



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 Major-General H.C. Ross

It was with great pleasure that I assumed the position of Colonel of the Regiment. I feel deeply honoured.

It is a most humbling experience to don the uniform and black beret with its unique cap badge and serve our Regiment once

more. I commit to you, both serving and retired soldiers as well as the families of our great Regiment, my service and dedication over the next years.

John and May Roderick, we do indeed thank you for your four years at the helm of our extended Regimental family. Colonel John, you led us well during years when we have, yet again, been in harm's way on distant battlefields. Now you join a long, distinguished line of predecessors who have watched over this extraordinary combat unit.

The summer of 2010 has been marked as an exceptional period in the Regiment's history. I challenge you to recall a time when the Regiment, or any unit for that matter, has had such an incredible turnover in leadership. The Colonel of the Regiment, CO, RSM (twice), 2ic,



OCs, Adjutant, Ops O, and 2ic of HQ Sqn have all changed in a three month period. Retired Strathcona's are accustomed to, at worst a 60% turnover; not 100%. This is definitely significant for the busiest unit in the Canadian Forces, bar none. Yet again, the Regiment has come through with flying colours.

The 2010 Reunion showed us that standards have not just been maintained ... they have been raised. The reunion organizers and the Regiment deserve a very special thanks from us all for a job exceptionally well done.

We seem to have a knack for excelling. That 'knack' will come in handy as the CF prepares for a post-Afghanistan era. By the time of the next Newsletter, we will know the extent of the CF-wide transformation that is being planned and its impact on the Army and the Strathconas. What is certain is that our flexibility, professionalism, and pride in being a Strathcona will serve us well. Those long years of constant tank squadron deployments overseas has left an extremely positive impression on our fellow combat arms brethren and on the Army and CF in general. That 'combat credit' will serve us well in the years to come.

I want you to know how immensely proud and happy Patti and I are to be back on 'parade'. We look forward to reacquainting ourselves with many of you over the next short while.

Perseverance,

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Commanding Officer

By Lieutenant-Colonel T.J. Cadieu

The Regiment is blessed with a strong and cohesive Regimental Family. Comprising serving soldiers (both at the Regiment and elsewhere throughout the Canadian Forces); their loved ones; the Old Guard; and Friends of the Regiment, this team plays a significant role in enabling the Regiment to meet all of its assigned operational tasks.

In the five months that have passed since I returned to the Regiment, I have been reminded time and again how important our Strathcona Family really is.

In fact, I have already relied several times on the great advice of various members of our Family to resolve complex leadership challenges confronting the Regiment, to prepare teams for combat operations and to better look after the needs of our deployed soldiers and their families.

Thanks in no small part to this unwavering support on all fronts, your Regiment remains strong and focussed on the task at hand. You will not be surprised to know that A Squadron continues to represent the Regiment extremely well under harsh conditions. Having just spent a week in Afghanistan with this battle-hardened team, I can honestly say that they are among the best equipped and prepared of all the teams we have deployed to this troubled region. Equipped with the world-class Leopard 2A6M main battle tank, this group of soldiers operates with the collective experiences of all other nine squadrons to deploy to Afghanistan before them. We look forward to welcoming them home in late-November.

The tempo for the rest of the Regiment remains extremely high. We have been tasked by Army leadership to generate not only a tank squadron, but a reconnaissance squadron as well for potential high readiness operations as of the summer of 2011. The entire Regiment will mobilize to ensure these teams have what they need to deploy on short notice for full spectrum operations



anywhere in the world. Further, we are also actively engaged in the next

bound of Army Transformation that could result in structural changes to the Armour Corps. Further, as part of this process, we will receive more state-of-the-art equipment, such as the Leopard 2A4M main battle tank, which was just unveiled in Germany by C Squadron.

As we all know, deployed tank and reconnaissance squadrons need more than just great equipment to thrive on the battlefield. Fortunately, our Regiment stands out amongst all other units in the Canadian Forces in its ability to provide a robust family support network to fall back on during difficult times. The Strathcona Society and Association in particular have made the lives of our soldiers and their families better in these times of high operational tempo. Society funds, for example, have been mobilized extensively in recent years to support our Family Support Troop, fund various Regimental family days, help family members in need and to acquire casualty care bags, which have eased the suffering of wounded soldiers as they make their long journey home

to Canada from Afghanistan.

The Association, in the meantime, plays an equally important role in preserving the well-being of the Strathcona Family by connecting all of us through the Newsletter, various informal gatherings and more deliberate events, such as Reunion 2010. Conducted in Edmonton this past summer under the tremendous oversight of the Edmonton Branch of the Association, this event provided a vivid example of the importance we place on our motto, "Once a Strathcona, Always a Strathcona."

The Society and Association will play an increasingly important role in preserving the health of the Regimental Family in the months and years to come as we transition out of Afghanistan. As you will appreciate, the burden of generating 10 different squadrons for operations in this troubled region since 2002 has been carried largely by our soldiers and their loved ones. Indeed, an entire generation of Strathcona soldiers has been shaped by the conflict in Afghanistan. Several young Troopers and Subalterns who deployed with Reconnaissance Squadron to Kandahar in 2002 have returned to Afghanistan several times and are now in key leadership positions with the tank squadron deployed today. As we begin to draw down forces in Afghanistan, the Regiment will be challenged with filling the 'white space' on the calendar with meaningful and challenging training opportunities that continue to keep soldiers engaged, while we will inevitably have to tend to the physical and mental scars left by years of conflict. The Regiment is extremely fortunate to have **Major-General Cam Ross** as Colonel of the Regiment and leading the charge to increase support for the Society and families

of the Regiment. We welcome him and **Patti** back home.

On behalf of the entire Regiment, the Regimental Sergeant Major – Chief Warrant Officer Bill Crabb – and I wish to thank Colonel John Roderick, Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Macaulay and Chief Warrant Officer Joe Ramsay for their leadership of the Regiment in recent years. Further, I would be remiss if I did not thank **Kathy Batty**, **Colonel Roderick** and **Colonel Eddy** for their efforts in producing the Association Newsletter.

Perseverance,

Regimental Association Alberta Branch

By Howie Owen

Greetings everyone! It is that time again when the Regimental 2IC sends you a “Warning Order” which simply says “get off your butt and write something”. So, it is my pleasure to tell you that all is well with the Regimental Association at this time. I would like to take this opportunity to refresh our memory on the purpose and objectives of the Association that we try to follow and work very hard to achieve. They are:

1. To promote and foster esprit-de-corps and comradeship with the high traditions of our Regiment;
2. To maintain close liaison with the Regiment wherever it may be;
3. To make arrangements to care for and assist within the resources of the Association members who are deserving of such care;

4. To help the dependents of any deceased member upon request to do so;

5. To promote and encourage mutual enjoyment among the Strathcona Family by sponsoring annual celebrations.;

6. To cooperate with other Chapters/Branches so the purpose and objectives may be maintained.

The Reunion is now history and, from all reports, it was very successful. The final costing and recommendations (After Action Report) are forthcoming. That is all I will say about R2010 as I am sure the Edmonton Chapter will submit a report.

