



Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) REGIMENTAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

By Colonel J.E.N. Roderick

I hope this Newsletter will find the Regimental family in good spirits after the summer. I was going to say "rested and in good spirits"

but there is no way the term "rested" can be applied to the members currently serving



with the Regiment, especially those serving with B Sqn in Afghanistan and those in A Sqn who have been training at a frenetic pace and who will be departing for Afghanistan imminently.

Since the last Newsletter I have met with many of you in a number of venues but the two highlights for me were the Moreuil Wood celebrations in March and attending the Change of Command ceremonies in June.

Despite the time of year, there was an excellent turnout for Moreuil Wood. The Regiment put on yet another first class parade and memorial service and, of course, excelled in the numerous social functions that go with the event. On the parade we recognized the winners of the awards signifying excellence at the various rank levels. As a member

of the "old guard" I cannot help but look at the young (to me) recipients of these awards and reflect on where they will be in 10 or 20 years. If you have some time to spare while visiting the unit lines, look over the names of the previous recipients of the various awards. I don't think we give ourselves enough credit for our success in developing future leaders for Canada's military. We know that is our role but we really should recognize that success and make every effort to ensure that degree of success in professional development of our soldiers continues. Perhaps I should also acknowledge here the continued contribution made by retired members of the family. This was also acknowledged on the Moreuil Wood Parade. It was announced that Colonel of the Regiment Commendations were being awarded to **Maj (ret'd) I.D. MacKay** for his efforts in organizing and corralling the Calgary gang and to **Maj (ret'd) Bill Logan** for his many years of work for the Association in Ontario. I had great pleasure in presenting I.D. with his Commendation on parade and I'll catch up with Bill in Ottawa this fall, I hope.

The Change of Command parade was another Strathcona extravaganza that other units can only envy – tanks, horses, a band and no one even noticed that over a third of the Regiment was away and the fact that it was a parade with no marching! It was a happy/sad occasion of course – depending on whether you were

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Your Newsletter

We have received a lot of good feedback on the last edition and have made a number of minor changes in response to those observations. From my perspective the only improvement that can be made now is more input from Strathconas far and wide - especially your recollections of your time with the Regiment, no matter how accurate or inaccurate they may be. This is the family Newsletter so more "family" please!!

I would also like to thank **Kathy Stephen** once again for her tireless support to this publication. As I advised in the last edition, Kathy jumped into the breach and volunteered to put the Newsletter together for us. I'm sure that if she hadn't we would not have a Newsletter. Many thanks from all Strathconas, Kathy. Your service to the Regiment and our Society cannot be recognized enough! Additionally, for anyone who has not heard, Kathy and **MWO Tony Batty** are to be married on November 8, 2008. On behalf of all members of your second family, the Regimental family, I wish the two of you many years of great happiness and joy.

Colonel John E. Roderick, CD (ret'd)
Colonel of the Regiment

Commanding Officer

By Lieutenant-Colonel D.A. Macaulay

Two months ago, I was honoured and privileged to take command of our Regiment from **Lieutenant-Colonel Pascal Demers**;

thank you for the great job Pascal. Although the Regimental Sergeant-Major has done a great job of highlighting our challenges and accomplishments over the past months, I do wish to briefly revisit the change of Command ceremony prior to speaking about the next bound.

I would like to thank the entire Regimental family for their support and best wishes. For those who returned to the Regiment for this occasion, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to share time with the family. I would like to especially thank **RSM (retired) Bob** and **Ann Slaney** (from the sunny Okanagan) and my former **SSM (retired) Brian (the Wrinkly One)** and **Heather Talty** (from southern Alberta), for their attendance Rhonda and I greatly appreciated it.



LCol Derek Macaulay

As for the next bound, the future mirrors what the Regiment has come to expect as normal--busy. A Squadron (**Major Ian MacDonnell** and **SSM Dave Hall**) has initiated their rotation with B Squadron (**Major Chris Adams** and **SSM Tony Batty**), the fifth consecutive tank squadron deployment, as part of the 3rd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group operating as part of Joint Task Force Afghanistan.

Although the soldiers of B Squadron have started to arrive home at the time of this article, we do not expect B Squadron complete to be back in Regimental lines mid-November. During this transition period, C Squadron (**Major John Cochrane** and **SSM Rick Stacey**) will be deploying to Wainwright to train on the *Road To War* with their Task Force, led by 2nd Battalion R22eR, which will deploy in early 2009. C Squadron will conduct live fire to battalion level and will move to simulation training after Thanksgiving under control of the Combat Manoeuvre Training Centre. They will return to the Regiment just prior to Remembrance



CWO Ramsay accepts responsibility from CWO Ross

Regimental Sergeant-Major

By Chief Warrant Officer J. Ramsay

Let me begin by passing on my thanks to **CWO Doug Ross** and his wife **Terri** for all the wonderful work they have done for the Regiment in the past two years. I wish all the best to **Doug** and **Terri** in the future. The support shown by all the families of soldiers within the Regiment in the past has been superb and much appreciated. I cannot think of a greater time since I have been with the Regiment where this support is so dearly needed. So, please accept my heart felt thanks to all of you.

The Change of Command parade was quite impressive. Seeing the vehicles of the Regiment on the roll past was a sight to behold. I am sure the Old Guard was quite impressed. I am still receiving accolades for the soldiers, from people in regards to the parade. As always, the Regiment has been extremely busy. B Sqn under the command team of **Major**

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Colonel of the Regiment

coming or going.

We said farewell to the CO, **LCol Pascal Demers**, and the RSM, **CWO Doug Ross**, who managed amazing things during their tour, not the least of which was leading the Regiment to provide not only the first short-notice tank squadron for Afghanistan in the Fall of 2006, but also in training three successive tank squadrons, all of which have performed magnificently in theatre. The recent award of the CDS Unit Commendation in recognition of the Regiment's efforts in getting the first squadron (B Squadron) to Afghanistan has to give them great personal pride, just as all Strathconas have felt great unit pride in this award. **LCol Demers** has now been appointed as the Chief of Staff of the next task force to deploy to Afghanistan and now-**Capt Doug Ross** (he was promoted on the Change of Command parade) is accompanying him as a Liaison Officer in the Headquarters.

The "happy" pair on parade, of course, were the incoming CO and RSM, **LCol Derek Macaulay** and **CWO Joe Ramsay**. Both have hit the ground running and, aside from side trips to visit B Sqn in Afghanistan and A Sqn training on the Leopard 2's in Germany, are busy putting their personal stamps on the Regiment. My personal observation is that we are fortunate in that an equally strong team has replaced a very strong team.

Hopefully in reporting on these two events, I've managed to convey to you that our Regiment is in great shape and doing great things. Although there has not been much coverage of our Afghanistan-deployed squadrons, be assured

they have been part of every major action and all are being recognized for their professionalism by those who count and especially by the Taliban, whose numbers are regularly being decreased by our gunners. I've had many queries as to why the Strathcona's are not more prominent in the media and I can only speculate that this is the result of the imbedded press policy prevalent today. Whilst reporters can climb into an infantry APC, no Strathcona crew commander in his right mind is going to kick out his gunner or operator to make room for a reporter – not even one as Army-friendly as Christie Blatchford. We are getting recognition at the right levels and especially recognition of our individual soldiers, witness that so far members of the Regiment have been awarded, by my count, four Medals of Military Valour, two Meritorious Service Medals, five Mentioned in Dispatches, two Chief of Defence Staff Commendations and three Chief of Land Staff Commendations. Of course, we add to that the CDS Unit Commendation I mentioned earlier.

It is a great time to be a Strathcona!!

PERSEVERANCE

Winter 2009 Edition

The deadline for submissions for the Winter/Spring 2009 Strathcona Newsletter is
9 January 2009.

