



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

FALL/WINTER 2013

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

Colonel of the Regiment

By Major-General (Ret'd) Cam Ross

While in Wainwright with the Regiment recently, I was most impressed with the standard of training and the levels of competence and professionalism. I also noted the extent of the budget cuts are severe, forty-eight per cent cut to the Regiment's operating and maintenance budget in FY12/13 with another round of cuts likely in FY13/14.

Returning home to Victoria, where the weather was considerably more temperate than Wainwright, I consulted the oracles (The Strathconian; 1983) to fathom whether these cuts were comparably strict.

Thirty years is a good measure of time. It is a third of a century and can be considered a generational gap or two. The 1983 edition of The Strathconian was printed during the Cold War era with the Soviet Union being the main threat. Microsoft just released the first edition of MS Word; McDonald's introduced the McNugget; the Edmonton Oilers had only been in the NHL for four years; and the Regimental 2IC, **Maj Mike Onieu**, was 8 years old.

In November 1983, the Regiment was firmly established in Calgary without a hint of moving elsewhere. The CO was **LCol Dave Rogers**, the RSM **Earl Cady**, and the Colonel of the Regiment was **MGen (Ret'd) Phil Neatby**. A and B Squadrons were equipped with Cougars with its infamous 76 mm 'pumpkin gun',

whose engagement drills included two leisurely sips of coffee between firing and impact. There was only one major overseas tasking – Cyprus.

There was average support amongst the Canadian public for the Canadian Forces. It was generally accepted that NATO and the Americans would take care of the Soviets; however, it was not well known that we had a mechanized brigade in what was still 'West Germany'. Peacekeeping was the norm. Soldiers anxiously waited for some dustup in the world so that there might be a deployment of a Canadian contingent. In this pre-Balkan era, the Cougar was a 'tank trainer' and was not to be deployed on operations (we got that one wrong).

Was money tight then? Absolutely; however, the major difference from then to now is that the Regiment is equipped with an outstanding tank. Don't even think of looking at your coffee after firing; you will miss the impact. While parts and other supplies are very tightly controlled, the VOR (vehicle off the road %) is more than manageable. The other difference from 30 years ago is that Strathcona's are incredibly well trained and led. Not saying that they weren't in 1983 but the limitations of the Cougar precluded us being a world-class fighting unit in the profession of arms. Lastly, there

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Commanding Officer

By Lieutenant-Colonel P.J. Peyton

Once again, **Kathy** has reminded me that I am late on my article submission for the upcoming Newsletter. So far I am three for three, which according to **Kathy** puts me on par with my predecessors, all of whom I now understand had so much to tell that it was hard to know where to start.

I will begin by saying that your Regiment continues to perform exceptionally well. As we have now had several opportunities to work as part of the combined arms team on domestic operations and exercises, I am more convinced than ever that Strathcona soldiers are a step above the rest. Although it will not be a surprise to any of you, it is important to reiterate that our Regiment's success results not only from the exceptional soldiers we have at the unit and elsewhere, but equally from the strength of our extended Regimental family, outstanding friends of the Regiment, and, of course, our Association. To all of you, I again express the sincere thanks of all serving Strathconas. You are our example and our inspiration.

My last Newsletter update spoke of how A and Recce Squadrons were in the midst of high readiness training and how we were looking forward to a little down time before summer leave. As military fortune would have it, that was not to be. Very shortly after we returned from Wainwright, the Regiment was quickly deployed to Kananaskis and Medicine Hat to provide flood relief. Tasks included everything from filling sandbags to evacuation operations in the Kananaskis corridor. I have never been more proud of our Regiment than I was during this particular

operation. The speed in which the entire Regiment was on the road and the professionalism of your soldiers was incredible. Accolades were plenty but none so telling as a letter received from the Chief of the Air Staff reiterating the compassionate and professional behaviour of our troops when evacuating special needs children stranded in the mountains. Our troops may be hardened warriors, but they are, equally, among the most kind-hearted and responsive Canadian citizens.

As the days finally grew warmer in Edmonton, the Regiment focussed on Spruce Meadows activities, team building opportunities, and a spectacular Freedom of Strathcona County Parade. We routinely impress the public with our professionalism and pageantry; however, a 44-kilometre road move between Edmonton and Sherwood Park (Strathcona County) commands an unfamiliar dimension of respect. As our RCMP escort commented, "you probably could have done this without me." Apart from **MWO Mark Riley** deciding to conduct a surprise guidon escort ferret breakdown and evacuation drill in front of the reviewing stand the event was flawless.

Despite the constant buzz surrounding budget reductions, September saw the Regiment head back to Wainwright for field training. Perhaps this is a good opportunity to explain the impact of reductions on your soldiers. We train differently but we still train. Between September and November, the Regiment conducted our annual Fall gun camp, troop live and dry training, Regimental force-on-force training using weapons effects simulators, and an out of the manoeuvre area exercise for Recce Squadron. We

also led a full battle group for over half of the field portion of a Combat Team Commander's Course. The full Regiment was deployed and, for a day, we even had the Strathcona Ladies come out for a visit (some of whom now have more tank time than their Recce Squadron spouses). We remained in the field only one day less than we did last fall and we had more tanks in the field than ever. Between November and December members of our Regiment will visit 4/3 Cavalry in Texas to participate in the challenging Spur Ride, and a composite troop from A and B Squadrons will travel to Chile to participate in a field exercise. Post Christmas we will conduct our regular combat function courses, a gun camp, and winter warfare training. Finding calendar space for a GOC's inspection and maintenance is a challenge.

The message is that we will find a way to ensure our troops receive the training they need to maintain their skill and the opportunities to maintain their interest. Are there challenges? Absolutely. As I read of **Danny McLeod's** incredible exploits in the book *Always a Leader* by **Ted Nurse** (which by the way I highly recommend be placed on your Christmas wish list), it is not lost on me that we are in a normal post-conflict cycle. Budgets reduce to meet other government priorities and it falls on us to find solutions, often in the same manner many of you did following WW2, Korea, and the Cold War. We trim the fat, live a little more austere than we have in the recent past, and rely solely on our equipment vice a rental option. In all of this there is value. It creates soldier resiliency, is a forcing function for equipment serviceability, and affords even more opportunities for training. I have no

doubt there will be more cuts and I have no doubt that when they come we will find solutions.

I will cite a small anecdote to sum up. One of the most obvious impacts of reductions has been the minimal amount of time we now spend in Peregrine 9, our historic bivvy site in Wainwright. In Sleepy Hollow, the common name for where the CO and RSM would establish their respective glorious caravans, is now the site of a shared modest (relative of course) CO / RSM tent. Sharing canvas with **CWO Batty** has been a novel and often humiliating experience. As I readied myself to climb in the sack, the RSM would retrieve his boot and hat badge shining kit, cock an eyebrow, and throw me a peculiar "you're not ready for bed yet glance." Message received. I was up and digging through the bottom of a rucksack for black pasty stuff that squirted when I opened the lid. Mornings were no better. At some ridiculous hour, the man would rise and climb out of his bag looking as though he had walked out of the shower, and put on a uniform that only moments ago must have been hand delivered from the dry cleaner. I would furiously try to beat the dust off my combats, look to the RSM in the hopes of approval, and on a good day get rewarded with a "you'll do." I now understand that RSMs are not normal beings, but rather a species put in uniform to taunt officers with unachievable standards.

As the holiday season draws near, allow me, on behalf of all Strathconas, to wish you the best with your families and comfort you with the assurance that your Regiment is living up to the high standard you created while in uniform. Perseverance.

“Tales From The Big Chair”

By Chief Warrant Officer Tony Batty

Although I have read many articles in our fine newsletter, I must admit that this is the first I have written. I have spent a whirlwind four months since assuming the appointment of RSM of LdSH(RC) and have recently noticed the “imprint” left in the chair from my predecessor starting to fade.

After the parade and the handover tour conducted by the TQMS, **MWO Mark Riley**, I thought that I could spend the next few days re-acquainting myself with the soldiers and the Command Teams in the Regiment.

I discovered that on checking my calendar (something new to me) that the first “gig” was to host the Colonel of the Regiment, **MGen (Ret’d) Cam Ross**, and his advisory committee. As we strolled away from the simulation centre discussing plans for dinner at the Hotel Macdonald, the CO mentioned that the Regiment was the Immediate Response Unit (IRU) Vanguard for 1 CMBG. I mused that it was rather funny that the TQMS had neglected to mention that particular fact but, because it was June (and a beautiful one at that), I wasn’t overly worried. I checked the forest fire index and saw nothing to concern me and the last time I went off on the IRU was for an ice storm. No problem at all, I’d have plenty of time to pack my kit tomorrow or the next day, right?