Before the summer break, at our General Meetings in May and August, three very important matters were discussed, membership, membership fees, and the possibility of transfer of the Main Branch to Edmonton.

Now let’s cover briefly the general consensus on each starting with membership. Although our numbers are in the area of three hundred (300), if you look at the Nominal Roll, as I do, you would see the majority of the people are not getting any younger. So there is a need to attract the serving members within the Regiment who are about to or who will soon be retiring from the service. I will take the opportunity to speak with many of the soldiers in October following the Society’s AGM. It would be great if we, as members of the Association, could take some time when the occasion presents itself to talk to the young soldiers to encourage them to become an Association Member, now or in the future. A good time would be during the Black Hatters

Luncheons for example.

Membership fees was an interesting topic with those present at our meeting on 31 August 10. The possibility of increasing the annual membership fee from the current \$20.00, a \$5.00 increase in 1984 from the original fee of \$15.00 set on 18 May 65 when this Association was formed, was discussed. This increase does not mean the Association is in financial difficulty. We are in good shape financially; however, with the rising cost of doing business and the request for financial help from Cadet Corps (6), Loops for the Troops, etc. coupled with the fact that the expenditure for 2009 exceeded our Revenue by 28%, it may mean trouble in 6 to 8 years. The general consensus was split down the middle and time will tell if an increase is needed.

Finally, to end this report the pros and cons of moving the Main Branch to Edmonton was raised. Ideally, this move from a planning and preparation perspective makes a lot of sense for the obvious reason, the Regiment is located there. Saving time and money would certainly be the main reasons for such a move. There are others. However, this change should not be made in haste. The Edmonton Chapter is new and its membership is growing but it will need a few more years to take over this change.

I thank you all for your support of this new Committee and we will continue to work with and for you to achieve our goals and maintain the Association’s good name for the future.

Thank you all.

A Bit of Strathcona History.....

An explanation of why LCol John Merner's tour at Commanding Officer of the Regiment was so brief
(1 May 1951 – 21 May 1951)

By Colonel (Retired) Desmond Deane-Freeman

I was in Ottawa at this time. About late February 1951 I received a call from my contact officer in the Directorate of Personnel (DPers), telling me that LCol John Merner had been named as the next CO of the Strathconas – to be effective in May 1951. I was disappointed, as I thought I might have had an opportunity to command my Regiment.

About late April 1951, my contact in DPers called to tell me I had been selected to command The RCD effective July 1951.

I was really upset and called Brigadier Fred Harvey in Calgary. He was as shocked as I was. All he said was "Just leave it with me." What I didn't know was that he was a very close personal friend of Ralston, who was the Minister of Defence at that time.

Brigadier Harvey told me later that he called Ralston and asked what was going on and indicated here was an RCD Officer, who had probably never been west of Ontario, being appointed to command the Strathcona'ss and Deane-Freeman, a pre-war Strathcona Officer, joining in 1930, being appointed to command The RCD. He also noted the Deane-Freeman families were well known ranchers in the Calgary area; he was a member of the Regimental Polo Team and had won the Guides Cup in 1939; his wife was a Calgarian and they both know all the Honourary and Associate Members of the Mess.

As a result, John Merner's appointment as CO was terminated on 21 May 1951 and he was appointed CO of The RCD.

My appointment as CO of The RCD was never announced since such appointments were not gazetted (published) until a month or so after the selection had been made.

What made this switch of COs easier than it might have been, was that Merner was single and moved to Calgary with just his "effects" - no family and no furniture.

Strathcona Humour

One of the constants of the military is the insightful and often tension-breaking humour of soldiers. Another blessing are the soldiers who are natural comics being able to respond to any situation or conversation with witty, apropos responses, some enduring telling after telling. The Regiment is richly endowed with both. It is hoped to tap this lode and include such humour in future editions of The Newsletter. The only limitations are that the humour cannot be hurtful or offensive. Given this, readers are asked to send contributions to the Editor for use in your newsletter. We start this edition with 3 such contributions. Unless authors "fess up" to the incidents such as I.D. McKay's submission, names will be changed to simple letters, i.e., Captain A or Sergeant B, to protect the guilty.



During a squadron exercise at Camp Wainwright, one of the troop leaders had not heard from his troop warrant officer for quite some time. So the troop leader radioed, "21Alpha, this is 21, where are you? ,over". The troop warrant officer replied immediately, "21 this is 21Alpha, I am I spell Lima, Oscar, Sierra, Tango (LOST), but making good time, out".

A Squadron LdSH(RC) Afghanistan 2010

By Captain Fred Hayward

For the past year, A Squadron has been attached to the 1st Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group currently deployed to Afghanistan. During deployment preparations the Squadron conducted training in CFB's Edmonton, Petawawa, and Gagetown, Camp Wainwright, Munster, Germany and Fort Irwin, California. The Royal Canadian Regiment immediately welcomed us into their ranks and made us feel as though we had always been a part of their team. These bonds were further strengthened during Ex MAPLE GUARDIAN when all elements of the Battle Group finally had opportunity to train together in tough, realistic scenarios to prepare for the challenges of Afghanistan.



A Squadron Maintenance on the move

The Squadron is led by **Major Rob “Hogg” McKenzie** and **Squadron Sergeant Major Dave Jones**. They are supported by **Captain Brent Peters/Sgt Rob Likely** in Squadron Headquarters, **Captain Nathan Hevenor/Warrant Officer Cordell Boland** in First Troop, **Captain Mike Timms/Warrant Officer Rob Baglole** in Second Troop and **Warrant Officer Leigh Taylor** and me in Administration Troop. The Squadron consists of Leopard 2A6 and C2 main battle tanks, TLAVs (an upgraded version of the M113) and AHSVS (armoured 10 ton) trucks which afford the ability to provide a tailored combination of firepower, mobility and flexibility, specific to task. The Squadron has participated in

every Battle Group operation to date and supported our American neighbours to the north by “overwatch” and direct fire. These operations have lasted anywhere from 24 hours to 18 days. The crews and vehicles have performed exceptionally well in hot, hostile weather and under harsh combat conditions. After only a few of these operations, it has become clear that the Taliban have gained a healthy respect for the Leopards’ bite. On the non-kinetic front, the Squadron has supported the routine movement of supplies from supply nodes to tactical infrastructure. After combat operations, the Squadron’s most time consuming task has been the management of Forward Operating Base (FOB) Ma’Sum Ghar. Our FOB is one of the largest footprints within the Battle Group’s area of operations. It is the logistical hub for several of the Battle Group’s sub-units and provides emergency medical care to Coalition Forces and local nationals alike.

At the time of this article’s submission (September 2010), over 80% of Squadron personnel have had the opportunity to take Home Leave Travel Assistance. Squadron members have taken vacations from Ireland to Africa. Upon their return, the soldiers are refreshed and prepared to complete the remainder of the tour. September also saw the end of Ramadan. Our Afghan National Army allies invited a few of the Squadron soldiers to take part in several of the special meals during Ramadan that were not only delicious, but also culturally informative.