Submissions should be forwarded to
newsletter@strathconas.ca

or mailed to:

Lord Strathcona's Horse
(Royal Canadians)
PO Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5
Attention: Kathy Stephen

News from the Edmonton Chapter

By Captain Dave Biener

After completing a very successful meeting on the 26th of June, (with approx 12 people in attendance!) the Edmonton Chapter of the Association decided to take the summer off. Although we had talked about getting together for some golf, it never happened. We did, however; manage to send representation to Calgary for the Association tournament. James Strayer led the group. He tells me that it was well organized and that all involved had a good time.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 11th at the Norwood legion in Edmonton. We are continuing work on Reunion 2010 and we hope to get details out regarding the confirmation of the hotel and the events as soon as possible. I have included a small questionnaire regarding the Reunion to try to get an idea of how many plan to attend and what type of event we want. Our Edmonton Chapter membership continues to grow slowly but I am confident that by 2010 we will be well established.

We would like to send our best wishes out to **LCol Demers** and **CWO (now Capt) Ross** (outgoing CO and RSM) and their families as they move on to new horizons. Thank you for attending our functions. We would also like to welcome the new CO and RSM **LCol Macaulay** and **CWO Ramsay**, back home and wish them the best. We hope that, in spite of a very busy schedule, they, too, will be able to attend some of our group functions.

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Commanding Officer



SMT escorts MGen Grant to the dias.

Day before conducting their Leopard 2 training in Munster, Germany until Christmas. Reconnaissance Squadron (**Major Rob Hume** and **SSM (WO Ziggy Seefried)**) has been amalgamated with E Company and most of the infantry soldiers that performed great work over the past five years have returned to their respective battalions. As the Regiment has been focussed on providing tank squadrons for operations over the past couple of years, Reconnaissance Squadron is in the process of reforming and preparing to trial and integrate new concepts of recce and surveillance with the combination of TUA and COYOTE. As always, Headquarters Squadron (with its new OC, **Major Chris Adams** as of November) will keep the vehicles fuelled and the soldiers fed.

Over the next few months we are looking for opportunities to spend time with the greater Strathcona family that continue to support our soldiers and their families. We will conduct a welcome home ceremony for B Squadron 17-18 November and a

Black Hat Professional Development session from the 19-21 November. The officers will also say farewell to a number of Strathcona's that have retired at a mess dinner on 20 November 2008. The Regiment will conduct our Christmas Sports Day and Soldiers Christmas Dinner prior to taking a much deserved rest in preparation for what is shaping up to be a even busier new year. I will outline our events in the next article; however, two important events are already scheduled - **Major General Grant's** retirement dinner in February and Moreuil Wood 26 to 28 March 2009. I hope that you are able to join us for these two important Regimental activities.

Perseverance,



BGen Vance inspects the Regiment



The Guidon Party on parade.

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Regimental Sergeant-Major

Chris Adams and **SSM Tony Batty**, have almost completed their tour in Theatre. The Squadron has done the Regiment proud. In talking with **SSM Batty**, the soldiers of the Sqn are doing well and obviously looking forward to getting home to their families. As I pen this article, some soldiers from A Squadron led by **Major Ian McDonnell** and **SSM Dave Hall** have already departed for Afghanistan. Having had the opportunity to visit and speak with the soldiers of the Squadron during their training, I am sure they will have a very successful deployment. This takes us to C Squadron with **Major John Cochrane** and **SSM Rick Stacey**. The Squadron has just deployed to Wainwright with elements of HQ Squadron and Recce Squadron in support of the Combat Team Commander's course. The Squadron will commence the *Road To High Readiness* with this opportunity to shake things out. Recce Squadron and E Company have been not only augmenting the Observation Mentoring and Liaison Teams, and other positions within Theatre, they have been running TOW Under Armour Improved Target Acquisition System courses in preparation for the integration of this system within Recce Squadron. Sadly as of 1st September 2008 E Coy has been struck from the Regimental orbit. All of the soldiers who served within E Coy in the past have represented the PPCLI in stellar fashion. They will

be missed, and I am sure taking some good memories with them. There will be a few PPCLI soldiers remaining for the next year to assist the Regiment in preparation of the transition of the TUA capability to the Strathcona's. Recce Squadron, led by **Major Rob Hume** and **WO Ziggy Seefried**, have been extremely busy in preparing the Squadron for its new role with the TUA capability. The Squadron has not only been running numerous courses to ensure a quick transition, they have supported the other squadrons in the *Road To High Readiness*. Come November, we hope to have a robust Recce Squadron within the Regimental lines again.

Last but certainly not least is HQ Squadron. As

I use to say when I was SSM Headquarters, "all of the guts none of the glory". Under the leadership of **Captain Vincent Kirstein** and **SSM Bill Crabb**, the Squadron continues to support the Regiment in an astonishing way. Most recently when the Commanding Officer ordered Operation Steele Torque, the completion of F3's on all tanks within the Regiment, in less than a month, 11 MBT's have been completed along with inspections done on numerous B vehicles and their trailers. On my visits to the tank hangar, I was reminded of an assembly line. There were tanks on stands with maintainers and crewmen busily doing their part to

get the job done properly and safely. Outside, even more soldiers were pounding together new track. On the spare parts side of the house,



LCol Demers and Capt Ross take their final salute

I am sure they have ordered more parts in the last 3 weeks than they have had to in quite some time. The soldiers of HQ Sqn never cease to amaze me in what they are

capable of doing, normally with short notice and often short handed. It goes without saying the Squadron allows the Regiment to do what it does - only because of their support.



Col Roderick presents ID MacKay with the CoR Commendation

The Ceremonial Mounted Troop continues to represent the Regiment in fine fashion. I had the opportunity to see the "Ride" in Spruce Meadows during the "North American".

Clearly, it was a fine show enjoyed by all. More recently during the "Masters", the Troop put on yet another fine performance. Whether in Siemens, SK or Vancouver, BC the Troop's Musical Ride was well received. The small staff within the Family Support Center has again been doing an excellent job in support of our families of deployed soldiers.

Just recently, a number of honours and awards were bestowed upon the Regiment and soldiers of the Regiment. These will be covered in a separate article; however, I would like to pass on my congratulations to all the recipients and the soldiers of the Regiment.

In closing, I would like thank all of you who have supported the Regiment in the past. It is greatly appreciated by the soldier's of the Regiment and me. Happily, there are too many supporters to thank by name as it would take up more than a few pages. I hope to be able to do this during my tenure as RSM. It is a position I am honoured to hold and only hope I can serve the soldiers within the Regiment as well as they serve their country.

Perseverance.



Regimental Association Alberta Branch

By Bob Lett

It seems like it was just a couple of days ago that the editor was telling us to get busy and submit our article for the spring edition.... Well they're at it again. Thanks for reminding us.

The Association is going along very nicely with our membership slowly growing and the participation is also improving. The Branches are all busy with their own activities with the Calgary group doing one thing or another. We're optimistic that the rest of '08 will be equally as interesting.

The first 8 months have been very busy with our 3 General Meetings and **ID MacKay** hosted lunches, most of which the Regiment has sent a group down from Edmonton

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Ma'Sum Ghar Beautification Project

By Sgt Mark Bell (Martha)

The B Sqn common area behind the bunker was a little small for the amount of people that hang out during their down time. **WO Iain (Green Thumb) Fox** and I decided to carve some of the mountain away.

With pick and shovel we started the work. As people noticed our project, we received some strange looks and, of course, many suggestions to bring in a back hoe. It was a manual labour project and some of the members of the squadron did jump in and help. **Cpl Jeremy (the shovel) Charlton** generously “volunteered” to fill 100 sand bags with the soil from the mountain wall.

As the project progressed, we had a large pile of sand bags that we had no use for. A sand bag wall was started, to enclose the common area and offer a little protection from the incessant rocket attacks. The sand bag wall was kind of ugly so **WO Iain Fox** decided we needed to build a fountain.



Fuchko's Fountain



Maintenance (Hornburg) Bunker

The fountain project soon turned into a fountain/garden combo. A deal was made with a local kitchen worker to get us some very expensive grass seed (\$50 US). I guess in a country of sand and rock, grass seed must be hard to come by. The local national was worried about our ability to grow grass in this harsh environment, so he brought a sieve and showed us how to prepare the ground and plant the seed. Now we just had to wait and water it, hoping that it would grow. Small trees and flowers were quickly added to the garden and the pump was installed. A portable shower was donated by the weapon techs to keep the water flowing down the fountain. The fountain needed a plaque and “*Fuchko's Fountain*” was dedicated. **MCpl Mike (the artist) Koestlmaier** went to work carving the sign with his Swiss army knife. Not stopping there, he made plaques

for 3rd Tp and Maint Tp bunkers. **Hayakaze** and **Hornburg** plaques were put above their doors. **Tpr Hayakaze** was killed near Mushan and was a member of 3rd Tp, C Sqn. **Cpl Hornburg** was killed on the Arghandab River and was a member of Maint Tp, C Sqn. **Cpl Fuchko** was badly injured near Lakokhel and was a member of 1st Tp, B Sqn.