I changed at home, was picked up, and headed down town to the Hotel Mac for dinner. I was looking forward to a relaxing evening and settling into the social aspects of my new appointment. I ordered a beer and perused the normally

unexplored expensive side of the menu. As I was deciding on which piece of meat would go best with my beer, the CO’s phone rang; and just like that we were told to get ready as Calgary was flooding and, potentially, we would be called in to help as the Vanguard of the IRU.

I am sure some people reading this article have been where I was about to go--run in the house, explain to “9er long hair” (my lovely and understanding wife) that a game was afoot and I had no time to discuss the days events as I needed to pack and meet the CO at the Building in less than an hour. I quickly headed to the basement, the long time storage area of all things Army, and shoved whatever I could locate into my rucksack and duffel bag. Upstairs, I grabbed a backpack for essentials (you know, washing/shaving kit, smokes and my Kindle) and was out the door.

I arrived at the Building to find the rest of RHQ members milling around after having loaded their kit into their various vehicles. I met with the CO and we discussed possible scenarios for which the Regiment could provide assistance. Shortly after that chat, the word came from 1 CMBG HQ that knocked us out the door--and we left for Red Deer.

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actually is a budget-cut timeline that is reasonably predictable. By 2015, the federal deficit has a very good chance of being reduced to zero. That and, hopefully, a supportive government will ease springs.

Understanding our rich history always helps to put things in context.

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On arrival in Red Deer, we had a quick coordination meeting and got most of the Vanguard bedded down for a few hours of sleep before the big show started. I waited until I had confirmation that the Main Body was on the move from Edmonton, and picked out a modest spot of floor for myself, and fell asleep. I have never enjoyed 40 minutes of shuteye that much (and likely will never again!). The CO woke me and told me our next task was to deploy to the Canmore area to link up with the forestry service who would show us where we were going to stay.

The constant, dreary rain was torrential and made driving exceptionally difficult even before factoring in that most of the soldiers had managed about two hours of sleep; however, we got to where we were going unscathed. There, we were amazed at the devastation we saw – the flooding and the rain had severely damaged the local area and left it— in the truest sense, a disaster.

One thing that sticks in the forefront of my mind is that no matter where we went and no matter what the conditions, the sense of relief was palpable once the people realised that the Army had arrived. It was an amazing feeling.

Once settled, the CO gave an excellent interview (again, keeping in mind he did this with little or no sleep for 48 hours) while I managed to conjure coffee and sandwiches out of nowhere to keep us fuelled for the task at hand.

We set out to where SSMHQ, **MWO Tod Hopkin**, had begun to sort out the bivvy site, - a campground normally suited to RV's and campers was now home to LAV III's, multiple

green trucks, and an Engineer dive pod.

While I'm thinking of it, I would challenge the former RSM's as to who has had a dive pod under their control.

The soldiers of the Regiment set about with their usual ability and, in no time, there was coffee, a must, shelter, and communications with the Bde HQ. The Regiment and the attachments worked incredibly hard and produced results that I have to say, at times, were nothing short of miraculous.

The destruction was incredible. I witnessed many acts of selflessness and saw Strathconas impressing everyone with whom they came into contact. I will digress and clarify one of the acts. The owner of the campground was a member of the Calgary Stampede breakfast committee and asked if we would like a Stampede Breakfast.

It was amusing to see the looks on the faces of the PPCLI and 1 CER company/squadron sergeant-majors when the pancakes and sausages were being handed out the next day for breakfast and lunch. I did remember to ask why this was so amazing to them as this sort of thing was entirely normal for the Regiment.

After a few days we trundled back home and carried on with regimental/garrison life.

The soldiers and Regimental family should be extremely proud of their accomplishments during that difficult time.

As I write this, I am currently awaiting the Merit Board results and am about to deploy back to Wainwright for the final phase of

the Combat Team Commanders Course.

It has been an extremely busy and interesting four-and-a-half months and I am looking forward to the next two years and eight months to see where the Regiment and I will be then.

It would be remiss of me not to thank my mentors. You know who you are. You have stood me in good stead for this appointment.

The Association News

By Colonel (Ret'd) Ian Barnes

I will start this article by describing what the new Association headquarters crew has been up to recently. It's only a few short months since I signed the document officially transferring the headquarters of the Association from Calgary to Edmonton at the Morueil Wood parade. Since then, **Mike Hogan, Rick Dennis**, and I have transferred the bank account to Edmonton and established a central mailing address. We are in the process of having the necessary correspondence printed i.e., letterheads, envelopes, membership cards, etc., in preparation for the upcoming membership drive. We hope we can undertake that task as well as the gang in Calgary has over past many years. We do have a small room in the Regimental lines to store old files but have not yet fully established ourselves there. We are in the process of purchasing a computer and we have managed to acquire a donated printer. All this is evidence that the headquarters of the Association is slowly re-inventing itself in Edmonton. In addition to that, we continue to develop the plan for the 2015 reunion. See a separate article in the newsletter for

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full details of the reunion plan.

One of the things that we see the need to grapple with is the health and future of the Association in light of the declining membership. We were handed a membership list of 340 plus members which we will use to send out the membership letters. We would like to find a way to reverse the trend of declining membership. With that, we need all the help we can get to stop the decline and attract more members. In that light, we are working with the Regimental 2IC to see how we can bring on board those members of the Regiment who are retiring from the military and moving on to other employment. We are hopeful that this will help; however, we need everybody's help. If you have a friend or know of a retired Strathcona in your area please invite them to your social activities and encourage them to join the Association. The new address of the Association is: Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Association, Suite 444, PO Box 10500, Station Forces, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4J5. There must be thousands of retired Strathconas out there. Please help us to bring them into the fold.

Russ Ells e-mailed me the other day with a great initiative. He has suggested that we connect the heads of the various Regimental chapters across Canada using conference calls two or three times a year. This has merit and, over the next few months, we will try to institute this idea on a trial basis. This may well help to improve the membership numbers.

The 2IC has suggested we set up a way to get the Association membership using the web (Facebook). We will

be working on this in the next few months.

There are a few positions yet to be filled on the Association executive. I would like to see these positions filled by members from across Canada. This is also something that we can try on a trial basis. At present, we have only three members on the board - President, Treasurer, and Membership. We would like to have five to seven. We need a vice-president and two or three general board members.

Our bylaws are long out of date. We need someone who would help with this task. When we update them, we need to recognize the expanding chapters, a larger board, and a way to involve all our members in the decision making process. Are there any volunteers? We should also consider legalizing our association by having it incorporated and establishing a charitable status so we can receive donations and issue income tax receipts.

These are all new ideas and your opinions and thoughts would help us.

Let's make the Association an organization that is truly a family, one that meets the needs of Strathconas no matter where they live or whatever their needs and one of which we are proud to be a member. **ONCE A STRATHCONA – ALWAYS A STRATHCONA**

Kingston Chapter

By Capt Russ Ells

The last few months have seen a lot of change and continuity, a lot like life at the Regiment. We have divided the Ontario Branch into two chapters, one based in Ottawa and the other in Kingston. Both will work together to coordinate and promote our

activities. We have also welcomed **Captain Islam Elkorazati** to the executive replacing **Captain Stoo MacLean** who was posted to Colorado Springs last summer. We wish **Stoo** all the best and thank him for the tremendous job he did on behalf of all the Strathconas in Ontario.

The success of our last series of events was entirely due to the hard work, dedication, and Perseverance of the OPI's. On behalf of the membership I would like to acknowledge **Tom and Carol Martineau** for hosting the Melfa River BBQ, **Captains Ali Raju and Islam Elkorazati** for organizing this year's Stampede Breakfast, and **CWO Kevin Mulhern** who, even though he had been mugged out only day before, still managed to sort our Fall Meet and Greet. Our next events will be the Remembrance Day services which will be conducted in Sydenham, followed by the Moreuil Wood All Ranks, Mixed Dining-In, being held 22 March 2014, at the Fort Frontenac Officers Mess.

We also made a strong showing at Corps events such as the annual Henry Sampson Golf Tournament in Smith Falls with **LCol (Ret'd) John Stuckart**, heading up the Kingston contingent. In addition, **LCol (Ret'd) Dave MacLeod** has been leading the charge to resurrect the Corps curling bonspiel, "Ironsides". The next Ironsides will be held in Kingston, 3-5 April 2014. Dave will be providing the details shortly.