Leaguer Life

The generosity of our families, the Regimental Family, and Canadians continues to astound us. Most important, the overt appreciation and support is priceless, particularly during down time between operational tasks. As soldiers do not complete their missions for recognition, the positive effect on morale from the support of fellow Canadians is immeasurable. Each and every soldier in our Squadron has received so much. The toiletries and food are used each time the soldiers deploy away from the FOB, making their time outside the wire that much easier.

In September the Battle Group began its planning for the Relief-in-Place with the next Battle Group. So, while we continue to conduct combat operations, a portion of our focus is devoted to preparing to hand over our duties to C Sqn 12e RBC. We wish C Sqn 12eRBC all the best in their deployment preparations and look forward to seeing them here in Ma’Sum Ghar.

Annual Strathcona Association Family Golf Tournament 2010

By Peter Wonderham

August 7, one of the only clear warm days in the month, saw 52 bright-eyed golfers tee off in Southwest Calgary for the annual Strathcona Association Family Golf Tournament.

The 13 foursomes were made up of veteran Strathconas and their families. Two teams made the journey from Edmonton and we were really pleased to have hosted a team of young serving Strathconas. We thank **MWO Blais (RQ)**, **Cpl Pierre Daneau** and **Cpl Peter Hamilton** joining us on one of their precious few free Saturdays. This Regimental team quickly demonstrated the driving ability of the young and limber. The winning foursome of **Jim and Deanne Deighton**, **Bob Lett**, and **Jeff Hensel** showed that experience and perseverance also play a big part in the outcome.



Once all the swinging and score card artistry were finished, some 60 family members and friends gathered at 285 Legion for food, hundreds of prizes, and some good stories.

Special prizes were presented to **Cpl Daneau** for the longest drive men, **Kim Borgeson** daughter of **Henry Wyatt** for the longest drive ladies and **Rosa Cluett** for longest putt. Closest to the pin prize was earned by **Grady Owen**.

Within one stroke off first, the runner up trophy was shared by our Regimental team and the team of **Jerry and Rosa Cluett**, and **Hank and June Reid**. The Owen Team, whose name is inscribed on past first place plaques, also enjoyed the day. Sorry Howie.

All golfers appreciated the extra mile travelled by **Brad Norman**. His canvassing produced top shelf donations from generous local merchants. Brad's free prize Raffle kicked off the event. **Bob Evans**, as in past years, showed the generosity of ENMAX towards our tournaments' military family flavour. Thanks Bob and ENMAX.

Slider and Mary Welch once again cast their spell on the raffle and 50/50 tickets. Some special raffle donations did the near impossible by pulling money from some back pocket fortresses. We were all pleased to see that a special donation from our Regiment of a framed Afghanistan Tank print was won by **Henry Wyatt**. A special thank you to **Susan Wonderham** and **Mary Welch** for the set up while the rest of us golfed and **Susan** your deserts were great.

When the handshaking was over and all the prizes safely stowed in car trunks, we all reflected on a good day of golf and family fun.

Thanks to all who participated and those who helped to make this day a memorable one.

Lost Trails

Winter/Spring 2010 Newsletters which have been returned

Bray RG - Edmonton AB	Lamha G - Barrhead AB
Christian MI - Richmond BC	MacPherson DH - Caledon ON
Conover - Sidney BC	McGowan FJ - Red Deer AB
Cowrad W - Ottawa ON	Pelletier JP - Calgary AB
Doran DM - Meaford ON	Swinton HA - Calgary AB
Felts RR - Scarborough ON	Wilson MD - Moose Jaw SK
Fougere JE - Edmonton AB	

The Regimental Family

By Colonel (Retired) Ian Barnes

The Regimental family is something that we hear a lot about these days. But what is it? Does it exist in the Strathcona's?

Those who attended the 2010 Reunion in Edmonton 24 to 27 June and specifically the change-over ceremony of the Colonel of the Regiment witnessed something quite unique. During his acceptance speech, our new Colonel of the Regiment, General Ross demonstrated the Regimental family on the parade square. I have been a member of the Strathcona's family for 48 years. But I'll admit I have never seen it so well presented. For those who weren't there, I'll outline what General Ross did. He started with a trooper and stood him in front of the Regiment, which was lined up on the parade square under the watchful eyes of hundreds of family and old guard members. I suspect the trooper was feeling somewhat lonely and conspicuous wishing he was at a hundred other places. Having shown to the trooper and those watching how lonely a person can feel on his own, General Ross began to change that by showing the trooper that he was part of something bigger. General Ross then called on to the parade square a WWII veteran, a Korean veteran, a member of the Association, a wife with her son in a stroller (her husband was deployed to Afghanistan), a friend of the Regiment, a civilian member of a community from around the Edmonton area and finally a Member of Parliament. The number standing with the trooper on the parade square was impressive. He no longer looked lonely and I suspect was feeling a little less conspicuous. It's unlikely the trooper knew the others on parade, but it made him and all of us watching realize just what a network of people there are who care about him and if need be would be there to support him. It was a clever way to remind us all what a family is all about.

Studies have shown that those who are in combat in the heat of battle fight and die for their buddies not the Regiment, Queen or country. As I sat watching the demonstration I wondered if those Strathcona's who had had one or more deployments to Afghanistan had experienced that closeness and did they consider themselves part of a larger Regimental family. Perhaps General Ross' demonstration was their first exposure.

I began to think about my own experience. When I first joined the Regiment in the early sixties, I felt a strong bond with my buddies. Then, I considered that anyone who wore the badge or served with the Regiment was my kind of people. I certainly was proud to wear the badges and markings of the Strathcona's but I don't think that early on I translated that into a family. As time moved on and my circumstances changed so did my attitude towards the Regiment. Marriage and raising a family certainly changed my priorities, but two overseas deployments with the Regiment (Cyprus and Germany) strengthened my loyalty. A posting away from the Regiment brought new challenges, but I still maintained personal contact with Strathcona's with whom I had previously served. Receiving a copy of the annual *Strathconian* helped keep me abreast of regimental matters and made me wish I was back at the Regiment. It was during my tour at the Regiment in Calgary in the 70's that I began to really understand and see the family first hand. During the remainder of my career, I never returned to regimental duty. However, I was fortunate to serve with fellow Strathcona's in other tours and we always got together and talked about the Regiment and its many characters. In the early seventies, the Association in Calgary became very active and their newsletter and the annual *Strathconian* were excellent ways of keeping abreast of the Regiment. The formation of the Society in 1975 was a big boost to expanding the Regimental footprint and promoting the family. The expansion of branches of the Association to places such as Ottawa, Galetown and Kingston, locations where I happened to be posted helped keep the interest and memory of the Regiment alive. In Norway, Harv White and I and our wives hosted a Moreuil Wood function every year. In retirement, I have enjoyed the camaraderie of old friends and associates with whom I served and always look forward to meeting them especially during reunions. The *Newsletter*, the *Strathconian*, the Regimental web page, and the history book series have also helped keep me informed about our past and present. Whenever I get an opportunity to see the museum, the Strathcona Mounted Troop, the Historical Troop, the Pipes and Drums, and attend a reunion, I am filled with a sense of pride (esprit de corps), history, and heritage.