With the dedications complete all we had to do was wait for the grass to grow. After a month, the grass was ready for its first “mow”. A pair of scissors and a lot of patience later, the garden was ready to just sit back and enjoy. B Sqn and soon A Sqn now have a spot to relax and enjoy a little green in the otherwise brown environment of FOB Ma'Sum Ghar (FMG).



3rd Troop (Hayakaze) Bunker

Commemorative Visit To Korea, July 2008

By Roy A. Jardine

In late April 2008, I received a call from the Regiment asking if I was interested in being a delegate to represent the Regiment at the 55th Anniversary of the armistice in The Republic of Korea (ROK). I readily agreed as I was always interested in re-visiting Korea, having served with B Squadron, LdSH(RC) from May 1952 to June 1953. During my service in Korea, I began my tour as a radio operator for the Squadron Commander. After many casualties occurred in the line, in August and September, 1952 I was promoted to corporal and sent to Third Troop as Crew Commander, Call Sign 3 Charlie on Hill 355, where Third Troop was in support of 1st Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment.

After medicals, immunization shots, and other requirements by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), my wife Inez, and I were on our way to South Korea.

On July 7, 2008 we left Calgary for Vancouver. The travel guide and members of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) delegation met us and the other delegates at the Vancouver International Airport. We were then transported to our hotel in downtown Vancouver. After a group dinner the DVA personnel briefed us on what to expect during our trip. I was happy to see that a former Strathcona and Korean Veteran, Reg McMillan, would be joining us on the trip. Reg was representing the Royal Canadian Dragoons. The delegation consisted of The Minister of Veterans Affairs, his staff, Members of Parliament, veterans, caregivers, youth ambassadors, members of the press, medical staff, personnel from DVA, and serving military staff - including Strathcona **Cpl. Chris Hornby**.

After breakfast the next morning, we were transported to the Shell Flight Center, Vancouver International Airport where we boarded a CF Airbus for our flight to Korea. We flew to Anchorage, Alaska where we landed for fuel and a flight crew change before continuing our flight to Korea. I caught up with Strathcona **Cpl. Chris Hornby** in the Anchorage Airport. After crossing the International Date Line, we arrived at Incheon International Airport on Wednesday, July 9, 2008. We were then transported to the Seoul Plaza Hotel in downtown Seoul.



Roy Jardine and Corporal Chris Hornby

On July 10, we were treated to a tour of the City of Seoul that included a stop at a shopping district. In the evening, we attended a group dinner and welcome briefing at the Seoul Plaza Hotel.

On Friday, July 11, we were transported by bus to a ceremony at the ROK National Cemetery. The cemetery is very well maintained and there are thousands of South Korean war graves. We then visited the National War Memorial and Museum. The Museum is very impressive and contains artifacts depicting years of Korean conflicts and casualties. Later, we attended a luncheon at the Hotel Capital, which is located in Itaewon. The luncheon was hosted by Mr. Yang Kim, Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs for South Korea. Following lunch we were transported to the ROK Sang Seung Observation Post. Most Korean veterans will know this as Hill 187 near the Sami-Ch'on Valley. I was able to identify Hill 166 across the valley, and Hill 355 on our extreme right. Most of the Jamestown Line is visible from this location. This is the location where 4 tanks of Third Troop B Squadron, including myself as Tank Commander CS 3 Charlie, were in support of 3rd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment, located on Hill 187 when Charlie Coy was attacked by approximately 2,000 enemy on the 2nd/3rd May 1953. This was the last battle the Canadians would fight during the Korean war. During this battle, the Canadians suffered the most casualties of any battle in the war - 25 killed, 27 wounded, and 7 taken prisoner. One of the veterans on the trip was taken prisoner that night. The area is so lush and green now, so different than when I was there 55 years ago. There is little evidence of the devastation that occurred in this area. South of this area there is still evidence of defensive positions.

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Commemorative Visit to Korea

On Saturday, July 12, we attended a Ceremony of Remembrance at the Canadian Korean War Memorial Garden. The Memorial Garden is located in Naechon, northeast of Gapyeong and just below the hills which were defended by 2PPCLI during the Battle of Gapyeong (formerly Kap'yeong) in April 1951. (Korea has made some changes to their alphabet – Kap'yeong is now Gapyeong and Pusan is now spelled Busan). Wreaths of remembrance were laid by delegates representing their military affiliation. **MWO (retired) Reg McMillan**, representing the Royal Canadian Dragoons and I, representing the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), laid a wreath for the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps at the memorial. Three monuments have been erected in the Memorial Garden. The first is a stone cairn to commemorate 2 PPCLI, which won the United States Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation in April 1951 following the battle of Kap'yeong. As well, the PPCLI delegation paid their respects to their memorial cairn. The second monument is a stone tablet with three panels in Korean, English and French, listing all the units of the Canadian Forces that served in the Korean War. The final memorial is the newest and largest. This memorial was unveiled in 1985 and was dedicated by the people of Korea to the memory of the approximately 26,000 Canadians who served in the Korean war. Of these brave men and women, 516 Canadians made the ultimate sacrifice. Approximately 1,255 Canadians were wounded. Following a group BBQ, we visited the Korean War Memorial to the Armed Forces of the British Commonwealth at Gapyeong.

On July 13, after a very early breakfast, we checked out of the Seoul Plaza Hotel and travelled to Panmunjeom, where we visited the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Panmunjeom where the peace talks took place and the armistice was signed on July 27, 1953. We were permitted to enter the building where the talks took place and saw the line between North and South Korea. The line is clearly visible between the buildings with North Korean guards on one side of the line and South Korean guards on the other. No communication of any kind is allowed with the north. One of the Delegates on the trip was former Royal Canadian Regiment **Private Jim Gunn**. Mr. Gunn, who was with Charlie Coy 3RCR was captured and taken prisoner on the night of 2/3 May 1953. During his re-visit, special permission was obtained for Mr. Gunn to walk half-way on the Freedom Bridge ("Bridge of No Return"), which he crossed when he was released after the armistice. Normally this bridge is off limits. This was a very emotional moment for everyone.



*Roy Jardine and The Hon. Greg Thompson,
Minister of Veterans Affairs*

The road to Panmunjeom has many prepared defensive positions that are visible and obstacles set up that can be used to block the roads. Along the Imjin River there is razor wire, flood lights, and guards posted to keep out invaders from coming up the river.

After a box lunch enroute, we departed from the Incheon International Airport and our flight to Busan (Pusan) via the DND Airbus. We arrived at the Gimhae International Airport, Busan and proceeded to the Westin Chosen Hotel.

On July 14th, after another very early breakfast we proceeded to the United Nations Memorial Cemetery for a "sunrise" ceremony conducted by the Aboriginal Korean Veterans Delegation. This was a very interesting Ceremony and very well done.

This was followed by a Ceremony of Remembrance for the Canadians who lost their lives in the Korean war. All attending unit delegates laid wreaths in memory of their fallen comrades. I had the privilege of laying a wreath in memory of the five fallen Strathconas. They are **Troopers J. Bell, A. Gray, L. Neufield, J. Smillie, and G. Waldner**. **Reg McMillan** laid a wreath for the Royal Canadian Dragoons, in memory of **Lt. F.S. Stillwell**. After the ceremony, we visited the graves and located the five graves of the fallen Strathconas. The graves are very well maintained. Each grave has a well-groomed rose bush and a small hedge planted on either side of the grave marker. It is certainly a very beautiful and peaceful setting. Later, lunch was served at the Korean Cultural Theatre where we were treated to a variety of Korean and Western dishes. It was a very enjoyable lunch.

Our last evening in South Korea included a reception at the Westin Chosen Hotel hosted by his Excellency **Ted Lipman**, Canadian Ambassador to South Korea. The reception was followed by a dinner hosted by the Honourable Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs.

