



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

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

Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

By Major-General H.C. Ross

This is an appropriate time to write in favour and in praise of our Strathcona Association. It is an entity of our Regimental Family that has been around for some time and that has given our clan much support.



As a junior officer, I recall seeing Association members rise during Moreuil Wood and with creaks and groans join the Old Guard on parade. What impressed me most about 'the grey beards' was the incredible accumulation of experience that was concentrated into a small 'band of brothers'. And afterwards in the Mess, the incredible war stories were occasionally sprinkled with fanciful tales of feats befitting at least a Victoria Cross, if not a higher award!

Oxford defines 'association' as: "an official group of people who have joined together for a particular purpose." Another definition is: "the state of being connected together as in memory or imagination ...". A combination of both of these definitions aptly describes the Strathcona Association. We are a group of professionals who enjoy each other's company, regardless of

former or current station in life, and who gather periodically in a social, amiable venue.

Having attended the funerals of **René Gutknecht** and, more recently, of **Des Dean-Freeman**, I was impressed with the turnout of Association members, young and old alike. The motive for attending was to show respect for the fallen but the pre- and post-ceremony discussions were of the memories and anecdotes of time spent together as Strathconas. One Association attendee at Col Des' funeral fondly said: "I saw him (Des was CO at the time) frequently. We weren't drinking buds but we had respect for one another. He would say something, then, as the gentlemen that he was, he'd ask if I had a comment. And of course I did. But he always had the last word which was usually along the lines of ... 'RSM, march him out' which was when I could replace my beret".

Times have changed since the early days of the Association. Strathconas are leaving the CF at various points in their service for a variety of reasons, not just for age-driven retirement. It befits us all to ensure that those who cherished their time with the Regiment, whatever their rank and trade and wherever in Canada they retire, have an opportunity to join the Strathcona Association in order to be "connected together as in memory or imagination." Well done **Howie Owen** and our Strathcona Association.

Perseverance,

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Commanding Officer

By Lieutenant-Colonel T.J. Cadieu

In spite of our best efforts to reduce the tempo of the entire team, demand for our great soldiers on operations at home and abroad remains high, and the Regiment has been firing on all cylinders in recent months. Since I last wrote, several Strathcona soldiers and leaders have deployed to Afghanistan to serve in a variety of positions with Task Force Kandahar (helicopter crews), the Mission Transition Task Force and as training advisors on Operation ATTENTION. The rest of the team was either in the field training from end-March to the start of June, or deployed to Manitoba in support of Canadians affected by the floods. As you will read, the RSM, **CWO Bill Crabb**, has provided you with a detailed summary of the Regiment's activities in recent months. I will highlight the key focus areas for the Regiment in the year ahead.

From an operations and training perspective, our work is cut out for us. Although operations in Afghanistan will continue for the foreseeable future, Canada's combat role in the region will soon shift to a training advisory mission. The Canadian Army has already started to look ahead to the next bound by reinvigorating conventional war fighting skills to ensure we are capable of defeating a near-peer enemy, vice focussing solely on an asymmetric threat in a very specific counter insurgency environment.



The Regiment has seized on this tremendous training opportunity and has deployed the entire unit to the field twice this past year in order to reinvigorate our combined arms war fighting proficiency. Most recently, a Strathcona Battle Group (dubbed Task Force Steele) comprising a BG HQ, reconnaissance squadron, two infantry companies, artillery battery and engineer squadron minus was formed for a Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre exercise. This is

the first time in many years that we have had the opportunity to train at the battle group level.

I made the mistake early in my tenure to believe that the re-deployment of our tank squadron from Afghanistan would result in a reduced tempo, and that our extraordinary senior NCOs would finally get a period of rest after four years of sustained combat operations. In reality, the tempo has increased. The Regiment had become accustomed to generating tank squadrons for Afghanistan using a cookie-cutter approach to training and backed by the resources (time, money and people) to prepare our teams for combat. With nearly 50% of the unit's leadership deployed to Afghanistan again, remaining leaders in Edmonton are either augmenting courses or catching up on long-neglected professional development. They are more taxed than ever to generate imaginative and challenging training for the young troopers left in Canada.

I have never been concerned about the ability of Strathcona soldiers to deliver excellence in training or in operations. What does keep me awake at night, however, is the tremendous toll sustained operations has had on the health of our troops and their families, and the impacts on the broader Regimental Family. Accordingly, the RSM and I have designated our main effort this coming year to the mobilization of all resources to better care for the needs of the Family. For soldiers, this means we will continue to reduce the pace where possible through the use of short leave and by providing families with better predictability of pending tasks. Rebuilding the health of the Regiment also means re-instilling the pride of belonging to the Strathcona's. We are doing that by returning to many of the things that were a normal part of Regimental life for the Old Guard such as reinvigorating adventure training, command team challenges, unit sports teams, and setting our troops up for success at various Brigade and Army competitions.

In order to rebuild the health of our families, the Regiment is leveraging more than ever its extensive contacts in the community and Society resources to fund entertaining family events such as a Summer Family Day, All Ranks Dinner and Dance with world-class entertainment and the Children's Christmas Party. Further, no one knows the needs of the families better than the families themselves. For that reason, the RSM and I have solicited the help of various unit spouses to map out improvements to our family care network. I am pleased to announce that the spouse of one of our senior NCOs has recently stepped forward to lead this effort and will soon be an integral member of the Family

Support Troop, directly advising the RSM and I on spousal concerns and matters.

Finally, it is equally important that the broader Regimental Family – which comprises serving ERE Strathconas, members of the Old Guard and Friends of the Regiment – remain engaged in unit affairs. We have come to realize that the best way to keep Strathconas engaged is to keep them informed of the unit's activities. We are trying to do this through media such as the *Newsletter*, our new website (www.strathconas.ca) and periodic updates via Enews.

We are all fortunate to belong to the Strathcona Family, and we can be justifiably proud of the work of our great soldiers and the support shown by their selfless families. As many of you are already aware, **Master Warrant Officer Richard Stacey** was just awarded the Star of Military Valour by the Governor General of Canada for extreme valour in the face of the enemy. **Master Warrant Officer Stacey's** achievement is not only historic (this medal is second only to the Victoria Cross and less than a dozen have been awarded to Canadians), it also speaks to the quality of soldiers and leaders the Strathcona's consistently produces: all quiet professionals and the best at what they do.

Many thanks as always to **the Newsletter team** for their work on this latest edition.

Perseverance,



Regimental Sergeant-Major

By Chief Warrant Officer W.J. Crabb

As the Commanding Officer has already stated, it has been a particularly hectic spring at the Regiment.

Following a Leopard and Coyote Gun camp in Wainwright, the Regiment carried out our annual commemoration of the Battle of Moreuil Wood with a parade and Regimental activities. The Regiment then deployed to Suffield for a Brigade concentration that, although successful, gave us a better appreciation of some of the hardships endured at Passchendaele. We were in mud up to our knees with vehicles stuck continually due to a particularly wet spring in southern Alberta. On completion of Exercise Desert Ram, we then deployed to Wainwright where the regiment formed the nucleus of and led an airmobile battle group. No that wasn't a typo; it was a unique experience with sub-units from all over the Brigade working in conjunction with an American aviation brigade. Nearly the entire regiment remained deployed throughout May with 2 squadrons (A and Recce) dispatched to fight the floods and B Squadron complete in Gagetown supporting the Combat Team Commanders course. Most recently, the Regiment was granted the Freedom of the City of St Albert with nearly 4000 people turning out to see the guard, tanks, coyotes, trucks, historical vehicles, and the mounted troop rolling past city hall.

