 in Kananaskis), the

Change of Command parade. Then, last but not least, the welcome back parade for "RECCE" Sqn.

I know that you are probably getting tired of me saying how busy we are, but when you have some troops that have been in three sqn's in as many months, there must be something going on. As the Army and the Cdn Forces continue to change, so too does the Corps and the Regiment. Everything from vehicles to floppy hats (our new headdress while deployed on operations). Keeping pace with the changes that come from all angles is a real challenge. The days of "jump in that vehicle and start it up" have been replaced with; "we don't have anyone qualified on that". Courses seem to be longer than ever and now have to be "squeezed in" when not on tour. More often than not, it appears that the "keep it simple" adage has been replaced with "make it as complex and convoluted as possible" (and I'm not talking Regimental level).

The Corps continues to wrestle itself and the Army regarding the tank. The future may see us parking not only the tank but the beret as well. The focus is in a wheeled Army. I guess the lessons of **RV 81** are long gone, tracked vehicles dragged (all wheeled vehicles into position).

I think it would be fair to say that the soldiers of the Regiment did an excellent job of saying farewell to both LCol **Ellis** and LGen (ret'd) **Fox**, during the Change of Command and Change of Col of the Regiment parade. For those who could not attend everything went extremely well. Best wishes from all ranks to both you and your families. (PS, Col Ellis, you still owe me a beer from **Zagreb**). Thank you to all involved in the set up and tear down, for the change of command parade. You are too many to mention, but you and I know who you are, well done.

As we drive full speed ahead towards Christmas, we once again have a Sqn deployed for the holidays. This is not easy for either the families or the troops, but I know that the family support gang, under WO **Hepburn** will do their best to help those in real need. As sad as I am to see "B" depart (or **Prince of Wales Sqn**) this should keep SSM **Ramsay** out of my office for a couple of months.

For those retired Strathcona's out there, in newsletter country, you can rest easy. The men and women of the Regiment including of course our **Combat Support** personnel are all doing their best to maintain the high standards of performance and professionalism that you set many years ago!

Perseverance.

(CWO) RSM D.M. Biener CD



## Regimental Museum Report

As I sit and write, I find it hard to believe that we are into the fall season and another year is winding down already. While there is still much to do within the next few months we have accomplished much at the **Museum**.

The **Society Annual General Meeting** held in Edmonton during our **Moreuil Wood** celebrations, saw some many needed changes approved. These included the approval of an acquisition fund for the museum and the culling of the collection which allows us to de-accession some non-related artifacts in our collection. Any monies raised will go to the betterment of our collection. Some items have already been disposed of to their rightful homes such as the **Fort Garry Horse Museum**, **Sherbrooke Hussars** and the **RCA Museum**. MCpl **Todd Giberson** continues to catalogue the collection and build a database of all our artefacts. This has been an ongoing task and will take several years to complete, as files have to be built on every item. On June 21st **Todd** and his wife **Laura** welcomed a new arrival to their family with their first-born **Brady Scott**. Congratulations to you both!

Cpl **Lee Ramsden** continues to build the archives in anticipation of the museum expansion, which is expected to happen within the next few years. This year he was lucky to have assistance when **Jazwinder Singh** came to us through the Treasury Board employment program. Unfortunately Jaz's contract expired in June and his smiling face will be dearly missed. Thanks for all your hard work Jaz. When Cpl Ramsden thinks he may have a quiet moment coming, he is more often than not sadly mistaken, when numerous requests for information are received. On an average we receive approximately 5 requests a week. These can range from simple questions to major research. Some research requests can take weeks or even months of continuous work to complete. He continues to do outstanding work for world-class researchers and facilities around the world.

Just when you think it is safe to take a deep breath, the **Remembrance Day** activities at the **Museum of the Regiments** are ready to go. This is our busiest time and all staff and volunteers participate in some way. Last year we hosted just over

30,000 people through the in-house and outreach programs. The Family Remembrance Day Service saw 500 parade participants and about 5000 in attendance. This is the busiest 5 weeks of the year. This program just keeps getting bigger each year and I recommend you attend if you are in the **Calgary** area on **November 11**.

This year our gallery improvement will be the WW II area. By the time this is printed it will be complete and will tell the story of the regiment "**From the Italy Campaign, through North West Europe, to the Liberation of Holland**". This improvement will allow us to expand in the future as the regiment has already deployed to **Kosovo** and **Afghanistan** and we anticipate donations from the regiment, DHH and members on deployment.

I cannot say enough about our dedicated volunteers. Through it all, they manage to put on a smile and greet our visitors. Unfortunately our volunteer numbers are down to only a handful and I hesitate to say they don't look much better in the near future. The age of our volunteer base is creeping up and there is no one waiting to take these veterans places. If you are in the Calgary area and looking for something meaningful to do in your spare time please do not hesitate to contact us. There are many different ways to volunteer and if your not sure if it is right for you, give us a call.

It is with pride and a touch of sadness that I wrap up this article. This will be my last as I prepare for retirement in April 2003 and WO **Ted MacLeod** has been named as my successor and will join us end 2002. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped to make my job easier. In part the Regiment and Society for their support all the volunteers who I have had the pleasant opportunity to work with and in particular MCpl Giberson and Cpl **Ramsden** for their untiring hard work and perseverance. These individuals have made it happen over the past few years. From **Celebration 2000** activities, to the complete reorganization of the collection and archives, the countless hours they volunteered their time through bingos and casinos to all the little events at the museum. I could not have made possible half the things accomplished without your efforts.

WO Darryl Crowell, MB, CD

## Letters Letters *continued*

Thank you for the Fax inquiring about the Lost Trails Strath living in Sechelt, BC. I indeed am the **Ernie Babcock**, previously of **Westbank**. Moved to **Langley** in 96, then on to **Sechelt** in 2000. Some may say "moving is cheaper than paying rent", not so in our case as we purchased a home here in the "Sunshine Coast" (fat chance), lovely place to live though, if you don't mind the rain - Ha!

So nice to hear from "Lost Relatives" so to speak, although it has been so very, very long ago. You may fill your "Lost Trails" with a "Found". Good to hear from you again, looking forward to receiving the *Newsletter*. PERSEVERANCE and "keep your powder dry"

**Ernie Babcock**  
Sechelt, BC

*(It's always exciting when one welcomes a comrade back. I must confess I got a lead on your whereabouts from that other Regiment's Newsletter. Promise if there are further moves contemplated that you let us know. Ed)*

My sincere thanks, and congratulations, to members of the Society and **'Mucker' Langan**. I have appreciated receiving the *Newsletter* that you have continued to send to me, since the passing of my dearest husband **Ian** in **August 1993**. Enclosed is a donation to the *Newsletter* and again thank you.

**Rae MacDiarmid**  
Moose Jaw, SK

*(Thank you for your appreciation. Glad you enjoy receiving the Newsletter and thank you for your financial assistance. Ed)*

I read with interest all the letters in our *Newsletter*. I can add some names and details of the action and casualties the first night in the **Gothic Line**.

I was driving Sgt **Bobby Rosler** of 4 Troop "B" Squadron. We spent most of the afternoon looking for the Sqn and found them just as the **BCD's** pulled back. We stayed with **3 Troop** and were on "stand-to". When the shelling started I got in my tank. **Stan Bolding** was killed in the first bombardment. A Tiger tank came over the hill and started firing over our heads and three German soldiers moved around one of the 3rd troop tanks and gunned down **'Brigham' Young** and started to crawl onto the tank. **Harold Boettcher**, who was in this tank, locked the hatches and spun the turret around. I kicked the brake off to let the tank roll back and twisted around to let **George Fox** get his bow gun on them. The Germans ran back over the hill but not before one was killed. **Bill Moncrief**, our operator, got out and patched up **Young**. Two more Germans approached I told Bill who quickly fired at them. One of them slumped and both made a hasty retreat. Next morning a Bazooka was found at the spot where these two Germans had been

fired on. Boettcher went over to **Jimmy Mathews** tank where he was wounded. Next morning we were ordered to pull back. There was one tank that had no one left to operate it so a member of another tank had to drive it. As we were pulling back a tank was hit and brewed killing **Bert Roper**, **Fred Fidler** was burnt pretty bad, as he had to crawl under the gun assembly to get out. At another harbor the enemy shelling killed **Robert Hanson** as he was getting out of his tank, he was only with the troop a little while so I didn't know him. Another tank got hit, that left our tank the only one left in 4th troop. I hope you can make sense of my rambblings.

My Legion **Joe Wynne** branch 51 had the **Strathcona Mounted Troop** perform at the branches 75 Anniversary last year

**Floyd Olsen**  
Edson, AB

*(Thank you for the vivid account of your hectic experiences during, what has been the vaunted "Gothic" Line was broken, in that horrific month of September 1944. Ed)*

A couple of weeks ago our son **Buzz**, who lives in the Boise area, noticed an event at the local fair. It was the **LdSH (RC) Mounted Troop**, so Buzz donned his **Strathcona** ball cap and went to see the troop perform. Later he visited with a couple of the riders. He told of his Grandfather's (**Fred Cooper**) involvement with the Regiment in WWI and was very well received by the troopers. This stimulated Buzz's interest in the Regiment, and he asked if the "books" were still in print. I think he meant *STAND TO YOUR HORSES* and *ALWAYS A STRATHCONA*. Those are the two we have. Have we missed others? Please let me know what there is available. We can lend him these, but he may want to have his own.

Perseverance.

**'Les' & 'Dodie' Beauchamp**  
San Clemente, CA. USA

*(There was a total of 6 (six) books to be produced by the Society as a Centennial project (1995-2000). I will send you the details under separate cover. Thank you for your very generous donation. Ed)*

My computer crashed and burned. It was old and decrepit like me. Bought a better one but lost my email address list in the crash. Would you please send me an email so that I can regain your address? My new email address is enclosed. Thank you again for keeping me on the *Newsletter* mailing list these many years. An overdue contribution is enclosed towards the great job you're doing.

**Pat Mitchell**  
Victoria, BC

*(Hope you received the email request. If you have other names that you lost let us know maybe we have their email addresses. Thank you General for the generous donation. Ed)*

Some year's back, the Commanding Officer asked if I would like to remain in contact with the **Strathconas** I told him that I would be delighted to do so. My father (**Major Frank Richmond**), a veteran of the **Moreuil Wood** battle ("A" Sqn) in WW1, had recently passed away.

Since my husband (**Donald**) and I have retired to **Edmonton** we have been able to enjoy the Moreuil Wood celebrations each year. In particular was participating in the anniversary **Celebration 2000** (the 100th year since the raising of Strathcona's Horse).

