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LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE (ROYAL CANADIANS)

NEWSLETTER

Volume 18, No. 2 Newsletter Editor: 'Mucker' Al Langan

Fall, 2003



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT

About mid May I received a call from 'Mucker' asking if I was available to make a trip to **Korea**, when I paused he asked if I would like some time to think it over. I took about 20 seconds and said yes. Some time later I received a letter from Col. **Egener** informing me that I had been selected to represent the **Regiment** by taking part in a Korean Pilgrimage organized by **The Department of Veterans Affairs**. I should take this opportunity to thank all those involved in my selection.

22 July (Day 1). My journey started with a 20-minute flight from **Nanaimo** to **Vancouver** Airport and was met by Mr. **Robert (Bob) Demmery** of MKI Travel. Bob accompanied us to Korea and made sure that all our transportation requirements were met, and that busses were at the right place at the right time. He performed miracles. We were transported to the Raddisson President Hotel, where I met **Al Mc Bride** who was to become my roommate for the entire pilgrimage. Al and I served in both "C" and "B" Squadrons in Korea, however I don't believe we ever met at that time. Al turned out to be a first class roommate and traveling companion, adding greatly to the success of this adventure. Once all were gathered at the hotel we had the Pilgrimage official welcome and initial briefing. We were introduced to the **Minister of Veterans Affairs, The Hon. Dr. Rey Oagtakhan** and the Veterans Affairs Conducting Staff. This was followed by a meet and greets reception.

23 July (Day 2/3) Departed Vancouver at 1210 hrs, made the entire trip under sunshine arriving **Gimpo Airport** at 1530 hrs. Thursday 24 July, (where did Thursday night go?). Bussed to the **Seoul Plaza Hotel** in downtown Seoul where we received our orientation briefing and evening meal. The journey from airport to hotel was breathtaking, four and six lane divided highways, high-rise apartment buildings, construction cranes and traffic.

25 July (Day 4) The general routine for the Pilgrimage was breakfast and briefing in the hotel each morning, then on with the day's activities. This day was a visit to **The Republic of Korea National Cemetery**.

This is the Nation's holy ground where approximately 164,000 Patriots, Martyrs, and War dead are laid to rest and covers 343 acres. It is beautifully kept with a very impressive memorial gate, just behind which stands the **Memorial Tower** and **Memorial Tablet Hall**. Enshrined within the tower are the memorial tablets of some 104,000 soldiers with no known resting place together with the remains of 6,300 unknown soldiers. A ceremony was held with the Minister placing a wreath. Next stop was **The National War Memorial and Museum**. Here the **Minister** placed a wreath and made a presentation to LGen. (Ret) **Park Ik-Son, President of The War Memorial**. The Museum is a vast indoor/outdoor display of Korea's military history, and probably the best national military museum in the world. The evening was taken up attending a Veterans banquet at the **Grand Hyatt Seoul** hosted by the **United Services Order** and the **Korean Veterans Association**.

26 July (Day 5) An interesting bus trip up to the **Demilitarized Zone** to an **ROC Op** which overlooks most of **25 Bde** battle positions. On the right **Hill 355** (little Gibraltar) stood out, just as ugly as ever, moving left one could pick out the Saddle **Hill 227, Hill 166** still dominated the valley, while to the far left the Hook was just visible. The heavy growth of foliage on all the hills made identification of smaller hills difficult it certainly gave one a strange feeling. On the way back to Seoul we stopped at two schools, **Paik Hak** Middle School and **No-Gok** Primary School, both of which were founded by **Canadian Army Units** following the Armistice. A ceremony was held where the Minister made presentations to the Head Masters.

27 July (Day 6) This morning it is off to **Panmunjom** to take part in a **United Nations Command** sponsored 50th Anniversary of the Armistice Signing Commemoration Ceremony, which included the unveiling of a **Commemoration Plaque**. The ceremony was led by General **Leon J. La Port, Commander** of the United Nations Command, Korea, and the **Right. Hon. Helen Elizabeth Prime Minister**

of New Zealand. A reception and buffet followed. I understand that North Korea was invited, however they failed to attend. The busses took us back to Seoul to attend the unveiling and dedication ceremony of the National Korean War Monument. This is a remarkable series of figures placed around the centerpiece at the main gate depicting every aspect of the **Korean People** and their struggle during the war.

That evening we attended **The United Nations Cease-Fire Memorial Service** at **Knight Field**, which consisted of the placing of wreaths by all the participating Nations in the **United Nations Command**.

28 July (Day 7) Our first free day, so after breakfast and briefing Al McBride and I caught the bus to the National War Museum to explore it further and take some pictures without the crowd. This is a museum that would take about three days to do properly. We had lunch in a little Korean pub/bar in the subway complex, good beer. Bussed to the **Nambaemum Market**, which is full of little shops and where everything is on sale or up for barter. We found it cheaper to buy new shirts than to have them laundered, came home with extra shirts. This evening we are invited to the **Canadian Ambassador's Residence** for a reception and evening meal. The Residence is a gracious structure high in the hills overlooking the city. **His Excellency, Denis Comeau** and **Madam Comeau** are excellent hosts and certainly outdid themselves in honouring this crowd of veterans.

29 July (Day 8) On the busses at 0730 hrs on our way to **Gapyong**. We stopped at the **Commonwealth Monument** in Gapyong for a short ceremony and wreath placing and then visited the library to view the **Canadian Memorial Plaque**. Later in the morning we arrived at the **Canadian Korea War Memorial Garden**. The Garden land were purchased by Mr. **Chi Kap Chong** and donated to Canada. The park also contains the **PPCLI Memorial** where each Regimental/Corps representative placed wreaths. Al McBride and I assisted by Sgt. **Doug Johns** placed the wreath for

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Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters

I was the Engineering and Production Officer at the **Naval Armament Depot in Dartmouth** in the 1960's. We had done an overhaul on some Fire Control Equipment of **HMCS Cayuga**.

The room in the ship where the Fire Control Gear was housed required a new linoleum deck cover. Another department of the dockyard did the job after we had finished our work. When the ship went on her sea trials, the Fire Control System broke down. A Board of Inquiry found that the laying of the linoleum had contaminated the hydraulics of the Fire Control Gear and their finding was, "The Naval Armament Depot was at fault for **NOT PLANNING FOR THE UNFORSEEN!!!**".

The Board of inquiry was sent to me to respond to the finding. My response was:

"There is only **ONE** who could have planned for the unforeseen, and it is highly unlikely that **HE** will be appointed to this establishment. And even if **HE** were appointed to this establishment, we would probably take the same notice of **HIM** this time as we did last time!"

I did not hear any further on the matter.
Percy Buzza

I have recently returned from the **Korea Pilgrimage 2003** celebrating the **50th** anniversary of the **Cease-Fire in Korea**. I was honoured to be a representative of the **Strathconas**. To be chosen, I was in the right place at the right time. I wish to thank the **Society** and the **Regiment** for allowing me this distinction. To **'Mucker' Langan**, a special thank you for your patience in contacting me (my grandchildren were on the computer, tying up the phone line), You lived up to the motto of the Regiment, **PERSEVERANCE**.

The trip was busy filled with many highlights – old battle sights, new friends, the many parades and monuments of special interest. S.L. (**'Pat'**) **Patterson** and I took some extra time to reflect at the graves of the **Strathconas** in the **UN** graveyard in **Busan**.

Sgt **'Doug' Johns**, from the Regiment accompanied us, as the representative of today's **Strathconas**. He assisted us as required, and was most considerate of our needs. Thirteen young **Canadians**, one from each Province and Territories, were thrilled to be part of the delegation.

Again I thank you for this honour. It was a most memorable experience. **Once a Strathcona, always a Strathcona**. Perseverance.

Albert McBride
Edmonton, AB

(I trust you took many pictures of the monuments and gravesites and that you will offer same to the Archives. As this pilgrimage will probably have been the

last that Veteran Affairs will conduct your pictures will be of value in recording the "Korea Conflict". Ed)

Please find enclosed the Information Form you requested and a cheque to help defray some expenses. I enjoy the **Newsletter** and appreciated receiving a copy of the **Strathconian**. Since I was with the Regiment during wartime I especially enjoyed the article by **W.A. Milroy**. So far as any articles are concerned, I do not think I would have anything of interest. The only pictures I have are of some buddies on leave. I also have the patches that were issued to those of us who volunteered to go to the USA to train as paratroopers to fight against the **Japanese**, these patches were issued in **Holland**. If you think what I have would be of any use, I will forward them to you.

Bill Ford
Barrie, ON

(We certainly would like to have the items mentioned. Thank you Bill for the donation. Ed)

Reverend **Jim Sutton** son of Sgt Sutton gave me, copies of your **Newsletter** and I found them to be enjoyable and interesting to read. I myself served with the **Strathconas** from the late 50's through the early 60's in **Calgary** and in the **Gaza Strip** as a United Nations' Peacekeeper. I would very much like to receive the **Newsletter** and other information that is sent out about the Regiment. If there is a cost please advise me. I was a Trooper **"A" Squadron** under the command of Major **Danny McLeod**.

Jim Kelso
Brantford, ON

(Thanks for the details of James Sutton's demise. You are now on the Strathcona Family Role and will receive future edition of the Newsletter. There

is no cost for membership or the Newsletter which incidentally is published twice (Spring and Fall) annually and has been in circulation since 1986. Ed)

Thought I would set the record straight reference the tank named **Algonquin**. I was the bow gunner of this tank at the **Melfa River** action on 24 May 1944, with "A" Sqn, 4th Troop. Lt **A.M. MacKinnon**, was our troop leader. We were engaged with a couple of German tanks and had about expended our 75mm ammunition at a place code named **Benedictine**. At one time Lt **E.J. Perkins** jumped on our tank pointing out targets at the river. We were hit twice the last hitting the gun mantle, jamming the 75mm gun and putting it on a 50 degree angle. Lt MacKinnon was wounded and losing a lot of blood, we drove back and found our **RAP** and left him there. We left our tank Algonquin at the RAP, as it was disabled, and got into another tank whose crew were badly shaken up. The book **Record of Achievement** by LCol **J.M. McAvity, D.S.O., M.B.E.** showed Cpl **L.D. McNeil** as being wounded in Algonquin 25 May 44, this is the mistake for McNeil was wounded in the tank **Aldershot** in a tank harbour a few hundred yards from the RAP.