It has been 55 years since I left Korea to return to Canada and it is very enlightening to see how prosperous and modern the country has become following the devastation caused by the attacks and battles in South Korea from 1950 to 1953. In my opinion, this prosperous country is a perfect example of western civilization versus Communism in the north. There are four-, six-, and eight- lane highways replacing the dirt trails and gravel roads we had to travel. Many high-rise apartment buildings are evident throughout the country. The cities are very clean and well maintained with not a panhandler in sight.

In closing I would like to thank the Regiment for recommending I participate in this re-visit. It is an experience, that both Inez and I will never forget. I would also like to thank the DVA Delegation for their assistance and friendship and the DND air crews who so willingly flew us over the Pacific Ocean. They all helped make the trip very enjoyable to say the very least.

Your Dispatches

Whilst cleaning out some files I found the following article I wrote some years ago for forgotten reasons. I thought it might be of historical or anecdotal interest. Feel free to reproduce in the Strathconian or elsewhere. There might even be one or two old timers who recall these events.

A Canada Cup Remembrance

I remember it as a vaguely sunny day. At least it was for the Lunenburg Heide in August. The "Heide" (or heath) was then a desolate, muddy, treeless flatland in Northern Germany used as a tank and artillery gunnery range since the times of the Kaiser. The most memorable feature of the Hohne ranges being that the nearest railroad depot (where we loaded and unloaded the tank trains) is Bergen-Belsen. On this day the Hohne ranges were the scene of the 1967 edition of the coveted multi-nation Canada Cup Tank Gunnery competition.

Dick Green's crew shot first that day. And what a shoot it was. There were holes in all the right places at all the right ranges and I remember him crawling out of the turret afterwards

with that characteristic trademark "Green-Grin". His crew had really nailed it. To be frank I was glad as Hell that it was him and not me.

Let's back up a bit. I've known Dick since before the earth cooled. In the late fifties I first encountered Dick when I was a very young army cadet attending Camp Ipperwash. Dick was then a "corporal instructor"... in that context, a militia NCO (Princess of Wales Own Regiment, cherry beret and all). In those days, militia NCO's bore the brunt of the training, care and feeding of the 1200 odd cadets who willingly spent summers toting 303's and trying not to kill ourselves while doing "ladder as a hinge". I was one of his charges, and if you look closely at the Ipperwash D company photo circa 1959 you'll see Dick, very soldierly in bush clothing. Unmistakable. Me too (in pith helmet and shorts). Unremarkable.

Later, as I too progressed to militia "corporal instructor" status, he and I bumped again at various Kingston militia things. Even in those days the legend of Dick Green had already begun. It was once alleged

that Dick, caught in Grand Bend Ontario at a very late hour without a ride back to camp, roller-skated some 15 miles back to Ipperwash in time for morning parade. It might be a fiction but for those of us who experienced the true legend, it may also be believable.

Imagine then my delight as I arrived at the regiment in Germany in 1966 fresh out of RMC, and found that Dick was there and that during our personal hiatus the legend had grown to regimental, perhaps even corps proportions. Incidentally, much of the legend had to do with automotive misadventure...a point to keep in mind.

The connection was completed when I found myself as wet-eared troop leader in Basil Collett's four troop B squadron. Other cohorts in subaltern crime (besides Dick) included Peter Jackson and Jack Senko (around whom one could never be quite sure that you weren't about to be blown up with some new and innovative Senko-incendiary.) Terry Anderson was Liaison Officer, Jack Dangerfield was Battle Captain and Gerry Koeller 2IC. Jack Downey,

Your Dispatches...continued

who was soon to play a leading role in the Canada Cup preparations, was Radio Sergeant in Squadron HQ.

Somewhere along the line in that first formative year, my troop and Dick's made the cut to compete as the Canadian Troop Leader crews for the Canada Cup, the coveted International Tank Gunnery competition which Canada had never before won. And man, did we train hard. Downey was in charge and was bloody relentless. A day's work was dawn to dusk in the miniature range for months on end. No shortcuts. Everything by the book. The competitive spirit between Dick's crew and mine was intense and culminated in a shoot-off at Hohne at the last live gun camp we had before the big event.

Dick's crew beat mine, fair and square, although to this day I'm sure that my gunner (Cpl Langille), believes that Dick's gunner (Cpl Brown) had done an unauthorized late night "wheels-knobs-wheels" correction on his sights. And, as I said before, I was actually glad, since I knew deep down, as did everyone, that when the chips were down that Dick had the special touch. And frankly I was too young and stupid to be there anyway.

So Dick's crew rumbled on to the Canada Cup concrete before the VIP grandstand and blew the crap out of anything that moved that day.

That might be the end of a good shoot and a boring story but for one slight misadventure. Flushed with victory, Dick's crew had inevitably found themselves in a seedy little gasthoffs in the nearby village of Falingbostel for a mid-morning celebratory drink, or ten. Injunctions against

DUI in those days were a tad slack, and the return journey on the flat, slick concrete roadways around the Hohne ranges provided Dick and his crew with an even greater thrill than the victorious shoot.

Around some unknown range road corner occurred a sudden and definitely unscheduled rendezvous between Dick's BRAND NEW ROYAL BLUE MGB overloaded with 4 rather tipsy Canucks... and 64 tons of moving homogeneous armour plate.

The British tank that ran over the BRAND NEW ROYAL BLUE MGB was on its way to the firing point for the next day's shoot. British Centurion tanks didn't go very fast, but they had the momentum of a freight train.

The wonder was that nobody was hurt...or at least, nobody felt it.

Returning to camp from the ranges where the rest of us had been watching the other nations try to match Dick's record score, we spilled from the transport to a memorable sight. The MGB, parked (if it could be called that) in front of the officer's mess marquee, was demolished. Even the wheels were flat on the downside. It was recognizable as an ex-sports car only because the hood ornament remained intact. Surely everyone in it had died! No such luck. Dick was already at the bar. We sat in the officer's mess that evening telling stories and laughing our asses off.

The nearest MGB dealer was in the lovely provincial town of Celle, a few clicks southwest of the Hohne ranges. We all knew Celle. ("Bitte, vo ist der pouffenstrasse"). With engineering support and a variety of other helpful (if unauthorized) regimental resources, we managed

to cajole the poor, broken and utterly irreparable hulk into the shop. What was the term we used in those days? BLR...beyond local repair I think. A seasoned, grizzled and obviously stunned German automotive craftsman studied, pondered and surveyed the damage and with a wizened eye and a detached medical air. He indicated that it might be fixable, but it would take a few months to know for sure!

It was obvious to us that the repair of this wreck was being taken as a monumental challenge to long forgotten old world craftsmanship. This guy was an automotive artisan of the first order and damned if he wasn't going to fix this if it killed him and I presume, Dick's insurance company was willing. So August ends with us returning to Iserlohn, Canada Cup in hand but minus one blue MGB on a respirator in the Celle MGB intensive care unit.

Now at this point, the story and the legend ended for most. But for me a special coda was in store.

Run the clock ahead 6 months to early spring 1968. I am now sufficiently dry behind the ears to be given a relatively harmless assignment as admin officer for the next annual regimental gun camp, again at Hohne. I have gone ahead and am doing my gun camp stuff up at Hohne with the advance party.

Meanwhile back at Iserlohn, Dick has finally just retrieved the MGB following its six month rehab. And what a sight. Lovingly reconstructed, faithful in every detail, not a chip or mark. Frame straight as an arrow. Round wheels. New upholstery. Ready to roll again. Even smells like a new car.

And back in Celle you should

also picture the immense pride and satisfaction of the “unknown craftsman” who clearly has dedicated himself to labor and love over this poor terminally ill automotive patient for almost 6 months.

It's about 6:30 AM on that frosty February morning at Hohne. The main party is due later today. One of my last chores is to check out the officer's quarters. They have been occupied by a Brit regiment until last night, so I want to make sure they are shipshape. Don't want Col Phil bedding down in a sticky palliasse. I get a quick breakfast at the mess and walk over to the officer's quarters. As I do, I pass a Brit officer. We chat. “Couple of your lads arrived last night.” he says, to my puzzlement. “...we let them kip downstairs”. I move on. Nobody is supposed to be here until around 15:00 hrs today. I wonder.