Finally, I want to thank all of the Strathconas in Ontario, particularly those in the Kingston area, for their continued support of the Kingston Chapter. Keep an eye on the Regimental webpage for further updates!

2013 Family Golf Tournament

By CWO (Ret'd) Peter Wonderham

On Saturday 14 September 2013, a warm sunny day greeted the 40 golfers awaiting the official announcement of their tee times. Between the pregame hand shaking and light hearted banter, many still found time to steal a glance at the fantastic Rocky Mountain vista south of Calgary that borders on Buffalo Run Golf course.

The weather was perfect. As an added bonus, this year's tournament was sandwiched between the Friday evening Calgary Chapter Reunion Meet and Greet and the Dinner. This meant that our regulars were joined by some out-town-friends who are, unfortunately, too seldom seen in our ranks.

Dick and Vernetta McDonald's foursome was joined by **Jim and Lucille Ellard**. **Jim Chamberlain and Sandy** joined the **Dave Cook** foursome to crank the competition up a notch. We were also pleased to welcome **Rick and Sandy Brown** to our golf classic and we hope they will become regulars now that they have been relocated to Calgary. Welcome home! **Michael Baranoski** and **Dene Noble** would have won the Stick Man award if one was given. **Mike Alcock** promised that we would see him again next year and who could not enjoy the lighthearted yet competitive spirit of the **Ron White** and Bob Evans duo? **Earl Smith** has put in a great team for many years (thanks for the little extra in the entrance fee envelope, Earl).

This year was also a landmark gathering with the surprise visit of the RSM, **Tony Batty** and **Kathy**. All the wangling we could muster

would not trick **Kathy** into the exalted beverage cart position. She and the RSM took the same approach we all would have, in our day, and spent the golf time at the museum with the Veterans.

Our numbers increased to over 60 during the après golf awards gathering. It proved to be a time of relaxing with friends, enthusiastic garnering of victory prizes, and drinking beer. There was also a brief moment that was reminiscent of a Gagetown gunnery school gathering when **MCpl Gushue** gave a select group an impromptu refresher on modern Leopard gunnery.

Once again, the Regiment honoured us with the submission of the all volunteer team of **MCpl Joe Gushue, MCpl Jordon Churchill, Cpl Andrew Foster, and Cpl Mark Peachey**. Although these young and limber soldiers played wonderfully, their honesty kept them from the ultimate prize. We had to give the longest drive prize to **Cpl Mark Peachey**, however, 'cause he hit the ball a hell of a long way and kept it off 37th street, **Rick**.

To chat with and even to have these courteous and professional young men in our midst brings us all back

to our bygone days in uniform. Thanks guys!

Jim Deighton won longest putt. His name comes up every year for one of the awards. We are also waiting for one female athlete to dethrone **Jennifer Francis** of the **Henry Wyatt** foursome for longest drive ladies. How about that **Norm Ziltener** of the Cook team for closest to the pin? This is, in my mind, the most coveted of the awards.

For as long as I can remember, **Slider** and his bride **Mary** have helped to defray the cost of these events by their 50/50 draws. Finally their own number was picked only to have them put the money back into the tournament. Well done and thank you **Mary and Slider!**

To **Susan**, our one-person prize/silent auction and support committee, thank you! Once again, **Mary and Susan**, the set up for the event was perfect and reflected to all the importance we place on this yearly event.

Until next year, thanks to all for participating and thanks to our President **Howie** for his support and encouragement. I will contact everyone next year for dates and times for the 2014 event.



Rick Brown, Sandy Brown, Howie Owen, Peter Wonderham and Todd Wonderham

Strathcona Humour

This little story is based on “true” experiences whilst in the Mid East.

The mention of two CPL’S was taken from a previous Strathcona Regimental Newsletter.

U.N.E.F.—EGYPT 1958-59

IT WAS EARLY IN MY CAREER,
WHEN THE CRY WENT OUT,
WE WERE OFF TO “EGYPT”,
TO SERVE THE “U.N.--- NO DOUBT.

SO AS “RECCE SQN.”
IN A “NORTH STAR” OFF WE WENT,
AND WHEN THAT “JOURNEY” ENDED,
IN FULL BATTLE DRESS---WE WERE
SPENT.

WE WERE TAKING OVER,
FROM A GROUP OF OTHER MEN,
WHO TOLD US NOT TO WORRY,
THEY “WERE” THE 56 RECCE “THEN”.

WE WERE OFTEN TOLD,
OF ALL THE “MINES” AND THINGS,
BUT “DON’T” YOU WORRY NOW,
WE HAVE “CLEANED UP” EVERY THING.

“NOW” RECENTLY I READ A LETTER,
IN THE “STRATHCHONA” SOCIETY NEWS,
ABOUT A COUPLE OF CPL’S,
ABOUT HOW THEY PAID THEIR DUES.

“QUOTE—WHEN WE CROSSED THE
CREST”,
SOME “BEDOUINS” DID WE SEE,
DIGGING HOLES TO PLANT TWO MINES,
IN OUR TRACKS THAT WERE TO BE.

MUCH TO OUR CHAGRIN,
THEY SOON HAD DISAPPEARED,
THE CHASE WAS ON TO FIND THEM,
TOO LATE, THEY RAN AWAY IN FEAR.

TWAS A FEW DAYS LATER,
IN THE MESS THE STORY,, DID UNFOLD,
“BUT “DRAGOONS” DON’T YOU WORRY
NONE,
CAUSE AIN;T YOUR MOTTO “SWIFT AND
BOLD?” (SIC)

TWAS JUST ONE MONTH LATER,
IT WAS MY FIRST PATROL,
DELIVERING FOOD TO FEED THE
OUTPOST,
“NON” FEARING WE HAD BEEN TOLD.

“BUT” JUST A SHORT TIME LATER,
AN EXPLOSION SHOOK THE EARTH,
IT “TORE “ APART THE SCOUT CAR,
NEW MEANING TO “STRATHCONA”MIRTH.

BUT I’ LIKE TO THANK THE STRATHCONAS,
FOR REMOVING THAT—“ONE” MINE,
KINDA WISH THE’Y’D REMOVED THE
OTHER,
THEN MY HEARING-- WOULD NOW BE
FINE.

AND ADDED—NOT THAT “I” REMEMBER
WELL,
ITALIAN MINES DID NOT EXIST,
FOR THE ONE THAT I ENCOUNTERED,
WAS 17 LBS OF “EGYPTIAN”BLISS.

“NOW”—AND SO MANY YEARS LATER,
I BELIEVE I’VE TOLD THE TRUTH,
SO PLEASED THIS STORY NOW HAS ENDED,
ITS MEANT FOR “PLEASURE”NOT “ABUSE”.

JUST A FORM OF “BANTER” BETWEEN TWO
FAMOUS REGIMENTS.

CPL. E. BABCOCK, CD RETIRED

Lost Trails

Spring 2013 Newsletters which have been returned

BAXTER C - Brighton, East Sussex England

BISSON PJ - Calgary, AB

BROWN AJ - Vancouver, BC

BULLEN MC - Calgary, AB

CABLE RE - Petawawa, ON

CHILDS WC - Lark Harbour, NL

FORD WA - Barrie, ON

KENNEDY MI - Penticton, BC

LAING KJ - Calgary, AB

LANDRY MA - Moncton, NB

LEBLANC AJ - Sault Ste Marie, ON

LOCKE M - Abbotsford, BC

MACDONALD AA - Stillwater Lake, NS\

MADDOCK I - Calgary, AB

PIRIE PG - Moose Jaw, SK

THEOBALD I - Ottawa, ON

WALTON DR - Ridgeway, ON

Regimental Belt Buckle

The Regiment has a limited number of Regimental Belt Buckles for sale. The cost is \$130 plus shipping

Serialized Numbering of Buckles remaining:

63-68

71-85

90-91

93-98

101-102

If you are interested in purchasing a Regimental Belt Buckle, please email the Regiment at ldsh@strathconas.ca or call 780-973-1660 for further information.



The Arctic Nights have seen queer sights. But here are some seen by me.

Jack C. Downey

In 1952, as a Corporal (Cpl), I and three troopers, **Buzz” Barsby**, **“Shafty” Johnson**, and **“Bugs” Garrow**, were appointed by the Regiment to be part of a Centurion tank cold weather test team. We went to Ottawa for one month familiarization of the testing programme and preparation of the tank, then proceeded to Fort Churchill Manitoba for six months for cold weather testing out on the tundra.

