

LdSH (RC) Society
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LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE (ROYAL CANADIANS)

NEWSLETTER

Volume 18, No. 1 Newsletter Editor: 'Mucker' Al Langan

Spring, 2003

Strathcona Mounted Troop Report

Following an extremely eventful summer the Troop went on a well-deserved leave period during the Month of October. Upon return to work the Troop had to say good-bye to their Troop Leader Captain **Ross Prokopy** who moved on to a new job and was replaced by Lieutenant **Faith Rhodes**.

The first task at hand for the new Troop Leader would be the Grey Cup. On the 24th of November the Troop participated in the Opening Ceremonies of the Grey Cup at the Common Wealth Stadium. In front of 60,000 screaming fans, the Troop made its way into the stadium for the playing of 'O' Canada. The field itself was covered with 800 pom-pom-shaking school children that were rein-

forced by fireworks being set off 20 feet in front of the horses. Needless to say tensions were high but besides a little bit of dancing the Troop performed extremely well.

The Opening Ceremonies were not the only event that the Troop participated in for the Grey Cup. There were several award dinners and banquets where the Troop provided vedettes. All in all the Grey Cup was a success for the Troop where they had the opportunity to meet members of the Edmonton public and promote the Troop's equine abilities.

December brought about the regular Christmas festivities, with the sports day and men's Christmas dinner. The Troop

retired **Shadow** who went to a good home and was replaced by **Stinger** a half Arab, half quarter horse. Additions to the herd were also made in January with the return of **Saint** who had been on loan to a member of the saddle club until he matured. **Sporster** officially became a member of the Troop, he had originally been on loan for a four-year period and upon completion of that time frame the Troop purchased him.

In January there was also a change around in the members of the Troop. Three new members were added to the Troop and one member Corporal **Michael Calow** returned to the Regiment. For those new members an equine course was put into motion where they learned the basics of horsemanship including tack, breeds, diseases, etc and of course the art of riding. Three more soldiers are expected to join the ropes of Mounted Troop upon their return from Bosnia in the March time frame.

For the **Regimental Family Day** in February the Troop set up a mini tent-peging stand for the families. This consisted of mountain bikes not horses and swords instead of lances. Despite the poor weather conditions and slippery footing many ventured out for the activity, which proved more challenging than had been expected. In the end it was an ex-member of the Troop that took home the prize of four movies passes to Silver City.

On February 18th, the Troop participated in the Opening of the Alberta Legislature. With lances and swords in hand the Troop provided the honour guard for the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, **Louis Hole**. This constituted the first official function for the new members of the Troop who took an extra hour in the morning to figure out how to get dressed.

With the riding course out of the way and new horses on the ground, the Troop has begun its preparations for this summer's ride season. A good portion of the summer is already booked with rides and we continue to look for new venues in order to expand our audience. We appreciate all the support we receive from the Regimental family and anticipate this year to be yet another exciting time for the **Strathcona Mounted Troop**.

Lt Faith Rhodes
Troop Leader



Hyde Park London September 2001



At the Grey Cup Edmonton November 2002.

Comments from the Commanding Officers Hatch

I guess the title for this SITREP should be "Situation – No Change." The **Regiment** continues to work at a hectic pace in what are extremely uncertain times. As I write this, the majority of our **Snr NCOs** and **Officers** have been tasked as instructors to **Schools** to an extent that Regiment's ability to train itself has become very limited. This being said, our people continue to approach all challenges with impressive devotion and a fighting spirit.

Since my last article the Regiment has exercised its command and control skills in the simulated computer environment of the **JANUS** system. Commanders at all levels stood up well against the Granovian hordes ("Fantasians" to you older folks) under the evil leadership of **Captain Chris Adams**, the enemy force commander. The Regiment also made us proud in January by placing second overall in the annual **Brigade** sports week, Ex **STRONG CONTENDER**. **MCpl Rob Clarke** led our Ball Hockey team to gold; **Cpl Mark Denson** was the mastermind behind a "Cinderella Story" silver medal finish, while **Cpl Shawn Crawford** led the indoor soccer team to bronze.

At the end of January the **RSM** and I were able to visit "**B**" **Sqn** in **Bosnia**. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and were

proud to see how professional and determined the squadron is. Thanks to the skilled driving of **Cpl Jason Storry** and **Cpl "Junior" Green**, we were able to witness first hand "**B**" **Sqn's** efforts towards a lasting peace in Bosnia. No big surprise but the mission has changed drastically; gone are the days of crackdowns on Inter-entity Armed Forces activities. We followed along as **Sgt Bruce Montrose's** patrol conducted a night vehicle checkpoint to search for weapons and daytime surveys of local Glamoc Serb villagers. All very important activities for the continued peace process but not very military in nature. "**B**" **Sqn** will be arriving home in early **April** with "**C**" **Sqn** deploying in late **March**.

On the way home, the **RSM** and I stopped in **England** to return **Lt Flowerdew's Victoria Cross** to its owner, **Framlingham College**. The ceremony was impressive and the College, located in **Suffolk**, an extremely gracious host. For a more detailed description of the event, I refer you to an article on the Regimental website. During our short stay, the **RSM** and I were able to visit with **Sheila** and **Peter Barlow**, the last **Queen's Royal Lancers** exchange couple, and **Alan Graham** (with wife, **Sally**), a long time friend and patron of the Regiment.



LCol J. Cade CD

Most of February was spent in Shilo on **Ex PALLADIUM RESPONSE**, the validation exercise for the **2 PPCLI Battle**
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Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

March is the month when **Strathconas** recall the battle of **Moreuil Wood 85** years ago. We reflect on that great battle where the **Canadian Calvary Brigade**, with the **Strathconas** playing a leading role, halted an enemy advance that threatened to break the Allied line. Opportunities for the



Col Mark Egner

employment of cavalry in static trench warfare had not occurred often and the Regiment was more frequently used in infantry roles and protecting flanks and rear areas. When the time came for mobile hard-hitting action it was decisive and the **Strathconas** rose to the occasion, as did the other regiments of the brigade, the **Dragoons** and the **Garrys**.

Today, when our deployments focus on other tasks, it is important to keep our armoured and reconnaissance skills ready for use. With all the demands on the unit's time and energy this is not easy. In these circumstances the Regiment's motto, "**Perseverance**" takes on a very personal meaning as it has in periods of stress in the past. During the celebrations of Moreuil Wood we have the occasion to recognize Strathcona achievements of today. The annual presentation of awards gives us the opportunity to praise individuals who have shown outstanding abilities during the past year. It is also an occasion to meet with members of the "**Old Guard**" and the many friends of the Regiment who participate in the activities.

One of the events that is scheduled during the Moreuil Wood activities is the annual meeting of the **Regimental Society**. With decreasing resources coming from the government and ever-increasing tasks, the

support provided to the Regiment and the Strathcona family by the Society is more important than ever. It is a measure of the Strathcona spirit that so many of our family contribute to and participate in the Society. The Society is now 29 years old and growing in strength and resources every year under the leadership of the Society Secretary LCol (ret'd) **Walter Reid**. This year the annual meeting will consider a new long range plan for the Society to increase its support to the **Museum, Mounted Troop, Pipes and Drums, Historical Vehicles Troop** and other Regimental activities. We are also beginning to prepare to participate in the **Alberta Centenary in 2005** and to connect with our communities especially in **Alberta** and **Western Canada**.

The Society through this *Newsletter*, the website and other means helps to tie together our **Associations in Calgary, Vancouver Island, Ontario (Ottawa and Kingston)** and individual Strathconas in every location in **Canada** and **abroad**. For those that have not visited the website lately, you may be in for a surprise when you see the high quality display of information there. You can even visit the **Kit Shop** from the comfort of your own computer! The address is <www.strathconas.ca>. As always I urge you to stay involved and keep in contact.

Perseverance.

Col Mark Egner

Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters

In the fall issue of the *Newsletter* I read with great interest the letter submitted by a friend of mine **Floyd Olsen** of Edson Alberta. As I was directly involved in this action I would like to give further information of the events that occurred on 31st Aug and 1st Sep 1944, this is one day and night that I have relived many times over the years and will never forget.

I was a wireless operator in **1st Tp "B"** Sqn the afternoon of 31st of August, orders came through that "B" Squadron was to lead the advance and proceed to **Point 322**, which was a high ridge protecting the **Gothic Line**. With "**C**" Sqn on one side of us and "**A**" on the other we were to take over from the **BCD's**, who had fought their way to the top of the ridge and had lost numerous tanks and therefore were unable to defend the ground they had captured that afternoon.

We reached our objective late afternoon under light enemy fire. Just before dusk we were ordered to dig in and hold our positions, about midnight all hell broke loose, we heard a loud shout "**snipers**" it was the Germans counter attacking with machine guns and rifle fire. They had set a number of hay or straw stacks on fire plus the **BCD's** burning tanks made the area quite light.

Shortly after the action started our tank commander was wounded (Lt **McKay-Keenan**) and left the tank to get first aid, he did not return to the tank. Shortly after, our gunner Tpr **R.J. (Bert) Roper** started to leave the tank through the turret and was immediately hit and killed. Tpr **S.F. (Stan) Bolding** our driver was also killed. That left Tpr **A.L. (Brigham) Young**, the bow gunner and myself in the tank. He yelled up to me and said he was getting out, I advised him to stay in the tank as there was Germans all around us, but he jumped out and no sooner had he hit the ground than he was hit by machine gun fire. I heard him shout so I crawled out of the top turret to see how badly he was hurt he was wounded in both legs.

I saw someone run towards our tank (it was Tpr **W.E. (Bill) Moncrief** (according to **Floyd Olsen**) Bill assisted me in carrying Young (whose wound was not serious) to the rear of the tank and covered him with a tarp. Bill then ran back to his tank and I climbed back into mine then I realized I was all alone and could not defend the tank. I peered out of the turret and noticed **Jimmy Mathew's** tank a short distance away. I crawled out of the tank and ran over to Jimmy's tank. His crew was all intact, I jumped on to the rear of the tank, where its Browning machine gun was mounted in the Anti-aircraft mount, and I started using this gun at the enemy troops.

Toward the end of the action I was hit in the left elbow which was shattered. A few minutes later I was hit in the left side

between the 16th and 17th rib, it continued through the lower part of my left lung exiting through the 6th and 7th rib of my right side, never touching any of the ribs, if it had I would not be writing this letter. The good **Lord** was looking after me that night. Jimmy immediately helped me off the rear of his tank, put a tourniquet on my left arm and a field dressing on my chest and he then shot me full of morphine covered me with a blanket and went back into his tank.

Without his prompt action I would not have survived, I owe Jimmy my life. I remember coming too as the stretcher-bearers were putting me on the stretcher at about 5:30 am 1st Sep, the enemy had retreated by this time. I spent 8 days in the field hospital where they drained my lung and made it easier for me to breathe.

A further 3 weeks in a hospital in **Rome** then a **New Zealand** hospital at **Caserta**. I was then sent to the **5th Canadian** General hospital near **Birmingham, England**. We left this hospital in December and spent Christmas and New Year on a hospital ship returning to **Canada** about 5th Jan 1945. The best part of the trip was receiving a bottle of Canadian beer with our dinners.

