



Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

REGIMENTAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2014

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

For the last four years, the Strathconas have been directly involved in an extraordinary series of commemorative events recognizing our war dead and veterans. While those in Edmonton are aware of this initiative, many in our clan are not; hence this article.

The initiative is called 'No Stone Left Alone'. Started in 2010 by great friends of the Regiment, **Maureen Bianchini-Purvis** and her husband **Randall**, the aim of 'No Stone Left Alone' is to cause students to become aware of the actions and sacrifices of the members of the Canadian Armed Forces who have served and fought for Canada. By placing a poppy at the headstone of our war dead and veterans, it is hoped that the students will reflect on what these Canadians have done to serve Canada. In turn, we hope that students will have a better understanding of our Canadian values and interests.

The impact of the ceremony is best described by participants. The Principal of the Oliver School in Edmonton wrote: "I can say without reservation that this has been one of the most memorable experiences that any of my students have been involved in over my 25 year career working in schools." And **Katica Naude**, Grade 7 wrote: "I was so honoured to be able to participate in the no stone left alone memorial. It was so special to be a part of the ceremony. I took about half an

hour to go through the rows and stop to remember each soldier. When I had finished, I whispered "thank you" and moved to the next soldier slowly. I felt important and privileged in the ceremony. Thank you for organizing this event. It was a truly magical event."

The ceremony occurs on one of the last school days before Remembrance Day. Students, normally from grades six to eight, with the aid of Strathcona soldiers, place poppies upon the headstones of war dead and veterans. Although having humble beginnings, 'No Stone Left Alone' has grown to 71 different cemeteries, 38 schools, 3,400 students, 380 volunteers, almost 20,000 headstones, and several hundred soldiers. What is truly remarkable is that over 600,000 Alberta students will have an opportunity to view in their schools a live feed of the ceremony at The Beechmount Cemetery in Edmonton.

This year, 'No Stone Left Alone' has expanded to include Brandon, Manitoba and Victoria, British Columbia. What started with the Strathconas has now snowballed to include gunners from CFB Shilo and sailors from CFB Esquimalt.

I am incredibly proud of our soldiers for their enthusiasm in supporting 'No Stone Left Alone'. The simple act of accompanying students who

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place poppies at headstones ensures that indeed ... no stone is left alone ... and we put action to the words of ... “we will remember them”.

Wherever you are in Canada, if there might be interest, I encourage looking at the NSLA website <www.nostoneleftalone.com> and inquiring about how to kick start a ceremony in your community.

We will remember them.



Commanding Officer

By Lieutenant-Colonel J Major

I thought that a regimental deployment to Wainwright would have provided me a convenient excuse for the late submission of my Newsletter article. No such luck, however, as **Kathy** was able to kindly remind me that my article was overdue and that I have continued the long line of commanding officers who seem unable to submit them on time.

It is with great pride that I write my first article for the Newsletter and I would like to thank everyone who had a hand in making this happen. The level of support that I have received, and continue to receive, from the Regimental family is truly remarkable. Having been around the block, the Regiment deserves its reputation as one of the finest units in the Canadian Army from a professional, as well as a family care, perspective. The change of command extravaganza (I hesitate to call it a parade) was but a simple demonstration of the Regiment’s excellence. I would be remiss if

I did not take this opportunity to thank **LCol Paul Peyton** for his leadership and dedication over the past two years.

Your Regiment has extremely busy over the past few months accomplishing myriad tasks ranging from developing warfighting skills, participating in various competitions, and supporting community events throughout the Province. Training over the past few months has been intense and focused primarily upon developing and refining individual and crew skills within a collective training environment.

Exercise STEELE SABRE was a multi-phase training event starting with primary combat function courses to provide our crewmen with the skills they needed to use our fighting vehicles lethal capabilities to best effect. This was quickly followed by a tank crew commander course to give our junior leaders the skills to effectively wield the awesome combat power of our Leopard 2 tanks. These activities, skilfully conducted by A Sqn, set the foundation for all further collective training activities. Some highlights of the exercise include Recce Sqn’s 5-day screen (including 24/7 clearance and recce patrols) and B Sqn’s level 4 live fire confirmation training event. It was incredibly inspiring to watch the resilience of the Recce Sqn soldiers and the sheer volume of precision engagements of 14 tanks from B Sqn loosing volley after volley of fire. As I write this article, A Sqn is beginning their training and will be conducting a force-on-force exercise with Reconnaissance Sqn that will surely generate war stories where each side will loudly speak of their dominance over their foe. In addition to everything else, we also

hosted contingents from 4/3 Cavalry Squadron (US) with Recce Sqn and members of the Chilean Armour Corps with A Sqn. Of course, none of this would be possible without the incredible support provided by HQ Sqn whose range of activities includes the feeding, fueling, maintaining, and repairing of personnel and vehicles.

When not displaying their impressive tactical abilities during training activities, members of your Regiment have been involved in several intense competitions. From the incredibly grueling Death Race and Mountain Man challenges, to our participation in the Sullivan and Worthington Cups, Strathcona soldiers have made all of us proud. The amount of personal time and dedication required to not only participate, but to excel, in these competitions is inspiring and humbling. Currently we have our team for the Canadian Patrol Concentration (CPC) going through their paces, and, if their level of intensity during training matches that of the competition, they will do very well. Although the CPC will be grueling, I doubt that they will encounter a scenario where the RSM is vigorously “interrogating” someone in a dark and dingy underground bunker. The expressions on the faces of our soldiers were priceless, as were the lessons imparted. The level of commitment and training displayed by all members of the Regiment makes me optimistic that we will soon see the Regiment dominating podiums during future events and I certainly look forward to highlighting their achievements.

Last, but certainly not least, have been the contributions of the Regiment in the community. Our soldiers

continue to impress regardless of the venue and the audience. From B Sqn’s participation in the Calgary Stampede and impressive feu de joie during Spruce Meadows, to A Sqn organising a soldier for a day experience for the Edmonton Oilers, the Regiment continues to be the epitome of professionalism. This is not to mention the consistent and exceptional contributions made by the Strathcona Mounted Troop (SMT), the Historical Vehicle Troop, and the Pipes and Drums. Of particular note was SMT’s assistance to Spruce Meadows after a late summer (yes summer) snowfall that left the grounds in disrepair and threatened jumping activities for the Master’s weekend. Demonstrating what being a Strathcona is all about, all members of SMT rapidly volunteered to assist with remediation measures thus ensuring no adverse effects to Spruce Meadows activities.

As you can gather from my rather longwinded article, the Regiment continues to impress. I have no doubt that it will continue to excel as we move forward to a very busy second half of the year. Although we have been very busy, we have given equal time and energy to ensuring we take care of our soldiers and their families. Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support to the Regiment and hope that I will get the opportunity to see you at one of our upcoming events.



“Tales From The Big Chair”

By Chief Warrant Officer Tony Batty

Where did the summer go--a few warm weekends with the odd “scorcher” thrown in for good measure?

It’s fall. The only reason you are aware of the season in the Regimental lines is that the Primary Combat Function (PCF) cycle is drawing to a close and the gunnery courses have deployed out to Range 16 in the metropolis of Wainwright to annoy the locals with their constant din of creating plywood targetry into firewood. I do miss those days a lot.

The Regiment has been up to its usual flat out speed throughout the summer supporting many local events with the Mounted Troop, and the Pipes and Drums including the International Triathlon to name drop just one.

All the events were treated to a superb display and turnout from the soldiers tasked. Never let it be said that the Strathcona’s were shy. From Spruce Meadows to various parades we were front and centre. The Regiment even managed to fire a “Feu de Joie” for the centennial parade for the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry--always happy to help out the young fellas.

The Regiment was very pleased during the summer (short though it was) to renew and strengthen the ties with the Queens Royal Lancers (QRL) who paid us a visit after their turn in the grinder at CFB Suffield. The visit took place over two days and we were lucky to have the CO and RSM of the QRL present.

The CO and I also attended a

clandestine meeting in Ottawa to sort out the posting plot and other career issues as well as discuss the way ahead. I am certain that there will be more of that in my near future, Corps business, not clandestine meetings.

In a few days the CO and I will be jetting off to another of those great vacation hot spots in the army book of must-have vacations as we depart for Gagetown to view the Worthington Cup competition. The competition will take place over three days and will incorporate crew skills including gunnery and maintenance, a fitness component, and weapons handling. If you are like me, think of Boeselager or the Merritt Cup.

There are soldiers from the Regiment currently deployed in Wainwright, the “unsung heroes” of HQ Sqn sorting out our fall residence, Peregrine 9, in preparation for the Regiment’s arrival for Exercise Steele Sabre.

The Regiment will host members of the Chilean Army and a troop from the US Army during Steele Sabre and is currently working on Reciprocal Unit Exchanges (RUE) to take place in 2015. I would share with you where we intend to go but jealousy is never a nice emotion to view in public especially as it will be in the depths of an Alberta winter--more to follow in my next article I am certain.

I do not have much more to add, except to say that, once again, we are keeping busy and impressing all whom we come into contact with on our day-to-day workings.

I never fail to hear excellent anecdotes from everyone that my path crosses throughout the summer

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and early fall timeframe that the soldiers from the Regiment have aided, worked with, or worked for.

Peter Wonderham

The summer was a relatively quiet one for our members and I am sure most were kept in touch by Regimental e-news and branch telephone lists. Through a smooth transition and an extra-ordinary general meeting in Calgary in early September, an interim executive was formed. On behalf of the current Regimental Association Executive (Vice-President **Howe Owen**, Treasurer **Clair Lane**, Secretary/

Permit me to reflect for just a few lines. As I stated earlier, The Regimental Association, as with all branches of our Regimental Family, has seen a lot of changes over the

Following are our constitutional articles. I am copying from what I think is a document originally printed on a "Gestetner":

Strathconas Newsletter

Spring 2014 Newsletters which have been returned. If you have updated contact information on these individuals, please let us know.

WILLIAMS CC - Los Gatos, USA

Perseverance is Worth it in Marriage

By Padre Gerard Barabash

When my wife and I tell people that we've been married for 33 years, the normal response we get is "You're so lucky!" To which we both honestly and seriously reply, "No – it's been flippin' hard work." I admit that I was a very lucky man to have first met her and then, somehow, display enough potential to elicit an affirmative reply to the big question. But luck is something that has never carried me very far. Perseverance on both our parts has been absolutely necessary but it has definitely paid off.

How has it paid off? In addition to still being married, and avoiding the pain and the price of separation, we not only still love each another; we actually like each other (most of the time).

Because we persevered through times of doubt, disappointment, and disillusionment, often mixed with money, health, and family problems, we are now looking forward to what we both believe could be the best years of our lives. Without question, the best piece of advice we can give to young couples is, "don't quit."

Military life is challenging. If anyone ever told you it would be easy, they lied. The overcoming of challenges is an essential ingredient for readiness and optimism towards the future. Throughout the CAF, units, branches, regiments, wings, fleets, and brigades go to great lengths to commemorate the battles and challenges they have collectively faced together in the past. That's done to honour those who have earned our respect and to remind ourselves that their efforts were worth it. More importantly it's done to reaffirm and assert our readiness and resolve regarding the challenges and battles we face now and must face in the future.