This summer, the Regiment will be too heavily tasked to stand down

all at once. Almost 200 Strathconas have been tasked to support Reserve training here in Western Canada. In the meantime the rest of the team will be conducting training in preparation for a fall exercise. We will also be conducting community relation tasks such as the Calgary Stampede, Spruce Meadows, and the departure guard for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.



In summary, although extremely busy, the Regiment is healthy and happy and looking forward to some well deserved rest during summer leave.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that **Capt (ret'd) Dave Biener**, a former RSM, has handed over leadership of the Edmonton branch of the association to **CWO Jim Merritt**. Thanks Dave for your dedication and hard work!

Brief Summary of the Regimental Society Board of Directors Meeting

By Howie Owen

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Regimental Society was held in Edmonton on 17 March 2011. The meeting began with the Colonel of the Regiment welcoming all those attending as well as those "tele-conferencing" The purpose of this report is to cover those portions of the meeting that are of interest to us all as Association members and as individuals who want to be kept abreast of what is happening within the Regimental Family.

One of the main purposes of the

Society is to ensure all serving and retired members of the Family are looked after in times of need and that we as a part of the Regimental Family can be extremely proud of the heritage and traditions of our past. The Society and the Regt work very hard to keep things on track and to keep us informed. To do this requires a great deal of organizing, volunteering and most importantly financial help. The money is raised through donations from individuals, businesses (Spruce Meadows) and Casino contributions. The Society is responsible for the operation and funding of:

- a) The Historical Vehicle Troop – distribution, location and operation.
- b) The Museum – Regimental inventory displays and archives.
- c) The Pipes and Drums – now being reformed.
- d) The Kit Shop – overall operation.
- e) Ceremonial Mounted Troop Foundation.

A report of a theft in the Military Museum of a number of articles Brig Harvey miniature medals was noted. An investigation is ongoing.

An important initiative introduced at the Board of Director's Meeting is the Planning and Priorities Committee (P&P). This newly formed committee is a "think tank" to make recommendations, for change where necessary and to set goals by which to accomplish aims. Some of the goals, if implemented, affect us as an Association. Here are seven (7) of the goals mentioned.

1. To encourage a strong sense of belonging within the Regimental Family and to encourage new membership.

2. Help those in need with guidelines.

3. Expand funding by developing new methods/ways to increase the financial status of the Society.

4. Enhance communications through more social networking – new web site is forthcoming

5. Promote our history and heritage through the Museum, The Ceremonial Mounted Troop, and the Historical Vehicle Troop.

Reunions were discussed in general terms. One idea was to have a reunion away from the Regimental location and change the sequence of events by having a two day event, Friday and Saturday and a farewell Sunday brunch. This could reduce the Regimental participation to a smaller "dog and pony" show with perhaps a Guard of Honour. Changing locations within Canada and holding reunions every two years was also raised. In the end, it was decided to keep it as it has always been, every 5 years.

Moreuil Wood 2018 celebrating the one hundredth year anniversary is already in the planning stage. The OPI for this event, Mr. Brian Talty, presented a very interesting briefing on the plan. It was thought that because the RCD and the FGH might also have plans for such a celebration, they should be approached about the event.

There seems to be some concern by members of the Association that the P&P Committee is trying to impose a re-organization of the Old Guard. I want to assure the membership that is not the objective. Those of us who are members of the Association are very concerned however about the decline in membership which has been evident for the past 5 to 10 years. The P&P Committee and the Executive

of the Strathcona Regimental Association are working with the Regiment to increase our membership by formulating a plan to make certain that the serving soldiers know who we are and where we are in Canada when they retire from the Regt. This can be done through various means of communication such as Internet, Facebook, and especially through the newly revitalized Regimental website. The Association will have a link on the site covering news, views, branch contact information in your area and much more. Another effective way to recruit new members is by one-on-one personal contact. The Regiment, through the release process, has included information on the Old Guard and maintains a Strathcona Family roll which can be made available to the Branches for follow-up. During the 2011 Board of Directors Meeting in Edmonton the decline in membership in the Old Guard was discussed and the reasons for the decline remain unanswered. The fact that in 2000 the Association had a membership of 508 and in 2011 the membership is 343. It is true that the strength of the Association has come from Alberta both from Calgary and Edmonton. The reason is that is where the Regiment was located for most of its existence. There are other groups of Strathconas in other provinces who do get together but have no desire to become a Chapter/Branch – the choice is theirs but any serving member leaving or retiring should be made aware that these groups are out there to meet and greet you should you wish to stay in contact with the Regimental Family.

In closing, I want to thank you for your time and support over the years as a member of the Regimental Family. Remember "Once a Strathcona Always a Strathcona".

Perseverance

Black Hat Luncheon

By Dave Letson

The annual gathering of the “Black Hats” from the lower mainland and Vancouver Island occurred on the 30th of March, the 93rd anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood. The menu card displayed the shoulder flashes of the units of the Canadian Cavalry Brigade at the time of the battle. The Sidney and North Saanich Yacht Club was the venue and has, for the second time, proved to be ideal for the purpose. Those attending are pictured here on the steps of the clubhouse which overlooks the water front.

Yes, for the first time we asked our wives to join us, and eleven were brave enough to do so.

Some of those attending were the usual standbys: from the mainland-Bob Burvill, Rollie Keith, and Bernie McNicholl; from the interior-100 Mile House Bob Wangenstein, up Island-Pat Patterson, Peter Furnell, Richard Kitcher, and George Smith, and from the Sunshine Coast Doug Dobson to name a few.

From further afield, Guy and Carol Thatcher got off a plane from those distant lands beyond the mountains and made it before we sat down for lunch.

We also had the Colonels of the Regiments for the Strathconas and Dragoons, Cam Ross and Darrel Dean [Darrel was a Strathcona before being hived off to help the Dragoons]. Both managed to keep the usual regimental rivalry at a civil level. After lunch, they gave us an up date on the activities of the regiments in Canada and in Afghanistan. This included the probable disposition of tanks when they are returned from theatre. They stressed the need to keep the “Black Hat” family strong and to encourage those moving on from the regiments to keep in touch through the various gatherings across the country.

In all, there were 40 “Black Hats” and wives present, representing each of the regular force regiments, RCEME and RCHA.



Strathcona's Win the British Army Judo Championships

Brigadier General (Ret'd) Darrell M Dean

Forty years ago a small team of six fighters flew from Dusseldorf, Germany to Bulford Camp, Wiltshire in the United Kingdom to compete for the British Army Judo Championships. Now here is the real story!

The team consisted of more than six, but only one fighter in each weight class was able to attend plus a couple of spares to replace anyone injured. There were others accompanying the team which I will explain in a moment. The team was formed in 1966 when judo replaced boxing as the army sport and a judo club developed in the Regiment. There were about thirty members of the club and space was provided in the attic of one of the old German barrack blocks for practices. Members came and went as the posting seasons did, but a core of young troopers recently posted in became the eventual team. We battled our way through the Brigade Championships the first year and placed second. In 1967, we won the Brigade Championships and placed second in the British Army of the Rhine Divisional Championships. In 1969, we won the Brigade and Divisional Championships for a second time, an accomplishment that guaranteed us a berth in the Army Championships scheduled to be held in April 1970.

