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LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE (ROYAL CANADIANS)

NEWSLETTER

Volume 19, No. 1 Newsletter Editor: 'Mucker' Al Langan

Spring, 2004

A Salute to the Canadian Soldier

I sat in my seat of the **Boeing 767** waiting for everyone to hurry and stow their carry-on and grab a seat so that we could start what I was sure to be a long uneventful flight home. With the huge capacity and slow moving people taking their time to stuff luggage, far too big for the overhead, and never paying much attention to holding up the growing line behind them. I simply shook my head knowing that this flight was not starting very well.

I was anxious to get home to see my loved ones so I focused on my own "issues" and felt like standing up and yelling for some of these clowns to get their act together. I knew I couldn't say a word so I just thumbed through the magazine from the seat pocket in front of me. You know it's really getting rough when you resort to the over priced, useless sky mall crap to break the monotony. With everyone finally seated, we just sat there with the cabin door open and no one in any hurry to get us going, although we were well past the scheduled take off time. No wonder the airline industry is in trouble, I told myself.

Just then, the attendant came on the intercom to inform us all that we were being delayed. The entire plane let out a collective groan. She resumed speaking to say "We are holding the aircraft for some very special people who are on the way to the plane and the delay shouldn't be more than 5 minutes". The word came after waiting six times as long as we were promised that "**I**" was finally going to be on my way home. Why the hoopla over "**these**" folks? I was expecting some celebrity or sports figure to be the reason for the hold up. Just get their butts in a seat and lets hit the gas I thought.

The attendant came back on the speaker to announce, in a loud and excited voice, that several **Canadian Soldiers** returning home from **Afghanistan** were joining us. Just as they walked on board, the entire plane erupted into applause. The men were a bit taken by surprise by the 340 people cheering them as they searched for their seats. They were having their hands shook and touched by almost everyone who was within an arm's distance of them as they

passed down the aisle. One elderly woman kissed the hand of one of the **Soldiers** as he passed by her. The applause whistles and cheering didn't stop for a long time.

When we were finally airborne, "**I**" was not the only civilian checking his conscience as to the delays in "**me**" getting home, finding my easy chair, a cold beverage and the remote in my hand. Knowing what these men had done for all of us and I had been complaining silently about "**me**" and "**my**" issues. I took for granted the everyday freedoms I enjoy and the conveniences of the **Canadian** way of life I took for granted others paid the price for my ability to moan and complain about a few minutes delay to "**me**" those **Heroes** going home to their loved ones. I get my selfish outlook in order and minutes before we landed I suggested to the attendant that she announce over the speaker a request for everyone to remain in their seats until our hero's were allowed to gather their things and be first off the plane. The cheers and applause continued until the last sol-

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Did You Know

Historical Note - Col Ian MacD. Grant, DSO, CD

Stan Broski and **Bill Logan** sent the following quote found on page 469 of **Volume II** of the **Official History of the Canadian Army** in the **Second World War**. The then Captain I.M. Grant was serving in Italy with "**C**" Squadron of the **Three Rivers Regiment** in **June 1944**.

Quote. "C" Squadron fought a brilliant action on the 28th when, having pushed a mile past **Cassmaggiore**, it seized vital high ground and then for seven hours stood off a series of determined counter-attacks by **German Armour** and infantry, thus enabling the **British battalions** to close in on their objectives. When, early in the engagement, the squadron commander's tank was one of four **Canadian tanks** knocked out in rapid succession, his second-in-command, Captain IM Grant, assumed control of the remaining **Shermans** and throughout the day directed their operations with great skill and daring. As small groups of paratroopers attempted

to infiltrate through the standing crops he left his own tank and for five hours, under continual sniping and mortar fire, sought them out on foot and guided his tanks from one firing position to another to deal with them. This "complete disregard for his personal safety and superb leadership" won Grant the D.S.O., an honour not often bestowed on a junior officer. Largely due to "C" Squadron's gallant efforts the strength of the German position on the ridge was broken. **Unquote.**

Col Grant continued to serve a long and distinguished career with the **Strathconas** after the war. In 1957, **Strathconas** were back in **Germany** when the **Regiment** contributed an independent **Reconnaissance Squadron** to the **Canadian NATO Brigade**. Major IM Grant commanded this Squadron.

Over the years all Strathcona **Commanding Officers** have made their own
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Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

The **Spring Newsletter** is in preparation about the same time as **Moreuil Wood** when thoughts of remembrance, achievements and comrades are in the forefront. These reflections seem particularly appropriate now when the news reports are full of stories of terrorism, political scandal and natural disasters. Our **Regiment** is a powerful force for good in the world today, as it has been throughout its long history. Beginning in **South Africa**, through the world wars and **Korea**, a long list of peacekeeping duties and service to **Canadian** communities in forest fires and floods, **Strathconas** have been in the vanguard to help set things right. Moreuil Wood is also a time to recognize our achievements and to celebrate our accomplishments.

I was fortunate to participate in the Regiment's Moreuil Wood activities in **Edmonton** including the **Strathcona Society's** annual general meeting. There was an enthusiastic gathering including Col **Tim Grant**, now our **Senior Serving Strathcona**, **Earl Cady**, **Father Bob Greene**, **Roy Jardine**, LCol **Rick Williams** and

Don Crossman from **Calgary**, Col **Mike Snell** from **Ottawa**, who was being dined out on his retirement, and a host of local dignitaries and friends. **Rick Williams** has generously agreed to serve as our new **Regimental Secretary** and **Coordinating Editor** of the **Newsletter**. Thank you Rick! After the event, I spoke with **Bruce Rutherford** by telephone and passed along greetings from some of his colleagues.

A number of activities are planned for the near future including the granting of the **Freedom of the City of Fort Saskatchewan** to the Regiment on May 15. For the **Melfa River** commemoration (this year on May 26 and 27) an historical study day is planned with Gen **Bill Milroy** as the featured speaker followed by Regimental dinners. A contingent has been invited to participate from Major **E.J. (Perky) Perkins'** original unit, the **Grey and Simcoe Foresters** and a reciprocal visit is planned to the Grey and Simcoe's **D-Day celebrations** on June 5 and 6. Although the **Commanding Officer** has

been avoiding the mention of it, the **Regimental Change of Command** is scheduled for June 29 and 30 when LCol **Paul Fluery** will take over from **Jamie Cade**.

As can be seen in the Commanding Officer's and RSM's columns, the Regiment is operating at a very busy pace. Two **Squadrons** have rotated to **Bosnia** and the **Strathconas** have taken over the remaining Leopard tanks from the other regiments. Retraining and new postings fill in any time that remains. Still the Regiment continues to observe ceremonial and other family occasions with all the style that has been their hallmark. As someone observed during the Moreuil Wood events, "It is like entering a room that you once lived in to find that nothing has changed. It's very comfortable!"

I encourage all Strathconas to visit our website at www.Strathconas.ca where you can read the latest news and see pictures of the Regiment and the Society. I urge you to stay involved and keep in contact.

Colonel Mark Egner, CD

Comments from the Commanding Officers Hatch

I was warned my two years of command would fly by and they did. **30 June** will see command of our Regiment pass to LCol **Paul Fleury**. Paul is a talented officer who is very deserving of this honour and will lead the Regiment well.

As you may (or may not) know, the **Leopard Tank** is to be replaced by the **Mobile Gun System (MGS)** beginning in 2006. The introduction of the MGS, or **Stryker** as it is commonly referred to, signals significant change for the **Armoured Corps** and the **Army** as a whole. The primary focus of the Armoured Corps has shifted from tank to reconnaissance. The **RCD** and **12e RBC** are now reconnaissance regiments, equipped only with the **Coyote**. The **Strathconas** are now the only "direct fire" regiment in the Army, with two Leopard Tank squadrons and a Coyote reconnaissance squadron.