We have enjoyed each *Newsletter* we receive. I am very remiss in sending the enclosed cheque as I know such publications do not come to us without cost. I can only plead health and family problems, which sent quite a number of tasks to the lower regions of my priority list. Hoping the enclosed will help somewhat.

Many thanks.

**Audrey Sharp**  
Edmonton, AB

*(Your father was a much-respected Strathcona. Will probably see you and in Mar/Apr 2003 and a big thank you for your very generous donation. Ed)*

Last April 13 the **Regimental Association (Alberta Branch)** held a **Melfa River** dinner and dance. Enclosed is a photo of several Strathcona's who were with the Regiment on the occasion of the Melfa battle. They were guests of honor at the dinner and are (Front Row L to R) **Frank Thiessen**, **Bob Greene**, **Billy May**, and **'Bud' McLean**, (Second Row L to R) **'Geo' Tomlinson**, **'Al' Swinton**, **'Val' Rimer**, and **'Doc' Dowling**. Al Swinton was with the Artillery unit that was in support of the Regiment during the Italian Campaign.

It was a special occasion for me as I was attending the Melfa Dinner with my father George who recently moved to Calgary from Osoyoos, BC. He and I were attending our second event together as members of the **Association. Alberta branch**. From the time of my childhood in Moose Jaw during WW II, I have been interested in getting the 'real life' details of the Regiment from those who served during WW I. I have had the pleasure of exploring my interest while serving with many WW I Strathconas, met **Capt Perkins** (at his orchard near Meaford) and **Sgt "Chum" Macey** at a reunion. I also served at HQ Western Ontario Area with **Col Mahoney**.

The 2002 Dinner was no less an experience for me in meeting those who had first hand knowledge of our Regiment's proud moments. I particularly wanted to meet **FG 'Bud' McLean**, for Bud may well be one of the last living members of the **"RECCE" Troop** crews, which were actually first across the Melfa, along with **Perkins**, **Macey** and **Funk**, all of whom were decorated for their heroics that day (Perkins

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# Strathcona Mounted Troop Report

The **Strathcona Mounted Troop** established itself once again as the premier dedicated display team of the Canadian Forces for the **2002 Musical Ride Season**. This year the Troop was extremely busy, starting the season on the 3rd of May and finishing on the 21st of September with every weekend booked for a Musical Ride in-between. 2002 saw the Musical Ride take Strathcona's as far West as **Victoria** and as far South as **Bonito, Idaho**, and everywhere else in-between, with the majority of our Rides being performed right here in **Alberta**.

The Troop saw some key additions to its Musical Ride "Team" this year. Namely, **Starbuck** a 15.2 hands high 6 year old sorrel Quarter-horse gelding, **Summit** a 15.1 hand high 4 year old sorrel Quarter-horse gelding, **Sterling** a 13 year old 15.2 hand high chestnut-coloured Quarter-horse gelding and **Salem** a 15.1 hand high 5 year old sorrel Paint gelding. These horses turned out to be a key factor in performing this year's Musical Rides, as due to the overall increasing age of our herd, the Ride season was fraught with injuries for some of our older horses.

We were also lucky enough to enlist the help of two keen, young troopers to help Cpl **Tim Parsons** and Cpl **Jason Pollock** with ground crew duties. Tpr **Alex DiBlasio** and Tpr **Curtis McCarron** were much-needed assets in this time of personnel scarcity.

Some of this season's highlights included: A visit by the **US 1st Cavalry Division's Horse Cavalry Detachment**. This group of perceptive horsemen visited the Mounted Troop from 6-12 May. They partook in a variety of activities while they were here, including a trip to **Calgary** where they saw the **Regimental Museum, Spruce Meadows** and tried their hand at polo for the first time at the **Calgary Polo Club**. They

also joined us in Musical Ride practices and of course got a sense of **Edmonton's** nightlife. The Troop hopes that a reciprocal visit can be arranged for sometime during the winter. January in Texas is supposed to be quite nice.

**Victoria Military Music Festival** 14-16 June. This event saw the Troop perform its Musical Ride in the picturesque setting of **Beacon Hill Park** in the heart of downtown **Victoria**. What made this ride unique was the fact that the Troop performed its musical ride to live music, a first in recent history.

**Spruce Meadows**. The Troop continued its long-standing relationship with Spruce Meadows as their official honour guard for all five of their major tournaments this year. The Troop loves performing at this venue as crowds for Musical Rides can sometimes exceed 30,000 people!

**Canyon County Fair, Caldwell, Idaho** – 26-28 July. Through an aggressive marketing campaign, the Troop was able to secure one of its rides in the **Northwestern United States**. The long travel time and extreme temperatures turned out to be a small hardship to endure, as American hospitality did not disappoint! The Troop performed two of its best Musical Rides at this "horse-crazy" venue and was very, very well received for it! So much so that the Troop has been invited back for five performances next year. A special highlight of this trip was that the entire Troop was able to meet country music star **Carolyn Dawn Johnson!** She was eager to meet us when she learned that our show sold more tickets than hers did!

**Edinburgh Tattoo**, 26 July – 26 August. In honour of **HRH the Queen's Golden Jubilee**, the organizers of the Edinburgh Tattoo asked the Troop send two Mounted Troopers to **Scotland** to be part of this

world famous military tattoo. The Regiment eagerly obliged sending Cpl **Justin Bustard** and Cpl **Scott Fleming**. They had a terrific time and represented the Regiment proudly as part of the mounted escort for the **Scottish Crown jewels**. As an interesting aside, the RCMP our better-funded cousin was only asked to send two representatives as well.

**Vancouver Police Service Ride in the Park**, 16 Sept 02. After performing 2 musical rides in **Mission, BC** for their freedom of the city ceremony, the Troop was invited to do some "on the job training" with the Vancouver Police Service's Mounted Squad. This 11-officer squad has 10 draft horses as mounts and is primarily tasked with patrolling the some 150-km's of trails throughout **Stanley Park**. The Vancouver Police Mounted Squad was nice enough to take the entire Troop on a 6 hour patrol of the park, where we saw some gorgeous scenery and were treated to an all out charge down the beach, a once in a lifetime experience. Many commonalties were found between the two organizations and thus initiatives have been undertaken to provide both organizations with better purchasing power as well as help one another in the ever present task of finding quality new horses.

As one can see Strathcona's Mounted Troop has been a very busy organisation over the course of the last six months. Currently, the horses are having their shoes removed and then they will be put out to pasture for a month of hard earned grazing and rest. The men are also eager to get on leave, as they have not had more than two days off in a row for the entire summer. The final tally had SMT performing over 40 musical rides this summer! That is a long time in the saddle.

**Capt Ross Prokopy**  
Troop Leader

## It Happened One Night

It happened **Christmas** 1944. "**B**" **Sqn** were on duty up the line, so the fitters were in an **Italian** house near **Godofredo**. The Italians had one part of the house, we had a room with a big fireplace downstairs and we slept upstairs. It was cold and the fireplace wouldn't burn very good. Someone suggested a little can of gasoline might help – it did. Flame roared up the chimney and we began to get warm. Suddenly fire and smoke was pouring out of every crack in the chimney upstairs and we wondered if we were going to burn the house down. We didn't have a ladder to get up on the roof. An Italian came running in with long bamboo poles and tying one end to the other, he pushed them up the chimney and soon red hot soot was piled up in the fireplace two feet high. It wasn't long until everything was under control.

The next day was Christmas and the Italian invited us to have dinner with. They had a large pot of stew, which tasted okay. Then he came in with a bottle of real good wine, along with some of our Christmas parcels we had a very nice meal. So that's how I remember Christmas **1944**.

**James A. Spencer**  
Mervin, SK

*(This was published in the first Newsletter Volume 1, Number 1, February 1986. As there were only 342 members on the mailing list at this time I believe that the majority of the current list (1200 plus) had missed out on some interesting anecdotes and letters. I will continue to peruse the 1986-87 Newsletters for items that will be of interest to the current membership. Ed)*



**Letters Letters** *continued*

with the **DSO**, Macey with the **DCM** and Funk with the **MM**). I discovered from my father, just before the dinner, that 'Bud' had been across the Melfa with the RECCE Troop so I was anxious to meet him.

**Bud** told me that the troop had a complement of 11 tanks of which 2 were HQ tanks and the remainder assigned to sub-units of three tanks each. The three sub-troops could then be assigned one to each of the tank Squadrons. The tanks were Mk. 2 **Stuart** (also called **Honey**) with the turrets cut off. 'Bud' said that the Troop had been broken up for the day as some tanks had been assigned to bring engineers forward to take the slope out of the North bank of the river. As it happened, the bank was not too steep and the RECCE tanks were able to climb the north bank. Five tanks were to have gone across but two broke down leaving three which did make it across. The crew commanders were **Lt Perkins**, **Sgt Macey** and 'Bud', who commanded a tank nicknamed "**Scooter**", was only a short distance away when Maj **Mahoney** was wounded. He described the leadership skill shown by Lt Perkins that day, as a dominant factor in the success achieved. He thought that "Perky" was at his very best after Maj Mahoney had been wounded when the need was there for a strong, cool and confident leadership.

'Bud' had an even greater pride in the exploits of Tpr **JK Funk**, **MM** who was his bow gunner. He single handedly disabled a German tank with a borrowed PIAT. Due to the weight of the PIAT and the ammunition it used, Bud crept forward with Funk to carry the ammunition for him. He described Funk as a quiet, unassuming man who had a satisfied grin on his face and said simply, "Wow! I got it", after the event.

**Rod Tomlinson**  
Calgary, AB

*(Glad you are keeping your father active and involved with his Regiment's celebrations. Ed)*

In regards to the **Information Form** you sent to my mother **Lillian Lambkin**. It is with regret that I have to inform you that she passed away on 2nd June 2001. I would like to thank you for keeping my mother in touch with the **Strathcona Family** after the death of my father several years ago.

**Norma Parks**  
Delta, BC

*(A copy of the Newsletter reflecting the obit of "Lillian" was sent to Norma. Ed)*

Just wanted to notify you of another change of address, and I guess this will be final. What with arthritis, failing eyesight, etc., catching up with me. I have moved into a **Sandalwood Retirement Resort in Kelowna**. My new address is: 131-580 Yates Road, Kelowna, BC V1V 2M3, phone (250) 860-4474, Email: [vicchilds@shaw.ca](mailto:vicchilds@shaw.ca).

It's a small world, a lady resident just moved into the resort and I heard her name



was **Elizabeth Flowerdew**, so naturally I went and asked her if she was related to "our" Flowerdew. Yes, he was her husband's uncle, so there 's another contact.