When we arrived in Ottawa we were informed that there was a similar team from The Royal Canadian Dragoons for a second tank. The Test Team Officer was **Lt Tony Hawkins**.

We were transported daily to and from the Ottawa testing grounds near Orleans Ontario by bus. One day while there, I let one of the RCD members drive my tank back from the upper plateau to the work shop area on a rough road around a pond. En route, he lost control and we rolled down the hill in neutral gear at great speed. Because tanks do not steer in neutral, on coming to a curve, we went over the side of the road on to the large ballast rocks and tore the right track off as well as two sets of road wheels.

Lt Hawkins came, inspected the damage, and declared “It’s too late to repair her now. We’ll order another one from Montreal Ordinance Depot tomorrow.”

The only other untoward thing that happened in Ottawa was **Tpr. “Bugs” Garrow** was arrested by the Ottawa Police for disorderly conduct and sent back to Calgary. Shortly after, **Bugs** was involved in the murder of an old man for a gallon of wine and was sentenced to twenty years.

When the Ottawa part of the test was finished, we loaded the tanks on rail flat cars and sent them on their way. We left in an ancient Colonial passenger car bound for Fort Churchill Manitoba on the shores of Hudson Bay.

We were assigned a long tarpaper shack pointing at the longest landing strip, which allowed us to face giant B-52 bombers as they landed. We often prayed that the braking parachute would deploy or the brakes would not fail.

The shack allowed vehicle entry through two large doors that only opened to one-third position on either side. We took advantage of this space to store a large number of four links of spare track pads, a 45-gallon drum of oil, and other spare iron monger’s material not in immediate need.

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Spring 2014 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2014
Strathcona Regimental Society Newsletter is

11 April 2014.

Submissions should be forwarded to newsletter@strathconas.ca

Or mailed to:

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

Attention: Kathy Batty

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It was not long before the arctic wind covered these items with snow. We were slack in shovelling the doors clear so the door opening was restricted and we could not get out without tearing the doors off.

Lt Hawkins ordered me to have the crews to clear the doors of the snow obstruction. Snow in the arctic is very hard and is not easy to clear. As we dug and cursed our lack of foresight, I saw a runway snow blower, driven by a chap I had met and had a few beers with the night before in the Cpl's Mess. He volunteered to clear our snow and started up the blower. Then, he backed up to get a good run at our pile. After we closed the doors, he took the first pass at this large drift, backed up again, and charged once more at greater speed. As he bit in further this time, there was a horrendous scream of metal and out of his snow chute came a shower of steel track pads and a long tube of oil followed by the snow blower blades.

He returned the snow blower to its parking area. How he ever explained this fiasco is not known to me as I never laid eyes on him again. We hand cleared the other side of the door drift as nothing had been stored there.

Another strange thing I witnessed was **Lt Hawkins** had made a pal in the US Army, **Capt Majors**. The lieutenant would have been better off having **Al Capone** as a pal than this chap. **Capt Majors** had more angles than a geometry book.

Capt Majors asked **Lt Hawkins** if the Centurion could break loose a large cargo sled frozen in the mud of their compound.

Lt Hawkins ordered **Tpr Buzz Barsby** to fetch the tank, hook up, then, on his orders pull it free. After all preparations were completed **Buzz** got into the driver's seat (while 50 to 60 American soldiers watched) and revved her up above the tachometers red line to impress the yanks. He was in first gear when his foot slipped off the clutch. Out came the tow bar and sled box leaving four sled skis and their uprights still stuck in the mud..

The Americans cheered, whistled, and clapped over this unique Canadian performance.

During the test, my job was to stay in a heated office sled and, every hour as the tank pulled up, go to her side, open a bin, and record a series of thermocouple temperature readings. I read the base library dry during these onerous duties.

Over Christmas, we flew out to Ottawa for two weeks leave.

When I returned to my office, after the leave, I found an exact copy of the old-fashioned skeleton key hole on the office floor in snow put there by the wind.

There are many other things I saw in the Land of the Midnight Sun but the telling must wait for later chapters

WEBSITE OF INTEREST

ruhrmemories.ca

Terry Mayne sent this site to the Newsletter Editors. It will be of interest to many who served in Fort Beausejour and BAOR.

It brings back many great memories.

The Story of a Campbellford Hero - LCol John Bell

Northumberland News/John Martinello

August 2011

John Martinello is a Brighton resident.

The first ending of **Lieutenant Colonel John Bell's** story happened on an overcast and cold February 6, 2011, in the bathroom of his house at 236 Bridge St. W., in Campbellford.

LCol Bell, suffering from cancer and other illnesses, dropped to his knees and fell into his daughter's arms. He was dead. His daughter, **Lauren Bell**, will tell you that, despite all of the sudden horror of seeing her father die before her eyes, she was honoured to be with him when he died.

She will tell you that for all her father gave to her and her family and his country, there could be no better fate than to be there for her dead father; to honour his wish that he finally leave his own house feet first.

The second ending happened on a sweltering July 20, 2011, in the bedroom of her father's house in Campbellford, when **Lauren** rediscovered a model of a ship that her father carved from a block of wood. Until she started going through all of her father's papers, she did not know the significance of that ship model. It was a model of the HMCS Longueuil; a ship that she had not known her father served on.

The third ending happened on a very wet and grey July 29, 2011 when a cherrywood box with a poppy engraved on the lid, carrying **Lt. Col. Bell's** ashes was buried above his mother **Maggie's** casket at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Campbellford. **Lt. Col. John Bell**: a sailor and then a soldier and Campbellford hero. At home, at peace, at last.

Lt. Col. Bell survived all the horrible ways one could die on the frigid, U-boat infested waters of the North Atlantic of the Second World War. He survived the mud and cold and suicide attacks of the Korean War. And although he was in insufferable pain at the end of his life, there could be no better place to die than in the arms of a loving daughter.

Time marches on. **Lt. Col. Bell's** birth house, at 113 Queen St. in Campbellford still stands, mostly unchanged. The hulk of HMCS Longueuil, sunk as a breakwater at Kelsey Bay, B.C. in 1948, slowly dissolves into the Pacific Ocean. The Sherman tanks that **Lt. Col. Bell** commanded in Korea stand silent, as memorials to our fighting forces.

And the ranks of Second World War veterans rapidly thin. It is important that we hear their stories before they are all gone.

How to Lose a Soldier in a Non-violent Way

Claire Lane

It was sometime during the summer of 1971. I am not sure of the actual date but that it had been a very hot summer. I had been a driver in Regimental Transport for a couple years by then. One Saturday evening I was at my girlfriend's place having a home cooked meal when the phone rang. It was **Jerry Labounty**, my roommate, saying that Transport had called and that they want me in to drive to B.C. where some members of the Straths were helping the B.C. Forestry fight Forest Fires. I left **Bev**, went home to get my gear, and drove to Sarcee Barracks. There, I was informed that one of the driver's near Revelstoke lost control of his deuce-and-a-half truck, that it needed recovery from the banks of the Columbia River, and that I was to replace him and his truck.

So I prepared my deuce-and-a-half and met with the RCEME Recovery Truck over at Currie Barracks. From there, we headed west to B.C. We drove through the night on Highway #1 with forest fires that were on both sides of the highway. We went through Golden and stopped in Revelstoke to refuel and get something to eat. We, then,

Continued on page 11

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took the old Big Bend Highway north along the east bank of the Columbia River until we got to the town of Mica. There, we could see the construction of the large Mica Dam on the Columbia which would eventually put the Big Bend Highway and the land around it under water. We stopped at the Forestry Station there to get information. The Recovery Truck carried on to recover the other truck and I put my head down for a couple hours of kip.

It was a very bad year and there were forest fires all over. I was wakened by the head ranger who told me that a crew was being flown out and I was to be ready to take them to the Soo Fire. A forest ranger truck would lead me. It turned out that I was to transport and support a team of 24 Alberta aboriginal fire fighters. (they worked in B.C. rather than fight fires in Alberta because they were being paid 25 cents more an hour in B.C.). After we had loaded up with them and their equipment, I followed the forestry truck north on the old Big Bend Highway that eventually circled around through the mountains following the inside shoulder of the great Columbia River. This highway had been long abandoned but was still usable if driven carefully. At places, the pavement had eroded partially and there were long, single-lane, wooden log bridges over marshy stretches. We got through after three or four hours driving to an ATCO trailer forestry camp. Some of us got rooms in the trailers while a few had to pitch tents. I was one of the lucky ones. We had showers, toilets, and washrooms and there was a cookhouse with a large dining area with tables and chairs. There, I found out that 23 of our fire fighters had the last name of Cardinal and one with another name. The 23 were all young men from one Reserve in northern Alberta while the other one was from another Reserve.