On 17 April 1945 near **Nijkerk, Holland** our Squadron Leader was wounded in **Abdul 11** and I had concussion and lost a lot of my hearing. The RAP put cotton batting in my ears but they never recorded it. Got a pension years later.

Albert McGuire
Surrey, BC

(There is still further battle actions, after 24 May 44, pertaining to Lt MacKinnon described in the book A Record of Achievement. Thanks Albert for your update and also for your donation. Ed)
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Strathcona Mounted Troop Report

With the conclusion of another season, we reflect with a sense of pride and accomplishment on another successful ride season. Prior to the ride season the Troop undertook to update various interracial movements involved in the performance, in an effort to keep 'men and mounts' challenged and interested as well as provide something new for fans of **Mounted Troop**.

After countless days of bumping into one another while conducting walk through musical rides, the movements came together and before too long began to flow gracefully and smoothly into one another. For the newer members, having realized the patterns emerging from the chaos and they eagerly anticipated the first public performance.

The season began with a show for the children of the **Namao Elementary School**, just north of **Edmonton Garrison**. It was also Captain **Faith Rhodes** first big event leading the **Musical Ride**. Following the success of this performance the troop fell into its performance rhythm, and focussed its efforts towards **Spruce Meadows** events. As is always the case, Spruce Meadows continued to set high standards for the level of support they provide the Troop.

This year, the Troop arrived to a new home, an all purpose built stable right adjacent to the **International Ring**. The stable, complete with the **Regiments** full title gracing the entrance, is a 200x100 sprung shelter with 20 horse stalls and plenty of administrative and private areas for which the troop can work out of. The new stabling proved a godsend numerous times as it sheltered the troop from the heavenly down pours of rain that characterized this summer's events, quite a change from the old stabling arrangements (outside stalls and no overhead cover). The troop remains humbled by Spruce Meadows generosity, as we have been told that the new stables are only a beginning with many more initiatives to come in the years ahead. Hard to believe, but our close relationship with the Spruce Meadows continues to grow even stronger than it already is.

As always all members of the Troop remain grateful for everything that they do for us. This season also marked other firsts. For the first time, the troop performed a ride here on home turf **Edmonton** for the **Inner-city-kids**. The ride was extremely well received and there is no doubt that it will become one of our regular gigs. July 1st saw the troop perform a ride at **Fort Calgary** as part of their **Canada Day** celebrations where the troop was happy to see numerous members of the **Regimental Family** come out to support our shows. Well done and we hope to see you again next year.

Another highlight from our busy time in

Calgary was of course the **Stampede Parade**. The troop meticulously prepared their kit, tack and mounts for our entry. We are happy to report that the troop took first place for the **Best Commercial Mounted Color Party**. It is also worth mentioning another highlight – the results of the troop's tent-pegging competition. This competition was started last year at Spruce Meadows in order to foster comradeship with the professional riders at Spruce Meadows, but also create a crowd-pleasing event that was fun for the whole family. Four of our riders against four internationally acclaimed sport jumpers, in the International Arena, with rock and roll music and in front of the whole Spruce Meadows crowd. Despite losing in our first year, the response from the crowd was impressive, so much so that the co-chairs of Spruce Meadows have instituted this as a regular event. Needless to say that tensions were high and the pressure on this year to come up with a winning result.

Internationally acclaimed riders **Ludger Beerbaum, Mario Deslauriers, John Anderson, and Will Simpson** took on our own **Sergeant Art Wiggins**, Master-Corporal **Wade Alexander**, Corporal's **Ashley Cooper** and **Sean Thompson**. We are proud to report that this year, with a loud cheer from the crowd, the troop rode to victory 22 to 16 and with it the trophy and bragging rights for the year.

The remainder of the summer saw the troop back closer to home, performing numerous rides, in particular the change of **RSM** parade 15 July 2003. Worthy of mention, the troop also took first place for **Best Colour Party** in the **Klondike Days Parade**.

The culmination of the ride season was a long journey to **North Bay, Ontario** for the annual **Heritage Festival and Air Show**. It was a three-day trip with a stop over and performance at **Spirit Wood, Sask**. The troop performed a 17-man ride for the first time with new members Corporal's **'Brad' Nielsen, Jean Plamondon** and Trooper **Blair Hatter** now fully integrated into ride positions. Once in **North Bay** and settled-in, the troop conducted rehearsals for some elderly and disabled spectators, which was much appreciated.

On the first day of the Air Show we performed 2 musical rides, the one in the morning was warm and sunny but for the afternoon ride the rain had started and it look like cancellation was in the air. Captain **Marty Turco**, our sponsor, insisted that there were a handful of die-hard fans that would not leave until they had seen the performance (all other air show/events scheduled for that day were cancelled due to the weather). So we saddled up thinking only a handful of spectators would be present, however once in the arena that hand-full turn out to be in the hundreds. On the

last ride it was estimated at about 6000 on-lookers watched as the troop performed, one of our largest crowds of the season.

As September and the end of the season neared, the Troop continued to perform at various events such as **Bon Accord, AB, Heritage Park, Calgary, Spruce Meadows, 'Masters', Calgary, Northlands Park, Edmonton** where Captain **Faith Rhodes** performed her last Musical Ride as the **Troop Leader**. Literally, after saying her final good-bye to the troop, she was into her car and starting her trek across **Canada** for her new posting in **Gagetown, NB**.

Already the troop is starting to make bookings for the next season. As we enjoy a bit of a break, the troop looks forward to the arrival of the new troop leader Lieutenant **Clayton Gardner** and the start of a new ride season.

Sergeant 'Art' Wiggins

VISIT OUR WEB SITE



www.strathconas.ca

NOTICE

2004 Moreuil Wood commemoration activities at the **Regiment** in **Edmonton** will take place one week earlier than usual:

- Thursday 18th March 2004 - Regimental Sports Day, WOs' & SGTs' Mixed Mess Dinner,
- Friday 19th March 2004 - Board of Directors Meeting, Officers' Mixed Mess Dinner
- Saturday 20th March 2004 - Regimental Parade and Moreuil Wood Service, Annual General Meeting, Mixed ALL-RANKS DANCE.

Letters Letters continued

As you can see from the enclosed Information Sheet, I have had good intentions for some time to write a brief letter to ask that you reunite **Alice** (my wife) and I to the **Strathcona Family**. Firstly our sincere thanks for your generosity in continuing to provide us the Newsletter which evokes many fond memories and much pride in having been a Strath during the busy "**Fifties**". Your most recent edition (Spring 2003) was read with particular interest, as I was one of the subalterns (**FHQ Troop**); **Ken Barnaby** makes reference to in the **Millenium Memories**. I wish to thank Ken for the photo of "**D**" **Squadron at Fort Anne** taken during the visit of our Patron Lord Strathcona.

I will remember arriving at the Regiment in the spring of 1951 and being informed by **DND Deane-Freeman** what an honour it was for me to serve with the best unit in the Canadian Army. Names like **George Barr** (we played baseball together); **'Smokey' Shaw** and **'Pappy' Jewkes** in "**C**" **Sqn** and of course the **Camponi's** come to mind.

Alice and I thoroughly enjoyed our two years in Germany with **Norman** (Little Farouk) **Buckingham** and often recall the close friendships that were forged overseas. In particular I recall another **Strathcona**, "Veteran" **Carl Ranostay**, who ran my troop like a fine tuned team.

My greatest disappointment in 1956 when an old eye injury forced me out of an "**Arms**" role. **Hugh Mackie** was the unfortunate friend that had to inform me that he could not qualify me in the gunnery portion of Part 2 promotion examination at the **Meaford Range**. My subsequent 16 years of military service was with **Personnel Selection (General List)**, selecting and enrolling new inductees, reassigning and transferring service personnel and releasing those who had earned retirement or, for different reasons could no longer serve effectively. Six of those years, I was posted

to **CFB Borden** where I could at least rub shoulders with old comrades like **Bruce Rutherford**, **Bob Sutherland**, **Bob Bull**, **Innes** (I.D.) **McKay**, **'Stu' Carson** and **Lorne Caughill** (some now gone but not forgotten).

Finally, hanging to one wall in the family room is a framed replica of the **Strathconas Regimental Guidon** surrounded by best wishes from comrades and old friends, presented to us upon our retirement from the **Canadian Forces**. Alice and I invite any and all old acquaintances to stop in for wine and cheese and a good talk of former times should they be passing through **Abbotsford**.

The enclosed cheque is to help maintain your very fine and enjoyable **Newsletter**. We look forward to future issues. Also please bill me for any membership costs on our return to the **Strathcona Family**.

Jack Scott
Abbotsford, BC

(It is always pleasant to welcome one back to the "Family" There is no cost for being a member of the Strathcona Family. Thank you for your kind donation. Ed.)

Thank you for your inquiry dealing with my service with the **Regiment in WW2**. I was with the 6th **Duke of Connaught's Royal Canadian Hussars** from 14th May 1941 serving in **Canada, England, Italy, France, Belgium** and **Holland**. I had served under 2lt **R.J. (Bob) Graham**. In the Spring of 1944 I met up with him again (now a Major with the **Strathconas**) and asked him for help to transfer to the Straths. I joined them at **Cervia Italy** in late 1944 and served until being wounded. I am one of the last, if not the last **Strathcona**, to be wounded in WW2 at 8pm 17th April 1945. My wounds were in the right back and thigh and were a result of canon fire from a **Spitfire** fighter plane. Some 55 years later I was to learn that the plane was flown by a

Dutch flier though, I had thought the pilot was **British**. I had lost a tank to enemy fire the previous day when two of my crew was wounded. I was given command of 1st troop when the troop leader **Lt H.N. O'Connor** was wounded. I spent several weeks in hospitals in **Holland, Belgium** and **England** until 5th Dec 1945 when I sailed back to **Canada**. I received the Military Medal from King **George the VI**, at **Buckingham Palace** 4th Dec 1945.

Leo Anfossi
Irvine, CA. USA

This Call Sign has been off the air for a year or two and now would like to rejoin the net and receive the **Newsletter** and other information reference the **Strathcona Family**. I recall it was **'Nic' Nicolay** and **'Mucker' Langan** were running things and if I am now out of date, my apologies.

John Stopford
Amberly, New Zealand

(It is always pleasant to hear from former Strathcona's. It is even more pleasing to bring them back into the Family. 'Nic' has retired after a 13-year voluntary stint. 'Mucker' now has the reins and has been trying to be replaced for the past 4 years. Ed.)