In Canada I was in the **Colonel Mewburn** hospital in **Edmonton** until the end of June when I received my discharge after 10 months, I was sure glad to get out of the hospital.

At present I am in fairly good health. Try to golf two or three times a week, my left arm is stiff and I don't have too much movement. My left lung was brought back to normal with therapy and exercise and does not give me any problems as yet.

I hope this letter is of interest to some of the **Straths**, and brings back memories of **31st Aug** and **Sep 1st 1941** and of the **Gothic Line**.

Harold Boetcher (MM)
Victoria, BC

(Well told Harry there is nothing wrong with your memory I'm sure it will jog a lot of memories. Thanks for the donation. Ed)

The cheque is in the mail to the **Association Alberta Branch** as well as the survey for **REUNION 2005**. We are looking forward to coming God willing.

Enclosed is a cheque for the **SOCIETY** to distribute as you see fit, as long as the horses' get a bag of apples and/or carrots and the troop some support. It is such a great attribute of the Regiment to have the **Mounted Troop**. And of course, that is where our hearts lie, because of the **WW1** members of the Regiment that we are related to, my dad, **Fred Cooper**, my uncle, **Ted (Edward) Cooper**, two great uncles, **Albert** and **Wally Maytum**. We also include **Fred Cade** as practically in the family; he was such a good friend to the boys.

Our best wishes for the New Year to all of those who keep the **Strathcona** family in such good shape.

Sincerely,

'Les' & Dodie Beauchamp
San Clemente, CA. USA

(Thank you for your update of your Strathcona family and a big thanks for your generous donation. I believe the Commanding Officer is going to drop you a line. Ed)

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R to L: Bill James, 'Squint' Armer, 'Art' Francis, F.C. McIntyre.

Comments from the Commanding Officers Hatch *continued*

Group, of which "C" Sqn is a member. Enduring absolutely frigid temperatures, the squadron was put through the "Bosnia gears." **WO Sean Cowperthwaite, Sgt Bart Devos and Lt Eghtedar Manouchehri** were put to the test managing severe accident scenes involving mine threats. I'm proud to say that the squadron did extremely well, demonstrating superior planning skills and quick reaction to changing situations. Also in attendance was **RHQ** who designed and commanded the Observer/Controller group. This relatively new concept allows for experienced observers to witness training events and provide neutral comment aimed at strengthening the learning experience of the training audience.

Rece Sqn is back in the saddle and managed to squeeze in a short winter warfare exercise and gun camp in **Wainwright**. Although suffering from a lack of leaders due to instructor augmentation taskings, they completed their **Coyote gunner course** and basic winter survival skills in a typical **Alberta** wintry blast.

On the horizon for the Regiment is playing enemy force to the **2 CMBG** exercise in Wainwright this April. National tasks are employing the Regiment's leadership else-

where therefore after April we are expecting a very quiet **Spring** and **Summer**. **Rece Sqn** is already feeling the pain and the thin ranks on the **Moreuil Wood** parade will be further testimony to the problem. This situation will continue until at least August as the Army remains desperate for, and must train in record numbers, new recruits and Junior Leaders.

On the brighter side, the Regiment will be entering a team in the **NATO** dismounted patrolling competition, **Cambrian Patrol**. With our team having distinguished itself with a **Silver Medal** finish last year, interest level is high in the Regiment. "B" Sqn will be converting to **Leopard Tank** upon their return from Bosnia and will prepare to "kick **Yankee** butt" this Fall during the **CANAM Cup**, a tank gunnery competition to be held in **Boise, Idaho**.

Although the **Army Commander** has yet to approve, **Commander 1 CMBG** has recommended the **Strathcona's** be the lead for the **Op PALLADIUM Roto 15 Battle Group**, which will deploy in **October 2004**. Although this is welcome news as it will see the Regiment deploying overseas as a Regiment for the first time since **1997**, it is questionable there will even be a Roto 15 as the **Canadian Government** is

looking seriously at a huge draw down in the Bosnia commitment.

With Army reorganisation pending, the future structure of the Regiment remains a question mark. Although our final structure will see a **Rece Sqn** and two tank sqns, we currently only hold one sqn's worth of tanks. In order to save money, the Army is looking at putting the **RCD** and **12 RBC** tanks into preservation – **Commander 1 CMBG** has put forward a proposal that would see one of those squadrons coming to Edmonton and remaining out of preservation – keep your fingers crossed!

I will close by encouraging everyone to sign up for the **2005 Regimental Reunion**. This event will coincide with **Alberta's 100th Anniversary** and we will be a big part of the celebration. Just home from Roto 15, the Regiment will be out in force for the Reunion. In order to assist the organisers, I urge you to indicate your interest in attending as soon as possible.

Despite the challenges, morale in the Regiment remains high. I am continually amazed at how hard our people work and how loyal they remain in what are often discouraging times. I attribute it to their pride in the Regiment.

LCol J. Cade CD

The RSM's corner

As the Regiment bounds ahead into March, we look towards a reduced **Moreuil Wood** celebration.

Reduced only in the sense that we will not have many personnel in house but not reduced in the sense of spirit!

As luck would have it, the **Bosnia rotation** is due to take place, smack dab in the middle of our **Moreuil Wood** weekend. Just as we welcome "**B**" Sqn back into the fold, "**C**" Sqn takes to the sky and replaces them in Bosnia.

Fortunately, when "C" Sqn returns in **September** it should mark the end of Regimental separation. However, the way world events are continuing to unfold, there could be more on the horizon.

What has the Regiment been up to? Well, getting "B" Sqn out the door was a task and a half! However, since the last newsletter, the Regiment has been busy with things like; Re-org of **Rece Sqn**, **Christmas** dinner, the Snr NCO's making a clean sweep of Christmas sports (that means winning all the events against the officers, including hockey, Col **Hilton** take note)). We had a good break at Christmas, then it was normal qualification training. The **New Year** started off with **Strong Contender**, the **1st Bde Gp** annual sports event. Our teams did a great job all around, with special mention going to Mcpl **Rob Clarke** and the **Floor Hockey** team, who finally won the **Gold** after 10 long years of trying!

The CO and I, returning from a visit to the

Sqn in Bosnia, returned **Flowerdew's Victoria Cross to England** with a very nice ceremony at **Framlingham College**. The **TQ** converted the regimental lines to host our "**Winter Carnival**", "C" Sqn deployed to the Tropical Paradise of **Shilo** in Feb and it was touch and go, but **Rece sqn** did deploy to **Wainwright** for some sqn trg and a guncamp.

Morale continues to be good amongst the troops, which in itself is a miracle considering the tempo, lack of real field training and constant change. Some may have doubts about the "nexus" generation, but I am con-

fident that the Regimental system, will mold each one of them into good soldiers.

This *newsletter* article goes down as my last one as **RSM**. I will be handing over the reigns to **CWO Russ Ells** this summer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank, a few people, for their helpful comments and support over the last couple of years. Many thanks '**Mucker**' **Langan**, **Don Crossman**, **Gary Lee**, **Bud Wheat**, **Father Greene** and **I.D.Mackay**. Well done to all of you for keeping the RSM in line. I couldn't even stray off the track plan with that crew keeping you honest. Tanks again.

RSM (CWO) D.M. Biener CD

More Honours for Danny McLeod

A number of people have alerted us to yet another honour for **Danny McLeod**. Forty years after he helped bring the first **Canadian University Men's Hockey Championship** to **Kingston**, **Danny McLeod** will have an award named after him. The **Canadian University Hockey Coaching Association** has announced that the **Major W.J. Danny McLeod Award** will be presented to the most valuable player of the championship game.

The **President** of the Coaching Association said, "When we looked at his contribution to hockey, the Major is someone who is long overdue for recognition. We are extremely honoured in this small way to honour him. He was one of the founding

bodies of the CIAU (now the Canadian Inter University Sport) and the first Secretary-Treasurer. He was also one of the prime drivers for a national university hockey championship."

Generations of university athletes and others will continue to respect his discreet but important efforts in support of Canadian sport. **Danny**, who was elected to the **Kingston District Sports Hall of Fame in 2001**, was the Athletic Director at RMC from 1960 to 1970. He presented the Trophy at the championship game in New Brunswick on 23 March 2003.

(With thanks to **Bob Billings** and **Phil Neatby**)

Letters Letters *continued*

I was reading the latest copy of the *Newsletter*; and was taken back a few years in time, I saw names I haven't seen for some time. Like 'Nobby' Clark, Vic Binnie, who was my SSM in the mid 50's and Vic Childs, who I remember from Camp Borden who I believe picked me up from Sunnysbrook Hospital in Toronto and drove me back to Camp Borden. I also saw names like Colonel Deane-Freeman and a good friend Tom Horgan; boy it's good to see these names again. I just learned the other day of Pete Leggett's passing; we went to Germany together sailing on the Cunard Lines ship "Ivernia". I would like to thank the people who put out the *Newsletter* for their hard work. When I see all these familiar names I think back to when we were making Regimental History and having many parades. I know it made me a better person. The Strathconas is a fine outfit and would be proud to serve in it again, but too old now.

Oh! Before I close is there anyone out there that can recall my tank being stolen from "B" Sqn lines in Wainwright in the 50's. If so I would like to hear from them, my troop officer was Lt. Acreman of 2 Tpr.

Other names that come to mind are Funkie, Skinner, Jefferson, Georgeson others also come to mind but I forget to jog them down. But I guess you get the idea.

Ron MacFarlane
Carrying Place, ON

(Welcome back into the Strathcona family. You will find just as many memory lanes in future issues of the Newsletter as you did in the last issue. Ed)

Congratulations on the Fall 2002 *Newsletter* I had a wonderful trip down "Memory Lane." It's so nice to see so many names of old comrades and to remember how we worked together for so many years.

I enjoyed reminiscing over Ken Barnaby's picture of the first troop of recruits for the Corps in 1947. An old Strathcona

Major Jack Turnley had been the OC, and on his retirement Capt Vic 'Pappy' Jewkes took over. The late Jack Cade was one of the troop officers and I as Ken indicated was the SSM. Fast-forward 15 years; Replacement Wing developed into the GMT Sqn, 'Pappy' Jewkes (now Major) retires and I take over as OC. Two Wings were formed Officer Cadets was one and Recruits the other. Is it any wonder that I recognize oh so many names of officers and other-ranks in the *Newsletter* and in the Corps including old SSM (and golf pro) George Prokopetz. Thanks so much.

On the 5 Jan 03 I had a telephone call from Saskatchewan, and surprise, surprise, it was Jack Fallas. He was doing a little reminiscing about the time he joined the Straths, just 65 years ago, and thought it would be nice to talk to someone who had been in 1st Troop "B" Squadron and I was the lucky one. We had a mini troop reunion (the call lasted over half an hour) and it was wonderful. We decided that our troop officer DND 'Des' Deane-Freeman and P3465 Tpr F.N. 'Frank' Clifford, P3475 Tpr H.G. 'Hugh' Mackie, P3483 Tpr J. E. 'Jack' Fallas was all that was left of the troop; one other P3493 Tpr F.E. 'Frank' Haley transferred to the RCAF in 1941 is questionable. He retired as a Sqn Leader to the West Coast and his trail has been lost.