**Bill Turner** has asked me to assist in preparing for the **Okanagan** reunion this **September**, so now that the dust of my move has settled, I'll do what ever I can to help out. I don't see too many old Straths as I am busy with the **South Alberta Regiment's Association**, we had our 62nd reunion in **Ottawa** in May and next year we'll host one in **Victoria**. The Straths and SAR's old timers are getting thinner on the ground each passing year. I hate looking at the "**Last Trumpet Call**" column of the *Newsletter*; but I guess we'll all hear it sooner or later.

Enclosed are a couple of pictures I took at the Okanagan reunion last September. One is of **Vic Binnie** and Colonel **Des Deane-Freeman**. The other is **Vern Schneider**, who I trained as a recruit in the early 50's and now he's a grandfather. Keep up the good work, the *Newsletter* seems to get better with each issue. All the best to my old friends.

Perseverance.

**Vic Childs**  
Kelowna, BC

*(Thanks for the change of address notice. The two photos are now in the Museum's archives. Hope the September reunion goes well and that you meet up with many old comrades and friends. Ed)*

I was saddened to hear that we had lost '**Nobby**' **Clark**. I remember Nobby as a fine soldier, an excellent Gunnery instructor and a loyal friend. I loved his quiet sense of humour and his long monologues in **Swahili**, when he was in his cups.

I would like to share with you and your readers an incident involving 'Nobby' that took place in late September or early October of **1962**, in **Petawawa**. I had recently arrived from Ottawa, having been trans-

ferred from the **Strathconas** to the **Fort Garry Horse** in preparation for a tour of duty in **Germany**. One evening I was having a beer in an otherwise empty Sergeants' Mess when I walked 'Nobby' wearing Grey slacks, Strathcona blazer and tie. He too had been transferred to the Garrys' and had just arrived, by POMC, from **Camp Borden**, his last posting.

We had not seen each other since the Spring of 1960 when we had been on the same **Snr NCO** course at Borden and **Meaford**. We had quite a bit of reminiscing and catching up to do, which we did over a few beers. In walks the **RSM 'Squint' Armer**. 'Nobby' and I paid our respects to him and I introduced 'Nobby' to the RSM. Mr. Armer nodded his acknowledgement, then turned to the bar steward and requested a pair of scissors. Without a word he took hold of 'Nobby's' green and red necktie and cut it off just below the knot. He placed the severed tie on the bar and asked the barman for a Fort Garry tie. Having signed a bar chit for the tie and one drink each for the two of us, the RSM presented the flabbergasted 'Nobby' with a blue and yellow regimental tie, and a handshake, formerly welcoming him to the Fort Garry Horse. Then he bade us a good evening and left.

I wonder if 'Nobby' kept the remnants of his Strathcona tie as a memento. I never thought to ask him.

**Peter Baltgailis**  
Slocan, BC

*(Having known 'Nobby' for nearly 50 years, and had he been still with us, and heard this incident about himself, you and I can well imagine those eyes would have a twinkle and with it would be that jovial laugh that he was renowned for. Thank you Peter for the memorial incident and the donation. Ed)*

I had the occasion to meet a fellow by the name of **Ernie Saunders**, on the 1st tee at

*—continued on page 8*

# LdSH(RC) Association (Alberta Branch) Report

Howdy! from **Calgary** your **Alberta Branch Headquarters**. Our Email address is <abbranch@strathconas.ca> and thanks to **Lindsay Esson** our new secretary, things are coming together. We will still be mailing out your **membership renewal forms** and **Reunion 2005** info to you. Like most, we take a summer break and get serious in September in time for our fall meeting on the 10th at RCL 285 Horton Road branch.

**Melfa River** Celebrations offered our veterans two opportunities to participate. The Association function at the Legion saw 57 join our veterans: **Bill May, 'Doc' Dowling, 'Bud' McLean, Father Greene, 'Al' Swinten, George Tomlinson, Frank Thiessen** and **'Wilf' Lamb** to enjoy good conversation, good friends, and excellent food. **'Don' Lake**, and **'Alex' Ozirny** were unable to attend.

The **Regiment** hosted the other celebration at a Senior NCO & Officer Mess Dinner at the Officers Mess in Edmonton with LCol **Jim Ellis** as our host. **Bud McLean, George Tomlinson, Val Rimer**, and **Bill May** attended and were treated like Royalty and rightly so. The President went along to keep an eye on these young soldiers.

## People \* Places \* Things

Some of our members in Calgary have gone through surgery and are on the mend – **Dick Elliott, Peter Legget** and **Edna Sutherland**. Sadly, we do not get reports on others we would like to list.

**Mike Sartor** – former RQMS of the Strathconas is finally taking off the uniform in Sep and will retire to their home in Red Deer.

**Change of Command** and the **Colonel of the Regiment** was an excellent parade.

The Old Guard was represented by **Earl Cady, Bud Wheat, Jim Chamberlain, Bob Lett, Vic Binnie, Mike Hogan, Stu Ballard, Roy & Inez Jardine, Don & Louise Crossman, Al & Isabelle McBride** I hope I remembered everyone.

LCol **Jim Ellis** invited us to a pre parade luncheon at the Officers Mess which allowed our members to mingle with the likes of **Clive Milner, Mark Egner, Jack Cade, Murray & Bonnie Cayley** and the **RSM** and many other members of the Regimental Family.

**Pridge** – Barrie & Hidie are the PROUD Grandparents of a 7lb 15oz baby girl born to their daughter **Nadine** and husband **Presten** in Calgary Foothills Hospital 24 July 02.

**Shadbolts** – they were in Calgary May/June visiting their two daughters and their families. They made a side trip to visit the **Wilson's** in Mayorthorpe and of course visited many in town, attending a small gathering hosted by **Gary and Gail Lee**.

**Hodgsons** – Sold their home and are on there way to Australia. **Jim & Nancy** Good Luck & God Speed, you will be missed.

LCol **Jim Ellis** – from the Alberta Branch members thank you for all the support from you and the Regiment. “Especially” sharing your regimental members with the Old Guard at **ID's** famous luncheons here in Calgary. Good luck and ALL the Best as you move on in your career. Sue, to you and the family thanks for sharing Jim with us over the years and knowing your not packing for awhile must be OK too.

LCol **Jamie Cade** – The Alberta Branch welcomes you and your family. We look forward to working with you and sharing your vision as you take over the Regiment.

LGen **Jim Fox** – You were right again, you are moving on before me

(I'm still looking for my replacement {Don}). It is hard to put into words and express our thanks for ALL the support you have shown to the Alberta Branch over these many years. Most are not aware of your untiring efforts in meetings and phone calls made in support of the Regimental Family and all the assistance you provided the AB Branch during the planning of the R2000. “THANK YOU”

**To Caroline** – we were blessed to have a special and understanding person such as you sharing Jim with all of us over these many years. You will be missed but not a stranger I hope. Enjoy your future to the fullest, **we will remember you both**.

Col **M. Egner** – Welcome, from the Alberta Branch as we look forward to your guidance and vision over the coming years especially for Reunion 2005.

The **Hills Family** – **Chuck** congratulations on your recent promotion to Captain

and working with Jason ( the terrible) will be a challenge that I'm sure your up to it. **Francine** – We hope your new job is going OK now that the strike is over.

**Westhaver** (Rubberface) – writes – Hi from Moose Jaw, **Frank Carpenter** and I work with the Moose Jaw Police Service (most readers will say, “times have changed”). My one son is teaching at Simon Fraser working towards a PHD or Doctrine, and **Robert** is a welder in Saskatoon and has two sons. **Benny Benoit** called and sends his best from Barrie Ontario.

**Brent Reid** – Shadows son dropped in for a chat and he has certainly had a remarkable recovery and we wish you success Brent in what ever you do.

**ID's** Luncheons – Still a roaring success and the CO, Regt'1 2i/c, RSM, RQ, SSM HQ and other members of the regiment shared stories with the Old guard. Also members from **41 Brigade** joined us for a friendly chat. Thank you **ID Mackay** and **Bud Wheat** for organizing these popular gatherings.

Finally, may we remind the readers that we are deep into the planning of **Reunion 2005** so any ideas you would like to see us pursue please forward to the President.

Many thanks for your support and please, continue to send notes on the happenings in your area. Return the R-2005 questionnaire with your membership or in envelope provided.

Perseverance.

**Don Crossman**  
President

# LdSH(RC) Association (Ontario Branch) Report

This summer there have been several activities in the Ontario Branch area, both Strathcona specific and Corps events. The **Sam Steele Memorial BBQ** at Orillia, organized by “**Shad**” **Shadbolt** and **Murray Cayley**, was held for the third year in a row on the grounds of St George's Anglican Church, Fairvalley, near Orillia, ON on a picture perfect Friday afternoon, July 12th, 2002. The BBQ is now held annually to honour Sir Sam Steele's birth and early life in Simcoe County and Fairvalley. The event is shared with the RCMP and the Grey and Simcoe Foresters. This year's theme emphasized Sam Steele's role in the formation of the **Northwest Mounted Police** which was the foundation of today's RCMP. **Bruce Pearson** and **Aubrey Ford**, both from the area and members of the LdSH(RC) Association also assisted in the event. **Jim Ellard** represented the Regiment during the formal portions of the ceremony. Also in attendance were **Dean Ramsey, Bruce Rutherford, Sam Carr, Dave Iley, Scotty Alexander, Wally Heinrich**, and **Ralph Scales**.

**Strathconas** were well represented at the annual Corps BBQ hosted by our Colonel Commandant, MGen **Clive Milner** and his wife **Shirley** on their St Lawrence River property outside Kingston, Ontario. Clive, of course, began his army career with the Strathconas. Several hundred people from across Canada and the USA attended this family picnic on a warm sunny Saturday at the end of July. Limited space permits us to mention only a very few of the many Strathconas who attended but amongst them were **Bruce** and **Dawn Rutherford** from Owen Sound, **Jim** and **Lucille Ellard** from Toronto, **Chuck Hills, Tom** and **Brenda Horgan** from the Kingston area and **Bill** and **Judy Logan** from Ottawa. This was our Colonel Commandant's last picnic prior to his change-of-appointment so it was good see so many people come out to honour and celebrate his many years of service to our Corps.