Your Spring 2003 issue was another excellent effort and I congratulate you. I was especially taken by the letter from **Harold Boetcher** giving us more information on what happened on **Point 204** (322 in the **McAvity** book) in the **Gothic Line** on the night of 31 August/1st September 1944. It is the kind of information that Major **Grodzinski** needs for his project to "flesh out" the information in Colonel **McAvity's** book.

In the same vein, I wish **Bill Coleman** had given us more information on his experience with "**C**" **Squadron** at the **Melfa**. I have always thought that we know too little about "**C**" **Squadrons'** exploits there and we would all benefit from knowing more.

Was the Riding Troop's "**Honour Guard**" for **Alberta's Lieutenant Governor** the same as what we used to call a "**Guard of Honour**"?

The caption of the photograph of **Alex McGuire** at Point (not Hill) 204, on the **Gothic Line**, states that the Memorial is dedicated to the 5th Canadian Armoured Division. This was the original idea but in fact the Memorial is dedicated to the First Canadian Corps and the unit names are listed on the plaque. It is of interest that this Memorial was built and paid for by the **Italian** people of the nearby town of **Tavullia** (known to us as **Tomba de Persaro**).

The Subaltern's story of desecrating the kippers with chocolate brought tears to my eyes as I remembered the delicious kippers we were served in the summers of 1939/40 at the beautiful old Officers' Mess overlooking the river at Sarcee Camp Calgary.

Bill Milroy
Ottawa, ON

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Stand Down – Exercise Ended. 2 Troop RECCE Sqn after almost 3 days with little rest. Sgt's 'Pat' Patterson, 'Pat' Searle and Lt John Ahley remain on Listening Watch.

The RSM's corner

Well it is good to be **HOME** again! **Angie** and I thoroughly enjoyed our time at the **Armour School** but it is just not the same as Regimental service. I was reminded however of just how many **Strathcona's** are serving at the Armour School (over 100) and just how important their work is to the well being of the **Corps** and the **Regiment** itself. They are doing a tremendous job and are doing the Regiment proud.

The **Commanding Officer** and I traveled to **Bosnia-Herzegovina** in July to visit "**C**" **Sqn**, deployed with the **2 VP Battle Group** in **Zgon**. The Squadron is presently deploying home after an extremely successful six-month tour. They'll be back on tanks and back to work 10 November 03. It will be nice to have the whole Regiment in one place at the same time.

We then flew to **Gagetown** to observe the Phase Four graduation ceremonies and to attend the "mini-Armour Board". It was good to see some familiar faces from around the Corps. We arrived back to the

Regiment just in time to deploy "**RECCE**" **Sqn**, followed by elements of **RHQ** and "**HQ**" **Sqn** to fight the forest fires in **British Columbia**. "**B**" **Sqn** joined the effort shortly afterward. The Regiment was not deployed as an entity but was split between the various **Task Forces** to ensure an even distribution of experience and fire fighting expertise.

It was very physically demanding work, conducted in very difficult terrain over fourteen to sixteen hour days. It was a troop level battle, which thoroughly tested the Regiment's junior leadership. In every case the soldiers met the challenge and set the standard. We can all be justifiably proud of the tremendous efforts put forth by the soldiers deployed on **OP PEREGRINE**.

We're now in the process of "re-jigging" the Regiment's training calendar. "**B**" **Sqn** gun camps, **TEWTS/CAX** (Tactical Exercise Without Troops/Computer Assisted Exercises ... the soldiers appreciate these),

Small Unit Exchanges with the **Queen's Dragoon Guards**, Promotion Boards, Remembrance Day Ceremonies, PCF Courses etc, etc ... We also have a series of competitions to win ... The **Cambrian Cup Team** is busily preparing to head off to **England** to compete against the world's best in "the" patrolling competition. While at the same time "**B**" **Sqn** prepares to take on the **Americans** in the '**CANAM**' **Cup** tank gunnery competition, scheduled for early November. The Regiment will also be out in force supporting those soldiers participating in the annual '**Mountain Man**' competition. As you can see there is certainly a fair bit going on. I would like to take this opportunity to ask that if you have any questions or concerns that you don't hesitate to call, write or e-mail. Please help keep me honest. Lastly, I would like to wish, my predecessor, Captain **Dave Biener** and his family all the best in the future.

CWO (RSM) C.R.G. Ellis, CD

Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

As you will see from the **Commanding Officer's** message in this issue the **Regiment** is and has been heavily committed in every aspect of its responsibilities: operations, individual and collective training, personnel development and community support. **Strathcona's** outside of the Regiment, both serving and retired, are no slouches either. I am impressed by the amount of information and activity that is passed by the **Society**; **Strathcona's Ontario** and the **Alberta Association** via email, the website and this **Newsletter**. These interactions among the **Strathcona** family are doing a lot to support the soldiers in the Regiment and all of us wherever we are located.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the **Melfa River BBQ** in **Kingston** on May 30 at the **Ft. Frontenac Officers' Mess**. **John Roderick**, **John McEachern**, **Mike Froess**, **Bill Logan** and a host of helpers superbly organized it. Further details are in the **Ontario Association** column. It was good to see the recognition given to the remembrance of the Melfa action.

A few days afterwards I received an invitation from our **Colonel-in Chief**, **HRH the Prince of Wales**, to attend a dinner for the **Colonels** of all his regiments. In early July **Julia** and I proceeded to **England**. Dinner with **Prince Charles** and **Camilla Parker-Bowles** at his country house, **Highgrove**, was a memorable affair. Two other **Canadians** and their ladies were present; **MGen Clive Addy (RCD)** and **MGen Reg Lewis (RRC)**. There were ten **Colonels of British regiments** and one **Australian** as well as the **British Chief of Defence Staff**

and the **Army Commander**. **Prince Charles** made time available to discuss the **Strathconas** and our activities. He is very interested in all things regimental and recalled the **Mounted Troop's** duties in **Whitehall** in 2000. He approved a **Colonel-in-Chief's Commendation for Des Deane-Freeman**. This is not usually awarded to former CO's, Colonels of the Regiment or RSM's, however he wished to recognise **Col. Des'** unflagging support, advice, assistance and interest in the Regiment and his countless trips over many years to visit the Regiment from **Kelowna**. I am sure that **Strathcona's** everywhere will be pleased that **Col Des'** loyalty is recognised.

Our generous hosts in the **West of England** were **Alan Graham** and his companion, **Lady Sallie DuCann**. **Alan** and **Sallie** will be visiting Canada and particularly **Calgary** and **Edmonton** this autumn. The **Mounted Troop**, which **Alan** sponsored for many years, is anxious to renew his acquaintance and "show their stuff". **Col Graham** will also be dined out of his appointment as **Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the South Alberta Light Horse**. This autumn also marks the retirement of **MGen Cam Ross** after more than thirty-five years service. **Cam** has been a tireless supporter of his Regiment since his days as a subaltern under CO's **Jim Fox** and me in the early 1970's, his own tour as CO in the 80's and more recently as **Senior Serving Strathcona** and all the years in between. Fortunately, he has relocated to **Calgary** and we expect to see him and **Patti** often.

As always, I encourage all **Strathcona's** to visit our website at www.Strathconas.ca

where you can view the latest news of the Regiment and the Society and I urge you to stay involved and keep in contact.

Perseverance!

Colonel Mark Egner CD



Comments from the Commanding Officers Hatch

There is no doubt flexibility remains a characteristic of **Armour** – the **Regiment** literally has been all over the map since the last **Newsletter**. By the time you read this, "**C**" **Squadron** will have returned home from **Bosnia** after an extremely successful six-month tour with **2 PPCLI**. Highlights of their tour involved providing security for the **Papal** visit to **Bosnia** in June and working with numerous nationalities throughout **Bosnia**. I am very proud of their accomplishments and extremely pleased to have the Regiment together for the first time in 18 months.

While "**C**" **Sqn** was making a name for itself in **Bosnia**, **RHQ**, **RECCE** and **Headquarters Squadron's** spent **April** in **Wainwright** supporting the **2nd Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group** exercise.

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Letters Letters *continued*

Mrs. E. Cummings, a good friend and fellow **Oakvillian**, is the widow of **R.** (Dick or Jock) **Cummings**, who passed away some years ago. He was with the **Regiment in WW2** and **Regular Forces** for years and was there as a **Squadron Commander** in my day (early 50's). When I was a new two pipper at the then **CAFVTC** in Borden (commanded by Major **F.F. Worthington**), Jock instructed me in tank gunnery. I still remember stripping a 2 pounder, and the "pin, split, securing, actuating shaft"! He was then Sgt Cummings and we were friends for many years.

I digress. His widow **Elizabeth** receives all my **Newsletters** after I have enjoyed them (a masterful job you do as editor), and I wonder if you could put her on the distribution list. Her address is enclosed along with my donation. Keep up the excellent work you do with the **Newsletter** – you certainly are a major factor in keeping the **Strathcona Family** together. All the very best of wishes to all of them.

Ron Newton
Oakville, ON

(Elizabeth is on the distribution list (to receive the Newsletter) along with 135 widows. Thank you for your kind comments and for your generous donation. Ed)

Camp Wainwright Spring 1947. Unusual but successful enterprise?

It all started in "**A**" **Squadron at Currie Barracks**. While doing Hut Orderly duties I was suffering the effects of a sever hang-over from the night before and decided to take a mid-morning rest on my bunk. It was not a good choice because **SSM 'Billy' May** came in to inspect the quarters. Unfortunately I was still dressed in my colourful sports shirt and diamond socks. The diamond socks really upset him and I ended up on charge. After being paraded in front of the **Sqn Commander** I received seven days CB.

The SSM informed me that the Advance Party would be leaving for **Wainwright** the following week and that I should take the opportunity to go there. I readily agreed.

We arrived in Wainwright in early April to get the Regimental lines in shape. The **C.E. Section** had many civilian tradesman; carpenters, painters, plumbers, etc. getting the whole camp in shape. Our cook for our advance party had a problem trying to feed us on a ration scale for about fourteen persons. Consequently there was a lot of "bitching" about the meals and moral was not that good. I made a suggestion to our O.C. **Major Berwick** that we could start a canteen for the whole camp and use the profits to supplement the rations for our group. He thought this was a good idea and that I should operate the canteen. He did not give me any terms of reference and I did not ask for any. Everybody chipped in \$5 for start up stock. At first I limited the stock to beer and wine. I did have a small

problem from the liquor store manager at first but we resolved his concern. It didn't take long to let everyone know that we were open for business. The civilians soon took advantage of the flexible hours of our operation. Sales went really well and in no time we were able to buy fresh meat, fruit and vegetables for our kitchen. I informed the O.C. that I would have to put the extra money into a personal bank account and he agreed. I also got a line of credit from **McDonalds Consolidated** salesman for cigarettes and other sundries. Business was booming and everyone was happy.