These changes bring with them large cultural adjustments that we must overcome. The Stryker (MGS) is not to be employed as a tank, but as part of a "system of systems" of direct fire weapons. The Stryker will be partnered with the **TOW Under Armour (TUA)** anti-tank missile system, and a new longer-range weapons system. This trio of direct fire vehicles will fight differently than traditional tank tactics, complementing each other's capability.

The Regiment will also train differently. With the creation of the **Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre (CMTC)**, we will enjoy realistic and technologically advanced field training, on par with that of the National Training Centre (NTC) in the

United States. The downside is that to ensure sufficient vehicles for CMTC and overseas deployments, the Army is adopting **Whole Fleet Management**. This essentially means only the minimum amount of vehicles possible to function will be on our hangar floor. For example, although the Regiment is comprised of two tank squadrons, we only possess sufficient vehicles for one; "A" and "B" Squadrons must share during training. For a **Corps** who gives names to their vehicles as a demonstration of devotion to the machine, this is a tough cultural adjustment to make.

Big changes and tough times are nothing

new to our **Regiment**. The Regiment remains strong and flexible and will travel through this transformation successfully. The coming years, however, will be challenging.

On a closing note, my years of command of Canada's finest Regiment have been everything I expected and hoped for. The support given to me by the Regimental Family has been superb and I am thankful. Hopefully I will have the opportunity to see all of you either at the **Change of Command Parade** or **Reunion 2005**.

LCol Jamie Cade

A Salute to a Canadian Soldier *continued*

dier stepped off and we all rose to go about our too often taken for granted everyday freedoms ... I felt proud of them. I felt it an honour and a privilege to be among the first to welcome them home and say "**Thank You**" for a job well done.

I vowed that I would never forget that flight nor the lesson learned. I can't say it enough, Thank You to those Veterans and those active Servicemen and Women who



may read this and a prayer for those who cannot for they are no longer with us.

GOD BLESS!! WELCOME HOME AND THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!!!

Author unknown.

Did You Know *continued*

unique contributions to the Regiment and certainly one of the more colourful ones was then Lt Col Ian MacD Grant who commanded from **August 1961** until **May 1964**.

Our thoughts go out to Ian Grant who, we are sure, is facing his latest challenge of ill health with the same fortitude and good humour that he displayed throughout his life.

Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters

Once again I have received my copy of the Fall 2003 Newsletter and so enjoy reading it from cover to cover. This year has been very interesting, to say the least. In February my dad **E.W. (Ted) Adams**, passed away at a care home in **Coos Bay, Oregon**, peacefully in his sleep. He was a former RSM of the **Ontario Regiment**. He was always proud to say that he served with (then Captain) **'Ned' Amy**, in Italy during **WW2**.

On the 29 May I had bypass surgery and am pleased to say all is well now and have a few more miles left on this old body.

I am starting my fourth year as **President of Unit 62** of the **Korea Veterans Unit**, here in **Regina** and happy to report that **Dave Ryan, Doug McPherson** and **Stan Jaworski** are still active members of our Unit. All four of us are pleased to get the information re the **2005 Reunion**. In the event I did not make known my intentions to attend I wish to correct that oversight and let you know that my wife **Donna** and I are planning on being there. Please put me on the mailing list. After the enjoyment we had at the 2000 Reunion there is no way we would want to miss any in the future. We, from farther away, really appreciate the efforts that the planning committee does on every ones behalf. We can hardly wait for 2005.

The enclosed is a small donation to help defray the cost of mailing the Newsletter. Still the best printed means of communication. Keep up the great work.

Larry Adams
Regina, SK

(Your request to be placed on the Reunion 2005 mailing list has been passed to the Association (Alberta Branch). Thank you for your kind words and the donation. Ed)

Just to let you know that I am moving on 15th March and I don't want to miss any copies of the **Newsletter**. I enjoy reading it and occasionally still see familiar names. The enclosed donation is to help defray the postage costs or perhaps to the Museum where I'm sure there is something to remember my two uncles the **Leckie's R & J** and their antics in the **Boar War** and **First World War?**

Rosemary Alley
West Vancouver

(There are quite a few right-ups about your uncles in the Museum Archives. Thank you for the donation. Ed)

Your still doing a great job with the **Newsletter** although due to failing eyesight I have a problem reading it, even with my reading machine. I have developed macular degeneration, which has made me white-cane legally blind, so that I couldn't recognize handsome **George Barr** when he visited my senior's resort with a local **Legion Delegation** on Remembrance Day.

Sorry to hear of the names so many old friends and comrades listed in "**The Last Trumpet Call**", I hope my name won't appear for a good many years, just ask **'Vic' Binnie**, only the good die young.

All the very best wishes to all my **Strathcona** friends for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2004 New Year.

Vic Childs
Kelowna, BC

*(You are truly a stalwart **Strathcona** shown by your perseverance with your handicap. Thank you for your donation. Ed)*

Just a short note to say that I have been re-miss in not sending a donation lately, so here is an Xmas present for the **Society**. Received the Fall **Newsletter**, quite interesting, brings back many memories. Best wishes to all the **Strathcona Family**. Keep up the good work 'Mucker' and say hello to the old buddies for me. Still see a few Straths here in **Medicine Hat; Bob Sutherland, Mike Alcock, Len Friemark, Bill Prouse** and **'Doc' Dowling** and myself are all representatives of the **Army Cadet League** for the Lethbridge and Medicine Hat Cadet Corps.

Ken Dent
Medicine Hat

*(**Len Friemark** is not on the **Family Role**, would you have him contact us? Thanks Ken for the generous donation I wish the Society got more Xmas presents like yours. Ed)*

Once again the **Newsletter** arrived with all the other **Christmas** mail, catching me up on many with whom I have lost contact. And, once again it was up to the usual standard of excellence. I especially enjoyed the **Korean** anniversary section since **Bob**

(my late husband) had served there with **"C" Squadron**. In many ways it's hard to believe that **fifty years** have passed. So many young men through the intervening years served and continue to do so in far flung places, and all to the credit of the **Regiment**. Enclosed are a donation and a blessing for the future - for the Newsletter and all who work on it and those that read it.

Doris Neelin
Barrie, ON

(Thank you Doris for your generous donation and kind remarks. Ed)

Read with great interest the Fall issue of the **Newsletter**, particularly the column **"Did You Know"** giving details about Lt. **William Ward's** actions in **Korea**. He was the Troop Leader of first troop **"B" Squadron** from June to October 1952. I was his gunner during that period, before he was reassigned to other duties. He **'Willie'** was a fine officer and friend. The enclosed photo (L to R: Lt Williams and myself) was taken at one of our positions in Korea. Looking forward to the next issue of the Newsletter.

David Ryan
Regina, SK

(Photo scanned into this issue [below]. Thanks for the generous donation. Ed)

I was so very grateful to get your Spring and Fall **Newsletter** and in each one I came across names I knew. I was sorry to see that **Murray Beckett** had answered the **"Last Trumpet Call"** as he was best man at **Barb's** and my wedding at **Borden** in the 60's. Barb died in 1990 after five years in a wheelchair, which accounts for the seldom visits back to **Canada**.

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Willie Ward (left) and Dave Ryan.

The RSM's corner

I'll start this RSM's Corner with a well done to the editor, without "Mucker's perseverance I would never have found the time to put pen to paper. Thanks Mucker.