Parked (or abandoned) out front of building H-34A I spy what appears to have been an automobile. It was at one time blue, but now most of the paint has been scaped off like a giant road rash. It looks like it might have been sports car, but its gender is quite unrecognizable. It is totally wrecked. It has clearly been in a serious accident. Probably the occupants were killed or maimed. Maybe the meatheads are going to use it as one of those horrid front gate demos on the horrors of DUI. A little voice in the back of my mind says “...if I didn't know better I'd think that was Dick's car...(pause).... naaah”.

The room by room inspection goes without a hitch...but wait. The last room, dark, quiet but for uneasy snoring. I kick open the door and there huddled under his MLS raincoat is Dick. He is shivering, covered in dirt, but grinning. John

Easson is the other shivering hulk on the other bunk. He is tangled under the filthy striped mattress cover. Equally dirty...and definitely not grinning.

Apparently, so the tale goes, the return of his beloved MGB that very day had motivated Dick to embark on a late night drive following another of our endless Sundern Alle Happy Hours. The ambitious destination was a lady friend in Hamburg some 300 km. to the north no less. Easson went along for the ride.

With remarkable precision, timing and good sense whoever was driving (a point still under debate) unwittingly chose the spot to fall asleep and roll the car at 160 kph in the vicinity of the Hohne off-ramp on the Hamburg autobahn. Apparently the stunned occupants were ejected on the first impact and claim (from their vantage point in a ditch) to remember watching the empty car tumble end-over-end to a final halt. Always resourceful, Dick knew a warm bed (and a good dealership) was nearby.

I wish I had been there to see the master craftsman's face when Dick took the re-ravaged MGB back to the dealer In Celle. According to Dick it was a profoundly memorable moment. The legend lives.

Kindest Regards

D.J. Skinner (LDSH Capt...Ret)

I've known Dick Green for 50 years and I don't believe any of this!!

Colonel of the Regiment



I have recently rebuilt a motorcycle and found the original owners manual with it. There is a name stamped on it of Capt. J.B. Senko LdSH (RC) on it, dated May 11th

1981. I wanted to contact this person to inform them that their old bike is still going strong and maybe send them some photos of it. Would you know how I could contact this person?

Thank you,

Al Gage

Lake Country B.C.

mcgiveral@hotmail.com

Thanks Al, Obviously we cannot give out addresses but we will forward your message to Jack Senko and hopefully he will contact you. **Editor**



Thank you for the winter 2008 copy of your news letter which contained my request for stories about my dad Vic Jewkes. To be honest I had thought my e-mail had gotten lost in cyber space. I was delighted to receive it. I was saddened to read that Norma Jean Little had passed away. The Littles graciously opened their home in Meaford to me when I was in my early twenties.

I would love to continue to receive the newsletter be it by e-mail or hard copy.

Blessings

Sylvia Jewkes

Sylvia, we'll be happy to add you to our e-mail list. We hope you have received at least a few stories about your legendary father. **Editor**



Lord Strathcona's Horse
(Royal Canadians)
Regimental Society Newsletter

PO Box 10500 Station Forces
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Your Dispatches...continued

Greetings from Canada's great Southwest on our other Maritime coast.

A quick review of what passes for my records indicate I am somewhat remiss in my dispatches.

Dave Letson has volunteered (oh Yeah) to arrange our luncheon on the 29th of March in Nanaimo this year as Richard Kitcher has a date in the hospital so wish him luck and I suspect everything will turn out OK.

The annual get together usually brings Peter Sybraaandy on a visit from Toppenish, Wa. Roy Foote in Seattle settles for a telephone contact to show he's still around and volunteers at the Boeing Museum pf Flight where they are working on a B-29 for display. Attended the OK Falls reunion in Sept and had a great Visit with many old friends.

Sorry I missed Bill Finch (v-gates) old friend. Westy hasn't changed much except he may be a little crankier than usual.

I regret to add the following names from our membership who are no longer with us:

Bruce Andrews - CF - 28 May 07
Victoria

Bill James - WW11 - 25 Apr 07
Sooke

Bob Frew - Korea - 30 Apr 07
Brentwood Bay

CLA North - WW11 - 6 Sep 07
Victoria

Bill West - WW11 - 19 Nov 07
Victoria

And from others information sources:

Bill Elmes - WW11 - 1 Oct 06
Penticton, BC

William James - WW11 - 14 Oct 07
Sault St Marie, Ont

Joseph Morton - WW11 - 14 Oct 06
Lantzville, BC

Ed Murphy - CF - 28 Jun 07
Prince Albert, Sask

Alfred Biro - Korea - 07
Enderby, BC

JL Parker - WW11 - 25 Jun 07
Langley, BC

Jonah Enoch - WW11 - 18 May 07
Hillsborough, NB

Sorry for the lack of some details.

On behalf of our members, best wishes to all Strathcona's serving and retired as they gather to celebrate the history of the Regiment during the Moreuil Wood anniversary ceremonies. Perseverance.

Regards to all.

Anderson, Sooke

P.S. Can you enlighten us as to the whereabouts of Darrel Dean?

Thanks for the report. We've added those names to our Last Trumpet Call list. Again we cannot give out addresses but hopefully Darrel will contact you. **Editor**



Congratulations from an ancient A Sqn LdSH (RC) RCEME Tp OC in Korea under the command of Maj Bill Ellis with Capt Doug Chant as Battle Captain and Capt Jack Johnst(?) on as 2i/c. I have many fond memories of those days in Calgary and Wainwright prior to our deployment and then the 17 day cruise across a stormy Pacific on a US troop ship to Kure Japan. Our reception in Korea, just south of the 38th parallel was given by the US 8th Airforce when on our very first, bright sunny morning the F80's

bombed and strafed us, without any casualties except one of our men who was looking at the F80 with his binoculars when it opened fire directly over his head. He hit the ground so fast that he sprained his ankle. As there had not been any air activity for many months we didn't have slit trenches nor AA fire but that day we dug our trenches and set up the .50 Cal AA mount in case 'the yanks' come back. They never did. The US Engineering Bn next to us didn't fare as well we did as every piece of equipment, with the big white stars displayed on their roofs was hit with .50 Cal armour piercing bullets. I still have two of the tungsten cores of those bullets I dug out of our softball diamond. The diamond itself should have been a give away to the pilots as the North Koreans were not known for their softball prowess.

Once again congratulations and thanks for the devotion to duty for the cause of freedom.

Col (Ret) W.G. Svab RCEME

Good to hear from you Bill. You will be pleased to know that our "Fitters" are still an important element of the Strathcona team and are providing outstanding service in keeping us on the road here in Canada and, more importantly, in Afghanistan. **Editor**



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The Strathcona Mounted Troop

By: Lieutenant Peter Beitz

Back in the day..... the Strathcona Mounted Troop (SMT) Equine Course kicked off with new riders entering the indoor area with their horses in tow. From January to March, these riders endured the intense task of bouncing off their horses for four hours a day, five days a week. With the last weeks of the course approaching and SMT's ride master, **Sergeant Wade Alexander**, yelling and coaching them on, these riders learned to master their horses and themselves. At the end of the course, each rider smiled at his great accomplishment... as he waddled his way to his car like something from John Wayne meets Brokeback Mountain.

Like all courses, many lessons were learned (mostly the hard way). For example, **Corporal Derek "likes-to-talk-out-loud-too-much" Romkey** demonstrated (in the name of science, of course) to the Troop that the ground is a lot harder than his head (to much surprise) after a not-so-friendly cavalry charge in the back paddock. (Note to self: purchase hockey helmets for the "special" riders next year).

The 2008 ride season proved to be a busy schedule which saw the Troop venture as far east as Brandon, Manitoba and as far west as Vancouver, British Columbia. The Mounted Troop thrilled audiences in such venues as the Calgary Stampede, Spruce Meadows' tournaments, the Pacific National Exhibition, the Abbotsford Agrifair, the Brandon Tattoo, and who could ever forget our show in the thriving metropolis of Semans, Saskatchewan. It was in Semans that the Troop presented **Tom Anderson** with a "B" Squadron print on behalf of the Regiment. Tom was a former warrant officer with the Strathcona's (back in the day), and he took the time to demonstrate his crafty Coleman stove lighting abilities to the new troopers (after which Tom became the primary spokesman for *Hair Club for Men*).