"Perseverance" is the motto of the Regiment. Every spring, Strathcona's across the country take the time to gather and commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood which was fought almost a century ago in France. Moreuil Wood is representative of the many significant battles and missions that have earned the Regiment its heritage, pride, and motto.

If you take pride in your regiment's heritage as defined and commemorated through historical challenges and battles, why not do the same in your personal life and in particular, your marriage.

Don't give up. Perseverance in marriage is worth it.

An advantage that young military couples have in front of them, if they persevere, is the potential for comfortable retirement at a relatively young age. Retiring at 50 with a reasonable pension after 30 years of service can set both of you up for a great second half in life. A spouse, who may have had to put off pursuing personal dreams in favour of family stability, could, at that time, be able to launch into a new career or start a business. The house will be paid, the kids will be grown, and you could be looking for an adventure or challenge. You have persevered, you still love and respect one another, and there is no doubt you can do it.

Your Pictures

*I thought perhaps you might be interested in these pictures of **Luke Doan** and **Ryan Blacklock** on duty at the War Memorial during the month of August 2014.*

Regards,
Chris Doan

Thanks for the Photo, Chris. This will take on a special significance this year, given the recent events in Ottawa. Ed.



A Special Souvenir



Cherishing a wartime memento from her grandfather

by Elinor Florence, Invermere, B.C.

At first glance, it doesn't look like a souvenir of war. But this intricate piece of needlework was made by my grandfather, Charles Edward Light, who served in Lord Strathcona's Horse, fought on the battlefields of France, was wounded twice and made it home alive, bringing his wartime memento with him.

Charlie was one of nine children. After finishing school he worked for his father, the postmaster in

eventually became the postmaster himself, a position he held until retirement. He also married his boyhood sweetheart and raised five children.

Ninety-six years later, his wartime souvenir hangs on my wall, a permanent reminder of a badly wounded young man who found relief from the horrors of war with a needle, a skein of coloured yarns and an embroidery hoop. ■

Battleford, Sask. Sorting the mail was a dull occupation for a young man. Soon after war was declared in August 1914, my 20-year-old grandfather joined the cavalry and was on his way to France.

Like most Canadians, his years there were fraught with peril. He was shot in the leg, recovered and returned to the front. The second, more serious wound almost cost him his life on April 1, 1918, when a shell exploded behind him at the Battle of Rifle Wood and fragments of shrapnel pierced his lower back and one of his kidneys.

While spending a long and weary three months in an English hospital, he took up needlework. The soothing repetition helped stitch together his mind as well as his body.

I love how Charlie chose a "manly" subject. The Lord Strathcona's Horse regimental crest bears the motto "Perseverance," along with a beaver chewing a tree, the British lion, a hammer and nail and four men in a canoe, all of which are surrounded by a wreath of English roses, Scottish thistles and Irish shamrocks.

Charlie recovered from his wounds and was sent back to the front once again. There he remained until the war ended in November 1918, when he was finally allowed to sail home, the needlework safely tucked into his kit bag.

He returned to work in the post office—an occupation that now didn't seem quite so boring—and

Calgary Branch News

By Clair Lane

It has been a pleasure for many members of the Calgary Branch Regimental Association to be included and to take part with our Regiment in major functions the past few months. As stated in our report in the last Newsletter, many of our members took part in the rebadging of **LCol Major** earlier this year which took place in the Strathcona's section of the Military Museum on Crowchild Trail in S.W. Calgary. The medals, memorabilia, and displays depicting historical moments in our Regiment's history surrounded the ceremony. Early in June, we again welcomed **LCol Peyton**, **LCol Major**, and **RSM Batty** to another Black Hat meeting at the Horton Road Legion. We had a very good turnout to meet, talk with and listen to our three guests as they outlined the future for themselves and the Regiment. They described a very busy time ahead for the Strathcona's and its' members. **LCol. Peyton** said his goodbyes to the many members he got to know while CO and he and we tasked **LCol Major** to keep the close ties that we in Calgary have long established with the Strathconas wherever they served.

Later in June, several of our members went to Edmonton for the Change of Command Parade and were again impressed with the wonderful turnout of the squadrons, their professionalism, and the equipment on parade as they all rolled past. Some of us old timers wished we could get our hands on these newest tanks to try them out in our old roles as drivers, gunners and loader/operators. (and pigs can fly too, eh).

On a sad note, as a new President, I attended a few funerals for some local members including Past President **Bob Lett** and WWII veteran **Max (Val) Rimer** to name a couple. I got to know both and do miss them, and their jokes, anecdotes, and wisdom.

In August, we held our Annual Golf Tournament organized by **Peter Wonderham** and several of his volunteers. He will have more to add about the participation and winners, etc.

In September, we held our first meeting since May when our members went their ways on holidays and other functions. Some of our members took a trip over the rocks to the west of us to participate with the BC Branch in their reunion at Oliver. From all that I have heard, it was very enjoyable and well attended. As is the case when old friends meet, old stories and misadventures are told and retold. Everyone got back in good order and in high spirits.

Fall is now upon us and winter will follow and we old members will carry on as always. Time marches on and we will also, never looking back. We may slow down but are ever going forward as we continue to march as members of our Regimental Association tied to a great and honourable Regiment of the Canadian Armed Forces--Lord Strathconas Horse (Royal Canadians).

Spring 2015 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2015
Strathcona Regimental Society Newsletter is

15 April 2015.

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

A Strathcona Returns to Italy

Father RSH Greene SSC OL (Lance-Corporal retired)

In the spring of 2014, the Canadian government paid each Normandy veteran 2000 dollars towards the cost of returning for the D-Day anniversary celebrations. For those of us who served in Italy, some who'd been there almost a year before D-Day, nothing was provided for the Italian campaign veterans' return to celebrate this most famous battle and capture of the mountain, Monte Cassino. The English, Americans, and New Zealanders had all been thrown off mountain in previous attempts to capture it. It remained for the Polish II Corps under **LGen Wladyslaw Anders**, at a cost of thousands of Polish casualties, to finally accomplish the victory.

My expenses and the cost for my son **David** were paid for by **Clint Cawsey**, a retired businessman living in Canmore. His father had taken part in a famous action at the Kings Mill Bridge close by Monte Cassino. Because of his father's action, **Clint** has a soft spot for Italian campaign veterans and kindly picked up the tab for my son and I. Otherwise, we would not have been able to attend.

On the day of the big service at the Polish cemetery led by the Cardinal Arch Bishop of Poland, **David** drove us to within a mile of the site. The two friends helped me walk the last mile and took me close to where the service was to take place. But every seat was taken. Then, out of the crowd appeared **Colonel Spike Hazelton**, the Canadian military attaché to Italy and a Strathcona, who took us right up to the front row where he introduced us to the President of Poland and The Prime Minister of New Zealand.

It was a most stirring high mass with a twenty-voice, male, Polish army choir leading the singing. Busloads of Polish children had been brought from Poland to be in attendance. The following day, there was a service at the British Commonwealth cemetery in the town of Cassino where the Canadian Ambassador laid a wreath at the monument accompanied by **Colonel Spike** on his left and me on his right.

Prince Harry, who was in attendance, shook hands with several of those present after the service and, then, headed off to another group across the field behind us. I chased after him by outrunning the policeman who was his guard and, as I got closer, I yelled "**Prince Harry!**" He stopped and I came up to him and said "I have message for your **Aunt Sophie**. Ask her why she doesn't answer her Christmas mail." I, then, pointed to my Strathcona badge on my black beret reminding him that his father, **Prince Charles**, was our Colonel-in-Chief. After a few more pleasantries, I returned to my front row seat.

The New Zelanders sent and paid for a whole plane full of New Zealand Italian Campaign veterans complete with doctors and caregivers, all expenses paid. In observing various medals, I discovered that I was the only Canadian veteran present. There were large numbers of British veterans who had been veterans, not only of Italy, but also of North Africa. But things had not changed since the war when the best equipment and reinforcements went to Normandy and we were a forgotten group in Italy despite the fact that we kept 25 German divisions in action which would normally have been in Normandy. I complained through various levels as did others and am told the Canadian government may be paying for a few of us to return in November--better than nothing but why were we not present for the big Commonwealth service at Cassino? The Strathcona's under went heavy casualties in the fight for Rome when, in one day at the Melfa River, we lost a third of our officers and a third of our tanks. A week later on May 30th, there were several more casualties at Torres Crossroads where the tank Bluebell in which I had been a crew member only two weeks before, received a direct hit from a German 88 killing all of the members in the turret which included my replacement. The famous Melfa battle featuring **Lieutenant Ed Perkins** troop leader of the Regimental Recce Troop, twice wounded and ordered by the Colonel to retreat, chose to stay on defeating a much superior German force. The VC went to a Major in the New West Minster Regiment despite the fact that the Strathcona's were there two full hours before hand. **Perkins** was the only subaltern in the brigade to receive a DSO. There were also a number of other medals awarded to the Strathcona's.

Thanks to **Clint Cawsey** I was highly privileged to be able to attend this great tribute to the Strathcona victory.

And We Flew

Strathconas are not intimidated by having to deploy long distances frequently. Any that served in the British Army on The Rhine in Northwest Europe can readily understand. Those who have done Cyprus tours or deployed into Eastern Europe and Afghanistan can also relate. Each required long, tedious, and sometimes uncomfortable flights on long haul aircraft such as Yukons or Hercs. Even today, deployments and domestic trips on modern aircraft can require several flight changes and numerous hours aloft.

Europeans, on the other hand, are not so experienced because most fly from countries much nearer to campaign theatres. When they do travel by commercial aircraft, more often than not, they are airborne for only an hour or two.

I am reminded of an anecdote cited by, then, **Major Sterling Kierstead** following his exchange posting with the 17/21st Lancers. He was recalling the Lancer deployment to CFB Suffield near Medicine Hat, Alberta. The flights originated in Dusseldorf, Germany and terminated in Calgary. He said that, for many soldiers, it was their first long distance deployment and they were excited; however, enthusiasm soon waned. In Sterling’s words, “We flew and we flew and we flew and we flew and we flew ”. He noted the natives were not amused by the length of the flight and were starting to get restless—really restless. He said the aircraft captain finally announced to all that they had entered Canadian airspace and, anticipating an upcoming landing, everyone burst into cheers and applause. Sterling then noted, “we flew and we flew and we flew and we flew and we flew and we flew ”.

Brits just do not understand such distances. I am also reminded of my neighbor in Calgary, **Col (Ret’d) John Roderick**, getting a call from a friend in England telling him his daughter was going to visit Canada and asked John to pick her up at the airport. John asked where was she landing. When the friend said Halifax, John said, “You pick her up. You’re closer”.

Last Recondos Retire

Dave, Ann, Sage, and Chris



Dave, Ann, Sage, and Chris

It is the end of an era. The last two Recondos, Recce Sqn troop leaders from the early 80’s, retired this year. When, then lieutenants, **Sean McMaster**, **Dave Rundle**, and **Chris Waters** were completing their first tour with the Regiment, many others including the CO, **Col (Ret’d) John Roderick**, wondered, from time to time, if the Strathcona’s would survive them as they typified the characteristics the Army and the Corps sought in young officers—enthusiastic (read sometimes rambunctious), spirited (read sometimes wild), aggressive (read sometimes reckless), and dedicated (read always).