The **Regiment** began the year participating in **EX STRONG CONTENDER**, the brigade sports concentration. All teams played their hearts out and represented the Regiment in fine fashion. Concurrently work was being done in order to prepare for the **Annual Technical Inspection** and **Staff Assistance Visit**. The Regiment again rose to the occasion setting the standard for the other units of the brigade.

We have just completed our activities marking the **86th** anniversary of the battle of **Moreuil Wood**. The emphasis was placed on remembering the sacrifice made by the soldiers of the Regiment on that day. An audio-visual presentation with First World War footage and photographs accompanied the parade. This supported the re-telling of the battle by **Cpl Plamondon**, wearing a replica of a **First World War Strathcona** uniform. I encourage all members of the Regimental family to participate in next years service.

We have been busy sprucing up the Regimental lines. New paint, pictures, trophies etc ... now line the hallways. This effort has been made in conjunction with the 100% stocktaking of **Regimental Society Property**. This work would not have been possible without the tremendous contribution made by **Col Reade** (ret'd) and **WO MacLeod**, curator of the **Regimental Museum**. The **Warrants** and **Sergeants** have renovated the **Sarcee Room**, we now

have a rest area to be proud of. In addition the **Cpl/Tpr's** have just opened their own rest area, which they have named the **"Track Pad"**. These additions and soldier driven initiatives further demonstrate the high morale and spirit of the soldiers who make up your Regiment.

The Regiment is now preparing to deploy on **EX STRATHCONA PHOENIX**, being conducted in **Wainwright**, 19 Apr - 06 May 04. We will be training to troop level and conducting squadron gun camps during the exercise. This will be our first introduction to **"Whole Fleet Management"**, a redis-



tribution of vehicles throughout the Army to allow for the creation of the **Canadian Maneuver Training Centre** being established in Wainwright and the creation of a fleet of vehicles ready for deployment overseas. In a nutshell it looks something like this - **"A" Sqn** will deploy, train and when they are finished **"B" Sqn** will then sign for the tanks, echelon etc...and complete their training.

The **Army** is also in the process of rationalizing all the direct fire assets into one organization ... the Strathcona's. Once the **Leopard** is retired the **"Stryker"** will replace it. An eight-wheeled armoured car, armed with a 105mm gun equipped with the latest in fire control systems. The Regiment will lead the way in incorporating this new vehicle into the Army. It will be just one part of an organization using both high velocity guns and missiles to deliver precision firepower to the battlefield...remember the **TOW Troop**?

Upon our return from Wainwright the Regiment will hold a **Freedom of the City Parade**, in **Fort Saskatchewan** 15 May 04. The **Melfa River** activities will be held 26-27 May 04.

Lastly, as you know the **Commanding Officer** is posted to **Ottawa** this summer. The change of command will take place 30 June 04. My wife, **Angie** and I would like to take this opportunity to wish him, his wife **Beth** and their children **Jennifer** and **David** all the very best in the future. Well done, **Sir**.

CWO (RSM) C.R.G. Ells, CD.

Strathcona Mounted Troop Report

After a very busy ride season, the **Troop** took some leave during the month of October. On November 12th the Troop had the pleasure of conducting a Quarter Guard and Musical Ride demonstration for **Mr. Al Graham** during a visit to the Regiment. On November 14th, we were delighted with the opportunity to ride with and show off their riding skills to Brigadier General **Day**, who was very impressed with the Troop and has since sent correspondence vowing he would practice his tent pegging skills.

Two new horses were purchased in November and two were consequently retired. **Sultan** was replaced by **Spitfire**, a 15.2 hands high chestnut paint, and **Shamrock** was replaced by **Spruce** a 15.2 hands high sorrel quarter horse. Both of these new horses are working well and will be incorporated into the 2004 ride season. Both Sultan and Shamrock received good homes with Shamrock being sold to a member of the Troop, Corporal **Ashley Cooper**.

As the end of the season finally arrived, the Troop said goodbye to four members of the Troop in November and welcomed six

new members. Those to leave were **Corporals' Paul Kruhlak, Sean Thompson, Sean Sullivan** and **Trooper Alex DiBlasio**. The new additions to the troop were **Lieutenant Clayton Gardner, Corporals' Chad Gray, Stephen Jolly, Jeffery Kennedy, Nathan Ramage** and **Trooper Michael Coggan**. Upon arrival of the new members, the **Basic Equine Course** was commenced with the new members learning the basics of horsemanship, tack, breeds, diseases etc and of course riding.

December saw the regular Christmas festivities such as the men's Christmas dinner and the sports day. As well, on the 8th of December, the Troop had the opportunity to meet the Minister of National Defence, **The Honourable John McCallum** when he visited the Regiment. The Troop enjoyed a well-deserved Christmas break for the rest of the month and returned in January to continue on with riding and the Basic Equine Course.

On February 17th, at the opening of the **Alberta Legislature** a Quarter Guard was provided **The Honourable Lois Hole**

Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. This was the first official function for the new members of the Troop and the first function for the new Troop as a whole. In February the Troop also said goodbye to **Corporal Jeffery Kennedy** and welcomed **Trooper Nicholas McWaters**. At the end of February, the Troop was given a two-day Polo clinic by **Mr. Greg Garvan** of the **Polo Training Foundation Canada**. Greg gave an excellent clinic and it was well enjoyed by all members. He was also able to bring in his mechanical horse, which proved to be an excellent training aid for all the riders especially the new riders.

Sterling was sold in February to a member of the saddle club and two new horses are currently under trial to be named upon completion of the two-week trial period. March 3rd the Troop provided a **Quarter Guard** for the current Minister of National Defence **The Honourable David Pratt** during his visit to the Regiment. The Troop has recently been busy completing **Minimum Level of Competence (MLOC)**

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Letters Letters continued

The **Canadian** and **New Zealand** services are similarly stretched in their respective commitments to matters military worldwide. They have taken delivery of the first 50 of 150 **L.A.V's**, which caused considerable contrary argument as they can't swim and won't drive into a Hercules aircraft without modification. At least you have not lost your **Fighter Wing**.

I am involved here in Community Care which is a voluntary group providing transportation to hospital for appointments, usually in **Christchurch**, a distance of about 50ks South of us. We also provide electric beds, lazy boys and scooters amongst other aids. We (the group) recently received a **Quality Innovations Award** that is run Province wide.

I would like to associate myself most wholeheartedly with the spirit of the **Strathcona Family** and **esprit de corps** that attracts comments from both. It means to me that even if physically away from old Regimental friends, the memories are always there and they sustain me. Something the stranger cannot know.

Last trip to **Canada** in 1995 I was lucky enough to see **'Wild' Bill Little** who laid on a "prayer meeting" which included old friend not only **Meaford** days but **Germany** as well.

John Stopford
Amberley, New Zealand

(Thank you for the update and information from down-under. 'Wild' Bill passed away October 2000. Ed)

Thank you for continuing to send me the **Newsletters**, which I appreciate and enjoy. Enclosed is a donation towards the Newsletter. My best wishes to all members of the **Strathcona Family** for a happy, healthy **2004**.

Rae McDiarmid

(Thank you for your kind wishes and most generous donation. Ed)

The enclosed donation is to help with the producing and mailing cost of the **Newsletter**. Although my husband, who was a member of your society, is no longer with us, passed away in 2001, I would still like to receive the Newsletter.