SMT in Vancouver

The Troop travelled in various vans and trucks to each venue. **Corporal Pete "Siskel & Ebert" Fedyshyn** commanded the MEGA CAB (the newest member of the Transformers) while my van was blessed to have **Trooper Nathan "Deathrace" Erickson**, who (for some unknown reason) felt it necessary to pass every vehicle on the road, regardless of oncoming traffic. (Note to self: buy new underwear after this ride season). The Troop also purchased a new tack trailer this year, that added to the overall prestige and professionalism the Mounted Troop. Oh yeah, I almost forgot, someone crashed into our horse trailer. I can't remember all the details, but it wasn't really that big a deal.

Moving right along... SMT had a number of interesting "characters" this year. Let's start with the always-quotable **Captain Peter "Back in the Day" Beitz** who could be heard saying such things as "Back in the day..." (a million times in one hung-over interview), "Let's start finishing what we started...", and "That was almost a shut-out!" And who could forget the time he tried to break the sound-speed barrier at Spruce Meadows while riding **Sporty** during a redetski. The last thing the crowd saw on the jumbo-tron was bug-eyed Beitz mouthing unprintable words before he reached the speed of 88 mph and went back in time. All that remained were burning hoof-prints in the dry grass...

Trooper Rainer Mulyk consumed an unhealthy amount of Red Bull and wasabi this summer, and when **Corporal Kevin "Einstein" Ferguson**

Strathcona ENews is an email distribution list that is used by the Society and the Regiment to disseminate information pertaining to the Strathcona Family. If you would like to have your name added to the list, please email

ldsh@strathconas.ca

Please note; it is not possible for others to post to the Enews Distribution list, so you can be assured you will not be bombarded with emails.

Continued from Page 13
Strathcona Mounted Troop

wasn't busy looking for parking lot 6, he could be seen making hanging out with Tom Selleck. Hats off to **Corporal Jay "Bobcat" Suggitt** who won the award for getting the most tent-pegs this summer. I think his total was around five thousand. I can't remember, but I know he got more than me. Even more spectacular was **Trooper Kieran "talks too much" Merrick**, who was able to get two pegs in one. Bravo!



Cpl Suggitt and yes that is Tom Selleck

The season ended with SMT's Southern Appreciation at Spruce Meadows' "Masters" Tournament. The Regiment named one of SMT's new horses after **Mr. Southern**, one of the Troop's generous sponsors. After the CO's presentation to **Mr. Southern**, **Sergeant Wade "Keith's" Alexander** mounted the Southern horse and demonstrated to the audience SMT's newest move: the triple-axel-front-flip-combat-roll dismount. Even Super Dave Osborn was impressed. (Note to self: make this new move SMT's official "dismount.") The crowd loved the dismount so much that the Calgary Sun posted an action shot picture of **Sgt Alexander's** dismount on page 7.

The 2008 SMT ride season ended as one of the Troops best in years. It was a long, drama-filled year, but I think that all SMT soldiers will agree that this "premium" ride season will be one they will remember for the rest of their lives. Their grandkids will be eager to hear the same stories of how grumpy used to ride for SMT... back in the day.

Continued from Page 5
Regimental Assoc. Alberta Branch

to attend. We went to Edmonton to help celebrate Moreuil Wood and to attend the Regimental Board of Directors Meeting. There was a Change of Command Parade in Edmonton in June, plus, unfortunately, we had to attend a few funerals. Enough said on that. The Calgary group hosted the annual Family Golf Tournament in July with the best response we've had in years--more teams to play golf and more family members with kids to join us for lunch after. It was a great day. Thanks to **Howie Owen** and **Henry Wyatt** and their families for all their hard work.

There was a small group from Calgary who went to Chilliwack, BC to attend their annual Reunion BBQ. Everyone was looking forward to seeing the BC gang again who do a great job of hosting the party and making everyone feel welcome. This group paid their own travel expenses; the Association did not contribute in any way. I'm constantly amazed the length some of the members go in support of the different chapters. Thank you.

The committee has also been working hard in Calgary. We have moved into the temporary office at the Military Museum so the day-to-day work is being done here, there, and everywhere, and it seems to be getting done. The fall does not seem to be slowing down at all. Our first General Meeting was on the 9th of Sep and **ID MacKay** will host a lunch on the 18th of Sep. Everyone is welcome to join us for any and all these events. If you want to mark your calendars, Nov 4th will be the final general meeting this year.

The Association will represent our veterans by attending many of the Remembrance Day Celebrations here in Calgary as well in a few of the smaller towns near by. I hope that this does not come across that we are complaining. The situation is quite the contrary. We are proud and happy that there is so much interest in the complete Strathcona Family. Maybe, by just doing, attending, participating in what is happening, things will even get better. The fall programs do, however, seem to be a little less hectic than the first part of '08, but still interesting. The Edmonton Chapter has been working hard on the R2010. I know, everyone who attends the Reunion will come away with that "WOW" feeling and remarks like "what a great show" "I'm glad I made the effort to attend".

I'm rambling on here so I'll close by saying THANKS to everyone for the support and the help we've received this year and that we are all looking forward to the exciting fall season.

Perseverance

Museum 2008

By Warrant Officer D.E. MacLeod

When I came to the museum, I actually had visions of wearing a hole into the top of my desk with my boots. Wow, was I wrong.

This year, we've moved into a new archival area in the expanded portion of the building, added 3 large storage lockers with an internal volume of 60 linear feet of hanger space to the collections area, and have started the installation of the stone "Wall of Honour" in the gallery. Moreover, things are not slowing down.

The expanded building that houses The Military Museums (formerly the Museum of the Regiments) included a properly constructed and conditioned archival storage and workspace. A portion of that space was dedicated to the Strathcona's. We've now completed the move into the new archives and, while time consuming and labour intensive, it was rather uneventful. Other activities in our archives include an informal agreement with the University of Calgary library to digitally copy our more rare books and archival material. The copying project will need to continue for some years yet, but when it's complete, we will have a fully word searchable database of records that should make the finding of information much more efficient and complete. The best part of this project is it's free.

The storage lockers in the collections area are museum quality, enamelled steel, wall units that are resistant to dust and light. We generated \$17k of funding through a grant from the Alberta Museums Association and ordered the locker units. This instalment brings us over the halfway mark in the revamping of the collections storage area. The project has been ongoing for the past four years and will continue for a couple more. When completed, our artefacts will be properly stored and will last for at least another century.

In the gallery, we are starting the installation of the "Wall of Honour". This project has a completion date of not later than 11 November and a total granted funding limit of \$39k. All of the funds for this project were provided by the Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH), a DND directorate setup to help all of DND's museums. The project involves installing a black onyx wall in the medals area of the gallery that has the names of our war dead laser etched onto it. The wall itself will sit almost exactly centred in our display space--an appropriate position for those Strathcona's who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our country free.

The future of the museum is bright. We intend to continue with both archival and collections storage upgrades as well as the archival digitization project. In the gallery, there should be major changes starting in the near future and continuing over the next few years. Our intent is to develop and install integrated displays that will show full-scale dioramas with display cases and electronic storyboards built right in. This project will take effort, time, and a lot of grant money but the story of our Regimental family's history is worth it.

Of course, this means the desk in the office will remain in good shape for a very long time.

Strathcona Message Board

www.strathconas.ca/board

Someone is interested in how you are doing. Have you checked out the Strathcona Message Board lately? Some of the Old Guard and not so Old Guard are involking some interesting reading, while others are looking to connect with old friends. With over 10000 posts and 750 members, you are sure to come across a familiar name.

Check it out today.