Among their peers of the time such as **Col Spike Hazelton**, **Major (Ret’d) Rick Brown**, and **Joe Lund**, the three Recondos as they were affectionately called (by

themselves mostly) excelled at whatever task was thrown their way be it **Dave** and **Sean** providing the backbone for the Regiment’s biathlon team, a mission that demanded a great deal of time away from their troops and garrison training but an intense commitment to fitness and biathlon training, **Chris** deploying his troop to Cyprus to be the “eyes and ears” as well as the visible mobile presence for 3 RCHA’s deployment, and **Dave’s** sojourn to Germany as a Leopard tank troop leader with The RCD. They and their troops were even the Regiment’s mounted “put it out with your tracks” fire fighting team during numerous brush fires in a tinder dry Wainwright.

Sean retired in 1986 to acquire a law degree. Hard work, dedication, and perseverance continued to be his hallmarks. Not surprisingly, he credits his military experiences in his army and Regimental times for part of his success over the years. This has culminated in his current position as Executive Vice-President, Corporate and General Counsel,

Transcanada, squadron commander, if you will, for over 60 other lawyers.

As for **Dave** and **Chris**, they continued to serve Her Majesty in an exemplary fashion at home and abroad. **Dave** attended the US Armour Officer Course and did two UN tours with the Regiment, one with UNFICYP and the other with UNPROFOR. His time as an OC was spent in Headquarters and Recce Squadrons including a stint in Bosnia. In 1996, **Dave** attended the Army Command and Staff Course in Camberley, England. He was Base Commander CFB Petawawa during the period 2004 to 2007. Staff appointments were equally challenging especially in his later years as he assumed responsibility for LFC business planning and, following his Master’s degree studies in Business Administration, LFC resource management. Upon promotion to colonel, he was appointed J5 Plans CEFCOM and then HQ CEFCOM Assistant Chief of Staff –Support. He completed his service as the CF Military Attaché and Assistant Defence Attaché in Washington, DC.

Chris had an equally varied and challenging career. Following his first tour with the Regiment, he served a tour as RSS officer with KOCR and a tour with The RCD in Germany. This was followed by his appointment as 2IC HQ Sqn and then OC C Sqn, both with the Strathcona's. Shortly thereafter Chris completed his undergraduate studies at U of M and then a tour as an Armour School instructor and G1 of the Combat Training Centre at CFB Gagetown.

Chris obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree at UNB and was called to the bar in 2001, concurrently transferring to the Office of the Judge Advocate General. **WO (Ret’d) Paul Peters**, who was in **Chris’s** troop in Cyprus, noted in his message to **Chris** at his retirement function that the shift was no surprise seeing **Chris** had so much first hand experience with the other side of the CF’s military law system. Regardless, **Chris** had an extremely rewarding second career with the JAG Branch including deployments to Afghanistan in 2005 as Legal Advisor to Commander, Task Force Kabul and in 2009 as Senior Legal Advisor to Commander, Joint Task Force Afghanistan.

Neither is done yet. **Chris** and his wife **Sage** will remain in Kingston where he is pursuing his PhD at Queen’s Law with the intention of being appointed a professor of law in due course. **Dave** and his wife **Ann Dobbin** are completing harbour occupation drills in Ottawa prior to starting his next adventure, which, at the moment, is undecided.

The point of this article is not only to note three very successful and personable Strathconas who are now retired but to recognize also that each generation of Strathconas produces other officers and NCO’s of such remarkable character. Where the Recondos were products of their time, they are typical of the high quality individual the army expects and develops. Truly, Canadian taxpayers are getting their monies worth with each successive generation.

Editor's Note: And they say you can’t make silk purses out of sow’s ears! No one can be less surprised nor more proud of you and your accomplishments than your former OC and CO. (AKA the Newsletter editors, KE and JR)



Strathconas gather in Kingston to honour Chris and Sage and wish them well: (l to r) Chris Rankin, Laurel Rankin, Dave MacLeod, Wendy Stuckart, Chris Waters, John Stuckart, Sage Waters, Jack Earnshaw (8 CH/RCD), Craig Hilton, and Keith Eddy.

Diaries of a UN Soldier

WO Marvin MacNeill, CD served with the Regiment during deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina with UNPROFOR in 1994 and in 1999 with Recce Squadron while in Kosovo with KFOR. As his preface notes, he maintained a diary while so deployed which he has recently shared with others on Facebook. With his permission, excerpts from his diary will be shared with our readers during the next few editions of the Newsletter (Ed.)

Installment One

*****May 9th, 2014***** It was 20 years ago that I deployed on my first overseas deployment with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to Bosnia-Herzegovina. During this tour I kept a diary of my thoughts and experiences and now I would like to share them with you. Oddly enough, I have not read this in 20 years either! I regret this was the only tour I did this for over my 25 years of service but I think this would make a very interesting glimpse of life as a soldier during those years. I served with what I think the best the Regiment had to offer as part of Combat Support Squadron in TOW Tp Callsign 73. The TOW missile system with the thermal capability was the largest weapons platform and the only full night capable vehicle Canada had in Bosnia. My patrol consisted of **Sgt Tom Hoppe MSM MB CD, MCpl Phil Ward, Cpl James Aplin, Cpl James Strayer, Cpl Rob Robert J Gould, Cpl Tracey Meisner, Cpl Gord Stringer Jr. and Cpl Lanny Heliwell (RWestR)**. I would like to encourage all soldiers that served to please post stories and pictures but please keep it tame as I would like to keep this going everyday for the next 6 months and share it on the LdSH(RC) society page as well. I will do my best to make entries everyday and I would also like to ask if anyone has questions about the tour to please ask! Keep in mind that like anything that the army does it is 98% boring with only 2% excitement.



Cpl Gord Stringer at Op Kilo Foxtrot.

*****TUESDAY 10 MAY 1994***** It was an early morning to catch the plane. I woke up at 0500 and packed my last few things. I had to wake my roommate up (**Rob Stark** who was also in the regiment but not going on the deployment) and have him drive me to Harvey Barracks. Arrived at the Drill Hall and had a quick roll call. We had turned in all our field kit the day before so all I am travelling with is a nuke bag. I said my goodbyes and boarded the bus at 0800. We drove strait to the Calgary Airport and boarded the aircraft. The flight left Calgary at 0940. We landed in Montreal at 1700 for what I presume was a fuel stop. We were told in the airport that we were going to have a delay due to mechanical issues. (I guess this is what you get when you charter the lowest bidder!) We boarded the plane at 1830 and had an overnight flight to Paris. Everyone on the flight including me was starting to feel a little nervous because no one to what to expect. Good thing the back half of the plane was open to smokers!

*****WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 1994***** The flight arrived in Paris but we were not allowed to leave the plane but they did open the doors! They refueled the plane and departed an hour later for the next leg of our flight to Split. The flight arrived at Split just after 1000 local time. Looking out the window, the country side looks just like we were back in Southern California for our work up training we did in 29 Palms and Camp Pendelton. It is a bright sunny day and it must be around +25 outside and very humid. After going through customs we just milled around outside until the buses showed up. I just had a flashback as I think these were the buses I used to ride to school in Germany! They were green Mercedes Buses with Canada plates! We loaded up and went to our hotel. This hotel was run by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. There are people and soldiers here with missing limbs. That is a little disturbing. After checking into my room with **Gord Stringer Jr.** and **James Strayer** a few of us decided to go for a little walk. The hotel was right next to the beach and a nice seawall. Split is a nice town unscathed by war

except for the local economy. Still weary about the local people not to sure if they really like us being here. Went back to the hotel and hung out the rest of the afternoon. Had dinner then headed up to bed as we are being woke up at 0200 to start the next part of the journey.

*** **THURSDAY 12 MAY 1994***** We were woken up at 0200 this morning and loaded up onto the buses again at 0230. We drove to a UN compound on the outskirts of Split. We were now issued with our weapons and given 5 magazines of ammo. The outgoing unit was also in the same location and were throwing their helmets and frag vest into large bins. We were then instructed to go and find helmets and frag vests that fit from the bins. I managed to find ones that fit. Nothing like using someone else's kit that they have worn for the past 6 months! As least the helmet was kevlar and not the old steel pot I was issued! By 0330 we loaded into back of the MLVW trucks with the guys from the troop and began the convoy drive to Visoko. It is funny to see the back of the truck was lined with corrugated steel (like the stuff used to put on a shed roof). Not to sure if this would really stop a bullet! The convoys must have been about 50 vehicles long with the lead and rear vehicles were Cougar AVGP's. We headed south along the coast of Croatia and make a couple rest stops along the way. After a few hours of driving we then started to head east to the city of Mostar in Bosnia. Once in Mostar the convoy got split up (or lost) as we had to wait for about an hour until we were altogether again and sorted out. Just by looking around Mostar has seen a lot of fighting. There are destroyed buildings and blown up tanks everywhere. Most of the bridges have also been destroyed and there are newly constructed cemetery's along the roads. At least it is not as hot out today and we are going through the mountains which keeps it cool. The countryside is very beautiful with lots of rolling hills and green flowing rivers. A lot of the towns are totally destroyed by the war and there are signs of visible ethnic cleansing. In some of the towns you can smell death. We are taking some of the worst country roads through the mountains. Not paved with drop offs as far down as you can see! There seems like a reals division amongst the people here those who wave and like us and those who tell us off and are even throwing rocks and garbage. Even the kids throw rocks. I was not sure if this trip was ever going to end! We kept driving for hours and even into the night. We passed out in the back of the truck where ever we could. The worst was trying to sleep on the floor of the truck as you felt every little bump. We finally arrived just after 2300 to our main camp in Visoko (30 km northwest of Sarajevo). We unloaded our kit, grabbed a quick bite to eat, then we were off to find out where we were sleeping.

*****FRIDAY 13 MAY 1994***** I was up this morning at 0600 and went down to the kitchen for breakfast. All the pers that arrived last night met up with the Troop Warrant (**Ray Labreque**) this morning and gave us a walking tour of the camp. The camp is located just outside of the city centre about a 5-10 minute drive in what I would call the industrial area. I was told the buildings were part of an old textile factory. Most of the battle group lives in a three story concrete building which we have started calling the "big four". The basement or ground floor is used for the maintainers to fix and repair our vehicles. The second floor is where the majority of the troops are housed in MOD tents that have been set up inside. All of Recce Squadron and B Squadron the Engineers and TOW troop live here. The Jr ranks is also on the same floor. The top floor houses the Regimental Recce troop, B Company from the PPCLI and Mortar Troop from 1 RCHA and also the CSS Command Post. The kitchen is in an out building next to the big four. Every time you want to go and eat you have to put on your frag vest and helmet if there was a threat of indirect fire! Our Quartermaster Stores for Combat Support were right outside the building and on the backside of the building were the portable showers. Our vehicles were parked between our building and another building which is nicknamed the "Crystal Palace". This is where the Strathcona's Battle Group HQ is located. Inside this building is where the Unit Medical Station, Regimental Transport, and where the rest of the brass hang out. The more I stay away from this place the better! Our Tp WO told us one of the newly arrived Engineers getting off the truck almost shot the CO (**LCol Ray Wlasichuk** and **RSM Pete Wonderham**) way to go Chimo! At 1300 our patrol mounted



Cpl Gould at Op Kilo Foxtrot.