Mary Richmond
Perth, ON

(You have since 2001 been on the Newsletter mailing list and therefore should be receiving all the Newsletter issues. If not please let us know. Thanks for your donation. Ed)

My wife **Betty** and I are fat and "sassy" but working on the 'Atkins' diet plan. I retired last April and hope to talk Betty to do the same in the near future. When cleaning out old files and re-reading the **Newsletters** (keepers), I came across a letter from **'Al' Minette** (the first sergeant I met at **Currie Barracks** in "A" Sqn 1954) it was in reply to my request for information on joining the **Alberta** branch of the **Regimental Association** in 1980. **'Tank' Daunais** had dropped in and told me about it. In the letter to "Al" I had also stressed how I had become a useful citizen

through the "caring" of so many **Regimental** members who had gone out of their way to educate and set an example to me and many others (and boy! Was I **green**)? Enclosed is a donation towards the Newsletter costs.

'Dutchy' Sybrandy
Toppenish, WA, USA.

(Hope you and Betty are still sticking to the diet. Thanks for the donation. Ed)

Many thanks for another excellent **Newsletter** and enclosure information for the **Reunion 2005**. It sounds great and I dearly wish I could be with you for it – if I'm still around – as I will be crowding 94. So, while I see quite a few names in the Newsletter that I remember well, I confess there are more and more names that aren't familiar to me. I wonder why? Two stalwarts I see quite often are **Clive Milner** and **Bob Billings**. The latter has proclaimed himself my **'Adjutant'** and a very excellent one he is. I don't know what I would do without him! He even handed me **"kicking and screaming"** into the retirement residence where I now reside, but how right he was for am very happy here, - I'm all for **tender loving care**. The only snag is that I have just been elected **President** of the **Residents Council**. Will I never learn?

My warm best wishes to all and again my congratulation for a job well done.

George Wattford
Kingston, ON

(Thank you for your support both materially and financial. It is individuals such as you, who have made many contributions to the Regiment and the Regimental Family that helped foster that Strathcona spirit which is so alive today. Your warm regard and perseverance in the support of the Newsletter is one of the reasons it is enjoying such a success. Ed)

While browsing the **Strathcona** Web Site and reading the **Guest Book** there was a notation by a **Jack Downey** stating he had presented a plaque to the **Regiment** to commemorate their winning of the **Canada Cup** in 1967. If my memory serves me correctly, I was part of that tank crew that was the top tank. Also included were **Brian Troskoski**, **David Yella** and Sgt **Wheeler** the crew commander. If the names were mentioned on this plaque it would be excellent to get a picture or image of it.

'Hal' Douthwright
Upper Mills, NB.

(Jack Downey also presented a duplicate plaque to the Regimental Museum in Calgary. A photo of this plaque has been sent to 'Hal'. Ed)

Yes you've got the right person, how are you **'Mucker'**? I moved to my native **B.C.**, after capitalizing on a great **Calgary** real-estate market. We've re-located in 2002 to

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Strathcona Mounted Troop Report continued

training and preparing for the upcoming ride season. A good portion of the season is already booked for Musical Rides and various parades. The **SMT** appreciates all the support we receive from the **Regimental**

Family and we anticipate that this year will be a very exciting time for the **Strathcona Mounted Troop**.

Lt Clayton Gardner
SMT Leader



Regimental Museum Report

Well it's been just over a year since I came to the **Museum** and I'm just starting to get a feel for what is here and what can be done. This has probably been my busiest year in the **Military**.

In the last few months we have completed a trial school program with the trailer, started new displays in the **Regimental** lines and given about a hundred tours through the gallery. The most entertaining tour was the one we didn't give. The Regiment came down two **Squadrons** at a time on two successive days. Obviously there is no way to give tours to that many people in two hours so we made a "**scavenger hunt**" type of questionnaire on lesser known facts "**LKF**" located in the gallery. These questionnaires were completed at a troop level.

The trailer originally built for the hundredth anniversary in 2000, it sat for a number of years in the Regimental lines. By the kind graces of Mr **Art Hazle** of **Leaseway Trucking** the trailer was moved to **Calgary**. We rebuilt it and started to look for ways to use it solve the biggest problem in this Museum, attendance. Although the **Museum of the Regiments (MOR)** has been in **Calgary** for over 10 years, few **Calgarians** seem to know about it. Our solution to this problem was to take the trailer to as many varied venues as possible in an attempt to increase awareness of the MOR. The theory was that people through the door of the MOR, were people through our door.

During the period 1 July 2003 to 1 Nov 2003 we had **4825** visitors to the trailer. To accomplish this we spent a week in a mall parking lot, two weeks at **Spruce Mead-**

ows, then two weeks conducting a trial program with the MOR **Education Department** concluding with one week in the Regimental lines. The trial school program was by far the most successful. The principle (pardon the pun) behind this endeavour was that the schools in Calgary, like everywhere else, are dealing with decreasing budgets; if they can't afford to come to the museum on a field trip then we'd bring the field trip to them. All the normal programs offered at the Museum were also offered at the schools using a portable hands on "kit", lap-tops and LCD projectors for verbal presentations, and of course the trailer for gallery tours. This program was a smashing success; the teachers and students loved it. The only drawback, from our standpoint, was the time spent away from the Museum while setting up the trailer and running the program. The program has been turned over to the MOR to continue or not at their discretion. We will continue to use the trailer at the other venues.

When the **Guidon** was moved from the entrance of the Regimental lines to the **Mariner Room**, the front display case was empty and the opportunity presented to fill it with historic displays. We started with a display on the **Boer War**, and have since updated to one on **World War One**. This display is due to be replaced some time in April in favour of a **World War Two** display. Using these displays we have been able to show off some of our Regimental artefacts and teach a bit of history to the Regiment and anyone else who enters the building.

WO Ted MacLeod, CD
Curator



Three of the 4,825 visitors to the Museum Trailer.

The Final Inspection

The soldier stood and faced God
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining
Just as brightly as his brass.

Step forward now you soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other
cheek?
To My Church have you been
true?

The soldier squared his shoulders
And said, No Lord I guess I ain't
Because those of us that carry
guns
Can't always be a Saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully
rough.

But, I never took a penny
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime
When the bills just got too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here,
They never wanted me around
Except to calm their fear.

If you've a place for me here,
Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the
throne
Where the Saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's
streets:
You've done your time in HELL.

To all who Serve.

(Author Unknown)

LdSH(RC) Association (Alberta Branch) Report

The deep freeze is over after two weeks so we can get on with our lives. It appears all across **Canada** shared in this one. The **2004 Committee** consists of **Don Crossman, Lindsay Esson, Gary Lee, Howie Owen, Dave Cathcart**, with two welcome additions **Darryl Crowell** – Vice President and **Claire Lane** as Membership. Four new **Honourary Memberships** were handed out to Col. **Mark Egner, Murray Cayley, Bill Logan** and **Jerry Cluett**. Our meetings at **Horton Road Legion** are May 13th, September 9th, and November 4th 2004. You will notice that more E-mail will be sent on our activities as well as **Strathcona Family** rumors and other useful information.

People – Places – Things

Benson – Curtis and Jane once again chose to go R/Ving for the year and went south at the first sign of snow.

May – Bill has Molly in the Sarcee Aux. Hospital much closer to home and she remains in poor health.

Hills – Capt Chuck is on his final overseas tour and plans to retire near Pembroke July 2004 after their house is completed. Good luck to Chuck and Fran.

Russell – Major John will be retiring in the Kingston area. All the best John to you and Bernadine.

Whalen – Orley and Laura recently moved into Edmonton and Laura is having some health issues now. Get well Girl!!

Laney – Ernest and Irene have moved back to Bonnyville AB.

Sparkes – Colin recently celebrated his 75th in February 2004. Best to you and hope you drop by in July. I also heard sec-

ond Lt. Clive Milner was in Colin's troop but other details of his activities cannot be told here.