Finally **The Henry Sampson Memorial Golf Tournament** at Smith Falls. This annual gathering now includes all Black

–continued on page 14

the Chilliwack Golf Club. Several games later as we discussed our past experiences and I told Ernie that I had been a member of the Armoured Corp. He quickly asked if I had heard or knew of his father 'Pop' Saunders who used to drive the rickety-bang-bang WW1 Scout Car. It was used by General **Worthington**, on several parades of the Armoured Corp conference weekends at the School, and was driven by 'Pop' Saunders. 'Pop' passed away a couple of years ago at Abbotsford at a grand old age of **100 years** and 11 days. Ernie, it turns out, is a retired Squadron Leader a Blue job of course. The Scout car, I am told, is at the **Ottawa Museum**.

I'm sure that some of the "old dogs" would be interested in what happened to **'POP' SAUNDERS**.

**George Prokopetz**

*(I recall seeing that old scout car with 'Pop' at the wheel/tiller's in several ARMD Corp publications. Ed.)*

Thank you very much for *Newsletter* and thank you too for including me in the **Strathcona Family** after the passing of my husband Obie last year. I was excited to see the picture of the "**RECCE**" Troop, but disappointed not seeing Obie (L/Cpl N. **A. Bartlett**) even mentioned, as he was with them all the while overseas. As a matter of fact we still keep in touch with **Ron Thomas** of Grouard Alberta. When I read the names in the "**Last Trumpet Call**" column I too feel a sense of loss.

I'll see what I can find in the way of pictures for the Book Project. There was no mention of a specific deadline when this information, pictures etc. had to be submitted. I have the first book the series did and will want a copy of this the last of the series. Again many thanks for including me in the Strathcona family. Enclosed is a small donation in Obie's memory.

**Johanna 'Jo' Bartlett**  
Calgary, AB

*(Jo, the "Recce" troops picture, you were referring to, list the names of those Straths who were in that troop in March 1945. L/Cpl N. A. (Obie) Bartlett was in "C" Squadron during that period.*

Thanks for the *Newsletter* and the information. Good to hear from you all again. So many years have passed, but still have many, many fond memories. I manage to keep in touch with **Vic Childs** over the last few years, and as usual, I see by the last *Newsletter*, he is wearing many hats. I suppose that is why he is in Mexico to purchase a Sombrero. It's just great to be remembered by friends from the past. We old "sods" need all the help we can get. I for one believe in **esprit de corps** and old and young should keep up the tradition, so call it badgering, not so in my book, it is just old fashion rivalry.

I often make vain attempts at humour,

usually in the form of a little ditty, no offence to anyone is intended, and already too many bridges have been burnt. Enclosed is a little of that humour that you readers may enjoy. It is great to have friends and fond memories in old age. So keep in touch, and "KEEP YOUR POWDER DRY".

#### **MY DREAM.**

Last night I met a "Soldier",  
'Twas in my dreams of course,  
He asked if I had ever been,  
A "Lord Strathcona's Horse".

No! I'm from the "East" my son,  
And I know you're from the "West",  
For you have "Perseverance" bie,  
All painted on your chest.

I tried to place this "Soldier",  
In a place that we both knew,  
For I've never been to "Wainwright"  
So "Camp Borden" had to do.

Oh! there are several other places,  
And "Egypt" could be one,  
Then of course there's "Cyprus",  
The land of blazing sun.

I suppose it doesn't matter now,  
That we drove and cursed and swore,  
For there is one thing I am sure of,  
We still have *Espirit de Corp*.

For we all marched off together,  
In our giant armoured steeds,  
Creaking down the "Highways",  
At 2 kmh top speed.

So now my dream has ended,  
And I'd like to make it clear,  
It is great to have your "Friendship",  
So ——— "Audax et Celer".

**Ernie Babcock**  
Sechelt, BC

*(It's always pleasant to hear from a former Strathcona. It is even more pleasing to bring them back into the family fold. Thank you for the above letter and poem. Ed)*

The **winter of 1947** was cold and bitter and dragging out for the **Regiment at Currie Barracks**. There wasn't much to do for the regiment and morale was getting low and the troops were getting restless. Our CO was **Jerry Chubb** and he discovered that in the **QM** stores there was 18 pair of skis. In addition there were also winter felt boots and WW2 Airforce 2 piece suits. The inner portion of this suit was one piece made up of a brown furry material so that when worn you resembled a Teddy Bear.

Some one, who obviously had no knowledge of skiing, felt that this equipment would do the trick and convinced the C.O. that a ski weekend would give morale a boost. There was no problem getting 18 volunteers for this excursion. Somehow the selection included mostly renegades and rowdies of the regiment

A weekend was selected and arrangements made. We were to be billeted in the **Militia Armouries in Banff**. A Lieutenant was delegated to supervise the group, how-

ever, in his wisdom he decided on bringing a Nursing Sister on the trip. We arrived in Banff late Friday evening and settled in for the weekend. We were not slated to ski until Sunday so we had all day Saturday to ourselves. It was decided that we would wear our **Teddy Bear** suit's for our visit downtown. By afternoon we were all dispersed in the bars, Legion and cafes around the main street. We managed to spread a rumour that we were a **Special Force** unit getting mountain and ski training. This at the time seemed to impress some of the locals around town. Unfortunately, by Saturday night, the combination of beer and wine took its toll on some of the troops and things started to unravel around Main Street. Some of the younger locals took exception to some of the antics, consequently a number of connotations developed at different points. The local RCMP appeared to be absent during this time, consequently things got out of control. We never did see our delegated officer it seems he had other plans for the weekend.

Sunday morning was the time allocated for skiing so we got dressed in our Teddy Bear suits and felt boots. We arrived at **Mount Norguay** for instruction on how to ski. Our instructor was a professional ski instructor and he was quite shocked about the equipment and dress we had. He suggested we should not try to ski in the felt boots, as there was no support for the ankle. After a short period of basic instruction the group drifted off to the ski lift rope to get up the slope. That was when the instructor finally gave up and left in disgust. Most of the gang was still hung over from the night before and not in any shape for the slope, however we were all fearless. It was at the start position when many of us realized that we could only go straight downhill not having learnt turning or breaking. We descended down the slope yelling "**Track**" to the by-standers that had arrived to ski. It wasn't long before we were stumbling and tumbling all over the slope. It was of no surprise that the civilian skiers did not venture on to the slope, with all these bodies flying around. Fortunately there was only one casualty he broke an ankle. I guess the previous night's alcoholic consumption had helped to ease the pain. Much to the relief of the other skiers sitting on the sideline we left around lunchtime. The comments we received were not very complimentary. Our appearance in Teddy Bear suits and felt boots combined with our gusto on the slope would be a conversation piece for some time.

The following week our Commanding Officer called this group together. He read out a letter that he had received from the **Mayor of Banff**. The gist of the letter is "the town hoped not to see any of us in the near future, or ever". The CO made it clear what he thought of our antics in town and on the slope. He gave us a dressing down that we would remember for a long time.

*—continued on page 9*

# Korean Visit

On April 14, 2002 my wife **Donna** and I were part of 38 Korean veterans and (10) spouses selected to take part in the 2002 revisit, along with 99 UK veterans and some of their spouses.

To say that our Korean hosts were anything less than marvelous and gracious would be a gross understatement. From arrival to departure the planning, tours, ceremonies and commemorative services were conducted with pride, enthusiasm and reverence. Not only was it an honour and privilege to be the only **Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC), "B" Sqn** representative on this trip but afforded me yet another opportunity to pay homage to those who make the supreme sacrifice, while serving there so long ago.

Day one proved to be the only relaxing day of our itinerary where we visited the Korean Folk Village and saw some of the scenes, displays and living conditions that were so common to us in 1952-53.

Day two we attended a wreath laying ceremony at the **National Cemetery, Honour Guard ceremony at the War Memorial, Defense Policy Briefing at the National Defense HQ.** A banquet hosted by General (ret'd) **Lee, Sang Hoon**, chairman of the Korean Veterans Association. It was at this banquet that the **Ambassador Peace Medal** was presented to those who had not previously received one.

Day three we checked out of the hotel and departed for **Camp Bonifas** (Panmunjom), where we were given a comprehensive briefing and tour of the area. From there we traveled directly to the Seoul train station and caught the Saemaoul express to Pusan.

Day four we departed for the **UN Cemetery** for wreath laying and a walk through the gravesites. It was here that we were honoured to be part of the new **Canadian Monument's** dedication ceremony. We visited the **Memorabilia Hall** and then proceeded to the train station for the 4½ hour return trip to Seoul.

Day five CINC General **Schwartz** of the U.S Forces Korea (USFK) at **Main Post, Yongsan** presented a Korea Inbrief and Veterans Appreciation Commemoration parade in honour of the Canadian, Korean and UK veterans. After a lovely luncheon,

## Letters Letters continued

On looking back over the years most of those ruffians and rowdies of that era became good **Officer's** and **Snr NCO's** in the **Armoured Corp**, I guess we turned out, not too bad, after all.

As an after, The Lieutenant in charge of the ski group left the regiment shortly after. I didn't mention names of the group so that no one would be offended.

**Carl Ranostay**  
Edmonton, AB

at the Dragon Hill Lodge, we visited a Static Unit/Equipment display, comprising of all the military air and land hardware available to the USFK. This was of special interest to the veterans in which to ask questions, climb on and marvel at how much equipment technology had progressed over the over the past 50 years. That evening **The Canadian Ambassador** and Mrs. **Jocelyn Comeau** graciously hosted us at their spectacular residence overlooking a large area of Seoul.

Day six after checking out of the Sofitel Ambassador Hotel we were transported to the **Commonwealth Memorial at Kapyong County** where we were part of the wreath laying ceremony, a plaque unveiling to the library and then on to the Canadian Monument for a Memorial service. From there we had a 2½ hour bus trip to the airport and departed for Canada or, in the case of Donna and I and another couple, to Bangkok and Thailand, which in itself is another great adventure story.

We were unable to visit some of **"B" Sqn** positions **North of the 18th parallel** such as **Hill 355, 227, 187, the Hook** etc, but were given an all-inclusive overview on their present status. The **ROK** army is the primary custodians backed up by a well-equipped US force.

As I mentioned at the beginning, to have had the opportunity to return to Korea was a tremendous highlight and honour, one which is definitely recommended to any one remotely interested in visiting and reliving memories of their youth. The Korean people have certainly not forgotten the sacrifices made on their behalf.

**L.E. (Larry) Adams**  
Regina, SK

**Ian Barnes**  
Brandon, MB



Larry Adams at the newly dedicated Canadian Monument in Korea.