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The Regimental Family

As I sat and watched the magnificent parade and roll past, I wondered if members of the Regiment on parade would keep the Regiment's spirit alive throughout their careers and if they would join one of the many chapters of the Strathcona's Association throughout Canada on retirement and become part of the wider family?

Today we are fortunate that the Strathcona's across Canada have the various branches of the Association (Calgary, Edmonton, Gagetown, Kelowna, Kingston, Ottawa, Victoria to name a few) and many the visible signs of the history and heritage of the Regiment as well as the means of communications to keep the Regimental family alive; however, there is more to having all the bits and pieces that make up the Regimental family. There needs to be actions and deeds that demonstrate that no one is alone (like the trooper on the parade square) but part of a larger group of friends and even strangers that will give help and comfort in time of need. To ensure the continuation of the Regimental family, we must not sit back and rest on our laurels. We must strengthen the ties of the Regimental family.

I believe that recent world events that have put our soldiers in harms way in greater numbers not seen since the Korean War requires that we strengthen our regimental family. Recently, we have had soldiers killed on combat missions and many more badly injured. The military and Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) do provide help and assistance to our injured soldiers and to the bereaved families, (albeit late in some cases) but I feel that the Regimental family must become more involved in helping the soldiers who are still serving and the many more that have left the military. We need a way to establish contact with those in need, to offer our support, and to help where and whenever we can. I believe the Association should be included in the healing process our soldiers and their families go through when they have been injured and wounded, mentally and physically. That support should continue through the soldier's career and beyond and should include help to the spouses, children, and grandchildren. Strathcona's have a strong Regimental family and I would like to see it pick up the challenge of helping all Strathcona's wherever and in whatever circumstances they may be in. To achieve this, we need a closer bond between the serving and retired soldiers and we need to actively recruit new members to our various Association Branches and encourage the opening of other branches wherever there are one or more Strathcona's in the area.

Today the Strathcona's Association does a good job of helping those in need in their local area. I believe we should expand that support network. The Association, through its many branches, is ideally suited to take a lead role in helping fellow serving and retired Strathcona's anywhere in Canada. At present, there are limitations to what the Association can do. Aside from personal comfort many of those in need require money to help them through a crisis or difficulty. This will take more funds than is available at the local branches. The Society is best placed to help in this area. A benevolent trust fund set up by the Regimental Society could provide the vehicle into which Strathcona's across the world could donate. The Association Branches and the Regiment could then call on the resources in the trust fund to assist fellow Strathcona's and/or their families in time of need.

While everyone has their personal experiences relating to the Regimental family, I believe that today it is alive and well in the Strathcona's. We all know of personal incidents and have heard of many others where Strathcona's have been helpful and responsive to one another. Many have laughed and cried together and helped one another as the need arose. Let's build upon that bond and ensure that the trooper who stood alone on the parade square can always count on a helping hand from the rest of us in the Regimental family no matter where he may be. Perseverance,

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 invoking 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.

Your Photos



*Howie Owen, the President of Lord Strathcona's Regimental Association presenting **Michael Hornburg** a cheque for \$250.00 in support of The Loops For Troops event.*



*On 24 April 2010 **Major (ret.) Alex Hughes, OMM, CD** married **Ellen Broughton** in St Paul's Church Almonte. Now that is "Perseverance"!*



***Pat McNicholl** passed on this photo looking to try to identify the Trooper. The photo was taken in 1951 at Camp Borden. The Trooper is wearing an Armoured Corps badge with no other markings on the uniform. On the back of the photo is written "Luckys a friend of mine - the guy who wrote you".*



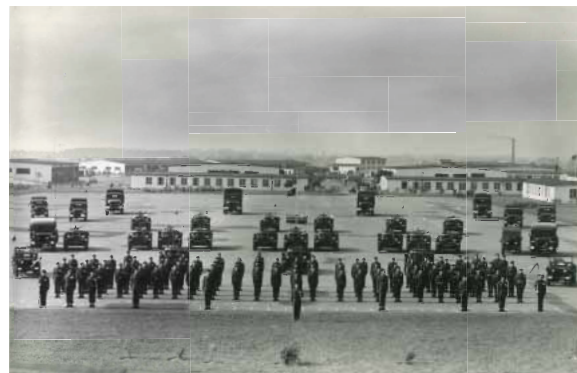
*From left to right are **Dave Skinner, Terry Pyne, John Easson, Dicky Green, John Dobles, and Bill Logan**. **John Dobles** was the 17/21 Lancers exchange officer with the Strathconas from 1966 to 1969.*



***Duff MacDonell, Jamie Graham, George Smith, Bob Wangenstein**
Moreuil Wood Luncheon*



***David Scandrett, Paul Philcox**
Moreuil Wood Luncheon*



***Recce Squadron**
1957-1959*

What happened at Reunion 2010?

By Colonel (Retired) Ian Barnes and Photos by Grant Cree



We golfed

From 24 to 27 June 2010 at Edmonton Alberta, the Association of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) hosted reunion celebrations marking 110 years since the formation of the corps of mounted riflemen formed by Baron Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, formerly Donald Smith, to help Britain fight the Boers in South Africa in 1900.

The four-day event provided over 200 veterans of WW II, Korea, Peacekeeping Missions in Egypt, Cyprus, Bosnia, and NATO operations in Kosovo and Afghanistan the opportunity to mingle with the serving soldiers of the Regiment, many of whom had recently returned from operations in Afghanistan. Those

attending came from across Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Abu Dhabi. Activities included a golf tournament, a dinner-dance and a Memorial Service for fallen comrades.



We said thanks



He took over

The highlight of the reunion was the change of Colonel of the Regiment Parade and Open House held at the Edmonton Garrison on Saturday 26, 2010. **Colonel (Retired) John Roderick, CD** of Kingston Ontario, who had been the Colonel of the Regiment for the past four years, was replaced by **Major-General (Retired) Cameron Ross, CMM, CD** of Victoria, BC. **Major-General C. J. Addy, OMM, OStJ, CD**, Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, officiated at the Ceremony.

Over 400 serving and former soldiers of the Strathcona's were on parade for the ceremony. The parade, commanded by **LCol Trevor Cadieu, CD** included a roll past led by two soldiers

mounted on horses dressed in period uniforms of the South African War and World War I. They were followed by antique tanks and reconnaissance and wheeled vehicles depicting the past history of the Regiment. The tanks and wheeled vehicles of the Regiment brought up the rear. The parade culminated with a feu-de-joie by two troops of Leopard tanks.



We were inspected



We said hello.

The Edmonton Chapter of the Association organized the reunion with assistance from the Calgary Branch. **Dave Biener** headed the reunion committee of **Randy Page, James Strayer, Bill Fitzpatrick, Keven Phinney, Tony Swards, Ian Barnes, Slider Welch** and **Claire Lane**. Special Thanks to **Canon Greene, Peter Wonderham, LCol Trevor Cadieu, CWO Jim Dorrance, Padre Tracy Moore**, all the soldiers on parade, the Strathcona Mounted Troop, Historical Vehicle Troop, the museum, and the vigil party. Also, thanks to our sponsors and donors.



We reminisced



We ate.