Historical Vehicle Troop

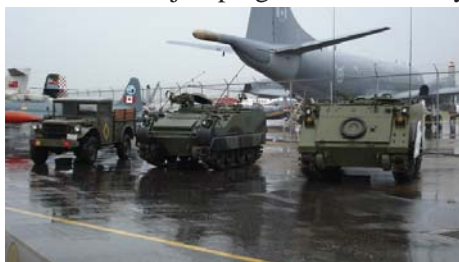
By Trooper M. Sirois



HVT with the Edmonton Eskimo Cheerleaders at the Capital Ex Parade

2008 was quite a busy year for Historical Vehicle Troop. We started the year by restoring an M38 jeep for Brigade Headquarters. In late June, we brought our 3/4 ton Dodge truck, M113 and the Lynx to the Edmonton Airfest held at the City Centre Airport. Although it was mostly a display of airplanes, our vehicles drew a lot of curious people with a lot of questions about the old vehicles. HVT was also part of the Change of Command parade this year. The Guidon party lead the parade with the ferrets and was followed by most of the Regiment's Leopards, Coyotes and other support vehicles. Beowulf (a Sherman Tank) was on display during the Regiment's visit to Spruce Meadows, the world famous show jumping centre in the city of Calgary. Some of our members were lucky enough to meet our

newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff, **General W.J Natynczyk**, at the event. At the Capital EX parade held in Edmonton on July 17, 2008, people were showing their support by shouting and waving as we rolled by with Dictator and Dagger (Ferret Scout Cars). The Korean Veterans float was also a big hit. Our last display for the summer was one of the biggest turnouts. The Wetaskiwin Air Show was held at Reynolds Museum in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Over 30,000 people came to see the numerous static displays of airplanes and, of course, HVT! Children had a blast climbing



HVT at the Wetaskiwin Airshow



Members of HVT with BGen Kelly Woiden at Spruce Meadows

and exploring our vehicles. As new members of the Historical Vehicle Troop this year we all learned a lot about our Regiment's past. We had fun driving and maintaining vehicles over 50 years old. Summer is coming to an end, which means we will be maintaining our vehicles over the winter months and start getting ready for next spring. Next year will, no doubt, be another busy year for HVT.

Welcome to
Strathconas.Ca

The Official Website of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

The Genesis of a Regiment

Submitted By Murray Cayley

Nobby Clark was a quiet man who gained the respect and even affection of those who knew him as RSM, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). Some still remember him from the Cyprus years, 1979 thru 1981. Few are aware that, as Captain RBE Clark, MMM, CD (Retired), Nobby devoted himself to filling in and clarifying gaps in the Regiment's history, its raising in Western Canada and subsequent service in South Africa during the Anglo-Boer War. He searched the records, the literature and then, against the background of his own youth in South Africa, traveled extensively there at his own expense, visiting battle sites, identifying regimental graves and determining the facts surrounding certain controversial events in the Regiment's experience. His purpose was to contribute to a more complete and accurate record of those times. Shortly before his death, he has left us a remarkable legacy in a major documentation of his findings, which, with the support of his family, has been dedicated to the Regiment. A group has been put together including old friends who are re-editing this large manuscript to make it more accessible within the Regiment. While this will necessarily take some time, progress reports will appear in the Newsletter in the form of edited excerpts and commentary.

Anglo-Boer War

1899 - 1902

Lord Strathcona's Horse

Captain RBE Clark, MMM, CD (Retired)

Lord Strathcona's Horse

(Royal Canadians)

In ten days, Sam Steele raised a regiment in the West which he named Strathcona's Horse. Through this section of his book, Nobby has been able to provide a great deal of detail regarding recruiting activities, the response of individuals and their communities, the appointment of officers, provision of uniforms and equipment and procurement of horses. According to Steele, the recruits were "the very pick of the cowboy, cowpuncher, rancher, policemen and ex-policemen of the Territories and British Columbia, the balance being "Westerners of varied experiences, especially qualified with rifle and horse." Not everyone agreed with Steele in a controversy that has continued for some time. Colonel Gerald Kitson, for example, the commandant of RMC, seemed to see the regiment as "useless ruffians, the lame, halt and blind." In the public mind (however), Strathcona's horsemen were not just stereotypical rough-riders of the plains - sturdy, self-reliant, western frontiersmen who could "tell the time by a glance at the sun, to whom the trees and grasses were true compasses and who regarded the rifle as their constant and most trusted companion. They were seen as a corps d'elite, as befitted a unit raised by a wealthy, titled gentleman." The recruitment had not been authorized by the Canadian Militia Act or the United Kingdom's Army Act so, for a while, both men and officers were simply volunteers and the regiment a private force, under the temporary discipline of the NWMP. That may have caused some confusion for a time about just who these men were.

Moving East by trains, local communities came out to support the volunteers. A train for Medicine Hat brought the men from Nelson, Fort Steele, Pincher Creek, and Fort Macleod. As the train made its way towards Winnipeg it picked up the men from Maple Creek, Regina, Moosomin, and eventually Brandon and Winnipeg. These centres marked their men's departure by the usual concerts, dances, banquets, parades, speeches and presentations. The Archives of the Vernon Museum provided us with the following from the Okanagan Valley:

A WORTHY LOT OF FELLOWS

Monster Farewell Demonstration: "Vernon Gives Her Soldier Boys a Magnificent Send-Off . The Forrester's Lodge took matters in hand and arranged for a parting concert, securing the cooperation of the City Council. This was held on Friday evening in Mr. Ellison's building, and proved to be the largest and most enthusiastic gathering ever witnessed in the history of the city. One might flounder among epithets for an hour without finding suitable terms in which to describe the event, and we must content ourselves with stating that nothing like it had ever been seen

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The Genesis of a Regiment

here before, and it will long linger in the memory of all present. The door receipts show that at least 400 people were present at the concert, and the intense feeling of patriotism manifested cannot be described in any words at our command.”

Grand Galas were also held in Ottawa and Montreal. Salutes were made, speeches delivered, the men were given checks. These visits events were repeated, if not always accompanied by the same wild civic enthusiasm, across the nation on the tour the Regiment itself repeated in the Year 2000 celebration of its ‘hundredth anniversary.

Held at Ottawa pending the Monterey’s arrival and renovations in Halifax, the men and horses were housed in the Exhibition buildings in Lansdowne Park. Steele welcomed the additional time to organize, equip, and discipline his regiment. On inspection by His Excellency the Governor General, the regiment was presented with a handsome flag on behalf of the citizens of the town of Sudbury and later, marching to the Parliament grounds, was there presented by Mrs. Borden, on behalf of the ladies of the Civil Service at Ottawa, with four beautifully worked guidons.

Leaving Ottawa amidst encouraging cheers they arrived at Montreal and were met with a most enthusiastic reception. At Windsor Hall the corps was the guest of the city at luncheon. The gallery was packed with ladies and representatives of the various militia regiments. Welcoming telegrams and speeches praised the regiment’s generous patron and filled the evening with predictably patriotic and loyalist rhetoric. Steele captured the mood of the evening by identifying Lord Strathcona’s, “a pioneer like ourselves” who had lived in the vastness of the Wild West and the extreme North and East, with the north-western character of his regiment, and his generosity with the enthusiasm and patriotism of his officers and men drawn from over 100,000 square miles of this country of ours, which is one of the family of great nations representing the British Empire. Although Regimental Orders called for the two trains to leave Bonaventure Station at 6:30 p.m., it was well past that hour before the banquet ended, the bugles sounded and the men were released into a boisterous crowd, awaiting to escort them to the depot. An estimated thirty thousand people thronged the station to see the men off.

“The corps reached Halifax on the morning of March 15. At nearly every station all along the line “we were met, day and night, by large crowds of people. At Campbellton, N.B., the citizens presented us with a silk banner, and at Moncton we received another flag.”

The Regiment sailed out of Halifax aboard the SS Monterey on 17 March 1900, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Sam Steele and Regimental Sergeant Major Frank Elliott. Aboard were 537 all ranks, 599 horses, 3 Maxims, 1 ‘pom-pom’ gun, 50,000 rounds of ammunition for each Maxim and 500 rounds for each rifle: Only one thing marred the voyage: a severe pneumonia epidemic claimed 162 of the regiment’s horses.