## Pictorial History in Progress

**Volume VI** of the **Strathcona History Book Series** is underway. It will be completed in the fall of 2004 and made available for the May 2005 reunion. The book (not yet officially named) will have approximately **150 pages** and include over **600 photos**. Text will be included only to introduce time periods and provide a short overview of events and activities. It will be larger than the other four volumes that have been produced and will be approximately 9" by 12" in size with a hard cover similar to the others (green with gold lettering). The jacket will include photos from within the book. The team of **Ian Barnes, Sean Henry, Mike Snell** and **John Grodzinski** will produce the book. The call for photos in the last *newsletter* was well received **but we still need more photos**. This is your chance to get your photo in the book. Please send your photos (black and white and/or coloured) via mail to **Ian Barnes 46 Creighton Blvd, Brandon, MB. R7B 0Y2** or via E-Mail to me at [bevan@mts.net](mailto:bevan@mts.net). All photos received will be passed to the Strathcona Museum archives. We hope to produce a book with as many photos as possible never before seen. We want this book to be one that all Strathconas will cherish. In anticipation of many of the Strathcona family wanting their personal copy, we are planning to print 1500 copies in the first run. Expenses of the book have not yet been finalized. It is anticipated that the cost will likely be below \$40.00.

I will keep you abreast of developments in future newsletters.

# PERAMBULATIONS OF THE PERIPATETIC PADRE

**Marion** (my first wife) and I have just completed an incredible two-week journey to that beautiful country **Africa** where **70%** of the people are starving and **30%** have **AIDS**. It was my first visit to Africa, since the Regiment stopped off in **Algeria** on our way to **Italy** in, November 1943. While in **East Central Africa** the **Bishop of Northern Malawi** appointed me his commissary of Canada.

As we flew up the **Italian** peninsula on our way home, we had a magnificent view of the land we had fought over almost sixty years before. My thoughts went back to the **Melfa** when we lost a third of our tanks and a third of our officers in one day, including many of my dear friends + may their souls rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them +. While in the **UK** we tried to meet our Colonel in Chief, **Prince Charles**, but unfortunately he was off to Scotland.

We arrived home in Calgary to find a stack of calls on the answering machine, plus Emails and a large batch of mail. Among the messages was one from **Harry Stein** in Winnipeg inquiring about an orderly room Joe in Italy whose first name was **Westley** but Harry could not recall the last name. **'Mucker'** informs me that his name is **Vickers**. So there you have it Harry and give your dog Napoleon a pat for me. Another very interesting letter came from **Eddy L'Arrivee** from Aborfield in SK com-

plete with a picture of fifteen "B" Sqn (the sqn that won the war) fellows taken in Italy. I had a great visit with Eddy in August and he told me of his recent visit with **Steve Shular** in Wynyard SK. **Merv Scott** in Stonewall MB. Eddy notes that Merv is pretty badly crippled. Eddy was planning to attend the Italian Campaign Veteran Reunion in Yorkton SK at the end of September. **'Mac' Wilson** also hoped to attend. How did it go fellows?

At the end of August Marion and I observed our 50th Wedding Anniversary. **Len 'Alley' Katz** and his wife **Lee** represented the Straths. **Frank Clifford** was invited but unfortunately was out of town. Another interesting but sad letter came from **Lorna Blair**. Lorna is the widow of **Gerald Blair** who served with the Straths during WW2. We last saw Gerry, or 'Barney', as he was known in the regiment, at the reunion in Edmonton. He went on oxygen two weeks before going to Edmonton but was still determined to make it for our 100th. Lorna says how thankful they both were that he made it to that wonderful gathering. Barney died March 20th, 2002 + may his sole rest in peace + our prayers go out to Lorna and the family. Here at home in Calgary **ID's** luncheons at the 285 Legion are always well attended and the regiment is very good about sending a contingent down from Edmonton. The new CO LCol **Jamie**

**Cade** came down in September but as I was in Africa I unfortunately missed it. My dear wife had surgery the day before Col Cade assumed command of the Regiment; sad to say I missed that one too. I am proud to say that I have had connections with three generations of the Strathcona Cade's. Jamie's grandfather **Fred**, who was a WW1 Strath, and his wife **Florence**, were parishioners of mine when I was rector of **St. Bede's Anglican Church** in Winnipeg from 1972-77 during which I was the Wpg branch padre. Jamie's father **Jack** was a subaltern with us in **Italy** and later a Colonel himself. Sgt **Morris Spring's** (WW2) father **Victor** served in WW1, but as far as I know the Cade's are the only family with three generations of serving Straths. Congratulations, Colonel Jamie. May your command of the regiment be richly blessed.

Another message on my blower was from **Billy May** who has recently been crippled with shingles, the only proper place for same being on the roof of your house! On top of that, his dear and faithful wife **Mollie** had to go into hospital. Later this week I plan to take Billy out to lunch at our local Legion 264 and then visit Molly. Billy is faithful and a long serving Strath who joined the permanent force in 1939 As a trooper and rose to become the RSM after the war. Elsewhere in Calgary I keep track of **Don Lake, Frank Thiessen, Bud McLean, Alex Ozirny** and his faithful wife Jean. Also the Strath widows **Alice Budner, Millie McCreary** and **Della Spilde** who has just returned home from hospital. **Roy Jardine** is still recovering at home with dear wife **Inez** who continues to spoil the life out of him. Roy's son **David** just back from **China** is very good about bringing his father to **ID's** luncheons. Hang in Roy! You are living proof that you can't keep a good man down.

As the Association Padre I am kept busy conducting Strath funerals. The latest being that of **Thomas Clarke Elliott**, who joined the regiment in 1936, early in the war transferred to the RCAF but always regarded himself a Strathcona.

As we look around our lovely Condo we see so many wonderful Strathcona mementoes. A lovely rural and mountain painting given to us by **Dick Cunniffe**, when we left Calgary to go to Wpg in 1972. **Stan Adams** superb painting of the **Bluenose** in full sail, a painting of the POW camp we were guarding in **Zuidlaren, Holland** just after VE day and painted by a **Dutch** friend. The recent **The Colonel- in Chief Commendation** awarded by the **Strathcona Society** plus many other trophies and plaques. It's not hard to tell this is a Strathcona house. **'Mucker'** just phoned and is screaming at me to get this column off to him. So I had better sign off. **Poosh On, Strathconas.**

**Father R.S.H. Greene**  
Padre & Lance Corporal

## Remembering a Hero

The last project of the **Celebrations 2000** concluded in Fort MacLeod with the dedication of a new headstone to one of our most recognized soldiers, **Brigadier General Frederick Maurice Watson Harvey VC, MC, CdeG**. Brigadier Harvey was born in Ireland on September 1, 1888, he grew up as a fine athlete and a keen competitor with a love for challenge. He graduated from school as a qualified surveyor and was drawn to Canada in 1908 where he worked on a ranch near Fort MacLeod, Alberta and later joined a survey team working in the North. His love for rugby drew him back to Ireland for a short time to play for his homeland.

In 1911, he returned to Fort MacLeod where he bought a ranch and subsequently married Miss **Winifred Lillian Patterson** in March 1914. The call of King and Empire soon drew this young man into service of his newly adopted country. In 1915 he enlisted in the **Canadian Mounted Rifles** in Fort MacLeod. He subsequently went overseas with that cavalry unit and was posted in 1916 to the **LSH (RC)**. It was as a **Strathcona** that he earned the many coveted decorations he wore.

On March 27, 1917 during an attack by the Regiment at the village of Guyencourt in France, a party of enemy ran forward to a wired trench just in front of the village and



*Brigadier F.M.W. Harvey 1888 - 1980*

opened rapid machine gun fire at very close range, causing heavy casualties to the leading troop. At this critical moment, when the enemy showed no intention whatever of retiring and fire was still intense, Lt. Harvey who was in command of the leading troop, ran forward well ahead of his men and dashed at the fully manned trench, jumped

*-continued on page 11*

# MILLENNIAL MEMORIES

1953 to 1955 were memorable years with all the changes, activities, increases in the Army, tasks given to the regiment and the newly formed "D" Squadron. Subalterns, **Ken Grove**, **Dooley Ross** and I were hoping to get to the 25 Brigade in Korea but the new 27 Brigade for Germany would do nicely for two years in the **British Army on the Rhine, (BAOR)** along with our allied Regiment, the **17/21 Lancers in Munster**.

Garrison life in **Currie Barracks** was a constant learning exercise in addition to our duties such as attending courts martial as observers and recommending punishments and supporting them. Junior Officers were encouraged to join the **Garrison Club** and **United Services Institute** to broaden our knowledge of the wider aspects of the Army. Our rare spare time was usually spent by some of us going next door to the **RCAF Station** to fly in the back seats of their Harvard Trainers, used in the **Commonwealth Training Programs**. Their pilots seemed

to like moving cross-country in our tanks, crossing hard ground and splashing through the rivers and streams.

The accompanying photo is a little bit of history that coincides with the soldiers in the regiment and **RCD** in 1947 and after. We formed the first troop of the **RCAC** with **Replacement Wing in Camp Borden** with the OC, Capt. **CV Jewkes, M.C. (RCD)**. This was the first class of **General Military Training** after WW2 to be brought into the RCAC. NB: **Hugh Mackie** was the SSM.

In mid January 1953 I was sent to **Camp Valcartier** to attend a 24 week French language course. I returned to the regiment in **Wainwright** just in time to fit in with the establishment of personnel, in July. We were finishing off the Regimental syllabus and getting ready for "D" Squadron to be assessed for its operational proficiency to meet the standards of **D Armour**. The examiners also included observers recently

graduated from **Staff College**. We passed muster and started breaking camp but not before the CO laid on a mess dinner in the marquees for most of the **Brigade's CO's**. Lots of rain, jokes, camaraderie and lots of Nelson Heaters.

The regimental shoots were finished and cleaned up and the return to Currie was completed in good time. "D" Squadron was given 30 days embarkation leave and we had to be back 30 October. I went to visit the RCAF and they were in the process of sending aircraft back to Trenton, Montreal etc. for training or destruction. I was able to hop from Calgary to Winnipeg on to Montreal to PEI, where I caught a ferry to Wood Island in Nova Scotia and hitchhiked to Halifax where I caught a tram to my home; at last. I think I got back pretty much the same way in time for NLT 30 October but I can't be sure. Anyway, the Halloween party organized by **Bucky** was a great going away bash. There was little more to do, except have a parade for the Mayor of Calgary for farewells and drive to the train station where **Dean Freeman** and his wife shook hands with the troops and officers and wished us all "GOD SPEED"

Perseverance.

**Ken Barnaby**  
Ottawa, ON



Replacement Wing Group 1947 – Camp Borden



Troops stretching their legs.