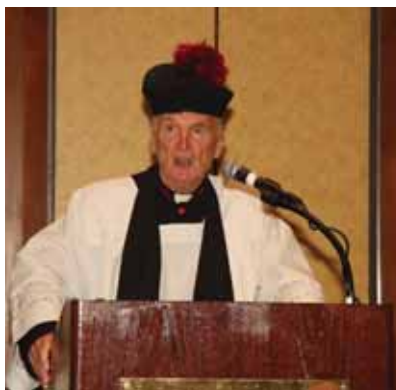
We gambled



We slept



We laughed.



We prayed



He emceed

Your Dispatches

Dear Strathconas:

I am hoping that someone would know who the Major General in the picture is? I believe this was taken at St. Annes Military Hospital in the late 40's or early 50's.

I'm hoping one of you can help out an old trooper former Strathcona crossed posted from the Fort Garry Horse when the Straths arrived in Germany in 1965.

P.S. really like the newsletter that I receive, it keeps me up to date on my old "A" SQ.

Yours Michael Ritarose
sue.miker@sympatico.ca

Mike, hopefully one of our readers will be able to make the ID for you. You should know we are always here to try to help an "old Strathcona" even if the system re-badged him. "Once a Strathcona, always a Strathcona" remember? Ed.



Hello to all Strathconas. I am tempted to contact you by virtue of seeing your C Sqn in action in Afghanistan in a video on the internet. What a professional outfit. They look, just as they were in Korea 1951-1952, where they served alongside my Regiment, the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. What a war that was. The lowest temp we logged was



44 degrees of frost in Feb 1952. Plus 80-90 degrees in the summer together with a 2 month Monsoon season, July and August. But



one thing stands out for today's soldiers, at least our enemies wore a uniform, and we had a much more conventional front line. I take off my hat to all of today's soldiers, and offer you my profound respect.

Fare thee well, Fred Towns-Mason

Thank you, Fred. It is always a pleasure to receive mail from our Allies and your kind words about our soldiers are indeed appreciated. Ed.



On Thursday, 25 March, 2010, some twenty-two "Black Hats" gathered for our annual Moreuil Wood luncheon. The Vancouver Island group was augmented by mainlanders: **Bob Wangenstein** from 100 Mile House and **Bob Burvill, John Dutton, Rollie Keith, Bernie McNicholl, and David Scandrett** from in and around the lower mainland. The Regiment was represented by **Don Sneft**. We also had two sons of former Strathconas, **Jamie Graham** and **Pat Chartres** who joined us at our new venue, the Sidney, North Saanich Yacht Club. (See Your Photos)

We had hoped to see some of the "Olympic" contingent but that was not to be.

This annual get together is fostered by Strathconas living on Vancouver Island to commemorate the charge at Moreuil Wood, 30 March, 1918. That date is shared by the other regiments (RCD and FGH) of the First Canadian Cavalry Brigade who took part in related actions at or near Moreuil Wood. It is a date to be remembered and a very appropriate anniversary for "Black Hats".

Next year we are planning to hold the event on the true anniversary – 30 March, 2011.

You Strathconas on the Island continue to set the standard for our scattered Association chapters. Thanks for the report and good luck on holding next year's party on the actual anniversary – an accomplishment often tried but seldom achieved. Ed



I am looking for a mailing address for retired Major Walter Murray (initial W.D) Can you help me? Thank you,

Captain J.B. Senko,(ret)

Jack, Wally Murray is alive and well and we will forward his address under separate cover. Ed



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

PO Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5

Telephone: (780) 973-1660
Email: newsletter@strathconas.ca

Your Dispatches...continued

I was saddened to hear that LCol I.M. Grant had passed in March of 2009. I served under LCol Grant in Recce Sqn in Germany. Reading Col Ian Barnes' article (Newsletter Summer/Fall 2009) I noticed an error in dates. LCol, then Major, Grant commanded the squadron in Germany from November 1957 to November 1958, returning to Canada, I believe, on his promotion to LCol, and turning over command to Major Danny McLeod, MC. Maj McLeod served as the CO until Recce Squadron returned to Canada in November 1959. The photograph of the Squadron at Fort Chambly was taken during Major McLeod's tenure as CO. (see Your Photos)

Perseverance

Peter Baltgaillis

Good to hear from you, Pete. We hope you have these dates right or we will suffer a stiff body check from Danny McLeod who is still in great shape and would be playing hockey if his wife, Sheila, would let him. Ed.



I am helping my wife do a small book of her father's letters home during WW I (he was in the 72nd Canadian Seaforth's) and I came across this bit of one of his letters that I think most Strathconas would understand. It is as he wrote it in the summer of 1918.

"I've missed the big show, Dad; I came up just at the end of it before the place had been cleaned up thoroughly. I saw not a great deal of the traces of the conflict but there was one place, through which I came at night, that told all too plainly of war. My nose knows that the

fragrance came chiefly from horse flesh and, while I couldn't see those bloated bodies with legs poking out at all sorts of crazy angles, my experience told me just how they looked. They lie there, filling the air with their mute protestations until more urgent matters will permit their burial. The horse gives his life for this war quite as freely as does man, and he probably hasn't the comfort of believing that he is securing a priceless treasure for posterity."

Dave Letson

Thanks, Dave. A few years ago at a Moreuil Wood function in Kingston, our family historian, Maj John Grodzinski, gave a dissertation on the battle and stressed the relationship between soldier and horse and the sacrifices made by both. It reduced a Captain's wife to tears as, unknown to John, she had just had to put down her own horse. Ed



I joined the Strathconas in April of 1947 and retired in 1968. I had served overseas during WW2 with service in Britain, Sicily, Italy and North west Europe. About a year after my discharge from the army I received a brochure from DND with an invitation to re-enlist. I immediately answered with a proviso that I would prefer to join the Artillery again but only if I could be in the Medium Artillery. DND replied that as Canada did not have Medium Artillery in the Regular Force they were holding a position for me in Lord Strathcona's Horse(RC) and explained that they were an Armoured Regiment and if I was interested to let them know. At this time, I knew that the guns were a fairly large bore as my brother had been in the British Columbia Dragoons and told me of the type

of tanks and guns that they had. To make a long story short, the rest as they say, is history. I enjoyed my service with the Straths and my only regret is that I had to retire at age 50. I have, however, kept in contact with the Regiment by attending all but one Regimental Reunions and most of the mini-reunions held in the interior and luncheons on the Island (after all, some one has to bring the news of the rest of the world to those isolated few). With that statement, I will now take a hull down position and await the inevitable counter-attack.

Perseverance Bob Burvill

Thanks, Bob, and good luck in the defensive position. Ed

Strathcona Humour

In 1970 at Camp Wainwright, a small group of Headquarters Squadron senior NCO's partied through the night. Early in the morning, the guard, who was doing his rounds waking people up for PT, came upon the rowdy crowd. He was convinced it was in his best interests to inform the Squadron Sergeant-Major that it was raining when the sentry woke him up. To give the guard credibility, the NCO's hosed down the SSM's trailer with a fire extinguisher while the guard was advising on the weather. Given the news, the SSM told the guard to pass the word that PT was cancelled. Not surprisingly, the only one not on PT was the SSM.