'**Don' Falconer** reported in from **Camp Borden** on a Saturday morning and kept me company in the afternoon drinking beer. He suggested that we should go to town for the evening on the liberty run, I agreed. We spent the evening in the hotel with the gang and returned to camp on the last run of the liberty run. Sunday morning I woke up and something was bothering me, suddenly I realized that I had not locked the canteen before going down town last night. I could see my military career in jeopardy and I quickly dashed over to the canteen, sure enough it was still open. I visualized all the money and I.O.U.'s gone as well as the stock. To my surprise there was nothing missing and those who had taken items had left their IOU or cash on the counter. My faith in mankind was restored.

Stories about the canteen had got back to the **Regiment** and the **Accounts Officer** and I was informed that when the Regiment arrives in Wainwright I would be on hand for the hand over of the canteen facilities to the Regimental Accounts. I was looking forward to being congratulated for the successful operation and money making and probably being offered a job in the canteen for the Summer. On arrival in camp the Accounts officer came over for the hand over and the first question was "where are the books?" he seemed to get quite upset when I told him that "I didn't sell books". Things went from bad to worse when I showed him the IOU's including those from the civilians. I informed him that their owners would honour all these IOU's. Well! He really went through the roof when I showed him the personal bankbook showing a credit balance of several hundred dollars.

I quickly came to the conclusion that I would **NOT** be working in the canteen for the Summer when he asked for the keys to the canteen and told me to report back to "**A**" **Sqn** for tank duties. So much for my money making canteen job particularly after making all that money.

P.S. We never even got our \$5 seed money (start-up kitty) back.

Carl Ranostay
Edmonton, AB

I am writing on behalf of Mrs. **Beth Cooley**, whose husband the late Major **George Cooley** received the **Newsletter** regularly. Mrs. Cooley is presently seriously ill in hospital, but just before she was hospitalized

she had drafted the following letter to you, which she has asked me to send along to you on her behalf:

"As I am a year late responding to your request for photos, I do hope the enclosed will be of value in some way to your **Strathcona Book Series**, or perhaps you already have copies. At any rate I am sending these on to you in the hope they will have some relativity to some of the old **Strathconas**. These photos were highly treasured by my husband George, now deceased. He would, I know, be very pleased to contribute them to you."

Mrs. Cooley has also pointed out that if these photos are not suitable for the History Series, they may be of some value to the **Museum**, as you have mentioned. Mrs. Cooley also wished me to include the enclosed cheque as a contribution.

Best Wishes

(Mrs.) Joan B. Smith.
Victoria, BC

(Thank you for the excellent photos and be assured that they will be directed to Ian Barnes committee for consideration. They will be returned to the Museum archives when the book project is concluded. Thank you also for the donation. On behalf of all Strathconas our prayers and hope that you are receiving wonderful support and care. Ed)

Thanks very much for a very good and informative **Newsletter**. Was in touch recently with **Tony Hawkins** who is in **Victoria**. In the Last Trumpet Call you have **Pohlmann**, could that be **Gord** who I was with at the start of **Combat Arms in Borden**, he designed the logo for **CAS** from the Mercedes Logo on the OC's car that was parked outside his office. Where are **Cliff Beaver** and **Reg Epps**? Saw **Ralph Getz** at the Black Hatters meeting in Borden 2 May. Hope to attend the **Melfa Day at Fort Frontenac** this May with **John Roderick** and a few other old friends. I keep in touch with **Shadbolt in Orrillia**.

Norm Wood
Etobicoke, ON

(Yes that is the Gord you knew and was renowned, mostly, for his many cartoons he created and were published in the Strathconian in the 50's. Cliff and Reg are living in London. Ed)

We have moved back to **Canada** from **La Jolla California** so please send future **Newsletters** to our new address enclosed. Enclosed cheque is towards whatever the Society wants to use it for i.e. **Newsletter, SMT, Museum** etc.

I wonder if you could send me a contact name and phone number for the **Strathcona** group here in Victoria. I read in the last **Newsletter** and noted a **Bill Anderson** but there are many, many Anderson's here.

Barry Rose
Victoria, BC.

(Welcome back to Barry and Julia. I –continued on page 8

Regimental Museum Report

Greetings from sunny southern Alberta.

The story of the **Museum** in the last four months has been the resurrection of the **Celebration 2000 trailer display**. It has now been moved to **Calgary** and resides at the **Museum**. We started in **June** by moving the trailer from **Edmonton**, and then the whole thing was reengineered. Most of the interior cabinetry has been rebuilt, the displays changed to include the **Regiment's** participation in **Afghanistan**.

It's been a busy four months with the staff here trying to use the trailer to increase awareness of and attendance to the **Museum of the Regiments (MOR)**. So far we've had the trailer at two **Spruce Meadows** events, a **Mall** for a week, the **Unit lines** in Edmonton for a week, and have started a trial **School Program** in partnership with the **MOR**. By far the biggest success has been the school program. We sent the program description to

the **School Board** in Calgary and within 23 hours the trial was over-booked with a half a dozen schools on a waiting list. At this point, with **Remembrance Day** fast approaching, we have visited three schools and have one more on the books before the trial ends and the after action reports start. (The job's not done till the paperwork is finished)

We have received many excellent donations in the last while unfortunately in this short article; it is impossible to give thanks for all of them. One major donation must, however, be mentioned. It was received from **Chief Constable Jamie Graham** from **Vancouver**. **Chief Graham** is the son of the late Col. **Robert Graham DSO, CD**, and a former Commanding Officer of the **Strathconas** and well-respected soldier. **Chief Graham** donated his father's medals and three photo albums. The medals group is great and helps immensely fleshing out

our display. The photo albums are like gold for the archives as all the pictures are marked with information such as where, when, who etc. Thanks Jamie.

Lately we spent a week in Edmonton setting up, among other things, a satellite display in the old **Guidon** case just inside the main door of the **Harvey** building. The current display is on the **Boer War**. It will remain till January when we will change it out for one on **WW 1**. The intent of this display is to showcase artefacts from various periods in our past and try to bring our history alive for the young soldiers who may or may not get the chance to visit the Museum in Calgary. The display will change on a quarterly basis and will, over a period of time, help teach our history from **1900** to the **present**.

In closing, the work of preserving our history goes on. The Museum staff is still working hard presenting the gallant story of the Regiment to members and civilians alike.

Perseverance,

WO Ted MacLeod CD
Curator



Did You Know?

WARD, Lieutenant William Ernest – Distinguished Flying Cross (United States) – Canadian Army (Lord Strathconas Horse) – awarded as per **Canadian Gazette** dated 26 June 1954.

Lieutenant Ward while serving on temporary duty with the 6147th Tactical Control Group, Fifth Air Force, from 25 Canadian Infantry Brigade, distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as observer of an unarmed T-6 type aircraft on 13 March 1953.

While on a tactical control mission near the junction of the Injin and Sami-Chon rivers, Korea, Lieutenant Ward expertly directed five flights of fighter-bomber type aircraft in attacks on twenty-four enemy caves. Lieutenant Ward had his pilot mark the targets with rockets, because of the nearness of friendly forces. Despite intensive anti-aircraft and automatic fire, Lieutenant Ward remained low over the target areas while directing the fighter-bombers in their highly successful attack runs. The strike effectively destroyed eight caves, damaged four caves, and caused six secondary explosions. By his high personal courage, keen airmanship and devotion to duty, Lieutenant Ward reflected great credit upon himself, the Far East Air Force and the British Commonwealth Forces.



have sent you some contact names via your e-mail and trust that you have established many contacts with your old comrades and friends. Thanks for your generous donation. Ed)

The enclosed picture was taken at my home in July 2003. At the rear left to right are the **Anderson** brothers **OC.** and **MF.** Seated left to right are **Roy Currie** (London, ON), **Everett Larson** (Saskatoon, SK) and **Gord Beattie** (Yahk, BC). Larson was a former Sergeant in "B" Squadron and left the **Regiment** in 1952, moved to Saskatoon to become a music teacher. Opened his own studio and has been teaching all this time, and is still teaching at age 77.

O.C. (Colin) Anderson
Cranbrook, BC

The Spring **Newsletter** just threw me for a loop when I read the **Last Trumpet Call** of those who had passed on, or as **Vic Binnie** and I say "Transferred to the **Advance Party**". **John Burton** claims so few of us **WW2** fellows left that we are now "**The Rear Party**". What hit so hard was I knew 12 of those fellows during **WW2**; **Sammy Hall**, whom I always liked and knew before the war. I did mention previously in one of my "**I Remember When**" columns that I joined in 1937 **Joe Kennedy** and **Eddie May** knew my age was 16 and took me under their wings so to speak. When Eddie left the Regiment, Sammy somehow took over checking on my trumpet calls. When ever someone seeing me waiting a few minutes before sounding a call, would usually ask what was I was going to play. If Sammy was around he would reply: "He is not going to play a call, he is going to sound the call", and give that little smirk of his and go Heh! Heh! I have nice memories of him as I do the other fellows, **George Aitken** I knew well since we were both in **Camp Borden** together and when we did the **Remembrance Day Parades** down South in **Panama City Beach**. **Alex McGetrick** was a big surprise, he too was also with us in **Panama City Beach**, and I remember when he was a police officer in **Barrie**. He did his job well. **Len Payne** I always admired, and remember **Jack Main** saying "Len's in **Ottawa**, dropped in to see him", I did on a few occasions. Len was a fine officer and always immaculate in his dress. I felt so sad when I read that these good men have now left us. I have a poem above my computer and I read it every time I hear or read when a soldier has passed on, more so since the last **Newsletter**. To me it's a beautiful poem.

'Jock' MacKay
Perth, ON.

(Thank you for sharing your feelings. The Poem will bring a swelling within, particularly to the families who have recently transferred their "Soldier" to the "ADVANCE PARTY". Ed)



JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion telling stories of the past.
Of the war he fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In the Exploits with his buddies, they were heroes, everyone.