## Remembering a Hero

*continued*

the wire, shot the machine gunner and captured the gun. His most courageous act had a decisive effect on the success of the operation and Lt. Harvey was awarded the **Victoria Cross** for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

Lt. Harvey continued to serve with the Regiment throughout the remainder of the First World War. He received the **French Croix de Guerre** for his action in the Great Trench Raid. He fought in the battle of **Moreuil Wood** and his troop supported another troop of "C" Squadron, which resulted in the awarding of the **Military Cross** to Lt. Harvey and the **Victoria Cross** to **Lt. G.M. Flowerdew**.

*—continued on page 15*



1980

# Dear John

*(This is the thirteenth in a series of fictional father-to-son letters which were penned by the late BGen A.G. Chubb and published in the Canadian Army Journal in the 50's. Ed)*

Dear John:

Your mother is still rather starry eyed over the wedding and spends hours on the phone spelling out the gory details of Mary's dress, the bridesmaids, how handsome the officers looked in their blues etc etc. I never could understand why women get so excited about these things but they all do. At that, I must confess it went off very well and your father-in-law and I managed to get off in a corner and swap a few lies about our respective offspring. He seemed like a decent old gent in spite of his gunner background.

I had quite a talk with your troop Sgt. Graham before I left. I was wondering around the tank hanger and he came up and introduced himself. A fine man and I would judge a good soldier. He seemed to think that you were doing a good job but was a little worried because he had heard a rumour that you were thinking of asking for a posting outside of the regiment. It surprised me a little and I have made a stab at adding up your military career to date.

You have three years and a bit under your belt at this point. As I remember it you have successfully passed the Young Officers Course at Borden and have also qualified in

two of the three RCAC courses to wit you have taken the Advanced Gunnery and Advanced Wireless. You have had two years in command of a troop and have had two full summer periods of training in Wainwright. You have been promoted from 2/Lieutenant to Lieutenant and taken to your bosom a helpmate to wit Mary. Makes quite an impressive list doesn't it? And in fact it is merely getting together as it were the tools of your trade.

As I remember it you must serve one year in the rank of Lieutenant before you can write your Lieutenant to Captain examination and must serve five years in the rank of Lieutenant before becoming eligible for promotion. That part is clear enough and to my way of thinking is fair enough. How should you spend this time? As I have said before, I feel very strongly that the basis of all soldiering is found in the regiment. The tools of the trade e.g. equipment, men and training facilities are concentrated and available to you. You should seize on every opportunity to use these facilities to the full. It seems to me therefore that your best bet is to remain, is possible, with the regiment at least for one more year during which time you should prepare yourself for your Lieutenant to Captain's examinations. Having successfully passed this hurdle and with four years regimental service you might then look for a posting to the RCAC School or to I & A.

A tour of this sort will do you a world of

good in that your horizon broadens, you meet new people, face up to new situations and condition of service. The four years of regimental service will serve you in good stead, as you will have the confidence of experience and knowledge. Anything less than four years is to my way of thinking too short.

Having completed a tour in the School or with I & A, I think you should then hope to return to regimental duty as a Captain and prepare yourself for the Staff College. Certainly it is easier and more pleasant to work to this from within the sanctuary of the regiment than when slugging it out more or less on your own as a junior officer on a HQ or in some small town.

Sounds pretty simple and straightforward doesn't it when it is written down like this. You and I both realize that it is not quite as simple as that but at least it is a plan of operation, which will lead you to your goal in reasonable steps. Certainly I think you should make a plan for your own future along those lines starting with the regimental service as your base of operation as it were.

This will greet you on your return from your honeymoon and may bring you out of the clouds a bit. I have never been a grandfather before and am looking forward to it. Give our best to your child bride.

As ever,  
Dad

## Birchaven Invitational Golf Tournament

The **12th Annual Birchaven Invitational Golf Tournament** successfully made the history books at Owen Sound, Ontario on September 6 to 8, 2002. As a result of the new format that features only one round of play, a significant number of records were set before, during and after the Platinum Round.

Hosted by **Bruce and Dawn Rutherford** with immediate support from Judge **Bob Rutherford** and Bruce's grandson **Seth Adair**, the full playing group also included **Bob Sear, Bob Billings, Clive Milner, Dave Keddie, Dennis Hopkins**, and **Al Diggins**, Bruce's brother-in-law.

Set up as a dramatic team versus team, best ball format, the records began to fall early when two members of the group were required to stand in their sock feet at the first tee while soft cleats were placed on their vintage golf shoes. Not one but two. Definitely a first!!

From the outset the standard of play was set by Seth Adair who recently completed four years at Savannah College of Art & Design in Georgia as Captain of the College golf team. While he took the win for Longest Drive at some 320 yards, Bob Billings held on to take the Close To The Hole category. Top prize money of seven loonies went to each of the winners.

The after play lunch was hosted by Bob Rutherford at the Owen Sound Country Club and the usual round of lame excuses and military gossip was exchanged along with various health-related conversations. Following an afternoon fishing trip, the concluding evening banquet was prepared with characteristic flair by Bob Billings and included two brand new dishes – Greek Potatoes and Broccoli, Nut and Mayo Salad Supreme. Wonderful!! Obviously concerned about his ability to exceed this triumph, the chef seriously suggested we have next year's event catered. Not likely!!

Following the banquet the Tournament Trophies and War Medals were presented. **Dave Keddie** received his **Peacekeeping Medal** for service in Egypt from Bruce Rutherford and, in exchange, presented a wide range of corporate baseball caps and tee shirts to those present. The Mannequin Pis Trophy for Closest To The Hole went to Bob Billings; the Gorf Trophy for the Longest Drive to Seth Adair; the BCR Trophy for Most Gentlemanly Play went to Clive Milner and the Golden Golfer Award for the Best Team was accepted by Dennis Hopkins. In absentia, **Bob Sear** was presented the Most Dinners Missed Award for never being brave enough to come to the final banquet.

Summing up the event, Clive Milner, just back from United Nations duty in the Far East, noted that Dave Keddie won more golf awards when he didn't make it to the tournament. Perhaps the most telling remark came from Seth Adair who said that in addition to the great company and the great golf he was amazed at the range of medical conditions that had been discussed by such a relatively small group of people!

**Dennis Hopkins**

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[www.strathconas.ca](http://www.strathconas.ca)

# Once Upon A Time There Was A Subaltern

*(The following the seventh in a series of reflections penned by a Strathcona (who for now will be anonymous) regarding his service during which he considered were the "Golden" years with the Regiment. Ed)*

Hindsight tempered with common sense is useful. However, if the realities of the past are replaced with current realities then we're likely to be 'off the mark'. The **NATO Bde** of the 50's was very different from its successors of the 60's-90's. Indeed, **Europe**, both **East** and **West**, was of a time not easily known or understood even a decade later. (For we of the 50's to superimpose our decade upon those that followed would be as erroneous).

In *War Without Battles, Canada's NATO Brigade in Germany, 1951-1993*, the author of the Foreword was there, and assisted in establishing the **Bde** accommodations in **Westphalia** for 1953. General Sir **John Hackett, GCB, CBE, DSO, MC**, states this about our **Cdn Bde**:

"I knew it very well, being there to help it on its arrival and working-up, and a good deal of it thereafter ... when it was one of the outstanding elements in the Northern Army Group ... such splendid representation, seen in such high relief abroad." (Underlining my own)

"**Recce Sqn's**" role, 1957-59, was significant in hindsight. While living daily these thoughts were seldom considered. Rather from Trooper to Major, it went unsaid that objectives large or small were to be achieved on a scale "better than good". Social challenges were met with the same perseverance. We lived life intensely – this included the dependents – all part of the '**Strathcona family**'. For better or worse, to use a quotation from **Lord Wavell**:

*"we were bound together by a golden thread of recollections which would always be precious to us..."*

The final months prior to movement from **Currie Barracks** to **Fort Chambly** were full of activity. Even annual leaves took on a serious vein, whether single or married there was much to do; disposing of autos for credit notes, furniture sold or stored, accommodations vacated, wives and kids sent to relatives until later movement to **Soest** in late **November**.

**An aside:** As a 'single', my leave took me to a little **Ottawa-Valley** town to bid adieu to my parents and youngest sister. It was here I'd enjoyed and survived adolescence with its freedoms and friends. Things weren't the same though – the country dances were tamer; the bars 'across the river' in **Grenville, Que**, still served quarts with the dried, mouldy sandwiches on Sunday afternoons but familiar faces were not there; the town 'hang-out' was now full of youngsters. My father spoke to me in a different manner – many thoughts and feelings

were left unsaid, but felt. It was with mixed feelings I returned 'home' to my room in **Currie Barracks**. It was good to be back.

As the married personnel moved into barracks, the atmosphere took on an expectancy, which intensified with the departure of the **Advance Party**. "The Show was on the Road"!

**An Aside: Colby Yeomans** recalls "the stencilling of anything and everything stationary". Ex/CanSea was our "brand" in '57.

**An Aside:** John Ashley still marvels at the "tons" of extra supplies crated for shipment to **Fort Chambly**. Contents were often mis-inventoried labelled; new **Bell-Tents** for the entire **Sqn**, new tarps for all vehicles, extra camouflage nets, forests of paper/file-folders, etc., and new coveralls, etc., all this was surplus to our establishment decreed by **Ottawa**. (Without the foresight of **Ian Grant, Bill Ward, 'Mac' Lindsay** and '**Billy**' **May**, the **Sqn** would have been in a sorry state in Germany. We could not have functioned operationally with the scales of issue stated by **DND-Ottawa**.)

While preparing the **Ferret Scout Cars** for their sea voyage, it was interesting to watch the kit stowage – new tools, canvass, wireless parts, etc., were "liberated" for the trip. Even weapons received similar attention. New barrels appeared. As with "**D**" **Sqn** in **55** at **Fort Anne**, this "liberating" did not occur from within the **Sqn** but rather from forays within the garrison. Even the **PPCLI** and **QOR** were fair game. (In hindsight, I wonder if some of the stuff came from the **RCAF, Lincoln Park**?)

The **advance Party**, under command of 'Mac' **Lindsay**, assisted by Lt '**Baz**' **Collett** and Sgt '**Scotty**' **Miller**, left to prepare for the **Main Party** and their dependents by end-October and end-November, respectively. Not the least of their tasks was to find and secure accommodations "on the economy" for the dependents. The **PMQ's** in **Soest** did not allow for our personnel. We were an "add-on" to the **Bde**. So, it was rooms over **gast-hofs**, behind/over stores, and rooms in private homes, from the shores of the **Mohne See** to **Lippstadt**, choices were made and leases signed for those who would follow. (As a 'single', I observed this lifestyle from afar. Volumes could be and should be written about "life on the economy" in the '50's.) In typical **Strathcona** fashion, choices were sound and all went well. Unlike some other units, all **Strathcona** dependents were 'in place' for **December 1957**.