Bennet – Pusher and Kay recently celebrated their 50th on Jan 4th 04. Congratulations and "Kay" your Medal is in the mail.

CO & RSM – On behalf of Association members living in Calgary, thank you for supporting us and ensuring soldiers have the opportunity to come down to ID's lunches for informal visits.

Reid – Gerald and Betty keep us up to date with the Valley happenings. Much appreciated!

Kelsey – Steve as you move on good luck, and a personal thanks for the support you have given the Association and to the President.

McLean – Bud is dealing with some health issues but is a strong supporter of the Association. Get Well! The cardboard cut outs of you and your friend Dick Russell some how seems to be of much younger men.

Biener – Capt. Dave – thanks for the call and please keep in touch GRANDPA X 3 / 4?

Seeton – Doug is still hiding in Strathmore 30 min. east of Calgary. Put your \$ in black book.

'Mucker' Langan – It is past the time for changing of the Guard. Finally, we can say farewell to Mucker after the printing of this Newsletter. His contribution to the Society and the Newsletter will never be duplicated and you are to be congratulated on your performance over many years. Good Luck on your Retirement and enjoy yourself.

To you Dee – God Bless you for hanging in and all your support!

B.C. Valley Reunion – Bill Wood has taken on this task and please give him your support as we look forward to the event in September/October 04.

Stuckart – John, Wendy and children are on their way to Kingston Ontario this summer. Welcome back folks.

Reunion 2005

The Reunion Registration Form will arrive at your house in August 2004, only if you indicated to us that you planned to attend. You may have told us by returning the Questionnaire or by phone/mail. If you **do NOT receive** your package by end August please let us know and **it is still not too late to put your name on the mailing list**. The Calendar of Events may see some changes for the Saturday p.m. function. We are thinking of having a Buffet and (QUIET MUSIC) DJ, **your thoughts?** Our host hotel **Mayfield Inn & Suites** will not be ready until August 04. For reservations, call **1-800-661-9804**, it is a direct line to the Hotel and reserve under the Strathcona name for best room rates. **Widows** please remember when you register there will be a draw for 12 FREE Registrations worth \$160 each, in **January 2005**.

Question – Where do you buy the Green Blazer? **Answer** – "**Moore's**" the Suit People.

Don Crossman
President

Learning to be a Staff Officer

On return from **Korea**, I eventually became Assistant Adjutant to **Dean P Ramsey**, Captain and Adjutant, **Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)** in Jan 1955. Dean was a wise and patient tutor, and understood the rationale behind **staff work** and **G, A and Q**.

I was quite unaware of the subtlety of writing, and presumed that the facts were what mattered. One case gave me greater insight; "**A**" **Sqn** was training recruits and from time to time was short of junior officers. At range practice, the minimum was one officer to act as **Range Safety Officer**, and the norm should be an officer also as **Firing Point Officer**. That spring, we often had to rely on senior **NCOs**, as officers were not available. On this occasion, at the range in **Harvey Hall**, a sergeant friend was in charge, and at the conclusion of the shoot, as the rifle-filled boxes were being moved for transport, the end of one was dropped, the gun inside went off and a soldier was shot in the calf. The wound was superficial, but the event was shocking!

How could a rifle get off the point loaded after the careful checking and snapping the firing pin on the empty chamber? How could a rifle get into a box with the firing pin still cocked?

It was my job to write up the **CO's Findings** on the **Board of Inquiry**. I could not see how we could avoid great amounts of flak, and serious adverse consequences for the sergeant. Dean was away, so I asked the **2IC**, Major **Charlie McLean**, for advice. "Check the ranges for **Standing Orders**". I did so and found that no Orders were posted at the Range (Were supposed to be reviewed with the troops before the practice). Charlie suggested that I emphasize this ghastly breach of responsibility on the part of **Garrison**, and only note in passing the firing, and the absence of an officer. I did so with gusto and indignation. The CO signed the Findings, and that was the last we heard of this Board, ever!

I thought about it and realized that Charlie was an old stager. We all knew that Garrison was petrified by the possibility of

Major General **Vokes** or his staff in **Edmonton** discovering lapses of competence by Garrison. They could not erase the indictment contained in the Findings, so the solution was to never forward the board to Edmonton. We were keen to avoid retribution descending on the sergeant – he was bound to be super vigilant in matters of safety from then on, and needed no public pillorying.

By the simple use of the **English** language, cries of outrage never occurred, and the sergeant learned an important lesson that he was sure to observe. In fact, all involved in range practice were as careful as they should be.

Phil Neathy



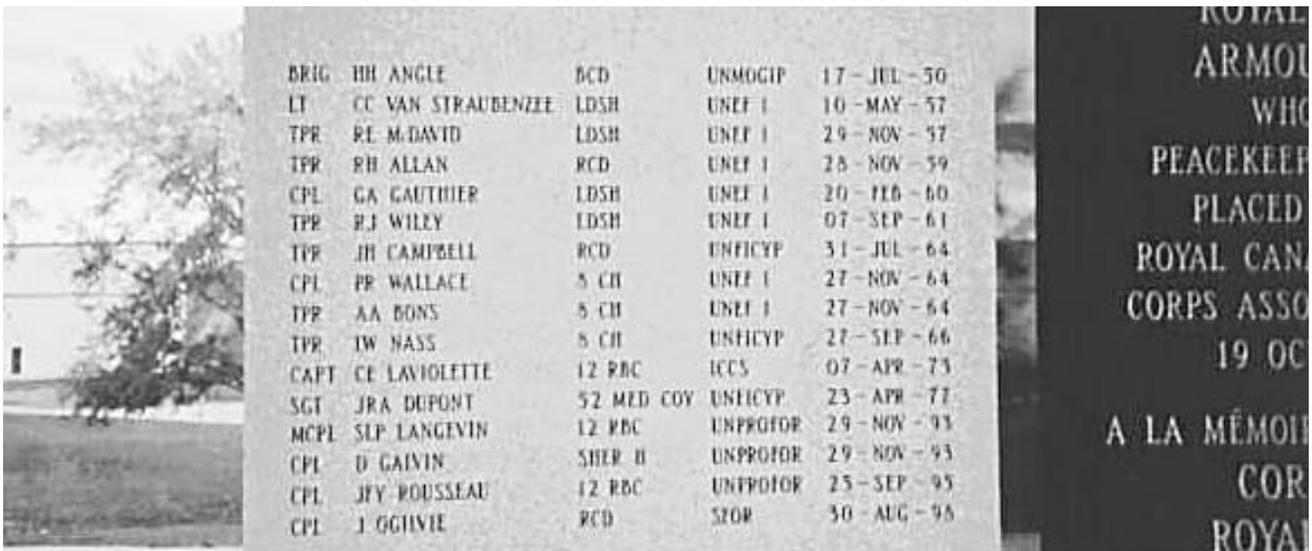
U.N. Peacekeepers Monument located in Worthington Park – Borden, Ontario



Worthington Park Borden



The Peacekeeper Monument in Worthington park, unveiled in 2002.



Names of Royal Canadian Armoured Corp personnel who died on peacekeeping operations.

Photos courtesy of John Gilmartin

PERAMBULATIONS OF THE PERIPATETIC PADRE

Having just returned from Edmonton and the 86th Anniversary of the Battle of Moreuil Wood, my wife Marion and I are still glowing after one of the best Strathcona events in recent memory. The mixed Mess Dinner complete with six courses was a Gastronomic Gormandize of Grand Gluttony!! Three days later we are still recovering. One of the highlights of the dinner was the honouring of Colonel Mike Snell, a true Strathcona, retiring after 40 years in Her Majesty's Service. A goodly gathering of Calgary Straths in attendance included amongst others Lieutenant Colonel Rick Williams, Association (Alberta Branch) President Don Crossman, Roy & Inez Jardine, Padre & Marion Greene. Roy, who only a year ago was confined to using a walker, is now able to walk without the walker. Good show Roy!