And though sometimes to his neighbours, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer, for old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for **a soldier died today.**

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quite an uneventful life.
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world won't note his passing, though **a soldier died today.**

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great,
Papers tell their whole life stories from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of this land?
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who, in time of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives,

While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal, and perhaps a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them, for it was a long time ago
That Old "Bills" of our Country went to battle, but we know

It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger with your enemies at hand
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?

Or would you prefer a soldier who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and Country and would fight unto the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin
But his presence should remind us; we may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot give him honour while he's here to hear the praise
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for **a soldier died today.**

Author Unknown.

LdSH(RC) Association (Alberta Branch) Report

Greetings from Alberta and we sincerely hope that you and your families are Safe and Adjusting to everything that has challenged you over the past six months. Here in **Alberta** – mad cow and drought, **British Columbia** – raging forest fires, **Saskatchewan** – grasshoppers and drought, **Manitoba** – floods, **Ontario** – humidity and rain, **Quebec** and **Atlantic** – severe weather patterns and yet we **PER-SEVERE!**

The **Reunion** is one year closer and we have signed the letter of agreement for **19 to 22 May 2005** at the **Mayfield Inn & Suites** in **West Edmonton**. A brochure will accompany the **Newsletter** with all the details and choices one should consider. The results of the Questionnaire was positive and hopefully many will join us, and yes you can still attend, but let us put you on our Reunion mailing list. Your **Association** is slowly succumbing to pressure to use the e-mail system and locally it is a success. Please, when you fill out your membership renewal **PRINT CLEARLY** and we will add you to our list, if you wish. We are participating in more Museum of The Regiments activities and most recently a **UN Peacekeeping** parade held 9 Aug 03. Thanks to **'Howie' Owen** for arranging that and thanks also to our attending members!

PEOPLE – PLACES – THINGS

Steele Barracks Edmonton Garrison – 15 July saw the changing of **RSMs** from **Dave Biener** to **Russ Ells**. Congratulations to both of you as you take on new challenges. Russ as you know the **Old Guard** will be watching – respectfully though!

Miss Helen C. Kosicky – On behalf of all members of our Association thank you for your thoughtfulness and significant donations that will be directed to Reunion 2005 and they look forward to thanking you in person.

Owen – Joyce and **Howie** have relocated to their new digs end September but a few boxes remain. Enjoy folks well deserved!

Hodgson's – **Nancy** and **Jim** returned to Canada for a six weeks visit and enjoyed the birth of their first **Grand Daughter!** Congrats folks. They love their newfound home in **Australia**.

Friends of Sarcee WOs & SGTs Mess – I am sad to announce that both **Dick** and **Alfrieda Horne** of **North Vancouver** passed away within weeks of each other August 03. Dick was fighting lung cancer and Frieda passed away in her sleep just 2 weeks earlier. Our condolences to both Families

Shadbolts – **Arlene** and **'Shad'** left **Orrillia** 3 Aug for a month tour or the **British Isles** and reports are it is warm but enjoying every day.

Davio – Lyn and **Mike** living in **Okotoks AB**. Mike is driving up to **Edmonton** nightly with two trailers, a change from driving bus in **Bosnia** last year. Lynn is still the mainstay.

Cayley – Bonnie and **Murray** of **Orrilla** attended the changing **RSMs** of the Regiment parade. It was good to chat again with you folks and hopefully Bonnie you did the map reading on the way home.

Oickle – Darrell had triple by-pass surgery first part of September and seems to be progressing well. Speedy Recovery Darrell.

Cheeseman – Former **FGH** boys met at **Jim** (Hodgson's house) here in **Calgary** in August. They included – **Bill Davie** of **Hamilton**, **Frank Carpenter** of **Moose Jaw**, **Jerry Wilkinson** of **Wainwright**, hopefully I have the list right.

Fuller – SSM Al – hope your train trip went fine to **Trenton** and by now settled in. I do miss our conversations and all the assistance you provided the Association. Good luck to you and your family and please e-mail me on the trip.

Yoxal – Ken drove to **Calgary** for our last meeting and reminded me he lives in **Bentley NOT Red Deer**. Latest on Ken – moved to **Oliver, BC** for all year golfing.

McGowan – Jim rumours around is that he is relocating to the Maritimes. Is this true Jim and why?

Pictorial Book – Originally it was drafted for **R-2000** but now is promised for **R-2005** and it is true that **ALL Alberta Association Members** (2003 to 2005 inclusive) will receive a **FREE** copy. The Association Alberta has few methods of showing our appreciation to members for their long time support but this is one way to show our appreciation to our members and support the **Regimental Society**. The monies to purchase this book are taken from the membership dues.

Surviving Spouse Benefit Aide Memoir – We have copies ready and available on request. This document is easy to read and has a check list to help remind one of what needs to be done and what documents you require. (Drafted by **Peter Wonderham & produced by Lindsay Essen**).

1st Annual Golf Tournament (Buffalo Run) by Howie Owen

There were 32 participants on the 9-hole course and most returned to **#285 Legion** after to brag or complain depending on their personal results. Trophy winners were **Jim** and **Deanna Deighton** and **Fred Punched** and son **Cory** – Best Overall Score. **Jerry** and **Rosa Cluett** with **Bob Evans** and son **Steve** – Runner up Trophy. Longest drive "Ladies" – **Lorraine Alcock** and "men's" was **Spook Spence**. **Closest to the PIN** – **Freddie Punched**. Longest Putt – **Howie Owen**. Congratulations to all winners and many thanks to Howie for organizing and running the tournament.

Vernon BC – The **Valley Reunion** was a great success as **Al & Marion Kaatz** and **Mike & Jo Pushkarenko** deserve a lot of credit for the well-organized weekend. **Bill** and **Patricia Wood** were on registration duties; **Irene** and **Betty** were ticket sellers supreme. It was obvious the hard work of these folks by the success of the weekend. **Bill Wood** will need your support for next year. **Col Des** gave an update on the Regiment, and yes **Jeanne**, we missed you get well soon. Congratulations to ALL the organizers for an excellent Reunion. **Al** and **Mike** received a **Shoe Saver Cane** from **Don**, they can tell the story.

May – **RSM Bill** the devoted husband of **Molly** spends his weekdays driving the Deerfoot Trail to visit with her each and every day. Bless you **Bill** and give **Molly** our best.

Melfa River Function – We had to cancel this year as 12 to 14 inches of snow arrived and made it impossible to drive. Sorry but we will try again next **April**.

Beattie – Gord had a little mishap enroute home and we hope you're both OK now.

Association Secretary – Lindsay has already saved the Association money by producing covers for our Constitution, Survivors Booklet, Reunion Brouchure, and produced a new bereavement card. He will be called on to design many other things for the Reunion as well. Thanks **Lindsay** and great work. **Lindsay** and **Margaret** are celebrating their 40th by retracing their **HONEYMOON**. Congratulations folks!

Cathcart – Dave spent some time in the **Rockyview Hospital** where he had little choice but to obey the Doctor. His sister is out for a while to encourage him along and so are the daughters. Get Well Soon Dave.

Harwish – Fred reports that he returned from **Bosnia** after visiting the Regiment and found he knew few but met a number of sons's of those he had served with.

Saver – Vic had a shunt put in on 3 July 03 and is following his doctor's instructions to the "T". He is progressing well and looks like he should add a few pounds. **Speedy Recovery Vic**.

One of our members noted while visiting **Heritage Park** our own **'Mucker'** wearing a ball cap with the **RCOC Badge?**

Final Words – Your continuing support is what drives the committee forward and commits to serve you the best way we can. Comments are always welcome, positive or otherwise feel free to write the President or send an e-mail he will respond!

Don Crossman
President



MILLENNIAL MEMORIES

After our first impressions of **Fort Anne** wore off, we realized very quickly that we would have our work cut out for us. Major **Buckingham (Buck)** was faced with a shortage of AFV's, as well as confinement of the AFV's (not being allowed to use the Autobahn) and a lack of open areas for troop movements, tactical exercises and small arms ranges. Pictured below are the **Squadron tanks** on the move at **Munster Lager** on May 14, 1954. The Squadron is loaded on eighteen flat cars to move **South** to **Werl** after exercises.



"Tank Train"



"Gnry Course"

Buck took his concerns to **Brigade HQ** and Major **Jimmy Gardner**, who was able to pave the way to getting the tanks on specific roads, avoiding the Autobahn so we could be mobile. Inasmuch as the troops were in support of specific infantry battalions, we had to be available for mobility and tactics. Time was needed before we could align the squadron if we were to be effective. On return, Buck reorganized the officers' duties and other responsibilities. Extra duties such as **Orderly Officers**, **Training Course Officers** and **Officers'**

Courses in the **UK** and **Brigade** kept the subalterns very busy. My duties now included being **Keeper of the Squadron War Diary**, (daily until the end of 1955), **Squadron Gunnery Officer** and **Squadron Junior NCO Course Officer**. Cpl **'Monty' Montgomery** reassembled his bugle band from Wainwright to move us around the Parade Square and keep up the traditions, it really helped a lot. Sgt **Bob Burvill** and I installed an **FMR Range** under cover to assist our gunnery courses. Following is a picture of one of the Squadron's gunnery classes.

Buck's attempts to get the tanks out of the Fort were finally successful and we obtained permission to run the tanks into the industrial areas behind Fort Anne. It wasn't until early January that we could get a tank training area just outside of the small village of **Muschede**, where all four tanks were unceremoniously dropped off the flatbed of the train and we were left to our own devices.

Getting up to the plateau was a frozen ground was a chore. We used axes and hatchets to make a stairway for the tanks to be able to get some purchase over the frozen ground. The villagers had been watching to see if we were going to make it and waited for a chance to swap our rations. Unfortunately, all we had to share was **British sardines** which they weren't interested in eating.

Things were going quite smoothly as an **Orderly Officer**, until one Sunday in mid February, when my appendix flared up and had to be removed. Getting to **Soest HQ** with the **Medic** by jeep over black ice was bloody awful. After staying awhile for observation, the trip we made from there to the **British Military Hospital** in **Iserlohn** was not much better. We arrived just in time to find the Senior Surgeon newly arrived from Vienna, in the midst of his welcoming reception. The appendix, near to bursting, was eventually removed and I spent the next five days there recovering and then I was off for two weeks rehab at **No. 6 Leave Centre, Winterberg**. Unfortunately, this rest was cut short as the **Royal Marines** were in need of a team member for the **Second Infantry Division Cross-Country Ski Championships**. They seemed to think that as a **Canadian** I should be some kind of expert. After a few days of skiing with them I left for Fort Anne, four days early. The leave was killing me!