Meanwhile, **Colby Yeomans** and '**Pat**' **Patterson** were detailed to be the **Advance Boat Party**, **Quebec City**, October '57.

**An Aside:** **Colby** recalls it was "not a very demanding task but a good opportunity to **Recce** the **Citadel** and the **Plains** ... very fortunate to have **Pat** as a guide. He knew more than the 'natives'!"

When the **Main Party** arrived, they were boarded quickly into pre-arranged accommodations. (The organizational skills of **Movement Control (RCASC)**) on both sides of the **Atlantic** was virtually flawless. (Too bad "civvie street" couldn't match them today. The rotation of 2 **Bdes** w/dependents within two months while maintaining a war footing meant some 16,000 individuals "in and out".)

**An Aside:** '**Pat**' recalls the **SSM** ordering the **Snr NCO's** to keep their **Patrol Dress** ('Blues') available for wear while at sea. One doesn't question the **SSM**...the 'Blues' were not worn ...

Two subalterns were detailed to be the **Air Couriers**. This entailed taking many copies of nominal rolls to **Movement Control, Rotterdam**, and to the **Adv. Party**, **Fort Chambly**. Lt "Bob" **Marvin** was the **Advance AC** from **Calgary**, while Lt **John Ashley** was to be the **Final AC** from **Dorval, Montreal**.

**An Aside:** **John** remembers **Quebec City**, where he had time to visit the site where **Samuel de Champlain's** casket was finally located, and meeting the train with the **Strathconas** as it pulled into **Wolfe's Cove**. Then it was to **Dorval** and lift-off on a **Super Constellation** after the farewell to a fiancée (who would be sending him a '**Dear John**' six months later). Bitter sweet memories indeed.

The flight was deluxe, unlike today's travel in **Airbus** cattle pens. After delivery of the final nominal rolls there was time to **recce** some of the bars of **Rotterdam** before on to **Soest**. '**Baz**' **Collett** met me and brought me up-to-date as we drove to **Fort Chambly**. (Memories of my arrival at **Fort Anne** in May '55, with '**Dooley**' **Ross** flooded back. Different though, very little evidence of war damages in '57' (just 2 years later). The **Advance Party** had been busy. It also became obvious that numerous **recces** had been made...to significant sites where liquid refreshment and ox-tail soup might be obtained. The **Adv. Party** could have been re-mustered as "guides, tourist, for the use of" – they also knew where the "frauleins" were...or so they said.

The voyage from **Quebec City** to **Rotterdam** on the **Empress of France** (the "Drunken Duchess") resulted in numerous tales...none to be recounted here. When '**Bill**' **Ward** was asked how it had gone, he merely rolled his eyes...which could be interpreted as "hell on earth (or ship)", possibly due to machinations of the **OC** and the **SSM**.... The **Troop Train** to **Soest** also holds memories as other units and dependents were on the train. Again, tales go untold and the perpetrators remain incognito. (See if **Colby** or **Pat** will talk).

The **Ferrets**' arrival in **Fort Chambly** meant some intensive cleaning and re-stor-

*–continued on page 14*

## Once Upon A Time There Was A Subaltern *continued*

age of kit in readiness for trial runs outside the camp.

**An Aside:** Colby Yeomans recalls, "I really don't recall us doing anything out of the ordinary – except we were always doing something."

A Wireless Course was given ASAP, with the loader's portion given at **Fort Beausejour, Iserlohn**, in the tanks of the **RCD's**. With all drivers and crew commanders now trades-trained in D&M (wheeled and wireless), we had some real flexibility in use of personnel on exercises. (Extra trades pay also came in handy in "supporting the local economy". We were learning that the shelf life of local German beer was short...and we persevered in not wasting...)

**An Anecdotal Aside:** John Ashley can't remember how or why he was selected by the 2i/c, 'Mac' Lindsay, to be "**Ships Visiting Officer**", Rotterdam, 2126 hrs, 26 Nov '57. A premonition of things to come occurred while enroute from Soest in aged coaches (WWII remnants) pulled by an incredibly dirty, coal-fired locomotive. (Things 'looked up' when we crossed the **Dutch border** and the new locomotive was electric).

The dependents disgorged the ship as a dazed rabble – Day 14 from Calgary for these mothers, children, babies, and wives – they actually smiled when they saw a Strathcona (everyone's morale improved). Many had never travelled extensively before. ('Pat' Patterson's wife, **Gwen**, had never been east of **Saskatchewan**). The accommodations were marginally functional. Other units were barred from entering

the coaches where our dependents were entombed with all the noise frantic children and choleric babies could muster.

The mothering skills and leadership of some wives became quickly evident, and I enlisted several to assist me in pacifying those "on the edge". 'Mac' Lindsay's wife, "Les", with 4 young ones (the 5th would arrive in due course), not only had her brood under easy control, she toured the cars offering assistance to the young wives. 'Bill' Ward's wife, **Eleanor**, with her first son (number two would arrive in '58) also offered assistance to those in dire straits. Anarchy did not occur but it came close. Then, a real problem burst upon my little empire ... the washrooms, actually both the toilets and the wash basins were not usable ... there was no water. The few buckets (pails) beside the toilets were empty, the toilets filled with paper and diaper droppings and the stench was easily discernible. My appeals to the Train Conductor (German) went unheeded. (I might as well be conversing with a goat). Finally, I resorted to "not a threat but a promise" to pull the emergency cord and halt the train/report him to ... if water wasn't supplied at a stop (unscheduled) at the next station. (Those bloody buckets were going to be filled!) It worked – and from Emmerich to Soest it was all downhill. So, it came to pass that Recce Sqn and its "camp followers" were re-united. I was never given a medal for this service 'over and above ...' – but I did my bit.

Two days later we left camp on exercise. We were operational within BAOR.

## LdSH (RC) (Ontario Branch) Report *continued*

Hats. Several serving and retired Strathconas demonstrated their slices and hooks including **Clive Milner, Jim and Lucille Ellard, Chuck Hills, Roy Forestell, Ron Francis, Dave Iley, Terry Mayne, John Russell, Derrald and Mary Prosser, Bob and Sheila Billings, Bill and Heather Claggett, and Greg Hug**. The golf was followed by pre-dinner drinks, dinner, prizes and lots of draws for gifts. Both John Russell and Greg Hug were on teams awarded prizes – John's for doing well and Greg's for most honest team (I believe that usually means you came last!). As John played on the team with the Colonel Commandant, there could be an explanation for his prize as his golf game was a little suspect. This event proved to be fun and was an excellent opportunity to renew friendships with the more than 80 Black Hat participants.

The Branch Executive has been augmented by the addition of LCol **Paul Fleury** and Maj **Paul Pickell**. Their addition permits us to keep our balance of serving and retired members.



## Comments from the Commanding Officers Hatch *continued*

account for the largest Regimental representation in the **Armour School**.

The Regimental main effort is changing "C" Squadron from tank to Coyote, in preparation for deployment to Bosnia in March with 2 PPCLI. Major '**Giff**' Gifford and SSM **Brad Murphy** have a full schedule taking their squadron to Wainwright in early October for a gun camp, followed by support to Brigade live fire training in Suffield. "A" Squadron RCD will also join us to provide the tank squadron for the exercise.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone about the superb Regimental website, the work of **Kathy Stephen** and Cpl **Rick Allen**, at [www.strathconas.ca](http://www.strathconas.ca). It is an excellent means of keeping up to date on Regimental news, viewing photos of Regimental activities, contacting old friends and viewing the latest "Shiney" from the Regimental Kitshop.

LCol J. Cade CD

## Message from the Colonel of the Regiment *continued*

families. It was a very good parade, mounted of course, with a roll past and a *feu de joie* by the tanks – very impressive!

Among the many Strathconas that I encountered were MGen **Cam Ross**, the senior serving Strathcona, **Pete Wonderham, Earl Cady, Jim Chamberlain, Lindsay Esson, Don Crossman, Jack Cade** (and many of the very proud Cade clan), **Bob Caughill, Capt Doug Gardner, Des Deane-Freeman, Col Tim Grant, Vic Binnie, Bud Wheat, Roy Jardine**, and many, many more.

The Regiment has been and continues to be very heavily tasked so there will not be much breathing space for the foreseeable future. As many readers are aware, there is mounting concern about the resources that are being dedicated to our Canadian Armed Forces. Until the various defence reviews and studies wind their way to completion the results will not be known. What we know is that the **Strathcona family** and our Society do provide tangible and strong support to those serving in the Regiment. By continuing to support the *Newsletter*, the website, the kit shop, the Associations, the Museum, the Mounted Troop and the many other activities we have in motion we are not only getting our own pleasure from them but also we are supporting our soldiers and their leaders. I urge you to stay involved and keep in contact!

Perseverance.

Col Mark Egner

## EVERY NOW AND THEN IT TAKES A TRUE MILITARY MIND TO COME UP WITH A CLASSIC QUOTE.

In a recent interview, General **Norman Schwartzkof** was asked if he thought there was room for forgiveness towards the people who have harboured and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America.

His answer:

**"I believe that forgiving them is God's function.**

**Our job is simply to arrange the meeting"**

# Eulogium

This year the **Strathconas** lost two wartime members in the deaths of Colonel **J. M. McAvity DSO, MBE** and Lieutenant-Colonel **R. A. Gartke CD**.

Col McAvity joined the **Regiment** on the 15th of August 1943 as the Commander of HQ Squadron. From January, 1940 until June, 1943, when he arrived in England with the Halifax Rifles, he had worked closely with General **Worthington** to set up the **Armoured Fighting Vehicles Training Centre** in **Camp Borden**. This involved spending a year in England at various British armoured training and range establishments. He was personally responsible for setting up the **Meaford Tank Range**. Col McAvity was appointed Commanding Officer to succeed LCol **Griffin** in June 1944. He commanded the Regiment for the remainder of the war (except the several times when he lost his voice and had to hand over to Maj **Symmes**) and brought it back to Winnipeg on 17 January, 1946. He was awarded the **Distinguished Service Order (DSO)** and made a **Member of the Order of the British Empire**

(MBE). He was a good Commanding Officer. He let we Sqn Commanders get on with the job of training and fighting our squadrons, asking only that we did it effectively and efficiently. To my mind his most lasting contribution was to write, while "waiting for repatriation" in Holland, a detailed history of the Regiment's Second World War experiences. The book "**A Record Of Achievement**" was printed in 1947 and reprinted for Re-union 2000. Over the years I have found this book a great help, not the least because of the nominal role and the list of tank names and crews. Col McAvity served as Colonel of the Regiment from 1965 to 1973. BGen **George Wattford** and Col **Greg Hug** represented the Regiment at the funeral in Brockville, Ontario on 16 April 2002.