The team had been practising diligently. Long training sessions were followed by runs in the hills around Iserlohn. The aim was to stay healthy, out of trouble, and train hard. We practised with the local German clubs to develop our skills and we were asked to demonstrate the sport at various sporting and cultural events. On one particular weekend, a couple of weeks prior to our departure for England and the championships, the team spent the afternoon demonstrating their various techniques at a German orphanage. Once the mats had been returned to barrack, the team members went their various ways. One member headed down to the local watering hole in Iserlohn to meet his girlfriend. Unfortunately, the girlfriend was also considered to be the girlfriend of a British Green Jacket, a battalion also garrisoned in Iserlohn. A group of Green Jackets lay in wait. Young **Trooper Louis Decotret** returned to camp bloody and distressed. The team quickly reformed and were soon on their way to revenge the wrong inflicted on one of their own. The result was as reported in the Iserlohn Zeitung, "The Great Iserlohn Punch Up". To quell the donnybrook, the German Bundesgruenschutz were called in and after an hour or so, order was restored. **Troopers Young, Scharatti, Lockyer, Johnston** and others were soon residing in the tender care of our regimental sheriff, **Sergeant Moe Rooker**. Chances of the trip to England were looking distinctly unlikely.



*The LdSH(RC) British Army Champions 1970
Front, L-R Capt Darrell Dean, Tpr Roger Leduc
Back row L-R Cpl Rick Tang, Cpl Brian Scharatti,
Tprs Louis Decotret, John Johnston*



Corporal Brian Scharatti receiving his medal for winning the special Kyu category at the British Army Championships. (Note the bandage on his forehead from a rather nasty cut)

I was the Adjutant of the Regiment at the time and had to make a personal plea to the CO that our members should not face trial until after the competition. **Lieutenant-Colonel René Gutknecht** agreed but only if the Regimental Padre and **Sergeant Rooker** accompanied the team. It was not implied that we had better win, but I was under the distinct impression that we had better not come home empty handed or in handcuffs. The CO and I made a trip to the Royal Green Jackets where both sides tendered apologies.

The team performed admirably, socially and in competition. It was a near run competition in total points and an injured **Brian Scharatti** scored the winning points to give us the championship. Our return journey home

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Strathcona's Win the British Army Judo Championships

was somewhat more somber because most team members were facing the wrath of the RSM and the distinct possibility of a face-to-face with the CO.

I arrived at work earlier than usual to place the old Samurai sword, the emblematic symbol of the British Army Judo Championships, on the CO's desk and await his arrival. All was quiet for a very long period of time. Eventually, I was summoned and told to have the team escorted in along with the regimental sheriff. Instead of the collective 30 to 90 days detention, it was a very warm congratulations followed by stern warning of what would follow if there were any instances replicating the "The Great Iserlohn Punch Up".

Where is the team today? **Bax Lockyer** is living in Calgary, **Brian Scharatti/Senegal** is living in Ottawa, **Louis Decotrect** passed away as did **Roger Leduc**. Unfortunately, still missing in action are **Cpl Ron Milton**, **Tpr Johnnie Johnston**, and **Cfn Richard Tang**. They were a great group of soldiers and Champions of the British Army. It was an honour to teach these wonderful young men this sport and be a member of their team.

Addendum: This year I was attending an RCD reunion in Petawawa and happened to see my old friend **Brian Scharatti/Senegal**. He told me that while attending a marathon run in Ottawa, he passed a woman who made eye contact with him. They later bumped into one another and it was the same girl from Iserlohn who had married **Louis Decotrect**. Small World!

It hardly seems like 40 years have gone by, except my hair has turned grey.



Team Captain and also 1969 British Army individual light heavy weight champion with the winners Samurai Sword, Capt Darrell Dean

Strathcona Humour

In the early sixties, I was an instructor at the Armoured Corps School where all the trades training was taught. During my tour, a class from Valcartier arrived to attend a Group 1 D&M(T) course. One of the questions on the mid-term written exam read, "On what component is the main engine of the Centurion MK IV mounted". The answer, of course, was the "coolant rails". During the test, a mostly unilingual francophone student raised his hand for help. He knew part of the answer for which he wrote down "coolant". He could not, however, remember the full name. Giving him a hint, I asked him to think of what a train runs on and walked away. After the papers were handed in, I was curious about the answer he had written. It was "schedule".

I gave him full marks for his answer.



TO YOUNG OFFICERS:

Never read the daily orders. It is beneath an officer of spirit to bestow any attention upon such nonsense; and the information you can get from them will not repay you for the trouble you are at, in deciphering them and reducing them into English. It will be sufficient to ask the sergeant if you are for any duty.

Extracted from: "Advice to Officers of the British Army....." published 1782

Lindsay Esson

Your Photos



*"A" Squadron Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)
April 1953 just before going to Korea.*



*Ron Peart, Al Kaatz
November 11th 2010 Penticton, BC*



*Al Kaatz, Bob Lett, Frank Rymerschuk
Reunion 2010*



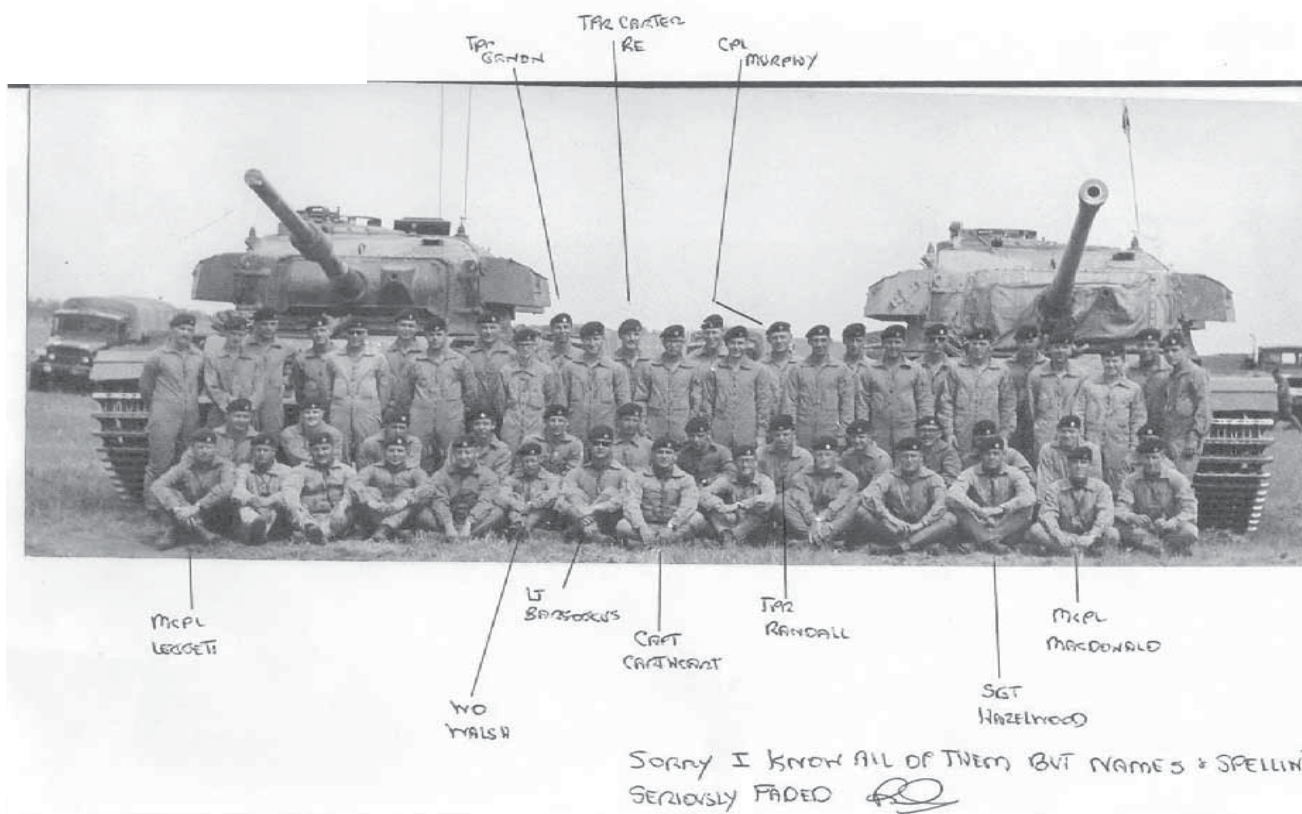
*LdSH(RC) RHQ Troop Holland June 1945
Trooper Bill Vella, CO's Radio Operator (Front Row Right End)*