The next morning, our crew loaded into my truck and I had a forest ranger to guide me. We drove south for about an hour until the smoke got thick then followed a fire break that a bulldozer had made. We came to the side of a mountain and the ranger asked if my truck could climb it. I couldn't see why not. So, I drove up the mountain on the fire break following a couple logging jiggers and, after a short time, the ranger had me stop to drop off one of the fire fighters. We continued to stop at intervals dropping off more of the fire fighters who were to work clearing more debris from the fire break and putting out spot fires. It seemed that we were at the top end of the fire and that it was being blown southwards. At the top, I parked and helped the ranger. We had taken sandwiches and drinks with us so we stayed all day and, as it darkened, I drove down the mountain picking up the others. This was my routine every day for several days.

Meanwhile, all of the other Straths were working and driving groups around at the south end of this fire. Every night, they drove into Golden where they were quartered in motels, ate well, and found entertainment whereas I was in the bush at the forestry camp with my aboriginal team. I had nothing to do after supper but go to bed. Then came the word that all army personnel were to return to Calgary. They gathered together, counted heads, and, when everyone was there, headed back to Calgary. Now, remember I had not gone out with the original call out. I was a replacement who had not seen anyone else from my unit when I had arrived. So, I wasn't missed.

Back in Calgary the next morning, everybody at Regimental Transport was accounted for except **Corporal Lane**. Questions were asked and phone calls were made. Eventually, someone was able to trace where I was. The next day, I was still working with the B.C. forest ranger atop the same mountain when a RCEME $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck drove up and the driver belligerently asked me why I hadn't returned to Calgary. Well, what else could I say? I hadn't received orders to leave. I had followed orders and directions from those that had been placed in charge of me. I had no way of knowing where everybody else was because I was sent beyond their position. Having passed them in the night, I drove through, and had not spoken with any of them. They, in turn, had not communicated with me or Calgary to know that I was in their locale.

So there I was lost but did not know it until I was informed of the fact.

Lost but not forgotten.

Family Connections

Major Mike Onieu

It is always a pleasure to host visitors with a strong connection to the Regiment. That was the case on 23 September when young **Weston Adair** visited and sat atop Catherine, our WW II Sherman. **Weston's** great-great grandfather, **BGen Tom Rutherford**, survived Passchendaele in 1917 and had the Strathcona's under his command in WW II. Weston's great grandfather, **Col (Ret'd) Bob Rutherford** is, of course, no stranger to the Association or the Regiment. Weston was escorted by his father **Seth**, an RCMP officer, his mother, **Angie**, and his uncle, **LCol Jay Adair**, current Chief of Staff 1 CMBG (an infantry officer by trade but one with a "black hat" heart).



They spent the afternoon in the Regiment and **Seth** demonstrated some of the family's legendary skill at gunnery on the Leopard Crew Gunnery Trainer. They crawled over the Centurion, the Leopard 2 and, finally, Catherine. It was a happy coincidence that **LCol Adair** caught sight of a photo of his uncle **Maj (Ret'd) Bruce Rutherford** and his troop in Korea, 1952 posted in the Regimental Simulation Center.

We were also fortunate to host **Maj (Ret'd) Jim Grey** in Wainwright on 4 October. He last commanded a Centurion but we brought him up to date with a shoot in the Leopard C2 (his '65 CAT competition skills held up well) and a spin in the Leopard 2. We had as much fun hosting him as I am certain he had being out there, and it was interesting to talk about what has changed and has not changed in the army since his time.

Later in October, **Sgt (Ret'd) Harry Pinchin**, who was our in bandmaster in the 50's and served with the Regiment in Korea, dropped in for coffee and a visit to the kit shop.

Finally, we received a very kind letter in September from **BN Flowerdew** that included a print and the fabulous anecdote reprinted here:

"First – the medal and 'chap on horse'. This is a picture of one of my most treasured objects- the original VC miniature that came along with the medal presented to my Great-Grandma. The 'chap on horse' is Gordon, probably at Walhachin before the war. It came to me by luck a while back- a piece of old furniture was about to be chucked out at my late Uncle's house. By sheer good fortune, I checked a small drawer and noticed it sitting there. It had been buried in that drawer for some years and none of us knew it was there."



The doors are always open to family and friends, so if you are in the area please stop in for a coffee and a visit – we'd love to see you.

Your Dispatches

*I don't know if it is worth an entry in the next newsletter but Colonel (Ret'd) Ted Nurse has written an interesting biography on **Major Danny McLeod** titled "Always a Leader, the lives of Major Danny McLeod."*

The Colonel of the Regiment brought it to my attention. I am certain that there are a lot of retired Strathconas who ran across Danny in his career and might be interested in the bio.

Just a thought.

R.S. (Bob) Millar

Thanks for the note, Bob. We've read the book and it is an excellent account of Danny's "many lives" and is highly recommended to all Strathconas. For those that are interested, you can purchase this book online at the General Store Publishing House (GSPH) online at

http://gsph.com/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=579 or by calling 1-800-465-6072.

*In its description of the book, GSPH notes: Beginning in the small prairie town of Medicine Hat in the 1920s, **Danny McLeod**, always observant of what was unfolding around him, simply made attaining excellence his goal and way of life. So it was not surprising that he was successful on the battlefield, in sports and as an individual—as an intrepid combat soldier—achieving the rank of major—and a self-reliant peacekeeper; visionary athletic director at the Royal Military College; founding secretary of the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union; coach of the RMC hockey team, the OHL's Kingston Frontenacs, and Kingston's Senior A team; Supervisor of Officials with the National Hockey League; a successful car salesman; and tenacious veterans' advocate and instrumental in completing the South Alberta Regiment's Wartime History.*

*By the way, Danny celebrated his 92nd birthday on 5 November and he can still 'break your hand' when he shakes it. **Phil Neathy** and **John Roderick** found that out the hard way when they joined him to celebrate the big day. **Ed***

I played in the Strathcona drum and bugle band in the 70s. I was wondering if perhaps an article could be done reference the band. I remember when we were in Cyprus in 72 I believe, that the Brits asked us to open a polo match. We didn't know how to play God save the Queen so we had a week to learn, which we did. Also recall bus driver getting lost and driving us through the Troodos Mts. and barely making it around some of the switchbacks. Playing in the band was a second duty and we were part of the heavy weapons support section. We employed 50 cal. and 106 recoilless rifles in our group. Just a thought.

Paul Bennett pauell@rogers.com

*Great idea, Paul. As far back as we can remember, no one has submitted a Newsletter article on either the volunteer Drum and Bugle Band nor the Strathcona Regimental Band. So this is a challenge to all our former musicians and, Paul, since it was your idea, why don't you write up something for the next Newsletter? **Ed.***

*Just a short note from the Left Coast. I have come across **Slufoot Brown's** son and searched through my old Newsletters but seem to be missing the Fall of '05 and was wondering if there happens to be a copy around somewhere. Would also appreciate, if possible, any convenient articles of said Brown. Sadly, I include an obituary on **Fred Warnock**, an old Troop Sgt.*

PS: I've included a small donation for wherever it's needed.

Anderson

Sooke

*Thanks for the donation and the obituary. I believe Kathy mailed you a copy of the Fall 2005 copy of the Newsletter. There must be a hundred stories about the "legendary" **Slufoot Brown** out there, probably many involving 'bikes', so let's have some. **Ed.***

Thank you for sending the Strathconian and Newsletter.

*I was born in Fryslam Netherlands, and keep in touch by a Dutch newspaper and saw an item that mentioned **Danny McLeod**; in 1950 we had a hockey team. **Captain Danny McLeod** and the Regimental hockey team went to the smaller towns in BC and Alberta, great entertainment!*

I've enclosed the article in question if you find this interesting for the Newsletter.

Peter Sybrandy

Peter, thanks for sending the article. A copy of the article, and the picture are included later in this newsletter. The original copy you mailed to the Regiment will be sent to the Museum Archives.

*I am looking for information about my father **Trooper Kenneth Gladden** he was in Korea with Lord Strathcona's Horse. If possible information about his service time in WWII would be greatly appreciated.*

I remember at my Dad's funeral one of the Honour Guard Troopers said my father had a write up about him in The Museum of the Regiments.

His information is:

Kenneth Gladden

From: Kerrobert, Saskatchewan

Birthday: March 01, (1921) not sure about the year.