Ken Barnaby
Ottawa, ON

Dear John

Dear John

(This is the fourteenth and final 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:

Well I'm damned – **TWINS!** It sounds almost indecent but at least they are of the proper sex, which may help recruiting 20

years from now. I don't blame you for being a little shaken but I was glad to hear that all is well with Mary and I will get the gory details when your Mother returns. Her wire was a little incoherent but she always was a little excitable.

When I sat down to write I was full of profound advice but I find now that all coherent thought has left me. I am a grandfather of twins! Good Lord that is a shattering

state of affairs and all I can say is good luck and bless you my boy but **DON'T DO IT AGAIN.**

Somewhat shaken,

Dad

PERAMBULATIONS OF THE PERIPATETIC PADRE

I have just returned from **Toronto** and points **East**. The **Greene House** continues to be a haven for wandering **Strathconas**. We were blessed by visits from **Della Spilde**, widow of my driver in **Italy** and **Holland Jock (Lloyd) Spilde**. Later **Roger Ptosnick**, the famous **Strathcona "D.R."** from **Winnipeg**. Every second Sunday when I celebrate Mass in the town of **Vulcan**, where I am Vicar – hence my title "**Vicar of Vulcan**."

I drop by the **Extensive Care Unit** to visit **OJ (Jack) Gallant**. OJ is now 90 and is the only survivor of the four Gallant brothers from **Virден Manitoba**. All four served with the Straths in **WW II**, which I believe is something of a record – four brothers from the same family, all of whom came through the war safely.

After leaving Vulcan we dropped in to take the sacrament to **Molly May** wife of **Billy May**, who enlisted in the late **1930's** and stuck with the **Straths** until retiring as the **RSM** in 1964. Molly is now resident in a seniors' home in **Mackenzie** town, a **South Calgary** suburb.

Korea veteran and ever faithful volunteer at the **Museum of the Regiments**, **Dave Cathcart** was recently in the **Rockview Hospital** in Calgary, having lost 35 pounds. He is now home again and adding

on weight. Dave who is a great reader has one of the finest military libraries it has been my privilege to see.

Another recent call was to the lovely bungalow of **Roy and Inez Jardine**. Roy, another **Korea** veteran could not walk a year ago and is now back on his feet making great strides. Hang in there **Dave & Roy**. You two are living proof that you can't keep a good guy down.

Alex Ozirny, "B" Sqn, WW 2 Orderly Room Corporal, a permanent resident in the **Belcher Hospital** has now moved with the Belcher to its new location in **Bowness**. His wife, **Jean**, visits him faithfully several times a week. **Marion**, my wife, keeps in constant touch with **Strathcona** widows. **Millie McCreary** and **Alice Budner**, Alice moved out of her home where she and **Nicky** took up residence 46 years ago, she is now very happy in a seniors' home.

Bud Mclean and yours truly had the privilege of speaking at an **Italian Campaign** dinner at **Fort Calgary** in the late spring. Bud spoke about his exciting experiences at the **Melfa**, where was later awarded the Military Medal for bravery. A recent visit was to the home of **Frank Thiessen** who is mourning the loss of his wife **Maria** who died earlier in the year.

Another of the few surviving WW2

Straths living in Calgary is **Val Rimer** who is **Post Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada**. Val and I discovered that we had gone to the same public school in **Toronto** in the **1930's**, went overseas together on the **Queen Mary** and joined the regiment in the same week in the Spring of 1943. Val has asked me to speak at his Synagogue in November, an invitation which I feel highly honoured in accepting. We will both be speaking in **Calgary Schools** during **Armistice Week**.

In June Marion and I embarked on an 11,400 km drive to **Charlottetown PEI**. On the way we had the joy of visiting many WW2 Straths. First was an overnight stay with **Rae** (widow Sgt **Ian McDiarmid**) in her lovely home in **Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan**. In **Toronto** we called on **Frank Clifford**, who in his **91st year** was still doing some part time work with his old law firm. Frank who was a devout churchman and supporter of **Wycliffe College** who awarded him a **Honourary Doctorate** in the 1980's a ceremony I was privileged to attend.

At the recent General Meeting of the **Alberta Association** I was saddened to hear the news that Frank had died. *+May his soul rest in peace, and may light perpetual shine upon him+*. Not far from Frank lives **Len "alley" Katz** where we enjoyed a great visit in June. Alas, last week when I was in Toronto, I visited Len in the **Scarborough Grace Hospital**. His faithful companion **Lee** is giving him really wonderful support and care.

On the way home we stopped in **Winnipeg** for a fabulous visit with **John Hall** another WW2 vet. John had some stories that my wife had never heard! On one occasion he and Len Katz were hitch hiking from **Bari to Naples** and ran out of cash. A visit to the local **Jewish Centre** and Len was able to spring them for 2,000 lire!

Had long phone conversation with **Tom Stanley** and finally a great visit with **Harry Stein** and his devoted wife **Andree**. Harry is now blind and losing is hearing but despite these problems is in fine spirit. His faithful dog **Napoleon** is a great support.

I would like to thank LGen (ret'd) **Bill Milroy** for the generous donation to the African Aids Program. Till next time in the immortal words of Colonel **Paddy Griffin** – **POOSH ON!**

Father R.H.S.Greene
Padre & L/Cpl

"GALLANT FAMILY TRULY GALLANT"

(In this issue Padre Greene mentioned in his column the four Gallant brothers who served during WW2 with the Strathconas. I thought the readers might be interested in an excerpt of an article that originally was published in the Winnipeg and Virден newspaper in 1942, and subsequently this Newsletter 1987. Ed)

Jack Gallant, like most veterans, talks very little about his years in the Armed Forces or about his family, but it ranks high among war service records in **Canada**. During **WWII**, Jack and his six brothers all were in uniform. Jack is one of eight boys, all sons of **Tpr Jack (Omer) Gallant** saw action in North Africa, Italy and Western Europe. He settled in Turner Valley, Alberta.

Tpr Francis Gallant originally enlisted

with the Regina Rifles but later transferred to the Strathconas where he served in Italy and Northwest Europe. He settled in Brandon, Manitoba.

Tpr Ernest F. Gallant served in Italy and Northwest Europe. After discharge he settled in Lariviere, Manitoba.

Tpr Eli F. Gallant served in Italy and Northwest Europe. After the war he returned to Virден, Manitoba.

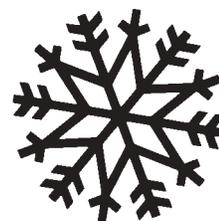
Tpr Wilfred Gallant joined the Saskatoon Light Infantry and served in France where he was wounded. He settled in Vancouver, BC.

Tpr Hubert Gallant joined the Lake Superior Regiment but was subsequently released on medical grounds and moved to Vancouver, BC.

Tpr Lawrence Gallant, who was under age when his brothers enlisted, took pre-enlistment training with the 12th Manitoba Dragoons. He served in England and moved to Vancouver after the war.

Along with these seven Gallant brothers from Virден, there were two cousins also in uniform, **Pte Alfred F. Gallant** and **Tpr Arphis J. Gallant**. The service of this family is truly outstanding and certainly deserves recognition.

'Mucker'
Editor



Birchaven Invitational Golf Tournament follows PGA lead!

To raise the level of play at this year's **Birchaven Invitational Golf Tournament** it seemed necessary and appropriate to include, for the first time, The Ladies for the September 5th to 7th event at **Owen Sound, Ontario**. Accordingly, Tournament Director and Host **Bruce Rutherford** made his customary strong leadership decision and told all male participants that was the way it was going to be! Those attending armoured ladies, not playing golf, participated in the Community Shopping Program organized by **Dawn Rutherford**.

Accordingly the Saturday, September 6th play day included one Lady on each of the two competing teams **Team Centurion** consisted of **Elizabeth Keddie, Bill Coupland, Al Diggins** and **Dennis Hopkins**. **Team Sherman** was made up of **Mary Low, Clive Milner, Bob Billings** and **Dave Keddie**.

Now readers may wonder why a three-day tournament consists of only one day of actual golf. Well – let's just say there has been a shift in the past ten years toward social play rather than golf play. As a result,

Friday evening is the setting for the 'Welcome to Owen Sound Dinner'. Saturday play day features the '**Judge Bob Rutherford** After Play Lunch' and Saturday evening marks the 'Prize Banquet'.

Peak event attendance was reached at the Judge Bob Rutherford After Play Lunch with 19 armoured – or honorary armoured – ladies and gentlemen chatting, updating and sitting down for a delightful lunch courtesy of Judge Bob. Non-golf participants at the lunch included **Gary Bart** and his wife **Eileen, Dawn Rutherford** – Event Hostess, **Dianne Hopkins, Shirley Milner, Sheila Billings, Betty Coupland** and **Alice Sear**.

The golf event was marked by a magnificent sunny day on the beautiful Owen Sound golf course that overlooks the sparkling waters of the sound. Competition was fierce which necessitated extra management on the course to supervise. The supervision team included Tournament Director **Bruce Rutherford** and **Bob Sear**, with crutches and broken foot, traveling by golf cart. Also Judge Bob Rutherford was seen driving his automobile up and down the main golf cart path to ensure all participants stayed on the course.

The Saturday Night banquet – held on the Rutherford's beautiful new cedar deck – was a wonderful food event. The tournament prizes were awarded once dinner was completed and the beverages had kicked in. Winning the Best Team Golden Golfer Award was Team Centurion. **Dennis Hopkins** won the Closest-To-The-Hole Wyatt Trophy. The Longest Drive Gorf Trophy went to **Al Diggins** and the Most Gentlemanly/Womanly Trophy went to **Mary Low**. A variety of shameless corporate sponsorship prizes, from organizations that will remain unnamed, were given out to all other participants and guests.

Great fun was had by all – and we can't wait for next year- particularly if Judge Bob Rutherford will do lunch again. Sincere thanks from all participants to Bob and Bruce and Dawn for their magnificent hospitality.

Dennis Hopkins



L to R – Sheila Billings, Dianne Hopkins, Dawn Rutherford, Shirley Milner, Liz Keddie



L to R – Dennis Hopkins, Bob Billings, Bruce Rutherford, Clive Milner, Dave Keddie.



Once Upon A Time There Was A Subaltern

The following is the ninth 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)

"It must be very exciting, being a dog. You never know whether to prepare to love or war."