*LdSH(RC) RHQ Troop
Holland June 1945 (from Bill Vella's collection)*



*Jim and Sandy Chamberlain
Reunion 2010*



*C Squadron LdSH(RC) Wainwright 1970
 Fort Garry had just rebadged to LdSH(RC) and participated in the Farewell to the Centurion and last Fort Garry Tank (Regular Force)
 Photo courtesy of Bill Carter*

The Importance of Maintenance

By Major (Retired) John H. Russell

When I first arrived at the Regiment, as an officer cadet in August of 1972, every one was in Cyprus except the Rear Party, commanded by **Major Dave Sproule**.

As the son of a Hong Kong veteran and coming from the ranks, I was fully aware that, as officer cadet, in the military food chain I ranked about two levels below private and just slightly above a civilian (horses had higher status).

To keep me busy and out of trouble, I was sent down the hill to the Headquarters Squadron hangar where a maintenance team was conducting inspections on all the Regimental vehicles. There, I met two Senior NCOs, **Sergeants Denny Lama** and **Larry Laidlaw**. These two happy-go-lucky guys took a personal interest in me and made sure that, in the little time available, I would not become a danger while learning the maintenance side of military vehicles.

My first task was to change the pinion seal on a ¾ ton vehicle. To help, the NCOs' a little dolly that you lay down on and slide all over the place under the vehicles (the forerunner, I am sure, of today's skateboards).

With both **Denny** and **Larry** guiding me through the process, I was instructed to use a hammer and large screwdriver to hit the groove on the face of the pinion seal in a counter clockwise direction in order to unlock the seal ring from the housing. Once done, I was instructed to grasp the unlocked seal ring, continue turning it ½ turn, and then pull very hard. Needless to say, when the seal ring popped out, all the dirty oil held inside the housing gushed out and covered me from my neck to my waist.

After a long pause because the NCOs' were laughing so much they couldn't talk, I was directed to go to the QM to get a new pair of coveralls, and then proceed to the Officers' Mess for coffee break. In the mess, I was given curious

Looking for a Former Member

I was with the Regiment back in 1976/77 and I am trying to track down a fellow member. His name is Sgt. Phil Bishop. Any help would be appreciated.

Bruce Troke

bruce.troke@securitas.ca

Thanks for the note Bruce, hopefully one of our Family members has some information they can pass on. Ed.

looks from everyone for smelling like 10W30 and looking like a walking grease nipple.

That afternoon, **Denny** and **Larry** taught me the finer art of bearing packing. This was to prepare me for my next task, which was to conduct a 2208 on a “deuce-and a-half”. This task required me to remove all six wheels, knock out the inner and outer wheel bearings, clean and re-pack them, place them back in the hubs, and finally, re-mount the tires. Too easy, I thought.

A day and a half later, I had one tire left to put the bearings in and bolt the tire back on the truck. That is when **Denny** and **Larry** told me to take a break and come back after lunch. On my return, as I prepared to put the bearings back into the last remaining tire and hub, I noticed there were three bearings on the ground when there should have been only two. Thinking that I had installed one of the other five tires without an inner and outer bearing, I disassembled all of them just to find out that every one of them was correctly installed. That task took a few more hours.

It turns out that, in my absence, **Denny** and **Larry** had added an extra bearing to the pile just to confuse me. It worked! No wonder they kept on smiling

when I was working on that truck.

In the end, they showed me how to test if the bearings were correctly installed, by violently shaking the tire back and forth. This, of course, saved taking the tire off the vehicle. To my surprise and amusement, they also showed me where the mechanical bearing packer was hidden.

I miss both NCOs. They taught me a lot about maintenance and kept me smiling all the while.

Appointment of Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Armour School

By Lieutenant-Colonel Dwayne Parsons

On the occasion of **John Swanton**, a World War II Strathcona veteran, celebrating his 90th birthday on 12 March 2011, the local Member of Parliament, the **Honourable Keith Ashfield**, made a public announcement that John had been appointed as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Armour School. To say John was surprised is a definite under-statement! This “Honorary” appointment had been in the works for over a decade and while many involved thought it had been lost, true “perseverance” prevailed. The MND, the **Honourable Peter Mackay**, sent the official designation in time to meet John’s birthday.



Honorary LCol John Swanton signing his induction paperwork in the presence of the Col Cmt, Gen Addy, and the Armour School Cmt, LCol Bill Foster.



Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel John Swanton in his DEUs prior to the Armour School Parade.

The importance of this appointment should not be taken lightly. John has had a long-standing relationship with the Regiment, the School, and, indeed, the Army that has exceeded the 50 year mark. He is a consummate gentleman and truly epitomizes what it means to be a Strathcona. He has never forgotten his time with the Regiment and takes every occasion possible to tell others of our rich and proud history.

Your Dispatches

Greetings from the Left Coast

I thought I should drop a line to jump-start my memory and bring myself up to date. I have stepped away from the job of looking after our annual operation on the Island and Dave Letson now has the reins. It was never a demanding task, but 14 years is long enough.

I am enclosing some obits. It seems to be getting a little more regular but I suppose inevitable as we all age.

Enclosed is a small contribution for the Newsletter as well as membership dues if you would be kind enough to forward them to the respective sources.

I thank you for your patience in deciphering my missives over the years....until the next reunion.

Andy Anderson, Sooke BC

Andy, thanks from all of us for your dedication and enthusiasm, not only for the past 14 years but through all your years as a Strathcona. Hopefully you will be around for many more to help "young" Davey Letson fill your shoes. Ed.

I thought you might be interested in an article I originally had intended for a magazine, but am now serializing on my blog. The address is below, if you would like to take a look.

Cheers

Bob Mackay

author, "Soldier of the Horse"

website:

www.robertwmackay.ca

Blog:

www.robertwmackay.blogspot.com

Thanks, Bob. As you see we are passing it on to the Regimental 'bloggers'. Ed

I am a retired officer from the Regiment (of the Korean war vintage). About ten years ago, I bought a new Regimental blazer and tie and wore it once to a Regimental reunion in Edmonton. Thus, it almost new. I would like to sell it at a reasonable price, possibly through the Association and am wondering about the most effective way of doing so. It would fit a man about 5 feet and 11 inches tall with a girth of about 38 to 40 inches -no charge for the tie!

Lorne Caughill (verlorn@sympatico.ca)

OK, Lorne, the girth of 38 to 40 inches has probably limited the clientele within the Association, but let's try this. If anyone would like to purchase this blazer, please e-mail Lorne at the address above. Ed.

I am returning the completed Strathcona Family Roll. However, although I do have an email address I would still like to get the hard copy of the Strathcona Newsletter.

I send all my copies to my son who resides in California. He has a great interest in Strathcona activities both past and present. He is a history professor at UCLA and has an abiding interest in the Canadian Army and it's regiments.