Regimental Association Reunion 2010

Reunion 2010 Questionnaire

- 1) Are you planning to attend the Strathcona Reunion in May of 2010?
- 2) Total number attending in your party?
- 3) Will you require hotel accommodation?
- 4) Regarding the schedule of events would you prefer option A or option B below?
- 5) Are you interested in participating in any of the local events or sights while in Edmonton?
- 6) Please send your response to biener.dm@forces.gc.ca or mail to PO Box 10500 Station Forces, Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5 **Attention Reunion 2010 Committee.**

Option A (4 Day event)

Thurs – Meet and Greet
Fri - Regtl Open house
Parade
Sat – Reunion Dinner
Sun – Wind up

Option B (3 day event)

Fri – Meet and Greet
Sat - Regtl Open house
Parade
Reunion Dinner
Sun - Wind Up

Reunion 2010 Committee members

Dave Biener
Keven Phinney
James Strayer
Paul Peters
Slider Welch
Howie Owen
Claire Dane

No welcoming committee greeted Strathcona’s corps d’elite, nor were they invited to march through the streets of Cape Town; they were simply informed that the ship could not dock until veterinary and medical authorities visited the ship. When the Monterey docked at South Arm the next day, the men unloaded the saddlery, kit, arms, baggage and horses, and marched practically unnoticed to their campsite at Green Point. Good news, however, greeted them upon their arrival: the regiment was to spend only ten days under canvas before moving

to the front. Then, after only one week of intensive drill the imperial authorities called a halt to mounted training. Another minor disaster had struck the regiment's horses. Four days after they landed the regiment's veterinary officer discovered four cases of glanders, a contagious disease affecting a horses nostrils and lungs. Every effort was made to contain the disease but in the end forty-four horses were destroyed.

The authorities refused to provide remounts until the horses in the regiment, which someone unkindly christened Strathcona's Foot, had been given a clean bill of health. Aware of his men's needs and their growing impatience, Steele varied the daily routine, welcomed additional duties, provided recreational opportunities and the maximum degree of personal liberty compatible with discipline and order. Simulated battles, using Boer tactics, were substituted for routine maneuvers. Sham battles employing the regiment's three machine guns, escorting Boer prisoners to South Arm, unloading horses, and policing Mafeking celebrations in Cape Town broke the monotony of the daily drill. Steele made no effort to confine his men to camp. He realized that they were significantly older than the men in other Canadian units, and he permitted them to go to town after supper without a pass, a privilege which the men exercised regularly, having found Cape Town a pretty lively place. The Regiment endured a prolonged period of adjustment in Cape Town, but developed a sense of camaraderie and faith in their commanding officer that would stand them well later on. Noby Clark provides a lively picture of those days in waiting,

The Strathcona's Horse first opportunity for active service, an abortive sabotage mission, left Steele and his men even more discouraged and disgruntled. While it got his men out of Cape Town, and eventually into General Sir Redvers Buller's large Natal Field Force, the Field Forces plodding pace offered little of the dash and daring his men had anticipated. After a number of rather futile and abortive missions, in June, the Regiment received orders to Join Buller's force. Leaving Eshowe on 13 June, Steele's regiment reached Durban in three days, passing through Lower Tugela, Amhlali, and Stanger, riding sometimes in torrential rain, through pleasant terrain, averaging some thirty miles a day. The men enjoyed the rapid pace, the picturesque landscape, covered with fields of sugar cane, bananas, pineapples and oranges, the opportunity to graze their horses, and the flattering reception by the English inhabitants who treated them like generals. According to one man: Whenever we camped at a town, biscuits, lemonade and fruit were given out ... on the march, the people came running out with big jugs of tea and baskets of oranges, bananas, etc. I tell you they were much appreciated, as it was terribly dusty. Once in Durban some men, much in need of a bath, took their horses down to the beach, undressed and rode into the sea bareback. Late the next evening, as soon as their eight trains were loaded, they left for the thirty-hour, ride to Newcastle, passing through well-known battlefields such as Colenso, Ladysmith, Dundee, and Glencoe. At Newcastle, further orders called for the regiment to join the Earl of Dundonald's 3rd Mounted Brigade at Zandspruit. Three days later Steele's regiment reached Zandspruit, having marched through Ingogo, past Majuba Hill and Laing's Nek, made famous by previous conflicts, and was taken on strength.

In our next installment we follow the Regiment into action and, later, look at some of the more controversial aspects of fighting in South Africa.

Lost Trails
Winter 2008 Newsletters which were returned

Newton RE - Oakville	Pyper CB - St. Albert
Coll RT - Calgary	Law WAH - Ottawa
Thomas RA - Grouard	Desjarding DJG - Glen Robertson
Chaput R - Ottawa	Wheeler RV - Calgary
Gingras C - Kingston	Thompkins MP - Calgary
Baker AD - Victoria	Gilmartin JP - Vancouver
Smitz PGL - Okotoks	Kenny A - Edmonton
Boyd LG - Wildwood	Calwell FF - Barrie
Corbin RE - Calgary	Scramstad P - Kelowna
Jackson KC - Edmonton	Schmidt M - Westbank
Bull EV - North Gower	Elmes WJ - Kelowna
Byrne DA - Calgary	Kazimer AN - Fauquier
Bull EG - Edmonton	Epps RH - London
Groicher RJ - Bon Accord	Smith J - Victoria
Frost DE - Calgary	Nagle R - Sussex
Williamson TR - High River	

LAST TRUMPET CALL

ANDREWS, Bruce 28 May 07, Victoria, BC
BARNABY, Kenneth 29 May 2008, Ottawa, ON
BIRO Ivan age 82, 20 Aug 2007, Enderby BC
BRUMWELL, Edward (Skinner) age 87, 28 Jan 2008, Napanee, ON
BURGESS, Keith age 76, 8 Jun 2007
CHILDS, Philip age 83, 24 Jul 2008, Elgin, ON
COWLEY, Donald (Jack) 19 Jan 2008, White Rock, BC
DALY, Joseph (Joe) age 64, 10 Jul 2008, Calgary AB
DORT, James (Jim) age 68, 1 Jul 2008, Calgary, AB
ELMES, Bill 1 Oct 06, Penticton, BC
ENOCH, Jonah 18 May 07, Hillsborough, NB
EWING, Gerald 4 Jun 2008, Windsor, NS
EYRES, Chris (Lew) age 90, 4 Jul 2008, Winnipeg, MB
FREW, Bob 30 Apr 07, Brentwood Bay, BC
GAUDET, Armand age 82, 1 Feb 2008, Oromocto, NB
HAYAKAZE, Michael age 25, 2 Mar 2008, KIA Afghanistan
HORGAN, Thomas age 68, 25 Jan 2008, Kingston, ON
HORNE, Samuel age 60, 21 Jun 2008, Oromocto, NB
HURLEY, Daniel (Dan) age 78, 8 Aug 2007, Fredricton, NB
JAMES, Bill 25 Apr 07, Sooke, BC
JAMES, William 14 Oct 07, Sault St Marie, ON
KITCHEN, C. Gordon age 77, 9 Mar 2008, Kingston, ON
LLOYD, Burl age 79, 10 Jan 2008, Granisle BC
MCGUIRE, Albert (Al) age 85, 5 Mar 2008, South Surrey, BC
MILLS, Ted 17 Mar 2008, Calgary, AB
MORRIS, Claude age 81, 23 Apr 2008, Middleton, NS
MORTON, Joseph 14 Oct 06, Lantzville, BC
MURPHY, Ed 28 Jun 07, Prince Albert, SK
NEALE, Robert (Bob) age 88, 11 Aug 2008, Delta, BC
NORTH, CLA 6 Sep 07, Victoria, BC
PARKER, JL 25 Jun 07, Langley, BC
WEST, William (Bill) age 86, 19 Nov 2007, Victoria, BC
WHITE, Harvelle age 63, 25 Jun 2008, Fredricton, NB

In Loving Memory of Wives

GARDNER, Joyce (*late MGen James Gardner*), 16 July 2008, Barrie, ON
MAY, Molly (*CWO W.C. May*), 6 May 2008, Calgary, AB
SALTER, Margaret (*late Douglas Salter*), 26 December 2007, Sussex England
HURLEY, Kate (*late Dan Hurley*), 30 December 2006, Fredricton, NB
HILL, Lynn (*Brian Hill*), 27 July 2007, North Burnaby, BC

*Our apologies for lack of details in some cases
Editor*