I haven't seen any of the local Straths lately but do keep in touch by phone occasionally. Cliff Beaver is doing just fine, Reg Epps is fighting the flu bug, Harvey Caldwell is doing pretty well, Jack Newton is still in the Parkwood Hospital and is hanging in pretty well. I am doing my best to grow older gracefully.

I'm saddened to report that Lillian (Ruth) Parker passed away on the 10 Nov 02, Ruth was the wife of Bill who passed away in 1989. I also had a phone call from Ron 'Sam' Carr to inform me that George Aitken had passed away 18 Jan 03 in Barrie where he and his wife Jessie had lived

since his retirement. George was well known in the Corps and had served in at least three of the Armoured Regiments.

In closing, I say again "Thanks for the Memories".

Hugh Mackie
London, ON

(Thanks for your kind words of appreciation. Note I dug-up Frank Haley's PF number noting he joined in Winnipeg 12 Jun 1938. He was born 29 Apr 1919. Thank you also for the donation. Ed)

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and that a great New Year is in the offering. Our family all gathered at Edson. Keith is still holding his own.

In July we went to the handicap cabins in Kananaskis and ran into Innis McKay and his wife Erna, who were camping. Had coffee and a nice chat, it was great for Keith. We don't get out much as it is too tiring for him, but we do get all the updates from Gerry Reid and this *Newsletter*.

Shirley Burgess
Edmonton, AB

(Pleased to hear that Keith is being kept informed and kept up to date of his old comrades. Don't forget the Morieul Wood festivities and parade this March 2003 at Steele Barracks in Edmonton. Thank you for the donation. Ed)

The 27th July 2003 will mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice. Since I was one of four Canadians present at that very special event, I am tentatively planning to return to Korea about four days prior to 27th July 2003 to celebrate the occasion ... hopefully at Panmujom if it is accessible.

It may be possible that other Korean veterans are planning a return trip to Korea at the time noted above and if so, I would be pleased to hear from them and perhaps be part of a small group or contingent at that time. I may be reached at the following places, telephone (519) 578-5905, fax 519 578 8496 or email verlorne@sympatico.ca

Lorne Caughill
Kitchener, ON

Thank you for the two back issues of the *Newsletter* for 2002. We found them most interesting, but upon reading the Special Anniversary edition for the Fall 2000 there was an article penned by Percy Buzza of his return visit to Italy. This *Newsletter* contained the second part of his pilgrimage to Italy and I was wondering if you have the Spring 2000 edition containing the first part of Percy's column and if so I would be most appreciative if you would send it to the enclosed address. Thank you so kindly.

Mrs Berber Elmy
Kelvington, SK

(The Spring 2000 Newsletter you requested will be sent with this edition. Thank you for your donation. Ed)

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Korea bound 195? Identified: 2nd left, George Prokopetz, 4th left, George Barr.

LdSH(RC) Association (Alberta Branch) Report

Hello from Calgary and I am wondering if your weather has been as strange and mixed up as ours. Your Committee has a new Entertainment rep – **Howie Owen**, and a new hospital rep. – **Dave Cathcart**. The rest of the Executive is remains the same and vacant seats are Vice President and Membership with those duties being shared.

Many of our Veterans have passed on and I encourage you to inform us one way or another so we can send our condolences and possibly a booklet with some a very helpful checklist to aid one in a time of grieving.

PEOPLE – PLACES – THINGS

Orly Whalen writes – **Laura** and I doing OK health-wise but could be better some things come with age. I enjoy seeing familiar faces in the *Newsletter* and reading articles on those I served with.

John E. Thompson writes – I will be making my annual trek to Orillia area for a family golf tournament at Western Trent Golf Course, end July early Aug. If you see a red Mercury with GA plates, Strathcona sticker in the back window at an A&P parking lot, there is a good chance that is me.

Jerry Cluett – has retired from the committee after over 10 years of service in every position except treasurer I think. THANK YOU Jerry for all your help!!!!

Bill Davie – formerly FGH in early 60's in Germany now fully retired from second career is looking for those he served with. He lives outside Hamilton Ontario but still travels a lot with motor home groups. His email – williamdavie@sympatico.ca

Dick Horne writes – I have had a bit of bad luck. Found out I have cancer in my lungs and have undergone some radiation treatment and it seems to help, at least it has not made me sick yet.

Mike Sartor – Finally retired and living in Red Deer Alberta. Taking up fishing, not sure where but he had to have a new truck to get there. Enjoy Mike!!

Lindsay Essen – our secretary is displaying his computer skills making us certificates, soon cards and other graphics. He will be using the email more frequently now to distribute points of interest. If you have such points, please send to us, but not a long list of jokes, to abranh@strathconas.ca

11th Strathcona Okanogan Valley Reunion September 19th to 21st 2003 – Vernon BC Contacts are: **Al Kaatz** – 250-675-4223 or email – almar-sorrento@webtv.net or **Mike Pushkarenko** at 250-546-4005.

Membership Fees – a reminder they need to be in by June. Thanks to the many for sending donations. Remember specify where? You want your money to go. (**Association, Museum, Riding Troop, Newsletter**).

ID's Luncheons – very popular event and thanks ID for persevering. The regi-

ment sends representatives down when possible and is appreciated along with the informative briefings.

Year End Financial Statement – It will no longer be sent to our membership. If any of our members would like to receive one write or e-mail, the President and he will send you a copy.

Congratulations are in order – **ID MacKay** and **Fred Daunais** received their Lifetime Membership and **Gord Beattie** received his Honourary Membership.

Peter Wonderham – back soldiering and off to Bosnia – Contingent RSM. His production of a booklet containing many helpful phone numbers for pensions inquiries, plus an easy to follow checklist to assist the surviving spouse, is under final review and will be ready on request.

Gary Lee – Your treasurer is enjoying retirement spending a month in Hawaii over Xmas and a week in February in Mexico, and Oh Yea!!, almost forgot, Gary and Gail proud owners of a Jaguar. NO worries the books were audited and he passed with an “A” plus.

Your committee is in the process of updating your constitution and hope to have it finalized and ready to present the Resolutions to the May meeting for approval. Mostly minor amendments making it current with the day-by-day operations. In an effort to recognize the continuing support of the **Alberta Branch** membership, we plan to present each member a “Gift” yet to be confirmed in 2005 either by mail or in person at the Reunion. Monies (50%) have been put aside from the membership fund and the other stipulation is that you must remain a member from 2003 to 2005 inclusive to be eligible. You will have noticed we did not send you anything with your receipt this year, nor will in the next two years. It is your support that keeps us moving forward and please, comments and criticisms welcome. There will be a separate article for Reunion 2005 and please comment on that as well. Perseverance.

Don Crossman

President

Uptight Seniors ...

(Senior citizens are getting fed up with being blamed for faults not of their doing. The following is an open letter that appeared in an Alberta leading newspaper some time back. Ed)

Senior Citizens Battered

I am writing on behalf of senior citizens, the generation, for the past five years, under attack, the battered generation, **those in need of compassion.**

We are the generation that, with our parents, survived the “big” depression with no assistance from our governments.

We are the generation that fought the “big” war so that the younger generation could enjoy freedom from fear and want.

We are the generation that came to this country, or whose parents, grandparents, great grandparents and all, came to this country knowing the only thing they were entitled to was the freedom to work hard and build a better life for themselves and their families.

We are the generation that in hard times lowered its expectations until things improved, rather than send household members out to work, therefore reducing available jobs.

We are the generation whose public servants paid annual contributions towards eventual pensions, only to be ignored when reaching retirement.

We are the generation that paid health

insurance premiums for decades, when we had little use for the services in the sure and certain knowledge that in our old age our medical and drug requirements would be available to us then.

We are the generation that paid for decades, an old-age security surtax each year on our income taxes to provide for our pensions, pensions which many people say we are greedy for taking, even though the premiums we paid were not deductible and therefore, should now be tax free.

We are the generation that was told to make sacrifices and save in private pension plans to secure our own old age, and now called “fat-cats”.

We are **NOT** that generation that created the snowballing **national** and **provincial** debts that were strangling our standard of living. These were created by the “wooly” of the then current generations who thought they were entitled to free services provided by the state, for everything from housing to caring for children of unknown fleeing fathers.

So it is this generation – the battered senior citizens – which became the prime target for making further sacrifices to provide for these free services.

The community seems to have forgotten us, the backbone of **ALBERTA's** economy.

Frances L. Denning
Calgary, AB

Letters Letters continued

Greetings from the sunny and balmy West Coast. Enclosed are memorial services bulletins for ex **Strathconas**. You know doubt have been made aware of the passing of **Jack Williams**, however I have included it. **Gord Honey's** service was held 11 Feb 03 **Robbie Simpson** and I, with our spouses, attended both services. At Gord's service we met another Strathcona who had served with him in **WW2** his name is **Al McGuire**. Gord certainly exemplified the spirit of the regimental motto "**Perseverance**", as he fought ill health for many years. Wishing everyone one all the best for the coming year.

Bob Burville
Surrey, BC

(Bob the Alex McGuire you mentioned is featured in this column with a reference to his pilgrimage to Italy. Thanks for your donation. Ed)

I received my Fall *Newsletter* which as I normally do read from cover to cover and enjoy very much. The article by **Rod Tomlinson** brings back many good memories. As you know I was with the **Strathcona RECCE Troop**. I was one of those guys who went into the **Hitler Line** at the **Melfa River**. I was one of the so mentioned guys who transported an Officer and three Engineers to the Melfa. I did not have to cross the river. Rod mentioned in his column that he thought **Bud McLean** could be the only RECCE NCO left. For your diary Rod, I was an NCO in RECCE and am still alive. Also alive is my tank driver **Howard 'Butch' Keeling** who lives in **Owen Sound** also my co-driver **Russell Mitchell** who resides in **Mississauga**. I saw 'Bud' McLean at the 2000 Reunion in Edmonton. He had not changed much only in age, haven't we all.

Dick Hudson (MM)
Orillia, ON

(Dick you will find many responses to Rod Tomlinson's letter published in last Fall's Newsletter. Thank you for your most generous donation. Ed)

Received the *Newsletter* and as usual enjoyed it very much. Happy to see LCol **Jamie Cade** taking over as Commanding Officer of the **Regiment**, but shocked and sad to read of the passing of his father **Jack**. Enclosed is a donation and a thanks again for the *Newsletter* and a job well done.

Bill McCulloch
Burnaby, BC

(Thanks for your kind words and for your donation. Ed)

Please be advised that my mother – **Ruth Parker** – a long time "army wife" and avid reader of the *Newsletter* passed away. She now rests in the Dorchester Union cemetery next to her beloved husband the late **William (Bill) Parker**. Please include her name in the "In Loving Memory of Wives" section of the *Newsletter*. My brothers **Bill**

and **David**, as well as myself wish to thank the *Newsletter* for the hours of enjoyment given to **mom** over the years.