Your Dispatches...continued

A short story of Tank Gunner **Bill Vella's** experience serving with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) in WW2.

Bill joined the Armoured Corps directly on volunteering for service. From basic, he was posted to the LDSH (RC) being assigned to the CO's tank as the Gunner. After considerable training in England, the Regiment went into action with the 5th Canadian Armored Division in Southern Italy.

The Commanding officer at the time was **JM McAvity DSO MBE**. His leadership style was to be out front and aggressive. Bill tells of several times when it was just them and the 3 RHQ Protecting troop tanks out in the lead and the rest of the regiment fairly far behind.

In refit the CO's Sherman was pulled out and sent to the Brigade maintenance park. When the tank returned, the gun barrel was replaced with a wooden pole and a crescent desk was installed in the turret in place of the breach and buffers. This modification made more room for additional radios.

Bill figured the CO would have a fit over the change and the loss of his gun. McAvity was extremely upset over the change without his knowledge but Bill consoled him with the fact, that if they water the new barrel it may sprout and give them camouflage that is more



effective. Bill remained with the CO's tank as the Radio Operator, fighting the Krauts with his wooden gun up the boot of Italy and into Northwest Europe finishing the war in Western Germany.

Bill is 86 now and lives in Cobble Hill on Vancouver Island

Written by Bob Carter former Trooper with the Fort Garry Horse and the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) 1968 to 1971.

Thanks for passing that on, Bill, and we'd love to hear more of Bill's stories. Ed.



In May of 2009 it was the great privilege of 47 Canadians to visit the battle sites and cemeteries of the soldiers who were members of the First Canadian Corps. Nine of us were veterans of the Italian Campaign while the remainder were sons and grandsons and other relatives of those who served in that Corps. In charge of the visit were **Mrs. Karen Koonor** of Calgary the chief organiser, and **Ken McLeod**, who as chief tour guide was more knowledgeable of the Italian scene than many of us who had served there 65 years before.

Also from Calgary was **Donna Maxwell RN**, Cardiovascular nurse who was of great support to me and to others as we visited the graves of many of our close friends and comrades- many visits to graves for the first time The Commanding Officer of the Strathcona's, **Lieutenant Colonel D.A. Macaulay**, kindly sent the Regimental 2IC, **Maj Callens**, plus two NCO's while the CO of PPCLI sent two captains and two NCO's to help the veterans. As all of us were in our late 80's, so this

help was more than appreciated.

On Melfa Day in 1944, B Squadron was pinned down so we never did get to see the battle scene where **Lieutenant Ed Perkins** should have won the VC but had to settle for a DSO (rare for a subaltern). The Recce troop crossed the Melfa long before the supporting Westminsters arrived, but the VC went to them.

Major Callens spent a whole afternoon taking me to the battle site and we met the wife of the farmer who owned that land.

His NCO's were of great help in locating Strathcona graves in the various cemeteries, most of which I was visiting for the first time. In wartime, we buried our men where they fell, and it was only after the war that their bodies were transferred to the larger cemeteries such as Cassino.

A highlight of the Italian tour was the visit of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Monte Cassino. Our hotel was located 5 miles out of Cassino and the tour group was going to visit a battle site on that day. No way Jose! I wasn't going to miss the papal visit. So dressed in my best bib & tucker, medals and Strathcona Beret, I hitch hiked into town. But alas, when I got into Cassino there were mobs of people in the streets.

17,000 tickets had been distributed for the papal mass, but I did not possess even one. I saw the answer to my dilemma in a Franciscan monk who I immediately befriended. He in turn kindly guided me to the gate where they informed me no tickee - no washee. At which point I informed them in my Italian which I speak with a Red Deer accent, that if

Your Dispatches...continued

I and some of my Canadian friends had not been here 65 years ago, you would now all be speaking German!! Somehow they understood despite the accent, and that got me through four different gates and up to the fourth row in front of His Holiness. The temperature was 35 degrees but I stayed right through the event - a glorious and most memorable occasion. Hitch hiking back to our hotel, the Italian driver took me right up to our front door. We finished our tour in Venice where 66 years before **General Hoffmeister** told the assembled Fifth Armoured Division that in 60 hours we would be in Venice - 60 miles north he had not read the weather reports. It started to rain and our tanks became bogged down. 60 days later we were just a few miles from where he gave his famous speech. So, at last we reached Venice - 66 years later.

PUSH ON

(Father) R.S.H.Greene Association Padre

Father Bob, you can always be counted on for a great story, even the occasional true one like this. Keep them coming! **Ed**



Please find enclosed a cheque to help cover the cost of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC) newsletter which I appreciate receiving.

When I am finished reading it I pass it onto our youngest son. He also enjoys reading it.

Sincerely

Lorna E. Blair

Thank you, Lorna, your donation is greatly appreciated. We hope your son will maintain his interest in the Regiment. **Ed.**

John Doble, the last 17th/21st Lancer exchange officer with the Regiment in Iserlohn, Germany (1967-1969), recently took his new bride, Sue, on a month-long cross-country visit to Canada - from ocean to ocean, as the expression goes. Along the way, he connected with several Strathcona's and friends from his past, as well as visiting many of his old haunts from his time as British Consul-General for Western Canada in Edmonton in the mid-1980s.

John was particularly delighted to be able to attend the final events at Reunion 2010, an experience he thoroughly enjoyed. Another highlight was a brief visit to Dick Green in Quebec, where Dickie kindly arranged a get-together for John with a few Strathcona's from the Iserlohn days: Dave Skinner, Terry Payne, John Easson and Bill Logan. (see photo under Your Photos)

John and Sue's final stop before returning to England was here in Nova Scotia where they spent a couple of days with us. Coincidentally, Sue's great-great-grandfather served in Halifax with the Royal Artillery from 1816-20 and I was able to show her some of the places with which her ancestor would have been familiar.

Last year, I had John put on the mailing list for the Regimental Society Newsletter. He is most impressed with the Newsletter and asked that I forward the enclosed donation to you from him to help defray expenses.

In closing, and with regard to Pat Carew's letter in the Winter/Spring edition of the Newsletter, I would like to confirm that the Newsletter in its present format was started

during my time as CO (1985-87), at the instigation of the then Colonel of the Regiment, Phil Neatby, who felt very strongly that some method of communication was needed to connect all the many branches of the vast Strathcona Regimental family and keep them informed. Under the initial and long-time editorship of Nic Nicolay, the Newsletter certainly grew to meet and exceed MGen Neatby's aim, and continues to do so today.

Perseverance

John Boileau

Thanks, John. It was good to see John Doble again in Edmonton. The Garrison has certainly changed since his time there. His donation is much appreciated. **Ed.**



Winter/Spring 2011 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Winter/Spring 2011 Strathcona Newsletter is **10 January 2011.**

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 Batty

Your Dispatches...continued

Hi Gang

Recently I saw a picture of "A" Sqn in front of the drill hall in Currie Barracks. I am not sure if it is before or after "Korea". My photo album is missing that important picture. Could you look for it and if you find it would you send me a copy? I may have seen it in a late Newsletter or a copy of the Strathconian.