Wavell

This might well have been our credo, '57-'59. We laboured at both with the perseverance expected of **Strathconas**. Focus upon the former was always tempered by the certain knowledge that it was the latter we were there for – and we'd better be very good at our craft.

Dependants: Care and Custody would be one example. All POMC were to be over ¾ full of gas at all times; there were sand-bags full of hard rations left from exercises, supplemented with MLS stock; currency of the Western European countries, supplemented with a gold coin or two if possible; and 9 mm pistols with ammunition were available (unless required for kit checks in camp) ... these might have allowed our women and children to go west while we went east ... the Brigade transport allocated for the dependants would be necessary for moving supplies east. We knew which would get priority and planned accordingly.

Linked with this was our planning for the "Bug Outs". Complexity would be an understatement. We were to be prepared to be well east of the **Weser** while the remainder of the Bde was enroute to their positions, **Hoxter-Beverungen**, along the river. There were degrees of alert, from "get your butt to camp" to "this is it", and each had its sequences of SOP. We were lucky; we had only two of the latter – where camp was vacated, demolitions in place in each building, and we were enroute to/from our assembly area in **Bad Sassendorf**. Everyone was focussed. All the equipment was to move east – any personnel who hadn't made it were to get to pre-selected RV's and rejoin their Troops ASAP somewhere to the east ...

'**Mac**' **Lindsay** and '**Billie May**' concocted a remarkable pick-up of personnel 'on the economy'. Drivers from "B" Echelon were to go on routes to all locations: the first to leave a 'calling card' with date/time of origin (coloured for degree of alert), the second to collect the personnel. All had to know where others lived, for there was no guarantee as to who would be first available to drive the routes.

We "singles" were first available, and I went immediately to the hangar with the single Troopers to get 2 Troop Ferrets ready to move. Needless to say, our stowage varied with the degree of urgency. When it was morphine and battle ammunition then there was no shortage of adrenaline flowing.

From afar, this activity would look like ping-pong balls shaken in a box – but nothing could be farther from reality, for every soldier knew what his roles were in the scheme of things. We had back-ups for everything. The alacrity with which we cleared camp, left our Assembly Area, and were through **Bad Driburg** was impressive. Our brigade would not be without its eyes and ears. Interesting how this disciplined, headlong rush to certain annihilation was so simple – Do Your Duty (Admiral Lord Nelson was right that day at Trafalgar, 21 October, 1805).

An Aside: Never thoroughly discussed was what we would actually do re: civilians moving about the key bridges/intersections. These would be critical for the Bde to our rear. We knew there existed a healthy communist underground with explosives to be used. Just who were those standing about the bridges? How much damage were they to be allowed to do? Memories from WW II when we entered Germany in '45, and from Korea in '51 when refugees sometimes weren't, provided clear warnings about 'civilians' who weren't. I hadn't faced this dilemma in '55 with "D" Sqn. My two Tp Sgts understood – the look in their eyes was sufficient – we would have been forced to do what had to be done. Those damned bridges/intersections would have been secured. Obey orders. Do your duty.

To the west of **Fort Chambly** lay the **Ruhr**, which was one vast industrial area. Place names suggested several separate cities, but each flowed into the other: **Bochum, Gelsenkirchen, Essen, Recklinghausen**, etc. Our usual 'target' was **Dortmund**. Like **Hamburg, Dusseldorf, Koln**, etc., Dortmund was possessed of several degrees of depravity. The opera with its attendant restaurants and bars were at one end – the other, near the **Hauptbahnhof**, and was unsafe for anyone. Our **recce's** were like climbing mountains – each trip was similar yet different. Survival meant staying together, alert, and relatively sober. We were tolerated as **Canadians** ... having money helped. The **Brits** were so under-paid (and fed) that they stayed in their NAAFT's where a few pence could buy tea and 'bangers'. The **Americans** were a long way south (**Kassel**) where they threw money at everything and inflated the price of goods and services beyond the ability of the locals. We 'colonials' tried to 'pay the going rates' and sometimes bought a round for the band and 'natives'. **Ed Bryant**, our married subaltern, told us at **Reunion 2000** that he agonized over our nocturnal visits – and would we become victims of 'those trees' along Highway One while flowing home to **Chambly**. We survived.

And so we existed as dogs – we lived exciting lives in those days, preparing for love and war.

IMPORTANCE OF CANADIAN ARMY TROPHY WIN 1967

It is not easy to identify why the victory in the **Canadian Army Trophy Competition** in 1967 by the **Strathconas** was a landmark for the Regiment, but it surely was. Further, it gave all in the **Canadian Brigade** a sense of reflected pride and satisfaction. It was proof of front-line military competence.

The Regiment was the "new boy on the block" when it arrived in late 1965. Training conditions, living conditions, operational demands made regimental life quite different from that in Canada, and there was more to learn than the Regiment expected. By the summer of 1966, much of the settling in was sorted out, but the Regiment still felt that "we don't get no respect" in the Brigade.

The truth was that we still had a lot to learn, and changes were needed in the Brigade to improve the use of armour. It was time to concentrate on sorting out what had to be done, and doing it. We had good people, and success and respect would surely follow good sense and hard work. Fall training, gunnery, exercises leading to the Fall divisional exercise, and the exercise itself revealed all the challenges

we still faced on the path to full competence.

The most important challenge was operational excellence. Tanks exist to shoot, so the first priority within this challenge was to be masters of gunnery. The obvious test was winning the Canadian Army Trophy, given to the winner of the annual **NATO Tank Gunnery Competition**, a rigorous test of shooting skills. **British** regiments sought the honour of representing Britain in this competition with competitive and fiery zeal, and this made the Brits the most formidable rivals to the **Dutch, Belgians, Danes, Germans** and **Canadians**. (The **Americans** did not compete), The Canadian Army Trophy was the mark of the best-armoured regiment in **NATO Europe**. Although the Canadian Army had donated the Trophy, the Canadians had never won it. To do so required thorough analysis of the variables in shooting, in preparation of the tanks, design of training and above all, constant practice and critique over a period of many months. Selection of the competing troop had to be made late in the schedule, so the standard of gunnery training in

–continued on page 15

50th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement

continued

the Regiment. Lunch was served in the garden after which the Minister made several presentations.

30 July (Day 9) This morning we checked out of our hotel after six days of first class accommodations. We departed Seoul by train traveling in first class coaches on a very smooth, very fast rail system. Korea is a very beautiful country as seen from a coach window, valleys filled with rice paddies, vineyards, orchards and neat little mountain villages. Arrived **Busan** about 1430 hrs and checked in at the **Westin Chosun Beach Hotel**, which as its name implies is right on the beach. Had the afternoon to ourselves, so Al and I took a walk on the beach, then on into the town where we located a great outback restaurant where we had a western style dinner.

31 July (Day 10) An early start leaving the hotel at 0745 hrs for an hours drive to the **United Nations Memorial Cemetery** where we attended a Memorial ceremony at the Monument to Canadian Fallen. Following this ceremony Al, Doug and I placed a wreath for those **Strathconas** who rest in this beautiful cemetery. We were given an hour for cemetery visitation during which Al McBride and I placed miniature Canadian flags and a rose on each of the following head stones, **Trooper Gray K.A., Neufeld L.G., Smillie J.F., Squires S.J.** and **Waldner G.H.** The years do not lessen the impact when one reads the ages of these young Troopers. We moved of to the **United States Forces Camp Hialeah** for

lunch and a visit to the Post Exchange. Here we spent the last of our **Won** and received **US dollars** in change. A farewell reception and dinner was held in our hotel in the evening to properly wind up this very successful Pilgrimage. The memorable point to the evening was the address given by each of the twelve Canadian youth who accompanied the pilgrimage. Judging by the remarks and behavior of these young people Canada's future is in good hands.

01 August (Day 11) The flight home through **Osaka** was made memorable by being able to wander through the air terminal, one of the engineering marvels of the century. Departed Osaka at 1625 hrs and arrived Vancouver at 1530 hrs. 01 Aug. Vancouver Terminal was a madhouse and the only black mark on the trip. The confusion was the cause of some members missing their connecting flights.

I must congratulate Veterans Affairs and the staff who planned, organized and ran this pilgrimage. They were very professional and helpful and looked after our every need. I must make special mention of **Mr. Shane Hudson**, conducting officer, and **Mr. 'Chip' Bowness**, chief advisor. **The Regular Force Personnel** who accompanied us did Yeoman service, and a special thanks to **Sgt. Doug Johns** who looked after Al McBride and myself throughout the entire journey.

S.L. (Pat) Patterson
Naniamo, BC



Comments from the Commanding Officers

Hatch continued

This was the first brigade level exercise since the early 90s. Our primary task was the provision of mounted range safety and limited enemy force play. Although we had to watch the **RCD** frolic in our tanks, it was still nice to be out in the Wainwright sunshine. We also enjoyed a visit from our **Colonel-Commandant, LGen (ret'd) Jimmy Fox**.

As the retired **Strathconas** in the interior of **British Columbia** are well aware, the Regiment was called out to assist in fighting the catastrophic fires (**Op PEREGRINE**). Due to the nature of the **BC Government** request for military assistance, it was necessary to piecemeal the Regiment's deployment. **Rece** Sqn departed in mid-August, serving at the **Barriere-McClure, Chase-McGillivray** and **Kelowna** fires. **RHQ** and elements of "HQ" Sqn deployed the last week of August, forming the basis of **Task Force 3** in Chase, and **Task Force 5** in **Creston**. "B" Sqn was sent to **Vaseux Lake** shortly thereafter, also serving in Kelowna. With only 12 hours notice to move, the Regiment deployed for a total of three weeks. **Op PEREGRINE** was a unique and enjoyable experience, and a pleasant change for our soldiers to be assisting fellow **Canadians**.

Needless to say, our training calendar now needs rewriting. This year will remain, however, "back to basics" as we return to the fundamentals of armoured soldiering. In October, our **Cambrian Patrol team** will be in **Wales** competing in what is the premier dismounted patrolling competition in **NATO**. In November, "B" Sqn will be in **Boise, Idaho, USA**, aiming to win the **CANAM Cup** for tank gunnery. Upon return from Bosnia, "C" Sqn will rename to "**A**" Sqn. In addition to **RHQ/Headquarters Squadron**, the Regiment will field two, **14 Leopard Tank Squadrons ("A" and "B")**, with **RECCE Sqn** on **Coyote**.