Sharon Lee Parker Frank
London, ON

(Our sincerest condolences on your loss. A copy of this issue of the Newsletter, for each of Ruth's children, was sent to Sharon. Ed)

I really enjoyed **Carl Ranostay's** recollection of the Banff ski trip winter 47/48. I was on that tour but didn't have nearly as much fun as some of the guys did. If memory serves me right it was '**Aussie**' **Harris** who broke his ankle. There was another event that was designed to boost our morale it was called **Regimental Boxing**. Everybody had to fight and was paired off in weight classes. Carl and I were in "**B**" **Sqn** billeted next to each other in an old **H hut**, it happened to be the H hut that '**Smokey**' **Shaw** had one end as an **EMQ** (Emergency Married Quarters). As luck would have it Carl and I were in the same weight class and were paired up. We decided when our bout was on we would dance around and make it look good. Funny how a punch on the nose can change ones attitude. I'm not sure who hit whom first but the fight was on. When the bout ended, I lost, the judge Maj '**Bulgy**' **Campbell** congratulated us for putting on such a good fight.

Bill Prouse
Redcliff, AB

(That program went on right up to around 1956 and there were many anecdotes like yours Bill. Maybe some of our readers can recall and send them in. Ed)

I was a member of the **Strathconas** around 1987-88, just before they went to My name is **Stephen Brands**. I was in 1st Tp **RECCE**, **Sqn**. Two other members of this **Sqn**, stood up for me at my wedding performed by Padre **Deobald**. They were both troopers at the time; their names were **Steve MacNeil** and **Leigh Taylor**. I believe Leigh was posted to Gagetown during that time and left with his wife **Kelly**. I have lost touch with them both and hope that you can point me in the right direction. I have recently become handicapped due to a ruptured artery in my brain and I guess I sense my own mortality a little better and I would like to get in touch with them before I cannot do so anymore. Thank you for your time.

Stephen Brands

(Leigh Taylor's location has been forwarded to Stephen and it is hoped that Steve MacNeil (who is not on our Family Role) may be located by one of our readers. Ed)

Just a little note wishing all **Strathconas** a very healthy and good year. I was reading in the *Newsletter* where **Bud McLean** and **Billy May** were at the **Melfa River**. I was in 1st Troop "**C**" **Sqn** with both of them. Glad to see they are both still active and wish them well. I was the troop leader's di-

ver at the battle at the Melfa River crossing, it was **Hell** but we made the **Germans** give up and move on.

I am not in good health myself but try to keep active and keep going. I had a triple heart bypass so I can't do things I would like to do.

Bill Coleman
Melita, MB

(Bill you will notice a few names are popping up regarding survivors of the Melfa crossing. When I get time I will try to create a list of those RECCE guys who are also still with us. Ed)

The enclosed cheque is to help out with the *Newsletter* and wherever else it is needed. At this time I am unable to send back the **Info Sheet** that was enclosed with *Newsletter*. My dear husband **Russell** has Alzheimer and at times decides to hide things and this sheet is one and at present I don't know where he put it. When and if it shows up I will send it along. Pleased to receive the *Newsletter* as there are people we remember from the gathering in **Winnipeg** and **Calgary**. Again, many thanks, on behalf of **Russell**.

Alice Bedford
Brandon, MB.

(Alice the info sheet you mentioned was to get your current address as the Fall issue of the Newsletter was returned with a Cda Post notation "Moved". I managed to get your current address from the Internet search engine and the above letter confirmed this. So don't worry about the Info sheet as I have all the particulars we require. Thanks for your generous donation. Ed)

Please accept the enclosed donation from my mother. My father was **Lorne Glendinning** (Korea) and was mentioned in the "**Last Trumpet Call**" in the fall 1995 *Newsletter*. Mum, **Jane** has now taken up permanent residence in Victoria, so would you please send the *Newsletter* to the address also enclosed.

We enjoy receiving the *Newsletter*, as many of the individuals mentioned are familiar names and faces. Keep up the great work.

Robin Glendinning
Victoria, BC

(Your mother will receive this and future Newsletters at her new residence in Victoria. Thank you for the donation. Ed)

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Regimental Museum Report

Having visited the **Museum of the Regiments** on numerous occasions prior to becoming the curator, I never realized the behind-the-scenes work that goes on to put forth a world class facility. It would seem the pace is no different than other places in the Army, flat out or full stop. After taking time to walk through the gallery, I find that the recent changes have left new room for expansion. During my tenure I will endeavor to fill this area with artifacts and text to continue to better tell the story of our proud regimental history and the personal stories of those involved. With the expansion of the **WW II** area, it now gives the visitor a better understanding about the history of that era. Soon there will be another display cabinet and more storyboards to further illustrate the time period.

The collection has been gone through and is now completed in the cataloguing. MCpl **Todd Giberson** is now in the process of determining the disposition of each arti-

fact, and place these items in a tier system. This will ensure that each item is identified for future conservation and preservation consideration. Items of extreme regimental or historical significance will obviously take precedence over items, which are generic and can still be readily obtained.

The cataloguing of the archives is an ongoing process and we welcome **Wayne Soganic** back as a volunteer. Some may remember Wayne as the Regimental Chief Clerk in the early 80's. Good to have you back with your expertise.

Cpl **Lee Ramsden** continues to conduct research for the regiment and external agencies while building a data base and cross referencing all the photos and documents. **Jim Adams**, who was the **Commanding Officer** of our **Cadet Corps** in the 1970's, recently joined him. Jim also volunteers as one of our gallery hosts and a host for the Museum of the Regiments. This gives him plenty of opportunity to interact

with the numerous school groups and tours at our facility.

Thanks goes to all our volunteers who make it possible for the staff to get ahead on some of their tasks. Without their continued support we would not be able to conduct many of the important programs at the museum. Never enough can be said about our volunteers and as always we are looking for more. There are many opportunities and many different things to do. If you have some spare time on your hands, please do not hesitate to contact us. A final thank-you has to go to retiring WO **Darryl Crowell**. He has left this museum in excellent condition and his hand over has been second to none.

I look forward to meeting many new people and developing solid working relationships. I also look forward to having this opportunity to speak to you in the future.

Perseverance

WO Ted MacLeod CD
Curator



Before



After

Calling Kingston and Area Strathconas

As you are no doubt aware, there are many serving and former serving **Strathconas** in the **South Eastern** portion of **Ontario** from **Brockville** through to **Toronto**. In many respects while all these **Strathconas** in one venue or another are taken care of the **Ottawa** Branch of the **Association** the "core" of Strathconas in the **Kingston** "corridor" represent a significant portion of the **Regimental Family** outside of **Alberta**. During the past months, a few serving and former-serving members have gotten together in an attempt to determine, first of all, just how many Straths reside in the local area. This first step was to ensure everyone is aware of and contacted Regimental and Association business, especially local events. Second, some thought was given as to how and

when to gather this core of Straths, not only to celebrate those annual traditional events that we all know so well, but to gather with our families to share friendship, camaraderie and pass some "war stories" in a social atmosphere. For those who are not on the mailing list of the Ottawa Branch please consider joining. Not only will you be kept up to date but it will ensure that you have an invitation to events and gatherings no matter where they are held and allow us to keep the "**Local**" Kingston and area Straths in the family. Additionally if you know of anyone in this local area that is not on the mailing list of the Ottawa Branch, please forward his or her name to **John McEachern, PO Box 30018, Rideau Town Centre, Kingston, ON. K7K 7B5**
Rick Bowes, John Roderick
Kingston, ON.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE



www.strathconas.ca

My daughter and I had a great 16-day trip (Oct 2002) to **Italy**.

We went with a group of veterans and their families. There were 44 of us. I was the only **WW2 Strathcona** in this group. We visited most of the **Canadian Cemeteries** in both countries. The **Casino cemetery in Italy** was special for me and sad for there was so many "**A**" **Sqn** friends and comrades buried there. It was very peaceful with the **Monastery** looking down on the valley. We placed flags on all the **Strathcona** graves and wreaths at the **Cenotaph**.

We spent two nights at **Ortona** and three nights at **Rimini**, so we had time to see most of the places where we fought. **Hill 204 at Montecchio** at the **Gothic Line**. **Coriano Ridge**, **Lamone River** etc. and finished at our tour at **Venice**. Oh! Yes, we were up to the dome of **Mount Etna** on the 17th Oct and it erupted on the 27th so was lucky again.

Perseverance.

Alex McGuire
Surrey, BC

(Thanks for sharing your pilgrimage to well-remembered names of the Italian campaign. Thanks for the donation. Ed)

I am writing to request a copy of the **Fall 2002** issue of the *Newsletter*. I was recently loaned a copy of this edition and found, as I read it, that there were many familiar names in that particular issue. My late father was a **Strathcona** (Major **Frank Richmond**) and I haven't seen a *Newsletter* since he passed away in 1996. Enclosed a cheque to cover postage and a small donation to the Society. Thank you sincerely.

Doreen King
Maple Ridge, BC

(Your request will be actioned today. If you wish to continue receiving future issues, drop us a line. Thank you for your donation. Ed)

Enclosed find pictures and a donation. I would appreciate if you could divide this donation three-ways, the *Newsletter*, **Museum** and the **Mounted Troop**. A nephew and I went to see the **SMT** when it came through on its **Celebration 2000** tour across **Canada**. They were just great!

I have had the pictures reproduced from the original post-cards. I wrote on the back all that had been written on the originals. Hopefully, I thought maybe one of the pictures might find its way into the *Newsletter* at some time.

My father **James Storry** enlisted in the **Strathconas** 22 May 1916 and was released 19 Apr 1919. He passed away in 1949 at the age of 62. Before dad passed away he took me to a couple of reunions in **Winnipeg** and always had a great time and with such fabulous people.

Although I was in the junior Service dur-



ing the latter part of **WW2**, I have always enjoyed receiving the **Straths Newsletter**.

Jim Storry
Gimli, MB

(The pictures you sent have been given to the archives and as I discussed with you by phone I will attempt to have one of the pictures scanned to be able to have it placed in a future Newsletter. Your generous donation has been distributed as requested. Ed)

It was a strange vehicle accident. We were with "**D**" **Sqn** in **Fort Anne**, Germany 1953-55 serving in NATO. When we arrived in November 1953 our vehicle drivers had quite a bit of difficulty navigating the roads that time of the year; consequently there were unusual number of vehicle accidents occurring.

Brigade HQ sent out a terse directive to the squadron making it very clear that they expected a dramatic improvement with regards to driving in the future. This was passed on to the troops from **Sqn HQ** with a warning that any further vehicle accidents would not be tolerated.

My troop **FHQ** was returning back to Fort Anne from the weapon ranges at **Senelarger**. We were loaded in a 60-cwt. truck, men, weapons, ammo and miscellaneous gear making the back of the truck heavily loaded. We were approaching **Werl**, which was not too far from camp. Approaching a T-junction on the outskirts of the town when out of no where a large heavy tractor-trailer wheel came down the road from this junction and crashed into the left front assembly of the truck. We came to a sudden halt with everyone and everything in the back piling up.