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up with all our gear in a back of an MLVW and our mission was to go and man a Radio Re-Broadcast site (RRB) on one of the local mountains. An hour and a half later going up a mountain on a narrow dirt track we finally arrived at the RRB site. The view up here is incredible and we can see Sarajevo in the valley below. The site is setup very well compared from what the guys who we are replacing have told me. When our troop first showed up it was a couple of Vandoos and a Signaler living out of an Armored Personal Carrier which was not manned at night with no close protection! Our troop has put up a wire fence, MOD tent to sleep in, made an OP out of an old sea container, and even built a shower by ripping out the bilge pump from the APC! I did my first OP shift the night with **Gord Stringer**. We were pretty quiet most of the night and it is a little scary not knowing what to expect. We heard a lot of shots and explosions all night. The OP sits right in the middle of all three warring factions. The townspeople say that the truce between the Croats and the Serbs will only last one more month.

*****SATURDAY 14 MAY 1994***** I got to sleep in today because I did the night shift. I woke up at 1030 and was back in the OP at 1100. Shifts in the day are 2 ½ hours with one person on while night shifts are 3 hours with two people on shift. There are only 8 of us up here at the OP so we have to make the time stretch as long as we can. When the shift was over I went back to the tent area and helped out with making some improvements with the OP defenses and some cleaning up of the tent area along with some weapons training and cleaning our pers weapons. I went and tried out our new shower and it works pretty good! The water in the black jerry cans heats up enough that you don't have to light the emersion heater in the day for a warm shower! After I was done it was time to eat some dinner. Whenever the Troop Warrant comes up to the OP to resupply us he brings us enough fresh rations we don't have to eat the German ones we are issued. The German rations come in a package that are about half the size of a shoebox and everything inside is meant for 24 hours' worth of food. Some of the choices in them are pretty disgusting like liverwurst and lima beans! No wonder they lost the war! At the end of the MOD tent we made ourselves a small kitchen with shelves for food storage and dug a cooler in the ground to keep our food fresh. After dinner I went and read for a while (reading Bravo Two Zero by **Andy McNab**) and managed to squeeze in a nap before my shift. I woke up at around 2200 tonight to the noise of a firefight happening about 4KM away. Every day there seems to be a little more shooting than the next. I am on shift tonight from 1200 to 0300 with **Cpl Gould**. This should be pretty interesting as he will ramble on all night with some great stories and keep me awake!

What's in a Name? For our Fallen Comrades

Shabrack or Shabraque is a saddlecloth, formerly used by European light cavalry.

In the years since I retired from the Strathcona's, names have become something very important to our family. It began with our move to an acreage outside of Torrington, Alberta where we took over forty acres set up as a cattle operation and made it horse friendly. My wife **Patti** and I talked it over and we agreed that, basically, spending our adult lives intertwined with the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) was something not to be ignored. Rather, it was an achievement to be acknowledged. To that end, we named our home and horse-breeding program Shabraque. We chose that name as it reflects an organization that had a direct effect on our family's life for well over 20 years. And, that was not a bad thing.

With the help of fellow Strathcona's daughter (**Jillian Peters**), we created a logo with the appropriate colours of yellow (cavalry) and black (armour) to represent our horse-breeding program. There were three times during my service with the Regiment that I officially requested to be sent to the Mounted Troop as I've always had an affinity for horses. In response I was sent either to Regimental Ops or Recce Sqn HQ. Never did sit a saddle with the Regiment.

Upon moving out to "Shabraque" with our three horses, we decided we wanted to do something more than just raise pasture ornaments. We decided to raise Canadians, the horse breed that is. We came to discover Canadians were actually Canada's national horse and originated in France. Long story short, the King of France sent a number of horses of many mixed breeds as official classifications/breeds were yet to be determined over to New France.

After 200 years of isolation and breed selection and through survival of the fittest, we have what we now call the Canadian. It has developed its own DNA along with specific breed characteristics such as hardiness, durability, strength, endurance, and a determination to keep going when others fail. In fact, these characteristics almost spelled its doom as the breed was in heavy demand as a cavalry horse in the U.S. Civil War and WW I. These characteristics also made it highly attractive for cross breeding which almost wiped the breed out. Today the breed is making a comeback and is classified as "Rare" with numbers of about 6,000 worldwide.

For us, it seemed fitting to honour the breed with specific names that reflect Canada's true spirit. We decided to name all our foals after Fallen Strathcona's. In this way we honour our soldiers and reinforce the spirit of the breed for perpetuity. We were to discover it wasn't as easy as simply selecting a name and away you go. Upon further research, we became aware there is a procedure for properly naming purebred Canadians. The full registered name, filed with Canadian Livestock Records requires three specific parts to the name. At first, we thought this was rather pompous and we came to understand it makes a lot of sense. A name can tell you the bloodlines of the horse, where it was born, and how old it is. Not bad for a name. The first of three parts to the name is the stable or breeding facility/ranch where the horse was born. The second part of the name is the name that of the stud. The third part must start with a letter designated by the national breed association. For the year 2014, this part of the name must start with the letter "B". This year we had only one Canadian foal born so this little stud colt carries the name Shabraque Grandee Broddy. Shabraque is the name of our home, Grandee is the name of our stallion (his full name is LDR Brio II Grandee), and Broddy is the name of **Tpr Robert J Broddy**, died 22 June 1915. To date we have named the following foals: **Underwood, Zeal, Zorn, Zufelt, Ayvas**, and **Ash**--all named after Fallen Strathcona's. It is our hope we will have two foals born at Shabraque next spring and their names will start with the letter C.

For our family starting this tradition is a way of acknowledging the positive influence the Regiment has had on our lives. That and we have just about enough horses to start our own mounted troop. As for the names of Fallen Strathcona's that I have mentioned, I encourage you to dig into our Regimental history and learn more about those who have carried the torch before us.

Perseverance

Steve Critchley WO (Ret'd)

Ed Note: Steve, with other professionals, operates CanPraxis, a therapy programme that uses a number of well recognized tools including horses to successfully treat CF veterans suffering from PTSD and other traumas. For more on CanPraxis, go to <http://canpraxis.com>.



Artifacts and Memorabilia

I am pleased to announce that, on the 6th of August, our Society and Foundation each received a generous donation. We have taken possession of a beautifully crafted sword from Capt (Ret'd) Jack Senko, a previous Adjutant, and multiple pieces of horse tack from a friend of the Regiment, Danee Mitchell from Kelowna, BC.

The Strathcona's maintain numerous historical artifacts dating back to its formation in our Regimental lines and The Military Museums in Calgary. All Strathconas are duty bound to ensure our history is maintained and only through the assistance of donors such as these can we achieve this task in the future. These gracious gifts to our Regiment reaffirm the bonds that all Strathconas share, those serving and retired.

With this intent in mind, I am putting out a call to all Strathconas, friends of the Regiment, and the general public. We must preserve and proudly display our tangible history. If you wish to donate an item or equipment to your Strathcona Mounted Troop or Regimental Society, please contact the Regimental Second-in-Command, Major Clayton Gardner at (780) 973-1667. As a registered charity, we can provide tax receipts for donations in kind, based upon a fair market evaluation of your donation.

As always, thank you for the support to our Regiment.



Help Wanted-Applied Within

A longtime member of our Strathcona Newsletter editing team needs to withdraw his services for personal reasons. While the work is not onerous, a replacement is needed. The task is far from onerous, as it requires only a few hours of time twice a year to edit articles.

In reality, Kathy Batty does the vast majority of the work. She sends out deadline notices, collects incoming and other relevant articles that cross her desk, and sets up the pages. She also is the link between the editorial "desk" and the publisher. Consequently, the other members of the team are simply required to edit the articles themselves. This is done with a view of maintaining consistency insofar as spelling, abbreviations, and grammar are concerned. No major re-writes are required. Once done, the edited work is reviewed by at least one other member of the team before being submitted for printing.

The Regiment has always been blessed with an endless amount of talent. Unfortunately, other interests tend to get the attention. Now may be a good time to payback, a small price for the honour of being a Strathcona.

Please contact us at ldsh@strathconas.ca if you can help.

News from the Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Branch

Colonel Greg Hug

Thanks **Kathy** for the nudge on an article for the Newsletter. This is a quick update on a few of the Regimental and Corps events in eastern Ontario.

Our Colonel of the Regiment, **MGen (Ret'd) Cam Ross**, travels frequently on business and pleasure; always managing to squeeze in a Regimental focus. We had the opportunity to meet with him and **Patti** while they were in the Ottawa area in May. We were able to catch up over drinks and then lunch. During the gathering, he provided an excellent update to both the serving (**Bruce McKinnon** and **Mark Lubiniecki**) and retired gang (**Dave and Sara Iley**; **Vince Fagnan**; **Terry Mayne**; **Greg Hug** and **Maria Rocha-Hug**; and bonus guest in **John Boileau** in town from Nova Scotia (the E-News works!!). Although a small group, the family spirit was clearly in evidence.

The next notable gathering involved a higher level of skill as several Strathconas competed in annual Henry Samson Memorial Golf Tournament in late July. Of note, the organizers broke up the winning team from 2013: **John McEachern**, **Dave MacLeod**, **Chuck Fournier**, and **Greg Hug** (note: there was some complicated formula that was used to reach this result, it was not based on our golf score!!). Unfortunately **John** could not join us this year but we did have a number of Strathconas representing the Regimental family including **Jim** and **Aline White**, **Doug Sinclair**, **Julia Egner** (**Mark** joined us for dinner), **Roy Forestell**, **Tom Martineau**, **Derrick Holwell**, **James Lee**, **Patrice Beauchamp**, **Barry Blackburn**, and **Mark Hutchings**. Those who could not make the golf game but did join us for dinner included **Dave Iley**, as well as **Jim** and **Lucille Ellard**.

The third event involved a less formal gathering at the local pub with the CO, **LCol Josh Major**, and RSM, **CWO Tony Batty**, during their short trip to Ottawa in late August. The CO appeared to be well settled into his new role, updating all of those present and providing some sage advice to the serving gang. Although this was a last minute event and kept low key, there was a good turnout of officers and NCMs in Ottawa including **Col Steve Kelsey** Director RCAC, **LCol Paul Peyton**, **Maj Earl Jared**, **Capt Dunn & Vahal**, and **MWO Rob Clarke** (the organizer!!). The retired representatives included **Vince Fagnan** and **Greg Hug**. In addition we had the Corps RSM, **CWO Walt Laughlin** as well as the current CO (**LCol Steve Graham**) and RSM (**CWO Sean Mercer**) of The RCD. It proved to be a relaxed, informative evening.

Many significant events take place in Kingston. Nevertheless, the Strathconas in Ottawa continue to get together periodically to get updated on the Regiment and Society as well as reminisce. If you happen to be in Ottawa when there is an event we would love to see you!!!

Your Photos

Greetings from Brantford, Ontario. I was reading the Expositor, our city paper and the article under community snapshots caught my eye.

The young man is receiving the Lord Strathcona Medal, the highest honour that can be bestowed on a cadet. Being a retired Strathcona, I thought good for him and from such a renowned military tradition.