Len Hill

"A" Sqn Korea

Len, we'll have someone research the photo and get a copy to you. A good task for a new Junior Officer, it'll be a good lesson in Regimental history. **Ed**



I was reading our Newsletter which I received this morning, very nice as always. I give to several score of charities so I shall put you on my list. I served one year RCAC - 1st class recruits since WW2, 3 months RCD, 12 years (broken) LSH, 12 years FGH.

Best wishes

Dangerous Dave Cathcart
(got nickname in Korea C Sqn
LdSH(RC))

Dave, you have always been generous to the Regimental family with your time and money. It was great to see you awarded the Colonel in Chief's Commendation at the Reunion. A well deserved award. **Ed**

Please find enclosed a donation to the Society for 2010. I will not be able to attend the Reunion this year. Give my regards to all that attend. Once a Strathcona always a Strathcona.

Ken Dent

Sorry you had to miss a great Reunion, Ken, but your donation is gratefully received. **Ed**



Strathcona Humour

During a Squadron Commander's Course training exercise, Capt A's tank crew, had a misfire of a 105 mm blank round. Consequently, they went through the misfire drill but were unable to fire the round. Given the need for a 30-minute wait before they could open the breech, the staff elected to stop for an early lunch. In due course, the crew remounted and, under the watchful eye of a gunnery trained NCO, proceeded to open the breech and clear the round. It immediately hit the gun basket and, to everyone's surprise, was an expended round. Without batting an eye, Capt B, the student loader, exclaimed, "I don't understand. It worked perfectly this morning when I test fired it in the last attack".



Following his retirement after a rewarding and enviable career, SSM A took a job with an old friend as a manager of one of his construction sites. SSM A instituted a number of innovations, many stemming from his army and life experiences. One such improvement was to hire a number of mentally challenged individuals to do chores on work sites that made good use of skills they might have and give them an opportunity to be gainfully employed. He had great success whenever he was involved with them in similar projects at his church and saw numerous opportunities for them in the construction industry. He described his attempt by citing the number of chores they were capable of doing such as moving construction materials for one area to another. In the first such task, he said he took the group to a pile of bricks that needed to be moved across the site. He said he showed them the bricks, told them what he wanted to do, demonstrated the task, marked the safest route for them, and indicated where and how the bricks were to be stacked. He claimed, "It was just like training officers, except you didn't have to salute them".

Nobby Clark's "Anglo Boer War, Lord Strathcona's Horse" The Northern Campaign and Lydenburg

Submitted by Murray Cayley

By August Lord Roberts was ready to continue his conquest of the Eastern Transvaal. The convergence of General French's, Lord Robert's and General Buller's columns on Belfast and through Amersfoort towards Lydenburg on the high Veld brought the Regiment back together and kept Strathcona's Horse well to the front and fully employed.

In preparation for the big push, orders called for the Regiment to travel light. All tents and spare kit were stored at Perdekop; remounts were drawn and re-shod; back mail was distributed and at the end of July the men paraded for pay which they had not received since they had left Cape Town.

(Carman Miller: Painting the Map Red, p. 320) "The Regiment had an opportunity to show what it could do besides soldiering when 500 horses broke out of a kraal and went careening wildly across the Veldt. The entire camp watched as Strathcona troopers, complete with lassoes and stock saddles, provided a display of western horsemanship, conducting a successful round-up that was a sight to behold and drew loud applause. They were rewarded with the first pick of the remounts."

The Western Canadian horse was the envy of all other cavalry units in South Africa who served along with Strathcona's Horse. These horses were cow ponies, stout-legged, 15 hands or better, and well broken to round-up work on the prairies. They were trained to neck rein, go continuously at a good pace up and down hill, stop suddenly, ford and swim rivers. They had good bone, short backs and strong quarters. They adapted to the African Veldt as they had the prairies and mountains of western Canada; uniquely Canadian, these horses deserve their own story.

The origin of the Canadian Horse can be traced back to 1665. The colony of New France appealed to the king of France to send horses strong enough to pull plows, hardy enough to survive the long extreme cold winters, tough enough to endure Canada's long distances.

As important as horses were in those days, only Kings were rich enough to maintain good blood lines. Kings also had several farms on which to raise different breeds of horses and over the years horse racing became known as the sport of kings. The King of France had many breeds of horses on his various farms; he decided the ideal horse for New France was a descendant from the war horses of Normandy. These Norman horses had carried William the Conqueror's army in England, 600 years earlier. They had been bred for both speed in battle and the strength to carry a knight in full armour. These were the best in the King's stables, and they weren't cheap.

We don't know how many horses were sent but we do know that the first shipment landed at Quebec City in 1665, a gift from the King of France to the Governor. Others were given to landowners who supplied them for breeding to their tenant farmers who repaid them with a colt every year for three years. Over the next forty years the number of horses in the colony rose to 5000. The "Canadian horses", as they became known, could skid logs in the bush or trot fifty miles a day, live on the weeds by the side of the trail. Years later, when the North West Mounted Police went west they took as many of these horses as they could lay their hands on. Horse dealers swarmed to Quebec during the American Civil War to supply the American armies. Thousands of these horses died in that war and for a while it looked like the breed itself was in danger. On the 19th March, 1909, the Parliament of Canada declared the breed "Canada's National Horse", and established a program to protect the breed. Since then, trucks and tractors have reduced the importance of horses, but the "Canadian" is still on farms from coast to coast.

At this point in the narrative, Nobby is relying almost entirely on a book by Carmen Miller, (Department of History, McGill University): *Miller, Carmen: "Painting the Map Red: Canada and the South African War 1899-1902", Canadian War Museum and McGill-Queen's University Press, 1993*, for details of actions during the Northern Campaign. Regrettably, his use of this material was so extensive that a copyright restriction was imposed on Nobby's work, limiting reproduction of his book to ten copies only for internal use within the regiment. I attempt to skim

Continued On Page 18

Continued from Page 17

these quoted areas, relying on any other sources Nobby may have used and refer the reader to Carman Millers book cited above for further reading. It is an excellent read.

Lieutenant Adamson described an engagement at Amersfoort en route to Lydensburg in a letter to his wife on 15 August (for Adamson, see previous newsletter).

“We have entered and taken Amersfoort. I had the advance guard and two small galloping guns; with orders to enter if possible, if not to hold for main columns to come up. We were not fired upon until about within 1,000 yards of the town, when we charged in open order from three sides. We rode very hard, the bullets simply rained in upon us, some of the escapes were simply marvelous, saddle horses and water bottles suffered but not one man actually killed.... We dismounted and drove the brutes out of town. We held the town until the Flying Column came up...”

Maintaining a rapid advance after an uncomfortable night, Major Jarvis and “B” squadron led the occupation of Ermelo, setting up guards and protecting the town from the looting that had happened elsewhere. Today, “B” Squadron, Lord Strathcona’s Horse (RC) will remember the mother town of Ermelo, Holland which they liberated in 1945.

Casulties remained light throughout this advance although one Private John Nicks, in A Squadron, was shot through the lungs by a sharpshooter during the occupation of Carolina. He survived and has decedents today in Orillia, Ontario.