Thanks

Kenneth (Shane) Gladden

314 – 8 Ave SE

High River, Alberta T1V 1H2

kgladden@telusplanet.net

*Thanks for your note, Shane. We have checked with our staff in the Strathcona gallery at the Museum of the Regiments and were unsuccessful in finding the write up. Are any of our readers able to assist Shane in this search? **Ed***

My grandfather, **Albert Arnold Clarke**, reg # 2488, was a member of the Lord Strathcona's Horse during WWI. We have a rifle that he used during the war, a Lee Enfield, I believe, and wonder if the museum would be interested in having it? It has been sitting in my Dad's basement for years and we just recently became aware of its existence. I also have an old photo of my Grandfather mounted on his horse **Buster** and would gladly share it.

Debbi Moore 780-998-1171)
debrahmoore@yahoo.ca

Debbi, your email has been sent to our Museum in Calgary. **WO Ted Macleod** should be in touch with you shortly. **Ed**

My name is **Len Hill "A" Sqn (Korea)**. I was in a museum in a small hamlet named Irvine, AB, near Medicine Hat. I was talking to a lady named **Mrs. Joan Ray**. She told me she was a grand-niece of **Sam Steele!!!** She told me a lot about the history of Sam Steele. She promised to do a story for me. Enclosed please find a picture of her and I. I thought you may be interested. I am sure there is something about this 'soldier' in the Regimental history archives!!

Len Hill

Thanks to you, Len, Mrs. Ray did follow up and submitted the story below directly to the Newsletter. **Ed.**

I am trying to locate a former Strath Pilot by the name of **Capt EE (Eric) Parker**. Info being sought from Eric to help complete a small research project into Canadian Army Pilot Training in the 1950's". Any information on Eric's location would be appreciated.

Stan Cote stanf18@rogers.com

Unfortunately Eric isn't listed on the Strathcona Family Roll. Do any of our readers have any contact information that we can pass on? Good luck with your research, Stan. **Ed**

I received a copy of the Regimental Society Newsletter. I wish to inform you of the passing of my husband. He died February 4th, 2013. Date of birth July 14, 1927. Donald Robert Lidster was in the Korean War with the Strathconas.

I am looking forward to seeing his name in the "Last Trumpet Call" this fall.

I will contribute more pictures as I come across them.

Kaye Lidster

Our deepest sympathies on your loss, Kaye. Donald will be remembered and missed by his colleagues. We have noted Donald's name in the Last Trumpet Call. **Ed**

I have come into possession of a hat pin - but it is not colored as in the pictures on the website. It says "sterling" on the back of the pin and is now quite tarnished.

I am wondering if I can find out if it belonged to my grandfather, **Ernest Charles Jacques**, who served in France in the First World War. He would have enlisted in Manitoba as my mother was born in Borden, MB in 1912, (third child of **Ernest** and **Zoe Jacques**). As another child was born in 1914, he likely enlisted in 1915 or 1916. Thank you for any information you can provide.

Dorothy Lake dclake@shaw.ca

Thanks for your note Dorothy. It has been forwarded to our Museum and, hopefully, the staff will be able to locate some information for you. **Ed**

Hi my name is Thomas Adrain and use to be stationed in Calgary 1 Svc Bn. I'm looking for **Rique Boone**, we use to ride together and I just found out that his ex-wife passed away. If you know how to get a hold of him could you pass on my email or phone number? Thank for any help you can do.

Tom Adrain ph 604-316-6091 cell or Dianne Adrain at 604-316-6092.

Tom Adrian ve7xta@shaw.ca

Unfortunately Rique is not listed on the Strathcona Family Roll. If any of our readers can assist Tom, please contact him directly. **Ed.**

A little history of **Sam Steele**. I was there when you renamed the Edmonton base after my Great Uncle.

Joan (Steele) Ray

In 1843 **Captain Elme Steele**, his wife **Elizabeth** and their six children moved to Simcoe County, then known

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WAT ANDEREN ERVAN DENKEN

Hotel De Draak

Dear Zoon:
Ik was verbazend over foto te zien van 'Hotel De Draak' in Bergen op Zoom in je laatste aflevering van de krant, March 2012.

Toen ik de foto zag, ging mijn gedachten terug naar mijn bezoek aan dit mooie stad 600 jaar oude hotel, tijdens een Battlefield Tour, in mei 2009. Ik was samen met nog 24 andere Canadese.

Hotel de Draak ligt aan de Grote Markt en had een echte middeleeuwse heren-entree. Niets was te veel om je verblijft zo goed mogelijk te maken. Er was ook het bijzondere gevoel dat hier in oktober 1544 de Canadese deze plaats bezielden tijdens de laatste fase van de slag om de Schelde. Bergen op Zoom werd bevrijd op 28 oktober 1944. En het was de lokale verzetsstrijder Ad de Manck, die op de tank van Lt. Dmitry McLaud, hem de rode vlag naar de Grote Markt hield voor het hotel. Zo werd De Draak het

hoofdkwartier van het South Alberta Regiment en het Lincoln en Welland Regiment, nadat de leden van de 4e Canadese Armoured Division, die oversten die kwartier namen in het hotel waren Gordon "Savvy" Wiltschko en Bill Crans.

Als je rondloopt in deze oude stad heb je geen idee wat hier toen gebeurde. Alleen het Canadese Militaire Kerkhof is nog een sombere herinnering aan die tijd. Daar liggen 804 Canadese soldaten en 64 vliegers van de RCAF op een terrein van 1115 grasen. De meeste Duitse stachtoffers liggen in Lisselstein, vlak bij Verruy.

Tiens Operation "Infelante" (de operatie voor de aanval van de Anwerpen Haven) was gepland, dus het was zeker nog een maand voordat de haven van Anwerpen door de Geallieerde te worden genomen kon worden. Mijn dank voor jullie foto in je laatste krant. Het deed me goed om het hotel weer eens te zien. Hierbij een foto uit die tijd. Sincerely,
Albert Peavy
Brandon, Manitoba



Newspaper clipping supplied by Peter Sybrandy April 2013

Continued from page 15

as Upper Canada (now Ontario). The British Government gave him a large land grant and he started a new life as a gentleman. In 1846, only a few years after the family moved to New Canada, Elizabeth died. He soon remarried and with his new wife, **Anne**, began a second family. Their first child **Samuel Benfield Steele** was born on the family farm on January 5th, 1851. My grandfather, **James Steele**, was the youngest of the Steele second family. He became a school teacher and first taught in Ontario. He moved to Alberta where he taught at Belmont School in Edmonton where he married one of his pupils, **Hughina McKay**. They moved to Beaver Hills Lake, near Vegerville where he became the first school teacher. In 1899 on August 22nd, my father **Samual Edward Steele** was born. He married **Myrtle** and they had two children, **Edward Gordon Steele** born December 22, 1934 and myself, **Joan Myrtle Steele** born October 24 1937.

Joan, thank you for sending the note on your family history. We are sure you will enjoy the write-up on Sir Sam Steele's birthplace that is also contained in this issue of the Newsletter. You also may be interested to know that in 2008 Sir Sam Steele's personal archives and militaria were acquired from his family in England and repatriated to Canada. They are now safely lodged in the University of Edmonton and the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. The Regiment was front and centre in the events in London, England, Calgary, and Edmonton that marked this return. Sir Sam's personal papers are of great historical value and, given that he wrote to his wife every day that he was out of the country, the letters provide many insights into our first commanding officer himself. (We hope that reporting that Sir Sam wrote to his wife every day will not promote discord in our Regimental families!) **Ed**

Hope all is well with you folks.

I finally spied CP 8939 in Medicine Hat on Fri 8 Nov leading an empty eastbound grain train. Here are some pics.

Some of the pics from the top of Scholten Hill are a bit fuzzy because they are zoomed and it was windy... and f#%kin' cold!

Enjoy,

Al Fuller

Thanks to you for sending the pictures in Al Ed.



SAVE THE DATE

2015 Reunion

The 2015 Reunion hosted by the Strathcona's Association will be held
June 12 – 15, 2015 in Edmonton, Alberta.

Details will be published in the fall edition of the newsletter.

Bookings will be accepted starting in early 2014.