Jim Kelso, an Old Trooper

Jim, thanks for the clipping. It is great to see our youth receiving this sort of recognition. To view the complete article, visit the Brantford Expositor website:

www.brantfordexpositor.ca/2014/10/01/award-great-achievement-for-local-cadet-corps **Ed**



News from the Kingston Chapter of the Ontario Branch

Lieutenant-Colonel J.A. Stuckart

Greetings from Strathcona's living here in Kingston, serving and retired. No doubt wherever you live now, life seems busy and proceeds at a steady pace. That is no different for those of us living here in Eastern Ontario. The Kingston Association Branch continues its focus on keeping local area Strathconas informed of the latest Regimental Family news and organizing local events when social calendar synchronization can occur. This is not always easy with those retired as travel seems to somehow get in the way and some are still working or partially working – depending upon your point of view.

Our local executive has changed over the summer due to postings out; we saw the departure of **Major Islam Elkorazati** off to warmer climates in the Mediterranean and **Captain Ali Raju** moving west to Edmonton to Regimental duty. **Captain Russ Ells** is now retired and enjoying retirement life buzzing around the local area in an ultra-light airplane and reminding us that he is “fully retired”. Coming into the executive this year after expressing interest (i.e. volunteering) are **LCol (Ret'd) Dave MacLeod** and **LCol (Ret'd) Chris Rankin**. You will be hearing more from them as the year continues and the President, **Maj Darren Bromley**, finds them things to do!

A number of social events have occurred including the Melfa River BBQ at **Tom Martineau's** place in May, the RCAC Henry Sampson Annual Golf Tournament in Smith Falls in July, an RCAC BBQ at **General Clive** and **Shirley Milner's** residence in July, and the Kingston Association Branch Meet and Greet here in Kingston in September.

Added to the list was our participation in the Sydenham Remembrance Day Ceremonies last November; IRONSIDES Curling Bonspiel in Kingston in April, and a small group presentation for the 2014 SOCIETY/CP Scholarship funds allocated to **Megan Hoppe** presided over by **BGen (Ret'd) Craig Hilton** on behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment and Commanding Officer in late August.

So as you can see, we do manage to keep ourselves busy. It is always great to see new (and familiar) faces drop by – special mention to **Murray** and **Bonnie Cayley** and **BJ** and **MJ Walsh** coming down to attend our fall Meet and Greet. Looking forward, initial planning is underway for IRONSIDES 2015 – with **Dave MacLeod**, once again, keeping this Corps event alive and carrying on. It is planned for April 2015 in Kingston and the organizers hope that more teams can attend with early notice and planning. The Kingston/Ottawa area Moreuil Wood Dinner 2015 is also being planned for late March and people will see the invitation in early 2015.

Our final point is that we will be updating and reviewing our contact list that has been built up over the years. Much of this will be done in cooperation with the Ottawa Chapter and part of our focus will be to encourage local Strathconas to think about joining the Regimental Association. Through ENews posts and other emails, many here have seen the developments that have occurred regarding the “national” footprint for the Association and we will be strongly supporting Peter and his team in Calgary to boost the current membership.



*Henry Sampson Golf Tournament this past summer in Smith's Falls.
(L to R) Carole and Tom Martineau, Dave MacLeod, Patrice Beauchamp*

Your Photos

For your review are photos of Straths predominantly 3rd Troop, B Sqn, Korea. These photos were originally taken with a Kodak Brownie camera, and which I had enlarged recently subsequent to sitting in a box for 60 plus years.

I have put names on the individuals as I recall them, however I may be incorrect and on others I am unable to recall their names after all these years.

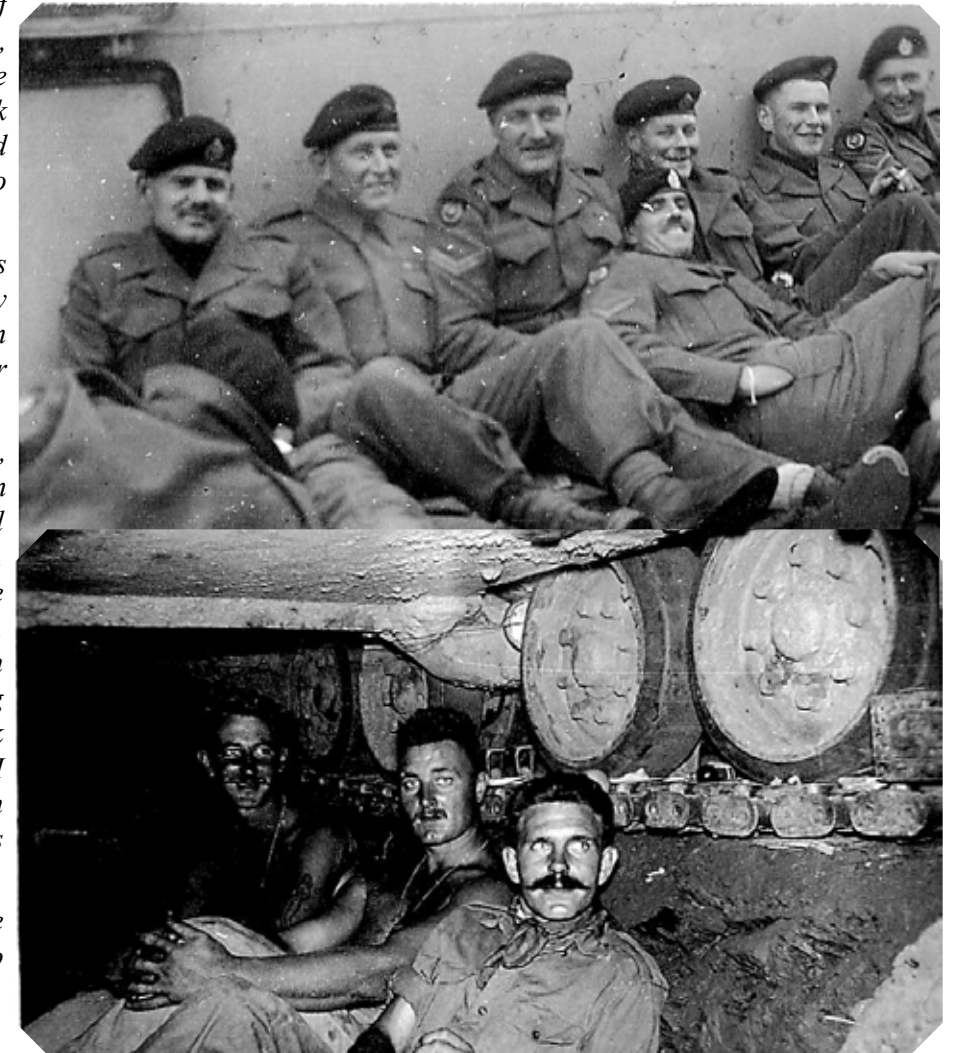
I am Tpr Douglas E. Wells, SK8183, B sqn, 3rd trp. On return to Canada I requested and received a posting to #11 PD Vancouver, subsequently transferring to the RCASC until my discharge in 1954. Went to work with Great Northern Rlwy, Vancouver, thence moving to Seattle because of limited work opportunities in Vcr Vancouver. I retired in 1995 after 41 years in train service and moved to Las Vegas 19 years ago.

I thoroughly enjoy reading the Newsletter; each publication, keep up the good work.

Douglas E Wells

Douglas,

*Thank you for the pictures. We could only include a small sampling of what you sent, but our Museum Curator was very excited to receive them, especially since you were able to identify many of the individuals! **Ed***



Remembering Major Danny McLeod MC, CD Always Able Active and Aggressive

David Sproule

*“When the Straths go to the front they will groan and they will grunt,
Battlin’ Danny to the fore drinkin’ cokes and spoutin’ lore,
Into harbour he will go and you bet it wont be slow
Tell me darlin’ are you mine all the time”*

Much has been written about **Danny McLeod**, a great soldier, hockey player, and a competitive spirit. My introduction came in the summer of 1958 when I was one of six young aspiring COTC second-lieutenants that arrived in Currie Barracks for our final summer of training. **Brian Harvey** from Saskatoon and I were assigned to A Sqn which, at that moment of our arrival, were out in the Sarcee training area doing pre-Wainwright training. On that evening in early May, **Brian** and I were immediately whisked off to the area and thrust into the gloom of an “O” group and I realized that this is what it must have felt like during the war for a reinforcement troop officer arriving at a unit in action – the suddenness of it all. I was assigned as the CC of one of **Jim Ellard’s** call-signs and off we went into the night. I remember we practiced our leaguer drills all night across the training area and into the early morning until **Danny** was satisfied.

Soon we were off to Wainwright and into our harbour somewhere off Red Route and that is where we stayed for a month. We were tactical for the entire time as we often had visitors coming by to check out our harbour. **Danny** had what today would be called a brand. Outside his field officer tent and throughout the harbour were the A Sqn brand attack signs with the words Always, Able, Active, and Aggressive. And that is what he was and encouraged us to be. **Brian** and I were now troop leaders as **Jim Ellard** went off on course to RMC for the summer and **Ian Galbraith** was assigned as an LO at Brigade HQ. How lucky was I at age 20 to have troop of Centurions for the next two months. The second-in-command was **Captain Chris Bashford** of the 17/21st Lancers, **BC Lorne Glendenning**, **Bob Gross** 1st Tp, I had 2nd Tp, **Rod Tomlinson** 3rd and **Brian Harvey** 4th Tp. **S/ Sgt Getz** was the acting SSM. The photo below is of Danny with **Lt Barry Robison**, KOCR, a friend of and frequent visitor to the Strathcona’s. Note the A Sqn brand sign and the crossed lances.



We did a great deal of squadron training and spent considerable time on the ranges including being tasked at providing a firepower demo for a bunch of visiting press. For the final blast to impress the folks, **Danny** made sure that there was a 45 gallon drum of fuel behind our final target and you could almost feel the heat from the blast. We were to act as enemy force along with 2 QOR and my troop was attached to B Coy. **Sergeants Roland** and **Wheeler** were my Alpha and Bravo call-signs and **Cpl. Dick Thody** was Charlie. They were a great asset and helped me considerably throughout the summer. Wherever we went with our infantry companies, there was **Danny** in his Sherman not far behind encouraging and emboldening us. There was a story about how during the previous summer, when **Danny** was also playing enemy, he took his squadron outside the camp boundary in order to get the tactical advantage. If true, it is hard to imagine **Danny** taking flak from a superior. After all, “all is fair in love and war.”

As **Brian** and I had never been to the Calgary Stampede before, **Danny** made sure we had the chance before things



got too busy in the field. He said, “if you want to see the Stampede, there is a laundry truck going to Currie in the morning and so you had better be on it and return when it comes back on Friday,” and so **Brian** and I got to the Stampede and got to wear civvies for a couple of days.

It wasn’t all training though as, on one occasion, we were all trucked into camp for the Brigade track meet on Pachino Day and it poured rain for a good part of the day. One of the events I remember was the Chain-of-Command race in which the regiments and battalions each contributed a team made up of a soldier in each of the ranks from trooper to major. Of course **Danny**, ever competitive, had the anchor run for the Strathcona’s. Each of the ranks had to carry something whether a rifle, a pace stick, or bins and pass each item on to the next runner in the relay. As the runners progressed through the ranks, they became more and more encumbered. Majors had to carry a map case plus all the other stuff. If a runner dropped something, he had to go back and fetch it, then carry on. I think it was like a relay and each person had to run maybe 100 yards. I don’t remember whether the Regimental team won or not but I know **Danny** did not disappoint. The photo kind of says it all. Sorry for the quality of the photo but I had too much aim-off, maybe I thought he would be faster.