The damage was quite extensive to the wheel assembly, bumper and fender on the left-hand side. Well we got the back of the truck sorted out and we decided that we could continue in low gear, with the front assembly about 30 degree out of alignment, for the short distance to Fort Anne.

I found **Dick Roberts** our Transport Sgt at the bar in the Sgts' Mess and gave him an explanation of the accident. After several

attempts at explaining the accident Dick told me to stop all the **BS** and to come to the office in the morning to make out an accident report. The next morning I went down to the transport office and made out the report in detail. Dick took one look at the report and called Lt **Sneddon** the **L.A.D** officer to have me confirm this cock-eyed story.

Well they finally realized the truth after interviewing the truck driver. There was a dilemma because there was no way this report was going to the Bde HQ. The decision was made unanimously that the report would go into the garbage can. Spare parts were requisitioned and the LAD mechanics including their welder made a marvelous job of repairing the truck. The squadron's driving record was salvaged.

Carl Ranostay
Edmonton, AB

(Carl did the tractor-trailer and this troublesome wheel ever meet up? Ed)

Thank you for your prompt reply to me after you located my current address. I neglected to send you my new address when moving. I was pleased to hear from you and receiving the *Newsletter* made my day, many thanks. I'm looking forward to the next edition. I'm returning the **Family Information** sheet with my current particulars you requested. Thanks once again for looking me up and I apologize for not attending to this matter sooner.

Chris Eyres
Winnipeg, MB

*(I'm grateful that you're back and hope that I am able to bring back those other Straths who are on my **Lost Trails** list. Ed)*

Thank you for sending me the *Newsletter*, which is greatly appreciated. You may recall that I was the curator of the **Beaver Valley Military Museum (BVMM)**, in Clarksburg, ON, which did the late Maj **Ed Perkins** establish on his retirement 1960. He served as the original curator until his passing in 1989. I knew '**Perky**' and his wife

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PERAMBULATIONS OF THE PERIPATETIC PADRE

On March 1st I returned from taking two missions in **Northern Saskatchewan**. In addition to leading these missions in two parishes, I was able to renew acquaintances with a number of **WW2 Straths**. On the first night of the mission in **Arborfield**, my wife and I were the guests of **Edmour & Jean L'Arrivee** in their lovely farm home in **Jordan River**. 'Eddy' as he was known in his wartime days built this beautiful house back in the 50's.

Eddy has many other talents, including very fine cabinet working. The L'Arrivees' parting gift to the **Greene's** was a miniature solid oak bucket, which Eddie had carved out of an oak trunk, burning the rings with a hot iron.

Moving on to **Tisdale** we made two more **Strath** contacts. **Derral Will** nephew of **Robert Will** informed us that his Uncle had died just previously and that **Edmour L'Arrivee** had attended the funeral. Robert 'Bob' joined the **Straths** in **Maresfield** and left the regiment in November 1945.

A visit to the **Legion Branch** in Tisdale gave us much information about **Christopher 'Mouse' Caldwell**, who was killed in the battle of the **Lamone River** on December 7, 1944, when I was still in hospital recovering from jaundice. My replacement as "**B**" **Sqn Intl Cpl, L/Cpl G.M. Gates** was killed the same day.

In September before going to hospital I had spent some time with 'Mouse' who at the time was driving a scout car. After his death I had written to his parents in Tisdale but had had no contact with family since

that time. His picture adorns the walls of the Tisdale Legion along with a very good biography. The local residents told me that all of his family has now relocated in BC.

Meanwhile back in **Calgary** I am kept busy checking out the various widows and veterans located in this area. Recent visits have included house calls to **Anne McCaw**, widow of **Orv**, who well into her 80's still maintains her own apartment.

Alice Budner (widow of 'Nicky' – the famous DR) after living in her own home for 46 years has moved to a seniors' residence where she is very happy and making a whole new set of friends.

Alex Ozirny is residing in the **Belcher Veterans' Hospital** where he is visited regularly by his faithful wife **Jean**. **Molly May** has moved to a seniors' home where husband **Billy** visits her daily. I also take the sacrament to the Mays every second Sunday on my way back from **Vulcan** (80 miles SE of Calgary where I am the Vicar).

OJ Gallant, last of the four Gallant brothers from **Virden, Manitoba** is now residing in the **Extended Care Centre**, in **Vulcan**. 'OJ' is in fine spirits at the age of 90. **Roy Jardine** is recovering from a serious crippling of his legs and is now able to walk to the corner store. His devoted wife **Inez** is providing him with large dollops of tender loving care!

'**Jock**' **Burton** and **Billy 'the Kid' Milroy** are frequent correspondents and supporters of my work in **Northern Malawi in East Central Africa** where 70% of the people are starving, 30% have AIDS, and

the average age in the country is only 15. Thank you Bill & Jock.

Henry 'Hockey Shorts' Hochgeschurz sends letters written (we believe) in Ancient Egyptian which the language department at the University of Calgary are trying to decipher – with difficulty. It has been suggested by some Straths that we set up a fund to buy Henry a typewriter!

Don Lake has muscular degeneration and so no longer drives. I sometimes act as his chauffeur when going to Strath meetings. Phone calls from **Stan Adams** in **Simcoe Ontario** are always very welcome and newsy, as are calls from **Della Spilde** in **Provost Alberta**. Her late husband, **Lloyd (Jock)** was my driver in the latter part of the **Italian** campaign and on into **Holland**.

I have recently taken the funerals of two-post war **Strathconas** – **Peter Leggett** and **Wilbur 'Bill' Townsend**. **+ May their souls rest in peace, and may light perpetual shine upon them +.**

Marilyn Blanch – widow of **Ron** – has recently moved to British Columbia. '**Mucker**' is screaming at me to get this into his office, knowing he is always monitoring all communication of the **Strathcona Family**, I had better get off the "A" set.

Padre Greene
Calgary, AB

Letters Letters continued

when they lived in the Clarksburg area, and previously when he established the **RCAC School Museum** in the late 50's. The local municipality closed the **BVMM** when the **Ontario Government** ended its funding. At one time the museum had a managing group of 15 volunteers of former serving officers and earned high accolades from the **Military Museums of Canada** organization. The closing was a most unfortunate event because of the amount of work that was foreseen in organizing the disposal of donations and loans that were on the books. Eventually the **Grey and Simcoe Foresters**, headquartered in Owen Sound, Ontario took over the artifacts that had not been returned to the donors. I was led to believe that all would end up in the **Armouries in Barrie**. However, I have not been able to find out what the current status is having tried correspondence, contacting the curator and even visiting the Armouries to no avail. It's a sad story, after 'Perky's and the volunteers efforts seem to have been for naught.

I hope you will continue sending the *Newsletter* to me because of my long association with the **Straths** as a young **Signalman at Sarcee Camp in Calgary**. And again with the **1st Inf Div** at the **Hitler Line** in May 1943 when the Straths

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Reunion Update

Thanks to everyone that mailed in their Questionnaire (nil returns not required) as it is very helpful for all planning and necessary for reservations of rooms. Still have yours? Please get it in or email us prior to **June 03**. This form is on the **Regiments** web site www.strathconas.ca

There seems to be concerns/rumors out there that we will be showing special consideration to the **Alberta Association Membership for R-2005**. Here are the facts, you be the judge:

The cost to attend R-2005 will be greater than in 2000 for two main reasons food cost are way up (Alberta beef or not), and Celebration monies not available. The Alberta Branch, historically, uses membership money from its membership assets to assist in the following: – **widows** registration fee \$2,500 (name selection draw), menu cards, and some printing, pre-reunion travel, buses and other such things, which by the way are presented to the members at General meetings for spending approval. Our spending total from membership funds varies between \$6000 and \$8000 all approved by vote at our meetings.

To be fair, this money is taken from our membership fees so any person attending the Reunion who is **NOT** an **Alberta Branch** member should expect to pay more and will. Remember we have members from across **Canada, USA, and Europe**, all members of the Alberta Branch.

Our original estimate was **\$194.17** per person, since then we are down to **\$174.17** and our goal is **\$160** for members. Just one example of new costs, the Photo Room and others are **\$150** per day, in 2000 they were part of the deal.

There is no plan to lower our standards of food or activities and we will be in Edmonton during Moreuil Wood to talk with the Society. The Hotel contract must be signed this summer so rooms are the main concern ensuring we book enough. **Your Reunion Committee and the members attending our meetings are working in your best interest and we will keep you informed.**

Concerned, a little early but let us know your views, comments welcome (email is fine).

Reunion Committee – Don and Gary

MILLENNIAL MEMORIES

"D" Squadron embarked on TSS NEPTUNIA in Wolfe's Cove in Quebec, 19 November 1953 at night. Packets of troops were also boarding; the **RCR** rear party, **medical** personnel, **RCEME** LAD elements, **PR** staffs and various other odds and sods.

Major **N.A. Buckingham** was the senior officer of troops and in charge of some 350 plus soldiers. He knew that I had spent some time in three merchant ships out of Halifax before enlisting therefore I should be the Orderly Officer for the entire voyage. With two or three stalwart Sgts like **'Suds' Sutherland, Bill Frost** and **Jim Cassidy**, there were no problems at all. The troops quartered below didn't care a great deal for the heavy swells in mid Atlantic, especially in late November; it was not the best part of the voyage. As well, we four subalterns in one second-class cabin back aft was not great. Tying up at **Rotterdam** was closer to **Fort Anne** and solid ground.

The **British** usually have a word or two for new experiences and this voyage was novel for many of the troops. A couple of centuries ago, **Dr Johnson** said "that every man thinks meanly of himself for not having been a soldier or been at sea", the Squadron certainly played up on both counts.

Arriving and moving into Fort Anne was like clockwork thanks to the advance party under **'Stu' Corsan** the 2 I/C, **Bob Thoms, Bob Grace** and the QMs had it down pat. Fort Anne was still under construction. We knew that at dinnertime in the mess when the plaster on the ceiling fell in our laps. Our entire vehicle, marine transports and communications had been right on time, so a little plaster was reasonable.

In the early days when we were settling down to the various equipments, such as the **Scots Greys** Centurions, the British BESA tank MGs, which, in time, we could dump them for our more effective Browning MGs, drills for evacuating the Fort with the TDMS, their contents, for the assigned troops to meet up with the infantry battalions and their Direct Tank Support. As well, our other roles had to be established and practiced. Our first role was to implement the RCAC Defence static positions, dug in more like anti tank fight like hell and retire to other positions. The second role, if possible, was get near nuclear installations prepared by the Engineers, which we had trained for in TEWTS and Non TEWTS. In actual fact, we relied very much upon the **British Royal Tank Regiment**. Our daily, early, "O" Groups in the Sqn HQ were necessary to keep up with the nearby regiments in the **Soest** and **Iserlohn** areas as well.

The 1098 war scales applicable to this squadron called for AFV crews on Centurion 2s. Luckily there was a mix-up in **Ottawa** by two "innocent Armour officers" in DND who sent the scales for the **Ameri-**

can Sherman tanks and we received a goodly reserve of trained tank crew. Sure nice to have friends in high places.