It was also good to meet once again The Colonel of the Regiment, Mark Egner. The Regimental Parade on Saturday once again showed the Straths in top performance and a fitting tribute to the Commanding officer, Jamie Cade. For me this was a sad note, for Jamie soon to be posted is the third generation Strath in the same family. Jamie's father Jack served with us in the 2nd World War. His grandfather Fred and his grandmother Florence were parishioners of mine in Winnipeg in the 1970's. Fred was a World War I Strathcona. What a pity that the army changes the CO's and RSM's every two years.

One of the things that struck me at the

parade was the number of Canadian Forces Decorations (CD) awarded, and even Bar(s) to the CD, which means 12 or 22 years of Good conduct. Or, as we in the lines used to say, 12 years of undetected crime. In wartime I can never recall a CD being awarded. Now this could mean that the Provost Corps in wartime were much more astute in catching defaulters than the Provosts of today, or was it that we were just naughty fellows?

In late December we visited Len Katz who was just home from hospital and receiving tender loving care from Lee. In January we were in Barbados and once again touched base with Michael Clarke, brother of George L.A. Clarke, killed at the Melfa. The Clarke's took us for a lovely drive and a delicious lunch on the East Coast.

Back in Calgary we make regular calls and take the Sacramento to Molly May in a seniors' home. Husband Billy is most faithful, visiting Molly every day. I am in phone contact with my old crew commander and Squadron Commander William Milroy who hopes to be in Edmonton for the Melfa celebration in May. A phone call to Jock Burton in Victoria brought us the news that Harold Boettcher had suffered a stroke and is now in Mount St.Mary's Nursing Home in Victoria. His wife Helen will be shortly moving to a new apartment two blocks away from Harold.

At Christmas a quite unexpected letter arrived from Stan Rule in London Ontario. Stan and I had grown up in the

same area in Toronto back in the 30's and it was great to hear from a long lost brother.

Sad news in Winnipeg came to me via Bud McLean here in Calgary, it was the death of Harvey Wait, one of the RECCE drivers at the Melfa Harvey was a very active member of our Winnipeg Branch when I was there in the 70's. OJ "Jack" Gallant, the last survivors of the 4 Gallant brothers from Virden Manitoba, all of whom served with the Straths, is living in extended care in Vulcan Alberta, where I am the Vicar (hence VICAR of VULCAN). OJ at 90 was quite surprised to hear that Billy May is still living at 83.

In February I spent an afternoon chasing down the coach of the St. Louis Blues, one Joel Quenneville who hails from Windsor Ontario. Joel is the spitting image of one Blackie Quenneville who served with us in Italy and Holland. With the Quennevilles being in great numbers in Windsor, it is probable that Blackie is a cousin or maybe an uncle of the Blues former Coach, now appointed coach of Team Canada. Has anyone any knowledge of where Blackie might be?

Other lost trails include 'Wilf' Lafferty who I last saw in Montreal in 1973, Joel Krueger, my gunner in Holland, last seen in Winnipeg in the 1950's. In the November 11th week I had the privilege of speaking to different groups at Schools, Seniors Homes and Girl Guides.

Speaking to one group of girls' age between 5 & 8, I was attempting to describe to them what it was like to be a member of a tank crew. I then asked a sweet little 5 year old what a tank was, and she replied, "Father, it is something in which you keep your gold fish", which I had to admit was a right answer, but not the one I was looking for.

Val Rimer was very active around November 11th, leading the Armistice Service in his local synagogue whose large attendance included several Strathconas. Soon after arriving back from our summer trip to the east news came of Frank Clifford's death at the age of 90. George Wattford spoke of Frank as the model Strathcona. Since my last report in the Newsletter it was my sad privilege to take the funeral of Alex Ozirny in the chapel of the Colonel Belcher Hospital here in Calgary. My dear wife Marion keeps close contact with a number of Strathcona widows including Alice Budner, Millie McCreary, Jean Ozirny, Della Spilde, Irene Kennedy Rae MacDiarmid, Marg Spencer and Jessie Spencer. And lastly, a final thank you to 'Mucker' Langan for his patience in waiting for this overdue report. Strathconas PUSH ON!

Padre R.S.H. Greene
Lance Corporal (retired)

Freedom of the City – Fort Saskatchewan

Over the years, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) has established deep roots in the province of Alberta and has earned a reputation for excellence in the service and outstanding commitment to the people of Canada. For over a hundred years we represented Canada, with great distinction, in all major wars,

conflicts, and nearly all peacekeeping missions. In 2003, the City of Fort Saskatchewan was affiliated with the Regiment, which included the raising of the Regimental Flag at City Hall. This flag has been moved and is permanently flying in Legacy Park to show the strong affiliation between this community and this Regiment.

To recognize this special relationship, the City of Fort Saskatchewan intends to grant Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), Freedom of the City. A special ceremony, followed by the reception, is scheduled to take place at approximately 1000 hours on Sunday, 15 May 2004, at the Fort Saskatchewan City Hall. This is planned as a full day event and will include a Regimental Parade with dismounted personnel, vehicle displays and a musical ride performance by the Strathcona Mounted Troop.

Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) has been granted Freedom of the City in other cities across Canada and a city in Germany.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE



www.strathconas.ca

Once Upon A Time There Was A Subaltern

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

Sometime in February, 1945, Major **Sidney Radley-Walters**, Squadron Commander, **Sherbrooke Fusiliers** observed that when men work together, fight together, and get drunk together, they develop confidence and respect for each other. (**RCAC Illustrated History**).

When I left **Bremerhaven** for **Montreal**, 1959, the **Ferrets** of **2 Troop** had each logged some twenty-five thousand miles (over forty thousand kms). A lot of revolutions on these Michelin tires. Our "patch" or "playground" was extensive: from south of **Kassel** to the **Lunenburg Heide**, from the **Ruhr** (over the **Weser River**, between **Beverungen-Hoxter**) to the **Curtain**. Perhaps 60% was on paved roads, 20% on unpaved tracks, and 20% cross-country. A lot of map reading, a lot of maps (even when 1:100,000).

Rations varied: "deluxe" when in harbours, **WWII** and **Korean** "left overs" (both **Brit** and **Cdn**) when travelling. These latter were 'modified' by either pre-purchases from the **MLS** (sardines, beans, coffee) or bartering with 'the locals' (fresh eggs, ham, sausage, bread, potatoes). It was fortunate that these local folk found our cans of mutton and chutney delicious. The cans of 'fags' were also virtually given away. Refrigeration for the fresh rations was spacious – simply remove the hubcap to the spare tire and use the recess. The only problem arose when the rations crowded out the cans of **Dortmunder-Union** ... before they were to be used.

An ocean away from Ottawa, the cars underwent several modifications of our design. The first was the "panic bars" welded to the floor – to be seized by the Crew Commander if the vehicle should try to misbehave. Our **RCEME** magician, Sgt **Gerry Moreau**, devised these (who knows where the materials came from). They replaced **D.N.D.'s** solution, which had been a lap belt, installed after Cpl **Arsenault's** death near **Wainwright** (June '51). This belt had anchored the C.C. to his seat (read plank). It wedged his back into the 19-Set and made it impossible to get observation to the rear. The "solution": don't buckle up/ remove for other uses or suffer crippling.