Soon we were on a series of brigade exercises culminating with the GOC’s. It was a great summer especially being enemy force but sometime around the end of July it was exercise ceasefire somewhere around Border Lake and, as is tradition, all of the leftover pyro lit up the sky.

Back in Camp Wainwright, well you know the drill--get the tanks all sparkling, EIS turned in to the SQ, and, then, time for a beer and a change of clothes before trying to stay awake during the GOC’s debriefing of his exercise. The GOC was **MGen Chris Volkes** and he noticed one of my sergeants was dozing off and yelled at him to wake up—not an easy time for a young sergeant in a room full of several hundred officers and senior NCO’s.

I remember I drove back to Calgary with my operator **Cpl Rasmussen** and he let me drive the deuce most of the way--another treat for a young subby.

I remember **Danny** had a French jump jacket that he picked up in Indo-China and we all coveted it. Those were the days when you could wear a French jump jacket or a British army sweater in the field and nobody really noticed or cared. There was a lot of individuality allowed.

Back in Currie, most of the Regiment was heading off on leave but we had the opening of the new Sarcee Barracks coming up in August and the Change-of-Command from **LCol Greenleaf** to **LCol Hale** on the horizon. **Danny** tasked **Brian** and me with getting the squadron tanks and B Vehicles all gussied up for these events. Although he was on leave, he would come by in his Oldsmobile 98 to check up on us and I remember him taking the steam jenny out of my hand on order to clean the engine of his car. That was also the summer that the FGH became a regiment in the regular Order of Battle and several members of the Regiment were off including **Majors Jimmy Gardner** and **WRC Little** and **SSM “Squint” Armour**. We did have time though for parties in the old Currie Mess and I remember **Danny**, “drinkin’ cokes and spoutin’ lore, something he really enjoyed and was good at and jiving with two women at the same time with one in each hand. He loved a good time. In September, I went back to UBC. I only saw **Danny** once more and that was at the Cavalry Lunch at the RCMI in Toronto. I was then the CO of the BCR (DCO) and attending the 50th Anniversary of the RCAC Corps Conference in 1990. We had lunch there. We chatted briefly and he asked me to pass on his best to some wartime friends back in Vancouver. He was my first squadron commander and that experience set me on my path. Thanks **Danny**.

The Backbone of the Regiment at the Calgary Olympics

For many Strathconas, Calgary is the only Alberta garrison they have known. And to most of them, it is remembered as, by far, the best garrison city in the world. For those who served there during the 1988 Winter Olympics, it had the additional attraction of being the world’s best party city. The Olympics was a whirlwind event with endless activities and functions outside of just the athletic focus. Indeed, some were heard to complain the Olympic competitions detracted from what was, otherwise, an endless superparty.

The Calgary Olympics energized the city in the same way the annual Calgary Stampede does but on a much larger scale and did it on the world stage. For many in the Regiment, the Olympics became their place of work for portions of the event or for the duration for some. Other Strathconas managed to get away, from time to time, to witness world-class athletes in action. Thanks to a former 17th/21st exchange officer and then British Consul in Edmonton, **Captain (Ret’d) John Doble**, some even had the privilege of attending a reception for the British athletes as well as a dinner for the British Olympic delegation, both hosted by **Ann, Princess Royal**, her country’s representative to the International Olympic Committee. **John**, not surprisingly given his experiences with Strathcona cooks and mess staff, requested the use of the Strathcona’s Officers’ Mess for both functions.

Among the Olympic tasks for the Regiment were a Guard of Honour commanded by **Major (Ret’d) John Russell** for the Governor-General, Her Excellency **Madame Jean Sauvé**, the Mounted Troop commanded by, then, **Lt John Schneiderbanger**, escorting the Governor-General’s carriage into McMahon Stadium for the opening ceremonies, and a host of duties related to mounting the Olympics including A Sqn’s marshalling of the athletes for the opening and closing ceremonies.

At the closing ceremony, the President of the International Olympic Association emphasized that the people of Calgary organized and conducted the best run Winter Olympics to date; one, which he hoped, would be the showcase for future winter Olympic programs. What he did not mention, however, was the Regiment’s unexpected role in “tearing down” the venues.

Shortly before the start of the Olympics, two staunch and influential Associate members of the Officers’ Mess, **Mr. Roy Farran** and **Mr. Alan Graham**, advised the Regiment that little planning had been done on securing Olympic venues and property following the games or readying Olympic property for shipping or disposal. On hearing of this oversight, these two men advised the Calgary Olympic Committee Executive members including **Frank King** and **Bill Pratt** that the Canadian Forces could help out in this time of need. **Alan** and **Roy** convinced them the Strathcona’s could easily complete the task and were well suited to do it. Both Associates were motivated by their experiences with the Regiment and its members as well as a long time involvement in fund raising for the Mounted Troop. Moreover, they were very influential among Calgary’s captains of industry and knew the cost of the tear down by commercial companies would have been horrendously expensive. They felt that, if the Regiment were permitted to undertake the task for a reasonable donation by the Olympic Committee to the Mounted Troop Foundation, Calgary would have yet another win-win situation. Unbeknownst to many, such an opportunity would permit the Regiment to immediately cap a fund raising objective that had been bestowed on the next half dozen CO’s. If the successive CO’s were not appreciative of such an opportunity, there is no doubt their seconds-in-command, the real work horses (pun intended) for Mounted Troop fund raising, would be delighted with the windfall.

A number of events complicated any decision related to the tear down including the Regiment’s post-Olympic Games training program and other commitments. A major obstacle, so the officers thought, would be the absence of the officer cadre who needed to attend 1 CMBG’s Officer Study Week in Wainwright during the teardown time frame.

In consultation with the Commander 1 CMBG, the late and then **BGen Gord Reay**, it was agreed the Regiment could commit itself to the task provided the soldiers were off duty in accordance with the CO’s powers to grant leave and the Society could legitimately receive the stipend offered by the Calgary Olympic Committee as a charitable donation to the Mounted Troop’s fund.

Later, in discussions with members of the CO’s O Gp particularly **RSM Shadbolt**, it was decided to undertake the task and commence “battle procedure” by the Regimental staff but leave the bulk of the planning for the later stages to the NCO’s. They, after all, would have to execute the program. As with the Regiment’s earlier Olympic tasks, much needed recce’s and coordination were required.

RSM Shadbolt had no reservations about the Regiment’s and his NCO’s abilities to achieve the mission. Each squadron was assigned at least one Olympic facility to secure, tear down, and get equipment ready for transportation elsewhere. Not surprisingly, it turned out each event location’s requirements and problems were similar. Few, if any, Olympic participants remained. In those instances where they did, language was often a problem, as many foreign nationals spoke neither English nor French. A Sqn encountered this problem on a larger scale when marshaling athletes at the each of the ceremonies. Similarly, souvenir hunters abounded so maintaining security across the board was needed. Also noteworthy, in too many instances Olympic contractors contributed little to the work and were only too glad to let the soldiers carry the burden—a trait soldiers encounter often but usually during assistance to civil authority operations.

A Sqn, led by **SSM Jim Neish**, tackled MacMahon Stadium, a considerable chore given the presence of media from around the world during the opening and closing ceremonies and the vast amount of technical hardware and communication equipment that accompanied them. A Sqn and Recce Sqn, led by **SSM Ken Jacobs** undertook the cleanup and tear down of the Olympic Oval, home of the speed skating events. Recce Sqn also did the closure at Nakiska, the site of the alpine and freestyle demonstration events.

B Sqn, squired by **SSM Dave Cook**, secured the Canmore Nordic Centre, the location of biathlon and cross-country skiing events. As was the case elsewhere, considerable effort was needed to prevent unauthorized entry by civilians trying to bypass security and gain access to facilities, equipment, and materials.

SSM Bernie Pridge, HQ Sqn, had an equally challenging task. Indeed, once the Olympics ended, his Squadron found Canada Olympic Park, formerly Paskapoo, all but abandoned. Media organizations simply vacated the area leaving truckloads of equipment behind. As with other sites, securing the area and preventing unauthorized access, and packing up Olympic Organization property was demanding.

That year’s Strathconian noted that securing, tearing down, and packing up of the 1988 Calgary Olympic venues were herculean tasks and the Regiment performed magnificently. It is noteworthy that **Frank King** told Regimental personnel following the Strathcona’s completion of the task that he and his staff expected the work to take up to two weeks, not just four days. Moreover, they had anticipated a substantial amount of damage and loss but nothing noteworthy in that regard occurred. As for the Olympic participants and others involved in putting on one of the greatest shows on earth, the Regiment’s post-Olympic efforts went all but unnoticed. As for the officers, they were all too accustomed to the NCO’s and soldiers routinely performing above and beyond. They did, however, pick up the pace somewhat fearing, otherwise, they might now be considered an endangered species.

Your Photos



1994 Association Gathering.

Annual Family Golf Tournament Regimental Association (Calgary Branch)

by Peter Wonderham

We all know we are lucky to be Strathcona's but to be a Strathcona swinging a golf club, well it doesn't get any better.

The golf course weather in Calgary on 23 August 2015 started off like a foggy morning on Firing Point 4 in Gagetown. If a golfer hit the ball more than a few yards it was impossible to see the fall of shot. This, however, did not hamper some of us.

Forty golfers registered for this annual event including a young, limber, and focused team sent down by the Regiment.

This year's tournament took place at our usual venue in the south west of Calgary. The course and staff at Buffalo Run have been good to us. Unfortunately, this will be our last year at this course unless we wish to putt on the southwest ring road, as it starts construction planning in 2015.

As the morning sun broke through, the weather cleared and we all enjoyed the improved visibility and the outing.

As is our usual routine, following the cussing and ball smashing, we hosted some 55 players and gallery fans at the 285 Legion for post-game camaraderie, awarding of prizes, lunch. We might have had a couple of beers as well!

As in past tournaments, we sponsor four special hole prizes and an overall winning team. This year's longest putt went to **Evan Schjefte** from the **Kim Borgerson (Henry Wyatt)** foursome. Closest to the pin and a very prestigious award was earned by **Kevin Borrowcliff** playing with the **Earl Smith** foursome. **Kim Borgerson** produced the longest drive ladies and the team **Owen**, not to be outdone, watched as their youngest, **Landan Owen**, hit the longest drive for the men.

Overall winners were the Regimental team comprised of **MCpl Wallace Churchill**, **Cpl Spencer Richardson**, **MCpl Francs Graham**, and **MCpl Leon Van Heerden**.

This group of young Strathconas represented our Regiment in the usual stellar manner. Sharing their stories of current Regimental duty with those whose uniforms are now on hangars but who still enjoy reliving the memories. It was pleasing to see these young soldier-golfers win the day but a bit jaw dropping to see our trophy head north to the Regimental trophy case for the year. Well-done guys!

A fine day must be capped off with thanks. We thank the golfers and Association members for their continued support year after year. Our thanks also go to our special sponsor, Tornado Combustion Technology, whose

generosity, once again, has allowed us to host this event costing the members and the Association nothing except their green fees. To those golfers who always tuck a couple extra dollars into their registration envelope, thanks. **Rick Brown**, through his networking skills, and **Grady Owen**, through his generosity, provided the special-hole sponsorship. I must add these were impressive prizes. In our thanks, I would never forget our gift committee, **Susan**. Thank you, as usual, to **Slider** and **Mary** who continually donate their time and energy into the 50/50 draws. The Regimental Museum should have dibs on that old wire drum.