On the 6th of September Botha began to withdraw from Lydenburg after increasing British pressure and artillery fire and Buller was able to enter the town screened by the Strathcona’s, although harassed by Boer fire throughout the day. The Strathcona’s had moved into a bivouac area located on the approximate present site of the now Lydenburg Museum. About four miles to the east of the Strathcona’s Camp was a small land feature that the 1st Battalion Kings Royal Rifles had dubbed Strathcona Hill. A donga (gully) runs on the west side of Strathcona Hill. It was in this donga that Steele deployed his Regiment for protection from Botha’s guns.

Nobby states that: “during my visit to South Africa I acquired a collection of letters written by Alfred Markam to his cousin Guy in England. Markam was an Officer in the 2nd Rifle Brigade from the British garrison on Crete. Markam served during the siege of Ladysmith and in the Eastern Transvaal. Strathcona’s Horse was in close support of the Rifle Brigades throughout the Northern Campaign as an alternative to their prime tasking as scouts. Quoting Markhams’ letter out of Lydenburg dated Friday, November 32, 1900:

“On Monday 12th, we went on to Badfontein in the Crocodile Valley, a very feverish district. Outposts again. Next morning, I went on to Witklip, where we rested a day. I rode a pony after Shoeman’s, belonging to the transport officer.

I went out shooting at Witklip. With two other fellows and a dog, we got three brace. One has to almost kick the partridges before they will get up.

After our day’s rest, we went into Lydenburg. Found everything very comfortable. Quite a good mess in a Boer doctor’s house, and everyone living in houses. I found my company were occupying a hill about four miles out (Strathcona’s Hill), a patrol of the above corps having been cut up there: six killed, one man escaped. They had been allowed to approach within fifty yards when the Boers opened fire. They were all shot on the ground afterwards, so it was really murder.

I went out to Strathcona’s Hill in the evening, where I spent four days. On the 20th, I came into the town again to take over the command of H - Company, as one of our subalterns has gone down to join the Mounted Infantry at Pretoria.

Lydenburg is one of the nicest towns I have seen in the Transvaal; lots of trees and well supplied with water.

The troops here are as follows: 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade, 1st Devonshire Regiment, 1 Battery (53rd), 1 Howitzer Battery, (2) five inch guns, two companies Mounted Infantry. Our Brigadier is Major-General Kitchener. He is very keen on night attacks. I have not been out on one yet; I am next on the roster. Another duty is picketing the roads for convoys arriving and leaving.

It is all rot about the War being over; this guerilla business will go on for another six months at least.

Nobby adds: "Strathcona Hill was named in honour of the two patrols that fought a heroic battle, to the very last bullet. The exact circumstances of their final fate will never be known, their courage however is undisputable. They were men of men. At some future date a modest but prestigious monument recognizing the heroism of these Strathcona's should be placed on the apex of Strathcona Hill or adjacent to our present monument at the Lydenburg Museum.

A great tribute to brave Canadian soldiers who epitomize the character of Strathcona's Horse."

Sgt J Brothers, Sgt AEH Logan, Tpr C Cruikshank, Tpr A Jones, Tpr W West, Tpr Wiggins

NEXT: Ending the Strathcona's role in South Africa and the return home!

Strathcona Humour

The Match Incident (submitted by Major (Retired I.D. McKay)—In 1970, the Fort Garry Horse was re-badged to Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians). It was a sad day for some as they had only served as "Garry's" including a three-year stint in Germany; however, like true professionals, the change was accepted, not unlike one sees in professional sports when players are traded from team to another.

The administration to make this change took time and patience. Belt buckles, hat badges, lanyards, letterhead stationary, just to name a few items that had to be changed. The Commanding Officer, never a man of patience, needed it done NOW. This scribbler was the DCO/2IC at the time and, as any DCO/2IC will attest to, the DCO/2IC and his staff are the workhorses of any regiment and would be responsible for many of the changes stemming from the re-badging.

One item that would seem simple enough at the time was the procurement of "book matches" suitably crested with regimental colours for use by various messes by their members and guests. At the time, there were quite a few smokers in the Regiment. Accordingly, I asked the Officers' Mess Secretary to contact a firm that would provide this item. Within a day or two, I was called over to the Officers' Mess to meet the match provider. A price was agreed upon and I signed the order for 1000 matchbooks.

The story does not end there. About 10 days later, I received a phone call from the Mess Sergeant announcing the matches had arrived. I was elated until, to quote the sergeant, "Sir, where in hell do you want me to put them?". "In your stock room", I replied. It was then I was informed we had received 1000 cartons of matchbooks rather than 1000 matchbooks.

The Commanding Officer was impressed we received the matches; however, the RSM was not impressed when he was informed the Senior NCO's and Warrant Officers' Mess would take a fair share and pay for them.

To reduce the stock numbers, I do believe every officer on posting, for a time, received a carton of matches.

At my farewell dinner, I was, once again, reminded of my lack of attention to detail.

Last Trumpet Call

ANTON, Michael JG Age 84, 22 April, 2010, Mexico
BARRY, Douglas Age 90, 20 March, 2010, Victoria BC
BOK, Roelfien Age 100, 16 September, 2009, Edmonton AB
BRECKENREID, Rick 3 March, 2010, Cypress
BROWN, Jim Age 61, 8 May, 2010, Oromocto NB
CALKINS, Ken 7 April, 2010, Edmonton AB
CHATWIN, 'Tiny' July 2006, Victoria BC
COLWILL, Bruce Age 85, 22 November, 2009, Ottawa ON
EDMUNDS, Hugh Age 80, 10 August, 2009 Windsor ON
HEINRICH, Wally Age 82, 9 June, 2010, Orillia ON
KATZ, Leonard 17 January, 2009, Willowdale ON
NEAVE, Ed March, 2010, Maple Ridge BC
OLSEN, Floyd 20 September, 2008, Edson AB
POWER, Bill Age 69, 8 May, 2010, Barry's Bay ON
PUTT, Ray Age 73, 26 January, 2010, Arizona
SHULAR, Steve 18 April, 2006, Wynyard SK
SNYDER, Vivien Age 81, 9 May, 2008
SPARKES, Colin 31 January, 2009, England
SPENCER, Dryl Age 64, 11 June, 2010, Calgary AB
STEIN, Henry Winnipeg MB
UNDERHILL, Vance Age 66, 4 March, 2009, Calgary AB
WILLIAMSON, Floyd March, 2010, Calgary AB
WOOD, Carl Age 87, 16 June, 2010, Calgary AB

In Loving Memory of Wives

COLWILL, Alice (*Bruce*), 19 March, 2009, Ottawa ON
CURRIE, Kaye (*Roy*), 20 March, 2010, Cranbrook BC
LEGGETT, Sharon (*Pete*), 21 February, 2010, Edmonton AB
MEGILL, Susan (*Bill*), 2 March, 2010, Ottawa ON
MONROE, Lorraine (*late Gordon*), 20 January, 2010, Kelowna BC
MYSYK, Ursula (*Benjamin*), 1 May, 2010, Calgary AB
OZIRNY, Jean (*late Alex*), 13 May, 2010, Calgary AB
PROUSE, Mary (*Bill*), 11 October, 2010, Redcliff AB

Our apologies for lack of details in some cases