An Aside: 'Pat' Patterson recalls the contest of wills between the **SSM 'Billie' May** and Sgt **Gerry Moreau** regarding dress when doing maintenance on the cars while in camp. Guess which one demanded boots and puttees be worn?

The second modification was a windscreen of plexi-glass for each car to protect the C.C. from the elements, flying insects, and other objects at highway speeds. Easi-

ly removed for storage, they were much appreciated. The third modification was an answer to our limitations re distances we were expected to cover before replenishment from "**B**" echelon. Again our solution – a bracket welded to the rear of each car carried two Jerry cans of gas. Water we carried in canvas "camels" hung over a headlight (always cool for man or beast).

Our signal failure was to convince our "masters" that we represented a sizeable investment (both in trained personnel and equipment) which was under-armed with a **Bren Gun**. Rather like arming the **Centurion** tank with a 2-pdr. We carried **Sten Guns**, a **9mm pistol**, and a **Very** pistol to augment our 'master-weapon' – it was to be "seek and peek" for us, '57-'59.

An Aside: I remember when Lt **Ed. Taylor**, **RCEME**, labelled us as the "Kiddy-Kar-Kommandoes" in his column **Spanner Speaks**, in **The Beaver**, the **Bde** newspaper. The name stuck, and led to cartoons and further denigration in **Tiller Bar**, the **RCDC's** column. We were noticed. (Interesting, how we took such with humour, and accepted an uncensored press as normal. Political Correctness wasn't even on the horizon then.)

The clothing/dress of those in "**F**" echelon under-went a rapid metamorphosis. We froze in coveralls, no matter what we wore underneath. Berets provided no protection from the elements. Tank suits, which allowed the wearer to waddle, provided no flexibility in the car. They hung unused in **S/Sgt McIndoe's QM Stores**. Our salvation lay in a **Belgian War Surplus Store** near the **Mohne See**. In short order (i.e. as money allowed) there appeared camouflage jackets (**Br., Bel., Fr.**), green combat jackets **US** – mine was from **Korea**), a variety of caps w/ear flaps and visors, serviceable goggles...and so it went. Footwear varied: tank boots, running shoes, engineer boots, "brothel creepers" (desert boots), etc.

An Aside: I understood clearly that the "price" to be freed from the **2i/c** and **SSM** came high. We had to excel in the field, in all tasks. Only then could we flaunt dress regulations. We were **Bde Recce** – **Strathconas** – Ian's boys (**I. MacD. Grant**)

An Aside: 'Pat' Patterson recalls an exercise w/**US Recce** near **Bad Hershfeld** where their jeeps w/**50 cal, APC's**, and **tanks** were pitted against our **Ferrets** w/**Brens**. We did very well. At the conclusion we **RV'ed** for a 5AM breakfast. We were fallen in and marched into their camp by the **SSM**. As we went through the gates I heard the one **US** guard say to his buddy, "Where do these guys get their kit? From **Castro**?"

'**Pat**' **Searle** also left an impression of how much a hungry Canadian could put away: two chickens and a pizza...for breakfast.

The **Ferret** was fitted w/ the 19-set. What a marvellous workhorse. Its range was too

limited for our purposes, and the new C-42 sets remedied this problem. In its turn it resulted in many "dead spots" which resulted in some convoluted relaying of information. Almost immediately after our arrival, the Russians were toying with our frequencies. They flitted through the area (illegally) in their Volkswagens and jammed our transmissions w/ verbal nonsense and "news from home". They must have believed us important, for they were on our nets by the time we were clearing the camp gate. Our solution was to become proficient (?) in **Morse code**.

An Aside: 'Colby' Yeomans remembers Cpl **J.B.Davis**, **RCCS** giving the course ... "we were pretty thick". We did manage to send fairly competently, but very few were ever skilled in receiving. These transmissions couldn't be jammed by voice, so it was up to Capt **'Bill' Ward** and **Bde** to decipher our messages. My own recollections are painful. Mercifully, the C-42 eliminated our reliance on Morse code.

Paint must be mentioned before leaving these "car memories". The cars arrived from Canada w/ a glossy brown paint, which we immediately re-painted with a dull, "constipation-brown". We became braver (could have been Sgt **'Scotty' Miller**) and used 2-3 brown-greens (we mixed) applied in splotches. Sand was thrown on fresh paint rather successfully. Crews were pretty good at individualizing their cars. Then disaster struck. The PM of Canada, the **Rt-Hon J.G.Diefenbaker**, and a covey of 20-40 hangers-on were to inspect the **Bde**. We were to parade en masse then the vehicles were to be inspected in each camp. We were ordered (Ottawa) to strip and re-paint the cars in gloss. (Morale was at an all-time high). Within hours after inspection we were re-camouflaging the cars for service and were operational within 48 hours.

An Aside: I remember we were "stood down" by **BAOR** while this nonsense was going on. Our Brigadier, **D. Cameron** ('**Hasty-Pees**' during **WW II**) proved again that "the brass" was indeed veterans with real qualities of leadership. He ordered at least two rum rations for all ranks at the conclusion of these parades/inspections. When one considers the gallons of gloss from Canada, the gallons of other paint scrounged/bartered from the Brits, the cost of time/man-hours expended – another glimpse into the political mind. Think of all the **Dortmunder-Union** we could have purchased ...

As **Radley -Walters** said, we'd worked together, trained for war in a theatre of war, and got drunk together. We certainly had confidence, and respect, and affection for each other. We were privileged to be **Recce Sqn, LdSH (RC), 1957-59**.

And to think that we were actually paid for all those hours 'tripping' about in West Germany.

MILLENNIAL MEMORIES

This Millennial Memories column looks back at the celebration of a century of military history. "D" Squadron in Werle Germany was working very well and was keen to get to the large exercises in the North. The troop exercises in Muschede were preparation for the wet runs at the Baltic Ocean at Putlos. We went up with one troop at a time with a RCEME (LAD) detachment to work with their Infantry Support Battalion. These operations were also very useful for HOHNE RANGES and Brigade night movements, to change locations and set engineers' traps. Back at Fort Anne we were working with the 17/21st Lancers. We were fortunate to be there on October 25, 1954, to help the 7th Lancers celebrate the Charge of the Light Brigade, which won the Battle of Balaclava, October 25, 1854, during the Crimean war. Not only had they saved the day in 1854 but had somehow also managed to save the day in 1954 by convincing the Lancers' Association back in England to allow ladies in the Officers' Mess. They also welcomed our Squadron Officers as well as the other British Officers with connections to the

Balaclava Battle. What a gathering! The evening was a huge success filled with music and dancing. Only champagne was served into the wee hours. And maybe after all these years, we can find out who broke into the Officers' new mess and built a fireplace (GASP!) contrary to standing orders.

Squadron Officers can be seen pictured below trying to hide all evidence of the offending fireplace. From Left to Right are: 2/Lt Groves, Squadron Dentist, 2/Lt Ken Barnaby, Lt Jack Scott, Maj Buckingham, 2/Lt Dooley Ross, Lt Bob Thoms, Capt 'Stu' Corson. Missing are: 2/Lt Tom Hill and 2/Lt Bill Sneddon.

The Lancers, stationed in Munster were directly based in line with Fort Anne, some 5-10 miles away. Their assistance was outstanding and cooperation always freely given. And, when they moved to Follingbastle, near to the Royal Tank Regiment (RTR) for deployments and training exercises, we were able to learn a great deal of armoured tactics and gunnery works. Our Short Service Commission Subalterns were beginning longer and better, for promotion, hopefully.



Hiding the offending fireplace.