On a closing note, I would like to mention how pleased we were to be able to send a camp flag party to the **Korean Conflict Monument** dedication ceremony in **Ottawa**. This was a very important gesture towards recognizing the previous sacrifices of **Strathconas**.

Perseverance!

LCol Jamie Cade



LdSH(RC) Association (Ontario Branch) Report

OTTAWA – The **Ontario Branch** celebration of **Moreuil Wood** was a lunch held in the Army Officers Mess in Ottawa on Friday, 28 March. The old and bold included former **Colonels of the Regiment Bill Milroy** and **Rene Gutnecht**, and stalwarts such as **Pierre Garneau**, **Lloyd Lynch**, and **Walt Conrad**. Of note, **Jim Derby** was in town from **Nova Scotia** and was able to update us on some of the happenings from the **Maritimes**. Four serving **Strathconas**, Colonels **Mike Snell**, **Craig Fletcher** and **Roy Forestell** as well as LCol **Paul Fleury**. The retired crowd consisted of **Tom Burnie**, **Harry Mohr**, **Bruce Jeffries**, and **Terry Maine** as well as the Executive of the Ontario Branch including **Bill Logan**, **Bill Jacobs**, **Dave Iley** and **Greg Hug**. The informal gathering allowed all to renew friendships, tell a few “war stories” and get updated on the activities of the Branch as well as the progress being made on the development of the **Society Strategic Business Plan**. A toast to our fallen comrades provided a poignant reminder of the sacrifices endured by the **Regiment**, both at **Moreuil Wood** and in war and peace around the world.

Ontario had its big electrical blackout 15 August 2003. On the same day, there were 83 “blackhat” golfers participating in the **Henry Sampson Memorial Golf Tournament**, sponsored by **Radley Walters** Chapter of the **8CH Assoc**. Individuals represented **Regiments from Vancouver to Moncton**. For bragging rights, the winning team consisted of **Dave Iley** (LdSH), **Harold Forbes** (GGHG), **Greg Townsend** (RCD) and **Grant Yakimenko** (8CH) Next year, the tournament will be held at the **Smiths Fall Golf Club** on **20 August 2004**.

KINGSTON – Thirty-eight **Strathconas**, wives and friends gathered at historic **Fort Frontenac** in Kingston on Friday, 30 May for a BBQ arranged to celebrate **Melfa Day**. Our Colonel of the Regiment, **Mark Egener** from **Edmonton** attended, along with a number of other guests from outside the Kingston area. **Murray** and **Bonnie Cayley** drove down from **Orillia**; **Bill** and **Lil Fox** came from **Toronto**, as well as a number from the **Ottawa** area including **Rene Gutknecht** and **Bill** and **Susan Megill**. Everyone was especially honoured that another veteran of the battle,

George Wattsford, was able to attend. George originally joined the Regiment in 1933 and everyone was very pleased to hear him say a few words about the battle and the Regiment. **John Roderick**, **John McEachern** and **Mike Froess**, the driving forces behind the active group of **Kingston area Strathconas**, organized this event. **May Roderick** and **Sylvia Green** provided dessert.

Clive Milner and his wife **Shirley** once again hosted the **Annual Armoured Corps BBQ** on their **St Lawrence River** property outside Kingston, on a warm sunny Saturday at the end of July. **Strathconas** were well represented amongst the several hundred people from across **Canada** and the **USA** who attended this family picnic. Limited space permits us to mention only a very few of the many **Strathconas** who attended but amongst them were **Peter** and **Cathy Nichita** from **Kelowna BC**; **Dennis** and **Dianne Hopkins** from **Orangeville**, **David** and **Sara Iley** from **Ottawa**, **Jerry** and **Joan Koeller** from **Perth** and **Tom** and **Brenda Horgan** from **Kingston**.

Greg Hug

Importance of Canadian Army Trophy Win *continued*

the selected squadron had to be high. If we wished to continue to excel, we would have to monitor the squadron’s experience in detail, and apply everything we learned to the Regiment as a whole. **Gunnery** was serious business.

In late 1966, Maj ‘**Bas**’ **Collett** and “**B**” **Sqn** were chosen to start the process toward winning The Canadian Army Trophy, and in 1967, they did just that.

In 1967, we did master all aspects of our profession, and established a good level of confidence and comfort. In the Regiment, we had vastly improved the standard of maintenance, our command post and communications. In fact, all activities were re-worked. Movement by road and rail was smooth. Regimental routines were polished. Energy had been applied to improve the lot of those in barracks.

Brigade had agreed that standards were needed in tank/infantry practice and training, and the Regiment was chosen to lead the process of developing these standards throughout the winter of 1966-67. This culminated in June when every platoon and company in the Brigade went through tank/infantry exercises at **Sennelager**, directed by **CO Strathconas**. The **2IC**, Maj **Gross**, and **RCEME** and **RCOC** representatives went at the tedious process of ironing out the many wrinkles in tank spare parts support. With the **RCE Sqn** and the **Anti-Tank Company**, we were able to improve the sequencing of operational

planning by the Brigade. We absorbed the changes generated by man-for-man rotation and the new Canadian Forces rank and trade structure.

The icing on the cake though was winning the Canadian Army Trophy in July 1967, winning it in **Canada’s Centennial Year**, in the presence of **General Worthington, Father of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps**. The **Strathconas** were the best tank gunners in NATO! The British Army blinked, and was suddenly aware of our existence. Our Brigade was startled, and there was a quantum jump in the respect, the professional respect, from everyone in the Brigade.

This victory and its implication that we really did know what we were doing gave great credibility to the changes and improvements we were advocating to

Brigade. We didn’t have to rant to be heard; people listened. To **Strathconas** it verified that we belonged in a front-line formation.

By summer 1967, in the Regiment, we felt that we were competent, but winning the Trophy meant that the world now knew it! Great satisfaction came from the Trophy, a reward for hard work to which everyone had contributed. We were proud of “**B**” **Sqn**; we knew how much work and dedication had gone into their effort, and thus how much the next squadron would have to apply. We also knew that it could be done – we **HAD done it**.

In 1967, winning the Canadian Army Trophy was a great professional achievement, a **Strathcona** achievement, and a source of pride for all Canadian soldiers in Europe.

MGen (Retd) Phil Neatby



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 **Dodie Beauchamp, Joe Bishop, Lorna Blair, Ed Brown, Edith Cade, 'Doc' Dowling, 'Art' Frances, Ralph Getz, Fred Hazelwood, Bill James, Frank Karwandy, Bill Logan, Ken McMahon, Bernie McNichol, Ted Mills, Peter Nichita, 'Nic' Nocolay, Alex Ozirny, Pat Patterson, Ken Pirt, Barry Rose, George Rowland, Stan Tall, 'Waddy' Wadsworth, Orley Whalen, Carson Williams, Garth Woodrow, 'Lucky' Wilson, Norm Wurtz**. Please let me know if I missed anyone.

The monies will be used as directed by the donor(s) i.e. **Newsletter, Museum, Mounted Troop, or Society** discretion.

The participation of all readers is particularly requested in helping us to keep track of changes of address plus entries for the **Last Trumpet Call**. We ask that any information be forwarded to:

Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC) Society
4520 Crowchild Trail SW
Calgary, AB. T2T 5J4
Attention: 'Mucker'

Internet is becoming an important tool for keeping in touch. If you are "on line", please take a moment to send your **E-mail** address to the **Society** office at: <strath-news@shaw.ca>. It is also worth your while to visit the **Strathcona Web Site** at www.strathconas.ca

For the **Spring 2004** edition of the **Newsletter**, please forward your reports, letters, anecdotes, articles, photos, etc by the **25 February 2004**. Donations of course send any time.

'Mucker' Langan

LAST TRUMPET CALL

ALLEN T. ('Trapper'), Korea, Regular, age 82, 17 Oct 03, Fredericton, NB.
CLARK E.C. ('Bim'), WW2, age 79, 06 May 03, Vancouver, BC
CLEMENT R. (Bob), Regular, age 60, 23 Apr 03, Okotokes, AB
CLIFFORD E.N. (Frank), WW2, Korea, Regular, age 91, 09 Sep 03, Willowdale, ON
CHANT D.J. (Doug), WW2, Korea, Regular, age 85, 12 Jul 03, Wellington, ON
HORNE A.H. (Dick), Korea, Regular, age 72, 03 Aug 03, N.Vancouver, BC
JANZEN P. (Peter), Regular, age 73, 16 Aug 03, Calgary, AB
JENSON E.R. (Ed), WW2, Korea, Regular. Age 80, 19 May 03, Windsor, ON
LAMB W.C. (Wif), WW2, age 84, 07 Jun 03, Calgary, AB
MCMULLEN R.R. (Ray), Regular, age 81, 05 Mar 03, Lumby, BC
MONROE L.G. ('Spider'), WW2, Korea, Regular, age 79, 12 Jun 03, Oyama, BC
NICHOLSON D (Don), Regular, age 73, 22 May 03, Nijemeggin, Holland
OZIRNY A. (Alex), WW2, age 87, 16 Oct 03, Calgary, AB
ROXBOROUGH J.S. (Jofin), WW2, Korea, Regular, age 86, 14 Jun 03, Kitchener, ON
SUTTON J.P. (James), Korea, Regular, age 76, 29 May 03, Regina, SK
TERRY C.M. (Bill), Korea, Regular, age ??, 19 Feb 03, Nanaimo, BC

In Loving Memory of Wives

GUILFOYLE AGGIE (Mike deceased) ?? Sep 03, Calgary, AB
HORN ALFRIEDA (Dick deceased) ?? Jul 03, N. Vancouver, BC

"May They Rest in Peace"

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

New E-mail Addresses

Association (Alberta Branch)
abbranch@strathconas.ca

Association (Ontario Branch)
strathconasontario@yahoo.ca

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:

Gordon Bulloch, Logan Lake, BC.
Audrey Glendinning, Sardis BC. **Roy Westhaver**, Cranbrook, BC. **'AI' De Rocher**, Nanaimo, BC. **Laura Mariner**, St

Albert, AB. **Jim Foster**, Okotokes, AB.
Florence Bancur, Brandon, MB. **Maurice Barrette**, Summertown, ON. **Dave Blain**, Kemptville, ON. R.D. **Dick Green**, Gloucester, ON. **Gord Lequeyer**, Tara, ON. **Carl Rutley**, Georgetown, ON. **Shirley Wilkie**, Sudbury, ON. In Calgary, AB. **Marilyn Blanch, Steve Brands, Floyd Caldwell, Ernie Simpson**.