LCol **Bob Gartke** joined the Regiment from the Royal Military College on the 11th of February 1941 as a Troop Leader. It was his troop in "A" Sqn that was the first tank troop to reach the Melfa River on 24 May 1944. He emerged from the ensuing tank

battle as Acting Squadron Commander of "A" Sqn.

Bob remained in the Army after the war. His service took him to many parts of Canada and on the Canadian Missions to Kashmir and Laos. He attended the Army Staff College in India. He served as Acting Second-in Command of the Fort Garry Horse, a member of the Directing Staff at the Army Staff College and Acting Commander of New Brunswick Area. He retired from the Forces in 1972 and subsequently joined the Civil Service. Bob had a facility for infuriating some people but an even greater facility for making and retaining friends across a wide spectrum of activities, a number of whom were at the cemetery. Bob was buried at the National Military Cemetery on 17 July 2002. The Regiment was represented at the funeral by Col **Craig Fletcher**, LCol's **Dave Rundle**, **Paul Fleury** and **Roy Forestall** and Maj's **John Malevich** and **Pascal Demers**.

Perseverance.

**W. A. Milroy**  
LGen (ret'd)

## Remembering a Hero *continued*

At War's end he returned to Calgary as a Captain and chose to remain in the Army as a career officer. In the 1920's he attended a Physical Training Instructors course in the UK, returning to **Royal Military College** at Kingston, Ontario where he served as Physical Education Officer until 1927. As an athlete and equestrian he continued to excel. As a regimental officer in the late 20's and 30's he won the Guides Challenge Cup three times for a demanding 15-mile cross country horse race. He initiated the "Annual Recruit's Boxing Championship" a tradition in the Regiment until the 60's. He also directed the Regimental Polo Team to victory in the Alberta and Western Canadian Championship in 1934.

Promoted to Major in 1928, he commanded "**B**" Squadron in Calgary until moving to command "**A**" Squadron in Winnipeg in 1935. He subsequently attended the British Army Senior Officer's Course and after returning to Canada was promoted to **Lieutenant Colonel** assuming command of the

regiment 15 December 1938. He commanded the **Strathcona's** until 20 July 1940.

LCol Harvey remained in Calgary after his tenure as CO. He became **Commandant** of **Currie Barracks** and shortly thereafter was promoted to **Brigadier General** and **Commander of 13th Alberta Military District**, a position he held to his retirement. The Harvey's only son was killed in action in Europe in 1945.

BGen Harvey died in the **Colonel Belcher Hospital** on 21 August 1980 at age 92 and was buried in Fort MacLeod, 25 August.

In 1980 a small wooden cross was placed on the grave to mark the final resting place of this highly decorated soldier. This wooden cross would later be replaced with a family headstone marking the graves of both Brigadier and Mrs. Harvey. **Mrs. Harvey** died in 1988 and was to be buried beside her husband however this did not happen and subsequently she was buried at the Anglican Cemetery in Millarville, which she considered home since shortly after the war when they purchased their farm.

This should be the end but not so. With their son's death in WW II there was no immediate family left to look after the grave and from time to time members of the Regiment would drop down to Fort MacLeod to see the grave of this brave soldier of the Strathcona's. The town of Fort MacLeod took care of the gravesite in the usual fashion and nothing more was done. In winter 1998, the regiment received a letter from **Mr. James C. Marshall**, stating his concern over the poor condition BGen Harvey's grave and its state of disrepair. After the snow cleared a trip to investigate and see

first hand its condition. The grave was not as bad as assumed but still, here was a Victoria Cross recipient who had a family headstone and who was entitled to something much different.

The task to investigate was sent out to members of the Regiment which resulted in getting **Mr. Wayne Ramsay** of the **Department of Veterans Affairs** in P.E.I. agreeing that they would provide the headstone if all the proper documentation and authorizations were acquired. It took almost a year to see that all was completed and in **October 2000**, twenty years after his passing a ceremony was held in Fort MacLeod to rededicate the new headstone to our fallen hero.

**WO Darryl Crowell MB, CD**



1982



October 2000

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

In addition to those acknowledged with their "Letters", it is with great appreciation that we wish to acknowledge messages with donations to the Society from: **Hugh Fleming, George Fox, Alex Frey, Frank Karwandy, Tom MacDougall, Hugh Mackie, Peter Nichita, Margaret Paxton, Robert Plumridge, Dave Ryan, Dave Sproule, Roy Steinki, Stan Tall, Garth Woodrow.** Please let me know if I missed anyone. The monies will be used as directed by donor(s) i.e. **Newsletter, Museum, Mounted Troop, or Society** discretion.

Anyone, who has donated money to the **Regimental Society** and has not received a letter of acknowledgment if applicable, is requested to let me know. Make your cheque payable to "**LdSH (RC) Society.**"

There continues to be some confusion among readers as to whether the *Newsletter* is put out by the **Regiment**, the **Society**, or a local branch of the **Association**. This creates some problems in handling of donations because many readers unknowingly make donations that are not eligible for tax receipts. The problem is further complicated by each of the regimental elements having a different address. **The SOCIETY** (which is, all **Strathconas** on the **Family Role**, being its membership) produces the *Newsletter*. However, it should be noted that the overall generosity of the readers continues.

The policy for the handling of donations to the *Newsletter*; (which applies also to the **Mounted Troop, Museum** or the **Society** in general) is to ensure that:

- all donations are processed through the **Society Secretariat** i.e. '**Mucker**' Langan.

Cheques are forwarded to the **Regimental Accounts** and processed as quickly as possible.

All donations (names, not amount) are acknowledged in each edition of the *Newsletter*.

For the *Spring 2003* edition of the *Newsletter*; please forward your reports, letters, anecdotes, articles, photos, etc by the **15 Feb 2003**.

'Mucker' Langan

## LAST TRUMPET CALL

**BECKETT J.M. (Murray)** WW2, Korea, Regular, age 77, 22 Jun 01, Rocky Mountain House, AB

**BLAIR G.M. ('Barney')** WW2, age 81, 20 Mar 02, Maxville, ON

**CADE J.D. (Jack')** WW2, Regular, age 81, 18 Oct 02, Cowichan Bay, BC

**ELLIOTT T.C. (Tom)** WW2, Regular, age 87, 04 Jul 02, Calgary, AB

**FRIPP G.I. (Geoffrey)** WW2, age 94, 28 Jul 02, Montreal, QC

**GARTKE R.A. (Bob)** WW2, Regular, age 80, 17 May 02, Vanier, ON

**GOEBEL L.V. (Len)** Korea, Regular, age 72, 02 May 02, Wainwright, AB

**HOBBS G.W. (Garnet)** WW2, age 88, 25 Sep 02, Vernon, BC

**KAVANAGH R.L. (Bob)** Regular, age 62, St Johns, NF

**KENNEDY J.T. (Terry)** Korea, Regular, age 73, 20 Sep 02, Calgary, AB

**McAVITY J.M. (Jim)** WW2, age 93, 14 Apr 02, Brockville, ON

**PANKHURST R.L. (Ron)** Regular, age 73, 17 May 02, Calgary, AB

**PHEIFER R.F. (Bob)** Regular, age 59, 07 Jul 02, Boswell, BC

**POWER J.P. (Jim)** Regular, age 57, 25 Feb 02, St Johns, NF

**ROSA W.E. (Warren)** WW2, Korea, Regular, age 80, 04 May 02, Boswell, BC

**STUMPF J. (Jofun)** Korea, age 74, 07 May 02, Nepean, ON

**SUMMERTON B.W.A. (Ben)** WW2, Regular, age 77, 22 Apr 02, Calgary, AB

**TAYLOR M.C. (Eddy)** WW2, Korea, Age 75, 04 Feb 02, Scarborough, ON

**VAN LUVEN C.B. (Charlie)** Korea, Regular, age 71, Apr 02 Lipton, SK

**YEOMANS C.W. (Colby)** Regular, Korea, age 72, 11 Sep 02, Dutch Valley, NB

### *In Loving Memory of Wives*

**CADY LOU (Earl)** 03 Dec 01, Calgary, AB

**CLIFFORD ELLEN (Frank)** 06 Mar 01, Willowdale, ON

**COLES JENNY (Jim)** 06 Apr 02, Calgary, AB

**FREY EVELYN (Alex)** 12 July 02, Hasting, ON

**GALLANT HESTER (Gord)** 23 Jun 02, Sudbury, ON

**GRAHAM DOROTHY (Harry)** 02 Apr 02, Barrie, ON

**GRAY IRENE (Roy)** 20 01, Port Colborne, ON

**JAHRAUS MARY (Harry deceased)** 20 May 02, Maple Creek, SK

**McKINNON-CROCKFORD MYRTLE (Duncan deceased)** ?? Sep 01, Victoria, BC

**McADAM BOBBI (ne Camponi) (Wayne)** 09 Jun 02, Calgary, AB

**ROSA ANNE (Warren deceased)** 09 Jul 99, Boswell, BC

**WERTYPORA IRENE (Tony deceased)** 03 Nov 01, N.Vancouver, BC

*"May They Rest in Peace"*

(My apologies for lack of details in some cases. Ed)

## Lost Trails

The following had their *Newsletter* returned by **Canada Post** with the notation "**MOVED**". If any reader knows the current whereabouts of these individuals would you, or have them, notify this office.

**Agnes Baker**, Victoria, BC. **Barry MacDonald**, Langley, BC. **George Smith**, N. Vancouver, BC. **Jim Skinner**, Nanaimo,

BC. **Bert Stallard**, Vernon, BC. **Cliff Jacobson**, Medicine Hat, AB. **'Red' Laney**, Bonnyville, AB. **Sean McMaster**, Calgary, AB. **Ed Mittelstadt**, Edmonton, AB. **Wayne Smith**, Lacombe, AB. **Ron Thompson**, Calgary, AB. **Dale Tilling**, Saskatoon, SK. **Fred Tisdale**, Swift Current, SK. **Chris Eyres**, Winnipeg, MB.

**Stewart Thexton**, Winnipeg, MB. **George Fudge**, Woodlawn, ON. **Glendon Moore**, Barrie, ON. **Richard Turner**, Oshawa, ON. **Harry Clarkin**, Chatham, NB. **Don Murrin**, Oromocto, NB. **Stewart Pinsent**, Fredericton, NB.