Bryan Yirush White Rock BC

Bryan, we'll make sure that your preference is noticed. All of us on the editorial board will now add "edited a Newsletter that is reviewed by the academic staff at UCLA" to our resumé's. Ed

Just a note to include a donation for the Newsletter. I'm one of "those" no internet etc. We also want to say thank you for the fine job you are doing. The paper looks great and we really enjoy it all except for the "last page" of course, but that's

life.

We had such a great time at the reunion and once again an excellent job by all. The only thing I wished it was say every 3 years just to keep in touch with everyone is great.

Frank Rymarchuk, New Maryland NB

Frank, as you say the Reunion was a great time and it was good to get together with you and so many of the Regimental family. Glad you are enjoying the Newsletter and we appreciate the feedback. Needless to say we are all trying to stay off the last page. Ed.

I am writing to tell you how much I appreciate your sending me the Newsletter. It is always welcome. Wishing all Strathconas a very happy Christmas Season.

Eileen Childs Elgin, ON

*Thank you, Eileen, and we send best wishes to you and your family. Your late husband, Phil, is still well remembered by many of us. I especially remember that lovely service at your cottage when you scattered some of Phil's ashes in the lake. With the osprey circling the lake and the four Canada Geese flying by in "missing man" formation, **Phil Neatby** and I both said "Only Phil Childs could organize that!" Ed.*

*Thank you for hosting the 2010 reunion at your Station in June. This is our families' second reunion, and only regret although fortunately our mother, a dutch war bride **Joukje Will**, was able to attend, our father Trooper **Robert J. Will**, second world war veteran, had never attended a reunion. He would have thoroughly enjoyed the occasions.*

I am enclosing a donation in appreciation of your attentiveness and kindness to us, your guest, during this time. We hope all the troops are kept safe in Afghanistan, and the peacekeepers throughout

Your Dispatches...continued

the world this ending and following year. We do not look forward to any more sadness. May God Bless, Thank you, may you all be safe.

P.S. Please forward if I can do anything for the troops, or their families.

Mrs. Berber Elmy, Kelvington, SK

Thank you for your kind words and your generous donation, Berber. We will forward your letter and offer to help to our Family Support Troop. **Ed**

I read somewhere that while the Strathcona Horse were on their way home from the Boer War their boat was diverted to England and that King Edward VII presented the soldiers with The South African War Medal.

Can you confirm and where I can find something about it?

Charles Cade

A timely question indeed. Please see Murray Cayley's extract (Instalment 7) from Nobby Clark's book on South Africa later in this Newsletter. It deals with the Regiment's return to Canada via England. **Ed**

In the humour area, I particularly liked I.D. MacKay's story of the match books and at last have an explanation of the box I received all those years ago. On arrival for a course in England I reported in to the Canadian Army Liaison Establishment (CALE) at that time the senior officer was **Brigadier Gerry Chubb**. I had to see him of course as he had made me an admirer way back in 1936 when he was training the BCD at Penticton, BC. He offered me a cigarette and I whipped out a book of Strathcona matches to light us up. He immediately grabbed the book and said it was his now. I had a spare

which I offered too.

Tomorrow I will attend **Bill Logan's** luncheon which, by email, he reports there should be 22 of us present. His previous two lunches have been very successful and he is to be congratulated. I hope someone writes it up as we have all heard of I.D.'s luncheons in the past.

Capt (very retired) Bill Jacobs,
Navan, ON

Thanks for the letter and story, Bill. Now, when can we expect YOUR report on the next Ottawa lunch? **Ed**.

Regarding Len Hill's request (Fall 2010 Newsletter), I have included a picture of "A" Squadron taken April 1953 prior to leaving for Korea. (See Your Pictures) The picture is quite damaged, but will show Len that this is the one he should have.

Norman Wurtz, Edmonton AB

Thanks for the follow-up, Norm. Hopefully the picture will come out well when we print this Newsletter. **Ed**.

Having retired some 25 years ago I am quite out of touch with many of my old Strathcona friends: however, to let those still in this world know my wife of 45 years Diana died in 2008 and I was remarried in 2010 to Ellen Broughton of Bracebridge Ontario. We are living in Almonte Ontario with, between us eight children and 15 grandchildren. Only one has a military connection my son Dr. Phillip Hughes is the PolAd to LGen. Lessard the rest are scattered around the world.

Major (ret.d) Alex Hughes OMM, CD

Good to hear from you, Alex, and we hope to see you and Ellen out to some of our Strathcona events in Ottawa and Kingston. **Ed**

Prior to 1957 the Strathcona's had a different regimental march than "Soldiers of the Queen" I understand that it was composed by the Band Master of the PPCLI Band in the late '20s at Fort Osborne Barracks and was called something similar to "Memory's Charms". By any chance is there a recording of this music? It would have been more suitable for a Trot-By than for marching.

Dave Letson

Dave, you'll find the music on page 7-2 of the Regimental Manual which is available on the Regimental web page www.strathconas.ca. You have also given us the chance to remind everyone to take a look at the newly revised web page as some outstanding work has been done. **Ed**

My name is Amber McBride. Albert McBride, who served in Korea 1951-1952 with Lord Strathcona's Horse, is my grandfather. This year I was one of grandchildren of Korea Veterans chosen to attend the 2010 PEACE CAMP FOR YOUTH in Korea. What a memorable experience.

After flying from Edmonton to Vancouver and then on to Korea, we arrived in Seoul on July 20th. The next day was the Kick Off Ceremonies at the Korean War Museum. The Minister of Patriots and Veterans for Korea welcomed all the Youths. We all took "The Oath of Peace", followed by a tour of the museum.

The next day was Orientation. After this we attended a Peace Seminar. We then were bused to the DMZ. This was an experience to remember. After returning to Seoul, we toured the city. A highlight of this was a visit to the Seoul Tower, what a view!!! That evening we

Your Dispatches...continued

experienced shopping in the markets ...bargains galore.

The fourth day, we went to Pusan and visited the UN Graveyard. I had the honour of placing flowers on the grave of Trooper Gordon Waldner, a boyhood friend of my Grandpa's. He was younger when he was killed than I am now. The ages of the young Canadians who gave their lives in Korea surprised me. It made me appreciate that my future grandpa was returned to us. After the graveyard tour, we went to the beach in Busan. I imagine it was much different from what Grandpa remembers.

The fifth day, we went to the Peace Camp. Here, we all went on a bicycle ride for PEACE. We then all released PEACE Doves. That evening, we went on a Han River Cruise. This was a nice chance to see the city with all the lights on.

We were lucky to have a chance to visit the Digital Media Centre. High Tech!!! We also went to the site of the 2002 FIFA World Cup. This is now a museum.

My fondest memory is visiting the UN graveyard, where my thoughts were of course of my Grandpa. When Grandpa picked me up at the Kamloops Airport (I was to join my family camping in BC), all I could think of was how PROUD I am of him.

It was a memorable experience to meet grandchildren from so many different countries. We had many chance to socialize in the evenings.

THANK YOU, GRANDPA

Amber McBride

And THANK YOU, Amber for this report on your visit. We are sure Grandpa McBride

is very proud of you too. I add that I had the honour of organizing and conducting many such visits for Canadian Korean War veterans during my tour in Korea in the late 90's. Veterans included the likes of Colby Yeomans, Ron Francis, and, yes, Al McBride. Few duties in my career were so rewarding or moving **Ed**.

(an excerpt from an email received by Al Kaatz)

Thank you very much for the time you took to send us the Strathcona pin and sticker. Ron has put the pin on his baseball cap and I know it means a lot to him.