Until next golf year, thank you and have a healthy, off season.



Your Dispatches

The opportunity to go back in time and touch your roots, to see where you have come from, to see where your history started, where your values originated from, and, then, have the chance to link that history and heritage to the present, is an amazing feeling that I hope every Strathcona will have the opportunity to experience. I was honoured and privileged this year to have the good fortune to do so. On a sunny day in September I was able to trace our Regiment's battle in Moreuil Wood. I was fortunate enough to spend the day walking my way from the line of departure right through the objectives.

At the end of the day as I worked my way back to the town of Moreuil, I came across a Commonwealth cemetery, with the graves of unknown Strathcona soldiers. It made me pause and think what his life was like, is the Regiment the same now as it was then? I believe that these Strathconas would find the Strathconas of today kindred comrades who continue to carry on the traditions of mission, men, mare, and self, of never leaving a fallen comrade, and of never giving up.

This opportunity was made possible due to my task as a planner at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) from 5 May to 6 September 2014. Canada contributed staff officers to this headquarters as part of Canada's Operation REASSURANCE package. Our main responsibility had been to develop contingency plans in light of Russia's actions in the Ukraine. SHAPE is the Headquarters of Allied Command Operations (ACO), one of NATO's two strategic military commands.

Maj Fred Hayward

I am the granddaughter of Albert McBride, who served in Korea with the Lord Strathcona's during the Korean War. GPA, I can see by the prosperity of the country that you and your fellow Canadians made a DIFFERENCE.

I have just returned from attending the Peace Camp for grandchildren held about an hours drive from Seoul. I met grandchildren from all over the world.

We were billeted in the dorms of a University. The hosts kept us very busy. We were bused from place to place. We saw lots of interesting stuff. Wreath laying at the War Memorial, Thank You banquet, meeting veterans (no Canadians), DMZ tour, tunnel visit and lots more.

We also sang on Korean TV. When singing Areing (Spelled Wrong?) all I could think of was Ba na na na na, Ba na na.

I liked Seoul, but would have liked to see more of the markets.

One thing I was disappointed in, was not seeing the graves in Pusan. I wanted to say Hello, and shed a tear for GPA.

I want to thank Heritage Unit for sending me. I will never forget this trip.

I also want to thank the St. Albert Legion, and KVA Unit 21 for the pins. Everyone seemed to want one.

Paisley

Thank you for this report, Paisley. No doubt this trip will be a great memory for the rest of your life. It is unfortunate that you did not get to Pusan – perhaps you will have another chance to visit in the future and, once again, honour your Grandfather's memory. Ed

I am an Australian Army researcher and wish to know if LDSH (RC) completed a War Diary during its tour of duty in Cyprus in 1979?

If so - given that it was so long ago, is it now housed in the Canadian national Archives in Ottawa or can a page or two from it be accessed through your museum? or other local source.

Lastly. On that particular tour, (LTCOL McNabb was the CO and MAJ Dick Lawrence the DCO) I was wondering if then LT Wayne Federation is still alive and if so, can you please pass on my email address to him so I can contact him.

I served at that time with the Australian Police and my nickname was 'Jack' Thurgar.

kind regards

*John (Jack) Thurgar
+61439610913 (mobile phone)
johnthurgar@hotmail.com
jack.thurgar@defence.gov.au*

*Jack,
Wayne is alive and well and living in Alberta. We passed your contact information to him and, hopefully, he has been in touch. Ed*

Hi there

I received my Spring 2014 newsletter today. Always good to see names and faces. A great newsletter as always!

I have moved from Medicine Hat back to Branford.

Perseverance,

Len Hill

Thanks for the compliment, Len. This gives us a good opportunity to remind everyone who has moved in the last year or so to send us their new address info, if they haven't already so we can update our Regimental and Association lists. Ed

Your Dispatches Continued

Please accept my sincere appreciation for the receipt of the recent newsletter. It did my heart proud to see that my father-in law, and friend, (**Lonnie Bourgeios**) was identified in the "Last Trumpet Call". My hat is off to **Kathy** for making that happen.

It also does me proud to see that the Colonel of the Regiment gives credit to hard work and dedication to Regimental Maintenance Troop, yes, us "grease monkeys".

I was, and am, extremely proud to have been the ETQMS of the Regiment for a "record" 7 years. I worked with and mentored some of the most dedicated and devious technicians that would have sent the Commanding Officers we served with into convulsions if they knew how we kept things going. The RSM's hated me driving 88A (by myself) at warp speed, OK, as fast as the LSVW would go, to take Leopard radiators into camp Wainwright for cleaning at "0 dark hours", but as a Maintainer, I couldn't/or wouldn't take a technician off of a repair to drive me, so, I became the rebel ET. But, we kept the Regiment rolling. (I even got a break from the Wainwright MP's, who understood the enormity of the task and provided a stern warning). Like I listened.

Those still serving with the Regiment from that era should recall, the Squadron of the year trophy was presented to HQ Sqn and specific mention by the CO (**Tim Grant**) in the presentation speech was, "because of Maintenance" the award goes to HQ Sqn. I always joked that since there was no declared recipient the following year, HQ Sqn, was the recipient by default.

I was selected to accompany the team to travel to Ottawa to receive the Prince of Wales Trophy. An experience that I will never forget, and not because I had to share a room with then RSM **Dave Biener**. As a typical "Maintainer", ours was the room to have a toast to the Regiment, and that all knew they could come for a "night cap".

Please give my best regards to the CO and RSM, and thank you from the bottom of my heart for keeping me in the loop on Regimental activities. The Armoured Corp and Strathcona Regiment were a big part of my career.

PS. Yes, I was the ETQMS when Lt. Gov. Lois Hole presented the Regiment with the current "Guidon" and paraded with the Regiment to retire the former. Yes, I received the most welcome **Lois Hole** "hug".

Dah! I have some history with the Regiment.

ARTE ET MARTE

Doug Harbak

former ETQMS 96/03

Doug,

It is good to hear from you. Our RCME (yes, it is finally back to "RCME" again) partners have always been an essential and appreciated part of the Regiment and perhaps you can help encourage more of our former RCME members to keep in touch and join the Regimental Association. **Ed.**

Good day all. I am an old member from years gone by. I thought I would drop a line saying hey. I am alive and well in Picton ON. I own my own Home Inspection Business as well as property maintenance. If anyone is retiring in the area please look me up.

Brad Young

brdyng3@outlook.com

Brad,

Hopefully, some of your old buddies will read this and look you up – especially as you are now living in Ontario's new "Wine Country". We will also make sure the Ontario Chapter of the Regimental Association gets your contact information. **Ed**

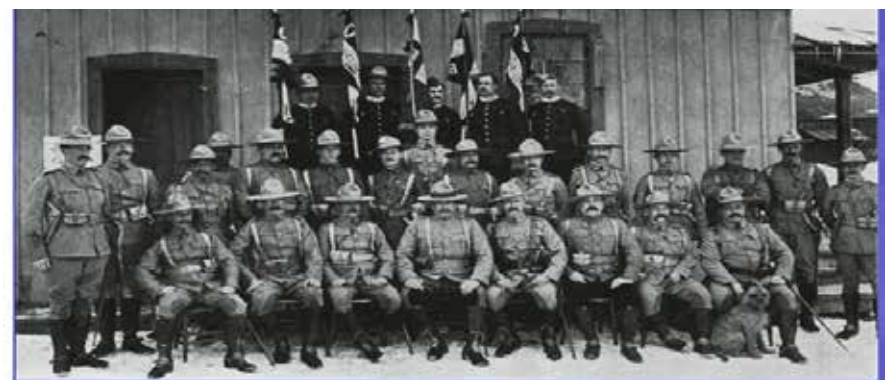
I uncovered this picture and would like to know if anyone knows the name of the brindle pitbull mascot, The NWMP also in those times had a bridle pittbull as a mascot?

<http://wp.me/p55eja-4r>

Joseph Mad

spaniard.13@hotmail.com

Joseph, We'll pass this on to our Museum Curator and get back to you if he finds any information. **Ed**



1899 - photograph of the Lord Strathcona Horse prior to heading to the Boer War. (Source of photo - RCMP Strategic Partnerships and Heritage Branch)

Your Dispatches Continued

The ranks of my generation continue to shrink. I see on the back cover of the Spring 2013 Newsletter that the last trumpet call has sounded for **Dick Thody**.

Dick and I go back a long way, we got our first hook at the same time, we were corporals and sergeants together. We were particularly close while serving with the Fort Garry Reconnaissance Squadron in Fort Chambly, Germany from 1962-1965. **Dick** was an observer with the helicopter troop, still wearing the Strathcona hat badge, while I was in the Squadron headquarters, temporarily sporting the Fort Garry gate.

Dick was already in Germany when I arrived with the squadron advance party, and welcomed me in the appropriate fashion in the Sergeants' Mess. Fort Chaubly was familiar territory for me. I had spent two years (1957-1959) with the Strathcona Recce Sqn there.

Dick, his wife **Val** and their kids were living on the 'economy' in Korbeke while waiting for a PMQ, and I took over their small upstairs apartment just in time for my family to arrive.

During one tour of duty we socialized at mess functions, played poker and liars' dice. Both of us were involved in a number of escapades that earned us extra orderly officers from **Major "Nick" Nicholson**. (Sergeants did orderly officers in the squadron).

When I became a civilian in 1966, I passed on my dress blues to **Richard**, his own were getting a bit tight on him, mine fit him perfectly.

We drifted apart after that. The last time I was **Richard** was in the summer of 1977. By then 4CIBG had been relocated to Lahr, and **Richard** was an SSM there. I am not sure that his regimental affiliation was at that time. My wife **Lynda** and I were touring Germany and gave him a call from Frankfurt, and he picked us up at the Lahr station.

We spend an enjoyable evening over dinner and drinks at his home in the PMQs. We had barely made it to bed when we were aroused by loud banging on the apartment door: Bugout! We had to catch our train before **Richard** returned.

I heard that **Richard** spent his last years of service in Chilliwack with the Engineer School, and that he retired in Sardis. For several years I considered attending a reunion in the Okanagan, but kept postponing it. Now I regret that I missed the opportunity to get together one more time.

Peter Baltgailis

Pete,

Dick is sorely missed by all of us who served with him in the Strathcona's and Garrys. Some of us well remember the escapades you two got into in Chambly. **Ed**

My Race car will be campaigned by **Lew MacKenzie** for this racing season. He duly put the Strath's badge on the car.

Cheers,

Andre Lorent.