Your Photos



*Some early autumn cleaning of photo boxes in the basement unearthed the attached. My God but we were young once! Egad!
Shad, how come there are scuff marks on your boots?*



*A couple of photos from the LdSH(RC)
Regimental Association - Calgary Branch
reunion September 2013*



*Len Hill and Mrs. Joan Ray
(Grand-Niece of Sam Steele)*



*A couple of photos from the LdSH(RC)
Regimental Association - Calgary Branch
reunion September 2013*



Reunion 2015 - 11 – 14 June - “Together in History”

This is the third notice for Reunion 2015

Currently the reunion committee consists of **Ian Barnes, Mike Hogan, Rick Dennis**, and the Regimental 2IC. We will soon need help with the registration, transportation, publicity, fundraising, and other miscellaneous tasks. If you live in the Edmonton area please contact **Mike, Rick**, or me and let us know how you would like to help us. If you live outside Edmonton and feel you can help with fundraising in your local area or nationally, we would like to hear from you.

In coordination with the Regiment, we have developed the programme for the three-day event, selected the dates, and picked the hotel. In October, we signed our life away and paid down the non-refundable deposit to the Ramada Inn in Edmonton. We have negotiated a good rate - \$119.00 a night plus tax and more good news - it includes a hot breakfast.

The dates are 11 – 14 June 2015.

The overall theme of the reunion is, “Together in History” All events will involve both past- and current-serving Strathcona’s.

Day 1 – June 11

- Early bird golf tournament to be held at the Edmonton Garrison
- Reunion Meet and Greet

Day 2 - June 12

- Dedicated to honouring the Regiment’s past by highlighting three specific time periods, Korea (1951-54), Sinai (56 Recce, 1961/62 and 1963/64) and Afghanistan (2002 – 2012). Each operation will be honoured with a presentation, question and answers with those who were there, and an artifacts display. See a sneak preview of the three operations on page 19 and learn at the reunion all about these important events in Strathcona’s history.

- A ladies programme has been planned to include a yoga demonstration (at your chair), an acupuncture presentation, a meditation presentation, and buses to the Kingsway and West Edmonton Malls. A relaxation room will be available all day and a tea will be hosted in the afternoon after shopping.

- Lunch and evening Dinner (buffet)
- Memorial service
- Association Meeting

Day 3 – June 13

- Change of Colonel of the Regiment Parade (Edmonton Garrison)
- Mounted Troop, Historical troop, kit shop, tour of unit lines, and lunch (Edmonton Garrison)
- Reunion Dinner

Day 4 - June 14

- Departure to meet your own schedule – no formal activities

Our planning process is now at the stage where we will finalize the details of the programme shown above. We will announce the timing for submitting registrations late 2014 in the Newsletter and on the Association web page. You should book your hotel room by April 1, 2015 to take advantage of the reduced rate.

Important Information

a. Costs:

• **Hotel** \$119.00 – standard, one queen room per night with hot breakfast, two queens \$129.00, king \$139.00, and Jr suite w/two queens \$179.00 – all plus tax.

• **Registration** - \$150.00 per person – early registration. Late registration (after April 1st 2015) - \$175.00. Includes all meals starting with the reunion meet and greet on June 11th through to the June 14th breakfast, bus to the Regimental lines on June 13th and the shopping bus for the ladies on June 12th and registration package.

b. Addresses.

•Hotel Address and Booking Information:

Ramada Inn and Suites
11834 Kingsway Avenue N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 3J5
Phone 780 454 5454
Toll Free 1-888-747-4114
www.RamadaEdmonton.com

•Registration Address:

2015 Reunion
LdSH (RC) Association
Suite 444 – PO Box 10500 Stn Forces
Edmonton, AB, T5J 4J5

We hope to have hundreds of veterans and serving soldiers in attendance to make it the largest gathering to date, so put this on your 2015 calendar.

Reunion Committee

Ian Barnes - 780 418 3161 bevian1@shaw.ca

Mike Hogan

Rick Dennis

* The “Together in History” theme is to acknowledge the Regimental family as one; that is, those serving with the Regiment today, those serving outside of the Regiment, and former serving members. We all have one thing in common; we are Strathconas.



Crossing the Imjin River - 1952



On patrol Sinai – 1961/62



2002 Afghanistan

Your Photos Continued

Canadian Army Lord Strathcona Horse Successful In First Action

The Oshawa man engaged in the knock-out action which accounted for the Communist tanks, is Trooper Donald Lidster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lidster, 162 Verdun Road. His mother received a letter from Donald this morning but he made no mention of the action. He did send home some rolls of film.

Trooper Lidster has been in Korea since April 19. He joined the army in August last year. Educated at Ritson Road School he went on to graduate from the OCVI. Before joining the army he worked with Hill Cornish electric.

"This is certainly some news," was his mother's comment today. "I've been excited all day about it."

By BILL BOSS

Canadian Press Staff Writer
With the Canadians in Korea. (CP) — Canadians have bagged their first Communist tanks in Korea.

Three, believed Russian - built T-34s, have been knocked out in two separate actions by "c" squadron of the Lord Strathcona's Horse.

In the first action two of three which took on a Strathcona Sherman were knocked out of action by Cpl. Syd Harrison of Flin Flon, Man., while the third recently was accounted for by a tank crew commanded by lieut. Strathcona Macdonald of Vankleek Hill, Ont.

The two engagements are the highlights of weeks of action which have seen the squadron fire almost 10,000 rounds in hottest anger, 95 per cent of them aimed shots.

The tanks support the infantry of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade group — the 2nd Battalions of the Royal Canadian Regiment and the Royal 22nd Regiment, and the 1st Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

The battalions have never yet been anywhere in Korea without the Strathcona's tanks in close support — "To the admiration of others in the theatre who have begun to study Canadian tank tactics.

Harrison, who spent entire days in the turret of his tank scanning the Chinese positions 2000 yards away across the valley, spotted the three tanks which engaged him just as they were about to open fire.

He ducked down into the turret himself, swiveling the gun around

Tpr. Donald Lidster of Oshawa, Ont., his loader-operator.

None of the enemy's fire hit his Sherman, but Harrison made his round count. Firing armor-piercing shells, he scored five direct hits of 11 rounds fired, knocking out two tanks and the third pulled out.

Two shots sent the first tank up in a blaze, three accounted for the second. There has been no firing from that quarter since.

Harrison was a tank gunner in the desert during the Second World War and by coincidence his old squadron commander with the 8th Irish Hussars was in action nearby during the operation.

Jewkes describes Macdonald's action as "a tank duel a la radio."

"It went something like this," he says:

"Macdonald, 'I fired at him. I missed.

"He fired at me. He missed.

"I fired at him. Missed.

"I fired at him. Gosh — he's blown up."

Macdonald's second shot had landed close to the Chinese tank, and the third had hit him.

Although the hull isn't available as evidence of the kill, the knock-out has been confirmed by a Patricia patrol an RCHA forward observation officer who witnessed it.

The shoots which felled Chinese Communists literally in droves occurred in the latter half of November when, to form up to attack Hills 227 - 355 the enemy had to march directly in front of the Strathconas and with their backs to them.

One shoot felled an estimated 100 attacking the Shropshires, another couple felled similar masses of them as they advanced onto the Van Doos, while still more fell in "opportunity" shoots. One entire platoon, advancing on the Van Doos in 10 files of four abreast, was decimated by a tank commanded by Sgt. George Thwaites of Charlton, Ont.

In six weeks the Strathconas fire more than twice as much ammunition as they did during their first six months in action. During one three-hour action one tank alone, commanded by Lieut. Doug Smith of Montreal, fired 100 belts of .50 calibre machine gun ammunition and 125 belts of .30 calibre, incidentally wearing out both barrels. Smith personally fired the .50 calibre gun, standing in his turret



LdSH(RC) Regimental Association - Calgary
Branch reunion September 2013

Newspaper clipping supplied by Mrs. Kaye Lidster
Date unknown

The Steele Memorial Site

By Murray Cayley

In 1954, a large stone memorial honouring **Sir Sam Steele**, as well as his father and brother, was dedicated in front of the Orillia, Ontario Library. Harwood, Sam's son, wrote that the dates, especially Sam's birth date, were incorrect. Subsequently, the stone was moved, wrong date and all, to become for the next forty years, the only memorial to Sam Steele at his home site, Purbrook, at Fair Valley in Medonte Township, about ten miles from Orillia.



Sam Steele is a true national hero as his varied roles in the North West Mounted Police, Steele's Scouts, and, especially with the "Strathcona's" attest. The "Mounties" still call him "Canada's greatest policeman". **Sam Steele** raised the regiment, soon to be known as The Strathcona's and became its first commanding officer. This was done at the request of **Donald Smith, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal**, then High Commissioner to London who had been asked by **Queen Victoria** to form a regiment "of those cowboys and mountain men in the west" following a disastrous campaign in the South African Boer War.