You both have many of the same citations. Ron was a Sergeant with the Strathcona's and he was also with the United Nations peacekeeping force in Korea 1952-1953, Egypt he was with 56 Reconnaissance unit and Germany in 1965-1968. As you know his duties included Quartermaster. He was a wireless operator and gunner in WWII and I believe he was a crew commander in Korea and Egypt.

Please keep us up to date with regards to any information and publications from the Strathcona's. I know Ron would enjoy the opportunity to keep current with any news from them

Dale, Sally and Ron Peart via Al Kaatz

Thanks, Al, for forwarding this. We'll ask the Association to ensure the Peart family is on the distribution list. **Ed**

A friend of mine forwarded this photograph (right) to me recently, which depicts her father during WW II. His name is Robert (Bob) Bathgate. He is still living in Langley BC, but has recently suffered a stroke.

I know from talks with him, and reading the regimental history of WW II that he served in Lord Strathcona's Horse in Italy and Northern Europe, and was mentioned in the history for his role in destroying a German 88.

I believe this photo shows one of the Regiment's tanks, but I don't have the knowledge to be sure.

Can you confirm whether or not this depicts one of the regiment's tanks in WW II?

Thanks

Roy Bergerman

roy.bergerman@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Roy, we sent your letter to WO Ted MacLeod our Museum Curator to get his expert opinion. This is his reply –

“The Regimental Manual says:

“Antelope.”* Commanded by Sergeant Kendall, it had mechanical trouble on

FINAL CALL FOR STRATHCONA WWII PHOTOS

Typesetting and photo layout has commenced on a 400+ page photo-history of the Regiment from the period 1936-46. With help from the Regimental Archives in Calgary the author has acquired digital copies of over 2000 photographs from this period, the vast majority have never been seen before and only a small number have been published. The book will include memoirs, excerpts from diaries, and remembrances from the veterans themselves.

The author is making a **final call** to all serving and non-serving members of the Regiment, and members of the Family Roll to contribute photos, memoirs, diaries or any documentation relating to any Strathcona who served during WWII. No information before or after these dates is requested, and all information must be of a military nature showing the person preferably in uniform in singles or in groups in Canada, England, Italy, and Holland, or their homecoming in 1946.

All Strathcona-related photos are of importance! If you feel you may have something to contribute, the author may be contacted directly via email at patrick.johnson@sympatico.ca

Your Dispatches...continued

the Centre Line short of the Hitler Line. Was later commanded by Sergeant G.F. Johnston; it was exchanged for one of the first 17 pounders in the San Giustina "Mud-hole" and retained its name; was the first 17 pounder to "K.O." an enemy tank: a PANTHER at Bulgaria while working with the The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment (Hasty Pees) in October 1944. Sergeant Johnston fought many gallant actions in this tank, perhaps none more so than that near Barheveld, before the

tank was hit. Sergeant Johnston received the posthumous award of the U.S. Bronze Star; Trooper Leverington was also killed. The tank was never replaced."

I have the source document for this entry in the Regimental Manual and it says the same thing. I believe the "never replaced" to be incorrect.

1. The source document is "A Record of Achievement" by McAvity. His entry on tank names says "The repatriation of the Regiment was well under way when the

idea of producing a brief history of each tank presented itself. With many of the crew members gone, it proved difficult to get a complete and accurate account in every case...." the entry ends with "...with apology for omissions, and with no guarantee of accuracy!"

2. The picture shows a 17pounder firefly with the correct markings for a tank in first troop "A" Squadron LdSH(RC). The name "Antelope II" would indicate a replacement tank.

3. There's a Strathcona standing in front of the tank (tankers usually don't take pictures standing in front of other people's tanks, unless, for some odd reason, they're destroyed)

4. There were never more than two Firefly's per troop but the picture shows all the tanks in the background to be Firefly's. Therefore, the picture looks like the turn in at the depot at the end of the war where all tanks of the same type would be grouped in their own parking areas.



My best guess is this picture shows Bob Bathgate turning in his replacement tank named Antelope II after the war, but I can't prove it."

So, Roy, that is the best we can come up with. It does raise two other questions though. Was this the first "KO" by a 17 pounder? What does the reference to "Bulgaria" mean? Any answers from our readers? Ed.

Strathcona Humour

I see little reference made to the wonderful 'salad days' when the Regiment returned to Calgary in 1946.

Initially, our return was saddened with the death of Lt Black whose jeep overturned on the road leading to Currie Barracks. Then, to our dismay we found on entering the barracks the Patricia's had moved to Calgary a week before us and with the usual disdain the footslogger views anyone and anything associated with four legs, they uncaringly moved into the pre-war Strathcona accommodation - including the Officers Mess!

Naturally, we had to hunker down in temporary wartime H huts which had none of the comforts of home. Some young, untutored Patricia subalterns frequently referred to us as "Their poor cousins." This spirit of good-natured rivalry naturally led to some of us to think up ways to curtail Mervin Thurgood, Charles Scot-Brown, 'Suds' Sutherland and the others.

Sitting in the Mess one Saturday evening, Jimmy Cameron, Ross Houston and I opted to teach the Patricia's a lesson. Going to the stables where Major 'Eke' Campbell had placed two goats - to keep the horses company - we took the goats and struggling though deep snow finally got them to the Patricia (former Strathcona) Mess. We had a hell of a time with the goats who didn't want to be out in the cold, but after a great deal of wrestling we got them inside. We managed to keep things quiet and the ungrateful Patricia's slumbered on upstairs not knowing what was going on below.

We later learned the first thing the goats did was drop little marbles behind them and they nibbled the bottom of the drapes. To our horror, we discovered they piddled all over the regimental carpet - the one with the Patricia crest woven into it. As a useless piece of military trivia, I must tell you that goat urine takes the colour out of carpets.

Sunday noon, we decided to call on the Patricia's where we were received with courtesy - and absolutely no comment on what had happened. Eke Campbell, although not living in barracks, learned what went on. He knowingly advised that we apologize and offer to pay for any damage our escapade caused.

Monday morning, we three paraded ourselves to the Patricia CO, a fine gentleman named Neil Gemmell. We followed Eke's advice, but Colonel Gemmell only smiled and said, "That's all right. We will get even." That ended the story of the goats, but the Colonel's comment leads to the tale of the Strathcona cannon.....(see page 17).....Tojo Griffith

Pictorial History Corrections

Holders of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians): A Pictorial History are advised to enter the following corrections:

Page 61, Top Para Column 2: **Delete**: "...from 1957 to 1961,". **Insert**: "...from 1957 to 1959,".

Page 61, Top Para Column 2: **Delete**: all after "commanded by..." **Insert**: "Major I. MacD. Grant from August 1957 to January 1959 and Major W.J. McLeod from January 1959 to November 1959."

Page 63, Cutline Under Photo: **Delete**: "... Maj I. MacD. Grant 1959-61,". **Insert**: ..."Maj W.J. McLeod 1959,"

Page 53, Column 1, Second Line From Bottom: **Delete**: "Catherine." **Insert**: "Cognac."

The authors regret these errors.



Nobby Clark's "Anglo Boer War, Lord Strathcona's Horse" Installment 7 - Conclusion

Submitted by Murray Cayley

Going Home

While the war would continue for another two years, the Strathcona's one-year enlistment was coming to an end. It had been a year of hard campaigning. They had seen friends and comrades killed, wounded in action or overtaken by illness. The men were tired. They had become less enthusiastic for war than they might have been in the heady days of enlistment.

Consider Drummond's tribute to the Regiment in 1900, reflecting the enthusiasm for a cause, not less than the cheering crowds along their route to Halifax and thus to South Africa.