In the midst of all this our Allied Regiment, **17/21st Lancers**, invited us for a two-day British Orientation Lancer type Welcome in **Munster**. This was needed for R&R, or so we thought. The stipulation that only officers and their dogs were allowed seemed strange but it went back a long way and who were we to flaunt tradition. **German** Luftwaffe bases had occupied the Mess before. The floors were tiled with black and white squares just like a checkerboard. It certainly was a checkerboard and we guests were expected to play the game in our mess dress. Why not? No harm done yet. The players stood on the tiles and were moved by the players and when a player was crowned another player crowned him up on his shoulders with drinks under his arms. We had some hors de combat and our hosts won the lot. The following mess dinner was outstanding and although we hadn't been able to attend the Charge of the Light Brigade functions, on 25 October 1953, we should make it on the centennial next year 25 October 1954. The Lancers were applying to **London** for permission to allow ladies to attend, but no dogs.

After the Lancer visit, it was off to the **Hohne Ranges** for coordination and infor-

mation. Squadron dates, and barracks availability, ammunition, targets and procedures along with meeting other Regimental Gunnery Officers for advice and arranging a Hohne SSM to come down to Fort Anne for some instructions on the Ranges themselves

On a personal note, that weekend after getting back to the squadron, I was able to get away to **Groesbek** in **Holland** just over the border to locate my uncle's grave in the **Canadian Army Cemetery**. He was KIA in the **1st Canadian Parachute Battalion** on 24 March 1945 on the **Rhine Crossing**. There were no headstones as yet, only black wooden crosses, 10 years later they were there. My uncle, 23 years old is flanked on his right side by the Commanding Officer and on his left the **Battalion Padre**. Dutch children were attending the gravesites with flowers, cutting the grass and helping the teachers. I took many photos for the family back in **Halifax**, for some kind of closure. It did seem to help, especially with the Dutch people being so attentive. Next I tried later to get to **Bergen-op-Zoom** to see the area where my father had been **WIA** in the **Royal Winnipeg Rifles** on his birthday 26 October 1944. **Some Birthday!**

Ken Barnaby
Ottawa, ON



"D" Squadron Fort Anne Germany 1954. Photo courtesy "Spook Spence"

Letters Letters *continued*

plunged through the line on its way to the **Melfa River** action. Congratulation on your splendid magazine, it's the best by far and I hope you will continue the work that keeps all of your readers happy.

Harold MacDonald
Clarksburg, ON.

(I'm sure that our Barrie and area members will be asking around and possibly locating the whereabouts of the museum items you mentioned. Ed)

I am writing to inform you of the passing of our friend and buddy **Robert (Bob) Will** a WW2 veteran. Bob was at home when that terrible cancer claimed his life at age 81. I'm sure you have his mailing

address. His wife **Jaukje** asked if we would write to you so that Bob's demise can be placed in the Last Trumpet Column. As for myself and my wife **Ruby** health issues have prevented us from keeping in touch.

Jacob Troutt
Stoney Plains, AB

(Thank you for the information; Bob's demise has been placed in this edition. Thank you for your kind donation. Ed)

Unit 21, of **Edmonton** in September 2001, hosted the **National Convention of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada**. Unit 21 wishes to thank the **Regiment** and particularly the **Strathcona Mounted Troop**, the **Kit Shop** and the **Society** for

—continued on page 12

Dear John

(This is the Fourteenth in a series of fictional father-to-son letters which were penned by the late BGen A.G. Chubb and published in the Canadian Army Journal in the 50's. Ed)

Dear John

Your mother is in an absolute frenz. I have never seen her so excited. I gather that Mary wrote to her on the old girl net to say there was a distinct possibility that you would become a father in the not too distant future. All I can say is I told you so and offer my congratulations though I must confess that the prospect of becoming a grandfather fills me with a certain amount of alarm.

I think you and Mary will like the posting to your I&A job. I used to know the CO of the 64b Heavy Dragoons when he was a Major and a very nice chap he was too. It can be a little tricky taking on a job of that sort and first impressions are most important. I think the one thing you should bear

in mind is that these chaps in the Militia for the most part are doing the job from a sense of duty that is much to be commended. It is really a tremendous lot to ask a man to give up so much of his time to preparing himself for the emergency that may never come.

You have become accustomed to the Regular Army way of doing things and may find that you have to adjust your outlook to quite a degree. The Militia cannot hope to have the equipment and facilities available to the Regulars and a great deal of "make do" is required. You will find it quite a challenge to your ingenuity to get the best out of what is available to you.

The other thing you must bear in mind is that with the best intentions in the world the average Militia chap simply cannot put in the time that you would like for training. You must accept this limitation and do your utmost to receive the best training results.

The town of which you are going is smallish in size and it should be possible for both

you and Mary to get to know most of the local citizens. I think that Mary will be a big help to you in this regard as she is friendly and meets people easily. This grandchild business may complicate things for a bit but once over the hurdle things should work out reasonably well. Your relations with the townspeople are most important and will reflect on the strength and success of the unit. Take an active interest in the life of the town and I think you will find that your tour will be most interesting and helpful to you in future years.

I gather that your mother plans to be on hand when the day arrives and we expect the call any time now. Personally I expect to retire to a secluded spot until the first flurry is past and recommend that you do the likewise if you can swing it. A liaison trip might be sound though Mary might be a little peevis about it. Let me know how you make out.

As ever,
Dad

Letters Letters continued

their support. It was much appreciated. Mrs. **Dorothy Bittner** of **White Rock, BC** laid the wreath on behalf of those killed in Korea. You may be interested to know that Dorothy was the sister of **Len Neufield** a **Strathcona** killed in Korea in 1952.

Al McBride
St Albert, AB

(Please pass on to your membership the Regiment 's appreciation of the gratitude shown and that those who participated were grateful for the opportunity. Ed)

Thought I should reply to the article by **John Knight** in the Spring 2002 Newsletter. Thanks for the compliment paid me **John**. Lt **Van Straubenzie** and I had a regular troop in "C" Sqn of the day OC Maj **'Pappy' Jewkes** and SSM WO2 **'Smokey' Shaw**. I was in **Southern Saskatchewan** with the recruiting team when the pictured Recruit Troop were having their passing out parade. I do know some of the individ-

uals and of their careers but it would be great if we could hear from them on how their military life and careers progressed.

Gord Beattie
Yahk, BC

The enclosed photo shows me receiving a trophy from Mrs **Harvey**, wife of the then Major **F.W. Harvey** who at that time was the OC "**A**" Sqn **Strathconas** stationed at **Fort Osborne Barracks** in **Winnipeg**. The trophy was for obtaining the highest score in mounted sports (Cavalry) back in



1938. "**B**" Sqn of the **Royal Canadian Dragoons** first presented this cup in **1894**. It would be interesting to know if it is still in existence and where it is. Perhaps it is in the **Regimental Museum** in **Calgary**? If you can find out would you please let me know also if my name is on it?

Manse Powell
Yorkton, SK

(Yes your name is on this trophy. It is displayed in the Harvey Building (Regimental Headquarters) in Steele Barracks Edmonton. Ed)

This is to let you know that my wife **Evelyn** passed away on 12 July 2002 just one month passed her 87th birthday and over 60 years as a couple. I had a stroke and now take a long list of pills.

The enclosed picture is of the **RCCS Platoon** (Sigs) attached from **5th CAD** to the **Strathconas**, taken in **Maresfield, Brighton, England**.

Back row L to R: Sigm **Windle**, Sigm **Harvey Lowry**, Sigm **Tom Derry**, Sigm **Lou Boulton**, Sigm **Victor Chicoine**, Sigm **Gervais**.

Centre row L to R: Sigm **Sam Porter**, Sigm **Paquette**, Sgt **'Tiny' Gildersleave**, Cpl **Davis**, Sgm **G.W. Nadon**, Sigm **Gerald Fortier**.

First row L to R: ???, Cpl **Cozzinlo**, LCpl **Alex Frey**, Sigm **Taylor**.

Tom Derry was the radio operator for the CO LCol **Griffin's** tank "**Strathcona**". **G. Nadon** was the radio operator for the 21/c Maj **Wattsford's** tank "**Screwball**". The tank was brewed at the battle of the **Melfa** on the 24 May 44, Nadon was killed and Wattsford was seriously wounded. Alex Frey was wounded 22 May 44

Alex Frey
Hastings, ON.



The Signals Platoon at Maresfield, Brighton, England.

Once Upon A Time There Was A Subaltern

*(The following is the eighth in a series of reflections penned by a **Strathcona** (who for now will be anonymous) regarding his service during which he considered were the "Golden" years with the Regiment. Ed)*

We humans have memories triggered through our five senses (the female has a sixth, so it is said). Each of these provides recall to those years in **Fort Chambly** and its environs.

Leaving Soest for Chambly along Hwy 1 (**Napoleon's** route into **Russia, 1812**) the distance from the edge of the pavement to those "trees of steel" was virtually non-existent. Several Canadian lives were to be extinguished after challenging those trees ... and alcohol was a major factor in many cases. The right turn to Chambly was easy (the turn left was to **Bad Sassendorf**, the source of **Die Kleine Mollige**, and several married Strathconas). Gracing the skyline to the left was a rendering plant its tall chimney which spewed infrequent columns of black smoke.

An Aside: Our administration building had **German** nationals as "add-ons". One was a **Frau Schmidt**, a middle-aged, buxom blonde. She had been a member of Hitler's "Strength Through Joy" clubs ... when the aforementioned chimney spewed its smoke, someone would ask her if it was "another load from the showers". Life had an edge to it and there wasn't the insanity of political correctness in the '50's.

The turn left into the camp, fenced with steel and topped with strands of barbed wire, went past the Chapels, RC then Protestant, across the road from the main gate. (Don't know why these institutional bastions were "outside"). Entry for the many civilians was via pass (we joked that many of them could be communists) and a sizeable number would be "waiting for the bus" to or from work. Security via a small Provost detachment augmented with personnel from camp units was not a sought after duty ... in fact, peeling potatoes and scrubbing pots was preferable (penance served within one's unit was preferable).

The Parade Square lay at the heart of the camp (symbolic of the discipline, which lay at the core of our existence?). Morning parades were as habitual as that "first trip" upon awakening. The SSM's parade, "turned over" to the Battle Capt. unless the OC chose to take it, the "Fall In The Officers", meeting either of my Troop Sgts (**'Pat' Searle** or **'Pat' Patterson**) who usually had some pithy reports re: troop personnel, conducting a cursory inspection, given a Sqn SITREP if something significant was to be disseminated (**'Bill' Ward** did not pontificate), "Fall Out The Officers" and away we went (The Four Subalterns), the parade returned to the SSM. We were then expected to repair to the

Admin Building where our 2IC, **'Mac' Lindsay** would get in his daily "bit".