Tanks, Andre. It is good to see **MGen (Ret'd) Lew MacKenzie** with the Strathcona badge that we know he has secretly coveted for years!! We hope you have a successful year. **Ed.**



Your Dispatches Continued

I am researching an article I am writing about my grandfather, who served with the Lord Strathconas during the Second World War. My grandfather passed away when I was too young to ask him about his war experiences, and unfortunately not much is known by my family about his time in the war. I am a journalist, and I would like to unearth and preserve this family history for a post on a blog called Wartime Wednesdays:

www.elinorflorence.com

I only know a little, and I'm hoping you might be able to point me in the right direction to find out more. It would mean so much to me. Here's what I know so far:

- My grandfather's name was **Stanley "Stan" Stachera**
- I think he served in the 2nd Armoured Regiment, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), 5th Armoured Division
- I know his tank was blown up in mortar fire, and he was injured (his arm, I think). His injury ended his time at war.
- I believe his tank (?) was Cobra II
- I found this excerpt in a Strathcona's Newsletter from the Spring of 2002, which tells a story of Cobra II. I would like to confirm that the "**Tpr Stachera**" referenced is in fact **Stan Stachera**. **Cpl. Brock** is listed as a senior crew member in a list of tank units I found: http://mmpbooks.biz/mmp/tables/Vehicle_Names_VI.pdf

I vaguely remember my mom telling me that he might have had a different first name that he registered to war with...but I'm not certain about this. I can find out that name if necessary. Thank you for any help you might be able to offer. I truly appreciate any efforts.

Regards,
Kelsey Verboom
Calgary, Alberta
403-479-9516
kelseyverboom@gmail.com

Kelsey, We have passed your letter to our Museum Curator to do a little research for you and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Ed

A Call for Afghanistan Stories and Anecdotes

With the completion of our country’s long-standing mission in Afghanistan, the Regiment is looking forward to new encounters that may challenge us in the years to come. As we turn the page in this chapter of our Regimental History, it is critical that we harvest and preserve the trials, tribulations, and success of the numerous Strathconas who served in Afghanistan in various capacities.

Depending on responses received, the Regiment will consider commissioning a book by 2016 that will encapsulate the stories and anecdotes of Strathconas, serving or retired, who served in Afghanistan over the past decade. This e-news is a call out to all Strathconas who wish to etch their name and story in the annals of Regimental History. Anecdotes of your most memorable experiences, good and bad, will provide the reader a rare glimpse of our Afghanistan operations as you experienced it. In your own words and writing style, your story, however short or long, will be openly accepted into the collection that will comprise this book.

If interested in being part of our recorded history, we ask that you submit your stories and photos NLT 1 June 2015 to afghanstories@strathconas.ca
Any physical CDs or photos can be mailed to:
LdSH(RC) Adjutant
PO Box 10500 Station Forces
Edmonton, AB T5J 4J5 Canada

Your Photos

*I am sending you some information and pictures from the Canadian Military Heritage Museum in Brantford. **Peter McKay** visited our museum a few years ago when he was Minister of National Defence, at that time he stated this was one of the best museums outside of Ottawa.*

*I am sending you some info about **Gordon Campbell Ronald**, who took his Calvary training with Lord Strathcona's Horse in 1911. We have a display case with a full display about **Ronald** and his exploits during the First World War. There is a photograph of the troop from 1917. The display also includes his uniforms, his original saddle, pay book from 1918, song book from the YMCA, two soft caps, book issued to soldiers returning from the war, money belt made of green canvas and leather, plus other items.*

***Ronald** left England in April of 1918, he was promoted to corporal on September 27th 1918 and was with the 7th Canadian Battalion and then transferred to Canada, Bramshop on April 30, 1919. He was wounded in January 1917 and August 1918.*

The photos are not the best, but I am unsure if our Regimental Museum has any of this info so am passing it onto you as you will know where it should go.

I have also included three pictures of a Ferret which is on display at the Brantford museum.

*We have just made renovations to the museum, painting, new roof, siding and we are quite proud of our Museum. I, as a previous Strathcona, was really interested in the display for **Ronald** and thought maybe the Regiment should know about it, and I wonder how many more local museums have information about former Strathconas?*

Jim Kelso
Jim, Thank you for the photos and the info on the Canadian Military Heritage Museum. If any of the Strathcona Family visit the Brantford area, we encourage you to visit this Museum. The website address for the Canadian Military Heritage Museum is www.cmhmq.ca Ed



Your Photos

Dear 'Strathconas',

I am mailing you after doing some research on the war memorial in our village.

We have a person named on the 1914 - 1919 memorial; **Pte LCD Eliot** Strathcona Horse

Please see attached photo.

I am currently researching the names of all the veterans listed in memorials and in graves in our village, by way of 'paying it forward', after I was recently contacted by a military historian who provided me with information on the death of my Grand Uncle, who served with the Royal Garrison Artillery. After 93 years the family now know where he is buried and can go to pay our respects.

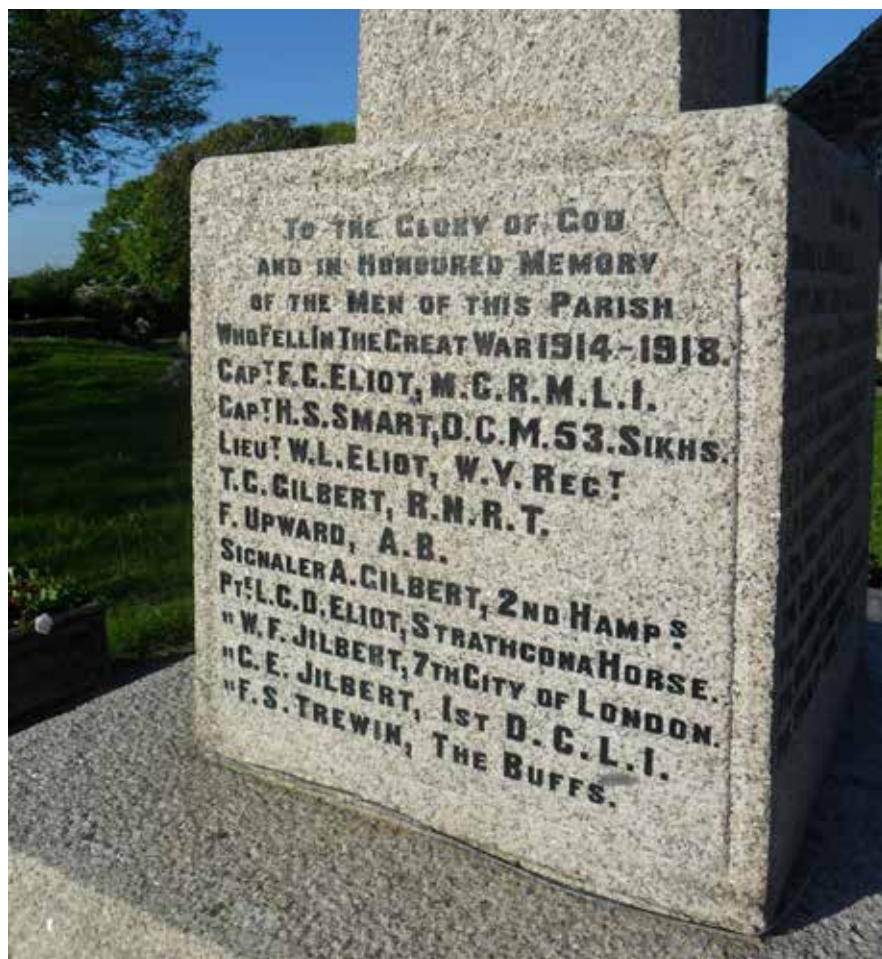
I have added all the information I have been able to find on **Pte LCD Eliot**, to the website 'Find-a-grave' - this is the link to his page on that site;

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=130494307>

I have been researching all of the veterans that appear on our local memorial, in order to place a 'personality' to the names on the granite - and was particularly touched on discovering the record of **Pte Eliot**.

Each year I place, alongside the poppies for my ancestors, a purple poppy wreath for all the horses and animals that 'also served.' This past week I have learned that my Great Grand Uncle **James William Ward**, would have been in regular contact with those war horses, as his regiment used the big howitzer guns.

I also learned that he is buried in Bully-Grenay, near Arras in France, and had supported the Canadian



troops at Vimy Ridge. **Pte Eliot** has a memorial at Vimy Ridge. My ancestor and one of your war heroes named on my village war memorial, served together during the same battle.

I live in a village called Mullion, Cornwall, in the far south west of Britain, just 7 miles from the most southerly point of the mainland.

You may be sure I will be at our village monument paying my respects on Remembrance Day, and I will remember especially, the sacrifices made at Vimy Ridge.

Yours faithfully

Debbie Sea-Kay

Debbie:

Thank-you so much for your interest in the Regiment and your dedication remembering the fallen.

We asked our Museum Curator, **Warrant Officer Ted MacLeod**, to do a little research on **Pte Eliot** and he replied as follows:

"I found that his service number to be interesting as it is a very low number; and in fact, our records show him to be one of the soldiers who joined the Regiment in Valcartier, Quebec prior to departure for France.

May we offer a correction to your dates... He is shown in our records as having been, "Struck off Strength, KIA (Killed In Action), 26 May 1917 (26/5/17)". This probably means he was killed 25/5/17. Additionally, if his name is engraved on the Vimy Memorial he probably has no known grave (or at least didn't when the memorial was unveiled in 1936). Unfortunately, this is quite common for First World War soldiers." **Ed**.

Your Photos

Dear Lord Strathcona Historic Troop, Please find pictures attached showcasing the "Lynx Destroyer", Serial #3447, which resides in our new Veteran/Community Park across from our Royal Canadian legion in Wildwood Alberta.

Our contract with you is dated for Sept. 10, 2013. We are enjoying having the "Lynx" on display, it has been admired by many!

With sincere gratitude,

Lori Rehn President & the Executive and General Membership
RCL Wildwood Br. 149

We are proud of the work our Historic Vehicle Troop does and only too glad we can share their contribution to maintaining the Regiment's history with others such as the folks in Wildwood. Thank you for your kind comments. **Ed**.



I made a model tank while in Korea and **Major Ellis** had me put it on his jeep. The model has been in the museum in Calgary and then moved to Edmonton. My daughter in law was out west this summer and found it. The museum in Edmonton sent the model to the museum in Fergus where my daughter in law lives. My family and I spent two hours with the model. What a day! It is now on the way back to Edmonton. It is 6" long, and still has the bolt inside for mounting to the jeep. I have the pictures to prove it.

Ben Mathers

Ben, Your model tank must have set a record for service with the Regiment. Even tanks in the Historic Vehicle Troop have had tours of extra-Regimental duty. We are glad you had a chance to show it to your family in Ontario and thank you for sending it back. We'll tell the MPs to stand down! **Ed**

LAST TRUMPET CALL



ADAMS, John Age 79, 17 September 2014, Kelowna, BC

ALLEN, Orval Age 83, 16 March 2014, St. Thomas, ON

BROTZELL, Arthur Age 83, 25 May 2013, Redcliff, AB

CATHCART, Chris 15 June 2014, Beaverton, ON

COLEMAN, William Age 94, 1 October 2014, Melita, MB

DORFMAN, Jeff 2 September 2014, Toronto, ON

GROSS, Robert (Bob) Age 84, 29 June 2014, Edmonton, AB

GUY, Doug 23 September 2014

HAZELWOOD, Douglas (Fred) Age 81, 10 October 2014, Calgary, AB

HODGSON, Jim Age 67, 3 November 2014, Australia

MCPHEE, Terry 29 August 2014, West Kelowna, BC

MULLIGAN, Ken 20 May 2014, Chilliwack, BC

PIRT, Ken Age 82, 2009, Carman, MB

In Loving Memory of Wives

CATHCART, Susan (Chris), Beaverton, ON

NICOLAY, Doris (Nic), Calgary, AB

RICHES, Bernice (George), Oliver, BC

SUTHERLAND, Edna (Leo), Calgary, AB

Our apologies for lack of details in some cases