Strathcona's Horse: *William Henry Drummond, 1900*

O I was thine, and thou wert mine, and ours the boundless plain,
Where the winds of the North, my gallant steed, ruffled thy tawny mane,
But the summons hath come with roll of drum, and bugles ringing shrill,
Startling the prairie antelope, the grizzly of the hill.
'Tis the voice of Empire calling, and the child-ren gather fast
From every land where the cross bar floats out from the quivering mast;
So into the saddle I leap, my own, with bridle swinging free,
And thy hoofbeats shall answer the trumpets blowing across the sea.
Then proudly toss thy head aloft, nor think of the foe to-morrow,
For he who dares to stay our course drinks deep of the Cup of Sorrow.

Thy form hath pressed the meadow's breast, where the sullen grey wolf hides,
The great red river of the North hath cooled thy burning sides;
Together we've slept while the tempest swept the Rockies' glittering chain;
And many a day the bronze centaur hath galloped behind in vain.
But the sweet wild grass of mountain pass, and the battlefields far away,
And the trail that ends where Empire trends, is the trail we ride to-day.
But proudly toss thy head aloft, nor think of the foe to-morrow,
For he who bars Strathcona's Horse, drinks deep of the Cup of Sorrow.



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John McCrea, who will later achieve immortality with his poem: "In Flanders Fields", catches a more somber mood and the need to rest after a year at war:

A Song of Comfort: *John McCrea*

Thro' May time blossoms, with whisper low,
The soft wind sang to the dead below:
"Think not with regret on the Springtime's song
And the task ye left while your hands were strong.
The song would have ceased when the Spring was past,
And the task that was joyous be weary at last."

To the winter sky when the nights were long
The tree-tops tossed with a ceaseless song:
"Do ye think with regret on the sunny days
And the path ye left, with its untrod ways?
The sun might sink in a storm cloud's frown
And the path grow rough when the night came down."

In the grey twilight of the autumn eves,
It sighed as it sang through the dying leaves:
"Ye think with regret that the world was bright,
That your path was short and your task was light;
The path, though short, was perhaps the best.
And the toil was sweet, that it led to rest."

January, 1901, the Strathcona's were within a month of their enlistment. Steele informed Kitchner that it would be inappropriate to hold the men in South Africa any longer. In his memoir: *Forty Years in Canada*, Steele says that: "on January 12, when at Viljoen's Drift, I received a telegram from our depot officer to the effect that we were about to embark for Canada." The corps had been five weeks without time for a change of underclothing, nor had anyone of us heard a word of news from any quarter. "The men were said to have cheered the news that they were going home.

"... On Sunday, the 14th, I paraded the regiment and informed them that Lord Strathcona had arranged for them to return to Canada via England, and that I expected that, while in London and elsewhere, they would prove themselves to be as well behaved in peace as in war, a credit to their country."

"On the 15th I received orders to entrain for the Cape. Prior to doing so, Lord Kitchner, Commander-in-Chief in South Africa, arrived to say farewell to the regiment. The corps received him in line, and, after the usual salute, the Commander-in-Chief, accompanied by Major-General Barton and the staffs of both, addressed us. He thanked us for our services and stated that we had marched through nearly every part of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, that he had never heard anything but good of the corps, and that we should be greatly pleased if he told us of the number of letters he had received from generals all over the country asking for Strathcona's horse."

"The regiment arrived at Cape Town on January 20, embarked at once on the Lake Erie, and sailed on the following day. All hands were refitted with new clothing from head to foot, and new hats were sent out by Lord Strathcona."

"There were many lying reports circulated to the effect that the regiment behaved badly at Cape Town when waiting

Strathcona Humour

The old brass cannon complete with three cannon balls sat outside the Strathcona Mess and was often the site for photographs for those who wanted to impress their girlfriends or other casual acquaintances.

One night, the beastly Patricia's snuck down and purloined the cannon and the cannon balls. They took them out to Sarcee range where with the ever-increasing amounts of gunpowder managed to shoot the balls to such a distance they were never found. We were left with a cannon but no balls! (I've often wondered if they ever found the cannon balls. One would think that with the multi-million dollar cleanup of the Strathcona Sarcee range, they would have found the cannon balls by now!)

Those were the wonderful 'salad days' when soldiering was such fun. We had all experienced six years of war, so now was the time to enjoy our good fortune. And we did!

But just think of the uproar it would cause if you tried such antics today.

Tojo Griffiths

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there to embark. . . . One officer from another Dominion stated that . . . the mis-behaviour . . . was the worst he had ever seen! As a matter of fact, the regiment marched direct from the train to the ship! Another Ananias (an early Christian who was struck dead for lying to God: ed.) put an article in the papers which circulated over the civilized world to the effect that when some Boers fired upon a party of the regiment from a house which showed the white flag, they prepared to lynch them, and did so, and, when a staff officer interfered, threatened to lynch him! This is sheer nonsense. . . .”

The regiment disembarked from the Lake Erie at London, February 14. They were welcomed at Kensington Barracks by Lord Strathcona and a large group. On February 15, the regiment, led by the Coldstream Guards, marched past cheering crowds to Buckingham Palace where Steele put them on parade before a distinguished group including the King and Queen. The King inspected the regiment and then presented them with The Queens South Africa Medal (Victoria having just recently died), the first issued to any troops. At this point a Kings Colour was presented with the words: . . .”It was the intention of my late mother to present you with this colour. I do so now and ask you to guard it in her name and mine.” Steele was then presented with the Victorian Order, the regiment presents arms, speeches were made and they returned to Kensington.

The following days were spent with all members of the regiment being freely and even lavishly entertained in London, including a grand luncheon for all by Lord Strathcona, with only isolated incidents of over-enthusiasm amongst the troops, leaving behind a glowing reputation for the regiment and Canada

The following (with permission, ed.) closely echoed in Steele’s memoir, is from original notes and letters in The Sam Steele Collection: The University of Alberta, which may be viewed on their web-site.

“departing from Liverpool, England aboard the S.S. Numidian on the 23rd of February, 1901, Sam Steele and members of the Lord Strathcona’s Horse regiment arrived home to Halifax Harbour on Friday, March 8th, 1901. We had a verry (sic) bad voyage, arriving six days over due, finding great anxiety on the part of relatives and friends.”

From the Diary of Lord Strathcona’s Corps, South African War, 1900 – 1902: The ship got into port in the night, and on March 9th the returning soldiers were received by “a guard of honor from the 3rd Special Service Battalion, R.R.C.I, with band received us on the deck with a general salute.” They boarded a Montreal-bound train for an eventful homecoming at Montreal on March 11, 1901:

“The train was met by a large concourse of people and the Band of the Montreal Garrison Artillery. Several prominent people came to the train to welcome us. The men then said their good-bye to their officers and went their way. Their actions all the way from Halifax where they were disbanded showed that their unity and discipline were no strain. The greatest order and good fellowship prevailed. The O.C. [Steele] said farewell to the regiment in an order dated 9th inst. On arrival at Montreal he was met by many friends and relatives and escorted home.”

Colonel Steele goes on to note in the War Diary entry for Wednesday, 13th March, 1901, that he is: “deeply grateful for the honour conferred on him by Lord Strathcona in selecting him for the command of the magnificent Corps of men which bore his name and which is acknowledged to be one of the very finest and best equipped of all Corps which have served in the war.”

Steele then prepares to return to South Africa and the South African Constabulary. Having made arrangements for some of his officers to accompany him, he calls on the Minister of Militia. From his memoir: “. . . he informed me that it had been the intention of the government to make Strathcona’s Horse a part of the permanent force, which it is now, but that there is no hope for that at present, which was reason for me to prefer to return to South Africa.” As Steele remained in Ottawa, The London Gazette appeared, granting many officers and men of the regiment special decorations. “The C.B. was given to me; . . . and many N.C.O.’s and men were granted the medal for distinguished conduct in the field.”