Squadron Sergeant Major at Morning Prayers.

British Columbia Report

I regret the lack of a missive in the fall's edition of the Newsletter but the fires in the Okanagan caught up with the camp, closing it out, tying me up, as far as time goes. The Regiment was well represented as firefighters and was deployed to all areas.

Since my last note I, along with Al and Marion Kaatz, attended the service for Gord Monroe in Oyama last June. In the same vein Ken Corbitt from Sydney, is gone 26 Oct 03 and Tom and Ellen Wycherly both passed away some three years ago in Chilliwack. Regret the bad news. May and I attended the Okanagan reunion in Sep and had a good visit with Gord Beattie, Bill Elms, Mike Pushkarenko among others. Bill Wood will be organizing the reunion this year. Chuck Davies informed me that except for a few, he and I are among the old guys, God what a thought!

Our annual luncheon on the Island is on the 3rd of April and we usually get some from the lower mainland. Pete Sybrandy phoned saying he will be up from Toppenish, WA, USA. Roy Foote doesn't travel far from home (Seattle, WA, USA) these days. A legion friend informs me that a Korean Vet, Bill Brampton is in the Vancouver area so I'll try to make contact. Joe Dunn has moved to Falkland and figures on staying there. Good to see Jim Kelso (Egypt 1961) is back in touch.

Bill Anderson
Sooke, BC

(If you do contact Bill Brampton have him contact this office. Ed)

Letters Letters continued

Nanaimo, which is where we presently live. Our family is adjusting well and I will not miss the Calgary weather ... I heard of Pete Leggett's untimely death recently and hope his widow is doing well, she is a great lady. If you have 'Bax' Lockyer's e-mail would you please forward as it would be great to say hello. Thanks for re-establishing contact. Not many Straths out here, or is there?

Michael Virtanen
Nanaimo, BC.

(It is always pleasant to bring back, into the Family, a former Strathcona. 'Straths in British Columbia would you believe 198, in your hometown Nanaimo you have 6 Strathcona neighbours. Ed)



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 **Bill (WJ) Armstrong, John Ashley, Bill Baillie, Ken Barnaby, Ron Bonnie, Ed Brown, Bob Burvill, Percy Buzza, Doug Cherry, Bruce Collins, Des Deane-Freeman, "Doc" Dowling, "Art" Francis, Grace Gordon, Len Hill, "Mousy" Kaatz, Norman Lyng, Bill McCulloch, Jim Murphy, Ed Penney, "Hank" Reid, Mary Richmond, "Suds" Sutherland, George Thwaites, Warren Vincent, Dick Welsh**. 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.

You will notice that this edition has only 12 pages vice the usual 16. Regrettably, this was necessary because of there being fewer submissions by the **Family members**. The **Newsletter** must rely on the readers for input and keeping us informed. In this respect we are indebted to all those who have been submitting material and or donations. 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
Attention: 'Mucker'

In response to the inquiries as to whether there is a subscription fee for the **Society Newsletter**, the answer is 'not as yet'. The **Strathcona Society** must rely on donations from its readers.

For the **Fall 2004** edition of the **Newsletter**, please forward your **reports, letters, anecdotes, articles, photos**, etc by the **25 September 2004**. Donations of course send any time.

'Mucker'

New E-mail Addresses

Association (Alberta Branch)
abbranch@strathconas.ca

Association (Ontario Branch)
strathconasontario@yahoo.ca

LAST TRUMPET CALL

- BEAUCHAMP L. (Les)**, age??, Dec 2003, San Clemente, USA.
COLES J.A.T. (Jim), Korea, Regular, age 81, 1 Jan 2004, Calgary, AB.
COLPITTS M.J. (Martin), WW2, age 80, 2 Mar 2004, Ottawa, ON.
CORBITT K.M. (Kenneth), WW2, Regular, age 89, 26 Oct 03, Sydney, BC.
CROSWELL V. (Vernon), Korea, Regular, age ??, 18 Dec 2003, Edmonton, AB.
COLLINS R.B. (Bruce), Korea, Regular, age 76, 14 Mar 04, Sicamous, BC.
DESJARDINS E. (Edward), age ??, 19 Jan 2004, Calgary, AB.
DONALD C.P.D. (Peter), Korea, Regular, age 75, 11 Nov 2003, Logan Lake, BC.
DRYSDALE F.S. (Frank), Korea, Regular, age 74, 21 Sep 2003, Calgary, AB.
GETZ R.A. (Ralph), WW2 Regular, age 81, 13 Nov 2003, Meaford, ON.
GILBERTSON G.A. (Gilbert), WW2, Regular, age 83, 11 Jun 03, N. Vancouver, BC.
HANSEN E.M. (Ed), Korea, Regular, age 70, 21 Oct 2003, Lethbridge, AB.
HYRA E.A. (Ed), Regular, age 65, 26 Mar 2004, 100 Mile House, BC.
LEAMY L.C. (Larry), Regular, age 74, 26 Jan 2004, Calgary, AB.
LEDGER A. (Art), WW2, Regular, age 79, 20 Nov 2003, Espanola, ON.
LUDWICK D.E. (Delmage), WW2, age??, 29 Jan 2004, Bruce, AB.
MacDONALD H.K. (Harold), WW2, Regular, age 83, 10 Nov 03, Clarksburg, ON.
MUNDIE W.A. (Wally), Regular, age 65, 09 Mar 2004, Chilliwack, BC.
NAGLE H.N. (Herb), Korea, Regular, age 75, 2003, Sussex, NB.
ROGOWSKI C.W. (Chuck), WW2, age 79, 20 Nov 03, Calgary, AB.
SMITH R.W. (Bob), Regular, age 69, 9 Feb 2004, Calgary, AB.
SPENCER W.G. (Wayne), WW2, age 87, 12 Dec 2003, Edmonton, AB.
TERRY W.M. (Bill), WW2, Regular, age 80, 2003, Medicine Hat, AB.
WAIT H.J. ('Pogo'), WW2, age 80, 23 Dec 03, Creston, BC.

In Loving Memory of Wives

- ARMSTRONG Kathleen, (Donald deceased)**, 24 May 03, Vancouver, BC.
CLARK, Laurra (George), 08 Mar 2004, St. Thomas ON.
NORMAN Audrey, (Peter deceased), 20 Dec 03, Calgary, AB.

"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:

Harold Boettcher, Victoria, BC. **Gordon Bradshaw**, St John County, NB. **Jack Burns**, Red Deer, AB. **Franco Canonaco**, Trenton, ON. **Stephen Cobb**, Calgary, AB. **Tom Fleming**, Princeton, BC. **Jim Foster**, Okotokes, AB. **Jack Furzer**, Fredericton, NB. **Bob Gill**, Sechelt, BC. **Bob Hannah**, Oyama, BC. **J. Higgins**, Calgary, AB. **Tom**

Hoppe, Elgin, ON. **Bill Johnstone**, Calgary, AB. **Phyllis Levert**, Sault Ste Marie, ON. **Eldon MacCara**, Ottawa, ON. **Jeff Martell**, Pickering, ON. **Murray Payne**, Barrhead, AB. **Ron Peart**, Calgary, AB. **Randy Phillips**, Ormond Beach, FL, USA. **Sylvester Phillips**, Port Colborne, ON. **Bob Rees**, Calgary, AB. **Dean Rochon**, Stoney Creek, ON. **Vince Seymour**, Whitehorse, YT. **Rob Stark**, Toronto, ON. **George Towell**, St Paul, AB. **Inno Vatter**, Vernon, BC. **Dick Watson**, St Thomas, ON. **Bryan Wiens**, Ottawa, ON.