An Anecdotal Aside: We were preparing for some brigade parade one day when we were visited by a CF-100 aircraft. Pilots from our Air Wing to the south seemed to appear "when they were bored" and buzzed the camp. This day the plane came in south to north and dropped to what seemed to be about twenty feet (or less) over the square. The parade disintegrated as we fled to the margins of the square to flatten ourselves on the grass. (I can't remember if I saw his smiling teeth as he hurtled past). The CF-100 was a heavy plane, and not a jackrabbit – as the pilot pulled up to clear our Q/Tech stores and over the RCME compound, he "mushed" and struck a hydro wire. He lifted away, wiggled his wings and spewed black smoke. Gave one a sick feeling in the gut – but when we phoned the control centre of the **RCAF**, they informed us that the plane had returned safely. Then we cursed him for his stupidity ... and were secretly happy that it was such as he who was our air-ground support in **BAOR**.

The Admin Bldg was "the nerve centre" for the Sqn. Cpl. **'Norm' Francis** and his clerk, Tpr **Murphy** did the paperwork of the larger units – our role as an "independent" Sqn put us on A, Q, G distribution lists reserved for major units. The paper supplies "squirreled" from Calgary saved us. The OC's office occupied one end while the SSM's secured the other. The Battle Captain had a veritable palace (in size), for his was the repository for the maps, from the "curtain" to the **Rhine**. The number of sheets to cover **West Germany** from **Kassel** to the **North Sea** multiplied by quantities to service each scout car, the echelons, and the "high-priced help" was worth seeing. (Later, we would often use some six 1:50,000 maps in an exercise of 72 hours). We subalterns were given a "closet" as "Troop Offices" – it was obvious that other than the Liaison Officer (a rotational task not sought after) we were NOT wanted here ... we, also found the hanger w/ the Ferret scout cars was where we were comfortable with our Troops.

The Messes and Canteen were havens where we could socialize separately and achieve some "Garrison R & R". The Sgts Mess had some nine members – two of whom were single: **'Scotty' Miller** and **Colby Yoemans**, augmented by others temporarily posted to the Jnr NCO School.

An Anecdotal Aside: Colby recalls it occurred on a Saturday evening. The "living in" Snr NCO's were entertaining "some of the local sweet things" from **Bad Sassendorf**, **Lippstadt**, etc: They decided to have a square dance and "demonstrate some North American culture". Furniture was re-arranged and some of **Don Messer's** music was played. "We got off to a slow start, as we **Canadians** were pretty

rusty and our guests were completely confused. Some time later, after numerous breaks for refreshments, there was decided improvement. My old friend **'Scotty'** was in his usual "Sunday Best", with vest, wellingtons, etc. He was "swinging his partner" and by this time things were speeding up, and it's essential you depend on your partner for support and balance. Well, 'Scotty's' partner, a native girl of healthy proportions – let go, and 'Scotty' rotated on his own straight towards an open window, until he made contact and out he went headfirst. I'll never forget seeing his feet going through that window. We rushed to the open window and lifted him back in. He had landed in a mound of clay dug up by the moles ... the shine was off his dress ... but he was unhurt. After shutting things down and restoring the mess to its original configuration, it was off to the Gast-hofs for "Braties and Frites".

The single Snr NCO's relinquished their quarters one-day per week to the wives and children of their married compatriots. This day was so important to those without showers, baths, and laundry facilities – to flounder in those huge bathtubs (like Newfie dorys), to leave with clothes freshly laundered, while ingesting some Canadian rations – the morale of all concerned literally shone. (Another of a wise SSM's quiet moves within the Sqn).

The Officers Mess had a Cpl **Cook** the **Ranchman's Club** of **Calgary** had attempted to "lift" prior to our embarkation in 1957. Cpl **Malone** was one of a kind – whether his hors d'oeuvres, soups, main dishes, desserts, or buffets, he imprinted the products with his unique creativity. We were a thoroughly spoiled lot. He oversaw the kitchen staff, cleaners, and two dining room waitresses. One waitress' background was convent-focussed and very naive in her innocence, the other was attempting to recover from physical and sexual abuse while providing for her illegitimate daughter. Two fine young ladies always dressed in starched black and white.

An Anecdotal Aside: Our OC entered the dining room just as we subalterns were leaving for morning parade. We envied him this unhurried repast. He often had Cpl **Malone** prepare him kippers – the smell was sickening to some of us – so we decided to join him. We cleared it with **Bill Ward** that we'd miss parade this day so we could observe our plan in action...

We dawdled at "our end of the table" until I MacD entered, frowned our way, and sat down at "his end of the table". After his juice or whatever, one of the waitresses brought in his kippers. He stared at them. They had been coated in chocolate!!!! We escaped as unobtrusively as possible, as he was calling for Cpl Malone. Nothing was

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Once Upon A Time There Was A Subaltern *continued*

said by anyone for some time after that. The 2IC was curious as to why we subalterns disintegrated in gales of laughter several times that day.

Tpr Townsend, a gem of decorum who suffered we “officers and gentlemen” gladly tended the bar. One of the necessities of our bar was a large jar of amphogel tablets – in hindsight we really did our best to obliterate ourselves when in garrison. Fools all. (Perhaps that was why we joked about marriage being the salvation of single males, otherwise we would ‘F’ or ‘D’ ourselves to an early death).

An Anecdotal Aside: One afternoon we arrived after work to find a **Brit. Captain** in the bar. Apparently he’d been to **RCEME** w/ parts from his stores and discovered the Strathcona’s bar was open 24 hours per day ... and he’d been ingesting 2oz drinks most of the afternoon. We said hello, tried to chat (not very successfully),

and then listened as he recalled his time in “Inja”. Then he seized his swagger stick and cracked it on the bar several times while informing “we colonials” that this stick had ruled natives ... who knew their place ...” (Was he inferring something about Canadians?)

An Anecdotal Aside: 2 or 3 **American** officers visited us one day. They didn’t frequent our area, so it was an occasion to host some cavalry officers from “U-All Land”. When we entered our mess, the cloakroom was to the left. The bar to the right, the dining room straight ahead, the sitting room along the right past the bar. We usually went to the cloakroom (even if only to toss our berets and riding crops on a shelf). The Americans went straight to the bar to order whatever. We stared at each other, for while they folded their wedge caps under an epaulette, they were still packing their 45’s on their hips. (Guns in

the mess? In the bar? Was this Tombstone or Dodge City?) Finally, I believe it was **Bob Marvin** who suggested that they “check their sidearm” in the cloakroom, that we didn’t bring weapons into OUR bar. Good thing their driver was kept sober by Cpl Malone for their return trip.

Quarters were spacious; each single officer had a large, private room for sleeping, sitting, reading, studying, etc. As with the Snr NCO’s, the showers, baths, and toilets were next to the entrance from the Mess. Each room had a sink – so morning shaving could be effected with privacy (after that first trip down the hall). The batman-orderly would arrive to ensure we were mobile in time for parade. (There were some mornings when **Marvin, Collett, and Ashley** might have just made it to bed, still clothed, before “being wakened”. Those were “tiring” times ...).

Lt **‘Ed’ Taylor**, the only ‘single’ living in the **RCEME Workshop** Mess, often joined us in the evenings. His demeanour belied a finely tuned, critical mind which on exercises was an asset – but in garrison, he drove all around him berserk. (He would leave the Army in the ‘60’s and become a professor at the U of Alberta, Edmonton). Our “wheels” belonged to **Baz Collett** (a WWII Mercedes), **John Ashley** (a green “bug” on its second motor), and the OC’s white Karmann Ghia (with which he reputedly frequented **BMH Iserlohn**). These were the days of standard transmissions, BAOR gas coupons (envied by the natives who paid twice what we paid for petrol), BAOR licences followed in 1958 with Canadian plates, and international driver’s licences.

We were usually intelligent enough to remain in camp ... where we could not destroy people or property in **West Germany**. Too frequently one would suggest, “let’s go visit ...” and away we’d go. Trips to other units where there would always be other subalterns to interact with. One location was the Guards in Fort York, where as we entered Bob Marvin asked whether we were “standing on anyone’s hair” ... the silence was deafening. We did our best to say hello to the **Dragoons, Rifles, Van-Doos, Gunners, and Engineers** in similar fashion – always let them know that the **Strathconas** were visiting. We tried to host their visits with the warmth we always received.

Forty-five years later, I can still see **Fort Chambly’s** buildings, the roads, and those other camps that we called “home” in the **Soest** area of **Westphalia**, two hours west of the **Weser River**.



LdSH(RC) Association (Ontario Branch) Report

The **Ontario Branch** of the **Strathcona Association** has been fairly active although it seems relatively quiet after the pace of last summer. The **Kingston** based members of the Family got off to a quick start this fall with an impromptu pub call, organized by **Rick Bowes**, at the “Merchant MacLiam” Pub for all serving and retired **Strathconas** in the Kingston area. There will now be an informal **Strathcona Luncheon** held at the Fort Frontenac Officers’ Mess near the start of each course at the Staff College. These are aimed at introducing the Regimental students on each course to the Kingston crowd – and as an excuse to get together on a more regular basis. The first one was held on 31 January 2003 and was well attended with reps from the Ottawa and Toronto areas. Some of the notable attendees included **Dennis Hopkins** from Orangeville, **Bill Logan** and **Bill Jacobs** from Ottawa. It is interesting that three of the **Strathconas** attending had commanded other regiments **Bob LaRose, Bob Billings** and **Clive Milner**. **Phil Neatby** was there, of course, as well as **Phil Childs**. The Kingston group are planning a major event – a **Melfa Day** Western Party and BBQ to be held late-May or early June – date to be confirmed.

A Meet and Greet was held on Friday, 1 November 2002 at the Army Officers’ Mess in Ottawa. Although a little later than the typical September gathering to meet those recently posted in to the area, we scheduled our event to include a number of special guests including our Colonel of the Regiment, Col the Commanding Officer, LCol **J.B. Cade**; and Regimental Sergeant Major, CWO **D.M. Biener**. Attendance was excellent with over 60 members of the family able to participate.

The following Friday saw many Strath-

conas participate in the Annual Ottawa RCAC Officers’ Mess Dinner hosted by The Colonel Commandant, MGen (Retired) **CG Milner** and the Director of Armour, Col G. **Rousseau**. **Moreuil Wood** will be commemorated on Friday, 28 March with a lunchtime gathering in both Ottawa and Kingston. The Kingston lunch will be held at the RCHA Brigade Association Club while the Ottawa gathering will be held at the Army Officers’ Mess.

It goes without saying that all members of the **Regimental family** are most welcome to join us at any of these gatherings. Please let us know if you are travelling through the area – if nothing is planned we’ll try to have something “unplanned” to make you welcome.

Greg Hug
Ottawa, ON

Ontario Branch E-mail News

The **Ontario Branch** of the **Strathcona Association** regularly distributes information that is considered to be of interest to serving and retired **Strathconas** and anyone else who shares an interest in the **Regiment**.

Although most of the information pertains to activities, events and people in **Ontario** and **Eastern Canada**, much of it is still of interest to those located elsewhere in **Canada** and **abroad**.