There is another part to this story, Nobby’s trip to trace the Strathcona’s history in South Africa. He visits many of

Continued On Page 19

the historic sites connected with the war and identifies Strathcona memorials and graves. He searches museums and libraries, uncovering documents and other information, shedding new light on period events. (*In editing Nobby's book for presentation in the Newsletter, I have taken considerable liberty in introducing new source materials, and expanding on or clarifying Nobby's text. I think he would approve. Ed.*) In closing this review of Nobby's work, the best that can be said is in his own words in his introduction:

“Young soldiers who had served under such dynamic Lord Strathcona's Horse Regimental Sergeant Majors as Dick Cuniffe, Blinky MacDonald, Rick Gaunt and Squint Armer will attest to the pride and esprit de corps these legends generated in their lessons on Regimental history. Commanding Officers all placed a good deal of emphasis on the value of Regimental history in the development of loyalty and integrity in soldiers under their command. Throughout my career and as Regimental Sergeant Major, I had been troubled by a perceived void in the early part of our history whether considered from the Regiment's inception in 1885 or by the genesis of the Regiment as Strathcona's Horse in 1900. Ultimately, pride will often provoke a conglomerate of thoughts and of imaginary concepts regarding a Regiment; - our Regiment, the corps d'elite; The cavalry dash and daring; The skill of frontier scouting; Saddle horns and lassoes, revolvers, rawhide, wide brimmed hats and spurs; man and horse; the Western elite personified.

“I was cognizant also of rumours and innuendo concerning our early history in South Africa: the so-called white flag incident and lynching of six Boers; the mystery surrounding our first Regimental Sergeant Major; looting of captured towns and communities; and, the perceived massacre in the Crocodile Valley of six Strathconas.

“In 1998 I went to South Africa on a fact-finding mission simply to satisfy my own curiosity regarding our early history. I was able to locate, photograph and record all of our war graves in South Africa and to establish the two graves located in Gravesend and Woolwich, England. (Pte.'s Hunter and Harris were reported on 1st March, 1901, to have died of enteric fever at Woolwich, England while the Regiment was at sea – Diary entry, ed.) Early on during my trek of our battle fields I was deeply impressed by the high regard held of Steele's Strathcona's Horse by the Boers and in particular by the British Army who had served with the Strathcona's. Tributes upon tribute were expressed by such key players as Lord Kitchener, Sir Redveres Buller, General CF Clery, The Earl of Dundonald, and Major-General Knox.

“I also discovered a document identifying a feature in the Lydenburg area as Strathcona Hill.

“I have written this document as a conglomerate of facts based on my research of Strathcona's Horse in South Africa with a tie-in to its initial formation in Canada. . . . I would suggest that this document be allowed to rest in our Museum Archives for possible future study. I also make no apology for using the words . . . of those who can say it as well as or better than I. In this regard I am indebted to Sam Steele (*his memoir: Forty Years in Canada, ed.*) and in particular, Professor Carmen Miller . . . professor . . . of History at McGill University. His book, "Painting the Map Red," is co-published with the Canadian War Museum. (*Nobby has quoted from him extensively, ed.*).

“I would also like to thank **Lieutenant-General J.K. Dangerfield**, CMM, CD for his council and meticulous editorial guidance in the final production of my manuscript.

DIT MARK NIE SAAK WIE IS REGT MAAR REGTIG WAT IS REGT
IT MATTERS NOT WHOM IS RIGHT BUT RIGHTLY WHAT IS RIGHT

Regimental Sergeant Major Nobby Clark
Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

Fall 2011 Edition Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the
Fall 2011 Strathcona Newsletter is
24 October 2011.

Submissions should be forwarded to
newsletter@strathconas.ca

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

Last Trumpet Call

CURRIE, Roy WR Age 84, 17 August, 2010, Cranbrook, BC

DEANE-FREEMAN, Desmond Age 96, 19 May, 2011, Pembroke, ON

GREENWOOD, Ron 14 November, 2010

GUTKNECHT, René Age 80, 2 January, 2011, Ottawa, ON

HAWKINS, Anthony T Age 82, November, 2010, Victoria, BC

HUTCHISON, Foster Age 83, 28 September, 2010, Edmonton, AB

LAIRD, Robbie 11 November, 2010, Kitchener, ON

LAROSE, Bob JPR Age 85, 15 May, 2011, Kingston, ON

MCCONNELL, Charles WJ Age 86, 29 January, 2011, Calgary, AB

NASTUIK, Bill Age 84, 28 November, 2010, Calgary, AB

PECK, Howard 2005, Nepean, ON

RAMSDEN, Albert Age 86, 26 December, 2010, Calgary, AB

REYNOLDS, Roy Age 81, 28 November, 2010, Sooke, BC

WATTSFORD, George Age 99, 15 January, 2011, Kingston, ON

In Loving Memory of Wives

JAMES, Norma (*Bill*), 5 July 2010, Sooke BC

MYSYK, Ursula (*Benny*), Calgary AB *Our apologies for lack of details in some cases*



June 2011

The reason for this insert is to address a consistent query from many members of the Regimental Family regarding how donations can be made to the Regimental Society. There are several ways in which this can be accomplished:

Cheques - are a simple and easy way to donate. They can be made out to Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society and sent C/O Kathy Batty to:

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

Cash – if you are in the Edmonton Area and able to drop by for a visit, cash will of course be accepted. Please do not send cash through the mail;

United Way – as a registered charity we are directly linked to the United Way. One time donations of any amount can be made throughout the year as well as on a monthly basis for a year at a time. These donations can be made by credit card on line through the United Way webpage. A step by step outline of how to complete this process is included on the back of this letter. In addition there is now a link to the United Way webpage on the Regimental website. In order to ensure that your donation goes to the Regimental Society, you will need to provide its full name which is: **Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) Regimental Society**, and our Registered Charity Number which is: # **10764 3462 RR0001**; and

Y006 - for a serving member to donate to the Society, all you need to do is visit your Orderly Room Pay Clerk and set up a small monthly allotment under Y006. This will direct the amount that you specify to the Regimental Society on a monthly basis.

For each donation an Income Tax Receipt will be issued. Please feel free to contact the Regimental Second-in-Command, Major Rob McKenzie at (780) 973-1667, if you have any questions or concerns.

On behalf of the Regimental Family, thank you for your continued support.

Perseverance

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

Steele Barracks PO Box 10500, Station Forces, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4J5 Tel (780) 973-1660



Donating Online to the Regimental Society through United Way

- Step 1:** Go to the Alberta Capital Region Website <http://myunitedway.ca/>
- Step 2:** Go To [Donate Tab](#) and a drop down menu will automatically appear click [Online](#)
- Step 3:** A Window will appear with a Dear Friend Message click [Donate Now](#) on right side of page
- Step 4:** Enter the amount you wish to donate along with the type of payment and click [Additional Services](#)
- Step 5:** Once new window has loaded select [Other Charities](#).
- Step 6:** A New window will appear with a search engine – input *Lord Strathcona's Horse*
- Step 7:** Once the Regimental Society appears select it and enter the designated amount. Then click [Save](#) and [Close](#)
- Step 8:** Once Closing the previous window it will bring you back to the previous window where you selected [Other Charities](#). You can now click [Continue](#)
- Step 9:** Input the information as required. Then click [Submit Donation](#).

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)

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