The Regiment's planning for the 100th Anniversary celebration of the formation of the Strathcona's envisioned the Regimental Mounted Troop following the train route taken to Halifax in 1900. They were to stop at the same small towns along the way. Orillia was not on that list.

In 1998 my wife **Bonnie Rourke** and I, settled in the Orillia area after having spent more than 10 years in Calgary, I had been honoured as Dean of Associates for the Strathcona's and **Bonnie**, as a volunteer, was instrumental in cataloguing and preserving the archives of the Regimental museum. These experiences ultimately inspired us to dedicate a memorial to Sir Sam, coincident with the Regiments 100th anniversary celebrations.

Sam Steele's birthplace is just up the road from Orillia at Fairvalley. Sam's father, **Elmes Steele**, was given a grant of land after distinguished service in the Napoleonic War with the expectation that he would help form a militia to defend Upper Canada from the possibility of an American invasion. He donated 100 acres of his land to build an Anglican Church with the stipulation the church leaders would "maintain in perpetuity" his family graves. Over the years, erosion had taken its toll and even Elmes' gravestone was almost unreadable. Bonnie and I decided, with the approval of members of St. George's Anglican Church, to install a matching new stone of granite next to the old one as our anniversary gift to the "Strathcona" Regiment and St. George's Church.

RSM (Ret'd) "Shad" Shadbolt and his wife **Arlene** were then living in Orillia. When I showed them the existing Steele memorial site at Fairvalley, the old stone from Orillia and two flags, Canada and RCMP, we decided that, with the approval of the Oro-Medonte Council, we would add a pole at the site and raise the Strathcona camp flag. I contacted the Commanding Officer of LdSH(RC), then **LCol, now BGen (Ret'd) Craig Hilton** and asked if it would be possible to have a couple of members of the Mounted Troop attend, on their way home from Halifax. We thought it would be a small, private unveiling of the new Strathcona flag. We got a phone call one evening from the CO who endorsed the proposal but, more importantly, offered to send the whole Troop! Clearly, this was going to be a bigger event than we had envisioned! We now needed a larger venue than the curve in the road at the top of the 11th Concession. I noticed that a field just across the road would be a perfect place to hold such a big event. The owners, **Bruce and Jay Pearson**, whom I've come to know, are enthusiastic about their local history and were independently helping maintain the existing memorial site. They liked our idea and plunged into helping plan the

event, which just grew and grew!

I met **Aubrey Ford** at a lunch with the Mayor in Orillia. Their farm is about a mile up the road from the Steele site. When they heard our plan, they eagerly offered to pasture, feed, and house the twenty horses and riders of the Mounted Troop.

The Base Commander at nearby CFB Borden, **Col Bill Reid**, a former Strathcona Quartermaster and son of long-time Strathcona, **Capt Hank Reid**, wanted to help celebrate his Regiment's centennial. He offered to send two armored vehicles, a Leopard tank, a troop contingent, and a band to the event. Typical of things Strathcona, the event just kept getting bigger!

The RCMP had supported St. George's Church, Fairvalley and Steele's history there for many years. They offered to send in their riding troop and their "Old Guard". They also paid for three new flagpoles at the Memorial Site.

The OPP were contacted and agreed to provide security and road control during the event.

At another museum, I had found **Elmes Steele's** sword from the Napoleonic War, on loan and largely forgotten. **Sir Sam** had also worn the sword. It was returned to the Orillia museum and arrangements made for the Mounted Troop Leader to carry it on parade at Fairvalley.

On July 13, 2000, a church service began the day at St. George's Church, Fairvalley where the RCMP and the "Strathconas" presented their flags to hang in the church, extending the regimental presence to Fairvalley. The service was conducted by the Anglican Bishop, **Rev Murray Bateman**, incumbent, former Pastors of St George's, **Rev Gerry MacMillan** of the RCMP and **Rev. Alan Schooley**, a former Strathcona Padre. They then formed up with the parade and marched to the dedication.



It had been a rainy summer but on the 12th and 13th of July, 2000 the rain stopped and we were blessed with two glorious days.

The 11th Line was closed by the OPP, and crowds packed St. George's Church, some ladies agreeing even to sitting on a lap to make room. Hymns were sung, prayers said, blessings of the flags took place, and everyone left the church feeling more connected to Sam Steele, the Regiment, and Canada. The Mounted Troop having ridden down from Ford's farm, golden helmets gleaming in the sun, carrying their long lances were waiting on the 11th line along with the RCMP in their red jackets astride dark horses. The parade had formed up including troops from Borden, The Grey & Simcoe Foresters Regiment, the RCMP Old Guard, and a pipe band made up of many who had called me from across the province to ask if they could join us that day. At the end of the long parade followed the armoured cars, placed there in case some one managed to run past the police. **RSM Shadbolt**, the parade commander, called the parade to attention, his voice resounding across the fields.

The pipes of the band rang out and filled the sky with music, the harnesses linked to the rhythm of the horses gait and the crowd of 3000 cheered. Led by the clergy in their panoply, the parade entered Pearson's field. The



Leopard tank, which had been hidden behind a knoll, started up with a massive roar and came into view. The crowd cheered again in appreciation and the pipers played on. One of the horses bucked behind **RSM Shadbolt** but it didn't faze him at all.

With flags blowing in the wind, **LCol Jim Ellis**, now commanding officer of the Regiment, took the salute from the passing parade. The Mounted Troop leader proudly saluted his commanding officer with Sir Sam Steele's own sword.

MP Paul DeVilier welcomed the crowd as did MPP Ontario **Garfield Dunlop**. Others spoke as well but the troops received the applause of the crowd. The national anthem was sung and re-sung and few will ever forget being there to celebrate Canada on July 13, 2000! At the end of the ceremonies, 200 of us retired to our house for a pig roast and a beer tent provided by Labatt's. At midnight it started to rain.

It was a grand day for the Regiment. The Mounted Troop members left for Edmonton the next day with a sense of a new connection between themselves, Orillia and Oro-Medonte, and their first commanding officer, **Sam Steele**, with the cheers and applause of the welcoming crowd still ringing in their ears.

It was a proud day for me, too, helping a community meet a regiment that has brought great honour to Canada for a hundred years and reminding it of, if not introducing it to, the Regiment's first commanding officer, **Sir Samuel Benfield Steele**, one of the greatest Canadians who ever lived and a "hero in our own back yard".

In my research for this memorial, I had been told by Parks Canada that the date of Steele's birth date on other memorials and even his grave in Winnipeg was incorrect. I was ultimately directed to a ledger in a basement vault in St. James Anglican Church in Orillia that contained Sam Steele's birth records and that of his parents' marriage. These records had not been seen in many years and were thought lost. The discovery was of great local and national significance. Our new monument would be the first in the nation to record the correct date.

In 2009 the Grey & Simcoe Foresters Regiment added a fourth flag pole to the memorial site and raised their flag, joining the Strath's and the RCMP in confirming their early relationship to Sam Steele. In 2012, a stone bench was added to the site telling of their connection.



Last Trumpet Call



BEALS, Ed, June 2013,

BELL, John Age 85, 6 February 2011, Campbellford, ON

BOETTCHER, Harold 12 April 2013, Victoria, BC

CURRY, Bill Age 54, 27 October 2013, Greater Madawaska, ON

ERB, Larry Age 83, 6 October 2013, Erbs Cove, NB

ESMONDE-WHITE, Larry Age 95, 24 September 2013, Ottawa, ON

FITZ-GERALD, Edward Age 87, 14 January 2013, Vernon, BC

HALL, Joe Halifax, NS

HALL, Walter (Jim) Age 69, 15 February 2013, Edmonton, AB

KNIGHT, John September 2013, Vancouver, BC

LIDSTER, Donald Age 87, 4 February 2013, Oshawa, ON

MACLEAN, Boyd July 2013,

MCCULLOCH, Lloyd Age 94, 12 September 2013, Vancouver, BC

MENNIE, Alexander "Scottie" Age 95, 11 October 2013, Airdrie, AB

MOGG, Ross Age 80, 12 October 2013, Calgary, AB

PUSHKARENKO, Mike 16 September 2013, Vernon, BC

ROSE, Barry Age 83, 11 November 2013, Victoria, BC

SUTTON, Harry 22 September 2013, Whitby, ON

WARNOCK, Fred Age 86, 14 November 2012, Cobourg, ON

In Loving Memory of Wives

SPENCER, Jessie (Wayne), 17 September 2013, Calgary, AB

Our apologies for lack of details in some cases