All of this information is now being distributed via e-mail to people located across Canada, the USA and around the world. Anyone with internet access who wishes to receive this information may send their e-mail address to **strathconasontario@yahoo.ca**. There are no charges or membership fees to receive this service.

Bill Logan
Ottawa, ON

PICTORIAL HISTORY UPDATE

The production of the pictorial history book is well underway. A 'dummy' of the book was presented to the **Society Board of Directors** at the **Moreuil Wood** weekend meeting. The first draft covering the first fifty years is in production. But ... **MORE PHOTOS ARE STILL NEEDED.**

In doing my research at the museum archives for the post **Korea** to present period it became apparent that there are many gaps. I am once again asking readers (retirees and serving members) to search your photo albums/digital files for pictures of yourselves and buddies participating in activities with the regiment. We definitely would welcome action shots during operations (war, UN, and NATO) and exercises. Candid shots of sports, off duty, social and reunion activities are also needed. Be apart of history – get your photo in the book.

PSST. WANT TO SAVE SOME MONEY? If you are thinking of purchasing the book here's how to save yourself **\$15** or more plus **GST**. Talk to your local association about getting in on the wholesale cost of **\$25.00** a copy. To date we have 650 of the 1500 copies pre-sold at the reduced rate.

I am offering each of the Associations (OTTAWA/KINGSTON, KELOWNA, VICTORIA, GAGETOWN, HALIFAX and others) the opportunity to pre-order bulk copies for your membership, at the wholesale price of \$25.00 a copy. Sorry no individual orders. All they (the Association Branches) have to do is contact the **Regimental Secretary** and make the commitment. Bulk orders from the local Associations, however, must be made by **September '03**. The Association Branch

need not make advance payment to the **Society** until **September 30, 2004**. Purchases after that date must wait until the book is produced in **May '05** and will cost **\$39.95** plus GST and Shipping. For **Association Presidents** only – sorry to make the proposal this way and not directly to you, but thought this to be the best method (the *Newsletter*) to get the offer out to the majority of **Strathconas**.

Ian Barnes
Brandon, MB

British Columbia Report

Greetings from the West Coast or the biggest Maritime Province in Canada. **Ed Hyra** while attending the luncheon was presented with his **GPMS** medal.

I am enclosing some obits and must let you know that **Jack Williams** widow **Una** asked to be taken off the mailing list of the *Newsletter* as she knows very few of the **Strathconas**. When I mentioned the **Kukans** in my last missive I should have mentioned that **Lindy** was a member of the **Regiment** and served in **Egypt**, where he was my driver for a short time in 61-62. He transferred to the **Service Corps** as a cook later on and his last posting was **CFB Esquimalt** before retiring to **Vernon**.

We are getting ready for our March luncheon and at the moment with a few exceptions and discounting the aging factor and its accompaniments our dwindling band of brothers are as well as can be expected. **Richard Kitcher** and **Ted Swansberg** are wintering in **New Zealand** with Richard returning at the end of the month. Last summer when I was at the **Vernon Cadet Camp** I visited **Joe Dunn** in **Enderby**, he looked exactly like he did when he was 40 years of age except for some grey hairs. Also in **Enderby** is **Ray McMullen** who isn't in the best of health but is still hanging in there. **Bob Gorsalitz** is in **Vernon** he too is not on the Okay list. **Mike Pushkarenko** is always busy with the **Legion Colour Party** for various community parades.

Bill Anderson
Sooke, BC.

(You might check the "Lost Trails" list and note that **Mike Pushkarenko** is listed. Have him contact this office. Thanks. Ed)



It's Hard to Believe

If you lived as a child in the 40's, 50's, 60's or 70's, looking back, it's hard to believe that we have lived as long as we have.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Our cots were covered with bright colored lead-based paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cupboards, and when we rode our bikes we had no helmets.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill; only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times we learned to solve the problem.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. No mobile phones.

We got cut and broke bones and broke teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. They were accidents. No one was to blame, but us. Remember accidents?

We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it.

We ate patty cakes, bread and butter, and drank cordial, but we were never overweight ... we were always outside playing. We shared one drink with four friends, from one bottle and no one died from this.

We did not have Play stations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, video games, 65 channels on pay TV, video tape movies, surround sound, personal mobile phones,

Personal Computers, Internet chat rooms ... we had friends.

We went outside and found them. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rung the bell, or just walked in and talked to them. Imagine such a thing. Without asking a parent! By ourselves! Out there in the cold cruel world! Without a guardian - how did we do it?

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls, and ate worms, and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever.

Footy and netball had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.

Some students weren't as smart as others so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. Tests were not adjusted for any reason.

Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected. No one to hide behind. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law – imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years has been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

And you're one of them. Congratulations!

Percy & Myrtle

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

In addition to those acknowledged with their "Letters". It is with great appreciation that we wish to acknowledge messages with donations to the Society, from **Larry Adams, Bill Armstrong, John Ashley, Bill Baillie, Ken Barnaby, Bob Bartlett, Benny Benoit, Percy Buzza, Dave Cathcart, Phil Chatterton, Doug Cherry, Bruce Collins, Dave Coverdale, Roy Currie, James Curtis, Des Deane-Freeman, Jim Deighton, Al Derocher, 'Doc' Dowling, Berber Elmy, John Fallas, Catherine Greenleaf, Doug Handling, 'Mousey' Kaatz, Howard Katzeley, George Lancia, Norman Lyng, Grant Main, Billy May, Albert McBride, Leroy McKenzie, 'Dusty' Miller, Russell Mitchell, Jim Murphy, Bill Murray, Phil Neatby, Paul Parisee, Ken Part, George Prokopetz, Hank Reid, Dave Ryan, Jack Somerset, Wayne Spencer, Jake Troudt, 'Waddy' Wadsworth, Jack Wallace, George Wattsford, Dick Welch, Orley Whalen, Jourkje Will, Ellis Williamson.** Please let me know if I missed anyone.

The monies will be used as directed by the donor(s) i.e. **Newsletter, Museum, Mounted Troop, or Society** discretion.

The participation of all readers is particularly requested in helping us to keep track of changes of address plus entries for the **Last Trumpet Call**. We ask that any information be forwarded to:

**Lord Strathcona's Horse (RC) Society
4520 Crowchild Trail SW
Calgary, AB. T2T 5J4**

Enclosed with the *Newsletter* is an appeal from our **Museum** for artifacts and other military memorabilia. I know you have received requests like this many times since you left the service and put off making an effort for one reason or another. Would you please make an effort **NOW** to at least reassess the military items you have and decide again what you want to do with them. Hopefully you choose the Museum.

For the **Fall 2003** edition of the *Newsletter*, please forward your reports, letters, anecdotes, articles, photos, etc by the **25 September 2003**. Donations of course send any time.

'Mucker' Langan

New E-mail Addresses

Association (Alberta Branch)
abbranch@strathconas.ca

Association (Ontario Branch)
strathconasontario@yahoo.ca

LAST TRUMPET CALL

- AITKEN G.B. (George)**, WW2, Regular, age 79, 17 Jan 03, Barrie, ON.
BLACK J.J. ('Moe'), WW2, 18 Jan 03, age 87, Toronto, ON.
BRADSHAW D.S. (David), Korea, age 72, 22 Dec 02, Saint John, NB.
BURTON, W.H. (Walter), WW2, age 88, 04 Oct 02, Portage la Prairie, MB.
CHRISTENSON K.I. (Ken), WW2, Regular, age 77, 09 Dec 02, Calgary, AB.
DERENOWSKI, P. (Peter), WW2, age 85, 04 Oct 02, Yorkton, ON.
GALLAGHER R.E. (Ron), Korea, Regular, age 72, 03 Nov 02, Saint John, NB.
HALL R.J. (Sammy), WW2, age 91, 11 Dec 02, Kelowna, BC.
HONEY G.G. (Gord), WW2, age 93, 31 Jan 03, White Rock, BC.
KENNEDY J.P. (Jim), Korea, Regular, age 67, 12 Nov 02, Cranbrook, BC.
LEGGETT P.E. (Pete), Regular, age 61, 30 Nov 02, Calgary, AB.
LEWIS R.T. (Robin), Regular, age 63, 10 Nov 02, Nepean, ON.
McGETRICK A.W. (Alex), WW2, age 81, 25 Sep 02, Cameron, ON.
PALFREY W. (Bill), age 83, 27 May 02, Victoria, BC.
PAYNE L.S. (Len), WW2, Regular, age 87, 22 Nov 02, Ottawa, ON.
POHLMANN G.W.H. (George), WW2, Regular, age 77, 29 Sep 02, Okanagan Falls, BC.
RANDE A.C. (Chris), Korea, age 74, 02 Jun 02, Golden, BC.
ROTHERY R.H. (Ray), WW2, Regular, age 81, 07 Nov 02, Ottawa, ON.
SHACKLETON N.A. ('Moe'), WW2, Regular, age 81, 27 Jan 03, Kingston, ON.
SMITH H.H. (Hardy), WW2, Regular, age 80, 12 Dec 02, Regina, SK.
THORESEN R.E. (Ralph), WW2, Regular, age 81, 27 Dec 02, Victoria, BC.
TOWNSEND W.E. (Bill), Regular, age 74, 01 Feb 03, Calgary, AB.
WILL R.T. (Bob), WW2, age 81, 29 Sep 02, Tisdale, SK.
WILLIAMS J.E.A. (Jack), WW2, Regular, age 77, 22 Dec 02, Sooke, BC.

In Loving Memory of Wives

- BARRETTE, Dorothy (Art)**, 12 Feb 03, Oromocto, NB.
CLARK, Laura (George), 08 Mar 02, St. Thomas, ON.
DUNSMORE, Anne (Doug), 16 Dec 02, Comox, BC.
FREY EVELYNE (Alex), 12 Jul 92, Hastings, ON
PARKER, Ruth (Bill deceased), 10 Nov 02, Dorchester, BC.
THIESSEN, Maria (Frank), 27 Jan 03, Calgary, AB.
VELLA, Norma (Bill), 29 Sep 02, Cobble Hill, BC.

"May They Rest in Peace"

(My apologies for lack of details in some cases. Ed)

Lost Trails

The following had their *Newsletter* returned by Canada Post with the notation "MOVED". If any reader knows the current whereabouts of these individuals would you, or have them, notify this office:

Gordon Bulloch Logan Lake, BC. **Mike Pushkarenko**, Armstrong, BC. **Bert Stalard**, Vernon, BC. **Alice Budner** Calgary, AB. **Andrew Knapper**, Calgary, AB. **Alex McIntosh**, Calgary, AB. **Andrew Knap-**

per, Calgary, AB. **Don Ring**, Calgary, AB. **'Will' Sturdy**, Calgary, AB. **Mike Baker** Cochrane, AB. **Stuart Morison**, Edmonton, AB. **'Mel' Sabiston**, Selkirk, MB. **Gordon Bennett**, Frankford, ON. **Bernard Devlin**, Brampton, ON. Mrs. **'Bunty' Kittson**, Burlington, ON. **Bill Henry**, Charlot-tetowne, PE. **Leo Anfonssi**, Escondido, USA.